



Dublin Historical Society

Dublin, New Hampshire 03444 • Founded 1920

Newsletter No. 35 – May, 1996

Malachi Richardson: *A Casualty of the Civil War*

In a day when the papers report every accidental death of an American serviceman in Bosnia, it is difficult to imagine the carnage of the Civil War, in which 360,000 men are estimated to have died on the Union side, and another 258,000 on the Confederate. In Grant's Wilderness Campaign, which lasted for less than a month in the spring of 1864, Union casualties are reckoned at around 55,000.

The impact on a small New England town was also substantial. In 1860, the population of Dublin (which then included most of what is now Harrisville) was 1,096. As appears from the voters' checklist for 1860, there were 271 males over the age of 21, many of them, of course, over service age. The number who served in the Civil War is difficult to state precisely, since some of the men credited to Dublin were actually out-of-townners, either hired as substitutes or recruited to fill quotas, but the Town History, lists 61 men "from actual Dublin families". Twenty-five of these men – 41% – died in the service. Thirteen were killed in battle or died of wounds, eleven died of disease and one drowned. Five were killed on a single day – August 29, 1862 – at the second battle of Bull Run. The names of the dead are preserved on the monument in front of the old schoolhouse.

Among the names on the monument is that of Corporal Malachi Wilson Richardson, Co. G, 13th New Hampshire Volunteers, who fell at Cold Harbor, Virginia, on June 2, 1864. Born in 1843,



MALACHI RICHARDSON

From a tintype in the Richardson/Scribner Collection, Dublin Historical Society

Malachi Richardson was the son of Malachi and Tamesin Greenwood Richardson, who lived at the Richardson homestead on the Hancock Road (now the LaMontagnes'). His older brother, Luke Felton Richardson, was grandfather to the late Helen Scribner. The sheath knife and mess kit which Malachi carried in the Civil War were given to the Society by Robert McQuillen last year, and are now in the schoolhouse museum.

Malachi was mustered in as a private in the 13th New Hampshire Volunteers in September, 1862. He first saw combat at the Battle of Fredericksburg in December, 1862, and then in the protracted and inconclusive marches, countermarches and skirmishes across

the landscape of northeastern Virginia that occupied the regiment for most of 1863. By the spring of 1864 he had been promoted to corporal, and was entrusted with the honorable and responsible assignment as regimental color bearer.

The circumstances of his death are described in two sources. First is the official history of the 13th New Hampshire, published in 1888:

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At Last – an Archives Building!

After five years of study and planning, the Archives building is about to become a reality. The Town and the Historical Society have each raised the stipulated \$15,000, thereby triggering the anonymous pledge of \$100,000, which has also been paid.

The Selectmen have chosen Bergeron Construction Company, the low bidder, to be the General Contractor. Norman Davis will do the excavation and foundation work and Pinney Plumbing and Heating will install the climate control system. Society Trustee John Nelson has consented to act as clerk of the works.

Construction is scheduled to start at the beginning of May and to be finished by the end of August. Thereafter, there will be some time required for furnishing the space and moving the collections. With reasonable luck, however, the job should be complete in time for the Society's annual meeting in September.

From the Schoolhouse

Curator Marney Bean expects to have the schoolhouse ready for an open-house in August. In the meantime, the museum has acquired by purchase a number of examples of Dublin souvenir china sold around the turn of the century by the Gleason and Allison stores. Laurence Foy has donated the old post office window from French's Tavern.

As soon as the weather warms up, Laura Scott will continue cataloguing the Society's museum collections in the old schoolhouse. She hopes to finish this summer.

Recent Accessions to the Archives

Nancy Aldrich has allowed us to copy a tape of reminiscences, including memories of Mark Twain and Alan Seeger, made in 1968 by her grandmother, Nancy Brush Bowditch. P. Russell Bastedo has provided photographs of the old Bastedo house and of the "Morelands" gardens. Trustee Alice Fiske Ellis has continued her string of benefactions with the text of two historical talks delivered at the Grange by her mother, Edith Fiske (1956), and by Charles F. Appleton (1942).

Jessie Hale has secured for us copies of the Ouray [Colorado] Plain Dealer containing a series of autobiographical articles by her mother, Rebecca Smith Bird. Jane Frothingham Hawkins has completed her gift of papers related to the Frothingham house with another guest book /diary and a number of additional deeds and photographs.

The Schlesinger Library at Radcliffe College has kindly turned over to us a number of items from their collection of the papers of Corinna Haven Smith. These are papers which relate more to Dublin than to Mrs. Smith, and include records of the Garden Club and Lake Club, as well as material about events at Loon Point.

Other generous donors have included: the Bethel [Maine] Historical Society, Anne Biklen, A. Laurence Foy, Jr., Mr & Mrs Gregory Gebert, Betsey Harris, Marian Latti, Emily McFarland, John Nelson, Parchment & Plate, Nancy Perkins, Elizabeth Pool, the Rev. Robert Sanderson, the Rev. Owen C. Thomas, Lorna Trowbridge and Ann Walsh.

To all of them our most grateful thanks.

Furnishing the Archives Building – Can You Help?

To soften the atmosphere created by steel shelves and formica work surfaces, we would like to provide users of the new Archives Building with a moderately civilized environment for their research work. Does anyone have, or know of, a good solid table, about 8 ft. x 3 ft.? We also need two or three good-looking but sturdy wooden chairs – oak windsors would be ideal. An area rug of about 6 x 10 ft. would really add a touch of elegance. Can anybody help?

GRATEFUL THANKS TO ALL WHO MADE PLEDGES!

Many thanks to the members and friends of the Society who responded so generously to the appeal for the Archives Building! The 206 solicitations mailed resulted in 94 pledges ranging from \$10 to \$5,000 and totalling \$26,820.

The success of the campaign was in large measure the result of the work put in by **Nancy Perkins** and her committee: **Tony Anthony, Marney Bean, Mary McKee, Lucy C. Shonk, Polly Snow** and **Ned Whitney**.

The Society is grateful to all the Committee, and to the following people who pledged:

Anne C.S. Anable	Gregory G. Gebert	Kathryn S. & Philip H. Miner
Anonymous (2)	Amory & Bill Glenn	Sharron Monaghan
Gail & Tony Anthony	David R. & Sara Godine	Cornelia Montgomery
Tomas Atmer	Joan Goldmann	Will Morgan
Brian & Jean Barden	Anita Greene	John & Joyce Nelson
Cecily Bastedo	Jud & Sally Hale	Nancy F. Perkins
Helen Bastedo	Sam & Jessie Hale	Joseph Carlton & Augusta Petrone
William L. Bauhan	Richard A. & Ruth S. Hammond	Beekman & Elizabeth Pool
Delcie & Marney Bean	Albert M. & Nancy L. Handy	Duke & Nancy Powell
Mr & Mrs Nicholas Benton	Edgar & Paula Harrell	David F. Putnam
Anne C. Biklen	Betsey Harris	Russell W. & Prudence P. Robertson
Robert O. Blanchette	Jane F. Hawkins	Thea C. Sabine
Newell Brown	Gordon & Ingeborg Hayes	Lucy C. Shonk
Daniel & Moira Burnham	High Standard, Inc.	Peter & Lucy Shonk
David & Linda Buyher	A. Waller & Margaret Howard	Polly Snow
Henry & Nancy Campbell	Ann E. Hutchinson	Donald T. Spaulding
Tim & Mary Clark	Alexander R. James, Jr.	Louisa Spencer
Ann S. Clarkeson	Michael James	Carol Stephens
Margot P. Close	Lorraine Johnson	Jamie & Laura Trowbridge
Charles T. Cook	Edmond C. Kelly	Lorna Trowbridge
Julie Crocker	John H. Kennedy	Paul E. Tuller
Michael Crowley	Ellen L. B. Kennelly	Barbara Clark Utley
James E. Cuddihee	Leonard Korpi	Linda L. Van Wyk
Barbara de Marneffe	Henry & Joan M. Lee	Ann Walsh
Mary G. Doyle	Henry Lee, III	James Ward
Terry Dwyer	Fred M. Leventhal	George & Ros Warren
Alice & Raymond Ellis	Marion Piper Lueders	Robert P. Weis
Marguerite & Nathaniel Fontaine	Patricia & William Mann	Cynthia C. Wessling
Mr & Mrs George B. Foote, Sr.	Linda McAleer	Edward F. Whitney
Bruce & Sylvia Fox	Bruce & Mary Elizabeth McClellan	Charles A. Winchester
A. Laurence Foy, Jr.	Mary McKee	Albert B. Wolfe

Please note: Names are listed above in the form indicated on the pledge cards. If you wish to be listed differently on the permanent record of donors (e.g. "Mr. & Mrs William Z. Jones" vs. "Bill & Mary Jones", or *vice versa*), please tell Nancy Perkins, P.O. Box 258 or 563-8553, not later than July 1.

Proposed change in the by-laws

Our present by-laws require – for no better reason than that the original 1920 by-laws so provided – that the annual meeting be held in September, after many of our Summer members have left for the Winter.

Our fiscal year is the calendar year, which doesn't jibe with our autumn-to-autumn business year. Some annual dues are received in December and some in January, straddling fiscal years and making it difficult to work out year-to-year comparisons.

To make better sense of all this, the Trustees have voted to recommend that the by-laws be amended (1) to change the date of the annual meeting to August, and (2) to change the Society's fiscal year to run from October 1 to September 30. This proposal will be acted on at the annual meeting in September. In the meanwhile, the proposed amendments may be inspected at the archives room.

MALACHI RICHARDSON – A CASUALTY OF WAR *continued from page one*

“Charles McGaffrey of I [Company] carried the National colors through the charge unhurt, and Malachi W. Richardson of G the State colors, and was killed. McGaffrey shook the colors out, and waved them to the front, just as we came upon the crest of the bluff, among the dead and wounded lying along the rail fence. Three of the eight men of our Colorguard were killed. The total loss in the 13th in less than five minutes, during the charge, was seventy in killed, wounded and missing...

“The State-color bearer Richardson was struck during the charge, and was found shot through the hips, lying with the colors on the field. He was assisted off the field by Corporal Charles Powell of K, a Swede, who took the colors. As Richardson did not recover from his wound, the colors were placed in Powell's hands as a complimentary reward for rescuing them, and he carried that flag through the rest of the battle.”

The other source is a letter from Richardson's cousin, Dr. Samuel Richardson, who was Surgeon of the 13th, then serving as brigade surgeon. Writing to his parents in a letter dated from “the Battlefield Hospital, June 25th 1864”, Dr. Richardson says:

“You will all be anxious to hear more about our brave cousin who bore the old flag all pierced with holes, so bravely and gallantly in many a hard fought field and whose courage was undoubted and character unblemished – He fought as only a true soldier fights and died as only a true soldier can die tranquilly peacefully and happy in having served his country so long, and in having performed his duty so well – and as a soldier of the cross he died in the bright and beautiful picture of the starry colors of his savior in whom he had the strongest faith, and to whose numerous army he hastened with only a wish that his

“Meetinghouses, Steeples, Town Clocks and Weathervanes” is the rather comprehensive topic of a conference in Jaffrey sponsored by the Jaffrey Historic District Commission on Friday, June 14. On the following day, there will be a self-guided tour of meetinghouses in the region, including Dublin's. For further information, call Rob Stephenson at 532-6066.

sisters and friends might soon join his happy band

“He was buried with his blanket around him and soon found a large company with him – on a place called the Kelly Farm where the 18th A.C. [Army Corps] Hospital was on a sandy elevation looking towards the South with a stream of running water at the foot of the hill within a few rods of the intrenchments when our forces took so many prisoners. At Cold Harbor Va. There are over 200 graves there well marked and many “unknown” Sadly and silently we place the earth upon the “unknown”, knowing well that they are as fondly and dearly loved as any – and still we remember that not a sparrow falls to the ground &c – Methinks that those who thus die in this cause will not be unknown in the host that has been gathered in this harvest of the reaper death”

The style is a little florid by current standards, but at least the soldiers of that day believed in themselves and in what they were fighting about.

Dr. Samuel Richardson, after distinguished service as an army surgeon, returned to his medical practice in Marlborough. Malachi Richardson, at the time of his death, was 21 years, two months and 22 days old.

C R E D I T S

This issue of the Dublin Historical Society
Newsletter was edited by John Harris.

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