



Madison Historical Society Museum - 1884

Madison Historical Society

S P R I N G 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

Many of us are happy to welcome in Spring, as we clean out the old, open our windows and doors for fresh air and to take in the scents of the lilacs which will soon bloom here in Madison.

The Board met with the Selectmen this winter in hopes to get everything set for the building project. The Selectmen felt that we would not have enough time to get all the bids needed in on time before the Town Meeting in March. The size and cost of this project requires that the Town would need to procure at least three bids from contractors. The Selectmen decided that it would be best this year to ask the Townspeople to vote on an addition of funds in the Capital Reserve Fund. Article #8 read: *To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of twenty-five thousand dollars (\$25,000) to be added to the Capital Reserve Fund for the purpose of repairing and restoring the Historical Society Building.* After several members and nonmembers spoke in favor of this article it was passed by a great majority. Thank you to all that voted in favor.

This spring we will meet again with the Selectmen in order to work to get this project together to bring to the Townspeople to vote on at the next Town Meeting in 2012, whatever is determined to be best for the Town.

We continue to ask support for this project and any contributions to the Building Restoration



James McConaha of Concord, NH donating his Gee Bee R-2 model for our Gee Bee display on April 1, 2011.

Fund will be very much appreciated.

While I was away in February, we were visited by a writer for a magazine entitled, **New Hampshire To Do.** The article came out in the April issue and is about Madison and of particular interest a segment about our museum. Our V.P. Linda pulled on her snowshoes to make a path through the deep snow to get up to the building. Linda met with the writer and the writer's husband to assist in collecting the information she needed to write her story. Thank you Linda!

We also have to give a big thank you to our Road agent Billy Chick who sent some of our dedicated road crew out there to clean off the snow that was building up on our

front and back roofs on the museum. Thank you Billy and Crew!

In April we received a donation of an model airplane, the Gee Bee R-2 to our Gee Bee collection from Mr. James McConaha of Concord, NH. Thank you for the terrific addition!

Also of note, this past winter as I was browsing through old secretary's minutes I came across one that we have not adhered to over the years. In the secretary's minutes from July 15, 1970 it reads: *It was voted that any member reaching the age of 80 years be put on a permanent membership list and pay no dues. A committee of three, Ernest Meader, Beatrice Harmon and Lucinda Gilman, were*

asked to prepare an amendment to the constitution to be accepted at the next meeting. The following meeting dated September 16, 1970 it reads: *It was voted any member reaching the age of 80 shall be on our honorary list.* Apparently, this amendment was never added to the bylaws, but at the next opportunity we will be sure that the Membership will be asked to add "Honorary List" to the Bylaws.

What this means is that if you wish to inform us that you are of the age of 80 or more, if we do not know that already, please let us know. You are entitled to continue your membership without paying your yearly dues. Additionally, we are always happy to accept any and all donations given to the Madison Historical Society, either to our General Fund or to our Building Restoration Fund.

We have some very interesting programs this season and hope to see many of you this summer.

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 May 15, 1968.

Fifteen members of the Madison Historical Society met on May 15 for its monthly meeting. Mrs. Charlotte Hamilton, Vice President, presided.

It was suggested by Ernest Meader that the few documents we have on the White Meeting House be given to Mr. Keith Henney for the records of Eaton. It was unanimously voted to do this.

It was voted that the secretary write a note of appreciation to Mr. Henney for the records and documents he has given to us.

Mr. Meader reported that 60 members of the Madison School, with faculty, visited our museum and Mrs. Giles and Mr. Harvey complimented the Society on the fine collection it has acquired over a period of ten years.

Mr. Meader also reported that some

books and other articles have been given to the Society by Mrs. Nellie Tyler Campbell. A book dated 1885 was given by Mr. Donald Hayes and geographies which Mr. Acker had planned to bring to the Society were given by Mrs. Acker.

A report was made by Malcolm McNair regarding the sign to be erected at the ball field. It was suggested that one be made similar to those used in the National Forest, on dark walnut with letters indented and painted white. It will stand at right angles to the road with lettering on both sides so it can be seen by anybody coming from either direction. It will read:

John H. & Millie P.

BURKE

Recreational Grounds

The motion was passed that the Directors proceed to have this sign completed and erected.

The death of Mr. Ralph Acker, one of the Society's most active members was noted and the motion made that the Society draw up a Resolution to Mrs. Acker for his services to the Madison Historical Society and the Association of Historical Societies of New Hampshire.

The secretary read a letter from the Association of Historical Societies of N. H. asking that we list the historical assets in our town for a preliminary survey prior to a state sponsored survey. It was suggested that we list the Old Town Pound which was in existence before 1852, the church, the plaque in front of the church bearing the names of all service men from Madison back to the [Ed: it was blank here], the boulder, the Blaisdell grist mill at East Madison and the Madison Historical Society Building which was previously the Madison Town Hall.

Mr. Meader introduced Percy Blake of Chocorua, a former resident of Madison, who spoke on the History of County Government, County Government passing into history, and why it is passing into history. Mr. Blake stated "Every day we are losing more and more of our birthrights. He quoted many interesting facts and statistics of Carroll County with some comparisons of costs between 1900 and today. He also listed some of the dangers of losing our County Government structure.

Hostesses for the social period which followed were Mrs. Alice Ward and Mrs. Hazel Drew.

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..."

SUBDIVISION

We was out huntin up corner, Rodney and I.

The Blaisdell lot's been sold, and from what I hear
some man or outfit from Boston is goin to subdivide.

They've had surveyors all over that lot.
One time they came over into my back field,
what used to be pasture, and I told them that weren't their business, but they said they was just getting line, then they went back
into the woods and over the wall.

If they commence to raise peak-roofed camps
close together so's to run one's well
into the other's septic tank, and bring on kids
to drive drunk around the roads, city kids
fresh as sap, well, I believe
Maud and I might just sell.

Will we sell to them?
We'll just hear what they have to offer.

This land is old.
Those that subdivide has their corners.
We know what ours are.

I have a deed, from the register
dated well before Rodney was born, 1899.
I was born about then, or before.
I won't say.

Grandpa Blaisdell was my wife's grandfa-
ther.
We meant to farm that lot. But when my
father
died first, we took the Lord lot, my father's,
or I should say my mother's father's lot.
Here's where we lived.
I can't say we've farmed it.

Mother and I'd been approached more times
to sell.
That's before she died.
And father'd had his offers.

We have a hilltop ledge. You've seen our
view.
Some have Chocorua and the lake and
Whiteface,
and some the whole range
from Crawford's to Mount Washington
and on to Mount Adams.
Those were presidents, except for Craw-
fords.
They were local.

You might say we were fortunate, such
names,
presidents from Virginia and Massachusetts,
and Webster who might have been, though
some here
think he was, after Jackson.
There's a mountain for Jackson too, and a
town.
We've had Jacksons in this town,
but none was president.

The Blaisdell farm has its view too.
That's why developers bought in.
They passed papers Thursday.
You can see south to Boston on good days.
So they say. Or Mount Toby.
That's west of Boston.

Rodney and I knew when they come to lots
next door
we'd have to go around our corners.

Rodney says they won't get our land
while we're alive, or while he's alive.
Rodney says he'll hold out.

The compass has changed since the
lines
was set. That was before Grandpa's
time.
The old walls has changed direction.

Lines now west of north.
Rodney says we're now east of where
we should be.
Well, we found the old mark. The
deed says
two birches and a maple blazed and a
stake
in the wall. But you know birches.
No two will stay alive while a man
lives.

The stake was gone too, but Rodney
found
stones in the wall that had been piled
up.
We think we did find the same maple.
A maple will fill and hold its marks.
A maple may grow sound with age,
like a man.
We found our corner.

I painted and Rodney drove stake.
Today you wouldn't want to pay a
surveyor.

Let them build camps.
We've lived on this land since...
since what they have in the town his-
tory.
Those that cleared the land has rights.

I can't be sure now what we'll look at
across the wall and still not sell.
And systems may cloud up the taste
of our good water.

We may move, but if we sell,
they'll pay for every mountain of our
view.

As to selling, I don't know
where we'll go if we do.

4th ANNUAL MHS FLEA MARKET
MAY 21, 2011
9:00 - 1:00
AT THE MADISON FIRE STATION
For more information: call Linda
at 367-4640

MAILBAG

**Editor's note: We welcome all sto-
ries 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
Moore's Pond Rd., Silver Lake, NH
03875.**

Madison Historical Society 2011 Meeting Programs

Meetings held at the Madison Historical
Society Building at 7:00 PM unless noted.
Read the "Conway Daily Sun" for notices
and any changes for each month's program.

May 19 "Remembrances of Madison School Days"

Presented by Roger Clayton, Carol
Batchelder and others

June 16 Sponsored with the Friends of Madison Library

"The Lost Music of the Pectrum Banjo"

Presented by Dean Bennett

Madison Library—Chick Room

July 21 NHHHC Humanities Program "New Hampshire Cemeteries and Grave- yards"

Presented by Glenn A. Knoblock

August 18 NHHHC Humanities Program "Native American History of New Hampshire"

Presented by David Stewart-Smith

September 15 NHHHC Humanities Pro- gram

"Lizzie Borden Took an Axe, Or Did She?"

Presented by Annette M. Holba

Other events to note:

May 14 9 - 12 Museum Clean-up

**May 21 9 - 1 4th Annual Flea Market
Fundraiser
Madison Fire Station**

Old Home Week:

August 7 6 - 7 PM Blueberry Fest

**August 9 Tues. 2-4 Museum Open
House**

MADISON'S SUMMER RESIDENTS

Editor's note: Continued from this past Fall newsletter, we present more news clippings which came out of a local paper, possibly *The Reporter*, c. 1936.

The journalism class of M. H. S. under the capable direction of Miss Priscilla Noddin, is starting a feature column with this issue. They say, by the way of introduction:

"Madison is the summer home of many noted people. We feel that it would be of interest to all to know who these people are, what they have done, and what they are doing. We have written to as many of them as is possible, and the material we are publishing is taken from their replies, and with their consent. We wish to thank them for their cooperation.

EDWARD CUMMINGS

By Thelma Leavitt

Our article this week will be devoted to the Rev. Edward Cummings who came here until his death in 1926.

Mr. Cummings was born in Colebrook, N. H., in 1861 and dies November 1926.

He graduated from Harvard in 1883 and took his A. M. degree there. He studied in Harvard Divinity School and the Graduate School. He was first to be awarded the Robert Treat Paine fellowship in social science. He studied sociology abroad at Ecole Libre des Sciences Politiques in Paris and at the University of Berlin.

Mr. Cummings was a professor of Sociology at Harvard. He was one of the editors of the Quarterly Journal of Economics; lecturer on sociology subjects; President of the Massachusetts Civic League Association for Promoting Interests of Adult Blind; director of Massachusetts Prison Association; affiliated with Watch and Ward Society; Boston Associated Charities, Willard Hospital, Industrial Aid Society, Hale House Social Settlement and was Vice President of the Benevolent Fraternity of Churches.

From 1900 until Dr. Hale's death he

was associated with Dr. Edward Hale as Minister of the South Congregational Church of Boston. Mr. Cummings was minister of the South Congregational Church until it joined with the First Church of Boston. He then associated with First Church of Boston. He continued his association with the First Church of Boston and with the Rev. Charles E. Park D. D. of the World Peace Foundation, Boston of which he was general Secretary, until his death in 1926.

Rev. and Mrs. Cummings first heard about the region of Silver Lake from Mr. William Salter and Prof. William James, Cambridge neighbors. The Cummings were struck by its beauty and bought Joy Farm more than 35 years ago. They later bought property on the East Shore of Silver Lake. Mrs. Cummings writes: "The friendship of the people of Silver Lake and Madison and of the summer residents who later came to this region has made our many summers spent here very happy ones."

FREDERIC WARREN

By Helen Giles

Mr. Warren, who owns "The Majors" was born in Woodstock, Ill. He attended Harvard Preparatory School, Chicago, before attending Chicago University. He studied languages and other subjects under private tutors and took courses in the theory of music at the Chicago Auditorium School of Music.

He studied singing with William Shakespeare; Albert Randegger, London, England; Jules Granier; Giovanni Sbriglia; and with Jean de Reszke, Paris. He began his career as a teacher of singing at the Chicago Auditorium School of Music, and as for 14 years resident in Paris, London, and Berlin, as singer and teacher. He appeared in opera oratorios and concerts in England, Ireland, and on the Continent.

Mr. Warren's profession is singer and teacher of singing and for the last few years he has taught singing in New York City. He inaugurated and directed the Frederick Warren Ballad

Concerts held at Aeolian Hall, the Longacre and Selwyn Theatres, New York City. More than eighty artists were presented at these concerts, in old and new master-songs, folk-songs, ballads and ensemble numbers.

He edited the Page of Singers in the Musician, for six years and is the author of many articles on musical subjects. He is also a lecturer on music.

Mr. Warren was a member and former president of The New York Singing Teachers' Association, a member of the American Academy of Teachers of Singing.

He married Ruth McWhorter of New York City.

He chose "The Majors" at Madison for his permanent home because of its magnificent view and for the quiet and seclusion offered by this [amazing] spot in the foothills of the [White Mountains].

DR RUDOLPH OSGOOD

Author Unknown

Dr. Osgood was born in Cambridge, Mass. He was graduated from Harvard College in '24 and Rush Medical School, Chicago, Illinois in '29; receiving S. B. and M. D. degrees.

His profession is in the field of medicine, he being a pathologist. He has held the following positions: Resident Pathologist, Peter bent Brigham Hospital; Boston Children's Hospital and Boston Lying-in Hospital; Instructor in Pathology, Harvard Medical School, 1930-'33; Instructor in Pathology and Bacteriology, Tufts Medical School from 1933.

He is married to Margaret Kent and they have one son, Theodore Kent Osgood who was born on Sept. 24, 1931.

Visit the Ice Cream Parlor

AT MADISON CORNER

Opposite the Eaton Road

W. F. WEBBER

Ad found in *The Madisonian*, June 1931



It reads: HAYES' GENERAL STORE—SILVER LAKE, N. H. The former Gilman Store. Date Unknown.



The Majors

"The Majors" Madison, N.H.

"The Majors" is delightfully situated on an elevation overlooking fifty miles of mountain scenery, making the view unsurpassed by any in New England. Altitude about 700 feet. Pure Spring Water, Milk, Berries and Vegetables.

**Mrs. H. C. Colby,
Proprietress**

As written with the photograph in the 1910 Old Home Week Booklet. This home was originally built by Asa Jackson, which was destroyed by fire in 1923 along with all the outbuildings. Frederic Warren built the present home in the late 1920's.