

NEWTON HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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2015 RETROSPECTIVE

2015 was a very successful year for the Historical Society. The following is a retrospective of our activities, accomplishments, etc... over the past year.

The society celebrated the 44th anniversary of its founding in 1971. The society was officially incorporated in the state of New Hampshire two years later in 1973.

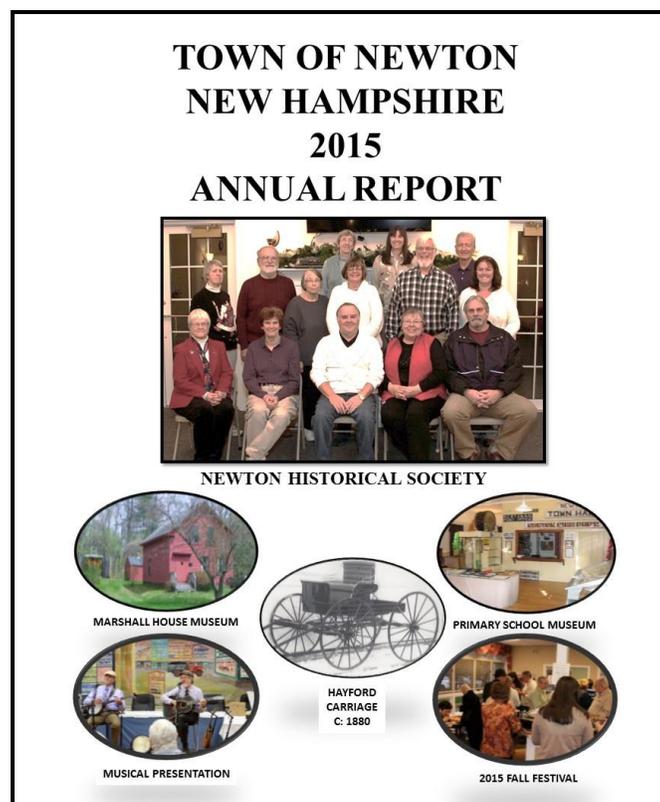
MEMBERSHIP:

Seven new members were added to our ranks. The total membership for the society's forty-four (44) year history now stands at 140 members. We currently have fourteen (14) active members who attend all meetings and participate in our various projects.

HIGHLIGHTS:

❖ BOARD OF SELECTMEN DEDICATION:

The Newton B. O. S. dedicated the town's 2015 Annual Report to the Society. Below is a copy of the cover of the 2015 report. This is the second consecutive year that the society has provided the cover photos for the town's Annual Report.



❖ MEETING CHANGE OF VENUE:

Our monthly meetings were moved from the Merrimac Savings Bank, now the North Shore Savings Bank, to the Sargent Woods Community Center.

2015 RETROSPECTIVE (CONT.)

- ❖ A 250th Newton Anniversary wall hanging, depicting various historic buildings in town, was donated to the Sargent Wood's community and hangs in the community center.

- ❖ **FALL FESTIVAL:**

Our annual Fall Festival was again held in mid-October, on a lovely fall evening, hosted and sponsored by the Merrimac Savings Bank. It was held in the bank lobby of the Newton Branch office on South Main Street. This was our 9th Festival. Our 2016 Fall Festival will be held at the same location, which is now a branch of the North Shore Savings Bank.

The efforts of Kathy Meserve and her committee again made the event a complete social and financial success. It was a fun evening of socializing for all. This was our most financially successful festival to date. This is our only fund raising event that directly benefits the society.

Again, this year's attendance saw a good representation of residents, society sponsors and town and state elected officials. In attendance were members of the Board of Selectmen, Planning Board, Trust Fund Trustees, Gale Library Trustees, Cemetery Trustees, Town Administration, Conservation Commission, Police Dept., Emergency Management, and a State Representative.

Twenty (20) drawing prizes were awarded. As has become the custom the past few years, folks arrived early and stayed until the end, or even a little later.

At the Festival, the Society presented an "Award of Appreciation" to Newton resident and Road Agent Mike Pivero, for his efforts, time and labor on behalf of the Society and the town.

- ❖ **PRESENTATIONS:**

Three presentations were made, which were free and open to the public. They were; "A Night of Music with Two Old Friends", "World War II: 70th Anniversary of the Wars End", and "Rally 'Round the Flag: The American Civil War".

A presentation of a brief history of Newton was made to the residents of the Sargent Woods community. It dealt with early industries, IE: Newton's Ice Industry, its Carriage Industry, and the Shoe Industry. Also included were topics such as Newton Fires, Newton Train Wrecks, and the Trolley Line.

The plan is to refine this presentation and present it to the residents of Newton.

The Society has continued its association with the New Hampshire Humanities Council. The Council provides connections with various persons and groups who offer the types of historical presentations we wish to make available to the residents of Newton. They also help us with the cost of these presentations by providing us with "Grant Funds".

Three presentations have already been booked for 2016. As always, they are open to the public and admission is free.

2015 RETROSPECTIVE (CONT.)

❁ **VILLAGE PRIMARY SCHOOL PORCH PROJECT:**

The front porch at the Primary School was replaced. Over the past several years it had deteriorated to a level that it would have soon become unsafe.



❁ **WEB SITE:**

The site can be accessed at newtonhisroicalsociety.org. The site contains vast amounts of information regarding the society and our activities. There are several slide shows that show the activities we have been involved in over the years as well as shows that were displayed at our Fall Festival. The site will continue to grow as we load more data into it.

❁ **MISCELLANEOUS:**

- Began a maintenance program on our three (3) historic horse drawn carriages. The carriages were put up on blocks, and the hubs greased. The seats on each will be repaired in 2016.
- Participated in the 2015 Newton “Home Day” activities. Large photo “cut out” boards were created with people in clothes from the 1800’s. Many folks took the opportunity to take their photos in 19th century clothing.
- The society provide a display of Newton Veterans for the Sargent Woods community Veteran’s Day Ceremony.
- Again this year, the society was approached by a number of individuals looking for information on various people and places in town. The society records, in conjunction with the Newton Cemetery Dept. records, provided much relevant information in answering these requests.
- To keep the public apprised of our events, we have become fairly adept at advertising. We use the Eagle Tribune and Carriage Towne News via “Letters to the Editor” or “Press Releases”. We put posters on Newton’s local TV station Channel 20, post items on the town web site as well as the society’s web page, post on the Newton, NH Community and Friends Facebook page, place posters around town in all the major buildings and businesses and send emails.

Our thanks to the Newton Cable Committee for their continued support.

2014 RETROSPECTIVE (CONT.)

❖ MISCELLANEOUS (CONT.):

- For the third consecutive year we were very fortunate that Bill Gallant, a neighbor to the headquarters building, has continued to take care of the lawn at the building. Our sincere thanks to Bill for donating his time and efforts to the society. It is greatly appreciated.
- We continued our donations to the Newton Food Pantry with proceeds, which we match, from our presentations as well as our usual Christmas donation.

OFFICERS ELECTED FOR 2016 - CURATORS & COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSONS:

| | | | |
|---------------------|---------------|----------------|-------------------------|
| President / Treas.: | Bill Landry | Curator(s): | Ron and Cheryl Saunders |
| Vice President: | Kathy Meserve | Historian: | Roger Hamel |
| Secretary: | Mary Riordan | Archivist: | Karen O'Malley |
| | | Programs: | Sally Woodman |
| | | Fall Festival: | Kathy Meserve |

EXECUTIVE BOARD:

The five member Executive Board consists of the society officers plus Barb DiBartolomeo and Ron Saunders.

SOCIETY FOCUS FOR 2016:

Our primary areas of focus in 2016 will be to; continue the electronic accessioning / archiving of all the society's artifacts, documents, and photos. To continue offering, in conjunction with the New Hampshire Humanities Council (NHHC), historical presentations that will be of interest, not only to the society, but to the students and residents of Newton. We will continue to work on the aforementioned web site.

Thank you all, for your continued support of the Historical Society!

“History is what you make it

Primary School



Marshall House

