

The Historian

BURRILLVILLE HISTORICAL & PRESERVATION SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

SEPTEMBER 2010

Averill Maher Collection

Over the summer the Society has acquired the extensive historical collection of Averill Maher. It includes about 20 scrapbooks, boxes of slides, old newspapers, hundreds of photos, postcards, written histories and old books. The collection includes photos and information about the Glendale Fire Department since her husband, James Maher, was the Fire Chief. Averill collected newspaper articles and created scrapbooks most of her life. Even as her health declined, she continued to collect. As Averill once said, "Once you start this, it gets in your blood and you can't stop." We are in the process of cataloging and organizing everything so that it can be viewed by the public. Most of her scrapbooks will be available for viewing at the September meeting and also at our annual Open House on October 9th.



Oak Valley Mill, Tarkiln
Mill Office Store is on the right
From the Averill Maher Collection

President's Message

I hope that you will get a chance to come to one of our fall meetings or Open House to view the many scrapbooks from the Averill Maher Collection. Please consider bringing a food item for our Thanksgiving Basket raffle. This could be canned food, drinks, vegetables, mixes, etc.,

anything you might eat at a Thanksgiving dinner.

The cemetery signs that were purchased with the Ocean State Grant have been installed. We would like to order another batch as funds become available.

We have a busy fall schedule. Hope you can help.

Betty Mencucci

Upcoming Meetings/Events

Sept. 28 - Slideshow of glass plate negative photos, 7:00 p.m.

Oct. 9 – Annual Open House– Gigantic Yard Sale, Bake Sale, Book Sale

Oct. 26 - Story of Jim Taylor, a Roadhouse and a Murder, 7:00 p.m.

Nov. 13 and 20 - Holiday Bazaar, 9-3 p.m.

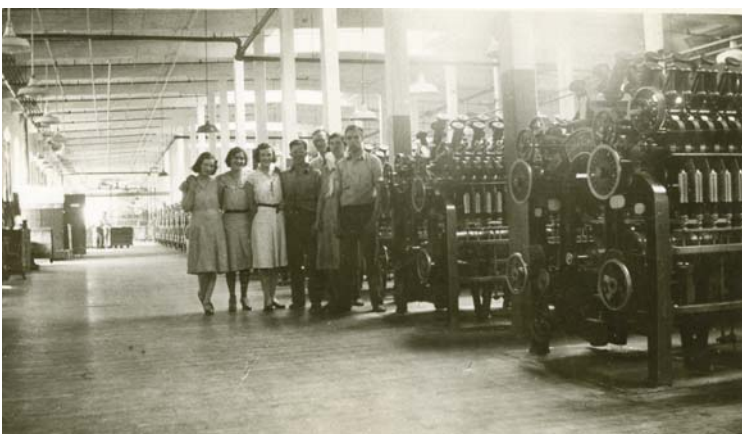
Dec. 7 – Meeting/Potluck/Christmas Party, 6:00 p.m.



1936 Tercentenary Parade, Main Street, Harrisville. Covered wagon float driven by Charles Wheeler, Sr. for the Republican Club in support of Landon and Knox, candidates for President and Vice President. They lost, in a landslide, to Franklin D. Roosevelt. The float is passing by the First Universalist Church. *From the Rosamond Rowley collection*



Horse and buggy belonging to Dr. John Lace, Burrillville physician. The man in front of the buggy is unknown. *From the Rosamond Rowley collection.*



Stillwater Worsted Mill Spinning Room, Harrisville
Elsie Keeling, Blanche Berube, Ethel Waite, Kenny Coupe,
Jessie Phillips, Averill Young [Maher] and Arthur Young.
From the Averill Maher Collection

Annual Open House

Gigantic Yard Sale, Book Sale,
Bake Sale

Saturday, October 9, 2010
9 – 4 p.m.
Rain date: October 10th

For public viewing: Historic photos, scrapbooks, maps, artifacts, books

We need yard sale items, baked goods and people to help on the day of the sale.

Holiday Bazaar

Saturday, November 13 and 20
9 - 3 p.m.

We need crafts, homemade gifts, baked goods and items for our penny social and Thanksgiving Food Basket.

Please consider donating to this annual fundraising event.



Please donate to the Cemetery Fund.

\$40 will purchase a new cemetery sign and
\$31 will purchase a new post.

Vacancy

Position of Director to serve as a member of the Executive Board. If you would like to be more active and be involved in planning events, please contact one of the officers.

Donations

Pat Stein, Arizona - Programs from plays performed at the Assembly in Harrisville. Photos of her mother, Dot Stein, in various plays.

Meredith Smith and Ann Prokopowicz - Items belonging to their grandfather, Dr. John Lace, a Burrillville physician. Stillwater Worsted Mill memorabilia belonging to their parents, John and Rosamond Rowley.

BH&PS earns money from DINOS and IGA slips; also Ink Cartridges!

BH&PS receives a percentage of the total. Drop them off at the Jesse M. Smith Library, mail them or bring them to a meeting. Proceeds are used to preserve our archives! Remember, we are also collecting used ink and toner cartridges.

Upcoming Meetings

The September meeting will feature a slideshow of the recently acquired copies of glass plate negative photos of Mohegan, Nasonville and Oakland. There are also some interesting photos of the trains and trolleys that used to run through town.

At the October meeting, you will hear the story of a forgotten murder that took place at a roadhouse in Burrillville in 1895. This exciting tale will be told by a surprise guest!

When you come to the meetings, don't forget to bring a food item for our Thanksgiving basket raffle.

Cemetery Cleanups Planned

We are planning to work in several cemeteries this fall. If you would like to suggest a cemetery for cleanup or lend a hand, please let us know. This important work is very rewarding.

Delporte Cemetery

If anyone has any recollections of the Delporte Cemetery on Round Top Road, please call 568-8449.

Fence Repair at Cemetery #31

Thanks to the hard work of Ron Panarelli, the iron fence at Cemetery #31 on Ironmine Road has been repaired. With training as a blacksmith and metalworker, he was able to re-attach the fence posts to the granite blocks, straighten the iron rails and rebuild a new front gate. Before the repairs, the fence was hanging by a few posts and leaning almost to the point of falling over. Some of the rails were twisted and bent and the gate was completely broken. There was a lot of poison ivy growing next to the fence which had to be weed-whacked before the fence could be painted. Russell Lacey spent about 4 hours weed-whacking the entire cemetery and then Betty Mencucci applied a rust preventative and two coats of black paint.



Betty Mencucci paints the repaired fence.



Pascoag Grammar School

Left: George Stephenson, Janitor.
 5th from left: Lettie Cornelia Lace, school teacher and daughter of Burrillville physician, Dr. John J. Lace.
 Right: Allan P. Keith, (Later served as superintendent of New Bedford Schools).

From the Rosamond Rowley collection

SMALLPOX AND CAMP BREEZE *by Betty Mencucci*

In June 1901 the State Board of Health was called to Nasonville and Mohegan to examine possible cases of smallpox. Eight cases of the disease were discovered and the



Camp Breeze— Joslin Road, Mohegan
Courtesy of Earl McWilliams

experts recommended immediate action by the town. Burrillville physician, Dr. John J. Lace, was authorized to take whatever action he thought necessary to stop the spread of the disease. Patients were quarantined in their homes. Lewis Curtis was appointed as a special officer to enforce the quarantined rules at the affected houses. A hospital called Camp Breeze was built near Joslin Road in Mohegan consisting of three cottages, 12' x 16'. These cottages were divided into two apartments and were used as dormitories. Separate buildings were erected for a cookhouse

and dining hall.

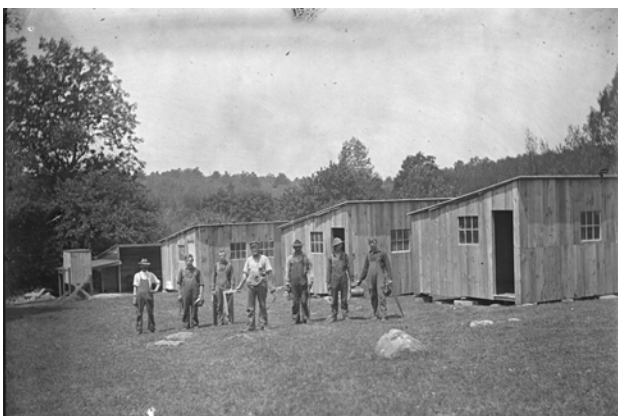
In July all patients were moved to Camp Breeze and their houses were thoroughly washed and fumigated by authorities. Miss Kitty Dore, a trained nurse, was placed in charge of the patients. By then, the number of patients had increased to 20. There were numerous shade trees on the grounds and patients were allowed to wander through the fields. Patients were sent magazines and newspapers to pass the time. The children were provided with swings, hammocks and games as well as ice cream and iced drinks. A telephone line was installed between the hospital and the Mohegan Store. This allowed the nurse to communicate with the outside world, and patients were allowed to speak to family members. There were a few minor problems, including one patient who tried to run away and another who refused to take a bath.



Dr. John J. Lace
From the Rosamond Rowley collection

By the beginning of August, these cases of small pox were cured and the patients were discharged. There were no new cases and the hospital was closed.

Thanks to the generosity of Mohegan Mill Superintendent William H. White, the cost of this hospital was minimal. Workers from the mill built Camp Breeze on company time, saving the town labor costs of \$42.09. When the hospital closed, Mr. White agreed to buy the telephone at the Mohegan Store back from the town for the same price they had paid for it.



Carpenters employed by the Mohegan Mill build Camp Breeze
Courtesy of Earl McWilliams

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