

MADISON SCHOOL GETS A NEW TEACHER,"FROM MASS. SAID TO BE TALL, BLACK HAired OF MUCH AGE AND NO BEAUTY." (From Annie Clayton's diary, 1913)

Annie (Anna Belle Flanders) Clayton, mother of our own Roger Clayton, kept a diary for many years. We have gleaned various items from its pages that catch the flavor of the times. The year 1913 has particularly interesting entries, which help to give a picture of life in Madison Village and down at the railroad station in Silver Lake.

In March the telephone line was run from the Corner to E. Madison. Apparently the earth was workable enough to set poles, but Annie's weather comments indicate plenty of cold days and nights, with freezing rain and icy surfaces, as well as heavy snowfalls. There are references to sleighing and sliding. The packed snow provided for fun as well as for business travel. Logs

were sledged over the lake to be loaded onto freight cars at the depot, along with cans of milk from area farms for shipping south.

During the winter of 1913 the Madison church was renovated. Southern pine flooring, a metal ceiling, new wainscoting and pews were installed. During the process Annie notes that services were held in the town hall, our present museum. In April the roads must have been passable for wheeled traffic: Annie went for the "first ride of the season in Irving's (Ambrose?) automobile."

Christian Education met every week, and church services met Sunday mornings and evenings. Something called the Scissors Guild met. We know from other accounts that people walking to the church were shaded in the summer by great elms and by maples, some of which still stand around Crossroad Park.

Annie's diary indicates the writer's interest in

people, and there was much visiting, including overnight guests. Meals must have been ample, since the country homes were supplied with garden vegetables and dairy products (seventy trout were caught in one day by one fisherman). Most farms had maple orchards for sapping each spring.

Annie, who was born in 1896, witnessed a changing economy. Even before her birth the summer hotel business was flourishing. Farm homes were renting out rooms with board, and hotels were being built, not only in Silver Lake (including the Knowles house, now back in business under management of great-granddaughter Becky), and the Corner had Churchill House and the Burke place. Maple Grove provided a pastoral environment, and the Majors operated up the hill of the present route 113. Travelers arrived with steamer trunks aboard the daily trains coming through.

THE GARDENS AT CROSSROAD PARK

Across from the museum the park is once again alive with growth after the winter sleep. As the season progressed in May successive blooms appeared. Tulips bloomed in a variety of colors to announce the season. Bleeding heart, both red and yellow, were just opening, and the blue/pink lungwort was doing well in semi-shade. Mound spurge, leopard's bane, Solomon seal were promising to show their colors in the floral orchestration. Johnny jump ups, Johnson's blue geranium, anemones, cardinal flowers, bergenia, to name just a few, are vying to make their appearance. And of course, white violets flourish in any corner, and on the south side of the museum building lawn the bluettes came early and persisted past the first mowing.

The ancient maples along the park provide shade, and the brook has been active this spring. On higher ground rose bushes are sending out strong new growth, climbing higher every year. Our quiet corner in the world blesses all those who need a bench to meditate upon, free from worldly meddling.

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NOTES ON COMING EVENTS

JUNE 15- The New Hampshire Humanities program describes the life of "women in waiting on the Home Frontier." The menfolk had gone West to seek their fortunes, leaving behind wives who had to manage the farm, feed the chickens, pay creditors, and in some cases, send butter and egg money to husbands who had gone broke trying to get rich. Be sure to attend this professionally led program.

JULY 20- Picnic and annual meeting.

Then go detective hunting as we look at some of our collections of early photographs. Also- Postmaster Lowry will be on hand for the special Postal Cancellation ceremony. The US Postal Service is preparing a design submitted by Mary Lucy of the town hall- for our exclusive use! Envelopes with the design will be on sale.

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SCHOOL CLASSES ESSAY WRITING

The classes at the elementary school have written essays for inclusion in the newly purchased time capsule. The Society looks forward to preserving photographs and other materials for this once-in-a-century event.

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SOCIETY ASSISTS IN PHOTOCOPYING OF TOWN CLERK'S RECORDS

The Historical Society contributed a grant of five hundred dollars towards the photocopying of records from 1853-1907, and tax records 1881-1891. The Town Clerk's records contain all of the Town Meeting warrants and minutes, names of all Town officials, lists of highway and school districts, road layouts, and tax records. Current funding is being provided by the Town.

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YANKEEISMS- from A TREASURY OF NEW ENGLAND FOLKLORE. By B. A. Botkin.

haulin' a hog out'n a scaldin' tub, like.
adv. phrase. Comparison to denote difficulty.

go bag yer head ! Angry, scornful, or sarcastic advice

dead clear to your navel. Adj. phrase.
Lifeless.

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LATE ARRIVING NEWS! AUGUST 4
BUS TRIP TO CONCORD MUSEUM OF
NH HISTORY AND CANDLELIGHT
DINNER AT SHAKER VILLAGE.

Who- members and friends of historical
societies.

Cost- 79 .00 complete, including tips,
admission, dinner, transportation.

Where- leave noon McDonald's in
Ossipee.

How- call Valley Travel NOW and request
reservations.

TOWN HALL MUGS SOLD OUT. IN
PREPARATION: A design of the corner
schoolhouse.

MAY MEETING FEATURES MUSEUM DISPLAYS

At the May meeting Curator Emily
Beaulieu presented a program featuring
some of our collections. Emily brought
out early photographs and memorabilia
of Rev. Lot Harmon (born 1826) and his
wife. Included was his writing box, still
containing letters; razor, glasses, and
the tuning fork he used for leading
singing in Sunday School classes.

The audience was invited to
inspect many other items, such as a
large collection of dance cards from
various places; a building and supply
catalogue, 1965, from Chick's; a 1903
button from Old Home Week; and
several scrapbooks of someone's favorite
hymns and poetry. One scrapbook
contained 1904 political cartoons, a
marvelous piece of evidence about the
times.

Emily read from a town record of

strays and goods. If your horse wandered
into somebody's property you paid a fine
to get the animal back.

The program concluded with a
guided tour of the main floor, where our
pedlar's wagon stands, next to an early
sleigh, and where the general store
shows the viewer some of the things one
could buy a hundred years ago.

MASTER PLAN REVISION WILL INCLUDE MADISON HISTORICAL SOCIETY

The following statement has been
submitted for inclusion in a forthcoming
revision of the Madison Master Plan, a
document describing the Town, its
resources, organizations, and intentions
for preservation and conservation.

The Historical Society and
Museum are located in the original town
hall. The mission of the Society since the
late 1960s is to conserve records and
artifacts from Madison's past and to
provide programs and events that keep
alive traditions of cultural and civic
importance. A web site makes available
genealogical data, and during the
summer the museum and tool shop are
open to the public. Much of the work of the
Society parallels that of the Heritage
Commission and the Conservation
Commission. Membership is open to all,
including non residents, and gifts of
photographs and other materials are
welcome.

THANK YOU FOR KEEPING YOUR DUES
UP TO DATE. WE RELY ON THEM TO
CARRY ON OUR WORK.

THE MADISON DONATION. Essay by
Florence Pearson in THE MADISONIAN,
1923 (excerpts)

"Donation" is an institution
peculiar to Madison. I believe that there is
only one town which has anything like it
for many miles around. The original
purpose of our annual donation was to
raise funds for supporting the church. But
that was not the only or most important
reason for which such an institution was
started. It is a gathering together of former
residents or neighbors from nearby
towns, of old friends.

Before the food is sold, there is an
entertainment, consisting of singing and
speaking. In former years the speeches
were rather long for such an occasion,
with the people waiting eagerly for a taste
of those cakes. Of late years the talks
have been short and to the point.

After the entertainment the hall is
filled with a talking, laughing throng of
friends, buying and eating cake, ice
cream and oyster stew as fast as they can.
When the large store of food has almost
disappeared, a man with a large voice
mounts a table and after proclaiming the
unusual qualities of one of the cakes,
offers it for sale. The auction is lively.
Cakes go at very high prices. When the
auction is over, there is not much left
worth taking home except the empty
dishes.

(The museum library has a virtually
complete file of The Madisonian, the
publication of the Madison High School.

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THE MUSEUM IS OPEN TUESDAY
AND SUNDAY AFTERNOONS- and
whenever the OPEN flag is out. Also by
appointment. Call Ray 367 4687

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ITEMS FROM NEWSWEEK JULY 27 1935

An ad for a new Plymouth car reads, "You
get all 4 in a Plymouth - for only \$510."

1. hydraulic brakes
2. safety steel body
3. redistribution of weight
4. 12 to 20% saving on gas / oil

Athletes say: "They don't get your wind!"
So mild you can smoke all you want.
(A Camels ad, back cover)

In Gloucester, Mass.: Mr. and Mrs.
Joseph Randazza's 3 and a half year old
son gained 2 pounds in 36 hours. Now
weighs 137 pounds.

THE BEVERLY- Residential Hotel
single rooms unfurnished 900 dollars a
year. Daily 3.50.
two room apt. unfurnished 1200 yearly

Radio News-Week provides a dramatic 15
minute presentation of the significant
news events of the week, reenacted by
the foremost radio talent available under
expert direction in the studios of the World
Broadcasting System. This transcription is
dispatched Wednesdays and Thursdays
and arrives at all stations in ample time for
Thursday, Friday or Saturday
broadcasts.

NEWSWEEK cost ten cents an issue in
1935.

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OFFICERS OF THE SOCIETY
Ray Stineford, President
Mary Lucy, Vice-President
Dolores Messner, Treasurer'
Tammy Flanigan, Secretary
Emily Beaulieu, Curator

Box 505, Madison NH 033849