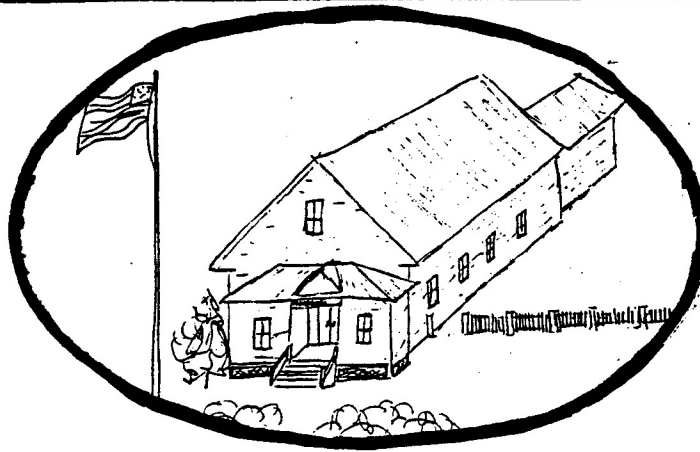


Madison Historical Gazette



MADISON HISTORICAL SOCIETY

MADISON, NEW HAMPSHIRE

03849

Volume 4

November 1, 1993

Issue 1

NEW OFFICERS

President - Ed Bickford
Vice Pres - Ray Stineford
Treasurer - Ed Burdeau
Secretary - Eddie McNair
and Peggy Hoyt
Curator - Becky Beaulieu
Librarian - Emily Beaulieu
Program Chairman - Isabelle Knowles

We thank Ray Stineford for his two years as President! He did a fine job of leading our group.

UPCOMING PROGRAMS

November 18 - Legend of Chocorua in Art and Literature - Robert McGrath, professor of Art at Dartmouth, investigates the numerous works of art and literature elicited by this legend. The most important mountain in American culture, Chocorua has a long and fascinating history in 18th, 19th and 20th century arts and literature.

December 19 - 4-8pm - Our 4th annual Christmas Open House. Everyone is welcome! We urge all members to attend. This is always a warm and cozy time. Ed manages to get a beautiful tree for us every year. Members, please bring a treat to share. See you there!

January 20 - Meet at Ray's house. We are going to work on Marion Weston's records and have some fun too.

February 17 - Isabelle's house - we will have another "fun" work party.

March 17 - Stone cutting - Craig Gray from Union Marble and Granite Works will talk about how to carve and restore gravestones. He will bring some of the tools of his trade with him. He is very entertaining! Don't miss this one!

CALENDARS STILL ON SALE

We still have some 1994 Madison Historical Society Calendars for sale for \$6.00. These make wonderful Christmas gifts.

BLUEBERRY COOKBOOKS

In conjunction with our Blueberry Festival, we published Blueberry Potpourri, a small handprinted collection of local blueberry recipes. These are on sale for \$4.00.

Call Becky about either of these publications - 367-8583.

CEMETERY PROJECT

Ed Bickford has been diligently organizing repair and restoration of local cemeteries. A few have been brushed out and major renovations have been done to the Kennison Cemetery behind the Madison Carriage House (Sally Perrow's) with the help of the Shackford Brothers. It looks great. Good job Ed!!!

GRANT APPLICATIONS

We have applied for two grants, one from the Henney Fund for a Map Storage Case and one from the Pequawket Foundation for a copier. We will let you know how we make out!

GHOST STORIES

By the light of ghostly pumpkins, carved by Nate Beaulieu and his troop, the members of the society enjoyed listening to local tales of the macabre. Mike Hathaway helped to interpret some of the tales and told why some ghosts do what they do. Some eerie stories were told. If you missed this one, we will be doing it again next year! We all enjoyed a very nice pot luck supper before the program. Isabelle taped the stories. We may be making copies.

Ghostly Recollections by Ray Stineford

Churchill House, or Atkinson Inn as it was called in the early part of the 19th century, has yielded very little of a ghostly presence. But when we were restoring the house to more nearly its original plan, we learned that a boy living with his family in the house in the 1950's had seen a saw blade coming through an upstairs floor. When we uncovered a floor with linoleum we did in fact find a patch where stairs had once been. The boy, John Burroughs, saw the blade in the early morning; it seemed quite real to him before it simply vanished. I do not recall whether he also heard a sawing sound.

My mother used to be very sensitive to extraordinary events. One afternoon she heard a friend call out to her by name with great

urgency. Two days later, she learned that this person had died about the same hour the call was heard. When my aunt died and my parents were spending a night in her house they heard footsteps in the empty house ascending the stairs to the third story.

Some years ago my mother phoned me when I was living in South Eaton. "You won't guess what has happened to me," she began. Immediately I responded, "Did you break your arm?" She had fallen and broken her wrist.

David and Marie Baxter used to own an old house in South Eaton. Their family was with them outside. They heard a child cry, looked around and found their own grandchildren still with them, but the cry came from the house, and a face appeared in an upper window. No child was found. David once found a fading puff of fog-like substance in his cellar as he came down the stairs.

In South Chatham, Helen Prince was working on a carpentry project for a friend, away at the time. She looked out and saw a thick gathering of a smoke like cloud descending over the house. She went out, smelled nothing, walked about the grounds; coming back to the doorway she found it had gone. In the same house a very strange occurrence took place, as related to us by its inhabitant. A metal waste can one evening began to rattle and vibrate. He looked in it - empty. And quite warm to the touch. He moved it to another location. It resumed its rattling, then faded and finally stopped.



Ezra Nickerson's Orchards on North Division Rd.

MADISON PAST AND PRESENT

When Were the Good Old Days?

The answer to that question is in each one's personal opinion. Most people would say the good days were in the past, usually their childhood. Most children, however, would be looking forward to better times when they became older. I think the 50's and 60's were pretty nice in this area. Houses were 1/2 to 1 mile apart. Noise didn't travel far enough to bother neighbors. Traffic was light and moved slowly, they watched out for people. Pedestrians, bicyclists, and sledgers could use the roads. If help was needed you called your neighbors instead of the police or rescue squad. Father says it was better still when he was young. A car would go by once in awhile but you always knew who it was, could tell by the sound the car was making before it came into sight. People helped one another on a regular basis. Doors were not locked, most of them had no locks. The adults would not have said it was easy then, working long hours for little pay, plus tending gardens, farm animals and wood in their spare time. Back before that time people would socialize

and work together even more. But money was scarce. They would be working every daylight hour trying to pull a meager living out of the land. Disease was quite a problem at times. I would doubt if the people back then would have admitted to being in the best of times.

There are people that believe things have got to be better in the future, when the kids grow up, when the mortgage is paid off, when the presidency changes, that should do it. I would like to have the mortgage paid off. I would like to see people back to work and the health care situation straightened out. There will always be something not right. This was true in every era. The people who think the good times are in the future may never see them. If the past was best then we can not possibly enjoy today at the fullest and the future is bleak.

The happiest most productive individuals I know live as if today is the good time. More power to you people. In order to function to the fullest, we must accept the day in which we live as the most opportune time in our life. Of course, we have to make it that way in our minds and in

A MYSTERY DRAMA

1921
Edmund Lowe IN
CHAMPION OF LOST CAUSES

For a good evening's entertainment. SEE this new
STAR in this picture.

also A 2 REEL COMEDY. Show begins at 8.

Silverlake Theatre Monday

(RUN BY CLYDE GILMAN)

our lives. There are choices. We can work harder for decreasing dollars in order to keep our modern conveniences along with whatever headaches. We can go back to subsistence living, working for ourselves from daylight to dark and looking for help from others in time of need. Or we can take the best of the past mixed with some modern improvements and work for better tomorrows. Whatever the case, if people could get back to working together instead of independently, it would make life easier and more enjoyable. Good day!

EPB

MADISON TELEPHONE COMPANY

by Leon Gerry (this was written by him February 15, 1961)

Madison Telephone Company was incorporated November 15, 1905, by John F Chick, Bertwell Gerry, James Gerry, Frank Nason and Nathaniel Nason with an authorized capital of \$1000 divided into shares with a par value of \$25 each. The incorporation papers state that the first meeting of the corporation would be held on November 27, 1905, in the store of James Gerry & Son.

The business had its beginning when Bertwell Gerry and Frank Nason purchased three telephone instruments from Julius Andre of Detroit and installed them in the Gerry house, the Nason house (across from the Historical Society), and J.O. Gerry & Son Store.

After three instruments were installed, Mrs. Mary F. Schmitt wanted one in her cottage. Next Mr. John F. Chick wanted one in his lumber office at Silver Lake. Frank Nason says that it was then found that with five rented telephones, they must incorporate and get a permit from the town to run lines in the streets. Arrangements were made to connect with the lines of the New England Telephone and Telegraph Company at J. O. Gerry & Sons Store. That company had had for some time a pay station (as it was called then) at the store and another at Gilman Brothers' Store. Its lines at the time in this area were all open wires and generally followed the railroad right of way.

During the early years of the local company, it was not uncommon for a person who lived at some distance from the end of the line to furnish poles and set them, in addition to paying the regular rental for the telephone, for the sake of getting service. The rent was something like a dollar or a dollar and quarter a month. As the company grew and there came to be more telephones than could be served by one line, a switchboard was installed at the store. There was switchboard service only when the store was open, but at that time country stores were open every



This is a picture of the "Queen Mary" a boat belonging to the Lakeside Hotel which carried many guests on a tour of the lake. As a youngster, one of my favorite things to do when here for the summer was rush to the beach after supper with a tube to catch the wake of the 7pm Queen Mary tour. Those were quite the waves! B. Beaulieu

evening. In 1911 the switchboard was moved to J. O. Gerry's house and in 1913 to Nason's house. Later the building now occupied by Fred Bickford was built as a telephone office and for a while the switchboard was kept there summers and in the house winters. In February of 1926, the board was moved to Mrs. Olive Martin's house, where it remained until dial service was instituted on January 12, 1956. In 1917, before the board was moved to Mrs. Martin's, the Company had been sold to Carroll County Telephone Company, which was formed from several locally owned companies and the properties of the Ossipee Valley Telephone Company in the area. It took in practically all of Carroll County except Tuftonboro and Wolfboro.

At about the time Madison Local Telephone Company was started, perhaps a little before, David Knowles had a grounded telephone line at Silver Lake on which were instruments in several homes - his own, the Silver Lake house owned by Emma Forrest, Isaiah Forrest, Jewell Forrest, Gilman Brothers' Store and perhaps others. His line also ran up to the Mt. Chocorua half way house, so called, and to the Chocorua Peak House, which he owned. His line never had any long distance connection. In the case of his line I understand the persons who had telephones owned them, while the Madison Local Company's subscribers rented them. Since the Madison Local Telephone Company had long distance connection, there came to be no demand for the Knowles telephone line.

Rest in Peace

That is what our many cemeteries were, scattered all over the countryside, a final resting place. The oldtimers respected their elders as well as the departed. Graveyards were sacred places and still are to many. The problem in this hurry up to get somewhere world is that there is not enough time to take care of things that don't apply to today. Cemeteries are larger now so it

takes less land and maintenance can be done for many quicker. They are no less sacred.

Many of the smaller, older burial places are in various stages of deterioration, broken or misplaced markers, broken gates, stone walls tumbling in, brushed in, some are hardly recognizable at any distance. They are not respectable as sacred places. We at the Historical Society are making an attempt to recognize and they up these areas.

We are continuing to search for Lyman cemetery. The cellar hole has been found, near the top of Lyman Mountain, 50 yards into Eaton. It may have been used in the 1700's. They had not been using stone much for fencing. If a cemetery had been fenced in with wood, we'll be looking for a different arrangement of stones or a good guess. Two other burial places in the area have been spoken of but have no marking left. That may have to be accepted as fact. We will be going back to do a more thorough search.

There are two wooden grave markers at the museum. They were taken by the Society from the Jackson Cemetery off Allard Road for sake of preservation. I am glad these steps were taken to save these markers from rotting but it left an enclosure with no name. We have intentions of having a marker made for the cemetery. Placement of the stone will be publicized.

Following up on a resident's comment that an infant's grave marker was in a local basement, the marker was found and loaned to us for inspection and photography. The sun came out just in time to aid our photographer, Fred Shackford, who assures us the photos will be fine. The marker was made of soapstone with a metal handle and a wooden crate. The wear around the handle, the shape and condition of the stone indicates it may have been used as a bed warmer. The marker has been returned to the basement where it sat for years. The infant may have been buried in the cellar in the middle of the winter during

stage coach days. We are not sure.

I've been told the main reason the Historical Society was formed was interest and concern for the smaller and older cemeteries. There has been a lot of work done in the past on the subject. Right now is the time to pay special attetion to these areas, make them tidy and recognized as places to be kept preserved as our ancestors intended so the may "Rest in Peace".

Sincerely, the Cemetery Committee

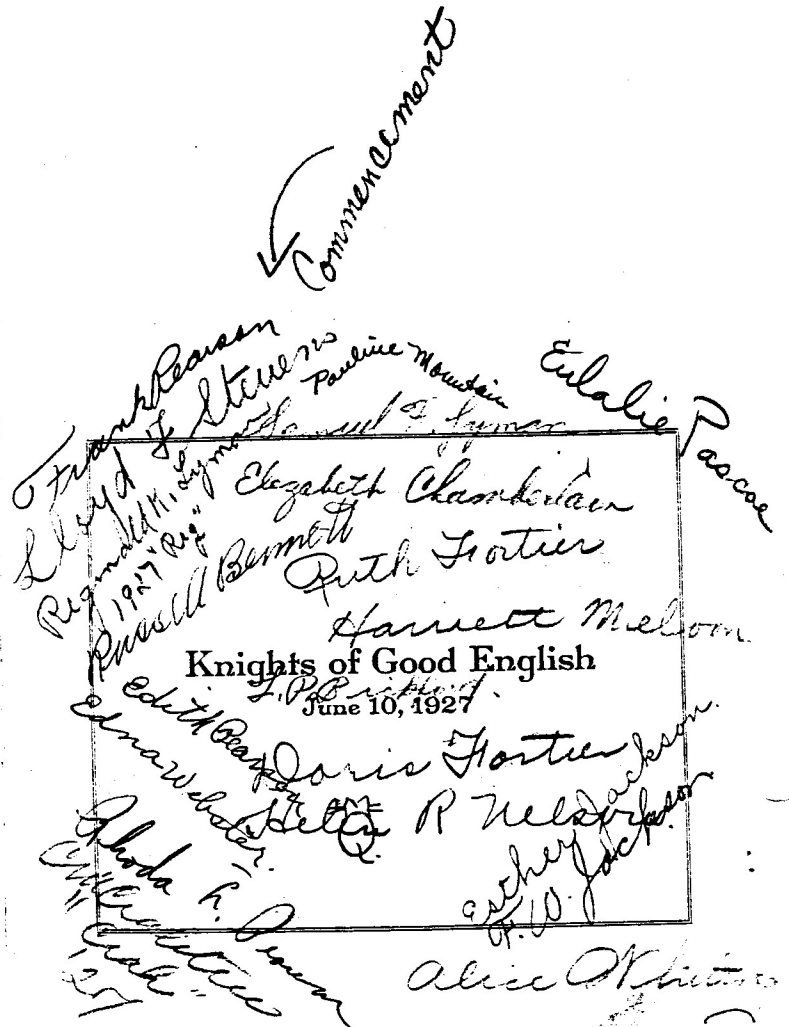
MENU

Meat Loaf		
Mashed Potato		
Rolls		Pickles
	Salad	
Ice Cream		Apple Pie
	Coffee	

Banquet Program

Toast Master,	Supt. F. W. Jackson
"A good orator is pointed and impassioned."	
"The English Club,"	John A. Nelson
"Actions speak louder than words."	
"Our Senior Class,"	Rhoda Pearson, '28
"O what learning is."	
"M. H. S.,"	L. May Quimby
"The greatest satisfaction in life is to do good work."	
"Athletics,"	Samuel Lyman, '27
"The best of sport is to do the deed and say nothing."	
"The Juniors,"	Reginald Lyman, '27

"Assurance is two-thirds of success."	
"The Sophomores,"	Harriett Meloon, '27
"Not afraid of work, but not in sympathy with it."	
"The Freshmen,"	Ruth Fortier, '27
"Some are wise; some are otherwise."	
"The Alumni,"	Eleanor Nason, '27
"Needs not the painted flourish of our praise."	
"Response,"	Henry Hobbs, '26
"Class History,"	Frank Pearson, '27
"Nothing endures but necessary qualities."	
"Class Prophecy,"	Pearl Granville, '27
"His future is aglow with possibilities."	
"The Will,"	Russell Bennett, '27
"All great men are dying; I feel bad myself."	





Juniors and Seniors, Madison High,
 1928. Top row l-r: Eleanor
 Nason, Lalia Lovering, Evelyn
 Towle, Sam Lyman, Stanley Jackson,
 Ruth Jones, Doris Fortier,
 Elizabeth Pearson
 Middle Row - Alice Whiting,
 Reginald Lyman, Frank Pearson,
 Pearl Grranville, Russell Bennett,
 Elizabeth Chamberlain
 Bottom Row - Rhoda Pearson,
 Harriett Meloon, Esther Jackson

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 !