



# Waterford Echoes

VOLUME XX Number 2 (Issue 35)

Fall/Winter 2002

Waterford Historical Society

## New director position filled

by Mary Ann Holme

After a hiatus from January, 2001 until July, 2002, I have resumed the vacated curator position, which now has expanded duties.

The newly created position is that of Director/Curator. On the directorial side, some of the duties include assuring that the various functions of the Society are administered. These include answering correspondence and routine requests for information and, when needed, providing access to archival and artifact material.

In addition, I will be supporting the program chair, and developing and encouraging ties to the community, schools and other local historical societies.

On the curatorial side, I will be overseeing the maintenance and preservation of the Society's archival and artifact collections as well as developing relevant exhibits. I will be continuing the curatorial effort initiated in the summer of 2000 by establishing locator systems and further cataloging new acquisitions and begin the cataloging of the artifacts in the North Waterford Museum.

In June of 2000, we had a museum assessment prepared for the Society by Stanley Howe (museum consultant of Bethel). In one of his recommendations he wrote, "The most critical changes the Society needs to make are the formalization of policies and procedures to govern the direction of the organization as it moves into the 21<sup>st</sup> century." He also noted that there currently is no orientation process for new board members. To that end I have been reviewing and revising our policies and forms. After approval from the Board on any revisions and additions to our policies, I will put together an orientation package for future board members. I am also working

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The Walter K. Hamlin family photographed in the 1930s. From left: Alice Hamlin Warren, Jane Hamlin Sanderson, Clara Bell Hamlin, W. K., Flora Hamlin Abbott, Carrie Hamlin Haynes and Albert Hamlin.

## WK Hamlin diaries

### Memories of the 1920s in the 'City'

Part III

by Nancy Chute Marcotte

#### The Carding Mill & Community Jobs

Like all of the Hamlin enterprises, the mills were governed by seasonal considerations — especially the water availability and the need for the services.

The first time in 1921 that W. K. and his hired man Joe carded some spring-shorn wool was June 29. They carded again on 8/8, 8/12, 8/13 and 8/17. On 8/22 they washed wool and carded out some batting. As fall approached and housewives wanted yarn and quilt materials, the carding business intensified.

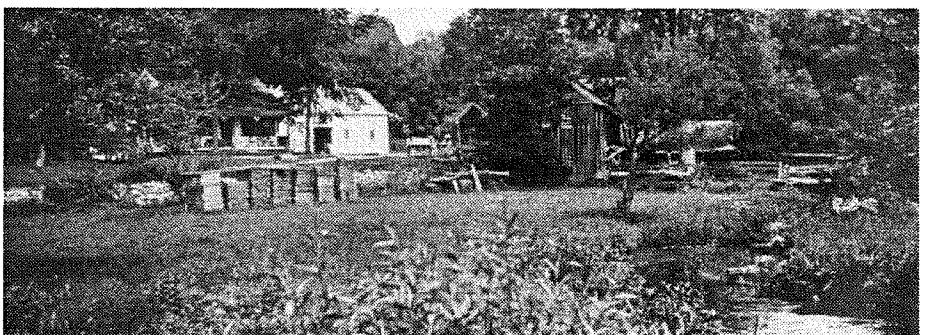
Carding began in earnest on

10/17 — they carded sixteen days in October and November. On 10/22 they carded and made rolags (for spinning) with over 110 lbs. of wool. On 11/8 they carded "Albert's wool." Some wool came from as far away as Sweden and Bethel.

They carded with an engine (water in brook too low?) on 11/25. They made batting on 12/10, 12/19, 12/22 and 12/31; then they seemed to be done for the winter.

It's interesting to see how the occupations of the town change through the seasons. Long lumber was sawn in August. Butter boxes were made in October. In September they "commenced

(Continued on page 4)



The W.K. Hamlin "Brookways" home with the Carding Mill on the right.

# In Memoriam

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**William E. Andrews**, 80, died July 1 at home. He was born Dec. 6, 1921, in North Waterford, the son of Luther (Newell) Andrews and Edith Palmer Andrews. He was educated in Waterford schools and worked in local sawmills, drove truck and worked for the Portland Pipeline in Albany. He served in the United States Army/Air Corp during World War II, serving in the India-China theater as a radio mechanic. He served for four years, three over seas. He and his brother, George owned and operated the Andrews Electric Co. during the 1950s. He married Sylvia Grover of Otisfield in 1983. They built their home in North Waterford, then later moved to Norway due to his failing health. He leaves his wife, Sylvia; three sons, John Wentworth of Jasper, Fla., Newell Andrews of Hamden, Conn. and Wyatt Andrews of Waterford; five daughters, Peggy Merrill of West Paris, Allison Leon Michaud of Bangor, Priscilla Gammon of Waterford, Deanna Moore of Sumner and Rosemary Harmon of Bridgton; three brothers, Arthur of Naples, Herbert of North Waterford and Lakeland, Fla., and George of Zephyrhills, Fla.; a sister, Ida (Jennie) Rice of Norway; and 14 grandchildren. He was predeceased by brothers Charles and Oscar and a sister, Carrie. He is buried in Bisbeetown Cemetery.

**Harrison L. Tyrol**, 71, died July 2 at Stephens Memorial Hospital. Born in Hartford, CT on April 6, 1931, he was the son of Arthur and Mildred Hoppin Tyrol. He attended school in Wethersfield, CT, Mitchell College and the University of New Hampshire. He worked for 30 years as an administrative manager at IBM, retiring in 1988. He was a trustee of the Waterford Library for nine years and treasurer since 1994. Mr. Tyrol served in the U.S. Navy during the Korean War. He moved to Waterford with his wife Elisabeth Colby Tyrol, who survives him. His children are Mark Tyrol of Mansfield, MA, Patricia Bell of N. Attleboro, MA, Mark Stevens of Bedford, MA and Janet Ellis of Wakefield, NH. He is also survived by a brother, Richard, and a sister, Ellen Arbo, of Connecticut as well as seven grandchildren.

**Wilbur H. Button**, 78, of Waterford died Oct. 4, at Stephens Memorial Hospital. He was born in Waterford on March 13, 1924, the son of Wilbur L. and Blanche Hersey Button. He graduated from Norway High School in 1943. He served in the U.S. Army for four years during World War II as a radio/radar operator. He graduated from Mass. Radio School in 1946 and Wentworth Institute in Boston, Mass. in 1950. He married Ella Tyler on Feb. 2, 1947. They lived in Connecticut from 1952 to 1972, returning to Maine where he had been self-employed. In Connecticut he worked for Newton Co. and Ripley Co., in Middletown, Conn. He was employed by United Aircraft Research Lab for 16 years. He co-owned and operated Button Cottages at Five Kezar Lakes, North Waterford. He was an amateur radio operator and member of ARRL, a member of the Connecticut Mobiliers radio group who met daily on the air, a member of the Mt. Tirem Lodge 32, a former member of the Kiwanis Club of Norway/Paris, a former communications officer for Waterford Civil Emergency, former member of the planning board in Waterford and a director of Norway Vocational School. He is survived by his wife, Ella, of 55 years; a son, James of So. Lyndeborough, NH and five grandchildren. He was predeceased by his daughter, Nancy Anderson. He is buried in Woodlawn Cemetery.

**Grace Mildred Howe**, 105, of Waterford died Oct. 18, at Stephens Memorial Hospital. She was born in Waterford on Jan. 5, 1897, the daughter of William and Grace Stone Heath. She attended schools in Waterford and when she turned 100 she received an honorary diploma from Oxford Hills Comprehensive High School. She was a member of the Congregational Church in Waterford, the Rug Club, the Farm Bureau, the Senior Citizens Club and the Waterford Historical Society. She was the holder of the Boston Post Cane for being the oldest resident of Waterford. She married Harold H. Howe on July 16, 1913. He died in 1982. She is survived by two daughters, June Starbird of Waterford and Jean Grover of Bethel; a son, Paul "Bill" Howe of Norway; numerous grandchildren; great-grandchildren; great-great-grandchildren and one great-great-great-grandchild. She was predeceased by four children, Theodore, Eva, Dorothy and Albert. She is buried in Elm Vale Cemetery.

**Eloise B. Heath**, 50, of Waterford, died Oct. 27 at Central Maine Medical Center after a seven-year battle with breast cancer. Born in Lewiston, Jan. 13, 1952, the daughter of Raynor K. and Georgia Thayer Brown, she was educated at Waterford Memorial School and graduated from Oxford Hills in 1970. She completed her education at Westbrook Junior College. Mrs. Heath was employed at Norway National Bank until she began working in the medical field at Bridgton Family Medical Practice and then with Dr. Thomas Petrone. She also worked at Knopp Chiropractic, Western Maine Family Practice and for Dr. Charles Smith. During the past five years she had worked part time at the Poland Community Health Center. She was treasurer of the Oxford County United Parish, treasurer of the Woodlawn Cemetery and bookkeeper for her husband's gas company, Heath Gas. Survivors include her husband, Barry J. Heath, whom she married on June 17, 1972; a son, Toby of Manchester, N.H.; a sister, Becky Ann Burke of South Paris; and a brother, Harry W. Brown of Venice, Fla.. She was predeceased by a brother, Keith Brown. She is buried in Woodlawn Cemetery.

**Deborah L. Farnsworth**, 54, of Yarmouth died at her home Nov. 18 after a 4-year battle with breast cancer. She was born Sept. 25, 1948 in Portland the daughter of Lt. Col. Thomas Henderson and Deborah (Lombard) Farnsworth. As a child in a military family, she attended many schools worldwide before her high school years at Cape Elizabeth and Fryeburg Academy. She graduated from Green Mountain College in Poultney, VT. She worked in human resources at Union Mutual Life Insurance Co., ABB Environmental Services in Portland, Cole Haan in Yarmouth, CMMC in Lewiston and Verrill Dana in Portland. She is survived by her husband, Law-

# President's Column

Another year has passed and the Society remains strong.

A change in the Board of Trustees occurred in June. Joining the board was Karen Tinstman, Paul Artlip, Cynthia Hamlin and Henry Plate. Mary Ann Holme is the new Director/Curator and

is doing a fine job in this capacity.

Cynthia accepted the program chairmanship and has provided some great programs during the year. She has lined up the programs for 2003 as you will see elsewhere in this newsletter. A couple of fund-raisers are in the works for this

summer as well.

As always, we welcome ideas and help. Please feel free to offer assistance to any of the trustees and may the new year bring you all prosperity and good health.

Mac Bean

rence Brown of Yarmouth; a daughter, Samantha Knecht of Grosse Point, MI; a son, Tyler Knecht, a student at Roger Williams University; her mother, Deborah (Mrs. George) Brett of Cape Elizabeth; three brothers, Thomas of Colorado, David of Vermont and Christian of California; two stepsons and a grandson.

**C. Chapin Cutler**, 88, of Waterford, died Nov. 30 in Sunbridge Nursing home in North Reading, MA. Born in Springfield MA, he was the son of Paul A. and Myra (Chapin) Cutler. He was educated in the public school systems in western Massachusetts. He received a BS degree from Worcester Polytechnic in Worcester, MA, in 1937 and took graduate courses at Stevens Institute of Technology, Hoboken, NJ and Princeton University. He was awarded an Honorary Doctor of Engineering degree from Worcester Polytechnic Institute in 1975. In 1982, Mr. Cutler also received the Robert H. Goddard Alumni Award for Outstanding Professional Achievement from WPI. Except for two short academic sabbaticals at the University of California at Berkeley and Stanford, He was engaged in research at Bell Laboratories, Inc., Deal, Murray Hill, and Holmdel, NJ, from 1937 until 1979. His research included contributions to short wave radio technology for overseas communication, microwave radar antennas, microwave amplifiers, satellite communication, and digital signal coding. He has been granted more than 70 patents. He is known as inventor of the "Cutler feed," a device for parabolic antennas that was widely used in the World War II. In 1979 he retired from Bell Laboratories to become a professor of Applied Physics at Stanford University. Mr. Cutler was a member of The Christian Science Church. He married Virginia Tyler of Waterford, in 1941. He is survived by a son, C. Chapin Cutler, Jr. of West Roxbury, MA, , and a daughter, Virginia Raymond of North Reading, MA. and four grandchildren. He was predeceased by a son, William U. Cutler.

**Arnold C. Sanborn**, 66, of Vernita Drive, Greenland, NH, died Jan. 5 at Wentworth-Douglass Hospital in Dover, NH. He resided in Greenland, NH for the past 17 years. Born March 18, 1936, in Waterford, he was the son of Richard and Bernice (Winslow) Sanborn. He was a member of the Robert G. Durgin American Legion Post No. 67. He belonged to the U.S. Power Squadron and was a past commander of the Portsmouth Power Squadron. He was a member of the Mt. Tir'em Masonic Lodge No. 132 in Waterford. He worked at Grossman's for over 20 years and also at Stanley Corporation at the Passport Center in Portsmouth. He was predeceased by a brother, Robert Sanborn. Survivors include his wife of 27 years, Lois (McCaffrey) Sanborn of Greenland; his children, Kathleen Sanborn of Dover, David Sanborn of Newmarket, and Lisa Sanborn of Greenland; two brothers, Bruce and Barry Sanborn, both of South Waterford; and a sister, Carol Sanborn of South Waterford; and four grandchildren.

## 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  
PO Box 201  
Waterford ME 04088

**Purchase a pair of Waterford histories for \$20.**



Logo design by Vivian Fanton

# WK Hamlin diaries from the 1920s

(Continued from page 1)

digging (sic) potatoes." Sweet corn went to canneries. Trees were trimmed and horses were shod. On 9/19 the dam at the carding mill was strengthened with rocks by Bill Goodwin, Joe, Chas. and W. K. (It washed out eventually in the 1950s.) Goodwin was paid \$3.00. The Ward house and the carding mill were shingled at about this same time. On 9/29 they "commenced cement for the new bridge." Chas., Joe and W. K. worked on the dam at the bridge (I assume this is the one near the cider mill in the middle of town).

The men went looking for cranberries in the bog near the old farm (on Skunk Alley), found none, came home and gathered in squashes and pumpkins.

This fall of 1921 a stockholders' meeting of the Waterford Light and Power Co. was held at L. R. Rounds' home (The Lake House). They voted to extend the power line to North Waterford. Throughout the fall and winter of 1921-22 poles were cut and cross-arms were fashioned by W. K. and his "boys" for this purpose. W. K. also subscribed, with others, for a bond of Central Maine Power Co.

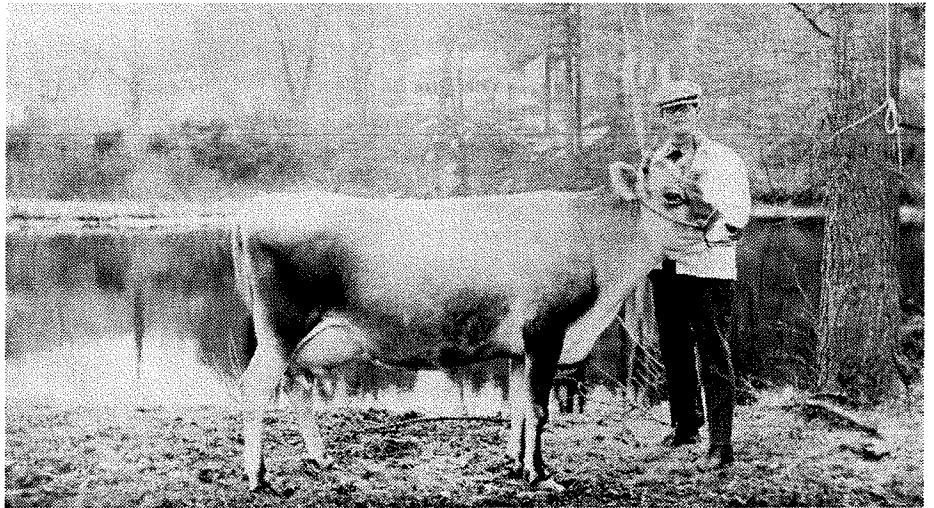
During fair season Joe took passengers to the "county fair" for 75 cents each with the G.M.C. truck. Tickets to the fair in South Paris were 50 cents. The "World's Fair" was on 10/1 and W. K. took "Ma, Carrie and little Mildred."

Albert, W. K. and Henry Wentworth cruised "the log cabin lot" (it's still called that today) to look for timber for winter work.

## Monday, October 3

*Cloudy and rained p.m. Chas. went to Norway, moved Chas. Bell's goods. We began on Ward house to enlarge bedroom in chamber. John Flint & Chas. Packard helped us. Joe went to Bridgton and got 7 sheets 10 ft. long of corrugated iron roofing . . .*

On 10/16 W. K. writes about driving to Paris and down over "the new cement road." On 10/19 he went to "Bryant's Pond" for a Knights of Pythias convention. On 10/20 1921 Carrie and Harry Haynes' house was wired for "electric lights." On 10/22 Chas. went to Harrison and "moved garage for Dr. Sylvester to his cottage by Bear Pond,



**Will Abbott poses with his pure-bred Jersey heifer in front of the Carding Mill Pond. Will married Flora Hamlin.**

Charge \$10.00. Paid." (The garage is still there.)

In November W. K. was occupied by making iron ferrules for pickpoles and peaveys for woods work. He called it "ironing." He made whiffletrees and repaired the cards (combs) used in the carding mill, as well as fixing sled runners.

The cellars and woodsheds were filled up with winter's fuel wood. On 11/26 the roads were rolled for the first time after snowfall. There was another foot of snow on 11/27 and 11/28. They "got out the sleigh" on 12/1 and some working "sleds" on 12/3. They were "breaking roads" and rolling dooryards throughout December. It took all week to shovel roofs and break roads to outlying farms after a big snowstorm.

On 12/12 W. K. and "Ma" (his wife Clara) went to State Grange at Portland City Hall. In the week before Christmas the "boys" were yarding timber and hauling logs. On Sunday 12/25 the Hamlins went to Carrie's "to Christmas dinner and Christmas tree." Also present were Harry's mother, Jenny Marr Haynes, and his sister, Edna Tarbox from Harrison.

On 12/26 W. K. was back fixing things. On 12/30 he and his crew butchered two pigs and cut holes in the pond ice to test the thickness (10" already).

## Ice Cutting

**Monday, January 2, 1922**

*Fair. Cold and windy. Chas. (Kimball) yarded logs, 1 pr. (horses). Joe and I salted pork this morning. Willis (Learned) went with Arthur (Sanderson?) and his team and Albert and Joe went up to pond and scraped field of ice a.m. I helped Ma on lard a.m., fixed valve and got out some strips to enlarge windlass for hauling on ice p.m.*

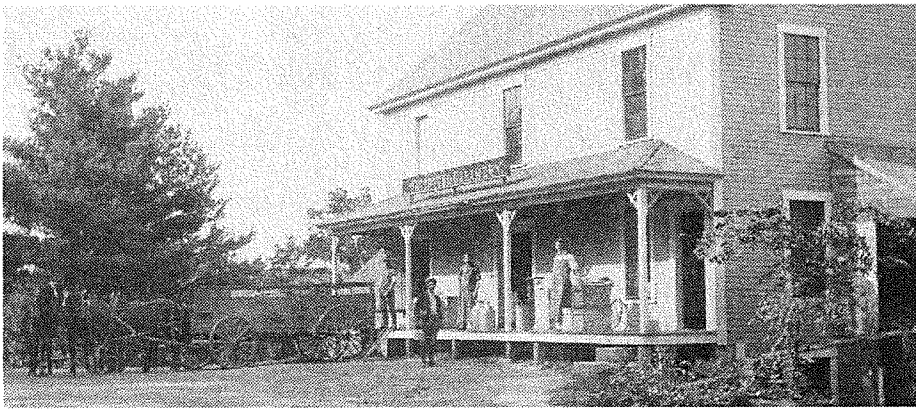
## Tuesday, January 3

*Fair but cold. Chas. went to Norway, 4 horses, for grain. Joe hauled wood, got Don shod and filled a lot of barrels at the mill a.m. He and Will and Arthur set the platform at the pond and cleared the snow off from the field that blowed on . . . I worked at ice house p.m.*

## Wednesday, January 4

*Fair. Began putting in ice, got first load about 10 a.m. Ned Stone and Guy Bancroft saving. Chas., Joe & Arthur hauling. Mont (Mort?) Truman and Harry Charles pulling out. Willie with them. Harold Kimball, W. J. Green, Harry Haynes, Albert & I at house got along nicely after we got started. Ice just one foot thick and clear. Chas. hauled 54, Joe 44 and Arthur 34 to a load. Harry Chas., Mont & Harold Kimball here to dinner. Joe 352 cakes, Chas. 324, Arthur 204.*

Ice cutting went on until 1/7/22. They cut 2,260 cakes and packed them in shavings. One cake weighed 156 lbs. They cut 176 tons in all — a year's worth of ice — in a community effort for five days. After ice cutting the men went



**Horses wait while the wagon is loaded with milk at the Waterford Creamery.**

back into the woods, cutting timber.

In January of 1922 the creamery was wired for electricity and on 1/14 the street lights were hooked up in South Waterford. During this month W. K. made yokes and peavey stocks for Carroll Sanborn.

He paid dividend checks from the creamery, the corn shop and the Electric Light Co.

There was an all-day Grange meeting and Installation in Albany on January 21. On February 12 the local Grange meeting was cancelled because of whooping cough and "grippe."

On 2/13 "Ma" fainted, beside the stove where she was frying doughnuts. "Pa" found her there. Flora and Carrie came down and helped put her on the lounge in the kitchen. She could talk but couldn't remember what had happened after she did her laundry.

"Mrs. Kneeland" came to stay with Clara and Flora helped with housework for a few days. Daughter Alice came

from Portland and Jane came with her husband Arthur. It was high blood pressure. Pa stayed in the house until Ma was better, fixing chairs, clocks and the sewing machine. When he went back to work in the blacksmith shop, W. K. repaired an old stove. On 2/27 the gate at the pond (Keoka) broke. They sawed a new spruce staff and made a new gate, which went in on 3/4. Will Green adjusted it; Will Marr paid him \$1.25.

On 3/16 Joe and Chas. took a pair of horses and big sleds and carried all the folks to town meeting — "Quite a lot of Ladies there. Geo. L. Kimball moderator. The meeting was well-conducted and orderly."

It was a busy March. W. K. cut several loads of hemlock boards for Geo. Dunn in Norway. He paid "Fred Smith" \$10.00 to do the taxes for the creamery, the mill and himself. County Agent Lovejoy and Miss Nichols came from Lovell, stayed the night. Daughter Jane Sanderson and a dressmaker came to the

house for four days and clothing was made. Strout, "the essence peddler" came by. A telephone was put in to the creamery.

"Selected" seed potatoes were sent to the Long Island Sound Seed Test. Much shook and many shingles were cut — 4000 shingles in one day! He worked so hard he made himself ill; he called it "petered out." When Chas. took a day off, though, W. K. wrote that he was "loafing" that day! On April 2, twenty inches of snow fell — "most for one storm in many years."

On 4/10 he bought two cows for \$115.00. The sleds were put away on 4/15. On 4/16 he went up to the Norcross Place on horseback but the road was not yet settled. April seemed to be "whist party" month — there were several around town.

On 4/29 there was a minstrel show at the Flat — four tickets for \$1.40. By 5/3 they had picked over the seed potatoes and begun harrowing potato ground at the old Hamlin farm. They were making butter and apple boxes at the mill.

On 5/8 Horace Skinner began custom sawing. On that same day W. K. deeded the "MacGown Farm" to six Fins" (sic). The Finnish farmers paid \$900 cash and he gave them a note for \$500. Then W. K. bought his fourth "Liberty Loan" bond for \$1000 (at four-and-a-half % interest; to mature in 1938.)

One full year had passed with its seasons of farm and mill and village life. The journals recorded some of its ac-

*(Continued on page 7)*

## 2003 schedule of historical meeting programs

**April 10, 7 p.m.** — "Historical Buildings in Waterford, Then and Now," David Sanderson and Cynthia Hamlin, Wilkins House, pot luck dessert.

**May 8, 7 p.m.** — "Games of the Early 1900s," presented by Waterford students with the help of Mary Andrews, Marge Kimball and Nancy Engdahl. Display of antique games and toys. Wilkins House, pot luck dessert.

**June 12, 7 p.m.** — "Songs of the early 1900s" presented by local vocalists and musicians. Old Town House, pot luck dessert.

**July 10, 6:30 p.m.** — "The History of Bisbeetown," Cloe Colby, Wilkins House, pot luck supper.

**July 25, 7 p.m.** — "A humorous lecture in the person of 'Artemus Ward' (Charles Farrar Brown)" presented by David Sanderson, location to be announced, admission fee.

**Aug. 14, 6:30 p.m.** — "Arts and Artisans of Waterford, Past and Present," historical arts and crafts created by Waterford art-

ists and artisans (perhaps set up as demo booths), Wilkins House, pot luck supper.

**Aug. 22, 7 p.m.** — "Historical Play" presented by the Waterford Historical Society from the Waterford Institute of Music and Drama or Crooked River Outing Club, Wilkins House, Admission fee (fund-raiser), bake sale.

**Sept. 11, 7 p.m.** — "Dances of the early 1900s," Ice cream social/sale. Location to be announced.

**Oct. 9, 7 p.m.** — "Waterford Businesses Past and Present" presented by David Sanderson and Cynthia Hamlin, Wilkins House, pot luck dessert.

**Nov. 13, 6:30 p.m.** — "Historical Quilts and Handiwork." Guests will be encouraged to bring items. No. Waterford Church, pot luck supper.

**December TBA** — Christmas party at Keith and Lilo Wiloughby's home, Plummer Hill.



# The Great Wildflower Scandal of 1904

By David Sanderson

One of the most interesting sections of older Waterford Town Reports is the School Report, where the Superintendent of Schools reported to the town in some detail on the condition of the educational system. The School Committee's job was not easy in those days - finding teachers for three terms a year in a dozen or so schools, keeping buildings in repair and trying to buy things like books and furniture while spending as little as possible. It was not always easy to find people willing to serve on the Committee, either.

This particular story starts in 1902, when Florence Rounds became Superintendent. She was Florence Brown Rounds, a relative of Charles F. "Artemus Ward" Brown. She had a reputation as a fine teacher, had served on the School Committee, and had been Superintendent in 1898.

The turn of the century was a time when some new ideas began percolating through Maine education. A few years earlier the Legislature had passed a law requiring towns to pay tuition for students who wished to continue their education, thus beginning the era when so many Waterford students were able to attend Bridgton Academy and other secondary schools.

Florence was well-educated and progressive, and had an idea or two of her own:

"I have investigated all cases of non-attendance that came under my notice, ... with the result that the scholars appeared at school or a sufficient excuse was found to exist. ...parents...should be required to send a written excuse, or present themselves in person with a verbal one. ...when half the year is vacation, [physical disability] is the only excuse that is valid. There is plenty of time in the other twenty-six weeks for working, visiting or entertaining company.... The up-to-date teacher has her work planned systematically and knows just what she is going to teach the class outside the textbook. She has no time to do this work

twice and Johnny must be the loser."

Such blunt words may not have pleased some townspeople, but the real problem was this:

"At the beginning of the year I suggested to the teachers that they ask their pupils to bring in and name as many different wild flowers as possible during the Spring term. Nearly all the schools took part in this friendly contest, and the result was a very gratifying interest in nature study and the discovery that our town has quite a variety of wild flowers. The parents were interested, too, in some localities and we heard of the head of one family bringing home rare specimens to swell the list. The school securing the largest variety was No. 12,



Florence Rounds

Miss [Mehvinia] Greene, the teacher, giving me a list of one hundred fifty-six (156). The second place was gained by the pupils of No. 5, taught by Miss [Carrie] Plummer, with a list of one hundred thirty-five (135). This was equally commendable, as the school was smaller and the scholars much younger. No. 3 [May E. Whitney] sent a list of ninety-two (92), No. 10 [Mary H. Austin] had fifty-five (55), and Nos. 1 [Alice M. Monroe] and 2 [Annie Atherton/Ethel Monroe] about a hundred each.

There were nine schools used, three twenty-six week terms each, sixteen different teachers during the year. Notwithstanding the apparent success of the 1902 wildflower collecting project."

*[One wonders how many of today's Waterford residents could collect and identify 156 separate species.]*

Florence's questionable deviation from traditional basic education did not go unnoticed. Here is her 1903 summary of the nature study program:

"The interest in nature study has continued. During the spring term, many of the schools made a collection of flowers, and kept a list of birds seen. Miss [Alice M.] Hamlin and her scholars in No. 1 sent me a list of two hundred and twenty-eight (228) wild flowers, which is higher by seventy-two (72) than our

prize list of last year. Miss Green and her pupils of No. 10, grammar school, secured the second place with a list of two hundred and two (202) and they also noted seventy five (75) birds. I have been sorry to hear adverse criticism in regard to this work, which is so largely done outside of school hours.

Some, who are evidently not in sympathy with modern ideas of education say the children had better be learning the multiplication table than hunting up weeds and polliwogs. I believe in the saving virtue of the multiplication table as firmly as our critics, but I also believe there is time for both in our school work. Facts and figures are good, but these alone would be to return to the Gradgrind system of education, which Dickens has caricatured so admirably."

The saving virtue of the multiplication table — whatever her intellectual gifts — Florence remained a Maine country woman, blunt, independent, and never one to suffer fools gladly.

Florence's summary of the situation undoubtedly fails to do justice to what must have been an important town issue, at least unofficially; we can only imagine the amount of fussing and complaining that went on over these suspicious activities, which had clearly begun to infiltrate the education system, since it appears that the teachers and students not only participated in them, but thoroughly enjoyed them.

And in the Town Report for 1904 we see the result. George L. Kimball is now the Superintendent, with a report far less colorful than Florence's were.

And he says:

"Our teachers have been directed to give the rudiments the first place in the school work. Nature study has been continued at the option and discretion of the teacher, but in no case has it occupied a higher place than a diversion and as such it is very useful. If the number of weeks in the school year was considerably greater, more attention might be given to this line of work with profit.

"But in view of the fact that a great majority of our boys and girls receive all their education in our common schools

and having in mind the great utility of a passing knowledge of the things, which enter into every-day life, we arrive at the conclusion that the rudiments must continue to hold first place in our schools. There are no substitutes. Other things are helpful, as a sugar coating makes the pill more palatable, but the pill is the important thing after all.

The saving virtue of the multiplication table triumphs, at least temporarily; and the sugar coated diversion of en-

couraging these children actually to learn about the natural world around them is put in its place."

A woman worth knowing, Florence must have been. But there are footnotes to the story, too, that give Florence's efforts some perspective. It was in 1901 that George Howe founded the Boy Scientists in Norway with the objective of encouraging children to study natural history. It was a great success, and the

name notwithstanding, the organization fairly quickly included both boys and girls, plus some adults. When my grandfather, Burton Sanderson, who grew up in Waterford, went to Bates, where he graduated in 1903, one of the courses he took was Botany. We still have his Gray's Botany from those days. About the same time my grandmother, Minnie Halford Sanderson, was in high school in Sanford, where her botanizing resulted in a fine collection of dried flowers preserved in a bound volume.

So the years after 1900 were in fact a time when nature study for young people was becoming common, and was increasingly recognized as being valuable and worthwhile. After 1910, we had the Boy Scout movement in this country, with nature study a key part of the program. This is also the period when summer camps began to proliferate around western Maine, so that city children could get out into the natural world as well.

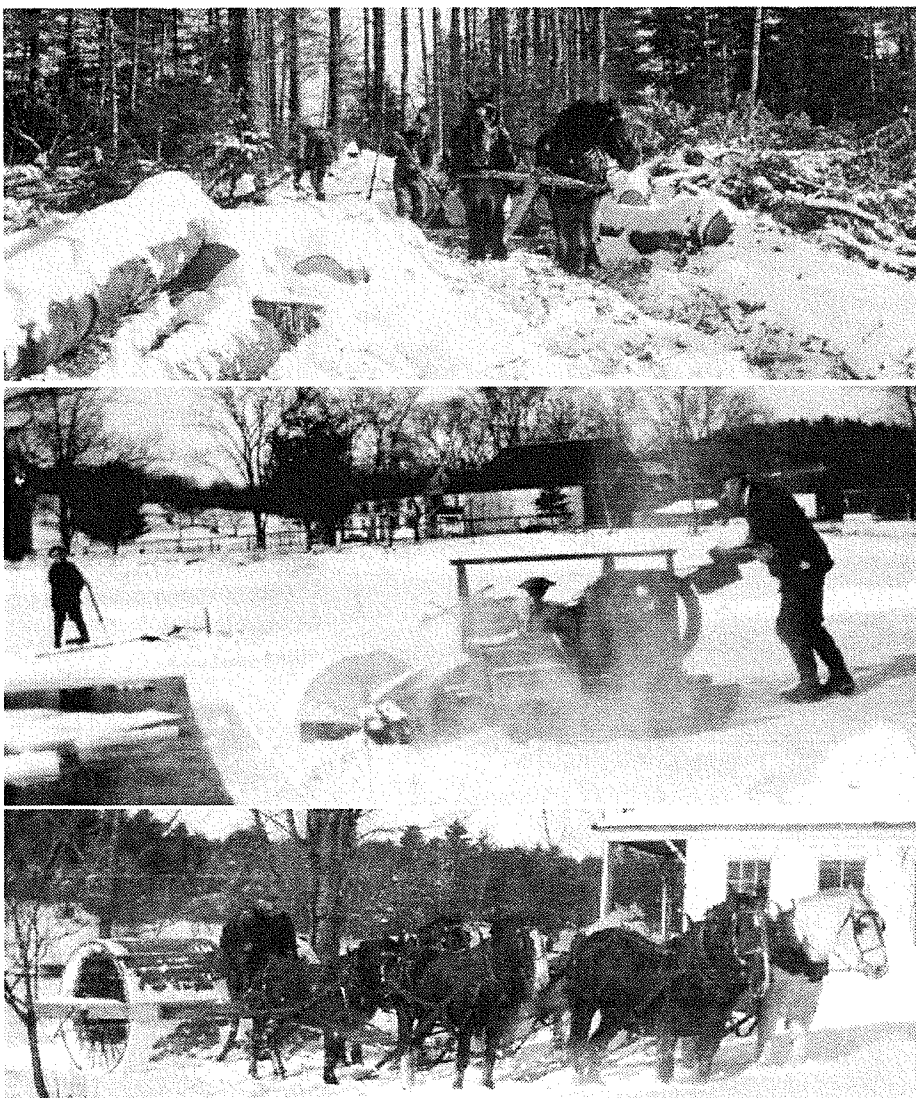
So Florence Brown Rounds may have frightened the folks in Waterford briefly, but if we look for some of the early stirrings of the environmental movement, surely we see it in her efforts to get the children to begin looking at the natural world around them.

#### WINTERTIME IN WATERFORD

In the top left photo, Harold Millett and his pair of work horses wait while a skid is loaded with white pine logs during logging operations performed on the town forest in 1942. Lauris Millett works in the background.

In the center panel, Ned Stone is shown cutting ice on Keoka Lake around 1921 near the Flat.

At left, a snow roller pulled by a six-horse team stops in front of the Guy Bancroft House in 1942.



## WK Hamlin 'City' journals from the 1920s concluded

(Continued from page 5)

counts and activities. W. K. Hamlin did not put much sentiment into his diaries. I find amusing the brief comments he made at the births of his grandchildren. On Saturday 8/5/22 he wrote, "Carrie had baby boy." That would be my uncle William Haynes (the elder), born fifteen months after the death of Harry and

Carrie's dear little Helen Jane. In a journal three years later I found the birth of my mother, Ruth Alberta Haynes Chute. It said "Carrie's baby born" on 11/9 — also his son Albert's birthday. (Hence the name Alberta!)

The one sentimental note was a heartbreaking one, when his beloved wife Clara died: "O God! My Dear and

Life Companion died at about eleven o'clock. Children all here. She died peacefully and calm as she had lived. My heart is broke."

Clara Bell Hamlin died in 1938. He wrote almost nothing in his journal after that. Walter Keyes Hamlin died in 1940 and is buried in Elm Vale Cemetery with his wife, his ancestors and his children.

# Trustees create new director position

(Continued from page 1)

on creating a directory, which will include a "key" to the cataloging of our collection. This will provide an informational guide as transitions occur within the Society.

The curatorial efforts that were started in 2000 are continuing. In accordance with the procedural guidelines set out for the project by archival consultant Christopher Beam, summer intern Katherine Hoving did a great job of inventorying the archival collection. This was a major effort and resulted in the creation of computer files recording and describing over 1,200 records/documents as well as 958 photographs. Conservation techniques, when appropriate, have been applied to protect the collection to insure its continued preservation.

After the inventory effort of the summer (2000) was completed, I began moving the collection to its new location, completing it in July of this year. The collection is now housed in two sites. All archival material relating to civic matters, such as records from town government, voting registers, militia, school and post office are stored in the Town House. Private sector records and documents such as those pertaining to

churches, businesses, social and fraternal organization, individual family files as well as miscellaneous records are located in the research room on the second floor of the Waterford Library.

The Society is fortunate to have a large collection of scrapbooks containing newspaper articles chronicling local events and people dating back from 1943

and continuing up to the present time. These scrapbooks are now housed in the library. Our collection of photographs remains at the Town House. The photographs are organized by town section, Flat, North, South and East. We also have individual collections by Fred Johnson and George Adams as well as collections of the Rounds and Kimball families.

In October, the Society obtained a digital scanner, which has been used to scan photos lent to the Society. In the winter months I intend to scan photographs already in our collection so they can be accessed on the computer at the Library.

During the summer I began to prepare the North Waterford Museum for the inventorying process. While searching through the corners and crannies of the museum several boxes of archival

material were discovered. The bookshelves in the office also yielded more documents that needed to be removed to the Town House or library. On Aug. 6 I met with Ned Allen, a museum professional specializing in collections management, exhibits and research. He reviewed the building, collection and conditions as well as set out a plan for proceeding to catalog the artifacts. The first step is to create a basic inventory:

1. *Record a description of each object.*
2. *Assign and number each object.*
3. *Record location.*

Next spring I will be starting this first phase of the project. As Mr. Allen noted in his report, "This is a task that is well-suited to volunteers, and generally is best done by two people, one describing the object, the other taking notes." I hope to engage interested Society members in this effort. It can prove to be both enjoyable and enlightening. Mr. Allen concludes his report with, "You have a very strong collection that reflects the history of Waterford, housed in a significant old building. Consider sitting down and coming up with a plan for dealing with the collection that establishes specific goals for the next five years or so, and stipulates how these goals are to be met."

There is much to be done but with a plan, noting that with continued effort "you can look back over the past six months or year and see that you really have made progress."



WHS Director Mary Ann Holme

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