

# TOWN OF NEWTON NEW HAMPSHIRE 2014 ANNUAL REPORT



TOWN HALL STAGE CURTAINS

## **NEWTON, NH TOWN HALL STAGE CURTAINS**

**In 2014 the Newton Historical Society undertook the project of restoring and repairing the two stage curtains that hang on the second floor of the town hall. The Newton “Advertising” curtain is 75 years old and the “Chain Bridge” curtain, which spans the Merrimac River from Amesbury to Newburyport, MA, is 123 years old. Both curtains were very dirty, torn and contained many holes.**

**The Chain Bridge was painted by H. F. Grant in 1891 and the Advertising Curtain was painted by Robert Naves in 1939.**

**After being turned down in 2013, the society was successful this year in obtaining a Mooseplate Grant from the NH State Council on the Arts which funded 87 % of the cost. The Town of Newton contributed 10 % and the Historical Society the remaining 3 %. The cost of the restoration project was just under \$8,000.00.**

**In November and December of this year, four (4) Conservators from the Curtains Without Borders Group of VT, and fifteen (15) volunteers from the Historical Society, began the tedious task of cleaning and repairing the curtains. After approximately one hundred (100) “man/women hours” of labor, the restored curtains were re-hung with new hardware to allow the raising and lowering of the front curtain. The plan is to alternately display the two curtains.**

**It is not know exactly how these curtains came to be in the possession of the Town of Newton, however, they are a wonderful reflection of the culture and history of our town. The Historical Society is proud to have been able to accomplish their restoration and repair for the enjoyment of the current and future residents of Newton.**

**Assisting the Curtains without Borders Conservators were these volunteers from the town and the Newton Historical Society:**

**Barbara DiBartolomeo - James Garvey - Roger Hamel –  
Michael Hughes - Marilyn Landry - William Landry –  
John Meserve - Diane Morin - Karen O’Malley -  
Mary Riordan - Tony Romanoski - Jacob Saunders -  
Robert Saunders - Ronald Saunders - Sarah Woodman**

**In addition, this project would not have been possible without the support of the Newton Board of Selectmen. Robert Donovan Jr. (Chairman), Matt Burrill, James Doggett, Larry Foote and Charles Melvin Sr.**