



# Dublin Historical Society

DUBLIN, NEW HAMPSHIRE 03444 • FOUNDED 1920

Newsletter No. 11 - January, 1989

## 1988 in Review

### Notes From the President

The turn of the year is a good time for stock-taking, as well as for looking ahead. Quite a lot has been accomplished since the Historical Society was revived in May of 1986. As will appear from the reports which follow, much of that was accomplished in 1988.

After some experimentation, we have settled on a pattern of quarterly meetings, with speakers and refreshments, plus the annual business meeting in September. To the surprise of those who planned it, the 1988 annual meeting, held over breakfast, was the best attended of the year (see photos).

The newsletter has also settled on a four-a-year publication schedule, each issue timed to give notice of the program at

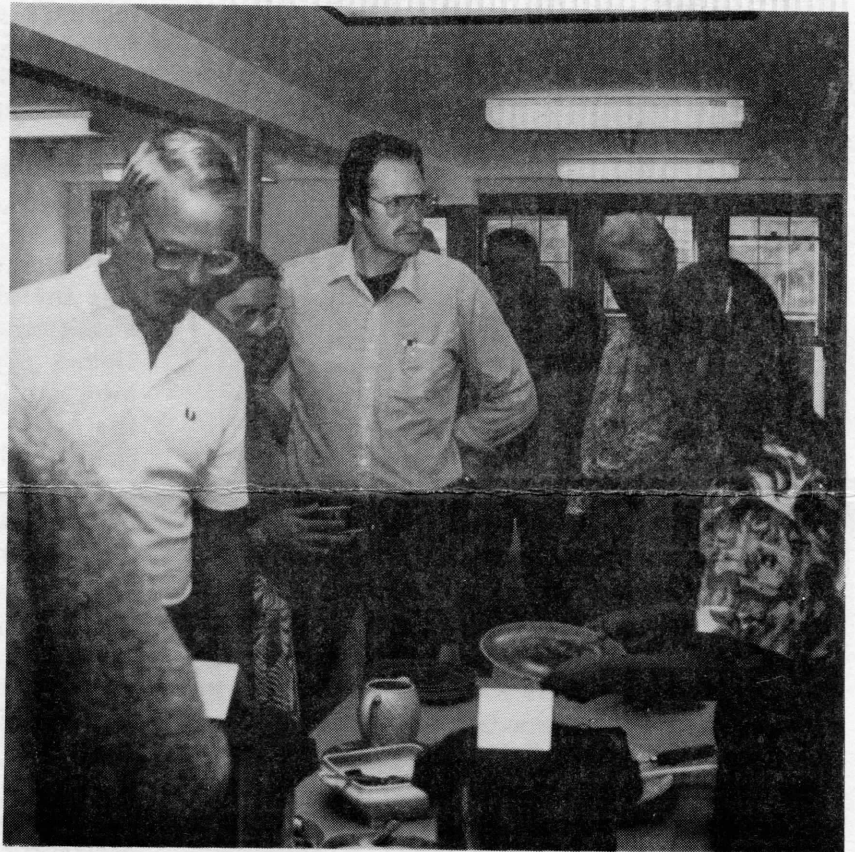
**The Next Quarterly Meeting**, which in this case will be a pot-luck supper on **Friday, February 4, at 7:00 p.m.** in the Vestry of the Community Church. Bring a casserole, salad or dessert and join Society members and friends for supper.

After supper, Mike King will once again educate and entertain us with a talk and slide presentation entitled "THE REEL WEST: Movie Posters 1920's-1970's", featuring such Western stars as William S. Hart, Tom Mix, John Wayne, William Boyd and Gene Autrey.

**Hildreth Allison.** We all wish Hildreth Allison a speedy recovery from his unfortunate accident just before Christmas. As this is written, he is at the Monadnock Hospital. He enjoys listening to books on tape, so if you have any that you would like to lend him, please let me know.

**Schoolhouse News.** The surprise of 1988 was the discovery that the Society owns the old schoolhouse on Main Street and its surrounding grounds. It had long been thought that the schoolhouse belonged to the Town, and that the Society's collections were there on sufferance. As it turns out, the land and building were deeded to the Society by the Dublin School District in 1928, and have been ours ever since.

Ownership (alas!) also entails expense. The Trustees thought it prudent to take out a liability insurance policy. Using part of a generous grant from the Dublin Community Foundation, we have



S. Monaghan Photo

At the Annual Meeting. Mary Ann Egan serving up French's Toast.

had the dead limbs, some of which were threatening to fall through the schoolhouse roof, cleared out of the sugar maples on the uphill side of the lot. You may have noticed a bright blue tarp covering the roof of the old privy. Charlie Pillsbury and his crew put it there to prevent further damage through a large hole in the roof.

As a mark of ownership, and thanks to the generosity of Mary McKee, an elegant new sign identifies the schoolhouse as the home of the Dublin Historical Society (see photo).



E. B. Harris Photo

Linda Bastedo, our Curator, is eagerly awaiting warmer weather so that she can begin cataloguing and photographing artifacts in the Society's collection.

**1989 Dues.** It is dues time once again. Cards and envelopes are enclosed, and we hope that all present members will renew promptly. In addition, this newsletter is being sent to a number of not-yet-members, who we hope will join the Society this year.

Old members will note some changes in the dues structure. There is no longer a senior membership at \$5. The Trustees realized that a \$5 membership was a losing proposition, since it costs more than that just to print and mail four issues of

the newsletter. The \$5 student membership remains. (In this the Trustees may have been inconsistent, but they were not imprudent, since there are no student members.)

Besides the familiar individual membership at \$10, there is a new family membership at \$15. "Family" means any number of persons living at the same address and receiving a single copy of the newsletter. This is intended as a break for husbands and wives and to defuse, the Trustees hope, any annoyance stemming from the abolition of the old cut-rate membership for seniors.

**Looking Ahead.** Any society or organization is only as active as its membership. Much work needs to be done to carry forward the purpose stated in our charter: "the collection, preparation and preservation of historical facts, relics and memorials of all kinds pertaining to the Town of Dublin".

The winter months are an ideal time for reading and research. If you enjoy these activities, you certainly could be a help to a number of ongoing Society projects. You don't have to attend meetings, and most work can be done right in the warmth of your own home. Volunteer an hour or more and become a part of history! Call me at 563-8837, if you would like to get involved.

- Lucy Shonk

## Archaeology '88

One of the Society's major projects in 1988 was the archaeological search to find the exact location and physical remains of the First Meeting House. Built in 1771, the year of the Town's incorporation, and used until 1818, it stood on the north side of Old Common Road facing the cemetery. The general location was known from the *History of Dublin* and the 1805 and 1853 maps, but no systematic study of the site had ever been undertaken.

Howard Sargent, Emeritus Professor of Archaeology at Franklin Pierce College, made several test excavations during four visits here between May and November, aided by a number of enthusiastic Society members. The search successfully established the location of the foundation, and test holes on its periphery unearthed numerous signs of 18th Century construction: fragments of brick and window glass and hand-made square nails ranging in size from spikes to "roseheads" to small clapboard nails. The diggers even uncovered pieces of old redware



pottery (a dropped casserole?) and a clay tobacco pipe.

Professor Sargent, who is completing his report this month, will recommend that the site be nominated to the National Register of Historic Places as the location of one of Dublin's most significant early buildings.

- William Bauhan

### Finances '88

In 1988, the Society received grants from the Dublin Community Foundation, the

Monadnock Fund (an advised fund of the N.H. Charitable Fund) and the N.H. Council for the Humanities. Gifts were also received from the Brookstone Company, George Foote, Jr., Mr. & Mrs. Edgar Harrell, Mr. & Mrs. Samuel Spiker and from an anonymous donor for the support of the archives. To all of them the Society extends its most grateful thanks.

The summary of last year's income and expenses (see box) will show where the Society's money came from and how it was spent in 1988. Note that the bulk of 1988 dues were collected in 1987, so that, in effect, the opening balance is overstated and the dues figure understated.

- Pat Egan

#### Financial Summary - 1988

Fund Balances, 12/31/87		2,953.43	
Income:	Dues	700.00	
	Gifts and Grants	2,299.75	
	Interest	<u>130.70</u>	3,130.45
Expenses:	Archives, Acquisitions	45.00	
	" , Picture Repair	964.69	
	" , Supplies	301.17	
	Meetings, Speakers	203.00	
	" , Refreshments	79.46	
	Printing & Postage	852.41	
	Schoolhouse, Insurance		
	" , Maintenance		
	Miscellaneous	<u>56.70</u>	(3,497.43)
Fund Balances, 12/31/88			2,586.45

### Photography '88

1988 saw the beginning of a project to record Dublin as it is by means of photography. Color slides have been made of a number of 1988 events, including the Community Church fair, the summer playground, the Historical Society's annual meeting and the archaeological dig at the site of the first meeting house. There is also a progressive record of the renovation of the Post

Office building (formerly the Women's Club and the Trinitarian Congregational Church). Other photographs show houses and public buildings and aerial views of the town.

Many of the slides have been printed and mounted in a scrapbook. We hope to continue and expand this project in future years, so as to leave a pictorial record of our own times for those who come after us.

- Sharron Monaghan

## Archives '88

We are grateful for a large number of gifts of archival material received during the year, most prominently and generously from Hildreth and Elliott Allison. Other donors were William Bauhan, Susan Gwynne-Timothy, John Harris, Mr. & Mrs. Frederick Marston, Dr. & Mrs. Bruce McClellan and Lucy Shonk. Our thanks to all of them.

The main accomplishment of 1988 was the organization of the papers and photographs resulting from the 1983 nomination of about 170 Dublin buildings and two districts to the National Register of Historic Places. These papers were given to the Society at the end of last year by the Dublin Conservation Commission, under whose auspices the original research was done.

There is now a numbered archival folder for each of the buildings nominated, as well as for each of the non-contributing buildings and lots in the Village and Lake Districts. A map has been prepared showing the location of each building by number, so that future researchers will not have to figure out who the owner was at any given date. It is now an easy matter to supply information on the history of an individual house, so interested owners need not hesitate to inquire.

In addition, these folders provide a convenient place to put additional information, architectural drawings, photographs, etc. for each house. A couple of owners have already generously donated material of this kind, and we hope that others will follow suit.

In the course of 1988, some 20 framed items from the Society's collection - drawings, engravings, photographs, memorials and family

registers - were removed from their frames for conservation work (see Newsletter No. 9). Thanks to the skill and energy of Sharron Monaghan, these pieces were photographed while they were out of their frames, so that they can be reproduced in print or shown as slides.

- John Harris

## Two New Projects for '89

**Cemetery Index.** The N.H. Old Graveyard Association has asked our Society to prepare a current index of Dublin burial grounds, a project that has not been attempted for over sixty years.

Laura Scott, a new member of the Society, has agreed to head a small committee to start on this project in the spring. Anyone interested in being on this committee should call Laura Scott at 563-8205 or Mary McKee at 563-8534.

- Mary McKee



S. Monaghan Photo

At the Annual Meeting. Seated L-R: Hildreth Allison, Lucy Shonk, Sr., Lu Hewitt. Standing: Abe Wolfe

**A Historic Buildings Committee** is being formed to assist owners in maintaining the historical integrity of the nearly 200 buildings in Dublin that are listed on the National Register. As a first step, Abe Wolfe has generously

given a collection of books and pamphlets which serve as source material on architectural styles and provide detailed solutions to problems arising in the restoration and alteration of historic buildings. These materials are now available at the Library.

The committee will shortly be writing to owners of listed houses to describe these resources, and to offer assistance to those considering restoration or alterations.

- William Bauhan & Nancy Campbell