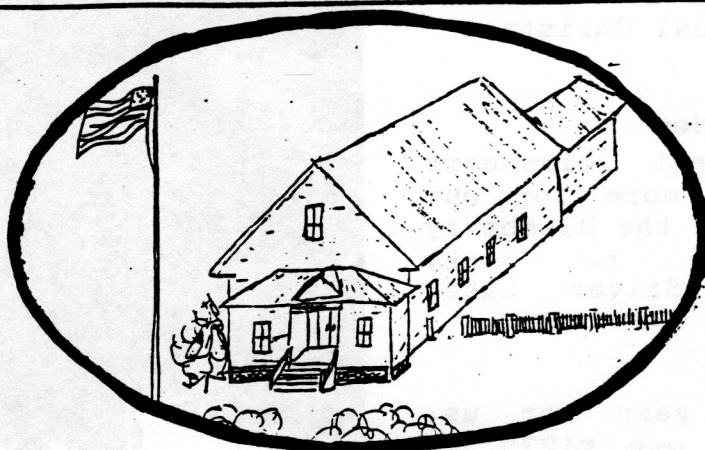


Madison Historical Gazette



MADISON HISTORICAL SOCIETY

MADISON, NEW HAMPSHIRE

03849

Volume 3

May 1, 1993

Issue 3

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

1994 Calendar Coming Soon!

Our diligent calendar committee, Isabelle Knowles, Ray Stineford, Ed Bickford, Edie McNair and Becky Beaulieu have completed work on the third Madison Historical Society Calendar. It is better than ever. We are quite proud of it. It will be on sale by July 1 for \$6.00. You may reserve your copy by calling Becky (367-8583) or Ed (367-8097)

Docents for the Season Needed!!

We will need docents for the following times, starting Memorial Day weekend (Sunday) thru Labor Day.

Sunday 2-4

Tuesday 2-4

Thursday 6-8

Please be ready to sign up for times at our May meeting. Thanks!
We need you!!!

Annual Clean Up Day

Saturday, May 29, is the date for our annual clean up day. Bring rakes, gardening tools, window washing equipment or dusting and cleaning things, whatever you would like to do. A large group of people will make this go fast! We will start around 10am. We will work inside if it rains. Bring a picnic lunch.

Programs Coming Up

May 20 - Bob Woodward "Big Rocks, Little Rocks, Stone Walls"

June 17 - Reverend Frank Greene, "NH History in Light Verse with Humor"

July 15 - Annual Picnic 6pm
At Kennett Park

Annual Meeting 7:30

August 7 - Our Booth at the Community Fair

August 12 - Blueberry Festival
(No Regular meeting in August)

September 18 - (Saturday) Harvest Supper (no regular meeting)

October 21 - Haunted Houses of Madison, researched by members of the society

November 18 - Robert McGrath

"Legend of Chocorua in Art and Literature"

December 19 - 4th Annual Christmas Party

Blueberry Recipes Needed

Get out your best blueberry recipes! We need more for our cookbook to be sold at the Blueberry Festival. Send them to Becky Beaulieu, Box 57, Silver Lake, 03875.

1992 Year End Report

1992 was a good year for us. Calendar sale income was \$1235.50. The Blueberry Festival was a great success bringing in \$258.00. Everything sold out. I could not even find a biscuit to buy at the close, had to go back to picking berries. Donated monies were \$179. We would like to thank all donors. This money makes all our fund raising good usable funds. Dues for 1992 amounted to \$448. Dues barely cover the publishing of the gazette, postage, and phone calls, which amounted to \$443.88 this year.

We spent \$166.98 for fan lights in our meeting room. Materials for our beautiful new sign were \$52.00. Earle Knowles constructed the sign itself, Becky did the lettering and Collin and Ed put it up. The holes for the sign posts had to be moved three times because of the underground stream in the area. Building supplies amounted to \$393.47 and calendar production cost \$874.47.

1992 started with \$1428.57
ended with 1769.92.

Madison Past and Present

What was a Parlor?

After reading a January 1992 article in Yankee Magazine, "The Darkened Parlor", by Donald Hall, I was interested in parlors in this area. It was some challenge putting together bits and pieces of what a parlor was used for. Many people of any age, when asked about the room, didn't know what it was or simply said it was a room that wasn't used very much. Books that were found said the same type of line.



Parlor in Joe + Gladys Prescott's home - c. 1930

One book was somewhat encouraging. Big House, Little House, Back House, Barn, by Thomas C. Hubka. This book had a parlor designed into every building complex. Searching the whole book over, there was just one small paragraph explaining its use.

"The parlor or 'best room', was located in one of the two front rooms, usually on the side of the house closest to the road, farthest from the barn, or toward the north side of the house. While popular literature has stressed the function of the parlors for formal occasions, such as ceremonies for deaths or marriages, farmer's parlors appear to be used most of the time as a combination bedroom and storage room." Another dead end. At this time, the parlor seemed to me to be, in the older buildings, a symbol of the old country, a room every house should have. Customs are quite rigidly followed, sometimes even after the usefulness is over or forgotten. Now I am going to try to answer the original question.

In England, parlors (parlers) started as rooms in monasteries where monks could speak to visitors. Then other individuals used the word for a private conversation place set aside from the main building. It was probably used that way in the colonies at first, especially businesses. Although most houses had the private room, there was no

common use. The design of the room would depend on its use and it was located away from day to day activity. It was usually different than any other place in the house. Often an attempt was made to dress it up for that special occasion. One lady spoke of opening its doors and windows from time to time for "airing out". This was usually done Sundays in hope that the minister would stop for tea. Another lady spoke of a parlor set, a dining room table set up just for company, organ and all.

At last, a use for the parlor was found. This is a room that was left set up for special events or special company. It was a room in the house that could be used at any time, free from the clutter and activity of every day life. It must have left a sense of well-being to have this special place. Years ago, everything was done at home. There was a special place for graduations, marriages, funerals, etc. The terminally ill stayed at home in the room out of the way. The last place a person stayed in the house was in the parlor awaiting burial. The coffin was watched over day and night until burial to ward off any intruding animals. This custom may also have been to guard the spirit somehow. These people were extremely superstitious. When funerals started to take place outside the homestead, the undertaker's establishments were called funeral parlors.

One fairly common use of the parlor became simply a room of remembrance or recognition. In the 1880's the spinning wheel was brought back out of the attic, not to be used as before, but as a symbol of one's Mayflower linkage. In 1886, William B. Savage, a Boston Chairmaker, took advantage of this craze. He made very elaborate chairs out of spinning wheel parts. These chairs had a built in lack of comfort. That was fine however. What better place for a chair that cannot be sat in than a room that isn't used?

If 'private' could be used for the word 'parlor,' it might not be a bad idea to have a private room within a house. The room would need an extra amount of insulation to keep out the noise of the outside world. No

TV's, no telephones. Just quiet. A place to study, remember, meditate, rest or regroup. I leave you at this point. If you have trouble getting hold of me, leave a note at the museum or the post office. I may be in my private room.

EPB



MRS. MARY ERWIN HOBBS.

A Poem by Mary E. Erwin Hobbs

May

The trees are bursting into green,
The violets into blue,
While here and there, in golden
sheen,
The dandelion's crest is seen
To peep the spears of grass between
Impearled in morning dew.
No more the fickle cloudlets fly-
As those in April days,
But calm and placid, clear and high,
And earnest as a loving eye,
The blue looks down from yonder sky,
With deep, unbroken gaze.

The dear old robin pipes no more
In melancholy strain,
But, gazing on her treasures four,
She counts the blue eggs o'er and
o'er,
Each time more joyous than before,
Then sings a glad refrain.

The whistling blackbird, twittering wren,

And bluebird, blithe, are here,
And soon the gray old trees again
Will blossom into snow I ken,
As white as winter-wrapped, and then
Spread Spring's ambrosial bier.

For swiftly fly the hours of May-
So beautiful and brief-
And sweeter, swifter, far than they,
Youth's golden moments glide away,
Till we in life's Autumnal day
Fade like the falling leaf.

Mary E. Erwin, born in Bethany, NY., in 1841, was educated at Bethany Academy and Cary Collegiate Seminary. She was on the editorial staff of "Wood's Household Magazine" and a contributor to the "American Rural Home."

When she married Josiah Howard Hobbs, Esq., of Madison, she resided here until her death in 1890 at the age of 49.

Her book of poems, published by her husband after her death, is available in the Society Library. One critic wrote of her work, "Few writers so exquisitely realize the wealth and worth there is in word shading as does this lady", and that her poems "exhibit a carefulness of expression and a dainty choice of language that the most artistic taste could ask."

School Days, School Days

June brings the end of school days for the summer, therefore the following excerpts from copies of the "Madisonian", a high school magazine in the 20's, 30's, and 40's, written by the students and very professionally done.

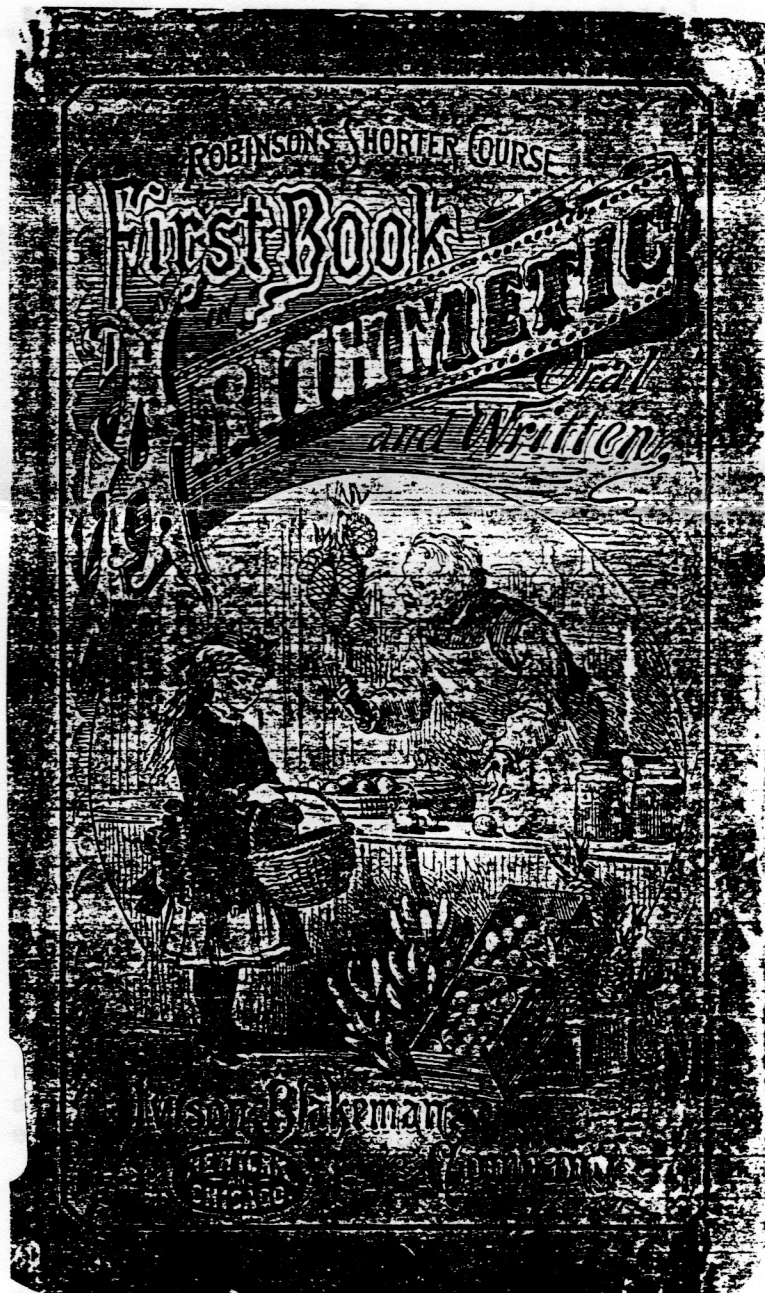
Diary of a Janitor, by Harry Ward

September 5. School opened for another year. Only a few boys appeared. The teacher asked several to be janitor. Am glad I wasn't chosen. It looks like a lot of work to me.

September 19. Janitor has resigned. Teacher asked me to do the work and I finally said I would if no one else would do it.

September 26. Am beginning to get settled and to find out just what I need to do.

October 3. Monday night all kinds of paper cluttered on the floor. Today the pupils had papers to file in their notebooks. Instead of holding their papers over the waste basket, they punched them at their desks, and the clippings dropped to the floor. These clippings are very



hard to sweep up, because they stick to the floor. Tonight I tried to sweep before all the pupils had gone home and they tracked the dust bane all over the space where I have swept, and I had to sweep it all over again.

December 2. I started to burn coal in the furnace. My troubles have surely begun.

December 6. A set of grates burnt out. These cost ten dollars.

December 8. The mason put in another set of grates. I'm glad for it hasn't been all fun trying to keep the building warm during the past week.

December 19. Another set of grates had to be provided, because the last set was no good, and burnt out. Everybody wonders if I did it or if the grates were no good. The "powers that be" finally decided that the grates were no good.

December 21. The mason put in another set. I hope these last.

January 2. Have found out just what I have to do with the furnace and sweeping; so I divided my work as follows: Monday morning, build the fire; sweep Monday nights, which is a hard long dusty job. There are always a lot of papers on the floor. Thursdays, I sweep again. On every day from Monday to Friday I have the furnace to care for. There are a few other jobs which I do such as dust, wash the black boards, clean the washing bowls, shovel the snow from the front door and any other extras that come up.

The Big Little School, E.F.J., class of 1928

What constitutes a big or a little school? It is not the number of pupils who go there, for some schools, which have a large enrollment, are not really big. It is not the school with a large, beautiful building and every kind of equipment, for often pupils who have everything furnished them, don't appreciate it and have no interest

in it. It is not the teachers alone that make a school big, nor is it the students altogether. Unless the two work together there cannot be that fineness of spirit which makes for a "big" school in the best sense. If it is not enrollment nor the building and equipment, nor teachers nor students that make a big school, what is it? It is the school spirit, the attitude of those interested toward everything connected with the school that makes a big school. Any small school can be as big as, or bigger than, the largest school in the country. We all want our school to be one of those "big little" schools. So let us strive, by our attitude toward school activities and in our pride of the building itself, to make Madison High School a model "big little" school.

M.H.S. From the Affectionate View- Seat. Style - 1925

Our girls are just as pretty
As they ever were. I guess.
What makes them look so silly
Is their style and mode of dress.

If they have a skin so lovely
That it's simply pink and white,
They will daub on paint and powder
Until they are a sight.
If their hair is thick and handsome
A pretty sight to see-
They will bob it just the same,
For in style, they're bound to be.

They won't wear the pretty dresses
That the maidens used to wear;
But get a pair of knickers
And wear them everywhere.

They chew their gum in company,
And think it is all right;
But when their mas were their age
It was very impolite.

Not all the girls in Madison High,
We are very glad to know,
Keep up the style and wear the pants

Wherever they may go.

A few are still old-fashioned.

No paint on them is seen.

And though a nose has freckles,

It surely does look clean.

A Sophomore Boy

[I'm not surprised he wouldn't sign
his name to that!]

10

FIRST BOOK.

When sufficiently drilled on *twos*, the same method may be pursued in teaching to count by *threes*. Thus, *three, six, nine, twelve, fifteen*, etc. Then commencing with *one*; thus, *one, four, seven, ten, thirteen*, etc. Then with *two*; thus, *two, five, eight, eleven, fourteen*, etc.

Follow these drills with the same exercises on the slate or board as with the 2's.

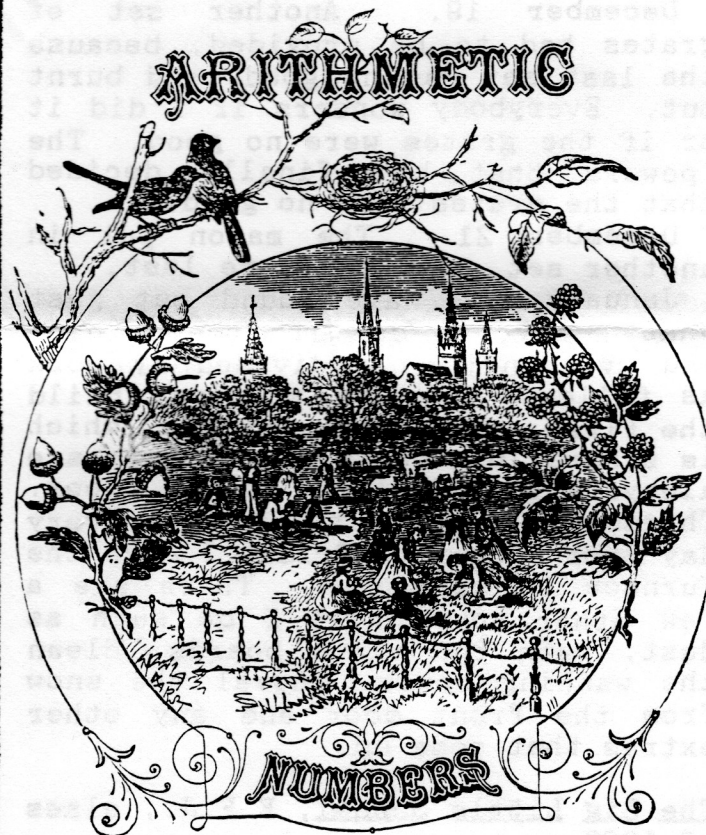
The same method should be pursued in teaching them to count and add by *fours, fives, sixes*, etc.

At the same time that the pupil is thus taught to *count*, and to know *figures* as symbols, he should also be taught their *value*, and the *value of numbers* as associated with the number of objects counted. He should be required to perform the same operations on the *slate* or blackboard with *figures* that he has performed orally with *objects*.

The apt teacher, by a judicious use of this frame, may easily teach a child to count from *one* to a *hundred*, and to *add, subtract, multiply, and divide* with facility.

The counting and other operations should be done *silently* by the *eye*, and *results* only given by the *voice*.

It is not intended to make a small work like this take the place of the living teacher. The *sample lessons* can contain but a *few* hints and methods to aid the teacher in giving the pupil *something to do*; therefore, the *number* and *variety* of the exercises on each page, both for *oral* and *written* drill, should be increased as the circumstances and the capacity of the child seem to require. The *how* and the *why* can be much better explained by the teacher than by the author, in so limited a space.

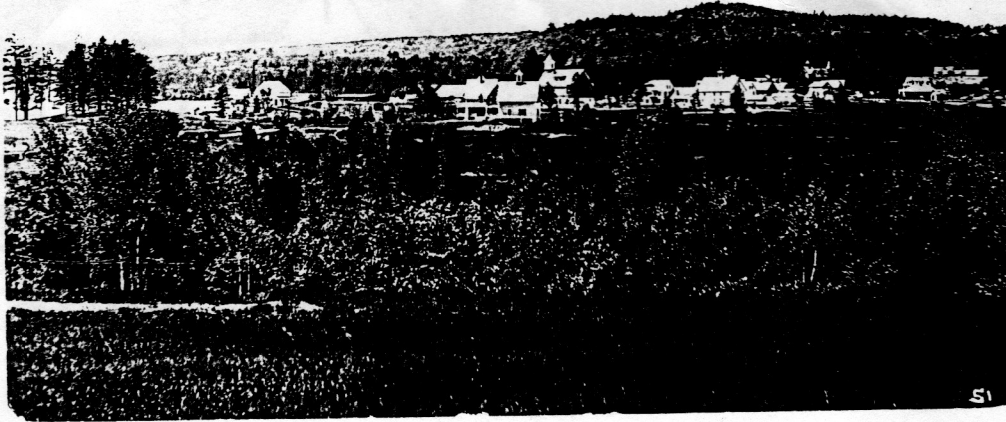


LESSON I.

| | | | | | | | |
|--------------|---------|---|------|--------------|---------|----|-------|
| One | Nest | 1 | I. | Six | Boys | 6 | VI. |
| Two | Birds | 2 | II. | Seven | Girls | 7 | VII. |
| Three | Leaves | 3 | III. | Eight | Acorns | 8 | VIII. |
| Four | Steeple | 4 | IV. | Nine | Berries | 9 | IX. |
| Five | Sheep | 5 | V. | Ten | Posts | 10 | X. |

BIRDS-EYE VIEW

SILVER LAKE, N.H.



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

(PLEASE PRINT)

NAME _____

HOME ADDRESS _____

_____ PHONE _____

SEASONAL ADDRESS for: (dates) _____

(address) _____

Class of membership (choose one)

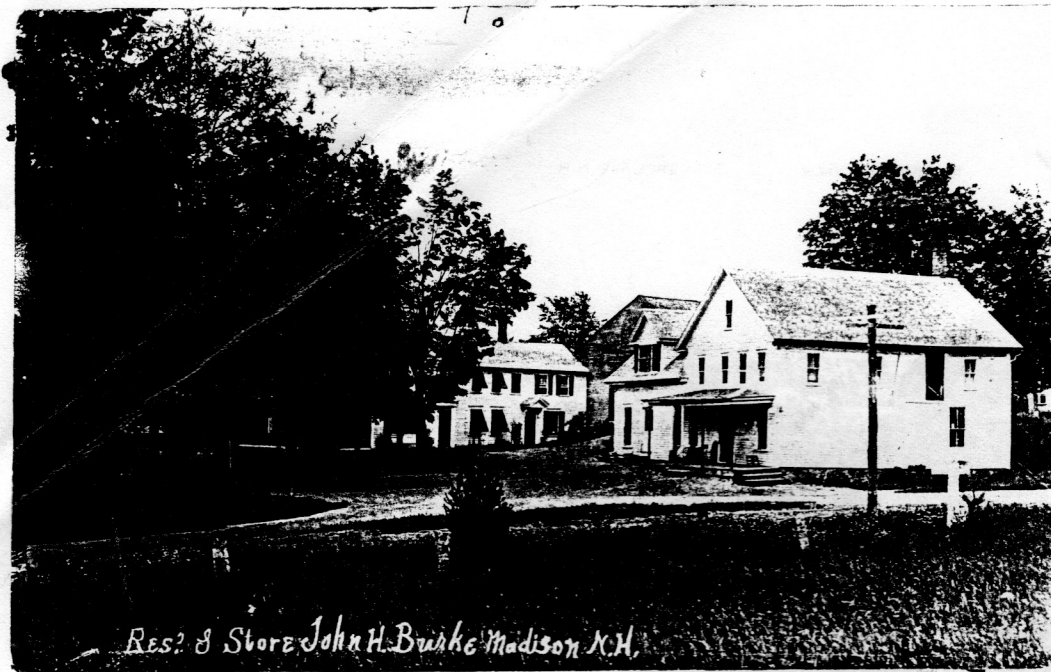
Single (\$5.00) Date paid: _____

Dual membership (\$8.00) Date paid: _____

Additional member: _____

Family membership (\$8.00) Date paid: _____

Family members (under 19): _____



BACK TO THE PAST . . .



Madison, N.H. 03755
 Silver Lake N.H. 03775

READ THE GAZETTE !