

NEWTON HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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2016 RETROSPECTIVE

2016 was again a very successful year for the Historical Society. The following is our annual retrospective of our activities, accomplishments, etc... over the past year.

The society celebrated the 45th anniversary of its founding in 1971. The society was officially incorporated in the state of New Hampshire two years later in 1973.

❁ HIGHLIGHTS:

- In 2015 our monthly meetings were moved from the Merrimac Savings Bank, now the North Shore Savings Bank, to the Sargent Woods Community Center. In 2016 the meeting time was changed to 6:30 PM at the Community Center.
- The society's outdated computer was replaced. The continued increase in the society activities, which are all stored on the computer, necessitated the purchase of a current technology product with increased memory and capabilities.
- Newton Girl Scout Troop 10040 visited the society and toured both the Marshall House Museum and the Primary School Museum.
- A project to bring electricity to the barn at the Marshall House was initiated and will be completed in the spring of 2017.
- Again this year the society held three, free presentations for the residents. (1) Wacky Songs that make us Laugh, (2) Haunted Portsmouth, NH and (3) Liberty is our Motto. Three presentation have already been "booked" for 2017.

All donations from the presentations were matched by the society and donated to the Newton Food Pantry; in addition to our usual Christmas donation to the pantry.

- Our Historian answered a number of historical research requests from outside of the state as well as one from outside the country.
- A complete inventory, with photos, of the artifacts stored in the Marshall House Museum was done and turned over to the town's new insurance provider.
- Our Archivist reported that the archiving of all of the society's many artifacts is up to date.
- The society informed the Board of Selectmen that we would donate the funds to preserve the recently discovered 1749 Town Charter. The project will be completed in 2017.
- The society hosted the 2016 "Book Award" ceremony for the Historic New England group based in Boston. (Formerly known as the Society for the Preservation of New England Antiquities.) The award was presented to Chris Hadsell, Director of the VT based group Curtains without Borders; the group that restored the Newton Town Hall stage curtains.
- The activity on the society's web page continues to be strong. newtonhistoricalsociety.org

2016 RETROSPECTIVE (CONT.)

❁ FALL FESTIVAL:

Our annual Fall Festival was again held in mid-October, on a lovely fall evening, hosted and sponsored by the North Shore Bank. It was held in the bank lobby of the Newton Branch office on South Main Street. This was our 10th Festival.

The efforts of the committee again made the event a complete social and financial success. It was a fun evening of socializing for all. This is our only fund raising event that directly benefits the society.

Again, this year's attendance saw a good representation of residents, festival 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, Emergency Management, and our 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.

The society handed out monogrammed ink pens to the attendees, in celebration of our 10th festival and the society's 45th anniversary.

❁ MISCELLANEOUS:

- For the fifth consecutive year, we were very fortunate that Bill Gallant, a neighbor to our 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.
- Local contractor & Fire Fighter Jim Ryan donated his time, expertise, and materials to seal the bulkhead at the Marshall House Museum to reduce the access of rodents.

***OFFICERS ELECTED FOR 2017 - 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

2016 RETROSPECTIVE (CONT.)

EXECUTIVE BOARD:

The five member Executive Board consists of the three (3) society *officers, plus members Barbara DiBartolomeo and Ron Saunders.

SOCIETY FOCUS FOR 2017:

Our primary areas of focus in 2017 are the same as last year; continue the electronic accessioning / archiving and display of 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 Newton Historical Society!

“History is what you make it



Primary School Museum



2016 Fall Festival



Marshall House Museum



Historic New England Book Award