

# Waterford Echoes

VOLUME XVI Number 1 (Issue 29)

Spring 1999

Waterford Historical Society



Mac Bean, chairman of Buildings & Grounds for the Society, pulls nails from the ramp roof at the Town House.

## Town House handicapped roof coming off

The westerly roofline of the Town House will soon be restored to its original condition.

The apron roof that was installed in the early nineties over the wheelchair ramp is coming off. The addition that was built to satisfy federal handicapped access requirements to the town office met with opposition when proposed.

While the roof is coming off, the ramp will remain.

The architectural line of the gable end toward Route 35/37 pinpoints construction during the Greek Revival period. The building was constructed using parts of the original Plummer Hill Meeting House.

Mac Bean, the tireless trustee and master of many talents, removed the front half of the roof in April. The steel roofing was donated to Waterford Recreation for a snack shack.

The roof extends eight feet from the building and runs along the lake side for nearly 50 feet over the ramp.

The town voted \$1,000 this year to aid the Waterford Historical Society.

## Society finally qualifies for IRS tax exemption

The Society has earned its IRS 501 (C)(3) status qualifying it for full tax exemption both at the federal and state levels.

Treasurer Whizzer Wheeler reported that after a year of working on the project, the exemption was granted in March.

The non-profit status is also a necessary prerequisite for historical grant applications.

## Pair attend archival workshop

Curator Nancy Marcotte and Treasurer Whizzer Wheeler plan to make good use of the basic archival techniques they learned at an April 17 workshop in Augusta.

Sponsored by the Maine State Archives, the workshop attracted 21 historical museums, societies and genealogical organizations from across the state.

State Archivist James Henderson has established a formidable grant program for historical preservation groups. Wisely, he has established a threshold criteria of attendance at the workshop before a group is eligible for grant consideration. Thus, it was necessary for WHS to be represented if we want to entertain the thought of grant funding through the current state programs.

"We learned some interesting new tricks for preservation and had a number of current approaches reinforced," said Wheeler. "We came to realize that we had some deficiencies in our current policies, specifically in our disaster plan-

ning and accession records."

"An unexpected benefit from the workshop was that we gained benchmarks to compare ourselves against our Maine peer groups," Wheeler said. He pointed out the following attributes:

- ☞ Our collection and other assets put us near the top of the heap of smaller to medium size societies.
- ☞ The Flat's status as a "historic preservation district" affords us unique opportunities to preserve a portion of the town in its current state of historic authenticity.
- ☞ Our collection policy is well defined (a necessary prerequisite for effective historical society management).
- ☞ Our membership is more diverse than most other groups and offers us greater opportunity for a more comprehensive approach to collection and preservation.
- ☞ The *Waterford Echoes* is well known and most admired.
- ☞ We do an admirable job of outreach to the community, but there is room for more.





## Fire guts physician's home

(April 21, 1963) An oil furnace explosion reportedly caused flames which gutted the home of Dr. and Mrs. R.E. Hubbard Sunday at 9 a.m.

A neighbor, Bill Jacobsen, saw flames shooting from the structure of the 2½-story Colonial home, and summoned North and South Waterford firefighters.

Some furniture from the first floor was saved by firemen. The second story portion of the house was engulfed with flames and made it impossible for any of its contents to be saved, reports said.

Firemen contained the flames to the physician's home. The nearby Town House was not damaged.

The Hubbards' daughter, Jean, a nurse at Stephens Memorial Hospital, was reportedly occupying the house while her parents were away and had already left for her duties at Norway when the blaze was discovered. The nurse was immediately called back to her home.

No estimate on the loss or insurance coverage was available until the physician and his wife return from a trip to California.

## Nurse wins top award

(March, 1963) At the annual Honors Banquet at the University of Miami Dept. of Nursing held at Coral Gables, Fla., Nancy Hamlin Weir, formerly of South Waterford, received the "Nurse of the Year" award.

Each year, the graduating seniors at the University of Miami select a nurse from one of their affiliating hospitals. The selection is made for the greatest contribution to their professional knowledge.

Mrs. Weir, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Carl Hamlin of South Waterford, graduated from Central Maine General Hospital School of Nursing in Lewiston. She is head nurse at Doctors Hospital in Coral Gables, where she has been affiliated since 1959.

## Voters OK new road, close Crooked River bridge

(October, 1966) Some 126 voters

moved in a special town meeting here Tuesday night to clear the way for an expansion program by the town's largest industry. They approved the construction of a new piece of highway and voted in favor of closing an older section of road.

In the third such special session called on the matter, townspeople balloted 80-46 in favor of building a new section onto Rt. 118, bypassing a bridge over Crooked River and connecting with Rt. 35.

They stipulated in the article the new section of road should not exceed \$20,000 in cost and should be completed by Jan. 1, 1967 with bids submitted to the town by Nov. 1.

The new section will measure about seventh-tenths of a mile.

In an amended second article, they approved the closing of some 325 feet of old Rt. 118, including a bridge over the Crooked River. The vote on the second article was 91-36, a reversal of the outcome of the second town meeting when voters moved 42-41 not to close the same section.

Approval of the two articles opens the way for construction of a new kiln at the North Waterford Spool Co., which was seeking to expand into a portion of the 325 feet subject to abandonment.

## Carding Mill acquired for Sturbridge Village

(Nov. 13, 1960 from the Sturbridge Village Intelligencer) The Village has acquired a carding mill which was built in South Waterford, Maine, around 1810 and was in actual operation until about five years ago.

The 36- by 25-foot single story clapboard and shingle structure, complete with machinery, is situated on the outlet of Keoka Lake in southwestern Maine.

Herb Darbee, who was responsible for investigating the property, says it may well be one of its kind. Carding machines of the early 1800s are as scarce as hen's teeth as are the actual mill buildings. The South Waterford mill houses what appears to be its original

machinery, Herb reports — one picker and two cards, the latter possibly the products of John and Arthur Scholfield, the makers of our carding machine in the basement of the Glass Museum.

## Fire destroys animals, South Waterford barn

(Sept., 1969) Two race horses, a colt in training and seven head of stock perished in a blaze Thursday afternoon which leveled the Stanwood Hill Farm, a large barn complex owned by William W. Haynes.

Two horses, which had raced here in Maine and in surrounding states, Wise Colonel and Sir Oliver Pick, died in the fire of undetermined origin as well as a colt being trained for the racing circuit.

A bull housed in the barn escaped but had to be destroyed. Racing equipment, which was stored in the barn, was also lost along with a tool shed at the rear. The building, valued at \$20,000, was partially covered by insurance, officials said.

Mrs. Dorothy Ballentine, a neighbor, said she spotted flames around 5 p.m. and summoned the South Waterford Fire Dept. They, in turn, called the Waterford Flats, Harrison and North Bridgton fire departments. Flames were prevented from spreading to a nearby home owned by David Erickson.

The barn full of hay was destroyed. Haynes was away at the time of the fire and did not learn about the loss until late that evening.

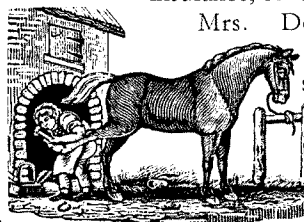
## Goat milk license issued

(Nov. 24, 1939) Will a ruling handed down by Attorney General Franz Burkett get the goat of those that have goats and sell goat milk in Maine?

That's a question the milk inspection division of the Agriculture Department pondered today as it sought to collect one dollar annually from all engaged in the goat milk business.

It's apparently all right with the Mount Tirem Goat Farm at Waterford, which was issued the first license. The licensee advised there were seven milk-giving goats on the farm.

Owners of the farm are Charles A. Fillebrown and Laurence R. Rounds Jr.



# Editor of 2<sup>nd</sup> Waterford history dies

Rev. Bertram F. Wentworth, 102, of Girard, Kansas, formerly of Pleasant St., Mechanic Falls, died Feb. 11 at the Heritage Home where he had resided since 1996.

Wentworth edited the Second Waterford History, 1875-1976, working with members of the Society in the seventies.

He was born on May 23, 1896 in Stoughton, Mass., the son of Charles and Katherine Cornell Wentworth. He attended schools in Massachusetts and graduated

from Boston University School of Theology and the Garrett Theological Seminary in Garrett, Ill. He married Ruth Hope Erickson in Hingham, Mass., in 1921. He ministered at numerous churches in New Hampshire, Maryland, Illinois and several in Maine including the Mechanic Falls Methodist Church. After he retired he served as the summer minister at the Albany church for several years.

In 1978 he was recognized for his 60

years of services to the Boy Scouts of America. He was involved in organizing recreational programs in many of the towns where he ministered. For many years he was "Santa Claus" during the holiday season at Goss Hardware in Mechanic Falls. In 1980, he was presented a cane by the Maine Methodist Conference as the oldest retired conference minister. He enjoyed history and wrote a book entitled "The History of Maine Methodism."

## Old Roads topic of May society meeting

The Waterford Historical Society has a busy meeting schedule planned for this year. Meetings are traditionally held on the second Thursday of each month, April through December.

**May 13** — North Waterford Church at 7 p.m. Old Roads of Waterford, Maine. Tim Fanning will share his knowledge on this subject. With the new road signs in place, this will be very timely program. A tour of

the church to view the renovations is also planned.

**June 10** — Waterford's Finnish History and Heritage, "Early Finns in Waterford" by Eva Bean. The program begins at 7 p.m. at the Town House. There will be a Finnish festival,

Finnish food and possibly dancing! This is also the Society's annual meeting.

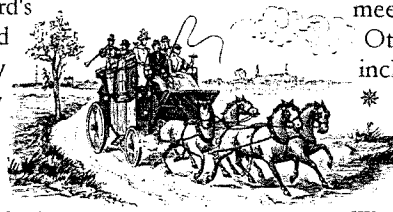
Other upcoming topics include:

- \* History of Farms and Camps around Keoka Lake

- \* Fred Johnson, Waterford Photographer

Extraordinary. We hope to have copies of his collection on display and an expert on hand to help people date their old family photos.

- \* The Underground Railroad in Western Maine. Was Waterford one of the stops?
- \* The Waterford Poor Farm.
- \* American Indian History of Waterford.
- \* Life of Cyrus Hamlin.
- \* History of the Green Family.



## Waterford Library expands hours

The Waterford Library is now open a third day and soon will be expanding its Saturday hours.

Trustees voted at their March meeting to open the library from 2-6 p.m. Monday beginning in April and expand Saturday hours until 2 p.m. this summer once school closes.

The library has been open

on Wednesday (3-8 p.m.) and Saturday (10-noon) for several years.

Voters at town meeting this year increased library funding from \$1,000 to \$5,000.

The library features a large Maine history section and temporarily houses the historical society's most valuable archives.



### Waterford Echoes

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The Waterford Historical Society newsletter is published 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.

#### 1998-99 OFFICERS

President:	Vivian F. Fanton
Vice President:	Lieselotte Willoughby
Secretary:	Elisabeth Dewing
Treasurer:	William A. Wheeler III
Curator:	Nancy Marcotte
Trustees:	Malcolm Bean, Chloe Colby, Richard Jones, Mary Ann Holme
Newsletter Editor:	Bill Haynes
Program Chair:	Chloe Colby

#### MEMBERSHIP CLASSIFICATION

Life member	\$150.00
Annual	\$10.00
Annual - Seniors (65 & over)	\$3.00

Send checks to: Waterford Historical Society  
P.O. Box 201  
Waterford ME 04088

# Bisbeetown memories

by Marjorie Kimball

The Warren History describes Bisbeetown to be the northeast corner of Waterford. The road that follows the western side of Crooked River is named Bisbeetown Road and the Bisbeetown Cemetery marks an area where a few hardy settlers came from Turner, Maine to establish farms on a pine covered land. More than 40 descendants have their final resting place in the cemetery that bears their name.

In 1817, when Moses Bisbee arrived in Waterford, the only road to this area was a logging road leading from North Waterford. His nephew, Luther, settled near him in 1825. Four other Bisbee relatives migrated to Waterford in the 1830s.

**Moses Bisbee** (B. 1765) located his home on what is now called Fiske Road. His son, Moses Jr., continued to live there after his father's death. Presently, the Merritt Stevens, the Bradley Grovers and the Benny Cyrs have homes in this area.

**Volney Bisbee** (B. 1801) located his home on the road off Route 118 that is now built with modern homes and trailers. It is the old farm house more recently known as the Paige farm or the Clint Nason farm on Higgins Road. The Jerry Cleveland Sr. family now owns the property.

**David Bisbee** (B. 1803) settled at the intersection of Bisbeetown Road and the Hunt's Corner Road. Two of his sons, Volney and Zenas, died during the Civil War and

are buried in Bisbeetown Cemetery. This house is now owned by Howard Jewell.

**Charles Bisbee II** (B. 1806) built his house on the south side of

family now live there, but it is not known if this is the original building.

The mill sites established along the Crooked River provided jobs for the growing community. The Bisbeetown Mill sat on the site now occupied by Pike Industries. Other mills were built along the river near the junction of Bisbeetown Road and Hunt's Corner Road.

As Waterford grew, schools were provided and by 1830, District 9 was created. The Bisbeetown School was built on land later owned by Lloyd Andrews, who came to town in 1877. It was a basic one-room school with crude wooden benches and a

box stove to provide heat.

In 1894, when towns were required to take possession of all school properties, the building was appraised at \$185. Over time, the school provided education for 10 to 18 children yearly. It finally closed in 1927 and the students were transported to the North Waterford School.

But memories of the school were celebrated until 1947. The school association had a contract with the town to use the building as a meeting place. The building was finally torn down in 1947 by Will Emery and some of the lumber was used to build a house on Howe Hill. The school house land now belongs to great grandson Newell Andrews, who plans to build a home there some day.

The Bisbeetown School Reunion, pictured on page 159



**Bisbeetown School in 1917** — Standing, from left: Leola Hatch, Belle Pennock, Phyllis Sawin (teacher), Evelyn Morse, Velma Hobson, Frank Hatch. Seated, Charles Andrews, Dorothy Park, Ruth Morse, Winola Kilgore, Jennie Andrews, Lee Lord.

Route 118. Brian and Sandra O'Leary are the current owners.

**Chloe Bisbee** (B. 1812) and husband John Sampson had a home diagonally across from Charles on 118. Steve Bond and

## Bisbeetown School Reunion

*A few lyrics written by Marilla Marston*

I welcome you here my old school mates and neighbors  
And all the old friends whom ne'er met here before.  
Today is the day we'll be free from labor  
As when in our school days we met here in yore.

*Chorus*

*You dear old red schoolhouse how dearly we love you  
And may we protect you as years pass by.*

My memory turns back to the time of my school days.  
As we trod these old paths so familiar to me.  
There's one to the river, and some by the highways  
that lead to my play house which we can now see.

*— Chorus —*

We stand on the bank and we gaze on the river  
And in her shoals waters we've all waded there.  
These friendly old trees how they sheltered us ever  
Beneath their wide branches our dinners we'd share.

*— Chorus —*

of the Waterford History, was a social event looked forward to with anticipation each year.

"It was one of the 'great' events with everyone invited," writes Leona Kimball Perry, a former North Waterford resident. "Dressed in their best they brought a picnic and a committee served lemonade and maybe ice cream. A holiday spirit filled the air as folks mingled, enjoyed games, races and recitations. Lin Flint played the banjo."

Edith Perry remembers attending the reunion two or three times though she never attended school there.

"There was a path to the river. Children used to wade there. Years ago, it was the simple things that people enjoyed," Edith recalls.

In the 1899 town report, the superintendent reported that the school was marred by "too much whispering."

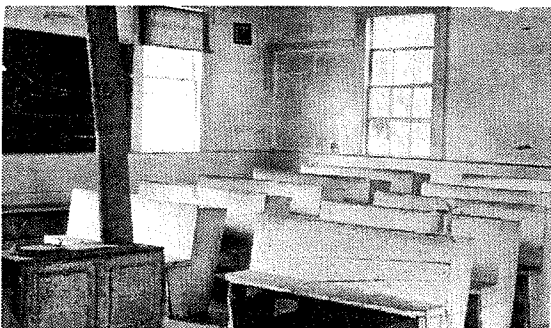
Phyllis Sawin recalled her days as a beginning teacher and some of the problems of being an unmarried woman.

June Batchelder recalled that her grandmother, Lydia Lord Shedd, who lived just beyond the Portland pumping station, organized Sunday School at the school house. When June was about eight years old, she was enlisted to read the lesson cards to the younger children because she could already read and there was a shortage of teachers.

Local poets Lydia Lord Shedd and Marilla Marston wrote poems and lyrics to entertain at the reunions.

As we enter the 21st century, Bisbeetown remains a rural area but with many

modern houses. The post office reports more than 200 addresses on the rural route. The children are transported to Waterford Memorial School as well as the Oxford Hills Middle and High schools. More than 60 camp lots have been developed around Papoose Pond and the camping area attracts an estimated 10,000 visitors over the summer.



## The Little Red Schoolhouse

by Lydia Lord Shedd

(Excerpts from a longer poem)

By the little red schoolhouse  
That stands in the dell  
We are gathered again today  
To sing the old songs  
And the stories to tell  
Of our youth that has passed away.

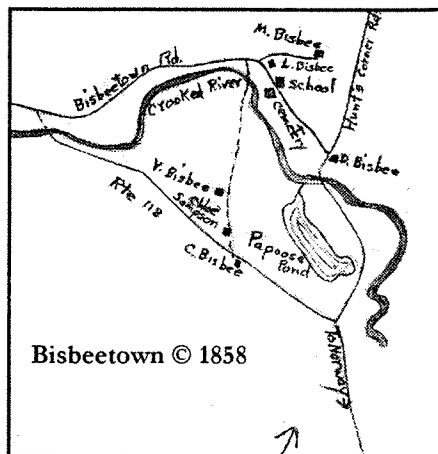
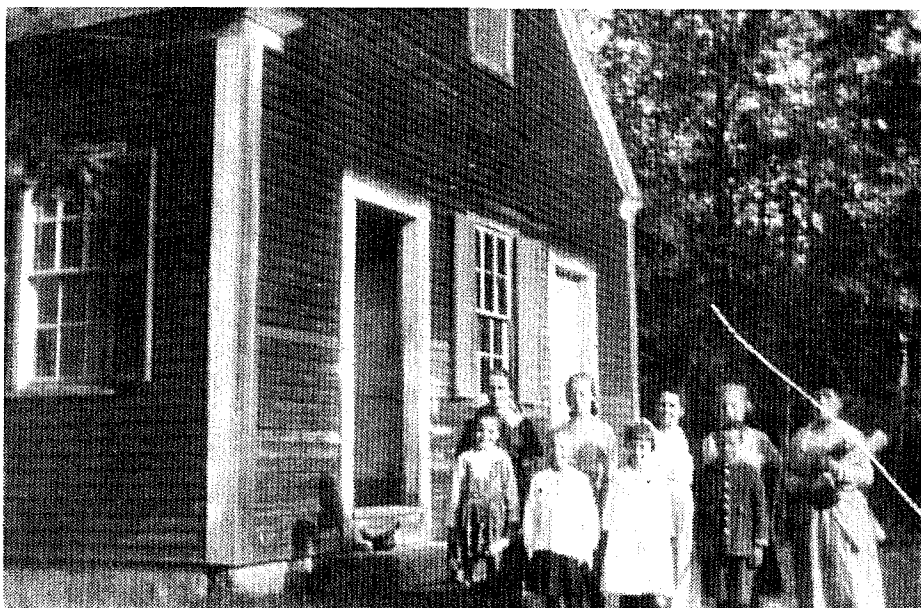
'Tis an old house, mud-spattered,  
As if grown up from the ground,  
For the steps are worn and battered  
And the roof with moss is grown.  
And here and there and everywhere  
The marks of age are found.

The whippoorwill in the grasses tall,  
The swamp robin down in the dell,  
The sparrow that nests by the old stone wall,  
Their springtime melody tell  
And the old gray rock with its mossy frock  
Has a history as well.

Now climbing the old oak trees,  
With never a thought of fall,  
We swung in the summer breeze,  
High aloft in the saplings tall.  
Such happy ways and sunny days  
Were given to us all.

'Tis of old school in Bisbeetown,  
Of which my story rings,  
And the schoolmates scattered far around  
The summer homeward brings;  
Where peace and happiness abound,  
The heart with gladness sings.

Although Bisbeetown never attained the status of a town and no persons named Bisbee live locally, the impact of this community is felt for miles around. Fond memories remain in the hearts of those that can trace their roots to the village nestled around a little red schoolhouse.



# In Memoriam

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**Raynor K. Brown**, 83 of North Waterford, a **life member of the Society**, died Nov. 11 at Stephens Memorial Hospital. He was born in North Waterford on July 13, 1915, the son of Harry and Maud Dresser Brown. He started his schooling at North Waterford until his parents moved to South Paris, where he spent sixth grade through high school. He graduated from South Paris High School in 1933 where he participated in football, the debate team and was manager of the baseball team. In the fall of 1933, he entered the University of Maine where he was a member of the Sigma Chi Fraternity and served as president in his junior year. He also served as a member of the Student Senate. He graduated in 1937 with a BS in Forestry. In 1937, he bought



Raynor K. Brown

his first timberland and started a logging business. In 1945, he joined his brother in the North Waterford Spool Co., but left after two years to continue in his logging business. In 1950, he started a sand and gravel business. In 1958, he started a concrete business which rapidly grew through the 60s. From 1960 to 1975 he carried on a "hot top" business. In 1975, he sold the business to Cianbro Corp. For more than 50 years he was a member of the Society of American Foresters, the Association of Consulting Foresters, and Past President of the Western Maine Forestry Forum. He was a member of the Norway-Paris Kiwanis Club, 50-plus-year member of the Mt. Tiren Lodge and former director of the Norway National Bank. In 1938, Mr. Brown was Chairman of the Board of Selectmen of Waterford and later served four additional years on the board. He served 20 years on the Waterford School Board. He was a member of the North Waterford Congregational Church, where he was actively involved as vice president and trustee, overseeing repairs and improvements. He served as a trustee and financial advisor for the Oxford County United Parish. He provided the Oxford Hills School District with football, baseball and track fields. The Oxford Hills Chamber of Commerce awarded him with the Community Service Award on February 4, 1991. Raynor and wife, Georgia, established a substantial scholarship fund for students from the town of Waterford to assist them in furthering their education as well as a charitable gift annuity in the University of Maine Foundation. He was a founding trustee of Stephens Memorial Hospital, beginning service on the original board in 1946, 11 years before Stephens opened its doors. He served for 46 years, is a past president and has served on the hospital's finance, building and other committees. He married the former Georgia Thayer of South Paris in June of 1940. He is survived by his wife of South Paris; one son, Harry of Venice, FL; two daughters, Ellie Heath of Waterford, and Becky Burke of South Paris; and four grandchildren. He was predeceased by a son, Keith. He is buried in Woodlawn Cemetery in North Waterford.

**Irene J. Millett**, 64, of Waterford died Dec. 11 at Stephens Memorial Hospital. She was born in Duxbury, Vt., Feb. 18, 1934, the daughter of Walter C. and Irene C. Robertson. She was a graduate of Essex Junction High School in Vermont. She served in the U.S. Air Force. She married Curtis A. Millett on July 1, 1955 in Waco, Texas and was a homemaker all her life. She was a member of the Waterford Congregational Church, the women's fellowship at the church, and the women's auxiliary at Stephens Memorial Hospital. She is survived by her husband of 43 years of Waterford; five daughters, Connie Lebroke of Norway, Julie Millett of Waterford, Vickie Millett of Tennessee, Laurie Hurst of Nebraska and Jennifer Millett of Lewiston; two sisters, Viola Fielder of Vermont and Honey Howat of Michigan; and five grandchildren. She was predeceased by a sister, Ilda Hunter; and three brothers, Daniel and Berton McNaulty and Walter Robertson.

**Read L. Grover**, 46, of East Waterford died Dec. 24 at the Stephens Memorial Hospital. He was born in Lewiston on Nov. 16, 1952 the son of Dwight and Mary Read Grover. He graduated from Fryeburg Academy and the University of Maine in 1976. He worked for many years for his father at Grover Lumber and the Crooked River Dowel Mill. He later operated Fred P. Saunders Dowel Mill in Bridgton. He was a member of Alpha Gamma Rho fraternity, Mt. Tiren Lodge of Waterford, Scottish Rite, Kora Temple and was a past director of the Wood Turning Assoc. He had lived in East Waterford for many years. He married the former Terry Dunn on June 29, 1991. He is survived by his wife of East Waterford; three daughters, Amie Boyd of Virginia, Kimberly Grover and Leslie Grover of East Waterford; two sons, Casey of South Paris, and Daniel of East Waterford; three sisters, Margaret Pinkham of East Boothbay, Martha Holden of North Bridgton, and Mary Jones of Minot; and his mother and father of Stoneham. He is buried in Hillside Cemetery in East Stoneham.

**Elsie M. Pettingill**, 78, of North Waterford died Jan. 1 at her residence. She was born at Greenfield, Mass. on Oct. 26, 1920 the daughter of Charles and Bertha Hamlin. She attended Portland schools and was a member of the North Waterford Congregational Church. She married Ralph R. Pettingill on Oct. 4, 1937. She is survived by her husband of North Waterford; one son, Merrill of Scarbrough; five daughters, Mrs. James (Dian) Westfall of Cape Elizabeth, Mrs. Richard (Claudia) Swanson of Turner, Janine Roberts of North Waterford, twin daughters, Denise Pettingill of Harrison and Deborah Wyman of Oxford; one sister, Blanch Daggett of Ohio; 15 grandchildren; and nine great-grandchildren. She is buried in Woodlawn Cemetery.

**Merle L. Millett**, 79, of Waterford died Jan. 3 at the Maine Veterans Home in South Paris. He was born in Waterford on April



9, 1919 the son of Marion Millett. He was educated in local schools and worked as a woodsman. He served in the United States Army during World War II. He is survived by his wife, Katherine, of Waterford; two sons, Robert M. Truman of Waterford and Robert Levasseur of Harrison; five daughters, Carol M. Towne of Bridgton, Nancy E. Whitehouse of Windham, Grace M. Grover of E. Conway, N.H., Karen Murch of Harrison and Marie Garrett of Washington; eight grandchildren; and five great-grandchildren. He is buried in Elm Vale Cemetery.

**Will H. McAllister**, 81, of North Waterford died Jan. 10 at the Maine Medical Center. He was born March 3, 1917 in Albany the son of Will and Eva Goodwin McAllister and was educated in Albany schools. He did farm work, was a woodsman, worked for CN Brown Lumber Mill in Lovell and Grover Lumber for 18 years. In his later years, he drove horses for Evergreen Valley Ski Lodge. He was previously married to Edith Arsenault, Wilma O'Brien and Violet Hodgkins, his last wife who died in 1991. He has lived in North Waterford for the past 35 years. He is survived by two sons, Delbert of Albany, Donald of Norway; one daughter, Jo-Ann Farris of Gilead; two stepdaughters, Barbara Durgin of Norway, Shirley Rogers of Waterford; eight grandchildren; two step-grandchildren; 13 great-grandchildren; and one great-great-grandchild. He was predeceased by a son, Ronald; and a grandson, Delbert Jr. He is buried in Hillside Cemetery in Stoneham.

**Dennis C. McAllister**, 46, of North Waterford, died Feb. 6 at his residence. He was born in Lewiston, July 6, 1952, the son of Irving W. and Kathleen Dunn McAllister. He graduated from Oxford Hills High School in 1970. During his school years he worked summers at Camp Kokosing in Waterford. He was also employed by several contractors including Manley Kimball, Prentiss Kimball, Vaughn Thurston and Azel Littlefield. He started a concrete business with Don Davis and later sold his share to Davis in 1978. He worked for Maine Central Railroad before starting his own excavation business known as D.C. McAllister Excavation in 1984. He was assistant fire chief of Waterford and had been involved with the Waterford Fire Department since the age of 13. He served as a member of the building committee for the new municipal complex and fire station and was a member of the sound level limit committee in 1997. He was a member of the Sno-Packers Snowmobile Club and the Maine State Snowmobile Association. He married Brenda C. Whittemore, April 14, 1973. He is survived by Brenda McAllister of North Waterford; one son, Dustin of North Waterford; his mother, Kathleen McAllister of North Waterford; and a brother, John. He is buried in Woodlawn Cemetery in North Waterford.

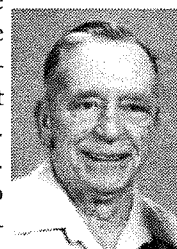
**Georgia T. Brown**, 82 of South Paris, formerly of North Waterford, a **life member of the Society**, died March 3, 1999 at the Market Square Health Care Facility. She was born at South Paris Jan. 20, 1917 the daughter of Charles and Edith Thayer. She graduated from the South Paris High School in 1935. On June 1, 1940, she married Raynor K. Brown. They built their home in North Waterford on the Valley Road where they raised their four children. She was the bookkeeper for Raynor's business, R.K. Brown, Inc., working from their home. She was a volunteer for the Waterford Memorial School's PTA, the Stephens Memorial Women's Auxiliary when it originated, the North Waterford Congregational Church and the Eastern Star. Survivors include one son, Harry of Venice, Fla.; a daughter, Becky Burke of South Paris; a daughter Ellie Heath of Waterford; four grandsons; her twin brother, G. Dewey Thayer of Mason Plantation. She was predeceased by her husband, Raynor; a son, Keith; brothers, Alpha and Gordon Thayer; and a sister, Winona Rideout.



Georgia T. Brown

**Arthur Anderson Jr.**, 65, of South Waterford, died March 6 at Northern Cumberland Memorial Hospital. Born at Brooklyn, N.Y., June 19, 1933, the son of Arthur Sr. and Elsa Westberg Anderson, he graduated from Concordia Prep School at Bronxville, N.Y. in 1951 and Dartmouth College in 1955. He taught English at the Walton School in Auburn for 19 years, retiring in 1993. He had also taught reading programs at Bridgton, North Yarmouth and Fryeburg academies. He married the former Isabel Showell on Sept. 17, 1959. Most recently, he and his wife dealt in antiques. He served in the U.S. Army and had lived at South Waterford for the past 28 years. Survivors include his wife of South Waterford; two sons, Peter S. of Waterville and Christian S. of Portland; a daughter, Sarah B. Anderson of Cambridge, Mass.; and one granddaughter.

**Wallace F. McDaniels**, 79, of Waterford died March 21 at the Stephens Memorial Hospital. He was born in Norway on May 18, 1919 the son of William H. and Georgie Frost McDaniels. He attended the Temple Hill school in Waterford and graduated from Norway High School in 1937. He worked on his father's farm and drove school bus before entering the U.S. Army on April 24, 1942. He served in North Africa, Sicily, Italy, Belgium, France, Southern France, and Germany. He was at Anzo beachhead from January to May and was discharged in October, 1945. Upon his return home he lived in the Waterford area for the remainder of his life. He worked for many years for C.B. Cummings in Norway and Hamlin Oil. He was a Past Master of Mt. Tirem Lodge, Past Commander of the Ronald St. John Post of Harrison and Past Master of Bear Mt. Grange of South Waterford. He married M. Happy Hamlin on Sept. 4, 1948. He is survived by his wife of Waterford; four daughters, Joy Lee McDaniels of Harrison, Betsy A. Hodges of Panama City, Fla., Mary D. Briggs of Waterford and Gale E. McDaniels of North Norway; two sons, William A. of Waterford and David W. of Norway; 11 grandchildren; one great-grandchild; and two sisters, Arline Perry and Priscilla M. Crosby of Norway. He is buried in Pine Grove Cemetery in South Paris.



Wallace F. McDaniels

# Ann Sargent Gage *Part 4*

by William A. Wheeler III

*This is the concluding chapter of "Ann Sargent Gage – Witness to History." Ann was born in scandal to one of Boston's most prominent men. She was packed off to Waterford, where she was raised by Waterford's first Congregational minister and wife, the Rev. Lincoln and Phebe Ripley, and befriended by Mary Moody Emerson (MME).*

Oliver Porter was first introduced to Waterford by Thomas Hovey Gage, Ann's son, when Thomas went to learn the retail trade from Porter in Lynn, Mass.

Porter visited Waterford, recognized the opportunity for business free from major competition and immediately set about relocating from Lynn. In

February of 1853 Porter agreed to buy the Gage farm, but as Ann notes, "To our joy he told (us) he thought it would be kept in the family for the present."

For the time left, it was the best of both worlds. Ann had cash to sustain herself and Phebe and was still able to stay in her beloved house. The (forever) practical side of Ann realized that the situation would not go on forever and, therefore, she started a campaign to rally her children back to their roots. Writing to daughter Lois Gage she says, "For I do want to see you, and it be well, I trust, for us to dwell together as often as much as we can. Let us renew and strengthen our loves for this, our goodly heritage."

Towards the end of 1853, the Porters, all 11 of them, joined Ann and Phebe at Rydal Mount. Eventually, the Gage furniture was moved to the barn and quickly Ann lost all sense of belonging in her one and only home. Phebe was so distraught that she refused to be a part of the packing and removal to Gorham in mid-1854 where Ann (and Phebe) lived with her daughter, Frances, and her husband, Humphrey Cousens. By 1860, Thomas had

purchased a medical practice and settled in Sterling, Mass. Thomas realized for quite some time that his mother would become his responsibility at some point. Even when he was proposing to his wife, Annie Lane, he made the forthcoming marital union contingent upon Ann Sargent living with them. Ann, minus Phebe by this point, moved in with Thos. and Annie, who adopted her immediately with all the filial love due her own mother. Shortly after moving to Sterling, all of them came to Worcester where Ann passed, with one exception, the next 16 years.

In 1863 Ann returned to Waterford after a nine-year absence. Her reflections of the visit are just as appropriate today as they were 133 years ago:

"Well, here I am with the old and ever new beauty, growing and glistening on every side, and the grandeur of the stretching forests and the heights of the everlasting hills, saying as they tower - 'we abide, thou are passing.'" Later in the same letter to her daughter, Mary, she tells of going to South Waterford with Irene (Gage) Warren:

"We lingered so long in the graveyard, (where Leander was buried) and around the old Haskins place and by the charming brook below, so loved by Hannah (Mary Moody Emerson's maid) where she made washing poetic, where Ralph Waldo Emerson (RWE) went with his daughter, Ellen, two or three years ago and after silence said to Ellen, 'Let us live here — we'll send for your mother and move down!'"

Ann goes on to explain that two large trunks of bedding, etc. were sent down and stored, but RWE severely injured himself and was forced to return to Concord for treatment and that they would move the next year. *(I do not know why the plan was never completed, but it is fun to conjecture that if RWE did come to Waterford to live Thoreau would follow and his classic would have been*

*entitled Tom Pond.)* Ann continues, "Well, we gazed on Elm Vale, so hallowed to memory, on the lake in whose satin waters friends have bathed to cool life's fever; on the overhanging fissured mountain and then looked long into the dear brook, whose tiny cascades are so sweetly musical and I only asked for a week to atone a little for the stupidity of long years — having eyes, but seeing not, and ears, but hearing not, the ear dulled by the undertone of din from little doing, the eye by veil of rude domesticity or by a thicker veil of deep domestic life and its issues." Ann in effect declared herself at last free of domestic and personal burdens!

The 16 years in Worcester were quite different from the previous 68. Basically, she had a stable life with little or no responsibility other than to be a good grandmother to both Thomas' and Anna's children (Anna Louise had married Calvin Foster in 1857 and they had settled in Worcester, a few blocks from Thomas' home). Her letter writing was confined mostly to her own children and her correspondence with MME and Elizabeth Palmer Peabody dwindled. It was almost as if she did not want the additional intellectual stimulation from her old friends. She compared her aging to reversing the Midas fable, "turning from gold to a baser metal." She refused to let old memories cloud her new responsibilities of grand-motherhood.

She writes, "I do not think it right to galvanise the soul in old age by the battery of sentimentalism." Yet, in the same letter she celebrates her own life: "I mourn that I am not wiser to live, for I know that life is more and greater than death." Parenthetically, she seems to have shaken off the influence of MME's concept of the imminency and joy of death.

Ann's last letter was to Frances, Lois and George. In it she writes, "I am in no shape to write, weak and tremulous and broken, but firm and clear in my love for each and all." On the 21st of July, 1876, at the age of 82, Ann Brown Brewer Sargent Gage began her final trip to Waterford so that she could be buried next to her husband, Leander.



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