

NEWBURY HISTORICAL SOCIETY



Newsletter Volume 15, No. 1 Spring, 2018

Assisted Living in Newbury, circa 1835 by John Lyons

Today assisted living is the most favored and fastest growing long-term care option for seniors in the United States. In a review by the National Survey of Residential Care Facilities, there are now 31,000 plus assisted living communities nationwide. Assisted living houses nearly one million seniors.

Let's take a look how some Newbury seniors approached the lifetime care in 1835. Daniel Gillingham was born and lived in Newbury (it was called Fishersfield then).

As Daniel and his wife Nancy approached old age, they made an agreement with their son Ira to care for them. While offspring often cared for their aging parents in their homes, Daniel formalized the arrangement. To ensure his care would be continued and be at a certain level, if the son did not fulfill his end of the bargain, the son would surrender his homestead. The agreement was in the form of a deed of confirmation registered in the Merrimack County Registry of Deeds in Volume 1835, Book 40, Page 77.

Daniel paid Ira \$1,000 and Ira agreed "to carry on said farm in a husbandlike manner during the natural life of my Father the said Daniel Gillingham or the life of my Mother Nancy Gillingham, pay the taxes assessed on said premises during said term and at all times provide suitable meats, drinks, clothing and nursing and Doctoring for my Father Daniel Gillingham and my Mother Nancy Gillingham and Lydia Lane, my aunt, on the premises in a suitable and comfortable dwelling during their natural lives or the life of either, and I the said Ira further agree always to treat my parents with kindness and never to use harsh or uncouth language and I further agree to pay all the debts now due or owing by my Father Daniel Gillingham or shall be hereafter contracted by him for sickness or for the necessary comforts of life and to pay all necessary funeral charges for each...."

To ensure son Ira lived up to the agreement, he agreed "that the whole of said premises are to be as a pledge for the faithful performance of the foregoing several arrangements and on failure of either I agree to surrender the premises under this deed...."

In another confirmation deed in Newbury, in addition to kindness, etc., the son-in-law agreed to provide

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Newbury Historical Society Program

Monday, June 4, 2018
7:00 p.m.

Newbury Veterans Hall or Old Town Hall

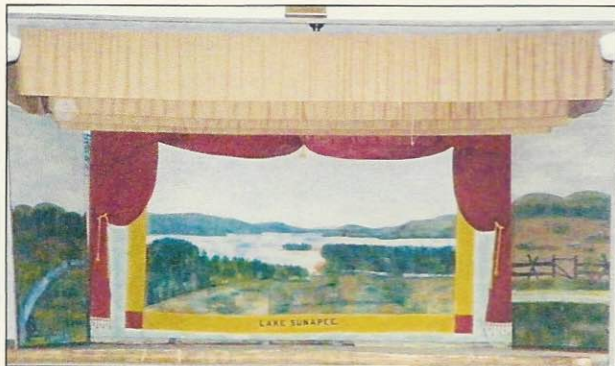
Christine Hadsel presents:

Suspended Worlds: Historic Theater Scenery in Northern New England

A hundred years ago in small-town America, people provided most of their own entertainment, gathering in town halls, small opera houses, or grange halls to enjoy locally produced variety shows. A crucial component of every hall was a stage with its own house scenery. Over five hundred hand-painted theater curtains have been located and documented in New Hampshire, Vermont and Maine by a remarkable team of devoted conservators known as Curtains Without Borders. *Suspended Worlds* is a celebration of historic stage scenery in northern New England.

Painted between 1890 and 1940, these backdrops depict everything from country scenes to rustic interiors, European castles, and the Roman amphitheater. Conservator Christine Hadsel discusses the important work done to preserve these unique artifacts of New England history, including Newbury's own "Lake Sunapee" in the Old Town Hall and "Bay of Naples" in the Veterans Hall.

Copies of *Suspended Worlds: Historic Scenery in Northern New England* will be for sale at the event.



Abandoned New Hampshire Farms

By John Lyons

In the late 1890s, N.J. Bachelder, Commissioner of Agriculture and Immigration (later Governor), concerned about the declining population and number of farms abandoned, started a campaign to repopulate the state's rural farm areas. He sent letters to be published in major metropolitan newspapers with the purpose of recruiting residents for the farms that had been abandoned in the rural parts of the state. At the time there were more than 1,343 abandoned and uninhabited farms in the state. He was also responsible for the publication of "Secure a Home in New Hampshire, Where Comfort, Health, and Prosperity Abound." The following properties in Newbury were among the farms listed for sale in 1899:

"Farm of 100 acres: mowing, 30; pasturage, 50; woodland, 20. House, 30x20; L, 30x35; 11 rooms. Barn, 38x40, with cellar; also horse barn and carriage house. Fenced with stone wall. Running water. Two hundred grafted fruit trees. Railroad station, Bradford, 3 miles; post office, South Newbury, 1/4 mile. Price, \$1,500; cash at sale, \$1,000; interest on balance, 5 per cent. Address Fred S. Muzzey, Penacook, N.H."

This property is located off South Newbury Village and was sold to Lafayette Ayer in 1899, then to Mark Shultis in 1900. The property is now known as Hopewell Farm.

"Farm of 88 acres: mowing, 15; pasturage, 10; woodland, 63. House, 20x22; 8 rooms. Barn, 20x34. Fenced mostly with wire and wall. Running water. Thirty-one grafted fruit trees. Railroad station, Lake Sunapee, 100 rods; post office, Newbury, 1 mile. Price, \$2,000; cash at sale, \$500; interest on balance, 5 per cent. Address Edward C. King, Newbury, N.H."

This property is located west of Lake Station and the original buildings no longer exist.

Mark Shultis Farm, now Hopewell Farm



Test your knowledge of Newbury and New Hampshire History with these puzzlers.

1. What is the State motto of New Hampshire?
a. The Granite State b. Vacationland
c. Live Free or Die d. Lakes and Mountains
2. The current State motto was adopted in 1945. What was the motto before that?
a. Home of the brave b. Scenic
c. Vacationland d. First in the nation
3. According to *The History of Newbury, Part One*, which Native American tribe was fishing and planting in the Newbury area?
a. Iroquois b. Pennacook
c. Sunapee d. Micmac
4. The first settler of our town arrived about 1770. Who was he?
a. Zephaniah Clark b. Samuel Gunnison
c. Ephraim Bradley d. Ebenezer Gove
5. A condition in the Town Charter of 1772 stated that 25 families be settled each having a dwelling house. How many acres of land cleared, fenced and fitted for moving or tillage in three years did it require?
a. 1 year b. 3 years
c. 5 years d. none
6. Where was the first meeting house in Newbury built?
a. Bly Hill, 1791 b. Lakeside, 1802
c. South Newbury, 1831 d. Baker Hill, 1788
7. How was the construction of early meeting houses and churches financed?
a. Real estate taxes b. Bake sales
c. Sale of family pews d. 10% tithing tax, 10 years
8. In 1875 campsites were established at the Blodgett's landing area. What was one group that occupied the sites?
a. Boston Founders retreat b. DAR meetings
c. Manchester Mill workers d. Civil War Vets' reunions
9. What was the name of Lake Todd before 1946?
a. Beaver Pond b. Bass Lake
c. Gillingham Lake d. Frog Pond
10. The Fells was visited by a number of U. S. Presidents. Which one planted an elm tree on the grounds? (Hint: 1902)
a. William McKinley b. Theodore Roosevelt
c. Chester Arthur d. U. S. Grant

(Answers on Page 4)

Evie Davis Remembered

It is with sadness we note the passing of Evie Davis. Evelyn A. (Croteau) Davis passed away on January 13, 2018. She was born in Newbury on August 25, 1936, the daughter of George and Florette (LaBarre) Croteau.



Evie attended Newbury Elementary School and graduated from Simonds Free High School in 1954. When talking about growing up in the area, she liked to tell stories of how she took the train to high school.

Evie worked as the Newbury Town Clerk and Tax Collector for many years and then as the Newbury Postmaster, both jobs a very important part of her Newbury heritage. She always greeted people with a smile and a friendly hello.

She was a founding member of the Newbury Historical Society's History Committee and entertained the committee with many interesting anecdotes from Newbury's past. She will be missed.

Photo courtesy of Evie's son "Junior"

(Assisted Living Continued from page 1)

"suitable horse and carriage, well harnessed, at the door for them, or either of them, at all times when it is suitable and proper for them to use one."

In 1835 many of the residents of Newbury lived their entire life without traveling more than 30 miles from home. Today, aging parents and their children are often living too far apart to have such an arrangement



Mt. Sunapee School House, circa 1900

Newbury Historical Society Annual Meeting and Program

Sunday, September 16, 2018
3:00 p.m.

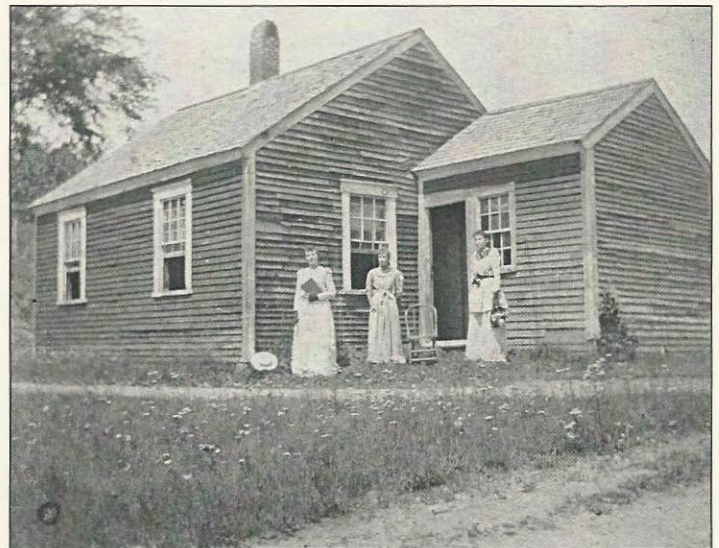
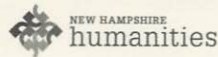
Newbury Veterans' Hall

Steve Taylor presents:

New Hampshire's One-Room Rural Schools: The Romance and the Reality

Hundreds of one-room schools dotted the landscape of New Hampshire a century ago and were the backbone of primary education for generations of children. Revered in literature and lore, they actually were beset with problems, some of which are little changed today. The greatest issue was financing the local school and the vast differences between taxing districts in ability to support education. Other concerns included teacher preparation and quality, curriculum, discipline, student achievement and community involvement in the educational process. This New Hampshire Humanities program by Steve Taylor explores the lasting legacies of the one-room school and how they echo today.

Steve Taylor is an independent scholar, farmer, journalist, and longtime public official. With his sons, Taylor operates a dairy, maple syrup, and cheese making enterprise in Meriden Village. He has been a newspaper reporter and editor, and served for 25 years as New Hampshire's commissioner of agriculture. Taylor was the founding executive director of the New Hampshire Humanities Council and is a lifelong student of the state's rural culture.



Box Corner School House, Bradford
Students included some living in S. W. Newbury



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

NHS Dates/Events

Newbury Town Office unless otherwise noted

Monday, June 4, 2018, 7:00 PM

***Suspended Worlds: Historic Theater
Scenery in Northern New England***
Presented by Christine Hadsel

Old Town Hall or Veterans' Hall - check website

Annual Meeting and Program

Sunday, September 16, 2018, 3:00 PM

***New Hampshire's One-Room Rural Schools:
The Romance and the Reality***
Presented by Steve Taylor

and sponsored by the N. H. Humanities Council

Board Meetings, 2:30 PM, Town Office

Second Thursday of May, July, September & November

Newbury Historical Society Board of Directors

Paula Falkowski, Ashley Geddes, Deane Geddes
John Lyons, Gay Sheary, Bill Weiler, Margie Weiler

Archives: Bill Weiler (603-938-2892)

Membership: Margie Weiler

House Markers: Gay and Marty Sheary

Newsletter: A. Geddes, D. Geddes, P. Falkowski & B. Steward

Programs: John Lyons

History Committee: Deane Geddes

Website: Margie Weiler

History Committee meets the 2nd Tuesday of the month,
Town Office, 9:30 AM.

**Email: info@newburyhistorical.org
Website: www.newburyhistorical.org**

**Newbury Historical Society
P O Box 178, Newbury, NH 03255**

School Regulations 1891

School regulations in the town of Newbury, New Hampshire

1st Scholars may be required to build the fires, keep the room of a suitable temperature, sweep and keep it clean.

2nd Scholars shall be answerable for all misconduct during school hours, in going to and returning from school, and for all acts which have a tendency to injure the school and subvert the authority of the teacher.

3rd No scholar shall leave the school grounds during school hours without the consent of the teacher.

4th Teachers may prescribe such rules for the use of the yard and school house as shall insure their being kept in a neat and proper condition, also in regard to deportment during school hours.

Witness our hands at Newbury this thirteenth day of November 1891

Daniel M. Perkins, Clarence B. Cheney, School Board

Copied from Town Record Book "K", page 32.

Answers to Quiz on Page 3

1c, 2b, 3b, 4a, 5b, 6a, 7c, 8d, 9d, 10b