



# Dublin Historical Society

DUBLIN, NEW HAMPSHIRE 03444 • FOUNDED 1920

Newsletter No. 14 - March, 1990

## March Quarterly Meeting

The next meeting will be held on Wednesday, March 28 at 7:30 p.m. in the Louise Shonk Kelly Recital Hall at the Dublin School.

The program, sponsored jointly by the Historical Society and the Dublin Cooperative Extension Homemakers' Group, is entitled, "IT HAD TO BE DONE SO I DID IT." Dramatic readings by members of the Readers' Theater document the daily lives of women in rural New Hampshire during the first half of this century. The actresses speak the actual words of Warner, N.H., women, interviewed in 1983-85.

This program is made possible by a grant from the New Hampshire Humanities Council.

## Notes from the President

Society members haven't been hibernating this winter. The February pot-luck supper was well attended. Those present were entertained and informed on the subject of pewter by member Dan Walsh.

There have been numerous lively Trustees' meetings, during which we have solved problems, initiated programs, viewed old movies and planned for the future.

At the February Trustees' meeting, Laura Scott gave a progress report on the project to catalogue headstones in the cemetery. We were all impressed by the amount of research she has done to date. Laura will be looking for volunteers this spring and summer to help with the job of collating the records with the actual stones. Let her know (563-8205) if you can help.

I am sorry to report that Parker Leighton has had to resign as a Trustee because of other commitments. Parker has been an active, productive member of the board and will be greatly missed. For the past three years, he has been responsible for organizing and publicizing the programs for the quarterly meetings. Warm thanks to Parker for all his hard work.

- Lucy Shonk

## In Memory

We are all saddened by the recent death of Elizabeth (Liz) Bauhan, and extend our deepest sympathy to Bill.

### Letter to the Editor

To: The Editor  
Dublin Historical Society Newsletter

Re: T.S. Eliot in Dublin

In the interesting account of T.S. Eliot's visit to Dublin [Newsletter No. 13, November, 1989], you describe Eliot and his brother and sister-in-law being entertained at tea with Mrs. Alexander James and "Mrs. Russell." Your article assumed that it was Mrs. Otis Russell (Molly Burr).

I would suggest, however, that the Mrs. Russell referred to is more likely to have been Mrs. Renouf Russell (Susan Wesselhoeft), who was a closer neighbor, living here in Dublin, while Mrs. Otis Russell lived in Chesham. The Renouf Russell family and the James family were very close friends and in and out of each other's houses frequently.

The James boys had an ongoing mutually beneficial arrangement with the Russell family. Sandy, Danny and Mickey James would clean out the Russell's stable for pocket cash. Sandy and Danny were old enough to drive the truck, but Mickey did the shovelling. Mrs. James used the manure on her garden.

Even though by 1946 the James boys had outgrown this task, Susan Russell and Frederika James remained very close friends, and while Mrs. Otis Russell was also a good friend, it seems more likely that Mrs. Renouf Russell was the Mrs. Russell at the tea party.

Sincerely,

A.T. Crocker

*[The Editor is grateful for Dr. Crocker's letter and confesses that his identification of*

*"Mrs. Russell" with Mrs. Otis Russell of Chesham was based on insufficient evidence.*

*As Dr. Crocker points out, it is more likely to have been Mrs. Renouf Russell (later Mrs. Clarence Pell), but even likelihood falls short of establishing historical fact.*

*Can any reader throw further light on this entertaining question?]*

### Recent Acquisitions

Several important gifts were given to the Society's archives at the end of 1989.

**Michael James** gave a copy of an unpublished biography of his father, Alexander James, by Alan D. Weathers. This is a welcome addition to our growing collection of materials on the James family.

**Laura Pratt Bryan and Isabel Clukay** gave us videotapes made from home movies. As noted in the President's letter, the Trustees have enjoyed watching these, and they are available to any interested member.

Other gifts were received from **Ruth Hammond** (two reports of the Dublin Chemical and Bacteriological Laboratory, 1911 and 1912), **Henry Lee** (horse show programs and photographs) and **Clarissa Silitch** (MacVeagh family photographs).

Many thanks to them all!

### Postcards

While the Society's postcards and notecards have been selling well, sets are still available at French's Tavern, or by mail from the Secretary. The price is five dollars per set of twelve postcards or ten notecards.