

Dublin Historical Society

DUBLIN, NEW HAMPSHIRE 03444 • FOUNDED 1920

Newsletter No. 24 – November, 1992

Dublin Historical Society Holds Annual Meeting

The Dublin Historical Society's held their Annual Breakfast Meeting at the Dublin Community Church on Sunday, September 12.

Outgoing President **Lucy Shonk** reported that the school project had been completed in 1991 and the re-opening of this unique facility has high priority for the summer of 1993.

Dick Hammond reported that the Archives Building Committee, a group appointed by the town of Dublin, had selected a site behind the Town Hall and Town Library. **Daniel V. Sculley** is preparing architectural renderings and more than \$50,000 of an anticipated total of \$90,000 has been raised.

Bernie Vigneault, who chairs the Education/History committee, proposed that we develop and conduct a program to teach Dublin school children the history of their town. This would be one facet of an on-going cultural heritage awareness process leading up to the 250th Anniversary of the town of Dublin in the year 2002 and enlisting the knowledge and skills of Archivist **John Harris**, plus area writers, artists and cartoonists.

Nancy Perkins announced that there were now 152 paying members of DHS, 22 non-paying members and ten non-paying members, those who had been given one year memberships as a result of their contributions to the School House project.

Assistant archivist, **Nancy Campbell** detailed some of the myriad activities completed by DHS this past year. It included a complete indexing of all Dublin Community Church records, Jaffrey Women's Club Records and the town burial records and Dublin Lake Archives.

Terry Dwyer gave the Treasurer's report in **Tom Wright's** absence. In response to a number of comments and questions from the group, it was agreed that there was a need for a more comprehensive financial reporting format.

The society has also undertaken an extensive task of cataloging the Dublin Library records with the help and counsel of **Dorothy Worcester**.



(top) Dick Hammond outlines architectural plans for proposed Archives building.

(bottom) Lucy Shonk accepts inscribed watch from a grateful DHS. l. to r.: William Bauban, Laura Scott, Terry Dwyer, and Bernie Vigneault.

The following were nominated and unanimously elected as new officers of DHS:

Curator – Marney Bean

Archivist – John Harris

Secretary – Richard Friz

In addition to the new officers, Trustees for the new year are as follows: **Terry Dwyer, Tom Wright, Cornelia Montgomery, Elliot Snow, Bernie Vigneault, Bill Bauhan, and Marney Bean.**

After receiving a standing ovation for her dedicated service to DHS over the past six years, **Lucy Shonk** passed the gavel to incoming President, **Terry Dwyer.** ■

Notes From The President

Our Annual Meeting of the Dublin Historical Society was well attended. Outgoing president **Lucy Shonk** received a well deserved standing ovation and an inscribed watch, in appreciation for her six years of tireless service in behalf of the Society. Appreciation and thanks go to Trustees **Laura Scott** and **Cecily Bastedo** for their excellent contributions during their terms.

The new Trustees have met and five committees have set to work. **Elliot Snow** has agreed to chair an expanded Finance committee. Other committees actively functioning are: an Accessions committee to refine the Society's policies in this regard; a By-Laws committee, which is discussing changes as to succession of officers; the Program and Educational committees (more about this later).

The Trustees have voted to co-publish, with the Amos Fortune Forum of Jaffrey, **Elizabeth Pool's** outstanding lecture, *Pen, Brush, Chisel and Clef—Dublin's Halcyon Days*, which she delivered at the Forum on July 31. This was truly a memorable occasion, and Elizabeth's talk was (as is she) warm, witty, and full of insight. The audience listened raptly as she described some of the artists and personalities who have helped enrich Dublin's history. Cost will be \$5.00 for the publication if purchased in person at the Archives (located above the Dublin Post Office) or \$6.00 if mail delivery is requested. Quantities are somewhat limited, so I would urge you to respond without delay to avoid any disappointment.

In closing, I would like to recommend that everyone attend our fall Historical Society program. This talk will be by **Richard Friz** on the timely topic of artifacts generated by presidential campaigns. Please mark your calendars for

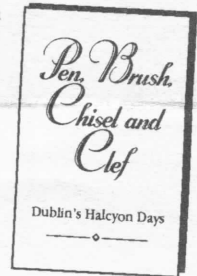
Monday, November 16 at 7:30 PM in the Louise Shonk Kelly Auditorium at Dublin School. Dick is a five years resident of Dublin and an author with numerous titles to his credit (including a book on collecting political items).

Dick is a former Adv. Director of *Blair & Ketchum's Country Journal* and an editorial consultant for Yankee Publishing's *Collectibles Illustrated*. I sincerely hope that you will plan on joining us that evening, as well as for future programs (see Calendar) that Program Chairperson, **Cornelia Montgomery** has planned for us. ■

—Terry Dwyer

Dublin Historical Society, in concert with the Amos Fortune Forum of Jaffrey, NH announce the publishing of:

Pen, Brush, Chisel and Clef—
Dublin's Halcyon Days
by Elizabeth Pool



Price: \$6.00 per copy,* and includes mailing and handling. Please enclose check or money order.

Send to:

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip Code: _____

* Price is only \$5.00 if you obtain your copy in person at DHS Archives (above Dublin Post Office).

Accessions to the Archives

Mrs. Dorothy Worcester has very kindly allowed us to photocopy and index 13 scrapbooks of newspaper clippings from the Library's collection.

Two of the scrapbooks were compiled by the late Hildreth Allison, and cover the years 1930-1979. The remaining 11 were compiled by Mrs. Worcester herself, and cover the years 1987-1983.

These scrapbooks are a mine of information about Dublin people and events, now made more accessible by an index. The copies on acid-free paper will, besides, outlast the original newsprint. Copies and index are now available at both the Archives and the Library.

The August newsletter contained a recipe from a cookbook published by the Dublin Ladies' Social Circle, a gift from the **Peterborough Historical Society** through the good offices of **Laura Scott**. The Social Circle, whose records are in the Society's collection, functioned as the women's organization of the Unitarian Church from 1848 to the late 1920's.

The cookbook, we find, was published in 1900 and sold

for 10 cents a copy. An expanded edition, with advertisements, was brought out in 1909 at 35 cents each. Has anyone a copy of the 1909 edition?

Nancy M. Aldrich of Greenfield, a granddaughter of Nancy Douglas Brush Bowditch, has allowed us to make a copy of her grandmother's unpublished memoirs. These are a valuable addition to our collection of Brush family papers.

Elizabeth Pool has kindly given us a typescript of her Amos Fortune lecture (see the **President's Letter**), as well as some of the research materials that went into its preparation. An audiotape of the talk was contributed by **Margaret Johnson**, President of the Amos Fortune Forum.

Other welcome additions to the archives have come from **Nancy Campbell**, **Lillian Carter**, and the Archivist. Grateful thanks to all our generous donors. ■

The Archives department has "published", in an edition of four copies, an up-to-date catalogue of the Society's archival collection. The catalogue will be available at the archives room, the Dublin Public Library, the Historical Society of Cheshire County in Keene, and the New Hampshire Historical Society in Concord.

—John Harris

Behind the Scenes in Dublin: Artist Abbott Thayer's Portraits Of Heavenly Hosts

John Harris passes along this fascinating image from the archives, one of three made from glass negatives of the Historical Society of Cheshire County. They are part of a larger collection by E.M. White. White was listed as a professional photographer who worked in Keene from 1875 to c. 1903. The photo was taken in Abbott Henderson Thayer's Dublin studio, where the artist faithfully copied the details of the wings first, then later filled in the portrait of another model to the painting as the angel.

The child in the photograph, posing with a large bird is perhaps Abbott Thayer's nephew, Henry Thayer Whiting, whose portrait is reproduced in the June 1973 *Antiques Magazine*, page 1139 and dated "c 1905."

The huge winged creature which almost dwarfs the boy, features a large beak (visible just off the lad's right shoulder) and is quite possibly, a hawk.

The unfinished portrait behind the child, is "My Children", reproduced in the Thayer memorial issue of *The Arts* magazine, June-July, 1921, on page 8. The second photograph, of Thayer's portrait, entitled "Angel", appears in the superb Thayer biography by Nelson White.

Winged figures were a recurring cherished theme through the years for the Dublin artist beginning as early as 1887. In the Spring of 1921, "an ailing Thayer asked one of his



students, David Reasoner, to bring to his bedside one of his early unfinished portraits of Bessie Price as an angel. After making an attempt at painting, he was suddenly paralyzed and could not use his hand. It was a slight stroke, which was followed in the next three weeks by two more. From the last one he died on May 29, 1921." *

"Abbott H. Thayer/Painter and Naturalist"
by Nelson C. White© 1951

—Dick Friz

Montgomery Announces DHS Program Agenda *continued from page 3*

and nature lovers. His lecture includes a fascinating slide presentation.

The program for Spring, with date and subject to be announced, according to Cornelia, will again feature the inimitable **Elizabeth Pool** at the rostrum. Whatever her topic, the program is certain to be both entertaining and enlightening.

The date of the summer program, calling for a tour of area historic buildings and sites, and a fun-filled outing and picnic, will be announced in a future issue of our newsletter. ■

CREDITS

This issue of the Dublin Historical Society Newsletter has been edited and prepared by Richard Friz.

Our appreciation to Sharron Monaghan, who provided photos of the Annual Meeting.

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