
NEWBURY HISTORICAL SOCIETY



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Historic Newbury Quilt Found in Moultonborough, NH

Earlier this year, Barbara Steward of the Newbury Historical Society received a phone call from a quilt historian and collector from New Hampshire. The caller had come across what she referred to as a Presentation/Signature quilt which she clearly identified as having originated in Newbury, NH in the year 1897.

The quilt includes a "Presentation Square" in the center which indicates that it was presented to James M. Ray (or Kay, or Gay) & Wife at Christmas, 1897 by the Crystal Circle of the King's Daughters and Sons, So. Newbury, NH. Interestingly, a photo of The King's Daughters Hall taken around 1912 appears on the first page of our NHS website.

The Presentation Square is surrounded by signatures which the Historical Society recognizes from our research. These include such familiar names as Gillingham, Bly, Morse, Fowler, Messer and Blodgett.

Signature quilts became a popular tradition in the mid-1800's as remembrances of loved ones or friends who had moved or passed away. Often, they would be made by a group of quilters and "presented" to a special person in the community.

These quilts have become important primary research documents. Many are the only material evidence which can document the names of individuals who have a relationship to one another.

The International Order of the King's Daughters and Sons had its beginnings in New York City in 1886 when the wife of a Methodist minister held an organizational meeting in her home to promote the idea of a "sisterhood of service". The original ten attendees represented the Episcopal, Methodist and Presbyterian faiths. They must have been a massively talented group of ladies as the Order unit, originally called a "Ten" was soon changed to "Circle" to accommodate the numbers of women who wanted to join. In 1887, men and

boys were seeking admission, and by 1893, the Order had a display at the World's Fair.

The motto adopted by the Order was:

Look up and not down,

Look forward and not back,

Look out and not in, and lend a hand.

We look forward to bringing you more information about this quilt, its recipients, and the names thereon as it becomes available.

Ashley Geddes

Presentation/Signature quilt below with presentation in the center, and a sample section with the names of Rev and Mrs. Bekatell and four members of the Dustin Family.

Photos by Janet Bedard



Names as they appear on the quilt.
Documentation Courtesy of Janet Bedard

Rev & Mrs G W Buzzell Robert J Ward Roy Buzzell James ___ Buzzell	Emma Showls Althine Showls Mrs F. H. Messer F. H. Messer	Mrs. Mary C. Blodgett Desire W. Messer Mrs. Melinda Brown Mrs. L. D. Gillingham	Rose C. Felch A. D. Felch Mrs. L. J. Felch Ruth A Felch	Mrs. E. H. Metcalf Mrs. F. G. Waldo Emley R. Dow Rev. G. W. Norris
H. H. Cook Ada M Cook H. M. Ingram Mrs. H. M. Ingram	Rev. & Mrs. G. B. Goodrich Mrs. H. O. Williamson Lawrence Brown Rev. Mrs. A. W. Browne	Nathan B. Bly Nathan B. Bly Jr. Lilla H. Bly Mrs. Eva L. Bly Hugh O. Bly	Mary Z. Gillingham Benjamin F. Gillingham Mary A. Gillingham John H. Gillingham	Alice N. Fowler Ruth M. Fowler Mr. & Mrs. E. O. Fowler L. Cora Fowler
Mr. & Mrs. W. C. Dustin Rev. & Mrs. O.S. Bekatell Mr. & Mrs. Will. Dustin Hannah Dustin Mr. & Mrs. Geo. E. Dustin	Mr. & Mrs. Ira P. Whittier Beatrice N. Whittier Mr. & Mrs. Amos C. Whittier Bessie A. Whittier Mr. & Mrs. John E. Whittier Paul Y. Whittier Mr. & Mrs. Moses F. Whittier Glaydis D. Whittier	**PRESENTATION SQUARE** Presented to James M. Ray (Kay?) & Wife Christmas 1897 By Crystal Circle King's Daughters & Sons South Newbury, NH	E. Francis T. Messer Mrs. C. A. Messer Mary A. Perkins Nathaniel P. Messer (Mefser?)	Frank Rowell Irving Rowell Charles Rowell Alice Rowell Eunice Rowell Mary Rowell John Rowell
Sarah J. Felch Sarah Bartlett George Bartlett Melanie Felch	Charles J. Heath F. Etta Heath Mrs. L. S. Crosby Mr. L. S. Crosby	Mrs. C. L. Scoby Mr. & Mrs. H. Chadwick L. C. Twiss Mrs. Mary J. Twiss	Ida E. Fowler Mrs. Arthur H. Fowler Arthur H. Fowler Clara B. Fowler	Mrs. Mary E. Muzzey Edith L. Muzzey Charles H. Muzzey Mrs. Charles H. Muzzey
Mrs. Mary Packard Oatis Packard Olive J. Lear Forest Packard	Henry Colburn John E. Matthews C. D. Haven H. R. Cooper	Harvey C. Morse Maud M. Perkins Helen M. Morse Mrs. M. C. Perkins	Mr. & Mrs. John W. Fowler Carrie M. Fowler Rev. & Mrs. Charles L. Fowler Herbert E. Fowler Maud A. Fowler	Blanch E. Wright Annis J. Jones Jennie E. Jones Allen F. Jones Jay Cilley Alice B. Cilley
Forest J. Folsom Ella E. Folsom Ellen S. Shaw Robert Townsend David D. Rowe	**WRITTEN IN RED INK** Mrs. Mary Ring Frank P. Kidder Ed Ring Mrs. L. M. Kidder	Alice Peaslee Ruth Peaslee Mrs. Charles Peaslee Charles Peaslee	Charlie Spaulding Mr. & Mrs. Auren Peaslee Frank Peaslee Mrs. Clara Spaulding Georgie Spaulding	Lilla L. Colby Helen Morgan Mr. & Mrs. I. C. Avery Mr. & Mrs. C. H. Young

TOWN HALL, SHERMAN HALL, GRANGE BUILDING South Newbury Village

Quite a few of us pass by these historic buildings every day. but have you ever wondered what was inside? Over the past year, the Newbury Historical Society has held several open houses for the general public to discover a window to the past.

As you enter the Old Town Hall, which was built in 1876, it is hard to imagine registering your vehicle, paying taxes or conducting a town meeting inside. Prior to moving to the current Town Offices Complex, the Town Clerk/Tax Collector and Police Department occupied the two front rooms of the building.

Through the 1900s, the Old Town Hall was used for various receptions, dances, community plays and religious services. The building wasn't wired for electricity until 1928, and the stage lights weren't added until about 10 years later. There remain colorful stage backdrops known as Painted Curtains which feature scenes of Lake Sunapee and Mt. Sunapee. According to Tracy W. Messer, past president of the Newbury Historical Society, the backdrops were designed by Clifton Davis of Warner and commissioned by the Sunapee Lake Grange during the 1920s. The rear of the stage still houses two interior privies.

Sherman Hall was built in 1916 as a town office and selectmen's center of business. A small library was located on the second floor. Named after the late Ernest L. Sherman, who wrote "History of Newbury, New Hampshire, The Beginnings, 1740-1800," the building is now used by the Newbury Historical Society as a depository for town records and historical documents.

The Grange Building is home to Sunapee Lake Grange, Patrons of Husbandry, No. 112, and there are currently over 50 members of the organization. The Grange Hall hosted its first meeting on October 24, 1902, and the group still conducts monthly meetings and community suppers. They welcome new members and encourage community participation.

The South Newbury Historical Buildings Committee continues to evaluate these buildings. We encourage you to give us your thoughts on how these buildings might serve our community in the future. Be a part of preserving our historical buildings for the generations to come. Please contact the Newbury Historical Society at info@newburyhistorical.org with any questions or ideas or to plan a visit.

Paula Falkowski



HISTORY COMMITTEE Research, Deeds and More!

The History Committee continues to work on Deed research in the village of South Newbury. Our objective is to trace each property back to the original owner who acquired it from the towns Proprietors.. Along this way we hope to determine when the house was built and glean some interesting facts about its inhabitants. Already we have learned that the first school house was where the Hearse House is today and that it was dismantled and parts of the materiel were used to construct a home on Sleepy Street. Also the blacksmith shop stood where the present day Grange Hall is located. Did you know that a canal once passed through the back yards of nearly all the homes on Sleepy Street? Seems a clever man by the name of Fowler had a "Shop" needing swift water to power his machinery. He got that water from the Mill located upstream on Andrew Brook, and channeled the water away from the brook and under his shop! The canal is no longer visible having been filled in to level the land for new uses.

This year the group also helped in documenting all the Deeds referenced in the index books from 1823 to 1860. This was a large task requiring several trips to Merrimack County Registry of Deeds, going through each book and looking for reference of "Fishersfield" and Newbury. The data was later entered into a spreadsheet making it easier to distribute and share the information. This saves us from driving the Concord when we are researching a parcel in town.

Oral histories are important for our town to collect and record. Recently one of our researchers brought in several recording tapes taken from our citizens back in 1970. Our group is interested in having these tapes re-recorded on new digital media as well as transcribed. It will be wonderful to have a recording of a Newbury resident telling stories in his or her own voice and accent that we can instantly share with others.

During a recent Oral History a woman told us how her mother sewed her husband's fishing weights in the hem of her dress so when she was immersed in Andrew Brook for a baptism ceremony her dress would not fly up!

The topic of cellar holes in Newbury has become a popular item. Seems our community is rich with old cellar holes scattered in the woods where life once flourished. One of our researchers would like us to index all the known locations of former homes.

Should anyone have old photos or other items of interest we are always pleased to see them. Our team needs researchers, call me and I'd be pleased to discuss in more detail our project.

Deane Geddes 763 5104

Newbury's Painted Curtains

Newbury is fortunate to have several Painted Curtains, two of which are in decent enough condition to warrant conservation efforts. The one shown to the left also has eight double sided "ears" which, when in place, can extend the scene on both sides. Another, depicting the "Bay of Naples" is located in the Veterans' Hall. Several others are found in both buildings.



Newbury Historical Society

P. O. Box 176

Newbury, NH 03255

Newbury Historical Society Dates and Events:

Annual Meeting and Program, 2014

**Watch for date and program information
in the next Newsletter and on our website.**

Newbury Historical Society Board Meetings:

Newbury Town Office, 7:00 PM

January 9, March 13 and

May 8, 2014

Newbury Historical Society Board of Directors:

Term expires June, 2014

Ashley Geddes, Barbara Steward, Claire Vannatta

Term expires June, 2015

Deane Geddes, Bill Weiler, Margie Weiler

Term expires June, 2016

Paula Falkowski, Gay Sheary, Mary Thayer

E-mail: info@newburyhistorical.org

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Special Thanks to our Business Member

New Hampshire Historical Society

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(603) 228-6688 www.nhhistory.org

An Example of How History is Discovered

Sometimes stories of the past are found by curiosity and serendipity. A year or so ago, I was reading some deeds in connection with a project to digitize Fishersfield deeds from Hillsborough County when I came across a deed which described a private burying ground not presently known. I shared this discovery with some friends in the Historical Society and the Cemetery Commission. They wanted to know where it was located and who was buried there. I sent them a map showing its location near the ski area parking lot. The cemetery trustees soon went to look and quickly found two piles of stones marking the graves of two small children.

Meanwhile, I looked in the Newbury vital records and found that two sons of William Gunnison, who owned the lot, had died there, Robert at ten months and William Jr. at seventeen months. This, then, raised the question, who was William Gunnison? A search of the internet revealed a book of Gunnison genealogy written by a grandson of William.

William Gunnison had been a shoemaker in Portsmouth for four years when he married Hannah Grant in December 1778, just five days after Fishersfield became a town. Ten months later in October 1779, he bought a house and land in Fishersfield and 21 days after that his first child was born. Eager to get to his new home, he set off in early 1780 with his family and some cattle and arrived sometime in March or April. To quote from the book: "The privations and suffering of the family in the wilderness, surrounded, as they were, with wild beasts, were fearful. The very first night that Grandmother slept in the cabin of their wild home, her hair froze to her pillow." The surprise for me was to find the origin of the story, told to me by several residents of Newbury, about a woman's hair freezing to the pillow.

Bill Weiler