

Summit Historical Minute – December 15, 2015  
Presented by Louisa Fowler

#### First Woman to Hold Public Position in Summit – Bridget Lane

The first woman to hold a public position in Summit was Bridget Lane. She and her husband, who were school teachers in Nashua, New Hampshire, moved to Summit in 1871. She opened a small notions store on the northwest corner of Beechwood Road and Union Place. In 1886 she was named postmaster by President Grover Cleveland, the first Democratic President in over 25 years. There was considerable opposition, not against her personally, but because she was a woman. Nevertheless, her quiet, sincere nature, coupled with the faithful discharge of her duties in the management of the office, soon won for her the universal support and respect of the community. Her term as postmaster ended in 1891 when the Federal administration changed to Republican. She was, however, named again to serve from 1894 to 1998