

Madison Historical Society



We closed the doors to our exhibit just a month ago, declaring a great success in many ways. We met so many interesting people and connected with lots of old friends. Thanks to all who stopped by and supported our town's little gem of a museum.

Here's a peek inside for those who weren't able to make it to see the summer exhibit, "Our Town—Once Upon a Time". The photos really don't do it justice. It was a "you had to be there" type of display, but we hope you may get a feel for the content and beautiful work that went into it.

If you haven't yet, consider becoming a Madison Historical Society member, and if you are a member, we gratefully thank you for your support.

You can find membership information and all of our newsletters on our website, as well as slide shows from this and recent past exhibits.

FROM THE CURATOR 'S DESK

Thank you all for a great 2021 summer season at the Madison Historical Society. The exhibit was well received and there are many more old houses/businesses and such that we could do this exhibit again and again.

We are currently getting new inside ceiling lighting for the building. It should be a HUGE improvement. Stay tuned for the Before and After pictures in the next newsletter.

As always, the historical society appreciates your support. Whether you attend our exhibits, buy our teeshirts/sweatshirts, enjoy our Blueberry Bakery during Old Home Week, support us monetarily or attend any other of our programs, we are extremely thankful. Our community "Rocks"! Stay tune for further meaning of "Rocks".....

KAREN LORD

SILVER LAKE WOMEN'S CLUB OF MADISON CANE PRESENTED TO OLDEST RESIDENT

On August 2, 1909 the now defunct Boston Post newspaper forwarded to the Board of Selectmen in 700 New England towns (no cities included) a cane made of ebony and crowned with 14-karat gold head with the request that it be presented to the oldest male citizen of the town to be used by him as long as he lived (or moved from the town). At his death the cane was to be handed down to the next oldest citizen. The cane would belong to the town and not the male

who received it. In 1930, after considerable controversy, eligibility for the cane was opened to women as well.

The Boston Post went out of business in 1959, but many towns have continued the tradition. Madison most certainly was a recipient of a Boston Post Cane, but at some point the cane was lost. In 1929 the Silver Lake Women's Club of Madison reestablished the tradition with a presentation of a cane with an engraved head stating, "Presented by the Silver lake Women's Club" to Enoch Drew.

The Town of Madison and the Madison Historical Society is continuing the tradition , and on October 11th presented the Silver Lake Women's Club Cane to Jeannette Dube, the oldest Madison citizen at 98 years of age. The ceremony took place at a friend's house on Silver Lake on a beautiful sunny day.



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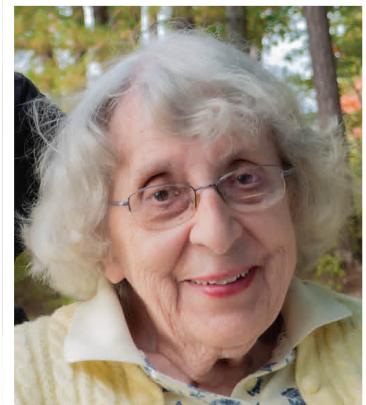
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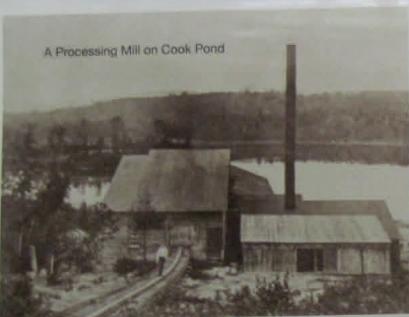
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◆ Mining Lead, Zinc, and Silver in Madison ◆

A Processing Mill on Cook Pond



Moving the ore



Lead Mine Road, which runs between East Shore Drive and East Madison Road, originally provided access to a mine located near Cook Pond. This was one of three mines in New Hampshire where silver-bearing galena was mined (the others were on Mount Hayes, in Coos County, and near North Woodstock). Galena, which occurs world wide, is a naturally-occurring mineral composed of lead and sulfur. It can also contain 1-2% silver. While the mine was developed principally for galena (thus lead) extraction, another mineral was prevalent as well. Sphalerite is composed of zinc and sulfur, thus providing a second commercially-viable metal, zinc.

Madison's galena was first mined by Ephraim Tibbets in 1826. The Madison mine operated as an underground mine until 1915 (a 40-foot deep shaft is documented in 1841; by 1888 an 80-foot shaft is recorded). In 1915, an open pit mine 210 x 40 feet was made; this is now filled with water. Mining ceased in 1918, and in 1923 the machinery was moved to a mine in Colorado.

The mill was seldom profitable; it is reported that Abraham Colby lost \$80,000 on the mine during the 1840s. Over the years ownership changed and the mine periodically closed and reopened. The machinery for extraction and the means of transporting ore changed over the years, as did the number of employees (10 are documented in 1868, 22 in 1870). Neither the mill buildings nor any of the houses, including the small cottages built to house workers, survive today.

Living at the mine was not easy; houses were small and winters must have been challenging. Yet the mine provided work for many and it is said to have developed into a close community of workers.

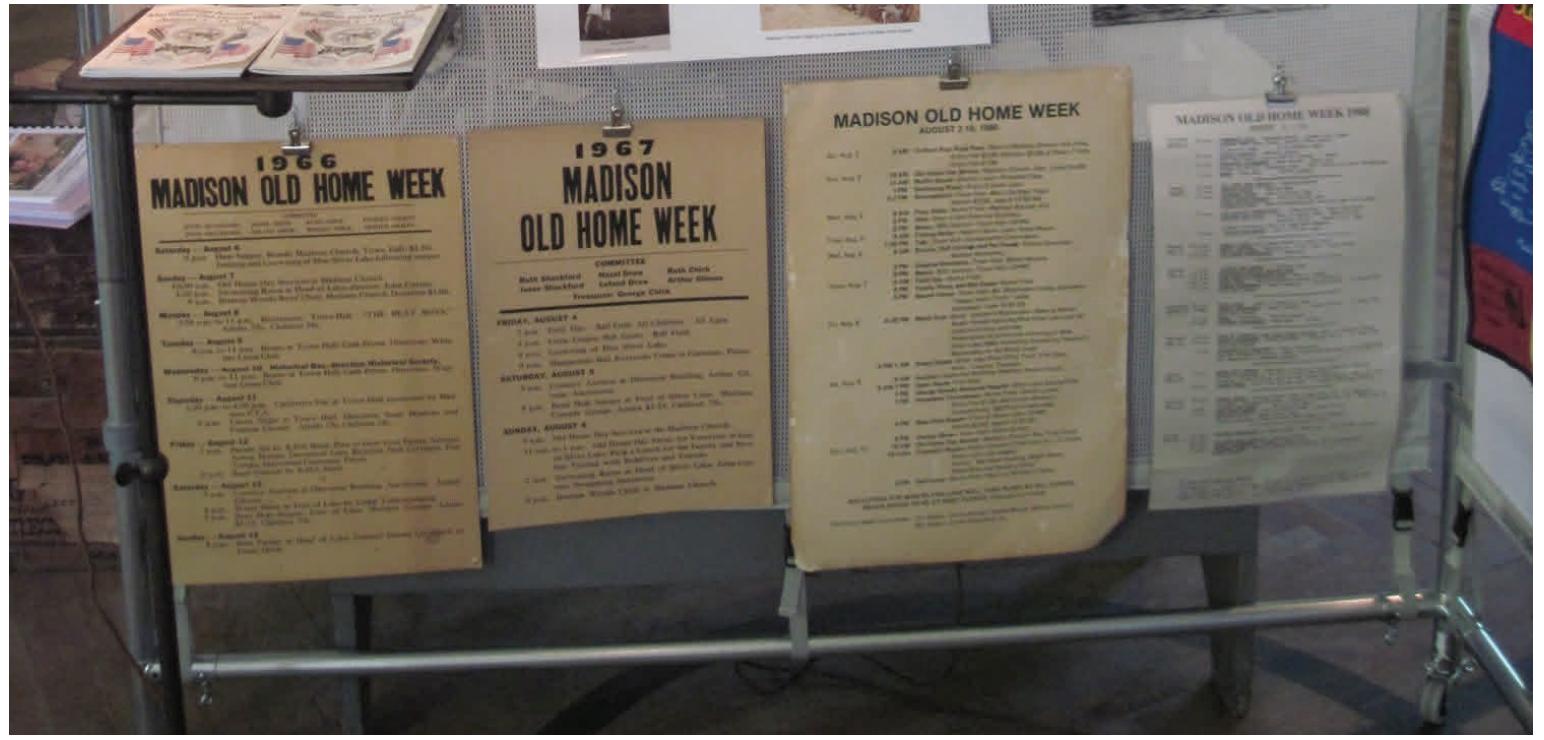
In 1916-17, when Milford Ward was working in the processing mill, he wrote "...it was a cold job in the mill and we had almost no heat. In the coldest part of the winter the mill ran seven days a week to keep the water from freezing, and, even so, icicles would form on the edges of the slime tables, even though they were in motion."

In 1984 the area where the mine was located became the property of the Town of Madison.

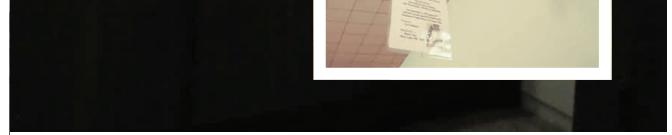


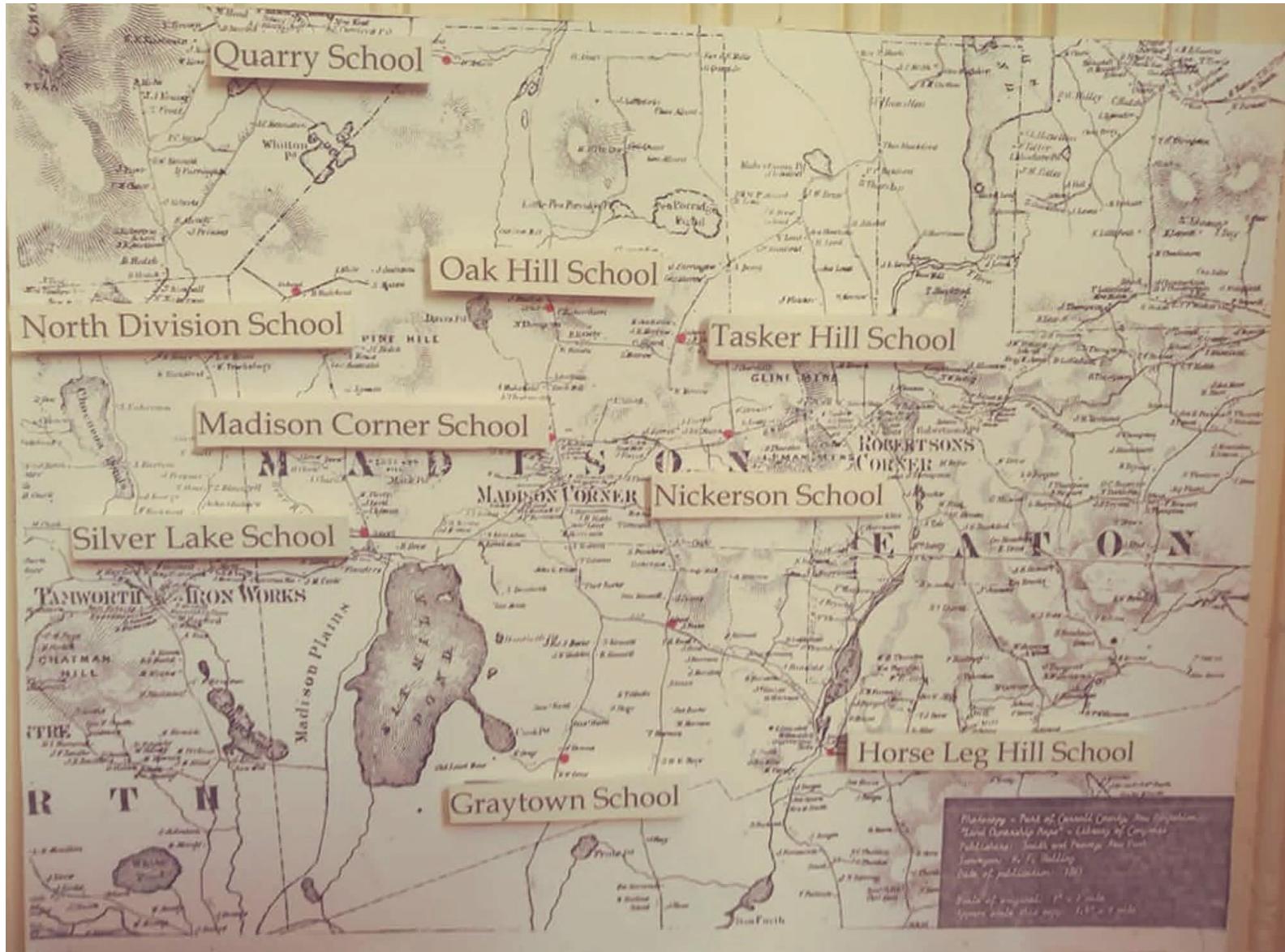
The Open Pit Mine and Lift after the Mine Closed, filled with Water





Lee Drew as Parade Marshall





Madison Historical Society
PO Box 505
Madison, NH 03849

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