

Dublin Historical Society

DUBLIN, NEW HAMPSHIRE 03444 • FOUNDED 1920

Newsletter No. 9 July, 1988

JUD HALE TO SPEAK AT AUGUST MEETING: "BEHIND THE SCENES AT YANKEE MAGAZINE"

The next quarterly members' meeting will be on Wednesday, August 10, at 7:30 p.m. in the Louise Shonk Kelly Recital Hall at the Dublin School.

Judson D. Hale, Sr., editor of Yankee Magazine and the Old Farmer's Almanac will speak on the history of Yankee Magazine. Everyone is invited to attend and a reception will be held following the lecture.

Tour Dublin's Historic Landmarks

Have you ever wondered about Dublin's beginnings?

This is an opportunity for you to learn firsthand about Dublin's early history by visiting some of the oldest sites. A bus tour will take place on Tuesday August 16, and will leave at 10:00 a.m. from in front of the Town Hall. The Dublin Christian Academy has kindly offered us the use of their bus which will accommodate 44 people. The tour

will last approximately one and a half hours and will include a refreshment stop at the Town Hall. If you are interested in attending, please call one of the following people to let them know since space is limited. Martha Raymond, 563-8029; Lucy Shonk, 563-8837; or Lou

Hewitt 563-8336. We are requesting a donation of \$5:00 which can be paid the day of the tour. The rain date will be Thursday August 18th.

We plan to hold another tour in the fall and perhaps next summer will conduct one dealing with the advent of the summer colony.



Years of leaves ready to be removed from the Schoolhouse yard.

Cleaning Up the Old Schoolhouse

A very successful clean-up day was held June 11 at the Old Schoolhouse. In attendance were Martha, Bill and Christopher Raymond, Lou Hewitt, Parker Leighton, Beanie Wenigmann, Sharon Monaghan, Patrick Egan and Lucy Shonk. Workers outside raked years of piled up leaves and removed brush. Inside, the building received a thorough vacuuming (with power supplied by the Scribners), as well as window washing. A great deal of progress was made but the work needs to continue so we will schedule another clean-up day in the fall.

continued ☛

We should all be grateful to Glen Scribner for the work he has done over the years to keep the outside of the building neat. Thank you Glen!

History in the Making

The Dublin Community Foundation recently granted the Society \$1200.00 to do some much needed work on the schoolhouse. The big trees close to the building will be pruned to avoid having the branches fall through the roof. Also, the powder post beetle problem will be tackled by the Century Pest Control Company.

- Sharron Monaghan will be taking photographs of Dublin scenes for a scrapbook on Dublin in the 80's.

- Nancy Campbell recently updated the list of owners of National Register properties. Owners will be receiving information regarding care and renovation of historic properties.

- Parker Leighton and Lou Hewitt, co-chairmen of the program committee are planning next year's quarterly meetings. The dates and titles will be announced at the annual meeting.

- The Irish are not coming! Contrary to earlier reports, the Dublin, Ireland Fire Department band changed its plans to visit us this spring and headed south instead. Scared off by the March weather?

Annual Meeting

Breakfast will be served at the annual meeting of the Dublin Historical Society at the Town Hall on Saturday, September 10, 1988 at 8:30 a.m. The menu will feature "French's Toast" as well as other tasty dishes. Officers and trustees are to be elected and the year's activities will be reviewed. We hope that all members will attend.

- When Alan Rumrill, director of the Historical Society of Cheshire County, spoke on old schools at our April meeting, he pointed out that our headquarters is the only schoolhouse in the county that remains unaltered and still in its original condition.

- Emmanuel Church celebrated its 100th birthday Sunday, July 17. It

was built in the summer of 1888 and designed by the Boston architect Robert D. Andrews.

Welcome Gifts

During the first half of the year, the Society received two major grants. The first was \$500.00 from the Brookstone Company of Peterborough.

Another grant of \$200.00 was received from the Monadnock Fund, an advised fund under the management of the New Hampshire Charitable Fund. This grant was on the advice of Society members Edward and Justine Auchincloss.

The Society and its members are most grateful for these two significant grants, which will be of great assistance in carrying out both the archival conservation project and the archaeological dig at the site of the first meetinghouse.

A gift of another kind was made by Dr. and Mrs. Bruce McClellan, who gave the Society a group of materials relating to the history of their house, the former Eveleth/Harrington farm on the eastern slope of Mt. Monadnock. Among them are copies of five reminiscent essays by the late Rena Arvilla Harrington Moore (b. 1879), who grew up on the farm, a number of old photographs and an architectural

A note from the President

While John Harris was away, the responsibility for producing this newsletter fell to me.

After spending many hours preparing and typing, I now realize how much we owe John for all the times he has put together (almost single-handedly) the previous newsletters.

Thank you John!

P.S. I think we should buy John a portable computer that he could take on his vacations!

drawing.

We would also like to thank Elliot Allison who has recently donated over two dozen interesting papers, letters and publications relating to the history of Dublin.

If anyone has similar items that they would be willing to donate, please contact John Harris.

Trustees Meeting

The next meeting of the Trustees and the steering committee will be Monday, August 1, 1988 at 7:30 p.m. at the home of Mary Mckee.

Where the Money Goes

The trustees have authorized a major expenditure for the conservation of framed materials in the Society's collection. These include drawings, engravings, photographs and family registers given to the Society in the 1920's and 30's and since stored in the old school-house.

On close examination, these pictures were found to be suffering, in varying degrees, from mold, insect damage, water stains, sun fading

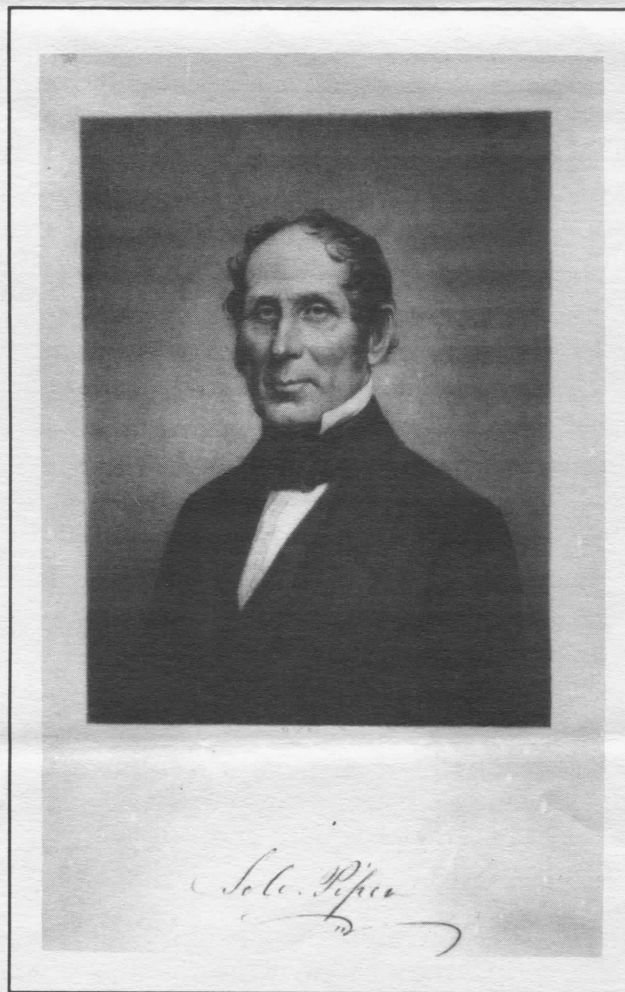
and acid migration from the materials used in the original framing. The last was especially pronounced where the picture was backed with wood slats, in the manner of the last century. Of course, much of

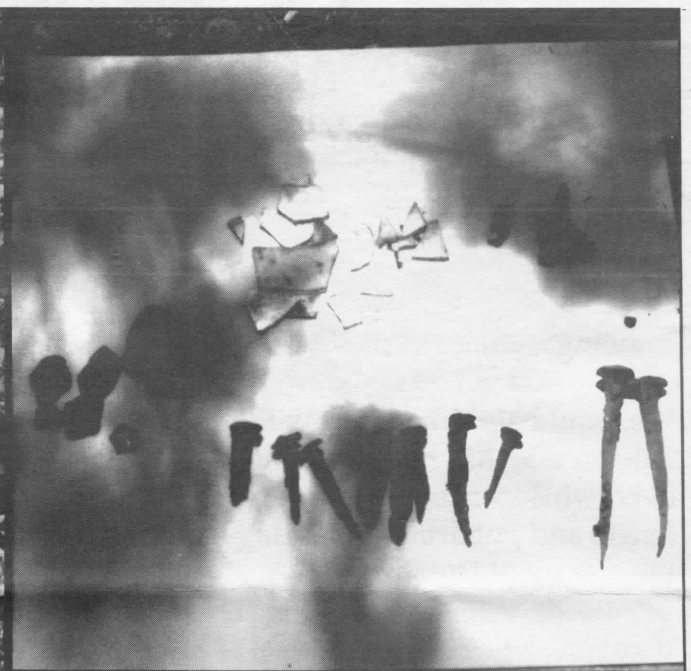
the damage may have occurred before these things became the Society's property, but fifty-odd years of neglect hasn't done much to help.

A decision was made at the outset not to attempt restoration (which would be prohibitively expensive), but to take only the steps necessary to prevent further deterioration. The work is being done by Laura Doscher, a trained paper conservator at the Brookside Framing Studio in Peterborough. Each piece is removed from its frame and the old mats and backing are replaced with acid-free mounting materials.

The first batch of 20 framed items has now been completed. While they were out of their frames, they were photographed (both as black-and-white prints and color slides) by Sharron Monaghan, our multi-talented Treasurer. As a result, they can now be reproduced, in the Newsletter or elsewhere, without again removing them from their frames.

With reasonable care and proper storage, these pictures should last for another century or so. □





ARCHAEOLOGIST SEARCHES SITE OF EARLIEST MEETINGHOUSE

Howard Sargent, professor of archaeology at Franklin Pierce College, is making a survey of the site of Dublin's First Meetinghouse (1771-1818) on the northside of Old Common Road opposite the cemetery. Prof. Sargent, aided by two students and a few Historical Society volunteers, has visited the site twice this month to make test digs, and will return again in early August.

The Historical Society decided to sponsor the archaeological search after the Town voted to expand the cemetery north of the old road. The first meetinghouse stood on the east edge of the lot and partially on land now owned by John Sewall. It overlooked the cemetery and the lake, but only part of the old foundation walls remain. The west end was destroyed when fill was excavated for the ceme-

tery and highway, probably sometime in the 1930's.

Professor Sargent's investigations have already fulfilled part of the aim of the survey, which was to establish the location of the building and gather supporting physical evidence.

In addition to the remains of the foundation, tests so far have yielded numerous small items dating to the late 18th century: fragments of window glass and brick, pieces of a clay pipe, some china, and several dozen square cut nails. These have been taken from sampling holes, each a meter square and dug less than a foot deep.

Although the Town History describes the location of the Meetinghouse, it gives little description of the building itself, except that it measured 50 x 38 feet, and apparently began as a rough-boarded structure. But handsomely carved and paneled pews were installed later, so it is safe to assume the exterior was improved and clapboarded over its nearly 50 years of existence.

Evidence points to the fact that it was probably similar in plan to the 1775 Jaffery Center meetinghouse, with a central entrance doorway on the long wall which appears to have faced the road and the cemetery. This orientation was characteristic of the period and in contrast to the Second Meetinghouse (1818-1852) and the present (1852) Community Church, where the gable ends face front. It is not known whether the earliest meetinghouse had an attached tower like the Jaffery Center Church.

The Rev. Edward Sprague, who was the Town's minister (1777-1817) asked to be buried in front of the Church he served for forty years. His grave and that of his wife, Hannah, lie exactly opposite the site of the building. The First Meetinghouse served for almost a half a century both as the Congregational Church and Town Hall, before the Supreme Court affirmed the separation of church and state in its landmark Dartmouth College decision of 1819. □