

Mason NH – Our Town!



This tour through the Town of Mason NH past and present is designed for the children of Mason to learn about their remarkable town, and to think of themselves as integrally connected to their community.

This presentation is designed to be adjustable over time, so that items can be easily added or expanded.

**Thank you to all Mason residents past and present who contributed information and tips on where I could find things!
The process of collecting this information was nothing short of fascinating!**

Betty Mulrey
11/5/2013

New Hampshire Social Studies
Curriculum Standards for Grades 3-4
addressed in
Mason NH – Our Town!

- **SS:GE:4:3.2: Demonstrate how physical processes shape features of Earth's surface, e.g., weather or tectonic forces. (Themes: C: People, Places and Environment)**
- **SS:GE:4:5.2: Examine the ways in which the physical environment provides opportunities or limitations, e.g., natural resources that first attracted settlers or natural hazards that threaten life. (Themes: C: People, Places and Environment, D: Material Wants and Needs)**
- **SS:HI:4:1.1: Explore biographies of key political figures who helped shape our community, state, and country, e.g., Franklin Pierce or Sandra Day O'Connor. (Themes: E: Cultural Development, Interaction, and Change, G: Science, Technology, and Society, I: Patterns of Social and Political Interaction)**
- **SS:HI:4:1.3: Describe the significance of national and New Hampshire celebrations, monuments, symbols and documents, e.g., Veteran's Day, the Statue of Liberty, Old Man of the Mountain, and the preamble to the New Hampshire Constitution. (Themes: B: Civic Ideals, Practices, and Engagement, C: People, Places and Environment)**
- **SS:HI:4:3.2: Explore how art, music and literature often reflect and/or influence major ideas, values and conflicts of particular time periods, e.g., colonial life or industrialization in New Hampshire. (Themes: J: Human Expression and Communication)**
- **SS:HI:4:5.4: Explore attitudes towards diversity; e.g., segregation and inclusion. (Themes: E: Cultural Development, Interaction, and Change. I: Patterns of Social and Political Interaction.)**

- www.ed.state.nh.us/frameworks

Most of the Social Studies standards can be found reflected in a marvelous quilt presently located in the Mann House. This quilt was made in 1986 by dedicated members of the Mason Community.



You will see some of these quilt squares throughout the presentation.

[Map of NH](#) – Bettie Goen
[Capt Benjamin Mann leads men to Bunker Hill](#) – Kathryn Wilson
[Mason Family Crest](#) – Jenny Greenwood
[Rev Francis Worcester at Wolf Rock](#) – Sarah Fortin
[NH Symbols](#) – Virginia Rafter
[Tin Man John Boylton](#) – Phyllis Knight
[McDonald's Quarry](#) – Neima Johnson
[Mason Congregational Church](#) – Sarah Fortin
[Calvin Elliott's Shop](#) – Shelly Saunders
[Second Meeting House](#) – Corinne Hall
[Sunny Valley School House](#) – Sally Wilson
[Town Pound](#) – Cynthia D'Andrea
[Obadiah Parker receives Town Charter](#) – Cynthia Tibbetts
[Pratt Pond](#) – Susan Rantamaki
[Valley Road Poor Farm](#) – Jenny Greenwood
[Whitaker Homestead](#) – Anne Richards
[Sugaring](#) – Shirley Morley
[Pleasant View Cemetery](#) – Ann McManus
[Logging](#) – Barbara DeVore
[Town Hall](#) – Ann Preston
[Abbott's Potato Starch Mill](#) – Phyllis Knight
[Bode at Nose Meadow](#) – Virginia Abbott
[The Cascades](#) – Shirley Morley
[Sheep Farming](#) – Jeanette Ammon
["Uncle" Sam Wilson's Home](#) – Isabelle Farrey
[Rev Ebenezer Hill's Home](#) – Karen Donoghue
[Fruitdale Grange](#) – Lynne Way
[Name & Date of Quilt](#) – Dorothy Mostue
[Trees of Mason](#) – Stacey Milkovits
[Mason Depot](#) – Joan Losee

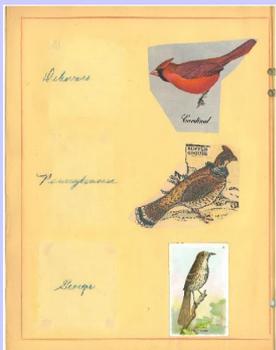
There is information in a frame near the quilt which gives the subject of each square and who made it.



Layout of “Mason NH – Our Town” presentation was influenced by Brain Research

- Brain research has shown that human memory and focus can be affected by the way information is presented. Here is what the research says are effective ways to communicate information. You should use:
- Pictures, because the brain is tuned for visuals, not text. It's best when text is embedded within pictures.
- The unexpected and the emotional. You remember things that cause you to feel something.
- A conversational style, because the brain is tuned to pay more attention to conversations than to passive listening.
- Activities or suggestions to go visit something, because if we “do,” we understand.
- Multiple Learning Styles. Everyone does better when they see something presented in different ways.
- Both sides of the brain. While one side is working, the other side is resting.
- Stories and multiple points-of-view. When the brain has to judge and evaluate things, it learns better.
- Challenges and Questions which don't necessarily have one answer.
- People – because the brain pays more attention to people than it does to things!

Dedicated to Barbara Schulze



Barbara grew up in Mason, attending Mason Elementary at a time when grades 1 through 8 were grouped into two classrooms! She was an independent, marvelous person who always took time to notice things.

Barbara shared with us many interesting stories about growing up in Mason. One time her father and she drove to the train station to pick up some teachers who were up for the summer, visiting and working at local summer schools. One of those teachers was Elizabeth Orton Jones, who commented to Barbara's father that a house they were passing in the car appealed to her very much! She ended up moving to Mason into that very house, calling it "Misty Meadow."

Barbara was a dental hygienist, eventually becoming a dean at the Forsythe Dental School. Her students loved her dearly. Barbara passed away in August 2012, just days after she had given us final interviews for this history project. Her last healthy moment was picking blueberries in Mason – a wonderful image to remember. Barbara was looking forward to reading this history of Mason, and we are confident that she is reading it now, through us.

*A faithful friend is a strong defense
And he that hath found such hath found a treasure*



Here is Barbara Schulze as a student at Mason Elementary in the 1940's. This picture shows the entire school! There were two classrooms at the time. Barbara is on the far right.

A faithful friend is a strong defense
And he that hath found such hath found a treasure.

Change not thy friend for any good thing.
A faithful friend is the medicine of life.
And they that fear the Lord shall find him
.Whoso feareth the Lord shall direct his
friendship aright.

For as he is, so also shall be his friend.

Ecclesiasticus 6:14-17

Barbara was a good friend to many in Mason.



The meadow Barbara Schulze often visited to look at the mountain view. She talked about seeing a mother and baby deer near these bushes.

Mason – Our Town!

This is the seal of the **Town of Mason, New Hampshire.**

The seal features four places:

1. **Capt. Mann House**
2. **Uncle Sam House**
3. **Town Pound**
4. **Mason Quarry**

Mason was incorporated as a town in 1768, eight years before the Declaration of Independence.



Why do you think our town was named Mason?

Captain John Mason



1st-art-gallery.com
This watermark does not appear on the painting

- A wealthy gentleman named **Captain John Mason** lived in England in a county named Hampshire. He was a commanding officer in the English royal Navy and Governor of Newfoundland, a colony of England.
- Captain Mason realized that the new land across the Atlantic Ocean called “**New England**” **had great potential** for exploration and development of its natural resources, such as fishing, lumber and farming.
- Captain Mason was part of a group of men involved in developing New England, and **he received from them in 1621 a large grant of land in the new world** which he managed and financed himself.



Mason Family Crest

Photo: <http://www.1st-art-gallery.com/Sarah-Countess-Of-Essex/Portrait-Of-Sir-John-Mason-1503-66-From-Memoirs-Of-The-Court-Of-Queen-Elizabeth.html>

History: www.nh.com/nh/towns/mason

New Hampshire was named after Captain John Mason's home in Hampshire, England.

The seal of New Hampshire shows the Frigate Raleigh. This seal was official in 1931. You can see the NH seal on our NH flag. The date 1776 on the seal is the date of the first Constitution of the United States.



What is a frigate? What do we know about the frigate Raleigh?

A "frigate" is a fast naval vessel of the late 18th and early 19th centuries, generally having a lofty ship rig and heavily armed on one or two decks. **The "Frigate Raleigh" (1776) was one of 13 ships authorized by the Continental Congress (a group of people making laws for our country during and after the Revolutionary War). The figurehead on the bow of the ship is a carving of Sir Walter Raleigh.** You can learn more about the adventures of the Frigate Raleigh at www.reference.com/browse/USS_Raleigh_%281776%29

Old New Hampshire, our state song

With a skill that knows no measure,
From the golden store of fate
God, in His great love and wisdom,
Made the rugged Granite State;
Made the lakes, the fields, the forests;
Made the rivers and the rills;
Made the bubbling, crystal fountains
Of New Hampshire's Granite Hills.

Refrain:

*Old New Hampshire, Old New Hampshire,
Old New Hampshire, grand and great,
We will sing of Old New Hampshire,
Of the dear old Granite State.*

Builded He New Hampshire glorious
From the borders to the sea,
And with matchless charm and splendor
Blessed her for eternity.
Hers, the majesty of mountain;
Hers, the grandeur of the lake;
Hers, the truth as from the hillside
Whence her crystal waters break.



Dr. John F. Holmes
(Poem in the Manchester Union Leader 1926)
Music by Maurice Hoffman, Jr. 1926
Adopted as state song in 1949
by the NH State Legislature

Photograph taken near
Mason Beaver Dam close to
the school

How Mason Came to Be

While living in Hampshire, England, Captain John Mason, an English nobleman, followed his vision to develop land in the American colonies. A good part of New Hampshire was originally owned by Captain Mason, who actually never set foot in New England.

Mason as a border town was originally given to New Hampshire by Massachusetts in 1741. The land upon which Mason now exists was surveyed and laid out into townships in 1749 by John Mason's great great grandson.

At the home of Captain Joseph French in Dunstable, lots for townships were drawn by 12 gentlemen and others who had been invited to join in the venture. **The terms of the grants called for the new towns to erect mills, meeting houses, clear roads, and settle ministers within a specific time.**

Mason, NH, called "Township Number One," was born on October 16, 1749.

The new Mason township was **5 miles square**: a symmetrical parcel of **hills, valleys, and virgin forests** with **one large pond.**



Info from
www.nh.com/nh/towns/mason
Rhett Owings US General
Web site

The Town of Mason was named after Capt. John Mason

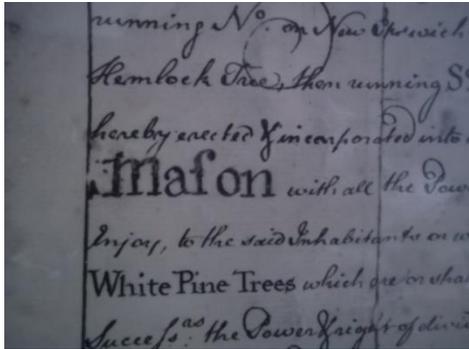
Mason's town charter was given in 1749 by Colonial Governor Benning Wentworth. Mason was incorporated in 1768. In 1872 Greenville split-off from Mason to form its own incorporated town. So, before the split, Greenville was part of Mason.

In 1768 Governor John Wentworth, nephew of Governor Benning Wentworth, officially gave Mason its name, in honor of Captain John Mason.



Obadiah Parker walked all the way to Portsmouth to receive the Mason Town Charter from **Governor John Wentworth**.

Mason Town Charter

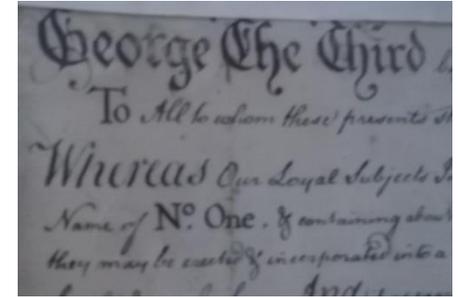


running N^o of New Ipswich
Hamlock Tree then running S^t
hereby erected & incorporated into
Mafon with all the Power
Enjoy, to the said Inhabitants or
White Pine Trees which are or shall
Success as the Power & Rights of said

“Mason” used to look like “Mafon” when the letter “s” was written like the letter “f.” Our town was going to be called Sharon at first. It was changed to Mason when Obadiah picked up the Charter.

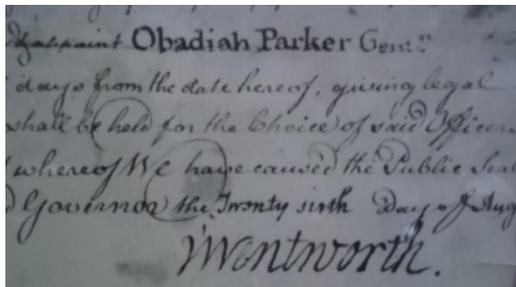


You can see our Town Charter in the Mann House across the street.



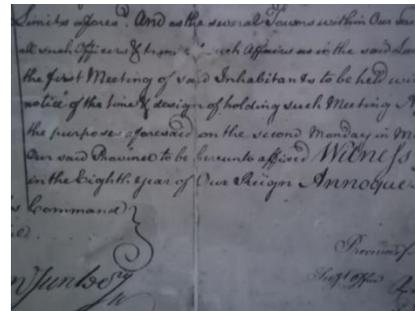
George the Third
To All to whom these presents shall
Wheras Our loyal Subjects
Name of N^o One. & containing
they may be erected & incorporated into a

King George III of England granted Mason its Town Charter, because our country was still under England at that time (1749). Mason was given the name of No. One Township.



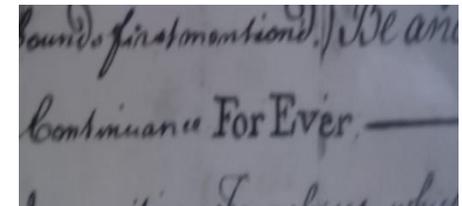
Obadiah Parker Gent.
days from the date hereof, giving legal
shall be held for the choice of said Officers
(whereof We have caused the Public Seal
Governor) the Twenty sixth Day of Aug
Wentworth.

Can you see Obadiah Parker's name? How about Gov. John Wentworth's name?



Comits officers. And as the several Persons within Our said
at such Officers & Towns. such Affairs as in the said Charter
the first Meeting of said Inhabitants to be had with
notice of the time & design of holding such Meeting. At
the purpose aforesaid on the second Monday in March
Our said Province to be present as Witnesses
in the eighth year of Our Kings Annoque
Command

This section mentions the first meeting of Mason's inhabitants! This required a Meeting House!

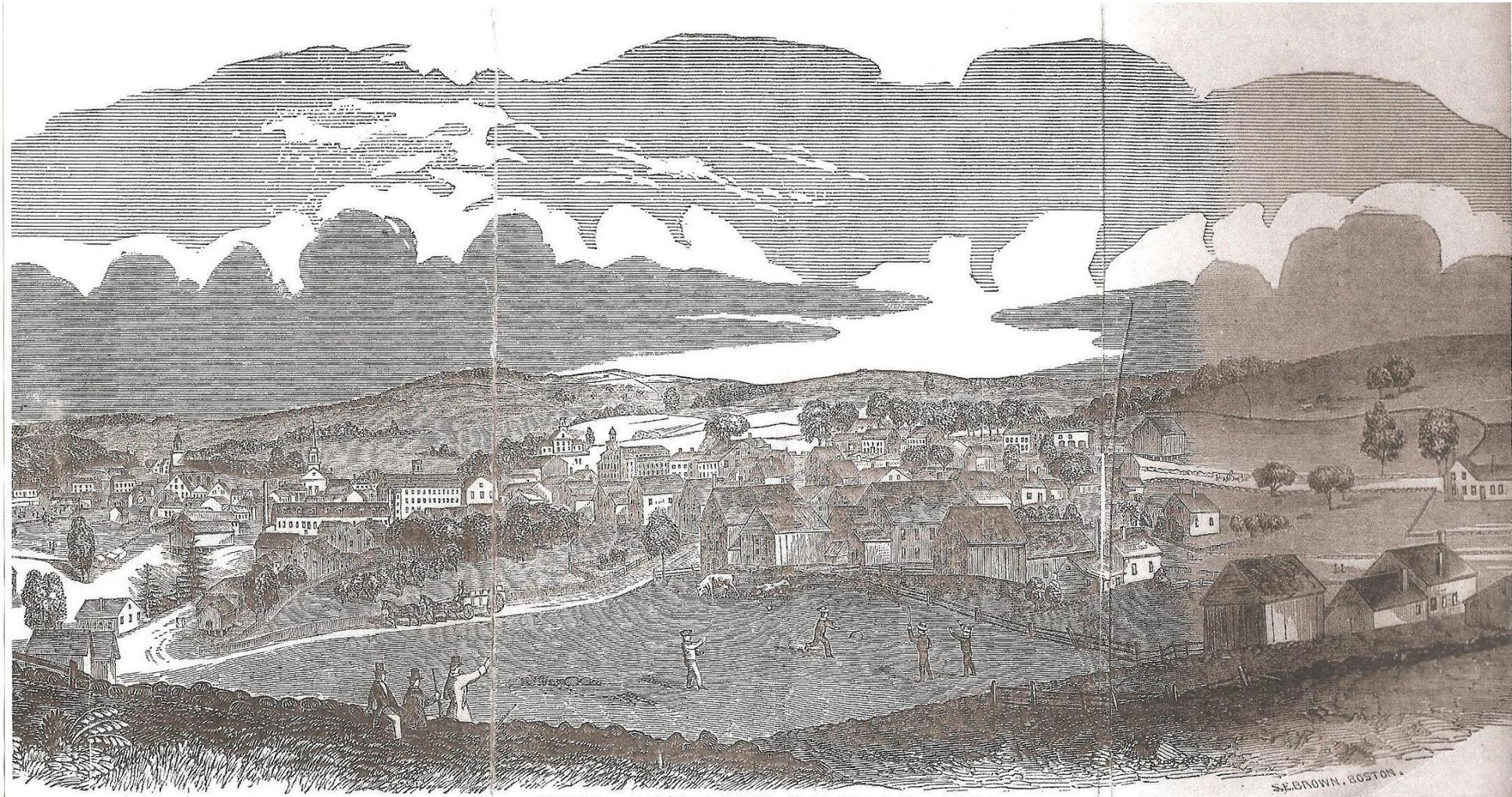


bounds first mentioned. We are
Continuan^e For Ever. —

This says “For Ever!”

View of Mason Village, 1858.

Mason and Greenville were together as one village at that time.



VIEW OF MASON VILLAGE, 1858.

S.E. BROWN, BOSTON.

- The original Proprietors chose a location at the geographical center of Township Number One for the center of town.
- The First Meeting House was built there and also the Second, as well as the Pound, the Parade Ground, two Noon Houses, Number One School House and later the Hearse House.
- The first roads, north-south and east-west ran right through the Town Center.
- Only a few of the original Proprietors actually settled in Number One. The others gave their lots to their sons or nephews or sold them. Most had little more than their two hands and an axe with which to clear the land, build their houses and clear their fields.

•Rhett Owings US General Web site
http://home.earthlink.net/~georgeo/mason_nh.htm
 •Dictionary.com

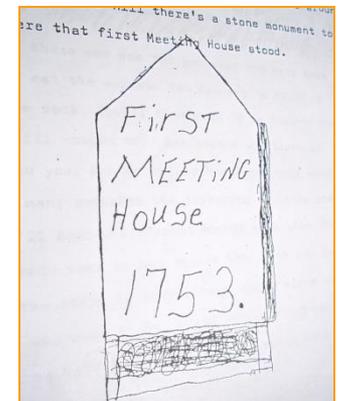
Proprietor: a person who has the exclusive right or title to something; an owner, as of real property.

Hearse House: A place which housed a hearse, used to bring the dead to their burial sites.

Noon House:
 A place to warm up between church services in the winter.



Second Meeting House



**Drawing by MES
 4th grader**

More about "The Noon House"

- **There might have been seen a hundred years ago, by the side of many an old meeting-house in New England, a long, low, mean, stable-like building, with a rough stone chimney at one end. This was the "noon-house," or "Sabbath house," or "horse-hows," as it was variously called. It was a place of refuge in the winter time, at the noon interval between the two services, for the half-frozen members of the pious congregation, who found there the grateful warmth which the house of God denied.**
- They built in the rude stone fireplace a great fire of logs, and in front of the blazing wood ate their noon-day meal of cold pie, of doughnuts, of pork and peas, or of brown bread with cheese, which they had brought safely packed in their capacious saddlebags. The dining-place smelt to heaven of horses, for often at the further end of the noon-house were stabled the patient steeds that, doubly burdened, had borne the Puritans and their wives to meeting; but this stable-odor did not hinder appetite, nor did the warm equine breaths that helped to temper the atmosphere of the noon-house offend the senses of the sturdy Puritans.
- **From the blazing fire in this "life-saving station" the women replenished their little foot-stoves with fresh, hot coals, and thus helped to make enduring the icy rigor of the long afternoon service.**
- If the winter Sabbath Day were specially severe, a "hired-man," or one of the grown sons of the family, was sent at an early hour to the noon-house in advance of the other church-attendants, and he started in the rough fireplace a fire for their welcome after their long, cold, morning ride; and before its cheerful blaze they thoroughly warmed themselves before entering the icy meeting-house. The embers were carefully covered over and left to start a second blaze at the nooning, covered again during the afternoon service, and kindled up still a third time to warm the chilled worshippers ere they started for their cold ride home in the winter twilight.
- **And when the horses were saddled, or were harnessed and hitched into the great box-sleighs or "pungs," and when the good Puritans were well wrapped up, the dying coals were raked out for safety and the noon-house was left as quiet and as cold as the deserted meeting-house until the following Sabbath or Lecture day.**

Town of Mason

State: New Hampshire

Region: Monadnock

County: Hillsborough

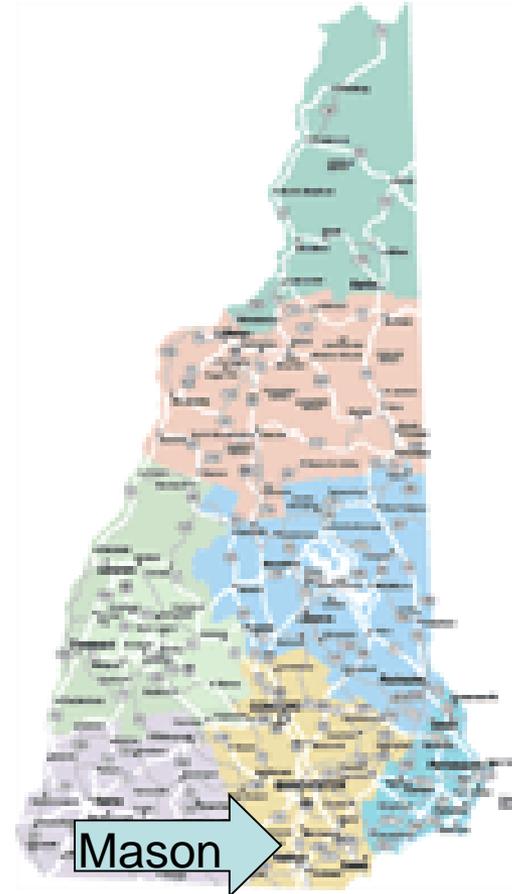
Distance from:

o Manchester, NH: 39 miles

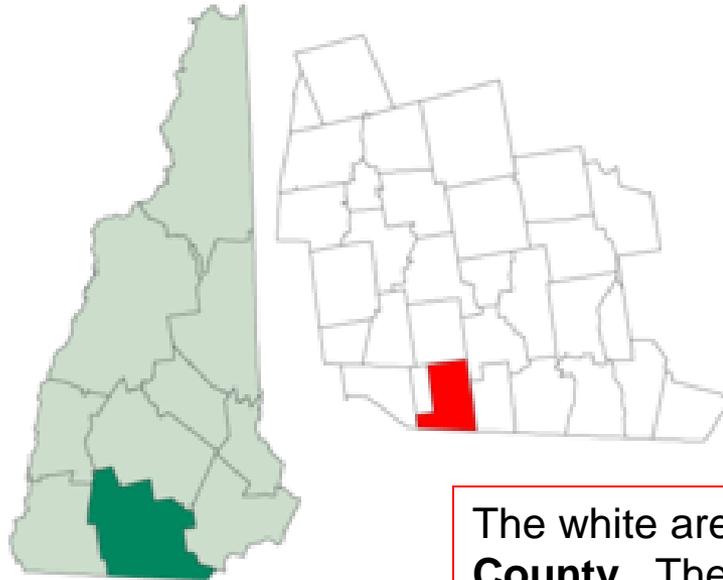
o Boston, MA: 55 miles

o New York, NY: 195 miles

o Montreal, Quebec: 300 miles



Our Town of Mason is located in the State of New Hampshire. Our county is “Hillsborough.”



The grey area is **New Hampshire**. The **dark green** area is **Hillsborough County**.

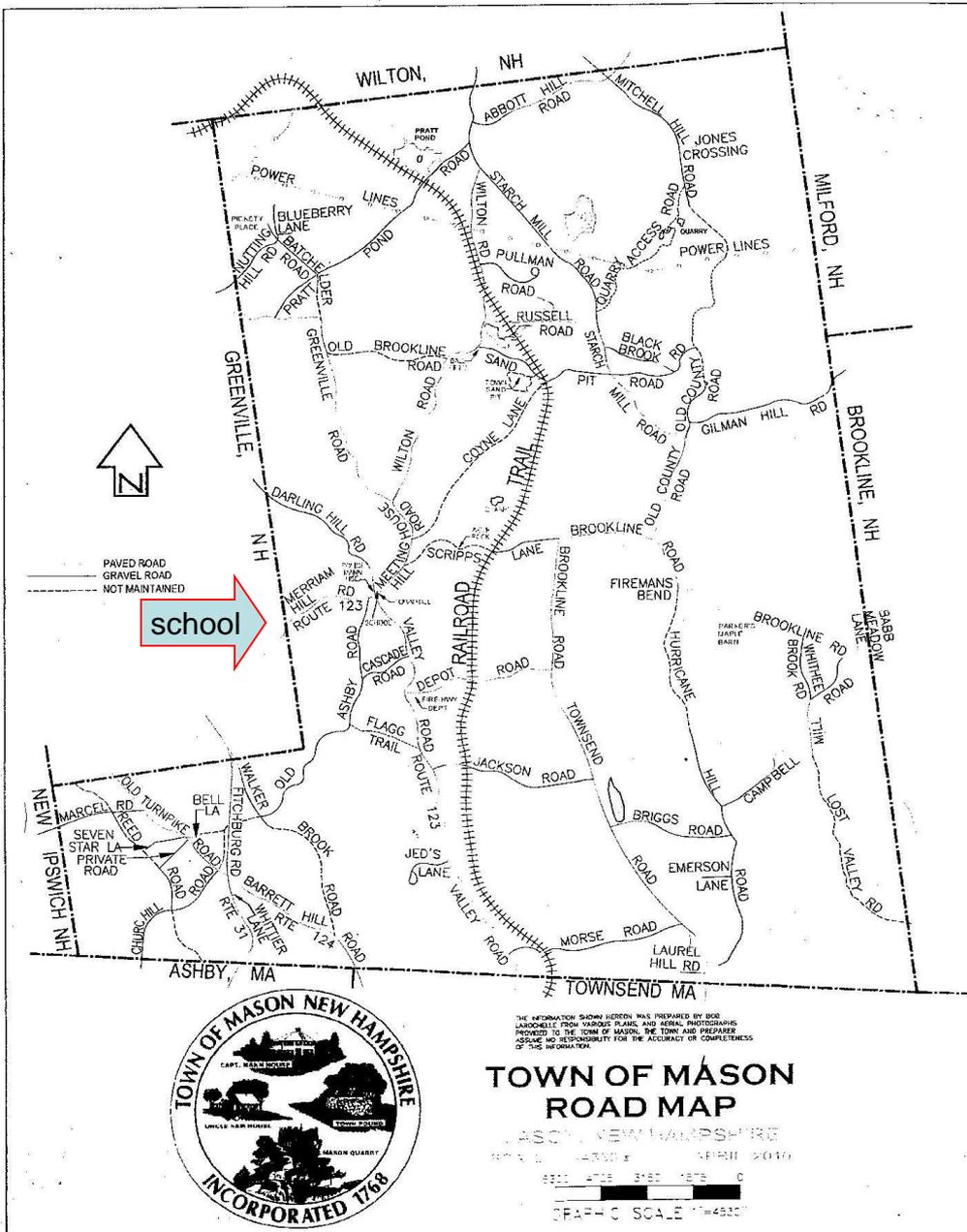
The white area is **Hillsborough County**. The **red** area is the **Town of Mason**.

Mason, NH is located on the southern border of Hillsborough County and bordered on the **north** by Wilton, on the **east** by Brookline, the **west** by Greenville and New Ipswich and on the **south** by Townsend and Ashby, MA.

home.earthlink.net/~georgemason_nh.htm

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mason,_New_Hampshire

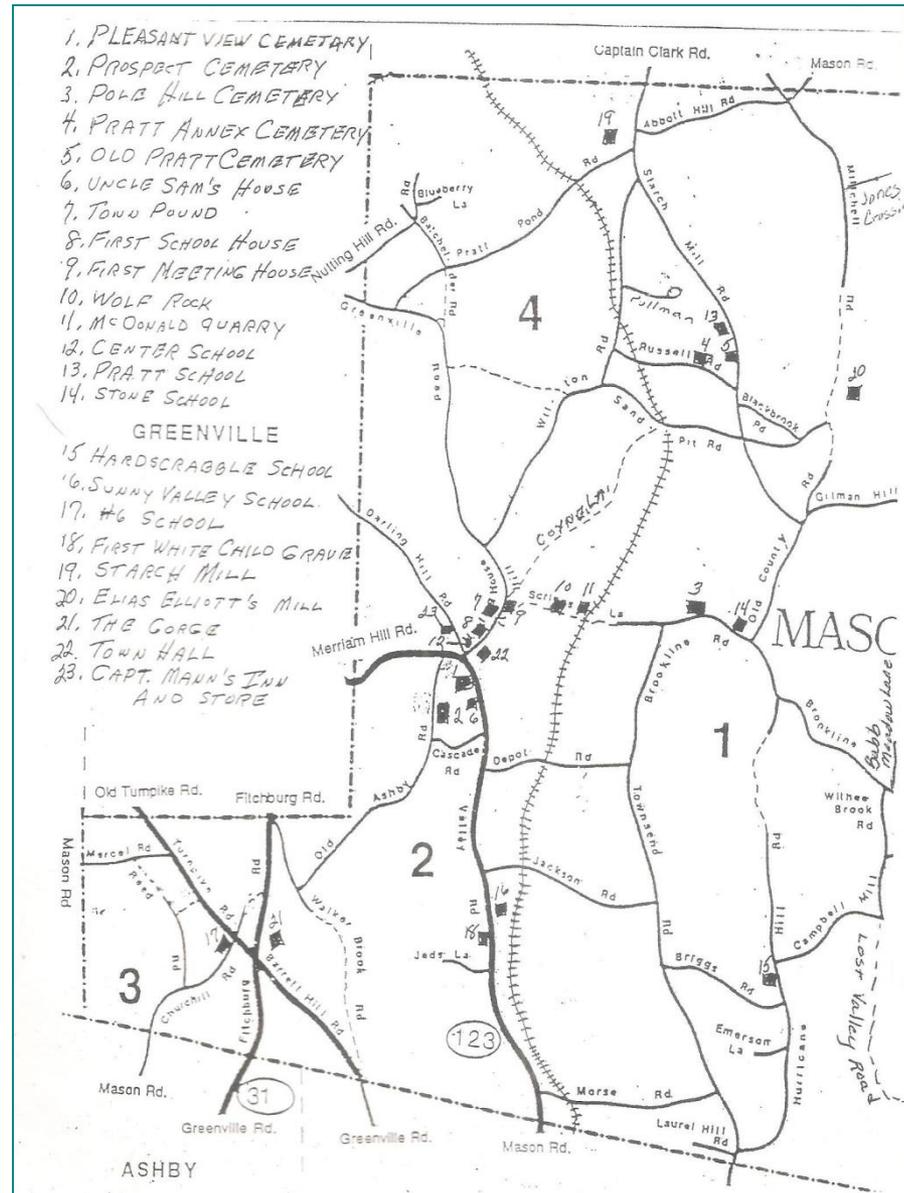
Town of Mason Road Map



April 2010
Bob LaRoche

Points of Interest in Mason:

1. Pleasant View Cemetery
2. Prospect Cemetery
3. Pole Hill Cemetery
4. Pratt Annex Cemetery
5. Old Pratt Cemetery
6. Uncle Sam's House
7. Town Pound
8. First School House
9. First Meeting House
10. Wolf Rock
11. McDonald Quarry
12. Center School
13. Pratt School
14. Stone School
15. Hardscrabble School
16. Sunny Valley School
17. #6 School
18. First White Child Grave
19. Starch Mill
20. Elias Elliott's Mill
21. The Gorge
22. Town Hall
23. Capt. Mann's Inn and Store



Mason's Primary Habitat Types

1. Hemlock-Hardwood Pine Forest

Supports 140 vertebrate species (15 amphibian, 13 reptile, 73 bird, 39 mammal).

Supports 5 species of concern: osprey, Cooper's hawk, timber rattlesnake, eastern hognose snake.

2. Appalachian Oak-Pine Forest

Supports 140 vertebrate species (8 amphibian, 12 reptile, 67 bird, 17 mammal species).

Supports 5 species of concern: osprey, Cooper's hawk, timber rattlesnake, eastern hognose snake.

3. Marsh and Shrub Wetlands

Supports numerous vertebrate and invertebrate species.

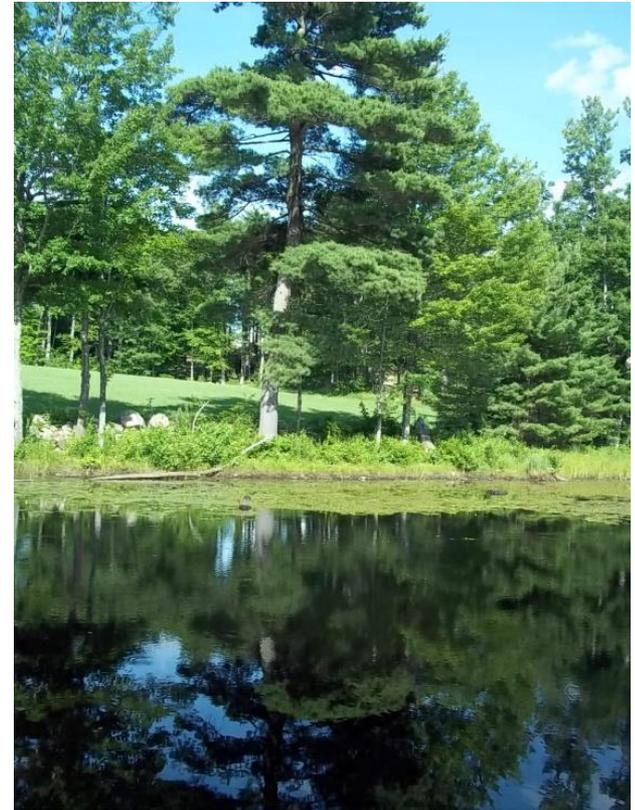
Supports 18 species of concern: American black duck, American and least bitterns, woodcock, common moorhen, northern harrier, osprey, pie-billed grebe, rusty blackbird, sedge wren, Blandings and spotted turtles, eastern red and silver haired bats, New England cottontail, and ringed boghaunter.

• Grasslands

Supports (at least) 10 species of concern: northern harrier, upland sandpiper, grasshopper sparrow, eastern meadowlark and horned lark, vesper sparrow, black racer, smooth green snake, northern leopard frog, wood turtle.

• Peatlands

Provides an important carbon buffer.



More than 90% of Mason's acreage is forested. The predominant forest type is hemlock-hardwood-pine. The south-central portion of Mason is almost entirely hemlock-hardwood-pine, which is also the state's predominant forest type.

Mason's Waterways

- **Mason's Major Brooks:**

- Spaulding
- Black
- Mitchell
- Lancy
- Gould Mill
- Wallace
- Mason
- Rocky
- Walker

- **Mason's Major Ponds:**

- Pratt Pond
- Black Brook pond
- Marshall's Pond (at Briggs Rd.)
- Spaulding Brook (beaver pond)

- **Mason's Rivers:**

- Squannacook River
- Souhegan River
- Nissitissit River



You can get more information from the Mason Conservation Commission's "The Natural Resources of Mason, NH" at <http://www.mason-nh.org/Docs/ConsComm/NRI/Masons%20Natural%20Resources%20-%20A%20Natural%20Resources%20Inventory.pdf>

Mason's Major Public Recreation Areas

- **Russell Abbott State Forest**
- Includes Pratt Pond and old Starch Mill ruins.
- Pratt Pond Rd, Starch Mill Rd.
- Hunting, fishing, hiking, canoeing, snowmobiling, horseback riding. (no OHRV)
- **Mason Railroad Trail**
- Unpaved—surface is gravel or coal dust.
- Pratt Pond Rd, Wilton Rd, Russell Rd, Sandpit Rd, Depot Rd, Jackson Rd, Morse Rd.
- Hiking, jogging, horseback riding, snowmobiling, X-C skiing, dog-sledding, mountain biking. (no OHRV)
- **Bronson Potter**
- **Conservation Lands**
- Greenville Rd, Old Ashby Rd, Merriam Hill Rd.
- Non-motorized open space uses. (no OHRV)
- **Spaulding Brook**
- **Conservation Land**
- Starch Mill Rd, Mitchell Hill Rd.
- Hunting, fishing, hiking, horseback riding, snowmobiling. (no OHRV)
- **Mitchell Brook**
- **Conservation Land**
- Mitchell Hill Rd. Hunting, fishing, hiking, horseback riding, snowmobiling. (no OHRV)
- **Florence Roberts Forest**
- Valley Rd. near Cascade Rd.
- Hiking, horseback riding, geo-caching. (no OHRV)



The Heritage of Mason

by Madeleine Paltenghi Anderson



From granite ledge and stony pasture
New Hampshire farms have been hard won.
No softening gift from frugal nature
For man whose work was never done.

Closed fields were cleared awaiting spring,
Dry walls laid solid stone on stone.
Came music from the pick-axe ring
Striking through the earth's hard bone.

Stout oaken trees for timber down.
Sturdy buildings kept out weather,
Rough logs were hewn for house and barn;
Harvest and frost came together.

Gleaned earth slept in a frozen prison,
Winter was ice in a world of snow,
Tardy spring – a doubtful season,
Summer would pause then swiftly go.

Now, lichened stones hold tumbled walls
Dividing long abandoned land.
Who laid them once, no one recalls;
Forgotten sentinels they stand

Between lost fields and woodland ridge,
Crowding laurel, birch, and pine.
Over land and time they bridge
Two hundred years on bound'ry line.

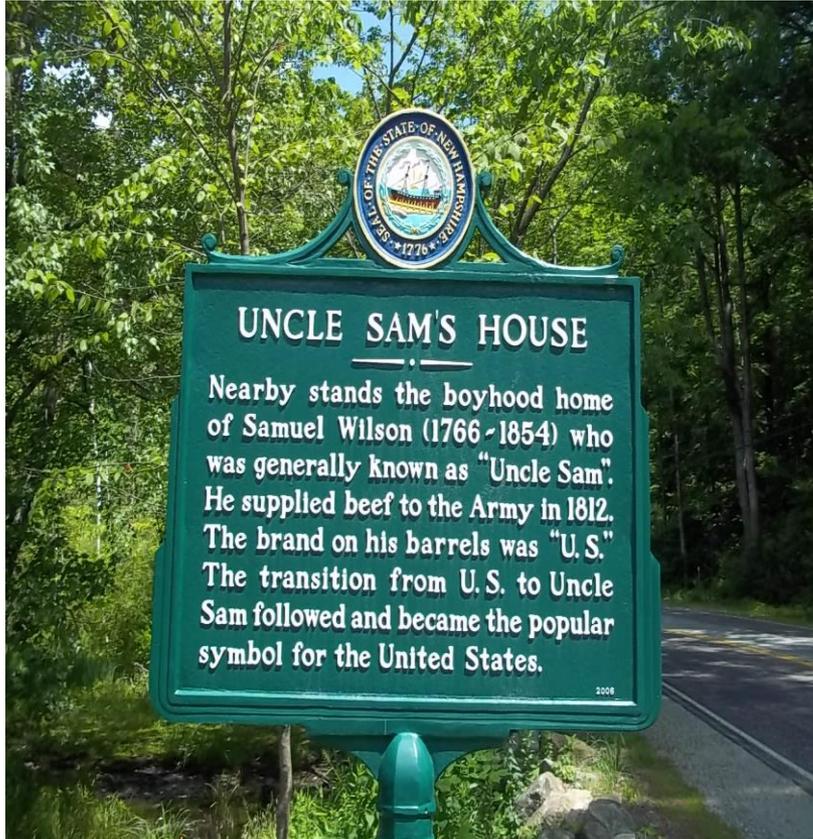
Where mountain peaks soar far above
Great rivers, lakes, vast forests, lie
The lands men held to know and love,
Their heritage: "Live free or die."

Uncle Sam



Mason was the boyhood home of Samuel Wilson (1766-1844), generally known as "Uncle Sam" for the "U.S." brand on the beef he supplied to the army during the War of 1812.

Uncle Sam's House



Samuel Wilson or "Uncle Sam" (1766-1854) grew up in Mason and the house in which he lived still stands on Valley .

He became famous for his meat packing company in Troy, NY which supplied meat to the army during the War of 1812. He stamped his barrels with "US" for United States, but people began to say "That's Uncle Sam!" (In those days the term "Uncle" was a term of endearment.)

After making his fortune in Troy, he returned to Mason where he married his childhood sweetheart, Elizabeth "Betsey" Mann. Her father, Capt. Benjamin Mann led 26 men from Mason to the Battle of Bunker Hill.

US General website

Uncle Sam's House

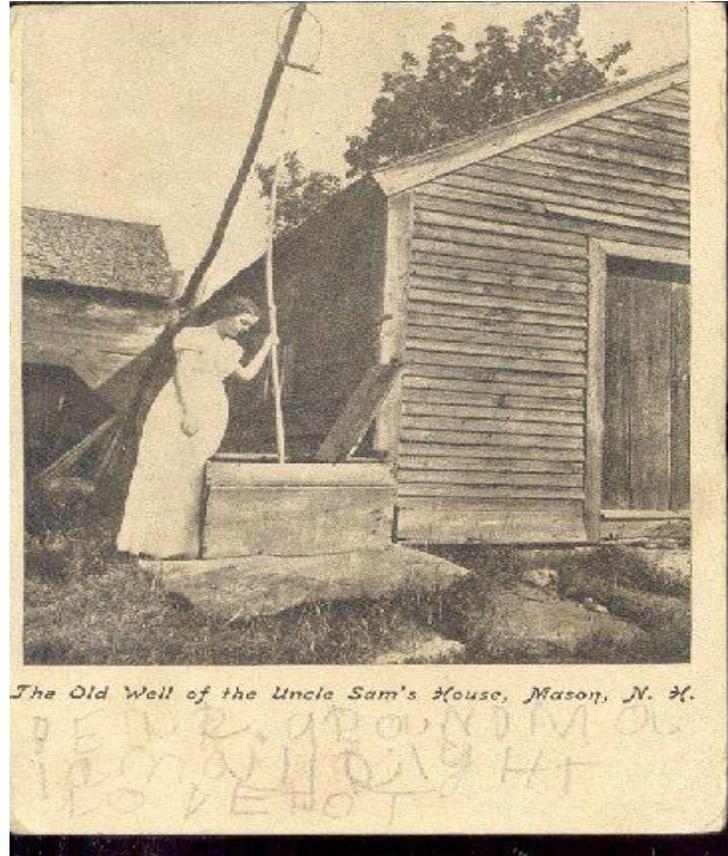


The back part of Uncle Sam's House



- Notice the way the stable is made. Can you see the granite stones?

The Old Well at Uncle Sam's House



The Old Well of the Uncle Sam's House, Mason, N. H.

This old postcard says at the bottom:
“Dear Grandma. I am all right. Love to T.”

Vintage Mason Photos



The Studio Coach House
Workshop

A great way to travel,
back in the day!



The W. F. H. on His Farm, Mason, N.H.

This one is called:
“Solid Citizens of Mason, NH!”



•<http://home.earthlink.net/~georgeo/masonphotoalbumpg2.htm>

1909

A wayside drinking trough on Wilton Road in Mason



Some of you may remember this building from the center of town, across from the school and next to the church.



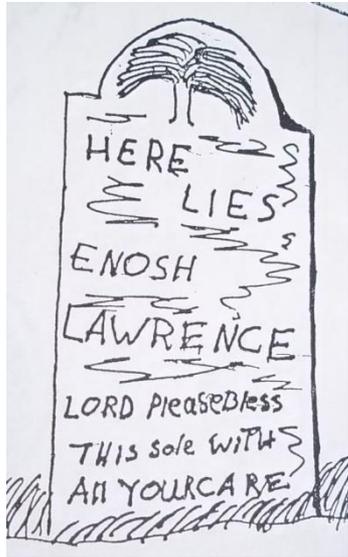
Mason Graveyards



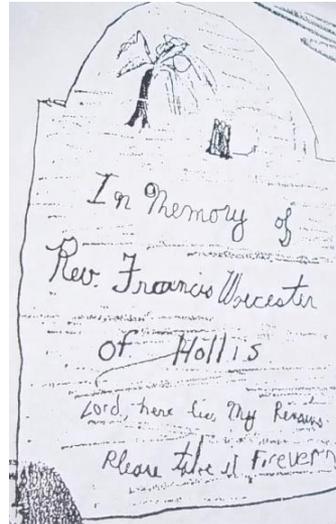
Deep River,
My home is over Jordan.
Deep River, Lord.
I want to cross over into
campground.
Oh, don't you want to go,
To the Gospel feast;
That Promised Land,
Where all is peace?
Deep River,
My home is over Jordan.
Deep River, Lord.
I want to cross over into
campground.

- Spiritual

Gravestones with interesting names



Here lies Enosh Lawrence. Lord please bless this sole with all Your care.



In memory of Rev. Francis Worcester of Hollis. Lord, here lies my remains. Please take it forever.



In memory of Captain Thomas Tarbell, 1719-1796. Age 77

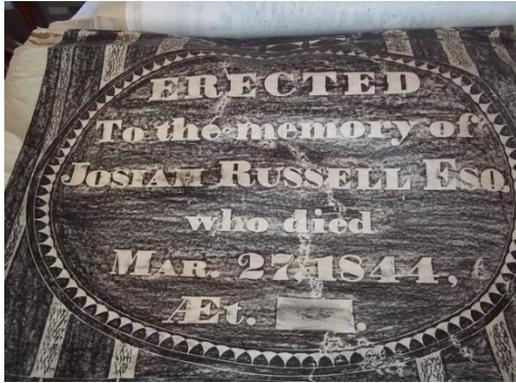


In memory of Mrs. Thankful



George W. Scripture

Rubbings made from Mason gravestones

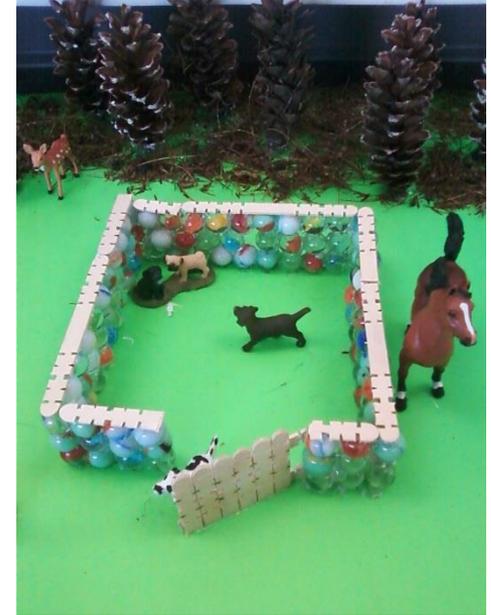


- You can try making a rubbing sometime!

Mason Town Pound

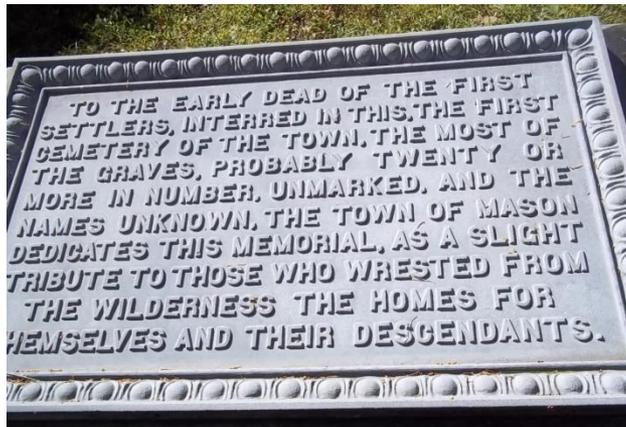


What is a Town Pound? The Town Pound was a place for stray animals to stay until their owners could claim them. “Pounders” took care of the animals in the pound.



“The dog pound was built in 1771. Steve Lawrence was the person who built it. He was paid 4 pounds 8 shillings. The pound was built 26 feet by 26 feet by 6 feet high with 12 inches of timber on top. They used this for different animals that got loose. The first pound keeper was Samuel Abbot.” Made by Lily, 3rd grade

Across from the Town Pound lies a monument to the First Town Meeting House erected in 1753. A nearby cemetery bears a beautiful inscription on a memorial.



“To the early dead of the first settlers, interred in this, the first cemetery of the town, the most of the graves, probably twenty or more in number, unmarked, and the names unknown, the Town of Mason dedicates this memorial, as a slight tribute to those who wrested from the wilderness the homes for themselves and their descendants.”

Mason Congregational Church



The Village Green, Mason

Mason Congregational Church



“In honor of the Ladies Aid who have served this church since Civil War days”

This beautiful church sits across the green from Mason Elementary School. It has many interesting artifacts, as well as a bell similar to our school bell!



E. Hill



Rev. Ebenezer Hill, barely five feet tall, was called "The Little Minister." He was born 31 Jan 1766 in Cambridge, MA. A Harvard graduate, he served as pastor in Mason for 64 years (1790-1854). He was pastor of the Mason Congregational Church. He was also a representative in the New Hampshire Legislature in 1839 & 1840 and published 12 sermons and two lectures on the History of Mason. He had 14 children. His beautiful house still stands across Valley Road from the Congregational Church in the center of Mason.

"Ebenezer Hill: The Little Minister of Mason, NH." A Sketch by Charles E. Hill and A Genealogy by John B. Hill, 1923, Tobias A. Wright, printer and publisher, NY. Higgonson Book Company

The home of Rev. Ebenezer Hill and family, across from the Mason Congregational Church. In current times, the Rowse family has kept this house special!



This carriage house was once used as a summer school, where teachers stayed in Mason for the summer and did activities and crafts with the children.

Some of Ebenezer Hill's family members.

John Boynton

He started out selling tinware. He ended up founding Worcester Polytechnic Institute (WPI) and giving money for the education of Mason Elementary School children!

John BOYNTON was born in 1791. He attended No. 2 School House where he was taught the basics of reading, writing and ciphering. After spending a number of years helping his father on the farm, he decided to go into business.

In 1820-21 he began making tinware in New Ipswich, NH and selling door to door. Everyone wanted the shiny kettles, funnels, graters, dippers, pails and cups. About 1825 he married Abigail MERRIAM of Mason and moved his business to Templeton, MA. He added other wares to his collection of goods and visited town after town. He became a wealthy man. Some of his possessions may be seen in the Templeton Historical Collection, including some of his tinware.

Upon retirement he settled in Athol where he became the first president of the Miller's River State Bank. In his quiet, charitable way and with a deep love for his home town, he gave a sum of ten thousand dollars to be invested and applied to the education of Mason children. He also set up a fund to establish an institution of higher learning at Worcester, MA. John Boynton died in 1867 and is buried in Mason beside his wife, Abigail.



This Monument to John Boynton sits near the Congregational Church across the street from Mason Elementary School.



In Memoriam
John Boynton
Born – Mason, N.H., May 3, 1791
Died – Templeton, Mass., Mar. 25, 1867
Founder of
Worcester Polytechnic Institute
Worcester, Mass.
He opened the door of opportunity to youth.
Erected by class of 1922 at Fifth Reunion

Mason Fire Department



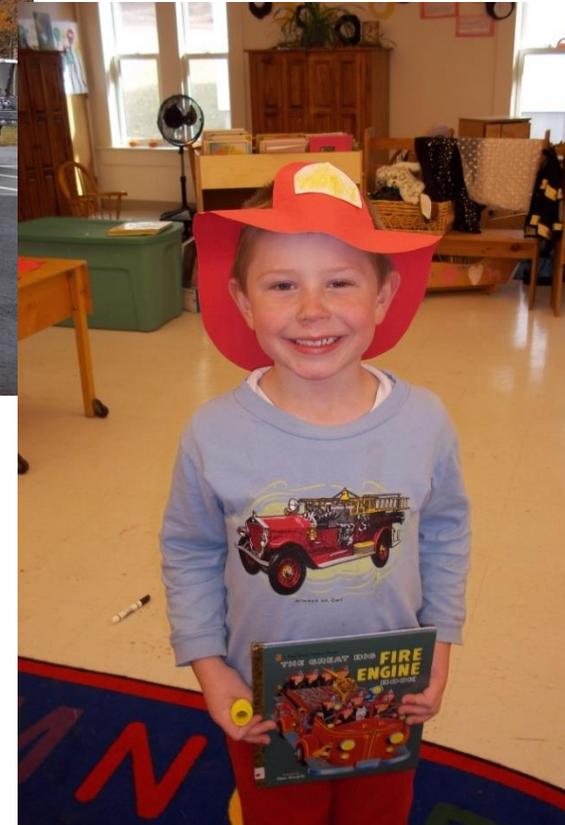
50th Anniversary
2011!



“The Firehouse is a beautiful place. My dad volunteers with the fire department. I caught my first fish there. Dad tangled my line in a branch. I played in the huge sand piles, but I dare not go behind the piles. There is poison ivy! The fire department was made in 1962. There are four trucks. One tanker, one brush truck, and two engines. The tool house is located in the back.” - *Made by Manya, 3rd grade*

“My dad volunteers there. The Fafard family built the Fire Department and the addition at my house. The Fire Department can be found on Depot Road in Mason NH.” - *Made by Meredith, 3rd grade*

Mason Elementary students receive training and information from the Mason Fire Department



Selectwoman Nancy Richards explains Mason firetruck features to Mason students



Mason Fire Department celebrates 50 years!



Mason Police Department



Chief Barry Hutchins introducing Mason Elementary students to our new police dog!



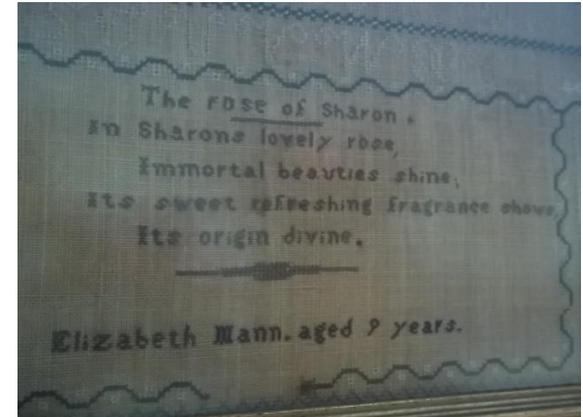
"I chose for my project the police station because the police protect us and keep us safe. One interesting fact I learned about the building is that the holding cells have no bars – just giant metal doors." - Model made by John, 3rd grade



Rose, we wonder who's in charge here!

Catherine Schwenk knows about many interesting historical items in Mason and in the Mann House!

Ask Catherine about the science and art of flowers!



The rose of Sharon
In Sharon's lovely rose,
Immortal beauties shine,
Its sweet refreshing fragrance shows
Its origin divine.

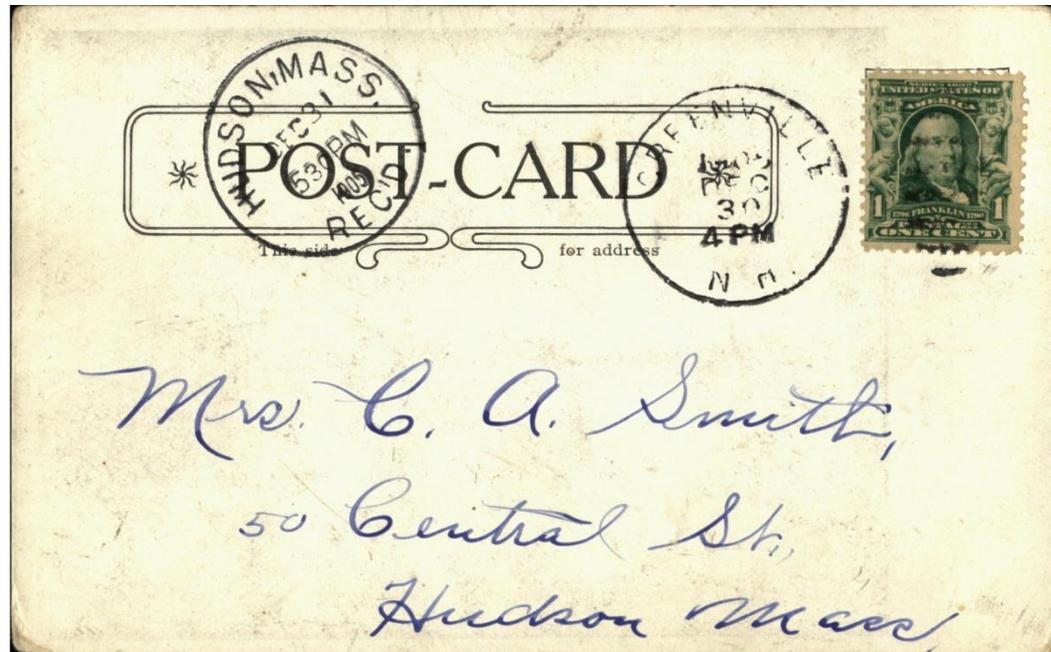
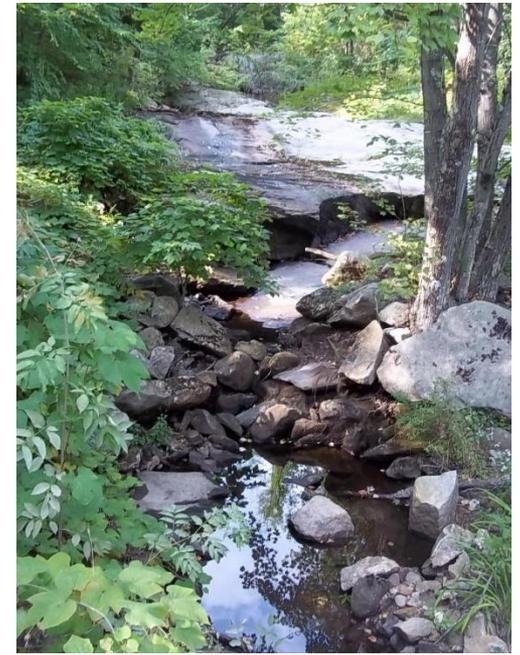
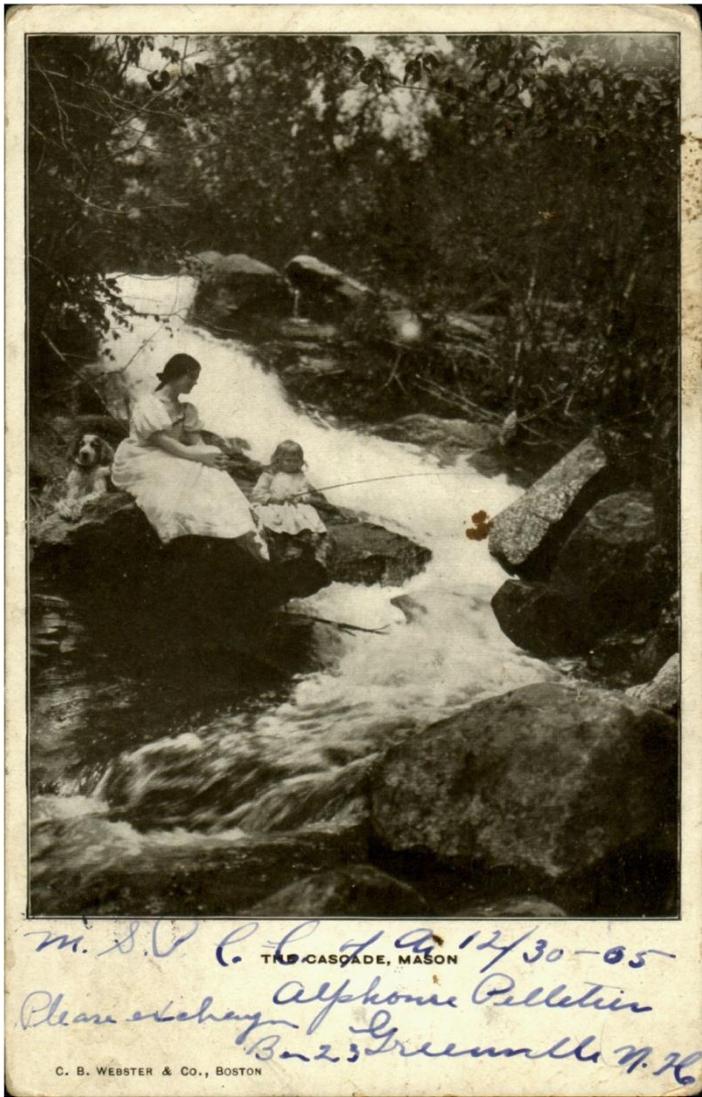
*Sewn by Elizabeth Mann, age 9
years*



Twig's
scissors!



The Cascades



You can see the Cascades waterfall on Cascades Road. This postcard was sent in 1905! Notice the child fishing in the Cascades with her mother!

Flowers We Can Find in Mason



Lilacs

New Hampshire, in the month of May,
Sets out for me a bright bouquet,
Arranged with care beneath the eaves,
For days I watch the satin leaves
Unfold their pointed bonnets green
O, tell me, have you ever seen
A lilac bush about to bloom
Into a royal, fragrant plume?

When I go out at last and see
My bush a purple symphony,
I wonder if there's anyone
Who's never had the breathless fun
Of holding lilacs to his face
And smelling Heaven for a space
Let no one have to miss, I pray
New Hampshire's lilacs, when it's May!

Ann Johnson



Mason students painting flowers they have seen!



The Flowers *by Robert Louis Stevenson*

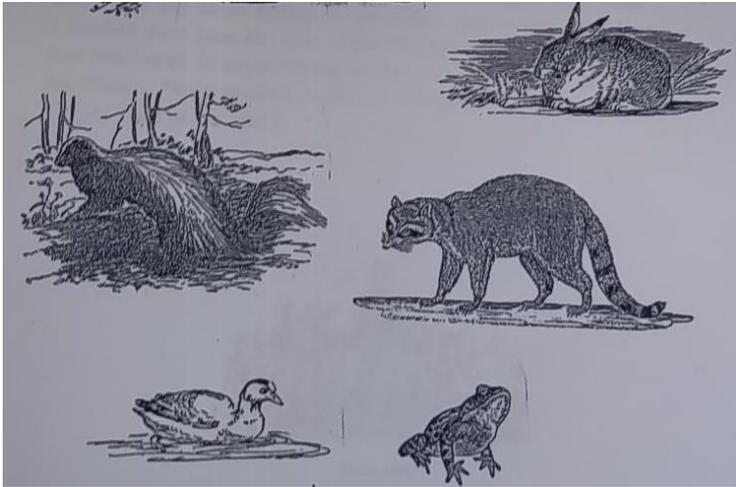
All the names I know from nurse:
Gardener's garters, Shepherd's purse,
Bachelor's buttons, Lady's smock,
And the Lady Hollyhock.

Fairy places, fairy things,
Fairy woods where the wild bee wings,
Tiny trees for tiny dames--
These must all be fairy names!

Tiny woods below whose boughs
Shady fairies weave a house;
Tiny tree-tops, rose or thyme,
Where the braver fairies climb!

Fair are grown-up people's trees,
But the fairest woods are these;
Where, if I were not so tall,
I should live for good and all.

Creatures We Can Find in Mason



What is the Mason Conservation Commission?

A group of people working together to conserve the natural resources of Mason, and to use these resources wisely.

Ask Barbara Devore about how to deal with invasive plant species near our school!

Owl photos: Garth Fletcher
Drawings: Elizabeth Orton Jones

The **Mason Conservation Commission** keeps track of animals, reptiles, amphibians and birds sighted in Mason. The commission has a survey form you can fill out to help them with their inventory!

Mammals **which can be found in Mason!**

Big Brown Bat

Little Brown Bat

Black Bear

Beaver

Bobcat

Eastern Chipmunk

Eastern Cottontail

New England Cottontail

Coyote

White-Tailed Deer

Fisher

Gray Fox

Red Fox

Snowshoe Hair

Canada Lynx

Mink

Hairy-Tailed Mole

Star-Nosed Mole

Moose

Deer Mouse

House Mouse

Muskrat

Virginia Opossum

River Otter

Porcupine

Raccoon

Norway Rat

Shrew

Striped Skunk

Gray Squirrel

Northern Flying Squirrel

Red Squirrel

Southern Flying Squirrel

Vole

Long-Tailed Weasel

Short-Tailed Weasel (Ermine)

Woodchuck

Reptiles

which can be found in Mason:

Black Racer	Milk Snake	Common Musk Turtle (Stinkpot)
Timber Rattlesnake	Northern Water Snake	Eastern Box Turtle
Brown Snake	Redbelly Snake	Painted Turtle
Common Garter Snake	Ringneck Snake	Snapping Turtle
Eastern Hognose Snake	Smooth Green Snake	Spotted Turtle
Eastern Ribbon Snake	Blanding's Turtle	Wood Turtle

Amphibians

which can be found in Mason:

Bullfrog	Spring Peeper	Two-Lined Salamander
Green Frog	Blue-Spotted Salamander	Redback Salamander
Mink Frog	Four-Toed Salamander	Slimy Salamander
Northern Leopard Frog	Jefferson Salamander	Spotted Salamander
Pickerel Frog	Marbled Salamander	American Toad
Wood Frog	Dusky Salamander	Fowler's Toad
Eastern (Red Eft) Newt	Spring Salamander	Gray Treefrog

A **Big Cat Sighting Survey** says that **big cats can be found in:** backyards, dens, fields, forests, gravel pits, hills, ledges, roads, rocks, shrubs, trails, and near water! **Their activities include:** drinking, eating, playing, running, sleeping, stalking, sunning, trotting and walking. **Their sounds include:** caterwauling, chirping, growling, purring and screaming. Behaviors include chasing deer, being in water, running, sitting up on haunches, and sunning on rocks.

http://www.mason-nh.org/Docs/ConsComm/Big_Cat_Survey.pdf



Go Green! Visit us at the dynamic <http://Mason.VillageGrapevine.com>



Volume 14, No. 2

Celebrating Rural Character

February 2011

From the Town Clerk/ Tax Collector Office

Storm Closings

In the event of storms this winter, please call the office at 878-3768 to verify we are open before coming to transact any business.

March 2011 Elections

Town and School elections will be held Tuesday, March 8, at the Town Hall. Polls will be open from 11 am to 8 pm.

Town Meeting will be held starting at 9 am on Saturday, March 12 in the Elementary School multipurpose room. Voters can vote via absentee ballot for the Town election only, not Town meeting. They will need to complete the absentee ballot form for town elections and submit it to us.

*Susan Wagoner, Town Clerk;
www.mason-nh.net/townclerk*

Conservation Programs for February and March

ORCHIDS WILL BE THE TOPIC ON Thursday, February 3, 7:30 pm at the Mason Town Hall. Join a roundtable

discussion with John Crooker of Brookline Road and friends from the NH Orchid Society. Learn about the world's largest plant family which grows on every continent except Antarctica. Bring questions, your curiosity or a plant which needs identification or TLC as the exciting world of easy-to-grow orchids is demystified by Mason's enthusiasts. People with all levels of knowledge are welcome at this free program.

In NH, the most well-known orchid is the Lady Slipper which blooms in late spring; however, there are several other less showy native varieties which flower during summer and fall. The NH

Orchid Society is actively working to conserve them and also recently purchased land in Ecuador to protect endangered species.

The NH Orchid Society's 20th Show will be held February 11 to 13 at the Radisson Hotel in Nashua. With over 2,000 plants on display, it promises to be an exciting event with several Mason orchid growers participating.

Eyes on Owls will return with a variety of live birds for two programs on Friday, March 18. Marcia Wilson will present an afternoon show for Mason School



Lynda Addonizio sent us a picture of this bobcat she didn't expect to see in her backyard on Campbell Mill Rd. last month.

children, to which seniors are also invited, and an early evening show open to all townspeople. Following that, people are invited to an outdoor owl prowling under a full moon with hopes that nocturnal raptors may be lured in as hooting increases during mating season. Mark your calendar for Friday, March 18, and watch the *Grapevine* and the town's unofficial web site, www.mason-nh.org, for further details.

Programs are free but donations will be accepted to benefit *The Mason Grapevine*, our best publicity source. This pro-

cont. on p. 2

Calling All Mason Residents!

If you have an idea about what you would like to see in *The Mason Grapevine*, we'd like to hear from you. We want this to be your community paper. *The Mason Grapevine* is published monthly and is free to Mason residents.

Subscriptions are available for \$15 per year. The contributed material does not necessarily reflect the opinion of *The Mason Grapevine*. Subscribers: contributions, ads or subscription requests are **DUE BY THE 21ST OF THE MONTH**

Contact Information

<http://Mason.VillageGrapevine.com>
TheMasonGrapevine@yahoo.com
603-878-3657 p. 603-878-4385 f

For all ads, payments and hardcopy submissions,

please mail to:
The Mason Grapevine
637 Wilton Rd. - Mason, NH 03048

Staff

Pam Lassen
Pat Letourneau
Deb Morrison



This bobcat was seen outside the windows of Mason Elementary students Nate and Alex Addonizio's house in Mason! They were called to the window by their mother Lynda, who photographed the bobcat as he chased squirrels near their birdfeeder! This story appeared in the Mason Grapevine, Mason's wonderful community newsletter.

There are Bee Hives in Mason!



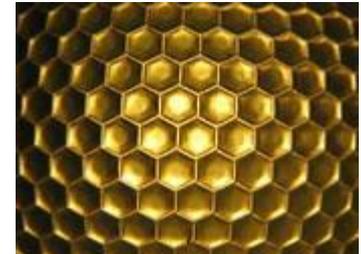
The Lake Isle of Innisfree

by William Butler Yeats

**I will arise and go now, and go to Innisfree,
And a small cabin build there, of clay and wattles made;
Nine bean-rows will I have there, a hive for the honey-bee,
And live alone in the bee-loud glade.**

**And I shall have some peace there, for peace comes dropping
slow,
Dropping from the veils of the morning to where the cricket
sings;
There midnight's all a glimmer, and noon a purple glow,
And evening full of the linnet's wings.**

**I will arise and go now, for always night and day
I hear lake water lapping with low sounds by the shore;
While I stand on the roadway, or on the pavements grey,
I hear it in the deep heart's core.**



Parker's Maple Barn



Perhaps you have eaten a nice plate of pancakes here! Parker's Maple Barn serves their pancakes with homemade maple syrup!



"I chose this building because they make the best pancakes. Parker's is interesting because they make their own maple syrup in the sugar shack. Parker's Maple Barn is located at 1316 Brookline Road in Mason NH." – *Made by Nathan, 3rd grade*



"The barn was built in Milford in 1782. In the 1960's the barn was sold to Ray Parker and his brother, who dismantled it and reconstructed it in Mason. I love to look at the antique decorations on the walls, and my favorite thing to do there is making flattened pennies. My favorite thing to eat there is French toast with jam, bacon, and chocolate milk. There is a gift shop right next door to the restaurant that I like to go to after breakfast." – *Made by Jaden, 3rd grade*

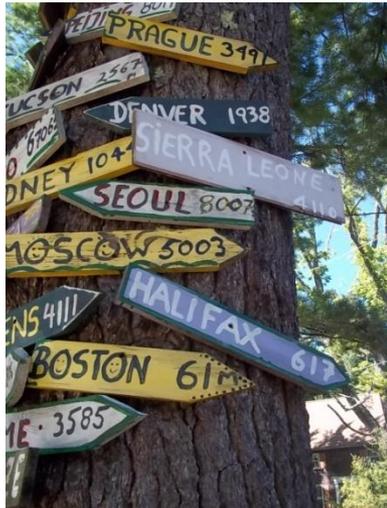
Maple Syrup



- If you visit Parker's during the maple sugar season, usually in March, you can see how maple syrup is made! That is the time the sap starts running, and you can see buckets attached to trees to catch the sap. Sap begins to run when nights are freezing and days are warm. You can see Mason Cub Scouts in the photograph above (*March 2011 Grapevine*), learning how to collect syrup from Selectwoman Nancy Richards.

How many miles is it from Mason to New York City?
 Or to Sidney? Or to Seoul? You can find out by
 looking on this tree in the parking lot at
 Parker's Maple Barn!

From Mason to:	Miles
New York City	211
Seoul, Korea	8007
Boston	61
Moscow, USSR	5003
Rio	5099
Nome, Alaska	4911
Montreal	283
Denver, Colorado	1938
Rome, Italy	3585



Mason Farms have produced wonderful produce for many years!



The Answers

by Robert Clairmont

“When did the world begin and how?”

I asked a lamb, a goat, a cow:

“What’s it all about and why?”

I asked a hog as he went by:

“Where will the whole thing end, and when?”

I asked a duck, a goose, a hen:

And I copied all the answers too,
A quack, a honk, an oink, a moo.



Windy Hill Orchard



The corn maze is planted in a grid with over 250,000 seeds. When the corn stalks are about 3" – 4" tall, we mark the path, and then pull each corn plant out by hand, to make the maze. (Washburnswindyhillorchard.com)



"Windy Hill is a fun place to pick apples and pumpkins. It is fun to go in the corn maze...4.5 acres of corn." - Model made by Mason, 3rd grade

"I chose Washburn's Windy Hill for my project cause it was fun when our class went there for a field trip... I ate a lot of apples. Our class had fun decorating the pumpkins. I learned Windy Hill is a family-owned business." - Model made by Brooke, 3rd grade

Barrett Hill Farm



Barrett Hill Farm produce often finds its way onto our Mason Elementary cafeteria trays! It's great to eat locally grown foods!



Barrett Hill Farm model made by Vernon, 3rd grade. "I chose Barrett Hill Farm because I live here. I really like it. I have ducks, cows, chickens, sheep, turkeys, cats, and dogs. I bet you're wondering if we have vegetables and fruit because you are in luck, we do! We have peaches, strawberries, radishes, apples, onions, beets, tomatoes and potatoes. And it's been a farm since 1732. It didn't just grow those fruits and vegetables. It was a dairy farm until the barn got struck by lightning and burned."



Mason Elementary students visit Barrett Hill Farm!



Barrett Hill Farm visits Mason Elementary School!



Beaver Dam



This beaver dam is located down the hill from Mason Elementary School, on Merriam Hill Road.

Beaver dam photos: *B. Mulrey*
Beaver photo: *Michael S. Quinton*:
animals.nationalgeographic.com/animals/mammals/beaver/

Granite



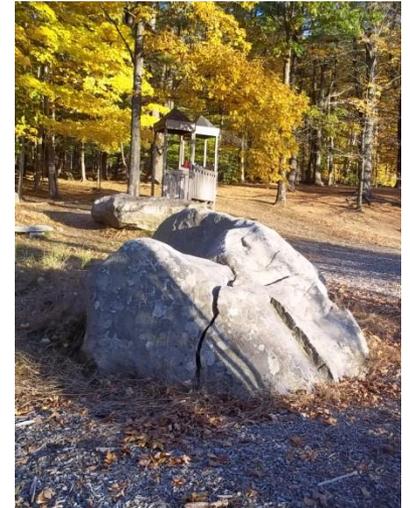
Granite foundation at
Mason Elementary

Granite is a composite made of:

- (1) Quartz
- (2) Mica
- (3) Feldspar



Granite bench
outside Mason
Elementary



“Moon Rock” on our
playground is granite.

Granite Types



Bedrock is granite made from volcanic lava. Wolf Rock and Moon Rock are examples of bedrock. Here are Mason Elementary Kindergarten students sitting on Moon Rock in the school playground, thinking about the time when Moon Rock was hot lava!



Stone fences and other smaller granite rocks in New England are made from “glacial erratics” – granite broken into pieces and distributed far and wide by the glacier which covered the area many years ago.

Information from Ron Dube, former middle school science teacher!

The Fletcher Granite Quarry on Starch Mill Road

- 218 acres on Starch Mill Road
- Began producing granite in the mid 1880s
- Acquired by Fletcher Granite Co. in 1929
- Continues to be active

<http://www.fletchergranite.com/quarries.htm>

“Mason is a finely-grained stone of medium buff gray, with black mica sprinkled across its surface in a compact, even pattern. With its small scale and warm tones, Mason may call to mind the texture of a Shetland tweed.”

<http://www.fletchergranite.com/quarries.htm>

Many significant buildings have been made using Mason granite! These include several at the U.S. Naval Academy in Annapolis, MD and the German History Museum in Berlin, Germany.



U.S. Naval Academy

=RESTAB#view=detail&id=92CD42C680964EAF559874BA2BAD5B1D3B5ECD3D&selectedIndex=8



German History Museum in Berlin

<http://berlin-germany.ca/attractions/deutschehistorische.html>

The Mason Quarry

Gifted to the Town of Mason
by George Schwenk in 2013



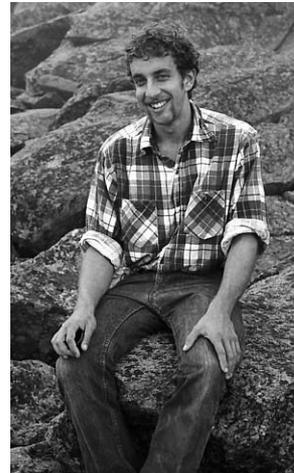
- 110 acres on Scripps and Coyne Lanes. These are old roads no longer town maintained. They are still public roads, though very rough -- don't drive your car down there!
- Mason Quarry was first opened in 1857, and had its heyday from 1867 to 1893 under Alexander McDonald, whose company made monuments that were shipped by rail nationwide (even to Oakland, California).
- At its height, the McDonald quarry operation employed 200 workmen, and this part of town was a center of population with its own train stop and post office. But competition from concrete hurt the granite industry, and the quarry fell on hard times. A disastrous fire in 1893 ended McDonald's business here. In 1901, the Stantons tried to revive Mason Quarry, but to no avail. In 1908, a fire destroyed the workshops and the quarry was abandoned.

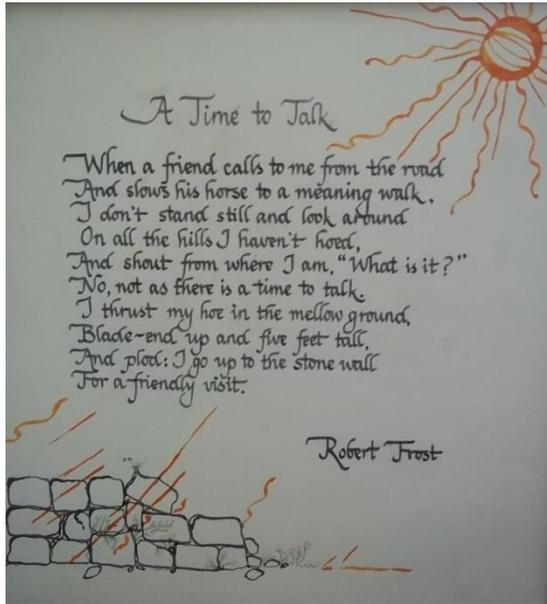
Twig Jones' 1968 Mason History; Liz Fletcher

photo: Edward Bacher

<http://www.ledgertranscript.com/news/townbytown/mason/8080728-95/quarry-conservation-to-be-gifted-to-town>

Edward Bacher's photography of the Mason Quarry





A Time to Talk

*When a friend calls to me from the road
And slows his horse to a meaning walk,
I don't stand still and look around
On all the hills I haven't hoed,
And shout from where I am, "What is it?"
No, not as there is a time to talk,
I thrust my hoe in the mellow ground,
Blade-end up and five feet tall,
And plod: I go up to the **stone wall**
For a friendly visit.*

Robert Frost

Simplicity by Emily Dickinson

How happy is **the little stone**
That rambles in the road alone,
And doesn't care about careers,
And exigencies never fears;
Whose coat of elemental brown
A passing universe put on;
And independent as the sun,
Associates or glows alone,
Fulfilling absolute decree
In casual simplicity.



Flower in the Crannied Wall
by Alfred Lord Tennyson

**Flower in the crannied wall,
I pluck you out of the crannies;
I hold you here, root and all, in
my hand;
Little flower – but if I could
understand
What you are, root and all, and
all in all,
I should know what God and
man is.**

Monument

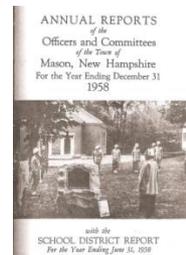


This monument stands outside in the green courtyard at the front of our school. Can you find it? Do you know to whom it is dedicated? Do you know who dedicated it? You can read the words on the monument and find out!

Monument to Veterans



**In memory of the Men of Mason
who gave their lives in the
service of their country and to
honor veterans of all wars
This monument is erected by the
veterans and citizens of the
town
Memorial Day
1957**



Barbara Devore has a relative who, as a child, had a school project to collect milkweed seeds and fluff to be used as insulation in jackets for soldiers in WWII. Native Americans used cattails as insulation.

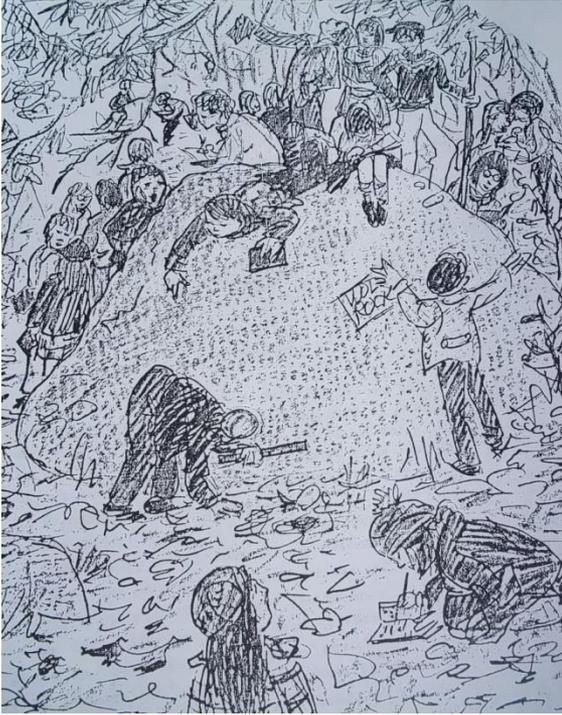
Mason Elementary connected with U.S. Forces abroad in 2011 by writing letters to soldiers and sending them “care packages.”



This United States Flag was dedicated to a Mason Elementary School 3rd Grade class on behalf of CW2 Heidi Rota while she and her fellow soldiers were fighting for freedom in Afghanistan. The flag flew during actual operations.

The Armed Forces of the United States consist of 5 services: Army, Navy, Air Force, Marines and Coast Guard.

Wolf Rock



Wolf Rock being investigated by 4th and 5th graders at Mason Elementary School in 1976 (Elizabeth Orton Jones).



Wolf Rock in 1909

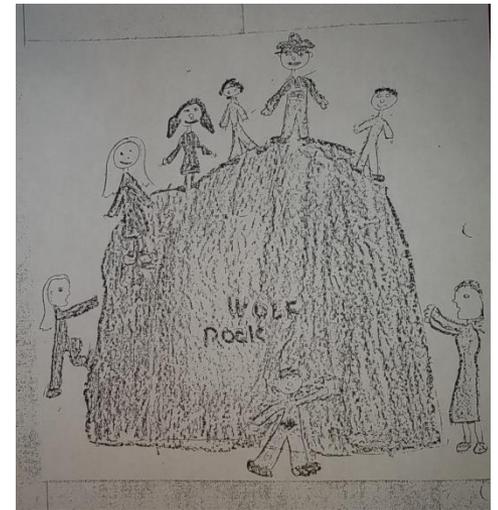
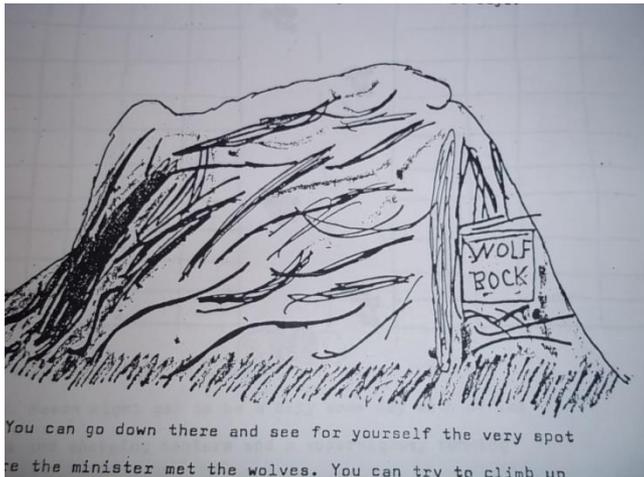
Wolf Rock today, 2012!

Ron Dube gives us an idea of how high Wolf Rock is.

To get to Wolf Rock, you take the path near the old graveyard near the marker for the First Meeting House, across the street from the Pound. You follow the path for ¼ mile. Wolf Rock is on the left. If the path empties into another, you've gone too far. Take a buddy with you so you don't get lost. Notice the words "Wolf Rock" carved into the granite!



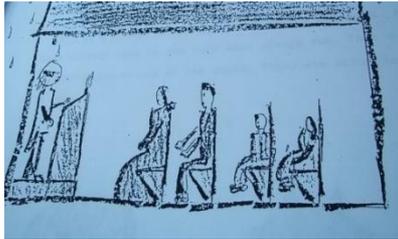
Reverend Francis Worcester set out from Mason one night to find himself surrounded by wolves. He jumped up on Wolf Rock, and stayed there the entire night. The wolves couldn't reach him there.



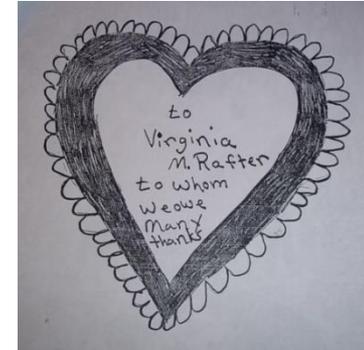
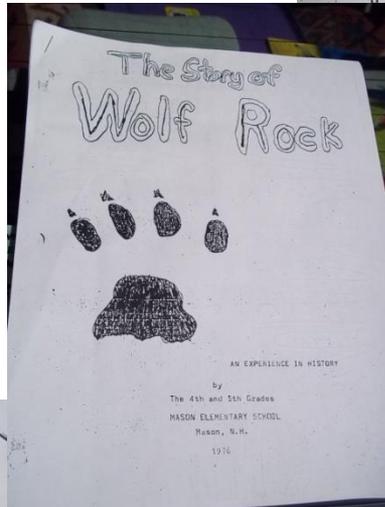
“Wolf Rock -- have you been there? It could be a true legend. The rock is high and steep enough that a man could get up on it but wolves couldn't jump up. My kids and I used to visit and imagine the wolves gnashing their teeth and the poor preacher huddled up there all the cold night.”

Liz Fletcher

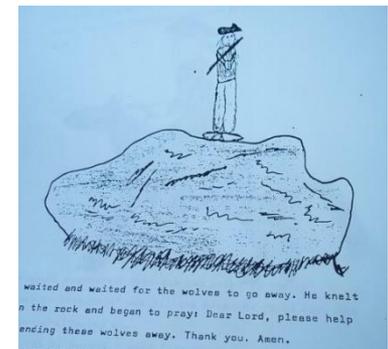
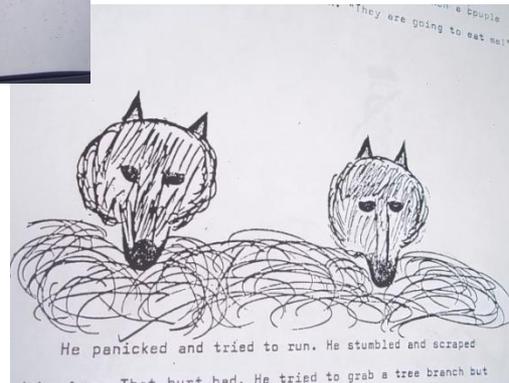
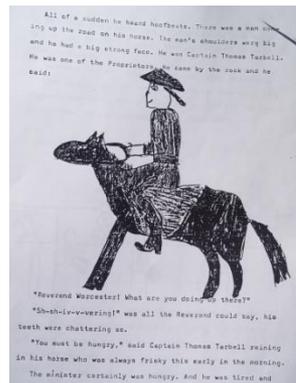
Mason Elementary 4th and 5th grade students visited Wolf Rock with Elizabeth Orton Jones, and then wrote and illustrated their own story about the happenings at Wolf Rock. This booklet is in the Mason Elementary Library for you to read!



AN EXPERIENCE IN HISTORY
 by
 The 4th and 5th Grades
 MASON ELEMENTARY SCHOOL
 Mason, N.H.
 1976

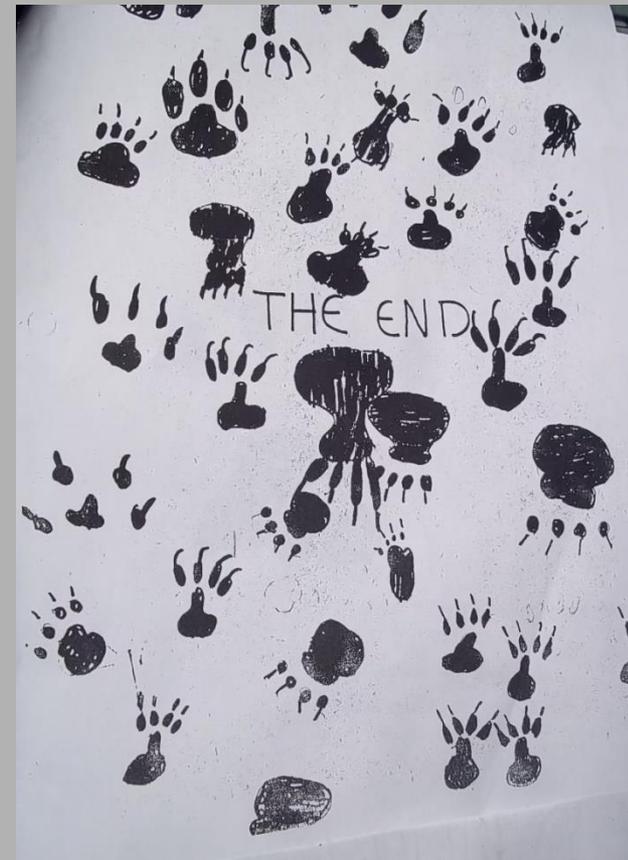
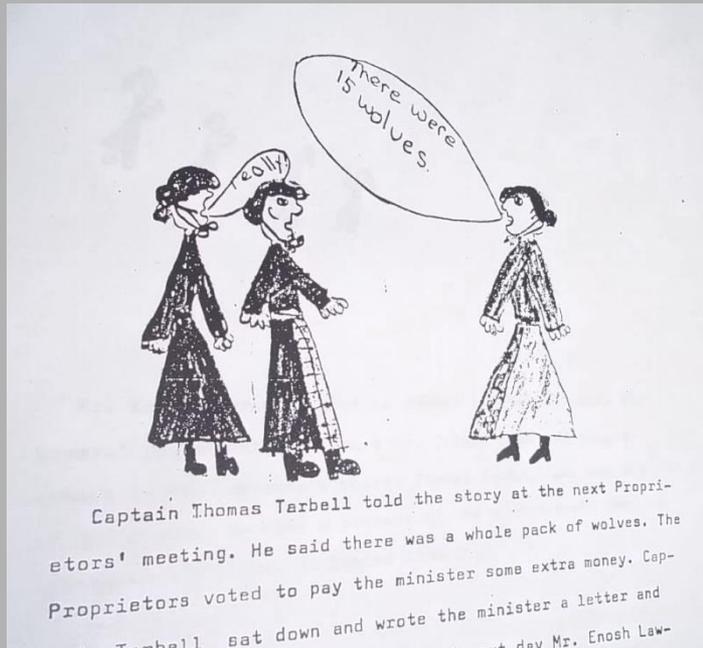


The book is dedicated to Ginny Rafter, a teacher at Mason Elementary for many years



Captain Thomas Tarbell told the story at the next Proprietors' meeting. He said, "There was a whole pack of wolves."

The Proprietors voted to pay the minister some extra money!



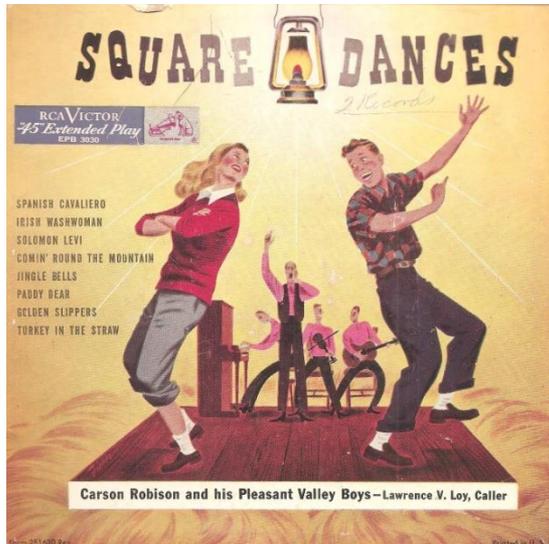
Who are the Wolf Rockers?



Thank you to Curt Dunn for providing his mother's records and square dance materials!

The Mason Wolf Rockers Square Dance Club is an organization of people who Square Dance at the Mason Town Hall on Saturday nights!

Wolfrockers.com



This is a "record," used for playing music in the 20th century. Records used to be played on a "record player" or phonograph. They came in a "jacket" to protect them. Small grooves on the record held the music.

What is Square Dancing?



Formation Four couples side of square facing in. A set on each side. Each lady stands man's left is his "Corner Lady" backs to the head of the hall the Head Couple is the "Sector".

Honor Gentlemen bow and

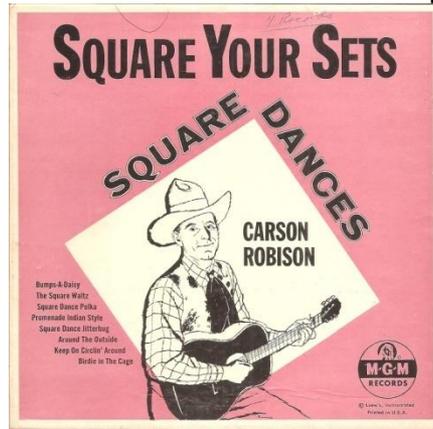
Swing Gentleman takes around her waist (waltz fashion) they both swing around clockwise.

Promenade Couples clockwise.

Do-Si-Do The lady and shoulders; Each one then returns to original position.

Allemande Left Each and circle around each other

Grand Right and Left All move forward and pass each clockwise and the ladies clockwise hands with the next, pass, and



Square Dance "Calls" are instructions called out by a Caller so that people know what to do in the dance. Examples of calls are:

- Honor (*Gentlemen and Ladies curtsy*)
- Swing
- Promenade (*Couples dross hands and walk once around the set counter-clockwise*)
- Do-Si-Do (*The lady and gentleman walk toward each other and pass right shoulders. Each one then takes one side step to the right, passing back to back, then returns to original position.*)
- Allemande Left (*counterclockwise circling*)
- Grand Right and Left

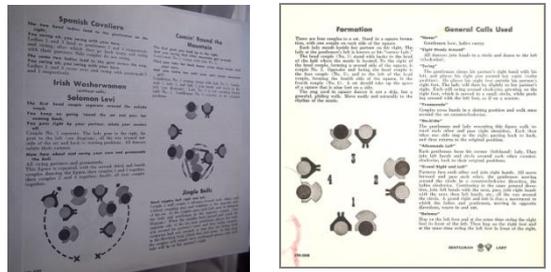
A "Square Dance" is a dance by a set of four couples arranged in a square or in some set form. dictionary.com

A "Hoedown" is a community dancing party typically featuring folk and square dances accompanied by lively hillbilly tunes played on the fiddle." dictionary.com

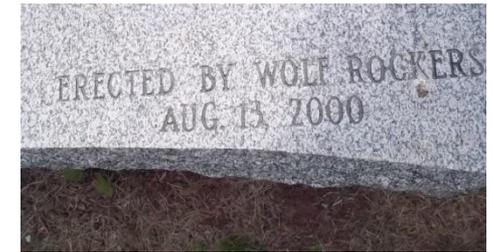
"Red River Valley" song and dance commands. "Good Morning" Music, Calls, and Directions for Old-time Dancing as revived by Mr. and Mrs. Henry Ford. 1943: Dearborn MI

This is a handwritten note to help remember a Square Dance call.

These are Square Dance formations. It's a good way to use your math skills!



Wolf Rockers Bench in front of Mason Elementary School



Now that you know who the **Wolf Rockers** are, you will know who dedicated this bench which sits out in the grass in front of our Mason Elementary School! The dedication is in memory of **Ivan Johnson, Wolf Rockers Founder** and **Lil Johnson, Mason School Teacher**. This granite bench was erected August 13, 2000. See if you can find the bench!

Mason Railroad Trail Access Points

- Pratt Pond Rd
- Wilton Rd
- Russell Rd
- Sandpit Rd
- Jackson Rd
- Morse Rd

*You can hike,
jog, cross-
country ski, ride
horseback,
bicycle,
snowshoe,
dogsled, and
snowmobile.*



“I chose the railroad bridge because that’s where my property ends. I live not too far from it. It was made from granite stone from the Mason Quarry. On August 12, 1850, a two acre strip of land from my property was sold to the Peterborough Shirley railroad. In 1882 the railroad went through Mason Village (what is now Greenville Center). Today it is not used by trains. Lots of kids paint on the bridge because their parents must not have taught them not to wreck stuff. The building is found on Jackson Road.” – *Model made by Emma, 3rd grade*

Lifelong Mason resident Curt Dunn remembers going to high school in Townsend Mass by train, when the Mason Railroad Trail was the B&M line for passengers and freight, and Townsend was the nearest high school.

Curt was the first Highway Dept. chief for Mason.

He and his wife are members of the **Wolf Rockers Square Dance group**.

The Mason Conservation Commission has a map with these railroad access points.



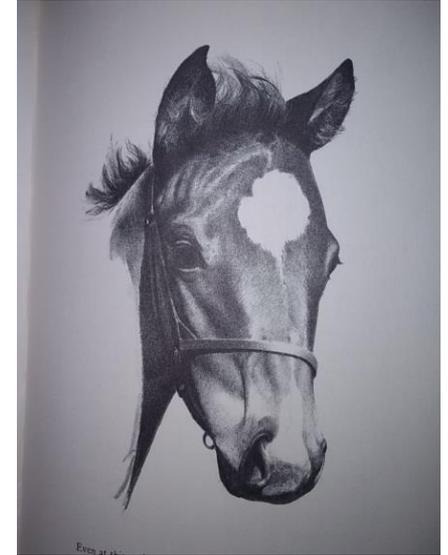
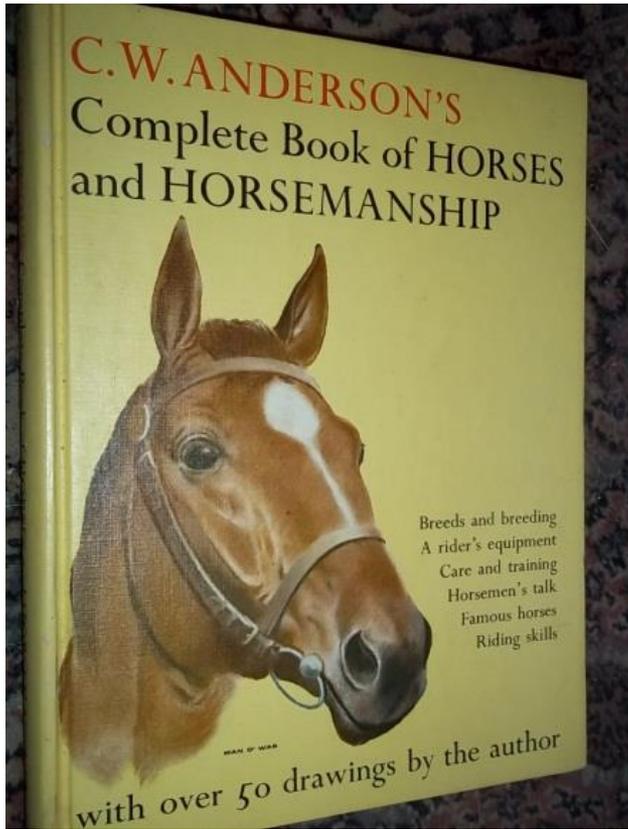
C.W. Anderson



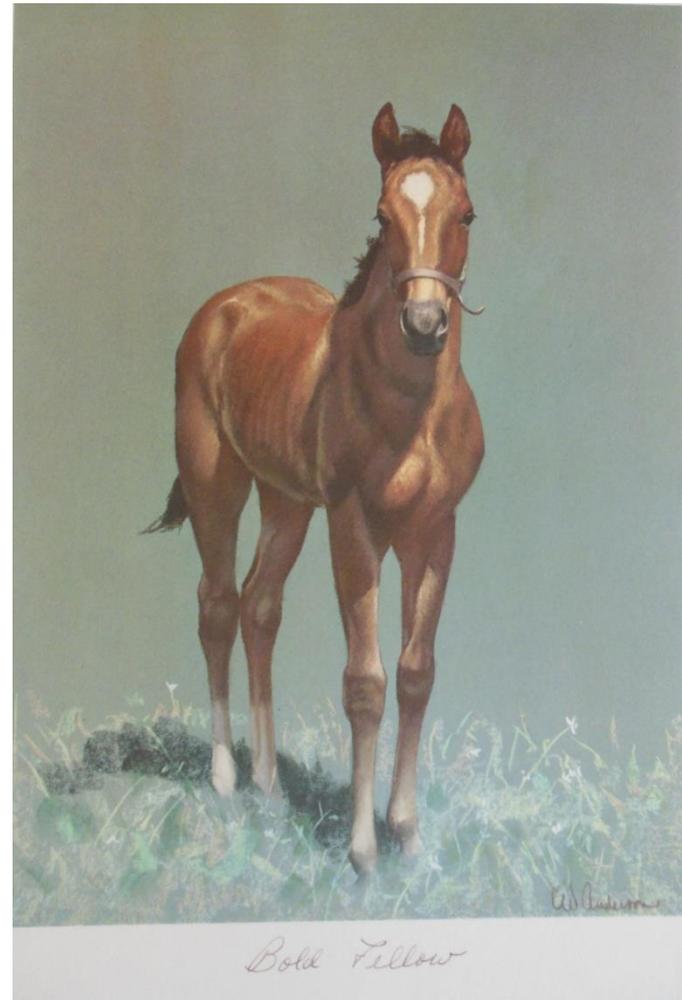
- **Clarence William ANDERSON, 1891-1971, was born in Wahoo, Nebraska. He married poet Madeline Paltenghi, who was born in Mason. He studied at the Art Institute of Chicago. He worked his way through art school as a school teacher for two years then in 1925 moved to New York to become a freelance artist.**
- **Developing an interest in horses, he became a judge of hunters and jumpers by the American Horse Show Association. He continued his art career by authoring and illustrating many books about horses. His works have been displayed in galleries and museums throughout the United States. His pen and ink drawings are reproduced using lithography.**
- **He made his home in Mason and used Mason for his settings and the Mason children as his subjects. He also made many works of art in Mason, taught art in the school and was a beloved citizen. Some of his books using Mason as a background are "Billy and Blaze," "The Crooked Colt", "The Lost Quarry", and Blaze and the Gypsies".**

E.O. Jones

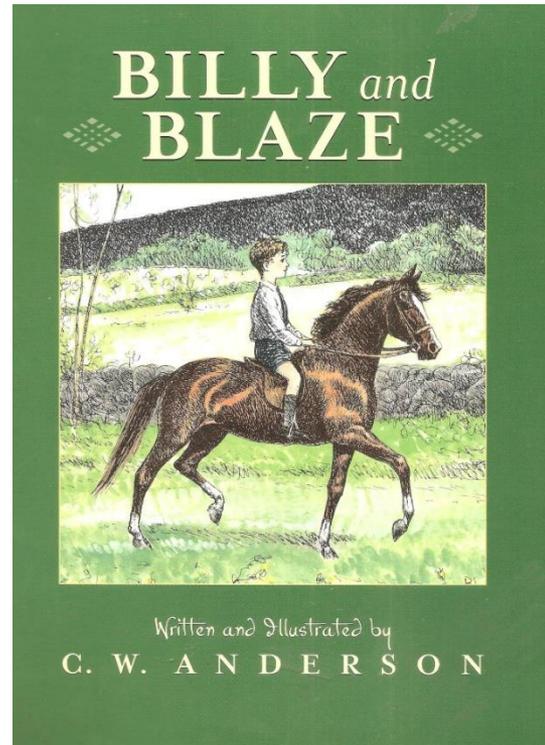
C.W. Anderson's Horses



More C. W. Anderson horses!



The Billy and Blaze Series of Books

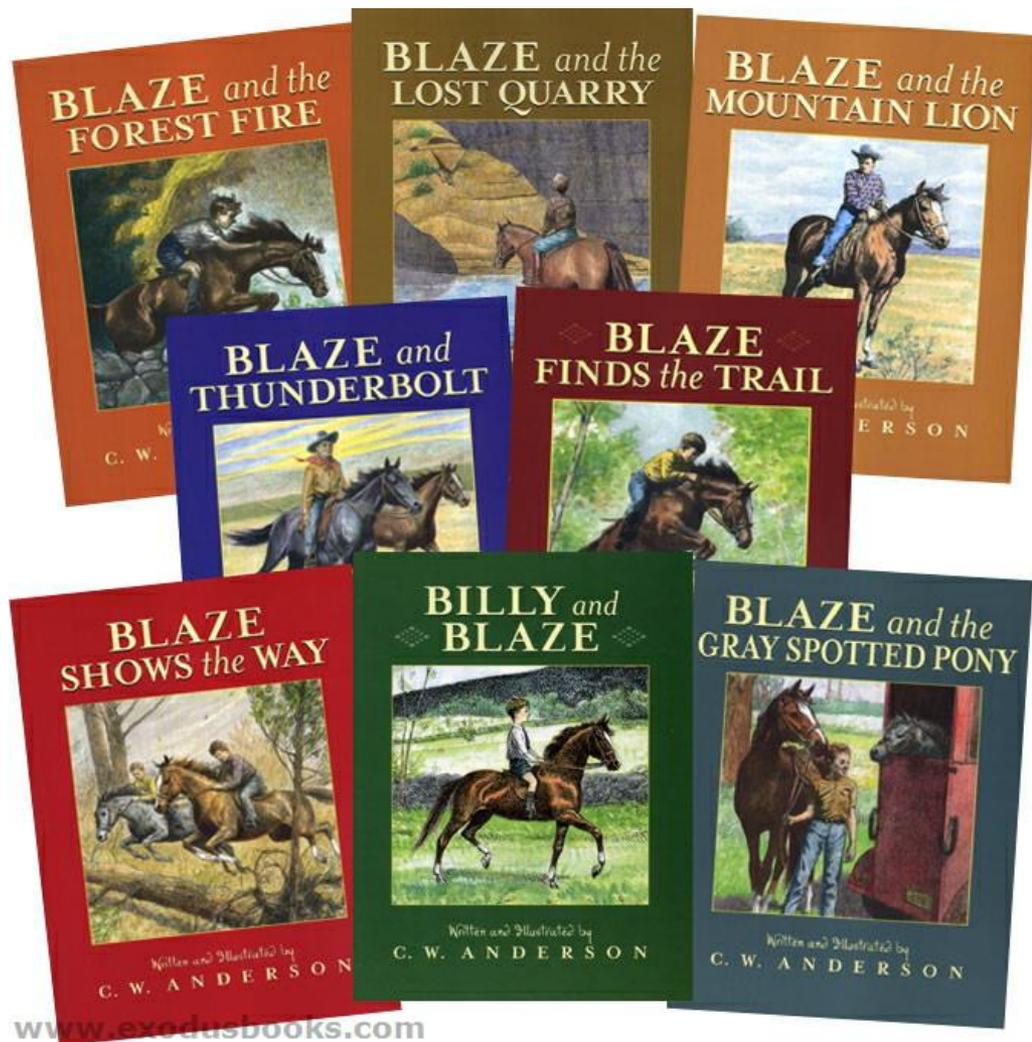


“No boy was ever more proud and happy than Billy when he went out for his first ride. Right from the very start Billy and his new pony seemed to like and understand each other.”

I know a contractor who lived on Valley Road as a boy.
He was a model for C. W. Anderson!
He would sit on a carpenter's sawhorse
and C. W. would draw him!

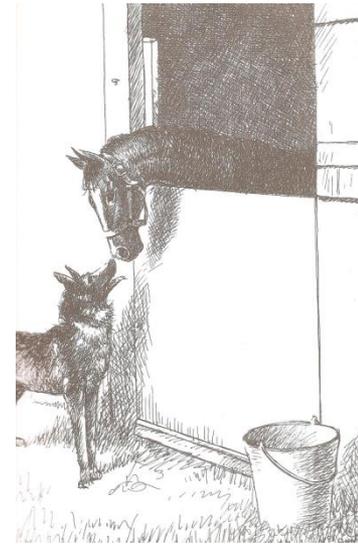
Barbara Devore

The Mason Elementary School library has Blaze books for you to read! You will recognize some places mentioned in the books, such as Wolf Rock or the quarry!



The horse "Blaze" made from blocks by Adam and friends in kindergarten, after reading the Blaze books.

C. W. Anderson



“A picture speaks a thousand words!”

The next two slides show the lovely home and studio in
Mason where C. W. Anderson lived and worked.

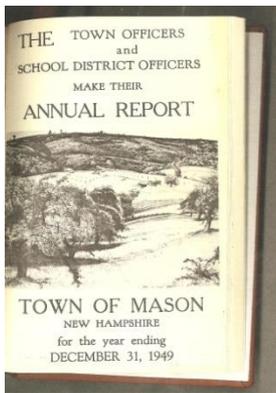


Thank you to the Williams family for making this home a special place.

More pictures of C. W. Anderson's studio on Old Ashby Road



This lithograph by C. W. Anderson on the cover of the Mason 1949 Annual Report shows the view over the Everett Whitaker orchards from the south end of the Prospect Hill Cemetery.



The Whitaker Orchards



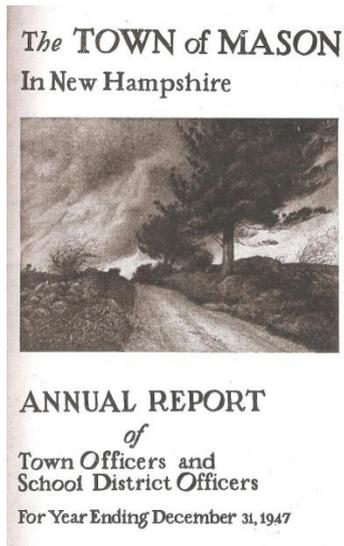
The Whitaker Homestead

What is a lithograph? It is the art or process of producing a picture, writing, or the like, on a flat, specially prepared stone, with some greasy or oily substance, and of taking ink impressions from this as in ordinary printing.

Dictionary.com

“The Northeast Wind”

Lithograph by C. W. Anderson



- This is the hill on Ashby Road, north of the home of Everett Whitaker.

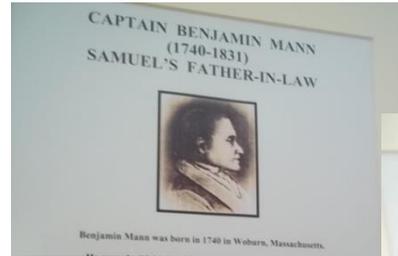
The Mann House and the Mann Store



The Mann House and nearby store

These buildings are right across the street from Mason Elementary!
The Mason Public Library is part of the Mann House.

Captain Benjamin Mann

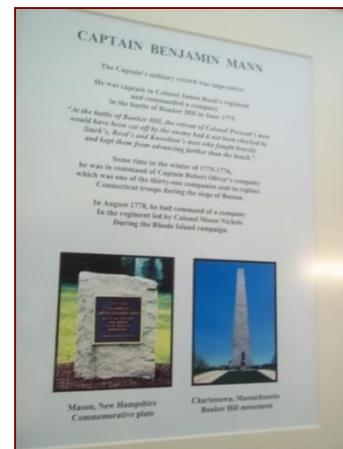


Next time you are over at the Mann House at the Library, check what's on the wall in the room next store, where the town offices are! There is very interesting information about Captain Benjamin Mann, King George III, and other matters!

Captain Benjamin Mann was a captain in a regiment and commanded a company which fought in the Battle of Bunker Hill in June 1775.



You can see this information framed in the Mann House across the street from the school. **The first photo is a commemorative plaque near the Mason Gazebo!** Take a moment to read it!
The second photo is the Bunker Hill Monument in Boston.



- **What was the Battle of Bunker Hill?** The Battle of Bunker Hill took place on June 17, 1775 during the American War for Independence. Although the British won, it was a psychological victory for the colonists because they lost fewer soldiers and officers than the British, and they realized they could be effective in battle. The Battle of Bunker Hill was actually fought at nearby Breed's Hill, which ended up seeing most of the action.

The famous phrase “**Don’t fire until you see the whites of their eyes**” is attributed to this battle – **meaning wait until the right time – don’t attack prematurely!**

- **Where is Bunker Hill?** Charlestown, in Boston. You can see a tall granite monument to the battle in the shape of an obelisk as you drive into Boston from NH on Route 93, to the left.
- **What is a regiment?** A regiment is a unit of ground forces, consisting of two or more battalions or battle groups, a headquarters unit, and certain supporting units. (“Regimented “ means “very structured.”)



Arthur Rafter built these two houses himself, at a time when people built their own houses, often with the help of neighbors!



Arthur Rafter worked many years for the Highway Department and has been active with the Mason Historical Society.

His wife Ginnie taught for many years at Mason Elementary back in the late 40s and 50s when it was basically a one-room school. As Arthur told me, Ginnie was asked to take on the job to replace a teacher who was more than ready for retirement, even though Ginnie had no educational training. But she was one of the few educated women in the area, trained in social work, so she took it on.

Arthur Rafter and Liz Fletcher

Bronson Potter



“A legendary character of relatively recent vintage is Bronson Potter. Brilliant in many ways, Bronson came to Mason in the 1960s and died in 2004 in his Greenville Road home at the age of 74. Harvard-educated, an inventor of electronic audio devices, a writer of children's books (Mason library has some), a daredevil small plane pilot (he flew under the Greenville RR trestle), and a lover of wild land. With income from his patents he acquired over 500 acres of land in Mason, and bequeathed it all to the town for conservation. Definitely a larger than life character whose legacy lives on. At his funeral, his daughter told me that Bronson was a "Mason kind of guy" -- meaning a rough and ready character living his own way back in the woods. “



Bronson Potter is in the middle

Liz Fletcher

Flying a plane under a bridge? What???

Bronson Potter actually flew a light plane under this railroad trestle on Route 31 in Greenville in August of 1979.

He flew a plane with a wingspan of 35 feet through a space 74 feet wide...

Do not try this yourself!!



“Clutter, a free spirit, and a have-fun attitude lead to real creativity.” – *Bronson Potter*



The plane flying under the railroad trestle.



What's left of the railroad trestle today. You may have seen this on Rt 31, heading into Greenville from Mason.

The Peterborough Transcript of Nov 1, 1984 has an article on this railroad Trestle. The Nashua Telegraph of Dec 7, 1982 has an article on Bronson Potter by Ron Dube

Books by Bronson Potter

Antonio, 1968

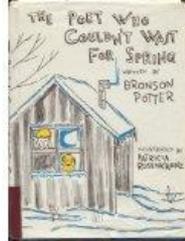
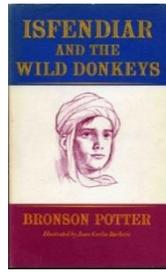
Chibia, 1971

Ifsendiar and the Bears of Mazandaran, 1969

Ifsendiar and the Wild Donkeys, 1967

Poet Who Couldn't Wait For Spring, 1964

Shadow the Cigar-Smoking Cat, 1972



University of Minnesota Libraries Children's Literature Research Collections
<http://special.lib.umn.edu/findaid/xml/CLRC-1769.xml>

“The Sonalert produces the Beep Sound, used in smoke alarms, Polaroid cameras, McDonald’s French-fry machines, the Boeing 747s, and rockets fired from Cape Canaveral by NASA.”

“Potter is currently perfecting a “blind man’s compass.” He describes it as being similar to a child’s metal detector. Its electronic sensor picks up the strong North Magnetic Fields. He says he got the idea from some blind friends living in Fitchburg, Mass., who enjoy outdoor activities. Their handicaps preclude their interest in hiking through the woods. Potter hopes his invention will allow these people a measure of independence on the forest trails. He plans to miniaturize the system so that it will fit in a transistor radio.”

“Self-styled Eccentric with a Flair for Screw-driver Mechanics” by Ron Dube for the Nashua Telegraph, December 7, 1982.

<http://news.google.com/newspapers?nid=2209&dat=19821207&id=6aUrAAAAIBAJ&sjid=1PwFAAAAIBAJ&pg=5356,1713196>

BRONSON POTTER

He walked his own road.

He was as individual as he was unusual.

He invented the beeping thing?

The Sonalert. He sold that to GM and Polaroid. They used it to signal when the pictures were developed in the Land camera. GM used it to warn occupants that their seat belts weren't fastened.

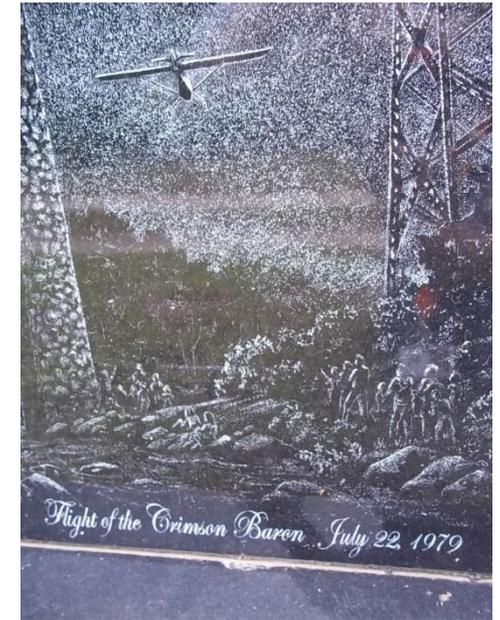
He invented an electric blanket that would turn on or off by body heat. When the occupant got under the blanket, it would turn on, and when he got out, it would turn off.

He wanted to figure out a way to detect oil on water so he could find it and eliminate it before it polluted the eco-system.

He used a hairdryer as a bellows.

Jack Coey “The FlyUnder” March 28, 2010

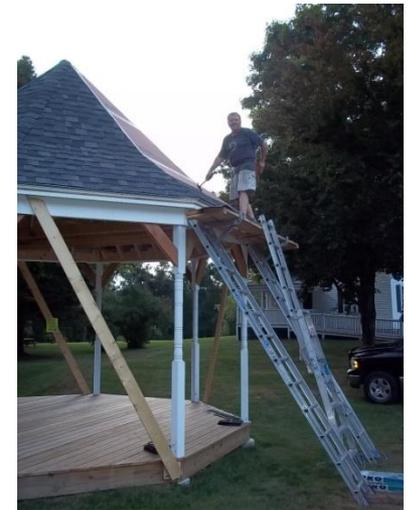
Bronson's Potter's grave is at Prospect Hill Cemetery on Old Ashby Road. The gravestone has a remarkable etching of the plane flight under the railroad trestle in Greenville



Mason celebrates history and community at annual Old Home Days, held annually in September.



Building our new gazebo!



Wally Brown is putting shingles on the new gazebo built just in time for Old Home Days in September 2012. Dave Morrison is working with him. You can see our school in the background.

The Finished Product - 2012!

What is a Gazebo?

- A gazebo is a pavillion structure, sometimes octagonal, that may be build in parks, gardens, and spacious public areas. Gazebos are freestanding or attached to a garden wall, roofed, and open on all sides. They provide shade, shelter, ornamental features in a landscape, and a place to rest. Some serve as bandstands or rain shelters. (Dictionary.com)
- What shape is our gazebo?
Count the sides as a clue!
- Think about presenting a play, project, poem or song in our Mason gazebo some time!



Mason Town Hall



A lovely grove of trees lies beside and behind the Town Hall.

Our Mason Town Hall, across Meeting Hill Road from the school, serves as a place to meet, vote, and to have special events and presentations. (The Mason Town Clerk's office is located in the Mann house. Official town records and historical items are housed there.)



“The Town Hall, built in 1848, is one of the most important buildings in Mason. Back in the day when the first settlers came to Mason, they made Meeting House Number 1. But the Meeting House did not last very long, so they made a Second Meeting House. That Meeting House lasted longer than the first, but did not last long, so they made the Congregational Church. Other settlers built the Christian Church, which became the school later on. As a result, settlers needed a new meeting place, so they built the Town Hall.” – words and model by James, 3rd grade

Mason Town Library



Our Town Library is located in the Mann House, across Darling Hill Road from the school.



We like to follow the "star path" into the library.



The Children's Room

Who painted these chairs in the children's room of the library? This person also painted tables and other items in the main part of the library. (She was influenced by a Bohemian nanny from her youth who painted designs like these.)



**It was Elizabeth Orton Jones, a famous
Illustrator and writer of children's books.**

She edited the Mason Bicentennial history of Mason when the town was 200 years old (1768 – 1968).

(For this book, C. W. Anderson was Special Advisor, James A. Rouse was Chairman, and Charles F. H. Crathern and Arthur J. Rafter were Vice Chairmen.)

She worked with Mason Elementary Students to present plays, to visit area sites, and to write stories!

The Junior Room at the Mason Library is dedicated to her.

She was a member of the Mason Historical Society and researched Mason history.

She worked on cemetery preservation.

The statue of Bode behind the library is dedicated to her.

**She painted lovely murals for the children at
Crotched Mountain Rehabilitation Center.**

**She won the famous Caldecott Medal for her illustrations in the book
Prayer for a Child.**

She started “Andy’s Playhouse” theatre in honor of her good friend C. W. Anderson. This playhouse started out in our Mason Town Hall!

The University of Oregon houses many artifacts from the life of Elizabeth Orton Jones, including photographs, her Caldecott medal, and audio recordings of interviews with her!



Can you find Elizabeth Orton Jones' cat in this photograph?

Where have you seen this particular chair before?
Do you recognize it?



This chair is located in the Children's Room of the Mason Library. It was painted by Elizabeth Orton Jones, and used in her illustrations for Prayer for a Child which won the prestigious Caldecott Award in 1945.



From the book



In our library

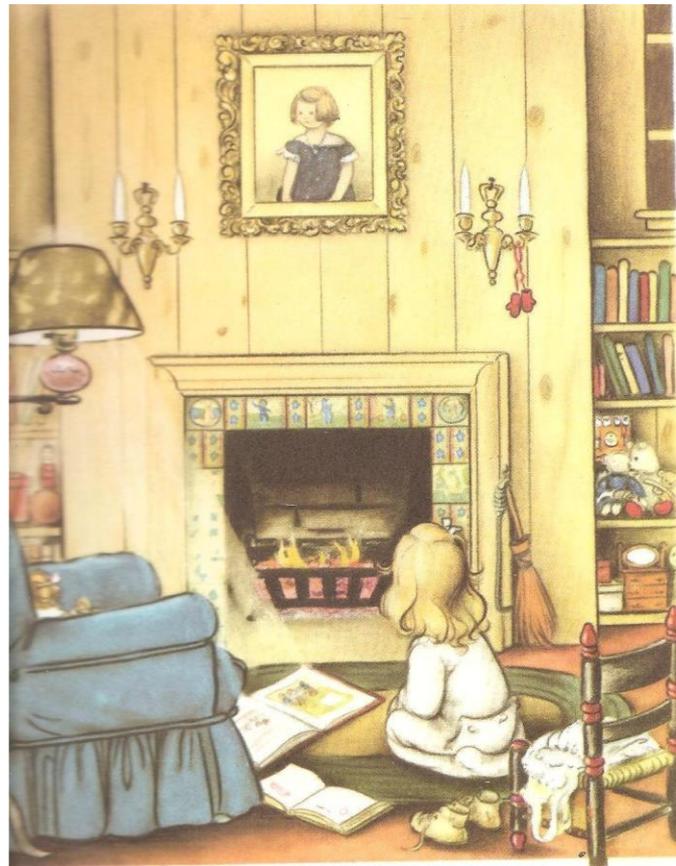
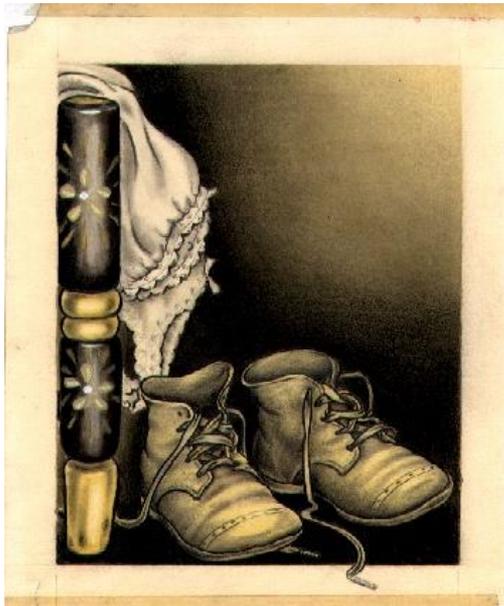
What is the Caldecott

Award? This award is named in honor of Randolph Caldecott, a famous illustrator. The award is given every year by the American Library Association for the picture book they think had the best illustrations that year. You can tell a "Caldecott Winner" because the medal is printed on the front cover. Below you see the medal, and the Caldecott illustration it came from (Gilpin's Ride).



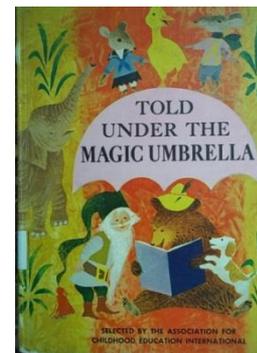
“Bless my little painted chair”

Here are more illustrations from Prayer for a Child with views of the chair:



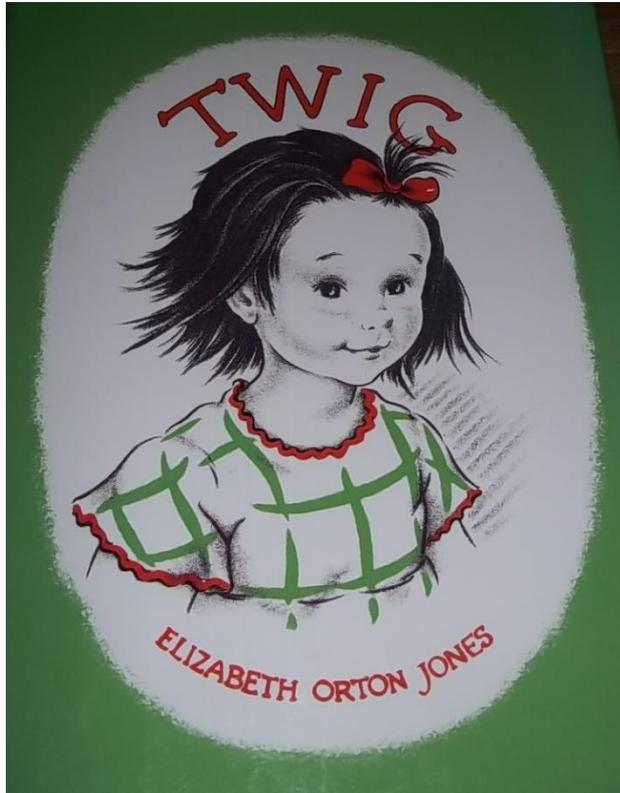
Elizabeth Orton Jones
("Twig") was born on
June 25, 1910 – "Half
Past Christmas."

On June 25, 2005 the
Junior Room in the
Mason Public Library was
named "The Twig Room
in honor of her." *See if*
you can find these framed
pictures of Twig in the
Mason library.

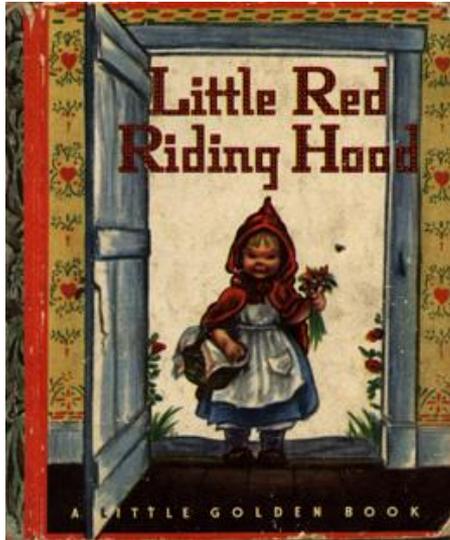


What made Twig
decide to move to
Mason? She fell in love
with the Town of Mason
while driving through
town one day, and ending
up living here! She named
her first Mason House
Misty Meadow.

This is why Elizabeth Orton Jones was nicknamed “Twig.”



Elizabeth Orton Jones' Golden Book Little Red Riding Hood has beautiful illustrations. You can see a painting of "Little Red" in the Mason library, mounted on the wall by the stairs.

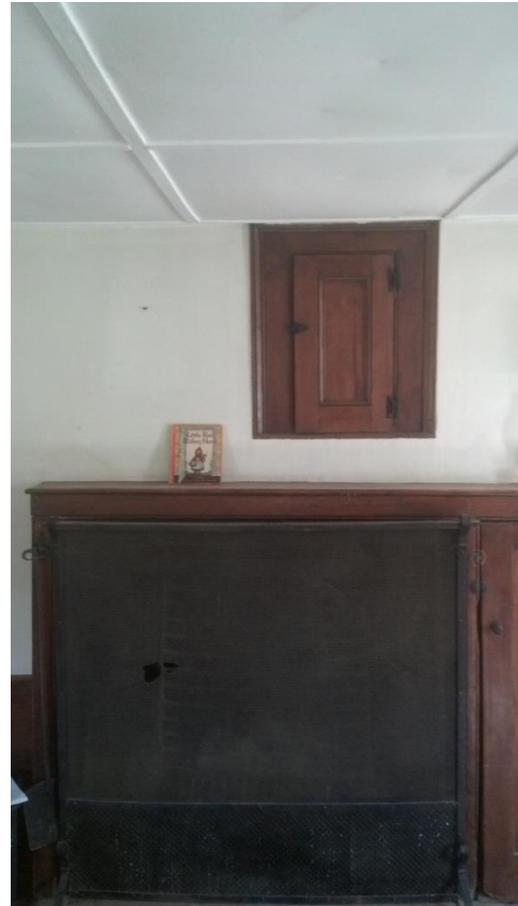


When Elizabeth Orton Jones won the Caldecott Medal for Prayer for a Child, she went to New York City to accept the award. She stayed at the famous Waldorf Astoria Hotel. At that time, Golden Books had come on the scene as a way to make books available for all children at an affordable price. Golden Books were being sold in grocery stores, for example, for a quarter each. These books weren't accepted yet, however, in prestigious literary circles.

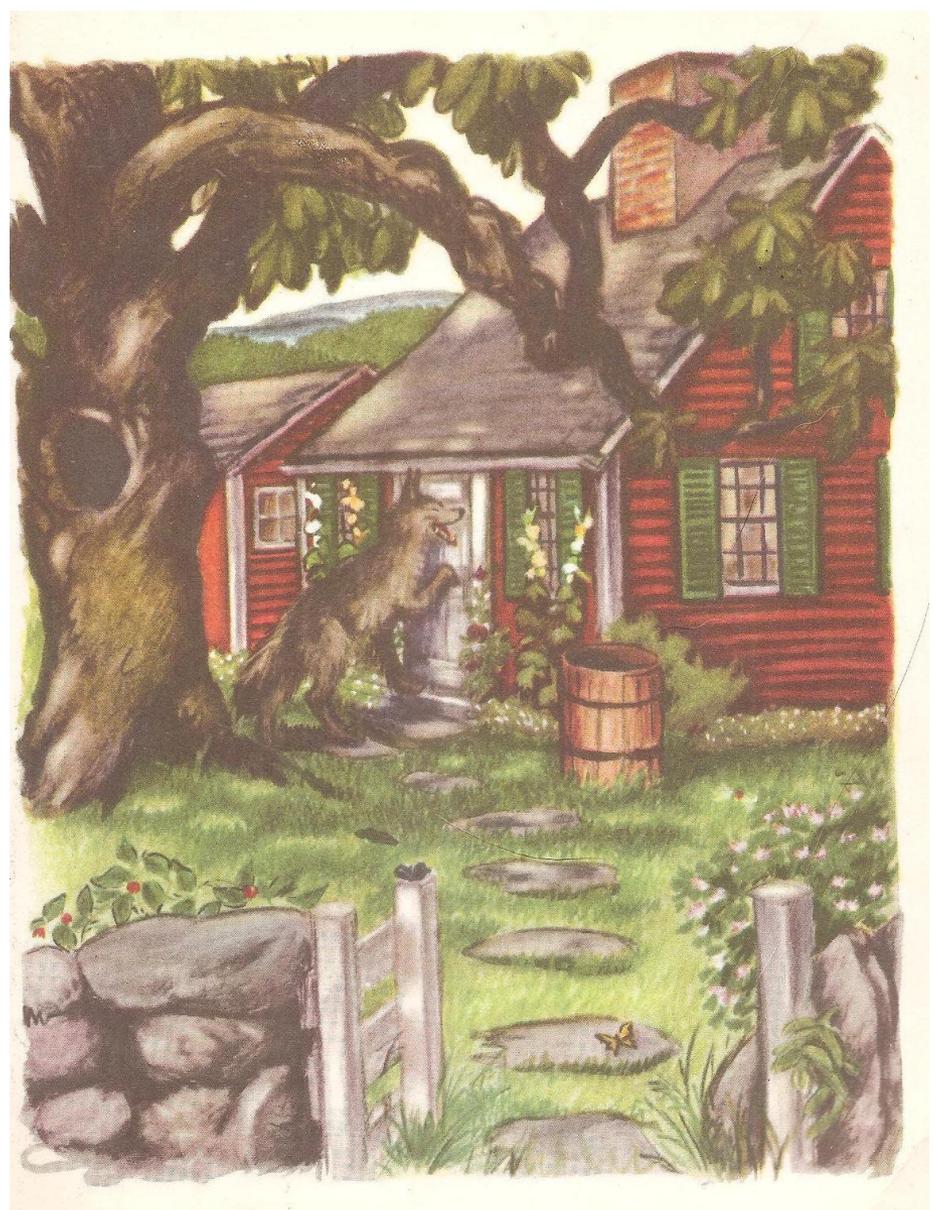
An editor for Golden Books named Lucille Ogle was on a mission to find excellent writers and illustrators for Golden Books. She went to New York City to look for Elizabeth Orton Jones, because she knew Twig was there for the Caldecott Award. One morning when Twig received her breakfast tray at the hotel, she found a note from Lucille Ogle asking her to do a Golden Book. A similar note appeared on the breakfast tray the next two days. Twig decided that since the woman was so persistent, she would do a Golden Book for her. That is how the Golden Book Little Red Riding Hood came to be!

Golden Legacy: How Golden Books Won Children's Hearts, Changed Publishing Forever, and Became An American Icon Along the Way (Deluxe Golden Book) [Leonard S. Marcus](#)

Mason student Ethan and his family share this photo of the hearth in their home, which was formerly the home of Elizabeth Orton Jones which she called “Misty Meadow.” This hearth was the model for the hearth in Little Red Riding Hood!



Elizabeth Orton Jones used Pickety Place as a model for Grandmother's house in her version of Little Red Riding Hood in 1948! The tree is still there!



More pictures from Pickety Place.

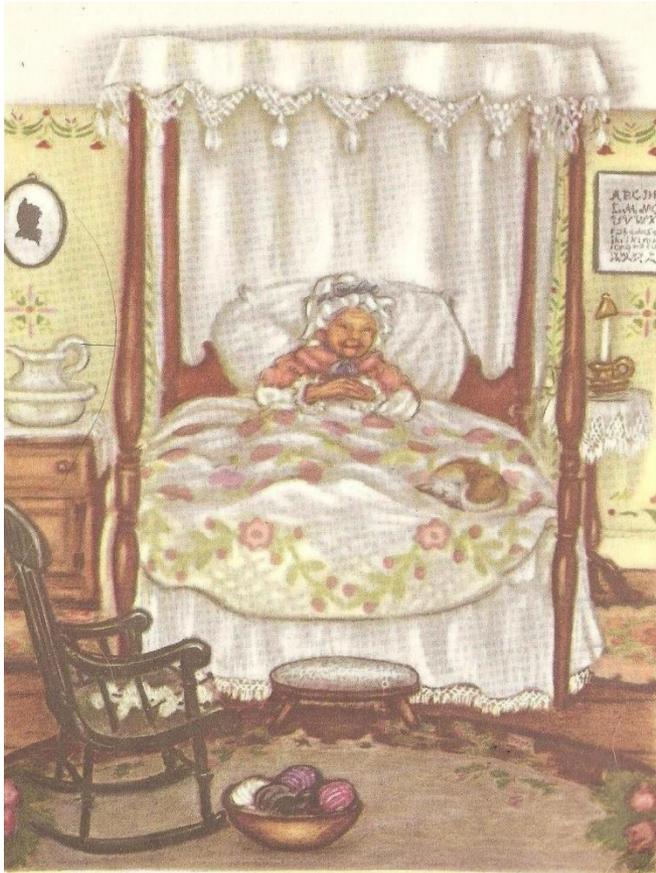


Grandmother's House

Built in 1796, this cottage was used by Elizabeth Orton Jones to illustrate her version of the Book *Little Red Riding Hood*.



You can see Grandmother's bedroom at Pickety Place. You should be warned, however, that Grandmother isn't the one in the bed there...

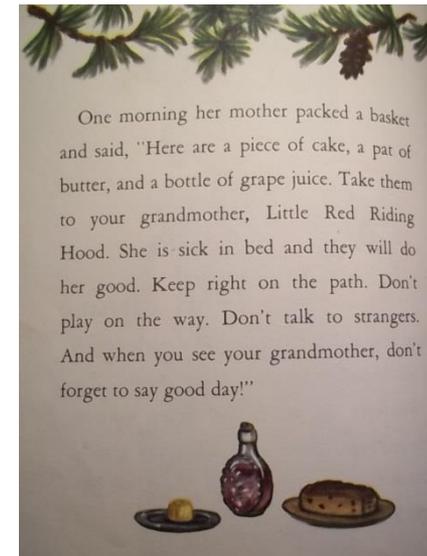
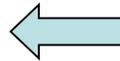
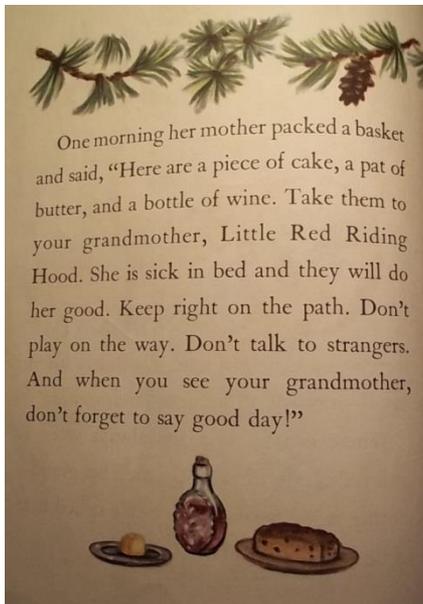


“Oh, Grandmother!” Little Red Riding Hood cried, for her grandmother looked very strange. “What big ears you have!” “The better to hear you with, my dear,” said the wolf, rolling his eyes.

Are these two pages in Little Red Riding Hood the same? Decidedly not!

In the original version, Little Red Riding Hood's mother says, "Here are a piece of cake, a pat of butter, and a bottle of wine."

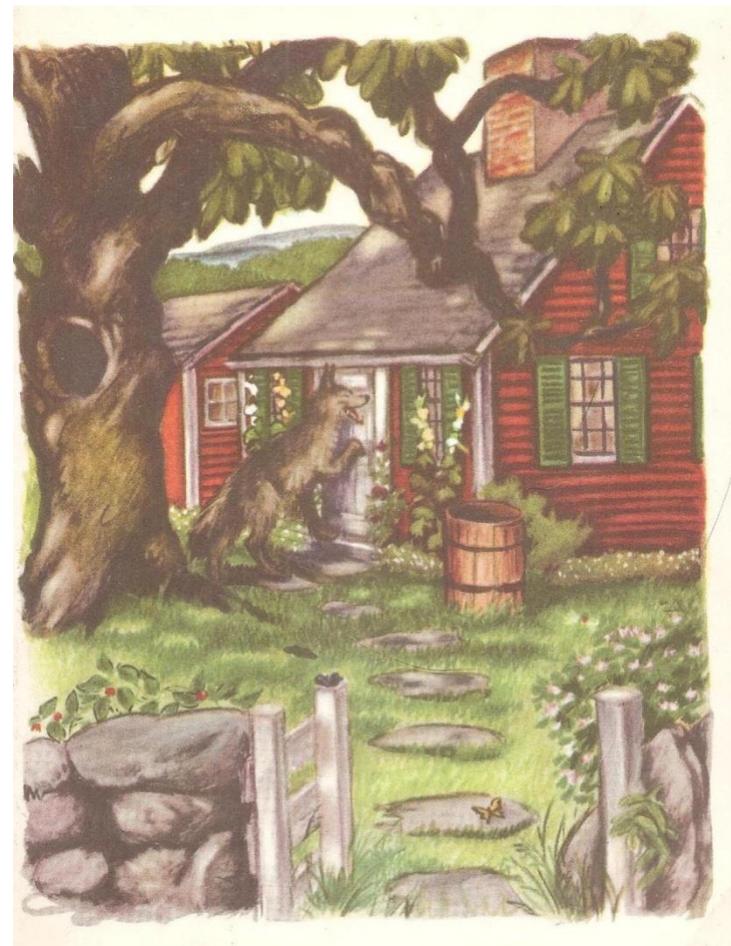
The Women's Christian Temperance Union did not like the mention of wine in a children's book. They raised a fuss, and a new version read, "Here are a piece of cake, a pat of butter, and a bottle of grape juice."



The new editions of Little Red Riding Hood referring to “grape juice” instead of “wine” did not, unfortunately, always keep the two illustrations below. So, you need to doublecheck the version you get if you would like these two illustrations in your book. (The books tend to have the same copyright date and publisher.)

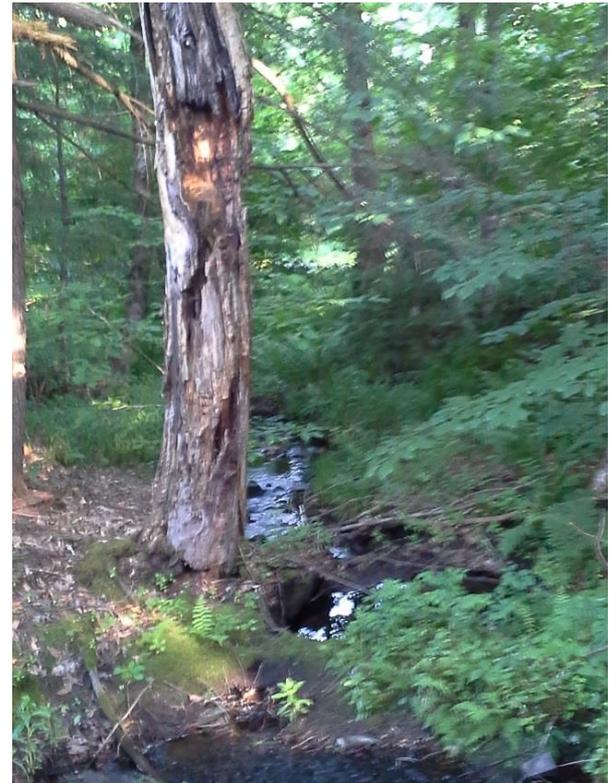


Little Red Riding Hood

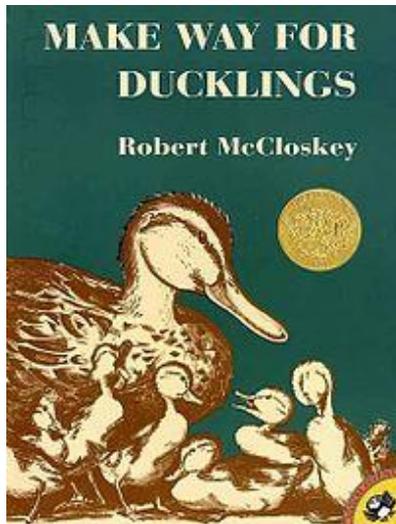


Pickety Place as the model for Grandmother's house.

Little Red Riding Hood picking flowers by the stream. Elizabeth Orton Jones used the stream where Mason student Elisabeth lives as a model for this painting!



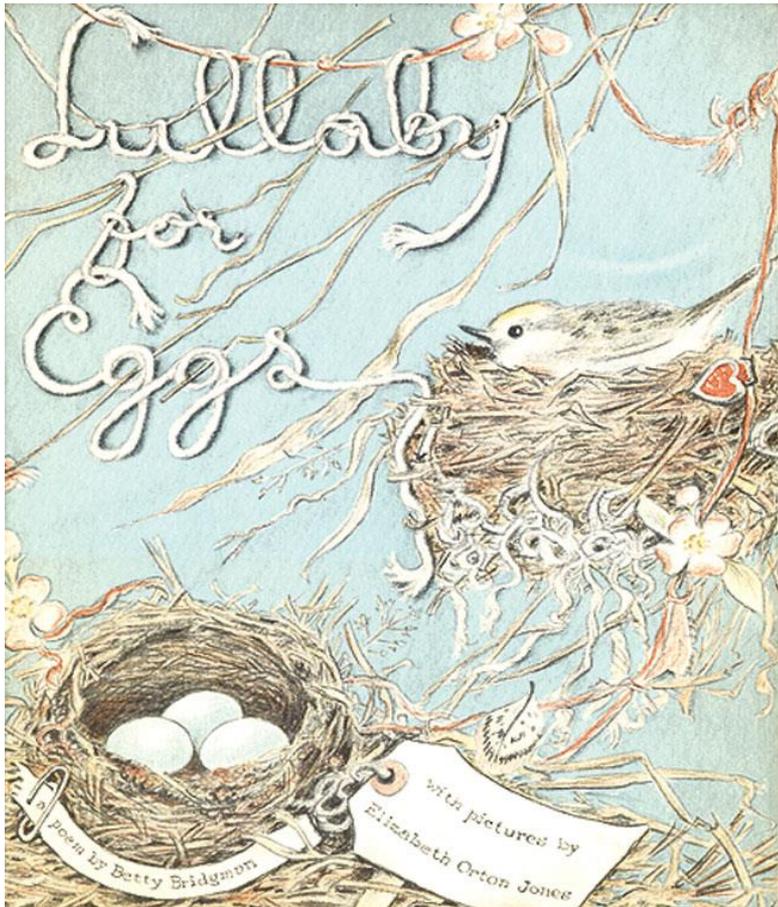
Interesting story told by Mrs. Sue Wolpert, Mason librarian!



Elizabeth Orton Jones was once invited to dinner by Robert McCloskey, the author and illustrator of Make Way for Ducklings. (Statues of ducks from his famous book are in the Boston Public Garden.) She arrived at his apartment in New Jersey, just outside of New York City, and knocked on the door. When Mr. McCloskey opened it and invited her in, to her great surprise she saw that the apartment was filled with ducks! Ducks in the kitchen, ducks in the living room, ducks in the bath tub! Apparently Mr. McCloskey wanted to watch ducks closely in order to draw them properly for his book!!



Boston Public Garden
photographs from
Boston Discovery
Guide



Lullaby for Eggs

Earth, in your shawl of temperate air,
Smoothly roll – take care, take care,
For swaying in artfully woven twigs
Ride hopeful eggs,

Hung up in chimney or mountain eyrie,
On arctic tundra or windy prairie,
Or tucked in a cleft of sea-swept crags
The promising eggs,

On a cliff in each of a thousand holes,
In back-yard boxes on slender poles,
Clay-cradled, or framed in string and rags,
The entrusted eggs.

Roll smoothly, Earth – guard fragile things
That hold our hope of song and wings.

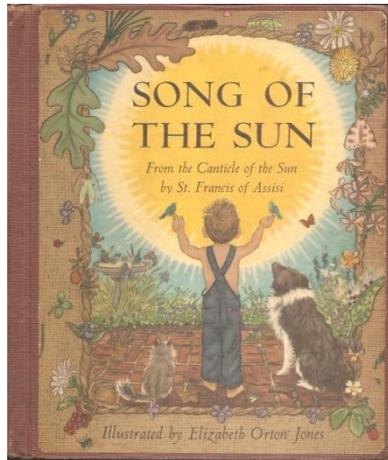
Elizabeth Orton Jones found this poem by Betty Bridgman in the Christian Science Monitor. Betty Bridgman wrote the poem while she was sitting in the Minneapolis Public Library in Minnesota. Notice how the letters for the title “Lullaby for Eggs” are made of yarn, woven into the nearby bird’s nest.

A Prayer for Little Things
Illustrated by Elizabeth Orton Jones



**Please God, take care of little things,
The fledglings that have not their wings,
Till they are big enough to fly
And stretch their wings across the sky.**

Twig illustrated St. Francis of Assisi's "Canticle of the Sun." St. Francis is known for his love of animals, birds, and all living creatures.



"Canticle" means "song." So "Canticle of the Sun" means "Song of the Sun."

- Praised be my Lord for our Sister the Sun Who doth sustain us and keep us.

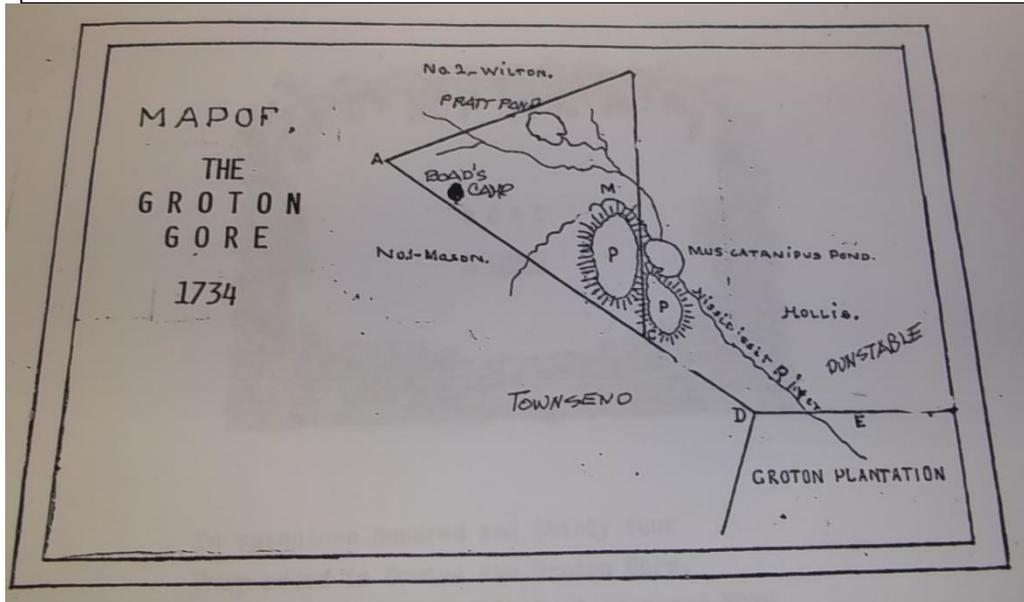


Have you seen this statue in the meadow behind our library? This is Bode!

Bode was a young enslaved African who was entrusted with caring for the cattle of Groton farmers. All alone, Bode tended their herd in Mason when it was a wilderness. During the 1730s, Bode would drive the cattle up from Groton, Mass. each spring and return with them each fall.



This map shows the route Bode took when he brought the cattle herd up from Groton to Mason. Can you see the ponds? Can you see Bode's Camp? This map is dated 1734.



Bode in
Nose Meadow



From a lecture by “The Little Minister of Mason” Ebenezer Hill:” ***Some families from Groton used to come and make hay near the centre of what is now Mason. It was called Nose Meadow, where they had a camp. In the latter part of winter they sent up young cattle with a black man named Boad to feed and tend them until they could get their living in the woods. Boad’s camp was about a hundred feet from the spot where the Mann House now stands. Here Boad used to spend months alone, year after year, like Robinson Crusoe, “sole monarch of all he surveyed.” This Boad was a slave.***

From *The Story of Boad*, by Elizabeth Orton Jones, available in the Mason Public Library. Words: from a lecture by E. Hill (Sometimes “Bode” is spelled “Boad”)

- “Bode must have been the first “Mason kind of guy” before the place even was Mason. Though after the state line was drawn and it became Mason, Bode remained in Groton probably for the rest of his life. -- Interesting that the Mass Historical Society notes that his name was Bodee -- this is a West African name and may imply that he was born in Africa. My friend from Sierra Leone says that it's pronounced Boday.”

Liz Fletcher, sculptor

Liz Fletcher sculpted Bode using a “Lost Wax” process



This Figurine of Bode is in the Mason Library



Our librarian Mrs. Sue Wolpert has a marvelous notebook filled with interesting information about Bode.

You can read the dedication to Bode (on his sculpture behind the library) on the lower back of his shirt. “Bode * Memory of Twig Jones * Liz Fletcher”



“Bode”



“Memory of
Twig Jones”



“Liz Fletcher”

Dedication of Bode

Sculptor Liz Fletcher's website says this about the dedication of Bode's statue:



Bode, Ruth Edmonds Hill, Brother Blue



Bode, Valerie Cunningham, Liz Fletcher

- Bode's Dedication on September 13, 2008 at Mason's 240th Anniversary Old Home Day was a beautiful day. Some wonderful people contributed to the occasion in honor of Mason's first inhabitant from across the Atlantic Ocean.
- Charles Moser of Mason Historical Society told how the Society's founder Elizabeth Orton "Twig" Jones had always wanted a statue of Bode to sit where he used to watch over the cattle. Twig had researched Bode, and used to tell his story to Mason schoolchildren. In memory of Twig, the Historical Society commissioned Liz Sibley Fletcher to make Bode's statue life-size.
- Thanks to a grant from the Frederick W. Cox and Dorothy Thurber Cox Memorial Fund of the New Hampshire Charitable Foundation, and to donations large and small from Mason community members and friends far and wide, Bode was able to be cast in bronze! Paul King Foundry of Rhode Island did an excellent job. Local contractor Bernie O'Grady donated his skills and time to mount Bode on his rock in Mason's village center.
- When Bode was unveiled, story-teller Brother Blue brought him vividly to life. Centuries of time vanished as Blue spoke directly to Bode, his suffering and strength became real. Trying in vain to break real slave chains, Brother Blue called upon everyone to use the power of love to melt the chains upon our hearts and minds.
- Then Valerie Cunningham, founder of Portsmouth's Black Heritage Trail, spoke about New Hampshire's black history, including how African Americans confronted discrimination in New Hampshire during the Civil Rights era.
- Bode was welcomed back to Mason in fine style!

History of Mason's Public Schools

“The earliest public schooling in Mason began in 1771 paying Nathan Coburn for keeping school for 9 weeks and 4 days. He was paid about \$1.00 per week for his services.”

“In 1774 the town was divided into four school districts and school houses were built. Schooling continued all through the American Revolution, even though funds were scarce.”

“ In 1791 the town was divided into 9 districts. New school houses were built over the next ten years and were named in the order in which they were built, with the exception of School #1. During the next twenty years the school buildings disappeared, having burned or been dismantled.”

In 1809 a new school was built in district No. 2 and again remodeled in 1842. **Number 2, or Pratt**, was the school of Hon. John Boynton, the donor of Boynton Common School Fund which helped support schools in Mason.”

“In the 1870s there were sometimes more than 100 students in one school, but by 1911 there were only 52 students in the whole town. The all time low was 10 students in 1946.”

“**Mason students were sent to Townsend High School in 1908** where a full high school education became available.” Curt Dunn is a Mason resident who went to high school in Townsend, traveling by train.”

Mason Elementary School

30 children plus
teachers, 1928



134 children plus
teachers, 2012



Photo submitted by Phil Gauthier. His grandmother, Harriet Beck, who was born in Mason, had this old photo among her belongings. He is not sure of the date of the photo, but guessing that she was 7-9 years old, he guesses the photo was taken about 1928 - 29. She attended School Number 1 for most of the time she was at school, so this is probably a Number 1 school photograph. Harriet Beck is in the second row from the bottom, third person from the right.

The Old Stone Schoolhouse, on Brookline Road, in 2013 and back in 1799!



Decorating for the 4th of July, 2012!

Number 3 school on Pole Hill continued as a school until about 1850 when John Flagg bought it for a dwelling. In that same year, the **Stone School House** was built, **with two rooms**, one for primary and one for secondary. **During the 1860s when the railroad came through town and the quarries were in production this school sometimes had as many as 114 students with a number of languages spoken. During this time teachers made \$7/week plus \$2.50 for board.**

<http://home.earthlink.net/~georgeo/masonschoools.htm>



Old photographs courtesy of Doug and Gwen Whitbeck

More Mason Schoolhouses

- **School Number 4**, which was nicknamed by the children "Hardscrabble," was rebuilt after the original school burned in the winter of 1857-8. Scholarship was of a high standard and several students came back as teachers, among them Robert L. Cumnock. The building is still standing, now remodeled as a dwelling.
- **School Number 5**, in the south district was nicknamed "Bangall." In 1860 its 9 scholars were taught Chemistry, Geology and Astronomy as well as the regular subjects.
- The red brick school in **No. 6 District** was called the "Turnpike" School and was the longest school in use. Built in the 1820s it was closed in 1938 and torn down in 1967.
- **School Districts Numbers 7,8 and 9** were in what is now Greenville. When Greenville became a separate town, 6 schools remained in Mason.

<http://home.earthlink.net/~georgeo/masonschoools.htm>



This old schoolhouse sits across the street from the Elizabeth Orton Jones house.

Our school! Mason Elementary! School Number 1!



- **School Number 1**, rebuilt after a fire in 1818, was painted red and called the Old Square School House on the Hill or simply Center School.
- By 1870 the school was unfit for students and a new building was purchased.
- The Center School held three sessions and many students came there from other outlying districts for a fee.
- Many children worked in the Greenville mills and when they shut down they were required to attend school. The classrooms would be full until the mills started up again and the class rooms would be near empty.

Mason School and Parsonage in 1856 and in 2008



Notice the hoop game the boy is playing in this photograph!

What is a parsonage? It's a place where members of the clergy live, maintained and paid for by a church or parish.

Dictionary.com



The parsonage was moved in 2009 a little way up on Meeting Hill Road.

Mason Elementary School



“The Mason Elementary School can be found at 13 Darling Hill Road, Mason NH 03048. It is a building that I go to every day (almost) to learn.” Made by Alex, 3rd grade student.

Mason School and Parsonage 1955

Painted by school students for a school play called “The Bookmobile Comes to Mason.”

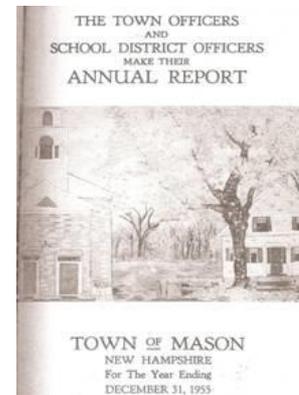


Frederick C. Dumaine III took a photograph of part of the painted backdrop for the school play., which was used as a cover for the 1955 Town of Mason Annual Report. Elizabeth Orton Jones guided the children through the process, which took three weeks. Students worked on the painting at the Town Hall during school, after school on Saturdays, and during recesses and lunch!

“We see all this every day and we think we know it!” said a fifth-grade boy, sitting cross-legged on the stage floor, a sketch he had made of the Parsonage door in one hand, a stock of charcoal in the other.

“Not till you start to paint something do you know it –” remarked a seventh-grade girl atop the high ladder, vigorously slapping splotches of yellow paint along a branch of one of the big maples.

“Gee, I never thought there were so many colors of bricks!” commented a sixth-grader, mixing a darker shade of pink.



“More lasting and less perishable than a painting done in poster paints on wrapping paper is the backdrop which will hang permanently in the minds and memories of the boys and girls, wherever they may go, whatever they may become: - our little town of Mason with its mellow old buildings, huge trees, golden leaves, surrounding hills and blue, blue sky; because they know it, because, in the year 1955, they painted it.” Elizabeth Orton Jones

Mason Elementary sits at 13 Darling Hill Road, at the intersection of Valley Road, Meeting House Road, and Darling Hill Road.



Superintendent Jim McCormick stands by the Mason Elementary School sign, which was made with funds to honor the memory of Pamela Steinberg, a beloved Mason citizen and volunteer.

Mason Elementary School has the mustang as its logo!



Mason Kindergarten students made these mustangs from paper maché!

What is a mustang? *It is a small, hardy horse of the American plains descended from Spanish stock.*

Who designed this beautiful mustang for our school logo? *Kim Vocell, mother of Mason student Cole.*



Trish Cross made these capes for Kindergarten graduation 2012

Mason School Bell

It is a tradition at Mason Elementary for students to ring the bell on their birthdays!



Our school bell is located here!



Our Mason Elementary School Bell has this inscribed on it:

“Cast by Gorge A. Holbrook, East Medw Mass, 1810.”

(We know this because we climbed up there to look at it! Thank you to Mr. Rick and Bob Bergeron for their assistance!)

Drawings by Ethan, MES 4th grader, 2010



If you could climb up inside the bell tower in the front of our school to take a look at the bell, and you looked outside the windows, what would the view be like??!!! These photos were taken from up there in the tower! Can you see the gazebo? The door leading to the multi-purpose room? The flagpole and the church?



Here is what our bell looks like,
inside the bell tower!!



"CAST BY"



"HOLBROOK"



"EAST"

On the bell in a ring around the
top are these words:

**CAST BY GORGE A. HOLBROOK
EAST MEDW MASS, 1810**

When Mason Elementary students ring the bell on their birthdays, a lot happens after they pull on that rope!



Here is the rope we pull on our birthdays, hanging in the entryway of the school. The rope goes up through the ceiling.



Happy 9th birthday to Mason!! (She enjoys having the same name as the school and the town!) 



This is the stairway leading to the bell tower. You can see the bell rope next to the stairs, as it continues on its journey to the bell.



In the bell tower itself, there is a gear and pulley system connected to the rope and ultimately to the bell.

Here we have the bell's clapper!



There are names carefully carved into the wood frame holding the bell. One is "R. Hatfield."

Mason School Bell
200th Birthday Celebration
1810 - 2010



Here are our 2010 5th graders showing us the **birthday cake** made by the entire school for the Bell's 200th birthday celebration! **Each student in the school made a candle for the cake!**

The 200th Year Celebration of Our School Bell was attended by the greater Mason community.



**Mason
Elementary
School
Holiday
Concert
and
Celebration
of our
Bell's 200th
Birthday
December
16, 2010
6:30 p.m.**

Frère Jacques

Frère Jacques,
Frère Jacques,

Dormez-vous?
Dormez-vous?

Sonnez les matines!
Sonnez les matines!

Ding, dang, dong.
Ding, dang, dong.

Translation:

*Brother Jack,
Brother Jack,*

*Are you sleeping? Are you
sleeping?*

Sound the bells for matins!

Sound the bells for matins!

*Ding, dang, dong. Ding,
dang, dong.*

C'est la Cloche du Vieux Manoir

C'est la cloche du
vieux manoir, du
vieux manoir,
Qui sonne le
retour du soir, le
retour du soir.

Din, don, din,
don, din, don.

Translation:

*It's the bell of the
old manor that
rings the return of
the evening.*

WHITE CORAL BELLS

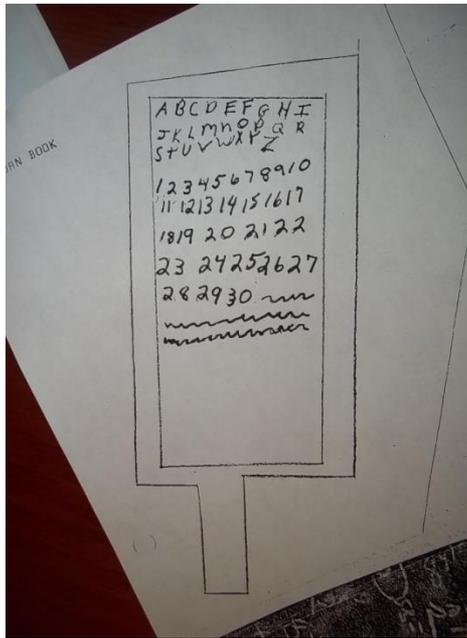
White coral bells
Upon a slender stalk
Lilies of the Valley
Deck my garden walk.

Oh, don't you wish
That you could hear them ring?
That will happen only
When the fairies sing!

We had
readings from
The Polar
Express
("the first bell
of
Christmas!")

Other song
selections:
Carol of the Bells
Silver Bells
Jingle Bells
Jingle Bell Rock
The Happy Birthday
Song for our Bell"

Horn Books

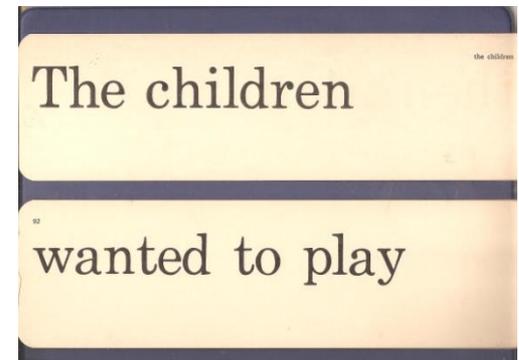
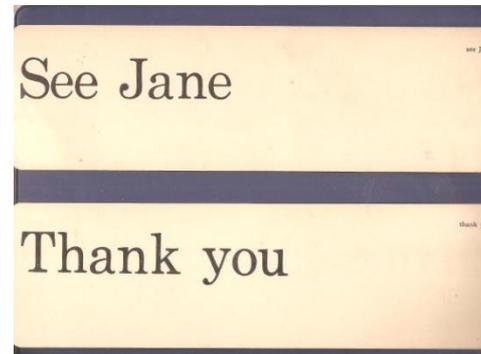


What is a Horn Book?

Books were expensive back in colonial days. It was less expensive and more durable to make a book page from actual horn, set in a frame with a handle. This is how children learned to read at that time!

<http://dictionary.reference.com/browse/Horn+Book?s=t>

Flashcards used in the 1930's



- Flashcards courtesy of Barbara Schulze, who donated them to the school.
- Horn Book drawing by a Mason 4th grader in 1976

Here is what Report Cards looked like in 1940!

This is Grade 4.

Name _____ Grade IV Year 1939, 1940

STUDIES	SIX WEEK PERIODS						Stanford Achievement Tests		STANDARDIZED TESTS				
	1	2	3	4	5	6	Oct.	May	ORAL READING				
									No.	Date	Rate	Accuracy	
Reading	B	B	B	C	B	B			1				
Writing	B	B	B	B	B	B			2				
Spelling	B	A	A	A	A	A			3				
Language or Grammar	C	B	B	B	B	B			4				
Arithmetic	D	C	C	B	B	B			5				
History and Civics	C	B	B	B	B	B			SILENT READING				
Geography	B	B	B	B	C	B			Date	Mark	Date	Mark	
Physiology and Hygiene	C	B	B	B	B	B							
Science													
Music	C	C	C	C	C	C			ARITHMETIC				
Drawing	B	B	B	B	A	A			Date	Mark	Date	Mark	
Conduct	A	A	A	A	A	A							
Prospect of Promotion	Good	Good	Good	Good	Good	Good							
½ Days Absent	0	0	2	0	0	6			LANGUAGE		SPELLING		
Times Tardy	0	0	0	0	0	0			Date	Mark	Date	Mark	
Times Dismissed	0	0	0	0	0	0							

A—Excellent. Indicates superior work attained by very few. B—Good. Indicates work above the average of the class. C—Fair. Average Work. D—Poor. Below average. H—Unsatisfactory. This mark is given to the few whose work does not show sufficient progress to warrant promotion at end of year.

Town of Mason, N. H.

Report of

TO PARENT OR GUARDIAN

Kindly accept this report of your child's work as a personal message from the school to you.

We trust that you will find opportunity to visit the school frequently. Parent and teacher have a common interest, and a mutual acquaintance and understanding is beneficial to both.

If your child receives a mark of E in any subject, it should be made a matter of immediate inquiry. It may be due to lack of effort, to too many outside engagements, to irregular attendance, or to some other cause which can be removed.

We shall appreciate any suggestion you may care to make.

Grade IV
Teacher Laila J. Aho

Please acknowledge receipt of this report, by signing below, and return it to the teacher at once.

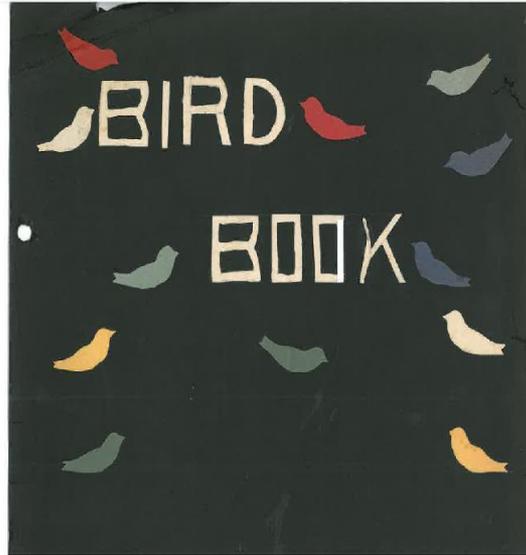
First Period _____
Second Period _____
Third Period _____
Fourth Period _____
Fifth Period _____

Promoted to Grade V
Retained in Grade _____

Superintendent

Date 11/17/40

In the early 1940s, Barbara Schulze made a book about birds for a school project at Mason Elementary, including bird poetry.



Hark! Was there ever so merry a note?
Listen a while, and you'll hear what
he's saying.
Up in the apple tree where he is swaying,
"Dear little blossoms down under
the snow
You must be weary of winter I know
Listen, I'll sing you a message of cheer!
Summer is coming! Springtime is
here"



I know the song that the bluebird is singing,
Out in the apple tree where he is swinging.
Brave little fellow! the skies may be dreary –
Nothing cares he while his heart is so cheery.

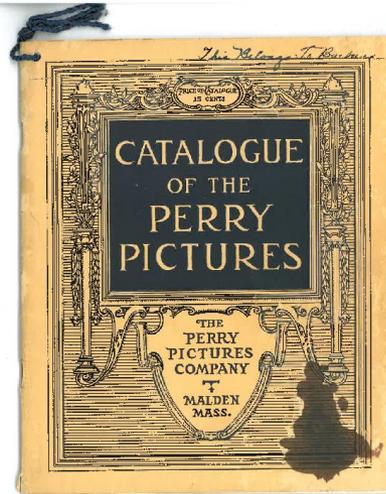
Hark! how the music leaps out from his throat!
Hark! was there ever so merry a note?
Listen a while, and you'll hear what he's saying.
Up in the apple tree where he is swaying

"Dear little blossoms down under the snow
You must be weary of winter I know
Listen, I'll sing you a message of cheer!
Summer is coming! Springtime is here!"

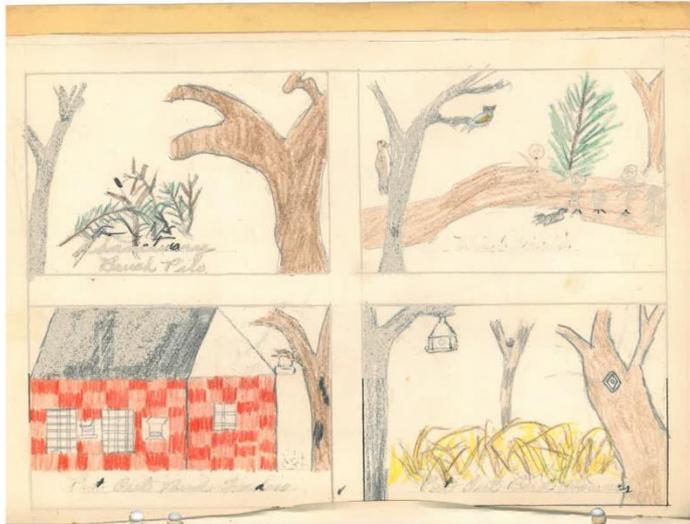
"Little white snowdrop! I pray you arise;
Bright yellow crocus! Please open your eyes;
Sweet little violets, hid from the cold,
Put on your mantles of purple and gold;
Daffodils! Daffodils! Say, do you hear? –
Summer is coming, and springtime is here!"

The Bluebird's Song by Emily Huntington Miller

Illustrating School Projects



Before there was internet and before many people had their own cameras, students often turned to the Perry Picture catalogue to either order pictures by mail or to cut out pictures for projects.



Students also drew their own illustrations as Barbara Schulze did here for her report on birds.



Mason became its own school district in 2009.



This plaque hangs near our school bell rope! It has the formal declaration of Mason as its own SAU 89.

Here is NH Commissioner Virginia Barry honoring Mason as Mason became SAU (School Administrative Unit) 89! With Commissioner Barry in Concord to receive the plaque are Deb Bemis and Wolf Millbrandt.

“Whereas, the voters of the Mason School District, at the October 27, 2009 school district meeting, by the necessary vote of 3/5 of the voters present and voting, have voted in favor of withdrawing from SAU #63 and establishing a single school administrative unit...”

“And does further certify that the Mason School Administrative Unit #89 is lawfully formed...with all the powers, rights, and privileges and subject to all limitations, duties and restrictions, which by law appertain thereto and shall become effective on November 18, 2009.”



The State of New Hampshire
Board of Education

In the Matter
of the
Mason Administrative Unit

Be It Known That

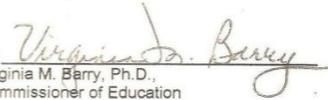
Whereas, the voters of the Mason School District, at the October 27, 2009 school district meeting, by the necessary vote of 3/5 of the voters present and voting, have voted in favor of withdrawing from SAU #63 and establishing a single school administrative unit, in compliance with the provisions of RSA 194-C:2;

Now therefore, the State Board of Education does hereby issue this certificate of formation;

And does further certify that the Mason School Administrative Unit #89 is lawfully formed, as of the date of issuance, with all the powers, rights and privileges and subject to all limitations, duties and restrictions, which by law appertain thereto and shall become effective on November 18, 2009.

Witness the official signature of the State Board of Education hereunto subscribed by Virginia M Barry, Ph.D., its secretary duly authorized and the seal of the State Board hereunto affixed this 18th day of November 2009.

State Board of Education

By 
Virginia M. Barry, Ph.D.,
Commissioner of Education



Mason Elementary was designated a High Performance School Building on June 4, 2011 by Virginia M. Barry, Commissioner of Education



Our Building Committee worked very hard to give us a beautiful, “green” school!

Thank you Bob Hemmer, Bob Bergeron, Fred Greenwood, Mary McDonald and Donald Hodges!

What does it mean to be a **green** high-performance school? Why is our school **green**?



Because our school saves energy efficiently! For example, we use a pellet stove to help heat the school. Also, our ceiling lights adjust according to the outside light. If there is plenty of light coming into classrooms from outside, the ceiling lights won't go on! Lights left on in rooms turn off automatically. Our walls are painted a certain shade of white in order to maximize reflectivity of the light coming in from the outside. This means we can use more outside light and less light from bulbs.

Here we have the first day of school, 2009, the year that
Mason became SAU 89.



This school opening was very special because the architect for the new school addition gave all the students hardhats to wear during the groundbreaking!

Before the new addition was built during the 2009-2010 school year, P.E., art, music and French were all held in the cafeteria, which is now the administrative office area.

This is what our school cafeteria looked like in 2009. It was also used for school concerts, school plays, special assemblies, and unified arts such as P.E., music and foreign language!



After the school addition was built in 2009-2010, this area was transformed into administrative offices and the staff lounge.

When our new \$4,000,000 addition was being built in 2009-2010, a doublewide trailer (two trailers put together) was placed on the soccer field. This trailer held the school administrative offices, including the nurse's station.



Mason students were still able to use the playground near the trailer.

Mason students watched the new addition go up before their very eyes!!



Laying the foundation for the unified arts and computer room



Here the courtyard steps are being built.



Groups of students went on tours through the new addition as it was being built. Here students are gathered in the Unified Arts room, as well as the Multi-Purpose Room.



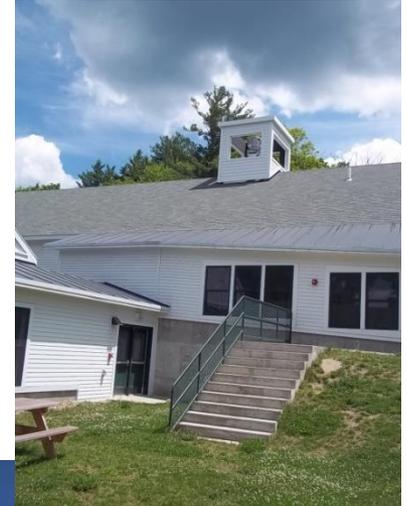
This was a wonderful real-life lesson in construction! Notice the hardhats on the students. They had to wear these while in the construction zone.



The architectural design of the school - building it around a courtyard - was innovative and artistic. Stand in the courtyard sometime and look at the slopes of the roofs. The addition was built into the side of a hill, and the architecture mirrored that. Inside the building, notice the slant of the woodwork under the windows. Even though the windows are horizontal, the angle of the wood ledges under them are not.



Almost finished!



Wow! Time to add grass and three dogwood trees!



Mason Elementary Welcomes Its New Addition!

On March 17, Mason Elementary students and staff were thrilled to enter their new addition! We ventured past a plastic curtain which used to separate the construction area from the rest of the school building. Children walked with great excitement up the ramp into the new Multi-Purpose Room, all set for their first physical education class there!

The next day the new cafeteria was ready, and children ate their first meal in the new building! The creative arts room opened on March 19 in time for music class! The famous plastic curtain has now moved over to the former cafeteria, which is being readied for our new administrative offices. It has been a fabulous experience to watch our new addition materialize right before our eyes.

Thank you, Mason citizens, for giving us such a wonderful gift.
We will take good care of it!



Our new cafeteria!



Eating our first meal in the new addition!



Our first assembly in our new Multi-Purpose Room !



A balloon to welcome us!



Who made the lovely tile artwork in our school courtyard?



Mason Elementary students each made a ceramic tile for the first project during the school year 2009-2010. These tiles depict what students like about their Town of Mason! The project was designed and facilitated by art teacher Naomi Graham, who garnered some excellent help during the final installation!

School year 2010-2011 saw a second tile project emerge! This project features creatures of the land, sea and sky embedded in the overall scenic design!

Installing our ceramic tiles!



Nice work, Mrs. Graham!



It was necessary that these ceramic tiles be installed within a specific temperature range. They were mounted in time, before the weather began to cool!

Another interesting wall mural was done by Elizabeth Orton Jones at Crothed Mountain Education and Rehabilitation Center. You can visit Crothed Mountain and ask to see Twig's 4 seasonal wall murals!



The hospital is here.



This hallway wing connects the hospital to the school.

Many students at Crothed Mountain live in a hospital on the premises. They get from the hospital to the school by walking or going by wheelchair through the hallway which connects the hospital to the school. Twig's murals are located at the end of this hallway.

What is Crothed Mountain?

Crothed Mountain is a charitable organization located on Crothed Mountain employing more than 900 people, whose mission is to serve individuals with disabilities and their families, embracing personal choice and development, and building communities of mutual support.

<http://www.crothedmountain.org/crothedmountain/html/welcome.htm>

Here is a summary of what the Crotched Mountain website says this about Elizabeth Orton Jones and her “Four Seasons” Murals:

- Her relationship with Crotched Mountain predates the opening of the rehabilitation center in 1953. At the request of founder Harry Gregg, Miss Jones was engaged to paint a series of "Four Seasons" murals...Her friend and colleague Nora Spicer Unwin, painted a companion set of murals...She and Nora Unwin were the very first volunteers at Crotched Mountain.
- Each of the seasons represents a different aspect of home: Spring, cleaning and decorating; Summer, raising and caring for children; Fall, preparing and serving food; Winter, offering hospitality and sharing blessings.
- Ironically, Miss Jones never completely finished the murals. Her devotion to the children surpassed her devotion to the project. She encouraged the boys and girls to explore their own interests in art and poetry, and was always glad to lend a sympathetic ear. After helping the children to put on their very own Christmas pageant, Miss Jones was inspired to write about this experience in her book *How Far is it to Bethlehem?*, published by The Horn Book, Inc. in 1955.
- In 1963 she again employed her artistic talents on behalf of Crotched Mountain by painting a "Spring Panel" and an "Autumn Panel" especially designed for the rehabilitation center's meditation chapel.
- Over the years, she kept in touch with several of the children she had first met at Crotched Mountain. In 2002, Miss Jones was honored by Pastoral Counseling Services of Manchester, NH for her dedication toward improving the lives of people with disabilities and their families with their *Good Samaritan Award*. The following year, a number of the very first children to have attended Crotched Mountain returned to the rehabilitation center to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the murals and reminisce about the impact Elizabeth Orton Jones has had on their lives.
- Anyone who wishes to see Miss Jones artwork at Crotched Mountain may call for a tour.

“Drawing is very like a prayer. Drawing is a reaching for something away beyond you. As you sit down to work in the morning, you feel as if you were on top of a hill. And it is as if you were seeing for the first time. You take your pencil in hand. You'd like to draw what you see. And so you begin. You try Every child in the world has a hill, with a top to it. Every child-black, white, rich, poor, handicapped, unhandicapped. And singing is what the top of each hill is for. Singing-drawing-thinking-dreaming-sitting in silence . . . saying a prayer. I should like every child in the world to *know* that he has a hill, that that hill is his no matter what happens, his and his only, forever.”

Twig



Children at Crotched Mountain watching Twig paint a mural for them.

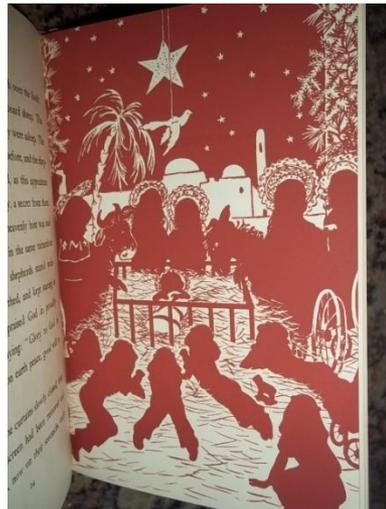
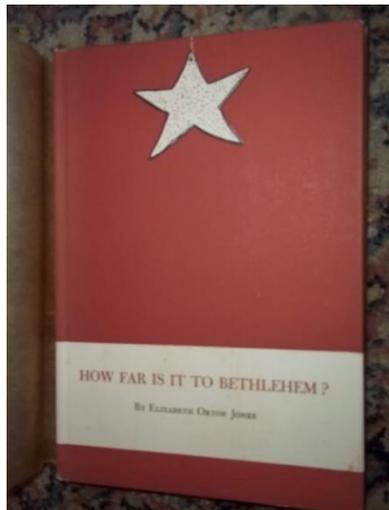
Quote: <http://libweb.uoregon.edu/ec/exhibits/childrenslit/eojones.html>

Photo:

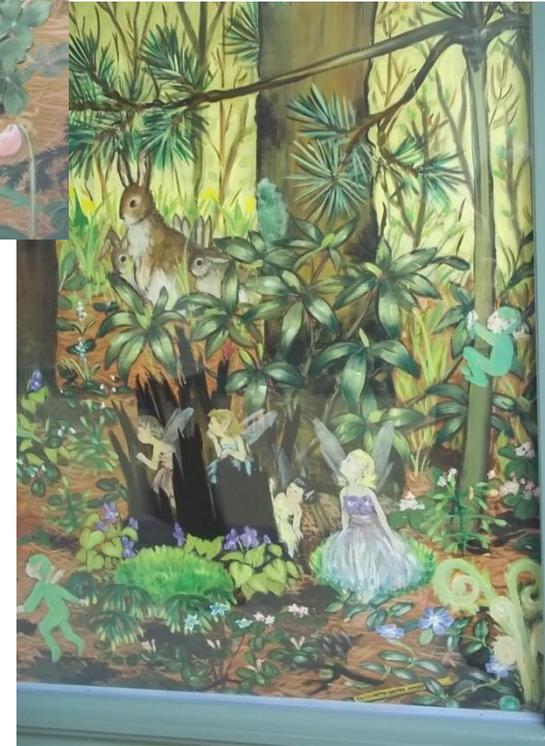
<http://www.crotchedmountain.org/CrotchedMountain/text/jonesbi>

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Twig wrote and illustrated How Far is It to Bethlehem. This was a pageant she put on with the children at Crotched Mountain. Most of the children in the play were in wheelchairs. The shepherds were unable to walk, so they lay on the ground. There were so many people who came to see the play that some of them had to peek in through the windows.



Scenes from Twig's Seasonal Murals at Crotched Mountain



Winter scenes from Twig's Murals at Crotched Mountain



Now it is time for you, the children of Mason, to continue the story of “Mason, Our Town,” for this is a continuing story!

It is your story, and the story of others with you, as together you write the pages of history with your vision and dreams!



I look forward to watching the children of Mason grow, as they research and enjoy the many facets of the shining diamond that is their town!

Please let me know of any information or stories you would like to add to this collection! It was designed so that items can easily be added or adjusted. I can be contacted through Mason Elementary School, 603 878-2962.

Thank you!

Betty Mulrey
2013

