

Waterford Echoes

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Spring 1995

Waterford Historical Society

Voters approve new fire station, town office

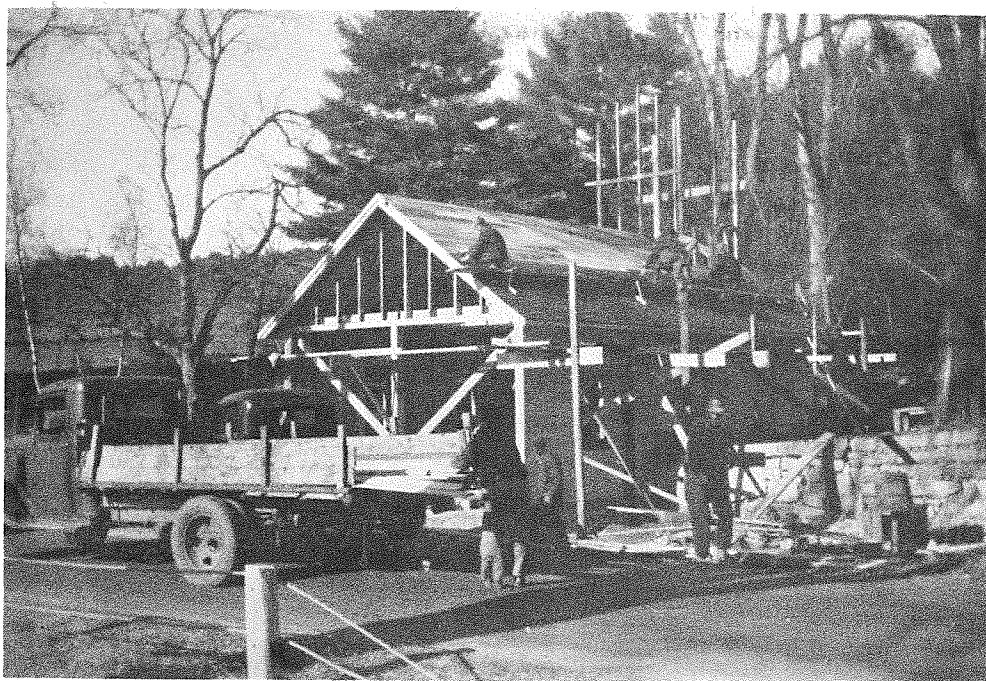
The March 4, 1995 town meeting approval of a new fire station and town office complex marked one of the most significant decisions in town history.

"This is probably the biggest project the town has done next to the school," said Building Committee Chairman John Tucker, whose yeoman effort led months of research, study and planning up to the momentous town meeting vote.

The projected \$400,000 cost to taxpayers was softened substantially by the news that Waterford will receive a \$250,000 Community Development Block Grant for construction of the fire station portion of the project. After two years of rejections, selectmen and fire officials had almost given up hope but agreed to have consultant John Cleveland of Community Dynamics of Auburn submit the town's application for a third time. Approximately a month before town meeting, the board was notified that Waterford had been selected for the second round of the application process. Qualifying paperwork to complete the second round must be concluded prior to Sept. 1 before Waterford officially becomes eligible for the federal grant.

"We haven't found another site that is more centrally located," Tucker told the town meeting gathering as he gestured to a large map. The committee looked at three sites before selecting the spot at the top of Town Farm Hill on Route 35, a location that puts all of the town within a three mile radius. When responding to fires, trucks will travel to North Waterford on a level road while trucks headed to other parts of town will start on a downhill grade.

The 13-acre site owned by Tim and Todd Sawyer was traded for a similar site of town-owned property on Plummer Hill. The project begins this spring with shipping, clearing and earth work. The actual completion date is unknown.



Work on the South Waterford station began in November 1947.

The main fire barn will measure 81 by 80 feet and the attached 84 by 42-foot wing will house offices, dispatching room, kitchen and large meeting room, training area and the town offices.

History

While there has been a fire department presence in the three sections of town for many years, two of the three current stations weren't built until 1947 following the devastating Brownfield fire that destroyed more than 200 homes and hundreds of acres of forest.

As in many of Maine's towns, our fire associations were formed that year to organize manpower and equipment.

The lack of a organized firefighting structure has led to the development of the contemporary mutual aid system among towns. In the event of a large fire, Waterford will call in outside departments for assistance such as Stoneham, Harrison

and Norway. Waterford firefighters have been called in to assist or stand-by at those same departments on several occasions.

Each of the three departments used manual sirens to alert townspeople of a fire. The calls usually rang in to a residence or store located near the stations.

In the early 1990s, each of the three associations began the process of dissolution and in 1993, officially turned over their assets to the town. Bradley Grover, chief of the North Association for many years, was elected chief while three assistant chiefs were elected including Dennis McAllister, North; Ray Merrill, Flat; and William H. Haynes, South. Those four continue in those capacities today.

Flat

Fire has destroyed a number of buildings in Waterford over the years. The church burned in May, 1928. On March 24, 1931, (continued on next page)

an overheated chimney started the fire that destroyed the Carrie Plummer residence on the site where Bill and Joan Fillebrown now live. Norway and Harrison were both called in but by the time they arrived there was little to be done for the Plummer place (It was mud season and the roads were nearly impassable). It became apparent that some form of local fire protection was necessary. A department was organized and Edgar Stone was elected its first chief. Stone built a one-bay station in Rounds' field on Kedar Brook to house equipment. The department started with a 4-man portable

pump on a trailer that was initially housed in Stone's barn. In 1937, Knight's store burned, but the portable pump wouldn't start as the massive fire burned. After that, a 1924 Oldsmobile sedan was purchased and converted to carry hoses and tools. The original building was enlarged to hold the longer vehicle.

In 1949, the original station was abandoned and Ned Stone's shop, an early school house that Charles Farrar Browne attended, became the new fire station. That building, which had been used as both a blacksmith and carpentry shop, continues

today in its expanded form to house trucks. The original building was moved east on Route 37 to its present site across from the John and Annie Pike farm, now the Steve and Geri Linscott place. When the new station is completed, the Flat station will revert to the Tyler family.

North

Fire destroyed Walter Lord's buildings in 1927, kindling a strong desire to avoid a reoccurrence. Earle Libby spearheaded the inception of a fire department and served as its first chief. The department was credited with being among the earliest small village departments in the state.

The early fire equipment was housed in Earl Libby's blacksmith shop near the intersection of routes 35 and 118. Reid Grover recalls that the "truck," an old car that was cut down, carried fire extinguishers, which had just been invented. The truck was later moved to the spool mill. The association was formed in 1947 and featured a homemade truck, a late 30s Ford with a donated tank. The various mills in the area — Grover's, the spool mill and Crooked River, supplied the manpower when a fire broke out during the day.

The land where the present station sits was deeded to the department on May 1951 by Ella C. Hersey. Two decades later, on April 2 1973, Edwin A. Emerson II deeded a small parcel out back of the station to the department.

South

According to Flora Abbott's column, "To The Folks Away And At Home," the South Waterford Fire Association was formed in 1939 to provide equipment for fire protection.

Land for the South station was donated by Fred Haynes in November 1947. A 2-bay station with hose tower was erected on the site beside Robbie Brook. A copy of the printed by-laws adopted on Feb. 10, 1947 shows that the By-laws Committee consisted of Harry Haynes, Richard Sanborn and Albert Hamlin.

In June 1959, Ethel Monroe deeded a small piece of land bounded by City Brook and Cross Street to the association, hoping that the land would be used for a skating rink. When the association voted to dissolve, that vote included giving the land to the town as part of Werner Park, located across the brook.

A third bay was added to the building in the mid-1970s to house the 1974 Ford pumper which still serves the town as one of three main attack trucks.



The site first had to be filled with stone before the floor was poured.



Putting on some of the finishing touches to the new South station on a bright fall day were, from left: Arthur Sanderson, Charles Nelson and William W. Haynes.

President's column

Friends,
It is mud season in Waterford, but the first harbingers of spring are about. Daffodils are trying to push through the round (or snow) and galanthus and crocuses are making their shy appearances. April is also the month for the annual meeting of the Society, so when you read this, there will be a new president elected long with the other officers. For three years, I have held the position of president and was happy to serve the Society in that capacity. I had wonderful support from many people and we accomplished a lot.

There is no need to recite all the happenings. One of the first things we did was to revive the **Waterford Echoes** and in it we have reported the events and undertakings of this period.
It was about three years ago that I received a phone call from Helen Buchert, who, as a member of the nominating committee asked me to serve as president of the Society. Nobody could have been more surprised than I by the request. She assured me that there would be plenty of support, and there was. It is with great sadness that at the end of my term we all

mourn Helen's death. I feel that I have lost a friend and the Society has lost a very valuable member. Thank you, Helen.
I would like to express my appreciation to my fellow officers and the many members who make this organization work. There is still a lot of work to be done and new challenges arise all the time, but I think the Society is on the right path. I wish the new board members well and I will support them as they have supported me in the past.

Lilo Willoughby

In Memoriam

Charlie H. Cummings died March 13, 1995 at age 92 at Ledgeview Nursing Home, where he had been a resident for the past five years. He was born in Dixfield on March 6, 1903, son of Fred and Maude Ricker Cummings. He was educated in Dixfield schools. When he first came to this area, he worked at the South Paris toy factory. He owned and operated a sawmill in Waterford for many years and later worked for C.B. Cummings. During World War II, he worked at the Portland ship yard. He is a former member of the IOOF of Waterford and enjoyed hunting, fishing and gardening. He lived in Waterford for many years and married Velma Hobson on Dec. 26, 1925. She died Sept. 30, 1979. He is survived by two sons, Barney of Mesa, Ariz. and Boulder, Colo. and Bernal of West Paris; one daughter, Sharlene Brown of Norway; 10 grandchildren and 10 great grandchildren.

Donald A. Richardson died March 18, 1995 at age 81 at his North Waterford residence. He was born on June 1, 1913, son of Levi and Eva Bradbury Richardson. He was educated in Norway schools and retired from A.C. Lawrence Leather Co. During World War II, he served in the U.S. Army. He lived in North Waterford most of his life. He married the former Marguerite Murphy, who died in May 1991. He is survived by a son, Craig of Norway; a sister, Ruth Saucier of Manchester, N.H.; and three grandchildren. He was predeceased by a son, Stephen, who died in February 1994.

Waterford Echoes

The Waterford Historical Society newsletter is published regularly 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.

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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

THE WAY WATERFORD WAS: THE FLAT

by W. William Fillebrown

Editor's note: In this third and concluding part, Bill begins with one of the most famous buildings in Waterford. The map can be found in the Summer, 1994 issue of this newsletter.

#20 - The Lake House (Uhl-Myers) — During my early years, this place didn't change. Part of it got a coat of brown paint each year and white trim. I don't think there was any system; the worst part got the paint. Then in the late 40s and the early 50s, a great change came about. It was first made into a home, then, in the early 80s, was changed back into a hotel and dining room. The outside is a different story. First the stair tower to the right front was removed. The side next to the Annex went along with the walkway in between the two buildings. The barn went along with its attached chicken house. The 3-bay open front garage also went. Then, between Rounds' and the Lake House, the cottage that the help stayed in and the ice house were gone. Later, a cottage and a utility shed showed up. Most people aren't aware of the changes.

#21 - Fitzpatrick (Rounds) — The interior is pretty much the same as I've always known it. The back of the ell was changed (the outhouse removed) and a furnace room was put in. Outside, the front porch was enlarged and screened in. The side porch was enlarged and screened in and could be closed in with windows. A severe winter (1949-50?) with much snow made the barn fall in. It was cleaned up and the long woodshed that ran towards the house was also taken down.

#22 - Church — In 1926, the church was electrified and some other work done. The church was rededicated after this work. Then, in 1928, the church burned to the ground. It was rebuilt in much the same place, a little bit longer and wider. A porch was added with pillars holding up the roof. It was dedicated in 1929.

#23 - Wilkins Community House — Prior to the fire, a building that had received a great deal of work and some additions was used as the church vestry and community house. The same fire that took the church also took this building. Most of the money was given by Susan B. Wilkins. The present Wilkins house was built and dedicated in late 1929. Late in 1979 the building was moved off the foundation and a new one put in 20 feet further from the road.

During the winter of 1991-92, the kitchen was remodeled and made larger. During the summer of 1993, three sides had vinyl siding put on; the fourth was added in 1994.

#24 - Masonic Hall — This is one building that has had very little done to it. In the mid-20s, it was wired for lights. The same wiring is still there. The third floor dining room was moved to the first floor, the pot bellied stoves removed and two wood-fired stoves and one oil-fired stove put in.

#25 - Fillebrown (Doore, Tempesta) — This is the place where I grew up. I saw many changes and there have been many changes since. In the 20s and 30s, this was really a hen farm. There were four hen houses hooked to the barn: one long one behind my grandfather's shop, and three in back of the Masonic Hall. The last three were the end of the village. A thick spruce hedge was put in so they couldn't be seen when you came into the village. Over the years they were all torn down. The pig pen was torn off the barn after the cows were sold. The old shop burned. The ice house with the attached shed (garage) that sat at the back of the front yard was also torn down. In the mid-40s, a 3-bay open front garage was moved in directly behind the barn, between the Bishop and Ambrose Knight houses. The wood shed that was attached to the Masonic Hall side of the barn was removed a few years ago.

The outside of the house had its changes, too. The twin dormers on the front of the main house were joined together. A porch ran across the front of the house and part way down the driveway side. The front porch was removed, and, in 1937, the side porch was replaced with a sun porch. A couple of years later, a sun porch was put on the back side of the house. Just a few years ago it was removed.

In the years that I lived there, the kitchen was in three different places, the bathroom in two different places and the whole inside has been revamped. Part of it has vinyl siding. What next?

Across the driveway was a cottage. This first sat between the store and the Artemus Ward House. The porch was added, then roofed over, screened in and in the late 50s, it was made into the living room. A short time before I was born, an addition was put on the back, a bedroom down and another bedroom up. In 1965, the building was moved to the Plummer lot and is now part

of my house. For a small house, it has quite a story.

#26 - C. Russell Shoe Shop (Morse, Doore) — This place started out as Ceylon Russell's cobbler shop. A second room was added and after A.G. Morse acquired it, a second story was added. It remained pretty much the same until the front porch was taken off; then most of the side one was removed. Not many years ago, the breezeway to a shed was taken off and then the shed moved in 1989. A couple of years ago, an ell was added with a kitchen and a garage. This house now has vinyl siding.

#27 - Ambrose Knight (A.G. Morse, Farnsworth, Fraser) — There were others that owned this place, which at one time was probably the largest building in town. Right after World War II, the ell and attached porch and a 2-story sawdust shed were removed. The first floor had to be remodeled for the kitchen was gone. More recently the third floor was finished off.

#28 - Bishop (Ross) — Some of the major changes were made before I was born and then it remained pretty much the same until the late 70s. At that time, the ell was remodeled, changing the roof line and the back line of the house. The back end of the ell used to be the shed but is now part of the house.

These are only changes that I recall in my life time. Dates may be wrong or only approximate. When I use the word "remodeled," I only know that something has taken place inside. Many changes may have been mandated by the necessity of changing times.

As I worked on this article, I began to think: Why is only this section called historical? There are houses and buildings all over town that are just as old and have a story to tell. True, this is the section of town with all white buildings and dark shutters, but it hasn't been that way very many years.

Usually a place is called "historical" because an event has taken place that everyone has heard about it or that a person was born here that became nationally known, like Charles Farrar Browne (Artemus Ward) or the Rev. C. J. Hamlin. No doubt, I've missed events or other well known people.

Every house and foundation in town has a history, which should be recorded. This is only a start.

Sawin Hill traces history to Gen. Benjamin Sawin

by Marjorie Kimball

Sawin Hill was named for General Benjamin Sawin, who came to Waterford in 1803 following his retirement from the Massachusetts Volunteer Militia. For a time he lived in "Old Lynchville" just below Proctor Pond on the brook that flows from East Stoneham and joins Crooked River (formerly known as Songo River). He was 55 years old and had a wife, Martha, and

seven children. His mother also lived with the family. His deed to the land of Sawin Hill is dated 1806 when he purchased 200 acres from Benjamin Proctor, who was proprietor of most of the land now known as North Waterford.

Imagine Sawin hill as a virgin pine forest with rocky, sandy soil rated "poor and unfit" by the early surveyors. It was intriguing to the settler who paid \$225 and was able to harvest the timber.

In partnership with James Russell, Gen. Sawin bought the sawmill originally built in 1806 by Jonathan Longley and Samuel Page. The general rebuilt it with a grist mill on the lower level.

The houses built in the early 1800s followed a basic design which proved to withstand the elements. The kitchen was positioned to face south to take advantage of the sun's heat and light. The rest of the house was designed around a central three-fireplace brick chimney, which furnished heat and cooking facilities. Barns were erected and, over time, ells connected, providing work places for family tasks.

By 1810, Sawin Road had replaced the footpath that had been established from the Jewett guideboard to Gen. Sawin's house. Eventually, this road continued on to Hunt's Corner in Albany, where many Sawin descendants settled.

Asa Johnson, who served in the Burgoyne Campaign, came to Waterford in 1786 from Templeton, Mass. and settled on L10R8. He married Hannah, the oldest daughter of Philip Horr. Two of their daughters, Hannah and Sarah, married Benjamin Sawin's two sons, Henry and Thomas and lived on Sawin Hill. Isaac Horr, descendent of Philip Horr, bought land from the Sawins, thus beginning the strong family ties between the Sawins and the Horrs.

Over the years, these families cleared the land, built the stone fences and tilled the soil. After many face lifts and modifications, these homes are today comfortable with the addition of electricity, indoor plumbing and automatic heat. Though the elms are gone, the lilacs still bloom each spring and six families of the Isaac Horr descendants live on the land that sustained their ancestors.



These two houses still stand just as they were when they were built nearly 200 years ago. Above, The Sawin house is today owned by Thomas Connors. Below, The Horr house is owned by Marjorie Kimball.



SOUTH WATERFORD

Where the pines grow tall and green,
And the mayflowers trail below
Through the forests' misty sheen,
In my heart, I long to go.
Just to gaze on old Bear Pond
Whose shores my feet have trod,
Looking on in humble wonder
At the glorious works of God.
Old Bear Mountain and Mt. Hawk,
Oh, how oft I've scaled their side,
Climbing up by bush and rock

Till I looked on "split" and "slide."
Oh, the beauties of New England,
How my heart with raptures thrills!
When I dream about my homeland,
Then with tears my eyes they fill.
How we fashioned birchen buckets,
Drank from springs so crystal clear,
Maine, my native state, I love you,
Ah, to me you are so dear!
Oft on balmy summer mornings,
Setting forth with line and hook
Through the dewy fields and woodlands,
Whipped our poles in Mutiny Brook.

Was there ever such a vision
From the top of Blackguard Hill?
Mountains, lakes in purple distance,
In my dreams, I see them still.
Sitting here in southern twilight,
How my fancy seems to roam
Back to youth and all my kindred,
To my childhood's happy home.

This poem was donated by David Kingman of Waterford and Attleboro, Mass. His father, Donald, had the newspaper clipping for several years. Is there anyone who can identify either the author or the date it was written?

In Memoriam

Chester A. "Pete" Howard Jr., a LIFE MEMBER OF THE SOCIETY, died March 6, 1995 at age 81 at his home in Attleboro, Mass. He was born in Brooklyn, N.Y. the son of Chester A. and Olive Daggett Howard. He had lived in Attleboro since 1936 and summered in Waterford for many years. He was 1931 graduate of Moses Brown School in Providence, R.I. and a 1935 graduate of Yale University. He served in the U.S. Army during World War II. He was the president of W.E. Richards Co., jewelry, until his retirement in 1982. He is survived by his wife, Eleanor Tillinghast Howard; one daughter, Elizabeth Whitfield of Attleboro; a son, Chester A. Howard III of Bonita Springs, Fla.; a brother, Daggett H. Howard of Washington, D.C.; four grandchildren and one great grandchild.

Lillian G. Herrick, a MEMBER OF THE SOCIETY, died March 12, 1995 at age 77 at Stephens Memorial Hospital. She was born in Berlin, N.H. on June 1, 1917, the daughter of James and Elizabeth M. Kittridge. She attended Waterford schools and worked for many years at Wilner Wood Products. For many years, she worked for SAD 17 in the cafeteria at the Waterford School. She married Lawrence Herrick April 12, 1947 and had lived in the North Waterford area most of her life. He died Feb. 2, 1987. She is survived by two daughters, Viola McAllister of East Waterford and Beverly Swazey of Florida; one son, Wade of Colorado; one sister, Ella Rolfe of Albany; two brothers, Herb Kittridge of Bethel and Henry Kittridge of Georgia; 14 grandchildren, 14 great grandchildren and one great grandchild.

Helen E. Buchert, a MEMBER OF THE SOCIETY, died March 1, 1995 at age 75 at her home in Waterford. She was born at Brooklyn, N.Y. on Aug. 1, 1919, daughter of George and Matilda Berhenes Frey. She attended the Pillar of Fire School in Weston, N.J. She worked many years as a housekeeper and dietitian at the Purnell School in Pottersville, N.J. She and her husband retired to Waterford from Pottersville in 1980. She was active in local community groups, including the Waterford summer breakfasts. She started the Fourth of July Parade here 15 years ago. She married Philip Buchert Nov. 26, 1942. She is survived by her husband of Waterford; two daughters, Barbara Pineo of New York; and Jean Struck of West Newfield; two sons, Peter of Casstown, Ohio and George of Sault St. Marie, Ontario; and 21 grandchildren.

Roy H. Moxey, died Dec. 22, 1994 at age 75 at the Veterans Affairs Hospital in Togus. For the past three years he had resided on the Paris Hill Road in South Paris, but lived most of his life in East Waterford. He was born in Yarmouth on July 20, 1919, son of Omar and Mildred (Rolfe) Moxey. He graduated from North Yarmouth Academy and entered the Army during World War II, serving as a PFC in the Rhineland and Central Europe. He was a well known carpenter most of his life and retired in the early 1980s. He was a past commander of the Mundt-Allen Post 81, American Legion. He married Patricia G. Morse in Norway on Sept. 17, 1955. He is survived by his wife of South Paris; four daughters, Linda Hill of East Waterford, Mrs. Randy (Carol) Hart of South Paris, Mrs. Caleb (Sharon) Hale of North Norway and Mrs. Gerald (Merry) Geisler of East Waterford; five sons, Keith of Buckfield, Robert of Lynchville, Francis of Sabattus, Michael of Woolwich and Patrick Ivery of Barrington, N.H.; a brother Linwood of Yarmouth; 20 grandchildren and several great grandchildren. He was predeceased by a brother, Carl, and a sister, Mrs. Leona Love.

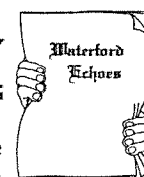
Sarah E. Blackham died Jan. 13, 1995 at age 77 at Stephens Memorial Hospital. She was born in Wellesley, Mass. On July 12, 1917, the daughter of Helen and Sohl Eastman. She attended Wellesley schools and was a homemaker. She had lived in the Blackguard section of South Waterford for many years. She married Joseph Blackham on Sept. 30, 1950. He died Oct. 26, 1987. She is survived by one daughter, Helen Wormwood of Otisfield; one son, John Blackham of North Carolina; one brother, Curtis Eastman of Florida; and four grandchildren.

George E. Holden died Jan. 30, 1995 at age 78 at Stephens Memorial Hospital. He was born in Norway April 28, 1916, son of Edgar and Goldie (Frost) Holden and was living on Pioneer Street in West Paris at the time of his death. He and his wife, Thelma Maxim, who he married on March 14, 1940, lived in Waterford for many years. He attended Norway schools and was employed in local lumber mills. From 1958 until his retirement in 1985, he worked for the United States Soil and Water Conservation Service. He also was self-employed as a surveyor. He attended the South Paris Baptist Church. Besides his wife, he is survived by a son, George H. Of Silverdale, Wash.; two daughters, Goldie Welch of Waterford and Beverly Shaw of Paris; one sister, Marion Mills of Lynn, Mass.; two brothers, Donald of Norway and William of South Paris; 15 grandchildren and 19 great grandchildren. He was predeceased by a sister, Hattie Webber.

Richard M. Grover died Feb. 26, 1995 at age 64 at Stephens Memorial Hospital. He was born in Waterford Sept. 5, 1930, son of Mahlon and Clara Pike Grover. He attended Waterford schools and worked for many years as a truck driver of W. H. Brown and Grover Lumber of North Waterford. He was a past fire chief of the North Waterford Fire Association. Over the past few years he enjoyed spending time at local stores and enjoyed being called the Mayor of North Waterford. He served in the Army. He is survived by his daughter-in-law and son, Madeline and Douglas of Center Lovell; another son, Dana of North Waterford; one brother, Reid H. Of North Waterford; one sister, Donna Dunn of Mechanic Falls; two half brothers, Liston Brown of Poland and Stanley Brown of Wakefield, Mass.; two granddaughters, Sierra and Morgan of Center Lovell. He was predeceased by three sisters, Althea Rich, Margaret Swan and Agnes Brown.

Allen W. Webb died Oct. 30, 1994 at age 84 at the VA Hospital in Togus. He was born March 28, 1910 in Oakbush, Mass., the son of William and Alice Webb. He served in the Coast Guard for two years and then was assigned to the military transport division of the Merchant Marines, serving as a Captain for more than 25 years. He traveled around the world and particularly loved the Antarctic.

Annie Y. Webb died March 9, 1995 at age 76 at Stephens Memorial Hospital. She was born in Concord Sept. 23, 1918, daughter of Carson and Argenta Young. She graduated from a one-room schoolhouse in Concord and received her R.N. degree from Bangor General. A homemaker, she enjoyed helping others. She married Allen Webb on May 30, 1948. They both are survived by one daughter, Patti Swan of Waterford; two sons, Ronald of Waterford and John of West Sumner. She is survived by two brothers, Dr. James Young of Bangor and George of Farmington; one sister, Virginia Dash of Macon, Ga.; six grandchildren and one great granddaughter.



LOGS WORTH A SECOND LOOK

SOUTH PARIS (1950) — With so many loads of logs being hauled from all directions through the village, citizens seldom take more than a passing glance at them, but the load hauled by Harold Howe Saturday morning was different.

Mr. Howe has a lumbering operation on the Burton Sanderson farm at East Waterford and it was there that this stately old pine was found. It could truly be called an old settler and may have been growing before David McWain came and settled in that locality.

The tree, estimated to be around 105 feet tall and nearly four feet across the butt, was estimated to contain 4,315 feet—log scale.

It was cut up into log lengths and Osman K. Clifford, well known lumber dealer, bought the three logs from the lower end of the tree.

There were two 16 feet in length and one 14 feet. The three were estimated to contain about 3,080 feet. The butt log, or No. 1 log, scaled around 1,200 feet, log scale; No. 2, 1,070 feet; and No. 3, 790 feet.

They were hauled here to the sawmill at Paris Mfg. Co., where they will be sawed into boards. Mr. Clifford is always watching for one of these grand old pines.

CONSOLIDATED SCHOOL CONSIDERED

WATERFORD (1946) — Monday night a meeting of the townspeople was held at the Wilkins House to see about building a consolidated school house or to remedy the present school houses to meet state requirements. Mr. Bailey from the State Board of Education and Supt. Edminister were present. After a general discussion it was voted to elect a special committee to look into the facts and specifications and

report at the town meeting in March. It was voted to have an article placed in the warrant to see if the town will vote to build a consolidated school building. The following committee was appointed: Chairman, Charles A. Fillebrown, Frank Morse representing Waterford Flat; Alma Tucker and Frances Bailey, East Waterford; Harry Haynes and Oscar Andrews, South Waterford; Earl Brown and Eleanor Stearns, North Waterford.

TOWN FOREST PRODUCES INCOME FOR ROAD REPAIRS

WATERFORD (1951) *by Jack Quinn* — A woodlot has figured prominently in the budget of many Maine farm families.

If it didn't represent income every year, it saved the cost of purchasing fuel. And every few years, it brought income into the family coffers.

A woodlot is playing the same role for all the residents of Waterford. During the last two score years, the Waterford Town Forest has produced a net income of \$14,000. This 200-acre lot of pine and hemlock, owned by the town since the early years of the century, has produced an annual average income of \$300. That \$300 has meant a savings to taxpayers of Waterford many times.

Clayton S. McIntire, white-haired first selectman who has supervised the town farm forest for the past four years, says this: "Our program of selective cutting for the past ten or a dozen years has made our town forest a veritable gold mine. It has been a Godsend this year that the town had the timber to cut.

"Our road and snow bills

were very costly a year ago. Rains of last fall raised Old Ned with most of the roads and that was the reason the citizens voted at the 1950 town meeting to authorize the selectmen to cut off some of the timber.

"If it hadn't been for this timber the Waterford tax rate would have taken quite a hike in order to pay the bills which came in for road repairs."

McIntire, an owner of large timberlands, recalled the first forestry improvement on the town owned land in 1927 when 5,000 white pine seedlings were set out on the fields near the forest.

The 1938 hurricane caused blowdowns in the lot which necessitated another small cutting which brought in a little less than \$1,000. In 1941 the town began a selective cutting program which saw the harvest of a crop of timber which netted \$3,000 and yet left a stand of young, healthy growing trees to be cut in later years.

SPOOL MILL CLOSES DOORS

WATERFORD (July, 1968) — Some 60 workers had no jobs to return to at the end of their vacation from the North Waterford Spool Company here.

The plant was closed by creditors. Although there were orders on the books for some weeks ahead, one of the main reasons for the closing was given by a source close to the situation as the inability of the plant to compete against plastic spools and imports from Sweden and Finland.

(October, 1968) — Unless somebody takes over the North Waterford Spool Co. here within the next couple of months, the town is going to lose about \$10,000 in tax

revenue. The figure was set recently by Selectman Theodore Howe, who said the amount did not cover the usual inventory in the mill.

The spool factory, Waterford's largest industry and the last independently owned wooden spool manufacturer in the country, closed about three months ago when a Portland bank called in a note.

The factory, which employed about 60 people, had been operated by Earl D. Brown until about a year ago when a Georgia-based thread company took over the operation. Brown ceased to play a role in plant operations at that time.

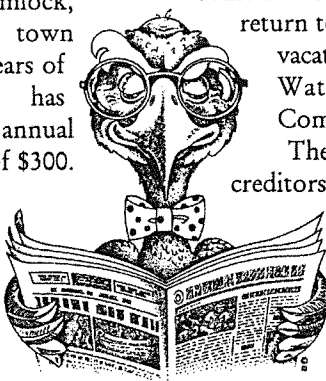
OCTOGENARIAN RETIRES FROM MAIL ROUTE

WATERFORD (1965) — Arthur L. Sanderson, South Waterford, retired from the Main Star Route from Harrison to Waterford this week. Sanderson, 84, had delivered on this route for about 15 years. He had missed only 2½ days in the last six years.

MCINTIRE HERD AMONG THE BEST

WATERFORD (1917) — A bit of Holland is reflected among the hills of Oxford County at Greenfield Farms, the homes of L.E. McIntire and B.G. McIntire. Known throughout New England as Oxford County farmers, the fertile valley at Waterford, which was first occupied by their father, Justin McIntire about 50 years, has now become home of some of the finest Holsteins in the county.

Probably no breeders of livestock in New England have given more thought to the breeding of black and white cattle than L.E. McIntire and his son Clayton.



The origin of a landmark: the famous Lynchville sign

Someone is always asking about the famous Albany sign. The following appeared in the May 1979 issue of BitterSweet Magazine and was written by Nancy Chute Marcotte, the secretary of the Society.

It stands at the corner of Route 5 and 35 in Lynchville, between East Stoneham and North Waterford — the most famous landmark in Maine. It's simply a signpost, put up by the state and consisting of nine boards, which read:

Norway, 23 mi.; Paris, 15 mi.; Denmark, 23 mi.; Naples, 23 mi.; Sweden, 25 mi.; Poland, 27 mi.; Mexico, 37 mi.; Peru, 46 mi.; China, 94 mi.

Although the foreign cities and countries are all Maine place names, the irony of the sign is not lost on anyone; and chances are that sometime, somewhere, someone in your family has either sent or received a postcard bearing the likeness of the

most famous signpost in the state.

How did little Lynchville become "the center of the world?" How did the sign come to be made and placed there? When those questions were posed at **BitterSweet**, we had the answers immediately, for the Lynchville sign has always been known in our house as "Grampa's sign." Actually, it was not really Grampa's idea at all, but was a joint effort. This is the tale of the sign:

Sometime around the end of the 1930s, the late James C. "Jimmy" Chute of the renowned Chute Homestead in Naples was searching for an attention-getting gimmick to attract tourists to our fair state. He is the one who hit upon using the unusual foreign-named

towns in some way. When he talked it over with our grandfather (and I, distant relative) Walter Chute of Harrison, the idea of the location of a signpost occurred. Grampa was then State Highway Maintenance Supervisor. He proposed the idea to the state, got approval, searched for the right location and placed a signpost there.

Since that time, the thing has become so popular that it has been stolen and replaced several times; countless tourists have had their pictures taken at "the center of the world;" and thousands of postcards and wooden or plastic replicas have been sold and circulated all over the world.

NCM

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