

NEWTON HISTORICAL SOCIETY

In 2023 the Newton Historical Society celebrated the 52nd anniversary of its 1971 founding. The society registered as a 501-C-3 charitable organization two years later. Over the past fifty-two (52) years one hundred and fifty-three (153) people have become Society members. Currently there are seventeen (17) active members in the society.

The Coronavirus / Covid 19 Pandemic brought the Historical Society activities to a screeching halt at the end of 2019 through 2021. All of our monthly meetings, which usually run from April to December were cancelled due to the Pandemic.

Society activities remained reduced in 2022 and 2023. Meetings were held in April and December each of those years.

For the first time since 2019, we put on an historic presentation for the public. Rebecca Rule's "That Reminds me of a Story". It was very well attended.

We held our fifteenth Fall Festival fund raiser. This was the second festival since Covid halted the festival in 2020 and 2021. The fund raiser was successful enough for us to be able to undertake a project to refurbish our two 150-year-old Hayford horse drawn carriages. There is also a plan to repair the exterior walls and two windows in the historic Cobbler Shop located behind the Marshall House Museum in 2024.

In December the Newton Recreation Committee sponsored a return to the Christmas tree lighting ceremony. It was held at the Historical Society's Village Primary School Museum. There was an excellent turnout in spite of the rain. There were many Toys for Tots donations made at the event.

The Society Historian responded to several research requests throughout the year pertaining to early Newton events, buildings, and residents.

At the December meeting Officers for 2024 were elected. David Simpson – Pres., Karen O'Malley – Vice Pres., Kale Amato – Secretary, Bill Landry - Treasurer. These four (4) officers, plus John Meserve will serve on the Society Board of Directors.

In 2024 the town of Newton will celebrate the 275th anniversary of its founding. The Historical Society will participate in the preparation and execution of the many planned events.

The Society would also like to take this opportunity to extend our thanks and appreciation to Newton resident William Gallant who has taken it upon himself for the past several years to keep the lawn at the Primary Schoolhouse Museum mowed.

**Respectfully Submitted,
William G. Landry
Newton Historical Society**