

# Dublin Historical Society

DUBLIN, NEW HAMPSHIRE 03444 • FOUNDED 1920

Newsletter No. 18 May, 1991

## Quarterly Meeting May 15th

The quarterly meeting of the Society will be held on Wednesday, May 15, 1991, at 7:30 PM in the Louise Shonk Kelly Recital Hall at the Dublin School. Father Paul Fohlen, of The Common in Peterborough, will speak about cemetery art and will present slides, followed by a discussion. Refreshments will be served, and everyone is encouraged to attend.



## Mark your calendar

On Sunday, August 25, 1991, 12:00-2:00 PM, come and celebrate the 150th Anniversary of the Schoolhouse.

There will be a band, a picnic lunch for children, children's games, crafts, and tours of the newly renovated building.

*There are 45 Revolutionary War soldiers buried in the Dublin cemetery.*

*Photo by Linda Van Wyk*

## Progress, Progress, Progress

**T**he cemetery project is about 75 % completed. All existing records have been entered into the computer and we are now bogged down in the tedious job of verifications and corrections. When we are finished we hope to have a data base for future researchers, accurate up-to-date files for the town, and a readable guide to the cemetery for genealogists and interested members of the community. There are so many people who have given their time and enthusiasm to this project. Many, many thanks to John Abrams, Nancy Campbell, Margy Cross, Dublin School, Terry Dwyer, Albert Handy, Nancy Handy, John Harris, Joan Goldman, Rosemary James, Roy

Johnson, Thea Sabine, Lucy Shonk, Ned Whitney, Tom Wright and Joan Yeomans for braving those autumn winds. We have learned so much already (see next article) and the possibilities for future projects are endless! (Is that good news or bad news?) If you'd like to help with the ongoing verification project or have other concerns or comments, please don't hesitate to contact me. *Note:* We are sadly lacking information on WWI, WWII, Korean and Vietnam veterans. Is anyone interested in this as a project?

*Laura Scott*

## Food for thought

Over the course of the last year, Laura Scott has undertaken the massive project of compiling and cataloguing the available cemetery records. This project makes it possible to search and analyze the data in ways that would have been highly cumbersome in the past. While there is not room in this newsletter to provide much detail, the following are responses to some commonly-asked questions about the cemetery.

While the Sexton's record book says that the cemetery was established in 1764, the first person for whom the town has a

burial record is Mrs. Elizabeth Learned, age 31, the wife of Deacon Benjamin Learned, who died in 1771. Henry Strongman, the first permanent resident and the man who named the Town, died in 1786 and is buried here. Altogether approximately 1,743 burials have taken place. (The Town Report of 1942 notes, however, that "there are probably two or three hundred graves in the cemetery that have never been marked.") The largest number of burials occurred from 1840-1860, followed by 1860-1880, and 1820-1840. The oldest people buried were E. A. Maude Craig (d. 1986, age 106), Rebecca Belknap (d. 1866, age 102), and Joshua Stanford (d. 1855, age 101).

Twitchell, Morse, Greenwood, Adams, and Richardson are the most common last names. Based on the period from 1771 through 1871, the most common first names for women were Mary, Sarah, and Hannah; for men John, James, and Samuel. These may come as no surprise, but some others, which seem to have gone out of favor, are: Abijah, Achsah, Alvinza, Asenath, Azuba, Darius, Dorcas, Hepzibah, Mehitable, Relief, Ruggles, Silence, Tamezin and Zaman.

The hardships faced by our predecessors in matters of juvenile health seem extraordinary to us today, and one cannot analyze these records without feeling profound sadness on many occasions. Calvin Learned, for example, had to bury four children and his first wife at separate occasions in the period from 1833 to 1843. Cyrus and Mary Hardy lost three children, successively in 1851, 1852 and



A wintery look at our 227 year old cemetery. Photo by Linda Van Wyk

1854. The Fiske's, Perry's and Gleason's each had to do likewise during the 1830's and 1840's.

Having this database readily available to the Town is a won-

derful resource. In combination with other sources, including materials in the library and archives, Dublin is increasingly able to interconnect and facilitate historical research.

Terry Dwyer

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## Recent Acquisitions to the Archives

The Society is grateful for recent acquisitions from the Dublin Women's Community Club, Elizabeth Pool, Isabel Clukay, Gus Crocker, David Belknap, the Everson Museum of Syracuse, NY, and Lorna Trowbridge. Lorna has given the Society a printing block for the cover of *The Dublin News*, dated September 15, 1908. This is the first evidence we have seen that a *Dublin News* was published before the 1920's. Does anyone have a copy? There is not room in this issue to describe the other acquisitions, but we shall try to do so in a future edition of this Newsletter.

—John Harris

Lucy Shonk has passed along a recent letter concerning the cover photograph on our last issue:

*Dear Lucy: In your last issue of the Historical Society Newsletter there is a photograph of Miss Edith Page's garden. My grandmother (Elise Pumpelly Cabot) might have taken the picture. She was a photographer at that time, and the little girls could be my mother, Libba, and the smaller, blonder one—Paupee. If they are, then it must have been about 1907 or '08. I remember seeing that face in the fountain in the photograph in some of the books in the house.*

Elise Fallow,  
Marion, Mass.



Daffodils blooming in the spring in our well-kept cemetery. Photo by Linda Van Wyk

## Sexton's Record: A Found Treasure

During the past several months an irreplaceable town document, *The Sexton's Record Book* (1937-1973), has been returned to Town archives. The book is primarily the work of Henry D. Allison, also the author of *Dublin Days Old and New*, and the most interesting parts of the book are recorded by him.

The work is a compendium of essential cemetery data, handwritten Sexton's notes, and carefully-clipped and pasted obituary notices. While intended as a straight-forward accounting of cemetery activities during the course of each year, its pages nevertheless are a fascinating window into the life of the town during this period. Varying from majestic, formal script to hurriedly-scratched marginalia, the volume serves as a prism for viewing the town through the eyes of its cemetery caretakers.

After a brief discussion of cemetery direction-finding (two methods proposed), there is a short annotated excerpt about the cemetery from the *History of Dublin* (1920). Mr. Allison notes, "In the boyhood days of the writer Joseph W. Powers was Sexton; afterward Clifford Gowing assumed his duties; Hildreth Allison and William F. Gerard were later in charge until 1937, when the present superintendent was appointed."

The following are items from the journal noted in passing:

"It has been the custom in past years, but the custom has not always been followed, for the man of the family to be buried on the north side of the lot and for the head to be placed at the west, so that the dead will face the east. It seems to me the proper method to face the body west and is now the one used."

"The hurricane of September 21, 1938, blew down and uprooted more than twenty large trees in the cemetery, but fortunately did not do much damage

to the gravestones." This is later amended to 26 trees and damage to 12 gravestones.

The large tomb alongside the road, while "considerably used in the past, is too narrow to admit entrance of the pine box holding the casket." Mr. Allison believes it is no longer necessary and should be removed.

Upon the death of Clifford Gowing in 1938, he notes that Mr. Gowing "played on the first baseball team in Dublin, *The Crescents*."

Concern for space is noted in 1952, ranging from "There are now four burials in this Lot, and it is full (all double-underlined)"; to contemplation of a category of Non-Resident Summer Guest of Five Years Duration; and finally a town resolution that same year that "(no lots) shall be sold to out of town applicants who have no affiliation here." In 1958 at town meeting, concern was again raised, as one good natured citizen put it, about "undesirable tenants."

In 1955, upon completion of a successful fund-raising by George Stewart, among others, an Ionic Cross was erected near the highway, as "at present we have no central focus for our men and women in the (Memorial Day) ceremony to march to and from."

Mr. Allison, having resumed superintendency of the cemetery, in a rare display of irritation, notes:

"This Record Book was begun by the undersigned in 1937, when he became Superintendent of the Cemetery. In 1943, Ned M. Pierce was appointed the Superintendent, and in 1945, instead of continuing the records in this book, he



started one of his own for some unknown reason." Mr. Allison then copies many of Mr. Pierce's notations through 1951 into the current book.

In 1960, the death of Hiram Carey, age 99, is recorded—"proprietor of a livery stable during the town's heyday as a resort center for many notables, he often drove Mark Twain about his visits there."

In 1963 the hand of Glen Scribner sadly records, "Henry D. Allison, a dedicated servant to the Town of Dublin died June 20, 1963, at the age of 94 years...He made many improvements in records which includes the originating of this book."

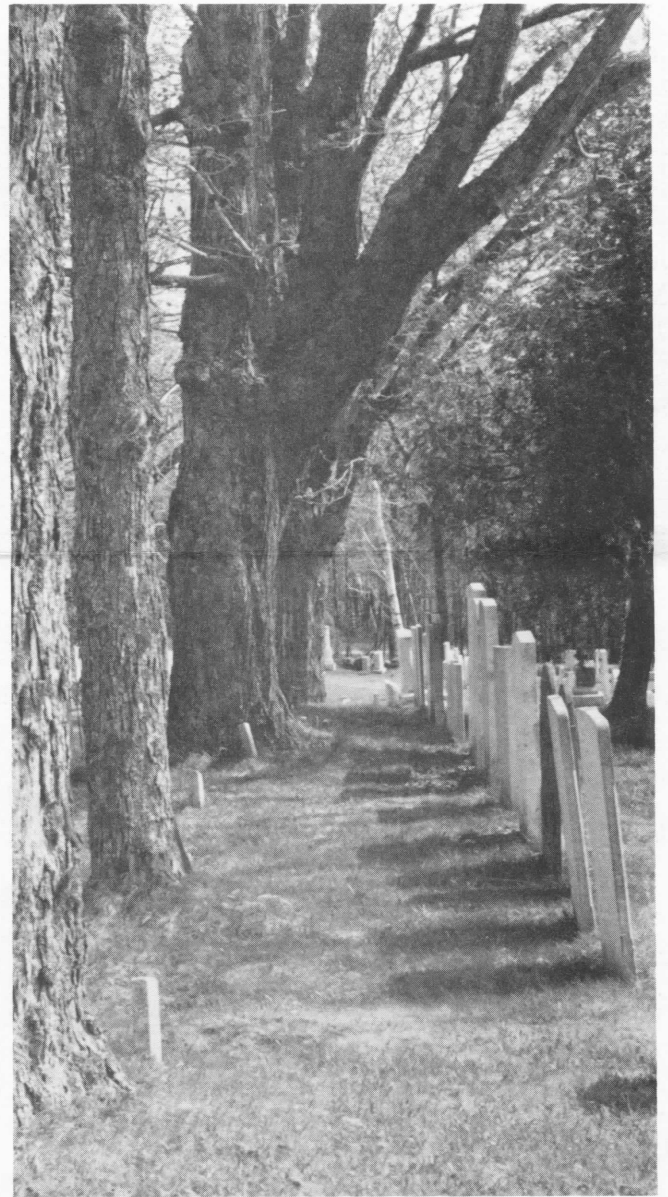
The Sexton's book is faithfully continued for several additional years. The book ends, almost in mid-paragraph, in 1973. In an appendix is a partial list of cemetery markers and reserved lots. There is also a listing of Revolutionary War Soldiers (45 are buried in the cemetery) and marginal notations of men who had fought at Bunker Hill and Ticonderoga. One was a "fifer in Company of Captain Stone, Bennington."

Twenty-seven Civil War Soldiers are listed as buried in the Cemetery. "Dublin furnished 115 men for the Civil War—13 were killed in battle, 7 taken prisoner, 3 died of wounds, 8 of disease, 1 of drowning, 2 of war-related illness."

As the town report of 1938 states, "The soldiers and citizens form a historical and sacred record done in stone and the memory of their lives forms a thread with the present which we cannot wish to break." One leaves this document in grati-

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Henry D. Allison

Photo by Linda Van Wyk



tude to Mr. Allison and in the hope that our own generation may record nearly so well the Town's records in this regard.

Terry Dwyer

Henry D. Allison was a life-long resident of Dublin, descendant of four generations raised on a farm at the foot of Mount Monadnock. After training in Boston, Mr. Allison spent his life as a merchant in Dublin. He served his beloved town in numerous capacities as postmaster, selectman, state repre-

sentative and cemetery superintendent. He was nominated by the Bull Moose Party for governor. In 1952 he authored Dublin Days Old and New. His painstaking cemetery records, in the handwriting of which he was so proud, have preserved our understanding of a Dublin past and we, belatedly, thank him.

*Correction:* In the last issue, Martha Blagdon was mistakenly identified as the great-granddaughter of Daniel Catlin—adding an extra generation. She is, in fact, his granddaughter. Our apologies  
—Ed.