

Waterford Echoes

VOLUME XII Number 4 (Issue 24)

Winter 1995

Waterford Historical Society

More Early Days of the Waterford Historical Society

by Nancy Marcotte

Editor's note: This is the second installment in the origin of the Waterford Historical Society. The first part may be found in Issue 21, Summer 1994.

In 1972, the Waterford Historical Society began talking of wanting to preserve the town's papers — a discussion that is still going on today! Also in 1972, progress was made toward the writing of the Waterford history (due out in 1976), as people continually presented their research papers at society meetings.

Among the papers presented that year was one for "Sycamore Terrace" (at that time Charles and Mary Fillebrown's house) and several on local schools by Irene Bean, Mary Rice and Arthur Sanderson. The mills of East Waterford were discussed, as were camps Wigwam and Ironwood.

That year saw a **DownEast** article on Win Perkins' and John Pullen's book on Artemus Ward was being typed by Margaret Sawyer. The Society joined the Maine Historical Society. Officers elected in 1972 were Ober Kimball, president; Tom Chadbourne, vice president; Agnes Lahti, secretary/clerk; Margaret Sawyer,

treasurer; and Flora Abbott and Ober Kimball, curators.

The Society began 1973 still meeting in Flora Abbott's rooms, but by July of that year accepted the deed of the Rebekahs Hall in North Waterford. Paint for the hall was donated from Swan Supply, Norway Color Center, Diamond National and Ronald Holden. The Society met for the first time September of 1973. There were 44 present for a pot luck supper.

Volunteers painted the hall and patched the roof. Drapes were given by Ober Kimball and remodeled by Irene Bean. Money was raised at a church supper in North Waterford to match money given by the Maine Arts and Humanities Commission and it was used for the building fund and to purchase a fireproof file. Guy Bancroft researched the deed to the hall. Ed Bean became chairman of the building committee and had a furnace installed in the hall. Due to the fuel shortage of 1973, no meetings were held in January or February.

Dr. Stephen Dewing was elected president of the Society that year. Other officers remained the same. In June, Waterford joined other groups at a Maine

League of Historical Societies meeting in Poland. Also, noted Maine historian Marius Peladeau of Rockland visited Waterford.

A book committee was formed consisting of Nancy Chadbourne, Dorothy Erickson, James Tyler, Dr. Dewing and Margaret Sawyer. A fried clam supper was held to raise money and the Rev. B.J. Wentworth agreed to edit the history.

In February 1974, fire destroyed the former Win Perkins store buildings in North Waterford. The Society's treasury held \$2,863.77 in the book fund, \$1,675.28 in the hall maintenance account and only \$241.91 in the checking account.

There was a problem that year: Dr. Dewing had offered to host a regional meeting of historical societies, but Marius Peladeau announced that he would host the state meeting. This we had to decline.

New officers for 1974 included James Tyler, vice president, and Irene Bean, curator of documents. Hazel Higgins was a new trustee. In April and May, the Society met at the home of Margaret Sawyer because Flora Abbott was ill and the hall was too cold.

The Fish Brook Bridge plaque which listed the names of the selectmen at the time the bridge was built (W.W. Abbott, Addison Millett and Elbridge Pike) was given to the Society since the Bisbeetown bridge was to be rebuilt.

The Society discussed having postcards made but didn't pursue it. On May 25, the Ethel Monroe House in South Waterford burned. At the hall, Richard Kimball built cupboards for the stage kitchen and 200 dishes donated by Leona Sanderson were put there. Ober Kimball gave two small glass showcases and a pegboard to display items.

At meetings that year, Glenn McIntire related Papoose Pond tales and Miriam and Atherton Monroe talked of early days on Bear Pond. The McIntire cottage was the first on Papoose and Dr. Sylvester's was the

(continued on next page)



Wintertime in the Flat, date unknown.

first cottage on Bear Pond. Margaret Werner related humorous happenings at Camp Ironwood.

Many gifts were given in 1974, including a wooden display case by Alan Bradford; an oriental rug from Leona Sanderson; old Silver from Clara Hamlin; the crown, robe and shawl of the queen of winter carnival from Gladys Knight; and a North Waterford High School program from Mrs. Donald Rice.

In October, 15 people met at the hall for a pot luck supper. It was so cold they fired up the wood stove on the stage and ate up there! Margaret Sawyer brought oilcloth for the tables. Ed Bean made the railing for the stage steps.

In March of 1975, James Tyler was elevated from vice president to president, having run all the meetings the previous year since no president seems to have been elected. C. Alan Bradford became vice president.

The April meeting was to have been an "I remember" meeting, but it was canceled due to snow. Held in May instead, it was reported as "interesting and amusing." (Wish I was there!) At subsequent meetings, many of the articles for the book were read, including Dr. Hubbard's etherizing a bear at Lynchville, Otta Chase's WWII days as an airplane observer and one on Ned Stone harvesting ice.

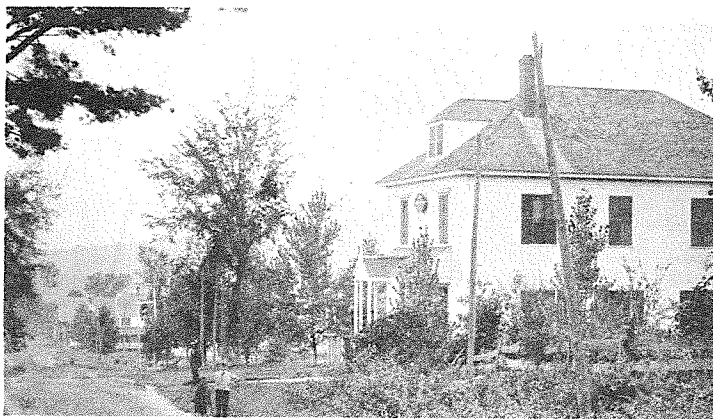
Dorothy Erickson organized an "old hat" parade at one meeting and Mike Durgin displayed car number plates from 1905 at another. One meeting was on "hobbies." Slides of the Saco Canal and narrow gauge railroad were shown by Robert Dingley of the Naples Historical Society.

The roof at the hall was repaired by Merle Barker for \$40 (Estimates received from contractors came in around \$2,000). The Society voted to raise money in the future for "an aluminum roof." Artemus Ward items were given to the Society and the Hoskins' Journal of 1835-1864 was promised. Mary Moody Emerson stories were shared by Arthur Sanderson. Arthur also made display items that year, including a shadow box and poster frames.

In November, there was a Harvest Supper hosted by Irene Millett. Waterford Creamery butter items and Flora Abbott's history of the creamery were given. Other gifts included old tools from Ted Sloan, a Pomona Grange flag from Maxine Roak and "Ann Warren's Bible" from John

Kimble.

In March of 1976, the first order of business was the dispensation of the will of Flora Gertrude Hamlin Abbott, who had died the previous Dec. 22. Always a benefactor to the town, Flora had been one of the founders of the Waterford Historical Society, which had met in her "rooms" from its beginning in 1965 until the Rebekah Hall was acquired in 1973. "All



Main Street, North Waterford, 1911.

articles and items of historical value" were left either to the historical society or to Bear Mountain Library (the library's historical possessions eventually came here also, in 1995, when the library merged with the Waterford Library and sold its building). A list of items can be found in the secretary's records. Flora also left \$3,000 for the publication of the history.

In May of 1976, the Society decided to take a census of the citizens of town, to be included in the history. Involved in taking the census were Georgia and Raynor Brown, Alice Rounds, Joe Blackham, Wilma Whiting, Mildred Noyes, Irving McAllister, Jane Kimball, Happy McDaniels, Phyllis Goodwin and Lib Ingraham.

Rev. Wentworth completed his editorial work and was paid \$100. Margaret Sawyer had put a list of servicemen in an ad in the *Advertiser-Democrat* looking for corrections as the history neared completion. Dr. Dewing volunteered to index it and Margaret Sawyer sought publishers' estimates.

Officers for 1976 were President James Tyler, Vice President Tony Waldeier, Secretary Lib Ingraham, Treasurer Margaret Sawyer and Curator Irene Bean. Trustees elected for three years were Arthur Sanderson, Wilma Whiting and Edwin Gardner.

In May and June, there were clean-up days and the inside of the hall was painted. Billie Sawyer had outside lights installed.

Gifts given included the old safe once

used by the town clerk, a 4-speed wooden pulley made and used by W.K. Hamlin, woven wool and linen made by the family of Amanda Johnson McIntire and two bobsleds.

On Aug. 7 and 8, 1976, the hall was opened as part of the bicentennial celebration. In July, the Society hosted historical societies from Norway and Harrison. The meeting featured a slide talk given by Randy Bennett on Mount Washington, its hotel and cog railway and the Willey family disaster — "History of the White Mountains."

Also in August, the society's display of 101 tools won second place at the Waterford World's Fair. Hervey Kimball gave a timber saw and Lee Lord gave a crosscut saw and a wooden plane.

Speakers in the fall of 1976 included Andrea Burns on Thoreau, David Dexter on "Paris Hill and Its People," Mike Durgin on U.S. Commemorative coins and medals and Professor Thomas Hubka on the connected farmhouse (which eventually became his book *Big House, Little House, Back House, Barn*). Hubka used the Woodsum Farm in Harrison as an example. The Woodsum Farm, now the R. Jennings home and farm stand, was the birthplace of W.K. Hamlin's mother, Sarah Woodsum Hamlin.

March of 1977 saw discouragement over the publishing of the 3,000 history books — the publisher had made many errors and the promised three months until publication had already stretched to five. They were finally delivered in August in time for sale at the 1977 World's Fair. Officers remained the same that year. New 3-year trustees elected were Carol Waldeier, Dr. Dewing and Agnes Lahti. Cold weather meetings were begun in the Wilkins House in this year.

There were always changes:

☞ The renovators of the Olde Rowley Inn were introduced (Rickers and Merrills) to the town of Waterford.

☞ The dance hall at the fairgrounds collapsed under heavysnow in the winter of 1976-77.

☞ R.K. Brown sold his North Waterford gravel, paving and concrete business to Cianbro Corp. of Pittsfield.

Ed and Irene Bean moved to Norway, that year and Irene's resignation as curator was accepted "with regret."

Next time, the Founders' history through the secretary's notes will continue.

In Memoriam

Henry S. Dabczynski, a LIFE MEMBER OF THE SOCIETY, died May 17, 1995 at his home in Columbus, N.J. He was born in New Kensington, and graduated from Thomas Jefferson High School in Elizabeth. He attended Ernest Williams School of Music in New York City and earned undergraduate and graduate degrees from New York University. He had retired after teaching music at Madison, Hackettstown and Morristown high schools. He had also taught at Pennsylvania State University Park, Pa. and Paterson State College, now William Paterson College in Wayne. During World War II, he served in the Army Special Services Unit as a violinist, clarinet player and arranger. He managed and conducted the North Jersey American Legion Boys State Band for many years. He is survived by his wife of 48 years, Elizabeth Hamilton Dabczynski; a daughter, Deborah A. Dabczynski of Harrison; a son, Andrew H. Dabczynski of Clarkston, Mich; a sister, Monica Neighbours of West Hartford, Conn.; and five grandchildren. Henry had been a summer resident of Waterford for 48 years.

Stanley C. McAllister of East Waterford died Nov. 18, 1995 at Stephens Memorial Hospital at age 67. He was born Oct. 7, 1928, son of Clement and Rebecca Bubier McAllister. He attended Waterford schools and lived in Waterford most of his life. He worked for many years for Bear Paw Lumber in North Waterford and served in the U.S. Army during the Korean conflict. He married Viola Currier on July 30, 1955. Survivors include his wife of East Waterford; one son, Mark of East Waterford; one brother, Carl of Waterford; three sisters, Leona Dunn of Lancaster, N.H., Elizabeth Tibbetts and Mildred Pope, both of Norway; and five grandchildren. He was predeceased by a daughter, Roxanne in 1986.

William D. Jennings Jr. of South Waterford died Oct. 12, 1995 at age 75 at Northern Cumberland Memorial Hospital. He was born in Bridgeport, Conn. on Aug. 30, 1920, the son of Lambert E. and Sarah Murphy Jennings. He was educated in Trumbull, Conn. schools. He had been employed as a machinist at the Milford Crane Co. in Milford, Conn. After retiring, he was a familiar face at his son's farm in Harrison. He was a life member of the Trumbull Volunteer Fire Dept. He and his wife of 50 years, the former Ruth Machalowski, came to South Waterford 25 years ago. He is survived by his wife; two sons, William D. Jr. of South Waterford and Richard D. of Harrison; a sister, Dorothy Williams of Bridgeport, Conn.; a grandson, several nieces and nephews.

Dr. Roger G. Edwards, formerly of Topsfield, Ma. and South Waterford, died July 25, 1995 in Union City, Ga. at age 94. Dr. Edwards graduated from Harvard Dental School in 1926. He served as dentist with Sir Wilfred T. Grenfell in Labrador and northern Newfoundland, traveling dog sled and steamer to far-reaching locations to treat patients. He served in the U.S. Navy Dental Corps during World War II at Portsmouth, Va.; Athens, Ga.; and Adak, the Aleutian Islands. He practiced dentistry for 40 years in Danvers, Mass. He is survived by his wife, Ruth (Hosley) Edwards of Beverly, Ma.; one son, George B. Edwards of East Point, Ga.; two daughters, Eleanor M. Edwards of South Waterford and Caroline B. Hoover of Trumansburg, N.Y.; three grandchildren and one great niece.

Philip J. Curran of North Waterford died Sept. 12, 1995 at Stephens Memorial Hospital at age 76. He was born in Portland Nov. 28, 1918, son of Peter J. and Sarah Johnston Curran. He attended St. Dominics Grammar School, Chevrus High School, New England Business College of Portland, the American University in Washington, D.C. and the University of Maryland. During World War II, he served as a radio operator gunner on B52s stationed in England. Following the war, he resumed his civil service career in Washington, D.C. as deputy administrative assistant to the Secretary of the Air Force and also in the Office of Management and Budget as a budget officer. He retired in 1971 to North Waterford. He married the former Carol Gerstenecker on Nov. 28, 1961. He is survived by his wife of North Waterford; two daughters, Catherine Labib of Arlington, Va. and Terry Nagle of Lawrenceville, Ga.; a son, Michael J. of Marshall, Va.; and three grandchildren.

David M. Nyrhila of South Waterford died May 31, 1995 at age 64 at Northern Cumberland Memorial Hospital. He was born in Harrison June 13, 1930, son of Jacob and Aino Nyrhila, and educated in Harrison schools. He worked summers at Camp Chickawa in Harrison for many years. He also worked in farming in Harrison and South Waterford. He is survived by a half sister, Sylvia Morin of Florida.

North Waterford Church Celebrates Foundation Project

by Marjorie Kimball

The foundation of the North Waterford Congregational Church was replaced in time to celebrate 135 years of continuous Christian ministry in North Waterford. An afternoon dedication ceremony was held in the newly decorated sanctuary on June 25, 1995 with visitors from surrounding towns joining the worship service led by the Rev. Janice Wilcox.

The parish choir sang a musical selection "Give Us A Vision," and

presented a fun song in tribute to the contractors involved in the project.

Congratulations were extended by those present. A letter of appreciation from Vance Jordan, project manager, was read expressing thanks for the cooperation and fine work done by the many contractors and volunteers. Also read was a letter from Mr. and Mrs. Reynold Jordan congratulating the church and giving thanks for the many prayers in support of Vance during his illness and long stay in the hospital.

Following the service was a time for fellowship when people exchanged words of joy in seeing the results of "the church raised from its foundation."

Since the celebration, a new roof has been installed. There is more work being done in the sanctuary to repair the walls cracked during the raising process.

The new facility sports a new kitchen, a bathroom and an expanded dining room. It houses the area food pantry and accommodates meetings of the church school, senior citizens and other groups.



WATERFORD CENTENNIAL

(Sept. 6, 1887) This famous nestling village looks as comfortable as possible this morning, as I sit on the piazza and write. The summer guest is a large factor to the community at this time, and as a consequence, early rising doesn't seem to be so prevalent as in most country places.

Mt. Tire'm, southwest of here, is just getting a glint of sunlight along the bright green trees that adorn its height. About the hotel the elms are



conspicuous. Below here I can see maples and Lombardy poplars along the street. There are good trees in front of every house in the village but one, and that is a store. The lawns are wide, smooth and well kept. No wonder that city people find it a splendid place to stop.

I was surprised to see the fleet on Lake Keoka: sailboats, skiffs and canoes in plenty, and there are good boathouses for the accommodations of the various craft.

E. M. Dudley's Lake House is a gem. It has about 300 feet length of piazza. Inside there are places of sanctuary (and I noticed some fine Rogers groups among those) and pictures all around each room. Never saw such an extensive display before outside of an art gallery, and the pictures seem to be meritorious. The annex, which contains the

music room is across, the lawn from the main house.

Connecting the two buildings is a covered walk with latticed walls and between them is a constant-spurting fountain fed from a brook far up the hillside. I have found the bed comfortable, chairs actually easy and victuals good and well served. No wonder mine host has plenty of patronage.

The electric railway will pass along the west side of Main Street, on its way to South Waterford.

It is 122 years since the eccentric David McWain made the first clearing in town, and built a cabin on the shores of the pond that bears his name. He was a hermit by disposition. Many stories are told of him, perhaps the best of which is the one morning he discovered a smoke from what is now Paris Hill, 14 miles away. When that phenomenon was repeated on several successive days and he realized he had a neighbor, he is said to have complained somebody had settled down right under his nose.

The Rev. John A. Douglass became pastor of the church here in 1821 and remained the head of the same flock till his death 58 years later. Try to imagine what a hold that man had on the people. They say he was fitted to be the spiritual leader of a more numerous congregation. He must have been.

March 2, 1797, the Governor signed an act, passed by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court assembly, incorporating the town of Waterford in the

county of York. It was afterward annexed to Cumberland County and became a part of the new county of Oxford when that was formed. The people wisely postponed the celebration of that event till the pleasant season when summer verges into fall. Today has come with delightful weather and the events of the celebration can be transacted with comfort and enjoyment.

OVER 500 HONOR WATERFORD DOCTOR

(1958) A beloved country doctor listened to the reenactment of his 39 years as a general practitioner in Waterford and surrounding towns Saturday evening, Aug. 9, as over 500 devoted patients and friends paid tribute to him at a surprise reception at the community schoolhouse.

Residents of Waterford, Stoneham, Albany, the Lovells and Bridgton as well as summer camp directors of the area had gathered in the school cafeteria before Dr. Roswell E. Hubbard and his wife, Amy, were ushered into the room by Mr. and Mrs. Raynor K. Brown. The Browns had invited the Hubbards to attend a "community betterment meeting."

Dr. Hubbard's first words when they entered the room were, "This is some meeting. Never saw so many people at one meeting in Waterford since I came here."

Dr. Wilbur I. Bull, Hanover, N.H., a former pastor of the Oxford County United Parish for 29 years, and friend of the Hubbards for those years, broke the news to the couple with the words, "This is Your Life, Dr. Roswell Earl Hubbard."

Dr. Bull introduced the first baby to be brought into the town of Waterford by the veteran doctor. James H. Tyler, 38, was delivered by Dr. Hubbard on Oct. 25, 1919, just two months after he began his practice in this small Oxford County town.

The last baby to be brought into Waterford by the doctor was brought to the stage and introduced to the group. It was 18-month-old Allen Adams Arnold, son of Mr. and Mrs. James Arnold, now of Wicksford, R.I. Dr. Hubbard gave up obstetrics after Allen's birth. All expectant mothers are now sent to the hospital by the doctor.

Dr. Hubbard had delivered 336 in Waterford and as many more in other small towns of the area.

CENTURY OLD CHURCH BURNS TO GROUND

(1928) The Congregational church built nearly a century ago and the community house, were burned to the ground early this afternoon, fire being caused by a defective chimney. Damage was estimated at \$10,000. The



Masonic building caught fire several times, but was saved.

Preparations were made in the afternoon for a community meeting at the church. Fire was built in the stove to warm the room. About 2:30 o'clock it was discovered that flames had eaten their way to the belfry. The

bumper from Harrison was summoned and their efforts were concentrated in saving the surrounding buildings.

The Masonic building was threatened several times. Several other buildings were in the danger zone for several hours.

Several priceless church ornaments and memorial tablets were saved. One was a 17th century Bible, with pictures and dedicated to the British Nobility.

Bystanders watching the blaze groaned aloud when the Paul Revere Bell in the belfry fell to the ground with a crash.

The church was built and dedicated in 1836. In 1926, it was entirely remodeled and equipped with modern lights, and painted.

WATERFORD'S NEW SCHOOL (EDITORIAL)

(1949) Yesterday, the Sun carried an account of the dedication of a new \$71,000 central elementary school at Waterford, honoring the war veterans of that little town. Its completion makes it possible to close several outlying "little red schoolhouses" and bring their pupils to a modern new building in the geographical center of the town.

Now, \$71,000 is a lot of money for a town the size of Waterford, even if \$13,500 was raised by popular subscription. Almost without exception, the smaller towns of Maine are heavy taxed to carry on the increasingly expensive duties of town government. We know the people of Waterford are proud of their accomplishment; we think they deserve to be warmly congratulated for recognizing the need of better school facilities, and doing something about it.

What Waterford has done serves as an object lesson, and an incentive, to other communities in the state that recognize that they need to improve their schools. What the little Oxford County town has done, they can do, if the interest and initiatives are provided.

KEOKA LAKE ASSOCIATION FORMS

(1971) Trustees of the newly organized Keoka Lake Association met today and elected officers. Penny Carson is



the new president and Bud Hamlin vice president and chairman of the committee to oversee the construction and the dam at the lake's outlet.

The first major task of the Keoka Lake Association is to rebuild the present dam, which is on land leased from the Mason family. Mrs. Moria Mason is a member of the Board of Trustees of the Dam Committee.

"To preserve, enhance and protect the natural advantages of Keoka Lake and its environs" is the purpose of the new group.

Margaret Sawyer is to serve as the recording secretary and Martha Eaton corresponding secretary. Funds of the association are to be in custody of the treasurer, Richard Jacobsen. Official representatives to the Congress of Lakes Association will be Penny Carson and James Tabor.

Dues were set at \$10 for lake shore property owners and \$5 for other members of the family and interested persons.

R.K. BROWN CO. SOLD

(1975) R.K. Brown Inc., an expansive sand, gravel and concrete complex situated in the Bisbeetown section of Waterford, has been sold to Cianbro Corp.

Raynor Brown, owner of the business since he began it in

1950, announced that the Pittsfield-based corporation began operation of the facilities Monday morning.

Included in the sale is the approximately 25 to 30 acres of

land and gravel pits surrounding the operation, six transit concrete mixers, nearly a dozen trucks, four loaders, two pavers, four rollers, a stone crusher, a hot top plant, a concrete plant and numerous buildings and pieces of equipment.

The 14-man crew will remain on, Mr. Brown said. He also indicated he would stay on through the spring to aid Cianbro in making the transition.

Mr. Brown, a 1937 graduate of the University of Maine with a degree in Forestry, was in the logging business for some 10 years before he started the gravel business in 1950.

In 1955, the first rock crushing plant was purchased and in 1957, expansion was made into the asphalt distribution business. The transit mix concrete business, one of the mainstays of the operation now, was begun in 1958 with two trucks. In May of that year, Raynor made a trip to Thomaston to establish an account with Dragon Cement Co.

At that time, the sales manager asked Mr. Brown why in the world he wanted to go into the concrete business in North Waterford, Maine, telling Raynor he would probably starve to death.

But Raynor didn't starve and

the business prospered. In the last 17 years, the volume has increased from 2,500 yards a year to over 20,000 yards annually each year for the last three. During those years, a new truck has been periodically added until the fleet has reached its present six.

FORMER GENERAL STORE DESTROYED BY FIRE

(1974) Fire, apparently stemming from an overheated wood stove, destroyed the home of Albert Robbie Tuesday night as firefighters from four towns battled the elements as well as the flames.

Mr. Robbie, his wife and their three children, and his brother-in-law, Kenneth Gordon, all escaped injury in the 9 p.m. blaze.

Officials said the fire apparently started in the ell between the barn and the main house, spreading through the entire building. Damage was estimated at \$10,000, as officials declared it was a total loss.

Sub-freezing temperatures hampered firemen as waterlines continued froze.

The building, located in the center of town across from Tut's Store, had formerly been a general store and antique shop.

I.O.O.F. HALL SAVED BY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

(1973) When the Evergreen Rebekah Lodge of North Waterford could no longer maintain its building, it was rumored that it might be sold for apartments or torn down. The Rebekahs were deeded the building in 1961 when the Independent Order of Odd Fellows disbanded.

The I.O.O.F. was instituted in 1875 and met in a building that was destroyed in the North Waterford fire of 1900. They had purchased the land where the building is located now in 1898 from Lizzie and Thomas Sawin.

The building was deeded to the Waterford Historical Society Aug. 1, 1973.

President's column

Merry Christmas and happiness in the new year to all those near and far.

My thanks to all those who helped out this past year with the open house, suppers, refreshments and those many other things I don't know about. It is most important for us to interest younger people so they can help out and later take over from us. Our curator needs help, and by helping, you can learn at the same time.

I like to think of myself as a historian. I'm working on a number projects from our past, including "Waterford's utilities," "Waterford's undertakers" and the "Waterford masons." A story on the improvements to the Masonic Hall along with a history can be found on the back page of this newsletter. I've found some of the information on these things through my research, but there are

ledgers, letters and who knows what out there. All I can say is, dig deep and look around. Who knows what you'll find.

Histories have been published on Papoose Pond and the Five Kezars and copies donated to the society. It would be nice if histories were compiled on the remaining lakes and ponds.

Thanks for your support.

Bill Fillebrown

Lake histories donated

Over the past year, two histories have been donated to the society. *The Five Kezar Lakes of Maine, An Informal History* was donated in August by authors Ron and Carol Gestwicki. They began the research project in 1988. "We were sitting with neighbors and realizing that we had each been summer residents for 20 years," the Gestwickis wrote in the history's preface. "During our time of renting, and then buying our own cottage, we had come to know many other residents on the lakes and heard stories about people and events prior to our coming. We were lamenting the fact that even our own

children hadn't heard these stories." Thus began the process of talking to older residents, consulting the histories of Waterford and Lovell and researching deeds. The history was published in 1992.

In September, the Papoose Pond Landowners Association donated a copy of their *Remembrances of Papoose Pond*. As property owners became acquainted at PaPoLa meetings and informal get-togethers, conversation started about when and how people had obtained their camps or cottages. At the suggestion of Florence Greenleaf, a history committee was formed. As the

Introduction explains, committee members were never all at the pond at the same time, conventional meetings were never held. The work went on, however, with each member contributing by phone, letter or personal visit.

The 28-page history includes maps and a centerfold filled with color photographs. It was published in 1995 and is dedicated to the memory of Florence Greenleaf, 1921-1994. "Florence was instrumental in organizing the group and she spent endless hours working toward its purpose, the protection of Papoose Pond," reads the dedication.

Waterford Echoes

Vol. XII Number 4 Issue 24 Winter 1995

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.

1995-96 OFFICERS

President:	W. Walter Fillebrown
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:	Richard Jones, Lieselotte Willoughby

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

Waterford is home to a wide assortment of families and individuals, both deeply and newly sprouted roots. Their stories are often told in town recollections, but there is perhaps an even larger group of families and individuals whose seasonal pilgrimages to our fair villages, forests, lakes and mountains are based upon spiritual connectedness to this place. They return to summer camps like Birch Rock, Wigwam and Wayziatah, to the campgrounds at Papoose Pond, Keoka Lake and Bear Pond to our inns, bed & breakfasts, to our mountaintops and to their family summer homes. They return to recapture a sense of family, friendship and peace. They return to rekindle childhood memories, to teach their children in a safe environment or simply to spend time with their loved ones in a familiar setting. Maine has long been a haven to summer tourists who come to enjoy our ambient pace and natural beauty and then go away. This article is dedicated to those who regard Maine as home....even if they can only be here for a few days out of the year.

A month ago, Betty Miller of Hocking Family Camps sent us an article entitled "Family Values Bolstered by Summer Homes" by James L. Tyson, staff writer for the **Christian Science Monitor**. This succinct report had been written in response to a paper presented by Judith Higgins Balfe, associate professor of sociology at the College of Staten Island, City University of New

York at the annual meeting of the American Sociological Association entitled "Passing It On: The Inheritance of Summer Homes." In her preliminary study, she interviewed second- to fourth-generation heirs of 40 summer homes in New England and northeastern New York. The general consensus was:

"These families have this sense of an endless summer. The house is the one pole, the one consistency; cousins, second cousins, everyone feels that their life is in flux everywhere but in their summer homes," Balfe wrote. Tyson noted that together, these extended families affirm their solidarity and shared values. "By annually retreating to their dwellings, the families not only flee workday cares but find an enduring haven from change — a place to cheat time itself....Pundits and sociologists have concentrated so much on the ills and dysfunction of families that to talk today about 'Happy Families' is an oxymoron, but we haven't looked enough at the positive role of the extended families."

The study went on to report that by the time the third generation of heirs come of age, many families begin to run the house through a partnership, trust or corporation. By the fifth generation, the participants usually resort to a system of time sharing to accommodate their increasing numbers.

In most cases, there appeared to be a strong core of family values. Close proximity and common goals invariably

led to a reverence for fellowship and tradition. Most expressed that moral and ethical decisions were arrived at jointly, and that compromises kept communications open. Far from viewing their homes and land as mere investments or status symbols, most regarded their summer homes as sanctuaries where they and their children found security, continuity and a healthy retreat from the outside world.

My own family has itself gone through such a metamorphosis. A number of years ago, we, the third generation, decided that it was time we take over from our parents the responsibility of managing the common lands and assets of the family compound. We, the cousins, united to pay taxes, resurface the tennis court our grandfather had had built for us, regrade the access road and jointly work on physical upkeep of the property. This has served to bond us even more closely through our love for this place and our desire to share and preserve it for both our extended family and friends. The fourth generation is now participating in decision making and delegation of responsibilities.

For me, the most fascinating aspect of his article was perhaps naive discovery that we were not alone in the evolution. I have been often reminded that happy homes, let alone happy extended families, were an increasing rarity in this day and age, so it is most comforting to know that such common bonds strengthen just a little part of America's heart.

South Waterford Post Office closing ends 167-year era

The South Waterford Post Office closed its doors this fall after 167 years of continuous service at several locations in the community. Postmaster Edith T. Kimball retired Sept. 29, 1995 after more than 16 years on the job.

The closing leaves Waterford with two post offices from its original four: North Waterford and Waterford Flat.

The U.S. Postal Service notified 04081 box holders in late August that "there are no suitable alternate quarters in the community, therefore, it will be necessary to suspend services at the South Waterford Post Office." Customers were given the option of renting boxes at the Waterford 04088 location or installing roadside mailboxes for rural delivery.

Approximately 45 customers went to roadside boxes while 20 rented boxes at the Waterford Post Office.

The South Waterford Post Office was established Jan. 21, 1828. Nathaniel Howe was the first Postmaster.

Mrs. Kimball worked for many years as clerk for Mildred Noyes, who served as the Postmaster from 1948 to 1978, and was given charge after Mrs. Noyes retired. Mildred had been the acting Postmaster since 1947 after taking over from her aunt, Flora Abbott. Flora tended the office in the Bear Mountain Library building. Mildred moved it down the street to a room in her home, now the Perley and Kathy Graham house, where it continued until it was

moved to its last site at the former P.H. Kimball store in 1978.

The store, which continues as Kimball's Hardware, was a blacksmith's shop in the early 1800s. By the 1890s, the Bear Mountain Grange, which started in 1874, used Jones Hall's cobbler shop as a cooperative store. The Grange store prospered and the second floor was finished off to house Grange meetings. The Grange membership continued to grow and occupied the former Universalist Church in 1896. When Hall died in 1901, the Grange purchased the building and ran the store until it was sold to Freeman Hapgood in 1919. P. Harold Kimball worked for Hapgood and eventually bought the business.

Mt. Tire'm Masons begin lodge renovation

by Bill Fillebrown

This summer saw the start of a major renovation of the Mt. Tire'm Lodge No. 132. Throughout the summer, volunteers worked on fastening down the roof, painting the front and leveling the building. Several yard sales were held in conjunction with the Wilkins House breakfasts to raise money for the project.

In 1865, 15 Masons who lived in Waterford felt there should be a lodge in town. After petitioning the two closest lodges and turned down by them, they were about to give up. Their courage was revived and they petitioned again and everything went right this time. The Grand Master immediately issued his dispensation Oct. 18, 1865.

The name selected for the new Lodge was the same given to the steep mountain nearby. Tradition has handed down that the English for the name by which it was known in the Indian tongue was "Tire them." The present name is a contraction of the original rendering, Tire'm.

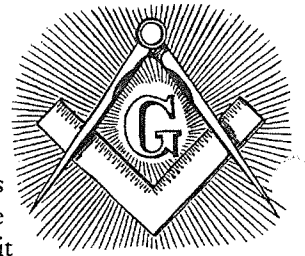
The first meeting was held Oct. 23 with Dr. Charles L. Wilson as master. Before the next meeting, a "neat" and convenient Lodge room was prepared with suitable "ante rooms" that were well

furnished. A complete set of Jewels and Collars had been purchased along with the appropriate working tools. The charter was presented Aug. 7, 1866.

Lodge members decided to build their own hall. Four Masonic brothers were chosen to oversee the building of the hall at the base of the mountain across from the church in the Flat.

"The meeting of February 6, 1880 was one long to be remembered by Mt. Tire'm Lodge, meeting as we did in our new Masonic home, meeting as we did for the first time in a hall we could call our own and dedicate the same to the grand and noble work of Freemasonry," reads the 1893 Mt. Tire'm history. "A hall that had been erected by a great sacrifice by the brethren, but not so when we consider the philanthropic principles of the order, and a home which we could call our own."

On Feb. 16, 1893, the ladies of the lodge were chartered as Keoka Chapter No. 12, order of the Eastern Star. Before they disbanded and joined Norway in 1976, the ladies did several projects, including painting, new carpet on the lodge floor, desks and two chairs replaced and the old pot-bellied wood stoves were replaced by two wood and one oil furnace.



As there were no details written in the old histories, it was necessary to do some researching to find the details. My great grandfather, Leander Gage Stone, built the gabled-roof hall for about \$3,000 in 1879. He was well known for three nearby buildings he had built. My grandfather, C.D. Morse, also worked on the building. His account books show he received \$1.75 per day for what was probably a 9-hour day.

The vernacular Greek Revival structure was well built. Unfortunately, the real flaw is the building's underpinning. It was set on loam and not hard-packed gravel. It is a wonder they didn't use split stone for it has been mined a few hundred feet in back of the hall. There are parts of the building that have dropped eight inches.

The hall appears to be only 2½ stories, but extremely tall windows on the three functional floors conceal the building's actual height of almost four normal stories. (Source: *Oxford County, Maine - A Guide to Its Historic Architecture*). There are currently 60 members listed on the rolls of Mt. Tire'm Lodge.