

Madison Historical Society

Summer 2005

PRESIDENT'S LETTER

Summer finally showed up after a cold, damp spring. I first have to thank Isabelle Knowles, who I inadvertently left out of our last newsletter when noting those who have been helping Becky Knowles with the Museum Library. Thank you Isabelle! And thank you again to Isabelle, and Roy Bubb, also Roger Clayton, and others who have been keeping the museum doors open every Tuesday from 2 to 4 pm since after Memorial Day weekend through to Labor Day weekend. Also, to Becky who has opened the doors on Sundays from 2 to 4, hit or miss, or as many as she can!

So, please stop by and visit.

If you have driven past Sally Perrow's place, the old Jonathan Kennett home on Conway Road (Route 113) and noticed the brush cleaned out of the old Keneson graveyard, that's the work of Doug Haver. Doug has been spending his free time going to the old graveyards and cleaning them up as he goes. Thank you Doug! This is such an important task that needs to be kept up, just as Roger Clayton continues to do with the old Town Pound. Thank you again Roger.

Speaking of the Town Pound, I have received a few tips and phone calls from kind townspeople who wish to help out with the lumber needed to replace the railing on the Pound. Hopefully, during this printing they will get organized

with Roger's help to get this project underway.

I also would like to recognize Neil and Eileen (CeeCee) Underwood who are the owners and caretakers of the old Madison Railroad Station, now known as the Silver Lake Railroad Station and Post Office. They have done a spectacular job refurbishing the old station and creating the loveliest of gardens in the Village of Silver Lake. Thank you on behalf of the Madison Historical Society.

By the way, the Historical Society is again selling mugs of the Railroad Station, Town Hall, Madison Corner Schoolhouse, and the old Town Hall, which is the Historical Society Museum. They are \$10 each.

Mary K.W. Lucy

WISH LIST

1. Executive Board Secretary
2. Program Coordinator
3. Vice President
4. Lap Top Computer
5. Donations toward new displays.
6. Donations of rough sawn timber for the Pound or funds toward the efforts.
7. Donations towards expanding our Tool Shed for more exhibit space.

Executive Board 2005

Mary K.W. Lucy, President
Becky Knowles, Treasurer and Curator
Lisa Olszewski, Publicity
Olive Clayton, Mailings

UPCOMING PROGRAMS

August 18 *Lee Middlekauff and Roger Clayton*

The sequel to:

"Photographic Perspectives of Madison, Past and Present"
Madison Elementary School – Noyes Hall

September 15 *Raymond Stineford*
"Old Houses"

Madison Historical Museum

October 20 *"Snow Village Chronicles"*

Performed Live to the radio programs written by William Manley, from 1930s-40s, by a volunteer cast.

Madison Corner Schoolhouse

STRANDED ON MT. CHOCORUA

From Eleanor Tracy Jenkins: "This letter was written by my grandmother, Berta Bristol Tracy's sister, 'Aunt Sadie' (Sarah Anna Abigail Bristol Smith) to my father's cousin, Benjamin Bristol. It recounts the time my grandmother climbed Chocorua and was stranded overnight."

Next Meeting – August 18 – 7pm – At the Historical Museum
Lee Middlekauff and Roger Clayton

Photographic Perspectives of Madison – Past & Present

(Editor's note: The Tracy name has long been connected with summers spent on Silver Lake property. We reprint excerpts.)

September 20, 1925. Aunt Bertha wanted to climb Chocorua with Bob's help, so Miss Thomas (a friend) and I started with them to go as far as we cared, and then wait for them to come down. We did not get a very early start and took the Hammond Trail, driving in as far as we could. We were climbing and resting until we reached the flat rocks above the timberline where we could see Chocorua's bald top, and look off to Ossipee, Chocorua and Silver Lake. We decided we had gone far enough, and Aunt B. and Bob went on. It was between two and three o'clock. We took the key to the car so that if we got back to the car first we could get in. We sat down and ate our lunch... and started down the trail at four o'clock. A shower was threatening and we had a sprinkle before we reached the auto. The storm proved to be a thunderstorm, but we were protected in the car, wondering where the others were. Inky blackness fell upon us early and I could not find a flashlight. We waited there in the dark until about eight o'clock, when we started out in the rain and blackness to try to find our way out to the state road and to find help. The only way we could tell whether we were on the road was by feeling the gravel under our feet. We could not see our hand before our face. I suddenly went tumbling down a bank and Miss Thomas after me, umbrella and all. I soon stopped. I knew I was not hurt. (The letter continues with the pair recovering their bearings – and

the umbrella – and decided to return to the car. They stayed in it until daylight, then set out again to find help. She had the key to the car, not realizing that it also was needed for the "running part.")

Meanwhile (the narrative sequence places the events out of order) the other members of the party did reach the top of the mountain, about five o'clock. Of course, the same darkness that had settled onto the writer and her friend also dropped on the mountaintop. Bob took a serious tumble, they had no dry matches, no shelter, and could only shiver away the hours until dawn. The story has a happy ending. Help did arrive, they all got home safe, where those who had been worrying all night were greatly relieved. No one had known which trail was being climbed. And although there was a "shack" located in one area, it was not found.

This letter, written eighty years ago, gains interest in part because of its age, evoking a time of still early automobile travel, of batteries and flashlights, an umbrella put to good use, and a mountain where time is measured not by human events, but by geological eons.

The Madison Corner School 1835 – 1949

The Madison Corner School was one of several one-room schoolhouses in Madison. There were once nine schoolhouses in Madison, each within its own neighborhood. The Madison Corner School was noted as Madison School, District No. 1. The Madison Corner School, built in 1835, originally stood on

land across from Mooney Hill Road on what is now Route 113, also known as the Conway Road. For some time the building also served as the town meeting hall.

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 schoolhouse. 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.

The Madison Corner School continued functioning as a school through 1949. In that year the townspeople decided to start tuitioning their children to Kennett High School in Conway. The Madison High School became the Madison Elementary School. At that time, the Madison Corner School housed the fourth through sixth grades. The primary grades were housed in the schoolhouse located on High Street. The building soon became the Madison Town & School Library, officially in November 1951, and functioned that way until the town built a separate library building in 1994. The old schoolhouse was then being used as the school library, as well as extra learning space for students. Currently, it is used as a learning space for the third grades when they study Town history and history during colonial times. The building is

also used for some of the Historical Society meetings, as well as other group meeting space.

In 1979, Mrs. Katherine Hockings, Library Trustee of the Madison Town and School Library, submitted the needed paperwork to the United States Department of the Interior, Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service in Washington, D.C. As of December 1980, the Madison School, District No. 1 was officially entered in the National Register of Historic Places.

The building has gone through some changes over the years, but still retains much of its historical originality. The two front doors were for the purpose of separating the boys from girls entering the school, the boys entered from the right and the girls on the left. Originally there was a window centered between the two doors, behind the platform that raised the teacher's desk in the schoolhouse. The windows on the side of the building were vertical, of normal height, and were rearranged when the bookshelves were built.

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

"So the schoolhouse was about 25 years old when you came along and was also being used for town meetings since the town did not have a town hall. We do not know in what state of repair the building was, but we do know how the teacher of the 1859 summer term answered a question in the school register. The question: Has the room any arrangement for ventilation? The answer: Yes; half or more of the glass is out of each window. That term began May 30

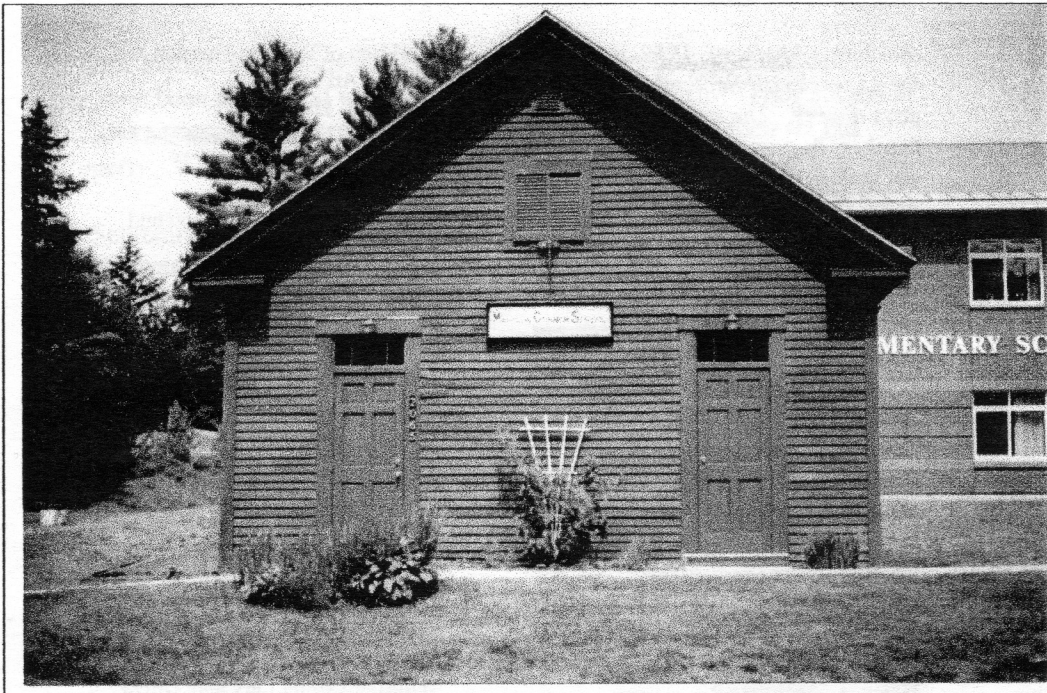
(not a holiday then), 1859, and ran for 15 weeks till September 22 six days a week. The salary of the teacher, Augusta A. Hodsdon, was not stated, but for the next term her pay was \$18 per month including board. The register lists as pupils 25 boys and 28 girls ranging in age from 4 to 18. Apparently most of the boys had to work on the farms in the summer. What would a modern teacher think of this? Following is a listing of the pupils with their names and ages in years and months (a few missing) as they appear in the register and the names of their parents in cases where I could identify them.

Ada Adams 6 (Parent unknown)
George Ambrose 6
Helen A. Ambrose 9.1
Mary E. Ambrose 11.9
 (children of Samuel Ambrose and Susan Chesley)
Ella Chapman
Mary E. Chapman 10.9
 (children of Eliphalet Chapman and Adaline Cook)
Mary Danforth 9.3
Florilla Danforth 13.1
 (children of Archibald Danforth and Polly Harriman)
Lorenzo Ferren 6
Otheniel Ferren 9
 (children probably of Otheniel Ferren and Louise Wilkinson)
Frances E. Forrest 5
Ellen A. Forrest 6
Harriet E. Forrest 9.3
 (children of John A. Forrest and Arvilla Kenerson)
Charles P. Frost 10
 (child of John L. Frost and Susan B. Chaloner)
Mary E. Gilman 5
Annette M. Gilman 11.2 --
 (children of Timothy Gilman and Caroline Crocker)
Harriet Green
 (child of Ansel B. Green and Harriet Forrest)
Charles S. Harmon 8
Emma E. Harmon 9.7
 (children of Jotham Harmon and Elizabeth Jackson)
Abbie M. Harmon 6
Rosilla Harmon 9.4
Marianna Harmon 11.9
Charles Harmon 11.9
William Harmon 15
George W. Harmon 18

(children of William Harmon and Abigail Atkinson)
Thirza E. Harmon 4
 (child of Thomas Harmon and Mary Lary)
Franklin Harmon 9
 (child of Benjamin Harmon and Elizabeth Jones)
Henry Harriman 10.6
Holland Harriman 4
 (children of Cyrus Harriman and Mary S. Harmon)
Charles Hayes 7.10
 (child of Harvey Hayes and Nancy J. Drew)
Charles Hunt 6
Ellen A. Hunt 13.9
 (child of Charles H. Hunt and Sally A. Harmon)
Roscoe Keniston 9.11
 (child of Roswell Keniston and Nancy Kelley)
Abby T. Lary 13.3
 (child of Daniel Lary and Thirza Forrest)
Charles Merrow 6
 (child of James J. Merrow and Elsa Harriman)
Susan F. Merrow 11.5
Alice O. Merrow 14.3
 (children of James J. Merrow and Elizabeth Hutchins)
Phebe M. Mooney 15
 (child of James Mooney and Eliza Shannon)
Augusta Osgood
Winfield Osgood 11
 (children of John C. Osgood)
Augusta Snell 5
Hiram Snell 6
Nancy J. Snell 9.3
William Snell 9.3
 (children of Jerome Snell and Hannah Lord)
Charles Snell 6
David Snell 12
 (parents unknown)
Ella Ward 6
Almira Ward 4
George Ward 9.9
 (children of Silas H. Ward and Elsa Harriman)
Alfred Whitney 9.2
 (parent unknown)

The register shows that there were three cases of corporal punishment during the term."

By Mary K.W. Lucy
 Originally written 1998, revised 2005



Madison Corner School also known as Madison School District No. 1
Picture taken July 2005.

***You too can be a
member of the
Madison Historical
Society.***

Send
\$5.00 individual or
\$10.00 for family yearly
membership
*along with your name,
address, and phone number
to:*

Madison Historical Society
Attention: Treasurer
P.O. Box 505
Madison, NH 03849

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P.O. Box 505
Madison, NH 03849**