



Dublin Historical Society

DUBLIN, NEW HAMPSHIRE 03444 • FOUNDED 1920

Newsletter No. 13 November, 1989

T.S. ELIOT IN DUBLIN

TO THE OTHER LITERARY LUMINARIES KNOWN TO HAVE VISITED DUBLIN - EMERSON, THOREAU, HENRY ADAMS AND ROBERT FROST, AMONG MANY OTHERS - MAY NOW BE ADDED T.S. ELIOT.

Evidence of Eliot's visit in July of 1946 has come to light in the Aimée Lamb Papers, a recent and most important gift to the Society from the executors of Miss Lamb's sister, the late Rosamond Lamb.

As many Society members will recall, the Misses Lamb used their house - Well House

continued on page 2



Henry Ware Eliot Jr. (left) and T.S. Eliot at the Lambs' house, July 1946. (Photo reproduced by permission of executors of the late Rosamond Lamb.)

Dues Notice

Cards and envelopes for 1990 dues are enclosed with this newsletter. Unlike most other things, the dues for 1990 have not gone up from 1989.

Minimum dues, however, only just about cover the cost of these newsletters, so the Society depends on extra contributions to pay for its preservation work. Contributions above the minimum are tax-deductible.

Winter Meetings

The Society's next meeting will be a pot luck supper on Friday, February 9, 1990, at 6:00 p.m. in the Vestry of the Community Church.

After supper, Society member Dan Walsh will speak on "Pewter in American Life". Dan will exhibit and describe examples of American, English and Continental pewter from

his own collection, and urges members and guests to bring their own pewter pieces for identification and discussion.

On Wednesday, March 28, there will be a joint meeting with the Dublin Extension. The subject of the program will be the lives of women in New England around the turn of the century.

T.S. Eliot...continued from page 1

on Main Street - mainly in the Spring and Fall, spending summers in Maine.

For a number of years, they lent their Dublin house for part of the summer to a cousin, Henry Ware Eliot, Jr. (1879-1947), and his wife, Theresa. Among their guests in late July of 1946 was Henry Ware Eliot's younger brother. Thomas Stearns Eliot, the poet (1888-1965).

The visit was described by Theresa Eliot in a letter to Aimée Lamb dated July 30, 1946, of which the following are excerpts:

"We are so glad that Tom could spend a few days in this darling house. We gave him the French parlour and adjoining bedroom and the downstairs Private Bath so he was quite comfortable and not in anybody's way... ."

"We took him to Frederika James to

tea. Mrs. Russell who happened to be staying there fetched us and Sandy brought us back. Tom loved everything and admired Alex James' paintings and drawings He thought Frederika charming, as indeed does everybody, and Mrs. Russell too and he said Sandy was distinguished looking & not self conscious ."

Frederika James (1886-1971) was the widow of Alexander James (1890-1946), a painter of note. They lived in the brick house at the west end of Old County Road, where the Bauhans live now.

Mrs. Russell (1898-1976) was Mary Burr, the wife of Otis T. Russell. She summered in Chesham (as does her daughter, Lillian Carter).

"We had dinner at the Stearns when Tom was here as Harold is so literary minded and is a distant cousin. Esther cooked us a good tho' rather indigestible dinner ,"

Harold Stearns was a teacher at Phillips Academy, Andover. From 1937 to 1946, he and his wife spent summers in the house on Old County Road which later belonged to the Rufus Hales, then the Marriners, and now to the Wehrweins. (The author is grateful to Dorothy Worcester for help in identifying Harold Stearns.)

"The last night Tom was here he read us Dry Salvages and Little Gidding and recited two of Gerard de Nerval's poems and a Scottish Ballad, the Bonnets of Dundee . It was so exciting none of us got to sleep very soon but it was worth it . I didn't tell Corinna Smith he was here but next year he will stay longer and would be glad to read at the Club."

There was, alas, no next year. Henry Ware Eliot, Jr. died in May, 1947, so the Dublin link was broken.

- John Harris

PROGRESS AT THE SCHOOLHOUSE

The project to restore the schoolhouse has made great progress. The building and the outhouse were resingled in September, thanks to generous contributions from a number of Society members. George

Bogosian and Dan Scully, members of the Building Committee, negotiated with the contractors and supervised the work. This was an important step in the total project, as the building was leaking.

If you haven't been contacted about this project, don't worry . As usual, my Fall has been consumed by travel for Franklin Pierce College, so that I'm a bit behind on fundraising.

- Lucy Shonk

ANNUAL MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

Thirty-five members attended the 1989 Annual Meeting on September 9. Breakfast was cooked and served by the President, Lucy Shonk, assisted by Vice-President Sharron Monaghan and Trustees Linda Bastedo and Nancy Campbell.

At the business meeting after breakfast, the President thanked retiring Trustees Nancy Campbell and Abe Wolfe, who have served the Society since its revival in 1986.

They will be missed. To replace them, Linda Bastedo and Laura Scott were elected for three-year terms.

Lucy Shonk, Sharon Monaghan and Pat Egan were re-elected President, Vice-President and Treasurer respectively. At their meeting later in the morning, the Trustees re-elected Linda Bastedo as Curator and John Harris as Secretary and Archivist.

SCHOOLHOUSE SCHOLARS

On the afternoon of October 20, your Secretary had the pleasure of opening the old schoolhouse to eight members of the Fourth Grade at the Dublin Consolidated School. Their visit was part of the school's architecture project, under the direction of Laura Campbell of Peterborough.

It being a cold day, the visit was not unduly prolonged, but

continued on page 4

RECENT ACQUISITIONS

Since the last newsletter, a number of important gifts have been added to the Society's archives.

The Garden Club of Dublin has given us its records from 1928, when the Club was founded, to 1987. These include minutes, correspondence, reports and photographs, which document not only changing tastes in horticulture, but changing social customs as well. They will be an important resource for students of Dublin as a summer community.

Through the kindness of the executors of the estate of the late Miss Rosamond Lamb, the Society has received a wealth of material from the late

Miss Aimée Lamb's house, including books by Dublin authors and 60-odd letters to Aimée Lamb from Dublin people: Walter French, Alexander James Frederika James and Abbott Thayer among them. There are, in addition, a number of photographs and a copy of Aimée Lamb's diary of her stays in Dublin wherein are recorded the names of everyone who stayed in her house from 1927 to 1983, among whom was T.S. Eliot (*see article on page 1*).

The original drawings (1880) for Emmanuel Church have been given by the Trustees of the Church, through the good offices of Senior Warden (and Historical Society member) Ned Whitney.

Isabel Clukay has given us a printed copy of the memorial address on Dr. Henry H. Piper delivered by Henry D. Allison at the Historical Society (1942).

Among further welcome gifts are three 1853 maps of Dublin and a wall map of Cheshire County from the Peterborough Historical Society; papers and photographs relating to the Mud Pond dam from Mitch Wenigmann; five early photographs of Spur House from Patricia Mann; and two posters from Mary Meath.

To each of these generous donors, the Society's thanks and the gratitude of researchers yet unborn.

Schoolhouse Scholars...continued from page 3

the students had time to examine the exhibits set up by Linda and Rusty Bastedo, take photographs, sketch, and try to imagine what it would have been like to attend school there.

Of all the artifacts on display, the hearses aroused the most interest and provoked the

greatest number of questions. The Secretary was reminded of his personal antiquity by the discovery that today's fourth graders have never seen a sickle. ("What's this thing? Was it for punishing the children?")

The students later presented the Historical Society

with a model of the old schoolhouse made by Karianne Cud-dihee and Sarah Stowell as part of their project. Others in the lively and articulate group were Tim Begley, Nicholas Fox, Andrea Murray, Molly Pinney, Tom Van Hoogen and Rosie Wakeman.

DUBLIN IN 1822

(The following description of Dublin is from a letter dated March 15, 1822, from Cyrus Chamberlain, then Town Clerk, to Messrs. Farmer and Moore, publishers of A Gazetteer of the State of New Hampshire, Concord, 1823.)

Dublin is situated on the height of land between Connecticut and Merrimack rivers. Its streams are small and those on the west side of town run into the Ashuelot, and those on the east side into the Contoocook. There is a pond in the middle of the town called Centre Pond, one mile in length and about the same in breadth.

A large portion of Monadnock mountain lies in the Southwest part of Dublin, and near the centre of the town is Beech mountain. Monadnock was formerly covered by a growth of small timber and shrubbery, but fires having run over it, at different times, it is at present bare rocks. Between the rocks, however, there are low whortleberry bushes, which produce great quantities of large blue berries of a very rich flavour. Their season for ripening is the latter part of August. These berries are found almost to the summit, and are peculiarly grateful to those who ascend the mountain at that season.

The first settlements made in the town were in the year 1762 by John Alexander, Henry Strongman

and William Scott, who were natives of Ireland, after the capital of which country the town was named Dublin.

The congregational church was organized at the time of the first minister's ordination. Rev. Joseph Farrar was ordained June 10th 1772 and dismissed Jan. 7th 1776. Rev. Edward Sprague was ordained Nov. 12th 1777 and died Dec. 16th 1817 aged 68.... Rev. Levi Leonard was ordained Sept. 6th 1820. Church members (March 1822) 59.

A handsome meeting house, built for the congregationalists in 1818, stands on the height of land, so that the rain which drops from the west roof runs into the Connecticut and that from the east into the Merrimack.

The Baptist church was organized Nov. 5th 1785. Elder Elijah Willard was ordained June 5th 1793. Church members (Oct. 1821) 98. This church is composed of members from several of the adjacent towns as well as from Dublin.

A Baptist meeting house stands in the north west part of the town, and near this there are several potteries, in which considerable quantities of coarse earthenware are made annually.¹ A building for a town and school house is

to be erected this year.² There are three stores in town and one tavern.³ The number of Saw-mills in town is 8 - Grist-mills 7 - Fulling mills 2 - 1 carding machine and 1 Bark-mill.

The number of school districts is ten, and there are ten school houses. The average number of scholars in each district is 50. For the support of public schools the late Rev. Edward Sprague bequeathed the town, as nearly as can be ascertained at present, eight thousand dollars the interest of which....divided among the several school districts, according to the number of scholars in each.... enables the town to have double their former schooling.

A social library was incorporated Dec. 1797 and contains 110 volumes. A Ladies Library instituted 1802 contains 140 volumes. The Dublin Musical Society was incorporated June, 1821.

1. This Baptist church still stands in Chesham, then called Pottersville.
2. The brick town house, which stood on the old common opposite the 1818 meeting house. The only known description is that by Warren L. Fiske (see Newsletter No. 8).
3. Cyrus Chamberlain himself kept this tavern in the house which is now the Community Church parsonage.