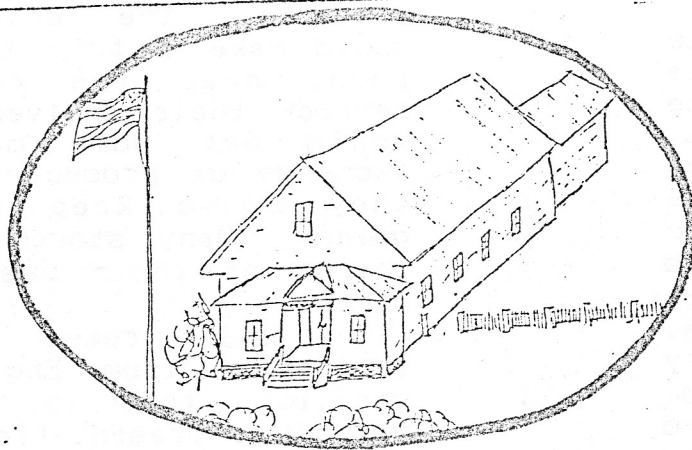


# Madison Historical Gazette



## MADISON HISTORICAL SOCIETY

MADISON, NEW HAMPSHIRE

03849

Museum Hours:

Sunday, Tuesday 2-4pm

Thursday 6-8pm

Volume 1

May 1, 1991

Issue 4

### Officers of MHS

President-Jack Alexander  
Vice President-Ray Stineford  
Treasurer-Joan Kracke  
Secretary-Peggy Hoyt  
Curator-Becky Beaulieu

Editor

Becky Beaulieu

### CALENDAR ORDERS

Our Madison Historical Society 1992 Calendar is at the printer's. It should be ready for distribution by July 1. Those of you who have already ordered will have theirs right away. Many old pictures are being reproduced for each month of the year. The calendar will be on sale at the Museum or call Ed Bickford (367-8097), Ray Stineford (367-4687) or Becky Beaulieu (367-8583) if you would like to purchase one.

There is also an orderform on the last page that you may send in.

### TAG SALE A SUCCESS

We raised almost \$1000 at our tag sale on Memorial Day Weekend! Isabelle Knowles did much of the preparation for the sale and Earle Knowles, Ed Bickford, Emily Beaulieu, and Peggy Hoyt also helped during the weekend. Thank you very much!

Grafton Ward donated part of the sale of a very nice Victorian Parlor Set which contributed nicely to our profit!

Nate and Collin Beaulieu mowed and trimmed the front yard to make everything look great.

### MEMBERSHIPS EXPIRE JUNE 30

Don't forget to renew your memberships for the coming year. The form is on the back page.  
Renew Now

### CALENDAR OF EVENTS

(at the Museum)

June 13 7pm - Docent Tea  
June 20 7:30pm - Reg Meeting  
Faith Harrington  
July 18 - Annual meeting  
6:00pm picnic at Kennett park  
7:30 - meeting at museum  
Aug 9 - Old Home Week Parade  
we will have a float  
August 15 - regular meeting

## MADISON PAST AND PRESENT

### Paid in Kind

Back before money became such an important part of life in the states, trade was done in commodities and services. There was practically no money during colonial times. We were puppets of the mother countries in Europe. England became the dominant leader in this area for her well-being. The colonists were merely suppliers of raw materials, lumber, furs, fish, game and other items of the forest and fields. These were exchanged for salt, tea, clothes, liquor and other staples. By exchanging goods instead of money, England kept the colonists sufficiently poor to decrease possibility of manufacture of goods here.

England did not have to worry about competition from its colonists. She prospered tremendously. What the settlers did have was ingenuity, the will to work hard and a desire for freedom that was worth dying for. Eventually the colonies combined to fight England.

After we gained our independence, there still was not much money in rural America. The barter system worked well and continued to be used. Pedlars would bring goods of all kinds from seaports to trade for country produce and crafts, back and forth. Traveling butchers would stop during slaughter time taking furs, hides, fat for candle making or anything else they could get for their services. It was most convenient when a store was set up rather than chance meeting of pedlars every so often. Farm families brought in extra produce and crafts which the storekeepers would look over and set a price. Then the farmer was given credit for shelf goods. In autumn, farmers got their accounts caught up with fattened livestock and

vegetables. They stocked up on whatever they needed to get through the often long, cold winter. The storekeepers would make a trip to larger towns near the coast to restock their shelves. They would get some money in exchange of products so that they could keep business going. Many stores did two thirds of their business in barter.

A major reason for the separation from England was taxation, that is, taxation without representation. The new country found it could not run efficiently without money, though. The government was soon to request that the towns form town meetings to enable them to raise money to take care of local and government needs. A lot of farmers' taxes were paid in time spent working on town roads or around buildings. It was stated in the 1890 Madison Town Report that some taxes were paid in labor on roads. Enough money was collected from merchants and other well-to-do residents to take care of money needs.

In the olden times, there was greater independence among family units. There was also a great interdependence among community members. Your neighbor was usually your best friend. Neighbors swapped help with chores that were too tedious or awkward to do alone. In times of illness or injury, one would help another. One could mortgage a farm animal or something else of value to the town to get him through a bad spell. Often times the animal was sold but it did get the farmer through a hard time. Old people or others who couldn't manage alone were at the discretion of the selectmen to find them homes. Some of the towns had facilities before the county became involved.

The seasonal tasks were made into festivities, cornhusking bees, apple bees (for cutting

and drying apples), quilting bees, etc. After the standard of American spelling was set by Noah Webster, the spelling bee was introduced. That one survived until today. Big projects like building houses or barns were community affairs. The work was done but it was also a time for visiting and enjoyment.

In 1830, a sawmill in present day Snowville, burned to the ground. The Joseph Snow sawmill was replaced in about two weeks by neighbors who were waiting for boards to build houses.

This barter system served the economy and insured well-being of the community very efficiently. The townspeople pretty much lived without the need of outside assistance. Times were tough but working together made them easier and happier.

It is such a different world today. Families are quite independent of other community members, but dependent on the outside world. Oil, gas, electricity, many foods and clothes all come from the outside, all essential to live the way we do. Houses are paid for by mortgaged money. Health and home security are covered by insurance, all money items. The largeness of government the way it is now means high taxes. It takes more money to get by now, but the barter system still can be used successfully. It is in the slow economy when barter is used most. Use of some of the old ways will help some of us get through this depression. The more we go back to the old way, the less we will be dependent on money and the less we will be affected by the up and down of modern economy.

EPB

#### References

Three Hundred and Fifty Years  
of Bickfords, Catherine  
Bickford

Home Life In Colonial Days,  
Alice Morse Earle

What Will You Take For It,  
Back to Barter, Garden  
Way Books

Early Days of Eaton & Madison,  
Nella & Keith Henney

New Hampshire A History,  
Hobart Pillsbury, Vol I

Biography of Baby Frank G. Lawson,  
by his mother Achea M. Lawson  
cont'd

"I must write a little about my darling tonight although I feel very tired and would much rather be in the bed with him than sitting here alone writing about him - he continues to be as cunning and smart as ever - he can climb up by anything and walk all round the room by the chairs and table and [ceiling] to aid him - he has got strength enough but he lacks courage though I think he will very soon run alone and talk too - he had two or three birthday presents one was a top from Mr. Bickford and a scarf and plate with one of Franklin's proverbs on it "Keep thy shop and thy shop will keep thee" it is a nice little plate and he eats in it every day. He is a well behaved child at the table - he sits in his highchair and never thinks of throwing the dishes or his food on the floor but sits up like a man. We live at 65 Green ST next to Doctor Joyce - right over Mr. Thomas Mullins Bakeshop - it is not a very splendid room but we take a great deal of comfort here - I enjoy my [Babe's] company so much - he seems to think considerable of Mr. Bickford every time that he comes in Frank will begin to shake his hands and arms and go all over he is so glad to see him - but then he does not see hardly any one here poor fellow and he dont know how to contain himself when anyone does come in that he happens to know.



Darling little Frank is asleep in his cradle as I write this. We are at my grandfather Mooney's the old home of us all. I stopped in Boston - till the last of June - Frank did not seem to be very well and I thought the sooner I left for the country the better it would be for him - I started from Boston the 28th of June went to Lawrence and [staid] with Sophia Washburn that night then came through the next day - Mr. B came with us as far as the Lake then he went to his home Glover Vt - and we took the boat for home - I bought Frank a pretty little carriage and he has taken a great deal of comfort with it - I brought it up with one and he goes to rides most every day - I paid 8 dollars for it. Every one up here thinks that Frank is very smart and cunning and Grandmother thinks he is extra nice. She and Grandfather came from Canada and got home the same day that I did so we have had fine times. Frank run alone about the first of June and now he will trot about as fast as I can - he has cut 3 new teeth since he came up here one double tooth and he had quite a hard time of it - but is now smart again.

Nov 22, 1868 - Some time has elapsed since I wrote in this little book and Frank and I have been through various changes. I [staid] in Madison till the first of Nov 1867 then went to Glover to spend the winter with Mrs. Bickford and the girls. I stopped till New Years but the business didn't go very well and they wanted me back here so I came. Mary Bickford came to take care of Frank. We boarded to Mrs. Johnsons on Green St. Frank was very sick with Chicken Pox in March and was sick a long time but he finally recovered and we [staid] there till the last of May. My Grandmother was down here a while - I went to New York the last of May intending to stay but did not like the city so did not stay but a week. Frank was delighted with it he seemed so happy and contented - but I came back to Boston and the first of July I went up home again - I did not stay but 5 weeks for Frank was home sick and so was I."

This was all there was in this touching saga.

## JUNE 15 PROGRAM

Faith Harrington, unable to come to our last meeting, will come to our June 20 meeting to speak on "Digging in Documents and Dirt". She will use a case study from the Isles of Shoals, to discuss how the historical archaeologist "digs" into documents as well as earth. Historic maps, paintings, deeds and wills inform and direct study while recovered artifacts offer and immediate experience with the past. This is free and open to the public. Made possible by a grant from the NH Humanities Council.

If you missed our last two speakers, you missed two great evenings. John Allen gave a very entertaining talk on Oral History and Howard Sargent gave an excellent overview of the "dig" in his back yard. Both speakers were excellent and entertaining. We are very grateful to the Humanities Council for making these programs available to us free of charge!

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Madison Historical Society 1992 Calendar

Calendar price \$5.50. Postage if you need it sent to you is \$1.25. (You may also pick yours up at the Museum during regular hours) Calendar will be available July 1.

I would like \_\_\_\_\_ calendar(s). \$5.50 x \_\_\_\_\_ = \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ postage \$1.25 x \_\_\_\_\_ = \_\_\_\_\_

name \_\_\_\_\_

address \_\_\_\_\_

total \_\_\_\_\_

city \_\_\_\_\_ state \_\_\_\_\_ zip \_\_\_\_\_ phone \_\_\_\_\_

Send to: Becky Beaulieu, PO Box 57, Silver Lake NH 03875

**Ancient Landmark Society of Parsonsfield**

A genealogical workshop will meet at Community Hall,  
Route 160, North Parsonsfield, Maine

**11 AM — 4 PM**

April 28

May 26

June 23

July 28

August 25

September 22

BRING LUNCH - - - - - COFFEE SERVED

**PUBLICATIONS ON SALE**

History of Parsonsfield (Reprint)  
aptishal, Marriage & Funeral Records of  
Rev. Albert Cole of Cornish, Maine  
emetery Records of Parsonsfield, Maine  
Vital Records of Parsonsfield, Maine  
Vital Records of Limerick, Maine

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**MADISON HISTORICAL SOCIETY**

**Membership Application**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Local Address \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Winter Address \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone \_\_\_\_\_

☐ Enclosed please find \$3.00 for each individual membership.

Please return this form to:

Becky Beaulieu  
Box 57  
Silver Lake, NH 03875

Our Membership Year Runs from July 1-June 30

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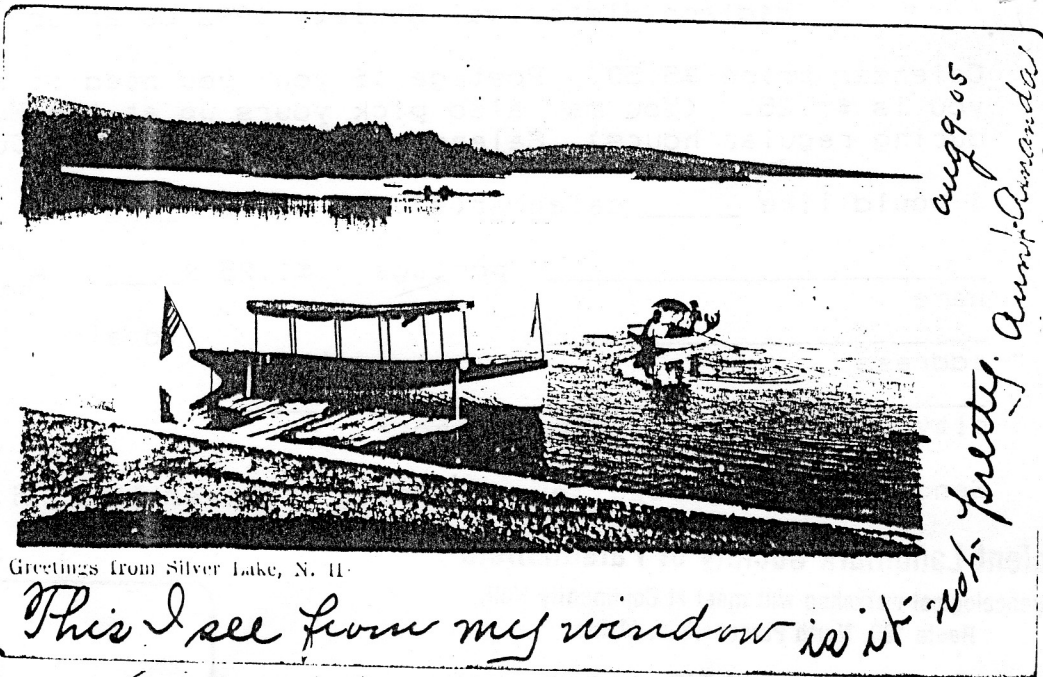
Route 113

Post Office Box 230

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New Hampshire 03875

603-367-9222



Greetings from Silver Lake, N. H.

*This I see from my window is it not pretty. Aunt Amanda!*

(Card sent to Una Smith - Brooklyn - 1905)

Isabelle & Earle Knowles  
Box 118  
Silver Lake NH 03875