

CARROLL COUNTY COURTHOUSE

The April program at our museum will be conducted by Barry Hill from the Ossipee Historical Society. Barry will discuss the transfer of the 1916 courthouse to the OHS. This ambitious plan to take over and manage a building on the National Register will eventually become a repository for countywide artifacts. Discussion is underway with the Native American Cultural Center to house their museum and to share space for programs. All Pequawket League societies will be invited to take part in this extraordinary project to make use of a county building. The new facility is on Route 171, across the road from the nursing home and prison complexes.

CUSTODIAN'S REPORT

As you may know, the Town has hired a professional planner to establish a Capital Improvement Plan for the next five or so years. the intention is to provide voters with an idea of what the future needs will cost and how they will be implemented. This CIP includes plans for all Town owned buildings, of which our museum is one. Your custodian has submitted estimated costs and projects that need to be undertaken as soon as possible. We have some electrical circuitry work to be completed. A new entrance box and some updating of wiring has already been accomplished. A long delayed intention to provide better

drainage along the north wall should be carried out. Exterior painting including the sashes is needed. A committee of historical society members is currently reorganizing our displays and filing system. Larger files have been purchased and all entries have been carefully tabbed and reorganized. Of the dozens of entries are such topics as - early minutes of the grange; news clippings of events; Old Home accounts; and of course, extensive genealogical records, many of which were first assembled by Leon Gerry and Ernest Meader.

RUSSELL-COLBATH HOMESTEAD
TOUR, JULY 27 10 AM TO NOON

Carol Felice, a professional naturalist and forester, will lead us on an interpretive tour of the historical Russell-Colbath Homestead. We will visit the herb garden, home and barn while we go back in time to experience the history of the site. The tour will include (at your option) a quarter mile walk to the river to view wild flowers and wild medicinal plants. There will be some standing and walking on level ground. The entire tour will take 1.5 to 2 hours with ample time for questions. We will enjoy herbal iced tea brewed from the garden herbs. We will tour rain or shine. If it rains, we will view the gardens and enjoy the shelter of the barn roof for the remainder of the tour.

The Russell-Colbath Homestead is on the Kancamagus

Highway (SR 112) 13 miles from Route 16. The entrance to the homestead parking lot is located just past Bear Notch Road and the entrance to Jigger Johnson Campground.

The Russell-Colbath Homestead is owned by the United States government and is preserved by the White Mountains Interpretive Association. The Madison Historical Society is cosponsoring this event.

by Julia D'Arezzo

THE NATIVE AMERICAN STORY
SET FOR MARCH

The 2005 program series begins with the March 17 meeting, to be held this year at the school gymnasium, jointly sponsored with the Friends of the Library. Kim Whitefeather will discuss Native American culture and show numerous artifacts and examples of crafts and tools. The Cultural Center is located at the Mountain Valley mall. The Pequawket League of Historical Societies has met there and will also be holding the quarterly meeting in February at the center. The Mall is scheduled for demolition this summer; fortunately, discussions are underway to have museum and meeting space at the former Carroll County Courthouse.

PROGRAMS SCHEDULED FOR 2005

See the enclosed folder. Note that on July 27 an extra program will be jointly sponsored by the Garden Club and MHS.

Saying Goodbye

As you may already know, our President, Raymond Stineford has resigned from his post as President of the Madison Historical Society. Ray and I have passed our positions back and forth over the past nine years, and now Ray has stepped down for the last time. If I may speak for the Society, we are very grateful for all the time and energy Ray has spent on the Madison Historical Society Board of Directors.

I do not know if I can list all of Ray's accomplishments over the years, such as playing "*My Country 'Tis of Thee*" on the organ after we say the *Pledge of Allegiance*, running the meetings with humor, planning and organizing the meeting programs from year to year, getting this newsletter together and out quarterly, being instrumental in saving the Madison Corner Schoolhouse and getting it painted and structurally repaired, saving the Madison Cascades, helping where needed at the Old Home Week Craft Fair and our annual Blueberry Fest and at the Madison PTO Christmas Craft Fair, making brownies and bringing refreshments to our programs, locating the old WWI posters, getting them preserved and stored properly, and of course, being the "go between" with our town selectmen for the upkeep of our Madison Historical Society Museum building. I know I have not completed the list, as it is endless.

In years past, Ray has put together some of our most memorable programs. His love is old New England homes – I could write a book here – oh no, Ray's wife, Helen Prince already has written one! Ray can throw

anything together and present the most wonderful programs, including the Snow Village Chronicles, "18th and 19th Century Ironware and Lighting", "One-and-a-half Story Houses", "Latches, Catches, Hinges, & Hatchets", old time gospel music at the Madison Church, even a scene from "*Madison – Our Town*", and here I go again, on and on.

Ray has promised us that he will continue to be the "custodian" of our museum, making sure the 1884 building will not go to disrepair so long as he lives in the old Atkinson place next door. We can be sure he will.

Our programs for the upcoming year have already been set-up thanks to Ray. This newsletter will be Ray's last, along with another devoted member and past secretary Peggy Hoyt, who also will be greatly missed by all. Peggy will be retiring to the coast of New Hampshire this spring, and I am sure Ray will be spending his summers with Helen on their beloved Monhegan Island in Maine. We will miss you.

Now it is time to add my wishes and requests. The Society now needs a Vice-President – so if you have a love of history, and would like to give some of your time back to this wonderful community please contact me at 367-4535 or if you e-mail, you can reach me at ghostduster@adelphia.net. We also continue to search for a curator of the museum, and we are always looking for docents to open the museum on any Sunday afternoon from 2 to 4 pm, from Memorial Day through Labor Day – any free time you have. And now that Ray has retired, we will need someone to help organize and publish the quarterly newsletter. Any takers? We'd love to have you on board.

by - President, Mary K.W. Lucy

ELVIRA FRANCIS BANFILL

Elvira Francis (Babbitt) Banfill of Bernard, Maine, age 93, died peacefully on Friday, October 29, 2004 at an Ellsworth, Maine nursing facility. She was born December 31, 1910 in Cambridge, Massachusetts. She was the daughter of Albert Kelley Babbitt and Clara (Benson) Babbitt. Elvira attended public elementary schools in Southborough, MA and also for a few years in Norfolk, VA, returning to graduate from Peters High School in Southborough in 1926. She was a graduate of the Massachusetts College of Art. she is survived by her husband, Elwood Banfill. They were married over 70 years. Both have been long time MHS members. Elvira's poems have appeared in this Newsletter. Elwood's father, Herbert, is in an 1896 photo of students in front of a Madison School.

"RESTORING WOODEN HOUSES"

A book by Nigel Hutchins, Firefly Books, 1999, a gift to me this past Christmas, tells the reader who is interested in restoring an old house - which includes houses built in the 18th century and into the early 20th - about framing, recovering original surfaces, choosing paints (and how to make a batch of whitewash!), for both interior and exterior. Good photographs and drawings. I am especially interested in such details as dovetailing, description of double hung sashes, design and construction of doors. Types of wood used for various projects are explained in detail, and a full glossary of terms is helpful. For instance, "mullion." This word refers to the division of panes in a

sash. Or "saddle board," also called a rake board, is a fascia board at the junction of the roof and the gable wall." And yes, "fascia" is also defined. The price was marked out, so I can't give you that information. It is paperback about 11 by 8 inches.

DESCRIPTIONS OF LIGHTING DEVICES ON NEXT PAGE

Top left: Pierced Lantern

Often called a Paul Revere Lantern. Revere would not have carried a lantern with such a meager light. Dating of any example is virtually impossible, since they were being made well into the 19th century.

Top right: Betty Lamp or crusie

These lamps were in the very earliest tradition of lighting, with pottery examples going back to pre-New Testament times. They were made in many parts of the world.

Bottom left: Spiral candle holder

As the candle burned down, the holder inside the socket could be turned up. Perhaps 1780s.

Bottom right: Rush light

An early example of illumination. A rush soaked in a flammable material was pinched in the scissors-like grip. Some versions also have a socket for a candle.

Photos - courtesy of Becky Knowles, from the Editor's collection.

OLD LIGHTING DEVICES

Early lighting devices including dozens of kinds and variations, none of which gave as much light as that coming from a strong fire on the hearth. Rushlights were smelly, dripped

and soon burned out. A Betty (or a so-called Phoebe variant) could be hung by the cooking oven to check the baking. Ben Franklin devised a double font oil lamp which burned more efficiently than a single- or triple- font.

Candlemakers sometimes came around the countryside to provide candles; making them was difficult. Early candles were made by laying two rods across the backs of chairs, with shorter rods crossed between, from which hung the wicks. Each short rod was dipped into the hot candle mix, over and over as the maker went along the line.

John Adams' wife Abigail, asked her husband to bring home a supply of candles during one of his excursions to Philadelphia.

Courting lamps (also called Sparking or Squat lamps) were small glass lamps holding just enough oil for an evening visit - or for a traveler to light his way to his room at the inn.

Kerosene fuel caused a revolutionary improvement in the closing decades of the 19th century.

EXTRACT FROM OLD HOME SERMON

Preached by Rev. L. L. Harmon
Sunday, August 17, 1902 in the
church

Reprinted from A Brief History of
Madison - 1925--26

"About 1800 Elder Greene came to town and waked up the slumbering embers and had a great reformation out of which grew the First Free Will Baptist Church of Eaton and Madison. Report said that elder Greene was a holy man of God, and did a great amount of good here. There was a break in the revival meetings. Elder Green went to the General Muster, got

drunk, got in a fight and was injured so badly that the meetings were closed about two weeks, but when Elder Greene had recovered from his injury, the reformation went on again and spread all over the town."

ATKINSON CROSSROAD PARK

The Madison Garden Club has assumed care of the gardens, first established by Margo Ellis and Helen Prince. A jointly sponsored program by MHS and the Club will feature a July visit to the Colbath house on the Kancamagus, with Carol Felice showing us around.

CAMP ALLEGRO

The Camp Allegro meeting this spring will be in the original recreation building. Although the camp closed a long time ago, its history is part of Silver Lake. Lee Drew worked there and Dottie Meehan has recollections also.

THE EDITOR SAYS GOODBYE

This is your editor's last year of planning MHS programs, and he sincerely hopes members and friends will enjoy them, including the two sequel programs - one on old gospel tunes and their histories, and the other on Madison Then and Now, a photographic account narrated by Roger Clayton, who says he has lots more pictures and things to tell us this year.

And finally, thanks to Peggy, Roger, Becky, Mary, Olive and all the others who helped me get his paper out each quarter.

Ray Stineford

