

Dublin Historical Society

Dublin, New Hampshire 03444

• Founded 1920

Newsletter No. 27 – February, 1994

Updating Dublin's Town History

The Society's Board of Trustees is currently giving serious consideration to bringing the town history of Dublin up to date. This is in preparation for the town's 250th anniversary, which will occur in the year 2002.

The previous "History of Dublin" by Leonard and Seward was published in 1920, and though quite comprehensive, is now out of print.

No detailed agenda has been set, but the Board is seeking the help of all interested citizens in developing this challenging project.

A new history will pick up where the old version left off and be brought up to the present time. Among the topics that have been put forward thus far are:

- **The 1952 Bicentennial Address** by Hildreth Allison.
- **Political/Municipal History:** Population; Town Officers; Roads; Taxes; Post Office; Town Hall; Library, Cemetery; Zoning; Route 101 bypass controversy.
- **Economy/Industry—Yankee Magazine:** Stores; Inns; Restaurants; High Standard; Clukay's Garage; Antique Shops; Dublin General Store; Carr's

continued on page two



A fascinating letter from Theodore Roosevelt to Dublin's Abbott Thayer, in 1912 appears on page 3. And speaking of Thayer—whose famous painting should crop up on the cover of the December 27, 1993 issue of *Time Magazine*?

Anne Lunt to Speak at Society's Potluck Supper.

Meeting at Community Church Vestry – Feb. 18th



Circle the date on your calendar—Friday, Feb. 18th, at 6:30 P.M. That's the date of the Society's annual mid-winter Potluck Supper at the Dublin Community Church vestry. All D.H.S. members and guests are cordially invited.

This will be the sixth of these annual events, which have proven to be a popular and relaxed way to help fend off winter "cabin fever." Please bring a dish, and if there are any questions, call Elliot Snow at 563-8718 or Ann Walsh at 563-8542.

After supper, guest speaker Anne D. Lunt of Temple will give a brief talk on the assembling of a Town History—it's pitfalls and pleasures. Following Ms. Lunt's remarks, everyone is urged to participate in an informal round-table discussion on this timely topic. Your opinions, suggestions and questions, are welcome.

Prior to moving to New Hampshire, Anne Lunt was an adult trade editor at Little Brown & Company, American Heritage and St. Martin's Press.

Since 1970, when she came to live and work in Temple, Anne Lunt has conducted a free lance editorial service. Her articles have appeared in numerous publications and her drama reviews appear regularly in the Peterborough Ledger. Ms. Lunt has edited a number of histories of New England towns including Dorset, Vermont, Fairfield, Connecticut and Temple, New Hampshire. She is currently editor and co-ordinator of the upcoming history of Peterborough.

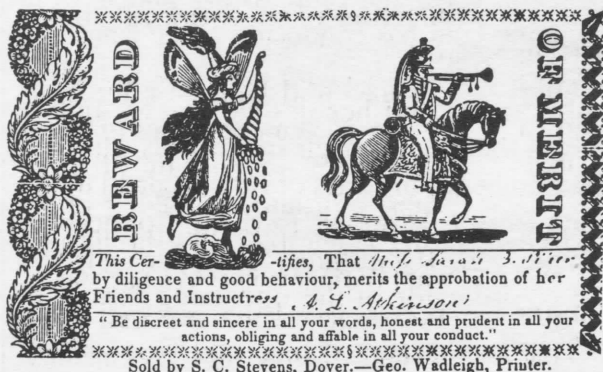
– William Bauban

Updating Dublin's Town History

- **Schools & Institutions**—Dublin Christian Academy; Dublin School, Dublin Consolidated, Fairwood, Beech Hill and Marathon House.
- **Churches**—Dublin Community; Emmanuel; Our Lady of the Snows; Fairwood; Mt. View Bible; Trinitarian.
- **Clubs & Organizations**—Fire Dept.; Women; Garden Club; Riding & Walking Club; Sailing Club; Historical Society; Scouts; Extension, Dublin Community Foundation; Snowmobile Club; Dublin Lake Club.
- **Natural Environment**—Monadnock, Allison's birds & wildflowers; decline of farms; open land; Dublin Associates; 1926 covenant on Dublin Lake.
- **Wars**—Local men and women servings in World War II, Korean, Vietnam & Gulf Wars.
- **Artists & Writers**—Including many summer colony members who became full time residents: Abbott Thayer; Alexander James; George De Forest Brush; Richard Meryman, Joseph Lindon Smith; Gouri Ivanov-Rinov and others. Writers Mark Twain, Elizabeth Pool, Judson Hale et al.
- **Historic Buildings & Districts**
- **Genealogies**
- **Special Events**—Antique Engine meet; square dances, Memorial Day; 1976 Bicentennial events.

The Society's archives contain information on all these topics, but it needs to be fleshed out and put into prose.

— William Bauban



New Hampshire Reward, dated 1834, combines popular allegorical and military symbols.

Dr. Susan Williams Speaks at Society's November Meeting



Dr. Susan Williams was guest speaker at the Society's quarterly meeting on November 17, 1993. Her subject was the life and career of Alice Morse Earle, a popular and prolific writer around the turn of the century.

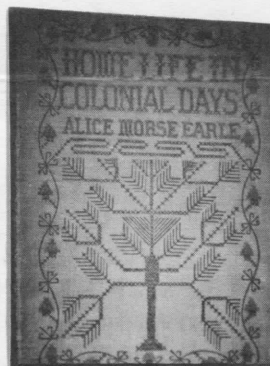
Mrs. Earle was related to the Dublin Morse family, being a double descendant of Captain Thomas Morse, who is believed to have been the town's first permanent settler. Dr. Williams traced Mrs. Earle's family background and the successive moves which brought her forbears from Massachusetts Bay to Dublin to Worcester, Massachusetts and brought her from Worcester to Brooklyn Heights.



A pioneer of what nowadays would be called 'social history', Mrs. Earle wrote (among other topics) about the daily life of women and children in colonial times.

Dr. William's entertaining and instructive talk was followed by a lively question period.

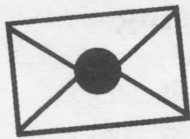
— John Harris



(top of col.) Dr. Williams at the podium.

(middle) A portrait of Alice Morse Earle depicted in Dr. Williams' slide presentation.

(bottom) "Home Life In Colonial Days"—one of Alice Morse Earle's most popular social histories; she authored 18 books in all.



A Letter from T.R. to A.T.

Dublin's Abbott H. Thayer was not only one of the foremost artists of his time, he also, as an article in the *Brooklyn Eagle* affirms, was "an audacious naturalist who studies the protective coloration of birds and animals." Thayer, in fact, was recognized as the 'father of modern camouflage'.

In March, 1912, Thayer invited Theodore Roosevelt to attend one of his protective coloration demonstrations. Roosevelt, at the time was making another run for the presidency on the Bullmoose ticket.

T.R. was also an accepted member of Washington's scientific community as a skilled ornithologist, paleontologist & taxidermist.

During his White House years, bird specimens that confused experts at the Smithsonian were frequently sent to T.R. for identification.

T.R.'s reply to Thayer's invitation, while brusque, is typical of his invective. It was T.R. who called Woodrow Wilson a "Byzantine logothete" and Charles Evans Hughes, "a psalm singing s.o.b." Taking the sting out of his insults, T.R. invariably indulged in what Booth Tarkington detected as "an undertone of Homeric chuckling." T.R.'s reply to Thayer's invitation follows:

*"My dear Mr. Thayer –
if you would face facts..."*

T.R.'s reply to Thayer's invitation follows:

Office of
Theodore Roosevelt
MY DEAR MR. THAYER:

THE OUTLOOK
287 Fourth Avenue
New York
March 19th, 1912

I have just received your note, of course too late for me to accept your invitation. I also received at the same time a note from Chapman saying that he has been watching the blue jay in Florida, hundreds of miles from any snow. You yourself show that your theory is absolutely valueless when in your letter to me you say that "if the day is cloudy the blue jay business is off." Do you seriously think that an experiment is worth anything when you have to have the weather conditions exactly right in order to make it of any use? You say that this is a matter open to no discussion, and a case of pure optics. Frankly, while I agree with you that it is open to no discussion, I think it is a question not of optics but of ordinary reason. I have seen hundreds of blue jays this Winter. I know that as a matter of fact they always fly into trees when there is the least suspicion of danger. I know that as a matter of fact they are easily seen on the ground, especially when there is snow on the ground, under any ordinary conditions. Your experiments represent simple jugglery, just as your experiments with the zebra and oryx at drinking pools represent nothing but a complete misunderstanding of the conditions under which zebras and oryxes go to drink. There is in Africa a blue rump baboon. It is also true that the Mediterranean Sea bounds one side of Africa. If you should make a series of experiments tending to show that if the blue rump baboon stood on its head by the Mediterranean you would mix up his rump and the Mediterranean, you might be illustrating something in optics, but you would not be illustrating anything that had any bearing whatsoever on the part played by the coloration of the animal in actual life. Well, your experiments about the blue jay and snow, and about the zebra and oryx at drinking places, have just as exactly as little relation to real life as would such an experiment with a blue rump baboon by the Mediterranean. My dear Mr. Thayer, if you would face facts, you might really help in elucidating some of the problems before me, but you can do nothing but mischief, and not very much of that, when conducting such experiments as these with your imitation zebra, and zebras' and oryx' heads, and your blue jays on snow. Most blue jays don't live where there is any snow. Very few of them live where there is snow on the ground for more than a small part of the year. To claim that their coloration is meant to be concealing for a small part of the year when it is not of much consequence to them, and revealing at other times of the year, so that on the whole it is of a revealing or advertising character simply contradicts your own theory. There is no kind of coloration which cannot by ingenious methods be made to look revealing at times, but your experiments are of no more real value than the experiment of putting a raven in a coal scuttle, and then claiming that he is concealed. Until you face facts, you cannot do anything that counts.

Very truly yours,

THEODORE ROOSEVELT

News from the Archives Recent Accessions

Edgar A. Ball, of Jacksonville, Florida, has sent us photocopies of photographs of his grandfather, Alamander L. Ball and other members of the Ball Family. Alamander Bell was a notable builder in Dublin, having been contractor for the Library, Emmanuel Church and rectory, and the houses now belonging to the Footes (George

Jr.), the Petrones, the Pools and the Utleys.

Alamander and his family lived in what is now Brian and Lucy McDonald's house. He died in 1902, and is buried in the Dublin cemetery.

Ann Biklen has very kindly given us copies of the photographs she made of the paintings in the Vestry of the Community Church. That collection, assembled by Elizabeth Pool in the 1950's, is the best—

indeed the only—representative collection of the work of Dublin artists.

Michael and Lillian Carter have allowed us to make copies of material relating to William Preston Phelps, a prominent painter of an earlier generation and the former owner of their house in Chesham.

Books have been received from William L. Bauhan and Thea Sabine.

—John Harris



The Great Snow of 1717

Dublin No Stranger To Intense Cold & Being Buried In Snow

The following information on January weather in our area, is distilled from "The Country Journal New England Weather Book" by David Ludlum.

History records that in Nov. 22-23, 1943, New Hampshire's White Mountains were never whiter. Over 50 inches of pristine snow descended in less than 24 hours on the bare valleys, (more in higher elevations). No station in the southern slopes, including Dublin, reported as much as 20 inches, however.

In the infamous Blizzard of '88, the hills of southern New Hampshire westward from the Monadnock area reported 30-36 inches, or more.

You think it's been cold lately: on January 24, 1857, the coldest morning of the 19th century was recorded in New Hampshire, Vermont and Massachusetts—minus 50 degrees F. On Jan. 28, 1925, a state record for this century was set at minus 46 degrees, at First Connecticut Lake, N.H.

Ludlum also noted that January thaws are a reality in New Hampshire, and most frequently detected between Jan. 7-10 and between January 20-26. Thus, since Dublin went thawless in Jan. '94, if we take the reverse side of the coin in the old axiom, "A summerish January, a winterish spring"—can flawless balmy weather be far behind?

— Dick Friz

C R E D I T S

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

Design & Layout by Heidi Thomas of
Little House Graphics.

A local weekly known as the *Dublin Opinion* was published in the late 1940s' under the auspices of Rob Sagendorph and Bob McQuillen. The little tabloid created quite a stir in its day. We thought the following excerpt would be of interest to our readers. The Society's archives has a full set of the *Dublin Opinion*, the gift of Lorna Trowbridge. Dorothy Worcester, Dublin's town librarian, has bound copies of the *Dublin Opinion* available for further perusal.

Wednesday, December 8, 1948 THE DUBLIN OPINION

Dublin's Highways and Byways Have Colorful Names But No Sign Posts

The names of Dublin roads have never been officially designated by sign posts (see picture, page 1) and strangers in town are frequently forced to ask directions to find out the location of the road they are seeking.

Many of the names of Dublin roads have an interesting history. One of these is the Gold Mine Road in the Lower Village. This road was so named because of a "gold mine" discovered about 1870 on property now owned by the Walker family. In 1875 a company known as "The Diamond Ledge Gold Mine Company" was formed to open and operate the mine. Shafts were sunk to a considerable depth and a complete plant was erected, but little, if any, gold was obtained and the plant was soon abandoned. Many of the townspeople believed that the only gold ever obtained from the mine was obtained from those who invested in the stock issued by the mining company.

Another colorful street name in Dublin is "Mechanics" Row (sometimes called "The Alley") which runs down between the Town Hall and the I.G.A. store building. This street got its name in the early 1900's when it was inhabited entirely, with the exception of one summer resident, by contractors, plumbers, painters, and blacksmiths. James Brockway and Tom Sanders were the contractors. J. A. Porter, the village blacksmith, lived in the house now occupied by Mrs. William Thompson. Fred Greenwood, painter, lived in the Millard Worcester location, and Ernest Gay, the plumber, was the other occupant of the street.

The Monument road received its name from the Civil War soldiers' monument erected there in 1870.

The monument was moved to its present site in front of the Historical Building when the main road through town was widened in the 1930's.

The main road to Harrisville, which leads from the center of town, was built in 1907 and was to have been called the Beech Hill road. There are three other Harrisville roads in Dublin—the Old Harrisville road, the dirt road which leads off the main road around the lake, the East Harrisville, or East View road, which meanders off towards Harrisville from the main road near the Walker farm, and the Bond's Corner-Brush road.

The Pumpelly Hill road gets its name from the hill, known until 1885 as Snow Hill, whose top was owned by Prof. Raphael Pumpelly, geologist and author. Another road which gets its name from its route is the South Side of the Lake road. And probably there are few in town who know that the dirt road which leads from the center of the town to the lake is called the Old Pound road.

Dublin's first road was probably built as early as 1762, according to the History of the Town of Dublin. The first roads were, of course, very primitive, being little more than openings cut through the dense woods, and were very rough.