

"PRIDE DAY"
CLEANUP - MAY FIRST

The members of our Society are invited to show up at the museum on Saturday, May 1 around ten o'clock to help clean up the grounds and interior. The Conway area will be "celebrating" this event, and we look forward to doing our part. Bring a rake, or a scraper to work on the fence (yes, it is tedious but necessary work preparatory to painting), cleaning rags, etc. Atkinson Park will need a lot of work, also.

WORLD WAR I POSTERS
OFFER TO BUY

An offer to purchase twenty of our posters for five thousand dollars has recently been made. To date no decision has been made, in part because we do not know if the party making the offer is aware of all of the remaining "image" posters. Some of the collection contain only text, and these are less valuable. We will keep members informed.

CASCADES

The present trail entrance to the Cascades is through the gate in the fence. But that area is often very wet. A better entrance would be to open the gate nearer the

museum. The trail crosses Town land until it reaches the tool building. From there it heads southeast over your editor's land. Working in cooperation with the Conservation Commission this part of the trail to the Cascades will be tagged more directly east. The Commission will be making unobtrusive markers to guide hikers.

DOCENTS NEEDED

Every year we ask for help in keeping open the museum. And every year few volunteer to do so. Isabelle Knowles and Roy Bubb faithfully open the doors every Tuesday afternoon. Ray, next door, opens up when he is around. Now and then help comes forth. But most of the week we are locked up. The task of keeping the building open a couple of hours hardly seems onerous. We wonder why so few are interested. Even a single week of contributed time would be appreciated. If you have a change of heart, call 367-4687 or 4535.

ARE YOUR DUES UP TO DATE?
CHECK THE LABEL ON YOUR
MEETING NOTICE!

MADISON'S FIRST
MEETINGHOUSE

Technically, Madison first transacted business in its church. In the mid 1850s arguments for and against began about a townhouse. The wrangling and planning continued until finally, in 1884, the present museum building was built. And there begins a separate inquiry; What changes or additions were made, and when? The building included a porch, running across the entire front. The building included a porch, running across the entire front. The rear addition had not been built (?). There was no cellar. The next step was to to enclose the porch, leaving the center for the present entrance. The new spaces were sheathed and contained chemical toilets (as indicated by the vent pipes, now removed). We have a 1920 reference to buying a stove lid; hence, the likelihood that a stove heated the building.

The next alteration seems to have happened when one of the toilet rooms became an opening to a cellar, a space opened under part of the building. A furnace was installed, requiring a new chimney, to the north. That fell down about fifteen years ago. When was the present kitchen built? Haven't found out yet. How recently were town meetings held in the building? At least until 1951. When were

the basketball floor markings laid out? At least by post-WWII. More information is solicited! PS. When was the well dug? It goes dry by mid-August.

MORE THAN A HOLE IN THE GROUND

Old cellar holes can sometimes tell more about what was built over them than casual inspection might suggest. These depressions in the ground, roughly rocked, are an important legacy of Madison history. Here are a few observations based on years of informal and unscientific "research."

Typically, the dimensions of houses built before 1850 were rectangular, the front wall having a center entrance with two windows either side, five above if the building had a full second story. Ells, often without cellars, were common. The two front rooms of the main house were nearly square, measuring between 13 and 16 feet. The wider the entry the more likely that the rooms would be narrower- in a center chimney house. A double chimney house - see the red cape on route 113 coming into Tamworth as an example - would have a center hall running through to a rear entrance. In a few instances - as in Sandwich and Wonalancet - there are some very large capes, measuring almost square. This review, however, considers only the much more common and smaller rectangular design cellars.

These houses seldom rested on full cellars. An ell

may indicate where outbuildings were located, since it was "on the way" to them. If so, the mound of debris, in which bricks may be discovered in the rubble, would indicate that the cooking fireplace with its hearth (remember, we are talking about a center chimney structure) would have faced the ell. In some localities the cooking fireplace and adjacent oven were in the wall of the center rear room, which was therefore deeper. Front rooms would have been smaller as a result. The opposite front room would have had a parlor fireplace. The middle back room of a single story house probably lacked a fireplace, especially if the overall depth of the house measured less than about 24 feet. The cellars you encounter will likely be either half of the overall outline, or create an L shape. The arches and lintel work found in some finer houses are rare. Stairs were positioned to permit headroom to the second floor. For example, front stairs would have run parallel with and behind the entry, tight against the chimney mass. If the house had a second stairway it would have been located at the back of the house, ascending toward the pitch. The space for it would have been taken from an end rear room, often leaving only a passageway or small room. The cellar flight would likely have run directly beneath these stairs, rather than under the stairs by the entry wall, because of the broad base holding the chimney and hearths.

To open a hole in the ground without the aid of power machinery, heaving out rocks,

and making the opening even wider than what is visible, in order to set foundation walls, dragging the great slabs of split granite on which to rest the sills must have made the owners feel that they had truly "settled in" to a place called home.

MADISON CHURCH SUNDAY SCHOOL RECORDS "DISCOVERED"

Our museum has recently been given some early records from the Madison Church of Sunday school teachers from 1930--1934. Names of students are not listed, but we have the names of the teachers. They include Mrs. Harold Gilman, Mrs. Rita Kennett, Mrs. Goodwin, Mr. Jackson, Mrs. Carrie Jackson, Mr. Fred Clayton, Francena Pearson, Margaret Ward, and others. From the statistics we gather that on some Sundays as many as 68 students were in attendance, from beginners to adults. On January 30, 1935 (the latest entry) Sunday classes were not held, perhaps because of a storm? On average, attendance numbers are in the 40s.

MADISON LIBRARY TWO ACCOUNTS

"Our library was opened September 25, 1893, at the residence of John H. Burke, one of the trustees chosen the March previous. We commenced with the books given us by the state under the laws of 1891, chapter 62.

An interest was at once manifest and growth, though not

rapid has been steady.

We have especially aimed to interest our youthful readers, believing in the old adage "as the twig is bent, the tree is inclined," and we allow the children the use of the library as soon as the parent will be responsible for the books. We have one little girl four years of age, and we have no one more enthusiastic.

The books remained at Mrs. Burke's (Mrs. Burke serving us as librarian) until moved to Mr. Lary's the following March. Mr. Lary was librarian until July, 1898, when the size of the library and Mrs. Lary's health rendered a change necessary. It was accordingly taken to the post office building, then owned by I. R. Ambrose, postmaster, and was cared for by him for a small compensation until he resigned his office.

He was succeeded by J. H. Burke April, 1901. Mr. Burke, who had taken an active interest in the library from its commencement, allowed the books to remain, Mrs. Burke serving as librarian. December, 1903, Mrs. Burke's health compelled her to resign, but we have still had the use of the building free.

Our library is now so large that we very much need a building. There is quite an interest among citizens and friends, which we hope will result in obtaining one soon.

Our income is very small, but the interest has been such that our expenses have been trifling and we have been able to add a few volumes each year by purchase until we now have 838 volumes. We also have received a great many

presents from citizens and friends. Our summer guests have been liberal patrons."

Reprinted from an early account.

A HISTORY OF THE MADISON TOWN AND SCHOOL LIBRARY

(Told by Alice Ward to Pam Thayer)

"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. The hotel burned in 1923. This library was made up of a private collection of books owned by two Forrest sisters, who also ran the Silver Lake Hotel.

At one point in 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 this 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, who was the librarian for approximately 36 years.

The Madison Library was in several locations before it became permanently established in its present location." March 1985

JOY

Give us thy Peace Lord

Even though

The winds of change

Swiftly around us blow.

Let us know

Amid commotion

The calm unfathomed ocean

Of thy love--

Above

The darkness where we move

There shines a light no

Darkness can destroy--

Thy Joy

Elvira Banfield

Bernard, Maine

UP ATTIC!

In the attic of the Atkinson Inn we have found a basket of early pine sap spiles. They will be on sale at the museum this summer and at the Christmas Craft Fair. Perhaps they were used in tapping the maples that still stand around Madison Corner. RS

MHS Officers:

President: Raymond Stineford

Vice president: Mary Lucy

Secretary: Mary Meier

Treasurer: Becky Knowles

Publicity: Lisa Olszewski

Newsletter: Peggy Hoyt &

Olive Clayton

(Selections from:)

Documents and Photo Preservation
by Linda I. Beyea

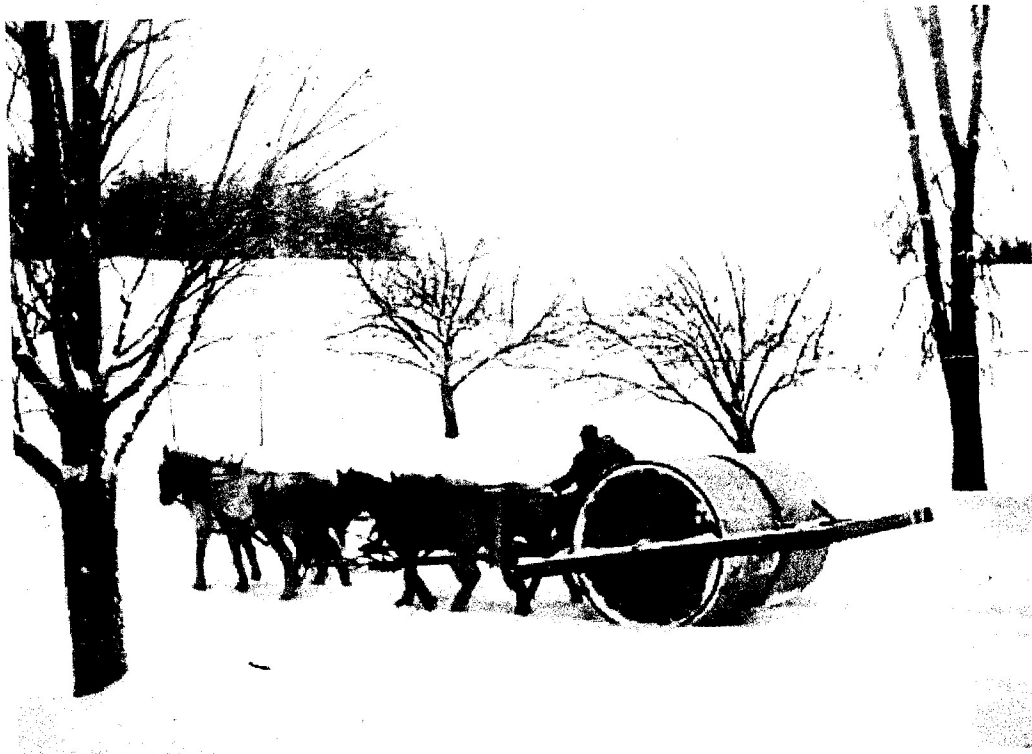
The preservation and conservation of family documents and photographs is a topic which interests many who research genealogy. Not only do those sources often provide valuable research information, but most of us have documents and photos that we know we should take proper care of, but we are not sure how. In an effort to answer, "How do I?", I have compiled a list of some of the most frequent asked questions regarding preservation.

Can I store my documents in those plastic protector sheets that fit 3-ring binders?

Plastic enclosures are safe for documents **ONLY** if they are made of polyester, polypropylene or polyethylene. Other plastics are not chemically stable and will release damaging acids over time. Especially dangerous is PVC (polyvinylchloride) commonly found in store-bought binders; it emits hydrochloric acid over time.

Is it okay to laminate a document?

Lamination is not considered a safe conservation technique because the process may potentially damage a document due to high heat and pressure during application. Moreover, the laminating materials themselves may be chemically unstable and contribute even more to the deterioration of the document. Lamination also violates a cardinal rule of conservation, and that is to only apply treatments that do not alter the item and which can be reversed.



Snow Roller – 1925

Erving & Sewell Kennett with Erving's & Jim Tyler's horses. Photo taken by Dorothy Harmon from Harry Harmon's porch. Kennett Hill in background.