

Town of New London Archives  
Old Academy Building, 375 Main Street  
New London, NH 03257-0240

**Minutes of the New London Archives Committee  
September 16, 2009, 9:00 a.m.**

Present: Jim Perkins, Chairman; Verne Barrett, Bob MacMichael, Connie Reece, Doris Cutter, Peg Moreland, Deb Hall, Nancy Dutton

**Announcements**

Bob MacMichael has donated the original town information booth, which he has cared for at his house for many years, to the Ice House. Bob acquired the information building when the town put it up for auction. Bill Kidder later acquired an aluminum sign, which the state once issued to towns for information booths. Bill presented the restored sign to Bob when he retired as Selectman. Both the sign and the building are now situated at the Ice House, the museum that Bill Kidder created from a lifetime of collecting items associated with our local history.

**Requests for Research and Materials**

Jim handed out a few copies of a new booklet created in conjunction with the *Then and Now* exhibit of photographs held at the New London Historical Society this summer. Both the booklet and the exhibit compare old photos taken along New London's Main Street with photographs of the same scenes today. The historic photos were all taken from collections held at the Archives.

Jim and Deb both discussed the Old Main Street Cemetery tour, which the Historical Society is presenting on September 26<sup>th</sup>. Volunteer actors, dressed in period costumes, will assume roles and tell the stories of six New London citizens. The Archives has provided research and information about those characters.

Brian Clancy, a member of the Colby-Sawyer faculty, is teaching a course to freshmen this semester called "Local Time." Students will be studying local history and using primary research materials to understand, in part, how local events reflect bigger national issues. As part of their course work the students will come to the Archives to research a building or place in New London and explore its history. Ultimately each student will write a short paper on the findings. They will tour the Archives on October 2.

**Recent Acquisitions**

Jim mentioned that the Archives has recently received a number of significant donations. They include two **photo albums**, originally belonging to the Edmunds and Griffin families, the photos of which were digitized for our collection and the albums returned to the owners. The town has donated **aerial photographs** taken in 2008. The Bewley family has also donated **Brocklebank Hotel registers** and **Paul Gay's papers**, which primarily involve maple sugaring and the water precinct, as well as some newspaper clippings.

### Archive Policies

For the next meeting, Archives Committee members prepare to discuss a number of proposed written policies: acquisitions, lending, use of the archives, donor information, and the archivist's role. Copies of the draft policies are enclosed. They will be amended, as needed, and approved at our next meeting.

### Update on Projects

Arrolyn continues to work on the map collection. Jim discussed the prospect of further developing the collection by trying to identify and acquire copies of all **historic maps** that show New London, Heidelberg, or the Alexandria Addition.

As mentioned in the last minutes, the Hafners are interested in posting the **cemetery records** on line. The project will start with the Old Main Street Cemetery. Elkins and the West Part cemeteries will come next. Bob and Doris noted that originally the Catholic cemetery in Elkins was private and that the town acquired abutting land for town use. While the two areas were separated from each other for many years, the fence between them was eventually removed, and they are now maintained as one.

Jim is continuing to **digitize images** in the collection for the database, having now copied about 5,500 images. Deb and Connie have completed the **inventory and catalog** of the front half of the reading room and have begun work in the stacks. Jim also asked that we all think of **key documents** in the collection that should be digitized so that we have copies of these rare materials and so that the originals do not need to be handled more than necessary.

### New Business

For the past few years, Jim has been working a project to publish a memoir written by Judith Maria Burpee Greenwood in 1892. The memoir primarily covers her growing-up years in New London from the 1830s to the 1860s. Copies of the memoir's transcript are held in our Archives, at Colby-Sawyer, and by the Cochran family, but the original work has not been located. Bound drafts of the book were circulated for review. Jim requested a proposal that the New London Archives hold the copyright for the book, which will be printed by an on-line publisher that requires no financial commitment. The motion was made, seconded, and passed.

Jim also noted that Dr. J. Duane Squires maintained the copyright for his New London history, *Mirror to America*. In order to digitize this book for on-line access, it will be necessary to get permission from one of his sons – probably Jim Squires who lives in Hollis.

Respectfully submitted,  
Nancy Dutton, Secretary