



Madison Historical Society Museum - 1884

Madison Historical Society

F A L L 2 0 0 9

W I S H L I S T

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

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

The summer flew by too fast, and this fall seems to have come too early. The Historical Society had a successful season with many wonderful programs. One of the best was this September's program, "*Cellar Holes & Stone Walls in Madison*", as presented by Roger Clayton. Madison TV filmed the program which has been televised locally. If you missed this wonderful program, both the Society and the Madison Library have a copy of the DVD for loan.

Our next major project

for the Madison Society Museum building will be to get the foundation work done which we are now looking forward to completing in 2011. Combined funding to date from the Town and our Building Restoration Fund efforts is now about \$70,000. This coming year we will be looking for a general contractor and venders to come up with updated estimates for this project. We will keep you informed of our progress.

Roy Bubb's book, *Visions from a White Mountain Palette, The*

Life and Times of Charles A. Hunt (Madison's White Mountain Painter), is now being sold for the reduced rate of **\$30.00**. If you know of someone who would like a copy, please send \$30.00 to the Madison Historical Society.

The Winter Newsletter with next year's program brochure will be out in February. Until then, the Board *wishes you Happy Holidays and we'll see you in 2010!*

Mary K.W. Lucy

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

This is taken from an old newspaper article, probably from *The Reporter*, sometime after the Madison Historical Society meeting dated November 15, 1961.

Madison Historical Society

The Madison Historical Society met at the Hall November 15, with twenty members present. The president Percy Blake, opened the meeting with prayer, Flag

Salute and a hymn. Beatrice Harmon was the organist. Dues were discussed and it was finally settled to send notices for neglected dues. The ox sling is in the cellar.

The President gave a short history of our song America, also the meaning of Thanksgiving. It is not a legal holiday but is a proclamation by the President.

There will be a Christmas party exchange of presents. Please mark all gifts "man

or woman."

We were very glad to welcome Mr. and Mrs. Henry Forrest as new members. Mr. Blake spoke about Early New Hampshire history as a program or project. Early land grants, rights of lands, mill sites, schools, churches and many other subjects would make very interesting papers or projects.

Subjects in connection
(cont. next page)

with Madison were discussed: Past summer residents, How well known; a number of well-known summer personalities were mentioned.

The program chairman, Mr. Milford gave a very interesting and humorous talk on N. H. folklore. He spoke of Yankees so called, their yarns, virtues and faults. The Yankee peddlers, known as news carriers of the day.

The horse jockey, the horse trader, the preacher, the village inn keeper, the store keeper, all these were known for their ability to repeat stories from memory, which have been handed down.

Artemas Ward called New Hampshire "The happy land of pumpkin pie." The members enjoyed Mr. Ward's talk very much.

The next speaker of the evening was Mr. Herbert Weston, who brought to us stories and warrants of the first town meeting, deeds of land rights, permission in writing to remove remains from one cemetery to another; grants of burying grounds; suits brought against the town for road work and the closing of a road.

List of first voters, their ages and occupation, dated 1853; the keeping of paupers in 1857; a robbery in town in 1861; a suit against the town for ten days work, bill being \$6.67, and another for 24 days work \$16.00. This was dated 1854.

These old papers were well preserved, and written so well that one had no difficulty in reading them. We thank Mr. Weston for bringing the past so vividly before us.

DUES

Please take a moment to review your mailing label. The date of your last membership payment appears above your name. We would hate to have you miss out on an issue of our newsletter. Thank you to all who have already renewed their memberships.



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.

HISTORY OF THE CHICK FAMILY & CHICK'S MILL March 2009 BY JUNE CHICK LOUD (Daughter of George E. and Marjorie Chick)

This history has been taken from the memoirs of George E. Chick, my father, and my brothers, Carlyle and Richard Chick, as well as other places of information.

Thomas Chick was born in England, possibly coming to Berwick, Maine in 1666. He had a son, Thomas, who had a son Aaron, who had a son Thomas. John, his son, my great, great, great grandfather was born about 1777 in Parsonsfield, Maine. He grew up there and married Mercy. They were the parents of John born about 1811 in the town of Effingham.

John grew up in Effingham and married Belinda Kennett. They moved to Madison about 1840. Madison at that time was a thriving community of over 800 people. John was a skillful carpenter who earned his living by making windows, doors, moldings, etc., with hand tools.

John, my great, great grandfather and his wife Belinda, had 2 sons, George and Robert, who with his wife Rhoda, lived in the house opposite what has been Ward's Apple orchard, and ran a successful summer boarding house [now known as the Maple Grove House]. Their son, Herbert, married Edith Pearson who most knew as Aunt Edie. They lived in the house opposite, known as the Gannett House, and cared for the Gannetts until they died. Rhoda died in 1916 and Herbert and Edith moved back to the old house, and kept house for Robert until he died in 1922.

George Chick, born about 1835, my great grandfather, married Mary Durrell, whose parents lived near the start of the Liberty Trail on Mt. Chocorua in Tamworth. When first married they lived for a few years in a house at the intersection of the road from Tamworth to Wonalancet, and then to Birch Intervale, near where the

CCC Camp was located during the FDR Administration. John F., my grandfather was born there in 1862. Besides John they had 3 other children who died in infancy.

At this time George operated a saw mill on the Swift River in Wonalancet. A few years later he and his family moved to Madison Corner and lived in the Madeline Martin house until 1884.

In 1867 John Chick, whose wife was Belinda, bought the saw and grist mill of Charles Hunt at Madison Corner on the stream near Harry Harmon's. They later sold this mill and George built a new mill in back of the Madison Garage [aka Ward's Garage]. He installed a small auxiliary steam engine and manufactured lumber, staves and wooden boxes. He had a good market for salt boxes which he hauled to Portland by ox team and brought back supplies of rum, molasses, and goods which were sold to the stores and taverns. This trip would take 3 days.

In 1881 this mill burned and in 1883 a new larger mill was built on Six Mile Pond, later named Silver Lake. This mill is where the present boiler is and was a combination saw and grist mill. This John also made bobbins, shingles and had a 4-side planer for dressing lumber. This mill burned in the 1890's, but was quickly rebuilt. The machinery for making bobbins and grinding grain was not replaced.

The Richard Libby family moved from Newburyport to a farm in the Mason School district. Mrs. Libby was a Pearson and wanted to be near her brother, Theodore Pearson. Hattie, one of their daughters was a school teacher. She and my grandfather, John F. Chick, were married in 1884. My great, great grandfather's wife, Belinda, had just passed away and they moved into what was the Gerald Ward house at Madison Corner to keep house for him. My grandfather, John, worked for his father at the mill.

After the new mill was completed at the lake, they built a 2-family house with 2 barns to store stock and horses. An 8' square cupola was added to one of the barns so they could watch for fire. After the house was built my great grandfather, George and his wife, Mary, moved into the house on the first floor and John and Hattie were on the 2nd floor. They needed domestic water so Grandpa entered into a partnership with Isaiah Forrest on a water system and a furniture and hardware store. The hardware store was next to Isaiah Forrest's house. There was a spring in Lyman's pasture with a windmill and hot

air pump. The water was pumped to a reservoir on top of the hill above the Silver Lake House, now the Leland Drew house. This water system furnished water for several buildings in the community as well as the mill. My brothers, Carlyle and Bob, when they were old enough, had to feed the hot air pump with kindling from the mill when there was insufficient wind to keep the windmill going and to keep water flowing to the reservoir.

John and Hattie had 3 children, Carrie, born in 1885, George, my father, born in 1891, and Doris, born in 1895, who died at the age of 8 from pneumonia. Carrie grew up learning to sew, cook, and do housework. Girls were taught to do this rather than seeking outside work except for teaching school as her mother had done. However, my grandfather needed someone to help him in the mill office since business had expanded greatly. My Aunt Carrie graduated from Dover Business College and worked for my Grandfather for several years. A very big help to him.

On April 26, 1902, the mill burned again, but was quickly rebuilt. George, my father, remembered bundling shingles, sawing laths and even running the moulder in that mill.

In those days there were from 12 to 15 men employed, and paid \$1.00 per day of 10 hours or as long as they could see. About 1903 an electric plant was installed to furnish lights for the mill and stable. My father, George, could remember stringing wires so that he could have lights in the woodshed so he could see while he was bringing in the wood. The electricity was turned off at 6:00 p.m.

The mill sawed logs and in the winter the crew was kept in the woods, the logs being brought to the mill by horse drawn sleds. The stable was full of horses. The logs that could not be sawed at this time were put on the ice on the lake and pulled out of the water in the spring.

When the steam mill was put in an engineer by the name of William Dummer from Newburyport, Mass., installed it. While he was working there he stayed at my grandfather's home. This was a good opportunity for Aunt Carrie to see what he was like, and they were married in my grandfather's home October 26, 1911, and moved to Rowley, Massachusetts.

George Chick, my great grandfather, died of a shock in 1904, at the age of 69. My



**John and Hattie Chick
C. 1900**

Photo file Madison Historical Society

father, George, could remember it well, as he always went into their kitchen after school to get a cookie or some goody his grandmother had made, and there was his grandfather lying on the floor with his grandmother sobbing her heart out.

The Madison Telephone Company was incorporated November 15, 1905 by John F. Chick, Bertwell P. Gerry, James O. Gerry, Frank B. Nason and Nathaniel M. Nason.

According to my father the mill burned again in 2 years, and nearly floored his father. But with his usual courage and faith in God, he built a 2-story mill from which the present plant has grown.

After graduating from Worcester Polytechnic Institute as a mechanical engineer in 1913, George was made a partner with his father, and the business was named John F. Chick & Son.

My mother, Marjorie Twombly, came to Silver Lake about this same time to teach at the Silver Lake School. My father soon met her and on June 16, 1915,

they were married in Alton, her hometown. My father had a new home built which they moved into on their return to Madison. I understand they came home via Conway and went to bed so that the people waiting for them at the head of the lake couldn't serenade them. This is the same house in which we children were born and lived in until adults. Carlyle born in 1916, Robert in 1918, June in 1920, Janet in 1922, and Richard not until 1932. My mother, Marjorie, died in 1959. George remarried a few years later to Flora Hobart, and they lived in that house until they were moved to a nursing home in Fryeburg.

At this time the business now had a cabinet department, window department, finishing department, and sold all materials necessary for building a house. The railroad ran through Madison which made it convenient to ship and receive materials to be bought and sold.

Most of the retail business was done in the spring and fall. During the winter the logs were cut and put into the lake. In the spring they were sawed and sold. In the early summer there wasn't much business, so the crew and lumber materials were taken to Ocean Park, Maine, to build summer cottages. The materials were loaded into a freight car and shipped to Ocean Park. The freight car was used as a warehouse for the time that was necessary to build a cottage or two. My grandfather went with his men to Ocean Park. They would hitch up a team of horses and drive the distance which would take all day. In the late summer the men came back to do the haying. The hay being used to feed the horses in the winter. They would stay there until they had built a cottage or two. I can just remember being there. We have pictures of us sitting on the steps of one of the cottages when Janet was just a baby. Several years ago we went down there to see if we could find some of the cottages. They are still there but there are so many more, that we had to hunt. The mill also built several houses in the village for the crew to rent and live in—Virginia Perreault's

house, one next door which was torn down when the road was rebuilt in the 50's and also the house where Eddie Giles now lives.

In 1920 or 21, my grandfather built the house now owned by Ruth Chick, and moved from the mill house to the new one in January 1922. The mill house was rented to workers at the mill. John retired from the mill in 1930, leaving my father, George to run it. John bought the Gannett House and started the apple orchard, which he ran until his death in 1941. The company hired Freddie Weed to work for Grandpa, planting 1000 trees mostly apple with a few cherry and peach trees. Carlyle joined the 4-H and grew vegetables which he sold to people around the lake. Carlyle and Bob would get up early when the trees needed to be sprayed and be in the orchard at day break to spray the trees before the wind came up. This is the orchard that Grafton Ward bought and ran after his return from World War II.

The Stevens lived in the upstairs apartment of the mill house for years. Mr. Stevens worked at the mill until he retired. Mrs. Stevens had a shop in two of the rooms where she sold many gift items. Mr. Stevens made jigsaw puzzles from scraps of plywood and pictures taken from calendars, etc. We bought several of them. Upon his death Rita Kennett took over the shop and moved it to Madison Corner.

Madeline and Noah Ward lived in the mill house for many years when Noah worked in the mill. Others lived there until the building was torn down to make room for other things.

In approximately 1920, the cabinet shop and window frame shop was added to make window and door frames for Brockway Smith, a Boston wholesaler. The last thing they made were hangar doors for the U.S. Cold Weather Experimentation Station to test cold weather equipment such as clothing and mobile equipment for such places as Greenland. The station was on top of Mt. Washington, the only place in the U.S. suitable for such a station.

In the winter of 1926, Grandpa and Ba Chick, (John and Hattie) went to St. Cloud, a new city just established by Spanish American War veterans. He bought a house on New York Avenue, the main street. The next year Carlyle, when he was 12, spent the winter with them in Florida. That year Grandpa bought another house on Kentucky Avenue which they fixed up to rent. They worked on it every day.

At the bottom of the depression in the early 1930s, Dad had 14 men working one day a week. They never laid off workers if there was any way to give them work. The one day's wages was enough to buy what they needed at the store as each had his own home. They could work for the town to pay their taxes. They burned wood for heat, and they could cut what they needed on Chick's wood lot. Most families had a garden and a cow or pig as well as chickens. We always had a garden and chickens. I belonged to 4-H and canned vegetables, made jelly, etc. I can remember picking blackberries and blueberries, and shelling peas, and cutting string beans to be canned. We lived off these things all winter.

Dad and Cleve Weed had a contract for the Otis place in Tamworth to take to Philadelphia for signature during the Bank Holiday in 1933. They had no money so they went over to Stacy's and borrowed what they needed, and returned from Philadelphia with a signed contract that kept the crew busy that spring and summer.

By June 1935, he had 40 men working 50 hours a week. That was how fast things changed. In March, George got a night letter from a wholesaler in Pittsburgh about unloading freight cars in Conway and delivery of lumber to Passaconway for two CCC camps. Then he received the millwork contract for Christ Church in Hanover. This was the beginning of millwork contracts and the employment of Jesse Currier, who later was mill foeman for 15 years and really made the mill go.

Dad was a self-taught progressive businessman, subscribing to Kiplingers Business Letter, and other publications. In 1930 he bought Blue Cross Health Insurance for all employees and their families. In 1931, he instituted profit sharing with all employees, which in 1950 was changed to a retirement plan. This paid off in loyalty from his employees.

During this time the orchard was flourishing. Grandpa had a 1924 Chevrolet coupe with a small truck body which he drove back and forth to the farm with whatever he needed. Grandpa let my brother, Bob, drive back and forth when he was only 10 or 12. During harvest time we all went up to help. At that time we had to sort, wrap, and package the apples. We had box material in our garage which the boys nailed together. We also had peck boxes which we filled for some of the mills

best customers and contractors to be given to them at Christmas. We got the drops, and not so good apples.

Grandpa and Ba Chick, John and Hattie, continued to go to Florida every winter until his death in 1941, and managed the apple orchard all summer and fall. They would sit on their front porch evenings and in early October when the sun got to a certain place on Mt. Choconua say it is time to pack up and leave. We would have an early Thanksgiving, and they would be off. In the early years by train and later they drove with sight-seeing on the way.

When Carlyle came back from Florida, Dad told him he was to work 1/2 a day every day he was out of school either at home or at the mill. He learned to work and learn what a day's work was worth. He was a truck driver during NRA days in 1932-33. By order of the President, the hours were cut to 40 hours per week. Dad's truck drivers were used to working 50 hours, so their 40 hours were up sometime Wednesday. School day finished at 2:00 p.m., so on Friday Carlyle would leave school and go directly to the yard and load up for a long trip on Saturday, sometimes to Massachusetts or a CC camp in the White Mountain National forest. He graduated from Madison High School in 1934 and went to work at the mill until fall when he went to Worcester Tech. He came down with scarlet fever the first day back after winter vacation. We were quarantined for 30 days. My folks made the decision for him not to go back to school, so he went to work at the mill.

When I was in high school, I worked in the office on Saturdays mostly filing. At Thanksgiving time Janet and I put the calendars together. The large ones had to be rolled and wrapped, the small ones put into envelopes, and they all had to be addressed ready to be mailed or given out. Dad didn't like it if we didn't show up on time. Most years I went to Camp Huckins in July, and then worked at the office the rest of the summer.

Helen Chase worked in the office at this time. She lived in Conway and for years came down on the train at 8:00 and back at 3:00. After a few years she boarded with Noah and Madeline Ward. There was also a bookkeeper from Conway, and later they drove back and forth together.

In the fall of 1937, both Bob and I



Teamsters: Ernest Harriman, John Hurd, Jesse Shackford, Arthur Ward. Sitting: Hardware traveling man (name not known), John F. Chick, Clarence Thurston, George E. Chick, Joseph Danforth, Fred Hammond, and Willie Twombly. C. 1915 Photo file Madison Historical Society

went to Boston to school. Bob to Wentworth Institute, while I went to Chandler Secretarial, both 2-year courses. After graduation Bob went to work for Gerald Stanley and I worked for the Extension Service in Conway. Dad told me he could pay me more, but I thought I was better off somewhere else.

Meanwhile, Carlyle was getting his education at the mill. Dad was a good instructor, but he also had a quick temper, although he never held a grudge. He would fire the foreman one day, and call him back the next. Carlyle learned a great deal. He went out delivering calendars, and got acquainted with a lot of people and made friends. He also went out collecting accounts receivable and met a lot more people. He had a regular route and collected \$.50 or \$1.00 a week.

Dad sent Carlyle to Johns Manville Short Course on Management Sales and Estimating in Atlantic City and Boston. He became acquainted with some influential people, and developed a group of contractors who worked with the Chicks. Carlyle and dad did all the estimating and furnished all the materials for building and the contractors sis the building.

Dad made it a point to get to know the elected politicians. As a result they became friends. One day Sherman Adams, our representative to Congress, came to call and said to Carlyle, "Shall I throw my hat in

first?"

George used to call Mother some days at 11:30 and say he was bringing home someone for lunch, so we got to know some of the salesmen, etc.

Carlyle made many shop drawings and estimates to subcontract the millwork for the general contractor. In 1940 he learned the mill had never made money. Dad explained that it carried its share of the overhead and that allowed the other departments to make money. It didn't make sense to Carlyle. As a result of his interest in special millwork, and his friendship with the architects and contractors, he brought those orders to the mill, and many buildings in Maine and New Hampshire have a lot of Chick's millwork in them, including Maine Medical Center in Portland, and Dartmouth College.

When Professor Hocking's stone house was built he wanted a circular staircase, which was built at the mill and then installed in that house. I have never seen it, but Prof. Hocking told me a few years ago it was still there and I should go see it.

When the War came in 1941, Bob joined the Navy, as a carpenter's mate. I joined the Waves in October of 1942. The mill kept going with some war work and sub-bidding from office wholesalers during the 1940's. Carlyle had been married in 1940 to Frances Evans, and had a

daughter, Rony, so he and Dad kept the mill running. They were able to rebuild the mill and keep the retail business going in good shape and make a profit.

When Bob came home in 1945, he married Ruth Vittam in 1943 and joined the business in a supervisory position.

In 1950 Carlyle was promoted to general manager, and verbally entered into an agreement with Sam Bridgeport of Bridgeport Lumber to sort and mill lumber. There was some disagreement, and in 1952 Carlyle decided it best to resign from the company and find work elsewhere. This left George and Bob to run the mill, which they did.

There was a new office built in 1952, much bigger with more room for paint and hardware, with a kitchen upstairs so they could have dinner meetings there. Sometime later the mill house was demolished to make room for other things. In 1970 there was a celebration for being in business for 100 years.

In 1971, the Chicks decided to divest themselves of the business and it was sold to W. Richard Kitchen, Bartram W. Bumstead and Wilbur C. Meader, with the Chick name being retained. The retail business stayed there for a few years, later moved to North Conway where it remains. The business in Silver Lake is **Chick Packaging**.

George, my father died in 1984; Carlyle, my brother, in 1995; Bob in 2001, Janet in 1998, and Dick in 2002. I am the last of the family, except for my two sister-in-law, Ruth Chick of Silver Lake, and Lorna Chick of Spokane, Washington, and all our children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

[Final paragraph edited for family privacy.]

Editors note: Not mentioned in June's history, but should be noted, is the first Chick mill. According to Roger Clayton, this mill was located about 100' up from the brook on Maple Grove Road, on Robert Chick's property. This mill was water powered from the three small ponds from the property because the brook did not have enough water to power it alone. The mill produced wood shingles and barrel staves.
