

Town of New London Archives
Old Academy Building, 375 Main Street
New London, NH 03257-0249

**Minutes of the New London Archives Committee
October 20, 2010**

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

Main Street History Project

Jim described the tour of Main Street that the New London Historical Society is planning for next September. A Wiki format (an online encyclopedia) has been set up for the Archives to collect data about the various houses and other structures along Main Street. Photos, stories, and information about each building can be added by different volunteers in a collaborative on-line effort. While the Historical Society project will probably only include the area from Colby-Sawyer to Springledge, the effort would continue beyond September to include the rest of the town as time allows. Material from our house and building files, photographs, and book and newspaper information that already has been collected will be entered first. Some of Brian Clancy's students from Colby-Sawyer may be involved, and several other people have already volunteered to work on the project.

Jim would also like to gather a small group of people together from time to time to talk about the buildings and changes along Main Street. He would set up a series of opportunities – here, perhaps at Woodcrest or at another location, and project pictures of the structures on a wall to elicit memories and stories to add to the history. Bob remarked that the center of New London as he was growing up was at the Four Corners, with three grocery stores in that area, as well as the library.

Another idea Jim has is to continue gathering oral histories from people who have lived and worked in town. A number of people have expressed an interest in doing interviews and transcribing the tapes. He would like to interview a cross section of people, including younger ones, just starting out in business, for example.

Update on other projects

A lot of work has been done over the summer in reorganizing the archives so that material on a given topic is in one place and can be more readily located. New labels have been put on many of the boxes and shelves. Some of the material in the boxes need to be broken down into smaller files for easier use, and information from some of Mildred Tunis's personal files needs to be added to the appropriate box over the coming months.

The oral history transcripts have been scanned and converted to text, enabling a person to readily search for any topic included in the documents. Jim has also scanned the three town histories, pamphlets published about New London over the years, and some other materials. This information is only accessible at the Archives, as there are copyright and other issues to address before the material could be made available online.

Thanks to the efforts of Rick Anderson, the Job Seamans' diaries which we had on microfilm have been converted to a digital format. There are no longer any microfilm readers in New London, making the old format impossible to use here.

Arthur Hall has also digitized nearly all of 35mm slides in the archive collection, over 2,000 images. With his work and the photographs that Jim has already scanned, the Archives database now holds about 8,000 visual images.

New Acquisitions

The Archives' collections have been augmented by a number of donations over the last several months. Items received include:

- The 1802 original charter for King Solomon's Lodge
- Calendar, photographs of Cricentis' store, old postcard of Whipple Hall, New London game
- Photographs, documents, programs and other New London memorabilia from the Shepard family
- Recent photographs of renovation work done on Tracy Memorial Library

Other

The Archives annex space has been providing storage for the 1,500 or so remaining copies of the most recent town history, Our Voices, Our Town by Ann Page Stecker. While efforts have been made to sell the copies in various venues, sales have been limited. After soliciting the approval of the Selectmen, the Town Archives Committee has been granted permission to distribute the surplus books as it sees fit. Some will be given to realtors in town to give to new residents in town. Others will be given to students doing research on the town, perhaps to other town archives (in hopes of getting their volumes in exchange), and others who might make appropriate use of the volumes.

Bob remarked about how thrilled he was that the original town information booth that he had cared for so many years, has found a new home at the Ice House. It is the perfect place for it, as the Historical Society collections relate more to the "horse and buggy era," while the Ice House exhibits have more to do with travel by car and more modern tourism. It was suggested that we begin to develop a list of various people who served in the booth.

The meeting adjourned at 10:00.

Respectfully submitted,
Nancy Dutton