



Madison Historical Society Museum - 1884

# Madison Historical Society

S U M M E R 2 0 0 9

## W I S H L I S T

1. An extra Board member or two.
2. Lap Top Computer.
3. Donations towards expanding our Tool Shed for more exhibit space.
4. Donations toward the Building Restoration Fund.

## Executive Board

Mary K.W. Lucy  
*President*

Linda Drew Newton  
Smith  
*Vice President*

Patricia Ambrose  
*Recording Secretary*

Robin M. Tagliaferri-  
Ferreira  
*Publicity Secretary*

Penny Hathaway  
*Treasurer*

Becky Knowles  
*Curator*

## P R E S I D E N T ' S L E T T E R

It's been quite rainy all of June and much of July here in Madison. As I write we finally have had several sunny, but cool days in a row. We all are hoping for a sunny and dry Old Home Week.

By the time this newsletter gets published we will have had our Annual meeting in July. At this year's Annual meeting, board members were elected for the next two years. We are happy to add Pat Ambrose as our newest member to our Board.

Pat has both a love for history and genealogy. She graduated from Bridgewater State College in Bridgewater, Massachusetts with a degree in History, and worked as the Administrative's Assistant in the Harvard Health Publications Group at the Harvard Medical School, working specifi-



cally on the Harvard Mental Health Newsletter.

Pat's husband, Roger was born and raised here in Madison. Pat and Roger moved permanently from Abington, MA to Madison a year ago. They have four children and ten grandchildren. Welcome Pat!

The Society building got a much needed face lift this Spring. We had the fence

removed and replaced with new fencing that highlights the old granite posts, and the building has been freshly painted. A few of the back windows needed replacing, many were re-glazed, and all were cleaned.

On the inside, we placed the glass doors on most of our exhibit cases. Stop by and check it out!

Mary K.W. Lucy

## B L A S T F R O M T H E P A S T

This is taken from one of our old Secretary's meeting minutes notebooks. These meeting minutes are dated May 16, 1962. There was no signature of who the writer was, however the handwriting appears to me to be that of Richard Hocking.

*Madison Historical Society meeting called to order at*

*7:45 by President P. [Percy] A. Blake. 24 members and 11 guests present. B. Harmon played organ for one verse of "America," followed by the salute to the flag.*

*Secretary and Treasurer's reports read and declared approved.*

*President Blake requested Mrs. Acker to report on the*

*N.H. Historical Society meeting at Peterboro, which she did in her usual interesting and cleverly detailed fashion.*

*It was reported that Henry Forrest was working on a Forrest genealogy, which may be of interest to our Society. Gifts from Noah Ward and Leon Gerry were announced, and also the*

loom which was presented by Mrs. Lyndon Emerson of Chatham, Me., and which was brought over to our building by Mr. Blake and other members. Lee Drew reported that the Historical Society stationary had arrived and was in the hands of the secretary.

Business meeting adjourned.

The four young students who were successful contestants on "The History of Madison" essay, were present to read their work.

Charles Sheaff 1st prize VI grade \$5.00  
Judy Bickford 2nd prize IV grade \$3.00  
Thomas Currier 3rd prize VI grade \$1.00  
Dorothy Ward 4th prize VI grade \$1.00

Prizes were presented by Percy Blake. The boys and girls all read well, and presented their material in a manner which showed much research and considerable originality in style.

Social hour followed. Delicious refreshments were served by the hostesses, Ruth Chick and Hazel Drew.

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## MAILBAG

Penny Hathaway sent me the lyrics to a song written by Ethan W. Pearson, self published sheet music with no known date. She found Ethan mentioned in an article from the Rochester Courier, dated 9/26/1930 which mentions Ethan:

Ethan W. Pearson of Somersworth, teacher of piano, returns this week from his vacation and will resume teaching at his studio, Room 6, Public National Bank building, this city beginning Oct. 2nd, and will be in Rochester the last three days of each week.

Could Ethan have possibly been vacationing in Madison?

### Silver Lake Waltz Song

1. When the summertime comes and you're wondering where 'Twill be best your vacation to spend,

We'd advise you to go to a spot you should know, 'Tis the best in the world we contend;

Silver Lake is the place in the "Old Granite" State, In all ways it will hold to the test,

The cool mountain air, the Lake blue and fair, And the girls you find there are the best.

### Chorus:

Silver Lake! Silver Lake! The fairest place of all,

Thro' all the year when far or near, We all felt its call;

"Silver Lake House" and the "Lakeside", "Grey Gables" and the "Wayside"

And the Camps on the beaches are full of the "peaches" of dear old Silver Lake.

2. If you wish for a climb, then Chocorua's devine, There is nothing to beat it at all, There's the trip to the Mine, and the bathing is fine, And the dance at the "Odd Fellows Hall";

Take the trip to the Boulder before you get older; Around are attractions galore, Then at eve take a row with some girl that you know, And both sing as you push off from shore.

### Repeat Chorus

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## MAILBAG

**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.**

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## THE HISTORY OF MADISON

Written by Charles Sheaff

Grade 6

[1962]

The town of Madison started out as a part of Eaton. Madison became a town by itself by an act of legislature December 17, 1852.

The town contains sixty square miles of ground. The northern part of town is made up of grants of two thousand acres each. These grants were given to Daniel McNeil, Joshua Martin, Alexander Blair, John Caldwell and Nathaniel Martin. Madison is bounded on the North by Albany and Conway—East by Conway and Eaton, South by Freedom and on the West by Tamworth and Albany.

There has been a marked decline in the population of the town since 1860. The table below shows readers, at a glance, how the town has become smaller in population.

1860 - 806	1900 - 529
1870 - 646	1910 - 507
1880 - 586	1920 - 482
1890 - 554	1962 - 454

The first railroad in Madison came in 1870. It burnt in 1874. The railroad station was on the opposite side of the track than it is now.

The Silver Lake Post Office was established in 1878 with F. C. Pearson as postmaster. Later it was kept by John Ferrin.

The East Madison Post Office was established about 1854.

A library was organized at Madison Corner about 1895. The state offered to help any town which would raise a certain sum. Madison took advantage of this offer and the results was a new library. It was located first in the Burke house at the stone watering trough. Later it was in Augustus Larys house now D. L. Harmond's. The present building formerly stood near the Town Hall and was the Post Office.

The Silver-Lead Mine, discovered by Ephraim Tibbetts and first worked in 1826, gave glittering promise. It is on the eastern side of Silver Lake. The mine is near an immense sandy plain where rock exposures are almost unknown. The rock is quartzite. Later it was worked by a Mr. Colby from Georgia who put into the mine \$80,000 all of which he lost. Squire Colby, as he was called had a home which was located near James Gerry's watering trough. In 1868 Henry banks, who had a hotel where Whites Garage now is, with two others, secured the mine, erected a mill run by a fifteen horse-power steam engine, employed ten men and mined 1,500 tons of ore in that and the next year. They claimed to get twenty percent of zinc and twenty percent of galena from the ore. The galena gave seventy percent of lead and six pounds of silver per ton. In 1870 the work enlarged but after a short time was abandoned again. After a long season of quiet, operations commenced again in 1888, being carried on by New York parties.

According to an old resident - About 1870 there was an old washing mill with undershot wheel at the foot of the lake. The rock was pounded with hammers separating the ore as much as possible, and then the ore was hauled by oxen over the old Iron Ore Road to Portland. This road ran down behind Ossipee Lake through Effingham and so on the trail to Portland. It took days to make the journey. Drivers had places to stop for the night, paying only for a place to stand the oxen. Food was carried for man and beast. In winter the food was carried in frozen state and chopped off as needed. It is also reported that iron ore was hauled to Tamworth where it was used in the iron mill.

About 1874 a second mill was set up, having a fifteen hundred pound hammer to crush the rock and a revolving table on which the ore was separated by gravity. In 1879 there was a mill on Cook's Pond. Later there was another on Silver Lake. Still later another mill was operated near the pond where the ore was crushed, passed over rollers and blown through a cloth.

The only Pound, which the town had in early days, was situated at the turn of the road as you go from Maple Avenue to Pearson's Heights. It was a square enclosure built all the way round with a high stone wall. On the top of the wall on the four sides were hewed beams one foot square. Posts one and a half feet high were sunk at intervals in the beams. On top of these posts other beams four inches square were placed with the posts fastened in them. On the north side was a swing gate with a lock. The Pound was used for enclosing stray cattle. Owners could get their animals after paying for what damage they had done. There was a pound keeper elected each year at the March town meeting. Thomas Granville was the last pound keeper, elected in 1861 to care for the Pound and keep it locked and in repair.

In 1875 Nathaniel M. Nason began the manufacture of pantaloons for Boston merchants. He employed a hundred sewers who made one hundred pairs per day. Some sewers made four pairs per day. His work for one firm in 1888 amounted to \$4800.

A cabinet shop stood between the residence of J. H. Burk and Arthur Tylor's store. Here were made by hand tubs, churns, chairs, bedsteads and tables.

A cooper's shop stood opposite Henry Plummer's residence, somewhere near Madison garage.

A man named Merrow had a blacksmith's shop on the corner near Will Leavitts at the entrance to Danforth Lane, now Winter Road.

The Ambrose blacksmith shop was opened as far back as 1871. The Ambrose place just above the shop is one of the oldest houses in town.

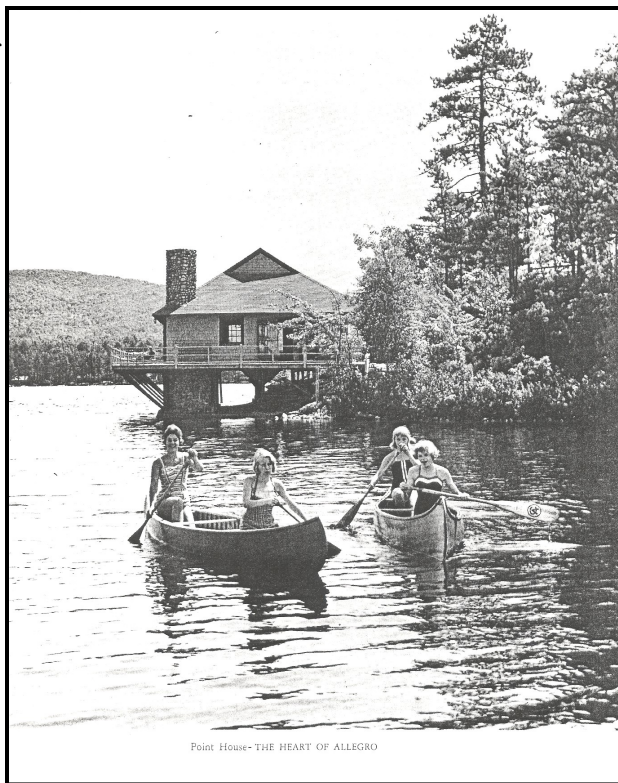
About 1785 Samuel or John Banfield built the first frame house in town, it was in back of what is now Jesse Ambrose house.

The first eleven families in Madison came in 1787. The families were those of John Banfield, Thomas Burke, Thomas Danforth, Dr. James Jackson and Timothy Danforth. Joshua Nickerson, William Snell, Timothy Gilman, John Atkinson, Job Allard, Robert and John Kennett and Jacob Blaisdell were early on this soil.

The formation of Madison's physical features is due to glacial action. When the ice receded, it deposited many boulders about the land. Chief among these is Madison Boulder, the largest known in America. This boulder is ninety feet long, thirty feet high and forty feet wide. Silver Lake and the surrounding meadows are, no doubt, the results of glacial action.

THE END.

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This picture of Camp Allegro, the Point House, was emailed to me from Darrell F. Quinn. He wrote that his sister, Cheryl Littlefield was a counselor at the camp in the mid sixties. Photo from a camp brochure circa 1964.

# EXERPT FROM THE TOWN REPORT For year ending January 31, 1931

## REPORT OF MADISON FIRE DEPARTMENT

Balance in treasury Jan. 31, 1930	\$157.03
Received from Town of Tamworth for fire at Butler's Bridge	\$67.20
Received from Town of Freedom for fire at Thurston farm	\$36.50
Received for advances to Firemen	\$21.00
Received from Town of Madison for 1930 appropriation	<u>\$280.00</u>
Total Receipts	\$561.73
Less payments as follows:	
Paid firemen for fires as follows:	
Snowmobile fire	\$26.00
Mark Nickerson fire (Jan. 1930)	34.00
Mark Nickerson fire (Jan. 1931)	3.00
Butler's Bridge fire	34.50
Ralph Leavitt's fire	10.50
Wm. Harmon's fire	4.00
Mr. Stevens'	4.50
Mrs. Martin's	5.50
Roy Meserve's	2.25
E.E. Kennett's	2.50
E.E. Hoyt's	4.00
Thurston's place in Freedom	<u>28.00</u>
Total paid for fires	\$158.75
Paid for firemen's insurance	\$15.00
Smoke masks	4.00
Repairs to trucks, pump, and Chemical containers	99.00
Lights at fire station	26.41
Janitor	55.00
Gas, oil and supplies	17.52

Wood for fire station	20.00
Sawing and putting in the wood	3.75
Tires and tubes	21.34
Hose fittings and repairs	10.42
George E. Chick for rent of garage to Jan. 1, 1931	<u>50.00</u>
Total payments	\$481.91
Balance in treas. Jan. 31, 1931	\$79.82
Firemen's account	
Balance in treas. Jan. 31, 1930	\$67.96
Received from Old Home Week celebration	\$95.13
Received from Ball ground subscriptions	<u>\$143.00</u>
Total receipts	\$306.09
Less payments as follows:	
Paid for flowers	\$11.50
For supper costs	6.72
Old Home Week expenses	90.90
Town for cash advanced firemen	21.00
Labor on Ball grounds per list	<u>166.95</u>
	\$297.07
Balance in treas. Jan. 31, 1931	\$9.02
List of payments for labor on Ball Grounds	
Donald Kennett	\$ .75
Earl Kennett	3.50
Jack Frost	10.50
Stanley Jackson	7.00

Paul Nason	4.75
Raymond Twombly	6.75
Albion Twombly	33.25
Arthur Gilman	3.50
Raymond Huff	38.50
Herbert Leavitt	2.25
Ellsworth Moore	3.00
Frank Moore	6.00
F. W. Ferrin, shoeing horse	3.00
Gilman Bros., grain for horse	3.40
J. F. Chick & Son, supplies	2.05
J. W. Tyler, truck and man	12.50
J. L. Frost	14.00
Ernest Ames	10.50
F. W. Ferrin, repairing scraper	<u>1.75</u>
Total paid out by firemen	\$166.95

In addition to the above amount expended upon the Base Ball Grounds the Firemen, together with many other citizens of the town, gave very freely, their money, labor, materials and use of trucks and machinery in improving the grounds. Many of our Summer residents and guests donated money toward the work and their help was much appreciated. In order to complete the job, which is well started, the town should appropriate money to finish the Athletic Field this year.

B. P. GERRY  
Treas. Madison Fire Dept.

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