

Dublin Historical Society

Dublin, New Hampshire 03444 • Founded 1920

Newsletter No. 29 – November, 1994

SCHOOLHOUSE MUSEUM REOPENS

The Dublin Historical Society achieved one of its principal goals this summer with the long-awaited reopening of the museum in the old Schoolhouse No. 1.

The reorganization and display of the Society's collection of artifacts was accomplished almost single-handed, and with imagination and flair, by Curator Marnie Bean, to whom all praise and thanks are due. Thea Sabine, Elliot Snow and Ann Walsh helped in cleaning and preparing the exhibits.

The museum was first opened on August 6, as part of the "Dublin Days" celebration, and thereafter on every Sunday in August from 11-2 p.m., attracting over 100 visitors. In addition, a number of Society members inspected the museum after the annual meeting in September.

Since then, two classes from the Consolidated School and one from Dublin Christian Academy have attended class in the museum, sitting in the old



Sixth graders from Dublin Christian Academy attend class at the 1841 Schoolhouse.

desks, looking at some of the text books used in Schoolhouse No. 1, and learning something about school days of the last century. These students also had a chance to inspect the exhibits. The hearses, as

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DUES NOTICE

Cards and envelopes for 1995 dues are enclosed with this newsletter. Please fill out the cards, making sure we have your complete mailing address, including a box number, if you have one.

The dues scale is the same as last year's, and indeed has not gone up since the revival of the Society in 1986. 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.

Elizabeth Pool's Lecture:

"THE STRANGE & FASCINATING RANDOLPH BOURNE"

At the Society's July meeting, noted writer and lecturer Elizabeth Pool, introduced by Dublin Historical Society president Elliot Snow as "one of Dublin's treasures", gave an entertaining talk on one of Dublin's pre-World War I literary visitors, Randolph S. Bourne.

Mrs. Pool credited William Bauhan, a Society Trustee, for introducing her to Bourne by lending her Bruce Clayton's *The Forgotten Prophet*, a 1984 biography of Bourne.

She opened her talk with a passage from the book in which young Bourne has his first meeting with Ellery Sedgwick, editor of the *Atlantic Monthly*. Sedgwick described Bourne as "a dwarf, without a redeeming feature. I could not bring myself to ask him to stay for lunch." Years later, Sedgwick ruefully admitted that he "knew there was something magnificent in that twisted body and clear creative mind."

In 1914, when Bourne needed privacy to write a book, a friend, Elizabeth Shepley Sargent, offered him the use of her cottage in Dublin. From there he wrote a stream of letters to friends, from which Mrs. Pool wove a picture of Dublin eighty years ago, as seen through Bourne's eyes. In one letter he described Dublin as a place where "they get things off

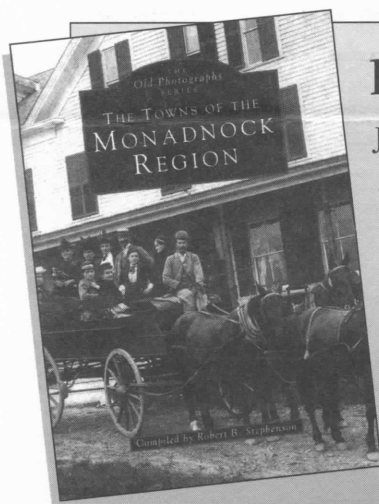
with such taste and simplicity and pose so little, that one is fairly seduced."

"Dublin has a fringe of fashionableness", he wrote, "and I have risked my reputation by going to the Lake Club several times." His radical politics were no bar to social acceptance, as other letters show:

"Mr. George deForest Brush stopped by and talked long and charmingly. He is full of radical ideas and his talk is racy and tangy. How amazing that in his art he seems untouched by the tendencies of his day, living only with the Italian masters and working devoutly after their principles!"

"Mr. Abbott Thayer took us out in his boat. Having got us to the middle of the Lake, he discoursed on art and religion, then invited us for supper... After supper they unearthed an antique piano brought over from Germany in 1848 and a fiddle and Fergus and I played Schubert songs for an hour out of an old Liederbuch."

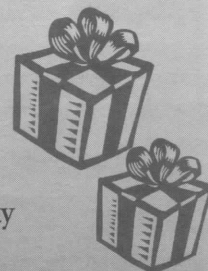
Bourne died of influenza at age 32 in 1918. ❖



BOOK REVIEW (AND ADVERTISEMENT)

Just published is a book of historical photographs, *The Towns of the Monadnock Region*, compiled by Rob Stephenson of Jaffrey. Most of the photographs were provided by local historical societies, including a number of Dublin scenes from ours. The printing, which was done in England, reproduces each picture clearly, and Rob's captions are both entertaining and informative.

Copies of this handsome book (paper-bound, 127 pp., \$14.99) would make excellent Christmas presents. It will doubtless be available at the Toadstool and elsewhere, but if you buy it through us, the Society gets a cut. A sample can be inspected at the archives room any weekday morning (except Wednesday), or call 563-8545. Orders will be filled promptly.

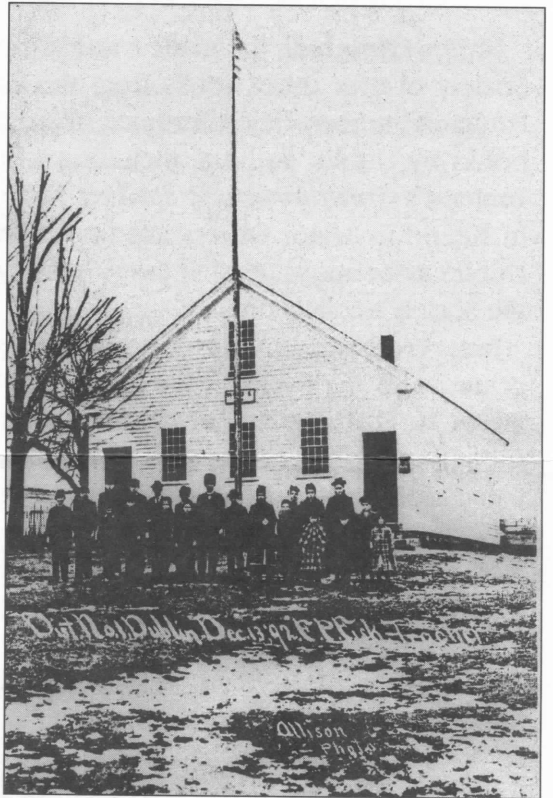


The Schoolhouse Museum – as it is and as it used to be

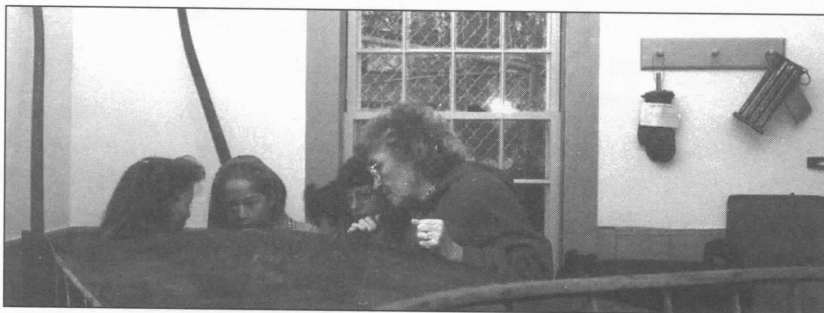


A colorful oilcloth bag with patriotic motif. This may have been a dispatch case in the days of the Dublin Militia.

Clarissa MacVeagh Silitch admires a pair of 19th century unmentionables. The quilt pictured above was made by Mrs. Washington Proctor in 1866. Beneath it, are a pair of framed Charles Ives prints, "Little Brother" and "Little Sister" and a child's trundle bed.



A photograph of Schoolhouse No. 1 taken in December, 1892 by Henry D. Allison. Dublin Public Library collection.



Sixth Graders from Dublin Christian Academy examine the winter bearskin with Thea Sabine.



The sign and stencil reflect activities of the Gowing family, who ran a tea shop as well as selling apples. The wooden shoes were worn by horses working in wet ground.

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always, were a major source of interest, as was the outdoor privy – a novelty to today's young.

Another favorite was a framed wreath made of human hair. We know this from some charming thank-you notes and drawings from Miss Forsten's fourth and fifth graders at the Consolidated School. This sort of feedback is as encouraging as it is instructive, and assures us that all Marnie's efforts were not in vain. ♦

February Pot-Luck Supper

The winter meeting will be the traditional pot-luck supper in the Vestry of the Community Church on FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 10, 1995, AT 6:30 P.M.

Our invited speaker declined to commit himself so far in advance ("I haven't even got next year's calendar yet"), but Society members, being more provident, should mark their 1995 calendars now, lest they inadvertently make a less convivial and stimulating engagement. ♦

NEWS FROM THE ARCHIVES

RECENT ACCESSIONS

Nancy Campbell, has made a thoughtful gift to the Society of over thirty books from the estate of her late grandmother, Helen Scribner. Many of these are books by Dublin authors, including a copy of Levi Leonard's *North American Spelling Book*, published in Keene in 1846. Others are books with various Dublin associations, and all are valuable additions to the Society's collections.

Jane Frothingham Hawkins has again been very generous to the Society with gifts of photographs of James H. Frothingham, who built the Frothingham (now Britton) house, together with diaries and other papers describing activities at the house from 1916 to 1959. With these is a water-color painting of Mt. Monadnock, which her father, Francis E. Frothingham, had in his room at Harvard.

Tom Kennedy, having recently bought what was Bert and Florence Pierce's house on Goldmine Road, found there several boxes of old Town annual reports, some going back as far as the 1840's. He very thoughtfully brought these to the archives, where we were able to fill many gaps in the Town's collection of annual reports and tax booklets.

Tucked among the Town reports were a number of miscellaneous pamphlets, which Tom has kindly

donated to the Society. Among these are copies of Levi Leonard's sermon on the dedication of the present meetinghouse (1853), J. C. Learned's sermon at Levi Leonard's funeral (1865), and the printed version of an interesting talk, "What About Dublin?", given by the late George D. Markham in 1922.

Three issues of *Yankee* containing articles by the late Elliott Allison have come to us from the *Yankee* archives, through the kindness of **Lorna Trowbridge**.

The Society has purchased a number of photographs and glass negatives taken by the late Henry D. Allison, as well as a number of photographs by his son, Elliott. We have also bought Elliott Allison's copy of the 1920 Town History, with his corrections and annotations. These, together with similar notes in the copy belonging to his late brother, Hildreth, given by Hildreth's estate, will be a helpful source for correcting the old history.

These purchases were made possible by the existence of the **Archives Fund**, supported over several years by a number of people, including a very generous anonymous contributor. Adding to this collection, **William Bauhan** has generously given us an album of turn-of-the century Allison photographs of Dublin houses.

Other welcome gifts have been received from William Bauhan, Ruth Hammond, Betsey and John Harris, Stephen McLellan, The Directors of the Monadnock Eastern Slope Association and Elizabeth Pool. ❖

1994 ANNUAL MEETING

The Society's 1994 annual meeting was held at the Community Church Vestry on September 17th. Breakfast was cooked by Elliott and Polly Snow and Gail Anthony, with help from Thea Sabine, Lucy Shonk (Sr.) and Ann Walsh.

Two new Trustees were elected: Thea Sabine for a two-year term and Alice Ellis for a three-year term. Also elected were John Harris as President, Ann Walsh as Vice-President and Tony Anthony as Treasurer.

After the business meeting, R. Stuart Wallace, formerly Director of the New Hampshire Historical Society, and now a professor of history at Plymouth State College, gave a talk on "The Migration of the Scotch-Irish in Provincial New Hampshire." ❖

❖ FOR SALE ❖

The Society has for sale a copy of the 1920 Town History – spine somewhat rubbed, but otherwise a good, clean copy. The price is \$80.00, which is below the current price in second-hand bookshops.



C R E D I T S

This issue of the Dublin Historical Society Newsletter has been prepared and edited by Richard Friz, who also took the photographs.

Design & layout by Heidi Thomas of Little House Graphics.