

## Narration Script.

Opening→

NARRATOR: A breeze sweeps down from the mountains, past the rugged hillsides spotted with cattle and sheep; through the wildflowers and streams lining the roadside, this is an early morning view of quaint, New London, New Hampshire, a pleasant land.

New London was once a part of the territory between the Pascataqua and Merrimack Rivers, defined in the Grant of 1692, as the Alexandria Addition, which after undergoing considerable territorial modifications, forms the New London, we know today.

The Alexandria Addition's first landowner, John T. Mason, bought and sold the acres to the Masonian Proprietors, an association in New Hampshire. The grant placed Jonas Minot and a few others as lord proprietors or landowners. Still, it was not until 1774 that there was settlement.

Between the years 1775 and 1779, numerous settlers arrived.

Finally, Moses Trussell erected the first, basic camp on the Belden Morgan Farm, in Sutton. A few years later, the first child was born within the grant limits in 1776, named John Alexander.

By 1779, there were sixteen families on the settlement, living in rudimentary cabins, enduring the winter hardships and remoteness from supplies.

Until Levi Harvey built his mills at the Hominy Pot in 1780, everyone lived in small log cabins, with one or two rooms.

*Time: 2:30:08*

NARRATOR: By the late 1700's the Alexandria Addition was also known as 'Heidelberg' to many early settlers. The land was surveyed and laid out in one hundred and thirty-seven lots of one hundred and fifty acres.

The early settlers were formally incorporated into the town in 1779, with a grant act of incorporation.

August 25<sup>th</sup> became the official birthday of New London. Resident, Samuel Messer quickly requested the first town meeting be held at his homestead.

The second town meeting was held in March 1780, at the schoolhouse. By 1782, New London was gradually expanding; there were now twenty families in town.

In June of 1783, the first town census was conducted, there were 46 males over twenty-one, 66 males under twenty-one, 46 females over eighteen and 16 females under eighteen, for a total population of two hundred and nineteen residents.

After the close of the Revolutionary War, there was an influx of revolutionary soldiers living in New London, and by October 1785, the town was looking to build a common meetinghouse.

A few years later, in 1788, the first minister, Elder Seamans, an honorary member of the town, was called to New London and was installed pastor the

following year. His diary covers much of the late history of New London, and follows his daily ministerial life and lectures.

*Time: 4:24:36*

NARRATOR: At the early turn of the century, New London made the first of several changes to its territorial borders. The town line was expanded to incorporate the westerly part of Kearsarge Gorge, seven hundred acres of land nesting near Suttons northern line.

The once little village of pioneers became a thriving community of over three hundred residents. Their dwellings transformed from rudimentary cabins into traditional houses.

By this time, a common meetinghouse, schoolhouse and two blacksmith shops had been built.

As the town's territorial, residential and material properties and prospects increased so did its educational ventures.

In 1837, Governor Anthony Colby, a man of considerable influence amongst the town, founded New London Academy, now known as Colby-Sawyer College, resting atop New London Hill. His wife, Mrs. Colby, was an ardent supporter of higher educational advantages for women. She became the first principal of New London Academy for young women in 1836. However, after a steady increase in the number of pupils, the academy fell under reorganization in 1853, and a few years later, demand warranted the erection of a larger building.

The new academy, with its faithful group of professors and well-earned reputation, was perfectly proportioned with brick and granite trimmings for a cost of \$100,000.

To this day, the devout spirit of Governor Anthony Colby looks down, in a fatherly interest upon the college, a silent, yet compelling inspiration for higher academic endeavors.

*Time: 6:14:28*

NARRATOR: By the early 1900's, New London's population had risen to over seven hundred and sixty eight residents. There were two main villages, where half the town's population lived. One was Scytheville, now known as Elkins, at the foot of Pleasant Lake, and the larger of the two villages, New London.

At this time, the town stretched for 14,444 acres and contained 2,048 acres of water, while bordering five towns, Wilmot, Sutton, Newbury, Springfield and Sunapee.

Still, in the 1900's, much of the town remained timber, swamps, hills and farmland, until summer home development began on the shores of Pleasant Lake and Lake Sunapee.

At that time, there was still no modern plumbing, insulation or automatic heating.

Prices were quite low back then; wages were about twenty-five cents in cities and fifteen cents in rural areas.

Inhabitants still used horse and carriages for transportation; it was not until later in the 1900's, that vehicles were introduced.

In the winter months, the social event of the season was the Grand Levee, at the town hall, where there were sleigh races and their attached sledding bells, faceted on collars, shafts and body straps, were heard all around.

In the summer months, the town held picnics, hikes on Mount Kearsarge, bicycle rides and concerts on the common.

*Time: 7:58:12*

Closing→

NARRATOR: Scenic New London has often been written about by admiring visitors and residents, taken by the charming and quaint scenery, vast woodlands, trails, snowy mountains and views that will take your breath away.

As you rise with steady grace up the gentle curve of New London and reach its peak, the Old Academy comes into view. At the campus, due north, you shall see Mount. Cardigan, rising in solitary magnificence. Towards the east, the rugged hills of Wilmot tower above Pleasant Lake. To the north, Mount. Ragged stands and to the right, Mount. Kearsarge, with the village of Wilmot resting at its base.

If you have seen all this, retrace your steps and return to New London Hill, observing remarkable landscapes and quaint features, atop every peak.

*Time: 9:50:29*