

Scene of Madison Corner, probably before about 1910, viewed from the west side of the East Madison Road. The big barn is now Cormack Builders. The historical society building gable is visible, as is the Atkinson property. Note the open spaces.

PEQUAWKET MEETING
MAY 13, 2003

The most recent Pequawket League meeting was held at the Albany Town Hall on May 13, 2003. After a brief organization meeting Ed McKenzie presented a most informative and humorous program on Historic Archeology here in New Hampshire. Mr. McKenzie's program included slides of cellar holes and stories of archeological work he has been fortunate to have been involved with over the years.

Mr. McKenzie's extensive file of information is now available to interested parties who may find objects and need to locate a date when the particular item may have been in existence. Going through the file I found information on old buttons, nails, tools and other interesting items. This file is now located at the Albany Historical Society.

Submitted by Mary Lucy

Museum hours: 2 -- 4 PM
Tuesdays and Sundays

NOTTHATLONGAGO
NOVEMBER 9, 1990

Charlotte Emmel's tree was declared County Champion. The project was sponsored by the Society for the Protection of New Hampshire Forests. It still stands on the East Madison Road with an identifying sign.

The measurements are:

Circumference - 15'8"
Height- - - - -124'
Crown spread - - -68'

MHS RECEIVES GIFT OF
PHOTOS

When Neil and Eileen Underwood were cleaning out the freight house down the track from the Silver Lake Post Office property which they bought last year, they discovered a small bundle of pictures of houses for sale in Madison and surrounding towns. They date only from the late 1950s to about 1969, but they show open fields and original structures no longer recognizable in some cases. Your editor, who has lived hereabouts for over forty years, recognizes at least one, because he had been offered it for purchase by Mrytle Lyman, then a Silver Lake realtor. An unsigned carbon copy of a letter, dated 1956 and sent to a prospective buyer from out of state, is included in the packet.

The price of the property, with three acres, referred to above is \$2500, with a line drawn through the figures. As I remember I could have had it for fifteen hundred dollars. It was, and is, a modest property, and I tactfully refrain from identifying it. But it does indicate what a good investment real estate can be.

CLEAN UP DAY AT MADISON
CORNER MAY 19

While Ruth Ham and Becky Knowles gardened in Atkinson Crossroads Park, Mary Lucy and new member, Ellie Rowntree cleaned inside the museum. Ray Stineford cut a few saplings out of the

hydrangeas, and wandered about encouraging everyone in their work. Ellie is one of our docents this summer. She has all kinds of skills and lots of enthusiasm.

A HISTORY OF THE MADISON
TOWN AND SCHOOL LIBRARY

(as told by Alice Ward to Pam Thayer in March 1985)

In approximately 1920-1921 there was a private library in the Silver Lake Hotel which was in the same location as Lee and Hazel Drew's residence. This hotel burned in 1923. the library was made up of a private collection of books owned by the Forrest sisters, who also ran the Silver Lake Hotel.

At one time, a Mr. Burke, who lived in Madison, offered to give money to the town to build a library. the neighborhoods of Silver Lake and Madison could not agree as to where the library should be built, each desiring it to be built within their own community. Consequently, Mr. Burke took back his offer!

The Madison Public Library was originally in the center part of the Nickerson cottage (the red cottage on route 113 beside the previously owned Lyman house). It was a very small area with virtually no place to sit and read. The only furniture in the building was a desk and chair for the librarian. Winnie Harmon was the librarian for approximately 36 years.

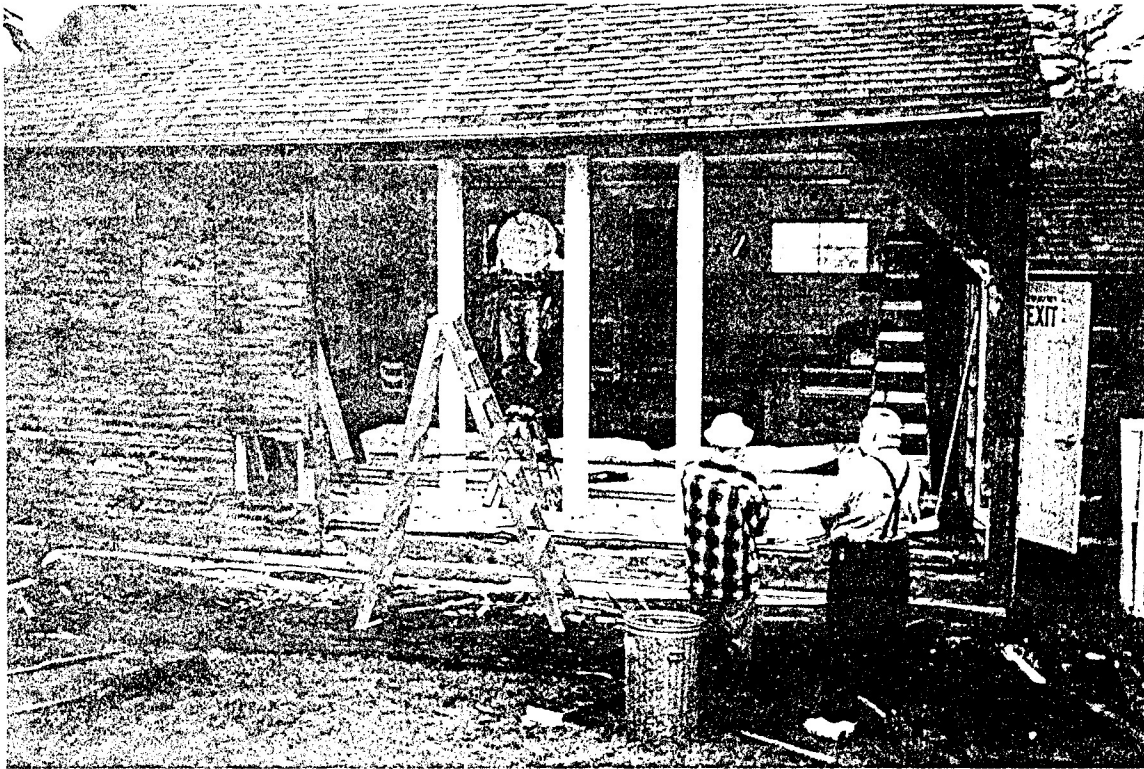
And here is a further description, taken from the current Master Plan:

The Madison Library has had a colorful history over the past 103 years. The first library in Town opened September 25, 1893, at the residence of John Burke. The books were given by the state under the 1891 laws establishing a public library system. By 1950 the collection had grown to 835 books and the library needed a building of its own. Until then it had been housed in the Burke home, the Lary residence, the post office building and back again in the Burke home. In 1920 the Burkes wanted to donate a library to the town, but Silver Lake and Madison could not agree on a location, so the offer was withdrawn. In 1928 the private Silver Lake library burned. It had been run by the Misses Forrest in the Silver Lake Hotel. The library moved several more times.

In 1950 Madison High School closed and the students began attending Kennett High School in Conway. Children at the one-room, five-grade schoolhouse consequently moved to the former high school, making their former building available. The one-room school became the town and School Library, remaining so until 1994.

NOTE TO MEMBERS

Address labels now
carry the expiration date of
your membership. Send dues
to Treasurer, Box 505,
Madison, NH 03849



Madison schoolhouse during construction of a new east wall June 2003

RED SCHOOL HOUSE

The first phase in construction work on the old Madison school is nearly completed. The east wall has been entirely replaced. The exterior is clapboarded with mahogany clapboards; two windows, with small panes, have been installed. The interior of the new wall has reproduction wainscot, capped with moulding and a chair rail. The upper portion of the wall is closed in with sheetrock, to be painted white. Paint for the wainscot and window frames will be similar to the original color. The remaining west wall and other surfaces will be completed at a later time. Funding has been arranged by the school board. The board authorized MHS to assist in making the project reflect

some of the original room school houses in appearance before the Madison. There were once nine school houses in Madison, each within its own neighborhood. The Madison Corner School, built in 1835, originally stood on land across from Mooney Hill Road on what is now Route 113. For some time the building also served as the town meeting hall.

The result is part reproduction, part renewal and repair to the extent that seems financially and practically feasible. Martin and Jean Construction worked to create a new "atmosphere" in the oldest public building in Town.

MADISON CORNER SCHOOL 1835--1949

As quoted from the book, Around Madison Corner, around 1860, by Leon O. Gerry, 1979

The Madison Corner School was one of the several one-

The building has been moved to several locations, including two locations on the present school property. The first move occurred in 1873 from the Main Road (Route 113), across from Mooney Hill Road to property given by James J. Burke (the present school property). The purpose of this move was to be more central to the majority population of children who had to travel the furthest to the school house. In 1979, the

building was relocated to its present location to allow expansion of the elementary school we know today. This time the building was placed on a cellar foundation.

MORE WWI POSTERS DISCOVERED

Readers will be familiar with the news that early this spring we found 32 posters of WWI lithographs, some done by well known artists, which have been conserved until a decision can be made about what to do with them. We thought this part of the story had been told, until Becky Knowles found 27 more lying beneath a 1974 calendar. This is truly a treasure to be carefully guarded. They are in good to very good condition, and the value of the collection likely ranges well into four figures. We presently are seeking a qualified appraiser and other professional direction. A 2004 gallery display at the Salyards Museum in Conway of at least some of them is getting priority attention.

SMITHSONIAN TO RECEIVE SURVIVAL KIT

A bag of survival equipment that Charles Lindbergh took with him on his famous trans-Atlantic flight in 1927 will be donated to the Smithsonian Institution in Washington by the Lindbergh buff who located it.

Everett Cassagneres, 50, of Cheshire, Conn., a professional pilot and aviation

historian, discovered the kit in Madison, N. H. He was researching a book about the Ryan Aviation company of San Diego, the firm that made Lindbergh's plane.

The survival kit will be displayed in the National Air and Space Museum, where Lindbergh's "Spirit of St. Louis" is on exhibition. The kit includes three cans of army emergency rations, a ball of cord, a coil of string with two fish hooks, a large needle, four red flares, a hacksaw blade, an air cushion and matches.

Cassagneres speculated the kit was taken from the plane by souvenir hunters in the frenzied French crowd that welcomed the flier.

Cassagneres found the kit in a barn in New Hampshire owned by Kenneth Lane, a Technical representative of Ryan Aviation Company. Cassagneres learned of the kit when interviewing Lane for his book.

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CASCADES SOLD

A 30 acre piece of land known as the Cascades property, a favorite site for townspeople and visitors to view, has new owners who plan to log it. In order to do this they must have access to an existing right of way across town and private property. Doing this could preclude providing some facilities in the Historical Society building as well as compromise the scenic and

recreational value of the property for townspeople. Logging during a previous operation used a neighboring driveway, the availability of which is uncertain at this time.

Carol Lyman Batchelder tells us that e e cummings undoubtedly had Silver Lake and Mount Chocorua in his mind for this poem, now known worldwide.

SUMMER SILENCE (Spencerian stanza)

Eruptive lightnings flutter to
and fro
Above the heights of
immemorial hills;
Thirst-stricken air, dumb-
throated, in its woe
Limply down-sagging, it's
limp body spills
Upon the earth. A panting
silence fills
The empty vault of night with
shimmering bars
Of sullen silver, where the
lake distils
Its misered bounty, --Hark!
No wisper mars
The utter silence of the
untranslated stars.

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