

Madison Historical Society

Spring 2023

HAPPY SPRING!!

We hope you can join us for our first program of the season to be held on Thursday evening, May 18th, 7 pm at our museum. **JESSE SHACKFORD** will be our guest, and he will help us reminisce about Madison's good old days! We expect it to be a lot of fun.



Back by popular demand, our summer programs will again be Music by the Lake, June 15, July 20, August 17—more about that later...

AND, our summer exhibit will be...**MEMORIES OF MADISON.**

Stroll through the Historical Society Building and catch a glimpse of years gone by. Exhibiting paintings, photographs, military uniforms & items, maps, along with Cummings items, our Peddlers Wagon and much more. Our tool shed out back will be open also. So come and explore. We are always in need of docents. It's easy learning and you meet some amazing folks. If interested, let us know.

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www.madisonnhhistoricalsociety.org

April is Poetry Month at the **MADISON ELEMENTARY SCHOOL** and we were able to provide some examples of poetry published in the old Madison High School newsletters for their historical exhibit. The display cabinet in the school lobby is highlighting our best known poet, e e cummings, who spent many a summer at the family farm in Silver Lake up until his death in 1962.

I AM A LITTLE CHURCH By e e cummings

i am a little church (no great cathedral)
far from the splendor and squalor of hurrying cities
i do not worry if briefer days grow briefest,
i am not sorry when sun and rain make april

my life is the life of the reaper and the sower;
my prayers are prayers of earth's own clumsy striving
(finding and losing and laughing and crying) children
whose any sadness or joy is my grief or my gladness

around me surges a miracle of unceasing
birth and glory and death and resurrection:
over my sleeping self float flaming symbols
of hope, and i wake to a perfect patience of mountains

i am a little church (far from the frantic
world with its rapture and anguish) at peace with nature
i do not worry if longer nights grow longest;
i am sorry when silence becomes singing

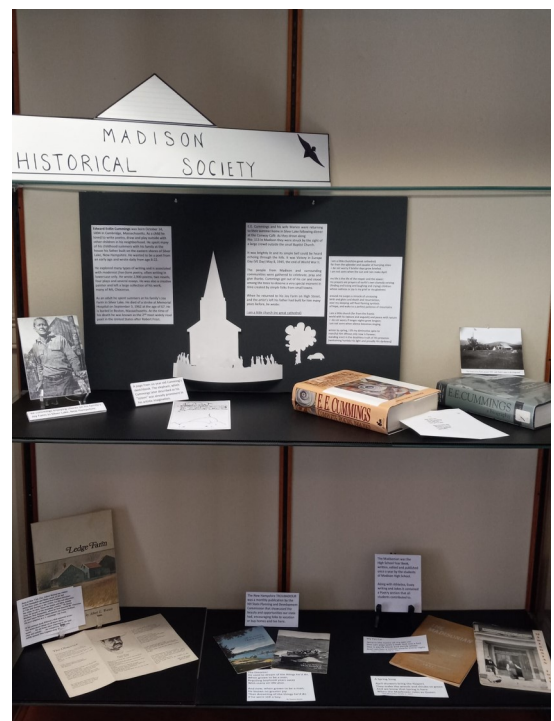
winter by spring, i lift my diminutive spire to
merciful Him Whose only now is forever:
standing erect in the deathless truth of His presence
(welcoming humbly His light and proudly His darkness)

DISAPPOINTMENT By Betty Harmon '44

I thought yesterday, "there's spring in the air,
Beautiful, glorious spring!
With its newborn life and its perfumes rare,
An awakening that bird calls ring."
And then, to everyone's surprise,
The very next day there came
A visit from Old Man Winter.
There was snow on the ground again!

WHERE IS SPRING? By Dorothy Huff, '46

The sun began shining one day;
The pussies started to bloom.
But now the snow has come back again
And will probably stay until June!



MADISON HIGH SCHOOL opened in 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*. This year, June 15, 2023, is the 100th anniversary of the first graduating class which consisted of three pupils.

"Fortunate indeed is Madison High to have its first graduating class leave behind them such beautiful ideals to inspire the coming classes." *The Madisonian*, June, 1923

MARTHA KENNETT was born in Madison, May 3, 1905. She attended the Madison Corner grade school, where she acquired a good grammar school education. Her record in High School has been highly credible, attaining the rank of Honor Pupil every month for the three years. She has been prominent in every school function. She will enter Radcliffe in September.

MILDRED NASON was born in Madison, May 14, 1905, just eleven days later than Martha. She also attended the Madison Corner School. Her work in High School has been excellent, especially this last year. Her name has generally been on the Honor Roll. She has participated in all the school events during her course. She is undecided as to college.

FLORENCE PEARSON, a little older than her two classmates, was born in Campton NH June 11, 1902. As she came to Madison when very young, we may consider her a Madison girl. Her grammar school life was in the Nickerson School where she made an excellent record. In High School her work has been nearly perfection in every subject. Like her two classmates, she has taken part in all school plays and other school activities. She will enter Plymouth Normal School in the fall.



MILDRED NASON
She is pretty to walk with,
And witty to talk with,
And pleasant, too, to think on. *Milton*



MARTHA KENNETT
The soul of music slumbers in the shell
Till waked and kindled by the master's spell. *Rogers*



FLORENCE PEARSON
Humility, that low, sweet root
From whence all heavenly virtues shoot. *Moore*

Below is a spring 1957 picture of three young ladies, including two Nasons, posing by the Silver Lake monument:

Linda Drew, Patsy Nason, Nancy Nason
(picture provided by Hank Furnbach)



In Memory of WILLIAM C. HARMON

William Colby Harmon (97) of Enfield CT passed away peacefully on Friday, March 17, 2023. He was born August 24, 1925, son of the late William Allen Harmon and Dorothy (Moore) Harmon. He grew up in Madison, NH and enlisted in the U.S. Navy at the age of 17 as an apprentice seaman. Early in his Navy career he entered a rigorous training program to become a naval aviator, serving as patrol plane commander in PB4Y-2 Privateer and P2V-3 Neptune aircraft, and as a multi-engine aircraft flight instructor. In the late 1940s he served in Meteorological Squadron One, the "Typhoon Chasers," where he flew into typhoons to collect meteorological data and report on the severity of storms in the Pacific.



After 11 years of Navy service, he earned a degree in Mechanical Engineering from the University of New Hampshire. He then settled in Enfield CT and worked at Hamilton Standard for twenty-eight years. He was an active member of the community, volunteering as an Enfield Auxiliary Police- man, ultimately serving as the auxiliary unit commander. He also volunteered at the New England Air Museum for many years and for the American Red Cross, and served as a docent at the Bushnell Performing Arts Center. He was an active member of the Enfield Congregational Church, singing bass in the choir for decades and serving in several leadership positions, including senior deacon and church council moderator. He was also active in the Hartford East Association of the United Church of Christ.

Constance Penberthy Harmon, his wife of 69 years, passed away in 2015. The couple met when they were quite young when her family started vacationing in Madison. They shared a love for Mount Chocorua, Silver Lake and retreats to Star Island in the Isles of Shoals in NH, UConn Women's Basketball, live theater, and outings with cousins. Bill also enjoyed playing with any dog, marching bands and road trips. Besides the church choir, his musical talents included playing the family's antique bellows pump organ. He was also known to play a mean harmonica and yodel when he was in the best of moods.



He is survived by his sister Arline Parker of Grand Rapids MI, as well as his three children, Dayle Harmon (Charles Dunlay) of Bloomfield CT, Nancy Martin (Christopher) of Madison NH and Colby Harmon (Heidi) of Germantown MD, five grandchildren and eleven great-grandchildren.



Research on the Madison Boulder by Joy Gray—things you may not have known about our rock!

MADISON BOULDER. Our big rock with an interesting little history

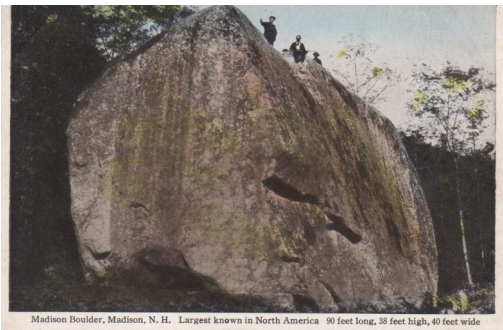
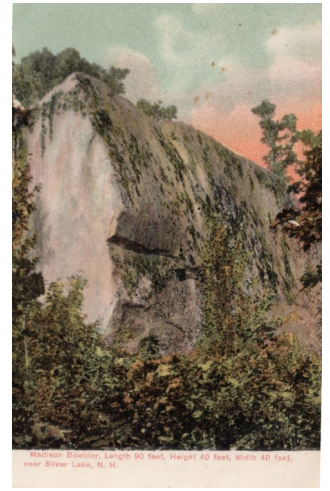
As early as 1895, scientists were studying the Madison Boulder, trying to estimate the size of this mammoth granite rock that now stands alone in the middle of the woods, left behind by the glaciers. On October 31, 1895, the White Mountain Reporter announced "A Fifteen Million Pound Boulder" near the town of Madison NH, calling it "The very largest erratic boulder yet recognized and measured within the limits of the United States". They had yet to learn it was the largest erratic in North America, and amongst the largest in the world.

A Professor Crosby from the Boston Institute of Technology estimated Madison Boulder's dimensions as 88 ft x 45 ft 2 in x 36 ft, at 90,000 cubic feet with a probably weight of 7,650 tons. It soon became a popular site to visit, with locals comparing it to the nearby Washington Boulder in Redstone.

Thankfully, the Madison Boulder did not meet a similar fate!

In July of 1899, the local papers reported that the Madison Boulder was to be split up for its granite. The Washington Boulder had been blasted a few years prior to use the rock for stonework; it lay in pieces for years, ultimately used to build the foundation of the Jenks Memorial Library building now home to the Conway Public Library.

Cries to preserve the Madison Boulder were immediate, but it took years to call the mission a success.



In 1903, conservationists got some traction. During Old Home Week of that year, lectures were given by Professor William M. Salter and Reverend Edwards Cummings, father of Madison's favorite poet e e cummings, inspiring two improvement societies to come together with the intent to buy the Madison Boulder and the boat landing at the head of Silver Lake to be presented as a gift to the town of Madison. That same year, the Madison Association of Boston was issued a Certificate of Corporation by the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

Six years later, the Boston Globe, Granite State News, and local valley paper The Reporter announced the success of the 5th annual fair of the Madison Association of Massachusetts, netting \$200 to save the Madison Boulder. The Association had 60-75 members, mostly residents of Massachusetts with connections to Madison. Chair of the committee that year was Elizabeth M. (Frost) Lawrence.* Lizzie was born into the 4th generation of Frosts to live in Madison (since the days it was still part of Eaton); she resided near Boston in 1900, returning to Madison in 1904 to build as her summer home on land deeded to her by her brother John; her Victorian home came to be known locally as Pine Croft.

With the efforts of Lizzie and others, the newspapers reported confidently that the boulder would soon be presented as a gift to the town of Madison, with intent of the Association to continue their work, to have the Madison Boulder surrounded by a park to be preserved for all time.

In 1946, the Madison Boulder was acquired by the state of New Hampshire when the Kennett family deeded the 17-acre site to the state as a memorial to A. Crosby Kennett, whose stone monument towers over Gilman Cemetery near Lizzie's old Pine Croft. In 1970, Madison Boulder was designated a National Natural Landmark by the United States.

Since the early days of Madison, locals and travelers alike have marveled at the natural beauty that surrounds us. Volunteers, then and now, persevere to preserve the nature and history of our little town with one heck of a big rock.



*In 1930, this Lizzie (Frost) Lawrence did a deed swap with her friend Lyle N. Harmon Sawyer, and lived her final 7 years in the house next to the historical society, previously known as the Atkinson Inn. She was also responsible for getting the receiving tomb built and water installed at the Gilman Cemetery where generations of Frosts are buried.

BOUNTY LAND APPLICATION

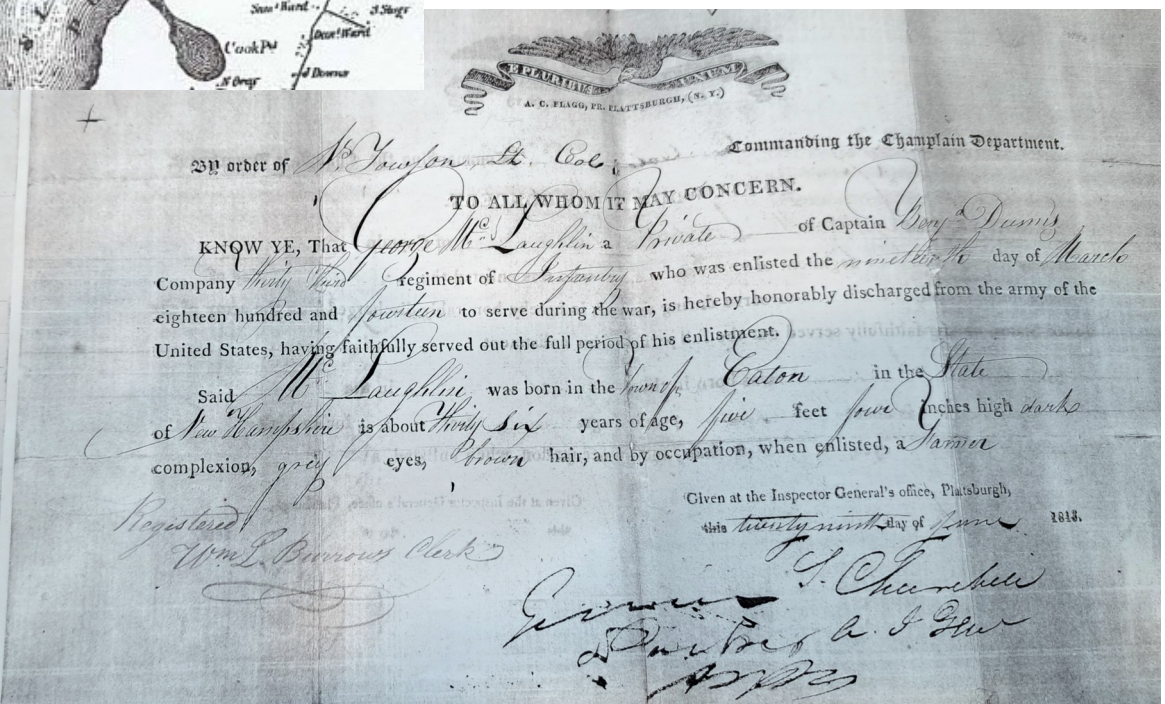
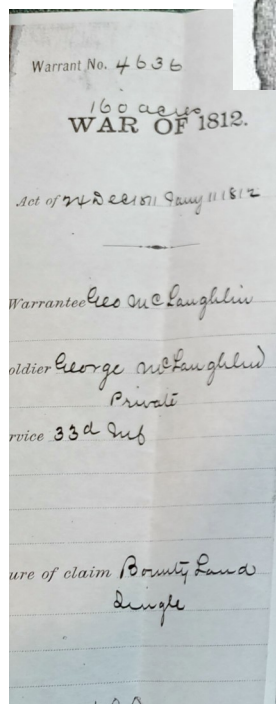
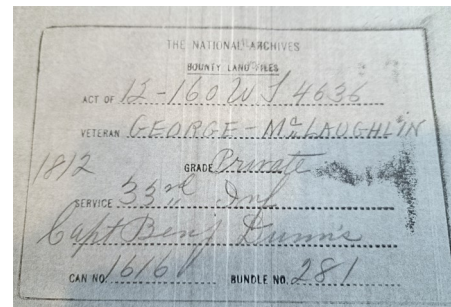
War of 1812

We were very pleased to recently receive a copy of the bounty land application of George McLaughlin/McGlothlin after he served in the War of 1812. It came from Peter Welch; George was his 4th great grandfather. A write-up in "Soldiers of Eaton and Madison 1776-1865" (below) by Leon Gerry and Keith Henney chronicles his military service as much as is known. He and his wife Mary Kennison/Kennerson are buried in the Chocorua Cemetery.

McLAUGHLIN, GEORGE. There are contradictions in the record of this member of the 33rd Regiment; even his name is spelled several ways. He enlisted in Capt. Dunn's company, March 6, 1814 and was discharged July 6, 1815. The papers on this man state that the name George McGlothlin was not borne on the rolls of the 33rd Infantry. In his own statement of November 4, 1850, signed by mark, he said that in 1815 he had given his discharge paper to John March for the purpose of getting bounty land for him and that he had received neither the land or his discharge back. The record does show that Land Warrant No. 4636 for 160 acres was issued May 11, 1816 to George McLaughlin of Capt. Dunn's company. This record described him as about 36 years old, a farmer born in Eaton, discharged from the service at Plattsburgh, 29 June 1815.

The 1810 census lists the family of George McGlothlin as do the 1830, 1840 and 1850 lists. In the last year it has him as George W. McLaughlin and 92 years old, born in Ireland. He shows finally on the 1860 census, 100 years old. But his gravestone in the Chocorua Cemetery reads George Mack died September 4, 1867, aged 95.

The 1861 map of Eaton and Madison, Carroll County, placed George Mack east of Six Mile Pond and southwest of A. Danforth who was at the end of Danforth Lane. On page 177, Vol. 2, Eaton's town clerk's records William Snell, Jr. recorded the births of ten children of George McGothlin and his wife Mary. The dates extend from July 21, 1816 for Mary to November 26, 1834 for Adaline.



PROPOSED AMENDMENT TO THE BYLAWS 2023

The Executive Board has been working on a periodic review of the Bylaws . The following changes and additions will be put to a vote at our May 18th public meeting, and only the summary is printed here. To read the complete Bylaws with the proposed changes, please go to our website at www.madisonnhhistoricalsociety.org or we will be happy to mail you or email you a copy. Just contact Penny at penmike@roadrunner.com.

Article II, MISSION. Change the wording from Object to Mission.

Article III, MEMBERSHIP. Define the categories of Membership to consist of General Members, Board Members, and Executive Board Members.

Article IV, DUES, Section 2. Change renewal date from the anniversary of each member's payment to July 1st.

Article VI, DUES, Section 3. Change past due implications to inactive status, unable to vote.

Article IV, DUES, Section 4. Delete the category of Honorary for people over 80. (so many of us already are over 80)

Article V, OFFICERS, Section 2. Add term of one year for immediate past President.

Article V, OFFICERS, Section 5. Reword election procedure, removing requirement to vote by ballot.

Article V, OFFICERS, Section 6. Reword vacancy procedure, offices to be filled by Executive Board until annual meeting.

Articles VI, DUTIES OF THE OFFICERS

Section 1 (President). Add check signing privilege; clarify appointments.

Section 2 (Vice-President). Clarify liaison association with the Program Committee.

Section 3 (Secretary). Reworded. Add provide report at Annual Meeting.

Section 4 (Treasurer). Reworded. Add submit federal and state reports.

Section 5 (Curator). Clarify written report requirements for annual meeting.

Section 6 (Auditor). Delete Section 6 to remove Auditor from an Officer's position.

Article VII, MEETINGS. Clarifies wording on public meetings from shall be held to should be held on a certain date.

Article VIII, EXECUTIVE BOARD, Section 1. Cross references definition from Article V.

Article VIII, EXECUTIVE BOARD, Section 4. Expands the scope of people who can attend an Executive Board Meeting, by invitation.

Article IX, COMMITTEES. Add requirement that committees submit written reports to Executive Board meetings for inclusion in Secretary's Report

Article X. AMENDMEND TO BYLAWS. Reworded, from any "regular" meeting to any "public" meeting.

Article XI. CONFLICT OF INTEREST POLICY. Added Board Members to the list of people it applies to.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS:

President: Linda Smith

Vice President: Mary McIntosh

Secretary: Betty Fernandes

Treasurer/Editor: Penny Hathaway

Curator: Karen Lord

Director: Linda Balogh

Director: Bebe Bartlett

Director: Linda Lovering

Director: Nancy Martin

Director: Christina McAllister

Director: Chelsea Krautmann

Director: Ann Wilkins



We would like to thank everyone who has donated to the Madison Historical Society through the AmazonSmile program. This program has now been discontinued to support other charitable causes.

Madison Historical Society
PO Box 505
Madison, NH 03849

MEMBERSHIP FORM:

_____ **Single Membership - \$10.00**

_____ **Family Membership - \$15.00**

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

_____ **Gift Membership (from _____)**

_____ **Donation**

TOTAL ENCLOSED

Name: _____

Address: _____

Seasonal Address (if any): _____

Email: _____

Phone: _____ **Check here if you would prefer your**
Newsletter by email: _____

PLEASE CHECK YOUR ADDRESS LABEL FOR MEMBERSHIP STATUS

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

Linda Smith, President—ldns7558@gmail.com