

NEWBURY HISTORICAL SOCIETY



Newsletter
Volume 14, No. 1
Spring, 2017

A Pioneer of Blodgett Landing

Who was Mrs. George W. Blodgett? Turns out she was Iraetta "Etta" Dunbar, and she was born on August 25, 1855 in Bangor, Maine. She was the daughter of Ira and Judith (Sawins) Dunbar. Not much is known about how she became Mrs. George Blodgett, but after George died in 1910, she moved into her own house in Sunapee, which she purchased from C.A. Knowlton in 1913.

It appears from numerous tidbits in the *New Hampshire Argus and Spectator* and *Republican Champion* that Mrs. Etta Blodgett traveled extensively about New England. She apparently spent time at Blodgett's Landing, Portsmouth, N.H., and Kittery, Maine. In the 1920s, she spent most winters in Massachusetts.

In June of 1921, the Indian Tree Tea Room and Gift Shop (with a Miss Wackerhagen and Miss Hubbard as hostesses) opened for the eleventh season in Mrs. Etta Blodgett's house on High Street, Sunapee. According to the *Argus and Spectator*, "... substantial luncheons and suppers, also afternoon tea will be

served at reasonable prices. The Gift Shop will be unusually attractive."

Mrs. Etta Blodgett passed away at her home on High Street, Sunapee on January 29, 1925 and was buried in Newbury. She left two brothers, George Dunbar, who lived with her, and Calvin Dunbar of Kittery, Maine. A niece, Miss Florence Chadburn, of Newbury, cared for her during the days of illness that led to her death. Nathan P. Baker was a cousin of Mrs. Blodgett. According to her obituary in the *Argus and Spectator*, she was "an active member of the Willing Workers Bible Class, the Sunapee Womans Club and Crescent Rebekah Lodge."

A 1932 article in the *Argus Champion* indicated they were all sorry to hear of the death of Mr. Dunbar of Kittery, Me. "Mr. Dunbar was the brother of Mrs. Etta Blodgett, a pioneer of Blodgett Landing."

The following article on page 2 chronicles the wedding of Mr. and Mrs. George W. Blodgett and appeared in the November 22, 1901 *New Hampshire Argus and Spectator*. If anyone has a picture of Iraetta "Etta" Dunbar Blodgett, the Newbury Historical Society would love to see it. (Contacts on page 4.)



George W. Blodgett is seated in the front row, second from the left. No one else in this photo has been identified so it is possible that Etta is also pictured. We think she is the woman standing behind George. If any of our readers can identify anyone else in the photograph, please contact the Historical Society.

George and Etta Blodgett are buried in Lakeside Cemetery in Newbury, NH. The gravestone can be clearly seen from Rt. 103 A.

The inscription reads:

GEORGE W. BLODGETT,
JAN. 23, 1838 - MAY 11, 1910
AT REST
IRAETTA D. HIS WIFE,
AUG. 25, 1855 - JAN. 29, 1925

**From the New Hampshire
Argus and Spectator
November 22, 1901
Blodgett's Landing.**

The wedding reception to Mr. and Mrs. George W. Blodgett was held at the Forest House Nov. 15. Mr. and Mrs. F.W. Huntoon assisted in receiving the guests, numbering nearly 200, the steamer, Lady Woodsum, coming across the lake from Sunapee Harbor loaded to her full capacity with relatives and friends. Elmer E. Blodgett, Alberton Bagley and Tharon I. Farmer acted as ushers.

A dainty lunch was served in the dining room, which consisted of sandwiches, cake, ice cream and coffee. The pourers were Mrs. George Messer and Mrs. F.B. Fellows; the waiters were Mrs. Elmer Messer, Mrs. Alberton Bagley, Misses Alice Blodgett, Edith Messer, Marion Gillingham, Karl Blodgett.

The following are among the out of town friends: E.D. French, Hopkinton; Mr. and Mrs. Frank D. Ray, Misses Helen Rockwood, Hattie G. Hills, Nashua; Mr. and Mrs. T. Burpee, Mr. and Mrs. E.E. Blodgett, Mr. and Mrs. E.A. Clay, Mr. and Mrs. W.J. Grout, Sutton; Mr. and Mrs. M.F. Knowlton, Capt. and Mrs. Frank Woodsum, Capt. Daniel R. Woodsum, Mr. and Mrs. N.P. Baker, Mrs. Lucy J. Runals, Wm. W. Flanders, Geo. C. Dunbar, Capt. Will Flanders, M.C. Bartlett, R.A. Eastman, Sunapee; Auren Messer, Bert Messer, E.F. Messer and wife, L.H. Lewis and wife, Bradford; Mr. and Mrs. F.W. Huntoon, Lempster; Mrs. (sic) and Mrs. E. Todd, New London.

The literary entertainment consisted of musical selections by Mrs. Maude Rollins Robinson; recitations by Marion Gillingham, Harold Messer, Albert Farmer, and Grover R. Gillingham, which were enjoyed by all. After the exercises the friends and relatives departed for their homes, wishing Mr. and Mrs. Blodgett many happy returns of the happy day.

Presents.

Eight-day mantel clock, Jonathan Merrill and wife, F.H. Messer and wife, Alberton Bagley and wife, Bert H. Messer, Bradford;
linen tablecloth, Mr. and Mrs. O.A. Todd, New London;
silver bronze and gold butter dish, Auren Messer;
banquet lamp, Mrs. S.C. Blodgett, Miss Flora E. Blodgett, Byron Blodgett, Manchester;
banquet lamp, Mr. and Mrs. F.O. Ray, Miss Helen Rockwood, Nashua;
banquet lamp, Mr. and Mrs. F.E. Nelson, Concord;
silver and glass fruit dish, Mr. and Mrs. Jonathan Rowe, Miss Nellie Rowe;
bed puff, Nancy Farmer and family;
glass service, Capt. and Mrs. Frank Spaulding;
pincushion, Mr. and Mrs. Hoague, Miss Bessie Hoague;
ginty brownie, Mrs. A. Fellows;
picture, Edith and Harold Messer;
silver cake knife, Mr. and Mrs. E.T. Messer, New London;
silver cucumber server, Mrs. W. B. Chadwick, North Andover, Mass.;

five dollar gold piece, Mr. and Mrs. E.D. French, Hopkinton;
diamond stick pin, Wesley R. Churchill, Cambridge, Mass.;

sailor rocker, Mr. and Mrs. Wm. Holden, Leominster, Mass.;

six silver nut picks and cracker, Mr. and Mrs. D.W. Nelson, Bradford;

silver and gold berry spoon, Mr. and Mrs. M.H. Clark, Newbury;

linen tablecloth, Mr. and Mrs. Silas B. Howe, Sunapee;
beveled plate mirror, Mrs. S.M. Durgin, V.C. Brockway, M.H. Clark; Mr. and Mrs. J.D. Folsom, H.A. Hancock, Mr. and Mrs. C.F. Bartlett, Charles Brockway, Joseph Donagan, Mr. and Mrs. McMackin, Newbury;

bedspread, Mr. and Mrs. W.F. Small;

bureau scarf, Mr. and Mrs. Frank Lear;

pair towels, Mrs. C.I. Stocker, Sunapee;

silver cake knife, Mr. and Mrs. E.A. Clay, Sutton;

pair towels, Mr. and Mrs. James Knowlton;

pair towels, Mr. and Mrs. N.P. Baker, Sunapee;

six dessert spoons, George M. Leighton;

four pairs towels from unknown friends;

set silver teaspoons, Mr. and Mrs. F.W. Huntoon;

purse of money, Mr. and Mrs. W.J. Grout;

gold lined china fruit plate, Mr. and Mrs. John Dudley, Newport;

kneading board and rolling pin, Mr. and Mrs. W.W. Trow, Mr. and Mrs. John Young, Sunapee;

fancy silver and gold salad spoon, Mr. and Mrs. E.E. Blodgett, Miss Alice Blodgett;

pin tray, Mrs. Elmora Currier, Sunapee;

gilt edged glass set, Mrs. Lucy J. Runals, Mrs. Holmes, Sunapee;

ironing holder, Mrs. John Knowlton;

picture, Elder and Mrs. John Young;

silver and gold lined sugar spoon, Mr. and Mrs. L.H. Grout, Bradford;

glass butter dish, Ada Clay;

pair hemstitched tray cloths, Mr. and Mrs. S.B. Howe, Sunapee;

linen table spread, Mr. and Mrs. F.C. Perkins, Sunapee;

Whittier's Poems, Mr. and Mrs. George A. Manson, Charlestown, Mass.;

pair tray cloths, Mr. and Mrs. F.E. Perkins;

silver crumb tray, Mrs. Ai Worthen;

hand embroidered tray cloth, Mr. and Mrs. Will Flanders, Sunapee;

silver and gold lined nut bowl, E.S. Dean, George C. Dunbar;

pair towels, Daisy Richards;

vase with chrysanthemums, Mrs. A.J. Rockwood, Miss Hattie G. Hills, Nashua;

ornamented silver and gold berry spoon, Mrs. Anna A. Hinds, Mrs. Lena Gillingham;

set nut picks and cracker, Mr. and Mrs. Cerendo Gillingham, Newbury;

Battenberg doily, V. Florence Dunbar, Newport;

biscuit sofa pillow, Mr. and Mrs. A.E. Rollins, Mrs. Maud R. Robinson;

pair towels, Mr. and Mrs. T. Burpee;

pair woolen blankets, Mr. and Mrs. J.H. Blodgett;

set carving knife, fork and steel, George H. Graham and family, Springfield, Mass.;

glass berry set, Mr. and Mrs. Ruel Hall, Croydon.

History Quiz

Test your knowledge about Newbury History with these puzzlers.

- Which of the following was not a steamboat on Lake Sunapee?
 - Weetamoo
 - Edmund Burke
 - Island Cruiser
 - Armenia White
- To complete the railroad from Bradford to Newport was an enormous engineering challenge. To achieve the height to Lake Sunapee and on the Newport/Claremont the "Newbury Cut" was completed in which year?
 - 1920
 - 1895
 - 1871
 - 1835
- The "Center Meeting House" was built in 1832 and used what is believed to be timbers from a previous meeting house located in what area of town?
 - Sunapee Mtn.
 - Bly Hill
 - Edgemont
 - Morse Hill
- The current Town Office had a previous life. What was it before?
 - Gas Station
 - General Store
 - Library
 - Grade School
- The Town of Newbury was not always so named. The founders in the 1799's named it which of the following?
 - Newfields
 - Fisherfield
 - Sunapee Field
 - Clarksville
- Which writer and diplomat did John Hay not serve under?
 - Abraham Lincoln
 - William McKinley
 - Grover Cleveland
 - T. Roosevelt

(Answers will be found on page 4.)

South Newbury Union Church and Friendship House added to NH Register of Historic Places

"As was often true in New Hampshire in the 19th century, the South Newbury Union Church was used for both church services and for public and town meeting from the time it was built in 1831 until 1878 when a town hall was constructed. The building is a well-preserved example of a Greek Revival meetinghouse and still has several original architectural details."

"Next Door to the church is District School House # 5 which was built in 1853 and served as the educational center of South Newbury Village for more than 100 years. Today the school is known as Friendship House and serves as meeting space for the church" and some community groups.

The State Register has helped to promote the significance of many historic properties across NH. Benefits include a pre-qualification for Conservation License Plate and New Hampshire Land and Community Heritage Investment Program (LCHIP) grants, each of which can be crucial to the historic preservation of these buildings. The South Newbury Union Church Preservation Committee is currently in the midst of a campaign to preserve them.

Photo right: members of the Newbury Historical Society visited the SNUC and Friendship House last November. Pictured left to right: Craig MacKenzie, Ashley Geddes, Marty Sheary, Bill Weiler, Gay Sheary, Maralyn Doyle, Paula Falkowski and John Lyons. Joyce LaPorte and Maralyn Doyle served as very accommodating guides.

Quoted excerpts from *The Intertown Record*, 2/19/2017.

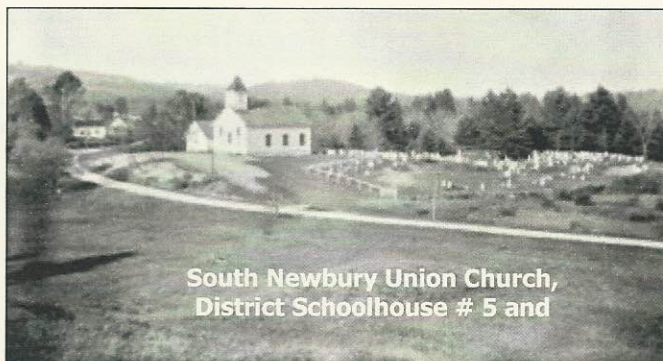
Newbury Historical Society Annual Meeting and Program

Sunday, August 13, 2017
Newbury Town Office, 2:00 PM

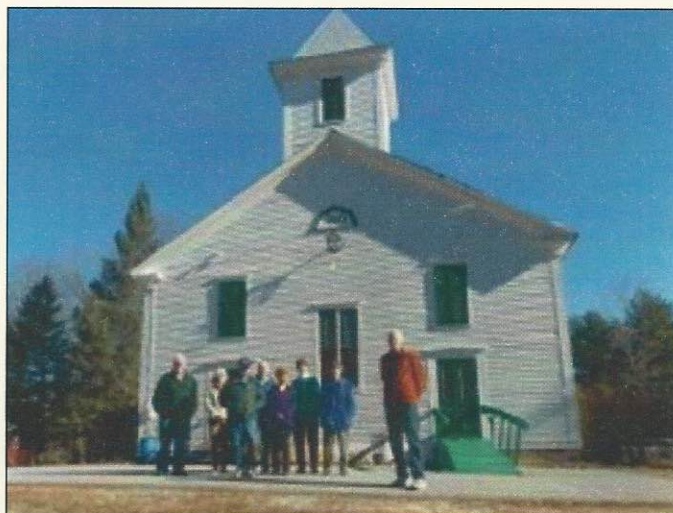
Glenn Knoblock presents *New Hampshire Cemeteries and Gravestones*

Rubbings, photographs and slices illustrate the rich variety of gravestones to be found in our own neighborhoods, but they also tell long forgotten stories of such historical events as the Great Awakening, the Throat epidemic and the American Revolution. Find out more about these deeply personal works of art and the craftsmen who carved them with Glenn Knoblock and learn how to read the stone "pages" that give insight into the vast genealogical book of New Hampshire.

Glenn Knoblock is an independent scholar and author of fifteen books and over 100 articles. He is also the author and historian on projects relating to northern New England bridges, New Hampshire cemeteries, brewing history and African-American military history. Knoblock has served as the main military contributor to Harvard and Oxford University's landmark African-American Biography Project. He holds a BA in History from Bowling Green State University.



South Newbury Union Church,
District Schoolhouse # 5 and





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

NHS Dates/Events

Newbury Town Office unless otherwise noted

Annual Meeting and Program: August 13, 2017

***New Hampshire Cemeteries and Gravestones
Presented by Glenn Knoblock***

Newbury Town Office, 2:00 PM

Board Meetings, 2:30 PM, Town Office

Second Thursday of May, Sept., Nov., Jan & March

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: Gay Sheary

History Committee: Deane Geddes

Website: Margie Weiler

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

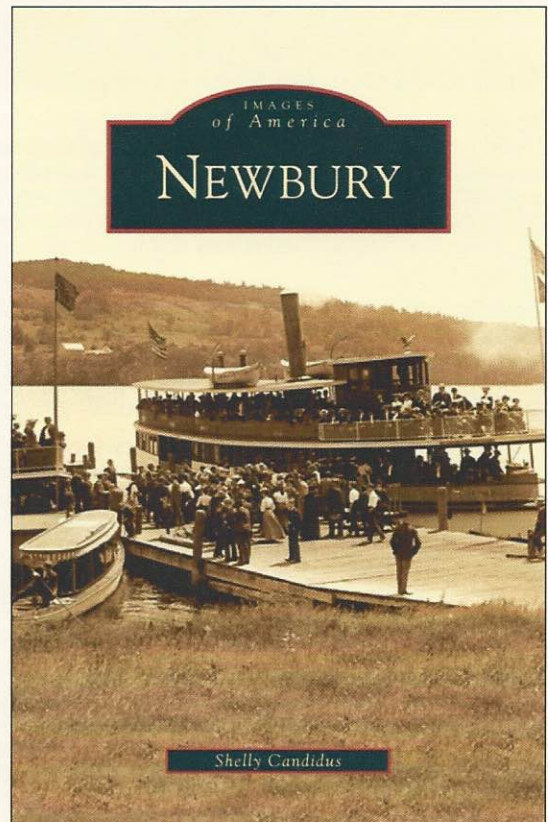
Email: info@newburyhistorical.org

Website: www.newburyhistorical.org

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

Newbury, a pictorial history of Newbury, NH by Shelly Candidus

Do you have a copy for your family? If not there is still time to purchase one but supplies are limited. Go to the Historical Society's website (shown above) and arrange to have one shipped to your door or contact Margie Weiler (938-2892) to purchase one directly. You won't be sorry - it is full of great photos.



Answers to History Quiz:
1c, 2c, 3b, 4d, 5b and 6c.

**Painted Curtains
Treasures from the Past**

Newbury is fortunate to have several of these increasingly rare hand painted curtains, three of which have potential for conservation and preservation.

The curtain pictured depicts Lake Sunapee and hangs in the old Town Hall in South Newbury. Also shown in the photo are two of the eight "ears" that when placed correctly extend the scene on both sides to the edge of the stage. These were used with two different painted scenes.

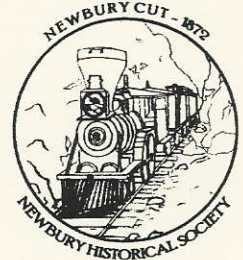


Another curtain deemed worthy of conservation was found in storage in the Vets' Hall a number of years ago. This "Grand Drape", which is in better condition, offers a scene entitled "Bay of Naples".

The Newbury Historical Society and the Town of Newbury are in the process of applying for a grant that will permit us, with the assistance of a professional conservator, to repair and preserve these artifacts. We will be accomplishing this with our own volunteers. If this project is of interest to you then please contact Paula Falkowski (603-763-9810) and find out how you can get involved.

Time to Renew Your Membership!

June is a very important month for us as it marks the beginning of our Membership year. Please continue your support by completing and returning the bottom half of this flyer. Thanks to you, your Society is stronger than ever. We ask for your support so that we may continue to increase our programs, publications and projects.



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Newbury Historical Society Membership Renewal, 2017 - 2018

Name: _____ **Phone:** _____

Mailing address: _____ **e-mail:** _____

City: _____ **State:** _____ **Zip:** _____

Please check type of membership:

Individual \$ 10.00 Family \$20.00 Business \$ 50.00

Life \$ 200.00 Family Life \$ 300.00

I am enclosing an additional contribution of \$ _____ (greatly appreciated).

Please return the bottom of this form and your check to:

The Newbury Historical Society, PO Box 176, Newbury, NH 03255