

Madison Historical Society Museum - 1884

Madison Historical Society

W I N T E R 2 0 1 1

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

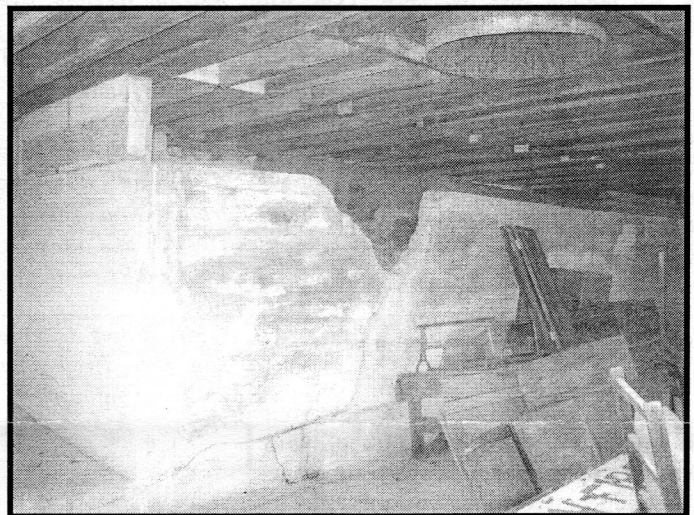
Robin M. Tagliaferri
Publicity Secretary

Penny Hathaway
Treasurer

Becky Knowles
Curator

Over the past several years you may have noticed that the Madison Historical Society has made several improvements to its building and grounds using monies from the Madison Historical Society Building Restoration Fund totaling approximately \$12,600. The improvements included giving the building a much needed face lift in 2009. We had the fence removed and replaced with new fencing that highlights the granite posts, and had the exterior of the building painted. A few of the back windows needed replacing, many were re-glazed, and all were cleaned. This past year we obtained a detailed engineered plan to move the building over 6 feet from the property line of our neighbor to the north with a design that will address drainage issues.

As noted in our 2009 Town Report, our next major project for the Madison Society Museum building will be to get the foundation work done which we hope to complete this summer if we procure all the necessary funding. Combined funding to date from the Town and our Building Restoration Fund efforts is \$75,000. This includes \$25,000 from the Madison Historical Society Building Restoration Fund; \$35,000 from the 2006 War-



The basement at the Historical Society building. Photo taken December 2010.

rant Article #4 when the Town approved and created the Capital Reserve Fund for the purpose of repairing and restoring the Historical Society Building; and \$15,000 from the 2007 Warrant Article #6, which was added to the Fund. We have not requested additional funds to be placed in the Capital Reserve Fund over the past two years due to the trying economy, but will need to this year if we are to complete this project in 2011.

The building has aged with dignity; however it is in peril of falling into a state of disrepair if measures are not taken now to avoid this inevitability. The building's foundation has not been stable for some time now secondary to

its age and drainage issues caused by groundwater that finds its way into the basement. The Madison Historical Society proposes to move the Museum building by replacing the granite slab foundation with a water resistant concrete foundation, locating it closer to the center of its parcel while improving site grading and groundwater management, and replacing the rotted beams that hold the building together. The Madison Historical Society along with the Selectmen are presently in the process of requesting bids on the work for this project, and should have the overall cost by Town Meeting.

We continue to ask support for this project and any con-

tributions to the Building Restoration Fund will be very much appreciated.

At the May meeting we will once again be looking for three members interested in being part of the Nominating Committee to be elected or selected. The duty of the Nominating Committee is to nominate candidates whose consent to serve on the Executive Board has been obtained for each office to be filled at the annual meeting in July. The Society officers are elected for a term of two years. If you are interested in being part of the Nominating Committee or would like to be a member of the Board, please contact Linda Smith. We are hoping that the New Year will bring a few more members to our busy board. If you are interested let us know!

Our 2011 program brochure is included within this newsletter.

Looking forward to Spring!

Mary K.W. Lucy

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.

BLAST FROM THE PAST

This is taken from one of our old Secretary's meeting minutes notebooks. These meeting minutes are dated February 21, 1968.

Twelve members and one guest gathered at the Historical Society hall on Feb. 21 for the monthly meeting.

President Lucinda Gilman led the meeting.

The Secretary's report was read and approved.

The Treasurer reported \$68.00 in the checking account with all bills paid, and \$300.00 in the savings account.

Ernest Meader reported that the sill on the north side of the Historical Society building has rotted away and suggested that this be discussed with the Selectmen of the Town inasmuch as the building belongs to the Town. Mr. Meader pointed out that

in 1959 the Town voted to permit the Society the use of the hall for meetings and a museum.

Mr. Meader also mentioned that the roof needs painting and also the fence in front, but that the sill is of the most importance.

It was voted that the Directors discuss this matter with the Selectmen.

The matter of the writing of a History of Madison was discussed, and it was suggested that the History be started while information is available.

A collection was taken in the amount of \$3.53.

Following the business meeting, Mrs. Marion Weston gave an excellent talk on the North Division, perhaps better known today as the Silver Lake High Street area of town, and land north and east. Mrs. Weston's talk was the result of many hours of research was most interesting and with a store of information which she gleaned from old records and the help of Mr. Keith Henney of Eaton, Samuel Luman of Silver Lake and Ernest Meader of Madison Corner.

Mr. Ralph Acker assisted by his grandson, served refreshments and a social period was enjoyed.

Leah Kennett, Secretary

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.*

A little more about the author as written on the back cover: Born in New York City, Albert Watson has resided in New Hampshire and Maine much of the last thirty-three years [written in 1977]. He studied New England literature at Yale and Harvard in the 1950's, but his real education has come, he says, "from the ledges and lakes, mostly from the people of the mountain country." He favors Madison, New Hampshire, where he lives beneath Mt. Chocorua on land where William James planted the James Orchard. His next neighbor is e.e. cummings' Joy Farm.

Of his previous book *Whitton's Well* reviewer's wrote: "He writes about things we all know about... apples... the old home place returning to the land... clear and realistic... the complexity of the cool, mildly amused New England story teller..."

FALLAPART FARM

*There's a barn most down
and a house half down
in the dead end of town
at the end of fall
and the end of day.*

*We climb on the wall
and wave and call
and a chimney wails
and door waves back.*

*There are Tales and tales
but mostly they say
its under one charm
that it stay and stay
just Fallapart Farm
till some return.*

*Could it be the stones
that lean over bones
or what was bones
by the turn into town
some up some down
tell truth in their scrawl
and the dead shall be raised?*

*March brings blow
and weight of snow
while round the porch
cross curious tracks.
June breaks hot,
house barn and lot
rot and scorch
scorch and rot,
while somebody somewhere pays the
tax.*

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.

EARLYMILLS OF MADISON, NH

This updated compilation of the early mills of Madison was recently put together by Roger Clayton. The numbered mills listed here correspond to the numbers on the map located on the following page.

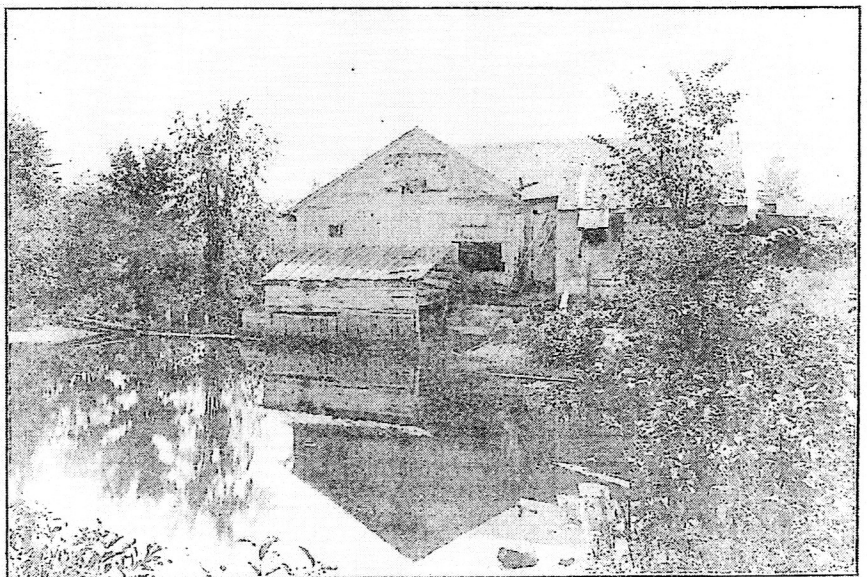
1. Dr. James Jackson ~ Henry Colby ~ The Majors: Tanned hides and made shoes.
2. Kenerson's: John conducted both watch and clock making, and shoe manufacturing at Madison Corner. His son, Randall had a small jeweler's shop in 1852.
3. William Kennett was the largest lumber operations in the early years. Logs were put in Silver Lake which floated to Ossipee Lake, then through Effingham Falls to Saco, Maine.
4. A Saw Mill was located on Banfield Brook near Flow Dam at Pea Porridge Pond.
5. Blaisdell's Mill at Purity Pond (formerly Long Pond) was owned by Robinson Blaisdell. Then Edward Hoyt obtained a Saw and Grist Mill, and also sawed shingles & shooks. This is now the location of the Fitness Center at Purity Springs.
6. A Mill was located on Forrest Brook near Charles Bickford's Farm.
7. A Woolen Mill was located near Albion Twombly's—probably in 1824.
8. Colby's Lumber Mill was located on the Deer Hill Brook near the Deer Hill bridge.
9. Also on the Deer Hill Brook was a mill known as Marsh's Mill.
10. A Saw Mill was located in North Division.
11. A mill called Percy Mill was located toward Conway.
12. At the location of Albion Twombly's Slaughter House was Snell's Mill where Grist was ground and lumber sawed.
13. During the Civil War, Charles Hunt built a Saw and Grist Mill near the brook at Madison Corner. He sold it to George Chick who sold it to Eli Banfield.
14. In 1870, George Chick built a mill below Madison Village near where the Madison Garage is now. Water power came from a canal near Dr. Martin's house. The power increased by a thirty horse power steam engine. They

manufactured lumber, staves and box boards. This mill burned in 1881.

15. In 1883, Mr. Chick erected a Mill at the north end of Silver Lake, furnished it with a 65 horse power engine for manufacturing of lumber, bobbins, box-boards, etc. Also a planning machine. A Copper Shop and Grist mill were run in connection with the sawmill. It was destroyed by fire. The mill has been destroyed by fire and rebuilt three times. This mill has been in operation ever since under the management of John F. Chick & Son (now Chick's Packaging).
16. A Saw Mill was located on Gove Hill near the Shaw Town Road.
17. New England Box Company of Greenfield, MA operated a Band Saw Mill at Lily Pond on the Plains Road. They stored the logs in the pond. This mill is now The Madison Lumber Mill which continues to run today.
18. There was a rather elaborate Mill operated by Ebenezer Jackson on Maple Grove Road on Bert Chick's property. This mill power was supplied by a canal and used to grind grain and saw barrel staves and wood shingles. They also produced apple cider.
19. A Saw Mill was operated by Edward Lyman on the Plains Road, Silver lake (Rt. 41) near Deer Hill. Upon his death in 1994, his son Willis ran the mill for a few more years before closing it down.

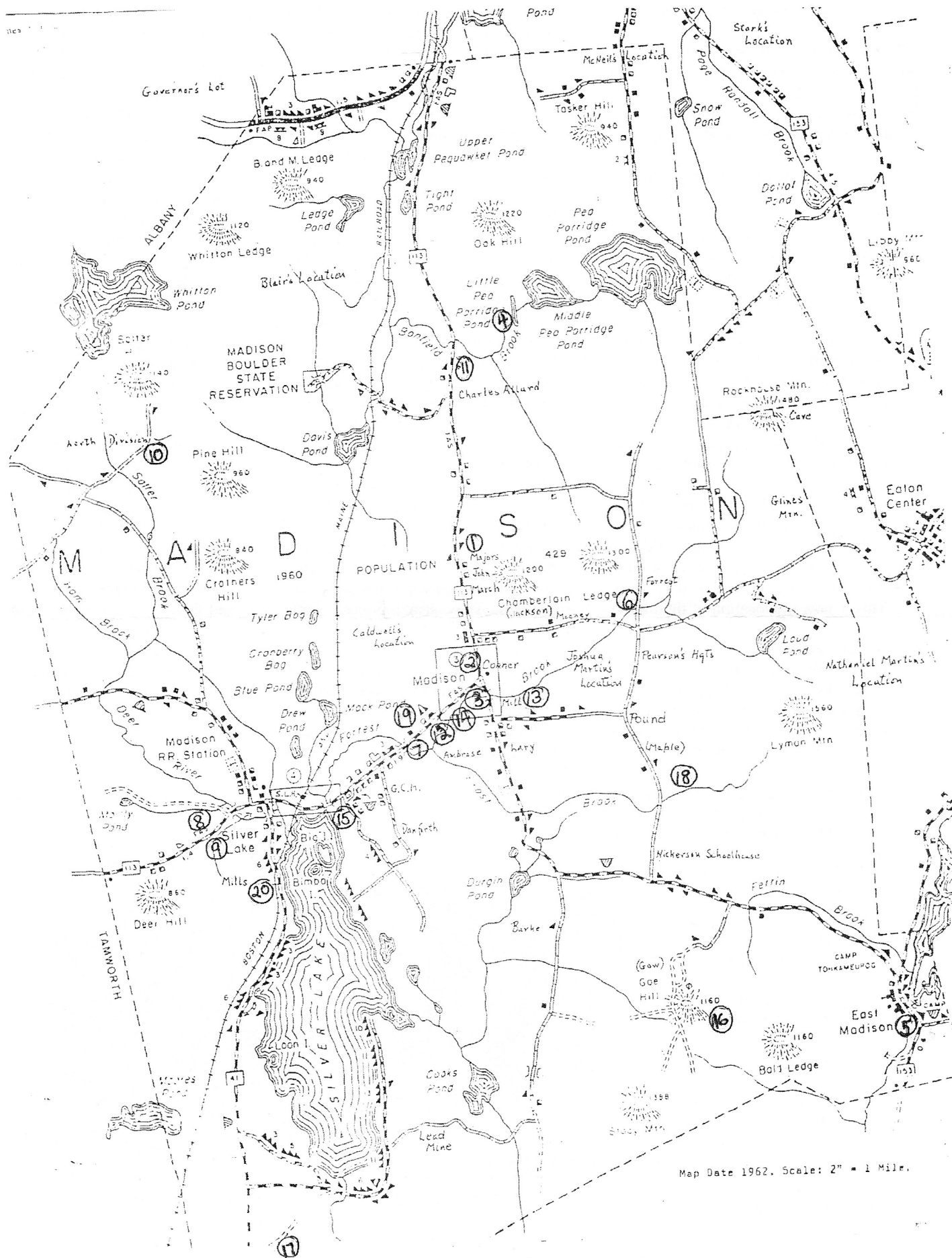
20. In 1921, Albert Clayton and J. Clifford Ward, Sr. purchased 120 feet of land from John F. Chick and built a garage at Madison Corner—Clayton and Ward's. In 1924 they built a sawmill which was mostly operated in the winter when other business was slow.

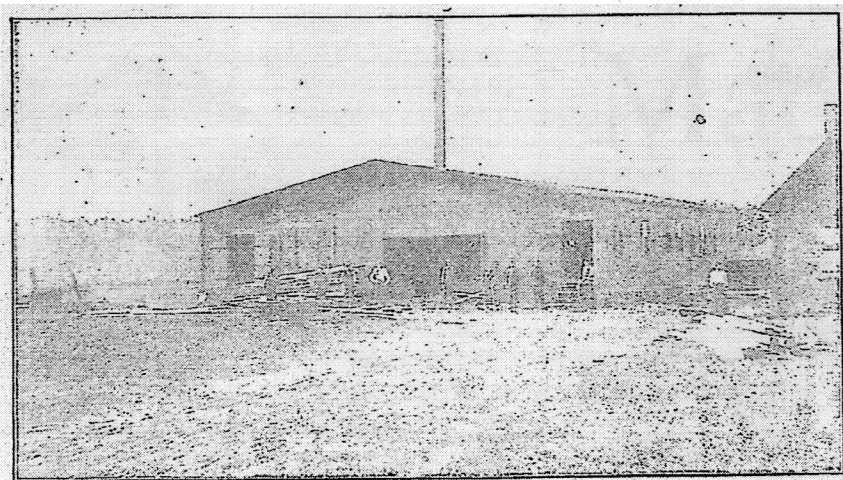
The mill was moved to where the new Burke Field stands today and opened for year round business in 1940. The mill was sold in 1959 to Bruce Thomas. The mill was also leased out to several operations including Robert Floyd of Tamworth who reported that there were 12 to 14 good men who worked the mill in the early 1960's. The lumber was sold to Merrill Transport of Maine. At some point about this time the mill was then also leased to Charlie Drugg of New England Box Co., what we know now as International Paper Company. The mill was finally sold to brothers Harvey and George Blake in the mid 60's. The Blake brothers then tore the building down and took some of the machinery to their operation in Limington, Maine.



Blaisdell's Mill at Long Pond (Purity Springs, East Madison)
Date Unknown.

MILL LOCATIONS IN MADISON, NH






At left: Early photo of
Chick's Lumber Mill.
Date unknown.

WHEN IN NEED Of Shingles, Laths, Clapboards, North Carolina Pine, Sheathing, Flooring, Turned Piazza Posts, Doors, Windows, Mouldings, Brick, Lime, Cement,

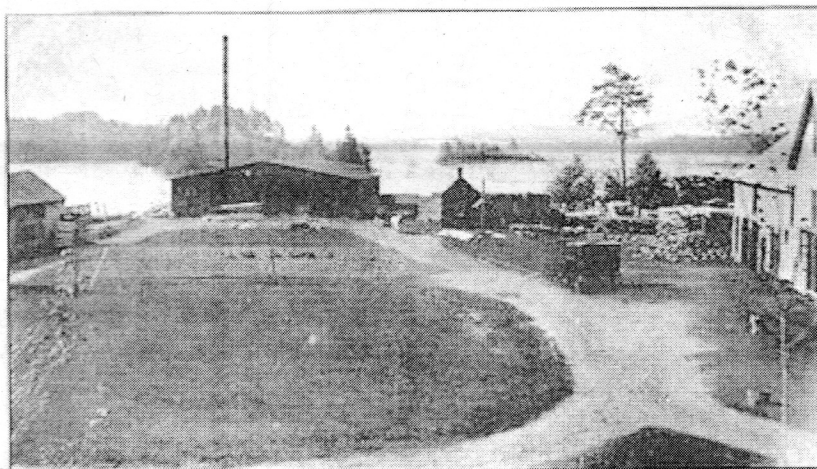
OR ANYTHING IN THE LINE OF

BUILDING MATERIAL

Come, Write or Telephone to

 **CHICK'S LUMBER MILL,** Silver Lake, N. H.

Advertisement for Chick's
Lumber Mill.
Date unknown.



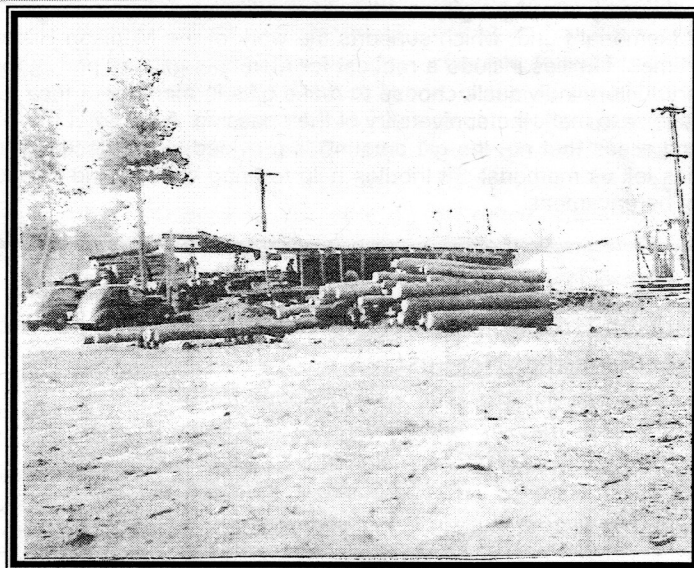
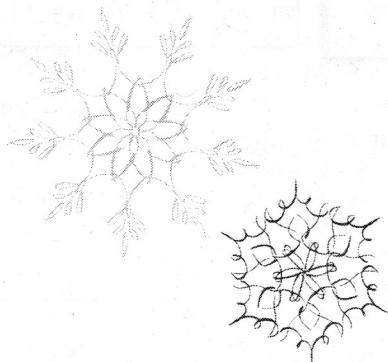
Chick's Mill as seen at a later
unknown date.

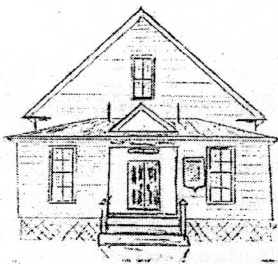
8121

MILL AND LAGOON, SILVER LAKE, N. H.

Published by CHRONIC PRESS,
SILVER LAKE, N. H.

At right: 1924, Albert Clayton and J.
Clifford Ward, Sr. built this Saw Mill.
Picture taken in 1949.





Madison Historical Society Museum - 1884

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

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

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