

# Waterford Echoes

VOLUME XIV Number 1 (Issue 26)

Summer 1997

Waterford Historical Society

## Ann Sargent Gage: Witness to History

by William A. Wheeler III  
(Part I)

The birth of Ann Sargent Gage was a Boston Society scandal of the last decade of the 18th century. She was born out of wedlock on the 16th of January, 1794. Her father, Daniel, was a wealthy merchant and insurance executive and was the eldest son of the prominent (even to this day) Sargent family. Her mother, Hepzibah, was the daughter of an equally distinguished Boston merchant, Henry Atkins. The Atkinses could trace their direct lineage to John and Priscilla Alden of Plymouth Plantation. In 1788, Hepzibah married James Brown who died shortly after and then in 1796 she married James Durfee. Between the two marriages was the dalliance which culminated in the birth of Ann Sargent who was my great-great-grandmother. She was then known as Nancy Brown.

In 1796, when his love child was only two years old, Daniel Sargent took her from her mother, who was already in poor health. He placed the child in the family of a Mr. John Hall in Dorchester, Mass., near what was known as the Wales estate. The house was stained black, had a center chimney with an off-set door to the right and was situated on Barberry Lane (sounds almost like the name current day developers give to their streets). In later years she recalls climbing the "dear great old locust tree."

She continues, "Many a pleasant time I have had there in the Wales Garden. It was in Esq. Wales' orchard which I was crossing on an errand — that I set down my little tin pail and spread my arms to fly. In the field, on the left hand of which was a pleasant lane hedged on one side by barberries and wild grapes — I used to ramble and loiter, often with no companions but the imagery of childhood."

Her father came often to see her, sent her to "Dame School," brought her books, personally tutored her and was very loving. Occasionally her mother came. Ann Sargent recalled her mother as "young and handsome — loving and indulgent." When Nancy Brown was only six, her mother died. She was taken to the funeral and always remembered that a silver plate bearing her mother's name was placed on the coffin. People told her that her father had sent it.

In 1802 when she was eight years old, Nancy was told by Mrs. Hall that her father was to be married and that she would not be seeing him much more. His visits became shorter and increasingly less frequent. Two years after Daniel Sargent's visits began to taper off, his new wife died soon after bearing their only child, Maria. According to



Lucius Manlius Sargent, a 22-year younger brother of Daniel, Nancy's natural father "had serious thoughts of acknowledging and taking home his daughter," but decided first "to consult his spiritual advisor, Rev. William Emerson." Nancy was a bright, healthy child and, as Mrs. Hall noted, she "attracted a great deal of attention." That was the trouble. Rev. Emerson, father of Ralph Waldo, was the pastor consulted. According to a contemporary, Rev. Wm. Emerson was "an easy-going"

person and the easiest course seemed to have the child disappear from Boston society. Daniel Sargent must have agonized long over the decision.

Unfortunately for Nancy, Daniel Sargent's mother-in-law and two of his wife's sisters lived with him. As L.M. Sargent later wrote, "Three more undesirable personages it has never been my fortune to know. They are all dead now and the neighborhood — is at rest." Consideration for the delicacy of the situation for the ladies must have influenced Daniel's eventual decision. However, it became increasingly obvious that Rev. Emerson's advice must be heeded. Nancy began to show signs of unusual beauty and grace. (In later years Count Podbielski, who was a tutor in Metternich's family at the Court of Austria, said that Ann Sargent was the most "elegant person" he saw in America.) Mary Moody Emerson, sister of Rev. Wm. Emerson, confirmed that people knew who the child was and gossiped about her.

Daniel Sargent did not dare take her home and Wm. Emerson came forward with a plan for which he was later severely criticized by the Dorchester neighborhood. The feelings were so intense that his widow

(continued on back page)

## Civil War information wanted

Approximately 100 men from Waterford served in the Civil War. If you have an ancestor who served, please send us the name, dates of service and other details. Copies of old letters would be wonderful! Be sure to include your relationship to the soldier and source of information. This information will be the basis of a program in 1998. Send to WHS P.O. Box 201 Waterford 04088.

Chloe M. Colby, secretary and program chair

# Lawt Hammett: 'A kind and gentle man'

by Hank Burns

(reprinted from his July 22, 1996 column in the Portland Press Herald)

A letter recently lamented: "Where's the magic of summers, with nothing to do but watch things grow and decide whether to go fishing or swimming?"

It takes a funeral or a wedding to sit us down, slow us down, shut us up, and remind us how things used to be. The funeral and the wedding both took place last week in our town and many of the same people attended both. In fact, the vocal soloist at the funeral was the host the next day at his son's wedding held on the porch of their house not far from the First Congregational Church, where the funeral service for Lawton Hammett was held. Lawt was 76 but the death was sudden and the church was filled. And filled with memories too. The children recalled a kind and gentle man and I recalled a kinder and gentler time when time seemed to stand still.

It was back when we came to Maine for vacations in the summer. My brother and I would battle Lawt and his father, then near 80, in a daily tennis match on the clay court with the pine branches shading all but the center. A day measured out in volleys and sliced backhands. A day far removed from today's megabytes, double speed CD Rom drives and instant access.

Perhaps it's just that we are growing old that we feel things are going too fast but I suspect in this case the feeling is the fact. Back then a bike trip around Rice Hill was a day's adventure. A climb up puny Mt. Tirem was an day long assault on Everest but with blueberries to pick at

the top. Evenings were a softball game on the common. A swim to Rock Island was a big deal. A walk up Mutiny Brook was an event.

I suspect that today we'd cram all these events into one day and add a few just to prove we were accomplishing something. It takes a funeral to slow us down and those there remembered Lawt as a graceful gentle man who took as much care with his children as he did with his garden and his backhand. You could not hurry Lawt into a silly mistake. He'd send back a lob or a spinning slow back hand. The faster you hit the ball to Lawt the slower the ball returned.

Funny isn't it?

The faster the world moves the more our mind retrieves memories of a time when the ball is barely moving. An entire day anchored near one buoy fishing for bass with worms and hellgrammites. A rainy day finishing a jig saw puzzle. A day swimming in the icy pools of Step Falls in Newry.

The funeral service ended with the church sexton pulling the long rope to slowly ring the church bell for Lawt as we sang Onward Christian Soldiers. The next day, some of the same people climbed a nearby hill to a house for a wedding and once again we were reminded of slower times. Over there was the shaded tennis

court, and there was the field where Urban Tyler's cows would graze, and there was the flat area where we played hours of croquet and would send an enemy ball down the road to Keoka Lake.

Now, of course, many of the 100 wedding guests were ponytail young and they had to battle the driving rains of Bertha and you had to wonder what memories they would have of this beautiful wedding. An uncle performed

the brief service on the porch. The groom cried. A band arrived and there would be music on the porch just like the old days.

This was not a modern wedding. There were no tricks and no pyrotechnics. This was the movie Lone Star, not

Independence Day. It was a slow pace accompanied by an old fashioned tropical storm. My wife wore jeans. I wore a safari jacket. A friend wore a plastic bag to keep dry.

I am not suggesting that we can return to a simpler time or even that I want to return to days when a lawn chair at a twilight baseball game was enough entertainment for a day. But when we are stopped in our tracks by a funeral or a simple wedding it reminds us that our fond memories of slower times are reminders that we long for this magic of summers past.

We all lament the loss of this magic.

**Lawt was 'a graceful gentle man who took as much care with his children as he did with his garden and his backhand.'**

**Alfred Lawton Hammett II**, 75, of Waterford and Boynton Beach, Fla., a LIFE MEMBER of the Society, died July 10, 1996 at Central Maine Medical Center in Lewiston. He was born on Dec. 28, 1920 in New York City, the son of Alfred D. and Vera D. Hotsen Hammett. He grew up in New Jersey and graduated from the University of Michigan. During World War II, he served in the U.S. Navy in the Pacific Theater from 1942-46 and retired as a Lt. Commander. He made his career in the engineering and marketing fields. He was active in the Episcopal Church and community activities in both Boynton Beach and Waterford. He is survived by his wife, Phyllis; a sister, Constance Huit of Virginia; a son A.L. (Tom) Hammett of Blacksburg, Va.; three daughters, Margaret Pierce of Weston, Mass., Suzanne Muth of New York City and Dorothy Hasson of Pinehurst, NC.; two step-daughters, Susan Plume of Franklin, Mass. and Deborah Thatcher of Boynton Beach, Fla.; and 11 grandchildren.

# President's column

My husband, Charles, and our two sons have been visiting this area for many years because my folks moved to Oxford County in 1972. When we purchased the 150-year-old Wesleyan Chapel in South Waterford in September of 1995, it brought with it a sense of being a part of history. I studied the books about Waterford all winter and became enamored with the town. I could see the first settler, David McWain, striving stubbornly against the weather and the wilderness to claim his land. I wondered where Ordination Rock was and what was Kimball's landing. It is hard to learn about a town just from books.

In the Summer of 1996 I met Happy McDaniels, a former member of the church. We presented a program about the history of the Wesleyan Chapel at the October

1996 meeting of the Waterford Historical Society. Now, in the town's bicentennial year of 1997, I am honored to serve the



Society as its new President.

The town of Waterford was settled in 1775 and incorporated as a town in 1797. The first "birthday" celebration was held on Sept. 1, 1875. The Centennial Committee was very successful in its goal of bringing "many of her sons back for a reunion." An

enormous pavilion was built on the Common where many speeches, interspersed with band selections, were given. More than 3,000 people were fed. Then, on Sept. 3, 1897, the centennial of incorporation was celebrated, again with many speeches and festivities. On Aug. 7, 1975, the town celebrated the bicentennial of the founding with a gala parade, a feast and a costume dance.

Now it's our turn to celebrate the bicentennial of our incorporation of the town. This is not a town that would be comfortable with a lot of fanfare. It is a small town with no apologies about being small. I applaud the folks who were born and raised here and thank all those who have labored to save and share their memories.

Vivian Fisher Fanton

## Society elects new trustees, officers for coming year

Trustees on July 10 elected officers and new trustees for the 1997-98 year.

Vivian Fanton, William Wheeler III and Chloe Colby were elected new trustees to replace William Fillebrown, Richard Jones and Oscar Andrews. Trustees re-elected were Nancy Eaton, Nancy Marcotte, Malcolm Bean and Lieselotte Willoughby. Andrews was elected as trustee emeritus for his many years of service and devotion to the Society.

Mrs. Fanton was then elected the Society's new president, replacing Fillebrown, who retired after two years. Mrs. Colby was elected secretary, replacing Mrs. Marcotte, who has served since 1989. Wheeler was elected treasurer, replacing Bean, who gave the Society seven years of service in the post.

The objectives for the coming year are to rebuild the Society, obtain tax-deductible status from IRS, hold an open house Aug.

24 and celebrate the Bicentennial at the same time, resume the curator duties, draft a mission statement and resume publishing the newsletter on a regular basis.

### Thanksgiving items wanted

Please send us your favorite Thanksgiving recipes, cookbooks and hunting stories for use at the Society's Nov. 13 meeting.

### 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 events, customs and traditions of local history, past, present and future, and to make possible the diffusion of such knowledge.

#### 1997-98 OFFICERS

President:	Vivian F. Fanton
Vice President:	Lieselotte Willoughby
Secretary:	Chloe M. Colby
Treasurer:	William A. Wheeler III
Curator:	Nancy Eaton/Nancy Marcotte
Newsletter Editor:	Bill Haynes
Program Chair:	Chloe M. Colby
Trustee Emeritus:	Oscar Andrews

#### 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

# In Memoriam

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**George J. Elliott Jr.**, 72, of Waterford, a MEMBER of the Society, died March 13, 1997 at his home. He was born in Portland April 11, 1924, the son of George James Sr. and Ethel Harris Elliott. A 1942 graduate of Deering High School, he graduated from the Maine Maritime Academy in its second class with a degree in engineering. He married Constance Canning on Feb. 22, 1942. He served in the U.S. Navy and the Merchant Marine during World War II and the Korean War. He served on five liberty ships. During the WWII 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary ceremony in Washington D.C., he received a medal from Mikhail Gorbachev for being part of a convoy that brought supplies to Mermansk, Russia during the war. After the war, he worked in the advertising department for the Portland Press Herald for 22 years. He and a partner later opened an advertising agency in Portland called Oransky and Elliott Advertising, which became George Elliott Advertising 12 years later. He moved his business to Norway and finally to his home on McWain Pond. He authored two books, "A World All to Myself" and "Liberty Ships Eastward." He was well known for various artistic endeavors including artwork, woodworking and ship model building. He was a member of Kiwanis, SCORE and the Oxford Hills Chamber of Commerce. He is survived by his wife of Waterford; a daughter Barbara of Cohasset, Mass.; two brothers John of South Portland and Harris of Cumberland, a sister Virginia Woodbury of Cumberland; and two granddaughters.

**Keith T. Brown**, 54, of Gorham, a MEMBER of the Society, died Dec. 30, 1996 at Stephens Memorial Hospital. He was born in Lewiston March 25, 1942 the son of Raynor and Georgia Thayer Brown. He attended Waterford schools and Gould Academy. He worked for the City of Portland in Parks and Recreation. He was secretary and treasurer of the union for the city of Portland. He married Anne Marsden of North Waterford on April 13, 1990. He was a member of the South Portland Hiram Masonic Lodge. He is survived by his wife of North Waterford; father and mother now of South Paris; one brother, Harry, of Venice, Fla.; two sisters, Ellie Heath of East Waterford and Becky Burke of South Paris. He was buried in Woodlawn Cemetery in North Waterford.

**Elizabeth W. Foster**, 82, of East Waterford, a MEMBER of the Society, died March 13, 1997 at Stephens Memorial Hospital. She was born in Bangor on Dec. 19, 1914 the daughter of Herbert and Sara Greene Walker. She graduated from Norway High School in 1934 and lived in East Waterford all of her life. She worked as a chef at Poland Spring, as a CNA at Market Square Heath Care Center in South Paris and a private duty CNA. She married Frederick Foster on June 18, 1938. He died in 1968. Mrs. Foster was active in the Grange, American Legion, senior citizens groups and the Pythian Sisters. She is survived by a daughter, Emily of Norway; two sons, Fred of Norway and Herbert of Waterford; five grandchildren and six great-grandchildren.

**Bernice N. Sanborn**, 86, of South Waterford died Aug. 13, 1996 at her residence. She was born in Falmouth, a daughter of Lester and Ella Blake Winslow. She graduated from Pennell Institute at Gray and Gorham Normal School. She married Richard Sanborn on June 20, 1931. Mrs. Sanborn taught school for many years in Gray and Waterford. She later worked as a bookkeeper for Sanborn's Garage and was a former town clerk of Waterford. She helped with the hot lunch program at Waterford Memorial School and in the kitchen at Stephens Memorial Hospital. She later owned and operated Sanborn's Market in Bridgton. She was an active member of the Bear Mountain Community Club, Bear Mountain Library and South Waterford Methodist Church. Her husband, a son Robert W. Sanborn and two grandsons all died previously. Surviving are three sons, Bruce and Barry, both of South Waterford, and Arnold of Greenland, N.H.; a daughter, Carol Giles of South Waterford; a brother, Raymond Winslow of West Falmouth; a sister, Helen Schnetzer of Canton, Mass.; 16 grandchildren and 22 great-grandchildren.

**W. Lee Lord**, 85, of North Waterford, died June 21, 1996 at his residence. He was born on Oct. 5, 1910, son of Walter and Faye Bickford Lord. He was educated in Waterford schools. He worked for the Waterford Spool Mill for more than 25 years and retired from J.R. Mains in Bridgton in 1971. He was a member of the North Waterford Congregational Church and volunteered many hours helping to restore the church. He lived in the Waterford area most of his life and married Christle Curtis on June 20, 1930. He is survived by his wife of North Waterford; one son, Gordon of Oxford; two daughters, Mary Lord Rust of North Waterford and Bonnie Lord White of Newport, N.H.; one brother, Stanley; three sisters, Kay O'Leary, Josephine Stanton and Faye Randall; 15 grandchildren, 23 great-grandchildren and one great-great-grandchild. He was predeceased by a brother, Myron, and a sister, Gwendelyn Pike. He was buried in the Hillside Cemetery in East Stoneham.

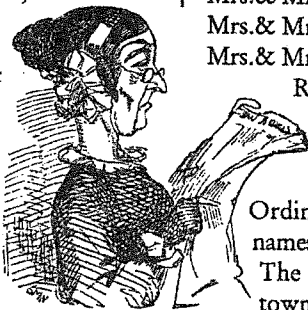
**Josephine L. Stanton**, 91, of North Waterford, died Oct. 5, 1996 at her residence. She was born in North Waterford on Aug. 31, 1905, the daughter of Walter L. and Faye Bickford Lord. She was educated in North Waterford schools. She married Henry Sanderson in 1928 and lived in North Waterford all of her life. Henry died in 1975 and she married Clyde Stanton on Sept. 18, 1982. Mrs. Stanton was past noble grand of the Maine Rebekahs of North Waterford, a member of the North Waterford Congregational Church and a lifelong member of American Legion. She was employed for many years at B.E. Cole Shoe Shop and the Waterford Dowel Mill and as a nurses aide at Northern Cumberland Memorial Hospital. She is survived by her husband of North Waterford; one son, Albert Weymouth of North Waterford; one daughter, Arlene Bean of West Bethel; five grandchildren, 11 great-grandchildren and 12 great-great-grandchildren. She was buried at Hillside Cemetery in East Stoneham.

**Louise Hersey Loring**, 90, of North Bend, Ore., died June 25, 1997. She was born in North Waterford on Feb. 7, 1907, the eldest of seven children. She graduated from Bates College. She married John Malcolm Loring on June 12, 1930. he died in 1991. They lived in Colorado, Washington and Oregon, where he had worked for the U.S. Forest Service. She is survived by four brothers and two sisters; a son John of Cedaridge, Col.; a daughter Priscilla Leach of Tacoma, Wash. and 10 grandchildren.

**Eleanor Kimball**, 54, of North Waterford died March 10, 1997 at her residence. She was born in Lewiston on June 6, 1942 the daughter of Chester and Edith Merrill Holt. She graduated from Norway High School. Mrs. Kimball worked for more than 24 years at the Bridgton Knitting Mill. She married Robert Kimball on Dec. 8, 1962. She is survived by her husband; two daughters, Sherri Walker of Fryeburg and Wendy Whiting of Denmark; one son, Robert Jr. of Denmark; her mother of Denmark; two brothers, Arlin Holt of Norway and Arthur Holt of North Waterford; two sisters, Patricia Buck and Sharon McAllister of East Stoneham; and six grandchildren.

# News from around town

Waterford was prominently featured in a 5-page story in the June, 1997 issue of Down East Magazine. The article featured five photographs covering the North, South and Flat sections of town. "Locals and *summercators* call it Waterford, but it's actually a collection of gorgeous little villages tucked into the foothills of the White Mountains."



On June 4, 1997 the Waterford Library dedicated the second floor of the John Calvin Stevens-designed building in honor of Flora G. Abbott. Mrs. Abbott founded the Bear Mountain Library, which was merged with Waterford in 1994. A South Waterford business woman, she was also one of the founders of the Waterford Historical Society.

Voters at the 1997 March town meeting approved the secret ballot method of voting. Beginning with the 1998 town meeting, officers will be elected by daylong balloting on the Friday before town meeting, always the first Saturday in March. The Australian ballot method also includes provisions for absentee ballots.

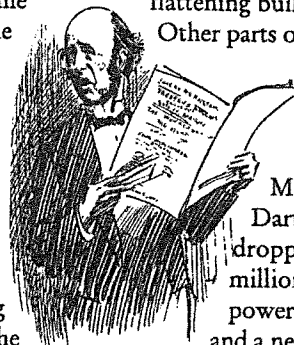
At the 1996 town meeting, voters accepted the gift of 27 acres atop Hawk Mountain from the Hawk Mountain Trust. Preserving the land was the idea of William (Whizzer) and Meg Wheeler. Eleven families contributed to the land purchase: Mrs. & Mrs. William A. Wheeler

Mrs. & Mrs. Lawton Hammett  
Mrs. & Mrs. Robert J. Hanger  
Mrs. & Mrs. David Kingman  
Mrs. & Mr. s. Henry Plate  
Mrs. & Mrs. Peter Leslie  
Mrs. & Mrs. Chapin Cutler  
Mrs. & Mrs. John C. O'Brien  
Mrs. & Mrs. Arne and Kathy Klepinger  
Robert Fraser and George Brett

The 1997 town meeting saw approval of the Addressing Ordinance and acceptance of road names as a forerunner to Enhanced-911. The road signs have arrived at the town office and should begin going up this fall, replacing fire lane numbers.

At age 99, Grace Mildred Howe fulfilled a lifelong dream by earning her high school diploma. On Oct. 9, 1996, Oxford Hills Adult Ed Director Judy Green surprised Mrs. Howe at her home with the honorary diploma. She turned 100 on Jan. 5, 1997.

The new town office and fire station complex was dedicated on Feb. 22, 1997. John Tucker chaired the committee that worked for three years to make the building atop Town Farm Hill a reality. Groundbreaking was held on June 27, 1996. The new flagpole was dedicated to Alton Rich this summer. Total cost of the project that included a \$250,000 block grant is expected to reach \$600,000. Paving bid requests went out in mid-August with the project expected



to be completed in September.

Two major structure fires occupied Waterford's fire department since the new station opened. Eleanor Blackstone was burned out of her South Waterford home Nov. 19, 1996 when fire erupted from her chimney. On June 30, 1997, a fire believed to have been started by an arsonist destroyed a building owned by Gertrude Hamlin and Sharon Cummings on the Passaconaway Road. A third fire took place Oct. 23 on the Green Road, but it burned with no one knowing about it. Denise Pettengill returned to her mobile home to find it burned to the ground. Investigators said a dense fog must have hidden the flames. The origin of the fire is not known.

An Aug. 26, 1996 wind shear sliced through the Crooked River Valley, upending trees and ripping entire sections or flattening buildings at Grover Lumber Co. Other parts of town sustained damage, but the worst came at the north end of town.

Officials from Energy Management Inc. of North Dartmouth, Mass. in late July dropped their plans for a \$120 million gas-fired 265 megawatt power plant proposed for Waterford and a nearby site in Harrison. The 93-acre Waterford site and the 63-acre Harrison site were both located along Crooked River, the Portland Pipeline and CMP transmission lines. The search for a suitable location continues north toward Rumford.

Helen M. Mills, 66, of North Waterford, died Nov. 6, 1996 at Norway Convalescent Center. She was born in South Paris on Aug. 20, 1930, daughter of Waino and Ethelyn Damon Kyllonen. She graduated from Norway High School and worked for many years at Wilner Wood Products. She was a member of the Mt. Hope Rebekahs. She married Edgar Mills on Nov. 6, 1948. He died Sept. 16, 1994. She is survived by two daughters, Cathy Dixon of Minot and Dora of Florida; one son, Gregory of Minot; one sister, Grace Hamlin of South Paris; two brothers, Walter Kyllonen of South Paris and John Kyllonen of Lewiston; one grandson and one great granddaughter. She was buried in Maple Grove Cemetery in Mechanic Falls.

Albert W. Weymouth, 75, of North Waterford died April 30, 1997 at the Veterans Home in Togus. He was born at Waterford on Sept. 17, 1921, the son of Pearl and Josephine Lord Weymouth. He was educated in Waterford schools, worked for many years as a carpenter and was a registered Maine guide. He served in the U.S. Air Force during World War II in the European Theater and was a member of the 390<sup>th</sup> bomb squad group in Arizona. He married Gayle Confer on Sept. 1, 1945. He is survived by his wife of North Waterford; two sons, Wesley of North Waterford and Greg of Norway; one sister, Arlene Bean of West Bethel; and four grandchildren. He was buried in Hillside Cemetery in East Stoneham.

Lynda A. Davis, 55, of North Waterford died April 27, 1997 at her residence. She was born in North Waterford on May 4, 1941, daughter of Berkley and Mary Harriman Henley. She graduated from Mechanic Falls High School and attended Farmington Teachers College. She married Donald S. Davis on June 9, 1982. She is survived by her husband; a daughter, Carolee Kimball of Harrison; two sons, Gary and Rawn Hill of North Waterford; a brother, Berkley Henley of Oxford; a sister, Jean McAllister of Lovell; and three grandsons. She was predeceased by a brother, Basil Henley.



## Bear Mountain Grange Observes Centennial

(1897) Approximately 200 people celebrated the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Bear Mountain Grange No. 62 on Nov. 30, 1974, including several descendants of the charter members.

The Grange was established by 29 people on Nov. 28, 1974.

Worthy Master, Mrs. Clara Hamlin, opened the old-fashioned program and supper. The audience was entertained with skits: "No Connection" starred Mildred Noyes, Stanley Brown and Earl Bell; "Womanless Wedding" was performed by Don Chase, Walter Hamlin, Stanley Brown, Terry Hodges, Prentiss Kimball and Earl Bell; "Clue" featured Prentiss and Edith Kimball.

The history of the Grange, which is to be included in the Waterford History, was written and read by Nancy Marcotte.

Certificates and pins were awarded to the Grange's oldest members: Arthur Sanderson, 70 years; Mary Gardiner and Marjorie Kingman, 68 years; Carl Hamlin, 66 years; and Lillian Kimball, 60 years. Two members were not present for their awards: Clinton Kilgore, 57 years, and Flora Abbott, 73 years.

## Herseys close out Butter Business

(1960) A family butter and egg business that has been carried on for two generations for more than three-quarters of a century will come to an end at the close of the summer.

Charles A. Hersey, 81, who has been making butter on the Beech Hill Farm for over 55 years, recalls making his first trip at the age of four with his father, Ezra B. Hersey, to deliver butter to Norway customers. That was in the day when the trip was made in a one-seated wagon behind a slow jogging farm horse that took up most of the day to make the 15 miles each way.

Charles' father and mother started the butter making nearly 80 years ago on their small farm in the McIntire neighborhood. After five years, the Herseys moved to the Beckley Farm in Bisbeetown where they increased the herd of Guernseys and carried on butter making for the next 21 years. Ezra purchased the Beech Hill Farm



shortly after the turn of the century. Hersey recalled the weekly trips to Norway to peddle butter and eggs to regular customers.

"We always went to Norway on Friday and I figured we might as well make the trip pay, so I'd haul 60 to 70 pounds of butter to Norway, and load on freight for the trip back home."

## To the Folks Away and at Home

(1946) Excerpts from Flora Abbott's column, "To the Folks Away and at Home:" Calvin and Oliver Hamlin have bought a Plymouth car.

Albert Hamlin is having the carding millpond dam and sides fixed up where it washed out and I hope instead of the brook we shall have the pretty little millpond back once more.

Arthur Kingman and Mahlon Rogers together with the mill crew are doing the work. I go down each noon to see how they are coming and I told them I wished it was so I could spend more time watching them work.

Clayton McIntire has been moving hay for Burton Sanderson. The Sandersons got moved out Monday, the 18<sup>th</sup>. I am happy to say, but very sad to report, that one of their cows broke her leg as she was being unloaded. It has been set and she may come out all right.

Blackguard is having a facelifting operation with dirt from another part of town. Boy, if that was some hill before I can't imagine what it looks like now. I would say that enough dirt had been hauled by here by a steady stream of trucks to make a second Stearns Mountain. Of course, being me, I inquired if all of this building up of the road would save the whole hill from being washed to the valley below

again and the answer was no, because nothing had been done for the cause of the trouble, which was too small a culvert at the entrance to the Irving Bell Road to take care of a deluge.

South Waterford Fire Association in special session Tuesday evening, Nov. 19, voted to see if a piece of land could be procured on which to build a fire house adjacent to the Sanborn

Brothers garage, so it could be heated from their heating plant. Well, I guess I have stirred up hornets nests enough now and will close on that sour note.

The Village Postmaster

P.S. I'm sorry for us both, but my brain has finally caught up with my mouth and it occurs to me that I have neglected to mention the Waterford Village Improvement Association, which was a joint venture of the Flat and the City, and if I remember correctly, came from the fertile brain of Artemus Ward, who incorporated us in his official capacity, whatever that was. This association was got up



to provide street lights for the two villages and pay for the current used. It flourished until the town took over the expense of the street lights in the four villages and the need was past.

Henry Haynes, one of our old timers now, was just in and said I neglected to give the organization of the South Waterford Brass Band last week, which was organized, he thought, in 1877, and was quite a band. I should have remembered that because I remembered the bandstand just below here, which stood for some time after the band disbanded. He also told me that the Masonic Lodge started down here and used to meet in the Young Hall when he was young.

Well, I've not run down, but I'm off to pick up the pieces.

## Waterford 200 years old

Waterford was incorporated as a town March 2, 1797. It is seven and one-half miles long by six and three-fourths miles wide. It contains 50,625 square miles or about 31,775 acres, 1,734 of which are included in ponds.

It lies among the foothills of the White Mountains and it has rugged ridges well adapted to agriculture.

Waterford has some fine farms.

## David McWain Started Journey from Bolton

(Date unknown) In the spring of 1775 when the Patriots were getting ready declare themselves independent from the mother country, David McWain and a friend left Bolton, Mass. They started out to seek a new home in the wilds of Maine.

Going by the way of Dover, N.H., they were detained there a few days. Perhaps their conduct may have seemed suspicious, harmless though their business was. His companion became discouraged and sold out to McWain, who accompanied only by his dog, started for his new forest home.

He came by the way of Portland and Sebago Lake to Stevens Brook, now a part of Bridgton. Here he stopped to buy enough provisions to last a month. He followed Bear Brook until he reached his range line, then on until he found his lot.

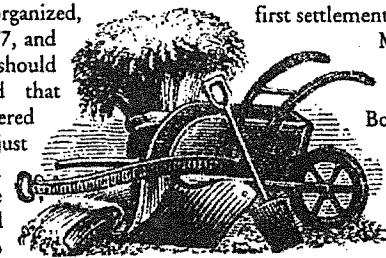
It was night when he built a huge fire from his own land. Iron man though he was, a deep sense of loneliness came over him and he welcomed the light of the fire and the companionship of his dog.

On a corner of his lot he built his cabin. Years later, a framed house was built on McWain Hill to mark the first settlement in Waterford.

McWain spent the winter of 1775 and 1776 in Bolton, returning in the spring. He never again visited his native town.

He lived a simple, solitary life much of the time for the first few years. His diet consisted of fish and wild game, then very plentiful in the forest. Bread, berries and cream were a simple dessert. McWain had a pioneer's horror of being crowded. One morning he spied smoke curling up through the forest. "Humph," said McWain. "Who is settling over there under my nose?"

His farm was 800 acres in extent and in 1803 he had 60 acres improved. He raised a great deal of beef and pork to sell and raised all the grain on which to feed his stock. He died in 1825.





# Ella Rice Remembered

Reprinted from the April 3, 1997 Fairfield (Conn.) Minuteman.

Ella Rice — who shaped the mathematics instruction received by thousands of Fairfield students and influenced education policy — was remembered this week as a warm, highly effective teacher who lived a life that exemplified what she taught her students: the importance of learning and a commitment to public service.



Rice, 80, who died in her Fairfield home, had a 24-year career with Fairfield public schools. She taught at the town's former Andrew Wade High School, coordinated the town's math instruction, and held prominent posts in both state and national teaching organizations.

Through it all, she offered the community an example, according to her many admirers.

"Ella not only knew what was good," said the Rev. Richard Rush, "she knew what was right."

Rush, minister at First Church Congregational of Fairfield, where Rice worshiped and took part in programs, said she was a "yardstick person" — one

by whom people could measure the quality of a decision or action.

"We would turn to her to ask her opinion, to see through her eyes some of the nuances of where the truth lay," Rush said.

"Ella was well-liked by everyone," added Supt. of Schools Carol Harrington in a memorial tribute during last week's Board of Education meeting. "She was truly a teacher's teacher."

A native of Waterford, Maine, Rice was educated in a one-room schoolhouse and later graduated from Bates and Hillyer colleges. She also studied at

New York University.

Rice came to Fairfield in 1956 at the opening of Warde. She was recruited as part of the school's effort to get the best staff available to set up a model high school that aspired to a national reputation.

Three years later, her ability to work with people and insights into the teaching of mathematics led to her being named to run the math program for the entire school system. She continued

in the job until 1980. She never stopped learning about her own field.

During the 1961-62 school year she had a student, Gerald Kuroghlian, in the advanced placement math class. Now an English teacher at Staples High School in Westport and himself a national leader in the field of teaching English, Kuroghlian said he remembers who she was "light years" ahead of her time.

She was an early advocate of providing equal instruction in math to both boys and girls. Her advanced placement had many female students — which was not the case in many other school districts of the day — and many of the young women saw Rice as a role model.

Though she was a firm believer in the tried-and-true approaches to math — not

the latest fads — Rice would have students explain how they solved a problem, a technique used increasingly in today's math instruction.

And Rice lived her own life by a principle that she taught

**"Ella not only knew what was good, she knew what was right. We would turn to her to ask her opinion, to see through her eyes some of the nuances of where the truth lay."**

**The Rev. Richard Rush**

students: human beings are not complete unless they gave back to the community.

"People don't give of themselves to others the way she did," Kuroghlian said.

**Ella Elizabeth Rice**, 80, a LIFE MEMBER of the Waterford Historical Society, died March 21, 1997 at her home in Fairfield, Conn. She was born in Waterford on Oct. 10, 1916 daughter of George H. and Helen Hamlin Rice. She was educated in Waterford and graduated salutatorian from Bridgton Academy. She received her AB degree from Bates College in 1938, a Masters in Education from Hillyer College in 1953 and did graduate work at New York University. She taught at Westbrook Junior College from 1938-39, Buckfield High School from 1939-41, Aroostook Central Institute in Mars Hill from 1941-42, Newington (Conn.) High School from 1942-56 and Andrew Warde High School in Fairfield, Conn. from 1956-59. She was a part-time instructor at the University of Bridgeport and Fairfield University and was department chairman for K-12 in Fairfield public schools from 1959-80. She was a member and chairman of the State Legislative Board, vice president of the American Association of University Women, founder and past president of the Association of Teachers of Math in New England, president of the Connecticut Teachers Association 1964-65, Connecticut State Director National Education Association, past president of the Fairfield Education Association, member of the National Council Teachers of Math, member of the Association for Supervision and Curriculum Development and member of Delta Kappa Gamma International and past state president of Alpha Kappa State. She was listed in Who's Who in American Education 1963-64 and 1965-66, Who's Who in American Women 1970-71. Upon retirement, she became involved in the school nurse and well clinic in Fairfield. She was past president of the Fairfield Visiting Nurses 1982-88 and a lifetime director of United Home Care. In 1996, she received the Lifetime Achievement Award from the Fairfield Education Association and was recognized by the conference of Women's Organizations for her work in Church Women United in Fairfield. She was a member of the Waterford Congregational Church and attended the First Congregational Church in Fairfield, where she was active in Women's Fellowship and Church Women United. She is survived by three brothers, Charles of South Paris, Albert and Richard of Waterford; one sister, Rachel Deans of Portland; and several nieces and nephews.

*(continued from front page)*

thought it unwise to have Ann Sargent even visit later on, thus attenuating any further controversy. Emerson's plan was to send Nancy Brown to live with his sister (Phebe) and brother-in-law/stepbrother, Rev. Lincoln Ripley in Waterford, Maine. The Ripleys were pious, high-minded and gentle people. Having no children of their own, they believed that they should adopt some. While they never did legally they made a loving home for six or so orphans off and on.

In those days, Waterford was the other end of the earth from Boston. The little girl sent there would disappear, and the aristocratic Bostonian could soothe his conscience with the knowledge that she would be well brought up. Soon after Nancy's fourteenth birthday, in 1808, John Turner Sargent (one of Daniel's younger brothers, and according to Ann Sargent Gage, the "handsomest man that she had ever seen," riding the "most magnificent horse," came to the Hall's and told them to have the child ready for a long trip. A few days later he went out with a sleigh and carried Nancy to a point where the concocter of the plan, Wm. Emerson, appeared in another sleigh. He took her to a point where his half-brother Samuel Ripley was waiting in the sleigh that took her to Waterford, arriving there Feb. 4, 1808. Many years later, Samuel Ripley wrote that he never in his life suffered so much in sympathy as he did with that trembling, tearful young girl "during the course of that cold and comfortless ride."

He continues; "I never suffered more for the time on account of any being whatever." The final ignominy was the dictate that

Nancy Brown must change her name to Ann Brewer. With insight beyond her years, Ann wrote, "I fully understood that the reason for changing my name was that I should be lost." Thus, the four gentlemen of Boston finally disposed of Nancy Brown.

Almost immediately upon coming to Waterford, Ann Brewer came under the influence of the first of many remarkable mentors and friends: Mary Moody Emerson. MME, as she signed most of her correspondence, was the spinster sister of Phebe Ripley and Rebecca Haskins of South Waterford. MME lived with the Haskins' at their farm, "Elm Vale." She was, as can best be gently described, eccentric. She was so obsessed with death that she always wore black and for a period of time slept in a coffin. Her greatest contribution to society of the day was her prodigious influence over her nephew, Ralph Waldo Emerson. Her long, rambling discourses to almost any who would listen, but most especially to RWE, demanded man continually challenge the principles of current-day theology.

Furthermore, man was put on earth to achieve goodness through the perfection of his rational thought processes and thereby make society a better place. This was the essence of Transcendentalism. Not as well enunciated, but understood by the early Transcendental philosophers was that the early roots of Transcendentalism sprang from Unitarian beliefs. Predictably, MME described the strict Trinitarian Rev. Lincoln Ripley as "less wild, but always one-sided and very pompous in condemnation."

MME had an immediate affinity for Ann. When MME was two years old, her father left the Old Manse in Concord where he lived to become the Chaplain for

Benedict Arnold's campaign to Ticonderoga and Montreal. MME claims to recall that while watching her father depart she would never see him again, which turned out to be prophetic since he was one of the casualties of that terrible winter march to the north. At an early age, MME was sent by her soon-to-be widowed mother to live with her older sister, Ruth, and her husband, Nathan Sargent (no relation to Ann's natural father). Nathan was not of the same sturdy stock as the other Emerson girls' husbands. He was usually a half-step ahead of the sheriff because of chronic indebtedness. His wife, Ruth, was forced to devote much of her energies supporting Nathan with the result that MME was left about as alone as she would be had she been orphaned. MME later confesses to Ann that "to feel alone on earth was one of the highest emotions of my youth." It is no wonder that MME took an interest in young Ann (In later years, there was as much interest by MME in the intellectual welfare of the elder Gage children.) That concern for Ann took the form of constant changes to Ann's dedication to the Transcendental spirit and seemed to pay no heed to the fact that Ann was being raised by Rev. and Mrs. Ripley, who were about as far from Transcendental intellect as Martin Luther King was from the Pope. In one quick note, MME asks 18-year-old Ann: "Whereabouts in the journey of life moral, intellectual and sublime art thou? Does the rapidity of the planets, which carry about your body, mark the rapid growth of your mind? Are your ideas clear on those subjects which you attempt to understand? Are your faculties centered in the great and infinite subject of moral perfection?"

*To be continued....*