



# Dublin Historical Society

DUBLIN, NEW HAMPSHIRE 03444 • FOUNDED 1920

Newsletter No. 105

June 2020

## THE DUBLIN HISTORICAL SOCIETY TURNS 100!

The birth of the Dublin Historical Society can be attributed to two main factors - the publication of Leonard and Seward's History of Dublin and the availability of the one room No. 1 Schoolhouse after the construction of the brick Consolidated School in 1916. Article Ninth of the warrant for the March, 1920, Town Meeting read:

“To see if the town will vote to accept the Gift from the Dublin School District of the old No. 1 Schoolhouse for Historical purposes, appoint necessary officers for the same, and raise appropriate money for use in connection, or pass any vote relating thereto.”

The meeting resulted in the acceptance of the Schoolhouse for historical purposes as well as a resolution to appoint a committee of five (Henry D. Learned, Emily E. Derby, Milton D. Mason, John A. Gleason and Arthur T. Appleton) to organize a Historical Society and the appropriation of one hundred dollars for the Society's use. The Articles of Agreement, filed with the Secretary of State in Concord on May 22, 1920, are a model of brevity and lucidity, containing just four articles. Article III, whose author is undocumented, rightly captured the spirit of the Society:

“The objects for which this corporation is established are the collection, preparation and preservation of all historical facts, relics and memorials of all kinds pertaining to the town of Dublin, including such portions of other towns as may have originally have been part of the Town of Dublin and to hold and manage any real property which may come into ownership or possession of the society.”



Photo Credit DHS

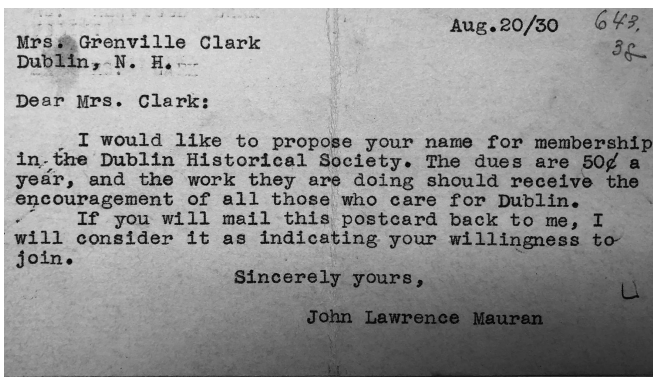
*Henry D. Learned*

Henry Dwight Learned - reproduced by  
Leonard & Seward, *The History of Dublin, N.H.*, 1920

Meetings were held quarterly in February, May, August and November, all in the No.1 Schoolhouse aside from the February meetings, which were held either in someone's house or in the Vestry. Henry Dwight Learned served as the Society's first President. An active member in the community, Learned had been a moderator at town meetings for 30 years, agent of town funds for over 20, school board member for 11, a member of the Memorial Day Committee for 45 years and a trustee of the Dublin Public Library building. “Dwight” also served four years on the board of Selectmen, was a Representative to the General Court

### 2020 CENTENNIAL CELEBRATION

Our Centennial Celebration, scheduled for August 8, 2020 has been rescheduled for the Summer of 2021. Stay tuned for details!



*A postcard sent to Mrs. Grenville Clark in 1930, Dublin Historical Society*

three times and did a term as a State Senator. Upon his death in 1923, the presidency passed to Alice Gowing, who held the post for 20 years. For much of that period, she also served as President of the Ladies Social Circle, Clerk of the First Congregational Society and Secretary of the Grange.

Back then, membership was by election (although we have no evidence that anyone was ever turned down). Dues were 50 cents a year or a lifetime membership could be had for ten dollars. Additionally, the Town voted annually a \$200 subsidy to the Society. We have no record of why this practice was discontinued.

Early projects were both historical and patriotic in nature. In 1930, the Society bought and placed bronze markers for the graves of all veterans in the Dublin cemetery and procured headstones for the previously unmarked graves of Revolutionary War veterans John Knowlton and Benjamin Smith. It also appropriated \$75 towards preserving the old Town Pound. The Society began to collect papers and artifacts, some of which had a connection to Dublin and others in which a connection was uncertain. An accessions book was started however much of the collection was not labeled.

The Society continued, with regular meetings and a growing collection filling the schoolhouse, until November 4, 1944. On that day, an afternoon meeting was held at the schoolhouse with 12 members present. Mrs. Wilfred Fiske talked about the history of her house. Miss Mary Grimes read an article on old paper mills. Mr. William Strong played several pieces on the piano. Then, without explanation other than perhaps a simple waning of interest, the Dublin Historical Society went silent for the next 16 years.

There exists a receipt book that shows money had been collected for several \$10 life memberships in the Bicentennial summer of 1952, indicating that there was a faint stirring of interest. However, we have no record of any meetings or activity during this time. Then, on

September 3, 1960, a meeting at the Schoolhouse was organized by Charles Engvall, a retired clergyman living in Dublin. A committee of three (the Rev. Mr. Engell, Kay Allison and Belle Gowing) organized a general meeting for December 29th, 1961, at which a supper was provided by the ladies of the Grange. Newton Tolman spoke and autographed copies of his book, North of Monadnock. Officers were elected, with Elliot Allison as President. The group seemed to have momentum this go-around, with the meeting resulting in a vote to send copies of the speeches delivered at the 1952 Bicentennial celebration to the State Library, the Boston Public Library and the Library of Congress. Five more Board meetings occurred over the next several months including the annual meeting, at which time a new President (Andrew Elder) and board were elected. Then, once again, all activity appears to have ceased.

Over the next 25 years, the schoolhouse quietly sat, rotting on its foundation, infested with powder post beetles and the collection left to moth and mildew. That the Historical Society owned the schoolhouse was gradually forgotten, and the town used it as a kind of attic for old records and unwanted property. In 1985, John Harris, along with Bill Bauhan, undertook the task of sorting and indexing through the Town's records going back to 1970, many of which were found in very poor condition and stored in liquor cartons in the schoolhouse. They also discovered pictures, books and records in the Schoolhouse that were clearly not town property but certainly in need of rescue.

Bill came upon a list on the schoolmaster's desk of the people who had become life members of the Dublin Historical Society a quarter century prior. Eight of the members were still living, three of whom - Lurette Eaton, Lois Faulkner and Elizabeth Weiss - were still residents of Dublin. These three life members secured proxies from the other five and called a meeting for May 17, 1986, at which the Dublin Historical Society was formally brought back to life. The schoolhouse interior was cleaned and artifacts arranged in a display so that it could be opened to the public. Bill Bauhan served as President that first year, followed by Lucy Shonk ("Young Lucy"). Lucy directed a successful fundraising campaign which made possible some much - needed repairs to the schoolhouse. All paper materials were moved to the long narrow room above the Post Office, in what used to be the choir loft for the Trinitarian Congregational Church - an improvement from the damp schoolhouse but still far from ideal. In 1990, Nancy Campbell, who had served as Vice President of the DHS board for three years, joined John Harris in the Post Office.

There was clearly a need for a move. An angel



investor offered to contribute \$100,000 for a dedicated archives building, conditioned on partial matches from both the Society and the Town, who would share the building. John remained the DHS archivist and Nancy became the Town Archivist. Largely due to the efforts of Dick Hammond and John Harris, funding was raised and the new Archives Building was built in time for an opening ceremony in September of 1996. One of the speakers at the ceremony was the late John Frisbee, Director of the New Hampshire Historical Society. In recognition that the Town now had the facilities and commitment to take care of its records, he returned the Town's charter, which had long ago been sent for safekeeping to the State society's vault in Concord. In archival terms, Dublin had grown up.

Now that the Archives Building was complete and contents properly catalogued, the Schoolhouse Museum required attention. The building itself is a historical artifact, being one of the few unreconstructed one-room schoolhouses in the State. The construction of the consolidated school in 1916 had involved a rearrangement of the landscape, with fill encroaching the schoolhouse on two sides. The structure was so close to the retaining walls that moisture had caused rot to spread to the window sills, floors and walls. In 2004, with much effort in working out the details both logistically and



Photo Credit DHS

*The Schoolhouse gets a lift - 2004, Dublin Historical Society*

financially from then-president Paul Tuller, the building was moved 12 feet over, 25 feet forward and a new basement was added.

In 2013, after 27 years of involvement with DHS, John Harris retired his position as Archivist. During his tenure, John had also served as President for five years and Secretary twice. Speaking at the ceremony which celebrated John's contributions, museum curator Rusty Bastedo said "John saw disinterest and disarray; he did not accept the disinterest, he knew the disarray could be disciplined...John had a dream of a town with orderly access to its records and in its own designated space". There is no doubt that it is because of John Harris that the Dublin Historical Society stands now as a model of what a small town Archives can look like.

Fortunately, Lisa Foote was willing to step into the role of Archivist and carry forward John's work upon

his retirement. Lisa's husband, George's family has had ongoing ties in Dublin dating back to the 1880s and Lisa's family started coming to Dublin in the summer of 1984, eventually making it their full time home. Possessing an avid interest in social history and having been affiliated with the Concord Museum in MA since 1978, Lisa was a perfect fit for the position. She started volunteering at the Archives in 2012, was trained by John and Nancy and took over as archivist when John retired. Lisa also served as President for four years, from 2014-2018.



Photo Credit Peterborough Transcript

*Ann Walsh and Nancy Campbell unveil the sign at the opening of the Archives. Bob McElroy photo*

Nancy Campbell, who carries the institutional memory of DHS since its revitalization in 1986, continues to work as Town Archivist and Lisa's assistant. Nancy can be credited with maintaining order of the over 150,000 pages contained in the Archives. One of her most notable achievements has been the creation and maintenance of a database of over 2000 records of Cemetery burials, along with photos of all gravestones and markers (thanks to her husband, Hank) and their inscriptions. The original project was started by Laura Scott when she was a Trustee of DHS. Laura had mapped the Cemetery in grids, but all the information had never been verified. These 2 databases are available as PDF's on the town's website. Nancy has been instrumental in teaching Lisa the intricacies of the database systems. As Lisa says, "Thank heavens she is patient by nature and has a great sense of humor, because I continue to seek her input on a weekly basis!"

Our organization continues to thrive with Lisa and Nancy at the Archives and under the Co-Presidency of Lucy Shonk and Felicity Pool. In August of 2018, the DHS created a temporary exhibit, *Lest We Forget: Dublin's Patriots in WWI*. The exhibit, which was open to the public for two weeks, was displayed on the top

floor of Town Hall. It featured information on men and women with a Dublin connection who participated in the war effort before and after WWI. Included were items from the DHS collection as well as artifacts such as uniforms and photographs loaned to us from the community.

Concerned that nearly a generation of people had grown older without being asked about their Dublin experiences. Lisa has revitalized our Oral History project, which had its first round in the 1990's. Over the past few years, we have collected the recorded histories of 24 of Dublin's elders. Eventually, we will make written transcriptions of the interviews available to the public.

In our 100th year, the Dublin Historical Society is beginning to dip its toes into the digital world with the hopes of making our material accessible beyond the walls of the Archives building. Visitors to the website will soon have access to all our newsletters going back to 1985, with the ability to search for specific topics within them. A monthly blog post on our website is also in the works. And, if you'd like to hear from us more often, we have been posting news, tidbits and photos to our Facebook page.

Last fall, the shed behind the Schoolhouse was rebuilt and designated the new home of the summer and winter hearses, whose relocation required the back wall of the structure to be removed. This created space in the Schoolhouse for the next exhibit that we have planned - "My Dublin Story" - which will feature 100 short stories and corresponding photos from people who have a connection with Dublin. The exhibit was to be displayed at the Schoolhouse for our 100th

anniversary celebration, which has been postponed due to the Covid-19 pandemic. On a positive note, this gives us more time to collect your stories, which will be displayed at our 101st Anniversary Celebration, so keep them coming in!

*As it is hard to improve on John Harris' account of DHS's history in earlier newsletters, this newsletter includes his work as well as an update by our administrator, Valerie Mulverhill, on DHS since his last writing.*

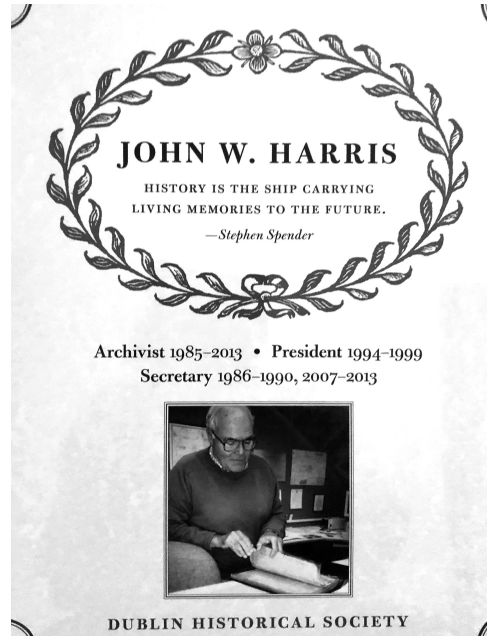


Photo Credit DHS

*A framed memorial to John Harris hangs in the Archives*

### “MY DUBLIN STORY”

We continue to collect your stories! If you have a special memory of your time in Dublin (under 125 words), please email it to [val@dublinhistory.org](mailto:val@dublinhistory.org).

### IN MEMORIAM

The Society reports with great sorrow the recent loss of

**Dr. Julie S. Crocker**

We extend our condolences to the family

### 2020 MEMBERSHIP DRIVE

Please use the enclosed envelope to send us your membership dues for 2020. Dues and additional contributions cover the majority of our operating expenses. We appreciate your support for the Archives and the 1841 Schoolhouse Museum in their roles preserving Dublin's history.

### Dublin Historical Society

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### TRUSTEES

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**Felicity Pool, Co-President**

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