

NEWTON HISTORICAL SOCIETY

In 2017 the Newton Historical Society celebrated the 46th anniversary of its 1971 founding. The society was officially incorporated two years later in 1973.

Three, no charge, historical type presentations were held at the town hall. 1) “NH Covered Bridges”, 2) “Sear Roebuck & Montgomery Ward: The 100 yr. War”, and 3) “Treasure from the Isle of Shoals. The Isle of Shoals presentation was in conjunction with an earlier boat tour of the Isle of Shoals by society members.

As is the society’s custom, all donations received at programs sponsored by the New Hampshire Humanities Council (NHHC), were matched by the society, and given to the Newton Food Pantry. These are in addition to the society’s annual Christmas donation.

The project to run electricity to the Marshall House barn was completed. Both floors of the barn now have lights and electrical outlets.

The 11th annual Fall Festival fund raiser, held in mid-October on a very warm fall evening, was hosted, and sponsored again by the North Shore Bank. This was the second year that the North Shore Bank hosted the event. We greatly appreciate their support as this is the society’s only fund raiser.

This year’s festival was again a great success, both financially and attendance wise. There were many prize drawings, historical displays, and entertaining slide shows; as well as delicious finger foods, wine and beverages. Thanks to all our sponsors and attendees.

In October sixteen young ladies from the Newton Girl Scout Troop 10040 visited the Primary School Museum to view the many artifacts, photos, and documents on display.

In the fall an animal infestation problem was discovered at the Marshall House Museum. The damage was corrected and a cap was put on the chimney to prevent “Rocky Raccoon” and his friends from re-entering the building.

The society web site, www.newtonhistoricalsociety.org, has become very popular with folks following the society’s activities and slide shows.

In 2017 the society increased its inventory of slide shows depicting Newton’s history, by adding two more informational programs. These programs highlight long time Newton businesses. Estabrook’s Garage and the Newton Greenhouse. All of the slide shows are also in print and available for viewing at the Primary School Museum.

Society volunteers provided their time, talent, and tools to construct and install iron, exterior railings at the front entrance to the Gale Library. The absence of railings was an identified safety issue. The cost to the town for materials was minimal.

Bill Landry – President