



NEWCASTLE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

P.O. Box 482
Newcastle, Maine 04553
207-563-8233

Newsletter Number 6
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Email: newcastlehistoricalsociety@hotmail.com Web: www.newcastlemainehistoricalsociety.org

COLBY & GALE DONATES HEATER

Colby & Gale, Inc. of Damariscotta made a very generous donation of a 21,000 BTU Rinnai propane heater to heat the Taniscot Fire Engine Company Museum located on Main Street. Included in their donation was the complete installation of the heating system. Because of this donation, precious artifacts, including one-of-a-kind documents, photographs, and the antique fire engine pumper, will not suffer deterioration caused by winter temperature fluctuations. The cost of propane is being paid by the Newcastle Historical Society and the Fire

Engine Company.

Forrest Hunt, vice president of the historical society, was instrumental in acquiring the donation. He said, "We are so pleased that the owners of Colby & Gale realized our need and were willing to make such a wonderful donation. Without this donation we would not have had heat in the museum this winter. The society believes that this building, occupied by the Taniscot Fire Engine Company since 1876, has never been without heat. The society and the Fire Company, together with Colby & Gale, are carrying out the tradition

of heating the building. The temperature fluctuations would have severely harmed the museum's contents. A great partnership has begun with Colby & Gale and the Newcastle Historical Society. We thank Colby & Gale for what they have done to help preserve the history of Newcastle. People in the area have wonderful things to donate to the museum. Now they do not have to hesitate, for we now have heat in the museum thanks to Colby & Gale."

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Celebrating over 60 years of serving the community.

SHEEPSCOT METHODIST CHURCH

By Tracy Verney

The Methodist Church in Sheepscot on The Kings Highway was built in 1868. It had pews to seat 200 people. In January 1869 the church was dedicated by the Reverend Mark Trafton. He was assisted by the Reverend C.L. Haskell, who was the pastor.

Elms that had been set out by the vestrymen and members of the congregation surrounded the church. These elms were cut down in the 1970's because of the spread of Dutch elm disease. They were replaced by three maple trees that still stand in front of the church today.

The exterior of the church is a modified Italianate design with a white clapboard finish. The windows are tinted a dull rose with a uniform pattern simulating diamond-shaped leading.

The interior was decorated by a Boston artist circa 1890 and carefully restored in 1968 through community contributions. A circular stained glass window was installed in the rear wall of the chancel in 1894. In 1897 the present pulpit was purchased.

In 1943 the Methodist Church joined with the First Congregational Church in Sheepscot to form the Sheepscot Community Church. Both churches share one minister and work together on all church activities. They use the Methodist Church for worship services from October through May and the Congregational Church from June through September.



DINSMORE-FLYE PHOTOGRAPHIC COLLECTION LOOKING FOR VOLUNTEERS

Computerized scanning at a high resolution of the over 80,000 negatives in the Dinsmore-Flye Photographic Collection is in progress. After each negative is scanned, information is also entered in a database so that users can not only look up a negative/photo by name but by year and by any other information the Newcastle Historical Society has on that photo.

Every other week a "mystery photo" is published in the *Lincoln County News* so that local residents can help in the identification and lend information about the photos. Response from readers has been phenomenal.

Volunteers are needed to assist in the scanning of negatives. If you think this may interest you, please contact us at 563-8233.

WISH LIST

Genealogical Records
Artifacts & Memorabilia
Historical Books
Antique Glass Showcase
New Computer Printer
New DVD Player
New 32" Flat Screen TV

GENEALOGY INFORMATION AND RESEARCH AVAILABLE

Free of Charge

Contact the NHS

Nancy Hartley, Genealogist

MEETINGS

1st Wednesday Each Month
(No meetings in Jan., Feb. & Mar.)

7:00 P.M.

Community Room

River Road

Newcastle, Maine

No Charge to Attend



TELEPHONE COMES TO NEWCASTLE

By Arlene Cole

Ellis Nash brought telephone service to Newcastle in 1897. Nash was born in Warren on July 20, 1873, the son of Henderson and Rachel Wade Nash. Ellis Nash's father was an engineer on the Knox-Lincoln Railroad, which ran between Rockland and Bath—50 miles. A position as telegraph operator opened up for \$32.50 a month when Ellis Nash was in high school, so he left high school and took the job. This job was at the station in Newcastle.

A friend in Rockland gave Nash a telephone. He studied it, built one of his own, and took a correspondence school course on the subject. At work he would talk with his friend in Rockland using the telegraph lines.

Ellis Nash married Lillian A. Albee of Alna on October 9, 1895. She was 23 and a schoolteacher. He was 22 and still a telegraph operator. They set up housekeeping in Newcastle. His home was just around the corner from the station. Nash strung a wire through the trees to his house so he could talk with his wife. Soon other people heard about this convenience. Both Dr.

William Parsons and the Fiske House wanted telephones of their own.

As more and more people received service Mr. Nash built a homemade switchboard in his kitchen, and Mrs. Nash tended it. It was moved to the Lincoln Block and later to a building he owned on the south side of Main Street in Damariscotta.

In 1897 the Nash Telephone Company was formed. Mr. Nash was his own troubleshooter in the early years and would drive along the lines looking for problems. People from the outlying villages wanted telephones. Harold B. Clifford writes in *Maine and Her People* that "Round Pond wanted telephones, and Mr. Nash got permission from the selectmen to put up poles along the highway. Bristol, South Bristol, Pemaquid, and Nobleboro wanted telephones. The Nash Company bought 500 poles in Mattawamkeag, had them hauled to Bangor, and sent a schooner to bring them to Damariscotta. Crossarms, wires, insulators, and telephone sets were purchased."

By about 1900 Nash was so busy he had to decide whether

he was to stay as a telegraph operator or continue with his telephone business. He decided on the telephone business, and the rest is history. Until 1900 Mr. Nash's firm was a local company, with no way to make calls outside the area. That year he signed an agreement with the New England Company, which connected his company so his customers could make toll calls. When Ellis Nash sold his telephone company in 1953 it had 1700 users. The company has gone through several owners and is now owned by Tidewater Telecom, Inc.

The Nashes moved to Damariscotta, where they lived next to the Baptist Church, but they remained active in the Congregational Church in Newcastle. He served in the Maine State Legislature and was active locally all of his life. Mrs. Nash had her own clothing store and was one of the women who started the Lincoln Home as a project of the Women's Club. In later years they spent much of their time in Florida, where he died on December 24, 1970, when he was 97 years old. The Nashes had been married 75 years at the time of his death.



1942 FIRE AT
HERMAN KIMBALL'S
HOME



GATE TO NEWCASTLE
HIGHWAY I



NEWCASTLE BEFORE
NEW BRIDGE BUILT



NEWCASTLE -
DAMARISCOTTA
1952 BRIDGE
CONSTRUCTION



LITTLE DYERS RIVER
BRIDGE
1952 SHEEPSCOT

NEWCASTLE SHIP WRECKS IN FLORIDA

By Edmée Déjean

On the morning of June 25, 1859, the ship *Indian Hunter* was sailing to Liverpool, England with 3,700 bales of cotton from Mobile, Alabama. It ran onto a reef at Pickles Reef, Florida, and the vertical sides that curve inward to form the bottom of the ship were severely damaged. It began to take in water from the Gulf of Mexico, and within 40 minutes it was sunk. Captain Austin said that he attributed the "loss of his vessel to adverse currents." The *New York Times* reported on July 28 that she "settled on her broadside, with a shoal under her lee and in a very dangerous condition."

Two wrecking schooners

arrived three days after the ship sank and began removing the cargo, according to Elwood Walter, Esquire, who was Secretary to the Board of Underwriters. After about a month the men had salvaged \$91,076 of cargo, or about 37% of it. The wreckers were paid \$33,852. On July 23 about 3,080 bales of cotton were sold in New York City.

The *Indian Hunter* was built in Newcastle, Maine. A New Orleans, Louisiana, newspaper, *Le Courier de la Louisiane*, in an ad listed on January 11, 1811, the

Indian Hunter and Captain Wood departing the city. It was noted in *The Argus*, a Melbourne, Australia newspaper, on May 18, 1857, that on May 16 the ship was in the harbor, having sailed from London.



LINCOLN ACADEMY
1950s



BRYANT- BARKER TAVERN SITE ARTIFACT ANALYSIS UPDATE

The Newcastle Historical Society is seeking continued funding for the project titled *Documenting Newcastle's Maritime Past: An Archaeological Case Study*. From its inception the project has been directed by historic archaeologist Tim Dinsmore.

The intended goals and objectives of the project are to clean, catalog, and conduct an analysis of the tens of thousands of artifacts excavated archaeologically from the Bryant-Barker Tavern site in Newcastle, homestead site of shipwright Nathaniel Bryant. This project provides a unique opportunity to determine what daily life was like for eighteenth-century shipwrights and their families during Newcastle's earliest years as a town. The end product will be to produce a catalog or inventory of all artifacts found as well as to create exhibits locally of select artifacts, photographs, and illustrations. At some future date it is hoped that exhibits of the Bryant-Barker Tavern site project could be displayed at the Maine Maritime Museum in Bath and/or the Penobscot Marine Museum in Searsport. Upon completion of the project, a copy of the artifact inventory will be sent to the Maine Historic Preservation Commission in Augusta for future archaeologists and historians to use. Funding at this time is sought for the washing, cataloging, and data entry of all artifacts excavated from the Bryant-Barker Tavern site.

The site, as well as the site of contemporary shipwright George Barstow, marks what is

considered to be the birthplace of the shipbuilding industry along the banks of the upper Damariscotta, an industry that flourished well into the nineteenth century. Dinsmore directed the search and excavation of the Bryant-Barker Tavern site from 1998-2008 inclusive. During that time nearly 300 students from Great Salt Bay Community School, Lincoln Academy, and the University of Maine at Orono have participated as well as college students and lay people from around the country.

The fieldwork has been partially supported by the Damariscotta River Association (DRA) through a field school directed by Dinsmore and by private donations while the NHS is helping seek funding for the all-important cataloging and analysis of this important artifact collection. In May 2009 the Davis Family Foundation of Falmouth once again awarded the NHS a grant to help process a portion of the artifacts, and in June 2009 a cocktail party held at the Frances Perkins Center on River Road raised additional monies for the artifact analysis of the Bryant-Barker Tavern site artifact assemblage. The two events resulted in raising \$19,000 toward the project.

It is estimated that to properly wash, catalog, identify, and enter all artifacts into a computer database will cost an additional \$66,000. The NHS will be applying for grants this year in the hopes of seeing this important project move forward. Anyone interested in contributing to this maritime history project is urged to do so by sending monetary contributions to the NHS. Please specify that your contribution is for the Archaeology Fund. NHS is a non-profit organization with 501(c)(3) status.



Dutch fireplace tile, circa 1760s-1770s, excavated at the Bryant-Barker Tavern Site in Newcastle. This is one example of the thousands of artifacts currently being washed, cataloged and entered into a database.



**Clark Beverages
Exterior
River Road
1947**



**Clark Beverages
Interior
River Road
1947**

1874 LINCOLN COUNTY NEWSPAPER

Newcastle & Damariscotta Mills News of the Day

- February 20 - *A Plucky Girl*. The dwelling house of A.A. Hall at Newcastle caught fire in the roof last week and was saved from destruction by his daughter "Callie," 16 years old, who with wonderful coolness managed to throw several pails of water upon the flame, keeping the fire in check till assistance arrived.
- February 27 - During a recent thaw some of the smelt houses at Damariscotta Mills took a sudden departure down river. Navigators on the coast will govern themselves accordingly.
- March 27 - The old Borland House, a well-known building at Damariscotta Mills, was burned last night at about 10 o'clock. It was formerly a hotel.
- May 1 - Clark & Hilton have commenced work on the ship they are to build for Capt. Lawrence.
- May 15 - We are informed that passage over the K & L Railroad affords an opportunity at Damariscotta Mills to indulge in the sport of catching alewives. Tourists will take due notice and govern themselves accordingly.
- May 22 - Warren Jones of Newcastle broke his leg Wednesday while at work in the woods.
- May 29 - The new ship, building for Capt. Lawrence, by Clark & Hilton, at Newcastle is progressing rapidly. Half of her frames were put up in four days.
- June 12 - A gang of fishermen passed through Tuesday, en route for Church's Oil Factory, Round Pond.
- June 26 - A very slight fall of snow early Friday morning the 19th, noticeable only to the early risers.
- July 10 - The young people of this vicinity enjoyed a picnic at the Oyster Banks, Wednesday.

**VISIT OUR
WEBSITE AT:
[www.newcastlemaine
historicalsociety.org](http://www.newcastlemainehistoricalsociety.org)**



WHO'S WHO IN GLIDDEN STREET CEMETERY

By Nancy Hartley

Last Name	First Name	Years	Information
Barstow	John	1819-1901	Shipmaster and builder, captain of <i>Elwell</i> , son of Benjamin & Mary (Glidden) Barstow
Borland	John	1781-1863	Sea captain and shipbuilder, married Nancy Glidden, son of Captain John & Sally Borland
Cabot	Mary Caroline	1867-1958	Her stone is in the shape of a casket. Granddaughter of William T. Glidden
Converse	John, the Honorable	1808-1880	Lawyer & judge, collector of customs & judge of probate
Gay	Thomas	1839-1912	Shipbuilder & later retail grocer in Damariscotta, a trade which his son carried on
Glidden	Joseph	1722-1817	"Mr." Ancestor of all the local Gliddens, came to Newcastle from New Hampshire about 1750
Haggett	Ebenezer	1825-1906	Shipbuilder – among them <i>Elwell</i> , <i>State of Maine</i> , & <i>Elizabeth</i>
Hussey	Alvan	1818-1896	Drygoods merchant: "Alvan Hussey & Son Dry Goods and Fancy Goods"
Kennedy	Thomas Campbell	1825-1909	Schoolteacher who went to Iowa & later Minnesota to prosper in real estate
Lynch	William D.	1864-1918	Provisions dealer in Damariscotta
Richards	Frederick Gore	1892-1970	Rear admiral, U.S. Navy, a World War I veteran
Singer	George	1861-1955	Judge of probate & editor of the local newspaper
Smithwick	Nathaniel Austin	1864-1934	Designer of pumps used in mining
Taylor	Joseph J.	1819-1873	Deputy collector of customs, Damariscotta
Turnbull	John	1759-1822	Kept the ferry across the Damariscotta River
Wood	Thomas	1822-1905	Local barber
Wyman	Samuel D.	1828-1913	Furniture dealer and undertaker. First casket maker of Lincoln County

JUDGE GEORGE SINGER

George Singer was born and raised in Waldoboro. He graduated from Colby College in 1892 and became a submaster teacher at Waterville High School and in 1894 a principal at Hallowell High School.

He purchased the *Damariscotta Herald* newspaper in 1898 and later became a probate judge also. He raised his children on Glidden Street and is listed in Nancy's Who's Who in Glidden Street Cemetery. George was a Baptist, Republican, Mason, an Ocean Grange Member, and a member of numerous of organizations. He was independent man who vigorously expressed his views.

FACTS ABOUT NEWCASTLE

Henry Wright of Newcastle, Maine, was issued a patent by the United States Patent Office for an improvement in boot trees on January 16, 1849.

January 27, 1849

Scientific American

Volume 4, Issue 19, page 148

"There are only five soldiers of the Revolutionary War now living. They are...William Hutchings, enlisted in Newcastle, Maine (then Massachusetts), now 100 years old and resides in Penobscot, Hancock County, Maine...."

March 4, 1865

New York Times

"There seems to be an epidemic of burglary over the state. Bangor, Rockland, Damariscotta, Newcastle and Augusta are among the most recently visited by the fraternity of thieves."

June 10, 1875

Lewiston Evening Post

Lewiston, Maine

"New hemlock ties were put on the west branch of the Sheepscot Bridge and two additional 6x12 hard pine track sticks."

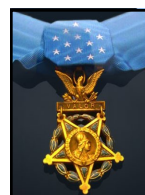
1914, Fifty-Sixth Annual Report of the Maine Railroad Commission

NHS TRUSTEES

- Edmée Déjean, President
- Forrest Hunt, Vice-President
- Betsy Evans, Secretary
- Christopher Rice, Treasurer
- Scottie Brooke, Trustee
- Arthur Dexter, Trustee
- Leigh Sprague, Trustee
- Arlene Cole, Honorary Trustee

WHO WAS THOMAS DOHERTY?

- Congressional Medal of Honor Recipient in 1899, for service in the Spanish-American War
- Citation: "Gallantly assisted in the rescue of the wounded from in front of the lines and while under heavy fire from the enemy."
- Place and date: At Santiago, Cuba, July 1, 1898
- Rank and organization: Corporal, Company H, 21st U.S. Infantry
- Entered service at: Newcastle, Maine
- Born: Ireland Buried: Kentucky



NEWSLETTER COMMITTEE

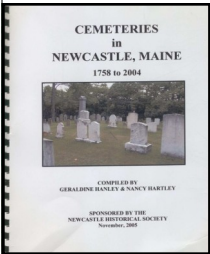
- Edmée Déjean
- Kate Pennington



1910 NEWCASTLE TOWN REPORT

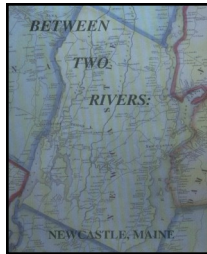
- \$100.00 expended to the free library
- \$2.50 expended on tramps
- \$22.20 expended on brown tail moths
- \$70.00 was paid and reimbursed to the town from the state for burial of a soldier
- \$5.00 expended to bury a horse in 1908
- \$51.50 expended for sheep killed by dogs (to be refunded by state)
- \$1.50 expended for a water trough
- \$32.72 expended to Dr. W.H. Parsons for injury to sleigh
- 27 orders of fish to Newcastle widows and poor (200 fish per order)
- \$100.00 expended for electric lights
- School District #1 on River Road: Miss Henrietta Palmer in the spring term did a most credible service to the school. The attendance was good and the scholars were interested. Miss Lillian Nash taught the fall and winter terms. This was her first experience teaching. One student entered the Academy in the fall from this school.
- School District #10 in North Newcastle: Largest school in Newcastle enjoyed a year of prosperity. Miss Mamie Mayers taught the spring term but the death of her father and home duties prevented her from teaching in the fall. Miss Nellie Reed, a teacher of experience, taught during the fall term. Miss Mayers will return for the winter term.
- December 12, 1909 twin daughters born to Stephen P. Wakefield
- Town Warrant - To see if town will vote to change location of road from Wild Cat Bridge

GIFT SHOP GIFT SHOP GIFT SHOP GIFT SHOP



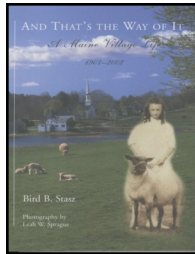
CEMETERIES IN NEWCASTLE

Compiled by
Geraldine Hanley
& Nancy Hartley



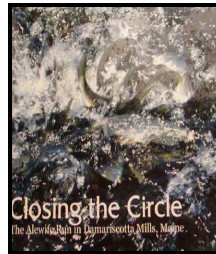
BETWEEN TWO RIVERS

(History of
Newcastle)
by
Arlene Cole



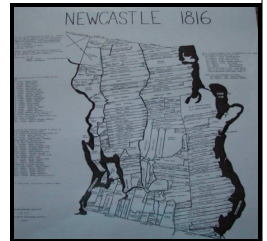
AND THAT'S THE WAY OF IT

by
Bird Stasz
Photography by
Leah W. Sprague



CLOSING THE CIRCLE

Alewife Run in
Damariscotta
Mills
DVD Movie



Send check or money order and mailing instructions to:

Newcastle Historical Society
P.O. Box 482
Newcastle, ME 04553

(Include \$5 for each item purchased to cover postage & handling—Postage can be combined for more than 1 item.)

- Cemeteries in Newcastle book—\$20
- Between Two Rivers—\$15
- And That's The Way Of It—A Maine Village Life 1907-2002 (Sheepscot) - \$15
- Closing The Circle (Alewives Run in Damariscotta Mills) CD Movie—\$20
- Two-Color Railroad Pictures—\$5 each
- 1878 Drawing Map of Newcastle and Damariscotta—\$5
- 1816 Map of Newcastle Laminated—\$20 Not Laminated—\$15

Your name for gift card: _____

To be mailed to: _____

**JOIN
TODAY**

Membership in the Newcastle Historical Society is open to all who want to help preserve the history of the town of Newcastle. To renew or begin your membership, please mail this form and your check payable to the "Newcastle Historical Society" to P. O. Box 482, Newcastle, ME 04553. **IF YOUR NAME IS CIRCLED IN RED YOUR MEMBERSHIP IS DUE.**

MEMBERSHIP FORM

NAME _____

MAILING ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP CODE _____

YEAR ROUND _____ or SEASONAL _____ PHONE NUMBER (____) _____

SEASONAL ADDRESS _____

SEASONAL CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP CODE _____

EMAIL ADDRESS _____ SEASONAL EMAIL _____



DUES:

Student \$5

Individual \$10

Family \$15

Lifetime \$100

Newcastle, ME 04553

P.O. Box 482

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