

Waterford Echoes

VOLUME XIII Number 1 (Issue 25)

Spring 1996

Waterford Historical Society

Early Days of the Waterford Historical Society

Part III

by Nancy Marcotte

A special meeting in February of 1978 was called by Society President James Tyler to announce the \$5,000 bequest of Mary Gage Rice. It was put into a special fund, part of which was used to make the final payment on the history books, and the rest to help move the Mary Gage Rice Museum into its new location next to the library.

In April, 1978, Randy Bennett presented a slide program on the reconstruction of the Moses Mason House in Bethel. At about the same time, Dr. Stanley Howe proposed putting Waterford Flat on the National Historic District list (That was achieved in 1980).

Programs that year sounded very interesting — including Joe Perham performing as Artemus Ward, and an evening of music including Margaret Sawyer on Appalachian mountain dulcimer and John McLaren on guitar. Jim Aikman of Channel 8 (then in Poland Spring) showed slides of the Maine State Building and All Souls Chapel and spoke of its trip to the 1893 Chicago Columbian Exposition.

In September, William Hiss, director of Religion at Bates College, spoke of the religious society of Shiloh at Durham. Chris Rounds showed slides of Uganda, Tanzania, Kenya and East Africa that November.

Agnes Lahti gave the society a diploma and photo of the "Little School" at the Flat and her mother, Gladys May Billings. Photos of Harry Brown's box

factory in North Waterford were given by Helen Grover. Photos of the Elliott & Bartlett spool mill in Lynchville, 1915, were given by Betty Holt Witham.

The October, 1978 meeting was held at Dorothy Erickson's home — the former express office of Charles Hersey. At the time of Dorothy's grandmother, the ell was moved up from the village

Waterford hall that year at a cost of \$889.83. There was no December meeting but the trustees met during the winter to discuss the Wheelers' offer of the Rice Museum and its contents in exchange for the proposed purchase by the town of their 960-foot Keoka Lake frontage.

March, 1979: Fourteen were present at the Ingraham's home for the annual meeting. Officers elected were president, Chris Rounds; vice president, Tony Waldeier; secretary, Irene Millett; treasurer, Margaret Sawyer; trustees, Arthur Sanderson, Wilma Whiting and Joe Blackham. Virginia Mixer gave Artemus Ward's leather cigar case, which had been returned from England with his effects and given to Leander Stone.

In May Doris Thurston of North Norway gave a program on her books, "Beloved Brick House," and "We Ate Molasses Cookies For Walrus Meat" about her childhood. Fund raising ideas of tiles and a quilt were proposed, in light of the upcoming

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Haskell Mill, East Waterford, about 1910.

and the building was then a general store and post office. A tour of the house followed Ober Kimball's recital of amusing tales of the post office.

Merle Barker painted the North

Fire station project set to begin

Glen Builders of Conway, NH, low among seven bidders at \$487,900, will build the new fire station and town office complex. Work is expected to begin by the end of June with completion before Christmas.

Members of the building committee chaired by John Tucker worked through the winter on the building design. Bids were put out in March and returned in April. The seven bids ran as high as \$794,000.

The town has been awarded a \$250,000 Community Development Block Grant for construction of the fire station. The remainder of the project will be built using some of the \$400,000 approved at the 1995 town meeting.

Paving will cost \$45,000 and may be done in the spring of 1997.

Rice Museum move.

In June, Blynn Davis wrote a tribute to Ober Kimball, who had recently died. Phil Richards of Lovell spoke on the Battle of Gettysburg. There were 37 present. Silent auctions were held throughout the summer meetings to raise money.

In October, 1979, Eula Shorey of **The Bridgton News** spoke on weather vanes. The society voted to have Clayton Copp & Sons of Cumberland move the Rice Museum and Alfred Murch put in a new foundation.

Tiles with the Waterford seal on them were ordered after the November meeting in the Lake House. In December, Raynor Brown donated \$970 to pay for emergency roof repairs at North Waterford and to help with the Rice Museum moving costs. And so, with the dedication and hard work of the members, the Waterford Historical Society pushed onward into the decade of the eighties. (The Rice Museum was moved in 1979.)

Prentiss Kimball repaired the hall roof and Bud Hamlin was given permission by the society to have the safe in Flora Abbott's barn. The trustees voted to put out a newsletter twice a year (January and June).

In 1980, a gas furnace was bought for the hall. Meetings were held at Sawyers', at Rounds', at Agnes Lahti's, at the Wilkins House and at the hall.

Officers remained the same as the previous year with the exception of James Tyler, who succeeded Tony Waldeier as vice president. Trustees were: Irene Bean, Guy Bancroft and Gladys Knight, 1981; Wilma Whiting, Joseph Blackham and John Ingraham, 1982; and Dr. Stephen Dewing, Laurence Lundstrom and Orris "Mike" Durgin.

Note paper was sold in 1980 and a quilt raffle was arranged by Margaret Sawyer. Guy Bancroft died that April. A silent auction was held to pay the electric bill.

This was the year the village of

Waterford was put on the National Historic Register of Historic Places. It was also the year that the survey of Oxford County's historical buildings was begun by George Allen. Randy Bennett eventually completed it and published the book (Margaret Sawyer and Nancy Marcotte surveyed some of Waterford's buildings).

Bill and Joan Fillebrown began building a new fireplace at the Rice Museum and were given a life membership. Bob Ross framed the National Register certificate and hung it in the museum. Margaret Sawyer arranged a table at the World's Fair and sold books, tiles and quilt chances.

The Fryeburg Historical Society came over to see the Rice Museum and had a picnic on the common. That fall, Phil Richards, headmaster of Fryeburg Academy, spoke to us about Russia.

Corrections — NCM

No. 1 — Leona Perry wrote to correct a statement made in the last issue. She did not donate an oriental rug, as written in the secretary's minutes.

No. 2 — In writing these memories, I somehow neglected to include 1971. Part I ended with 1970 and Part II began with 1972. In 1971, the Waterford Historical Society canceled a planned homes tour because of the spate of breaking and entering in town; they held an open house and food sale instead. This was the year Flora Abbott prepared a plaque honoring the town's war veterans and a list of all the postmasters that had served the Waterfords. Flora's birthday was celebrated with cake and ice cream that June.

The society was invited to Bethel to hear a talk by Earl Shettleworth on Portland landmarks. Many of the articles which ended up in the second town history were presented in 1971, including the ones on Camp Wigwam, Douglass Seminary and Ned Stone's ice cutting on Keoka.

David Dexter spoke about Hannibal Hamlin's adventures in politics.

The next year saw some of our saddest moments and some of our funniest. President Chris Rounds died unexpectedly at age 28, which was a blow to his family, friends, art students and to this society for which he had worked hard.

In January, 1981, 40 people met at the Artemus Ward House to hear the hilarious program called "The Genial

Showman at Home." Herb Adams portrayed Charles Farrar Browne and Bill Wood was costumed as his alter ego, "Artemus Ward." Wonderful refreshments were served by Lynn and India Baker.

Not to be outdone, Barbara and Rosalie Vandersanden hosted a February meeting at the Waterford Inn. Money given in memory of Chris Rounds paid the moving loan and the society started the annual meeting in March with no outstanding bills!

James Tyler was elected president in 1981, with Mike Durgin as vice president, Agnes Lahti as secretary and Margaret remaining as treasurer. Trustees were Lynn Baker, John Williams and Gladys Knight. India Baker was put in charge of the newsletter.

A committee was chosen to catalog and arrange artifacts: Lynn Baker, Helen Buchert, Irene Millett and Agnes Lahti. It was voted to put a plaque in the Rice Museum in memory of Chris Rounds. A check from SAD teachers for \$100 was also given in Chris's memory.

Speakers included Annie Gardner about her trip to Bavaria and the Passion Play, and Margaret Werner on Camp Ironwood, 1924-64. Mary Alice Bancroft of Paris Hill spoke on the problems involved in restoring old houses. In September, Hank Burns showed slides taken in Waterford to complement Thoreau's words. In December, Skip

Green read from the diary of Henry Pitt Warren about happenings on the Warren farm in the early years.

The Rice Museum was dedicated in 1981. The interior was videotaped thanks to Dr. Lois King.

In July, we met jointly with the Bethel Society at the Moses Ma... House and heard about the connection between the two towns. In June, we met with other historical societies and voted
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President's column

This is the start of a new year for us. Over the years, many of us have done our part of maintaining the Historical Society, but we have more to do, such as attracting younger people. Those of us involved

with the society were in our middle age before we got started. We have a few younger people working hard, but how can ask them to do more? My wish is that this be the year that we grow.

To all those that have done their part and more, my heartfelt thanks. I'm keeping my fingers crossed that more people step forward to help us move ahead.

Bill Fillebrown

Notes and news from around town

Tony Waldeier's fifth grade class at Waterford Memorial School has been busy this June. The group toured the Rice Museum on June 7 and the North Waterford museum on June 17. The students were particularly interested in the many early hand tools on display at the Rice Museum. Society President Bill Fillebrown led both tours.

One June 12, the class traveled up Valley Road to the town forest where students placed a Tree Farm sign at the intersection of the Town Farm Road.

Afterwards, Tony led the class on a walking tour of the woods. The Forest Management Committee of the town is planning an improvement cutting and partial chipping to take advantage of a white pine seed year. The cutting and chipping will be done in late summer.

The Waterford Library will hold an open house at 7 p.m. July 17 to dedicate the Flora Abbott Reading Room on the second floor. Trustees and volunteers have been working on the room over the past two years. All are welcome. The library has a microfilm reader and trustees have applied for a NYNEX computer grant. Recent passage of the library referendum should also guarantee that the library will go on-



line in the next year or two.

The library's regular hours are from 3 to 8 p.m. on

Wednesdays and 10 a.m.

to noon on Saturdays.

The library will hold its annual yard and

book sale on the Flat common the morning of the next-to-the-last Wilkins House breakfast of the summer. The dates are July 4, 17 and 31 and August 14 and 28. As always, the popular breakfasts run from 8-10 a.m.

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.

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

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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

The mill site at North Waterford *by Marjorie Kimball*

An island in Crooked River became an enduring business location for the economy of the community of North Waterford nearly 200 years ago. The river, meandering through what the Warren history of Waterford described as "the most valuable pine lots in Waterford," provided the water power with help from a mill pond formed by a wooden dam.

The first lumber mill was built in 1806 by Samuel Page and his partner Jonathan "Skipper" Longley on land purchased from Samuel Warren. Mr. Page was the first resident family and built a small house. After two years, Page sold to James Russell and General Sawin, who rebuilt and added a grist mill in the lower story. Later owners were Moses Young, Phillip Barrows, Danville Bisbee, Lebroke and Bell, Lebroke and Sam Locke, Lebroke and Edgerly, Albert and Lyman Jewett, Jewett and Mulleno, C.G. Knight, Gorham Wright, James and Harry Brown and Winfield Brown, who moved the mill upstream about 1932.

In 1820, Nathaniel Jewett established a fulling mill just below the sawmill by Nathaniel Jewett (fulling is a process for cleaning and raising the nap on woolen cloth). When Jewett

died, James Russell, who moved to Waterford in 1817, and Winfield Perkins, a carder and clothier from North Conway, ran the mill until it was

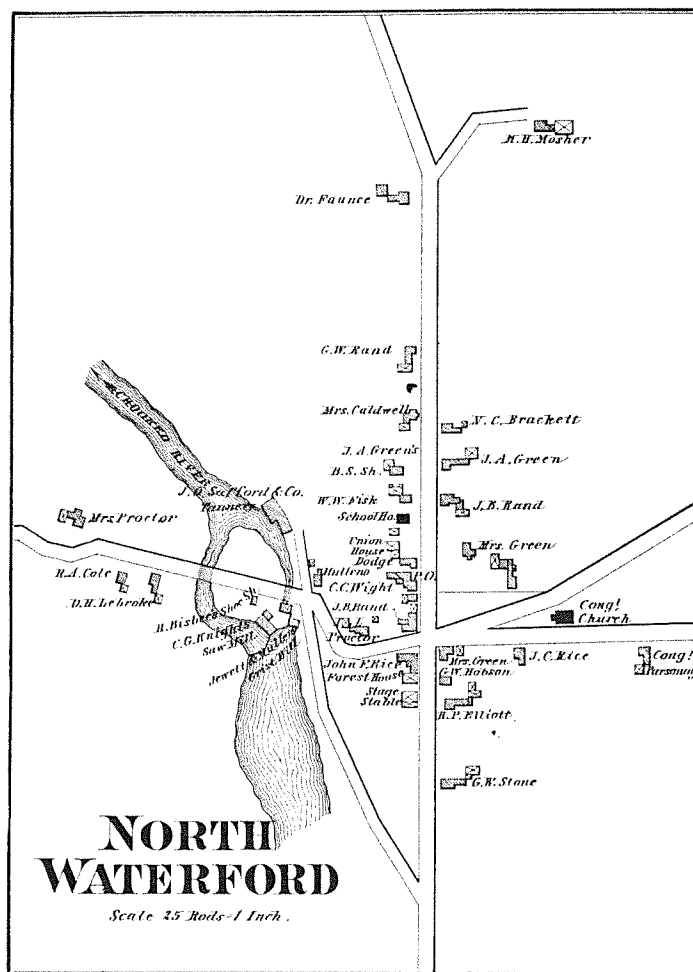
1918, this building became part of the spool mill.

A short lumber and box mill was built by Samuel Locke and ran from 1890-1923. In 1897, he sold to C.G. Knight, who sold to James Brown and son Harry. By 1910, Harry Brown owned all the mills.

After fire destroyed the Lynchville spool mill, Harry Brown and Melvin Knight built a new spool mill at the abandoned corn shop site. A large crowd celebrated the dedication and tour of the mill and enjoyed homemade ice cream. After Harry Brown's death, Earl Brown continued the business until 1968.

The homes built near the mill site provide a rich history of the people who worked at the mills. Their lives were related through the Lebroke family.

James Lebroke came from Normandy, France and established a home opposite the lumber mill. His family was involved in ownership of the mills. His widow, Sarah, married Alden Washburn from Paris, Maine. They built a house across the road that was known as the Governor Washburn House (probably so named because Alden was a distant relative of Maine Governor (continued on next page)



abandoned.

The 1880 map shows a shoe shop owned by Hiram Bisbee. Moses Bisbee and several other Bisbee families moved here from Sumner from 1817-24 and established homes downriver in such numbers as to have a road, a school, a cemetery and a neighborhood named for them. Their needs led to the establishment of a store at North Waterford. The cemetery records show 40 family members buried there.

The 1880 map also shows a tannery owned by J. Safford & Co., which later became a corn shop run by C.H. Chute. In

Israel Washburn Jr. {1861-63}).

When Alden Washburn died, Ezra Lebroke bought his mother's house and married Marilla Page, who had lived "across the river." They raised two daughters, Bernice and Pearla, and provided boarding places for mill workers. In 1912, ownership of the house transferred to Bernice and her husband, Jesse Littlefield. It remained in the family until 1979 when Bill and Darylene Wallace purchased the property.

In 1949, when it was determined that Route 118 needed to be straightened, the Page/Marston/Hatch home was moved to a location in Bisbeetown where the Rev. Norman and Betty (Rice) Rust now live. The Proctor Bridge in

Bisbeetown, weakened by frequent floods and ice, was abandoned.

A final gasp for the dying spool industry was an expansion

118 reveals few reminders of the activity that took place over the past two centuries. The wooden dam and bridge are gone, as are the buildings. Now a recent sawmill comes to view. In 1972, Bear Paw, Inc. started a business with an automated sawmill installed by Sanborn Machine of South Waterford. Stacked lumber and logs cover the old mill sites.

References

Warren History, page 111.

Wentworth History, pages 69-70.

Norlands letter from Billie

Gammon genealogy of Alden Washburn.

College paper written by Janet Bedard, great granddaughter of Ezra Lebroke.

1941 newspaper article.

Cemetery records.

Waterford map.

Encyclopedia.



The old saw mill, grist mill and tavern as they looked more than a century ago along the Crooked River in North Waterford.

plan that involved using the existing mill roadway. Thus the Bisbeetown Road was moved to the opposite side of the river eliminating the bridge access. The name "Forgotten Alley" has been designated for the short street beyond the mill bridge.

Today, a drive down Route

Waterford

by Frederick Marshall Davis

Where Crooked River flows unseen
Through shady nooks and pastures green
There let me stay awhile and dream
In Waterford.

Back where roses kiss the dew
Back where life seems made anew
Where wild birds sing the whole day through
In Waterford.

There's perfume in the gentle breeze

With wild flowers growing to the knees
With butterflies and humming bees
In Waterford.

Back to the woods with scented smell
To shady ways and dreamy dell
Back in the place I love so well
In Waterford.

With brooks disturbed by speckled trout
The river winding in and out
The woods with shady paths throughout
In Waterford.

The schoolhouse basking in the sun
Where children played when life was young
Where sparkled waters everrun

In Waterford.

The streamlet flowing by the mill
And on the bridge when all is still
I listen to the whippo-will
In Waterford.

Back where the great men lie at rest
Back where songs birds build their nest
Back to the friends I love the best
In Waterford.

♪ ♪ ♪ ♪ ♪

Oscar Andrews brought us this poem,
He remembers Davis of Norway as a
showman who played the banjo and
sang during the vaudeville era.

In Memoriam

Alton F. Rich of North Waterford died Jan. 21 at his residence at age 74. He was born in Albany on Dec. 29, 1921 the son of Herbert and Ed (Rugg) Rich. He attended schools in Albany, Waterford and Norway. He worked as a woodsman and for many years for P.E. Dunn Co. in Poland. He operated Lakeview Garage in Lovell and more recently operated a small engine repair business at his residence. He was a member Harrison VFW, the North Waterford Fire Department of which he was a past chief, the Western Maine Fire Association and the Waterford Snowpackers. During World War II, he served in the U.S. Army in the South Pacific. He married Althea Grover on Dec. 29, 1962. She died in 1985. He is survived by three daughters: Joanne (Rich) Mikoleit of California, Wanda (Rich) Buswell of South Paris and Gail (Inman) Blood of Lovell; two sisters, Erma Hatch of Norway and Beatrice Levesque of Berlin, N.H.; one brother, Henry Damon of West Paris; 10 grandchildren and seven great-grandchildren.

Vern C. Millett of Waterford died Feb. 7 at his residence at age 66. He was born in Waterford on Nov. 17, 1929 the son of Raymond and Grace (Dearborn) Millett. He attended Waterford schools. He farmed and logged on the family farm. He enjoyed hunting, fishing and his vegetable gardens. He was a 2-term selectman for the town of Waterford. He is survived by six sisters and one brother: Mildred Murch of Harrison, Maisie Murch of East Waterford, Nina Bisbee of South Paris, Gladys Emery of Mechanic Falls, Katherine Millett and Eva Barker of Waterford and Ralph Millett of Waterford. He was predeceased by a brother, Ralph, in 1977, and a sister, Louise in 1927. He was buried in Elm Vale Cemetery in South Waterford.

Dr. Stephen B. Dewing died Feb. 7 at Stephens Memorial Hospital at age 75. He was born in Princeton, N.J. on Dec. 18, 1920 the son of Henry and Eunice Dewing. Dr. Dewing attended Princeton University and was a graduate of Columbia Medical School in 1945. He worked as a radiologist at Hunterdon Medical Center in New Jersey and as Assistant Professor of Radiology at West Virginia Medical Center. He later became the first full-time radiologist at the Norway and Bridgton hospitals. He retired from radiology in 1983. Dr. Dewing authored two radiology books: Modern Radiology in Historical Perspective and Radiotherapy of Benign Disease. He served in the U.S. Army during World War II. He married Elisabeth Smith on March 18, 1965. The Dewings lived in Waterford the past 28 years. He is survived by his wife; one son, Andrew of Greenwood; one grandson, Ian; and one great-granddaughter, Erin. He was predeceased by two brothers, Henry and Charles, and one sister, Elizabeth.

Alice M. Howe of Waterford died Feb. 3 at her residence at age 84. She was born in North Norway Sept. 21, 1911 the daughter of Carle and Rachel (Cutts) Brown and graduated from Norway High School. A wife and mother, she worked for many years as Waterford's town clerk. She was a member of the Order of the Eastern Star and served as worthy matron. Mrs. Howe lived in Waterford for many years with her husband, Theodore. They were married May 26, 1934. She is survived by her husband, one daughter and son-in-law, Cynthia and Paul Littlefield of Rochester, N.H.; one son and daughter-in-law, Robert and June Howe of Spanaway, Wash.; two sisters, Viola Rypka of East Lake, Ohio, and Marion Dow of South Paris; one brother, Alvin Brown of York; five grandchildren and nine great-grandchildren. She was buried in Elm Vale Cemetery in South Waterford.

Olive M. Elliott of Waterford died March 1, 1996 at Clover Health Care in Auburn at age 86. Formerly of Marblehead, Mass. and Rumford, she had lived alongside Keoka Lake since 1972. She was born in Rumford Oct. 3, 1909, the daughter of Harris and Mabel (Wyman) Elliott. She graduated from Stephens High School, received her bachelor of arts degree at Bates College in Lewiston and a degree in library science at Simmons College in Boston. Miss Elliott worked as a high school librarian at a girls' seminary in Milwaukee and then for many years as head librarian at Marblehead High School until her retirement in 1972. She was a member of St. Michael's Episcopal Church in Marblehead and president of the Women's Guild. She served as treasurer of the Waterford Library, was a member of the Waterford Planning Board and a member and trustee of the Keoka Lake Association. For many years, she served as a volunteer at the Stephens Memorial Hospital Coffee Shop. Survivors include two first cousins, Ms. Phoebe St. John of North Abington, Mass. and Harris Hathaway of Bryant Pond. She was buried in the Lakeside Cemetery in Bryant Pond.

Patricia W. Rowe of East Waterford died March 10 at her residence at age 61. She was born in Portland on June 14, 1934, the daughter of Harold and Ruth (Pennock) Weaver. She was educated in Waterville schools, attended Simmons College and was a licensed practical nurse. She married Arnold Lowe on Feb. 1, 1953 and was a member of the Oxford Advent Christian Church. She is survived by her husband; five sons, Jeff of Waterford, Edward of Norway, Michael of Norwich, Conn., Timothy of West Haven, Conn. and Christopher of Lebanon, Conn.; two daughters, Cynthia Buffington of Lebanon, Conn. and Lynnette Craig of Groton, Conn.; her step-mother Orlean Weaver of Winslow; 13 grandchildren and two great-grandchildren. She was predeceased by a son Wayne.

Nona E. Glazier of North Waterford died March 26 at the Rita Charles residence at age 92. She was born in Albany on Jan. 13, 1904 the daughter of Howard and Lavaun (Flint) Allen. She attended Albany schools. A homemaker most of her life, she was predeceased by her husband, Sumner Glazier. She is survived by one grandson, Merle Grover of North Waterford. She was buried at Hunt's Corner Cemetery in Albany.

David W. Helms of Long Island died May 27, 1996 at his residence at age 58. The Rev. Helms was born in Boston a son of Henry and Ruth Helms. He graduated from Taft Preparatory School in Watertown, Conn. He was an undergraduate at Yale University and received his master's degree in social work from Boston University. He served as minister for the Merrimack (NH) Methodist Church and director of Morgan Memorial Fresh Air Camps for Goodwill Industries, South Athol, Mass. He lived in Needham, Mass. for 20 years while director of social work at the Washington Center for Addiction in Boston. In 1984, he moved to Maine and was a social worker for Tri-County Mental Health in Norway. He later moved to Harrison and entered private practice. He served as pastor for churches in South Waterford, South Paris and Bolsters Mills. He moved to Long Island in 1991 and served as pastor for the Evergreen Methodist Church. His wife, Marcia Chase Helms, died in 1972. Surviving are his father of Sturbridge, Mass.; two sons, Peter C. of Orlando, Fla. and Andrew S. of Jacksonville, Fla.; a daughter, Connie J. Helms of Santa Fe, NM; a brother, Stephen P. of Freeport; a sister, Mrs. William (Phoebe) Richards of East Hartford, Conn.; and four grandchildren.

Writing To The Boys

Among Flora Abbott's first columns

by Nancy Marcotte

It was early in 1942 when Flora G. Abbott began to write a column in the **Advertiser-Democrat**. It was called "To Our Boys Away" and she wrote it under that title until after the war, when it became "To The Folks Away and At Home."

A series of scrapbooks, which she kept and donated to the library, begins Volume I with her column April 23, 1943, apparently the earliest she kept. She had a straightforward story-telling style.

"Dear Boys," the column begins. "The smelting season is on once again, or they are afraid it is and no one is taking any chances on missing it... come snow or blow they gather at the river, night after night. And if they are able to dip up a quart of smelts about the size of shingle spoils they count the comforts they have suffered in order to do so, as nothing.

"Of the smelts, when you have cut off the heads and taken out the insides there is nothing left but a tail and the backbone. I am not in the habit of eating fish tails ordinarily, but in this case, it is that or nothing, and I declare, if the combination of prickly back bones and crispy tails doesn't taste pretty good at this season of the year..."

She wrote about sitting in her second-floor kitchen windows on Sundays, watching the world go by. It was the sunny side of her house, warmed by a stove, besides, and it gave her a change of scene from what she saw all week downstairs in the South Waterford Post Office and her general store. "A vacation," she called it. Looking up, she saw her beloved Bear Mountain. Looking down she saw the pond "lapping against the foundations of the house." Across Mill Brook she could see people stopping for water at the Jones Hall Spring.

"There is something gone from the landscape now, however," she wrote. She missed very much seeing "Doc Watson, with the following of dogs going to the spring for water."

Then she mentioned her other neighbors, calling them "the best...you ever saw. They are all the time bringing me something good to eat, and I appreciate their thought of me more than I can say... I am afraid if they didn't come in for their mail and see how kind of half-starved I looked they might not think of me, so it is probably safest to stay on the job."

Today, reading the personal notes she wrote (just as Charlotte Fillebrown did over at the "Flat" in her column "Waterford Chatter") is to take a step back in time into a village where people



looked after one another and helped each other. And where there was a lot of visiting.

Arthur Kingman was ill for several days and Stanley Hamlin did his job, running "the bolter in the mill." Later in the week, Arthur went to Portland to meet Mr. and Mrs. Donald Kingman and "little David." One man, who suffered a stroke and who was too feeble to stay at home, was taken into a friend's house for board and care.

The war was on everyone's mind in 1943: Children were buying bonds "to help you boys away." Mrs. Claude Monk had been home, sick, at her father's for a few days, then she returned to her work "in the South

Portland shipyard."

The grocery salesman from Hannaford Brothers brought Flora a poem along with her order forms:

"The Village Grocer" (with apologies to Longfellow)

Under the spreading web of rules
The Village grocer stands;
His brow is all tied up in knots
His head is in his hands
And there hardly is, from day to day,
A rule he understands...

Day in, day out, from morn till night
You can hear the loud dispute
As women battle for sauerkraut,
Waxed beans and processed fruits —
And the grocer's lot is a loud Bronx cheer
Plus some discordant hoots...

And children coming home from school

Look in at the open door,
They love to see how their elders act

In a rationed grocery store,
When both sides figure their total points

And dispute the final score...

Toiling, computing, sorrowing,
Onward through life he goes;
Each morning sees the OPA
With new rules to disclose.
Each evening sees him totter home
Just a wreck from head to toe...

Thanks, thanks to thee, my grocer friend,

For the lessons that you can teach!
Into all the lives some rain must fall
With a point value for each.
(I'll take a can of that apple juice —
And how many points for peach?)

Flora signed the column, "The Village Postmaster."

Early Days of the Waterford Historical Society

(continued from second page)
to form the Oxford County Historical Society.

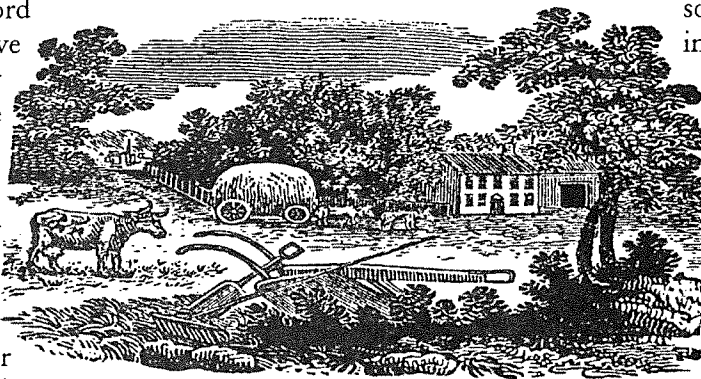
Many gifts were given this year: Bud Hamlin donated spools from the North Waterford Spool Mill along with town reports, an old electric meter and a barrel from the South Waterford Cooper Shop. Forrest Longley gave a display case. Dr. William Tacey sent a spinning wheel and shoe lasts were given by Mrs. Fred Stearns.

Also in 1981, gifts in Tom Bishop's memory were voted to be used to landscape the Rice Museum. Mickey Liimatta was asked to make signs for our museums. George Morrill sold our scrimshaw for \$2,300; and James Tyler was registered with the Secretary of State as agent for the corporation.

In 1982, the society voted to reprint the first Waterford history. Five hundred copies would be printed at Smith & Towne in Berlin, NH for \$3,250 and would be sold for \$10 a copy.

We moved our bank account from Casco Bank to Norway Savings. James Tyler was reelected president and Helen Buchert became vice president. Trustees elected were Phil Buchert, Raynor Brown and Dr. Dewing.

A lot of "fixing up" went on in 1982. The North Waterford Hall needed a culvert installed and trees cut. Prentiss Kimball repaired the chimney at the hall and the railing at the Rice Museum. Bill Fillebrown finished the Rice fireplace and a herb garden was created with the



Bishop Memorial gifts.

In North Waterford, the floor and stairs were varnished by Helen, Phil, Agnes and Margaret. The back of the building was painted white by James, Helen and Agnes. Helen, Agnes and Irene Millett cleaned the building! (Monumental tasks, all.)

Arthur Tenney Hamlin spoke on his grandfather Cyrus. Phil Richards again came to speak on the Maine regiments at Gettysburg.

Money was given in memory of Edward Bean. New life membership

certificates were purchased as well as a sign for the National Historic District.

Fall and winter meetings were held at Raynor Brown's, the Dewings' and the Sawyers'.

The paintings at the Rice Museum were discussed. It was voted to get someone from Fruitlands Museum in Massachusetts examine them and determine if they might be Peckham's. The treasurer reported that she had applied for a tax-exempt number.

At the end of 1982, gifts included copies of "Youth Companion" from Norman Chew; Winter Carnival mug and programs as well as a soldier's hat from Gladys Knight; lamps and drapes given by Leona Perry; Emerson Genealogy from Phyllis Cole; the Chaplin map from Sam Kilbourn; a picture of a 1915 Maxwell car from Margaret Sawyer; and a key to the Rice Museum from Alan Bradford.

Agnes Lahti gave seven scrapbooks she had compiled of local news. Photos of the 1936 flood were given by Mr. and Mrs. Raynor Brown. The heirs of Flora Abbott gave bookcases and account books from the Waterford Creamery.

To be continued....

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