



# Dublin Historical Society

DUBLIN, NEW HAMPSHIRE 03444 •

FOUNDED 1920

Newsletter No. 92

June 2015

## *A Wish Fulfilled*

*by Lisa Foote*

Sometimes objects return to Dublin due to the thoughtfulness of strangers. Such is the case of a stunning, hand-colored, photographic portrait of Emeline Learned Mason. The photo is a gift from Linda Girouard of Plainfield, New Hampshire, who grew up in Braintree, Massachusetts, next door to Emeline's granddaughter, Dorothy Farnham. Upon her death in 1982 Dorothy bequeathed to Linda's parents some antique furniture and belongings, including this photograph with a label attached asking that the photo be returned to Dublin.

Another label on the back of the frame confirms that Emeline Sophia Learned was "born in old Learned home, Dublin N.H." on December 31, 1842, daughter of Calvin and Cynthia Maria (Fiske) Learned. The "old" 18<sup>th</sup> century home, located on the Upper Jaffrey Road, was probably constructed around 1790 and is now owned by Nancy and Guy Jackson. Emeline and her future husband Allison Zaman Mason (aka Zaman Allison Mason) both grew up in Dublin. Mason served in the Civil War in Company A of the 14<sup>th</sup> New Hampshire Volunteers between September 1862 and July 1865. They married in 1867 at a service in Dublin officiated by Emeline's only surviving sibling, John Calvin Learned, a Unitarian minister who moved to St. Louis the following year.

By 1870 the Masons were listed as Boston residents when their only child, Lucelia Learned Mason, was born in Dublin. Allison Mason is listed as a merchant on both his marriage record and Lucelia's birth record. The 1880 census specifically lists his occupation as grocer. We know little more about their lives, but we do know that Emeline died of epilepsy at the age of 40 in her home in Boston in 1883.



Circa 1870 portrait of Emeline Sophia Learned Mason (1842-1883). She was a descendant of Benjamin Learned, who settled in Dublin in 1767, one of many initial settlers who moved here from Sherborn, Massachusetts.

Their daughter, Lucelia, stayed in Boston and in 1895 married Morton Setchell, who listed bookkeeper as his occupation on their marriage record. Two of their children survived to adulthood—a son and a daughter. It is their daughter, Dorothy Learned Setchell Farnham, who expressed the wish for the portrait of her grandmother Emeline to be returned to Dublin.

Dorothy Farnham, born in 1899, completed 4 years of college, according to information in the 1940 census. She married Edgar Thorne Farnham, who by the time he was 20 years old, was working for his father's auto body manufacturing company, Farnham, Inc., and went on to become its president. Dorothy is listed as a legal secretary in the 1930 census and as a registrar in a private school in the 1940 census, in which she and Edgar were shown as each earning over \$2000 yearly. Other occupants of their dwelling earned similar amounts; a clergyman, Superintendent of the "Seamans Home" earned \$1800 and a civil engineer working 40 weeks of the year earned \$2000.

Linda Girouard's mother died in 1990 and since then Linda has owned and prized many of the things that Dorothy Farnham gave to her family. The photo surfaced recently and Linda decided it was time to fulfill the wishes of the neighbor whose lawn she used to mow.

We are so grateful to Linda for following through on Dorothy Farnham's request, now over 30 years later. In fact, better now than then, as DHS was not active in 1982, so the photograph might not have found a new owner. As the black and white reproduction shown here pales in comparison to the hand-tinted photograph, stop in at the Archives this summer and ask to see the original. ■

### DUES REMINDER

*Thank you* to those of you who have already sent in your dues for 2015. We have enclosed an envelope as a reminder for those who have not yet done so. As membership dues constitute the majority of our operating funds, please consider renewing or joining anew. Any contributions above the \$30 membership fee are always greatly appreciated.

### SAVE THE DATE FOR ANNUAL MEETING

Our annual meeting will be held on **Friday August 21st** at 6 PM at the Dublin Community Church. Charles Doleac will present "Teddy Roosevelt's Nobel Prize: New Hampshire and the Portsmouth Peace Treaty." He will speak about Dublin's connections to the treaty process which concluded the war between Japan and Russia in 1905.

The meeting will be preceded by a dedication ceremony for the Portsmouth Peace Treaty Living Memorial Cherry Tree at 5:30 PM. The tree, donated by the Japan-America Society of New Hampshire, has already been planted in front of our 1841 Schoolhouse Museum. For those who wish to visit the museum prior to the dedication ceremony, it will be open from 4:30 PM to 5:30 PM

### NOTE

If you would prefer to receive the newsletter by email, please let us know.

### RECENT ACCESSIONS

We have received multiple additions to our collections from generous donors. Sharron Monaghan, Becky McQuillen Parsons, Susannah Parish, and Nancy Reimer each have given us collections of photographs. Nancy Reimer also gave us a copy of the recently published memoirs of her grandmother, Nancy Douglas Bowditch, *The Artist's Daughter: Memoirs 1890-1979* and a copy of the DVD, *Luminous Journey: Abdu'l Baha in America 1912*. Jim Sovik donated a hand-written poem written during the Civil War which he found in an 1885 history of the 14<sup>th</sup> Regiment of New Hampshire Volunteers.

We also bought several interesting objects through eBay. A collection of items relating to the running of the Dublin bicentennial celebration gives us more details of the event, while a pamphlet from the re-dedication of the Dublin Community Church Steeple in 1939 shows a list of over 185 people contributing to the cost of replacing the steeple after the 1938 hurricane toppled it. A glass lantern slide shows a different image of Abbott Thayer on his porch in Dublin.

### DISAPPEARING WEB SITE

To those of you who tried to check our web site in the previous months, you wouldn't have found it. Due to an administrative snafu, the site ceased to exist. We plan to have the new site under construction in the near future. Do tell us what you would like to see on the new DHS web site; we welcome all suggestions.



**Richard S. Meryman**

*August 6, 1926–February 5, 2015*

We are saddened by the death of Dick Meryman, an honorary member of the Dublin Historical Society and thoughtful contributor to our collections, who died on February 5, 2015. Journalist, author, raconteur, interviewer of the famous and not so famous, Dick grew up in Dublin, was graduated from Phillips Andover Academy and Dartmouth College and was a veteran of WWII.

Dick honed his interviewing skills at *Life* magazine, and in 1962 by chance conducted the last interview with Marilyn Monroe. When *Life* ceased publication in 1972, he concentrated on writing books. *Hope: A Loss Remembered*; *Enter Talking*, a collaboration with Joan Rivers; biographies of Herman J. Mankiewicz and Louis Armstrong; and *Broken Promises, Mended Dreams* are among the titles he published. In *Andrew Wyeth: A Secret Life* Dick coalesced over thirty years of contact with the Wyeth's into an insightful biography about the Wyeth family's complicated lives and artistic endeavors.

Although Dick lived in NYC, summers of late you would find Dick decked out in jeans and suspenders, tootling around Dublin in his vintage red "VW bug". His intimate knowledge of the Dublin Art Colony stemmed from his being the son of Wig Meryman, who came to Dublin to apprentice to Abbott Thayer in 1906.

Dick combined that knowledge with extensive interviews in writing the privately published history of the Dublin Lake Club for its centennial in 2001. The tapes of many of those interviews are now a part of the DHS collection. We rue the fact that DHS never interviewed Dick in order to capture on tape his marvelous stories told with such enthusiasm, wit and empathy.

### ORAL HISTORY PROJECT UPDATE

With the information gleaned from the January workshop with Jo Radner, Celeste Kidder Snitko has been helping us plan a new round of oral history interviews. To date we have identified a list of residents to interview, have crafted sample questions, and have decided on which digital equipment to buy to replace the cassette tape recorders of old. We also have submitted a grant application to pay for the new equipment. Once we've bought the equipment and familiarized ourselves with its functions, we will create a manual and schedule an informational meeting describing the project. For more information please contact Lisa Foote at the Archives 563-8545.



### BEN KILHAM ON BLACK BEAR BEHAVIOR

As our traditional February potluck supper needed to be rescheduled due to snow, we invited the Dublin Consolidated School to partner with us for Ben's presentation on May 1. A crowd of 75 were in attendance to hear Ben speak about his research based on 20 years of scientific observation mostly involving female bears which he had rehabilitated and released into the wild. The most astonishing moment in the talk came when Ben showed a video of a full grown female bear making a mock charge directly at the camera with paws slapping the ground before she turns away and breaks eye contact. He explained that she was trying to buy time to settle any confrontation. He suggested that one slowly back away if in that situation (that is if your knees haven't already buckled!)

### IN MEMORIAM

The Society reports with great sorrow the recent loss of **Richard S. Meryman** and **Marion Almeida**, and we extend our condolences to their families.