

## NEWSLETTER

WINTER 2001

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PEQUAWKET HISTORICAL  
SOCIETIES MEET IN LOVELL,  
NOVEMBER 21, 2000

Area historical societies meet quarterly at various locations, and this fall they gathered in Lovell at that Society's 1839 house to hear reports from attending representatives about what's doing in their historical society meetings. Members attending reported on a variety of topics. Some societies are busy gathering early photographs of their communities. Others are assembling early vital statistics, opening their displays to the public, writing grant requests, and otherwise keeping the past alive and available through various channels.

The Lovell house is a fine example of transitional architectural styles, from Federal through Greek Revival. The keeping room is unusually large, has three windows of twenty panes each, an indication that large glass areas were preferred as the 19th century progressed. Front rooms downstairs show clearly a Federal influence in one, Greek Revival in the other. These details are reflected in the raised Federal door and mantel mouldings, and the Greek Revival style is evident in the corner blocks at

each window and door top. Apparently, porcelain door knobs are original, since there is no evidence of latches, except for ones in the doors of back rooms. The cooking fireplace is five feet wide, and has a granite lintel and hearth.

This house is worth a visit when the society has it open to the public. Note the mix of Federal and Greek Revival influences in the doorway with its fan, sidelights, and almost certainly the original Greek Revival heavy door with its facade of panels.

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### CLASS VI ROADS DISCOVERIES

In 1998 voters in Madison at the annual meeting established a committee to locate old Madison roads designated by the State as Class VI.

Class VI roads are identified in part by "monumentation," the process of locating cellar holes, cemeteries, stonewalls, signs of early roadwork, and of course, early maps. One cellar hole was discovered to be just that: a hole without rocked sides. The pile of stones nearby suggests that they were to have been used to rock up the cellar. But there is evidence (circumstantial) that after the hole was dug

(and imagine the spade work that went into hand preparing the cellar) the road layout was changed. Since the owner found that the road would not pass his way, he quit working on the job - would have moved the hole if he could have!

Other foundations show the layout of the main house and ell, when present, and the mound where the big chimney foundation lay can even suggest how many fireplaces might have been built around the stack. The great majority of old houses in Eaton/Madison were of one story with the attic open. Chimney stacks were seldom more than five bricks to a side, and more usually, four.

There is evidence in some instances of where the barn or sheds were located, including an understory that was often built into the side of a natural rise of ground.

As to the view - a good many cellar holes along these early roads are filled with trees, and the once open grounds are now heavily forested. Once there may have been a splendid opening to the White Mountains or there were fields surrounding those old farms. Now, all is silent except for birds flitting about the trees. The past is enclosed in a few remnants of an earlier dwelling.

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## TIME CAPSULE "BURIED" IN TOWN VAULT

Two days after Christmas a time capsule containing photographs, news articles, Town reports, essays by the Madison Elementary students were among the things stuffed into a stainless steel cylinder, firmly sealed until the year 2100. President Ray Stineford and Vice-President Mary Lucy, Tammy Flanigan, secretary, joined two members of the Selectmen's office for a photo, taken in front of the Madison town vault. The President's Letter, also included, is printed in this issue.

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## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Your editor is also this season's president of the Madison Historical Society. I got the idea to write a President's Column from one I have found in the CHATHAM TIMES issue for December.

The president writes, "Another year is nearly over and it was a busy one." She goes on to note that there are still mugs for sale, and she speaks about meetings and thanks folks who have helped with various programs. I can certainly write in a similar vein. Roy Bubb and Isabelle Knowles kept the museum open in the summer. Mary Lucy, our vice-president, set up for the Christmas Fair, and she is deep into websitery re genealogy, in addition to sundry research and cataloging. Roger and Olive Clayton prepare the mailing of the newsletter issues, and Roger and Rita Colcord are

working on a history of the Madison Fire Department. Tammy Flanigan is our secretary; Dolores Messner receives the treasurer's mail. In winter, when the museum is ice cold, we tend not to put things away. We leave papers unfiled until warmer weather and don't even keep the steps shoveled.

But we are responsible custodians of maps, early records, tax lists from long ago, and we appreciate gifts of objects from an earlier time. Gerald Ward has brought us auto parts and equipment from the days when the Model A was still a common sight on our unpaved roads. Earle Knowles and I have repaired the docent's table at the front door. It was under the influence of gravity. And elsewhere in this issue we are giving an account of the time capsule event at the town vault.

And we are grateful to the annual visits from California by Betty Bue and her husband. Betty grew up in Madison and whenever she comes back, she is deep into cemetery searching and adding to our records.

The Chatham president closes her report with these words: May good health and happiness bless each and every one." Well said, no matter where we live. RS

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## SCHEDULED REPAIRS AT THE MUSEUM

Madison residents own the building where the Madison Historical Society is located. Each year we schedule improvements and

maintenance projects. In the spring an electrician will bring all wiring up to code. Also planned is the removal of the chimney for the furnace flue, to be replaced by a metal chimney. Outside, the embankment on the north wall will be lowered near the wall of the building.

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## From COOKBOOK "Tested and proved cooking receipts."

Compiled by the ladies of  
Progressive Grange,  
Richmond Corner, Maine (no  
date)

RICE JELLY  
Three-fourths  
tablespoon rice, half cup cold  
water, half cup milk, half egg  
white, few grains salt. Wash  
rice a number of times, drain  
from water and add to milk.  
Cook in double boiler one and a  
half hours. Strain through  
fine strainer, add salt, re-  
heat and add white or egg  
beaten still. Chill and serve  
with fruit sauce or cream.

## MOTHER HUNTLEY'S COUGH MEDICINE

Sapling pine, bark, half  
a bushel. Put in big pan or  
kettle and boil all day, until  
you have about two quarts of  
water, strain, put in three lbs  
brown sugar, bring to a boil,  
put in one lb. honey and one  
pint of whiskey, then bottle.  
Mrs. F. P. Huntley

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## OFFICERS

President: Ray Stineford  
Vice-president: Mary Lucy  
Secretary: Tammy Flanigan  
Treasurer: Dolores Messner  
Curator: Emily Beaulieu