



Dublin Historical Society

DUBLIN, NEW HAMPSHIRE 03444 • FOUNDED 1920

Newsletter No. 19 August, 1991

150th Anniversary Celebration

The Society's headquarters, the one room schoolhouse on Main Street is 150 years old this year. In order to celebrate this historic event, the Society is inviting everyone to join them for a picnic lunch on **Sunday, August 25, 1991 from 12:00 to 2:00 p.m.** The cost for the boxed picnic lunch will be \$3.00 for adults and \$1.50 for children. Music by the Middle Road Society Jazz Band, craftspeople, tours of the newly renovated museum, children's games, and activities will also add to the celebration.

Schoolhouse Fundraising Committee Progress Report

Needed			Received		
# of Gifts	Amount	Total	# of Gifts	Amount	Total
4	2,500	10,000	0	2,500	0
6	1,000	6,000	7	1000/2500	9,492
10	500	5,000	10	500/1000	5,000
20	250	5,000	9	250/500	2,350
30	100	3,000	16	100/250	1,964
Many under 100		1,000	10 under 100		305
		\$30,000	53		\$19,111

Total Donations: \$19,111.18+Interest/Misc. \$219.91= \$19,331.09

As you can see, we are still in need of donations in order to complete the project!



Cast of a play held at Loon Point in honor of *Amelia Earhart* (who was visiting her relatives in Dublin) around 1930. 1st Row (l.to r.) Mary Meath, Elise Holt, ?, Vicky Henderson, Jessy Taylor, Ann Rathbun, Ben Richards. 2nd Row (l. to r.) Tinky Pell, Isabel Warren, ?, Betsy Rathbun, Carol Parsons, Sandy Richards, Chas Winchester, Henry Holt. 3rd Row (l. to r.) Martha Stribling, Tumpty Catlin, Amelia Earhart, Joan Brush, Daphne Brooks, Grinny Brush, Pete Shonk, Violet Brooks, Bronnie Shonk.

Women's Work Is (And Never Has Been) Done!

A Look at Women in Dublin 150 Years Ago

An early Dublin settler, Mrs. William Greenwood, put her snow shoes on one winter morning, took half-a-bushel of corn on her shoulder, walked by marked trees to Peterborough, had it ground into meal, and returned to Dublin the same day!

The arrival of a grist mill in Dublin in 1838 helped shorten a woman's work-day, leaving time for women and girls to engage in some of Dublin's lighter, "cottage" industries, in addition to the usual household duties. Wool-carding, knitting, braiding palm-leaf hats, and pegging shoes kept hands busy, and helped young girls earn their "wedding outfits". Work could be performed at home or they could gather socially to work and visit, mass producing in its most traditional form.

Prior to the invention of knitting machines and the construction of hosiery mills, many girls and women earned money knitting stockings and mittens. They would card cleanly washed wool into long rolls, spin them into yarn, and produce their goods, which country merchants would offer for sale.

Thousands of girls and women throughout New England were employed each winter braiding palm leaf hats. The country merchants sent agents around to distribute the palmleaf, cut into long narrow strands, and collected into bunches. They returned sometime later to pick up the hats and pay for the braiding. (see photo for example from the Society's collection)

The manufacture of shoes was a major business in Dublin, where the cobblers each produced as many a

2,500 pairs of ready made shoes per year. Many women were employed to finish the bindings of the soles. For this work they would receive fifty cents a pair. Each finished case of shoes would be replaced with a new case of work.

In nearby Jaffery, Hannah Davis was creating hat-boxes, lined in newspaper and covered in fine wallpapers. These boxes brought her some reknown, and it is possible that Dublin ladies may have been engaged in this enterprise, as well as other common forms of handi-work such as needle-work, quillwork, and hairbraiding.

While not much mention is made of female participation in the mills, brickyard, or manufacture of woodenware clothes-pins, washboards, and mop-sticks, the women did manage to sustain a Ladies' Library (1799), which in 1851 contained 161 volumes, and a Ladies' Bible Association (1828). Other



Example of a Palm-leaf bonnet from the Schoolhouse collection.

libraries, societies, and a lyceum were all male bastions, including the running of the school!

In the second half of the 19th century, factory made goods, and improved industrial machinery rendered many of the women's cottage industries obsolete. Their power and influence continued to grow, however, (and not surprisingly), in the running of the school and the library associations.

(Remarks adapted from Henry Allison's Dublin Days Old and New, New Hampshire Fact and Fancy (New York, Exposition Press, 1952) and The History of Dublin, New Hampshire (1920).

Linda Bastedo

Note: Examples of many of the cottage industries of which Linda writes will be on display in the museum on August 25.

Recent Accessions to the Archives

A number of important gifts have been made to the Society's archives since the last full report.

Isabel Clukay has once again given us several interesting items, among them a collection of papers about the water supply to "the flat" dated from 1828 to the 1930's. These include an 1828 deed in which Samuel Jones conveys "a certain spring of water" to Cyrus Piper, Samuel Davison, Asa Heald and Joseph F. Hay, together with "the privilege of pooting [sic] down a lead aqueduct in the most convenient place through my land to convey the waters of the above-described spring to the flat..."

The grantor, Samuel Jones, lived in the house halfway up the south side of Main Street which, until recently, was "Hidden Brooks" bed and breakfast. The spring referred to was one of several still to be found on the land southwest of his house. Cyrus Piper ran a store in what is now John Elder's house; Samuel Davison built the brick house that is now Bill Bauhan's; Joseph F. Hay lived in the red house now occupied by the Grinnell Mores; and Asa Heald was landlord of Heald's Tavern, more recently known as French's Tavern. The "lead aqueduct" is presumably still down there somewhere underground.

The Dublin Women's Community

Club has turned over its records to our archives, including minute books, treasurer's records and correspondence from its founding in 1920.

These have been organized and catalogued by Nancy Campbell, who has dual roles as Secretary-Treasurer of the Women's Club and Assistant Archivist of the Historical Society.

To the Garden Club papers have been added a magnificent collection of photographs gathered and mounted by Elizabeth Pool. They record the former glories of some of the great Dublin gardens - Mrs. Brewster's, Mrs. Gerry's, Mrs. Mauran's and others - for a posterity that will probably never see their like.

From the Peterborough Historical Society, through the kind offices of Laura Scott, we have received a map of Dublin "compiled for the use of summer residents by G.B.L. [George B. Leighton]", dated 1889.

Lorna Trowbridge has given us a complete set (52 issues) of The Dublin News, which her father, Rob Sagendorph, published in 1949 and 1950, as well as a printing block for the cover of a Dublin News dated September 15, 1908. Does anyone have a copy of this earlier version?

Dr. Peter Twitchell, of Peterborough, has kindly given us a biography of his eminent medical

forebear, Amos Twitchell, M.D. (1781-1850), who was born and grew up on what is now the Edelkinds' property on Page Road.

Other gifts have been gratefully received from David Belknap, Gus Crocker, Jessie Hale, Michael King, Heidi Thomas, Bernard Vigneault and the Everson Museum of Syracuse N.Y. To all our generous donors, the Society's most grateful thanks.

Annual Meeting

The Annual Meeting of the Dublin Historical Society will be held on Saturday, September 21, 1991 at 8:30 a.m. at the Dublin Community Church. Breakfast will be served.

This issue of the Dublin Historical Society Newsletter has been edited and prepared by Linda Bastedo and Lucy Shonk. Letters and inquiries are welcome. The newsletter is designed by Diana Shonk at Across the Board Graphic Design of Peterborough, NH.