



Waterford Echoes

VOLUME XXII Number 1 (Issue 38)

Spring/Summer 2004

Waterford Historical Society

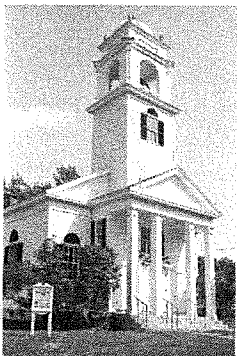


First Congregational Church, 1837-1928

From the Archives — 1929

First Congregational Church

The following newspaper article was written by Mabel Gage at the time of the dedication of the new Congregational Church in Waterford Flat (1929). It was found in a scrapbook by David Sanderson but arrived too late to be printed in "This Is Waterford."



Waterford Church
1976

If anyone who knew the Waterford Church ten or forty or ninety years ago, should look at (a) picture (of the new church), he might say, "I wonder when they put those pillars in front. The rest of it looks the same as ever, but I'm sure there were no pillars." The church dedicated

in 1837 had none. It burned to the ground in 1928.

From the dome of the tower to the massive granite foundations it was a rather unusually good example of the building style of its period. It was greatly endeared to the people and it had been often photographed, even inside.

When it was burning, the neighbors with miraculous speed, courage and level heads, rushed in to save its treasures, for it had possessions far older than itself. It had a seventeenth century Bible with pictures dedicated to the British nobility and a written-in debit and credit account between the King of England and the King of France, an itemized account of the French and Indian War—very pro-British in sentiment. It had a beautiful old English pewter communion service, complete from flagons and chargers to

(Continued on page 6)

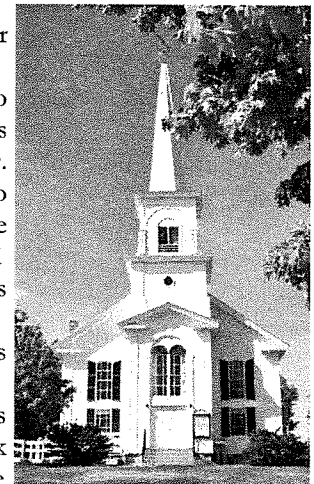
A View From The Church

by Marjorie Kimball

There remains only one other church in town — the second Congregational Church in North Waterford. The Universalist Church is now the Bear Mt. Grange Hall. The Methodist Wesleyan Chapel became an art gallery. The following piece was written from the perspective of that building, personified:

As the sun rises in the east, its rays are reflected from my windows and mingle with the activities of the people of North Waterford. I see the village awakening to the routine of the day. Many people stop by "the Corner" to get breakfast or coffee and to pick up the newspaper; others are starting on the drive to out-of-town work.

When I was built in 1860, "the Corner" was bustling with business, as people walked or drove horses to do errands here. Mr. Green, who gave the pastureland back of his home where I was built, moved his house back from the corner to make way for a



North Waterford
Congregational Church,
UCC, built in 1860.

"Common," which soon was crisscrossed with carriage roads.

The Common has been the scene of many activities, including Tom

(Continued on page 7)

In Memoriam

Dorothea C. Knopf, 86, of Waterford died Jan. 19, 2004 at Stephens Memorial Hospital. She was born in Bay Ridge, Brooklyn, N.Y., the daughter of Walter and Sophia Pfaendler. She graduated from Shore Road Academy and Columbia University in New York City. She worked at Long Island University and Seely Architects in New York City. She married Walter T. Knopf in 1946. She was a member of the First Congregational Church in Bridgton. She is survived by her daughter, Christine Kimball; granddaughter, Sara Kimball; and great-grandchildren, Skyler and Lily of South Waterford. She was predeceased by her husband, Walter, in 1985 and her sister, Madeline Pfaendler in 1987.

Walter William Fillebrown Jr., 79, of Waterford died at his home Jan. 27, 2004. He was born in Waterford on April 12, 1924, the son of Walter W. Sr., and Charlotte Morse Fillebrown. He graduated from Gould Academy. He served in the U.S. Army Air Corps during World War II. He worked in meteorology, stationed in the Aleutian Islands in the Pacific and was honorably discharged in 1946. He and his wife, the former Joan Bean, lived in South Portland. He worked for the Portland/Montreal Pipe Line from 1955 until his retirement on Dec. 31, 1983, when they moved back to Waterford. He was Waterford Fire Chief and Code Enforcement Officer. He was a member of the American Legion in South Paris, the Portland Commandery and Mt. Tir'em Lodge, where he received his 50-year pin. He was also a member of the Waterford Historical Society, Waterford Congregational Church and Stoneham Rescue. He is survived by his wife of Waterford; two daughters, Karen Fillebrown of Waterford and Susan Hunt of North Norway; a son, Paul Fillebrown of Waterford; a sister, Barbara Martz of Willow Valley, Pa.; a brother, Stephen Fillebrown of Hancock, N.H.; three grandchildren. He was predeceased by a brother, Charles Fillebrown. He is buried in Elm Vale Cemetery.



Philip E. Buchert, 83, of Waterford and Orchard Park, NY, died in Orchard Park, NY, on Feb. 12, one day before his 84th birthday. He was the husband of Mary C. (Nicklas) and the late Helen (Frey). He is survived by two daughters, Barbara E. (Edward) Pinneo and Patricia J. (Alan) Struck; two sons, George P. (Ellen) Buchert and Peter C. (Connie) Buchert; 21 grandchildren; and 11 great-grandchildren. He was predeceased by a sister, Margaret Schmidt. Interment services will be held in July, 2004, at Elm Vale Cemetery.

Stanley R. Millett, 72, of Sanbornville, NH, died Feb. 28, 2004 at the New Hampshire Veterans Home in Tilton. He was born in Waterford on Oct. 6, 1931, the son of Clyde W. and Doris Mae Brown Millett Sr. He attended school in Waterford and served in the Army during the Korean Conflict. Stanley was a contractor, worked at 3M Co. in Connecticut until it closed and most recently as transfer station attendant in Acton. He was a member of the VFW. Survivors include three brothers, Charles and William of Norway and Hartley of Mechanic Falls; three sisters, Helen McKay of Norway, Irene Colby of Paris Hill and Dorothy Millett of Oxford; his companion, Agnes Newcomb of Sanbornville, NH and several nieces and nephews. He was predeceased by Clyde Jr. and Shirley. He is buried in Elm Vale Cemetery.

Alma B. Millett, 93, of Waterford, died March 28, 2004 at Market Square Health Care Center in South Paris. Born in Waterford, Oct. 17, 1910, the daughter of Guy W. Sr. and Gladys Billings Bancroft, she graduated from Norway High School. She had been a housewife all of her life. She married Lauris A. Millett on June 11, 1928, and he passed away on Feb. 23, 1992. She was awarded the Boston Post Cane on Jan. 30, 2002. Survivors include a daughter, Veda M. Taber of South Paris; three sons, Curtis A. Millett, David L. Millett and Gilbert W. Millett, all of Waterford; a sister, Agnes M. Lahti of Waterford; a brother, William O. Bancroft of Bethel; 13 grandchildren; 17 great-grandchildren; one great great-grandchild; and several nieces and nephews. She was predeceased by two sisters, Phyllis Bancroft and Velma Thompson; a brother, Guy W. Bancroft Jr.; and a half-sister, Thelma Bancroft Merrill. She is buried in Elm Vale Cemetery.

Fiorina M. Goss, 79, of Waterford died April 5, 2004 at Stephens Memorial Hospital. She was born in Italy on Nov. 12, 1924, the daughter of Antonio and Lucia Carderelli Fabrizzio. She attended school in Italy. She was the head buyer for a retail clothing store and a supervisor at Pier 4. She was a member of St. Catherine of Sienna Church in Norway. She married W. Welcome Goss Sr. She is survived by her husband of Waterford; two sons, W. Welcome Goss Jr. of Maine, and Joseph A. Quintilliani of Cape Cod, Mass.; a daughter, Diane L. Federico of Kezar Falls; eight grandchildren; two great-grandchildren; a brother, Ennio Fabrizzio of Florida; and a sister, Lillian Pellegrini of Quincy, Mass.

Rex A. Allen, 81, of Waterford, died April 5, 2004 at the Maine Veterans Home in South Paris. He was born in Albany on Dec. 17, 1922, the son of Lester and Ruth (Lewis) Allen, educated in local schools and graduated from Norway High School.

President's Column

by Fred Engdahl

Over the winter, members of the Society fielded many requests for information that we might possess in our archives. Several board members have agreed to respond to telephone requests that are received at Town Hall and passed on to whom ever is available at that particular time.

I reported to the board in March on some of the requests that I handled over the winter months, the most interesting of which was a request from another historical society up in Milbridge. They were preparing a display entitled "Getting Through the Long Winter!" and were looking for a picture of a snow roller to com-

plete the display. Surfing the Internet, they came across the Maine Memory Network, where Waterford is represented by a link to a page displaying a sample of our archival photographs. At this link was found a picture of a snow roller and team of horses at work here in the village one winter many decades ago. Armed with the actual photograph number and the village box that it was located in, which I quickly found on the laptop, I was soon scanning the photo which I emailed along to our colleague up in Milbridge.

Thanks to our former curator, Maryann Holme, we have a rather

complete catalog of our documents, family histories and, the most sought after, the photographic history of our village. The photos are catalogued by their locations: the four villages of Waterford and are easily accessed from the files. They are also catalogued on the Library computer and on the Society's laptop both of which contain a "finder" that allows someone researching a family or a location to see what is available on that subject. We invite any and all to browse the archives through this program on the library computer. Instructions on how to use the program can be found at the desk.

in 1941. He was a veteran of World War II and a member of the Lovell VFW Post as well as a former member of the Grange. He had worked as a mechanic at R.K. Brown for more than 30 years and later for A.C. Lawrence and LARS T. He was a member of the Center Lovell Church. He is survived by two sons, Neil Allen of Lovell and Jeffrey Allen of Waterford; four daughters, Nancy Baker of Stoneham, Jane Perry of South Paris, Jeannie Nelson of Winslow and Joanne Allen of Gardiner; eight grandchildren; and five great-grandchildren. He was predeceased by his wife, Geraldene (Galloway) Allen.

Brian A. Truman, 60, of Waterford, died April 13, 2004 at Stephens Memorial Hospital. He was born in Norway, Aug. 22, 1943, the son of Gerald and Arlene Bell Truman. He served in the U.S. Navy. He worked as a mechanic. Survivors include his wife, Judi, of Waterford; one daughter, Tara-Lee Wykes of Naples; three sons, Chad of Auburn, N.H., Todd of South Paris and Chuck of Oxford; one brother, Charles "Chuck" Truman of Waterford; one aunt; and nine 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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MEMBERSHIP CLASSIFICATION

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

Send checks to: Waterford Historical Society
PO Box 201
Waterford ME 04088

Current membership in the Waterford Historical Society runs from July 1, 2004 to June 30, 2005. Membership dues help to fund our newsletter and its mailing cost. This will be the last newsletter sent to those who have not renewed their membership this year. Payment will gladly be accepted.

Purchase a pair of Waterford histories for \$20.

Please note: The new Society publication "This is Waterford" is being offered to paid-up-dues members who order 2 or more copies at \$25 per copy. Shipping and handling at \$6 per copy will still apply.

A Waterford Selectman, ca. 1850 — Joseph Shaw's Account Book

by David Sanderson

The recent election for Selectman reminds us once again that Waterford's town government demands much of its citizens who choose to serve in elective office. In Colonial Massachusetts they were originally "Selected Men," chosen as leaders of a remarkably democratic form of municipal government that has persisted successfully now for some three hundred years.

Today the complications of contemporary existence sometimes seem likely to overwhelm our part-time officials. But a bit of history may be instructive — being a selectman was never especially simple or easy.

If we examine the Warren history's list of early town officials, we see a series of sets of Selectmen who change slowly over a period of years. Many are names we recognize as persons prominent in town. The practice, almost certainly unplanned, seems to have been for someone to spend a few years in office, then turn over the job to someone else. It seems clear that even in the early nineteenth century, the responsibilities were never something that anyone wanted to take on for very long.

Between 1845 and 1859 Joseph Shaw (1807-62) served seven terms as selectman, and was town moderator several years as well (selectman 1845-46, 1850-53, 1859; moderator 1849-51, 1853, 1858-60). He was the son of Josiah Shaw, who had come to Waterford from Standish, Maine in 1795. Josiah had been active in state politics around the time of Maine's statehood in 1820, and served in the new Maine Legislature from 1820-22.

The Shaws settled in what Warren calls West Waterford, the Mutiny Corner/Blackguard area west of Mutiny Brook. Their farms were along the dead-end road between the Blackguard Road and Mutiny Brook. By 1850, Josiah's original farm was owned by his son James M. Shaw, while Joseph had built his own place farther up the road (Joseph's farm passed to his son John Shaw, then to John's son Frank, who

occupied it with his wife Laura [Taylor] Shaw until Frank died about 1943).

The Shaws kept account books for their enterprises, and needed to. More than most farmers, Josiah and his children were involved in a wide range of business activities. All of them made and sold woodenware, firkins, tubs and the like, often as barter for groceries and other necessities. James was a book-



SHAW FAMILY — John Shaw, son of Joseph Shaw and family are shown as photographed about 1890. In the rear is Frank Shaw (1862-1943) and his wife Laura Taylor Shaw. Laura, originally from New Brunswick, was sister to Fannie Taylor Greene, wife of Will Greene. In front are Amanda Shaw (b. 1835) and John Shaw (b. 1831). John was brother to Florence Shaw Sanderson (1855-1937) and Amanda. Frank and Laura had no children; Laura died about 1948. Amanda by 1911 was blind, still going about her business as well as she could.

binder, and seems to have made up and sold medicines.

Joseph was an agent for the York County Mutual Fire Insurance Company, for whom he collected premiums locally and from as far away as Rumford.

And while he was a selectman, Joseph kept detailed accounts of his expenses on behalf of the town for which he was reimbursed at what seems to have been the standard wage for most of the nineteenth century, \$1 a day. These records give us a picture of his activities as selectman, which were busier than one might expect for 150 years ago.

Reference books were published for

these local officials. A copy of The Maine Townsman from about 1850 includes a comprehensive summary of all the statutes that may affect the activities of local civil officers. On schoolmasters: "No person shall be employed as a schoolmaster, unless he...produce a certificate from the selectmen of the town where he belongs, that to the best of their knowledge, he is a person of sober life and conversation, and sustains a good moral character." On property taxes: "The appraisers shall appraise all taxable property at its true value in money." The volume also includes language for all sorts of standard forms and orders.

More specific is a copy of The Civil Officer, or The Whole Duty of Sheriffs, Coroners, Constables and Collector of Taxes, from 1809, which passed through the hands of at least William Monroe and Oliver Hale here in Waterford. And while it was published while Maine was still part of Massachusetts, it seems to have been useful for some time after the separation of the two states, since Hale notes that he purchased the book from Monroe in 1833. This book quotes and explains the statutes that control the actions of persons who are primarily law enforcement officers.

While it may have been useful to know that "The gaoler's fee for turning the key for each admittance or discharge of a prisoner is twenty cents," most of a selectman's activities were fairly mundane. If we pick up Joseph Shaw's record in early 1852, we see:

Feb. 10	to making list of voters	1.00
20	to 1 day at town house making warrant for town meeting, drawing order etc.	1.00
27	to 1 day at town house drawing orders & settling with treasurer	1.00

Sounds familiar, even today. But his work gets more interesting. March 20: "to half day revising jury box etc." (billed at 50 cents; the dollar a day rate applies to almost all of Joseph's entries). And later we see regular trips to the various villages "to draw juries." At this time the local towns had the responsibility of preparing and maintaining jury lists. The "jury box," which we think of as the courtroom enclosure today, was an ac-

Waterford Congregational Church from the archives

(Continued from page 1)

baptismal basin.

It had a Revere bell and fine old pulpit, furniture and rose brocade curtains from France and memorial tablets and a new organ and fine light fixtures--one very old one, the others being copies. The bell crashed, the pieces were gathered up and re-cast with an inscription telling its story.

All else was saved, even doors were torn from the pews, so the old mouldings could be copied exactly.

When a new church was to be built, all that anyone wanted was a church as nearly like the old one as possible. John Calvin Stevens, the eminent Portland architect, had seen the old church. With pictures and measurements, he drew plans for this one. The James W. Kerr Co. were the contractors and Philip D. Wight of Norway was foreman on the job and satisfied everyone.

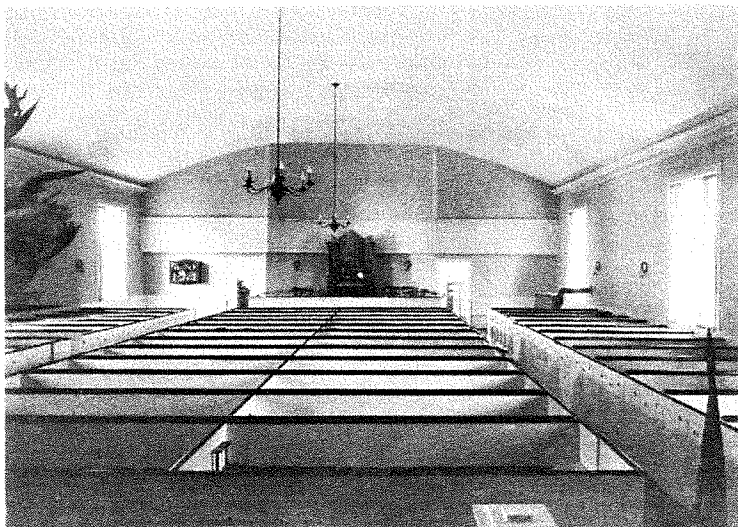
For constructive reasons, Mr. Stevens wished to add the porch and pillars, and the people accepted them. Otherwise, inside and out, the present church is so like the first that people still speak of sitting in their old family pews.

Beyond the church stood the community house, a rather patched-up affair, that burned with the church. The present excellent building, The Wilkins Community House, built with the bequest of Susan Hamlin Wilkins in memory of her parents and her sister, stands farther from the church than the old one.

The change necessitated much grading. There was no contract for that, so the people planned a town bee and had it one bright October day. Forty men came from all parts of town; two of them brought fine teams of horses. They all worked all day, except when the women served dinner. The school children were all invited to the dinner. Everyone enjoyed the bee. When the architect came to see the work, he said, That is fine grading. We thought that pull-together volunteer work made one of the red letter days in the church history.

-M.C.G.

Isn't that a delightful story of village life early in the twentieth century? The 1976 history book tells us that the fire occurred on May 3, 1928 and the new church was dedicated on December 22, 1929. It was rebuilt from the contributions of many friends and insurance



Interior of the original First Congregational Church.

money. I'm sure that one of the friends was Mabel Gage, former missionary to China. She had, only four years previously, paid to have the cracked Revere foundry bell re-cast. Miss Gage was the great granddaughter of Dr. Leander Gage, who practiced in Waterford from 1817 to 1842, and of Ann Sargent Gage, friend of Mary Moody Emerson. [See This Is Waterford.]

The 1837 building had been constructed to replace an earlier Congregational meeting house which was built (after a bitter struggle) in 1801 in the

neighborhood we now call Plummer Hill. (The Old Town House was constructed, we are told, from pieces of the earlier meeting house.) The first minister was called in 1798--Rev. Lincoln Ripley of Concord, Massachusetts, whose wife was an aunt to Ralph Waldo Emerson.

[The story is fascinating reading in the 1875 history book, ppg. 84-90.]

Susan Hamlin Wilkins was born in Waterford, the daughter of John and Lydia Hamlin Wilkins. John Wilkins' mother was a Kimball; he resided first on Temple Hill and later had a house in the Flat. Lydia Hamlin was the daughter of original settler (and first town clerk) Africa Hamlin and his wife Susanna Stone. Lydia's brother Dr. Castelo Hamlin married Rebecca Haskins, thus making Susan Hamlin Wilkins a cousin to the Emerson family and a relative of half the town!

Miss Wilkins began her teaching career in the one-room schools of Waterford and later taught in Brooklyn, New York, before retiring back to Waterford. She intended to make a bequest to the children of the town for a community hall but died before she could change her will. All her money went to Katherine Baird, often described as Susan's devoted friend, and Miss Baird carried out her wishes. The Wilkins House continues to be a great resource to us all.

Nancy Chute Marcotte

Flag Day in Waterford remembered

(Continued from page 8)

able to put an article in the Warrant asking for \$25 to defray the expenses of the day. This would enable us to get a speaker of prominence for the exercises, provide for the necessary printing and defray expenses of the picnic dinner. It is incontestable that great benefit is derived from literary exercises, the athletic sports, the mingling of teachers, students, parents, citizens and visiting friends on this day. This makes a fitting climax for the school year."

Flag Day was observed each year on the last school day of June until 1933 (21 years). The sports mentioned were bag races, running races, 3-legged races, ball games, other games and probably a Virginia Reel. Mr. Sias probably introduced the latter as good exercise.

On page 268, I was happy to see a picture of the flag on the pole in the turn to North Waterford and the Flag Day crowd in front of the Lake House.



The four original buildings are, above left, a stage stop and former post office that has been converted to a home; Melby's Market & Eatery, above right, which was a trading post and later Tut's. Below left, this early home has housed a variety of families including Burnel, Hobon, Brown and Dubay. Below right, the William Green home is now owned by the Byrne family.

A View from the North Waterford Church

(Continued from page 1)

Green's Fair, Winter Carnivals, ball games, small businesses, a set of weighing scales and parking for snowmobiles. One young minister attempted to set out trees but they didn't survive the traffic.

My bell has rung to call people to worship and to times of celebration, and to sound an alarm in times of danger. My windows were red from the light of the fire that swept up the hill in January, 1900. The school children were the first to call out the alarm and, after the loss of the school, attended classes in my basement for the rest of the school year.

I have watched happily as people gathered for christenings, weddings and suppers, but with sadness at funerals and when a man who was painting my steeple fell to his death. I shuddered when lightning struck but did no damage.

In summer I watch heavy traffic as it passes on the lower road to the

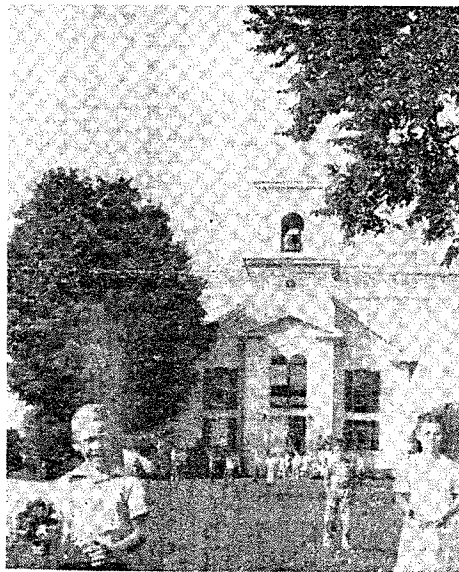
many cottages on the five Kezar Lakes. The road on my upper side is less traveled except on World Fair days and when there are other celebrations at the fairgrounds, like birthdays, anniversaries and Saturday night dances. It is also a short cut to Mutiny Corner and to camps on Duck Pond.

Many changes have occurred over the years. The hitching rail in front of the stores has been exchanged for a gas pump. The narrow muddy carriage lanes have become wide tarred high-

ways. The Old Rowley Inn and the other general store have burned and the land is now used for parking space. There are "For Sale" signs on some buildings and some have recently acquired new owners. There are only four of the original buildings left at "the Corner."

In 1994, it was decided that my basement was crumbling and I was lifted high on blocks for rebuilding and roof repairs. My name has been added to the list of National Historical

Places and I still stand as a centerpiece to welcome people to my village.



This photo of the "Church on the hill" was taken from an old newspaper story on Waterford, probably taken in the mid-150s. Anyone who knows of the original should contact the society.



Waterford Historical Society *2004 program schedule*

DATE	PROGRAM	LOCATION
June 10 7 p.m.	Pioneer Table by Ed Holt	Old Town House Potluck Dessert
July 8 6:30 p.m.	Civil War by Paul Artlip	Wilkins House Potluck Supper
July 11 2-4 p.m.	Open House	All 3 Waterford Historical Society Museums
Aug 8 2-4 p.m.	Open House	All 3 Waterford Historical Society Museums
Aug 12 6:30 p.m.	Quilts and Handiwork by Cynthia Hamlin	Wilkins House Potluck supper
Sept 9 7 p.m.	Local Apples by George Stilphen	No. Waterford Museum - Ice Cream Social
Oct. 14 7 p.m.	Waterford Fair by Larry Murch - Fryeburg Fair by Diane Jones	Wilkins House Potluck Dessert
Nov. 11 7 p.m.	WWII Waterford Veterans by Cynthia Hamlin	Wilkins House Potluck Dessert
Dec. 9	Christmas Party	TBA

Flag Day in Waterford

by Orpha Carol Sias Davis, 101

The Waterford Flat church is now labeled Congregational. In the early 1900s, the City (South Waterford) church was labeled Methodist. However, each had a few Universalists in the flocks (A Universalist not so Unitarian as the ones of today). My father, George Sias, candidated and was hired in 1909. He felt that he ministered to so few at church on Sunday that he could add to his ministry by visiting on the way back in the homes, talking with people and by joining Masons, Grange, Library and Reading Club.

He also visited the summer guests at their cottages and the Lake House. One of the guests at the Lake House was the famous soloist, Mr. Brewer, a man generous with his talent and also his money. At this visit Mr. Sias mentioned that he would like to see an American Flag waving over Waterford. That winter Mr. Brewer sent a beautiful big one to him and to the town.

The following spring Mr. Sias, Eddie Coy and some other public-spirited men hunted the woods for a pole. The flag was so large they put up a pole with a bracket for an extension. Flag Day started with a meeting at the church, a march to the heater piece where Route 35 leaves the Norway Road for North Waterford. Then the flag was raised and saluted.

After the meeting at the church and the flag raising on Flag Day, almost everyone picnicked on the Common. They either brought blankets to sit on or took folding chairs from the vestry.

I was delighted to read "The History of Waterford, Maine, 1875-1976" researched by the Waterford Historical Society. I wish all history could be such enjoyable reading.

I kept looking for a write-up on Flag Day. That was a red letter day in my school days in Waterford. I remember Arnold Merrill, who lived in Sweden, saying Flag Day at the Flat and the "World's Fair" at North Waterford were the two big days of his growing up. I think this was true for all the boys and girls of that era.

As I read on, I found on page 160 True Morrill wrote "Our Flag Day Services on the last day of the school year were enjoyable and profitable. The board deemed it advis-

(Continued on page 6)

Waterford Historical Society
PO Box 201
Waterford ME 04088

