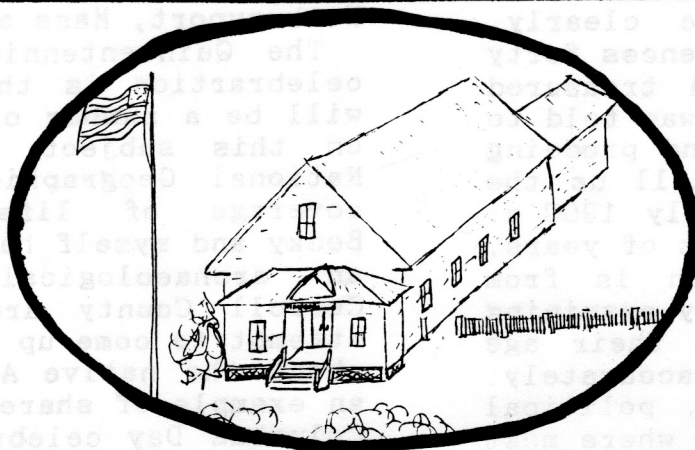


Madison Historical Gazette



MADISON HISTORICAL SOCIETY

MADISON, NEW HAMPSHIRE

03849

Volume II

February 1, 1982

Issue 3

Ray Stineford - President
Isabelle Knowles - Vice President
Secretary - Peggy Hoyt
Treasurer - Ed Bickford
Curator - Becky Beaulieu

UP-COMING PROGRAMS

All programs begin approximately 8pm, following a business meeting at 7:30pm. All are held at the Historical Society unless otherwise noted.

February 20 - "Celebrating the Beauty and Bounty of Our Local Agriculture" by Doug and Paula Albert from Fryeburg. They will present slides accompanied by music. This should be very special!

March 19 - Moose Tales - Kris Bontates, NH Fish and Game Biologist and Moose Specialist, will recount stories and facts about Moose, a very common sight in our small town.

April 12 - (at the Town Hall) It Had to be Done So I Did It - This presentation documents the daily lives of women living in the rural New Hampshire town of Warner in the first half of this century. Five actresses speak actual words of

Editor

Becky Beaulieu

women interviewed between 1938 and 1985. The reading answers the question "Women didn't work back then...did they?" Don't miss this one!! It is sponsored by the New Hampshire Humanities Council.

April 21 - New England and why it puzzles those who are not New Englanders - by Stan Howe of Bethel Historical Society - How Puritan influence established our standards and principles. He also speaks on farms, stone walls, churches and the industrial age. He will show slides in conjunction with this talk.

June 18 - (at the town hall) Vintage Fashion Show - Mrs. Betty Seibert will present a fashion show featuring her extensive vintage clothing collection. She will even bring models to show them off!!!

July 16 - Annual Meeting - our annual picnic and business meeting.

August 6 - Old Home Week Blueberry Festival - this will be our event for Old Home Week. A regular meeting will not be held this month.

MADISON PAST AND PRESENT

100, 200, 300 Plus

Many of us can remember twenty to thirty years ago quite clearly. Others can recall occurrences forty to fifty years ago. A treasured few, with aid from what was told to them by their parents and prodding from their peers, can tell us the way life was in the early 1900's. When it comes to hundreds of years, most of the information is from records. Some people, by examining articles, can guess at their age and use quite accurately. Pictures, letters, maps, political records and the like are where most of our history comes from. There are gaps in this information and the farther back we go, the more gaps there are. That makes our record keeping most important. By preserving the past and recording the present accurately, we can make it easier for our descendants to utilize our experience and to appreciate what they have now even more.

The name, Madison, NH, is relatively new on the scene. The European colonization started around 500 years ago. Man has inhabited earth for thousands of years. The Madison Historical Society would like to concentrate on the Madison area, but we do share a common history with others.

One way that people recognize history is in centennials. Some are listed below. An all American ball game started in Springfield, Massachusetts in 1891 (basketball). The Old Farmer's Almanac was first printed in Boston, MA. by Robert Bailey Thomas in 1792. The Almanac lists "What Else is 200 years old":

Thomas Jefferson became spokesman for the new Republican Party opposing the Federalists. The Bill of Rights went into effect on December 15.

Fryeburg Academy is now a 200 year old private school.

Theodore Pearson opened the country's first commercial bakery in Newburyport, MA. In 1792 the business changed hands a couple of times and now is known as Nabisco.

According to a notebook in our museum put together by Theo and Carie Pearson's children, their ancestors were living and baking in Newburyport, Mass at that time.

The Quincentennial Columbus Day celebration is this year. There will be a number of good write ups on this subject. October 1991, National Geographic has extensive coverage of life before 1492. Becky and myself have signed up for an archaeological dig in the Carroll County area, the state's attempt to come up with information about the native American culture, an example of shared history. The Columbus Day celebration will be a prelude to the 2000 year celebration of Jesus Christ's birth and the start of the calendar system of recording. The 1990's will be a decade of historic celebration.

Madison has a 100 year date coming up in 2002. This will be our one hundredth year of continual observance of Old Home Week. On December 17, 2002, Madison, New Hampshire will be one hundred and fifty years young. The Historical Society will be doing their part to observe this date. The calendar committee will be looking for dates in Madison that are centennials. We ask the public to help us in our search. Let us make the 1990's truly a decade of historic recognition, leading up to our 150th year celebration.

EPB



MARILYN CHRISTIE
Family Genealogist

23 Montrose Manor Ct.
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MADISON HISTORICAL SOCIETY YEAR END REPORT

This report ended up being a lot of work. It has been quite enlightening, though. I have gone back three years in an attempt to get information with which to set up a budget for 1992. There will be a budget to be voted on at our next meeting.

When you are busy with one thing or another all the time, it is encouraging to sit back and look at the results. It has been steady growth for those three years. That is a direct result of a lot of time, energy, and creative thinking of the members of our society. I must share with you my finds. Membership has increased from 23 in '89 to 52 in '90 to 77 in '91. Checks written have increased from 2 in '89, to 52 in '90 to 77 in '91. Fund raising has been very successful. Sale of books and ads in the Gazette aided a lot in 1990. Also, there was close to \$300 donated for the chimney work. A plaque of recognition is in the making.

In 1991, money coming in was \$426 in dues, \$162 in books, \$137 in donations, \$1,331 in calendars and over \$1000 from our tag sale. The tag sale took care of the \$936 fee for the calendar production. Other expenses were a couple hundred dollars towards the tool shed, \$85 for a new flag and rope, books, postage, office supplies, general maintenance and material for displays. 1991 started with accounts in the Fleet bank amounting to \$1643.50. On July 31, \$1465.78 along with \$212.50, was transferred to Berlin City bank. we started our savings in Berlin City with \$250. On August 6, a \$450 transfer from the checking along with \$188.50, brought our savings to \$888.50. \$14.32 in interest, left us with \$902.89. Our checking with Berlin City started with \$1428.28. Deposits amounting to \$1086.45 and interest of \$18.01, brought our account to \$2532.74, minus \$1104.17, left us with \$1428.57. Total of checking and savings is \$2331.39.

A lot of the \$2331.39 will be used up in 1992 budget intentions. It is working capital. We still need fund raising. Fund raising plans for 1992 include another calendar production, the sale of recent pictures of scenic Madison, two publications (Lead Mine and Ice Cutting), and visiting our town elders with spring bouquets of flowers spreading good cheer, getting familiar with them, and maybe increasing membership.

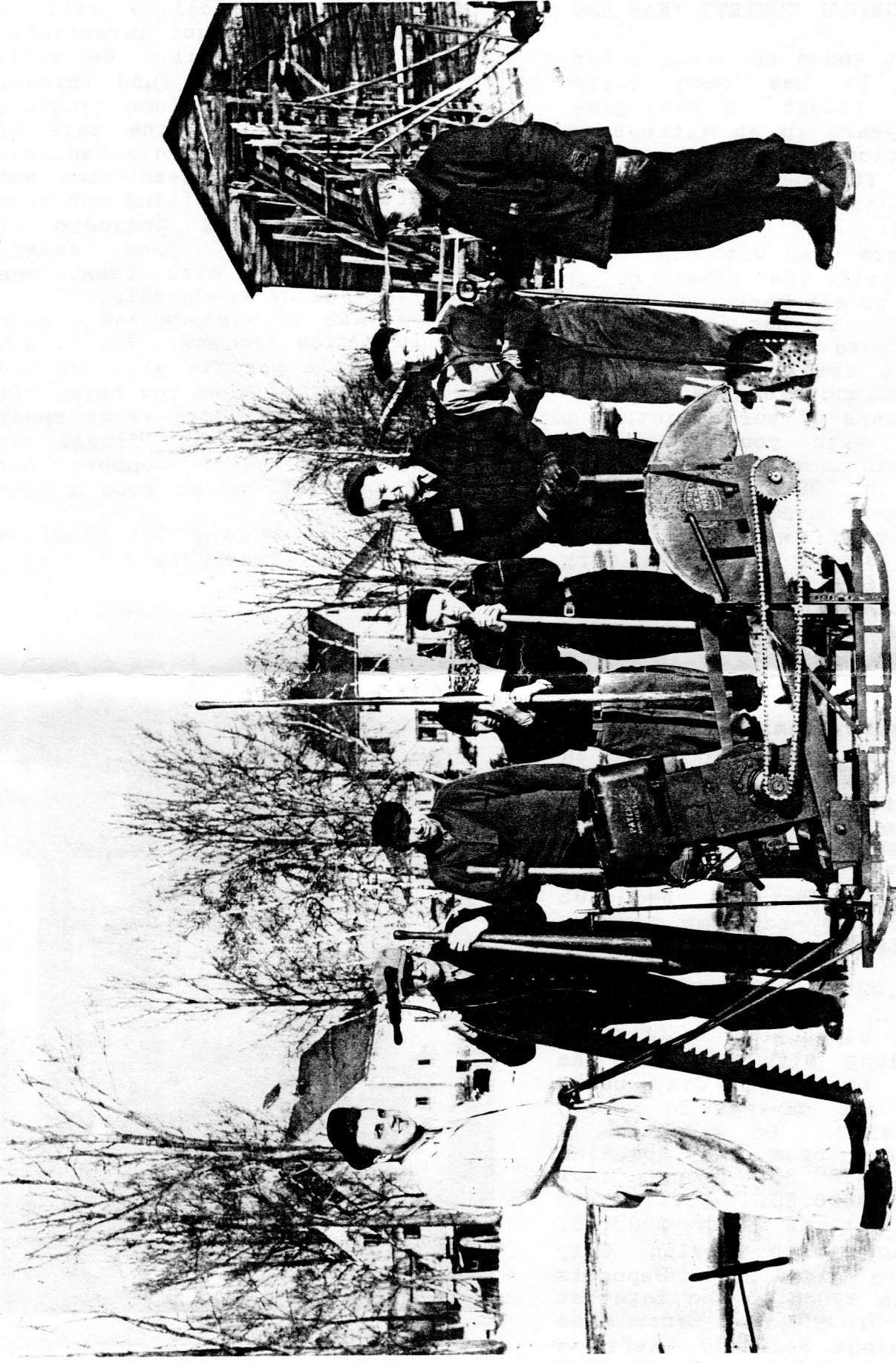
I hesitate in wishing you a good year in a slow economy. But, I ask you to keep a positive attitude and make the best of what you have. It is time to watch every penny spent and we will be as frugal as possible and still support our cause. Let 1992 be as good a year as possible.

Edward P. Bickford
Treasurer



Christmas Tree at Open House

Boughton JACK FORD RALPH BERRY JAS STANFORD BOB HAGGARD FERNANDE GUY MILL FORD HENRY SEABURY LOREN SHACK FORD



cutting ice with power saw

ICE CUTTING ON SILVER LAKE

Ice cutting was the subject of our January meeting. These are some excerpts from the program. We are planning a booklet about ice cutting to be printed and on sale this year.

Ice cutting was one of the few winter businesses for farmers and lumbermen. The Shackford family cut ice in Conway and on Silver Lake.

On Silver Lake, the ice would be cut on the lake near the area where it was needed. At the head of the lake it was cut for Al Stacey's house (now Barclay's) and for Emma Forrest's Silver Lake House (where Lee Drew's house now stands). Irv Kennett hauled ice from the head of the lake to the ice house at Madison corner. It was located by the brook near Kennett's barn (now used by Gordon Cormack).

Once one of Irv's horses broke through the ice (a common occurrence) and had to be rescued by the men and the other horse. According to one account, "a noose was thrown around the neck of the thrashing horse to choke it and render it unconscious so it could float and be hauled out". A noose was always included when harnessing

a horse for that reason.

Ice was cut for the Cummings and Abenaki down on the south east side of the lake. The crew moved over to the west side to cut for camp Allegro.

Earle Knowles remembers Jesse servicing his grandmother Knowles' ice box. He always arrived whistling and humming with an ice pick in his back pocket. The standard size of the ice box door was 12 inches, but that varied so blocks would have to be shaved to size.

Some of the problems of the homemaker were puddles on the floor from melting ice and sawdust in lemonade. Because ice in the ice houses was packed in sawdust for insulation, fire was always a hazard from fermenting sawdust.

William Twombly from Wakefield showed slides of the commercial ice cutting business on Lovell Lake. Immense ice houses held thousands of tons of ice, which was later shipped to Boston via the railroad. The leading export from Boston in 1890 was ice. From there it was sent around the world.

There is a family in Lunenburg Massachusetts who demonstrates the art of ice cutting to this day. They allow novices to try their hand at it if they wish.

Look for our pamphlet later this year, it will include many more facts and anecdotes about ice cutting.



Bob + Nathalie
Michels

Edna
McLaur

Ray Stinebore



Becky Carr
Beaulieu Zack
Michelle
Itamet
Ethan
Lussard
Ray
O'Brien
Sarah
McKinney
Mural Artists



Tom & Ginny Currier

A good time was had
by ALL!

Open House - Christmas 1991

PHOTOS NEEDED

Our second calendar committee is already at work. We are soliciting historic photos for our 1993 issue. Remember, history is not just 100 years ago it is also 5 or 10 years ago. Any photo loaned for use in the calendar will be returned to you. Please help us out.

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PHONE _____

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(address) _____

Class of membership (choose one)

Single (\$5.00) Date paid: _____

Dual membership (\$8.00) Date paid: _____

Additional member: _____

Family membership (\$8.00) Date paid: _____

Family members (under 18): _____

JESSE E. SHACKFORD, Sr.

Who was Jesse? A real New England Man.
Who could fell the mighty oak
Or Tend a Maple Sugar pan
His was the strength that
Could mend a wall of stone;
The gentleness that would tend the stock
Whils't weary to the bone.
He braved the bitter weather
To cut blocks of crystal ice,
Wouldn't quit, no sir, although
He got a soaking once or twice.
He loved to tell of his youth, gone by
When a boy would earn his keep;
Of drying apples, picking berries
Of the good harvest one could reap.
Jesse was a friendly man with
A cheery word for all;
A happy, working, singing man
Striding straight and tall.

He was a loving father
With a well worn knee.
The good Grandfather who loved
To cut the Christmas Tree.
He is with us still in his children
In a look, a habit, an eye
And thus we know, it is true
The whole man does not die.
He toiled beneath the summer sun
Planted seeds in God's rich earth
In every day of eighty years
He proved a good man's worth.
Yes, he proved a good man's worth.

Written by his daughter-in-law
Beverly McIver Shackford

BACK TO THE PAST . . .



READ THE GAZETTE !