

Waterford Echoes

VOLUME XVIII Number 1 (Issue 32)

Winter 2001

Waterford Historical Society

A country doctor's ledger, 1834-1842

by William A. Wheeler III
Great-great grandson of Dr. Leander Gage

Who was Dr. Leander Gage?

The family history notes that Leander was born in Bethel on Sept. 30, 1791, married Ann Sargent on Oct. 7, 1820 and died in Waterford on April 24, 1842. It goes on to state that he was a physician in Waterford. He had eight children.

What we also know is that Leander was the son of Lois and Amos Gage of Bethel. Their house still stands. Leander attended Dartmouth Medical School for two years (not enough to get a regular degree, but enough to be certified). He first set up practice in Newry where on occasion he had to amputate a leg from an injured man. He lacked the instruments to perform the procedure so he sent for a friend and classmate, Dr. Farnsworth of Bethel. "Send over your surgical apparatus and any old saw, even a carpenter's saw will do."

Somewhere in time he met Ann Sargent, the illegitimate child of Daniel Sargent of Boston. She had been sent away from the Boston "scandal" to live with Rev. & Mrs. Lincoln Ripley, the first minister at the Waterford Congregational Society. (For more on Ann Sargent, refer to the Waterford Echoes #26, Summer 1997.)

Ann and Leander were married in 1820 and he set up shop in Waterford. Early medical practice must have been hard on the newlyweds. It was standard practice not to pay the doctor for at least a year. How they survived the first years, I do not know. The ledger that I analyzed starts in 1833. By then, all of their children were born. So what I am reporting is their more "successful" years until Leander's early death at age 50.

A few facts:

- In 1840, the doctor's total costs were \$879.97 of which about 40% was medicine or other supplies.
- In the same year, he received \$684.36

in cash or notes and \$455.22 payment in kind, i.e. goods and services.

- He had 169 families that he ministered to. That is an average of \$5.20 per family and 65 cents a call or office visit.

- For those of you who are adding the numbers, Leander was net ahead \$259.61 for the year. This is not surprising since the payment turnover time was



1.9 years and he was catching up on his early non-payment years.

Medical fees:

- Tooth extraction cost 17 cents. The price never changed from 1834 to 1842. Mr. Griffith had an exceptionally "bad tooth" and was charged 25 cents. You could get a "two-fer" for 30 cents, saving 4 cents.

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Payment in full — a century later

The following was originally written by Mary Gage Rice, great granddaughter of Dr. Leander Gage, and published in the Journal of the Maine Medical Association, June 1967.

Dr. Leander Gage became the typical country doctor of his day, having a wide and successful practice. In summer, he drove his chaise around the countryside, but in winter and spring, he was compelled oftentimes to visit his patients on horseback. He was at once doctor, surgeon, oculist, dentist, nurse, counselor, friend and priest to the inhabitants not only of his own town, but the neighboring towns — in fact, the "Beloved Physician" of the entire countryside. Among his patients was John Chamberlain, who lived for many years in Waterford. His son, Charles Moody Chamberlain, was born in 1841 before the family moved away.

In 1842, Leander Gage died when only 50 years old (The family eventually sold the house in Waterford). Time marches on.

In 1921, over 100 years after Dr. Gage first set up practice, his grandson, Dr.

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ROLLING ALONG — This post card of a 6-horse hitch pulling a snow roller in Waterford was mailed in 1909 from T. Hovey Gage to his daughter, Mary Gage, in Worcester, Mass.

In Memoriam

Margaret Elaine Gordon, 66, of North Waterford, died July 29, 2000 at her daughter's home in New York. Born Feb. 1, 1934, in Grand Ledge, Mich., she was the daughter of Stanley C. Shappell and Dora Smith Shappell. She worked for 10 years as a factory worker for National Products of Oxford. Surviving are her children, Linnette Mellott of Fulton, N.Y., Barry Paradis of Oxford, Glenn Paradis of North Norway, Bryan Paradis of Ventura, Calif., and Keith Paradis of Fort Smith, Ark.; her siblings, Donald Shappell of Epping, N.H., Josephine Nichols of Northfield, N.H., Duane Shappell of Sarasota, Fla., Helen Jackson of Oxford and William Shappell of Surry, VA; 16 grandchildren; and one great-grandchild. She is buried in Riverside Cemetery in Oxford.

Stanley Bion Brown, 81, of Wakefield, Mass., whose career in the trucking industry in Maine and in the Boston area spanned more than 60 years, died Wednesday, Sept. 13, 2000 at the Bear Hill Nursing Center in Stoneham, Mass. following a long illness. He was born in 1919 in Waterford, the son of Louis and Clara Brown. Mr. Brown began his trucking career during high school when he worked for his guardian and uncle, Howard Sanborn, founder of Sanborn's Motor Express in Norway. In 1950, Mr. Brown bought Lincoln's Express, an intrastate coastal trucking concern headquartered in Portland, which he operated until 1958 when he returned to Sanborn's Express as operations manager. He moved to Lynnfield, Mass. in 1962 to become terminal manager first for Sanborn's Express in Stoneham, Mass., and later for Cole's Express and Lombard Brothers. He retired from Crystal Motor Express in Wakefield, Mass. in 1997. Mr. Brown served in the U. S. Navy during World War II. He was a past member of the Shriners and Masons. His love of golf resulted in his becoming a charter member of the Thompson Club in North Reading, Mass. An avid fly fisherman, he especially relished annual fishing trips to Pierce Pond in Maine with relatives. He is survived by his wife, Gertrude (Burke) of Wakefield, Mass.; two sons, S. Bruce of Portland and Peter A. of Reading, Mass.; a brother, Liston Brown of Poland; a stepson, M. Robert Rose, and a stepdaughter, Susan Smith both of Wellesley, Mass.; a half-brother, Reid Grover of North Waterford; a half-sister, Donna Dunn of Mechanic Falls; and eight grandchildren. He was predeceased by his first wife, Priscilla A. Morton, and a daughter, Barbara Alsop.

Edgar E. Merrill, 81, of South Waterford, died Oct. 31, 2000 at the Maine Veterans Home. He was born in Bethel on Oct. 29, 1919, the son of Lewis V. and Winifred Maxim Merrill. He graduated from Bridgton Academy and was employed by A.C. Lawrence Leather Co. in South Paris, Morse Orchards in Waterford and worked as a woodsman, union carpenter, millwright and farmer. He served during World War II in Europe. He was a member of the Ronald G. St. John VFW Post 9328 of Harrison and the Norway-Paris Fish & Game Club. He married Margaret Bell on Jan. 8, 1940. He is survived by seven sons, Robert L. of Parachute, Colo., Richard E. of Concord, N.H., Edward C. of Lee Center, N.Y., Russell W. of Harrison, Raymond W. of Waterford, William W. of South Paris and James C. of Waterford; seven daughters, Elizabeth Ouellette of Eastham, Mass., Jane Jones of Norway, Shirley Merrill of Waterford, Mary Delamater of Oxford, Gail Merrill of Waterford, Karen Hill of Norway and Marcia Butters of Waterford; one sister, Marguerite Whitney of Port Clyde; 33 grandchildren and 26 great-grandchildren. He was predeceased by his wife Aug. 21, 1997, one brother, Leslie, and one sister, Verna Packard. He is buried in Elm Vale Cemetery.



Edgar E. Merrill

Herbert W. Durant Sr., 89, of Bisbeetown Road died Jan 15, 2001 at Market Square Health Care Center in South Paris. He was born in Berwick, June 13, 1911, the son of William and Maude Wakefield Durant. He attended school in Berwick and served in the Army Air Corps during World War II. He worked as a millwright, a self-employed carpenter and as a carpenter for Russ Smith. He was a Maine Guide and loved hunting and fishing. He married Hazel Proctor, who predeceased him. Survivors include a son, Herbert W. Jr. of Waterford; a brother, Bernard, of Rochester, N.H.; three grandchildren, and several nieces and nephews.

Archival collection inventory completed

by Mary Ann Holme, Curator

By the middle of August, summer intern Katherine Hoving had finished the arduous inventory of our complete archival collection. She did a wonderfully thorough job and was a pleasure to work with. All of our photographs have been placed in protective Mylar sleeves. Documents were stored in acid free archival boxes and appropriately protected to further insure their integrity.

Katherine entered all of the inventory information into computer files. We have since acquired a laptop notebook computer. Our plan is to have the inventory of the archival collection available on the computer at the Waterford Library. The second phase

of the project (the organization, placement and arrangement of the material) is now in progress. In order to provide more accessibility, we will use space in the Flora Abbott Reading Room of the library. All of the ledgers and business records, social and fraternal town organization papers are presently located on the shelves. All of our scrapbooks are housed here in archival boxes as well.

The town records will be stored at the Old Town House in two large fire-resistant filing cabinets. Postal records and school records will remain at the town hall. Our extensive photography collection is also presently located at the Town House. Due to space constraints at the library, it will probably remain there.

During the winter months, we hope to have a portion of the photographs scanned and entered into our computer files. This will maximize their accessibility while insuring their continued preservation.

That should bring you up to speed on our New Century Grant Preservation Project. Next spring and summer we are looking forward to beginning the process of cataloging our artifact collection located at the North Waterford Museum. We hope to engage a summer intern again to help make this happen. This past summer, the building was painted and we improved the lighting. Now that we have accomplished some much needed physical improvements to the Museum itself, we intend to move forward on the interior exhibits.

Birch Rock Camp to Celebrate 75th Anniversary

by David Sanderson

Children's camps are probably the oldest continuously operating businesses in Waterford. When summer camps were at a high point in the late 1920s, there were 11 in Waterford and some 75 in the general area, with a total summer population of about 5,000 children. A handful of these camps are still going strong after a century.

Birch Rock Camp on McWain Pond had its first season in 1926, and, except for one summer skipped because of World War II, has operated every summer since. The 2001 season will be its 75th and the camp plans to commemorate Birch Rock's history and principles. The anniversary will be celebrated on Aug. 11, 12 when everyone associated with Birch Rock is invited to remember the past and enjoy the camp as it is today.

Birch Rock was founded by William Brewster and Bartlett Boyden, colleagues at Newton Country Day School in Massachusetts, where Mr. Brewster was the headmaster. Mr. Boyden's life led him away from the camp after a few years. The love of William and Onie Brewster for the camp, McWain Hill and Waterford made Birch Rock the center of their lives for the next four decades and their resting place after their deaths.

William quickly became "Chief"

Brewster to the camp. Onie took her love for teaching and education and spent her summers working at tutoring campers in reading. Both were people with strong, memorable personalities and equally strong principles. Their work at shaping the philosophy of the camp has made it a place where personal growth for the campers is paramount.

After the Brewsters' deaths, the camp was operated for a time by their grandsons. Then, former campers got together with the Brewster family to form a new nonprofit corporation, which has guided the camp for more than a decade. In that time, there have been major construction projects. The foundation of the main lodge was replaced and enlarged along with a new well and septic system and an additional cabin to accommodate the growing enrollment.

The camp now enrolls about 100 boys per summer, in 3-, 4- and 7-week programs. It has the reputation among Maine camps of being one of the best small camps in the state. This summer new programs are being added, including an ambitious three-week Wilderness Adventure program for older campers and a new 1-week Family Camp where parents can bring their families to enjoy Birch Rock.

Here is a quote from the camp's

very first brochure, for the 1926 season, written when the camp was still just an idea and not so much as a tent platform existed:

BIRCH ROCK CAMP proposes to teach boys how to camp; that is, how to derive the greatest benefit from an experience in the open. In so doing it cannot fail to develop a boy physically, mentally, socially, and spiritually. His growth physically will be achieved not by participation in sports to which he has access during the school year, but by a judicious indulgence in the real outdoor sports of swimming, canoeing, riflery, fishing, hiking, and camping, the aim being to achieve and then maintain the normal condition of physical fitness. In like fashion his mental growth will result from a departure from the usual textbook subjects to the study of natural sciences by means of firsthand observation and practical experimentation. The boy, being with others of his own age or thereabouts, all under the guidance of refined leaders, will develop socially so as to be better fitted to take his proper place, when the time comes, in the world and its work. Intimate association with nature and the resulting true appreciation of it will do far more than anything sectarian to bring about that spiritual growth so essential to true and honorable living.

Waterford Echoes

Vol. XVIII Number 1 Issue 32 Winter 2001

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.

WINTER AT LANE'S END

by Nancy Chute Marcotte

Part II – 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 the home of John and Karen O'Brien.

From 1908 until her death in 1940, the landscape gardener and writer Annie Oakes Huntington spent months of each year at the Waterford home designed and built by Jeannette Payson. "Miss Payson" (as she was known locally) was one of the Portland Paysons and a friend and benefactor to the people of Waterford. Her companion, "Miss Huntington," came from Boston and Jamaica Plain, Mass.

Annie's delightful letters to friends all over the world were collected into a book called **Testament of Happiness**. Edited by Nancy Byrd Turner, it was published by The Anthoensen Press in Portland. One copy can be found at The Waterford Library.

In January, 1937, Annie wrote to her friend Caddie from above Keoka Lake:

It is wonderfully lovely here, and my room looks out on the pond and the western hills, where I get the most heavenly effects in the early morning. First a peculiar indigo blue, which has a steel-like quality before light comes, then gradually the loveliest warm glow from the reflected light of the sunrise . . .

"The spirit of delight Comes often on small wings . . ."

The women at Lane's End always delighted in seeing their Waterford neighbors:

Sometimes someone comes to see us.

Mabel Gage, for instance, who lives in her grandfather's house across the pond and spent last winter in China and whose adventures in Fu Kien read like a fascinating story. She is deaf and tiny and looks like a little Chinese mandarin herself, and seldom have I known a more well-informed person. She puts a special light in her window for me to see, and it makes a path of light on the ice across the pond, like a little silver trail. She stays until well into January, and like Eliza, she crosses the ice — comes right across the pond on snow shoes — and every spring we find a birch bark note sticking up on a pin from her, recording the temperature and the height of the drift she surmounted to reach our door!

Sun. 12/26/1936

We really had quite a public recognition as a Christmas celebration. The children at the head of the lane went into the woods and cut down a little spruce tree, fitted it themselves into a block of wood (with a slight cast to one side, which made it properly child-hand-made), decorated it in silver, and arrived as a family to present

it, the girl Nancy Hamlin (13 years old) and the two little boys and their father, and when placed on a table and connected, it blazed forth in colored

lights, and all stood round my bed in a Christmas tableau! Then Christmas Eve at about eleven p.m. (when I must confess Jeanette and I had been wrapped in deep sleep for about two hours), the Pekes began to bark. There seemed to be quite a flurry of cars arriving in the barn-yard under my win-

dow and then the strains of voices singing. I thought at first it was a party of drunks, when the first tune began . . . but soon . . . we realized that the Oxford County United Parish were announcing to us in a rather thin thread of song (but with the utmost neighborly kindness) that unto them a child was born!

It was Carl Hamlin's family who brought the Christmas tree. His wife, Mina, had been one of a series of Miss Payson's Finnish or Swedish girls.

Annie Oakes Huntington suffered from lung ailments and came to look upon Waterford as her "ideal winter resort." She was

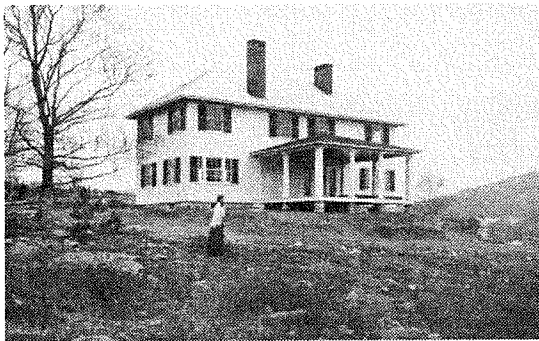
tended by Dr. Hubbard as well as a nice young man from Norway, and "a woman doctor from Paris Hill." She went regularly to a "T. B. sanitarium near here" (probably Hebron) for X-rays and treatment. She visited with Mrs. C. A. Stephens (both C. A. Stephens and Annie Huntington had been correspondents to **The Youth's Companion**). She wrote: "Tomorrow Madame Scala, the former opera singer, is coming to tell me the story of her life from Paris, Maine to Paris, France, and her debut." That was Mrs. Stephens.

She wrote the first time she'd been outdoors in winter up here that "though I still can't breathe well enough to walk any, I get over the stairs once a day and out to drive, and I am utterly ravished by the beauty of this country . . . Such color in the mountains . . . and snow-covered ranges, and tiny farms with the smoke curling up, and children with bright hoods and mittens in the dooryards, and everywhere you look, a picture."

She wrote about seeing "Willis Learned and his horses and sledge of lumber go down the length of the pond on the ice."



Jeannette Payson



Lane's End after its construction in 1908.

On Valentine's Day, the boys and girls of the Fourth Grade School (at Bear Mt. Grange Hall) sent her a Valentine "made by themselves and delivered by two little boys in a brown paper bag. They had decorated a basket, surrounded by huge paper hearts wax crayoned in color, with 'I love you' and the child's name."

In the box were bananas, fudge, penny lollipops, a grapefruit, clover honey and other goodies, including a crooked wedge of cake in wax paper. When Annie realized what sacrifices had been made by children with so little money, she wept.

In the fall of 1938, the women rode out the big hurricane at Lane's End and had no electricity, water, heat or telephone. It reminded Annie of a typhoon she had experienced as a child in China and she wrote:

We lost some trees, and great branches of the beech trees were swept by the windows and swirled into the pasture, but we came out well compared to the devastation all around us, and the awful loss of life to the south of us.

In 1939 they heard the news of war in Europe over the radio and in letters from friends:

And now here comes another great colossal catastrophe, and what isn't knocked down by bombs and destroyed by fire and turned into hideous ruins, will perish and leave such social and financial destruction that no one will have the money to rebuild with beauty or design anyway. No Europe left, and if America remains, how hideous and cheap everything will be where the proletariat takes possession, for of course revolution will follow the misery and poverty and crime of a second stupendous afterwar depression.

Thanksgiving, 1939

We turned on the radio at 6:30 this morning and got the news here in Waterford, Maine exactly three-quarters of an hour from the time Russia invaded Finland. Doesn't it seem as if the Devil himself is in the saddle and heading us all into perdition?

And later:

We agonize over Europe and hang drooping over the radio, and wonder what will happen next--and then rush to hear and then agonize again, and feel our fingers tighten into fighting fists and know how it goes surging into the blood to DO something. He seems to have invoked the powers of Satan himself, and together the powers of evil are set loose--the high and mighty twin rulers of the universe.

1940

You ask about the radio, we depend on it a lot for getting our news from



Miss Payson gives her "Pekes" an outing.

Europe every morning and again at night . . . we thoroughly enjoy the N.Y. Philharmonic concerts every Sunday afternoon . . . we listen in 'round one o'clock a.m. at the Democratic Convention to see what that coquettish philanderer was up to the night he announced his hat was in the ring for the third time.

Her political convictions seem clear, at least about Hitler and Roosevelt! She wrote one friend, rather optimistically, "I think Wendell Wilkie has F.D.R. on the run; and it won't be long before the British lick the Germans to a frazzle, and after that, happy days will be here again, with prosperity just around the corner."

She and some of her friends formed the "Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to the Duke of Windsor." Kate Wheeler Payson, "Duchess of Portland," was a member; Margaret Payson was President and Annie was Secretary. They wrote humorously about how to guard the Duke against the subtle cruelties of the Royal Family, the Archbishop of Canterbury and

the "strangle-hold grip of the Duchess of Windsor herself."

She wrote about how she hated Lindbergh's "ungracious" mean nature, but loved his wife, Anne Morrow Lindbergh. In fact, the women remained in close contact with the rest of the world, here in their "smiling beautiful land in the mountains."

Four years earlier, before she had pleurisy, Annie was seen filling in pot-holes "on the dirt road between here and Harrison which bothered us, they were so rough." One of the selectmen who saw her working with a friend used the fact that "women had to get out to mend the road" to convince the town that the state road should come through Waterford. Her outdoor life in gardening, hiking and camping had led her to live more years than might have been expected after her long bouts of ill health.

Ten years before she died she wrote from Lane's End:

The bees are all packed away in winter cases, and the pullets taken into winter quarters, the waterfowl have made their little migration to the other barn for the cold months, Pixie and the cows have left the tie-up & gone across the fields, and only three Christmas geese (not long for this world) and the Peke family are left at Lane's End, while rough winds blow outside, and whirls of snow sweep across the unused threshold of the front door, and at night the stars all seem as bright as planets, and the pond is frozen & you can hear the grinding of the great beds of ice, and inside we pile on the logs, draw up beside the fire, and settle down to long, quiet, lovely evenings of reading. When it gets less cold outside, we carry a case of eggs to the station, get supplies and Christmas presents, and even go to a good movie when one comes along. How I love life in the country! Even now when most people would say, "What in the world do you find to do?"

She wrote her last letter on October 23, 1940 and five weeks later died in a Portland hospital, on November 27, 1940. Her zest for life continued until the last.

President's Column

William A. Wheeler III

THE COMPREHENSIVE PLAN FOR WATERFORD

At the March 3rd town meeting, a new comprehensive plan will be presented for approval by the town voters. The plan, required by state law, is NOT an ordinance, NOR is it a zoning plan. It is intended as a guide for future land use and for the development of specific ordinances which will be put before the Town at future meetings. That said, the proposed plan has some points important to the historic and

archeological preservation of Waterford.

One of the basic premises that was employed in the development of the plan was the recognition that Waterford "is a quiet, rural community" whose qualities make it a "special place." The plan further recognizes that "Waterford contains some of the best historic architecture in Maine." The plan states, "These structures are important to the character of Waterford, and their degradation or loss would greatly change the town character." Currently there are NO



safeguards to assure that structures in the Flat and the village centers of North and South Waterford will maintain their historic architectural values. NOR are there any assurances that archeological sites are not lost.

The new comprehensive plan addresses the above issues and contains some simple, non-threatening strategies for assuring the preservation of the historical and archeological "values." Copies of the proposed plan are available at the Municipal Offices. The Board of Directors of the Society urges you to support this important first step toward the maintenance of our heritage and historic character.

Early postcards provide treasures

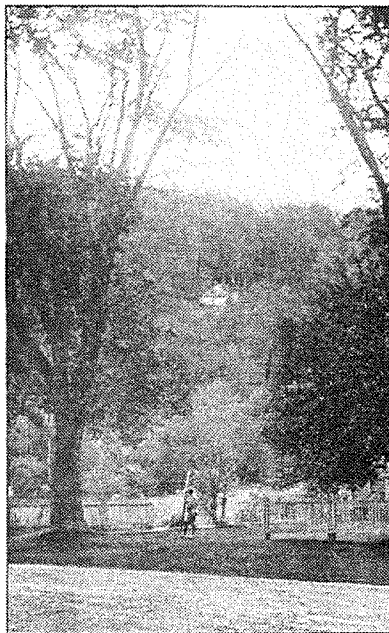
by David Sanderson

Time was, there were a lot more postcards of local scenes than we find today. Between about 1905 and 1920 postcards were used for everything including Christmas and other holiday cards. If you wanted to, you could get your snapshots printed on postcards, ready to mail to your friends. If you were a visitor, the local stores could accommodate you. Larry Rounds, who ran the store at Waterford Flat, had a series of postcards done up that included scenes of the Flat and Keoka Lake. Regional postcard companies supplied cards of their own from photos taken by traveling photographers.

Here's a postcard published by "Chamberlain, Norwood, Mass.," postmarked July 17, 1908, with a bit of a mystery attached. We're in Waterford Flat, standing on the road nearly opposite the library, and looking across the road and upwards to Mount Tire'm. Across the road we see the picket fence in front of the house opposite, and on the right of the picture a window and corner of the stable that was then part of those buildings - the house is the last on the right as you leave the Flat, still right there absent the stable and fence. Apro-

pos of nearby Keoka, presumably, the figure standing in the driveway is holding a pair of oars. Flag Rock shows on the mountain behind, a large piece of ledge that juts out from the steep slope.

Published by Chamberlain, Norwood, Mass.



FLAG ROCK, WATERFORD, ME.

It's still there - stand in front of the library and look across the road and you'll see it.

The mystery has to do with the identity and history of Flag Rock. It seems not to be a familiar landmark; nor is it mentioned anywhere in the two Waterford histories as best we can determine. But it sounds interesting, and if anyone knows the whys and wherefores of Flag Rock we'd like to hear about it.

The postcard was sent by a vacationer to one Master Kenneth Pillsbury, 1 Belmont St., Amesbury, Massachusetts, and reads "Dear Kenneth. This is the mountain we climbed today. Wish you could have been with us. So you have been to Sabbath School all alone, what a smart boy. Give my love to all. Aunt Lalla." More interesting questions. Was Aunt Lalla connected with Waterford, as, say, Lillian Pillsbury? Or was she just a summer visitor, staying at the Flat?

Just a postcard, but with its own story nonetheless — it's wise never to dismiss even the smallest piece of history before you know what it has to tell you.

Dear Kenneth, this is the mountain we climbed today. Wish you could have been with us. So you have been to Sabbath School all alone, what a smart boy. Give my love to all. Aunt Lalla.



FROM THE NEWSPAPER FILES OF THE WATERFORD HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Church re-dedicated

(1968) The Waterford Church was dedicated in 1837. Dr. Leander Gage, the village doctor, was chairman of the building committee. By 1926, time had taken its inevitable toll and the church was restored to its original appearance.

There was a service of re-dedication attended by people from far and near.

In 1928, the building burned to the ground but almost everything inside was saved including the deep rose brocade curtains.

Now 40 years later these had become worn and faded. In their place hang new pulpit curtains given by her niece in loving memory of the granddaughter of Dr. Gage, Mabel Carleton Gage, to whom Waterford and this church were especially dear.

Fire destroys landmark

(1970) Fire destroyed the century old building housing the Emerson Dairy in South Waterford Sunday night.

According to Edwin Emerson Jr., owner and operator of the creamery, the 3½-story building was a total loss and was partially insured.

Estimate of damage was set at \$45,000. The building originally housed a cheese making operation. When this failed, the Hamlin Dairy Co. bought it and operated it successfully for many years.

Firemen from South Waterford, Waterford, North Waterford, Harrison, North Bridgton and Bridgton responded to the alarm.

Dairy equipment in the basement was severely damaged. Cause of the blaze is still undetermined.

Benefit open house held in Flat

(1955) Several of the century or older homes at Waterford will be open to the public from 2-5 p.m. Wednesday for the benefit of the Waterford Fire Association. This is the first time that

open house has been held in any of the homes.

Mrs. Cornelia Brown will head the committee in charge of arranging the open house program.

She will be assisted by Mrs. Irene Bean, Mrs. Mary Fillebrown, Mrs. Anne Pike, Mrs. Ethel Wiley and Mrs. Nancy Weir.

The homes to be opened for the August afternoon are those of Dr. R.E. Hubbard, where many antique pieces can be seen; A.W. Rice, one of the oldest houses in the village featuring a small building which was erected for a museum, which contains many century-old and over articles.

The Wilkins Community House, the church and library also will be included on the tour through the village during the three hour program.

The Lake House, remodeled this year, will be one of the highlights. The building was erected in 1797 by Eli Longley and served as a tavern in the village for countless years. It later was conducted as a water-cure establishment for women by Dr. W.P. Shattuck.

From 1889 until about 10 years ago, it was operated as a hotel.

The home is now occupied by Lawrence Rounds Jr. and his family. Many of the old time pieces of furniture remain in the ancient establishment.

Boston Post Cane

(1969) Arthur Sanderson, 89, resident of South Waterford, has just received the Boston Post gold-headed cane and he doesn't need it.

He gets around all by himself, keeping his home and his gardens in enviable condition. Presenting the cane are selectmen William H. McDaniels and Freeman Merrill Jr.

Since nobody seems to know when the cane came to Waterford, just how

many years it has been here is a matter of speculation, ranging from 40 to 75 years. Nor has the town a list of previous holders, although it is known

that Ezra Lebroke, Phoebe Crossman, Nellie Stone, Virginia Merrill and Sadie Merrill did each have it.

The canes were given to New England towns by the

famous old Boston Post for the use of the "Oldest Citizen" of the towns and are so engraved. Some canes have disappeared. Others are treasured and a source of pride to the holders.

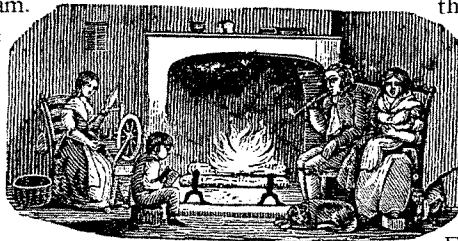
Mr. Sanderson was born in Waterford Sept. 17, 1880, son of Leroy M. and Florence V. Sanderson. He attended local schools. In 1909, he was married to Jennie B. Hamlin, who passed away 12 years ago. Most of his life he's been a farmer, first on six acres overlooking Crystal Lake in Harrison and then on 75 acres in Waterford, where he tended 10 to 12 head of cattle, selling milk to the Waterford Creamery and later to dairies in Portland.

After Mr. Sanderson retired from farming, he became, at age 80, the Star Route mail carrier from Harrison to Waterford Flat with 35 mail boxes to care for.

In his years on the Star Route, he missed only two and a half days. "Two because of a bad cold and the half day to take the driving test," he said. Quite a record, that is!

Now, Mr. Sanderson is the new secretary and treasurer of the South Waterford Fire Association. He has served the town of Waterford as a selectman, is a member of the board of trustees of the fire association and has been a

member of the Bear Mountain Grange for 65 years, holding two offices — overseer and executive committee member. He is also a member of the Waterford Historical Society.



The ledger of Dr. Leander Gage, 1834-1842

Continued from front page

- House calls were reasonably consistent. Local, 50 cents; Otisfield, \$2; Harrison, \$1.50; Bridgton, \$3.

- Paracentesis of abdomen, \$3.
- Setting a broken bone, 25 cents.
- William Stiles had convulsions for a full day and was charged \$5 for at-

tending same.

- Amputation in the office was \$15.
- Attend a birth, \$3.
- Asenath Wheeler had a particularly bothersome hernia that persisted over many years. About every two months she would visit Leander and get some relief for 75 cents per visit. There is no mention of trusses or surgical intervention in the records.
- Sprout Hapgood had a harelip restored for 75 cents but it didn't go well. Leander had to return three days later to drain the incision and do further repair for an additional 50 cents.
- Daniel Plummer's son had his finger dressed for 50 cents.
- Oliver Knight had a "nodule" removed from his back for a fee of 75 cents.
- For \$5, Simon Newcomb's tumor was removed from his lower jaw. He never paid.
- Catherization was 33 cents. Leander was not above amortizing his equipment costs. He charged Joseph Kimball 50 cents to "use" his catheter.
- And finally, 17 cents to certify someone dead.

Medicines

- Tincture of Benzoin – 30 cents.
- Bottle of Alcohol – 6 cents.
- Carbonate of Ammonia – 13 cents.
- Morphine Sulfate – 25 to 34 cents.
- Bicarbonate of Soda – 10 cents.
- Tincture of Iodine – 17 cents.
- Cough Syrup – 25 cents.
- Laudanum (Opium) - 25 cents.
- Rheumatoid Liniment – 38 cents.
- Arsenic for rats – 17 cents.

To be continued....

Century old debt repaid

continued from front page

Homer Gage of Worcester, Mass. received by registered mail the following letter:

Dear Sir:

When a boy, back in 1855, I heard my father expressing regret that he had been unable to pay Dr. Gage, who had been our family physician, \$75 that was owed him when he left Waterford. Father died on Oct. 4, 1856. At the time I heard this I determined in my own mind if I ever became able I would pay the amount. For years I have never made much more than a living, but some three years ago money began to come from a fortunate investment...

Visiting my old native town last year put me strongly in mind of my resolution. Now I trust you will think with me – better late than never, and distribute the amount among the heirs of Dr. Leander Gage, and oblige.

Very truly yours, Charles M. Chamberlain

Enclosed was a check for \$432.75, being the \$75 debt which John Chamberlain had been unable to pay together with seventy-nine years interest at 6%.

Both Dr. Homer Gage and his brother, T. Hovey Gage, were flabbergasted and neither knew of Chamberlain or the debt.

It so happened that the old house in Waterford had come back into the Gage family, and the original account books kept by Leander had been brought back and were again in their accustomed place. Mr. Gage promptly examined them, and sure enough, the entries in the ledger under the name of John Chamberlain showed a debt remaining unpaid at the time of the doctor's death. But certain credits for services rendered had reduced it slightly below the principal amount of \$75.

The interest was recalculated in light of these entries and the overpayment returned to Mr. Chamberlain.

One more episode: In the library of the Maine Medical Association, there is a mahogany desk with a small brass plaque bearing this inscription:

"In 1921 Charles M. Chamberlain, a native of Waterford, sent to the heirs of Dr. Leander Gage payment for medical services rendered before 1842. In honor of this act, three grandchildren of Dr. Gage presented to the Maine Medical Association this desk purchased with their share of the sum sent."

When Dr. Addison Thayer, president of the Association, accepted the desk, he bade his members — Cheer up, worry no more, if they could not collect their debts, for in another century, their grandchildren would!

Waterford Historical Society
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ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED