

WORLD WAR ONE POSTERS SOLD  
FOR FIVE THOUSAND DOLLARS

Twenty two posters from the Madison Historical Society's collection of WWI posters have been purchased by a New York City company. We have since learned that while many of them were considered to be in good to very good condition, some will require more work than anticipated by the buyers before they can be marketed to collectors.

Poster collecting is a genre with many sub-divisions. A piece in the International Herald Tribune (June 5-6, 2004, handed on by Mary Meier) discusses the publication of a sale catalogue of posters from the 19th century, with values soaring into the thousand of livres. And in researching the market for our own posters we discovered that American poster sales for what were once simply ephemera highlighting a patriotic cause and tacked up in every post office is indeed big business. The members of our society decided that the money was more important to us than the collection, of which we still have over three dozen posters; the old paper deteriorates unless it is expensively conserved; and our audience for viewing is relatively narrow.

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MUSEUM HOURS

Tuesdays 2--4 PM and  
by chance

Excerpts taken from an article by Carol C. Foord: "SHAWTOWN"

"Shawtown...its very name suggests hush and quietude. And so it was: a neighborhood community---School district #8 in the 1800s---now abandoned. What is Shawtown? It's a stretch of discontinued road in Freedom with overgrown farmstead cellars, wells, school house foundation, a glacial erratic quarried for granite foundation blocks, a steeply rising stonewall encompassing a coveted 'mountain pasture', a granite bridge, a spring source, several cooper shops, a small cemetery. Shawtown Road continues as Goe Hill Road into Madison, linking the two towns by commerce and marriages."

"Shawtown is a rare example of an entire school district neighborhood still intact on our landscape. Begun in 1822 during the great river driving era, Shawtown was one of ten neighborhoods that made up the whole of Freedom. Of those ten districts, Shawtown is the only school district that was completely abandoned. Time and nature have been kind: Shawtown has been preserved and protected by forest succession for a little more than 100 years."

Here we have an open history book, a visual history, a walking tour history, of farm life in the 1800s. Here unfolds Freedom's Civil War stories: Shawtown men committed and courageous, losing life and limb, at

South Mountain, Fair Oaks and Antietam. In their absence, their wives, mothers sisters and children suffered greatly, many succumbing to small pox while their menfolk were at war."

"There is a family name associated with each and every cellar hole in Shawtown: Towle, Ward, Stokes, Eldridge, Tyler, Stacy, Foss, Durgin, Harmon, Hurd, Huckins and Shaw---people whose descendents still live in Freedom and the area. If we lose these cellar sites, who will care any more who these inhabitants were and what their contribution to Freedom was?"

"Shawtown is an outdoor classroom, an historical archive, a place that holds mysteries, a place of more questions than answers."

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2001

They picked their way  
With dainty feet---  
Two fawns at dusk  
On Colby Hill,  
That eve when Jupiter  
Swung near the moon.  
In orbit time of planet path  
Jupiter must wait an aftermath  
Of four score years  
Until it swings again  
To kiss the moon  
And light the road  
Where fawns will come.

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Mary Henry Meier

Focus: Tamworth  
Club Motorsports Racetrack

"As you may have heard, we were astonished to hear at the beginning of May about the New Hampshire legislature's passage of SB 458. A new law, which was signed by Governor Benson in March and went into effect in early May, removes developments like CMI's from the list of activities that towns can regulate by defining them as "instructional driving facilities." The bill was moved through committee and to a vote in a way that disguised its true intent, which was to exempt the CMI project from any oversight by the town. CMI's spokesperson has admitted publicly that they had the bill introduced because the Tamworth Racetrack Ordinance - which CMI helped to write - was 'unfair.' Most of the state legislators who represent Tamworth were taken by surprise, as was the New Hampshire Municipal Association, an organization that monitors goings-on in Concord on behalf of New Hampshire's towns.

The blatant violation of New Hampshire's longstanding principle of local control has angered many people in the area. We're hoping to get support from many parts of the state for a repeal effort that our reps David Babson and Harrow Merrow have promised to spearhead in the next session of the legislature. Meanwhile we are looking at other ways to protect Tamworth from the noise and other impacts of the proposed CMI facility.

We're continuing to monitor developments at the NH Dept of Environmental Services and the Army Corps of Engineers as they consider CMI's applications for wetlands dredge-and-fill and

alteration of terrain permits. We expect to hear soon about what action DES plans to take, and we are still hoping that the Army Corps will agree to hold a hearing, especially in light of the passage of SB 458.

CMI is doing its best to discredit our efforts, both in the open press and with a recent paid full-page ad in the local Conway Daily Sun. We are ratcheting up the local PR campaign."

Excerpts from a letter to supporters of the movement to STOP the project.

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DOCUMENT AND PHOTO  
PRESERVATION

(continued from the spring issue of this newsletter)

I have some old newspapers that I would like to preserve. What's the best way to do it?

Since newspapers are made of highly acidic paper and deteriorate so quickly, you should always photocopy the information you want from them onto acid-free papers. You can store the original paper in an acid-free box, or mount clippings in an archival scrapbook. Clippings should also be stored in acid-free file folders, interleaved with acid-free paper. If you want to frame the clipping, you should frame the acid-free copy rather than the original clipping.

What about the ink used in copiers and printers? Is there an archival ink that can be used as an alternative?

The inks used in photocopiers and printers are moderately durable. To date there is no alternative ink available for

use in a copier or printer. It is good rule of thumb to photocopy any document you wish to preserve onto acid-free paper. If you then keep the original and copy away from light, heat, humidity, etc. the document should last for several generations. Incidentally, there are archival inks for use on paper: Pigma ink comes in a pen, and Actinic ink comes bottled for use with a quill pen or in an ink pad.

I have a suitcase of old family photographs. Some are fading, and I would really like to preserve them. Any suggestions?

The same rules which apply for the safe storage of paper documents generally apply to photos. Again, there are a number of options for preserving your photos. If you prefer an album, archival albums have acid-free components such as scrapbook style pages, picture-pocket pages made of one of the safe plastics, etc. Store-bought albums with "magnetic" pages are typically highly acidic and dangerous to photos. Besides albums, there are acid-free boxes made to accommodate between 500 and 1000 prints. These boxes come with acid-free envelopes and sleeves for negatives. Finally, photographs can be encapsulated in polyester film just like paper documents.

My grandmother's photo collection was glued on that old black that photo albums were made of. How can I get the photos out of the album?

The safest and recommended approach is to carefully try to lift the photos off of the album page with a tool called a microspatula or a small spatula. Slip the microspatula under the edge of the photo, and carefully move it back and forth. The ease with which the

photos come up may vary depending on the humidity level. Dry conditions may make prints and backing brittle, easier to lift. Or humid conditions may soften the adhesive and ease removal. Experiment with it, but DO NOT force the photos so that they tear. If you cannot lift them, cut away the black paper around the photo. If photos are on both sides of the page and you cannot cut around, interleave the pages of the album with acid-free paper and store the album in an acid-free box.

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#### DRIVE BY IDENTIFICATION OF OLD HOUSES

This spring your editor gave a talk at a historical society meeting on how to date a house when driving by at twenty miles an hour. The dates included were from about 1780 to 1850, with the assumption that the driver can only slow down or pull to the side of the road for a brief inspection. Here are a few of the clues or marks of identification to look for.

Most of the houses hereabouts (the talk was confined mainly to Carroll County areas) face the road. First, consider the fenestration: Fifteen pane windows have glass measuring 7 by 9 inches, too small to measure, of course, but the overall appearance shows about two feet by 55 inches, that is much taller than wide. A center entranceway will be flanked by two windows each side. If the space between each pair of windows is narrower than one of the windows the house may be older than if the space is wide enough for blinds to butt - not overlap.

Windows with a broader appearance will have one six pane

sash over another six pane, each pane measuring 8 by 10 inches. the space between the pair will probably be wider than between the nine over six windows, and the house will be dated after 1835-40. The space above the taller windows to the eaves will be almost non-existent in a so-called cape style house; above the six over six windows there could be up to two feet, even a bit more. The more space above windows to the eaves the more likely that the house was built well into the 19th century.

Entranceways tell a great deal to the passerby about the likely date of construction. A good rule of thumb is to count the sidelights either side of the door. Four panes - taking a little more than half the vertical space, indicate earlier dating than do five panes. Panes to the floor or nearly so indicate mid-19th century or later.

A Federal period doorway (to about 1820) may have a fan over the lintel and detailed side moldings. In contrast, the later, Greek Revival style will have heavier and wider framing sides and top.

Other details, including reference to two and a half story houses add further information. Of course, there are often variations. But generally the style determines a dating period with twenty years. Unhappily, many old houses have been utterly bereft of their original design. Owners who join windows into a single glaring "picture" opening should be taken to court and assigned 100 hours of community service.

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#### AT THE CORNER

The Town of Madison Highway and Property Department is keeping the lawns mowed around the museum and at the Atkinson Park. Thanks.

A property line tree between the Atkinson Inn and the Museum has been removed by arrangement with the Town and Ray and Helen. It was hollow all the way to the ground.

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The Newsletter is published quarterly by the Madison Historical Society and is available to members with the payment of five dollars annual dues. Submissions are welcome. Send to Ray Stineford, Editor; Box 505; Madison, NH 03849.

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Be sure to attend the BLUEBERRY FEST at the Noyes Gymnasium at the Madison School Sunday evening, August 8, 6 to 7 PM.

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The Museum will be open extra hours during Old Home Week.

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This computer generated picture by Sepp Meier, inspired by Clean Up Day, May 1, fooled your editor when he received it while at Monhegan Island: A bright yellow banner, purple flamingos, multi-colored fence. Scary to think what could happen to historic photos in the hands of clever manipulators.