



# NEWCASTLE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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Volume 1 Number 1

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## HISTORICAL SOCIETY ON THE WORLD WIDE WEB

[www.newcastlemainehistoricalsociety.org](http://www.newcastlemainehistoricalsociety.org)

Historical information on Newcastle, Maine, is just a click away for visitors from all over the world now that the historical society has a Web site. The society's Web site was launched in August 2006 and has already had over 500 visits. To get to the site, either type in the address ([www.newcastlemainehistoricalsociety.org](http://www.newcastlemainehistoricalsociety.org)) or enter "Newcastle, Maine Historical Society" at Google.com or numerous other search engines. The Web site has pages about the histori-

cal society, genealogy information, lists of items for sale, meeting dates, and historical essays by Arlene Cole and Calvin Dodge. Arlene Cole has also given the society permission to print excerpts from her book *Between Two Rivers*.

The Web site is funded by the historical society. The Web designer is Edmee Dejean, who also updates the site periodically with additional essays and items of interest to its members.



## NEWCASTLE HISTORICAL MUSEUM

by Arlene Cole, Curator

The museum is an important project of the Newcastle Historical Society. The museum is located in the center of Newcastle village at the corner of Main and Pump Streets in the Old Taniscot Engine House. This building is the old firehouse. This summer was our seventh year, and each year we have added to our displays and historical information. Our purpose is to work with the people of the town and the Newcastle Fire Company in collecting items and information on Newcastle.

One of our most treasured items on display is the 1877 Taniscot pumper owned by the Newcastle Fire Company. We have other items such as a corn sheller, a grinding wheel, ox yokes, and Clark's Bottling Company soda bottles, some of which have never been opened. On the walls, with

other items, we have a Newcastle National Bank sign, a framed embroidered sampler of the signatures of the students at Lincoln Academy about 1912, and posters of the Nobleboro campground meetings. We have many Newcastle town reports, genealogies, six years of obituaries from the *Lincoln County News*, books by local authors on local subjects, and information on Newcastle's bridges and roads. Perhaps our most popular displays are the photographs from the Ivan Flye and the Carroll Dinsmore, Jr. collections.

The museum is open on Saturdays during the summer, and we welcome everyone to come and visit with us. If you are cleaning out your attic, remember that we are always collecting bits and pieces of Newcastle to add to our museum.

### TANISCOT ENGINE HOUSE 1900 & 1995

### GENEALOGY INFORMATION AND RESEARCH AVAILABLE

**Free of Charge**

Contact the Society  
Call 207-563-8233 or E-mail  
[newcastlehistoricalsociety@hotmail.com](mailto:newcastlehistoricalsociety@hotmail.com)

### 2007 MEETINGS

1<sup>st</sup> Wednesday Each Month  
(Exceptions: No meeting in  
January or February  
& in July, the 2<sup>nd</sup> Wed., July 11<sup>th</sup>)  
All meetings: 7:00 PM  
Old Taniscot Engine House  
Maine & Pump Streets  
Newcastle, Maine  
No Charge to Attend

## Society Receives Grant to Repair Historic Building

In November the Newcastle Historical Society was awarded a Historical Facilities Grant of \$3535 to help with the cost of repairing the historic Taniscot Engine House, thus preserving the society's historic collections. The Historical Facilities Grant Program is a collaborative effort of the Maine State Archives and the Maine State Museum, with financial support from the state's New Century Community Program. Grant funds will be applied toward rewiring the museum, building a handicap-accessible ramp into the museum, and repairing the windows downstairs.

"Grants of this kind support community efforts to protect the stories of our birth, property rights, government, and how we lived our lives," noted Jim Henderson, Director of the Maine State Archives.

The Maine State Archives is a bureau within the Department of the Secretary of State. Secretary of State Matthew Dunlap says a recent report to the Maine Legislature indicated that many of Maine's historical records (photographs, paintings, natural history collections, letters, etc.) are in danger of being lost to mold, fire, theft, or misuse.

"Maine has an estimated 200 million historical records, many in facilities with little or no security, fire protection, or environmental controls. Recent surveys show that Maine people in local government, historical societies, and libraries are seeking help to preserve our heritage," Secretary Dunlap commented.

Small grants have stimulated local citizens and organizations to commit more of their own resources

to these projects. "Although financial support is important, recognition of local concerns and effort through an award also generates a substantial amount of enthusiasm," Henderson commented.

Edmee Dejean, President of the Newcastle Historical Society, said, "We are very proud to receive these funds. The Taniscot Engine House is approximately 125 years old and is one of the best-known historic buildings in town. Its preservation is essential, for it houses the history of our town dating back to the 1600's. I am proud that this project was backed by the Taniscot Fire Engine Company and the Town of Newcastle Selectmen. Fire Chief Clayton Huntley will be serving as the project coordinator."

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## CARROLL DINSMORE, JR. PHOTOGRAPHY COLLECTION

Housed at the society's museum are over 80,000 photographs and negatives of Newcastle and the surrounding area dating back to the 1800's. Charles Flye donated this collection to the society in 2003. It was named the Carroll Dinsmore, Jr.

Photographic Collection in honor of Carroll Dinsmore, Jr., who worked for Charles's father, Ivan Flye, the owner of Pictorial Studio, for 57 years. The studio on Academy Hill, across from Lincoln Academy, was closed in 2003.

James Patten, Tim Dinsmore, and Edmee Dejean have created a database program, and Edmee is entering information on the entire collection into the database. This will make it easier to locate images. Carroll

has been working on preserving the collection by labeling every photograph and negative and placing them in archival envelopes. The society has been purchasing the envelopes so the pictorial history of Newcastle will be preserved for future generations. If you are looking for a particular picture of a house, street, person, building, or landscape please contact Edmee Dejean at 563-8233 or via email at <edmee@tidewater.net>.

### 2006 - 2007 SOCIETY OFFICERS

|                |  |
|----------------|--|
| President      | Edmee Dejean   |
| Vice President | Calvin Dodge   |
| Secretary      | Kate Pennington                                      |
| Treasurer      | Tracy Verney   |
| Trustees       | Arthur Dexter<br>William Dunning<br>Marjorie Huntley |

### SOCIETY NEWSLETTER COMMITTEE

|             |   |
|-------------|---|
| Chairperson | Carolyn Kelsey  |
| Members     | Edmee Dejean<br>Calvin Dodge<br>Tim Dinsmore<br>Kate Pennington<br>Tracy Verney |

Late 1800s  
Lincoln Academy -  
Founded 1801



## “CIRCLE OF SUPPORTERS” FUND-RAISING CAMPAIGN TO BE LAUNCHED IN JANUARY

One of the tasks of the Newcastle Historical Society is to preserve community memories. We are the caretakers of the history of Newcastle, Maine, and we want to continue to discover and collect materials that illustrate the history of the town. We strongly believe in the proper preservation of such materials and in keeping them accessible. We will continue to disseminate information about our town and stimulate interest in the past.

In January and February we will be launching a fund-raising campaign called “Circle of Supporters” to help us do even more preservation and collection work. Categories of the “Circle of Supporters” include:



1948 Newcastle Post Office & Business

|                    |            |
|--------------------|------------|
| Bronze Supporter   | \$100      |
| Silver Supporter   | \$250      |
| Gold Supporter     | \$500      |
| Platinum Supporter | Over \$500 |

Contributors to the “Circle of Supporters” will be recognized in many ways:

- Name and/or business logo listed on our Web site
- Business card-size ad in our biannual newsletter
- Name on the museum’s “Circle of Supporters” banner
- One-year membership for two persons
- 10% off all items sold by the society in 2007

All money raised will be used to continue the work of the society in conservation of materials, collection of additional materials and artifacts, educational programs, museum upkeep, oral history collections, and the eventual establishment of a historical markers trail.

Each supporter will receive a personal letter from the president of the society stating what projects were accomplished because of their donation. The society is listed with the IRS as a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization. Contributions can be mailed to the society at P.O. Box 482, Newcastle, ME 04553.

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## HISTORY OF SHEEPSCOT BRIDGE

by Tracy Verney

In 1764 Job Averill obtained a license for a ferry across the Sheepscot River. On June 22, 1793, during the May session of the Massachusetts Legislature an act was passed for the purpose of building a bridge over the Sheepscot River in Lincoln County and for supporting the same, at Averill’s Ferry, between the towns of Pownalborough and Newcastle. On June 22, 1894, the bridge linking Newcastle and Alna became toll-free. This old bridge was really two bridges separated by a small island, each structure within its own draw. By raising the surface of the new bridge nearly five feet, the draws were eliminated. In August 1947 work started on the new bridge, and the Sheepscot Bridge was open to traffic in the summer of 1948.

On October 3, 2005, the Sheepscot Bridge was officially closed to rebuild a new bridge. As in 1894 and 1947, on October 3, 2005, there was a time of celebration and gathering on the bridges, as has been a longstanding tradition. On July 14,

2006, the villagers of both Alna and Sheepscot came together for a Bridge Opening Party. This was a day for looking back on the history of Sheepscot Bridge, standing on the present and looking into the future.



# FUNDING SOUGHT FOR MARITIME HISTORY ARCHEOLOGY PROJECT

The Newcastle Historical Society is seeking 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 goals and objectives of the project are to clean, catalog, and conduct an analysis of the thousands of artifacts excavated archaeologically from the Bryant-Barker Tavern site in Newcastle, the homestead site of shipwright Nathaniel Bryant. This will provide a unique opportunity to determine what daily life was like for 18th-century shipwrights and their families during Newcastle’s earliest years as a town. The end product will be a catalog or inventory of all artifacts found as well as an exhibit at the Newcastle Historical Society of select artifacts, photographs, and illustrations. Additional exhibit locations will also be sought locally as well. 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. This site and the site of contemporary shipwright George Barstow mark what is considered the birthplace of the shipbuilding industry along the banks of the upper Damariscotta River—an industry that flourished well into the 19th century. Dinsmore directed the



excavation of the Bryant-Barker Tavern site from 1999 through 2006 and will conduct one final field season in 2007. The fieldwork has been partially supported by the Damariscotta River Association (DRA) through a field school directed by Dinsmore and by private donations. The Newcastle Historical Society is helping to seek funding for the all-important cataloging and analysis of this important artifact collection. Both the DRA and the Newcastle Historical Society feel that this project will benefit the community from an educational standpoint. In April 2005 the Davis Family Foundation of Falmouth awarded the Newcastle Historical Society a grant in the amount of \$15,000

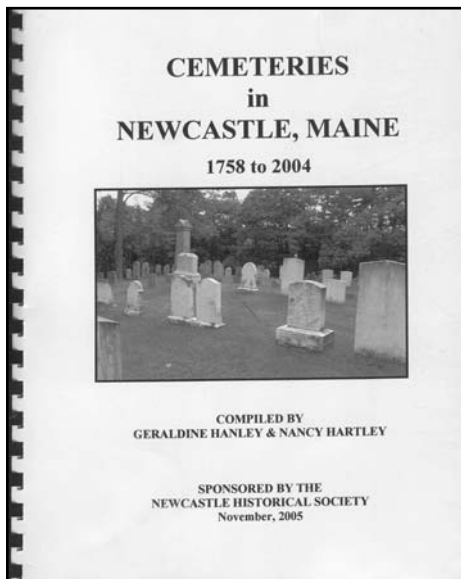
to help process a portion of the artifacts. It is estimated that an additional \$85,000 is needed in order to properly wash, catalog, identify, and enter the artifacts into a computer database. The Newcastle Historical Society will be applying for grants this winter and spring. Anyone interested in contributing to this maritime history project may do so by sending a check to the historical society. Please specify that your contribution is for the Archaeology Fund. The Newcastle Historical Society is a non-profit organization with 501(c)(3) status.

## 2006 - 2007 SOCIETY COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSONS

|                      |                                       |
|----------------------|---------------------------------------|
| Museum               | Arlene Cole (Curator)                 |
| Museum Conservation  | Edmee Dejean                          |
| Geneology            | Nancy Hartley                         |
| Cemetery & Veterans  | Geraldine Hanley                      |
| Membership           | Tracy Verney                          |
| Finance              | Tracy Verney                          |
| Resource Development | Edmee Dejean                          |
| Publications         | Carolyn Kelsey                        |
| Program              | George Cole                           |
| Photography          | Carroll Dinsmore, Jr.<br>Tim Dinsmore |
| State & Regional     | William Dunning<br>Arthur Dexter      |
| Education & Outreach | Tim Dinsmore                          |
| Special Projects     | Edmee Dejean                          |
| <b>Other</b>         |                                       |
| Building Committee   | Clayton Huntley                       |

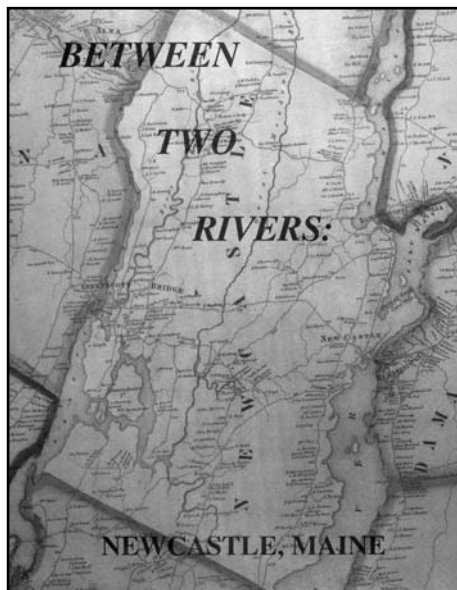
Newsletter design and prepress:  
Moonlighter Graphics, Bremen,  
[www.lincoln.midcoast.com/~moonlite](http://www.lincoln.midcoast.com/~moonlite)

**HERE ARE GREAT IDEAS FOR GIFTS FOR YOURSELF OR A FRIEND**



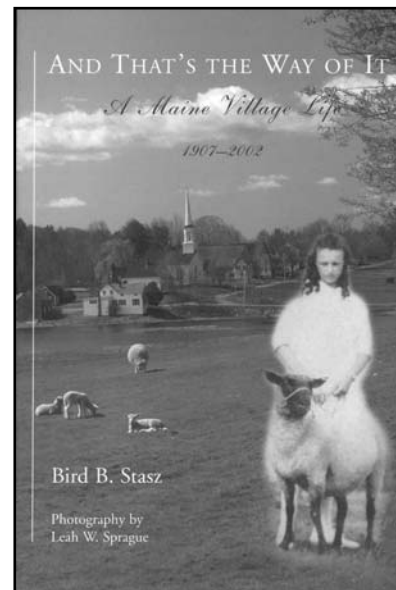
**CEMETERIES IN NEWCASTLE**

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

**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)**

- Cemeteries in Newcastle Book - \$20
- Between Two Rivers Book - \$15
- And That's The Way of It—A Maine Village Life 1907-2002 (Sheepscot) - \$15
- 1816 Map of Newcastle Laminated - \$20
- 1816 Map of Newcastle Not Laminated - \$10
- 1878 Drawing Map of Newcastle & Damariscotta - \$5
- Closing the Circle (Alewife Run in Damariscotta Mills) CD Movie - \$20
- Two Color Railroad Drawings - \$5 each

Your name for gift card: \_\_\_\_\_

To be mailed to: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

*Between Two Rivers Book can also be purchased at Louis Doe's & Maine Coast Bookstore  
Cemeteries of Newcastle Book can also be purchased at Louis Doe's and Skidompha Library*

**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 PO Box 482, Newcastle, ME 04553. IF YOUR NAME IS CIRCLED IN RED YOUR DUES ARE DUE.

## Membership Form

Name \_\_\_\_\_

First

Last

Maiden name (if applicable) \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_

Year Round \_\_\_\_\_ or Seasonal \_\_\_\_\_ Phone Number \_\_\_\_\_

Seasonal Address \_\_\_\_\_

Seasonal City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address \_\_\_\_\_ Seasonal Email \_\_\_\_\_

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