



# Waterford Echoes

VOLUME 10 Number 1 (Whole number 17)

Spring 1992

Waterford Historical Society

## IN MEMORIAM

### RUTH E. ROUNDS

February 2, 1912 - August 25, 1990



*Bill Haynes photo*

Ruth Rounds on July 19, 1984

at the dedication of three park benches  
on the Waterford Common to the memory of  
Larry and Alice Rounds.

Ruth E. Rounds, a life member of the Waterford Historical Society, died in 1990 at the age of 78. She was born in Waterford, educated locally at Bridgton Academy. She earned a B.A. Degree in French at Bates College, a M.A. degree in psychology from Boston University and her Ed. D. Degree in higher education from New York University. She was professor emeritus of psychology from Boston University and her Ed. D. Degree in higher education from New York University.

She was professor emeritus of psychology at Southern Connecticut State University. Most of us here in Waterford knew her as Ruth. However, Professor Rounds had an impressive career in education beginning at a time when women, especially from a small town in a rural area, often neither had the courage nor the inclination to strike out into a male dominated world. Before joining the SCSU faculty she held positions at Bridgton Academy and Boston University. She was first appointed a counselor at the SCSU, then called New Haven State Teachers College. She originated a program of community laboratory experiences for students to enter teaching. The concept became a national model for preparing social workers and nurses. During her 30 year career as a faculty member, administrator and counselor she also served at various times as Dean of Women and Director of Admissions. She had been a member of the American Psychological Association, the American Personnel and Guidance Association, Student Personnel Association for Teacher Education, the Connecticut Education Association and the National Education Association.

Professor Rounds' contribution to the world of education clearly was enormous, but Ruth always returned to Waterford and her roots. She was especially interested in the history of her hometown and its people. There are many stories remembered and artifacts preserved. We here in Waterford are tremendously grateful to Ruth Rounds for being the person she was and for having known her. And yet, after her death there was one more loving and caring gesture toward her beloved Waterford. The Waterford Historical Society received a very substantial bequest from her estate. We were overwhelmed and very grateful.

During our August Open House we plan to honor Ruth's memory with a special exhibit at the Society's Museum in North Waterford. We invite everybody who has a special story or recollection, photographs or newspaper articles to help us make this a fitting memorial.

Lilo Willoughby

## PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

**WATERFORD ECHOS** - I know you have not heard many of these beautiful echoes recently, through this, your publication, not the sound of wild life on our lakes and ponds, not the sound of thunder echoing from Mt. Tiram, nor the incredible sound of water rushing from our hills mingled with the delightful songs of birds returning and building their nests. Nature is shaking off winter, which many of us love, but enough is enough. The farmers and gardeners among us can hardly wait to dig into the ground and plant all those seedlings we have been raising in all sorts of contraptions more elegantly called greenhouses. And rumor has it that a black fly has been sighted. Along with nature, activities in the Waterford Historical Society are returning. One reason why we have not been reporting the ECHOES in our hills and lakes and all the exciting winter activities (skiing, cross country, ice fishing, skating, you name it) is that we are an entirely volunteer organization with much to do and not enough people to do it all. WATERFORD ECHOES, somehow fell through the cracks. But we are back now and hope to keep you informed about what is going on in Waterford now and all the wonderful things we are discovering about the past. Our meetings have been interesting and for the most part well attended. Some housekeeping tasks were accomplished. We scraped and painted the outside of the Rice Museum in Waterford Flat. The heating system in the North Waterford Museum was upgraded. While it is not good enough to meet there in the winter, it will be more comfortable in the spring and in the fall. Both places still need a lot of work. We published the OLD Waterford History 1775-1875, and it is selling well. We are collecting and receiving items that interpret the history of this town and the activities of its people and industries. In another part of this newsletter you heard about the generous bequest from the estate of Ruth Rounds. We will do our best to use it well. Another highlight of the year was the gift of restoration of two paintings given to the Society by Mary Rice. They are American Primitives, attributed to Robert Peckham. The restoration was done by Morton Bradley, well known for his work in the Boston art community. Our gratitude to Mr. and Mrs. William Wheeler. The paintings have been rehung in the Rice Museum in positions better for viewing and protection from damaging light. A new venture last year was the cooperation with the Waterford Memorial School at the 4th of July parade. Because of the 200th Anniversary the children had been studying the Bill of Rights. They made posters and dressed the parts and rode on our float. Discussions are underway to continue working together.

So, here we are, back in print. I hope you missed us and are happy to hear from us again. Waterford is such an interesting community that it invites historic investigation.

I encourage you to be part of that search of the past that will no doubt give us guidance and counsel into the future. We are all so lucky to know this beautiful place. Let's enjoy its beauty and serenity to the fullest and make sure that our children and grandchildren can appreciate it as we do. See you in Waterford!

Lieselotte H. Willoughby

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### 1992 OFFICERS

President: Lieselotte H. Willoughby  
Vice Pres.: Oscar Andrews  
Secretary: Nancy Marcotte  
Treasurer: Malcolm Bean  
Curator: Nancy Eaton

### NEW MEMBERS FOR 1991 - 1992

Warren Bishop  
David Buckley  
Gene & Chloe Colby  
Nancy Eaton  
Patricia Eaton  
George & Connie Elliott  
Ronald & Carol Gestwicki  
Ava Hunt  
Charles Mason  
Daphne Sands

### NEW LIFE MEMBERS FOR 1991 - 1992

Lawton & Phyllis Hammett  
Sylvia Sawyer Sebelist

### MEMBER NOTES

Margaret Merry Sawyer's book "Reaching for the Summit" is now available from the author.

Agnes Lahti and Margaret Sawyer attended the Oxford County League of Historical Societies' meeting in Rumford on April 25, 1992.

**CURATOR'S REPORT**

Over the past two years we have begun the painstaking job of preserving the rare documents in our collection. This involves sorting, cleaning, storage in either acid-free files or mylar casings to protect the papers, and then filing or sorting these materials into logical locations. During the course of this project, many interesting documents have emerged, including a stock certificate from the "Oxford County Mica Mining Co.", a group of highly unusual and creative "Dance Cards" from the turn of the century, and countless letters, deeds, pamphlets, and ephemera related to life in Waterford. In addition, photographs and postcards abound. At present we are working to preserve and sort these items according to topic. These are included in our archive document file as they are identified.

One of the projects completed this year was a complete inventory of all the Waterford Town Reports currently in the collection of the Historical Society. Closets, cupboards and boxes revealed an amazing abundance of material. To our delight, we have three almost complete sets, dating from 1884 to 1991. One set will be stored in the Knight Memorial Library for easier public access. At this time we are missing any issues prior to 1884 as well as the following years: 1886, 1891, 1893, 1895, 1897, 1948, and 1983-1989. We would very much appreciate copies or photocopies of these Annual Town Reports, if anyone is interested in owning one or several of the extra issues, please contact the Waterford Historical Society.

Nancy S. Eaton

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 Join the Waterford Historical Society. Check appropriate category and mail to R2 Box 508, Harrison, ME 04040

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

**Waterford Plantation  
 1790  
 Heads of Families**

	Head of family	Male under 16	Free white females including head of family
Jewet, Stephen	4	1	5
Green, Thos	3	1	6
Warren, Saml	1		
Gates, Wilm	1	1	2
Johnson, Asa	2		3
Orr, Phillip	4		2
Bryant, Richard	1		2
Sampson, Phineas	1		2
Whitcomb, David	1		
Chamberlain, John	1		
Longley, Ely	1	1	3
Brown, Silas	1	2	2
Brown, Thaddeus	1	2	2
Chamberlain, Ephraim	1	1	2
Russ, John	2		3
Whitney, Phineas	1	2	3
Stickney, Jona	2		
Homan, Jonas	1	2	1
McWane, David	1		
Longley, Jona	1	2	3
Hamblen, Africa	1	1	2
Hamblen, America	3	1	2
Jewel, Ezra	1	2	3
Hale, Israel	1	2	3
Hapgood, Oliver	1	1	3
Robbins, Jona	1	1	1
Hale, Oliver	1	1	3
Gibson, Jacob	1	1	1
Barker, Daniel	3		2
Holland, John	2	2	2
Brown, Asaph	2	1	3
Houghton, Jona	1	1	3
Jewel, John	1	1	2
Saunderson, Stephen	2	2	2
Chamberlain, Nathl	2		
Hale, Benjn	1		

1790 residents of Waterford Plantation, Cumberland County, Massachusetts.

**IN MEMORIAM**

Life member Keith A. Brown of San Diego, donor of genealogical material about his ancestors which included Daniel Barker.

In Portland on January 26, 1992, Hazel Kimball DeMerritt, a descendant of Abraham and Sally (Atherton) Whitcomb, early settlers of West Waterford.

Among the recent gifts to our collection: for the North Waterford Museum

- \* a folio on the life of Dr. William Holt - given by Joan H. Hotchkiss
- \* a 4-H apron (ca. 1928) given and made by Dorothy Millett Thomas
- \* two hand operated drill for railroad bolts given by Malcolm J. McKee
- \* a 1905 book "The Apples of N.Y. State" - given by Thomas Fillebrown
- \* an 1893 autograph album given by Celia Ballard
- \* an 1864 Civil War Discharge for Charles Hodgdon given by Edwin & Marsha Buck
- \* volumes 1 and 2 "History of Sweden, Maine" given by Philip W. Richards
- \* a group of 25 antique postcards given by Elizabeth Foster

Thank-you again for your generosity and thoughtfulness. Thank-you also to all the others not mentioned at this time. After twenty-five years we can be very proud of our collection of artifacts.

Nancy S. Eaton, Curator



**WATERFORD ROOTS** - A question and answer section for Waterford related historical & genealogical problems and puzzles. Queries accepted from members of the historical society.

**FROST** - Information wanted on Dominicus Frost and his son Lafayette Whitman Frost, who was born 31 August 1824 in Waterford. Is this the same Dominicus in the ministerial records of Sweden?

**BLAIR** - Wanted any material concerning Addie, Nellie and George Blair. They were in Waterford in the 1880's in connection with Maine Hygienic Institute.

Send questions and answers to the editor:

Sylvia Sawyer Sebelist  
P.O. Box 85  
Waterford, Maine 04088

#### FOR SALE

Waterford Tiles and Books

The History of Waterford Maine 1775-1875 (reprint) \$12.00

Waterford, Maine 1875 - 1976 \$10.00

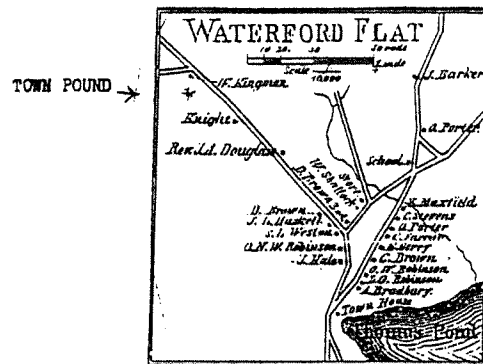
Buy both at once for \$20.00

Shipping, handling book rate	\$1.75 (one book)
	\$2.70 (two books)
priority	\$3.15 (one book)
	\$5.00 (two books)

By mail at: R2 box 508, Harrison, ME 04040

Tiles at museum for \$3.00 & tax of .18.

Waterford "pound keepers" in the 1840's; 50's and '60s were Robert L. Allen, William Kingman, Jr. and John Kingman, Plummer Hill residents.



An 1858 map of Waterford Flat

Waterford Historical Society  
Waterford, Maine 04088