

Waterford Echoes

VOLUME XVII Number 1 (Issue 31)

Summer 2000

Waterford Historical Society

Archival project: So far, so good

By Mary Ann Holme, curator

In the beginning...

On a cold January afternoon, Nancy Marcotte, Bill Haynes and I met to begin to prepare an application for an archival project for the New Century Preservation Grant Program. Bill and

Nancy are both trustees of the Waterford Library and Nancy is secretary of the Waterford Historical Society as well. The two groups would be collaborating on this project. We determined we could best use the grant for:

- 1) Reviewing, evaluating and organizing our collection.
- 2) Cleaning and preserving documents/photographs.
- 3) Creating an index/catalog.
- 4) Training volunteers and managing our collection
- 5) Making our collection more accessible.

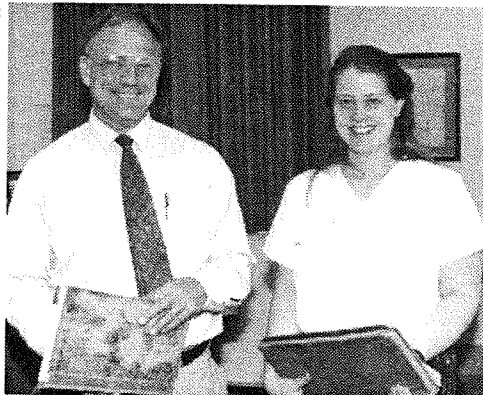
Project Work Plan

The collection is currently located at three sites, all of which are unheated and inaccessible during part of the year. The archival material is at risk as cold, damp and mildew are taking their toll. The entire collection has been evaluated and assessed by Bethel Historical President Dr. Stanley Howe. Archive Consultant Christopher Beam will organize the project work plan as well as direct and review the project as it progresses.

The fragile records and photographs will be digitized to make them accessible for research. We will inventory and catalog the collection, which has been constantly growing and has never been organized. At the completion of the project the archival

materials will be housed at the Waterford Library, which has a research room, a computer and heated storage facilities.

The work will be done between June, 2000 and June, 2001 at the Waterford Library, which will become the permanent site for the collection.



Archive Consultant Christopher Beam and UM graduate student intern Katherine Hoving examine records in the old Town House.

The Grant Award

In a letter dated March 15, 2000 from the Cultural Resources Information Center (CRIC), we were awarded \$2,400 for our project. It includes four days for our archive consultant to develop a finding aid, conduct training and develop a project plan for the student intern

and other volunteers to carry out. It also includes 120 hours for an intern and the purchase of archival preservation materials. All grant activities will take place between March 15, 2000 and March 14, 2001. All project money Must be spent within that time.

The Project Begins

In early June, we met our student intern, Katherine Hoving, a graduate student in American History at University of Maine. In collaboration with the McLaughlin Garden Foundation, Katherine will board at the McLaughlin House for the eight weeks she will be working on the project. In return for providing board, the historical society will pay for one week of the two-week project she will do for the Garden Foundation.

On June 2, we had our first meeting with archive consultant Chris Beam. He is the Director of the Edmund S. Muskie Ar-

chives at Bates College in Lewiston and is a Lecturer in the History Department at Bates College. We met for three hours at the Town House where Chris reviewed our archival documents and made a general inventory. In his subsequent report he noted:

The Society holds two classes of materials:

- * records of the Town of Waterford and
- * papers of private individuals and organizations, including businesses and social clubs, in the community.

The Town House has both town records and a mix of photographs, newspaper clippings, records of various fraternal organizations, books and some miscellaneous donations of private papers. In a four-drawer file cabinet are the town records, many of which are bound ledgers dating back to 1794, four years before the Town was incorporated. The ledgers record such matters as chattel mortgages, deeds, transfers of property, and commitments to an insane asylum, voter lists, town treasurers' transactions and tax collections. Almost all the ledgers have an alphabetical index in the front and in

Continued on back page



Mr. and Mrs. Freeland Bell of Boston, Mass. are shown at their summer residence, the former Carter Bell house on Blackguard, during what is believed to be the late 1800s.

In Memoriam

Raymond B. Giasson, 67, of Waterford Road, a **member of the Society**, died Dec 25, 1999, at his home. He was born in Lewiston, Sept. 4, 1932, son of Alphie and Eva Gagne Giasson. He was married to Frantie Dudley Giasson. Mr. Giasson was employed for more than 40 years at shoe manufacturing companies. He was a gifted musician. He played piano and keyboard in several bands, including the Nashville Express and New Edition. He loved sports and nature, especially fishing, and taking his family on trips all over the east coast and Canada. His favorite destinations were Storyland and Santa's Village in New Hampshire and the beautiful church at St. Anne de Beaupre in Canada. Survivors include his wife, Frantie; five daughters: Laraine De Vaughn of Miami, Fla., Marie and Stephen Hunt of Waterford, Rose Giasson of Meredith, N.H., Brenda R. Giasson of Auburn, and Raylene Giasson of South Paris; three sons: Leslie and Ella Boardman of Port Orange, Fla., David E. Giasson of South Paris, and Russell and Karalee Giasson of Charlotte, N.C.; 16 grandchildren; five great-grandchildren; three brothers: Albert and Carman Giasson of Auburn, Roger and Cecile Giasson of Fort Myers, Fla., and Henry Giasson of Fort Myers, Fla.; two sisters: Germaine and Bert Nolin of Auburn, and Lorraine and Danny O'Neil, also of Auburn, and a God-child, Mrs. Gail Giasson Curren of Sabbattus; numerous nieces and nephews. He was predeceased by two brothers, Romeo and Marcel. He is buried in Elm Vale Cemetery.

Charles H. Rice, 86, of South Paris died Monday, Dec. 27, 1999 at his home following a long illness. He was born in Waterford on Jan. 10, 1913 the son of George H. and Helen Hamlin Rice. He attended the Plummer Hill School and graduated from Bridgton Academy. On Jan. 3, 1942 he married Ruth Buswell of Norway. He was a woodsman all his life and was employed by Cullinan's Inc. of Norway for 55 years. He enjoyed training and driving his oxen and made ox yokes, axe handles and peavey handles as a hobby. He was a 70-year member of the grange, having joined Bear Mountain Grange in 1927 and Norway Grange in 1948. He was a Past Master of Norway Grange No. 45, holding nearly every office of the organization. He was also a member of the Norway Lodge IOOF for 51 years serving as Noble Grand, and a member of the Grand Lodge of Maine also serving as Noble Grand. He is survived by his wife of South Paris; a daughter, Carol of Cincinnati, Ohio; a son, George of Norway; one grandson, Michael Rice of Weymouth, Mass.; one granddaughter; two great-grandchildren; a sister, Rachel Deans of South Portland; a brother, Richard of Waterford; and many nieces, nephews and cousins. He was predeceased by a sister, Ella; and a brother, Albert. He was buried in Norway Pine Grove Cemetery.

Hazel L. Allen, 95, of North Waterford, died Wednesday, Jan. 5, 2000, at the Market Square Health Care and Rehabilitation Center. She was born in Bel Isle, Canada, on August 13, 1904, the daughter of Charles and Irene Ganong Oneall. She graduated high school in Bel Isle and attended college studying physical therapy in Boston, Mass. She married Albert Allen in 1923 who predeceased her in 1966. She worked as a nurse for many years in private duty before opening the Open Door Nursing Home in North Waterford in 1955. She ran the nursing home until she retired in 1973. She was an active member of the Jehovah's Witness Church in Norway. She is survived by six daughters, Dorothy MacDonald of North Waterford, Evelyn McAuliff of Marlboro, Mass., Merle McAllister of North Waterford, Margaret McAllister of North Waterford, Irene Trimback of South Paris and Ruthie Swett of North Waterford; a son, Albert Allen of North Waterford; 18 grandchildren; 31 great-grandchildren; two great-great-grandchildren; and several nieces and nephews. She was predeceased by her husband; a son, Stanley; and a daughter, Phyllis. She was buried in Woodland Cemetery.

Agnes M. Kushner, 87, of North Waterford, died Feb. 3, 2000, at Stephens Memorial Hospital. She was born, Jan. 18, 1913, daughter of John and Anna Connolly McDonnell, and was a high school and college graduate. She worked as a schoolteacher in New Jersey for seven years. She married Alex Kushner and they resided in North Waterford for more than 40 years. He died in 1972. She was an avid reader who read the New York Times every morning. She was also a painter of oils and watercolors and loved to sew quilts. Survivors include a nephew, Jeffrey McDonnell of Boston; two nieces, Pamela Hickey of Newburyport, Mass. and Gladys "Bonnie" Sullivan of Manchester, Mass. She is buried in Woodlawn Cemetery.

Charles A. Fillebrown Sr., 86, of Waterford, a **member of the Society**, died April 25, at the Market Square Health Care Facility. He was born at Waterford on March 4, 1914 the son of Walter W. and Charlotte Morse Fillebrown. Charles attended Waterford schools, graduated from Bridgton Academy in 1932 and the University of Maine in 1938. He owned and operated Fillebrown's orchards and cider mill since 1948. He was a member of Alpha Gamma Rho fraternity, Maine Pomological Society, trustee of the Library Association and second congregational church of Waterford, Soil-Water Conservation District, Stabilization Conservation Committee and the Farm Bureau. Charles served his country in the United States Army. He married the former Mary Elizabeth Tiernan on Sept. 23, 1943. He is survived by his wife of Waterford; two sons, Charles Jr. and Thomas, both of Waterford; a sister, Barbara Martz of Willow Valley, Pa.; two brothers, Walter W. of Waterford, and Stephen of New Hampshire; five grandchildren; seven great-grandchildren; and nieces and nephews. He is buried in Elm Vale Cemetery.



Charles A. Fillebrown



Mildred H. Noyes

Mildred H. Noyes, 84, of Waterford, a **life member of the Society**, died May 23, at Maine Medical Center. Born in South Waterford, March 28, 1916, the daughter of Harry N. and Carrie Hamlin Haynes, she was a graduate of Portland High School, Westbrook Junior College in Portland, the University of Maine and the Bay Path Institute of Springfield, Mass. Mrs. Noyes taught for several years at Oxford High School and was Postmaster at South Waterford for 30 years, retiring in 1978. She was very active in her community, holding offices in the Bear Mountain Community Club, Bear Moun-

tain Library, South Waterford Fire Association and the Waterford PTA. She was also a member of the South Waterford Methodist Church and a 50-year member of the Bear Mountain Grange No. 62. Survivors include her husband of over 53 years, Haynes F. Noyes of Waterford; their sons, Leon of California, Robert of New Jersey and R. Steven of Florida; a sister, Ruth Chute of South Paris; a brother, William Haynes of South Waterford; seven grandchildren; and two great-grandchildren. She is buried in Elm Vale Cemetery.

Margaret Merry Sawyer, 85, of Waterford, a **life member and founding member of the Society**, died May 24, at her residence after a long illness. She was born in Madison on May 28, 1914, the daughter of Eugene and Blanche Longley Merry. She attended school in Fillmore, Calif., and Norridgewock. She graduated from the Maine School of Commerce in Auburn. She married Billie A. Sawyer on Feb. 21, 1942 and he predeceased her in September of 1985. She resided in Waterford since 1943. She worked for Pineland Lumber, Central Maine Power and Oxford County Extension Service, where she retired in 1979. She was a member of the First Church of Christ Scientists of Boston, Mass., the Waterford Historical Society, DAR, Mayflower Society and the Pine Tree Quilters. She was a member of the group that produced the Second Century Waterford History. Since 1936, Mrs. Sawyer has been an avid mountain climber and climbed Mount Washington every year until most recently. She was also a runner, who raced in the Boston Marathon on April 18, 1988. She also ran in the Cape Cod Marathon and won numerous awards in the sport. Mrs. Sawyer was also an author and publisher of many books including "Reaching for the Summit" and "Ten Children of Blanche and Eugene Merry." She served as town treasurer and selectman and was a 4-H Leader for many years. She is survived by two daughters, Sylvia Sebelist of Waterford and Merrylyn of E. Winthrop; a son, Tim of Waterford; three sisters, Ruth Stevens of Jackman, Eleanor Capener of Las Vegas, Nev., and Mary Oatway of Manchester; two brothers, Richard and George Merry of Smithfield; and six grandchildren. She was predeceased by four brothers, Charles, John, William and Alfred Merry. She is buried in Elm Vale Cemetery.



Margaret M. Sawyer

Roland R. Pouliot, 77, of Waterford died May 24 at Bridgton Health Care Center. He was born in Lewiston, May 6, 1923, the son of Louis and Elizabeth Beaulieu Pouliot. He attended schools in Lewiston, Norway and South Paris. He worked as a foreman at Wilner Wood Products Co. He served in the Navy during World War II. His wife, Olivianne, died in 1991. Survivors include a brother, Maurice of Waterford; an adopted daughter, Evelyn Pouliot of Farmington; and two grandchildren. He is buried in Elm Vale Cemetery.

Edith M. Holt, 92, of North Waterford, died June 11. She was born at North Berwick on Feb. 6, 1908, the daughter of James and Grace Merserve Merrill. She was educated in Stoneham schools. Throughout her years she had worked for Miss Jeannette Payson at the Open Door Home in North Waterford, Papoose Pond Campground, Stearns Apple Orchards, Earl Brown, and Agnes Kushner. She was a member of the North Waterford church for sixty-seven years, joining April 22, 1933, transferring from the Stoneham church. She was a faithful member of her church. She spent many hours working on the church suppers and all other projects at the church. She also served as a Deacon of the church. Along with her husband Chet, she joined the North Waterford Grange in February of 1932 and was a member for over 68 years. She served as a Past Master and Golden Sheaf member of the Grange. She belonged to Mount Hope Rebekah Lodge No. 58, joining in 1926, a member for more than 74 years. She was Past Noble Grand, District Deputy, President of the Past Noble Grand Club and a member of the North Waterford Friendly Senior Citizens. She enjoyed her family, her friends, and acquaintances, of which she had many. She also was able to recite a lot of little ditties; she had one for every occasion. She could turn tears to laughter. If you needed a helping hand, she was there. She touched a lot of lives during her ninety-two years on this earth. She will be greatly missed by family and friends. She married Chester L. Holt on December 26, 1926. He died on September 9, 1951. She is survived by two sons, Arthur of North Waterford and Arlin of Norway; two daughters, Patricia Buck of Stoneham and Sharon McAllister of Stoneham; 13 grandchildren; 15 great-grandchildren; four great-great-grandchildren; two step-grandchildren. She was predeceased by a daughter, Eleanor Kimball; brothers Charles, Delwin, and George Merrill; a half brother Ernest Merrill; a sister Elsie Morey; granddaughter Wendy Holt and grandson Alan Holt. She is buried in Woodlawn Cemetery.

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.

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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

Purchase a pair of Waterford histories for \$20.

Happiness of Home & Garden

by Nancy Chute Marcotte

Testament of Happiness

Letters of Annie Oakes Huntington

Edited by Nancy Byrd Turner

published by The Anthoensen Press

Portland, Maine, 1947

Annie Oakes Huntington came to Waterford with her best friend, Jeannette Payson, in 1908. Together they built a home above Keoka Lake, which they called "Lane's End." Today it is the John and Karen O'Brien home.

"Miss Payson," as she was always called in town, had the house built to her own design. The grounds were the province of Miss Huntington, an expert on botany.

Annie was born in 1875 in Jamaica Plain, Massachusetts. Her childhood was spent in China and her girlhood in Boston just before the turn of the last century. Her family ties were to the Quincys and Huntingtons of Boston.

Before she was 16, Annie began writing for the *Youth's Companion* and other magazines. But in readjusting to life in the United States after Hong Kong, she passed through a period of depression in which she avoided crowds and, in fact, company of any kind. Her solitude was spent in contemplation of nature — the great restorative often prescribed in the Victorian age.

A book she wrote at that time, *Studies of Trees in Winter*, was good enough to be adopted for instruction in the Yale School of Forestry — a remarkable feat for one so young. The publication of the book pulled her out of her depression and the resulting series of public lectures she was asked to give took her out of her timidity and solitude.

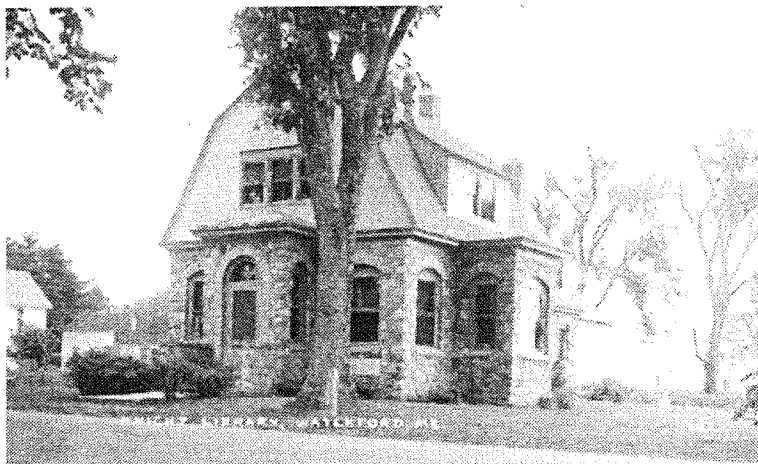
This in turn led her to the field of landscape gardening. It was a field in its heyday in American life and one which was open to women.

Nancy Byrd Turner's introduction

to the published collection of Annie's letters recounts that she began planting in the suburbs of Boston and Hartford. Earlier, Hartford, Conn. was the home of America's foremost landscape architect, Frederick Law Olmsted, who may have been an influence on Annie.

Portland, Maine also used her designs for "a little city park" near the Portland Water Co. reservoir, thanks to the backing of Jeannette's brother Edgar, who owned the water company for a time. The Paysons had considerable influence on building in the vicinity of Portland, being promoters of the architects John Calvin Stevens and his son John Howard Stevens.

The Payson influence continues



The Waterford Library displays the Colonial Revival style of architecture. It was rebuilt in 1938 after the '37 fire destroyed the original 1911 building. It was designed by John Calvin Stevens of Portland.

today. The bequest of Winslow Homer paintings and the I. M. Pei building for the Portland Museum of Art came from Charles Shipman Payson, Jeannette's nephew. In Waterford, Miss Payson contributed to the school and other charitable activities — primarily for the children.

John Calvin Stevens and his son designed several buildings in this part of Maine — notably the Wilkins House and Waterford Library here in town.

"Society" was Annie Oakes Huntington's natural milieu, but she much preferred nature, particularly her visits to seaside and mountaintop.

It was in Chocorua, NH, in 1896 that Annie met Jeannette Payson. They traveled together after that — surpris-

ingly to some of my favorite places: Woodstock, Vermont; Beaufort and Charleston, South Carolina; Asheville, North Carolina. The home of the Vanderbilts at Asheville, BILTMORE, became the first forestry school in the United States, under Olmsted's encouragement. (The Vanderbilts and Whitneys intermarried with Paysons when Joan Whitney married Charles Shipman Payson in 1924.)

Annie Oakes Huntington's letters sometimes are tales of her visits to interesting places, but she was not just interested in flora and fauna. She corresponded with people all over the world.

She once astonished a Chinese laundry man by speaking to him in his native tongue. She greeted an Italian fruit seller in Faneuil Hall with the same warmth she used with the men of Yale.

Her laugh was described as "infectious." Annie was humorous, spirited, compassionate and giving — someone who "created happiness" even in long years of illness before her death in 1940.

She wrote about life with the extended Payson family at Falmouth Foreside (where Jeannette's niece, Louise Payson, was growing up to become one of Maine's premiere landscape architects.) Annie also wrote from

her family home on Glen Road in Jamaica Plain. But most delightful to me are her observations on life at Lane's End from 1908 until 1940. Here are some excerpts:

Waterford, Maine 1908

I never saw Waterford when it seemed more fresh and beautiful, and we are out the whole day through, and as brown as it is possible for Anglo-Saxons to be. It is a perfectly lovely place, and we love the people . . .

Your letter sounded as if Hartford was as hot this summer as Waterford. We had a long drought which made everything brittle and wizened, and dried up the vegetables and produced a crop of green caterpillars, which ate their way from the White Mountains to the sea, leaving the forests as bare as they are in January . . .

However we were busy every moment across the pond building the house. And dear me! it is sweet. You know Jen drew the plans herself and we have personally superintended every inch of the work, returning at noon for dinner, and going back right afterwards, for the afternoon.

I couldn't exist without having a hand in the work and spent about two weeks drilling out a rock for the corner stone! I finally made six holes three inches deep all myself, and then I went at it with wedges and a sledge hammer and split it open--and as long as I live I shall never do another. I doubt if I should have finished this if the workmen had not been so confident I would never do it! That's always a tonic.

In these letters, Jeannette Payson is called alternately Jen or Jane.

Glen Road, Mass. 1912

How nice that you like the House! Jane built it. She planned it in her head, then drew it to scale, made blue prints, and superintended every bit of the work, and truly for cunningness it is the sweetest little house in the world . . . How we leave it out in the snow all alone all winter, I don't know. It's the most human of little houses . . .

At thirty-six it isn't as easy to go barefoot as at twelve. You can at Waterford if you know the AUTOMOBILES aren't coming from Portland filled with people who do not fancy Pan . . . Jane has seen Pan. For twenty days she lived on Indian meal in the Maine woods when game was scarce, and she has taken me alone on an eight mile walk in the snow up Osceola Mountain and Chocoma, and she has been to the borders of Afghanistan in India without showing the white feather, and into the Desert in Egypt, and we've been off through the hills with a horse for six weeks at a time and eaten bread and cheese days on end . . .

1911

I'm awfully glad to be back up here in this absolutely adorable place (Franconia, N.H.). . . but there is no place on earth like Waterford, and I've been round the world, so I KNOW.

1913

. . . That blueberry pasture is all sweet fern and berry bushes, with quantities of mayflowers in Spring and red checkerberries tucked into the crevices. But there isn't a barn. Bess sleeps in the farmer's barn at the top of the lane, and there isn't a boat house. The Boat just drags itself up on the beach and turns over,--but there is plenty to eat, and that's something . . . When you come you shall have broiled chickens and green peas as tender as they grow, fresh from the garden, and string beans only just born, and lettuce as snappy and cold as thin ice, and ice cream for dinner . . .

The farmer at the top of the lane was Carl Hamlin. Eventually the women built a barn and in 1922 there was a fire at Lane's End in which they lost four cows, a calf, sows, chickens, the barn, henhouse, ice house and their automobile. They only just managed to save the house with pails of water until help came. Annie wrote:

I am building a new henhouse and I think Jeannette means to build a new barn this fall, but we haven't much heart for it, with our beautiful little herd gone, and it doesn't seem as if any strange cow could ever mean as much as the ones we've made so much of . . . one of them I had raised from a calf . . . and

she was more than seven-eighths human being.

Of Dogs and Ice Cream

Alfred and Ellen Haase of McWain Shores, Waterford, sent us the recollections of Rachel Newkirk, a Dartmouth acquaintance of their daughter. When Rachel was a child, she stayed with Miss Payson in Waterford. She remembered the farm, the cows and the ice cream "Aunt Jen" made. Miss Payson had "six or eight Pekinese dogs," Rachel Newkirk said, and every night each dog was given its own bowl of ice cream!

Annie also raised bees: *My hives all have names & I keep a bee-book with records of the goings on in each of them, and where the queens came from and how much honey was harvested.*

In the summer of 1924 young Charles Payson brought his fiancée, Joan Whitney, over from Poland Spring for a visit and a swim. They were fixed a meal: *scrambled eggs & sardines & tea and salad & Virginia fruit cake & they ate three separate cookings of eggs, which I cooked, so now I can boast that I've cooked for the Vanderbilts, &*

get a recommendation from Joan! . . . Jen is going down to the wedding July 5th (in Manhasset, New York.) and I was invited too, — my one chance for seeing how the other half live, but I'm not going to take it.



Annie Baker Huntington

A new radio was a delight for them in 1924 — from Lane's End they could listen to symphonies beamed from Washington, Boston, Philadelphia or Schenectady. She wrote: *It has brought the only thing Waterford lacked . . .*

Also in 1924, carpenters put a new roof on Lane's End and added two guest rooms, a bathroom and a sleeping porch.

By 1932 Annie's garden was lovely, *with quantities of lilies-of-the-valley, a lovely blue tall phlox, many violets and pansies, the lilacs in heavy beautiful clusters, and now many German iris . . .*

but Annie was often an invalid, given care by Jeannette and a series of Finnish hired girls or summer help from Radcliffe. She kept up a wonderful correspondence for the rest of her life and worked in her garden when she was able.

1935

Lane's End was sweet this spring with hundreds of little English primroses in bloom with low phlox of a lovely shade of lavender. I am in my "pants" and even at the fast approaching age of sixty-one can work and grub, and pull and stoop, and bend and dig, and carry things all day long & go to bed and sleep like a top . . .

We will continue in the next issue with stories of winter at Lane's End.

AUTHOR'S NOTE

I happened across this volume in the Waterford Library one day. It was serendipitous because I was at that time working on research about landscape architects. The coincidences continued as I read about her visits to some of my favorite landscapes.

Please send your recollections of Misses Payson and Huntington to Nancy Marcotte, 27 Shurtleff Avenue, South Paris, ME 04281 so that we can publish them.

President's Column

William A. Wheeler III

ONE OF OUR GREATEST VOLUNTEERS

In late March, Margaret Sawyer lost her long and courageous battle with Alzheimer's Disease. In recognition of her lengthy period of volunteering time, wisdom and loyalty to the Waterford Historical Society, her family requested memorial donations be directed to the Society. While discussing the arrangements with her family, I was reminded of just how much Margaret AND OTHERS have given to the Society. The time that she spent at the treasury function. The long and sometimes lonesome hours keeping the museums open. Her

enthusiasm for accumulating and organizing our collection set a goal for us to strive toward. It is fitting that the contributions made in her memory will be applied to the current cataloguing effort (See Page one of this edition of the Echoes).

Perhaps Margaret's most enduring legacy was to set an example of what volunteerism means and how critical it is to our Society's realization of our mission. I have been assisting the Nashua (NH) Historical Society to develop a strategic plan for their going forward. Let me share some numbers:

☼ Nashua's population is 80,000 plus; Waterford's is 1,540.

☼ Nashua Historical Society has 200 members; we have 140.

☼ 74% of their membership have never volunteered for anything; 63% of our membership have donated their time at one point or another.

With that kind of support the Society will push forward, spurred on by Margaret and her peers' example and by the many active volunteers that are the current backbone of our efforts.

Thank you Margaret and thank you to the past and present group of contributors. The Society and the Town owe you a debt of gratitude.

Whizzer Wheeler

James Tyler (1919-1997) remembers

Virginia Tyler Cutler found the following among her brother's papers. James wrote in 1931 of the Rounds general store, which was also the Post Office in the Flat. It is reprinted as it was found.

Please let your minds wander back in time about fifty years to a little village Store situated in Waterford flat the same stre [sic] that still stands today with very few changes. Picture if you will a tall pot bellied wood stove standing in the center of the room, where the freezers are today, a glassed in candy counter - full of chocolates and candy bars; a bunch of bananas hangs from the ceiling.

It is afternoon.

It is a cold snowy Saturday afternoon in February. Frank Morgan has arrived after his mail. As usual he is ready for a checker game. The checker board is made of sturdy wood in all one piece so that the players can sit on a stick of wood with the checker board on their laps. Fred Wentworth has walked the four mile from his farm to see what is going on in the village. Frank and Mac Millett soon arrive in a sleigh pulled by old Chub (Frank usually had three or four horses named Chub). Frank has brought a dozen eggs which he will exchange for groceries.

Getting back to the checker game

Frank has now talked Fred into playing checkers with him. Everything goes well so long as Frank is winning but as soon as he thinks he is going to lose he has a trick nee (sic) which conveniently gives out letting the checkers and board go on the floor with no winner.

Guy Bancroft, more affectionately know as Moxie, arrives all out of breath. Some one (sic) asks why he is so out of breath and he says he has been trying to put a out a grass fire. He must be crazy to think any one (sic) would believe a story like that but he insists the fire is running in the grass under the snow and every once in a while it would come up through an air hole in the snow but before he can get to it the fire takes off under the snow again. He's got quite a problem.

Now our minister Dr. Bull comes in and says to Moxie, "Its pretty cold out. My wife says the mercury has gone into the little bulb at the

end of the thermometer. That's pretty cold." "Humph," Moxie says. "That's nothing. When I left home my wife was down in the cellar with a spade digging but so far hasn't been able to find the end of the mercury yet."

It is getting late in the afternoon almost dark. Fred starts to walk the four miles back up the hill. Frank and Mac get into the sleigh and old Chub starts for home. All the checker players have gone so Mr. Morgan goes home.

How do I know about this Saturday afternoon at Rounds Store because I was a little 12 year old boy sitting in the corner watching and listening. All of the people of whom I mention are gone now but their (sic) is one thing I know is that Frank and Fred are still playing checkers

some where (sic) and I suspect that Dr. Bull and Moxie are still spinning stories in the Great Beyond.





FROM THE NEWSPAPER FILES OF THE WATERFORD HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Grocer surprises gas thief

(1960) A thief was discovered at his work Friday morning in North Waterford after he'd taken gas from three cars and a pickup.

Leon Lovejoy, who owns a grocery store in the "corner" of the village, told Deputy Sheriff Earl Libby of North Waterford that his dog awoke him at 1 a.m. by licking his face and running to the window. Lovejoy said he went to the window and saw a man entering his car with a flashlight. He said without thinking he yelled and the intruder fled in a battered pickup truck.

Upon investigation, it was discovered that the gas had been taken from the gas tanks of all four vehicles in the yard and tools taken from three of them. Lovejoy said his car was packed with suitcases as he had planned to leave at 3:30 a.m. to visit his son at Sampson AFB, NY, but that the thief didn't take any of the luggage as he was surprised before he could empty the contents.

A spotlight as well as tools were taken from the car owned by Luther Hatch and tools from Vivian Hatch's auto. The doors of all the people had been left open. Traces of the spilled gasoline were left on the ground.



Walter Lord said he had filled his gas tank several days ago and left the car in his unlocked barn. Thursday morning he had found the gas tank empty. Lord lives in the house next to Lovejoy.

Pipeline break spews oil

(1960) A break in the Portland Pipeline a short distance from the pumping station at North Waterford made that area of Waterford a potential powder keg early Saturday morning.

The pipe carrying crude oil broke on the hill above the Waterford Pumping Station and a brook of oil came rushing down the hillside and across the highway into a small brook where it put an 8-inch coating of oil over the water.

The Oxford County Sheriff's Department and State Police were alerted and road blocks were set up to keep spectators away from the area.

Dee C. Hutchins, superintendent of the Waterford station, said that the crude oil was highly combustible.

The Norway, Paris and Oxford fire departments were called to the scene to be ready in case something should happen to ignite the fumes which filled the area.

All available bulldozers from the area were rushed to the scene to build earth dams

in the brook to keep the oil from getting into Crooked River. Hutchins estimated that over 1,000 barrels of oil spread over the area.

Authorities confronted with the hazard decided to burn the accumulated substance later Sunday. This was done in the brook, which the bulldozers had turned into a series of pools separated by earth dams.

Two rooms added to school

(Jan. 20, 1955) With the addition of two new rooms on the Waterford Memorial School completed this year, the town's school system is completely consolidated.

The closing of the one-room school at North Waterford and transfer of 30 pupils to the Memorial School has now made it possible for the 183 pupils of the town to get their elementary schooling under the same roof.

At the last town meeting, \$25,000 was appropriated for construction for the new rooms, one at each end of the five-year-old school, to house the fifth and sixth grade in one room and the 31 pupils in the sub-primary school in the other room. The small children have their own entrance.

The problem of transporting the 183 children to and from school is solved by two 40-passenger buses and two smaller buses. The longest route is for the pupils from the Portland

Pipe Line section of town who travel eight miles each way.

Sen. Smith visits World's Fair

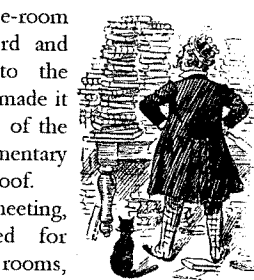
(Oct. 1, 1955) "This is truly a country fair," remarked Senator Margaret Chase Smith this afternoon after several hours of roaming around the World's Fair grounds.

Senator Smith arrived in mid-forenoon and immediately visited the cattle department, where more than 100 head were appearing in the dairy show.

Fair Secretary William Button welcomed her and escorted her to the different departments.

"Isn't this an impressive sight," said the Senator, pointing to the hundreds of jars of canned goods in the exhibition hall. "It almost seems that the women must have had measuring rule to have each jar so identical. It takes us back to the olden days when everyone made canning a fall project."

At noon, Senator Smith joined the group going from the fairgrounds to the vestry of the North Waterford Congregational Church, where members of the Ladies Circles of the East Stoneham, North Waterford and Albany churches were



serving the annual fair dinner.

After the meal, the Senator headed back up the hillside fairgrounds for a visit to the pulling arena, where the afternoon card featured three classes. She joined with a grandstand full of patrons in applauding different teams when they moved the heavy stone-laden drag on a good pull.

Senator Smith then took a turn around the colorful midway, where she pushed and jostled her way good-naturedly through the crowd-packed fun trail. An estimated 8,000 were present.

Jones 55th celebrated

(April 10, 1961) A family party and get-together Sunday marked the 55th wedding anniversary of Wallace and Ethel Jones. Their three children, 12 grandchildren and three great-grandchildren along with many friends and neighbors, called at the 175-year-old farmhouse out on Jones Hill, three miles from North Waterford village.

Saturday saw Wallace, 82, carrying out his regular chores of caring for the 12 head of cattle, forking over hay and carrying grain. He then carried in the milk where his wife, the former Ethel Kilgore, 72, began making 11 pounds of butter.

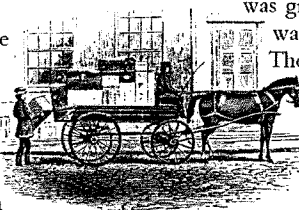
There have been weeks in the past years that Ethel Jones made up as many as 66 pounds of butter and a total yearly production of 3,000. Only two years ago, she made 2,000 pounds.

Last year, with the cutting of the herd, she made only 853 pounds. For the past few years she has called on her neighbor, Mrs. Lillian Herrick, to help her make up the weekly butter quota.

The couple live in the same farmhouse in which Wallace was born. The 250-acre farm was settled by John Proctor. The land was gradually cleared and finally the farm was owned by the Farmer family. Thomas Jones married Belle Farmer. The couple had one son, Wallace, who always worked around the farm until he married Ethel Kilgore.

The couple drove by team April 8, 1906 to Norway where they were married by Rev. B.F. Rideout and then drove the 15 miles back to North Waterford. They moved into the second story rent of the grain store operated at the foot of North Waterford hill by Wallace's father.

Wallace drove a four-horse team, from his home to Norway with lumber to be shipped from the Norway depot. He hauled back loads of grain for the store and for the Jones cattle. In spring, he harnessed six horses to the wagon so he could make the long trip through the muddy roads.



Archival project organizing records, photos

Continued from front page

some of the ledgers are scattered loose insets. The file cabinet also contains ledgers of a local general store and scrapbooks of clippings compiled by private individuals. Next to the file cabinet is a run of town annual reports and duplicates.

In the room are also seven boxes of photographs of local residents and scenes, many of which date from the late 19th century, and several other containers of miscellaneous records. The latter include playbills for local theatrical productions, books, records and issuances of fraternal organizations such as the Odd Fellows and the Crooked River Outing Club, newspaper clippings on humorist Artemus Ward, photograph albums and glass plate negatives and photographs (some framed) of Waterford Memorial School classes and subjects of local interest.

On June 6th we met again and reviewed the North Waterford Museum, in his report he writes:

The North Waterford Museum, a former Daughters of Rebekah hall now owned by the Society, contains even more and varied documentary material. In the main room on the first floor are about 20 scrapbooks donated by local residents which contain photographs and clippings about local events, obituaries, marriages and personalities, some of which date from the late 19th century but most of which date from the 1960s to the 1990s. In a room at the northwest are approximately 20 ledgers

of expenditures dating from the 1920s created by local businesses, many of which are unidentified but include the Waterford Creamery, a major employer in the community. In this room and on the second floor are a box of snapshots and negatives as well as photographs, some of which are framed; collections of loose

clippings; maps, some of which are quite large and are rolled, and posters; photocopies of local church records; an envelope of 'Stanwood' papers; videotapes and audio tapes of Society functions; back issues of the Advertiser-Democrat, published in Norway, Maine, which are bound with cord; volumes of Oak Leaf, published by the Sebago Club of Kirkwood,

MO.; genealogies in 3-ring binder; a wood box of tri-folded business records of an unknown firm; and World War II aircraft observation records donated by R. Knight.

Chris was thorough in his approach. He found ledgers hidden in an upstairs closet as well as a cache of photographs in a side desk drawer. He gave Katherine instruction and direction in the creation of a database to inventory our collection.

She has started with organizing the town reports and has already completed inventorying the town records. Katherine has begun work on the photograph collections as well as some personal papers.

So Far, So Good...

I am pleased to report that although there is still much to be done, there has

been a sizable amount already accomplished. We are fortunate to have found in Chris and Katherine, two highly competent people who are pleasant and easy to work with. We will keep you posted as the project proceeds.



Waterford Historical Society



OF MILLS AND MEN— About 75 gathered for the June meeting to hear Walter Brown discuss growing up in South Waterford and his memories of the old mills along City Brook. Above, Agnes Lahti, left, chats with Charlotte Longley Orr. Below, Ruth Haynes Chute visits with Walter Brown.



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ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED