

## NEWSLETTER

SPRING 2001

### PURITY SPRING RESORT

The May meeting of the society at the museum will feature Peggy Hoyt presenting background of the resort. Residents of Madison and surrounding towns have witnessed expansion from the early years of summer camping for youngsters to the present day operation of year round programs for families and for individuals of all ages.

Other programs during the year will feature early lighting devices of the 18th century, with tin and iron candle receptacles displayed by President Ray Stineford. Mary Lucy will share work in progress on Madison cemeteries. Many of these old graveyards are out of sight in remote forest areas. Roger Clayton, Don Colcord, Mary and others have clambered through thick undergrowth to find the graves of Madison's ancestors.

Other locally originating programs are in preparation, and all of them should be of great interest to residents and visitors. The museum will be open beginning with Memorial Day weekend. Days and hours will be published in the newspapers.

Total taxes committed to  
Collector in Madison 1949:  
\$44642.26

### MADISON HISTORICAL SOCIETY TO HOST MAY 8 MEETING OF THE PEQUAWKET HISTORICAL LEAGUE

Edie McNair's well appointed barn will be available to the quarterly meeting of the area historical societies organization in May. Founded more than a decade ago, by Jack Alexander and others, the League is a loosely organized gathering of historical societies from Sweden, Maine to Freedom, N. H. Anyone from the included societies is welcome to attend meetings, which are held in various locations, according as invitations are extended. The February meeting was held at the home of Edna Flanagan in Chocorua. The program speaker, from the Tamworth society, discussed the progress Tamworth is making in receiving grants for strengthening their programs, and she explained that Tamworth residents have installed a sewer system for properties along the main street, a project done without tax dollars. Tamworth caught the attention of the BOSTON GLOBE for its activity as a community working together to preserve its unique history, far from the madding crowds (of North Conway?). Madison was represented by the attendance of Edie McNair, Peggy Hoyt and Ray Stineford.

### THE WAY WE WERE: EVIDENCE OF YESTERDAYS

Even though every town's physical identity changes over time, residents live with bits and pieces of earlier commerce and daily life. In Madison we have on the Ward parcel near the north boundary piles of old stoves and other junk, left there fifty years ago. Even the open passageway along the boundary is an indication of a previously traveled road. It didn't go anywhere, but we have inherited it from the days when it was used by the public. We have a snippet of the old Pequawket road which goes back into the 18th century.

Some of our unused wells are topped with grinding stones. Close inspection will show whether they were the top or the under stone, and along the East Madison road by the bridge are faint signs of a grinding mill.

Out of sight on the west side of route 41 is a hill of sawdust. Perhaps a hundred and fifty feet cross, it is probably the residue from New England Box Company operations. The sawdust pile behind the Madison Garage is slowly being removed. Once the site of the Clayton Ward Saw mill, which older residents remember, the time is fast approaching when young people will not know it

ever existed.

The basketball court lines painted on the floor of the museum indicate the former use of the building. The present entrance is the center section of what was originally a porch across the entire front.

And certainly the most dramatic evidence of change in our own time was the moving of the former Odd Fellows building to its present location. We all remember seeing it close to the road in Silver Lake, and many will recall its stage and open area, now converted to office space.

In the attic of the Atkinson Inn, tacked to the open beams are scraps of illustrations from magazines showing young faces and dress styles of around 1900.

In those days the inn employed young people, and the attic was their dormitory. Apparently the girls had the north side, the boys the south, separated by tongue and groove paneling, according to the respective sex of the figures.

Do you have a set of salt and pepper shakers with dented tops that you remember from your parent's home? Do you use expressions of speech that they used and which are an unconscious part of your own vocabulary?

The past clings to us, like fuzz on cloth or an odor in a decorated box that once contained chocolates or perfume or dried flowers. Sometimes the past cannot be housed behind glass or in humidity controlled rooms but remains within and around ourselves!

#### THEY LIKED TO PAINT

Photographs taken of the exteriors of houses around 1870 often show unpainted clapboards, and sometimes disrepair, as if once built, a hundred years earlier, they had been left to the bruising of the elements. But other scenes of then new construction, or even of old dwellings, reveal the ubiquitous white still so much in evidence today. We lack fuller evidence of early interiors from photographs, but we find paint on woodwork, wainscoting and floors, almost without exception (there is an 1815 house in South Chatham that has unpainted surfaces in at least one room). In the Atkinson Inn, raised from a one story 1779 house to a full Federal two story design in 1819, the two front rooms on the second floor were given an almost grass green wash on chair railings, doors, and window moldings. Painted wood has been found in the earliest houses, at least here in central New Hampshire and in Maine. Red paint was a utilitarian color used on sheathing and on homemade chairs and tables.

Floors were painted, perhaps to protect them from excessive wear, and the choices of colors seem to have been similar to what is still available, often a brownish or gray-blue hue.

We have all witnessed the devaluation that occurs when an antique chest of drawers is "stripped" to its bare wood by watching Antiques Roadshow. When upholstery, ragged and

threadbare, is replaced, down goes its value. Original colors and covering indicate the history of the article. Some furniture was not painted, of course (including English imports), and the builder's taste for grained birch or maple burl is clearly on display.

An old pine board hutch, dated, say 1775, with its original light blue or red paint, with its original hardware and (perhaps) raised panel door(s) can be worth a couple of thousand dollars more than an 1830 Empire dresser which required far more skill to build. Why? Largely because the hutch was subject to wear and tear-finally destroyed. Rarity gives value.

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**CLAYTON & WARD**  
**MADISON GARAGE**  
**GULF GAS AND OIL**

Tel 16-4

MADISON NEW HAMPSHIRE

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Compliments of

**I. A. FORREST**

**HARDWARE AND**  
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SILVER LAKE

N. H.

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# Road Agents' Report.

JOHN L. FROST, ROAD AGENT.

Amount of money raised for breaking highways winter of 1899-00,

Expended for breaking roads: 179 00

Order		
3	Daniel Harmon,	\$18 00
4	John Pearson,	12 00
5	Horace Bickford,	37 50
6	Benjamin Bickford,	34 50
7	Horace Bickford,	30 00
8	Benjamin Bickford,	22 00
9	William Long,	25 00
47	Newell K. Forrest,	16 50
98	Joshua Emerson,	8 00
		<hr/> \$198 50

Money expended for repairing highways:

Frank Ward,	\$ 16 38
Ira Ward,	22 63
I. W. Frost, self and team and use of tools,	38 76
Frank Godfrey,	12 43
Joel Harmon, self and team,	9 68
Henry Harmon,	31 13
Elmer Littlefield, self and team,	7 51
Almon Stacy, 1 1-2 days,	2 13
Ernest Kennett, self and team,	2 75
Wm. Kennett, 2 men and team,	12 75
George Nickerson, and team,	11 00

TOWN OF MADISON.

15

Stephen Stacy, 4 days work,	5 00
George Brown, 1 day,	1 25
Albert Gannett, and team,	12 63
George Kennett, and team,	12 25
Daniel Harmon, 2 days work,	2 50
Edson Nickerson, 2 1-2 days work,	3 13
Roscoe Greene, and team,	10 00
Edward E. Hoyt, Jr.,	4 98
John L. Frost,	34 20
Robert Chick, 1 day,	4 50
A. Fickett, 4 days,	5 00
John M. Ward, 13 days,	1 63
Newell Forrest, 1 day,	1 50

Amount expended by George Mason:

Henry Harmon, and team,	16 25
Willie Kennett,	22 75
Willie Lowd, 2 days,	2 50
Ira Ward, and team,	8 00
I. W. Frost, and team,	10 50
Benjamin Bickford, and team,	10 25
Horace Bickford, and team,	8 75
Stephen Stacy, 4 days,	5 00
Frank Godfrey, 6 days,	7 50
William Long, and team,	12 12
George Allard, 1 day and 7 hours,	2 13
Eben Downs, 1 day,	1 25
George Nickerson,	3 25
Ernest Kennett,	9 75
John L. Frost,	18 34
Irvin Ambrose, repairs,	18 47
James O. Gerry, spikes, nails, and loam.	7 39
Gilman Bros., dynamite, caps. etc..	5 76
Gilman Bros., bill of 1898.	7 75
Geo. Chick & Son.	22 76
	<hr/> \$461 21