

The Randolph History Project

By Al and Judy Hudson

Over the past four years Al and Judy Hudson have become involved with the history of Randolph and the preservation of its historical materials. We began initially with the legacy and archives of the Randolph Mountain Club (of which Al is now the official archivist, and Judy, the historian), but the project has since snowballed, and we have expanded our horizons beyond materials relevant only to the RMC.

The Town of Randolph, unlike many New England towns, has neither an official historian nor a historical commission. A number of people with items of historical interest have offered us either the materials themselves, or access to the materials for purposes of transcription and/or digital scanning. Some we have transcribed and published under the imprint of the RMC, like the *Spur Cabin Registers* which were donated by Nancy Frueh, the daughter of its builder Charles Torrey. (Copies of these publications can be found in the Randolph Public Library.)

We have also been given access to important materials not related to the RMC. Our work with these items has given birth to an informal entity, the Randolph History Project (RHP), which is dedicated to finding items of historical interest and putting them into a form that will be easily available to the general public. These materials have been "published" in hard copy and/or on CD in PDF format, under the imprint of the RHP. Hard copies of completed materials have been given to the Randolph Public Library, where they are available to any reader.

We thought the readers of *Mountain View* might be interested in a list of what we have put out, including what we plan to add to the Library's collection in the summer of 2007.

- 2004 *Durand and Randolph in the Federal Census, 1810-1930.*
- 2005 *The Building of Burnbrae, 1897-1899.* George N. Cross's diary of the refurbishing of the old starch mill as Randolph's first summer cottage.
- 2006 *Randolph Wildflowers from the Watercolor Sketchbooks of Mary Perkins Osgood, 1895-1900.* Mary Osgood's watercolors preceding her marriage

to Louis F. Cutter.

- 2007 *A revision of Durand and Randolph in the Federal Census, 1810-1930.*

The 1927 Flood of Northern New England: A Perspective from the Files of Louis F. Cutter.

Two Notebooks of Charles E. Lowe: A Record of Ascents in the Northern Presidentials, 1875-1891 and Register of "The Rookery", an Attraction Associated with the Mount Crescent House, 1902-1904. The volume includes a biography of CEL together with an introduction and index to each notebook. The names of many Randolph families appear in these indexes.

The Diaries of Eldena Leighton Hunt, 1896-1910. The first six fascicles (1896-1901), transcribed by Joan Hunt Hall and Al, will be ready in June 2007 in both hard copy, and on disk in searchable PDF digital format. Al is also creating *A Companion to the Eldena Diaries* that, as much as possible, identifies all the people mentioned in the text, gives genealogical information on the major families on Randolph Hill, provides both maps and census information, and other materials that will make the actual diaries more comprehensible. "The Eldena Project" will probably take at least a year more to complete.

There are obviously many more items in Randolph that should be preserved for their historical significance. We are interested in seeing anything that you feel might be worth keeping. We have been working on materials in the order that they have been made available to us, and most of what we've done so far dates from the late 19th and early 20th centuries. We have very little material from 1920 through 1970, and are eager to fill this void. We would welcome other people to help in preserving the history of our unique town. We can be contacted at: 111 Amherst Road, Pelham, MA 01002; (413)256-6950; or by E-mail at <abudson@anthro.umass.edu>. In the summer, our phone number is 466-5509.

10th Annual Randolph Art Show

Because of construction at the Town Hall, the 10th Annual Randolph Art Show will be held this year at the Chapel Arts Gallery, 13 Glen Road, Gorham, NH. The exhibit will open with a wine and cheese reception from 2 to 5 pm on July 6, 2007, and will be on display through the month of August. There will be an additional open house on August 3rd from 4 to 7 pm. The Gallery is open from 12 to 5 pm on Friday, Saturday and Sunday. Any Randolphians who have not exhibited before, and who wish to do so, should call Angela or Bill Pfeffer, at 603-466-3828 or email at wpfeffer@ne.rr.com