



Madison Historical Society Museum - 1884

# Madison Historical Society

S U M M 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. Donations toward the Building Restoration Fund.
2. Donations towards expanding the Tool Shed for more exhibit space.

### Executive Board

Becky Knowles  
*President*

Linda Drew Newton  
Smith  
*Vice President*

Patricia Ambrose  
*Recording Secretary*

Penny Hathaway  
*Treasurer*

Celeste Benoit

Ann Wilkins

David Wilkins

The Madison Historical Society Executive Board would like to again thank all those who were instrumental in helping us with our 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Flea Market, which took place at the Madison Fire Station on May 21<sup>st</sup>. We want to thank the Madison Fire Department for the use of the station house, including Chief Rick Judkins, and Deputy Chief Richard Clark for all their assistance, and also Wayne Jones and the Madison Old Home Committee for the use of their tables. We also want to thank all those who baked all the delicacies for our bake sale this year. The flea market was yet again a successful event, and all proceeds will go to the Madison Historical Building Restoration Fund.

The Historical Society's new flag which was placed on the flag pole for Memorial Day was donated by my hus-

band Mark and me in honor of my father who was a veteran of WWII, and all Madison veterans from past to present.

Roger Clayton was pleased to inform me that our Town Pound has some guardian angels, who have taken on the tending and upkeep of the Pound. The guardian angels are Gary and Jane Hoffman, who are members of the Society and live on Pound Road. Olive Clayton noted that Jane's Aunt was Marion Weston. Thank you Gary and Jane!

At our Annual meeting in July a new slate of Board members were nominated and approved to serve the next two years. Becky Knowles as our new President, Linda Drew Newton Smith as Vice President, Patricia Ambrose as Recording

Secretary, Penny Hathaway as Treasurer, and new members, Celeste Benoit, David and Ann Wilkins. Welcome and congratulations!

And finally, following 16 years as a member and Board member of the Madison Historical Society, ten years as Vice President or President, and the last 6 years as President, I have found the occasion to step down as President to pursue other, equally worthy, community and personal endeavors.

As such, this will be my last Newsletter as Editor. I have so enjoyed the opportunity to have served as your President and to provide these newsletters for you.

Thank you all.

Mary K.W. Lucy

\*\*\*\*\*

## BLAST FROM THE PAST

This is taken from an old newspaper article, probably from The Reporter, sometime after the Madison Historical Society meeting dated August 8, 1961.

### Madison Historical Society

The Madison Historical Society held their Old Home week meeting Wednesday evening

Aug. 8 at the Hall with 38 present. The President, Percy Blake, opened the meeting with the Flag Salute and a hymn, played by Mrs. Manora Clayton on the reed organ. Several gifts were presented to the Society.

Two pins over 100 years old. A town warrant and list of voters in the year 1852, or right after Madison was

separated from Eaton and formed its own township. Mrs. Hatton has given an ox sling. Anyone wishing to loan articles to the society will be given a receipt for the same, and may have them returned at any time.

During a short business meeting, a motion was made and carried for Harry

Harmon to serve 3 years on the executive board and Marian Weston to serve one year.

The meeting for September 15th will be a joint meeting with Effingham at Milton Hoyt's.

The program consisted of four speakers. The first was Herbert Weston who has done a great deal of research on our 33 graveyards or burial grounds. The one chosen for his subject was the one at the Emerson place. Herbert gave a very interesting history of the plot, its location, number of persons and several humorous epitaphs.

The second speaker, Mrs. Acker gave the life of John Lovell, his family, religion, sons and his raids on the Indians for their scalps. He was a very colorful figure and, with Mrs. Acker's fine diction, he seemed to live again.

The third speaker was Mrs. Weston. The life of Daniel Jackson and members of his family, he had 17 children, was her topic. Mrs. Weston did a great deal of research on their family life, religion, views, and his descendants.

The last speaker was Mrs. Alice Ward who read the program of our first Old Home Week back in 1902, James Gerry, recorder.

The Society wishes to thank the Little League Baseball Team for their donation of money.

\*\*\*\*\*

#### 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.

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..."

#### NINETY YEARS AT THE BOTTOM

When it was a matter of we wanted the well  
for the new house, we parted planks from  
the old shaft.  
Adults and children took their look  
straight into black water. Images spoke  
back  
but said nothing brighter than was said to  
them.  
Then the serpent of hose went down and  
the pump  
went on, spitting at the well's side. Water  
shook  
and slapped the stones. There was thrashing  
then sucking  
and the well was empty.

Quick before the water came back, and in  
June it would  
come back, the ladder went down and the  
boys went down.  
The Lyman's were big, father and two  
sons.  
The sons went down and they filled the  
bottom  
so looking down all we could see was big  
men working  
to get something together. We sent a  
bucket down for them,  
their father did. They hailed and gave  
their tug.

First thing caught the eye was a spoon.  
That was the smallest  
of the exhumations but made a shape.

There were a bracket and a loose lag  
bolt, bent wire,  
a tall shoe with nothing of heel, more  
like a boot,  
and two enameled dippers chipped  
and dented. You might  
understand the dippers—how they  
got there.

The second load had different things  
but was like the first.

But the third raising of the bucket -  
the Lyman boys shouted us to pull it  
up,  
then came up themselves wet to the  
hip and swearing  
at cold that came with water rising  
that fast  
that deep out of the ground.  
The last load was token from the old  
time, their message  
who raised the house, dug the well,  
cleared hillside,  
turned walls one corner to another.

We poured cold water from the  
bucket. At the bottom  
was a plate not chipped or broken. It  
came from an old country.  
Blue blossoms wreathed round the  
rim, while inside  
unstained, never crazed, strange only  
from chill,  
a pagoda among willows at a river  
bend,  
house of a time whose dreams were  
willow vistas  
hung on blue bends of stream, that  
dream  
ninety years at the bottom.

The women handled it and wept, or  
not wept but turned away  
with whatever breath, holding that  
cold dish  
and matching it with the bowl that  
came after  
and the cup with broken handle and  
an amber bottle  
with raised letters that the Lymans  
laughed as medicine  
of their grandsir's time, balm for  
body or soul.

They ranged it all out, those big men,  
as a museum,  
for sport, around the well's perimeter.  
We looked

and those who came to see us looked too. The Lymans pulled the pump, and the well refilled, while we thought about it. The new water was our water. We nailed a roof over it to make it sure.

The Lymans, father and sons, allowed whatever they'd found in our well was ours. Sam, the father, said it wasn't the first well he'd cleaned, not in forty years.

He said stranger things had come out of some of them.

"Up to Thomas Colby's spring Rodney pulled at a horn. He asked should he keep pullin. I said pull away.

Out come the head of Thomas's cow, the one he lost.

You may believe or not. Colby believed it.

He'd looked from one pasture to another, and advertized.

He'd not heard of her. May to November.

What goes down is likely as not some day to come up,

Another time I'll tell 'bout Alice Harmon's cat.

The boys and I have another job this forenoon.

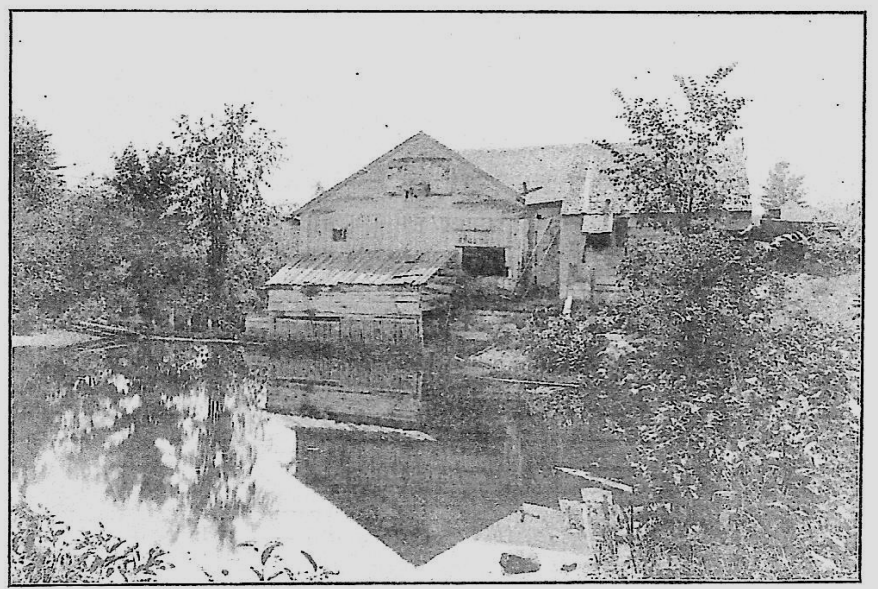
\*\*\*\*\*

## MAILBAG

**Editor's note:** We welcome all stories and memories, long or short to add to the newsletter. Please e-mail to Linda Drew Newton Smith at:

**ldns7558@gmail.com**

**Or, by mail to:  
Madison Historical Society  
Attention: Editor  
P.O. Box 505  
Madison, NH 03849**



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

## PURITY SPRINGS CELEBRATES 100 YEARS

Purity Springs Resort is celebrating their 100th year anniversary this year. The excerpts below of the early history of the Hoyt family and Purity Springs Resort are taken from a booklet entitled **THE VALLEY, A Brief History East Madison, New Hampshire**, written by Peggy Hoyt in 1991.

### *The Hoyts*

*One day in the 1800s Edward Eaton Hoyt and his wife, Mercy, arrived in East Madison from Brooklyn, New York, to visit Mercy's sister, Martha Hood Blaisdell. Martha's husband, Nicholas, although a Harvard-educated lawyer, had chosen to return to the place of his birth and run the Blaisdell Mill. His family had built a big farmhouse directly across the road from the mill. Today that farmhouse is called Millbrook.*

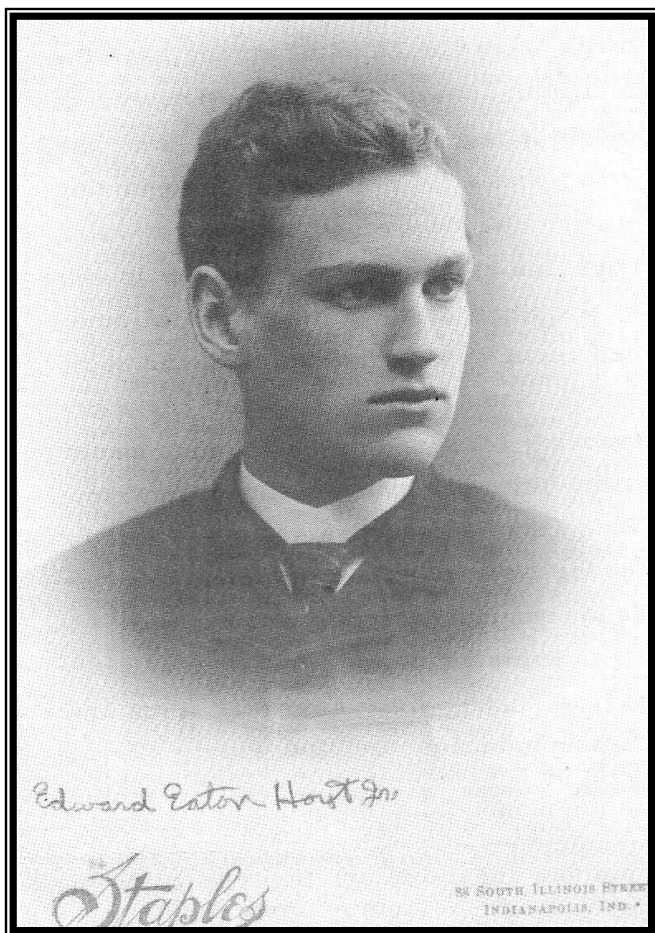
*Mr. and Mrs. Hoyt were de-*

*lighted by The Valley and at their very next opportunity brought their sons, Edward Eaton junior, Caleb, Milton, and Martin, to visit the Blaisdells. The young people agreed with their parents' assessment; they, too, wanted to come here as often as possible.*

*Deciding he needed a house of his own, one big enough not only to accommodate his family, but large enough to entertain his many friends. Edward Eaton Hoyt purchased the Betsy Harmon Place and began building on more rooms. As an auctioneer of large factories and businesses, Mr. Hoyt had many clients to entertain.*

*After the Civil War, when western territories opened for homesteading, many New Englanders, tired of subsistence farming, sold their properties and headed west. Edward Eaton Hoyt bought several of these farms, some of them around the perimeter of Purity Lake.*

*One day, while savoring a*



**Edward Eaton Hoyt, Jr.**

cool drink from the bubbling spring near the mill, Mr. Hoyt's thoughts wandered to people living in New York City who had little choice but to drink bad-tasting water. He decided to ship pure water from his spring in East Madison to sell in the city. He filled huge glass carboys, had them carried by oxcart to the depot which had been built when the rails reached Madison in 1871, and loaded them into box cars destined for New York City. There five gallons of Purity Spring Natural Mineral Water sold for \$2.25, including shipping and deposit!

Repeated tests of East Madison's spring water always proved it of the highest quality. In 1890 Purity Spring Water won a medal in a Boston exhibition. In 1892, Edward E. Hoyt received the Medal of Superiority from the American Institute in New York for Purity Natural Mineral Spring Water, and in 1893 he registered the trademark "Purity" with the United States Patent Office. In that decade, Purity Spring became widely known for its exceptionally pure

bottled water. After awhile, however, shipping costs increased, bottle breakage took its toll, and shipping water to New York City ceased to be profitable.

In 1903, when Edward Eaton Hoyt suffered a sudden heart attack and died in the middle of a big auction, his family discontinued the reconstruction and enlargement of the Betsy Harmon Place. In later years, the building was often called *The White Elephant*, but it is known to most people today as the *Camp Lodge*. Behind it stood a huge barn, now called *Osceola*.

While the entire family loved East Madison, Edward Eaton Hoyt junior felt particularly attached to *The Valley*. When only about four years old, he had had polio, and he was unable to walk without crutches for the rest of his life. In 1883, while on a trip to Florida to purchase cypress, Nicholas Blaisdell died. From that time on, Edward Eaton Hoyt junior helped his Aunt Martha run the East Madison Post Office and the Blaisdell Mill. After his father died, Ed Hoyt chose to live and work in *The Valley* rather than return to the city.

### **Edward Eaton Hoyt junior**

Still a young man when his father died in 1903, Ed Hoyt knew he wanted to spend the rest of his life in *The Valley*. Although possessing but little money, he inherited many acres of good land as well as the lovely lake. Determined to earn a living and vowing never to sell any of the original property, he ran the mill and labored as hard as he could at whatever work he could find.

In 1906 Ed Hoyt married Gertrude Keith of Fryeburg, Maine, a school-teacher in neighboring Freedom. After their wedding they lived in a house on the north corner of Horseleg Hill and the main road. Their two children were born, Ellen Mercy in 1907 and Edward Milton in 1911. When the children were very little, that house burned to the ground. They moved to an old farmhouse across from the lake where Ed and Gertrude lived out their lives. Today we call that house *The Inn*.

Lacking adequate income, the Hoyts decided to open their home to paying guests. As soon as Gertrude could, she taught Ellen to cook and make up rooms. Ed Hoyt put Milt to work outside at an age most children today are consid-

ered too young for such responsibilities.

Their first guests were old friends from New York City, but before long Purity Spring Farm attracted guests from other places, too. Some pitched tents out back, relaxed by the lake, and explored the countryside under the direction of Ed Hoyt. Most remained several weeks each summer.

\*\*\*\*\*

TO RENT FOR THE SEASON AT

### PURITY SPRING FARMS,

CARROLL COUNTY,

MADISON, N. H.

FURNISHED COTTAGES INCLUDING FUEL, ICE AND BOATS.

Joining the Wonderful

PURITY SPRING,

Pronounced by five of

America's greatest Chemists the most healthful and purest water known.

Magnificent Drives, Boating and Bathing.

Seven Hundred Acres of private land to roam over.

An Ideal Place to rest. Surrounded with Forests, Lakes and Mountains.

Apply for terms and booklet to

EDWARD E. HOYT, Jr.,

P. O. Address, EAST MADISON, N. H.

## PURITY SPRING FARMS AND COTTAGES, MADISON, Carroll County, NEW HAMPSHIRE

On this farm is the wonderful spring PURITY, with its unexcelled scientific endorsement.



All those who enjoy out-of-door life and wishing to BOARD, or RENT a COTTAGE in an ideal spot, surrounded with forests, lakes, brooks and mountains, where they can gain health and have true country recreation, should apply for terms and booklet to Edward E. Hoyt, P. O., East Madison.

The above advertisement was taken from the 1904 Madison Old Home Week booklet. The advertisement on the left taken from the 1902 booklet.

## 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.

**August 18 NHHC Humanities Program**  
**"Native American History of New Hampshire"**  
 Presented by David Stewart-Smith

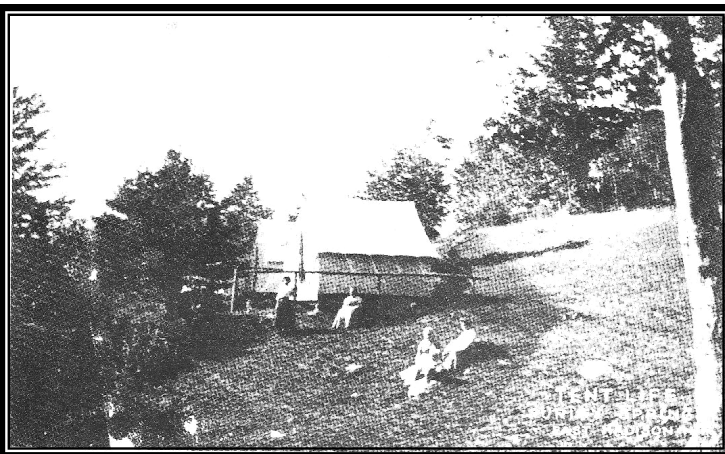
**September 15 NHHC Humanities Program**  
**"Lizzie Borden Took an Axe, Or Did She?"**  
 Presented by Annette M. Holba

**Other events to note:**

**Old Home Week:**

**August 7 6 - 7 PM Blueberry Fest**

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



Postcard picture reads:

**TENT LIFE**

**PURITY SPRINGS  
EAST  
MADISON, N.H.**



From page 29 in the booklet *THE VALLEY*, it reads:

Many guests explored the countryside in the Purity Spring Farms' carriage.