

# Madison Historical Society

Winter 2015

1916



2015



**NEW!** [www.madisonnhhistoricalsociety.org](http://www.madisonnhhistoricalsociety.org)

Please visit our website. It is a work in progress, but it is up and running!

**NEW!** eBay Account - We have been able to sell several of the WWI posters mentioned in the Summer 2004 newsletter which have been in storage

for a long time and are not of local interest. Now we have the capability of taking donations for resale (smaller than a breadbox, please).

Please call Penny Hathaway at 367-4530 if you are interested.

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**NEW!** Paypal Giving Fund - This is tied into the eBay account and is an additional way that the Madison Historical Society can receive donations when you buy or sell something on eBay.

# POETRY CORNER

## OUR TOWN

By Lucinda B. Gilman

You can brag about your cities  
With their tremendous growth & size  
And your every-growing paychecks  
From government enterprises.

But you're tired of the rush  
And the noise-polluted air  
And have come to live with us  
Where cares seem so fair.

But now you want to change us  
It is "progress" so you say  
You cannot bear to live  
In our good "old Yankee way."

We believe in progress  
And education, too.  
But remember that old saying,  
"Don't bite off more than you can chew."

Our small white church has stood for years  
Without fanfare or frills  
I know that God can hear our prayers  
In the silence of the hills.

Please, oh please, just let it be,  
That small white church in Madison  
Is "plenty good" for thee.

I may be "outmoded"  
And my wit a trifle flat  
But children DO learn to read by reading,  
It's as simple as all that.



Picture of Arthur and Lou Gilman by Bruce Bedford which appeared in the Carroll County Independent.

Our town is a beautiful place  
It abounds in scenery  
We love its mountains, lakes and ponds  
With small streams flowing free

So let's take care of what we own  
And keep it debt-free,  
Then the small town of Madison  
Will be good for me and "thee".



**WE WERE PLEASED TO FIND THESE IN A SCRAPBOOK PUT TOGETHER BY ERNEST MEADER AND DONATED TO THE MADISON HISTORICAL SOCIETY BY MARGERY MEADER. We will be quoting from it in future newsletters.**

Perpetuating history . . .

# Valley Style

by Janet Hounsell

Ernest Meader, a genial, baldheaded man, was born in 1900. That certainly doesn't make him the oldest person or thing in Madison where he lives across the highway from the Madison Historical Society building, but when we think of Madison and its history, we think of Ernest Meader. He isn't even a native of the town, but he is undoubtedly, the person who is best informed about, and most interested in, Madison—today, yesterday and tomorrow.

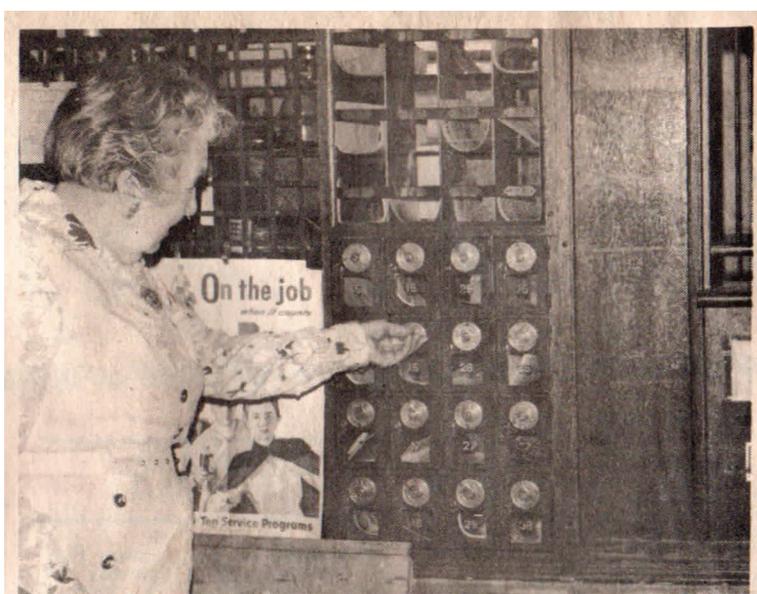
## Historical Society

Meader was instrumental in the formation of the Historical Society. The building was originally the Town Hall. It was erected at a cost of \$800 in 1884, after an article asking the peoples' pleasure had appeared in the annual Town Warrant for no less than 30 years! The society was formed 20 years ago and for 19 of those years Meader was curator of the artifacts now housed in the old Town Hall building. He says there are 366 gifts listed, but that many of them included as many as 10 items. "I'd say there's about a thousand items in the building," he commented. There is an endless variety. Old signs, paper memorials, tools, furniture and toys. One large item is merely on loan (from the McNair family). This is a peddler's wagon.

Excerpts from the above article:

## Home Once Store

The rambling, charming, white house, surrounded by well-tended grounds, in which Meader and his wife, Lottie, have lived for many years, was originally a general store. It was built sometime before 1800, along with two barns and stables. It was a center for stage coaches and other horse-drawn modes of transportation. The Meaders first lived in a tiny cottage on the triangular lot, renting for \$10 per month.



Alice Ward, taking a turn as hostess of the Madison Historical Society, checks an old mailbox saved when the old general store, last run by the Tylers was razed. Janet Hounsell Photo

# MADISON, N H, MAN RESIGNS POST AT 88

## Roscoe Greene Collected Taxes for 37 Years

Special Dispatch to the Globe

MADISON, N H, March 14—Roscoe G. Greene, 88 years of age and the oldest man in the town of Madison, N H, is out of office for the first time in nearly 40 years. For 37 years he has collected the taxes of the town.

For the first 10 years or so he went about his duties with a horse and wagon or horse and sleigh. Then



ROSCOE G. GREENE

he began his rounds with an automobile and has worn out three cars in the pursuance of his duties which have taken him some hundreds of thousands of miles. He has always been a Democrat in a Republican town, but his work as collector has been so satisfactory that his Repub-

lican townsmen have voted for him year after year.

About town meeting time in 1935 he fell and injured his leg so that he has been confined to the house for many weeks and has been obliged to do his collecting by mail. This year at town meeting he was again elected to the office which he has held so long, but yielded to the wishes of his family and resigned.

In the many miles which he has driven in the work of collecting and in the business of taking parties on pleasure trips he has met with no worse accidents than a broken tire, a fact probably due to steady nerves resulting from no alcohol, tobacco, no tea or coffee. His health is good and he uses glasses only when he reads.

Roscoe Greene

1848-1943

Article found in Roger Clayton scrapbook  
"Madison Village #1"



Peddler's Wagon, continued from Janet Hounsell article:

R. G. Greene ran this peddler's wagon for 20 years out of his store in Madison. It was put away in a barn in 1881. The wagon was once owned by Freeman Sanborn of Conway. When it was uncovered in 1946, it was found to still contain much of its wares.

A framed newspaper clipping, circa 1931, hung on the wagon, comments on how peddlers distributed their wares. They collected rags, butter, apples, furs and wool as well as handknit items, while carrying a regular stock of tins and basins, jewelry, ribbons and hairpins, pens, mop handles, and, in fact, about anything the dealer might be able to sell. The homesteader didn't get off the farm too often and no doubt the housewife kept a little list of things handy for that day when she would see the peddler's wagon kicking up the dust along the road.



Church and Soldiers' Monument

MADISON, N. H.

# MADISON CHURCH

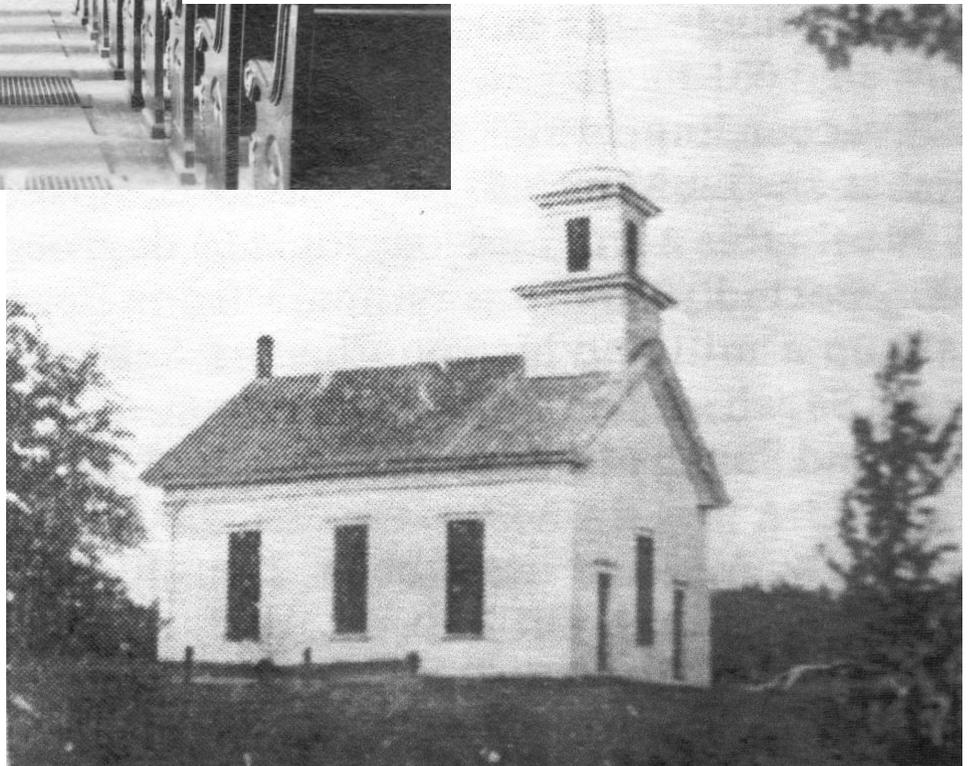


IT LOOKS as though winter has come to Madison, but only an inch or two of snow fell from Monday's grey skies.

Tuesday's sun produced bare roads again.

1980

PHOTO BY BRUCE W. BEDFORD



The Madison Historical Society is looking forward to re-opening with a full schedule of programs which will take place on the third Thursday of each month at 7 p.m. The first one, May 21st, will feature Michael Hathaway who will talk about the history and development of Early American Bands. He will bring several examples of brass instruments from the 1800s.



**Madison Historical Society  
Free Program**

**“EARLY BANDS”**

**Michael Hathaway**

**Thursday, May 21, 7 p.m.**

**Following brief business meeting**

**At the Madison Historical Society Museum**



**RECIPES WANTED!**

**Please send us your favorite recipes for a  
NEW COOKBOOK**

**Madison Historical Society, PO Box 505, Madison, NH 03849**

## Madison Historical Society 2014

(for the Madison Town Report)

The Madison Historical Society is very grateful to Madison voters for the March appropriation of funds needed to accomplish the major portion of our building project. Adding those funds to the amount we had managed to save and the prior funds appropriated by the Town of Madison, we were able to hire a contractor to lift up the building, move it over a few feet to get it off the property line and put a new foundation under it. We now have a huge dry basement, onsite parking and fresh new landscaping.



In November we hosted an open house where many visitors came to see the results and enjoy a special exhibit of e e cummings artifacts that had never been on display, including a recent gift of two large colorful paintings by cummings.

The Society had many interesting programs from May through September; this year we had presentations about the Sap House Meadery, Chinook dogs, and Graveyard Restoration, and we co-hosted The Crawfords of Crawford Notch with the Library. We also had items for sale at the Old Home Week craft fair, the Blueberry Festival and the Christmas Craft Fair. We are in the process of developing a brand new website where our events, history and books for sale will be featured.



We lost a beloved member this year, Isabella Knowles, who was an expert docent and worked tirelessly cataloging and researching the many artifacts and documents that had accumulated over the years, giving the Society an efficient, organized and accessible inventory

system well before the age of computers.

One of our greatest desires is to have more people actively involved with the Madison Historical Society. We have a good many members, but need more key people to help with the month-to-month activities. If you are interested, please contact any of the Directors.

THANK YOU AGAIN FOR YOUR SUPPORT!

Board of Directors:

Becky Knowles, President

Linda Drew Smith, Vice-President

Penny Hathaway, Treasurer

Ann Wilkins

David Wilkins



Please note that your mailing label will tell you when your dues will expire.

**MEMBERSHIP FORM:**

\_\_\_\_\_ Single Membership - \$10.00 \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Family Membership - \$15.00 \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Junior Members (under 18) – free \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Senior Members (over 80) – free \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Donation \_\_\_\_\_

TOTAL ENCLOSED \_\_\_\_\_

**Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Address:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Seasonal Address (if any):** \_\_\_\_\_

**Email:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Phone:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Check here if you would prefer your newsletter by email:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Madison Historical Society**  
**PO Box 505**  
**Madison, NH 03849**