

# Madison Historical Society

## October 2017



Here is Our Crew waiting for the  
**TEDDY BEAR PICNIC:**

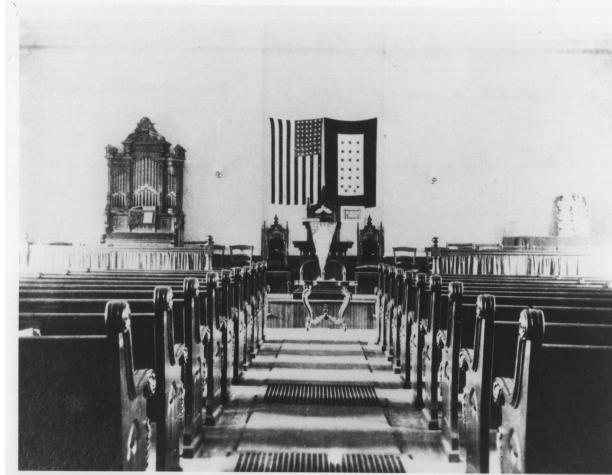
Top L to R:

David Wilkins  
Ann Wilkins  
Penny Hathaway  
Noel Smith  
Linda Smith  
Gary Lovering  
Sally Perrow

Front L to R:

Karen Lord    Linda Lovering

- In This Issue:
- From the Curator's Desk
  - Teddy Bear Picnic pics
  - History of Eidelweiss
  - Recipe from our Cookbook
  - Oldest Person in Madison



This Photo of the Madison Church was donated by Ruth Shackford. What do the 21 stars mean? Ruth remembers the pump organ being there when she was a child.

## From the Curator's Desk—Karen Lord

Fall is upon us, and, for me as Curator, it is the time that I begin to properly store our collections for the winter. Over the summer, while we had the tool exhibit inside the main building, the tool shed out back was cleaned. Thank you Gary Lovering for your help. Squirrels and mice have a heyday in there. They seem to leave the tools alone, although there are a couple of wooden handles that were bug eaten. I also spent the time photographing some of our collections and getting that information into the museum software on the new computer.

As thrilled as I am with our buildings and the collections we have (and hopefully future ones), we have a storage problem. Currently most of our collections are stored in the attic. It is dry and so far, we haven't had mice/squirrel problems that have caused damage. The stairs leading to the attic are very steep and there is no railing, nor a real door to get in there. Our basement, which is huge, has not been completely dry, so storing downstairs is extremely limited. The Board will be addressing this problem and hopefully can come up with a solution. Storing on the main floor is impossible unless we want to drastically reduce our exhibit space.

Our Board will meet in October, and the exhibit for next year will be fine tuned. Keep looking for an announcement with more details.

Madison Historical Society is proud of the community support it receives, both monetarily and with active participation. We hope you'll continue to support our exhibits, come visit, and discover the special memories/events of our past and present. Although closed for the winter, we can open for special requests if weather permits.

Karen M. Lord, Curator

**NOTE ABOUT MEMBERSHIP DUES:** About a year ago the MHS board decided to ask for all dues payable July 1st of each year. However, that didn't work, so we are going back to the "old way" with dues payable a year from your last payment. You will find your "paid thru" date under your address on this newsletter. Those of you who get the newsletter by email will be reminded individually.

**IN ADDITION TO DUES,** we are always very grateful to receive donations in a variety of ways: cash, checks, paypal, stocks, etc.

## Pics from the TEDDY BEAR PICNIC

Fun was had by all!



**July 22, 2017**

## THE HISTORY OF EIDELWEISS

We are indebted to Gloria B. Aspinall for meeting with us and allowing us to reprint this material. She says that since she gathered some of it by verbal interviews, perhaps there may be inaccuracies.



The Village District of Eidelweiss is a beautiful mountain village in the Town of Madison, New Hampshire.

The acreage was owned by the Kennett Company of Conway and consisted of approximately 450 acres including the connecting ponds (Little, Middle and Big Pea Porridge). The folk lore of the valley states that the name of the ponds comes from the fact that Pea Porridge is thick and in the morning there is a thick fog that hangs over the ponds in the morning, hence the name.

The Kennett Company sold lots

and advertised vacation living. They hired A. J. Coleman to map out and build the roads. The original main road was Banfill Road, now Eidelweiss Drive. This was in the early 1960s.

E. J. Boucher was the first year round home to be built on Eidelweiss Drive. Etta and Frank Kennett owned a small summer cottage on what today is Aldorf Road.

In the late 1960s the Kennetts sold out to Great Northern, a developing company from Massachusetts. They, in turn, hired Coleman to expand and construct roads up to the top of Oak Ridge, ending with the road system of today consisting of approximately 19 miles of roads.

Great Northern names Eidelweiss, the theme was copies from the Swiss mountains in Europe. They constructed many of these small Swiss chalets. The "lodge" at the top of Oak Ridge was the center of activity. It consists of two levels, two kitchens, a main room for events, a beautiful fireplace and a deck overlooking the valley, plus bunk rooms on the lower level.

Great Northern used the lodge to house the guests bused up from primarily Massachusetts for weekend sale promotions.



They also purchased the Lakeside Hotel in Silver Lake that had been previously burned down by arson. The developing company renovated the structure and used this for housing the guests, wining and dining them and giving them tours of the area. Today this property (The Silver Lake Landing) is owned by the Gibson Center for Senior Citizen housing.

A Swimming pool was constructed at the scenic vista outside with a cabana, but this had to be dismantled as the insurance proved too expensive.

At the end of Eidelweiss Drive, what is now Rockhouse, the Great Northern expanded the section and built a tennis court, roads, etc. Rockhouse later broke from the Village and formed their own association.

The developing company built the water system that consisted of many pump stations and holding tanks that used the trickle-down method to serve the community.

In the late 1970s Great Northern had developed the area, so it auctioned off the remaining lots and left.

The Town of Madison did not want to "take over" the Class Six roads, nor the main Class Five, nor did they want the problem of upkeep, plowing, etc.

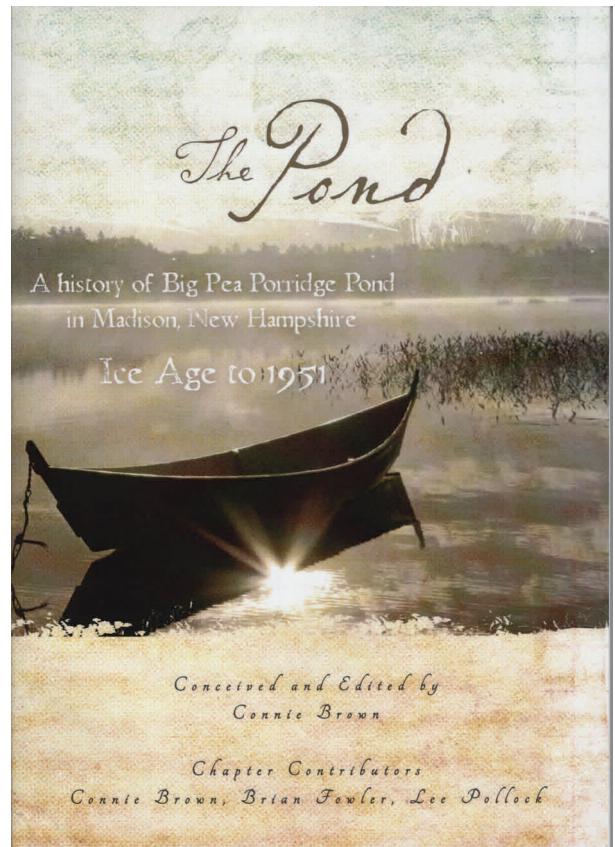
Robert Dickson, a lawyer from Tamworth, was hired to solve the problem of what to do.

The only recourse was to form their own Village District. In 1980 the first Eidelweiss Town Meeting was held, appointing three governing commissions, a clerk, and a treasurer. This governing board stands today.

This peaceful haven now consists of approximately 500 homes.

The wildlife, such as the loons, beavers, etc. are protected by a bill that was put through legislature in the 1970s banning the use of motorized boats of these three small ponds.

TODAY EIDELWEISS IS AN  
INDEPENDENT, THRIVING, BEAUTIFUL  
MOUNTAIN VILLAGE!



## From Our Cookbook

Published in late 2015, it has contributions by over 30 historical society members and friends with selections from the circa 1950 Silver Lake Woman's Club "Favorite Recipes" - The book itself is 8  $\frac{1}{2}$ " x 11", 66 pages, spiral bound, with mylar protective cover.—\$10 plus \$3.00 media mail postage

Here is a fall recipe:

### SQUASH ROLLS

Pat Ambrose

#### Ingredients:

1 cup butternut squash, cooked, drained and mashed

2 tablespoons butter

1 cup milk, scalded

1 package yeast, dissolved in 1/4 cup warm water

1 teaspoon salt

1 cup sugar

4 cups flour

1 cup powdered milk

#### Directions:

Add butter, salt and sugar to squash and mix well.

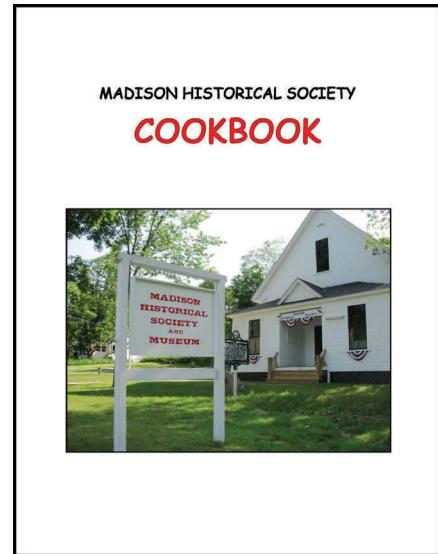
Pour in scalded milk and mix.

Add powdered milk and flour enough to make bread dough consistency.

When mixture is cool, add dissolved yeast.

Let rise in warm place till doubled in size; then shape into rolls.

Bake at 425 degrees for 15 minutes.



#### MADISON HISTORICAL SOCIETY

President—Linda Smith

Vice President—Mary McIntosh

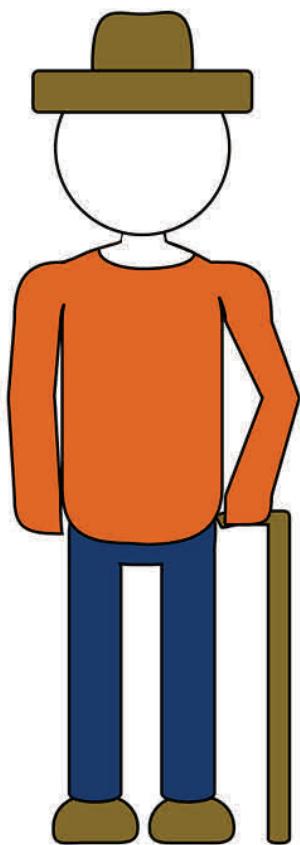
Secretary—Betty Fernandes

Treasurer—Penny Hathaway

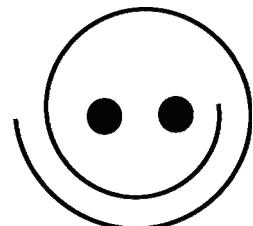
Curator—Karen Lord

Directors—David Wilkins, Ann Wilkins, Linda Lovering

# How do we tactfully ask?????



Our MHS president recently was queried by the Selectmen to see if we would be interested in finding out ...



## WHO IS THE OLDEST PERSON IN MADISON?

...in order to present them with a Boston Post Cane. She asked them if they had one to present, and discovered that the one they were offering actually was inscribed "Presented by the Silver Lake Women's Club". We were pretty excited about that because that makes it even more special...whether or not it is a Boston Post Cane remains to be discovered.

SO...we need to be thinking about it!

### DO YOU KNOW WHO IN MADISON MIGHT BE ELIGIBLE?



When we took away the boards covering the old stage we were able to reveal this fragile old painting on canvas depicting Madison Corner. DOES ANYONE REMEMBER WORKING ON THIS PAINTING? It was probably done for a play.

**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**

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