

Madison Historical Society

Winter 2023

WHITTON JANUARY

Winter night has frightened indoors
the last pleasures of the sun.
Tributary brooks stiff with numbness do not flow.
Around the pond a pale of barking ice
reports the doom and fir trees huddle
grim peasants listening for wolves.
The spark of a misreckoning meteor
curves around Orion into gelid space.
The silver whiteness of the moon
and the pewter inutility of hill
mock assurance spring must come
or has come every year till this.

By Albert L. Watson, 1976 "Whitton's Well"



Deer River in Winter, Silver Lake, N. H.

s103

< Purity Spring Resort, Millbrook Lodge



THE LAKESIDE IN WINTER. SILVER LAKE, N. H.

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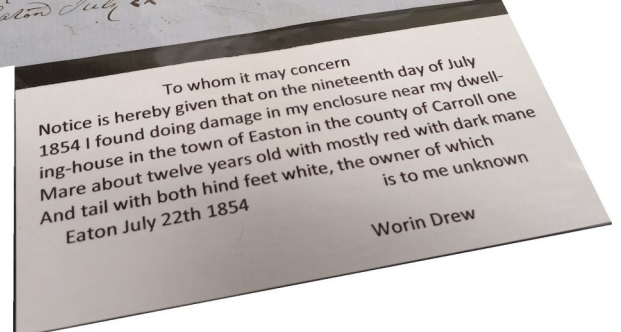
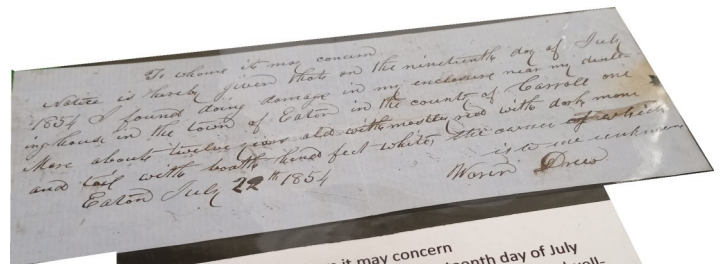
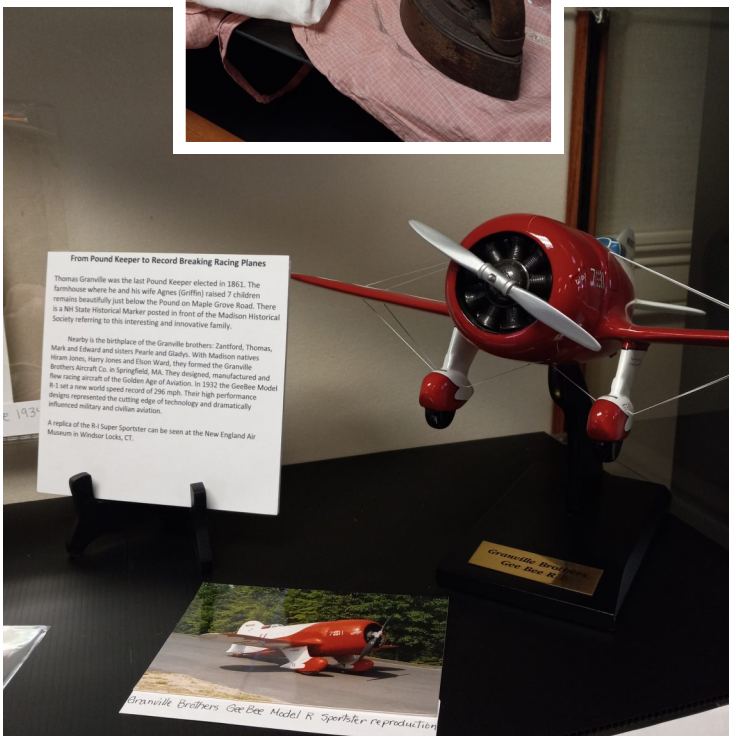
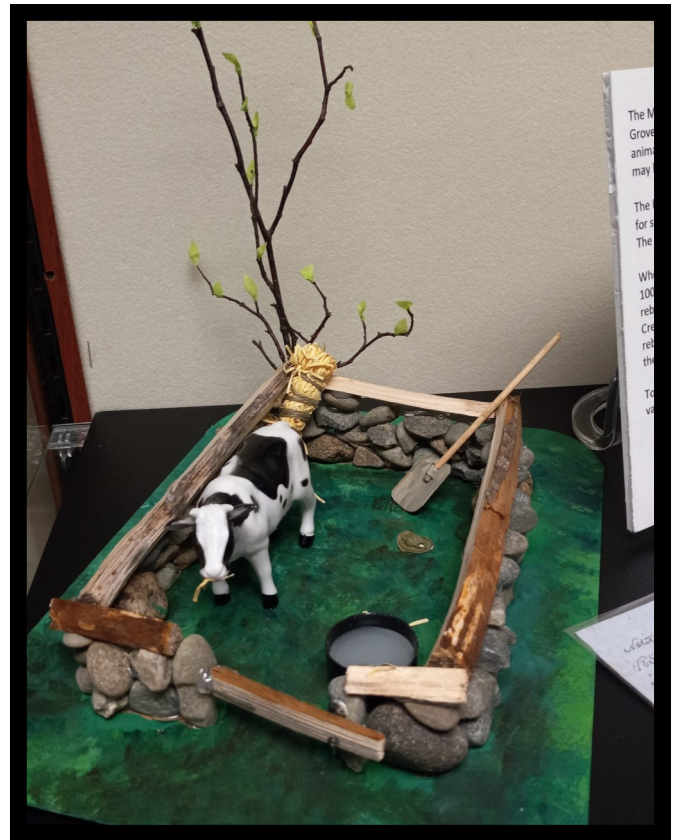
www.madisonnhhistoricalsociety.org

The **MADISON ELEMENTARY SCHOOL** has graciously allowed us to create a historical display in a lovely glass case in the main lobby. Many thanks go to Nancy Martin for setting this up. Our spring exhibit includes the Town Pound which unfortunately just sustained significant damage during a recent storm.

In addition the Granville family is highlighted. Zantford Granville, son of Madison's last elected Pound Keeper, along with his brothers and a few other Madison "boys" created a line of Sportster racing planes, the Gee Bee being the most recognized for breaking a speed record. Their work influenced military and civilian aviation during the Golden Age of Aviation of the 1930s.

Two state historical signs honor the Granville family. One is posted at the Historical Society museum and the other at the family home on Maple Grove Road, just beyond the Pound.

Two irons are also on display. Ironing is becoming a thing of the past with the creation of wrinkle free fabrics and the use of dryer and fabric softeners, but back in the day, ironing was an all day affair.



THE MADISON TOWN POUND

"THE OLD TOWN POUND"; or, "OLD POUND" as it used to be... Told by Robert Chick,

Written by Edith Chick, Copied by Earnest A. Meader, 1981

Madison and Eaton originally were chartered as one town in 1764 and was named Eaton, in memory of Gen. John Eaton, for noted Military Services. The Pound is situated at the turn of the road as you go from Maple Ave. to Pearson's Heights. (now Pound Road and Maple Grove Road). It was all the Pound there was in the Town.

In the year of 1852, at the fall session of the Legislature, an Act was passed dividing Eaton and making two Towns, Eaton and Madison. By so doing the Pound so called was in Madison. The Pound was a square enclosure (40'x40'), built all the way around with a high stone wall. On top of the wall on the four sides was a hewed beam one foot square. Posts 1 1/2 foot high were sunk at intervals in the beam. On top of these posts another beam 4 inches square was placed with the posts fastened in that. On the North side was a swing gate with a lock.

The Pound was used to put stray cattle, horses, sheep, swine or other domestic animals. The owner could get them only after paying for the damage that they had done and a fee to the Pound Keeper.

There was a Pound Keeper elected each year at the March Town Meeting. Thomas Granville was the last Pound Keeper elected in 1861 to care for the Pound and to keep it locked and in repair; also to look after the stray animals and collect fees for the damages. He was elected for a number of years. After that it was not used anymore.

After the Old Pound ceased to be used, it soon lost its purpose and was forgotten. In 1976 it was estimated that it had not been used for at least 100 years. At this time it was overgrown with large oak and pine trees. This being the bicentennial Year, the Madison Historical Society members voted to rebuild the Old Madison Town Pound as a Bicentennial Project.

With the help of a Town appropriation, the "Bud Shackford Crew" with their equipment rebuilt the stone work in an excellent manner. The Madison Historical Society members had several work parties, and the 12 x 12 timbers were put in place; this is where the project stopped. The small framework and the gate are yet to be added to complete this worthwhile project, hopefully this will take place this year of 1981.



**For more information on the Town Pound
and its restoration you may visit the news-
letter archives**

Winter 2002, Summer 2008,

Fall 2008, November 2018

at

www.madisonnhhistoricalsociety.org

In 2008 restoration of the Town Pound took place one more time. Three generations of Roger Clayton's family (son Glen and grandsons Samuel Clayton and Jacob Gatten) replaced the timberwork with lumber donated by Joe Shackford. A gate was never added.



Caretaking of the Pound has been a shared experience of volunteers through the years. Most recently Gary and Jane Hoffman have performed the task including decorating the Pound with evergreen wreaths for the holidays. During the 2nd week of January 2023, Jane discovered that a recent storm had knocked down a mighty big tree into the Pound and took a number of other trees down with it.

The Town Crew was notified and with muscles and machines, cut and cleared the gnarly debris allowing a clear assessment of damages done. For the most part, the good work that came before stood strong, but stone and timbers will need repairs. So now 236 years after the first stones were laid the Townspeople will again be tasked to restore and preserve this piece of Madison's history.



**TOWN
POUND
STORM
DAMAGE
AND
REPAIR
STARTED**



MADISON HIGH SCHOOL FIRSTS

from The Madisonian 1935, Vol. 13, No. 1

Madison High School opened the fall of 1920 with an enrollment of twelve. They moved into a new school building in 1922 when they published their first issue of The Madisonian.

BASEBALL: Always one of the major sports.

BASKETBALL: Boys, 1921. The first year they were in the Carroll County Basketball League, and they won the County championship. Girls, 1928

DEBATING: Early in the year 1922 Madison High School joined the Interscholastic Debating League. The team debated with Littleton, Lancaster, and Whitefield on the topic, Resolved: "That the Massachusetts forty-eight hour law is desirable for New Hampshire." Due to the conflicting schedules they were unable to continue in the League in later years.

DRAMATICS: Since 1922 MHS has given a three-act play each spring.

1922 - The Deacon's Second Wife

1923 - Turning the Trick

1924 - Professor Pep

1925 - Daddy Long-Legs

1926 - Come Out of the Kitchen

1927 - Believe Me Xanthippe

1928 - It Pays to Advertise

1929 - Once There Was a Princess

1930 - Turn to the Right

1931 - Peg O' My Heart

1932 - Rebecca of Sunnybrook Farm

1933 - Penrod

1934 - Pollyanna

1935 - Adventure of Granpa Mr. Bob



FIELD DAY: First held in 1925 on the ball field and continued until 1927 once a year. Boys and girls both went; various exercises such as dashes, broad jumps, high jumps, ball throwing for distance, etc. were held.

SCHOOL EXHIBITIONS: From 1925 until 1934 all the town schools, together with the high school, held an evening exhibition of their work, which started with a good supper served by the high school and was followed by entertainment.

HIKING CLUB: Started for the girls in the year 1925-26 and continued until 1934. Once a week the girls and a teacher took long hiking trips to various places.

PRIZE SPEAKING: Started by the Silver Lake Woman's Club in 1926. Cash prizes were given on the condition that every pupil would participate in the preliminaries. The selections must be worthwhile and of reasonable length.

Written by Ruth Van Dusen, Editor-in-Chief - "From my own experience I know that it certainly takes a great deal of 'grit' to get up in front of any one to speak and to put expression and action into lines we are saying. How glad I am when it is over!"

SOCCER: Soccer was recognized as a major sport in 1933. Only one game was played, and it ended in a scoreless tie with Brewster.

HOT-DOG ROAST: A school cannot be complete unless it has some good times of its own. It has become a tradition of the school to have a hot-dog roast each fall. The entire school usually goes to the shore of the lake for a social hour, swim, refreshments and one grand sing on the beach in the starlight.

POLITICS

Annual Report of Officers of the Town of Madison, 1910

Report of School Board and Superintendent

To the Citizens of the District of Madison:

The School Board respectfully submit the report of the Superintendent as submitted to them*, and indorse the recommendations therein made. The Board believes that the schools have shown improvement and will continue to improve under supervision. The spring and fall terms at Silver Lake were very successful and although the winter term was not quite as satisfactory, yet it was taught by one recommended by a neighboring school board.

Attention is called to amendments enacted at the last session of the General Court relating to school money, while the amount required by law remains the same, the amount exceeding that required by law remains at the option of the district as in previous years, except that all money paid out for books and supplies and high school tuition, shall be determined by the School Board and assessed by the Selectmen, in addition to all other money. If the amount assessed is, at the end of the fiscal year, in excess of the requirements, the balance can be carried over to the next year on this account.

The Board recommends that \$100.00 be raised for books and supplies, and that \$54.00 be raised to pay for approved high school tuitions. It is also recommended that \$50.00 be raised for repairs.

James W. Tyler
John H. Pearson
Ernest E. Kennett

*see April 2022 MHS newsletter

SEEING THE PRESIDENT*

Philip A. Angell, Class of Madison High School, 1924

In Williamstown, not many years ago, I first saw a President of the United States. I do not remember the day, month nor year, because dates meant nothing to me then. I just remember being told in the morning that the President would pass through the town. Of course I was on the street corner very early. When I saw the President, I was somewhat disappointed. I had expected him to be different somehow. And—he was just a man! He was big and jolly, though. His car was driven by a big man, dressed in blue, and there were more big men, also dressed in blue in the car with him. At the time their suits looked like band uniforms to me, because I did not understand that they were bodyguards. The President made a speech, but I do not remember a word he said. I remember only how proud and happy I was to have seen a President of the United States.

*The Madisonian, March, 1923

M—ERIT

A—THLETICS

D—DEBATES

I—INDUSTRY

S—CHOOL SPIRIT

O—OPTIMISM

N—EIGHBORLINESS

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Madison Historical Society
PO Box 505
Madison, NH 03849

MEMBERSHIP FORM:

_____ **Single Membership - \$10.00**

_____ **Family Membership - \$15.00**

_____ **Senior Members (over 80) - free**

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