
NEWBURY HISTORICAL SOCIETY



Newsletter
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Alice Lynn Remembered

Alice Lynn was a native of Newbury who was born in 1917 on Baker Hill, a daughter of Joseph E. Croteau and Beatrice C. Duddy. She was educated in one-room schools, finally graduating from the eighth grade in the Central School. At that time the country was deep in depression, and Alice was sent to live with her aunt in Waltham, Mass. This was the end of her formal education except for beautician school when she was 50. She was very smart and educated herself as she went through life.

While in Massachusetts, Alice met and married her husband. He died in 1961 leaving her a widow with two daughters. Her father would come to visit and say, "Alice you need to come to NH with those two girls to live. I will give you a piece of land and you can build a house on it." She agreed and arrived in 1962. Five years later, she went to beautician school. Upon graduation, she added 24 feet on to the house for a hair dressing shop. That was her business until she retired in 1983.



Since then, she joined many organizations and helped out wherever she could. One of them was the Historical Society, which she joined three years after it was formed. She became a life member and joined the board of directors in 1989. In the following year she was elected to the offices of both secretary and treasurer. In later years, she held the office of corresponding secretary. She continued as treasurer until 1998 and was active on the board until 2009.

For several years, she would go the seventh grade class at Kearsarge and give a one-hour talk on Newbury history. She also selected and arranged for speakers to entertain at the annual meeting.

In 2004, Alice was elected by the Society members to the position of Honorary Member. At that meeting, then president, Bill Weiler, read the following statement: "Alice Lynn has been active in the Society from the beginning, and has served on the board since. She served as treasurer for a number of years. She also served as corresponding secretary answering genealogical queries. To me, Alice's greatest contribution was holding the Society together through the late nineties when interest and activism were at a low ebb. She made sure the board met a minimum of four times a year, and she called each member to make sure they would attend. I also want to thank Alice for providing refreshments for board and annual meetings."

Bill Weiler

Watching Progress Arrive

Many of us are familiar with the bright yellow Queen Anne, or Victorian-style "cottage" on Route 103 near the Davis Cabins in Newbury, NH. Its fanciful spindle work, fish scale siding and decorative treatments known as "gingerbread" have captured our attention for years.

Built by Henry Allen Hancox around the turn of the century, the home is positioned high above the lake on a small promontory. Its attached gazebo, wide veranda and high widow's walk would have afforded its owner splendid views of the steamship activity on Lake Sunapee as well as the steam trains belching and gasping after the arduous climb up the Newbury Cut. Just behind the residence is a small, matching studio with the same view.

The original property also included a small, one-room warm weather dwelling on the waterfront with a unique, cantilevered deck which hung out of the water. Next to this was a small boathouse. Both were painted to match the larger home on the hill. Today only the boathouse remains.

Cartographer, Sub-Divider and Architect Henry Allen Hancox was born in Spencerport, NY around 1850. Details of his early education remain unclear. However, we know he made his way to Boston and maintained an office where he worked during the winter. He was hired as a cartographer, sub-divider and architect in 1895 by the newly formed Lake Sunapee Hotel Company. His assignment was to create both a hotel and a sub-division of more than 300 homesites along the lakeshore from Lake Station to Bell Cove, or from the present day Davis Cabins southerly along Route 103 to the Information Booth at Newbury Harbor. Neither the sub-division nor the hotel envisioned by the Lake Sunapee Hotel Company ever came to fruition. Hancox, however, continued to do sub-division work around Lake Sunapee until his death in 1920. He left us with his maps and the beautiful residence.

The Newbury Historical Society has copies of the subdivision created by Henry Hancox, as well as a photograph taken from the docks at the Lake Station Depot looking back toward the railroad tracks. In the distance, the framework of what can only be a hotel is clearly visible adjacent to Henry's summer home. Why this hotel was never completed remains a mystery.

His most recognizable work is the 1915 Map of Lake Sunapee which details the roads around the lake, complete with businesses, hotels and homeowners. This



version of the family cottage was distributed in the 1950's by pharmacist John R. Kelly of Newport (Telephone: 100. Main Street. Complete Line of Rex-all drugs!) Henry's ad in the index reads:

***Plans of Low Priced Cottages with Details
Contracts and Specifications Complete
Summer, Seaside, Suburban
and Workman Cottages
Henry A. Hancox, C.E., Architect***

Ashley Geddes

History Committee

The group continues to meet on a monthly basis when the weather permits. We now have 5 to 6 individuals who attend on a regular basis plus others on occasion. Many bring articles, objects or interesting factoids to the meeting during our "Show and Tell" period. Recently we have had 2 new people attend our sessions.

Marilyn Soper recently moved to Newbury with her husband Bruce. Marilyn is an avid historian who has done considerable research on her family. She is currently serving on the State Historical Society board. She has significant interest in the Union Church in South Newbury and looking for various ways to preserve the building.

Chandler Blodgett has attended several meetings. Chan's great uncle was George Blodgett, the Spiritualist, who developed the Blodgett's Landing area. He serves on the Sutton Historical society's board and has a keen interest in the Blodgett family history.

Recently Bill invited John Lyons of Morse Hill to

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President's Message

The Society is in pretty good shape. The treasury is adequate and we have a small band of people who keep the business of the Society going. We, the board of directors, really appreciate the support, both financial and moral, that you, the members give us.

Yet the original goal and purpose of the Society when it was formed in 1986 has not been realized. The founders wanted to have a written history of the town, but did not have enough of the right people make it happen. Part of the problem was difficulty in getting access to the materials. Over the years progress has been made toward improving access by transcribing vital records to the computer and transcribing newspaper items. The collection of town records and Society memorabilia has been organized and cataloged.

In terms of published history, the Society has produced a small history to the year 1800 and a picture history of more recent times. In addition, articles on specific subjects have been researched and published.

Now we need the members, who care about history, to come forward and give whatever time they can to help with the following issues:

- 1) There is a vacant seat on the board of directors. We are looking for someone with leadership abilities who can sustain and guide the Society to greater accomplishment. (I really do not want this job.)
- 2) The History Committee needs people to continue transcribing vital records to the computer.
- 3) The Archives Committee needs someone who can look at an object, write a description of it and create a catalog record for it.
- 4) The Archives Committee needs people to create finding aids such as indexes.

None of this work has to be drudgery; you will learn history as a byproduct of your effort. Training will be provided as needed. Also you will get to socialize with a great group of people.

For more information, email me at wmcw@tds.net
Bill Weiler, President, Archivist

Annual Meeting and Program Sunday, August 2, 2015 Newbury Town Office, 2:00 PM

Vanishing Newbury Presented by Tracy Messer

Our speaker at the annual meeting will be Tracy Messer. He has deep roots in Newbury and has researched its history for many years. For his *Vanishing Newbury* talk, he used old maps, the book of fires and other sources to find the buildings that had burned or simply decayed into the ground. To illustrate the loss of these building, he used pictures from the Historical Society archives and his own collection.

Tracy has been a member of the Society since its inception and was president from 1989 to 1994. He was involved with the Center Meeting House for 31 years as a trustee and treasurer. In terms of related organizations, he has contributed his time and talent to New Hampshire Archives Group, New Hampshire Preservation Alliance, and Association of Personal Historians.

Tracy's profession is public relations. He is Accredited in Public Relations by the Public Relations Society of America and is a member of the Public Relations Society of America.

History Committee Continued

share his research. John owns the former Morse homestead, one of Newbury's earliest.

The group has evolved from doing Deed research to having multiple interests. These include:

- Genealogies of early Newbury families
- Cellar holes
- Mill sites
- Early road locations
- The Historic Building in South Newbury
(The Grange, Sherman Hall, Town Hall,
The Church and Friendship House)
- Early industries such as Fowler's Mill
- Oral Histories

Additionally, Bill Weiler continues to put research tools in "BOX" a cloud storage location on the Internet. This provides a safe, secure environment for multiple users.



Newbury Historical Society
P. O. Box 176
Newbury, NH 03255

NHS Dates/Events

Newbury Town Office unless otherwise noted

Annual Meeting and Program: August 2, 2015

Vanishing Newbury
Presented by Tracy Messer
Town Office Building, 2:00 PM

Board Meetings, 7:00 PM, Town Office
Second Thursday of May, September & November

Newbury Historical Society Board of Directors

Term expires June, 2015;

Deane Geddes, Bill Weiler, Margie Weiler

Term expires June, 2016:

Paula Falkowski, Gay Sheary, 1 Vacancy

Term expires June, 2017:

Ashley Geddes, Claire Vannatta, 1 Vacancy

E-mail: info@newburyhistorical.org
Website: www.newburyhistorical.org

Center Meeting House

June Speaker Series: *Let Us Entertain You*
Meeting House, 10:00 AM, free, unless otherwise noted

June 6: *Theaters and Actors - The Barn Playhouse*

June 13: A "Double Feature" of Vaudeville
Vaudevillians Who Summered Here

Wally's Famous Vaudeville Troupe - (7 PM)

Live performance, Vet's Hall, \$5.00 fee at door

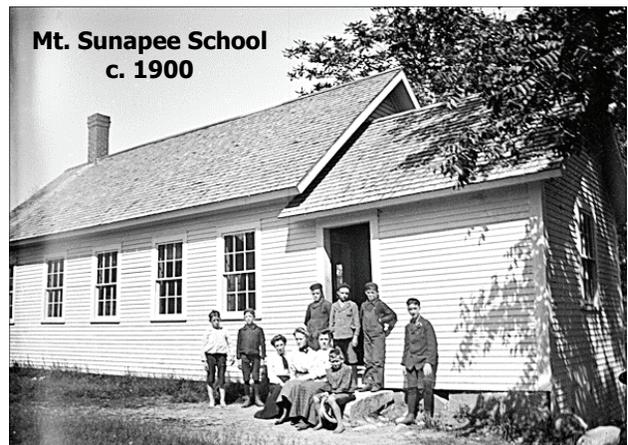
June 20: *Big Bands in the Lake Sunapee Region*

June 27: *Summer Entertainment at Blodgett's Landing*

Visit www.centermeetinghouse.org for more information.



Hiram Gillingham Home, Rt. 103



**Mt. Sunapee School
c. 1900**