

Historic Newington



Hoyt Women Haying

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Newington Historical Society

The Newington Historical Society is going strong. In the last five months, we formed a new board of 12 directors, completed all our state and federal filings, conducted a membership drive that brought in 41 members, decorated the historic district buildings for the holidays, and hosted a year-end bonfire. We are very grateful to the folks who made donations to the NHS of cash, artifacts, and documents.

This newsletter is one of the membership benefits of the society. Written by the town historian, Lulu Pickering, the goal is to keep you abreast of upcoming events and activities.

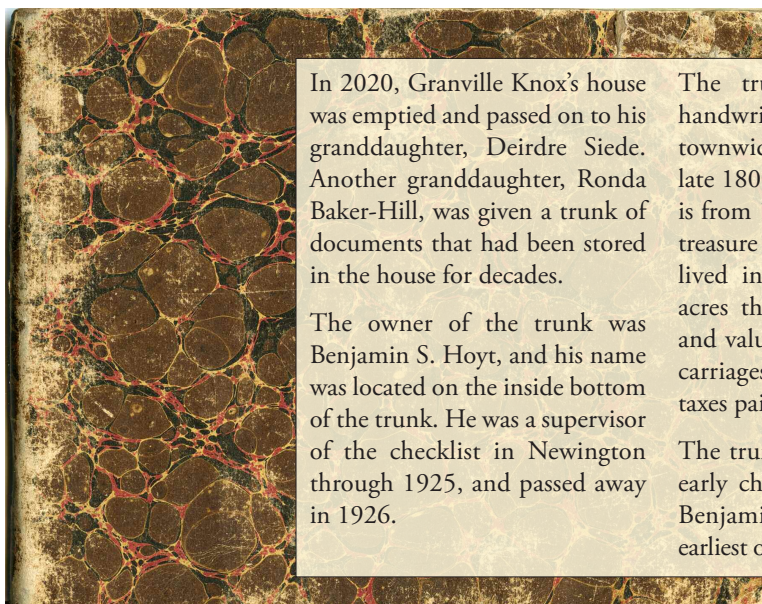
Please join in the fun! We will be working on flower gardens soon and plan to have an annual meeting – picnic at the Old Parsonage on [Saturday, June 26th](#).

Newington Historical Society Board Members and Officer

Name	Title or Office	Old Newington Family
Laura Coleman	President, board	Coleman family
John Lamson	Vice President, board	Lamson family
Lee Lamson	Past Treasurer, board	Lamson family
Lulu Pickering	Treasurer, board	Pickering family
Badger Baird	Board	Baird family
Ronda Baker-Hill	Board	Adams/Knox family
Shirley Frank	Board	Packard family
Helen Frink	Board	Frink family
David Hislop	Board	Hislop family
F. Jackson Hoyt	Board	Hoyt and Garland families
Peggy Lamson	Board	Lamson family
Richard Spinney	Board	Spinney family

Ronda Baker-Hill Donates Historic Checklists and Town Valuations

PUBLISHED BY E. C. EASTMAN & CO., CONCORD. (Successors to G. Parker Lyon.)		IMPROVED AND UNIMPROVED LANDS, AND BUILDINGS NOT SPECIALLY DESIGNATED.		ACRES.		Horses, Aves and other animals.		Cows, Oxen and other animals.		SHEEP (BY MONTHS)		Hogs.		Dogs.		Stock in Banks, and other corporations.		Carriages.		Stock in Trade.		Money on hand, all interests, or on deposit.		Partnerships and other concerns.		Mills and Carrying Places.		Stock in Public Funds.		Total Value.		Belonging Value.		Sales, County, Town and School Taxes.		School House Taxes.		Highway Taxes.	
INVOICE OF THE Polls and Rateable Property of the Inhabitants of the Town of Newington April 1, 1877.		DESCRIPTORS.		NO.	VAL.	NO.	VAL.	NO.	VAL.	NO.	VAL.	NO.	VAL.	NO.	VAL.	NO.	VAL.	NO.	VAL.	NO.	VAL.	AMOUNT.	VAL.	VAL.	VAL.	VAL.	VAL.	VAL.	VAL.	VAL.	VAL.	VAL.	VAL.	VAL.	VAL.				
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Anna ble Charles				34	1800	1	25	3	115																			1970	970	21.40			4.85						
Arable Charles		Woodman farm		40	1450																							1450	725	15.20			3.62						
Berry David heirs				27	2200	1	25	1	25																			2250	1125	2360			5.62						
Beach Henry	1			69	2850	2	150	7	190													175						3365	1783	3740			8.71						
Bean Henry		Dow pasture		12	100																							100	50	1.05			.25						
Bean Emma H.																						200						260	100	210			.50						
Bean James E.	1			5	350	1	20	3	50																		520	260	550			1.30							
Bean Mary R.				92	875																							875	437	9.20			21.8						
Bean Rosanna								1	70																			70	35	.73			.17						
Brown George W.	1			1/2	75																							175	87	1.80			.43						
Bradger David D.	1			115	260	1	100	6	162	3	7																	3019	1509	31.70			7.54						



In 2020, Granville Knox's house was emptied and passed on to his granddaughter, Deirdre Siede. Another granddaughter, Ronda Baker-Hill, was given a trunk of documents that had been stored in the house for decades.

The owner of the trunk was Benjamin S. Hoyt, and his name was located on the inside bottom of the trunk. He was a supervisor of the checklist in Newington through 1925, and passed away in 1926.

The trunk contained several handwritten volumes of townwide valuations from the late 1800s. The one on this page is from 1877. The volumes are a treasure trove of the families who lived in town, the number of acres they owned, the number and value of horses, cows, hogs, carriages, stocks, etc., and the taxes paid.

The trunk also contained many early checklists. As town clerk, Benjamin Hoyt signed the earliest one of February 23, 1878.

The August 21, 1920 checklist is dated just three days after the ratification of the 19th amendment to the U.S. Constitution that gave women the right to vote. This checklist contained 52 handwritten names of women in town who immediately registered to vote, bringing the total number of voters in town to 121. More women registered to vote on later checklists.

The Newington Historical Society is a non-profit 501(c)(3) organization under the U.S. Internal Revenue Code and is registered as a charitable non-profit organization with the New Hampshire Charitable Trusts Unit.

Historic Newington is a publication to benefit the members of the Newington Historical Society.
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Contact information:

Newington Historical Society
C/O Lulu Pickering
339 Little Bay Road
Newington, NH 03801

pickering@informagen.com

The Meetinghouse at Bloody Point

Stone steps to nowhere tell a story of long ago

November 19, 2020
[Marshall Hudson](#)



Once upon a time, this rock outside the Newington meetinghouse helped women gracefully hop astride their horses. Photo by Marshall Hudson

The oddly shaped boulder in front of the Newington Meetinghouse caught my attention. Thirteen yoke of oxen had labored to drag it there in the early 1700s. Someone had flattened off the top and chiseled steps into it. Why? I tried the steps. They still work. I'm wondering what this rock has seen come and go over the last three centuries.

This old meetinghouse predates the Town of Newington having been erected when the area was known as "Bloody Point," which was claimed by both Dover and Portsmouth. Supposedly, around 1631, a representative of the Swampscot land grant (Dover) and a representative of the Piscataqua land grant (Portsmouth) met to discuss resolution of the conflicting grants. The

In December 2020, *New Hampshire Magazine* published an article about the Newington Meetinghouse.

Mark Stevens from Canterbury, NH wrote the story under his pen name, Marshall Hudson. Rev. Nancy Rockwell gave Mark a tour of the building, and Lulu Pickering provided historical photos and answered questions.

The final story was short and relied primarily on information from our town history book. Mark especially liked the history of the stone block in front of the meetinghouse that was used for mounting horses.

Everyone was pleased to see Newington get some recognition! Mark donated two copies of the magazine to the Newington Historical Society archives.

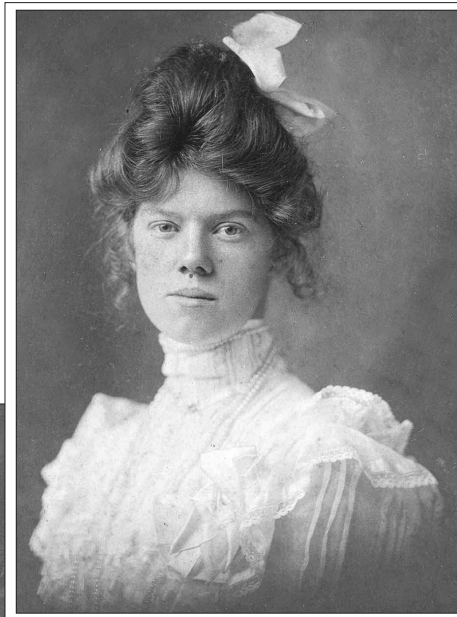
David Andersen, Helen and John Frink Donate Hoyt Family Photos



The stunning young women in these photos graduated from Portsmouth High School in the class of 1903. Not only were they able to attend and graduate from high school, but their gowns are much more beautiful than those worn by today's graduates.

The women in the photos are Sarah W. Dennett (top left), unknown (top right), Mary Brackett Hoyt (center), Anna P. Canney (bottom left), and Florence M. Ribb (bottom right).

Mary Brackett Hoyt (1884-1971) was from Newington, not sure about the others. She was the grandmother of David Anderson of Mattapoisett, MA. Mary married Everett Stanton Ransom (1879-1971), who was the great uncle of John, Helen, and Sally Frink.



Historic Newington

Marge Hislop Donated a Framed Painting by Lorraine Koch Palmer

Marge Hislop of Old Post Road donated a framed mirror with a painting of the old railroad depot. The original work was done by Lorraine Koch Palmer of Kittery, ME in 2003 and given to Marge as a gift. Lorraine specialized in pastel paintings of houses, many with colonial charm and history.

Lorraine's connection to the old depot is that the first wife of her father (Ralph George Swift, b. 1908) was Eleanor Bradstreet Garland (b. 1907 in Danvers, MA). Eleanor was the daughter of Harry deRochemont (1868-1946), who was a tolltaker at the depot for many years.

Eleanor's first marriage on August 6, 1926 was to Robert J. Goodsell (1903-1971) of Portsmouth. Robert was employed for 25 years by the Boston & Maine Railroad. He retired as a baggage master.

On March 4, 2021, I spoke with Eleanor's grandchildren, Suzie George and Mark Goodsell, who are step cousins. They said Lorraine painted the railroad depot from one of "Grammy" Eleanor's old photos. The family believes that Grammy Eleanor worked at the toll house at some point when either her father worked there or her first husband Robert J. Goodsell worked for Boston & Maine.

Most likely Harry deRochemont and his daughter lived at 276 Fox Point Road next to the old cider mill in the home now owned by Tom and Katherine Rossi and previously owned by Doug and Helen Reed.

On August 1, 1896, Harry deRochemont entered into an indenture agreement with Elias Frink to lease about 1 acre of land and the old mill privilege on Fox Point Road for twenty years (BK 553 PG 361). The mill land was next to land owned by Frederick William deRochemont. The agreement included the right to back up, dam, and mill the stream using its water for power. Also included were rights to flood the land on the opposite side of the road, as necessary, for the operation of a cider mill or saw mill, and to run pipe under the road to carry water to the mill site.

Harry deRochemont was the son of Frederick William deRochemont, Jr. (1841-1926) and the grandson of Frederick William deRochemont (1804-1885). The grandfather Frederick was the husband of Maria Louisa deWitt (1811-1900). They operated a store on a plantation in British Guiana, South America. They bought two farms in Newington about 1840, and moved to town with 2-3 of their slaves.



Eversource Donated an Informational Display About undersea cables

Since the late 19th century, submarine power cable technology has evolved significantly to increase both capacity and length. The primary components of the cable, however, have remained relatively similar over time, except for the insulation material. Typically, the primary cable components consist of conductors (copper wire), insulation, and the outer protective armor layer. The earliest cables had natural rubber insulation. Oil impregnated cellulose paper was used by the 1940s. Only recently has polyethylene been used. You are looking at cross sections of the actual historic cables.

1902 Cable
Copper wire, rubber insulation, jute fillers, rubber jacket, jute cushioning layer, lead armor

1920s Cable
Copper wire, varnished cambric tape, jute fillers, lead sheath, jute cushioning, lead armor

1948 Cable
Copper wire, oil impregnated cellulose paper, copper tape shield, oil impregnated paper filler, lead sheath, jute cushioning, lead armor

1971-1972 Cable
Copper wire, oil impregnated cellulose paper, lead sheath, polyethylene jacket, lead armor

2019 Cable
Copper wire, polyethylene insulation, lead sheath, hard drawn copper armor

In 1902, NH Traction Company had the longest high-voltage electrical transmission line in New England. The route featured a 4,800-foot segment of submarine power cable along the floor of Little Bay that

contained a three-phase circuit (the three copper wires) operating at 13,500 volts. The original 1902 cable was supplemented in the 1920s, in 1949, and in 1971-1972. The submarine cables and cable houses were

disconnected and abandoned in the mid-1990s. In 2019-2020, Eversource reactivated the crossing under the bay and installed new cables during the Seacoast Reliability Project.