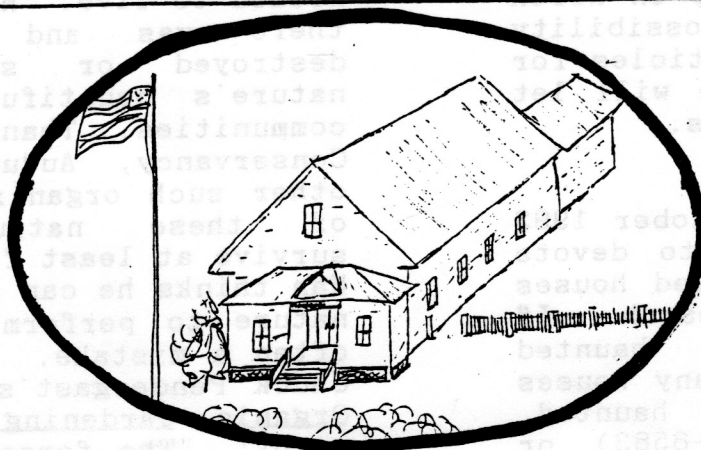


Madison Historical Gazette



MADISON HISTORICAL SOCIETY

MADISON, NEW HAMPSHIRE

03849

Volume 3

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Issue 2

President - Ray Stineford
Vice President - Isabelle Knowles
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PROGRAM REVIEWS

In September, our program was "David Knowles, Man Behind the Peak House". I was able to gather many old photos and made them into slides for this presentation about building and running the Chocorua Peak House. One of the most amazing facts about this venture was that the rights to build were purchased in December 1892 and the building was open for guests in June 1893. Just six months to build and much of that was winter!

In October our speaker was Ed McKenzie from Albany speaking about local Indians.

Old Home week was very productive for the Historical Society. Our first annual Blueberry Festival was a huge success. Around 80 people were served and we sold out everything we had. Thanks to all the members who brought baked good

to sell and helped out at the event. We will definitely do this again next year. We would still like to publish a small blueberry cookbook and sell, so...get out your favorite blueberry recipes and send them to us!!

During Old Home week we added about \$800 to our treasury from the festival, calendar sales, map and book sales.

UPCOMING PROGRAMS

On November 19, David Watters from UNH will present NH Gravestones, Art and Life in Colonial Times. Gravestone art reveals much about religion, social values, family life, politics and aesthetics of early communities.

On December 20 we will have our third annual Christmas Open House from 4-8pm. Please come and join the festivities! Everyone is asked to bring refreshments to share (if you can't come, please bring refreshments to Becky beforehand). Please come to help us set up on Saturday, the 19th at 10am. Decorating the tree, donated by Ed Bickford, is always a lot of fun.

On January 21, Richard Plusch, will present a program on fine antiques. He owns a shop in North Conway. There is a possibility that he will appraise articles for us for a small fee. We will let you know in future notices.

HAUNTED HOUSES OF MADISON

We are planning our October 1993 program. We would like to devote an evening to local haunted houses and need to do some research. If your house has some "haunted history" or you know of any houses that are reported to be haunted, please call Becky (367-8583) or Isabelle (367-9205) and let them know.



CRAFT FAIR

We will have a table at the craft fair at school on December 5. We would like to sell some Christmas Ornaments there as well as our usual collection of maps, books and calendars. If you have any hand crafted ornaments you can donate, please call Ed (367-8097) or Becky.

CRIBBAGE TOURNAMENT

We are also planning a cribbage tournament sometime in February or March. Stay tuned!

MADISON PAST & PRESENT

The Hunter Gatherer

There are a number of people today who utilize forest products to aid their survival. But there are very few who use the products as efficiently as the native Americans did. The natives got their entire livelihood from the woods and they did not destroy it. They lived in harmony with nature. White man of the past turned to the forest in times of need. In the year "1916 and froze-to-death" and other slow years, foraging was probably quite prevalent. For some, the use of these products became an important part of their lives and it was passed on.

The problem with the white man was he did not take just what he needed to live. He took as much as there was and in many cases destroyed or severely altered nature's bountiful and beautiful communities. Thanks to Nature Conservancy, Audubon Society and other such organizations, remnants of these natural communities survive at least for us to observe. Man thinks he can manipulate nature to perform for him. Most often a mistake. A paragraph from Chuck Pendergast's Introduction to Organic Gardening puts it about right: "The forces and results of Nature exist independent of man, his civilization and his activities. Unfortunately for Nature, however, man exists, and his civilization and activities are having a profound influence on her activities. She ultimately has the last word in the senseless conflicts, for man must still live with and by her results." My hope for the future is that man cleans up his act and cleans up his life. We still have to live with the results of his destruction. We hand this down to our descendents. Please think of the future before acting now.

Bleak as this guy makes it seem, there still are some wild lands where nature is actively trying to maintain some kind of balance. These areas are shrinking though. Some of us still like to collect nature's bounty. Bounty means what is plentiful. We should be careful not to harm endangered species and not to harvest too heavily in any one place. Briefly let me go through the seasons.

Spring is a beautiful time, the cold and snow are leaving, life is coming out of dormancy, and a change of diet is welcome. In March many people are eagerly gathering sap of the maple tree for their sugar source. Much time and work goes into this but being able to be active comfortably outside again, the sweet sticky smell of boiling sap, and the desirability of the end product is definitely worth the effort. In April there are the delicious landlocked smelt, fresh brook trout, fiddleheads and other greens.

Summer has a wide variety of greens, roots, fruits and fish of all kinds. This is a good time to stock up for the long winter to come.

I enjoy collecting mushrooms in the fall. Their texture and flavor cannot be compared to store bought and they are free for the picking. Most of the homesteads in the area had apple trees around them. Many of these trees still produce apples. You will have to cut the scab and worms out but the chemicals involved with commercial production will not be there. Most hunting seasons are scheduled in the fall and winter months to allow the game a chance to breed. The meat is also the best of the entire year. The game has had a chance to regain strength and store reserves for the upcoming lean months. The females will have also overcome their extra burden of replenishing the species.

The winter diet is mostly from stored produce. Winter is a great time, though, to gain access to ponds that are usually harder to fish and the fish are better. Warm water species have a tendency to become wormy in the summer. After a few months of cold water, the worms usually disappear.

Spring is a beautiful time. The cold and snow are leaving, life is coming out of dormancy, and a change of diet is welcome. Oh! I already said that, such it is, one year follows another.

A lot of writers hesitate to talk about gathering forest products for a good reason. There are risks involved. Some greens look like other greens but are poisonous. There are mushrooms that cause death if eaten. The fiddlehead of ferns is only good when the leaves are tightly clasped and only certain ferns are good. Do not eat ferns when their leaves have opened. Not all fish and game are edible. In collecting from the wild, get proper guidance either from books or other people who know what they are doing. To complicate the problem, we live on a polluted planet. Internal organs of animals should not be eaten because that is where the pollution concentrates.

Stick with the muscle meat. Some bodies of water are so polluted the fish are not recommended for eating. Waterfowl eat fish indiscriminately and could carry heavy metals like mercury. Let them fly. Do not pick any parts of plants around man's dumping grounds or any area that is sprayed to kill whatever. I refuse to collect mushrooms around heavily traveled roads because they get their nutrients from the immediate environment. Gas and oil fumes could collect in their gills.

The intention of this article is not to scare people away from forest use, but care is important whether you raise, buy or collect food. Happy foraging, with caution, of course.

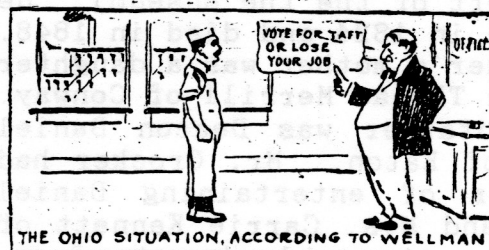
EPB

1993 CALENDARS STILL ON SALE

Don't forget your Madison Historical Society 1993 Calendar!! They are selling for \$6.00 and have many wonderful historical photos, all different from the 1992 calendar. You can get one at Dolley Madison's or at Lakeside General Store or by calling Becky or Ed.



1908 Election Cartoons



"OLD TAVERN AND STAGE COACH DAYS"

The following paragraphs are excerpts from a paper written by Hattie Warren and read by her at a Silver Lake Women's Club Meeting in the early 1920's. The paper was 38 typewritten pages, either the meeting was very long or it was read in chapters. Following are parts of the paper that have a Madison connection.

"The earliest records of licenses to sell liquor in the town of Eaton were to Enoch Wood, Town Clerk as Clerk was called in those days, and William Snell, Revolutionary Soldier, who located on Snell Hill and was Proprietor's Clerk for the early settlers of Eaton. In the early days licenses to sell liquor usually went to the keeper of an ordinary, so they may have been the first to entertain travelers.

My earliest remembrance of a tavern was the one kept by Samuel and Abigail Atkinson who opened it, I think, about 1812 [to the right of the Historical Society Museum]. Among my school chums were several granddaughters of Mrs. Atkinson and from them I heard of the delicious cooking, the beautifully dressed guests, and I saw the gay coaches that stopped before the doors. No modern hotel will ever seem more wonderful, no guests more distinguished. At Mrs. Atkinson's death, the Atkinson heirs sold to Nathaniel and Elizabeth Churchill, I think about 1862.

Mr. Churchill had the old Atkinson sign before his door, relettered with his own name. He kept the house as a Tavern as long as the stages ran.

Crocker Tavern

Another tavern was kept by Mr. and Mrs. Crocker at the home now owned by Bertwell Gerry [2nd house to the left of the the museum]. He was there in 1824 and died in 1848. Mr. Crocker's mother was a daughter of Deacon Thomas Merrill of Conway. His grandfather was Deacon Daniel Jackson of Eaton. Mr. Crocker had the honor of entertaining Daniel Webster and Mrs. Carrie Kennett of Conway has the table he ate from. Mrs. Kennett is the granddaughter of Mr. and Mrs. Crocker.

Mr. Jesse Ferring used the Crocker Sign for the Madison House. Mr. Crocker owned the Saco River Stage route at the time of his death.

Madison House

Jesse Ferring and wife also kept the same house as a tavern in the early seventies. The pictures of Mr. Jesse and Mrs. Eliza Ferring hang on the walls of Mrs. Minnie Gerry's home. Mrs. Gerry is their youngest granddaughter.

In 1874 Mrs. and Mrs. Andrew J. Forrest opened the Silver Lake House for entertainment of travelers [stood across from Lakeside General Store]. At Mr. Forrest's decease in 1877, his widow, Mrs. Arvilla R. Forrest, continued to be its hostess for seventeen years and by her hospitality and genial way made her hotel a home and a tarrying place to be remembered pleasantly and to go back to with joyous hope.

At Mrs. Forrest's death in 1893, her daughter, Miss Emma M. Forrest became the Proprietress of the Silver Lake House and gave her life, ambition, and courage, to making her home an ideal hotel, attractive, cheerful, and hospitable to her guests.

The Silver Lake House burned to the ground April 19, 1923 and Miss Forrest not only lost a hotel, but she lost a home, with a lifetime of happy memories clustered round its hearth stone."

"...the establishment of an hostelry, an ordinary it was usually called, for the entertainment of travelers and for the mutual comfort of the settlers, was as necessary as providing a gathering place for the church. Towns were fined if they did not have an ordinary. The early taverns were not opened wholly for the convenience of travelers; they were for the comfort of the town's people, for the interchange of news and opinions, the sale of solacing liquors, and the incidental sociability. There were many restrictions upon the entertainment of unknown strangers. The landlord had to give the name of all such strangers to the selectmen, who could if they thought them detrimental or liable to be a charge upon the community, warn them out of town."

to be continued...



WE'LL GIVE THEM A REST *Denver Times*

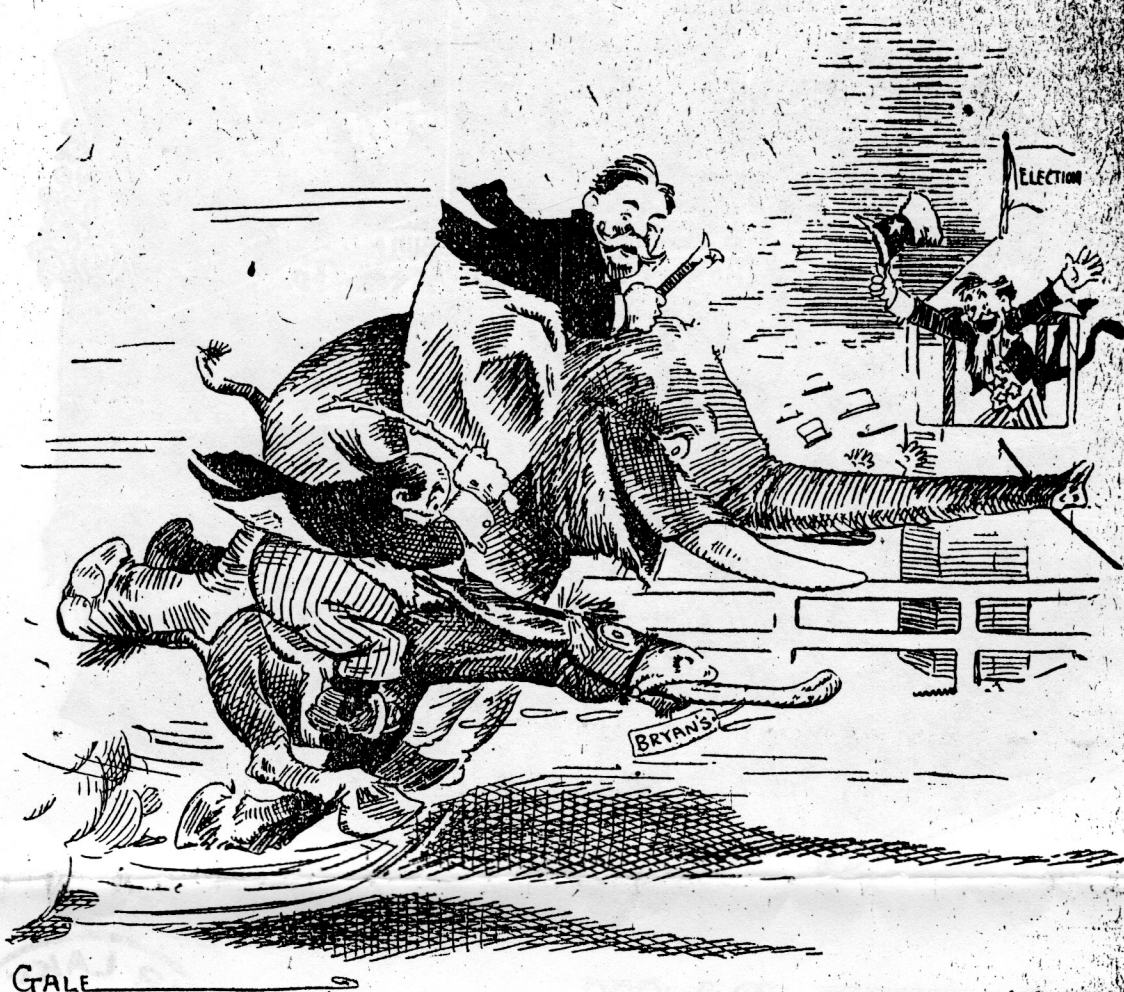


"Don't turn to the right—
Don't turn to the left—
But stick to the middle of the road!"

Chicago
Inter-Ocean

Campaign Ad 1908
Taft vs. Bryan

ON THE HOME STRETCH—AND HE CAN'T WIN BY A TONGUE!



Membership Application Madison Historical Society, Madison, N.H.

(PLEASE PRINT)

NAME _____

HOME ADDRESS _____

_____ PHONE _____

SEASONAL ADDRESS for (dates) _____

(address) _____

Class of membership (choose one)

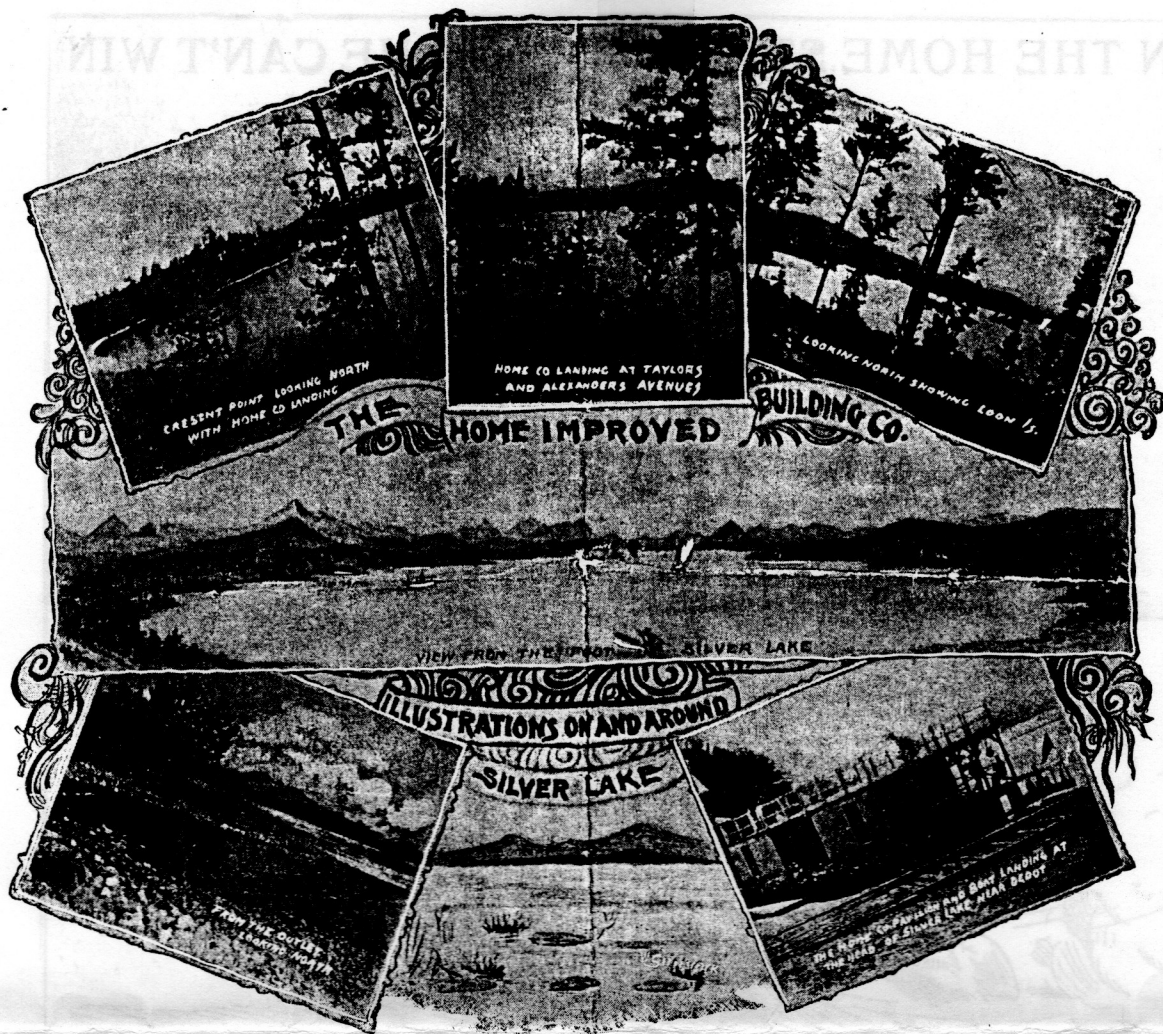
Single (\$5.00) Date paid: _____

Dual membership (\$8.00) Date paid: _____

Additional member: _____

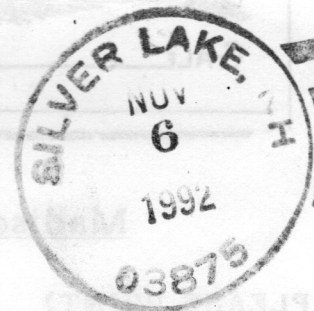
Family membership (\$8.00) Date paid: _____

Family members (under 18): _____



BACK TO THE PAST...

Madison Historical Society
Box 57
Silver Lake NH 03875



READ THE GAZETTE!