

# Evening of Nostalgia Planned

GILMANTON — For most nostalgia buffs as well as for all who like to recall summer days — past or present — the July 23 meeting of the Gilmanton Historical Society should prove to be unusually delightful.

Spanning a period from the 1870s to the present, two summer residents of Gilmanton Corner will present highlights in the summer days of the once rather large summer colony of the little Academy village at the

crossroads of Rtes. 107 and 140.

Wendy Prindle Berling of Middletown, Conn., a sixth generation descendant of the Kitchen family, will sketch the background of her family's coming to Gilmanton for summers since about 1870. She and her husband, Allen, and young Lisa and Andy, continue the tradition of Gilmanton summers and spend as much vacation time as possible at the family home, "Inglesante" at the Corner.

At one time Mrs. Berling's, great-grandfather, Dr. J.M.W. Kitchen, owned or leased seven houses in the village as well as the French farm on the shores of Loon Pond. He also had a dairy farm superintended by a native Gilmantonite, Laurel Blake, who not only churned butter but played the fiddle at the Academy dances.

Dr. Kitchen's enthusiasm for Gilmanton was contagious. He described the village with its one sweep of mountain views and open fields as "An Upland Arcadia." He and Mrs. Kitchen filled their houses with friends and family. Two of the houses were quite large, and for a few



## *All Dressed Up*

'Summer Folk' of Gilmanton Corner are shown in their "church-going" finery in this 1910 picture.

years, became summer boarding houses to which guests returned year after year.

The other speaker will be Jane Scriven Cumming. She and her husband, Edward "Ebby" come from Washington, D.C., to "By the Way" their home at the Corner. Each summer they are joined by Barbara and John Donahue whose children, Bill, Jane and Tim are the fifth generation to come to the house. "Now" commented Mrs. Cumming, "these grandchildren have summer jobs and thus can spend less time here, but it is wonderful for us to realize they head for Gilmanton just as often as the jobs permit."

As little girls, Mrs. Cumming and her sister, Betty Scriven Yates, traveled from Chicago to spend summers with their grandparents in Gilmanton, joined later by their parents, Alice and Billy Scriven. They would stop in Boston a day or so, then take the Boston and Maine to Tilton and change there for the short ride to Belmont. Mrs. Cumming's talk will be illustrated with slides.

Not only are summer people and their activities featured, but also there will be glimpses of many native Gilmantonites friends whose roots in the Village go back for generations.

The Gilmanton Historical Society meets the fourth Tuesday of the month during the summer-fall season at 8 p.m., at the Academy on the Village Green. Guests are urged to share the programs and the refreshments and to visit the fine little museum in the Academy.



### *The Beau Sisters*

Helen, Clara and Hannah Beau, whose father built the brick house in Gilmanton Corner at the junction of Rte. 107 and Rte. 140, are shown in a 1915 picture with their summer neighbors Jane and Betty Scriven.



### *Summer Home*

'Robinswood,' the handsome Victorian-styled house built by Ziba Kitchen as a summer home for the family in Gilmanton Corner. This house, was one of seven which Dr. J. M. W. Kitchen owned at The Corner.