



Waterford Echoes

VOLUME XII Number 1 (Issue 21)

Summer 1994

Waterford Historical Society

The Founders: A Chronology of the Waterford Historical Society

by Nancy Marcotte

Editor's note: This is the first installment on the origin of the Waterford Historical Society nearly three decades ago. Nancy Marcotte compiled the information from the secretary's reports.

1965-1970

It was March 4, 1965, when an organizational meeting of the Waterford Historical Society was held at the Bear Mt. Library in South Waterford. Ober Kimball moderated the meeting attended by 27 people. Louise Hodgkins served as the acting secretary.

The early meetings were held in the library building, which was the former general store and post office owned by Flora Hamlin Abbott. Flora, who lived upstairs, had urged the establishment of a historical society for nearly a decade. (Upon her death in 1975, Flora, the former postmaster, gave the building to the Bear Mt. Library Association. She gave her furniture, historical collections and artifacts to the new historical society.)

A month later, the first officers were elected. Ober Kimball served as the original president. Berkley Henley was elected vice president; Margaret Sawyer, secretary; and David Erickson, treasurer.

In May, the society accepted a constitution. The new society formulated the writing of papers,

which were read for members. The first was on the 1900 fire in North Waterford by Dorothy Erickson; the second by Constance Warren was on Samuel Warren's journal of the early 1800s.

Over the summer, the society incorporated. In September, the following incorporators were elected: Edward Bean, Arthur Sanderson, Charlotte Fillebrown, June Pike, Ober Kimball, Berkley Henley, Irene Bean, Margaret Sawyer and David Erickson. Waterford joined the Maine League of Societies and Museums and voted to accept Flora Abbott's furniture and artifacts.

The regular first Thursday meeting in November was postponed in 1965 because of the special town meeting to vote on rescinding SAD 17 (the vote was no). By the end of 1965, Agnes Lahti had become membership chairman and the society boasted 89 members.

The highlight of 1966 was the beginning of family histories which eventually went into the second Waterford history book.

June Pike became clerk and gave a loom to the society. Lowell Henley obtained a photocopy of Charles F. Brown's (Artemus Ward) will from
(continued on back page)



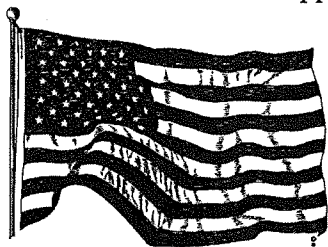
The Waterford Historical Society honored its members aged 75 and over at the annual meeting April 14 at Waterford Acres. Seated, from left: Eleanor Blackstone, Charles Fillebrown, Edith Holt, Annie Gardiner. Standing, from left: Agnes Lahti, Margaret Sawyer, Crystal Lord, Lee Lord, June Starbird, Richard Andrews, Lillian Herrick, Isabelle Rolfe and Oscar Andrews.

President's column

Dear Friends,

I have often wondered when winter is over in Waterford, especially this year after we had such a brutal one. Ice-out on our lakes might be an appropriate time, I thought. The ice was out on Lake Keoka on April 25 this year but it really didn't feel that winter was gone. Another milestone was May 5 when the last snow melted on our deck! But spring had a hard time struggling in even then.

Then, suddenly I had my answer. I was coming down Plummer Hill toward the Common and there were the benches back from winter storage, those lovely benches the Historical Society placed there in memory of dear Waterfordians.

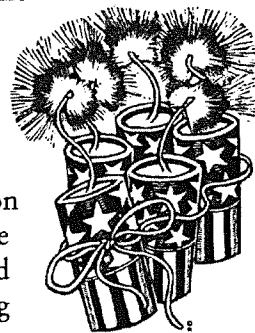


That truly was a sign of good things to come! As soon as the black flies are gone, people will gather there again for a friendly visit.

The next wonderful sight was the reappearance of summer residents at the June meeting of the Society. Now we are ready to welcome all of you who spend the summers with us. Remember, the first breakfast is, as usual, on the Fourth of July to be followed by the great Waterford parade. We are again cooperating with the Waterford School for our float. This is a "volunteer, anyone can participate" parade. Because of the 50th anniversary of D-Day, we expect that many veterans will join in.

Looking further into summer — on Sunday, Aug. 28, we will again have our traditional Open House at

both museums, where visitors may view our new acquisitions and study and enjoy our old treasures. Refreshments will be served in both places.



Also, on the same day, the Waterford Library will celebrate its consolidation with the Bear Mt. Library in So. Waterford. A reception will be held at the Knight library building next to the Rice Museum.

On a housekeeping matter, our thanks go to Meg Wheeler and Joyce Plate for weeding and sprucing things up around the Rice Museum, a volunteer service very much appreciated.

See you soon in Waterford.

Lilo Willoughby

Coming Events

Wilkins House breakfasts

July 4 - July 13 - July 27
August 10 - August 24

July 4th Parade: 11 a.m.

Assemble at Waterford School
at 10 a.m. All Welcome!!

Waterford Historical Society,

Waterford Library

Open House: Aug. 28

North Waterford Congregational

Church: baked bean and casserole
suppers: July 5 & 12; Aug. 2 & 16

North Waterford World's Fair

July 16-18

Waterford Library yard sale

Aug. 10 — all day on the Common
Donations welcome.

Waterford Echoes

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.

1994 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
Trustees:	William Fillebrown, Richard Jones

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

Vol. XII Number 1 Issue 21 Summer 1994

Society re-elects 1993 officers for 1994

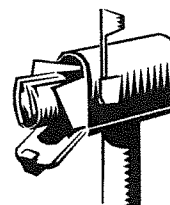
Waterford Historical Society trustees re-elected their 1993-94 officers for the coming year at the annual meeting held April 14 at Waterford Acres.

Seated, from left: Lilo Willoughby, president, Marjorie Kimball and Mary (Mrs. Richard) Andrews, program co-chairs. Standing, from left: Nancy Eaton, curator; Oscar Andrews, vice president; Malcolm Bean, treasurer; and Nancy Marcotte, secretary.



EXPIRATION NOTICE

Beginning with this issue, an expiration date appears on the label of newsletters mailed to all non-life members. Membership to the Society expires each year with the annual meeting in April. If your label reads April 1994, this will be your last issue until a renewal is received. Please refer to the box on the opposite page for membership renewal information. Mail all suggestions, inquiries and renewals to the Society's post office box.



In Memoriam

Sheena Fraser, April 8, 1994 at age 52. A life member, she was born in Bournemouth, England, a daughter of Leonard H. and Christina McKay Luke. She attended schools in England and a nursing degree from St. George's Hospital in London. She worked as a flight nurse for British Eagle Airways. She founded Barkley Appointments, a London secretarial agency, and was involved in many commercial activities, including real estate and antiques. She is survived by her parents, a sister, Jennie Dean of Forest Row, Sussex, England, and her husband, Robert L. Fraser of Waterford.

Carl O. Hamlin, April 22, 1994 at age 66 in Milford, N.H. He was born in Waterford the son of Carl S. and Mina Johnson Hamlin. He graduated from Bridgton Academy and served in the Army during World War II. He worked for 20 years in the North Waterford Spool Mill. He and his family moved to Milford in 1968. He was employed as a foreman at A.W. Waler and Son in New Ipswich and later worked for Production Associated and Goss Mailroom Products, retiring after 10 years. He is survived by his wife, Pearl Maxim Hamlin; three daughters, Carol Ellingood of Winthrop, Nancy Boutwell of Wilton and Linda Albert of Milford; three sons, Michael Hamlin of Gig Harbor, Wash., Carl Dana Hamlin of Merrimack, N.H. and John Hamlin of Hookset, N.H.; one sister, Nancy Coccia of Port St. Lucie, Fla; one brother, George Hamlin of Rumford; and 13 grandchildren.

THE WAY WATERFORD WAS: THE FLAT

by W. William Fillebrown

In the June, 1980 *The Waterford Echoes*, it was announced that the "Flat" section of the Town of Waterford had been placed on the National Historic Register. At that time I felt it was a honor, for it is a quaint little town of white houses with dark blinds.

At that time, quote: "the district imposes no restrictions on either property owner or the municipality."

Today there seems to be a movement to not allow any changes, but to leave it as it has always been. This is difficult for me to understand, for in my lifetime I've seen so many changes. Let's look at these changes. Follow the map to get a better idea where things were located.

#1 — The Town House. This building was normally only used once a year, the first Monday in March, for the annual town meeting. It was used more often in election years, but few other times. Trash rooms were located where the offices are now. It has only been since World War II that the offices slowly came into being. It wasn't until the eighties that a second exit was ordered by the State Fire Marshal. A ramp for handicapped access was added to comply with federal law. Because of snow and ice, the roof over the ramp became necessary. This building has a long history, but I'll save that for another time.

#2 — The Dr. Hubbard House.

Ah yes! This is my birth place, but that doesn't make it historic yet. Changes? There once was a front porch that at one time went a short way down the main house on the village side. The barn isn't much like it was when I was young. I

building was erected on the side lawn around 1990.

Four out of the next five buildings should have their own story written, but for me October 1, 1937, the night of the great fire, is a night to remember.

#4 - Knight

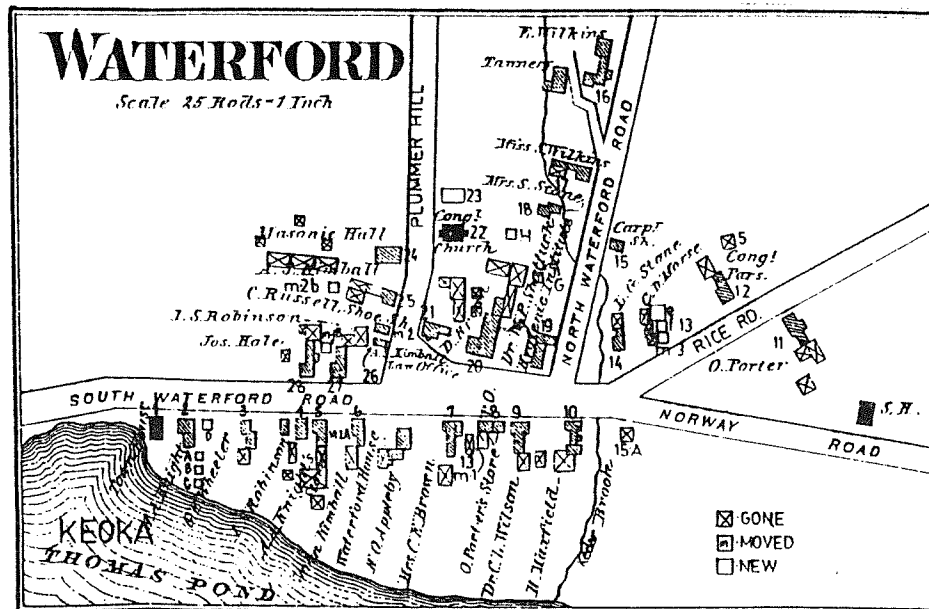
Library — This is one of the newer buildings in town, finished during 1911 or 12. Built of stone by Italian stone masons brought in from Portland, this building was drastically changed after the fire of 1937. A different type of roof was constructed, the apartment was made much larger with the bedrooms

over the apartment and not over the library and a two-story shed was attached to the rear.

The two buildings that are no longer there:

The first was a 1½ story cottage owned by Mrs. Adams that sat to the rear right of the library. I don't remember the building that well and no one did the night of the fire. When my Grandfather Morse owned it, my folks had my fifth birthday party there and, as they tell me, it snowed 18 inches that day.

The second building sat where the Mary Gage Rice Museum now sits. The front part had been a store and later an ice cream parlor. Actually, it had an apartment on the second floor and one behind the store on the first floor. Then came an open shed, a large barn



remember horses in it. Now it is called the "Paddock." Then came the fire and much of the back interior of the main house was changed. The open porch on the back has been enlarged many times with a split stone foundation. I spent a lot of time in that house so I knew it quite well.

#3 - The Wheeler - Adams - Hopping - Brett House — Whoops! I missed those three small buildings nearer the shore. These were built in the late 30's, and what a stink was raised at the time. There was a large barn attached to the house which I remember, but have no idea when it was taken down. A porch was added to the ell on the library side, then across the back. Some interior changes have been made in the rear of the ell in place of the two-car garage. A small

and, way in the back, an ice house. The store was painted a yellowish green.

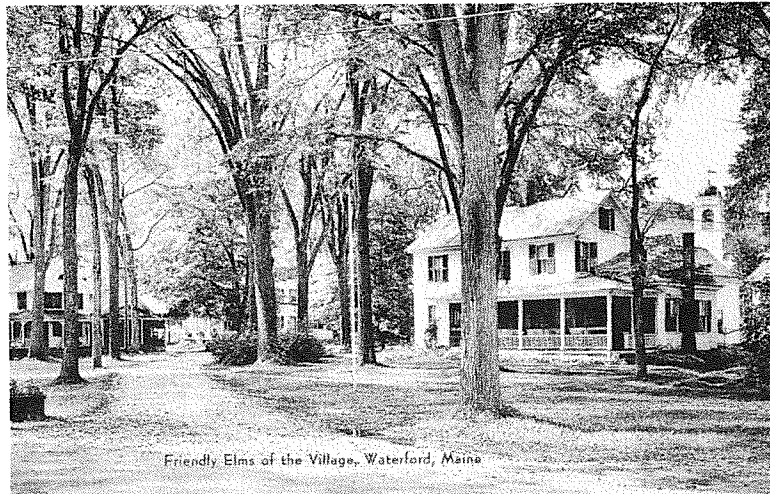
#5 - Mary Gage Rice Museum — This single story building was moved from in back of the Gage House (#11) on September 24, 1978.

#6 - Morgan House (Shriver)— This is another large house with the end of the main house towards the road. It had a closed-in front porch at one end of the main house and a screened porch attached to the ell, which housed a large woodshed. There was also a large barn with a shed attached to the side. Out in the back was Percy Kimball's shop. This house had the first inside plumbing in town. The fire took about everything but the main house, which had to have a new roof. The old shop didn't get touched but was torn down in the late sixties. In the mid sixties the house had quite a lot of remodeling done.

#7 - Artemus Ward House — This is better known to me as the

the shed, which was made into living quarters. The barn roof fell in from a snow load after World War II. The decaying white picket fence was taken out in the mid-eighties.

#8 - The Store — It really has a history of its own, but maybe it



will come later. During 1949 this building was remodeled. The whole back end (ell) was torn down including the second floor outhouse still in use. It was completely rebuilt as it is today. This is also the year that the color of the store went from brown to white.

#9 - Wilson House (Hammett's) — This house has changed very little in my years. The porch at the back of the ell next to the barn was added and in more recent years enlarged and remodeled inside.

#10 - Maxfield Place (Buchert) — Porches have been the big outside changes. On the driveway side there was an open porch, similar to a deck.

Now it is closed in during the winter and screened in during the summer. The front porch was almost in the street, but with the vines growing over it, it was a nice place to sit and watch the world go by. On the ell side towards the

brook was an open porch both up and down stairs. They were removed and later reconstructed and closed in. In my earlier years, this was a two-family house, up and down. In recent years, the inside has been remodeled to make it a one-family house. In the back

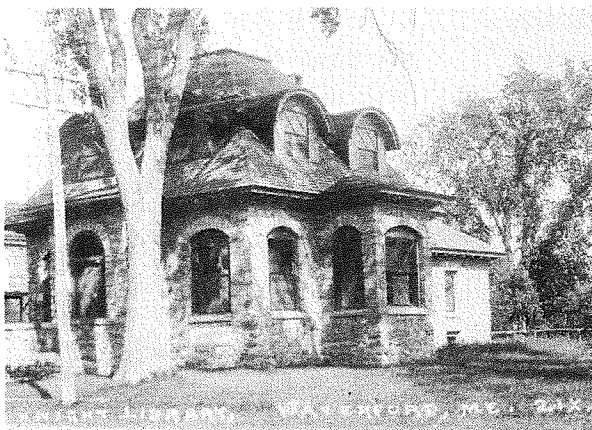
of the ell was a summer kitchen, which is now a beautiful living room with an open deck toward the brook. A few changes have been made to the barn and sheds around it.

#15A - Old Fire Station — This was across the brook from the Maxfield Place. It was the first fire station in the Flat. It was small, for it only housed a trailer with a

portable (6 man, so-called) pump and two reels of hose. In the late thirties, when the department went motorized, it was extended. When a modern truck was purchased, it went into the present station. The little building that sat by the brook now sits beside the road in East Waterford across from the John and Annie Pike farm.

#11 - Gage Place (Wheelers) — Can't find many changes here, especially major ones. The one that I remember was the little entryway around the front door. I spent too many evenings huddled up there waiting for Mabel Gage when she failed to tell me she would be out after 9 p.m. It had a roof over it, lattice work on the upper half of the sides and a bench on each side. It kept the snow and rain off me and the lattice work broke up the wind. Recently, a small deck was added to the front porch. On the inside, I hope the one change was the corn stalk bed I got paid 50 cents a night to sleep on.

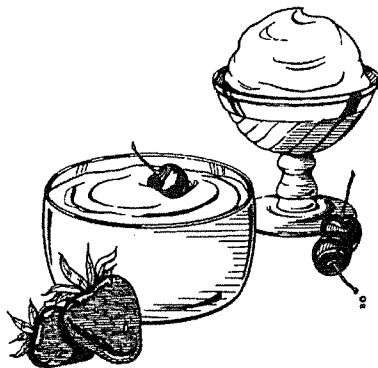
This story will be continued in the fall edition of the Waterford Echoes.



Lockwood's. Marilyn Baker bought the house in 1979, running it as a tea house, theater and the state's first bed and breakfast. George and Barbara Goodwin bought the house in 1986. A great deal of remodeling was done with

“Food For Thought”

During the winter months, there is a little extra time for me to organize the countless pieces of assorted paper records that comprise the growing archives of the Waterford Historical Society. Many are newspaper clippings, some are photographs, others are deeds, letters, scrap books, receipts and other mementoes of our past. This year, one which especially caught my attention was an



11-page credit account between the Miss L.M. Brown Estate, and L.R. Rounds & Co. The document consists of purchases made between December 1, 1906 and February 7, 1911. From these receipts, it appears that Miss Brown was out of town from three to 10 months each year. The L.R. Rounds & Co. billhead lists as its primary merchandise: GROCERIES, Dry Goods, Fancy Goods, Boots, Shoes, Rubbers,

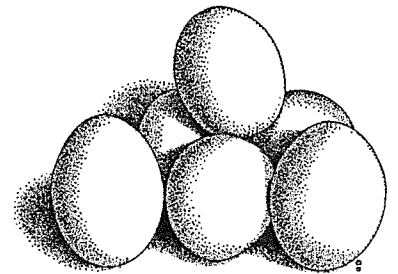
Fruits, Confectionary and Hardware. This 4-year account is clearly only representational. Aside from the usual purchases of food, coffee, cocoa, flour, butter, oil, molasses, oatmeal, and crackers, what was truly remarkable were the vast quantities of sugar and eggs included on these shopping lists. It is widely accepted that modern Americans consume a lot of sugar, and although I don't have any of these recent figures handy, the rate of consumption recorded on these pages from just 85 years ago may seem surprising.

The facts are these. Over the 21 months recorded during this 4-year period, this one household acquired a total of 193 pounds of sugar. This averages out to around nine pounds a month. In addition, yeast was bought 15 times, raisins six, lemon and vanilla extract three times each and rock salt (for making ice cream) twice. Back in 1908, sugar came in either 4¼ or 8¼ pound sacks. If we consider all the sugar added to packaged cookies, candy, crackers, other store-bought foods and our own homemade goods today, we can judge our relative rate of sugar consumption.

Over the same period, a grand total of 1,025 eggs were

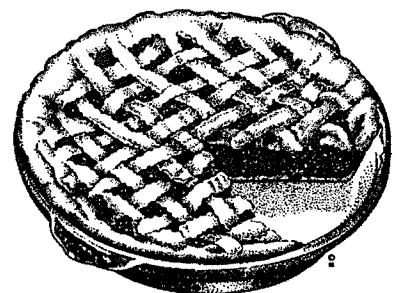
purchased. This amounts to around 57 eggs a month; or just short of two per day. This tends to substantiate that this was a small household. Certainly before we knew about the damaging effects of cholesterol, it was not uncommon to have two eggs for breakfast every day.

One of the functions of



historical research is to reinterpret the past. When documents like this survive, they give us a very intimate window into the way we lived. Such inventories, whether they be of food, books, or household furnishings, offer insight into earlier customs which might otherwise be lost.

Please feel free to draw your own comparisons!



Crooked River Outing Club

by Marjorie Kimball

Many fond memories of the Crooked River Outing Club linger with the older generation. This organization was sponsored in 1926 by the newly formed Oxford County United Parish under the leadership of Dr. Wilbur Bull. Its purpose was to promote outdoor activities and sponsor the Winter Carnival. The membership came from Waterford, Stoneham, Albany and Lovell. The club was a cohesive influence in gathering the parish to work and play together.

Club activities were interrupted by World War II after 16 continuous years and revived briefly during the 1950s.

At monthly meetings, held in many parts of the parish, seven to 10 committees reported on progress plans for the carnival. There was also a planned activity time for outdoor and indoor sports and games, depending on the weather. Representatives were sent to the County Recreation Council to gain ideas for programs and coaching drama. A committee was chosen monthly to plan the activity, place and refreshments for the next meeting.

Recently, the club records were given to the Waterford Historical Society. After reading the minutes and interviewing several former members, we share these memories:

- Club meetings on moonlight nights
- Skating parties on Keoka Lake
- Basketball at the Masonic Hall
- Plans for tennis courts at the fairgrounds
- Scrambling for pennies in the snow
- Three-legged and bag races on the Village Common

- Carnival buttons sold at the village stores
- Building ski jumps
- Children practicing at area schools
- Teachers coaching and cheering their teams
- Payson Cup for the school winner
- Being run over by other skiers in the downhill race
- Pants split in the ski jump event
- Vinnie Ashton on skis being hauled uphill by horse
- Sending the Carnival Queen to Presque Isle
- Sponsoring Athletic Club in 1941

The climax of carnival day was the supper, crowning and the drama and Frolic. The Circle or Grange hosted the meal at the North Waterford Church. Events then moved

to the IOOF Hall (now the Historical Society Building) where the King and

Queen were crowned. The names of the Queens appear on page 126 of The Waterford History. Later Kings and Queens were:

- 1955 — Kermit Merrill & Judith Brown
1956 — Keith Brown & Cynthia Howe
1957 — Dudley Houghton & Kathleen Scribner
1958 — George Morse & Sandra Millett

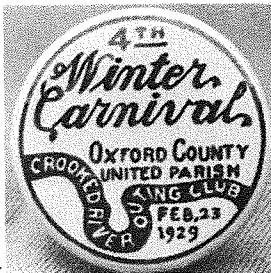
The North Waterford Players usually presented the drama, though some years groups from other towns and granges were

invited to perform. These plays were so popular, they often were repeated four or five times at other locations. The names of the cast for Memory Lane (1931) can still be seen on the scenery at the West Paris Grange Hall. Other popular plays were "A Couple of Million" (1927), "Attorney for the Defense" (1933), "Here Comes Patricia" (1936), "Two Days to Marry" and "Calm Yourself" (1955), "Two Weeks Vacation" (1956) and "Meddlesome Maid" (1957). Following the plays, the chairs were pushed back and the Frolic began with the ever popular Andrews Orchestra providing the music.

By 1940, there were so many participants in the carnival that discussions were held to limit the number of races and to possibly eliminate outside teams. By 1942, WWII was in full swing and high school teams were deciding not to compete. As older men joined the military effort, leadership for the club became scarce. The last entry in the secretary's record was March, 1942.

It was not until 1955 that there was a strong feeling the Outing Club could make a comeback. Under the leadership of the Rev. Herbert Houghton, the club was revitalized with a change in focus: To draw the parish together and to raise money to help carry out the parish ministry. A summer carnival and auction were added to the agenda. These activities proved to be successful social and financial events.

When Rev. Houghton left the parish in 1958, the strong leadership needed to organize the carnivals could not be found. An organization whose strong influence had been felt in the life of parish once again faded away.



The Founders

(continued from front page)

Southampton, England and Katherine Rolfe gave enough S&H green stamps for a filing cabinet.

The suggestion to date all the houses in town was first made in 1966. Markers had been prepared for Ordination Rock, the Town Pound and the original meeting house site on Plummer Hill. Agnes Lahti cleaned the pound at that time.

Mary Gage Rice gave the society a copy of the town incorporation papers from 1795 and Mrs. Richard Green Harwood gave a trunk of Civil War papers. Written papers were collected on Bear Mt. Grange as well as all area summer camps.

Hazel Gardiner died in January, 1967, postponing that year's beginning meeting. The April meeting was cancelled by snow. New bylaws were adopted that year and signs were proposed for the Artemus Ward House and the carding mill site. Arthur Sanderson, who lived across from the mill site in his house, Brookways, took care of the mill sign.

Maps and papers on interesting people such as Ralph Waldo Emerson's aunt, Mary Moody Emerson, were given to the society. Members visited Shaker Village at Sabbathday Lake and the Artemus

Ward gravestone was repaired at Bolster Monumental. John Pullen wrote about a book he was beginning on Brown's character. It was an Artemus Ward year.

The following year, 1968, seems to have been a Greene year. Many meetings involved that family, from a paper on Theodore Roosevelt and the Greene brothers, to an 1882 letter from Dr. Greene on Col. Jacob and William Warren Greene, George and Samuel Greene. In May, Donald Greene passed away.

The 1968 officers were: president, Margaret Sawyer; vice president, James Tyler; secretary/clerk, Agnes Lahti; treasurer, Wilma Springer; curator, Irene Bean; assistant curator, Alice Henley. Items for the curators to think about included a chair from the South Waterford chair factory (1800s), a 100-year-old doll cradle, a Miller Foundry stove door and a picture of Susan Hamlin Wilkins at her home. Lowell Henley published a book on the Norway-Waterford railroad.

An "Americana Fair" occupied much of 1969. Planning began in January with a committee comprised of Irene Bean, Wilma Springer, Agnes Lahti and Margaret Sawyer. The event itself was a great success held August 16 at the

Wilkins House and Masonic Hall. Wool rolags from the old carding mill were spun by Mrs. Hilja Jacobsen.

The 1970 officers, now elected in March, remained the same but new trustees were Elizabeth Foster, Ober Kimball and Billie Sawyer. Author John Pullen came to the meeting and brought a chair that belonged to Charles Farrar Brown along with two issues of **Vanity Fair**.

The Revs. Lewis Jones and Bertram F. Wentworth were favorite speakers. Gifts began to pour in, including a quilt made by Jennie Haynes (given by Mildred Noyes); a piano from Douglass Seminary, (given by Elizabeth Foster); a tavern desk (given by Kathleen Jillson); a rubbing of David McWain's misspelled gravestone (given by Margaret Werner); and pictures of one of Lincoln's pallbearers, William Durgin of West Stoneham. The society held a December open house at the home of Dr. Stephen and Elisabeth Dewing and a birthday party in June for Flora Abbott.

Watch for more about the society during the 1970s in future issues.

Waterford Historical Society
P.O. Box 201
Waterford ME 04088