

Madison Historical Society

Fall 2007

PRESIDENT'S LETTER

The leaves have been changing quickly around here this year and it is time to button up for the cold days ahead. The museum is now closed for the season, but we are always happy to open it up if you are traveling here during our off- season. That is, as long as the snow hasn't piled up yet.

This summer was a busy one for our members and volunteers. We had our most successful Blueberry Festival ever during Old Home Week thanks to Bob Nipher and all those who contributed to make the occasion our best fundraiser of the year! Roy Bubb told me that he was busier at the museum the weeks after Old Home Week than ever before. Roy faithfully opens our doors every Tuesday from Memorial Day until Labor Day as Docent. He gets assistance from Roger Clayton and sometimes others who come in to just hang out and talk Madison history. We would not know what to do without all of you! Thank you.

It seems I get busier this time of year with more queries and e-mails from our web site. I have included one in this newsletter of Jackie (Everett) Bonafide's early recollections of her summers in Silver Lake. We always welcome your memories or stories of Madison to include in future issues.

This fall the Board will be busy pulling together programs for next year, and planning future fund raisers. We will be working on having a Flea Market on Saturday May 17th, the Saturday before Memorial Day weekend. We will be holding this Flea Market at the Madison Fire Station. Please mark it on your calendars and let us know if you want a table to sell your goods!

The holidays will be with us before we know it, and our next newsletter won't be out until January or February. So until then, the

Madison Historical Society Executive Board *Wishes you a Happy and Healthy Holiday Season and see you in 2008!*

Mary K.W. Lucy

WISH LIST

1. Lap Top Computer.
2. Donations toward new exhibit displays.
3. Donations towards expanding our Tool Shed for more exhibit space.

Executive Board

Mary K.W. Lucy, President
Linda Drew Newton Smith, Vice President
Robin M. Tagliaferri Ferreira, Secretary
Becky Knowles, Treasurer and Curator

Reminder: If you would like to receive your newsletter by e-mail please e-mail Mary with your e-mail address and note this request to:

ghostduster@roadrunner.com

BLAST FROM THE PAST

This is taken from an old newspaper article, probably from The Reporter, sometime after the Madison Historical Society meeting dated October 19, 1960.

Gilman Genealogy Given at Madison Historical Meeting

The regular monthly meeting was held on Oct. 19 at 7:30 p.m. at the Historical Building with President Acker presiding. There were 33 members and two visitors present.

We opened with the Pledge to the Flag, followed by reading of the secretary's report of the last meeting and the treasurer's report. The president then read the list of committees, their members and functions, along with suggestions for projects. He mentioned, once more, how grateful we are to Fred Bickford, Ernest Meader and Harold Colcord for their much appreciated work, in and around our building. It was voted that we join the State Historical Society and forward our dues at once. Delegates were requested for attendance at the State Meeting this coming week, but there were no volunteers other than Mr. and Mrs. Acker. 200 copies of our by-laws were acknowledged, and our sincere thanks to Miss Helen Blaisdell of the Effingham Society extended for her generous offer to print them. We voted to send a small check along with our thanks to at least help cover the expense. These by-laws are available to all members, or to anyone who is interested.

Herb Weston was called upon to speak on two different subjects. He first spoke of the search in progress for the Cemetery on Lyman Mountain. Several trips have been made, to date, with no trace yet found. There are those who are certain that the plot is there, as well as those who say it doesn't exist. Herb also displayed, and read quotes from old books, which he recently purchased from the Old Book Shop in Lisbon. Among the most interesting quotes from one book, was the story of the "Cold Summer." This was in July 1816, and written about the Town of Lyman in Belknap County. It is claimed that ice a foot thick remained in open wells in mid-July,

and observations were made in regard to logs being still frozen to the ground at that time. The thaw did not take place until late in July. **(Editor's note: And some of us are worried about global warming.)** Herb read some old-fashioned remedies from another old book, which in this day of modern medicine were not only humorous, but downright revolting. One, for example, was the use of the skin of raw fish for a leg plaster. We imagine that after two or three days, as the cure called for, that the cure was wholly as unpleasant as the original injury.

Beatrice Harmon demonstrated the Reed Organ, which has been given to us by Mrs. Betty Davis, and the expense of restoration borne by our Doctor William E. Hocking. It is now in excellent condition, and we are extremely indebted to both of these people for the gift. It will add much to our winter meetings. Our Grand Square piano, which was donated by Mr. and Mrs. J. D. Hayes is also much appreciated, but due to its size it is in the main unheated hall and will be used during the warmer weather. It is impossible to list all of gifts here, even though our local newspapers are exceptionally cooperative in publishing our news. We are glad, however, to accept any items of historical value, and will do our best to display them with proper credits.

At 8:20 p.m. program chairman George Shaw, Jr., presented Mr. and Mrs. Arthur Gilman for a talk on their work compiling the Gilman genealogy. Arthur opened with a reading from "Hiawatha", which partially inspired him in this work. To be, of necessity, very brief, the Gilman name originated in North Wales in the year 843. The coat of arms for the family, which he displayed, was granted by the Heralds College, in 1483. The coat of arms is centered by a man's leg, which gave it the name of the "Knight of the Black Leg." This originated from the story of one of the original Gilman's searching for a legendary character, and in the pursuit, injuring his leg by being

bitten by a monster in a lake, which was reputed to be the guardian of the mountain, upon which the character supposedly lived. The Knight's leg was black for the rest of his life, therefore the name and design of the coat of arms. Mrs. Gilman then read historical records of civil and political activities of the family from a published work, along with a summation of the family stature and traits. Arthur explained that his work has reached only the point where the family reached America.

From the time the family reached these shores, his work has become increasingly difficult due to a new ruling by the new Hampshire State Library stopping the practice of lending books by mail.

The Gilmans then gave us a short program which they termed, "Memories", going back to the first Madison Old Home Week in 1902, bringing back many memories to some of the members present.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:15 p.m. and all hands went to the kitchen where they were served hot coffee, cider and doughnuts by Mr. and Mrs. J. D. Hayes, and Mr. and Mrs. Leland Drew.

Our next meeting will be a joint meeting with the Tamworth Society, here in our Madison building, and we anticipate some interesting talks by our Tamworth neighbors.

MAILBAG

This is from a couple of e-mails that I received recently from Jackie (Everett) Bonafide.

I went to Camp Allegro from 1959 (when I was a camper) to around 1967 (when I was a counselor/water safety instructor). My grandparents were Mary and (Dr.) Paul Everett. They had a house on Winter Road between the Osgoods and the Schmeids for many years. My younger brother and I used to take our little motorboat (1 1/2 hp), "the Bettle Bug," over to Weston's Store every day and get the Boston Globe for our grandfather. Mr. Weston (Herb and Marion Weston) used to

write "Doc" on the top of the newspaper for him. I learned how to swim at the Sandy Beach, and still try to get up to Silver Lake a few times each summer to kayak around the lake. Silver Lake is a wonderful, magical place and I have amazing memories of my summers there.

Did you know that Chick's sawmill used to make wooden heels for ladies shoes? We used to keep them (rejects, I guess) in our woodbox to use for kindling.

Does anyone else remember this? And better yet, does anyone have any of these lying around? Let me know if you do.

Editor's note: We welcome all stories and memories, long or short to add to the newsletter. Please e-mail to Mary Lucy at: ghostduster@roadrunner.com or by mail to: Mary Lucy, 534 Moores Pond Rd., Silver Lake, NH 03875.

POETRY CORNER

We are happy to present another poem from the book of poems that Penny Hathaway copied and gave to me to share in our newsletter. The book is entitled, Whitton's Well, forty-three poems by Albert L. Watson, Copyright 1976 by A. L. Watson, printed by asc Creative Printing, inc., Hagerstown, Maryland. On the inside cover page it is inscribed, *For Leon Gerry of Madison Corner if he will put up with it.*

NOTE: As written by Albert L. Watson. Date unknown.

#33 NICKERSON'S ORCHARD

*Color breaks on these hills.
October wind speeds the pond
slapping dry shores.
Soon the pond will surge
in November's rains.
Old men who could remember red
apples
are too old to remember:
yet apples red among these pines.*



MILDRED NASON

She is pretty to walk with,
And witty to talk with,
And pleasant, too, to think on. *Milton*



MARTHA KENNETT

The soul of music slumbers in the shell
Till waked and kindled by the master's spell. *Rogers*



FLORENCE PEARSON

Humility, that low, sweet root
From whence all heavenly virtues shoot. *Moore*

MADISON HIGH SCHOOL FIRST GRADUATING CLASS 1923

This is taken from *The
Madisonian*, dated June, 1923:
THE SENIORS

Madison High School will graduate its first class, June 15, 1923.

If the future of this school depends to any degree upon the standards set by these young ladies – three distinct types of ideal young womanhood – Madison High School will continue to be a beacon light in education for northern New Hampshire.

Madison High! Only three years old, yet it has already established a record for excellent scholarship and high ideals that is attracting the attention of our state officials. When this school was started, there were twelve earnest boys and girls enrolled. Owing to various reasons four have left school. All did most

satisfactory work during the first year, but Martha, Mildred and Florence were especially ambitious in Latin and Mathematics, and as a result have completed the state program – and then some – in three years. Their classmates of the first year are now Juniors and can be depended upon to maintain the high standard of the school.

Martha Kennett was born in Madison, May 3, 1905. She attended the Madison Corner grade school, where she acquired a good grammar school education. Her record in High School has been highly creditable, attaining the rank of Honor Pupil every month for the three years. She has been prominent in every school function. She will enter Radcliffe in September.

Mildred Nason was born in Madison, May 14, 1905, just eleven days later than Martha. She also attended the Madison Corner School. Her work in High School has been excellent, especially this last year. Her name has generally been on the Honor Roll. She has participated in all the school events during her

course. She is undecided as to college.

Florence Pearson, a little older than her two classmates, was born in Campton, New Hampshire, June 11, 1902. As she came to Madison when very young, we may consider her a Madison girl. Her grammar school life was in the Nickerson School where she made an excellent record. In High School her work has been nearly perfection in every subject. Like her two classmates, she has taken part in all school plays and other school activities. She will enter Plymouth Normal School in the fall.

Fortunate indeed is Madison High to have its first graduating class leave behind them such beautiful ideals to inspire the coming classes!



Madison Historical Society Museum - 1884

Madison Historical Society
P.O. Box 505
Madison, NH 03849

***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,
phone number, and e-mail address
to:*

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

The Madison Historical
Society Newsletters can also
be found on our web page:
<http://madisonhistorical.us/>

GIFTS

Donations by check or cash - the most direct and immediate way to offer support. Your gift will be deeply appreciated, whether in response to our mailed appeal or at a time convenient to you. As a non-profit organization, all gifts we receive are tax deductible to the full extent allowed by law.

Memorial gifts- one of the most meaningful ways to acknowledge the passing of a loved one is by offering a gift as a tribute to a life lived. Memorial gifts become part of our Memorial Fund, which supports the work of the Madison Historical Society. Many times, families include a request for memorial gifts as part of the newspaper obituary. Often, individuals choose to make gifts in memory of their loved ones on birthdays or to mark the anniversary of their passing. A listing of the donors' names and addresses (but not the gift amount) is provided to the deceased's next of kin. Families tell us memorial gift tributes help to bring comfort and solace during their time of bereavement.