

NEWSLETTER

Summer 2001

KEEPING OUR MUSEUM OPEN

Too few docents keeping open our museum during the summer means too few chances for visitors to tour our resources and displays. We have a good and growing library, consisting of important files and records, and dozens of books on a wide variety of subjects. Genealogical research may be well rewarded by visiting our shelves. But we must have help keeping the museum open. Very little training can make a docent competent in meeting the visitors who may wish to do research, or simply want to see our old kitchen, our store and post office, the wagon with its many cupboards, or browse in the tool shop. Call Ray Stineford 367-4687 or any member of our executive committee for information on how you can help keep our front door - and the tool shop door - open more hours in the summer.

WILLIAM HARMON'S NEW MOTOR WHEEL

In the fall 2000 issue of this newsletter we included entries from a diary kept by Roger Clayton's mother, Annie, from 1907 to August 17, 1915. Here are some additional entries through August 28, 1916. They illustrate the life and times of a bygone era, including fiercely played baseball games from Freedom and Conway, and they provide glimpses into the daily life of inn keeping, transportation (note the number of vehicles present for a game on a summer day - real traffic!) and even the date of construction of a house. We are grateful to Olive Clayton for typing material from Annie's handwritten pages.

August 21, 1915

Madison beat Freedom at Baseball by one run. Much excitement after!

August 26, 1915

Ball game at Madison. Large crowd present: 140 autos and 100 carriages. Madison beat Freedom by 2 runs.

August 27, 1915

Mardi Gras in front of the Silver Lake House with dancing exhibition.

August 30, 1915

Albert Clayton working at Lead Mine - 2 PM to 10 PM shift.

September 15, 1915

William Harmon received a new motor wheel (motorcycle) by freight. Clifford Ward helped assemble it. Albert working 10 PM to 6 AM shift - borrowed Harmon's bicycle to ride to work.

October - 1915

Albert bought motorcycle in Conway, rode it home having 3 spills on the way. The Frank Ward boys lined up on front lawn to watch Albert go by on his motorcycle on his way home from work at 6:30 AM!

November 23, 1915	Kendall got shocked and called	machine because the
Building at Madison	Dr. Martin. Everyone was OK	processor approach puts him
Corner burned. (?)	- no damage to house.	into a rage of frustration.
December - 1915	August 25, 1916	Peggy Hoyt does the
Harmons sliding from	After guests left	processing on her machine
Theo Pearsons (Mulberry	Churchill House, the remains	from Ray's copy, with Ray
Farm) all the way to the ball	of doughnuts, cake and ice	close by to make last minute
field with double runner sled.	cream that were stolen from	changes and corrections.
Also from Win Frost's farm to	the Town Hall were found in	Mary Lucy runs off the copies
Durgin turn. William	the rooms upstairs. 8 "show	on our museum copier,
Harmon and Mark Nickerson	people" stayed at Churchill	standing in the cold for the
building a bungalow for Sarah	House. They gave tickets to	winter issue. Next, Tammy
Churchill.	the girls who worked there so	Flanigan, the Secretary of the
January - 1916	they could see the show called	society, prepares labels.
Jesse Harmon working at	'The Crucifix' and "One New	Treasurer Dolores Messner
Prescott's store in Conway and	Year's Eve."	writes a check to the Post
boarding in Conway.	August 28, 1916	Office for the envelopes, and
The church Donation	Cleaned 11 rooms for	Roger and Olive Clayton stuff
netted \$165.00	show people, 2 special	them with the newsletters and
March - 1916	dinner, and 1 early lunch	mail them.
Daniel Harmon hauling	besides regular dinners.	The entire effort is
boards to Silver Lake to fill	Cleaned dining room after,	hardly an heroic one, but it
freight car for Mr. Shurbun	then the attic.	takes several people a goodly
(5 loads per day) with horses.		amount of time to bring each
June 21, 1916	HOW WE GET FROM SCRATCH	issue to your mailbox. We
Annie waiting on table at	TO PRINT AND MAILING	hope you enjoy reading it, that
Sarah Churchill's boarding	The Madison Historical	you will support us with your
house.	Society Newsletter is now in	dues, and will send us stuff to
Madeline Martin	its second year of publication.	include in a future issue.
working at Churchill's.	Appearing quarterly, it is	OFFICERS OF THE
July 29, 1916	edited and written mostly by	HISTORICAL SOCIETY
Rose Harmon working at	Raymond Stineford, current	President: Raymond Stineford
Churchill's, took Annie's place	president. Submitted material	Vice President: Mary Lucy
when she was sick.	is always welcome.	Treasurer: Dolores Messner
August 23, 1916	Sometimes it is printed on the	Secretary: Tammy Flanigan
Lightning struck Ernest	editor's wife's word	Curator: Emily Beaulieu
Kennett's House (Carriage	processor, but usually he uses	
House). Etta, Russell and	his mother's old electric	

THE MADISON CHURCH CLOCK

April 30, 1934

The new clock to be installed in the church belfry has arrived and will soon be put in place. This clock was a gift from Mrs. Louise F. Durgin who passed away several years ago and will be a fine memorial.

September 1934

Mr. Harry Wilkinson of Ashmont, Mass. was in town last week to install the new clock in the church. He was assisted by C. R. Kennett and Harry Harmon. While in town, Mr. Wilkinson stopped at the Churchill House.

These items appeared in The Reporter and were found by David Ruell, a journalist with the Foster-Democrat newspaper in Dover. Mr. Ruell, who is also N. H. president of the State's organization of historical societies, was preparing articles to appear in April of this year in that paper. I had several telephone discussions with him in the course of his research, and we were able to exchange information. He was featuring 22 tower clocks in various locations in New Hampshire.

This spring, my interest heightened by these inquiries, I had an escorted tour of the church tower with Gerald Ward. Gerald keeps the clock ticking, and he was able to show me how it works. We climbed a wonderful flight of pie-turn stairs off an anteroom at the side of the front wall of the church to the first level, where the next ascent is by stepladder with broad treads. At that level the weights and electrical connections are visible. The weights are marked and are surprisingly heavy: Over sixty pounds each, for the striking mechanism and for the clock itself. Swinging softly in a brief arc is the pendulum, which reaches through a space in the immediate level above. We got there by another (and less friendly) ladder to the clock itself. It is set in a cast iron frame about three and a half feet wide and high, with the maker's name molded into it: Howard Company, Boston, Mass. Howard made most of the tower clocks being installed from about 1860 to 1960, according to Mr. Ruell. An enormous flywheel stands ready to whirl into action, and

Gerald said one does not want to be present when the strike sounds.

The topmost level is where the bell itself hangs, reached by a ladder held flat against the tower. We declined to make that last journey skyward.

Question: Do you know how many faces this clock has? Most of us drive by daily or enter under the tower on Sunday. But more than a few of us, when asked, could not say whether a single face, or more, give us the time when we look up. I leave you to do your own research! RS

EDITOR'S COMMENTARY

As editor of this newsletter I usually speak in behalf of all members of the Historical Society. In this column I am speaking from a personal point of view.

At our Annual Town Meeting this past March the voters indicated in a majority opinion that they wish the town hall to be covered in vinyl siding. I spoke in defense of the esthetic principle of keeping it painted, as it has been for all of its nearly one hundred years of existence. I argued

that our decision to move it to the present location came from a desire to preserve the historic building. To nail up vinyl seems to contradict the intention to hold to our old building's usefulness in its original appearance.

Vinyl siding - fake clapboards, fake corner boards, sterile uniformity of line - may have its place in new construction, at least in the opinion of many home owners who value utility over esthetic considerations. The members of the Madison church seem content to see their walls cobbled up in this material. The Madison library is vinyl sided - and certainly looks it.

Aside from considerations as to whether siding obstructs "breathing" of walls, thereby introducing rot, this practice is a sad surrender to contemporary building practices that have no place in old buildings. Perhaps we should rename Route 113, calling it Vinyl Avenue. RS

MADISON SOCIETY MEETINGS
Start at 7 PM at the Museum

SILVER LAKE NEWS

MARCH 1910

(Reprinted from Albany Historical Society Newsletter, April 2001 - taken from The Reporter)

A recent meeting of the Silver Lake Woman's club was of unusual interest. It was held at the home of Mrs. Emma Kennett, at The Lakeside, and The Reporter is glad to give the following account, at the same time asking the members to keep on giving us historical sketches:

The subject of the program was under the direction of Mrs. Knowles and was reminiscences of the early history of the town of Eaton in regard to the present town of Madison.

Miss Emma Forrest had a paper on the early town meeting, marriages, and deaths, and read an original poem by Thomas Randall, the Eaton poet, on Capt. John Marsh, who raised and commanded a company and marched to the defence of Portsmouth in the war of 1812.

Mrs. Hattie Warren gave the early town annals. Who some of the early settlers were, where they came from

and when and where they lived, who they married and when they were buried. The first cemetery in town, the old road that the first settlers trod that now lies deserted round the margin of the hill, the first Elder, Doctor and Inn-keeper, the naming of the town for that gallant soldier, Gen. Eaton.

BRINE TO PRESERVE BUTTER

Make a brine of salt strong enough to bear up an egg. Add a little suger and speck of saltpetre. Boil, and when cold strain. Pour over butter to cover. Place weight over. This excludes the air.

From COOKBOOK. "Tested and proved cooking receipts." Compiled by ladies of Progressive Grange, Richmond Corner, Maine. (no date)

WATCH LOCAL PAPERS FOR
SUMMER PROGRAMS OF THE
MADISON HISTORICAL
SOCIETY