

NEWTON HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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2018 RETROSPECTIVE

In 2018 the Newton Historical Society celebrated the 47th anniversary of its 1971 founding. The society was officially incorporated as a 501-C-3 charitable organization two years later in 1973. Over the past 47 years 146 people have become Society members.

Again this year, three historical type presentations were offered to the public at no charge. 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 were in addition to the society's annual Christmas donation.

The 12th annual Fall Festival fund raiser was held in mid-October on a lovely fall evening. Again, the event was hosted and sponsored by the North Shore Bank. This was the third 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 an entertaining slide show; as well as delicious finger foods, wine and beverages. Thanks to all our sponsors and attendees.

The society web site, www.newtonhistoricalsociety.org, has become very popular with the public. The site averages 362 visits per month.

Over the past twelve years the current, and past, active society members have accomplished many goals for the society and the town. The following is a listing of some of the more notable accomplishments:

- Formed Executive Board and Committee Chairs.
- Initiated an annual Fall Festival Fund Raiser. This is the Society's only fund raiser.
- Created various computer and paper slide shows, of Newton businesses and historic events, for display at the town museums and the annual Society Fall Festivals.
- Initiated installation of fire extinguishers & First Aid kit at the Marshall House and Primary School museums.
- Installed a rotating documents / photo display in the lobby of the then Merrimac Savings Bank, and continued the display in the current North Shore Bank.
- Initiated multiple free yearly presentations, in conjunction with the NH Humanities Council, for the public.
- Completed the complete interior restoration of the 1850 Village Primary School; and its conversion to the town's 2nd museum in 2011.
- In 2012 the Society's Hayford "Diplomat" carriage won the People's Choice Award at the Amesbury Carriage Museum's annual Carriage Festival. The carriage, which was bequeathed to the Society by Forrest Reynolds, was built in Newton circa 1870.
- Obtained a state grant from the NH State Council on the Arts for the restoration of the town's two stage curtains in 2014. The restoration was completed by Curtains without Borders members and society volunteers.

- Completed the electronic cataloging of the town's historic documents, artifacts, photos etc.
- Worked with the Newton Cemetery Trustees in creating and installing a list of all Newton residents who enlisted in all wars at the Veteran's Memorial at the Willow Grove Cemetery.
- Completed the creation and activation of the Society's internet web site.
- Completed major structural repairs to the Marshall House Museum barn and installed electricity in the barn.
- Replaced the sign at the Marshall House Museum.
- Provided cover photo and write up for the 2014, 2015, & 2017 annual town reports.
- The Newton Board of Selectmen dedicated the 2015 annual Town Report to the Society.
- Hosted the 2016 Historic N. E. Book Award event at the Newton Town Hall.
- Society members donated labor to install exterior safety railings at the Gale Library.
- Assisted the public with many research requests pertaining to ancestral information. The research is often done in conjunction with the Newton Cemetery Trustees.
- Successfully submitted an historical Newton photo for inclusion in the Homeland Security 2018 Emergency Public Information calendar.
- Successfully submitted an historical Newton photo for inclusion in the Homeland Security 2019 Emergency Public Information calendar.
- Successfully submitted two Newton historical photos for inclusion in the Pentucket Bank 2019 calendar.
- Created over 1,000 informational display cards for use with the rotating displays at the town museums.

All these accomplishments were made possible by the great group of members who attend the Society meetings, participate in the projects, and bring their expertise and experience to the table.