



Dublin Historical Society

Dublin, New Hampshire 03444 • FOUNDED 1920

Newsletter No. 20 – November, 1991

CELEBRATION AT THE OLD SCHOOLHOUSE

Gala Open House

More than 200 people attended an open house on August 25 to celebrate the reopening of the newly renovated schoolhouse. My thanks to all of you who came, and to all those who helped make the celebration such a resounding success! It was a fitting birthday party for the building, which is 150 years old this year.

Linda Bastedo did an outstanding job of organizing the whole event. An enthusiastic group of children and adults spent hours cleaning, moving furniture, raking and window-washing in preparation for the open house. Martha and Christopher Raymond, Cynthia Shonk Caddell, Kippy Bastedo and Lucy Shonk, Sr. made the hundred and fifty lunches that sold out early in the day.

Anita Crowell's birthday cake was a big hit. Emmy McLellan ran games for the children. The music of the Middle Road Society Jazz Band was a great addition. Sally Shonk Carey captured the proceedings on film.

Thanks for their assistance also to Rusty Bastedo, Bill Bauhan, Erin and Dane Caddell, Sally Shonk Carey, May Clark, Terry Dwyer, Ruth Hammond, Albert Handy, Holly Johnson, David Lesser (Principal of the Dublin Consolidated School), Leigh McLean, Sharron Monaghan, Gracie Rawls, Laura Scott, Sarah Seaver, Tom Wright and whole squads of McLellans, Whitneys and Shonks.

The fine turnout shows how much the Town cares about preserving the past for future generations.

—Lucy Shonk



President Shonk and 150th Birthday cake.



Dues Notice

Cards and envelopes for 1992 dues are enclosed with this newsletter. Please fill out the cards, making sure we have your complete mailing address, including P.O. box

number, if you have one.

For the sixth year in a row, the dues have not increased. Minimum dues, however, only just cover the cost of these newsletters, so the Society depends on extra contributions to pay for its preservation work. All contributions are tax-deductible.

Notes from the President

SCHOOLHOUSE RENOVATIONS

Thanks to the generous contributions of many Dublin residents, the old schoolhouse, which now serves as the Society's museum, has been repaired and preserved for at least another generation. Those of you who saw the inside of the building before the repairs know how badly they were needed.

Dan Scully was most helpful in the planning stage, and George Bogosian organized and supervised every phase of the renovation work.

The effective fundraising of Nancy Perkins and Mary McKee has brought us close to our goal of \$30,000. There are still some things left to do, and further contributions would be much appreciated.

1991 ANNUAL MEETING

I was sorry to miss the annual meeting on September 21st, but I was ill and had lost my voice. In any case, I am told that the meeting ran smoothly under the chairmanship of Vice-President Sharron Monaghan.

Dick Hammond and John Harris showed drawings of the proposed archives room under the upper parking lot between the Town Hall

and Library, and explained the idea, a fireproof, climate controlled repository built and used jointly by the Society and the Town. Since the annual meeting, however, the Trustees of the Library have refused their approval of this scheme (see story on page 4).

Elected at the meeting were:

President	Lucy C. Shonk
Vice-President	Laura Scott
Treasurer	Tom Wright
Trustees	Bill Bauhan
	Cornelia Montgomery
	Elliot Snow
	Bernie Vigneault

After the meeting, the Trustees met and elected Elliot Snow Secretary, Linda Bastedo Curator, and John Harris Archivist.

We shall miss Sharron Monaghan, who retires as Vice-President. Our thanks to her and retiring Trustee John Harris for their faithful work for the Society.

Gail Anthony, Linda Bastedo, Emmy McLellan, Sharron Monaghan, Laura Scott, and others prepared the traditional french toast breakfast for about forty people. ♦



The Cleanup Crew

Back row, L-R:
Linda Bastedo, Gracie Rawls,
Laura Scott, Ned Whitney,
Lucy Shonk. Front, L-R:
Cynthia Shonk Caddell,
Renette McLellan, Diana
Shonk, Emmy McLellan,
Maggie McLellan, Elizabeth
McLellan, Sarah Seaver,
Amos McLellan, Holly
Johnson, Lucy Shonk (Sr.)
and Peter Shonk

Recent Accessions to The Archives

A recent gift of special historical importance is a notebook containing the names of out-of-town contributors to the building of the first Trinitarian Meetinghouse in 1835. This significant gift comes from **Tom Seaver**, who bought it from a dealer in the course of his antiques business. For the background of this most interesting addition to the archives, see the following article.

Prompted by the picture of Amelia Earhart in the August newsletter, **Jessie Hale** has very kindly given us another photograph of the same children's pageant. The pageant was produced at Dark Pond, c. 1930, by Jessie's grandfather, Joseph Lindon Smith, in honor of Amelia Earhart, who was cousin-by-marriage to his wife, Corinna.

The caption to the same August photograph should have identified it as the gift of **Laurie Pratt Bryan**, who has also given us photographs of an earlier children's pageant by Joseph Lindon Smith (c. 1904), as well as of the gardens created at "Homewood" (now George and Leigh McLean's house) by her grandparents, John Lawrence and Isabel Mauran.

Through the good offices of **Sam Spiker**, the **Dublin Riding & Walking Club** has given its records to the Society's archives. These include fairly complete sequences of minutes, correspondence and financial records from the early 1930's to the present. **Henry Lee** has given additional material, including an elegant scrapbook containing photographs and other memorabilia from the years of his presidency of the Club, 1964-1973. Other papers have come from **Michael Carter**, **Blake Sabine**, **Abe Wolfe** and

Clint Yeomans. To all of them goes the Society's thanks.

Thanks also to **Susan Barker**, immediate past President of the **Garden Club of Dublin**, for sending in the President's records for 1989 and 1990, making it possible to keep the Club's archives up to date.

Other generous gifts have been received from **Nancy Campbell**, **John Harris** and **Jane F. Hawkins**. Two books were purchased from the Archives Fund. ♦

The Subscription Book For The Trinitarian Church

The heading in the book given to the Society by Tom Seaver reads:

*"Subscription for the laudable purpose
of aiding and assisting the small
Trinitarian Congregational Society
in the Town of Dublin in building a
Meeting house for their use.
May 18th, 1835"*

That first Trinitarian meetinghouse, which was completed in 1836, stood near the top of the hill, about where Tuttle House is now. The building was of brick, and lasted till 1877, when it was replaced by the wooden church at the foot of the hill.

(By 1950 the Trinitarians no longer had a sufficient membership to support a minister and rejoined the Dublin Community Church. They gave their meetinghouse to the Dublin Women's Community Club. It now houses the post office and the archives room.)

The early years of the 19th century were a time of religious ferment in New England. The dour dogmas of orthodox Congregationalism, based on Calvinist principles, were giving way to the liberal optimism of the Unitarian and Universalist denominations. Where orthodox Congregationalists adhered to the scriptural beliefs in original sin and eternal punishment for the unredeemed, the younger, latitudinarian clergy preached the perfectibility of man



February Meeting

The annual potluck supper
will be at the Church on
Friday, February 7th, 1992.

Program to be announced.

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The Subscription Book for the Trinitarian Church
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and redemption for all. An 1850's joke: "Q. What is the difference between a Unitarian and a Universalist? A. A Universalist thinks God is too good to damn him, and a Unitarian thinks he is too good to be damned."

The Rev. Levi Leonard, installed as Dublin's minister in 1820, was of the new Unitarian persuasion. In 1827, several members of the church, holding to "the faith once delivered to the saints", withdrew to form the Trinitarian Congregational Society. In their confession of faith (1848), they affirmed not only the Trinity, but the orthodox doctrines of original sin, total depravity and eternal punishment. This book, recording contributions from as far away as Concord, Hollis and New Boston, indicates the

strength of feeling among people all over southern New Hampshire who clung to the faith of their fathers. Among the contributors were two venerable and orthodox clergymen: the Revs. Zedekiah Barstow of Keene and Laban Ainsworth of Jaffrey.

The book is thus of interest not only to Dublin, but to the more than 20 towns from which contributions were received. We plan to send facsimiles to the Historical Societies in those towns for their records. We also hope to learn from those societies something about the people of their towns who felt strongly enough about theological distinctions to contribute to the building of an out-of-town church. ♦

Library Trustees Veto Archives Room

Members who have followed the effort to find a fireproof repository for the Society's (and the Town's) archives may recall that a proposal was made to the Library trustees back in 1988 that an archives room be included in the planned Library expansion, which then seemed likely to be built. That proposal was turned down without explanation.

Earlier this year, Lucy Shonk, as President, received an anonymous pledge of \$50,000 to the Historical Society for an archives facility to be shared by the Society and the Town. With this encouragement, the Selectmen appointed a committee to investigate possible sites. The main stumbling block has been that the archives need to be as near as possible to the Town Hall, and the Town owns almost no land beyond the Town Hall walls.

The Committee explored all possible solutions. The best and cheapest, thought up by

committee chairman Dick Hammond, would have been a long, narrow space under the present upper parking area between the Library and the Town Hall. It would have been accessible from the Town Hall basement and invisible from the outside, except for a door and a couple of windows cut through the existing retaining wall.

This plan required the assent of the Library trustees, since nearly all of that parking space is on Library land. According to Chairman Jill Lawler, the Library trustees turned down the request by a majority vote in executive session on October 22. She declined to elaborate.

We are now back at square one. Has any member a suggestion?

-John Harris

ON SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 17,
YOUR ARCHIVIST WILL SPEAK AT THE
PETERBOROUGH HISTORICAL SOCIETY ON
"PRESERVING YOUR FAMILY'S ARCHIVES."

This newsletter has been partly written and wholly edited by
Nancy Campbell and John Harris, who are solely responsible for its contents.

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