

MHS WILL HOST MEETING FEB. 11

MHS will provide program and refreshments for the February 11 quarterly meeting of the Pequawket Historical League. Guests will gather at the Red Schoolhouse for a noon bag luncheon (dessert and beverage provided) and business meeting, to be followed by a program given by Carol Felice, well known area herbalist, who will describe her work and summer demonstrations program. Any member of our society is most welcome to attend and get acquainted with the work of this regional organization. Edie McNair, Peggy Hoyt and Ray Lineford are the steering committee for this meeting.

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SNOW VILLAGE CHRONICLES  
HEARD AT OCTOBER MEETING

One of our largest gatherings for historical society programs during the past year listened to two half hour broadcasts of "Snow Village chronicles" when they met at the Red Schoolhouse. One of the visitors remembered listening to these radio programs over the Mutual Network in 1936! Bill Manley, the creator of the comedy series, is a well known name in Madison, and older residents knew him as a good ballplayer on the local team, as well as a gifted writer. We are fortunate to own nearly a dozen of the recorded programs, most of them clearly reproduced.

ART COLLECTOR REVIEWS  
E. E. CUMMINGS PAINTINGS  
HELD BY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

In October of this past year, Sam and Sheila Robbins, West Newton, MA, who collect and show paintings as well as lecture on the subject of art, saw work of e. e. cummings in our museum collection. They were enthusiastic about the two oil paintings executed on unplanned boards. One, measuring 18" X 12", shows a mountain range and a wide sky boldly colored. The second, viewed vertically, 10" X 21", is an exuberant scene of moonlight or possibly sunlight reflected on water. In addition, are two crayon portraits, one identified as "Julie." Cummings was a prolific artist, sketching and painting since childhood. Better known internationally as a poet, his painting shows the same energy and creativity that readers have long treasured (or puzzled over) in his poems. As he matured he found his own voice in the years following the First World War. he loved Silver Lake, both the shore and at Joy Farm, and perhaps the two paintings were inspired by scenes familiar to him there. Mr. Robbins is considering the formation of a Cummings exhibit of art, and he would welcome the loan of our works. He is especially interested in White mountain paintings, including those of Shapleigh and Champney, and is recommended to us by the Conway Historical Society.

In our next issue we will discuss another work of art in our

museum: signed by C. M. "to Edward cummings," the father of e. e. Mr. Robbins searched long and deeply before he discovered what is almost certainly the mystery artist who signed only with initials. The artist painted in gouache ("a thick form of watercolor painting" -S. Robbins). The only identification is C M, with a small red square between the letters. In the spring newsletter we will present Mr. Robbins' opinion about this painting.

In the meantime we should recognize: 1. that we have paintings whose association with a Madison connected artist who became world famous give them added monetary value, 2. that our museum may not be the best place to house them. They belong, perhaps, in a secure humidity controlled environment. Of course, as with the famous Champney paintings held in private collections, they are always at some risk. Such is the nature of the art medium itself. More about this in the next issue.

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Need A Taxi?

Debbie Knowles Cadman, daughter of Earle and Isabelle, has presented MHS with the gift of a 1940 poster which reads in part:

WHITE MOUNTAIN TAXI  
SERVICE

Enjoy a day's scenic Trip  
through the White Mountains  
Reasonable Rates,  
Clean, modern car  
Owner and operator  
Ed Keith

## MADISON AUTHORS' NIGHT

May 15

Madison authors, past and present, will be featured in the MHS program for the May meeting. Come and hear authors reading from their publications and excerpts from earlier works, including e. e. cummings, Wm. E. Hocking, Al Watson and others. Also included will be essays that appeared in the Madison High School yearbooks from the 1940s (with permission). This will be an unusual program and a tribute to Madison writers, all of whom are present or former residents, seasonal or year round. Member Mary Meier is organizing this program.

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### New Members

Our historical society welcomed new members this past year. Our newsletter now reaches more than a hundred addresses, most of them individuals or families. We also exchange publications with other historical societies. Your editor always checks them to learn what is being told about yesterday and long ago and he investigates whether we can learn ways to improve our own contents. Clearly, some newsletters must be better funded than ours, if the weight of the stock they're printed on is an indication of prosperity. The paper these words are spread across is just plain computer stuff at less than six dollars per ream!

## MARY MEIER BECOMES MHS RECORDING SECRETARY

We welcome Mary as a new member on our Executive Board of officers who will take minutes of meetings and otherwise assist Corresponding Secretary Cathie Gregg. Cathie is the Director of the Elaine Conners Center for Wildlife; her work often keeps her away from our meetings, so we appreciate Mary's assistance. She is the daughter of Ruth Henry, one of Madison's well known residents until her death some years ago. Like her mother, Mary has an appreciation of Madison's history.

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### Publications available from MHS

#### "CEMETERIES AND GRAVEYARDS OF MADISON, NEW HAMPSHIRE"

By Mary Lucy.

Hardbound. \$25.00

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Old Home Week Booklet -  
\$2.00

- -

Additional titles available on request. Call Mary Lucy 367-4535. e-mail ghostduster54@MSN.com

- -

Also available: notecards with envelopes. Set of eight \$8.00  
Order all of the above and save on shipping charges.  
Box 505 Madison, NH 03049

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Join MHS NOW!!!!!!

Individual -- \$5

Family -- \$10

## HEADLINES FOR OUR DESCENDANTS

Dear Reader of circa 2050:

This year the property owners of Madison, New Hampshire were shocked, even alarmed, to read that their land and buildings are worth thousands more than they were at this time last year. Lake property has doubled (more in some cases) in worth. Even so, few of us are willing to sell at these assessments. We want a good profit - and you can be sure we will have it.

Speaking of increased prices - when I was a young man owning my first house, I paid a carpenter a dollar and a quarter an hour. He lived on site, going off the payroll at sundown, ate the beans I heated over an oil stove, and slept on a mattress in front of the fireplace. I drove him a hundred and twenty-five miles to work for me, having borrowed his talents from my father, who employed him first. On one trip down he said he was very sorry but he had to charge me the three hours riding time, since he had left a job to take on my project. I was a little annoyed, but I hire locally these days.

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### OFFICERS OF MHS

President: Raymond Stineford

Vice President: Mary Lucy

Recording Secretary:

Mary Meier

Corresponding Secretary:

Cathie Gregg

Treasurer: Dolores Messner

Letter to Harry and Bea Harmon about their House. The present owners, the Wells family, have given the museum a copy of the following:

Conway, NH  
December 16, 1963

Dear Harry,

You have asked me about the building of "your House." Before the house ever was, there was a barn, and that barn was built by Robert Kennett and his son John. This Robert was a Scotsman and came to this country in 1741. He settled in Portsmouth, N. H. married Mary Fernald and had eight children - Three boys and five girls;- the oldest was the above mentioned John.

Eventually Robert and John, with John's family, moved to Wolfeboro and from there to Eaton (now Madison). Here they settled in what is now known as Kennett hill and built a comfortable one storey house and across the road a barn.

As usually happens the family grew and sometime in the middle 1850s, Robert, John's son, bought the Atkinson farm at Madison Corner and moved there, and with him was my grandfather and his family. (Robert had no children) Crosby was born down on the "Old Place." All the rest of Grandfather's children were born at Madison Corner.\*

Sometime during the summer of 1885 the beeches and trees beside the road on Kennett hill were cut to make room for the Barn Moving. It was an event of Town wide interest to see oxen moving a barn. They did it with the help of loud vocal encouragement from their drivers. Ox-power is not remarkable for its speed but it is dependable and safe.

In the late 1890s my father made an addition to this barn. He wintered several horses for the "Summer People" and he needed more room than the old barn afforded.

As to your house;- all the timbers and materials used in the building of it grew down on the "Old Place."

In the spring of 1887 my father took a crew of men down on the lot that borders on Silver lake and cut enough pines for the dimension lumber that would be needed for a storey and a half house with seven rooms and an ell.

The logs were bound together to make rafts and poled across the Lake to chick's Mill and there they were sawed to order.

As to the plans for this house - they were not done by a graduate architect. "Than" Nason took a good-sized shingle and a pencil used for marking lumber and casually drew to scale the house as you know it.

Then with the help of Eugene alley, who was rated as one of the best carpenters in the area and my father with probably two or three other young men who had mastered the art of nail-driving the house was built.

it was strictly "green lumber" that they used. such procedure would be frowned on today. However your house has stood the Test of Time and shelters a Harmon Family whose forbears were in this country more than a century before the "Builder of your Barn " left Scotland.

It is good to know that the house that was so dear to my Mother and Father is your's and Bea's.

To you and your family the best of Holiday greetings.

Sincerely

Ruth Kennett (signed)

\*ED. Note - This house and barn burned about 1905. The present Cormack barn was originally referred to as the "new barn," built after the fire.

## Notice

Came into my enclosure the 18<sup>th</sup> inst. Two Heifer calves one a 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 M Hunt Town Clerk

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## COME AND GET YOUR HEIFERS

The above entries are taken from "Record of Strays and Goods found in Madison 1855-1887." The writing is fairly clear, but we provide a "translation."

## Notice

To the Town Clerk of Madison in the County of Carroll Notice is hereby given that on the twenty fifth day of June A.D. 1870 Enoch Moulton of Freedom found going astray one black horse with three white feet and star in forehead the owner of which was to him unknown. The same horse was delivered to me by said Moulton for the purpose of finding the owner and I now have him in my possession. Madison June the 30<sup>th</sup> 1870

Alonzo Alley

Recorded by me a true copy

Attest James J. Merrow Town Clerk of Madison

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Madison June the 30th 1870

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Recorded by me a true copy

Attest James J. Merrow

Town Clerk of Madison