



Waterford Echoes

VOLUME XI Number 3 (Issue 20)

Winter 1994

Waterford Historical Society

Waterford Writings

by Nancy Eaton

Throughout its history, Waterford has been home to a wide variety of strong and diverse individuals. By recording our past, we continue to discover the many talented people who have been drawn to the unique beauty of Waterford. Orators, teachers, writers, artists, laborers, innkeepers, orchardists and business leaders have all enjoyed our villages.

Curiously, there has been a recent surge of literature appearing by or about Waterford residents. Previous editions of the *Waterford Echoes* have mentioned both Margaret Sawyer's autobiography and Virginia Tyler Cutler's book of poems.

Other publications include a book written and published by George Elliott entitled *A World All to Myself* using the pseudonym Mary Ann Evans; a book which Sylvia Sawyer Sebelist helped research, *The Waterford Water Cure, A Numismatic Inquiry* by Q. David Bowers; a book about Ralph Waldo Emerson, including a chapter about Mary Moody Emerson, a longtime Waterford resident, entitled *Emerson — The Roots of Prophecy*, written by Evelyn Barish; and a book by William A. Wheeler III and three associates entitled *Business Process Reengineering: Breakpoint Strategies for Market Dominance*.

Waterford is also featured in a chapter called The Ghost That Couldn't Leave in the book *Ghosts of New England* by Hans Holzter. The



The Town House on Tom Pond approximately 1906.

Bill Haynes collection

story involves the old Bell House in the Blackguard neighborhood, also known as West Waterford.

We know there are other authors out there and we would love for our readers to tell us about their works and even send copies for the Society archives as well as local libraries. We will gladly publish this information in future issues of the *Waterford Echoes*.

Titles need not be recent. Just recently, Dick Denison of Norway

discovered a collection of illustrated songs for children written by Satis N. Coleman and published by John Day & Co. during the 1930s entitled *Singing Time*. Coleman conducted summer music sessions at Temple Hill Farm many years ago.

Volunteers interested in helping the Society catalogue its museum library should contact Nancy S. Eaton at P.O. Box 201, Waterford, ME 04088.

Annual Meeting

The annual meeting and election of officers will be held at 7:30 p.m. Thursday, April 14, at the Society's North Waterford headquarters. The Nominating Committee will present a slate of officers for approval. All members are encouraged to attend.

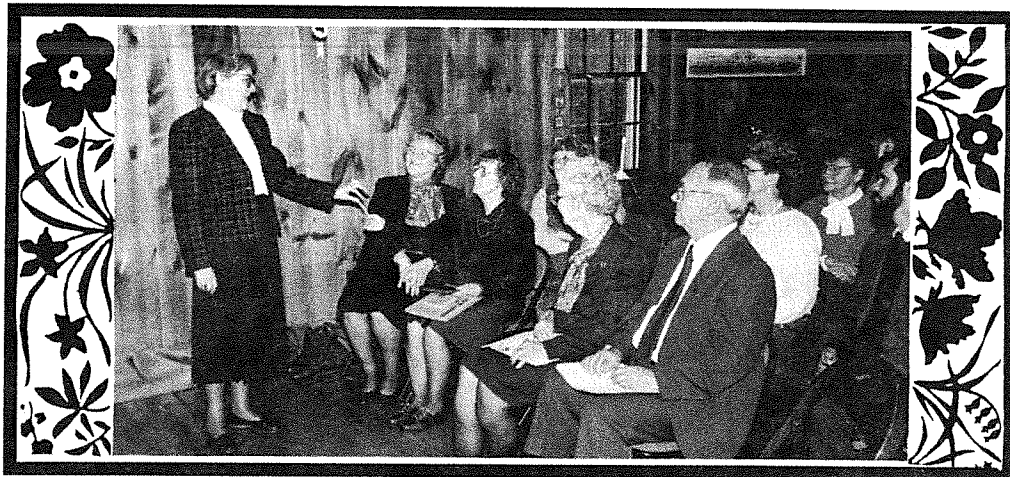
President's column

Dear members and friends:

1994 is here and we wish you a happy, healthy and peaceful New Year. Waterford is covered with a beautiful white blanket of snow (three storms in nine days), solidly frozen lakes and temperatures in the teens and single numbers at night. It IS beautiful, but many of our members have

opted for a more moderate climate. Therefore, our next meeting will not be until April. Yet the behind the scene work of the Society continues, albeit at a more moderate pace, too. We again would like to thank you for your correspondence and gifts to our collections. Curator Nancy Eaton,

in her report, is more specific about the items. It makes us feel



Lilo Willoughby presented Mary Carlson of the Harrison Historical Society with a check from the Waterford Historical Society during the dedication of Harrison's new home, the former New England Horse Supply on Haskell Hill.

good to see that you care enough to think of us. We try to be good custodians. We also try to be good neighbors. The Harrison Historical Society, about as long in existence as we are, never had a building of its own. That changed last year when Mary Carlson gave the Harrison Society a permanent

home, the Old New England Horse Supply building, which before that was the potato barn, and before that "the old fruit barn" or Arthur Stanley's apple House on Haskell Hill Road. The members marked the acceptance of the deed with a celebration in their new building. The Waterford

Historical Society participated in the festivities and presented the new owners with a check and one of the few remaining Waterford tiles.

Have a nice winter, stay in touch and we hope to see you when our official activities resume in the spring.
Lilo Willoughby

Waterford Echoes

Vol. XI Number 3 Issue 20 Winter 1994

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.

1993-94 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	\$7.50
Annual - single	\$5.00
Annual - Seniors (60 & over)	\$3.00

Send checks to: Waterford Historical Society
P.O. Box 201
Waterford ME 04088

Recent gifts to the Waterford Historical Society include:

Florence Greenleaf	Items in memory of educator Eloise F. Millett (1897-1978) Bridgton Academy Sewing composition book c.1917 Teacher's edition of Wentworth's <i>Practical Arithmetic</i> c.1897 Family photograph album and genealogical materials Inscribed silver-plated tea set presented to Miss Millett on the occasion of her retirement in 1962 Video tape recording of Charles and Mary Fillebrowns' 50th Anniversary party on Aug. 30, 1993 1885 Waterford Mutual Fire Insurance Co. policy History on Waterford Ladies Circle and summer breakfasts since 1953 1853 Oxford County map and 1858 wood sign for Syracuse Plows Plaque given in memory of Miriam Monroe (1900-1993) Photo of Thomas and Sara Carpenter Bishop at Susan Wilkins House (now Kedarburn Inn) Photographs of North Waterford school and logging scene Photographs of North Waterford Two enormous scrapbooks filled with newspaper clippings, postcards, photographs, camp brochures and other printed materials pertaining to Waterford The newly published book of <i>Poems</i> by Charlotte Morse Fillebrown and compiled by the Fillebrown family
Bill Fillebrown	Early L.R. Rounds wooden sign and Waterford Post Office sign Assortment of newspaper clippings on Waterford Waterford postcards and tax bills from 1803 and 1808 Genealogical materials on the Sawin family. Genealogical materials on Warren Vinton Kneeland family and a poem Photograph of North Waterford Congregational Church c.1927, taken the year before it was destroyed by fire
Jill Stockwell	Box for butter from the Waterford Creamery
Emma Pitts	1856 Book of Common Prayer and 1843 New Testament printed in Portland with petit point bookmark
Lilo Willoughby	Chapter 2 from Evelyn Barrish's book on Ralph Waldo Emerson, which discussed Mary Moody Emerson's influences upon her nephew
Chloe Colby	Photographs from the 1991 Waterford 4th of July parade
Alfred Lovejoy	Copy of his book <i>Jasper and Sam</i> for 9 to 11-year-olds
Margaret Sawyer	Poetry and writings by Charlotte M. Fillebrown, including <i>Singing Brooks — Christmas 1944</i> and <i>The Land We Love</i> , undated
Harry Walker	White glass toothpick holder given as a wedding present to Bertha F. Rice and Arthur A. Fitts in 1899 by 10-year-old Bill Holt
Thora Wardwell	
John O'Brien	
Jane Kirball	
David Reichly	
Charlotte Longley Orr	
Beatrice Fitts	

We truly appreciate this generous outpouring of materials. Please remember that you are a part of tomorrow and to continue to send us family histories and photos so that you will be remembered in the future.

Nancy Eaton

In Memoriam

Florence E. Greenleaf, Jan. 21, 1994 at age 72. Born in North Waterford the daughter of George L. and Edith Millett Greenleaf, she graduated from Bliss College and the University of Maine and received her Master's Degree from Springfield College. She taught physical education and coached several sports in Maine and Massachusetts for 40 years. A counselor at Camp Tapawingo in Sweden for many years, she also summered at her camp on Papoose Pond. She is survived by a sister, Mrs. John Trinward of Bethel, a niece and three nephews.

Rev. Travers H. Smith, Feb. 1, 1994 at age 77. Born in North Hampton, Mass. the son of Howard and Pearl Coons Smith, he graduated from Bangor Theological Seminary in 1938 and Bates College in 1944. For more than 45 years he was a Methodist minister serving several parishes throughout Maine from Presque Isle to Portland, including Waterford. He is survived by his wife of 43 years, Kathryn Carson Smith of Otisfield; a son Edison of Stratham, N.H.; a grandson Carson of Durham, N.H.; and a granddaughter Eliza of Stratham, N.H.

MEMORIES

An overview of 1993 society activities

by Nancy Marcotte, Secretary

Waterford Historical Society meetings have become increasingly more entertaining. Interesting gifts have been given such as store signs, books antiques, packaging, photos. Speakers have brought fascinating recollection, which always spark memories in the audience members (especially for Bill Fillebrown, who must remember everything he ever did!). History certainly comes alive when this group gets together.

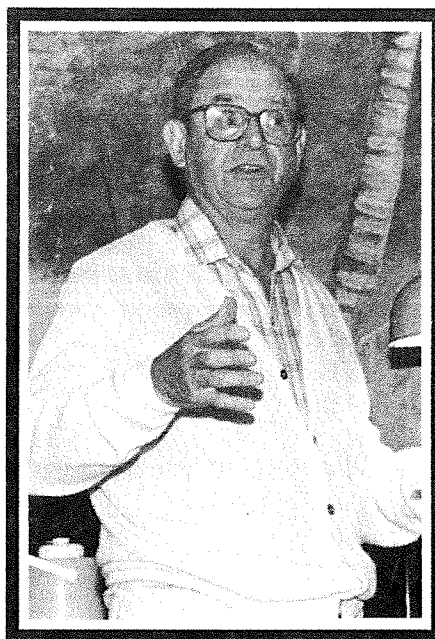
This past year has been particularly engaging, as so much has happened. Many people have joined — we set new records for membership in 1993. Meetings have been well attended and discussions have been lively. Thanks to Ruth Rounds' extraordinarily generous bequest, the Waterford Historical Society has been able to give money to other organizations.

We met first for 1993 at the Wilkins House with 16 present. At that meeting, we voted to pay the (long overdue) rent on the site where the Rice Museum has set since 1979. The library received \$99 from us — \$1 per year for 99 years — thus paying us up until 2078. And we also voted to pay for half the library driveway restoration.

The past was not our only focus, which is part of what makes our society so lively. At this meeting, we began several new enterprises. Bill Haynes agreed to take on the newsletter and we created a new dues structure. All dues are now payable in April of each year. Joan Fillebrown became hospitality chair. We were off to a positive start!

In May, 14 people met at the former Odd Fellows/Rebekah Hall — our warm weather headquarters in North Waterford. A tree on the Common in the Flat had been cut down, which sparked a lot of concern in town. President Lilo Willoughby received several phone calls from people who wondered who had the authority to

do that in an historic district. Of course, the tree warden, and ultimately the selectmen, have that authority as the historic designation has no regulatory teeth. It was suggested that we ask selectmen to keep the society in the information loop in the future. It was remembered that Alice and Larry Rounds planted that tree on the day that Blanche Tyler died. Gary Rounds, eldest of four Rounds' sons, cut the tree down and the Christmas lights were moved to the fir tree planted in memory of Susan Stockwell.



Oscar Andrews recalled his father, Newell, and the Andrews Family Orchestra at the August meeting.

In June, new by-laws were proposed after much work by John Eaton and our treasurer, Mac Bean. These better represent the actual functioning of the society in the nearly three decades since the original by-laws were drafted. They allow for seven trustees, five of which are the officers, and they set the annual meeting in April. The by-laws were approved in July by the voting members.

We also agreed to compile information on the founders of the Waterford Historical Society and the years since the beginning in 1965. This will be set up on computer for future publication. Please look for them in editions of the *Waterford Echoes*.

July was a busy and interesting month. It saw the 4th of July parade with our *Americana* float featuring a quilt by Margaret Sawyer and the Howe Family Band as well as Debbie Howe at her spinning wheel. The new landscaping at the Rice Museum was splendidly finished by Peter Morse. Fifty-five people visited the museum during the 4th of July breakfast.

At the July meeting, 37 people were present for a pot luck supper and Mary Martikainen's talk on Deertrees Theater in Harrison. This marvelous 1930s log building is being restored by a large group of volunteers spurred by Mary. Today, Deertrees is on the National Historic Landmark register. Built for \$400,000 by Enrica Clay Dillon and Charles Schuabb, Deertrees Theater has been graced by such luminaries of the stage as Ethel Barrymore, Helen Hayes, Arthur Treacher and Maine's own Rudy Vallee. The acoustics are among the best in the country and many performers now want to use it, including the Sebago-Long Lake Chamber Music Festival, Schooner Fare and Camp Encore/Coda jazz groups.

Following the talk, members recalled seeing the Deertrees stars. Oscar Andrews saw Joe E. Brown rehearsing while Bill Fillebrown saw Arthur Treacher in the drugstore. Dorothy McGuire boarded with the Tarbox family. (By the way, Mary Martikainen is always an excellent guest speaker. The last time she was here she told us of seeing Lindbergh fly over her home on Deer Hill!).

In August, there were 44 people present at the hall. We set a record for dues received in one month. There had been a written inquiry about when the change took place in the name of Keoka Lake from Tom Pond. Though we knew that Keoka is supposedly an Indian name meaning "abounding in pine," no one knew when the change occurred. Do you know?

The speaker for this meeting was Oscar Andrews remembering his father, Newell, and the Andrews Family Orchestra. Oscar, a well-known local drummer, began to play music at the age of 12 and continues today. His memories painted special pictures — his dad coming home

family musical tradition.

August also saw the annual open house, near Labor Day, with several very interested visitors.

The September meeting featured a discussion among 30 people of how to put the historic preservation concerns into the Waterford Comprehensive Plan. Michael Uhl-Myers has been working with a committee to have a local historic ordinance approved for the Flat at the March town meeting.

Memories of Waterford on film were shared, including Mary (Mrs. Richard) Andrews' 8mm films of the Bicentennial Parade in 1976 and Red Cross swimming lessons in 1982. Marjorie Kimball had scenic photos

October saw 28 people at the Wilkins House when Margaret Werner donated an old C. D. Morse sign and Bea Fitts gave her mother's opalescent glass match holder, complete with the story of the little boy who gave it to her (he later became Dr. Bill Holt). Many more gifts were given, including Eloise Millett's teaching materials, a 50th wedding anniversary tape of Charles and Mary Fillebrown and a plaque in memory of the irreplaceable Miriam Monroe by Mary (Mrs. Oscar) Andrews and her Swim Club.

That night's program on ghost stories included an original composition by Mrs. Richard Andrews and a chapter from Hanz Holzer's book, *Ghosts of New England* involving the Bell house on Blackguard and Mrs. Mildred Haynes Noyes. Incidentally, Mildred never saw the purported ghost of Mrs. Bell during the séance, as inaccurately reported by the *Lewiston Sun-Journal*, but she did recognize the description by those who had seen the apparition. She remains skeptical, however.

In November, 21 people met to hear a presentation by local potter Rusty Wiltjer on ideas for commemorative plates. The audience was also treated to the poetry of Charlotte Morse Fillebrown. It was voted to give donations to the Western Maine Agency on Aging and the Harrison Historical Society, which has just acquired a building of its own.

The last meeting of the year was a charming Christmas party in the former Douglass Seminary, now the home of Keith and Lilo Willoughby. There were 22 present for punch, cookies, caroling and viewing of the Fillebrown anniversary tape. Richard Andrews spoke about his delight at being asked to take pictures of the homecoming of the narrow gauge railroad in Portland. The line used to run from Harrison to Bridgton and beyond. Bill Fillebrown unveiled the book of his mother's poems, to be sold for \$5. He presented a book to Lil Herrick, who used to work for Charlotte. Fun was had by all.

See you in April!



Leading the singing at the December meeting were from left: Martha Eaton, Ellen Kingman, Marjorie Kimball and Mary F. Andrews.

from dances late at night, sleeping since the horse knew the way; his uncle riding a bicycle to Ohio and back, tuning pianos along the way; Sunday afternoon musicals at the Andrews home in North Waterford, with neighbors lined up several deep outside the windows to listen! The end of his talk was extra special — Oscar's grandson Chris (son of Tom and Vicky Andrews) played the drums, following in the Andrews

(1902-1972) along with several of 4th of July parades. George Hamlin brought several photos from the 1940s including the former North Waterford spool mill and the World's Fair. The society's new VCR (courtesy of John and Martha Eaton) and big screen television (courtesy of Ruth Rounds) was christened with a Nancy Marcotte production — a videotape of the Hamlin Family and its local architecture.

Breakfasts at the Wilkins Community House

by Lilo Willoughby

Waterford in the summer without the breakfasts at the Wilkins House — unthinkable! They are certainly a big social event, especially the first and biggest on the 4th of July. Summer has truly arrived and the people from "away" are "here" now. Joyful greetings, loving embraces and talk, talk, talk! There is a whole year to catch up on. And thank goodness they are still serving those delicious muffins!

Well, how did it all get started and who are the people who organized it? Joan Fillebrown researched the records of the Waterford Ladies Circle and supplied us with some information. In May, 1953 the Circle voted to have three breakfasts during the summer and the same again in 1954. There was no mention of 1955 or 1956. In 1957, the first breakfast was held on June 18 and netted \$22.75. July 4th brought in \$56.77 and there were three more making a total for the summer of \$167.74. The next several years saw different events: a supper here and there, a few breakfasts randomly

scheduled and a strawberry festival. In 1963, things began in earnest. After the first breakfast on the 4th of July,

Society, which is responsible for the upkeep of the building. The breakfasts represent the major source of fund

So, how are we doing? Here are the numbers served in 1993:

July 4 — 450
July 14 — 150
July 28 — 251
Aug. 11 — 282
Aug. 25 — 251
Total 1,384

The 1993 profit was \$3,570, \$117 more than 1992.

There was a total of 50 volunteers this year, 15 of whom worked on all five breakfasts. It is an enormous undertaking, primarily because

the food is fresh and everything, except for the doughnuts, is made right there in the Wilkins House kitchen. Our biggest attractions are the socializing, camaraderie and, of course, the on-premises made muffins.

L.W.

P.S. Just about everyone who works on the breakfasts is also a member of the Waterford Historical Society. We like that.



Wilkins House, church in the late 1930s. Photo: Bill Fillebrown collection

breakfasts followed on every other Wednesday through August. In some years, extra breakfasts were held for the benefit of Stephens Memorial Hospital. In 1970, one was also held for Northern Cumberland Memorial Hospital. In 1976, the Ladies Circle disbanded and turned the responsibility for the building over to the church. The church trustees in 1983 voted \$1,000 from the Wilkins Community House Fund to the newly formed Wilkins Community House

Portland ^{father & son} brothers designed Wilkins House

by Nancy Marcotte

The Colonial Revival-style Community House in Waterford was built in 1928 from plans furnished by well known Portland architects John Calvin Stevens and John Howard Stevens. It was dedicated in 1929 to the memory of Susan Hamlin Wilkins, a local teacher who lived just across the field along Route 35.

A story-and-a-half building with stage and Craftsman style meeting space, it has housed the Farm Bureau, many years of Sunday School classes, enumerable suppers and cold-weather historical

society meetings as well as countless summer breakfasts. The kitchen was renovated with volunteer help during the winter of 1991-92. This past year the building saw the addition of vinyl siding and a new bulkhead.

The Wilkins Community House serves the adjacent Congregational Church, also Stevens designed in Classic Federal style to replace an 1837 church.

On Sept. 25, 1979, the Wilkins House was picked up and moved into the field behind it. On Oct. 3, a new foundation was poured, 20 feet further from the road

than original. On Nov. 6, the building was moved back on the new foundation.

In future issues, we will be beginning a survey of local buildings, then and now. We would like to collect data on all our buildings and we hope that residents will write down anything they know about their properties, including dates, title searches and interesting historical events or uses. We would like to update our maps and photo collections and perhaps date the buildings with signs.

Members hear poetry at November meeting

by Marjorie Kimball

Waterford Poetry was the focus of the November 11 meeting of the historical society held at the Wilkins House. The program opened with all singing the *Parish Hymn*, written in 1954 by the Rev. Herbert Houghton and dedicated to Dr. Wilbur Bull, who served Oxford County United Parish from 1925-53.

Myra Cheever will be remembered as a North Waterford teacher, who, after her retirement, became postmaster for 25 years at the "Stage Stop" where her granddaughter, Dorothy Erickson, now lives. Her poetry was much in demand for parties and entertainments. A poem dedicated to her father on his 75th birthday depicts life in Waterford from 1825. Excerpts of that poem follow:

In those far off days of twenty-five,
When you first came to earth,
How many things familiar now,
Had not then had their birth.

No *railwad* then in all our land,
No lights in the city street,
No telegraph, no telephone,
No ocean steamers fleet.

Your father dropped his corn by hand,
And shelled it out the same way;
And took it on horseback to the mill,
Where the toll he had to pay.

In a more humorous vein is a verse from the poem *The Postmaster of Pokumville*, a fictitious name for North Waterford.

I work as hard as I can work,
But the best that I can do
It's half past nine before I get
The postal cards read through.
And when Eloise writes to Jonathan
Or Phyllis writes to Ned
I work my brains a wondering
Just what them gals have said.
I think if I do not resign
This awful work will kill,
And then a new postmistress here
Will reign in Pokumville.

If your mother dreamed of the cooking stove,
Her dreams were all in vain.
She baked her cakes before the fire,
And boiled her meat on the crane.

Your father mowed with a scythe and snath,
For he had no machine of steel.
Your mother played no piano,
But was mistress of the spinning wheel.

Your sisters wore dresses of homespun,
Your brothers the cowhide boot,
For the shoemaker came each year to the house,
And cut and made to suit.

Mary F. Andrews gave a short talk on writing poetry and led the group to write a cinquain:

Lake
Cold wet
Frozen over soon
Sad the summer's gone.
Ice.

Bill Fillebrown has recently assembled a collection of Charlotte Fillebrown's poetry that has been published and is available. Selections from this volume were read as Bill shared memories of growing up in Waterford. The following is a season's greeting from Charlotte:

SEASON'S GREETINGS

How Beautiful it is in winter
Our little home standing in the sun
With fir trees covered with snow
Speak of Christmas to every one.

In the feeding stations
Standing high above the snow
The birds are all so happy
As they fly to and fro.

From the wreath upon the door
To the tip of every tree
Is found the beauty of Christmas
That every one can see.

We want so much to share with you
All the dear delightful things
Which surround us daily
That only the winter season brings.

Come into the house with us
Where there is love and cheer
And friends are always welcome
At any time of year.

Set in the sunny window
Where plants bring beauty inside
And seem to say to everyone
Here love and peace abide.

May Christmas be as peaceful
As the winter countryside
May the wonderful message it brings
Always with you abide.

When the winter stars are shining
In the sky so bright and clear
May they give you peace and happiness
That will last through the new year.

Curator's Column

by Nancy Eaton

Throughout its history, Waterford has been home to a wide variety of strong and diverse individuals. By recording our past, we continue to discover the many talented people who have been drawn to the unique beauty of Waterford. Orators, teachers, writers, artists, laborers, innkeepers, orchardists and business leaders have all enjoyed our villages.

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Glimpses from the past

March 2, 1925 — town meeting dinner. Tickets were 35 cents, 5 cents if food contributed. Supplies included 14 quarts dried beans, 8 loaves brown bread, 10 loaves white bread, 5 lbs butter, 7 quarts milk. Doughnuts, pies, salads and pickles were not solicited. Receipts were \$42.42.

March 7, 1932 — Solicited food included 15 quarts dried beans, 8 loaves brown bread, 18 salads, 17 dozen doughnuts, 31 pies, 7 quarts milk, 3 quarts cucumber pickles, 2 quarts other pickles, five pounds butter, four pounds coffee, five pounds cheese, 16 loaves white bread. Receipts were \$35.60.

The Community House burned May 3, 1928. A business meeting of the Circle was held in September of 1929 to consider the invitation of the South Waterford Community Club to hold Circle suppers in the Grange Hall once a month during the moving pictures.

"There was a spirited discussion, but before the vote could be taken, the meeting was broken up on account of fire," according to Circle records.

At the next Circle meeting in October, members were against the idea. "They put themselves on record as appreciating the kindness of the South Waterford people in offering and although they could not do it every month, they might be able to help out occasionally."

Waterford Historical Society
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