

Madison Historical Society Museum - 1884

Madison Historical Society

F A L L 2 0 1 0

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

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 the Tool Shed for more exhibit space.

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

I am sure many of you have been enjoying this beautiful fall weather and keeping busy cleaning up your gardens, as I have been. Cleaning up and stocking up for the winter months ahead.

The Madison Historical Society was teeming with activity this summer with record numbers of visitors coming to the museum from near and far.

This summer I met with Rick Russack at the museum where he took photos and scanned old postcards, etc. for the White Mountain History web site he has put together. Rick has been working with Historical Societies in the White Mountains in

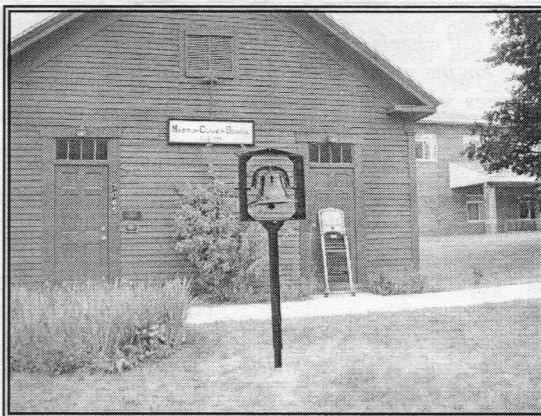
the hope to inform others about the important and interesting collections that many of us hold. The Madison Historical Society museum can now also be found at:

whitemountainhistory.org
The Granville historical marker is also included under *Historical Markers*. Check it out when you get

a chance.

The Winter Newsletter with next year's program brochure will be out in February. Until then, the Board wishes you a Happy and Healthy Holiday Season and we'll see you in 2011!

Mary K.W. Lucy



School bell now standing proudly in front of the Madison Corner School.

Photo courtesy of Roger and Olive Clayton.

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 September 15, 1976.

President Kay Eglit opened the meeting, with 44 members and visitors present. Salute to the flag and singing of "America" were followed by reading of the minutes of the previous meeting. Treas-

urer's report was read.

The President announced that recent newspapers reported that the remains of the "Bon Homme Richard" had been found [the ship?].

A letter received requests any information on Sammy Danforth of Tamworth. Request made by Janet Elliott Danforth.

Association of N.H. Historical meeting will be held at

Conway's Lord House on October 23rd.

It was voted to send a letter of appreciation for the extra effort which Jesse Shackford and his crew put in on the restoration of the Town Pound. Alice Ward reported that Richard Hocking has reported to the Bi-Centennial Commission that the work has been done with a full report of money spent.

Ruth Henry mentioned that Ernest Meader has done an excellent job of clearing and cleaning the field in the rear of the building, recently acquired by the [Town].

The book of Leon Gerry and Keith Henney on the Soldiers of Eaton and Madison was again displayed. They are available at \$10.00 per copy.

Ruth Henry spoke on the need for new members.

Alice Ward introduced our speaker for the evening, Ed Granville. Ed is one of the well known Granville brothers who were all brought up in Madison, leaving while still young men to found the Granville Brothers Air Service in Boston, which later became the company which designed and built the first racing type planes, first in Boston, then moving to Springfield, Mass. for financial backing. Ed joined his older brother in 1927, servicing aircraft, first from a mobile type shop built on a "White" truck since they were not allowed to have a building at East Boston airport. They later rented a factory building for major work.

Briefly, they developed many firsts in aircraft design, incorporating such innovations as Air flaps, brakes, releasable dual controls and swivel tail wheels.

A 55 H.P. Velie engine was first used. A total of eight planes were built, winning many races throughout the country. The depression finally ended all hope of further development, along with the untimely death of "Grannie" the older brother. The surviving brothers went into Pratt & Whitney, remaining in aircraft work. Ed has just recently retired.

A film depicting the G.B. [Gee Bee] planes along with the story of the Granville Brothers, owned by the Conn. Aircraft Historical Society was shown.

Following the program Ed presented the Society with three large photos of G.B. [gee bee] planes at the Town bathing beach at Silver Lake, taken in the late twenties on the occasion of a flight to Madison. Various people, at the time, took advantage of the opportunity to have flight in the plane.

The program was very interesting, and unfortunately beyond the capability of capturing it by notes.

Refreshments were served.

Respectfully Submitted,
Percy Blake, Secretary.



Gee Bee Biplane on the Connecticut River. Date unknown.

Taken from the book, "Gee Bee, The Real Story...", by Henry A. Haffke

Photo of the Gee Bee on Silver Lake is on display at the museum.

DUES

Please take a moment to review your mailing label. The due date of your membership 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.

POETRY CORNER

This book of Albert Watson's poetry continues to be on loan from Linda Drew Smith to share with our readers. The book is entitled, Ledge Farm, by Albert L. Watson, Copyright 1977 by A. L. Watson, printed by asc Creative Printing, inc., Hagerstown, Maryland. On the inside cover page it is inscribed, to Ernest Meader of Madison, New Hampshire, who was valiant enough not to decline this dedication.

WHERE'S YOUR BEAR?

Digging for well tiles, the hoe broke a tie rod
and we waited for a weld, talking.
Jim Shackford told this:

Ben Savary come in one of the last days of bear season
and said, We got us a big bear. The Savary boys had been
out huntin bear. They said they'd got a big one
in the land down below Baker's house and

they took six or eight
all together to get it up that
bank and into their truck.

They was celebratin and whoopin it up
some.

They stopped by my place with their
truck.

I went out and looked, and I come right
back.

The three Savarys was in front of the
fire,

a happy lot. And I come in and says,
Where's your bear?

I'd looked all right, and the bed of the
truck was empty
except for an axe and a birch skid. And
they was
ready to back out.

Well, the boys wouldn't believe it. They
had more warmth

by my fire and laughed at what they
thought was my joke.

But I talked serious, not my way. And
Dick Savary says,

Maybe it jumped off the truck. They all
laughed again,

but presently they got up, made their
thanks,

and went out to look for themselves.

It had got cold, but they got that truck
goin. They knew

then right where it must have hap-
pened, and that's

just where it did, right where the road's
steep

and had some ice and it had took the
truck a surge

to get up by Ralph Chick's, where he used to live.

*Tw*as Tom Savary shot it but Dick Savary lost it.

I went down with them. It was dark, but there was a darker place on the road. It was cold, as it always is coldest at the start of winter. You don't mind later when it gets real cold.

There'd been wet wood in the bed, and that had froze, and in that surge by Chick's the bear had dumped, and was layin on the road just there in a heap.

A man from Massachusetts had stopped his car and was lookin at it. Probably he thought it was alive and had gone asleep crossin the road. He hadn't got his car through.

We all of us grabbed on. It was hard to get ahold.

The weight of a bear will keep movin from one part to another just dependin on who's liftin.

This time Ben and I sat in back with it just holdin on to it to make sure.

They weighed it and it was just under four hundred pounds. That's big bear for here.

I wouldn't shoot a bear. We had one once to home.

The meat's strong and most of our family was sick

just smellin it cook. I wouldn't eat it.

Then I wouldn't eat at all if it was cookin no matter what meat I was served. Mother had to throw away the pan. You could taste bear in the eggs.

We still have big bear here. And moose. I'd never seen a moose. Somebody always tells me when one has just walked across our field, but I'm under my engine or cleanin up, and when I get there the moose has gone back.

MADISON TELEPHONE COMPANY

Madison Telephone Company was incorporated November 15, 1905, by John Chick, Bertwell P. Gerry, James O. Gerry, Frank B. Nason and Nathaniel M. Nason with an authorized capital of \$1000 divided into shares with a par value of \$25 each. The incorporation papers state that the first meeting of the corporation would be held on November 27, 1905, in the store of J.O. Gerry & Son.

The business had its beginning when B. P. Gerry and F. B. Nason purchased three telephone instruments from Julius Andre of Detroit, Michigan, and installed them in the Gerry house, the Nason house (now Ernest Meader's [in 1961]) and J. O. Gerry & Sons store. After these three instruments were installed Mrs. Mary F. Schmitt wanted one in her cottage, now [in 1961] occupied by Mr. F. P. Whipple, then occupied by N. M. Nason, who was her employee. Next Mr. John F. Chick wanted one in his lumber office at Silver Lake. F. B. Nason says that it was then found that with five rented telephones they must incorporate and get a permit from the town to run lines in the streets. Arrangements were made to connect with the lines of the New England Telephone and Telegraph Company at J. O. Gerry & Sons store. That company had had for some time a pay station, as it was then called, there and another at Gilman Brothers' store. Its lines at that time in this area were all open wires and generally followed the railroad right-of-way.

During the early years of the local company it was not uncommon for a person who lived at some distance from the end of the line to furnish poles and set them, in addition to paying the regular rental for a telephone, for the sake of getting service. The rent was something like a dollar and a quarter a month. As the company grew there came to be more telephones than could be served by one line a switchboard was installed at the store. There was switchboard service only when the store was open, but at that time country stores were open every evening. In 1911 the switchboard was moved to J. O. Gerry's house and in 1913 to Nason's house. Later the building now occupied by Fred Bickford was built as a telephone office and for a while the switchboard was kept there summers and in the house

winters; then it was kept in the house all the time. In February of 1926 the board was moved to Mrs. Olive L. Martin's house, where it remained until dial service was instituted on January 12, 1956.

In 1917 before the board was moved to Mrs. Martins the company had to be sold to the Carroll County Telephone Company, which was formed from several locally-owned companies and the properties of the Ossipee Valley Telephone Company in the area. It took in practically all of Carroll County except Tiftonboro and Wolfeboro. It was incorporated June 23, 1917 with a capital of \$75,000 consisting of shares of the par value of \$25 each. The persons signing the incorporation papers were D. W. Barnes, G. H. Shedd, F. B. Nason, E. A. Himes and F. W. Story. The Carroll County Company was taken over by the New England Telephone and Telegraph Company in 1930. At the time the Madison company was taken into the Carroll County company there were around 100 telephones on its lines, which extended into Freedom, Tamworth and Albany. The Madison Local Telephone Company was dissolved by the 1933 legislature. During the time that the switchboard was at Nason's, among those who tended it, in addition to members of the Nason family, there were two operators imported from Boston for a short time, Edith Nickerson, now Mrs. Edith Moore and Olive L. Martin and Madeline E. Martin.

At about the time the Madison Local Telephone Company was started, perhaps a little before, David Knowles had a grounded telephone line at Silver Lake on which were instruments in several houses, - his own, the Silver Lake House owned by Emma M. Forrest, I. A. Forrest, N. K. Forrest, Gilman Brothers Store and perhaps others. His line also ran up to the Mt. Chocorua half-way house, so called, and to the Chocorua Peak House, which he owned. His line never had any long distance con-

winters. Ben Bickfords oxen will starve if they don't get hay from the Eaton [Meadows].

Do you think you are going to elect Town officers from amongst you old bald heads. Couldn't get a good Hog Grief not one whud know a boer from a barra.

What are you goin to have Town meeting with Albany? A little Albany cider and you cant say aye let alone stand up to say it.

A hundred years from now you will be holding meetings in Bill [Wen..itts] old abandoned barn.

That's just how shiftless you be. You cant even grow good blueberries in this end of Eaton."

If anyone has any idea who wrote this could you let us know? Thanks, Becky. Hope you enjoyed the humor. beckyknowles1950@gmail.com

We are trying out larger print in this issue...let us know what you think please

President Becky Knowles
beckyknowles1950@gmail.com
367-1025

Vice President Linda Smith
ldns7558@gmail.com

Treasurer Penny Hathaway

Secretary Position Open
Any voluteers?

Board Members
Celeste Benoit
Ann Wilkins
David Wilkins

NEEDED!!

- ♦ Secretary –duties are monthly minutes and minutes for occasional board meetings.
- ♦ Volunteers for scanning, photographing and researching artifacts and photos for our web sites. Youngsters 6th grade and up are welcome to help us!
- ♦ Volunteers to help with building committee

Thanks to David and Ann Wilkins for the donation of a new printer, scanner, copier!!!!

ton and New York Country Dance Societies and the introduction of these old dances into the Kentucky Mt. Settlements (where old songs of the same early period were still to be heard, [though] the dancing had ceased).

The dancing has continued without a break. It is now on Mr. Baker's outdoor stage. Mrs. Baker in writing of these dances says, "I remember a delightful afternoon when Miss Forrest let the group of Chocorua and Silver Lake dancers dance in front of the old Silver Lake House, with the background of the beautiful old trees. This was before the fire, I think it was on Labor Day 1914." Mr. Baker was an excellent lecturer and as such traveled all over the United States. His pupils are teaching playwriting, are heads of departments of drama, are managers of little theatres, and are active as scenic designers, electricians, and actors on Broadway. He has been a powerful force in American Drama and Theatre since 1895.

Mrs. Baker sent us the manuscript of an article written for the American Academy of Arts and Letters by William Lyon Phelps who, in his own words, "had the honor of being enrolled among his pupils."

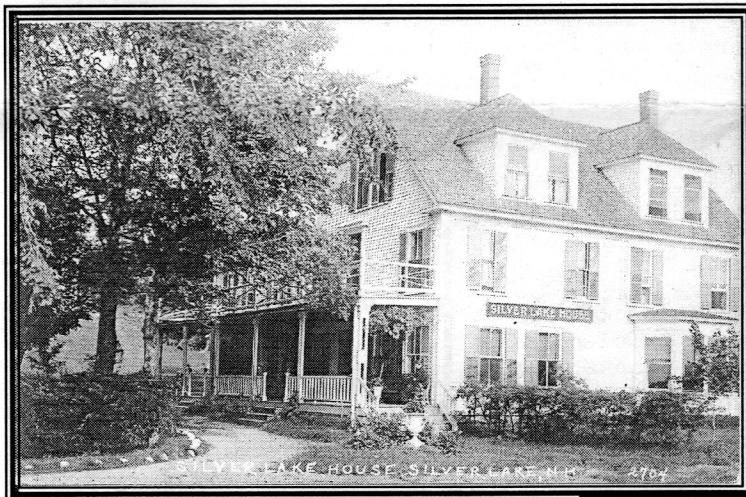
Mr. Phelps writes in part:

"From early childhood to the day of his death Professor Baker's chief interest was the art of the drama and its relations with the theater. The 47 Workshop was the title of the course directed and taught by Professor Baker. It was an absolutely practical course in the writing and stage production of plays. Students came from every part of the U. S. to become his pupils; many were called but few were chosen. The number was ruthlessly kept down and only the elect were admitted."

"Later at Yale University he had a modern theater fully equipped in every respect for his school of drama. The devotion of his pupils was so

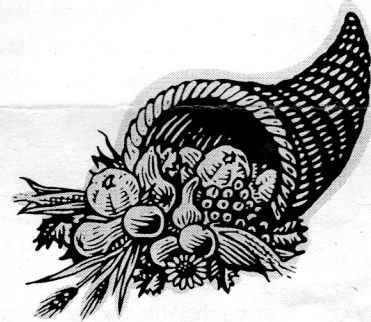
strong that his death brought expressions of grief and loyal affection from every state in the Union." Mr. Phelps ends by saying, "It is impossible to speak of the work and influence of Professor Baker without a tribute to his wife. He was married in 1893 to Christina Hopkinson of Cambridge. She was his daily inspiration."

Mrs. Baker closed her letter by saying, "We Chose Silver Lake for our summer home because we wanted a healthy, simple outdoor life for ourselves and four sons and thought mountain climbing the best way to cultivate bodily strength, courage, and endurance. We have been very happy at Silver Lake and I am now a legal resident of Madison."



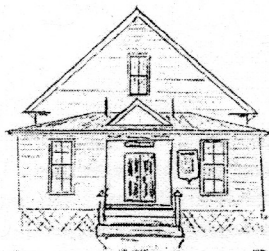
Above: As remembered by Mrs. Christina Baker, the Silver Lake House as it was prior to the fire that destroyed the house in the early to mid-1920's. The Silver Lake House opened to the public in 1876 after the railroad came through Madison sometime in the early 1870's bringing people from afar to come enjoy the beauty of the lake and mountains and take in the healthy air. Miss Emma M. Forrest was the proprietor.

Old postcards courtesy of the Madison Historical Society.



Below: The Silver Lake House after it was rebuilt sometime in the mid-1920's, and how it stands today.





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

Madison Historical Society Museum - 1884

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

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.

***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

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<http://madisonhistorical.us/>