

Waterford Echoes

Volume 8 Number 1

Spring, 1989

Waterford Historical Society



Left to Right: James Tyler (seated), unknown customer selecting a paper, Stew Stockwell, George Goodwin, and Mac Bean seated on one of the new benches he built.

WATERFORD'S FIRST STORE

Sometime during the year of 1789 Eli Longley of Bolton, Massachusetts received a land grant for his services in the Revolutionary War which had ended the previous year. His grant contained most of Waterford Flat. He moved that same year with his wife and two children and settled just north of the Flat.

A short time later he moved into the Flat and built the first hotel and store and became Waterford's first postmaster. In 1802 he built the store presently known to us as Rounds' Store. He sold it to Levi Brown in 1835 for \$200. Levi's brother, Daniel, was part owner for a period of time but sold out at a later date. After Levi's death the store was sold at public auction to Oliver Porter for \$80. Oliver ran the store for 35 years.

In 1883 an inventory was taken which amounted to \$392.36. Charles D. Morse paid this amount in a series of notes and started running the store along with his undertaking business. For reasons unknown to us, the store was sold in 1896 to satisfy Morse's creditors. It was bought by his aunt, Charlotte Dorr, of South Waterford who allowed him to live there and to continue to run the store. At her death he, once again, became its owner until May 15, 1909.

At that time ownership was transferred to Florence Rounds and her son, Laurence Rexford better known as Rex. It was he who ran the store and was postmaster as well as town clerk. At some point the Postal Department made him give up the town clerk job and what a blow to the town - no regular office hours!

In the late 1940's Rex's son Larry took over running the store and remodeled it. About that time the store was deeded to him. Upon his death in 1969 his wife, Alice, took over until her death in 1983. During those years she was ably assisted by Nancy Millet who, at one time, lived in the apartment over the store and has since become postmaster.

After Alice's death some of her children ran the store which subsequently was closed in 1985. In 1987 Stewart Stockwell, summer resident of Waterford since 1935, bought the store. The following year he moved into the apartment and oversaw the renovations. Also during that year John and Martha Eaton, Stewart's brother-in-law and sister, retired to Waterford and joined him in running the store. The gala re-opening took place on July 1, 1988.

Unfortunately Stewart did not enjoy good health since his move to Maine and Waterford was saddened to learn of his death on March 10 of this year. His daughter, Jill, now owns the store and the Eatons continue to run it.

Stop in any day and find a friendly face behind the counter. Through the half door you'll hear the cheerful voice of our postmaster, Nancy Millet, as she serves a patron. If you have the time; pour a cup of coffee and sit down at the table where a partially completed jig-saw puzzle is always in progress. Many lives have gone but life does go on at it's own gentle pace in Waterford's oldest store.

Editor's Note: Our thanks to Bill Fillebrown for the extensive research he did on Round's Store. He has written a technical paper containing dates and specific details regarding the store and we're sure he'd be glad to make copies available to anyone who has an interest. The Waterford History 1775-1875 names many other people as having been associated with the store but according to Bill's research only those people named in the article were owners. Perhaps the others were tenants and/or managers.

He has also noted that he has the original of the 1883 inventory alluded to in our article and also states that Charles D. Morse once lived on the lot where he and his wife Joan presently live.

Hawk Mountain

If anyone has ever struck out from Route 35 to climb Hawk Mountain, he knows that after he has crossed the field at the Little Mountain House, he will soon reach almost impenetrable wilderness before he reaches the rock pile at the foot of the mountain. Alder bushes growing from swampy hummocks, wet even in a dry season, form a solid curtain, and it is almost impossible to pass. It would be wise either to skirt around the swamp to the northwest or to retrace one's steps and wait until the ground is solidly frozen.

In my childhood when we had the "old camp" on the other side of Bear Pond, we got our milk and butter at the old Cheever place "down the back road a piece". We children loved to hear about Grandpa Cheever's having seen the whole face of the mountain slide down in fire and brimstone to the meadow below.

The meadow has historical significance. Long ago scouts of King George's navy stationed at Falmouth Port, which is now Portland, spotted a stand of pine which would be perfect for masts of their great sailing ships. Wood cutters were sent to fell the timber. It was they who saw enormous hawks circling the mountain and named it Hawk Mountain.

It was found that some of the timber was disappearing without a trace. The King thought he'd better put a stop to that so he ordered that each selected pine tree should be marked with a cross and arrow, and he threatened punishment to neighboring colonists and all poachers who were caught sawing boards over a certain width. So, if you have a treasured table top or wall panel or floor board of unusual width, it wouldn't be too far-fetched to brag of its possible history.

The story goes that the Museum at Harvard University had searched in vain for a pine, saved by grace, bearing the King's Mark. Finally one was found in a lumber mill upstate that had lain at the bottom of the river in a log jam. A telegram was sent to Harvard and a reply quickly came that they were sending two men to authenticate the mark and close the deal. Alack! Alas! By the time they got there, the log had been through the saws! True or not, it makes a good story.

Once in awhile when you drive to Harrison let your imagination run free. It is a cold winters day; the temperature below zero; the snow drifted high; the rough road hardly more than a path. Looking ahead you can see great sledges piled high with long logs, each sledge drawn by several pairs of oxen with a driver for each pair. The animals are steaming from their exertion and the drivers shouting at them and at one another. It looks for all the world like a magnified ox pull at the North Waterford World's Fair.

Just thinking about Maine winter makes one remember the family kitchen. A fire crackling in the stove, and the smell of baked beans and brown bread cooking in the oven on a Saturday night.

But back to reality! You are holding up traffic on Route 35 with your fantasies and people are in a rush to get to town - to go some place - any place as long as it's on the move and on to the future - not the past.

Mariam Monroe

PRESIDENT'S CORNER

It is my honor to have been elected President of the Waterford Historical Society at its' last meeting.

When I was a student at Gorham State College in the late 1950's and early 1960's my very best friend, now Rep. James Skoglund of St. George, helped me to become interested in history, especially local history.

My wife, Betty and I moved to Waterford in 1980. However, I was no stranger in town as I served the Oxford County United Parish (Waterford, S. Waterford, N. Waterford, Albany, and E. Stoneham) as student minister in 1963-1964. Betty grew up in E. Waterford and N. Waterford. So I feel a part of you even though you may not know me well.

I look forward to my year of service to the Society. Meetings will be brief, just long enough to cover the necessary business. Programs, arranged by the Beans, will be interesting. We look forward to meeting in "the hall" again, although there is a certain closeness in meeting in homes as has been done this winter.

I want to encourage you to mention items of interest at our meetings. We shall provide a time of sharing each month. The more we learn about our town, the better we can be informed for service to such a beautiful community.

*Rev. Norman Rust
President*

LIFE MEMBERS

Eva K. & Malcolm J. Bean, Waterford; Mr. and Mrs. George Brett, Cape Elizabeth & Waterford; Georgia & Raynor K. Brown, N. Waterford; Keith F. Brown, San Diego, Calif.; Royce F. Brown, Omaha, Neb.; Chapin & Virginia T. Cutler, Stanford, Calif.; Rachel Rice Deans, S. Portland; Hazel DeMerritt, Saco; Elisabeth S. and Stephen B. Dewing, Harrison; Joan B. and W. William Fillebrown, Waterford; Beatrice V. Fitts, Easthampton, Mass.; A. L. Hammett (Tom), Madison, Ga.; Chester A. & Eleanor T. Howard, Attleboro, Mass.; Idamai (Betty) Howe, N. Waterford; John Howe, N. Waterford; Elizabeth & John Ingraham, E. Waterford; Linda H. Kilborn & D. Bruce Peterson, Berwyn, Penn.; Dr. Lois J. King, Waterford & West Haven, Ct.; John Klepinger, S. Waterford & Shawnee Mission, Kansas; Rev. Donald L. McAllister, Norway; Miriam S. Monroe, Harrison; John C. and Karen N. O'Brien, Harrison and Old Deerfield, Mass.; Charlotte L. Orr, W. Trenton, N.J.; Carolyn Caldwell Patton and William Lee Patton, Harvard, Mass.; Richard Perkins, Norway & Redington Beach, Fla.; Albert H. Rice, Waterford; Ella E. Rice, Fairfield, Ct.; Mary & Robert Ross, Waterford; Dr. Ruth E. Rounds, Waterford & W. Haven, Ct.; Fred F. & Marjorie W. Stockwell, Waterford & Grantham, N.H.; William. F. & Sara G. Stockwell, Waterford; Thora H. Wardwell, N. Waterford and Bradenton, Florida; Angela Wiesman, Worcest, Mass.; Margaret F. & William. A. Wheeler, III, Waterford & West Boxford, Mass.; Keith G. & Lieselotte H. Willoughby, Waterford & Waban, Mass.

CURRENT MEMBERS

Richard and Mary Andrews, N. Waterford
 Ben B. Conant, So. Paris
 Anita T. Cook, S. Paris
 Orris Durgin, Bridgton
 Olive M. Elliott, Waterford
 Vera Merrill Emerson, Norway
 Merrylyn S. Hilton, E. Winthrop
 George and Sheila Kayser, N. Waterford
 M. Elizabeth Kilburn, West Newton, Mass.
 Ida Kimball, North Bridgton
 Gladys Knight, N. Waterford
 Sally A. Kydd, Boston, Mass.
 Agnes Lahti, Waterford
 Elizabeth M. Maxfield, Harrison
 Howard N. Maxfield, Harrison
 Alma Millett, Waterford
 Lauris Millett, Waterford
 Dr. John Monroe, Los Angeles, Calif
 Maisie Murch, W. Waterford
 Isabelle J. Rolfe, N. Waterford
 Betty & Rev. Norman Rust, N. Waterford
 Jill S. Sawyer, Waterford
 Margaret M. Sawyer, Waterford
 Sylvia S. Sebelist, Waterford
 Sylvia M. Smith, So. Paris
 Richard W. Stockwell, Brownville, Vermont
 William A. Wheeler, Waterford and Vero Beach, Florida

IN MEMORIAM

J. Stewart Stockwell

OFFICERS FOR 1989

President - Rev. Norman Rust
 Vice President - Oscar Andrews
 Secretary - Nancy Marcotte
 Treasurer - Margaret Sawyer
 Program - Mac and Eva Bean

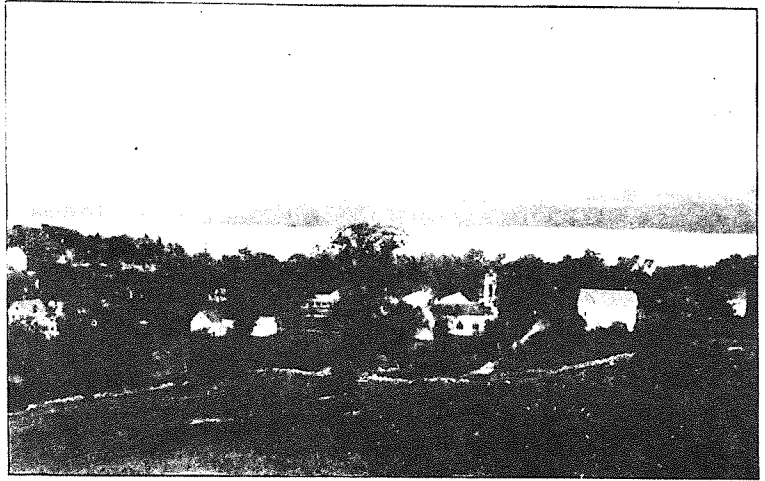
Join the Waterford Historical Society. Check appropriate category and mail to Box 2, Waterford, ME, 04088.

Name _____

Address _____

MEMBER CLASSIFICATION

_____ Life-Couple	\$75.00	_____ Senior Citizen	\$ 1.00
_____ Life	\$50.00	_____ Student	\$ 1.00
_____ Patron	\$25.00	_____ Sustaining	\$ 2.50
_____ Honorary	\$35.00	_____ Contributing	\$10.00



Tom Pond, now known as Keoka Lake

KEOKA LAKE (Tom Pond)

Waterford Twp., Oxford Co.
 U.S.G.S. Norway, Me.

Fishes

Brook trout	Smelt
(squaresail)	Eel
Smallmouth bass	White Sucker
Yellow perch	Minnnows
Chain pickerel	Pumpkinseed sunfish
Hornpout (bullhead)	

Physical Characteristics

Area - 467 acres	Temperatures
	Surface - 78° F.
Maximum depth - 42 feet	37 feet - 51° F.

CURRENT NOTES

The oldest resident of Waterford, **Ethel Lovejoy**, recently celebrated her 100th birthday. She is holder of the Boston Post goldheaded cane for our town though she is presently a resident at Hicks Nursing Home in Fryeburg.

Our congratulations go out to **Janet Truman**, daughter of Agnes Lahti, on the opening of her new real estate business. Her office, Truman Properties, is located on Route 37 in Waterford at the Lahti farm. We wish you well, Janet, in your business as Waterford's only realtor.

We're pleased to welcome **Pastor Janice Wilcox** to North Waterford where she is comfortably at home in the new parsonage. She presently serves both the North Waterford and East Stoneham churches. We know that our area will be blessed by her ministry.

MEETINGS 1988

March 10 Meeting at home of Bill and Joan Fillebrown. Program presented by Joan Fillebrown, President, who read excerpts from an old town history. Election of officers. Gifts from Mrs. Francis Farnum of Bethel - pictures taken around 1910 and Brownie camera once owned by Charles MacGown of Temple Hill.

April 14 Meeting at home of Phil and Helen Buchert. Miriam Monroe entertained with a talk of her early life on the shores of Bear Pond.

A 1850 map of Waterford was brought by Eva Bean. It was very informative. Memorial money for Carl Hamlin. More contributions to Chris Rounds Memorial Fund.

May 10 Meeting at home of Mac and Eva Bean. Mr. George Goodwin presented a lecture on Libraries. In speaking of what states spend for libraries per capita we learned Maine spent \$5.84 in 1987 which made it thirty-seventh in the U.S.

June 9 Pot luck supper enjoyed at North Waterford building. Building has been cleaned, brush cut, and park benches at Flat reconditioned by faithful members and volunteers. Report given on installing gas heater at cost of \$650. Gifts received:

- Pictures of North Waterford from Lillian Herrick
- A collection of tools which belonged to David Lebroke given by Donald Matheson of So. Paris

Raynor Brown presented a very interesting talk on Papoose Pond describing its physical and unique features, and early residential history and development.

Agnes Lahti gave a report of scientific and geographical facts about McWain Pond, Keoka Lake, Bear Pond, and Jewett Pond.

July 14 Pot luck supper at North Waterford. Mr. Charles Johnson presented an illustrated lecture on "Lumbering" beginning with the Bronze Age and ending with lumbering in the present. Mr. Johnson included several Paul Bunyon yarns which were appreciated.

Eva Bean and Agnes Lahti reported on progress of newsletter.

Gifts:

- Picture of Bear Mt. from Marion Morse
- Cemetery list from Rev. Donald McAllister
- Loaf of Bread W.W. II from Agnes Lahti
- Scrap Book of Waterford Historical Society compiled by Agnes Lahti contains many photos
- Picture of Arlene Stratford's former home from Agnes Lahti

August 11 Pot luck supper shared at No. Waterford building. Due to the extremely hot temperatures the plans to hold business meeting on the second floor and to explore our treasures was curtailed.

September 8 Members of Paris Cape Historical Society were our guests. Waterford's officers gave brief reports of our society reflecting our beginnings since Paris Cape is a newly formed group. Our guests enjoyed a tour of both floors of the museum and viewed scrapbooks and mementoes - Our new gas heater kept the hall comfortably warm.

October 14 Pot luck supper at the hall. Violinist Heidi Kayser, accompanied by her father on cello, played a medley of hymns and other music some of which she will play at her debut with the Portland Symphony orchestra.

George "Dutch" Kayser then spoke on wheelwrighting.

November 11 We met at the Wilkins House. Bill Fillebrown shared tales of the Mt. Tirem Goat Farm which was owned and operated by Larry Rounds and Charles Fillebrown in the 30's.

December 9 At the home of Phil and Helen Buchert. The topic of the evening was "How I Came to Waterford". This proved to be most entertaining as many of us became carried away with "remembering when". President Joan Fillebrown appointed a nominating committee.

Waterford Historical Society
Waterford, Maine 04088