

NEWTON HISTORICAL SOCIETY

In 2011 the Newton Historical Society celebrated the 40th anniversary of its founding in 1971. The society was officially incorporated two years later in 1973.

- ✿ Sadly the society lost one of its most beloved members. Founding and Charter Member Myrtle Rogers passed away on Jan. 27th at the age of 86. She will be greatly missed by the society, her family and many friends.
- ✿ You might say that 2011 was an historic year for the Historical Society. This year saw the opening of Village Primary School Museum. After two years of hard work by members and volunteers the museum was opened to the public on Sunday July 31st.
- ✿ Probably for the first time in its history, the Historical Society held a monthly meeting outside of Newton. Our October meeting was held at the Peabody Archaeological Museum in Andover, MA. Society member Don Slater, who is also a member of the museum staff, let us hold our meeting in one of the museum's newly refurbished conference rooms. At the conclusion of the meeting Don explained the history of the museum, and then took the group on a truly amazing tour of the facility.
- ✿ The electronic accessioning / cataloging of our documents and artifacts continued. A protocol for classifying items into various categories to assist in information retrieval was created. The accessioning of the contents of the Marshal House and the cobbler shop on the Marshall House property was completed. In the spring of 2012 the archiving team will continue the project at the Primary School Museum.
- ✿ The Fall Festival was again held in mid October, on a lovely fall evening, hosted and sponsored by the Merrimac Savings Bank. Although we still suffer from a soft economy, this year's festival was the highest grossing in the five years we have been conducting the event. Thanks to all our sponsors and attendees.
- ✿ For the first time in many years the society conducted a Christmas Tree Lighting Ceremony. The event took place on Sunday Dec. 11 at the Primary School Museum. A large turnout of adults and children enjoyed cookies and hot chocolate. Santa Claus was also on hand to hear what the children were hoping to get for Christmas.
- ✿ Two historical type presentations were held at the Town Hall. A talk and slide show on the Underground Railroad, active during the Civil War era and a talk on the Life and Times of New England poet John Greenleaf Whittier. Both were well attended.

"History is what you make it"

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Respectfully submitted,
Bill Landry – President
Newton Historical Society