

## NEWTON HISTORICAL SOCIETY

In 2014 the Newton Historical Society celebrated the 43rd anniversary of its founding in 1971. The society was officially incorporated two years later in 1973.

- ✿ The major project of accessioning / cataloging our documents, photos and artifacts into a computer program has been brought up to date. The accessioning process is complex and time consuming. Obviously this will be an ongoing process as we continually receive new artifacts. The vast majority of these artifacts are on display at the Primary School Museum and the Marshall House Museum.
- ✿ The Fall Festival fund raiser was again held in mid October, on a lovely fall evening, hosted and sponsored by the Merrimac Savings Bank. This is the only fund raising event held by the society.

The building was filled to capacity, just under sixty attendees, and everyone enjoyed not only the wine, non-alcoholic beverages and cheese and finger food selections, but also the many documents, albums and artifacts on display and slide presentations.

Again, this year's attendance saw a good representation of residents, society 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, Police Dept., Emergency Mgmt. and State Representatives.

This year's festival was the most financially successful in the eight years we have been conducting the event. Thanks to all our sponsors and attendees.

- ✿ For the fourth consecutive year the society conducted a Christmas tree lighting ceremony. The event took place on Sunday Dec. 7 at the Primary School Museum. Like past years, the adults and children enjoyed cookies and hot chocolate. Santa Claus and his Elf were also on hand to hear what the children were hoping to get for Christmas. Photos were taken of the children and emailed to the parents that requested them.
- ✿ Four historical type presentations were held at the town hall. "Old times will prevail", about fiddle contests; "Spirits of the Granite State"; Abe & Mary Todd Lincoln, the long and short of it" and "Winning the war and shaping the peace after the Civil War" All were very entertaining and very well attended. Three presentations have already been scheduled for 2015.

As was done last year, all donations received at the presentations are matched by the society and given to the Newton Food Pantry.

- ✿ In 2014 the society launched its own standalone web site. [newtonhistoricalsociety.org](http://newtonhistoricalsociety.org). The site has a vast amount of information about the society as well as a number of slide shows depicting our activities over past years.

- ✿ We also put together a slide show presentation for the Newton Cub Scout Pack # 91. It contained shows about Newton's current buildings and locations and what they looked like 75 or 100 years ago. There was also a segment on train wrecks in Newton over the years. The train wrecks were a big hit with the kids.

We are currently working on a similar presentation for the Social Studies department at the Newton Middle School. That program will be more expansive and contain five separate historical presentations within it.

- ✿ In addition to the Stage Curtain Restoration project shown on the cover of this report; the society also completed a major repair of the barn at the Marshall House Museum. The barn had deteriorated to a point where it was unsafe and we had to remove the artifacts stored in the barn, which included our three historic horse drawn carriages. Many boards & beams had rotted over the past 45 years and needed replacing. The second floor had also begun to "sag". In addition to replacing walls, we had to insert a large beam to support the second floor. Here are several "before" & "after" photos of the project.



I would like to express my heartfelt thanks to the core group of active members who participated in many, if not all, of the projects and activities of the past year.

Barb DiBartolomeo, Roger Hamel, Rob Hayes, Mike Hughes, Marilyn Landry, John Meserve, Kathy Meserve, Diane Morin, Karen O'Malley, Mary Riordan, Cheryl Saunders, Ron Saunders, Sally Woodman and Nancy Wrigley.

The society is also very thankful for the continued support of the Newton Board of Selectmen.

Respectfully submitted,  
Bill Landry - President  
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