

Madison Historical Society

Fall 2022



NEW SIGN

Thanks to all for a great summer in spite of the heat and the road construction.

The latter resulted in more parking spaces!

We were very happy to see so many of you at our exhibit of YESTERDAY'S CHILD and are already brainstorming about Summer 2023.



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THE MADISON HISTORICAL SOCIETY MUSEUM

In 1873 there arose a need for a town meeting house and an article was placed in the town warrant. It was voted to pass over the article that year and subsequent years until 1884 when the article was passed. It was then voted to raise \$800 and a committee was selected to locate a site and build the house. As a result, the Town Meeting House was erected by Nathaniel Nason in the village now known as Madison Corner. The town house was used for many town functions and later was called the Recreation Hall and used as the school gym until the early 1950s. The town gave use of this building to the Historical Society in 1959 and it continued to be used as the Madison Historical Museum.—From “Places of Historic and Scenic Interest in Carroll County, New Hampshire” compiled by the Historical Societies of Carroll County 2006.



October 2022. Note that the building was moved over a few feet onto a new foundation.

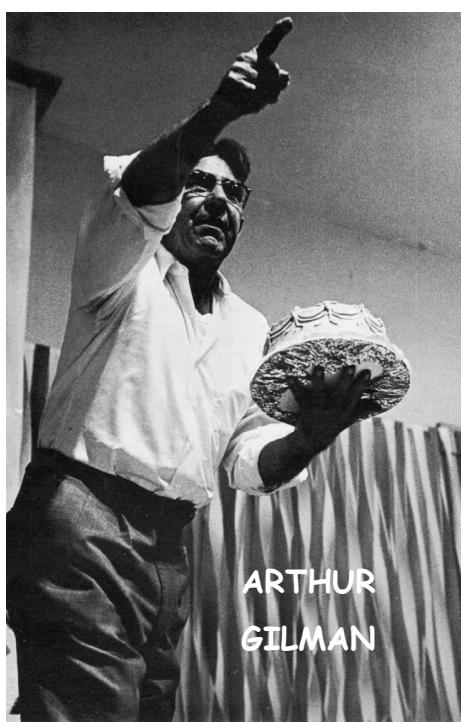
We are happy to report that the 157th Annual **MADISON DONATION** will be held November 5th after being challenged by Covid. The cake auction will take place at the Madison Baptist Church from 10-12, followed by pick up of auctioned and cut cakes, oyster stew, corn chowder and chili from 1-3 pm. The auction will be via Zoom, but the Church welcomes anyone who would prefer to come sit inside the sanctuary and attend.

Here is an essay by Roland R. Lyman that appeared in The Madisonian (Madison High School publication) in 1924. For other essays, check out the archives on our website for Summer 2000 and Fall 2015. www.madisonnhhistoricalsociety.org

One of the most interesting things in Madison is the annual donation, which is held either in the church or in the town hall. A few days before the fixed date an unusual bustle is noticeable in all the kitchens. Whenever two women chance to meet, tales of marvelous creations in the pastry line are told.

Finally the long awaited evening arrives. Then "Old Dobbin" hitched up and we set out for the hall. On the way we pass and are passed by sleighs which are fairly loaded with bells. At last we arrive. When we enter the hall, there is such a wonderful array of cakes and goodies that we are actually dazzled. There are many cakes which are creations. One in particular, that I noticed, was shaped like a log-cabin. This was a fruit cake, covered with chocolate frosting put on so as to look like logs. Another angel cake, trimmed with pink and white frosting, was adorned with a Statue of Liberty, which had been sent all the way from New York for that express purpose.

There are many speakers present and an enjoyable program is always arranged. After the program everyone buys a plate of cake and gives himself up to the joy of "good eats." Needless to say there is always a great sufficiency. After things have quieted down somewhat, the fancy cakes are sold at auction, often at a very high price. When the last cake is sold, the people scatter to their homes, each declaring that he has had a splendid time.



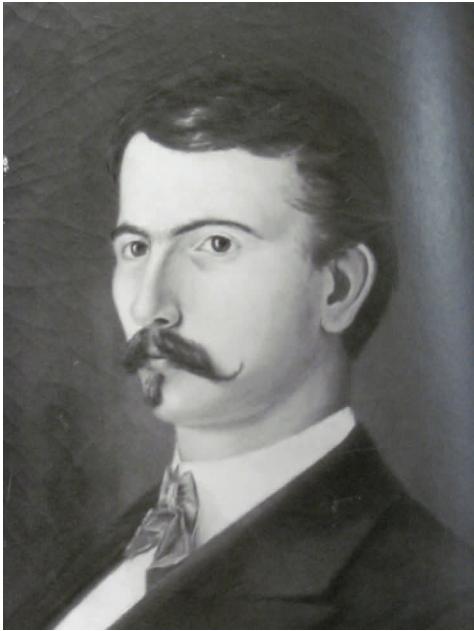
ARTHUR
GILMAN



The Cake Lady

Ruth Shackford's creations have marked special occasions for generations of her neighbors.

BY EDIE CLARK



Here is an excerpt from Roy Bubb's
VISIONS FROM A WHITE MOUNTAIN PALETTE.
THE LIFE AND TIMES OF CHARLES A. HUNT,
Madison's White Mountain Painter

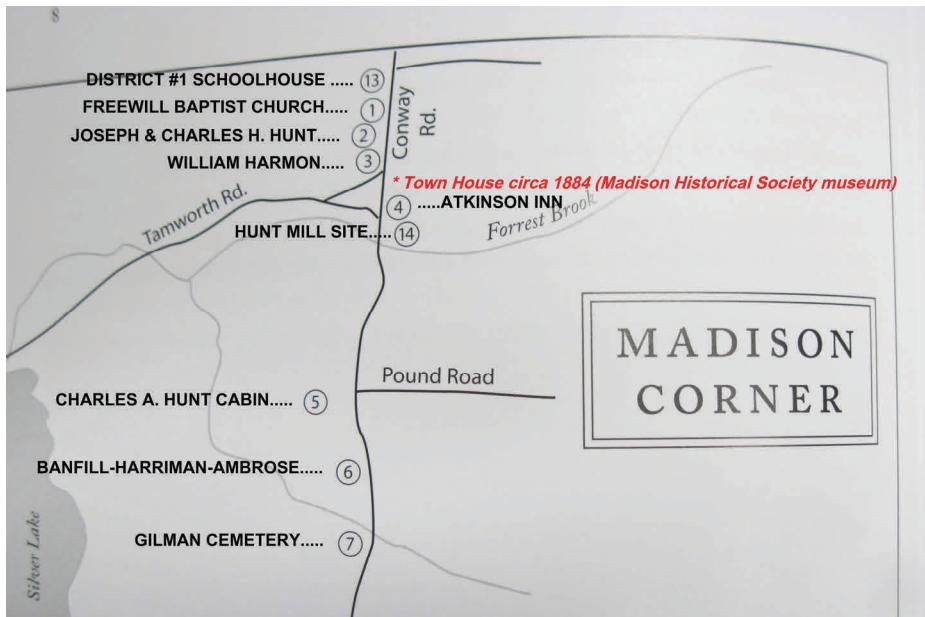
THE HUNT FAMILY OF MADISON CORNER

Madison Corner, in the years when our artist, Charles, was a lad, was a hamlet of approximately forty-eight buildings that consisted of private homes, a schoolhouse, an inn, the Freewill Baptist Church, farmsteads, and various shops and stores to meet the needs of the locals. Madison Township, where the "Corner" bustled with life, was once a part of the Town of Eaton, but on December 1, 1852, a part of Eaton was to become the Town of Madison, "that place over the mountain," the mountain that, before 1852, divided the Township of Eaton. All legal documents—town, school, estate-had town of Eaton stamped on them until December 1852, the year, Charles A. Hunt, was born.

When Madison Corner was first being settled in 1815, Captain Joseph R. Hunt (1781-1871) came to the area at the age of thirty-four. He purchased land south of the Baptist church from William Snell Jr., a local clothier. According to Leon O. Gerry's pamphlet, *Around Madison Corner*, published in 1979 it is assumed that Joseph's title of captain was from his role as a captain of a commercial boat, for no records of military service could be found. At this time, Joseph was listed in the census as a chair maker, doing business from a building he erected on his newly acquired property beside the Colby Store.

Joseph deeded his property to his son, Charles H. Hunt, in 1857. Charles H. kept the property until 1869, when he sold it to John C. Frost. Charles H. had been living in Lawrence, Massachusetts prior to this time. He moved back to the Corner by the mid-1850s with his family. His son, Charles A. Hunt, spent his childhood years attending the local schoolhouse.

According to the 1859 school scholars list, young Charles was six at this time. His sister, Ellen, was listed as thirteen years, nine months, and the parents' names were listed as Charles H. Hunt and Sally A. Harmon. This particular school term in 1859 ran from May 30 (not a holiday then) to September 22, six days a week. The term was fifteen weeks long and had fifty-five pupils registered. The salary of the teacher, Augusta Hodsdon, was eighteen dollars a month—with board!



In 1869 Captain Joseph Hunt, Charles's grandfather, moved at the age of eighty-eight with his son and family to Nashua, after having lived in Madison Corner for fifty-four years. Over these many decades he had held various town offices. In 1823, he was licensed to sell "spirits" for one year only, and in quantities of less than a gallon. Five years later he was serving on the committee to decide on the separation of the town from Eaton. During this period, he was postmaster for twelve years, ending his tenure in 1852, at the time when the division plan became a reality. He also served as scaler of weights and measures, town surveyor, culler of staves, and the committee to plan the Town House (1846). He was given \$1.50 to make a coffin for Lucy Ann Brotton. During all this time, Captain Hunt had a business of chair and cabinetmaking.

An interesting note found in Gerry's pamphlet tells us that the town gave Joseph a place in a sheep's ear so it could be identified if lost—notch out of the upper part of the left ear. In the late 1820s, Hunt was paid six dollars by the town fathers to paint guideposts (road signs). Would his designs of these posts eventually rub off on his grandson Charles? Which of these many abilities did he inherit from his talented grandfather?

In the mid-1850s Charles H. Hunt, the Captain's son, returned to Madison Corner. The 1860 census lists him as a miller, but later that year he was listed as a machinist. It appears that Charles H. was interested in mills and mill construction because in 1857 George W. Atkinson deeded Hunt the right to build a mill, dam, and canal along Forrest Brook, which was located across the road from the Atkinson homestead and south of Abigail Atkinson's inn.

According to the monument in Gilman Cemetery, near Madison Corner, where Joseph is buried, Charles H. Hunt died at sea on his return from a business trip to Brazil to set up a mill. It was also thought that his thirty-three-year-old son, Charles A., had accompanied him. The monument reads that his father died on March 6, 1886, and was buried at sea, at latitude 9 degrees 30 minutes north and longitude 59 degrees 45 minutes west. Was Charles A. a partner in this venture or was he a companion only? If he was a companion, would young Charles view this trip as an opportunity to see a foreign land, with its own unique culture, with the eyes and hands of an artist?

* * * * *

Throughout the rest of the biography, you will learn much about the artistic endeavors of Charles A. Hunt...from 1852, the year of his birth, until his death in 1930.

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The book is available from the Madison Historical Society for \$29, which includes postage.

Madison Historical Society

PO Box 505

Madison NH 03849

www.madisonnhhistoricalsociety.org

Visions from a
WHITE MOUNTAIN
THE LIFE and TIMES
of CHARLES A. HUNT PALETTE



Madison's White Mountain Painter

by ROY BUBB



This organ is one of the permanent fixtures in the Madison Historical Society museum. It was gifted by Eva Twombly.

It is not as large as the one described by Pearson, but there are many similarities.

PARLOR ORGAN

by Haydn S. Pearson from "Country Flavor Cookbook"

The parlor organ belongs to a quieter, more flavorful era of our history. When a family could afford the magnificent Imperial Grand Organ at \$50.95, it was a big event and satisfied one of Mother's long-cherished ambitions. It was a handsome affair, elaborately carved, with beveled mirror and several fancy little shelves to hold dust-collecting bric-a-brac. There were five octaves and four sets of reeds. A 12-year-old memorized the fascinating names of the 16 stops: vox humana, viola, flute, bourdon, clarinet, cornet, cornet echo, principal forte, diapason forte, treble coupler, bass coupler, Cremona, melodia, dulciana, principal and diapason.

On a cold, star-lit winter evening, it was heart-warming and reassuring as friends and family gathered around the organ and Mother played the old, beloved, familiar home songs and cherished hymns. Voices were not trained but they were rich and true—and people sang because they loved to. Sopranos and altos, tenors and basses blended in "Annie Laurie," "Old Black Joe," "Flow Gently Sweet Afton," "Sweet Hour of Prayer," and "'When the Roll is Called Up Yonder.'" There were lively songs: "There is a Tavern in the Town," "Solomon Levi" and "The Bulldog on the Bank." And when it grew late, along about nine thirty, the evening usually concluded with that beloved favorite, "God Be With You 'Til We Meet Again." In those long-ago days, as a boy climbed the stairs to his room under the eaves, all the world seemed safe, friendly and secure.

School Notes

Madison High School

November, 1923

The High School opened September 10, with an enrollment of forty-seven pupils. Again we were delighted to have with us our former teachers, Mr. Conner and Miss Quimby.

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The High School had some very interesting exhibits at the Grange Fair held October 13 in the Town Hall. The History and English Notebooks of the Senior Class were especially good. Among other things of interest which they contained were Census Charts of Madison, maps of Madison and graphs of the town government. The Commercial Geography Class also contributed by displaying the Commercial Exhibits which they have been collecting from various firms in the country.

* * * *

On October 25 Madison High School gave an oyster supper and entertainment which consisted of the following program:

Song.....	School
Talk.....	Supt. Jackson
Song.....	School
Reading.....	Mrs. Louise Reynolds
Song.....	High School Girls
"America".....	School and Audience

After the program Mrs. Reynolds took charge and everyone enjoyed games for a short time. The evening closed with a dance.

* * * *

Hallowe'en night the Woman's Club and High School held a joint Hallowe'en party, at I.O.O.F. Hall. A grand march in which all those in costume participated was the first thing on the program. Sarah Chamberlain was awarded first prize for the best girl's costume and Carlton Pearson for the best boy's costume. After an attempt to pin a tail onto a black cat, delicious refreshments were served by the Woman's Club. A short program was given and a pleasant social hour enjoyed by those present.

* * * *

The English Club enjoyed as their first speaker for the year, Mrs. Liford Merrow, who read a very fine paper on "New England's Part in Americanization." Before starting she asked the club members to take notes and promised a prize to the one who took the best notes. Mrs. Merrow's paper was very instructive and interesting. Arthur Gilman was awarded the prize, a book on Americanization, for having the best notes.



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SAVE THE DATE: Saturday, December 3, 9 to 1

Madison PTO 30th Annual Craft Fair

We'll be there—hope to see you!

Another way to donate to the Madison Historical Society is through the use of AmazonSmile for your Amazon purchases. The AmazonSmile Foundation donates .5% of the purchase price from customers' eligible purchases to the charitable organizations they select. To make a Charity List, sign in to org.amazon.com. We have earned \$224.87 to date.

Madison Historical Society
PO Box 505
Madison, NH 03849

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