



New Ipswich Historical Society Founded 1913

August 3, 2020

Dear Friends of the New Ipswich Historical Society,

I am grateful for your continued support. I hope you are healthy and safe.

This has certainly been an odd year for the Society. Many of our plans had to be postponed due to the Covid 19 pandemic. Even our monthly meetings were affected. Instead of meeting at the society building or in one of our homes, we held Zoom meetings.

Prior to the Corona virus, the Society organized two presentations held at the New Ipswich Library. The first was “Votes for Women” given by Liz Tentarelli, She told the story of the Suffragettes. The second was “New England Quilts and the Stories They Tell”, presented by Pamela Week and funded by Stearns-Burton. Both were well-attended.

Last summer and fall we were able to have a presence at the Children’s Fair and Autumfest at Memorial Park.

Unfortunately we had to postpone the NH Artist Program. On hold is our oral history project. We hope to capture the stories of folks who can give us a picture of New Ipswich life in past times.

For what remains of the season, we plan to open the building two Saturdays a month. We will have to limit large crowds in the building and observe safety requirements. ☺

I am thankful to those board members who have given their time and talents to improve and maintain the Society. We are blessed with a wonderful board who continue to keep the Society going in many ways.

- Treasurer, Pat Lage, keeps our books and files the required forms to keep our non-profit status up to date.
- Margaret Lee, secretary, has kept meticulous minutes of meetings, and arranged for speakers and publicity.
- Dan Zairnic, vice president, is a great liaison with Historic New England, and is a wealth of knowledge of museum practices, and artifact preservation.
- Michelle Pelletier, liason with the New Ipswich library, adds her knowledge of non-profit organizations.
- John Poltrack added his photography skills.
- Carl Toko and Sharon Rosenfelder, longtime residents, add their wealth of knowledge.
- Craig Smeeth and Mitch Gluck add new energy and viewpoints.

- Ed Roger is a resource of information about the geography and properties of the town.

We will miss the contributions of Louise DelPapa who devoted many years of service to the NIHS.

In spite of these odd times, we still have on going expenses, such as insurance, filing fees, and electricity. To economize, we switched to an all-volunteer lawn care routine.

As soon as the Corona pandemic subsides and we can have presentations again, we do have plans for that. We appreciate your patience.

One ongoing project that we have been working on is creating transcriptions of six diaries that were donated by Mrs. Patricia Shook of Lakeland Fl. Her great-grandfather, born in Scotland, lived in New Ipswich from 1897 to 1916. He recorded daily weather and life in town. He was a deacon of the New Ipswich Congregational Church, School Board member, delegate to the New Hampshire Republican convention (that nominated William Howard Taft) a Mason Lodge and Grange member. He lived in the house that is now the parsonage next to the NICC, which was a poultry farm at the time. The diaries are a marvelous snapshot into life in New Ipswich in the horse-drawn era, before electricity was common, roads were muddy, lamps were filled with kerosene, vegetable gardens provided food, and trees were felled by muscle power. Goods came and went by the trains in Greenville.

We hope to make the diaries available to a wider audience.

Please remember us with your renewed membership that keeps us going.

Many thanks,

John Rosenfelder

John Rosenfelder
President
New Ipswich
Historical Society