

NEWSLETTER

FALL 2000

TAKING A WALK

BY: ANNIE BELLE FLANDERS
HARMON CLAYTON IN 1913

In the last issue we featured excerpts from the diary of Annie Clayton. Olive Clayton has prepared the following narrative.

It is a summer afternoon, just the right kind of a day for a walk. You can see I'm a big girl now, practically grown up. I'm wearing a gingham dress today. If it were Sunday, I would be wearing white like the other girls usually do on Sunday. We're going to take a 20 minute walk (only 20 minutes) and have a look at this Village.

First I'm leaving 7 yards of cloth for our village dressmaker. I hope 7 yards is enough to make my grandmother a dress. This dressmaker happens to be one of my heroines. She not only sews for her neighbors but she is running this farm. She has a cow and makes excellent ice cream to sell.

The lady in the next house has a telephone. Soon we may be able to telephone way down to the next village, East Madison. Who knows? Our teacher might board here next year. Of course she won't

be married. We don't hire married women to teach. some of our teachers are pretty dressy, and don't even wear aprons to school.

Oh! This blacksmith is making a double runner! I do hope we have a lot of icy roads next winter.

Oh! We have two lawyers. They live in this lovely big house. Isn't it beautiful!

This is our hotel. See all those women lined up on the piazza staring at us. I always dread walking by here. And there are more city folks coming down the road. Almost any one with a spare room seems to have summer guests from the city.

This is our Town Hall which is used a great deal for entertainment and fun. Sometimes our city people put on a play. We sometimes have a strawberry festival or a Harvest Supper, or just play games. Of course Town Meetings are held here too but we girls don't know much about that. Once a girl went to Town Meeting to sell refreshments and did get smartly criticized - a girl daring to go to Town Meeting - WELL!

The cute little building is a library. It is around here
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CHANNEL 3 FEATURES MADISON RESIDENTS

Becky Knowles has been interviewed by TV host David Emerson of her great-grandfather's Peak House on My. Chocorua. Becky showed photos of the hotel, perched not far below the very top of the mountain. By the time of its destruction from high winds in 1915 it had hosted hundreds of day and overnight guests, and was renowned as a place to visit when touring the White Mountains.

Edie McNair and Peggy Hoyt appeared on a show. Peggy talked about the history of Purity Spring Resort and King Pine Ski Area. Edie talked about the early days when the McNairs came up from Cambridge in the 1930s.

In an earlier show Ray Stineford talked about old house design and construction, and David asked him about life on Monhegan Island, where Ray and his wife have owned a house for many years.

Nathalie Nichols has donated a postcard of the Silver Lake railroad station. The photograph will be used in preparing a new design for a new series of muas.

MORE EXCERPTS FROM ANNIE
BELLE CLAYTON'S DIARY
(edited by Olive Clayton)

April 25, 1907

Sunday Revival Meeting at the Church. Also had a meeting every day the following week.

May 9, 1907

Harmons put up mail box at the Nickerson School House. (Rural Mail Delivery) Then they hung May Baskets on the girls in the neighborhood.

June 3, 1907

The Minister came calling on Grandma Harmon on horseback. (Gove Hill)

December 8, 1907

William Harmon boarded at Millie Burks so he could go to school at Madison Corner. He carried his clothes on a hand sled.

December 23, 1907

All the Harmon family went to the Church Christmas entertainment with 2 Christmas trees on the oxen sleds. (from Gove Hill)

December 31, 1907

Daniel Harmon hauled fir pulp to Silver Lake Depot with oxen to put on a freight car. (Many trips this winter)

January 1, 1908

Rose Harmon used NEW washing machine for the first time.

May 13, 1908

Water pipes that had been frozen all winter thawed out. No running water in winter.

May 19, 1908

Forest fire burned on top of Stacy Mountain for 2 days.

Fall 1908

Harmons bought the house at Madison Corner and moved down from Gove Hill in April of 1909. Annie was 13 years old.

January 31, 1913

Irving Hobbs went from Madison to Silver Lake with an automobile 3 times today. The roads were thawed out enough to drive over.

February - 1913

Church Services are held in Town Hall as the Church is being renovated.

Early 1900's

All Day Services. Church Service was held in the AM, Sunday School and Christian Education in the afternoon, then another Service held in the evening.

March 29, 1913

Almost every one has put up their sleighs and are now riding on wheels. (Still muddy)

April 5, 1913

Will and Annie Harmon were on their way home from Silver Lake coming down Burk's Hill, when the horse stumbled and fell down. Willie went over the horse's head onto the road, Annie went on the right side of her head. Then the horse turned over on her right side and tipped the Gig over. No one was seriously hurt. Theo Pearson helped unharness the horse and upright the Gig.

April 7, 1913

Annie saw Chick's steam whistle when it blew.

April 21, 1913

Took the sheep and colt up on Give Hill to pasture for the summer.

May 1913

Revival meetings every day for 2 weeks - 3 services on Sundays. Many converted during meetings.

May 24, 1913

9 people were Baptized in Silver Lake by Rev. Hall.

July 5, 1913

Fires in both ends of Town. (?)

July 31, 1913

Rose Harmon washed clothes for Sarah Churchill's boarders.

August 20, 1913

Madison beat Freedom at baseball 4 to 1 - first time in years. (Old Home Week)

April - 1914

Harry and Will Harmon have a telegraph line to Raymond Ambrose's and Clifford Ward's homes.

May - 1914

The Telephone is installed in the Harmon Home. Burke's made a tenement over the corner store. Harry Harmon took train to Ossipee, then rode wheel (bicycle) to Wolfeboro. Sometimes he rode all the way to Wolfeboro from Madison.

July - 1915

Annie took train from Wolfeboro to Sanbornville. When the train to Madison arrived, she was on the wrong side of the tracks and missed the train. The train stopped and backed up for her!!

August 2, 1915

Jesse Harmon came home from Runnells in Chocorua where he has been working, said they had a mutual disagreement to disagree so he was home for good.

August 11, 1915

Harry, Albert, Dorothy Wilcox, Mrs. Clayton, Mrs. Whiticar and Hazel Whiticar climbed up Mt. Chocorua.

August 17, 1915

Annie and Dot Wilcox locked the boys outdoors so they could make Albert his 18th birthday cake, (Clayton Farm)

From the REPORTER 1915
Silver Lake

This little town has settled down again (Old Home Week had apparently just ended) to talk over the ball games of last week, also the other entertainments. We have nearly all of our summer residents yet and many will stay through nearly all of this month. No other little town can boast of more distinguished and popular people, as summer residents than can this one; we have Dr. Edward Cummings, pastor of the late Dr. Edward Everett Hale's church of Boston; Dr. Cobb of the Dutch Reformed Church of New York; Prof. William Howe, President of a college in Bloomington, Indiana; Dr. Samuel McChord Crothers of Cambridge; Prof. Theobald Smith, Prof. of Medical Research of Harvard. We also have every season, Mr. Walter M. Brackett, age 92 years, dean of Boston artists, a rather smart active man.

M. S. Williamson, Conway, is showing the very latest styles in fall millinery.

Mrs. Carrie Chick Dummer of Rowley, was in town Old Home Week to attend the three exciting ball games, she returned Friday. Mrs. A. W. Maloy and son Karl who have been guests of I. A. Forrest for three weeks, returned to their home in Nashua, Saturday. Mrs. J. F. Barker and son Harold and Miss Alltons of Brooklyn, N. Y., and a lady friend from the South were in town last week to enjoy the festivities. They motored here and left for home Friday afternoon.

Mr. O. Graves, his mother and two lady friends from Peabody, were guests at the Silver Lake House last week. Mr. Graves has a very pretty Buick touring car which he came to town with.

Several have gone from the Lakeside in the past few days. It has had a very good patronage, has as many as 46 at one time. There are quite a number booked for September.

SHELF READING

Our museum library room has collections on many areas of interest, including the school yearbooks of The Madisonian from the Madison Highschool, 1922-1949. Town reports go back to 1885. The Silver Lake Women's Club and the Men's Club records cover 1920-1963. The John F. Chick Company sales books include one from 1904, and from 1926-7, 1944-1950. The Madison Fire Department records start in 1922, running through 1976.

Three hundred years of Bickfords in New Hampshire (Fahnstock) is a full size volume of Bickford history, and we have a great deal of information about the Harmon families.

We have a small collection of old schoolbooks, gospel songs, and a few books on local towns, especially of Conway. Additional titles bring our collection to about 200 books, pamphlets, and special studies.

Roger Clayton has cleared the brush from our town pound. Thanks, Roger.

AS THIS NEWSLETTER GOES INTO PRINT we have not had our October pumpkin carving and ghost stories night - the 19th. This is the last meeting for the year. Bring your pumpkin and a knife and a candle - and a ghost story. We will turn down the lights, our lanterns will glow about us with goblin expressions, and the strangeness will settle upon us! We meet at seven. Cider and doughnuts included. Open to all ages!

Our September program featured town librarian, John Kinneman and Karen Coffey. They presented political songs from presidential campaigns since 1820. Accompanied by guitar, the amusing verses caught the spirit of their times, and we gave our performers a good hand. John noted that television spelled the conclusion of the old time satirical songs, sometimes set to familiar tunes, reminding us that even in the 19th century candidates for high office had to endure the slings and arrows from the competition.

WATCH THE PAPERS FOR ANNOUNCEMENT OF OUR TIME CAPSULE CEREMONY. We have photos of the Memorial Day parade, demolition of the school, essays by Madison students, and of course, pictures of the moving of our town hall. Future generations will get a clear sense of who we are (were) in the long ago days of 2000.

WHY IS HISTORY VALUABLE IN AMERICAN SOCIETY?

It Illustrates the Foundation of Democracy

Our form of government is grounded in citizens' right to know and judge all that their government does. If we judge without some knowledge of the past, we are not likely to make wise decisions about our future.

It Aids in Community Building

People who share a history - even different sides of the same story - can discover the understanding, insight, and respect needed to build a common future. History provides the foundation for talking about the things that matter in our communities today.

It provides Context and Inspiration

Sometimes historical perspective on where we have been lets us see more clearly our progress towards where we would like to be. History cautions us, but it also gives us hope.

When people understand the difference made by the actions of those who have gone before, they see that their actions can make a difference. They believe that they, too, can make history.

It Helps Us Explore and Discover Who We Are

History gives each generation a means to discover the people and the events that speak most clearly to the problems of their own time and helps each prepare for and

build the future.

When people get involved with the past they begin to see themselves as connected to others - family, community, nation, or a group defined by ethnicity, religion, work, or play. The result is a sense of belonging, direction and meaning.

It Enables Us to Extend and Sharpen Memory

Memory often fails. Even eyewitnesses don't get it right every time. And each of us brings our own distinctive life experiences and habits of mind to forging our accounts of the past. So we fall prey to biased accounts and combative with those whose views of the past disturb or repel us.

But there is a discipline to history that can lead us out of these dead-end approaches to the past. This discipline asks that we immerse ourselves in all the evidence from the past. It asks that we critically and empathetically weigh others' accounts of what happened and what these events mean. The value of this aspect of history is that it gives us a way to move beyond our narrow, divergent views of the past to more fruitful dialogues about which tomorrows are possible and worthwhile.

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From "Record of Strays and
Goods found in Madison -
1855-1887

The summer craft sale
held at the bed and breakfast
(Sally Perreau) on route 113
brought the Society excellent
results, as did the Blueberry
Festival held during Old Home
Week.

Thanks to Isabelle
Knowles and Roy Bubb for
faithfully keeping the museum
open Tuesdays during the
summer.

NOTICE

Came into my enclosure the
18th inst. Two Heifer calves
one dark red the other a light
red with some white under the
belly. The owner is requested
to call and pay charges and
take the same away

Madison Nov. 18, 1863
Wm Kennett

A true copy
Attest, C. H. Hunt, Town Clerk

HAPPY HALLOWEEN!!