

Madison Historical Society

Winter 2024

MADISON HISTORICAL SOCIETY 2023

The Madison Historical Society is very grateful to Madison residents for their support. We are fortunate to have the use of the original Madison Town Hall for our museum building which is owned by the Town of Madison. We will be replacing our fence in the spring. The Town keeps the lawn mowed, the driveway plowed, and pays for the electricity.

Our summer exhibit was called MEMORIES OF MADISON, and our first program of the year featured Jesse Shackford who had lots of memories to share. Our three summer programs consisted of outdoor music events at the Lake using local talent. During Old Home Week we had a Blueberry Bake & Book Sale and a table at the Craft Fair, as well as a table at the Madison PTO Christmas Fair.

We were pleased to be able to use space at the elementary school where students can learn about their town's history, and we also took some "show and tell" items to the Adult Day Care Center.

***Our information
for the Town of Madison's
Annual Report & Town
Meeting***



COMING SOON...
NEW
BLUEBERRY
COOKBOOK
ENTRIES NEEDED!

We received several important additions to our archives, including an e e cummings scrapbook and much Gerry Family information. We are trying to collect "Covid Stories" for our archives and would love to add yours for future generations to find. If you have a story you would like to share, we would love to hear from you.

The museum is open from 2-4 every Tuesday from Memorial Day to Labor Day and by appointment. We plan to have monthly programs of community interest, and invite you to visit our Facebook page or website where you can find photos, slide shows, newsletter archives and a lot of other useful information.

THANK YOU AGAIN FOR YOUR SUPPORT!

www.madisonnhhistoricalsociety.org

Board of Directors:

Linda Drew Smith: President Mary McIntosh: Vice-President
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Directors: Linda Balogh, Bebe Bartlett, Joy Gray, Chelsea Krautmann, Nancy Martin, Christina McAllister,
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Madison Historical Society, PO Box 505, 19 East Madison Road, Madison NH 03849

www.madisonnhhistoricalsociety.org

THIS ISSUE is devoted to Madison's women, **MOVERS AND SHAKERS** of the Roaring '20s. The Roaring Twenties was a period in American History of dramatic social, economic and political change. It is generally considered to have lasted from 1920 to 1929. During this time, the nation's total wealth more than doubled...until the excesses came crashing down as the economy tanked at the decade's end. (AI)

THE SILVER LAKE WOMAN'S CLUB, formed in 1903, had 73 members in 1926-27. Madison Historical Society is fortunate in having many of its records in its archives. Their motto was "Place high your own ideal, then strive to reach it and make it real."

2-10-1927 DEBATE QUESTION: Resolved that the United States should cancel all of the European War Debts contracted prior to the Armistice by her former associate Nations in the World War.

Thursday, February Tenth
Hostess Mrs. Celia J. Kennett
Responses on Lincoln
Question: Nationalism or Internationalism.
Resolved, That the United States
Should Cancel the War Debts
Affirmative
Mrs. Minnie H. Gerry
Mrs. Marian E. Jackson
Negative
Mrs. Jennie P. Forrest
Mrs. Marjorie L. T. Chick



From the Woodburn and Moran History Series

A LINCOLN-DOUGLAS DEBATE IN ILLINOIS, 1858

SILVER LAKE WOMAN'S CLUB

The Silver Lake Woman's Club held their meeting with Mrs. Celia J. Kennett owing to so much sickness not as many were present as usual. The subject of the day was, "That the U. S. should cancel the War Debts," Mrs. Minnie H. Gerry and Mrs. Marian Jackson took the affirmative and presented most excellent papers giving their reasons why they should be cancelled, Mrs. Marjorie Chick and Mrs. Jennie Forrest were on the negative and presented in a more brief form their reasons why the debt should not be cancelled. Mrs. Nona Lane, the president of the Conway Woman's Club was a guest of the afternoon. The meeting closed by giving the Club Collect. The hostess passed delicious confections.

In the year ending 1927, the Silver Lake Woman's Club accomplished the following:

- Register placed at the Madison Boulder
- Ex-soldier at Rutland, Mass., adopted
- Christmas gift to pastor
- Prizes given for High School Speaking Contest

1927, continued:

- Gift to Children's Aid and Protective Society
- Gift to Traveling Library
- Gift to Prosperity Fund
- Gift for Federation Aid for Normal girls
- Gift to High School
- Gift of drinking cups to all grade children
- Voted to give gold-headed cane to only Civil War Veteran in town
- Baby spoons for six new babies
- Flowers sent to sick members
- Relief for Flood sufferers in Mississippi
- Red Envelopes

Thursday, May Fifth
Hostess Mrs. Frances F. Knowles
Responses—Quotation from my Favorite Author
Music
Paper—Book Review Mrs. Hattie L. Chick
Recitation Mrs. Sylvia L. Gilman
Club Song

1927—Home of Mrs. Frances Knowles



SILVER LAKE WOMAN'S CLUB

The Silver Lake Woman's Club held its meeting last week with Mrs. Sylvia E. Gilman. It was a very pleasant day, and a good number were present and answered the roll call with New Year thoughts. The president, Mrs. Sarah H. Clark, called the meeting to order and quite a large budget of business was transacted. This Club has adopted an ex-soldier and are to write letters to him, also send him little gifts occasionally, they have investigated the case and find it a most worthy one and any of the number who feel they can spare a few cents or a little gift to make the life of this young man any happier are asked to do so. The name and address is Mr. Spirrh T. Phillips, U.S. Veterans' Hospital Rutland Heights, Mass. Several things have been sent him already. The program of the afternoon opened by a very pretty instrumental solo finely rendered by Miss Esther R. Gilman, an interesting paper on "Important Events of 1926" by Mrs. F. F. Knowles, an instrumental solo by Mrs. Florence Hodge Gilman was greatly enjoyed. Mrs. Florence W. Thompson had a paper on "How much do we know," passing out slips and asking questions and we soon found that we knew very little especially some of us. The meeting closed by giving the collect and adjournment to meet with Mrs. Marjorie Chick on Saturday afternoon, January 15th. Assorted chocolates were passed and it was voted to be a very enjoyable afternoon.

"They are never alone that are accompanied with noble thoughts."



1928-29 Silver Lake Woman's Club

L to R: Priscilla Forrest, Marian Jackson, Minnie Gerry, Frances Knowles

President: Mrs. Marian E. Jackson

Vice President: Mrs. Minnie H. Gerry

Secretary: Mrs. Frances F. Knowles

Treasurer: Mrs. Priscilla P. Forrest

In the year ending 1929, the Silver Lake Woman's Club accomplished the following:

- Prizes given for High School Speaking Contest
- Gift to Children's Aid and Protection Society
- Gift to Prosperity Fund
- Gift to Disabled Soldier in Dover
- Gift N.H. Memorial Hospital
- Gift to High School
- Baby spoons for seven new babies
- Flowers sent to sick members
- Christmas gift to disabled soldiers
- Gift to Near East Relief
- Gift to Scholarship Fund
- Relief for flood sufferers in Colebrook

Saturday, May Eleventh

Hostesses Mrs. Sylvia L. Gilman
 Mrs. Gladys L. Ward

Responses—Musical Instruments
Program in charge of Music Committee
Collect

May 11, 1929



Home of Mrs. Sylvia L. Gilman



Home of Mrs. Priscilla Forrest



Home of Mrs. Marian E. Jackson

SILVER LAKE WOMAN'S CLUB

The very attractive home of Mrs. Sylvia Gilman was opened for a most enjoyable entertainment on Thursday evening, May 9, when Mrs. Gilman and Mrs. Gladys Ward as hostesses entertained the Woman's Club of Madison. The program was a musicale in observance of National Music Week and was arranged by the Music committee of the Club. The following very fine program was presented and enjoyed by about fifty members and guests: Piano duet, "The Song of India," Mrs. Priscilla Forrest, Mrs. Florence Gilman; reading, "Rabbitt's Left Hind Foot," Miss Edith Pearson; vocal solo, "Come, for its June," Miss Leah Grace; trio, piano, banjo, and guitar, Mrs. Mitchell, Miss Wheeler and Miss Morrison; piano solo, Miss Esther Gilman; vocal duet, "Whispering Hope," Miss Leah Grace and Miss Lahlia Lovering; reading, "He Let Her Know," Miss Edith Pearson; vocal solo, "My Own Rose," Miss Leah Grace; trio, Mrs. Mitchell, Miss Wheeler, Miss Morrison; piano duet, "The Gypsies"; duet, Mrs. Florence Gilman and Miss Esther Gilman.

After the program the hostesses served vanilla and chocolate ice cream with marshmallow sauce and walnuts, and assorted cake. Several remarked that the program should be repeated in the hall with an admission fee.

We are not sure when the Silver Lake Woman's Club disbanded. As reported here in 1935, there were 25 in attendance and they were proud of what women had done in politics.

WOMEN'S CLUBS

Silver Lake Club Considers Laws

The Silver Lake Woman's Club met at the home of Mrs. Gladys Ward. There were 25 members present.

Mrs. Dustin gave the high spots in the February and March General Federation Clubwoman—which emphasized citizenship and legislation.

The paper for the afternoon was given by Mrs. Minnie Gerry—the topic "Women and Legislation."

I am sure Mrs. Gerry convinced the club members present that we were justified in being proud of what women had done in politics.

Refreshments were served by Mrs. Ward assisted by Mrs. Mildred Frost.

THE DEPRESSION YEARS—from Madison Notes by Roger Clayton

Madison was like all the rest of the country during the Depression of 1929-30s. Many of the residents lost their homes and farms because of Bank Foreclosures or non-payment of taxes.

One wealthy citizen obtained thousands of acres of land by paying off mortgages back taxes.

Families abandoned their farms and moved where they could find jobs. The businesses of Madison gave jobs to men who had families to support. Young single men went to work for the Conservation Corps in the Construction Camps in the area.

During the 1930s to early 1940s the town supported some of the families until they could get jobs. Older people turned their property over to the town for support payment. It was auctioned off after their death. During the early 1930s, the town borrowed money from the wealthier citizens in order to pay the town's bills. This was paid back with interest.

One winter a man couldn't feed or provide winter clothes for his family. He broke into the store at Silver Lake and stole boots, pants and food. He left tracks in the snow all the way to his door. The police sent him to the County Jail and the town had to support his family for the winter.

A Madison girl born in 1930 recently passed away 11/8/2023. ARLINE HARMON PARKER was the daughter of William Allen Harmon and Dorothy (Moore) Harmon of Madison. She graduated from Madison High School in 1948 and married her high school sweetheart in 1952. She was stricken with polio as a young adult and later acquired major injuries from an auto accident. However, she never complained and was a role model like no other. She was a lifelong member of the Madison Historical Society, and the MHS wants to thank her family and friends for many donations in her memory.,

ARLINE HARMON

"Gracie"

Student Activities Offices

Secretary 2 President 3, 4

Class Offices

Secretary-Treasurer 2, 3, 4

Dramatics

"Sister Sue" 1

"A Pair of Country Kids" 2

"Rooting for Ruth" 3

Prize Speaking

Finals 1, 2, 3, 4

Second Prize 1, 2 First Prize 3

State Contest 1, 2, 3 Second Prize 2

Athletics

Volleyball 2

Softball 2, 3, 4 Manager 4

Basketball 1, 2, 3, 4

Manager 4 Letter 1

Madisonian

Exchange Editor 2

Editor-in-Chief 3, 4

Glee Club

1, 2, 3, 4

Valedictorian



ARLINE HARMON PARKER

1930-2023



BLUEBERRY POTPOURRI



Madison Historical
Society
1993

WANTED:

Your blueberry recipes for a
new blueberry cookbook!

Our blueberry cookbook is 30 years
old!

We are updating it, but all the old
recipes will be included!

You can email Linda Smith with your
recipe at ldns7558@gmail.com,

or mail it to the MHS at PO Box
505, Madison, NH 03849.

Or call Linda at 603-367-4640.



Many thanks!

From the Editor on the value of "finding your roots"

SECOND HAND NATIVE (or 3rd, or 4th, or 5th)

You know the old saying, "You can't be a native unless you were born here!" Well, I am recommending that you do a little genealogical research! When I moved here in 1968, I was from "away", but now I have found out that I am (distantly) related to two Madison people! (1) Roscoe Greene, the man who had the peddler's wagon, and (2) the famous poet, e e cummings! Wow!

The first hardly counts, but I am 1st cousin 4 times removed to Roscoe Greene's father's first wife Sarah Silver. She is never mentioned in history books, but their two children were found in an old census living with grandparents. Roscoe's father's name was Ansel Blossom Green; he was the 5th of 14 children and became mentally deranged after the Civil War. The name Silver perked my interest because I remember my mother talking about a Silver cousin.

Perhaps I got closer with the 2nd relationship, e e cummings. It turns out that we share an ancestor who settled in Topsfield MA which makes us 6th cousins, twice removed. Cummings is a very common name, but when I read e e cummings' biography, I learned that his grandfather had been born in Colebrook NH, so that seemed like a possibility.

Both the Silvers and the Cummings were related to my maternal grandmother Lula Cummings who died at age 30, so I didn't know anything about them.

So, start digging. The Internet makes it easy. You'll never know what you will find. (Penny Hathaway)

Madison Historical Society
PO Box 505
Madison, NH 03849

MEMBERSHIP FORM:

Annual Dues Payable July 1st

Single Membership - \$10.00

Family Membership - \$15.00

Gift Membership (from _____)

Donation

TOTAL ENCLOSED

Name: _____

Address: _____

Seasonal Address (if any): _____

Email: _____

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

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Linda Smith, President—ldns7558@gmail.com, 603-367-4640

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