

Waterford Echoes

VOLUME XI Number 2 (Issue 19)

Fall 1993

Waterford Historical Society



Hapgood Carding Mill Move Celebrates 30th Anniversary

The photograph above is an old view of South Waterford taken from the Waterford Creamery location along Routes 35/37. The date is unknown but the pile of wood in the middle near City Brook seems to indicate it was taken in the first quarter of this century while the corn shop was still operating. At the right of the photo is a glimpse of the Hapgood Carding Mill, which was owned and operated by Walter K. Hamlin (1854-1940) when the photo was taken.

Thirty years ago, the process began of numbering, dismantling and moving the carding mill to Old Sturbridge Village, Massachusetts. That incredible move was made possible by the generosity of Albert W. Rice. The house across from the mill in the old photo was later owned by Arthur W. Sanderson, widowed husband of W.K. Hamlin's daughter Jane. Sanderson died in 1979 at the age of 99. The house today is owned by Marilyn Baker.

The more recent photo, by Donald F. Eaton and courtesy of Old Sturbridge Village, shows the mill as it looks today in the recreated 1820s-era New England village. The original eighteenth century wool carding equipment still works as it did when it was first brought here from England. Thanks to the advice given in 1970 by the late Walter "Bud" Hamlin, grandson of W.K. Hamlin, the sluiceway and water mill machinery works as it used to.

(Photos from collections of Bill Haynes and Nancy Marcotte)



President's column

Since the spring issue of *Waterford Echoes*, the Society has enjoyed receiving correspondence from members who live "away" and cannot attend our meetings. We appreciate the interest in the work of the Society, and especially the stories, recollections and artifacts sent our way. They are carefully catalogued and added to our growing collection.

Along with the last newsletter, members received proposed by-laws changes. At the July meeting, these changes were discussed. The new by-laws, accepted by a unanimous vote, are available upon request.

Our working together with the Waterford Memorial School resulted in a beautiful float for the 4th of July parade. Students and their parents represented "Americana" in a lively fashion. More on the parade in our next issue. Our special thanks to Leslie Rogers, who lent his truck and drove it very carefully with this precious load.

Landscaping at the Rice Museum is completed. Our thanks to Peter Morse, who donated much time and

some material, and to energetic weeders Joy Plate, Meg Wheeler and Sheena Fraser.

Sylvia Sebelist has informed us that she finds impossible to work with us on this newsletter as the Roots editor. We are sorry to lose Sylvia's expertise as a genealogist and thank her for the work previously done. Meanwhile, we will try to do our best to answer your questions.

Our meetings were well attended and very interesting. Mary Martikainen, president of the Deertrees Foundation, talked at the July meeting about the history and the new life of Deertrees Theater in Harrison. In August, Oscar Andrews recalled the life and music of the Andrews Family Orchestra.

A historic weather note: In July we had five successive days with temperatures above 90 degrees! Now we are looking forward to the always beautiful fall.

See you and stay in touch.

Lilo Willoughby

Member Notes

Oscar Andrews donated three violins valued at more than \$4,000 to the Oxford Hills School District in memory of his father, L. Newell Andrews, a musician who performed during the first half of this century. Oscar played drums for many years with the Andrews Family band and the Old Parisiens Orchestra.

Treasurer Mac Bean reported at the August meeting that the Society set a record for new memberships. Since the last newsletter in June, 20 new life memberships came in along with several annual memberships and renewals. The next newsletter is set to come out between Thanksgiving and Christmas.

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The Waterford Historical Society newsletter is published quarterly to benefit its membership. The Society, founded in 1965, is a non-profit Corporation created for the purpose of preserving and making available to persons interested, any and all historical and other material that shall be deemed valuable and worthy of preservation, in an effort to perpetuate for this and future generations the events, customs and traditions of local history, past, present and future, and to make possible the diffusion of such knowledge.

1993 OFFICERS

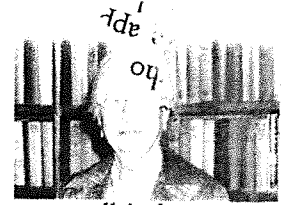
President:	Liseselotte H. Willoughby
Vice President:	Oscar Andrews
Secretary:	Nancy Marcotte
Treasurer:	Malcolm Bean
Curator:	Nancy Eaton
Newsletter Editor:	Bill Haynes
Program Co-chairs:	Marjorie Kimball & Mary (Mrs. Richard) Andrews

MEMBERSHIP CLASSIFICATION

Life member - couple	\$75.00
Life member - individual	\$50.00
Annual - Couple	\$5.00
Annual - Single	\$3.00
Annual - Seniors (60 & over)	\$2.00
Send checks to:	Waterford Historical Society P.O. Box 201 Waterford ME 04088

TO THE FOLKS FAR AWAY AND AT HOME

by Flora G. Abbott



I guess I have told you how I love to get our oldest citizen, Henry Haynes, 90 years young, to yarning about the good old days and, as I listen, it almost seems to me that they had better times in those days, when they had to depend on their own inventive genius for most everything - good times and perhaps life itself -- than we do in these days when most things seem to come ready made.

This time, Uncle Henry (as we all affectionately call him) was telling me about the South Waterford Brass Band, which flourished around here about 1877 and which he was a member of. I asked him how many there were in the band and he said around 17. This band got to be quite proficient and was called upon to play in surrounding towns at political rallies and other important occasions. He spoke of one political rally at which they played where, when they got ready for the principal speaker to tell his story, he had celebrated the occasion to such an extent that he could hardly stand, much less speak clearly, and they retired him with all haste.

Of course, despite my advanced age, I never heard the band, but I do remember the bandstand, just below Oscar Andrews' lawn. The road being narrower in those horse and buggy days, it must have been in what is now the road. It stood for some years after the band had been disbanded and we children used to play in it -- not horns, however.

What Uncle Henry was telling me about, this time, was how the band played at the funeral of Calvin Houghton, who lived where he does now. Calvin had been forewarned of his approaching end and, thinking a lot of the band, he made a special request that it should play at his funeral. And so the band, playing as it marched, led the procession to Elm Vale Cemetery. Just as it entered the "pearly" gates, it played *Nearer My God to Thee*. It was pronounced grand, and it must have been as it echoed back from Bear Mountain across Bear Pond.

Uncle Henry went on to say that Waterford used to be quite a place, with quite a population, and he wished he was able to go around over it and count the old cellar holes where people used to live. Putting my word in here, I said, "I guess there are more cellar holes than anything else." But this is true of many other places; the farmer has moved to town.

I'll admit that I have old fashioned ideas, but in a way I think people made more of themselves when they had to depend on themselves for their own entertainment and food. Today you can get your entertainment by riding to town to the movies and, as you munch popcorn, watch

what is often a mediocre picture unroll before your eyes. As for food, if you are so inclined and many are, you can buy it ready to put before your victims, or out of a tin can. Or, if you feel especially ambitious, you can make rolls, pies and cakes from a package by just adding water and heating with probably more groans at the labor involved than our grandmothers ever thought of emitting at doing it all the hard way.

In these days you cannot imagine how, years ago, large families managed to get a living off these small farms and what they raised on them, but they did and if you think they did not live as well as we do now, you are fooling yourselves, that's all. And on top of that they managed to build most of these public buildings that we have hardly gumption enough to keep in repair now; probably they worked together to accomplish all of the things they did and hadn't heard the remark that we hear so much now: "Let John do it." Perhaps the answer to all their accomplishments, though, was the hours of their work day; they would have thought a six or eight hour work day just plain silly.

I have some old tax books, used by the collector of taxes of Waterford, of the vintage of 1860 and 1861 (sent me by Jones Hall's granddaughter now living in California) where the taxes ranged all the way from 19 cents to the stupendous sum of \$64. Evidently, after they had served their useful day as tax books, the women of the family conceived the idea of making them further useful by copying sundry cooking recipes in them. I should say from them that in that day it was against the law to make a cake with less than from six to a dozen eggs and a cup or more of butter; maybe these were company or circle cakes, but could we, in this day, afford such an outlay for even that? You know we couldn't.

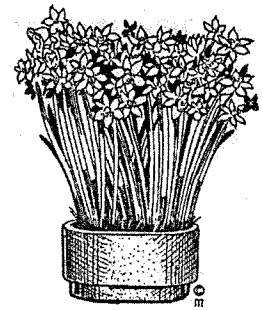
However, even though it is doubtful if we live better than our grandparents, we have made great gains in other directions, for in the tax book of 1861 the summary of the taxes to be collected was \$4,613.78 and in 1950 it is \$49,935.02. Add to that income taxes, social security taxes, luxury taxes and sales taxes and it must be apparent to anyone that the day of small farming for small profit has been doomed and the day of individual independence greatly restricted. We may not have improved things as much as they would like to have us think, but we're got taxes for bed-fellows and whether we can sleep with them or not is a question for this generation to find out; and also whether vitamins with water will take the place of the good rich food our forefathers lived and worked on.

Flora Gertrude Hamlin Abbott was born June 28, 1884, the daughter of Walter Keyes and Clara Bell Hamlin. A member of the class of 1903 at Bridgton Academy, Flora served as postmaster in South Waterford for many years. She married prominent dairyman Willard W. Abbott and helped him run their farm as well as the Waterford Creamery. From the 1940s until the 1960s, she wrote a column in the Norway Advertiser-Democrat, originally titled *To the Boys Away*. This column was published on July 27, 1951, two days after Henry Haynes died.

Curator's Column

by Nancy Eaton

One of the most important functions of any historical society is to record the individuals and achievements of its area. Since the Waterford Historical Society was founded in 1965, numerous friends have generously donated a wide variety of objects to help us preserve, understand and interpret our past. Archivists have carefully clipped articles from local newspapers to capture more recent events. Recently, we have begun to protect fragile photographs, letters, deeds, postcards and other printed materials in mylar jackets. This state-of-the-art technique allows visitors to handle and identify these papers while protecting them from sunlight and dirt. A further step has been to file these documents under topical entries for easier access to the collections. One of our goals is to have all Waterford families represented in these files by either a photograph, genealogy or story. Schools, churches, camps, businesses, visitors, local events and many other events about Waterford are also being included. Already, there is a fascinating variety of subjects from our past.



But history begins today, and it is much easier to collect and record these items today than 50 years from now. With your help, we can give future generations access to their past. Please take the time to send in stories, photographs, genealogies, art work, resumés, videotape or whatever you think will best tell about yourselves or other subjects that relate to Waterford. Items need not be originals and the society has easy-to-fill-out genealogy forms which we will be happy to give you. Become a part of tomorrow...and thank you.

Life Members

Adams, Dorothy	Fraser, Robert & Sheena	Orr, Charlotte Longley
Andrews, Philip & Joan	Haase, Alfred & Ellen	Patton, M/M William
Baker, Marilyn	Hamlin, George	Perkins, Richard
Bean, M/M Malcolm	Hammett, A.L.	Plate, M/M Henry
Bradford, Leslie & Alan	Hammett, M/M Lawton	Raymond, Ginny Lou
Brett, George	Haynes, William & India	Rice, Albert
Brett, Nancy	Haynes, William & Judy	Rice, Ella
Brown, M/M Raynor	Howard, M/M Chester	Ross, M/M Robert
Brown, Royce	Howe, John	Sawyer, Margaret
Burns, Abby & Jeremiah	Howe, Stanley	Sebelist, Sylvia
Chute, Glenn & Ruth	Ingraham, M/M John	Shriver, Frederick & Susan
Cutler, M/M Chapin	Kilburn, Linda & Bruce Peterson	Stockwell, M/M Fred
Dabczynski, M/M H.S.	King, Dr. Lois	Stockwell, Howard
Deans, Rachel Rice	Klepinger, John	Stockwell, M/M William
Dewing, Dr. & Mrs. Stephen	Knight, Gladys	Uhl-Myers, M/M Michael
Doore, Margaret Morse	McAllister, Rev. Donald	Wardwell, Thora
Eaton, M/M John	Morse, Marion	Weisman, Angela
Fillebrown, M/M William	Noyes, Haynes & Mildred	Wheeler, M/M William III
Fitts, Beatrice	O'Brien, M/M John	Willoughby, M/M Keith G.

Waterford Historical Society
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