

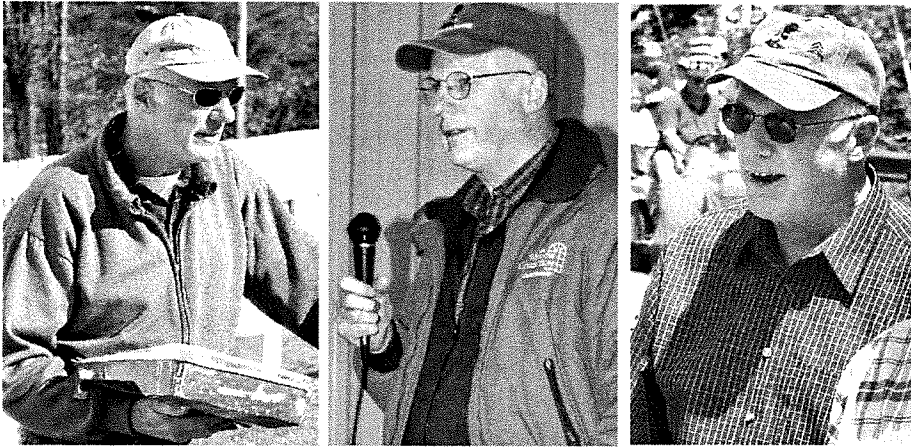


Waterford Echoes

VOLUME XXIII Number 1 (Issue 40)

Spring 2005

Waterford Historical Society



From left: Mac Bean paints the Elm Vale Cemetery fence Oct. 28, 2004; March, 2004 town meeting presenting Civil War plaque; and marching in the 2004 Fourth of July parade with fellow veterans.

Mac Bean remembered

by Bill Haynes

The death March 14 of past president and longtime society trustee Malcolm "Mac" Bean has left a huge void in Waterford and the hearts of its inhabitants.

"Mac was a very faithful person to the historical society here as well as to Harrison," said his sister, Joan Bean Fillebrown with whom Mac spent his final days.

Those who knew Mac were aware of his countless contributions to the community. Those who didn't are beginning to learn. Whether it was repairing and setting out the benches on the Common or putting up street signs for the town or shopping for the Wilkins House breakfasts, Mac was behind the scenes in innumerable activities.

One minute Mac would be replacing rotted pickets at Elm Vale Cemetery and the next he would be retrofitting the apartment at the Waterford Library where he and Joan grew up.

The familiar refrain of "call Mac"

when a task needs doing is now replaced by the reality that there is no one to take his place. He quietly went about his chores satisfied simply with getting the job done and done well.

Joan said Mac was proud of his service from 1954-57 as a U.S. Marine and his successful career in banking. In poring over his materials, she has discovered he had a penchant for writing down humorous items. He often used spray paint to point out a road problem to highway officials throughout the area. And if he disagreed with your point of view, you'd know it.

Below are comments submitted by society trustees.

Frederic Engdahl, president of the society, worked with Mac

on several projects and knows as well as anyone the impact Mac had on the community.

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Nuances

by Nancy Marcotte

The Bicentennial History of Harrison Maine 1905-2005 has recently been published by the Harrison Historical Society. Two fine hard-bound volumes were the culmination of 40 years of work begun by the late Mary Thomes Carlson and finished in the past few years by an editorial board headed by Gerry Smith. The board also included Allan and Virginia Denison, Elaine Smith, Madelyn Buck, Ann Davis, Jean Higgins and Lorraine Tolman. Jean Hankins of Otisfield volunteered to index the history and it was my pleasure to proof-read Volume I, which was an extensive 500+-page continuation of the 1905 centennial history. Many Harrison residents and descendants of residents wrote pieces for Volume I, about transportation, industry, farming, education and so on.

Volume II, however, is a service to the community far beyond the scope of the average history book. It contains a thorough area history section

detailing each road in Harrison and the houses on it, including all past and present owners.

Compiled by

Martha Scribner Denison with maps by Delmore Maxfield, Jr., it is admirably detailed. Also in this volume is an

(Continued on page 4)

**Annual Meeting
Waterford Historical Society
June 9 — 7 p.m.
Town House**

In Memoriam

Alvin Brown 87, of 10 Brixham Road in York died at home Dec. 30, 2004. He was born in South Royalton, VT, the son of Rachel Cutts Brown, formerly of Kittery Point and Carle L. Brown of Norway. Most of his life was spent in the Norway, South Paris and Waterford area before his retirement to York in 1974. He worked as a foreman for the Wilner Wood Products in South Paris before purchasing a farm in Waterford. He was a successful dairy farmer who was referred to as "Farmer Brown." He served on the ASC Board and the Farmer's Home Board for Oxford County. For many years, he drove a school bus in Waterford. He was active in the First Parish Church in York. He was predeceased by his wife of 66 years, Dorothy Millett Brown, earlier in 2004. He was the last of five siblings, all of whom predeceased him including Carle L. Brown, Jr. of York, Alice Howe of Waterford, Viola Rypka of Eastlake, OH, and his youngest sister, Marion Dow of South Paris. He is survived by his daughter, Carolyn Emmons of Hampton, NH; his son, Alvin L. Brown of York; four grandchildren and three great-grandchildren.

Warren A. Cairns, 72, of North Waterford died Jan. 30, 2005 at his home. He was born in South Paris, Oct. 16, 1932, the son of Almon N. and Helen Violet Cummings Cairns. He was educated in the Paris School system. He was a farmer who started at an early age and worked for Kenneth Russell, working with the horses and doing chores. While still in high school, he worked for Jackson Gates on his farm in West Paris. After marrying Florence Woodworth in 1950, he worked for C.B. Cummings for a while. In 1963, he once again began farming. Moving with his family to North Waterford, he raised poultry for Hillcrest Foods, and later for Co-Hen Egg Farms. Before retiring in 1993 due to poor health, he worked for Fred P. Saunders Co. in Bridgton. He loved to farm and enjoyed raising steers as a hobby and training them for showing at local fairs in Maine. He was also in charge of steer and oxen showing at North Waterford World's Fair for many years and served as president of the fair for four years. He is survived by his wife of North Waterford; a daughter, Donna McCarraher of Waterford; three sons, Reginald of Waterford, Jackson of Old Orchard Beach and Nelson of Paris; and eight grandchildren. He was predeceased by a brother, Gordon F. Cairns. He is buried in Pleasant Valley Cemetery in South Paris.

Irene L. Bell Chadbourne, 79, of Sweden, died Feb. 1, 2005 at Market Square Health Care Center in South Paris. She was born Sept. 2, 1925 in Waterford, a daughter of Archibald Clifton and Ethel Helen (Skinner) Bell. In addition to her best friend and companion for more than 25 years, Olin "Duff" Ridlon of Sweden, she is survived by a daughter, Berdice Whitney of Harrison; a son, Dennis Chadbourne Jr., of Springvale; a brother, Harry Bell of Gorham; a sister, Esther Trask of Zephyrhills, Fla. and Brewer; four grandchildren and six great-grandchildren. She was predeceased by a daughter, Bonnie Haggett; three brothers, Donald Bell, Earl Bell and Frank Bell; and a sister, Margaret Merrill. A graveside service was conducted this spring in Elm Vale Cemetery in South Waterford.

Malcolm J. Bean, 70, of Waterford, a **Life Member of the Society**, died March 14, 2005 at Bridgton Hospital. Mac was born in Lewiston June 3, 1934, the son of Edward and Irene King Bean. He graduated from Bridgton Academy in 1952 and served in the U.S. Marine Corps from 1954 to 1957. Mac was vice president of Indian Head National Bank in Nashua, NH where he was responsible for all phases of security in the main bank as well as the 39 branches throughout the state. He was also founder and charter member of the New Hampshire branch of the National Fraudulent Check Association. He retired in 1985. He was a member of the Waterford Congregational Church and Waterford and Harrison historical societies. He is survived by his sister, Joan Fillebrown of Waterford along with nieces and nephews. He is buried in Elm Vale Cemetery.

William R. Kimball, 79, of Buckfield, died March 14, 2005. He was born in Waterford on March 20, 1925, the son of Merton M. and Hazel S. (Sawin) Kimball and was educated in local schools. He served in the U.S. Navy during World War II on the aircraft carrier Hancock. He worked as a livestock dealer most of his life, owned Kimball's Slaughterhouse of Waterford, bought raw furs and hides and had worked in real estate. He is survived by his wife,

Donetta Kimball of Buckfield; three sons, Wade Kimball and William R. Kimball Jr. of Waterford and Matthew M. Kimball of South Paris; four daughters, Brenda Gerry of Fryeburg, Linda Wakefield of Harrison, Sharon Hadley of Norway; three sisters, Edna K. Hill of Conway, N.H., Ethel West of Bowdoin and Evelyn Maxfield of Harrison; his first wife and mother of his children, Muriel Lapham, of South Paris; 14 grandchildren and 6 great-grandchildren. He was predeceased by his brother, Merritt M. Kimball in 2004. He is buried in Damon Cemetery in Buckfield.

Stanley W. Lord, 92, of Bethel died at home March 20, 2005. He was born on Sept. 26, 1912 in Waterford, the son of Walter A. and Faye F. (Bickford) Lord. He attended Waterford schools and was a Norway High School graduate, Class of 1931. On Oct. 9, 1934, he married Louise Elizabeth Stone. They made their home in Waterford until 1949. While in Waterford, he became a member of Mt. Tir'em Lodge and worked his way to Master. He served on the Waterford Board of Selectmen for several years. In 1949, the family moved to Bethel and purchased one of the Bethel Inn farms. He raised registered Guernseys and sold milk to H.P. Hood and Sons. He joined the American Tree Farm Association in 1950 and was assigned tree farm No. 36 in the state. He sold the farm in 1955 and was later employed by Gould Academy for 18 years. After his retirement from Gould, he spent his time improving the tree farm. He was a member of the West Parish Congregational Church in Bethel and served on the board of trustees for three years and as a deacon for six years. He is survived by his wife of 70 years; two daughters, Ellen Cochran of St. Paul, Minn., and Eleanor L. Jodrey of Bethel; three grandchildren; and four great-grandchildren.

Leon H. Noyes, 39, died Jan. 28, 2005 at his home in Wichita Falls, Texas. He attended Oxford Hills High School from 1979 to 1982 and graduated from Portsmouth (NH) High School in 1983. Upon graduation he entered the United States Air Force and served until his discharge in 1994. He earned a Bachelor's degree in Occupational Education in 2000 from Wayland Baptist University and was a special education teacher from 2000 to 2004. He is predeceased by his mother, Patricia Anne Noyes. He is survived by his wife, Sammie; daughters, Amber, Karshia and Olivia; father, Leon H. Noyes of Belgium; sister, Lynn Haley; grandmother, Phyllis Prince and grandfather, Haynes F. Noyes of Waterford. He will be buried in Elm Vale Cemetery July 2.

Marilyn C. Bradbury, 67, of Waterford, formerly of Stoneham and Woburn, Mass., died March 31, 2005 at Maine Medical Center in Portland. Born in Everett, Mass. she was the daughter of Howard and Mildred (Waltz) Mattsen. She was raised and educated in Stoneham, Mass. and graduated from Stoneham High School in 1954. Following retirement, Mrs. Bradbury and her husband, Kenneth, moved from Woburn, Mass. to Waterford. Besides her husband, she is survived by her three daughters, Lynn Maas of Pennsylvania, Susan Bradbury of Connecticut and Karen Bradbury of New Hampshire; two sisters, Martha Pratt of Florida and Ann Ellen Phelps of Maine; and six grandchildren. She is buried in Forest Glade Cemetery in Wakefield, Mass.

Albert G. Packard, 88, of Casco, died in Norway on April 25, 2005. He was born in Waterford on May 3, 1916 the son of George and Margaret (Wood) Packard and was educated in local schools. Albert was a self-employed carpenter most of his life. He enjoyed the out-of-doors, fishing, hunting, trapping and was also fond of dancing. He was a member of the NRA (having been citizen of the year), SAM, the Maine Trappers Association and a former member of the North Bridgton Fire Department. He is survived by two sons, William Robert Packard and Arnold Glenn Packard both of Harrison; two daughters, Margaret "Peggy" Poskus of Hartford and Alberta P. Estes of Harrison; 15 grandchildren; 29 great-grandchildren and five great-great-grandchildren. He is buried in Elm Vale Cemetery.

Kathleen P. Grover, 45, of Waterford, died May 13, 2005 at her home on Papoose Pond. She was born in Norway, on May 23, 1959, the daughter of Miriam Brown Grover Higgins and Rodney T. Grover. She graduated from Oxford Hills High School in 1977, and Thomas College in 1979. She worked for Dr. Robert Story and Dr. Kenneth Hamilton, The Medicine Shop, Fox School, and most recently for CompuNET. She leaves two daughters, Annie and Elise Hodgdon, and their father, Peter Hodgdon; a sister, Corille Bressette of Waterford; and several nieces, nephews, aunts, uncles and cousins. She was predeceased by her mother, father and brother, Keith.

Nuances

(Continued from page 1)

alphabetical genealogy section. Begun by Mary Carlson, it was conscientiously completed by Elaine Smith and Virginia Denison. Both these undertakings have been discussed in the Waterford Historical Society—the listing of building histories on each of the roads as well as an update of genealogies since our 1875 history. Both jobs take the commitment of individuals with time to gather and pursue data.

Now we have the fine example of our neighbors, who sent out questionnaires to residents looking for family histories and military service. They began with the concept of including any family with three generations living in Harrison but the finished genealogy is more comprehensive and includes more families than originally planned. For something done only every hundred years, the editorial board members felt they should include whoever wanted to be included.

I find genealogy to be fascinating and I have spent hours reading this volume. My most immediate ancestors in Harrison are my father's family and I have read about my grandparents, Walter and Hazel Little Chute, then back a generation to their parents Quincy and Melissa Lewis Chute and Ora and Hattie Libby Little. The next generation back for each of them revealed settlers who came from Naples, Maine and Colebrook, N.H. in the 1880s. Quincy was descended from "the first white settler of Windham" in 1738; he was a farmer, a Granger, a selectman and an Odd Fellow. Ora was descended from a Civil War veteran and he and Hattie had 10 children. Ora lost his arm in a sawmill accident at Scribner's Mills. Interesting things. But the real fun in reading genealogy is in looking beyond the immediate ancestors to the intermarriages, to the aunts, uncles and cousins; to the children who died young

Oxford County Bicentennial June 11

The Oxford County Bicentennial celebration will take place on Paris Hill June 11, the 200th anniversary of the first meeting of Oxford County officials. The reenactment began March 4 with a trail ride from Beacon Hill in Boston and will end with delivery of Gov. Mitt Romney's proclamation to the original county seat. Gardner Waldeier of Waterford picked up the proclamation March 7 at the Longfellow House in Cambridge and carried it 125 miles on foot to Porter, arriving at the covered bridge March 14. Within the county, a series of couriers on horseback have been making stops at each of the 24 fourth grades in the county. Three riders brought a copy of the proclamation to Waterford Memorial School May 12.

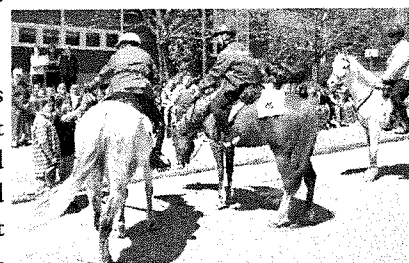


Because no county buildings existed on Paris Hill in 1805, the first session was held in the Baptist Church. The county offices remained there until 1895, when the county seat was moved to the more developed area near the train station in South Paris. At that time, the residents were disappointed to lose their status as the seat of government. But the removal of this activity to the town's commercial center saved Paris Hill from development and preserved it as the beautiful village on the green it is today.

The June 11 schedule:

Equestrian procession of all riders begins at the county courthouse at 10 a.m. At about 10:45, a parade begins at the country club and will be followed by the keynote address and delivery to Gov. John Baldacci at the Baptist Church at 11:00 a.m. The event will also include live music, colonial reenactments, historical talks, activities for children and displays from a large number of the county's historical societies and other cultural organizations. Waterford trustees will display museum artifacts and sell publications from noon to 4 p.m.

The Oxford County Bicentennial Quilt, created from squares contributed by craftspeople from 34 towns, two plantations and two townships, will be displayed in Waterford on Saturday, July 9 at the Town House. It includes the Waterford square created by Linda Murch and Sharon Kimball.



Riders deliver a copy of the proclamation to Waterford fourth graders May 12.

and the people who lived to be very old and contributed to their community; to the travelers who had great adventures in the world. It's a surprise to read of the unusual lives, the heroic military careers, the teachers and the highway builders, the threads which interweave one family to another, from one town to the next. Each one's story adds a layer to the story of the community. I found connections in the past to Waterford families and even to my ancestors the Bells, Hamlins, Hayneses and Marrs.

My idea for the Waterford Historical Society is that we begin to collect family histories here in town by

distributing the same kind of questionnaire as was done in Harrison. We already have some family data in our collections in the library. With computer access to genealogical databases and municipal records all over the world, our task can start with many local hands and extend far beyond. At the annual meeting (June 9, the second Thursday in the month), we hope to have a speaker who can help us with this task. Following the meeting in the Old Town House, we will adjourn to the Waterford Library where we will have access to a computer. Please join us and begin to compile your family's history.



Don't Write, Better Phone

April 19, 1969 — It is something less than 10 miles from Wilma Springer's general store and post office in East Waterford to the post office operated by Mrs. Mildred Noyes in South Waterford.

In between at Rounds's store on the so-called "flats" is Mrs. Larry Rounds, who also has her post office.

But if Mrs. Noyes should want to mail Mrs. Springer or Mrs. Rounds an invitation of sorts, the correspondence would have to travel a conservative 125 miles to reach the addressee. And if the invitation were going to North Waterford Post Master Irving McAllister, it would be even farther.

Despite the appreciable roundabout route the piece of mail would take to reach its destination in the same town, nobody is complaining about the service.

"I suppose it's just a matter of time before they close some of the offices," says Mrs. Noyes, who added she had been told by a postal inspector the situation in Waterford may be unique in the country.

Waterford survived the belt-tightened process which the postal department went through a few years ago when it closed many fourth class post offices. That designation is shared by Mrs. Rounds, Mrs. Springer and Mrs. Noyes, while Mr. McAllister keeps going as a third class operation.

The four post offices have no in-town deliveries other than the rural carriers. This means that to get a letter from North Waterford to East Waterford would take at the very least a trip of some 30 miles to Norway and back.

"Of course," as one resident noted, "why would anybody in Waterford want to send a letter to anyone else in

Waterford? All we have to do is pick up the phone. Everybody knows everybody."

Violent Storm Claims Norway man
July 16, 1948 — The aftermath of Wednesday's violent thunder storm included the death of one and serious injury of another.

Harrison M. Hunt, 69, Noble Corner, Norway, a veteran state highway patrolman, died here shortly before noon Thursday while engaged in removing a huge elm tree from the highway which had been uprooted during the wind and rain storm.

John C. Quinn III, 23, of Norway, suffered a fracture of the 12th vertebra when his car piled into one of the fallen trees across Route 118. The impact of the tree brushed his car into an embankment.

Tuttles Purchase Percy's Store

(1972) Fred Tuttle, who has worked for the last 17 years as a trucker, will soon be his own boss. Mr. Tuttle, and his wife, Elizabeth Pike Tuttle, announce the opening of Tut's Store, North Waterford, formerly Percy's Store, which they purchased from Mr. and Mrs. Alfred Millett Waterford, on April 27, 1972.

Mr. Tuttle is presently running operations on a commuter basis from his home in Lebanon, N.H. driving back and forth on weekends. The three-hour drive doesn't bother him, he said. "That's what I do for a living so I'm kinda used to it."

Seventeen years ago before he started driving rigs, Fred Tuttle was a member of the Auburn police force.

Closed Waterford Plant to Reopen
May 8, 1969 — A Massachusetts firm

announced Wednesday it plans to reopen the former North Waterford Spool Mill complex immediately and start production of wooden pallets and skids.

Ad-Carr Industries Inc. of Randolph, Mass. has leased the rambling complex which manufactured wooden spools until it closed about a year ago.

James Adams, executive vice president, said production would start with nine workers and could grow to 20 by the end of the month.

"Any estimates of a work force beyond a month will have to wait," Adams said. "It will depend on research findings in the next month. We may or may not go back to making spools."

Adams said Ad-Carr Industries is a new firm that presently operates one small mill in the Boston area which has "limited production facilities" but had been successful in building "a substantial working relationship with New England customers."

The Maine Department of Economic Development played a key role in obtaining the Waterford location for his company.

"The facilities couldn't be better situated for what we want to do," he said. "The sawmill is in excellent shape. Other parts of the mill will have to undergo some changes."

Approximately 60 persons were employed by the mill before it closed. Tallon Spool Co. of Georgia took over management of the company from Earle Brown two years ago. Declining demand for wooden spools was cited as the reason for closing.

(The spool mill and its equipment were sold at auction five months later.)



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President's Column

by Fred Engdahl

This will be my last message to you as president of the Waterford Historical Society. In June, at the annual meeting, new directors will be nominated from the membership and they, in turn, will elect the officers that will continue the work of the society. I have greatly enjoyed my time as president.

Our board has been below "strength" recently and we have suffered major losses this year with the passing of Mac Bean, who was the vice president, and the resignation of Cynthia Hamlin as program chairperson. Mac, whose untimely death this past March left us all stunned, will leave a large void in this community that will be difficult to fill. He is memorialized in this issue by members of the society and their tributes only begin to tell of his worth to this community and the people he came in contact with here.

We owe a debt of gratitude also to Cynthia and to the way she opened our eyes to the wonderful accomplishments of the settlers of our village and

those that came after. For two years she provided remarkable programs about our little village and the people



Mac and Fred Engdahl stain oak bench slats.

who have lived in it over the years... She employed a "hands-on" presenta-

tion utilizing many of the acquisitions of the society that allowed us to experience what life was like 50 years, 100 years and beyond here in the "little village in the hills" and in similar New England villages. All of this defines who we are today! Our thanks go out to Cynthia!

Finally, I will close this note by appealing to you to lend a hand at the society by becoming a member of the board. If you have appreciated the programs that have been put on for you in the past, perhaps you have some contribution to make in continuing this work. You will be surprised at how much you will learn about Waterford!

It is doubtful that we will be able to sustain the types of programs that you have become accustomed to without adding several new members to the board. When we meet at the Town House for our annual meeting, we will decide whether the society will continue its programs for this season. Without your help we will be unable to do so.

Waterford Echoes

Vol. XXIII Number 1 Issue 40 Spring 2005

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.

2004-2005 OFFICERS

President:	Fred Engdahl
Vice President:	Malcolm Bean (deceased)
Secretary:	Nancy Marcotte
Treasurer:	Karen Wright
Director/Curator:	Fred Engdahl
Program Director:	Cynthia Hamlin
Newsletter Editor:	Bill Haynes
Trustees:	Cynthia Hamlin, Henry Plate, Mary Andrews, Nancy Engdahl Lieselotte Willoughby, and Richard Jones (Trustee Emeritus)



MEMBERSHIP CLASSIFICATION

Life member	— \$150.00
Annual Individual	— \$10.00
Annual Couple	— \$15.00
Seniors (65 & over)	— \$5.00

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.

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.

Mac Bean 'Always kept the ship afloat'

(Continued from page 1)

"The loss of Malcolm Bean to the community of Waterford will be felt long into the future. Mac was generous to a fault in his willingness to help out those who needed assistance. He particularly kept an eye on the elderly to make sure that they were not being taken advantage of by unscrupulous tradesmen. Anytime you needed something done, you could count on Mac to be there. Often he would spot something in town that needed some attention and he would go right ahead to put it straight. His greatest love was this community, its people and its history.

"Few knew as many people as Mac did but they all knew him as a man with a great ethic and whose word could be trusted."

Karen S. Wright, the Society's treasurer, grew to know Mac's importance to the community since she moved to Waterford.

"Waterford has lost a marvelous friend. I don't think we even realize yet how much Mac did for the community. I would bump into him in the library where he would be installing a brass plaque. In the church he would be painting when I stopped in. At the Wilkins House when I went to use the bathroom, he was tiling it.

"I asked to borrow his extension ladder so I could have someone reattach my weather vane that had loosened during the winter. He said he would be glad to. Instead of just dropping it off, I found him on my roof, three stories off the ground worrying about whether the weather vane was perfectly upright. When he finally came down he refused any payment so I guessed what someone would charge to do the job and made a donation to the church in his honor. Mac was a

true gentleman. I wish I had known him longer."

Joy and Henry Plate, board members, have known Mac for years.

"Mac Bean — a true gentleman of integrity, who was fun to sit and chat with, get up on Waterford activities, go snooping on Peak's Island, explore Arcadia Park, sit on barn swings and learn about Waterford neighbors — a true friend who will always be missed.

"Mac was always ready to help with a friendly smile. Waterford has lost a tremendous friend and neighbor who will never be replaced. We miss you, Mac."

Lilo Willoughby, a past president of the Society, fondly recalled getting to know Mac.

"In 1989, shortly after my husband and I

moved to Waterford full time, I received a call from Helen Buchert asking me to become president of the Waterford Historical Society. We had been members since 1975. After a lot of soul searching and with great hesitancy I agreed. Almost immediately, Oscar Andrews and Mac Bean took me under their wings. Both are gone now.

"With Mac's passing so recently, I became painfully aware how much he did for the community and, as far as I was concerned, most especially for the Historical Society. He was its backbone. Officers came and went — Mac always kept the ship afloat. Not only did he serve in many different capacities on the board, he also was the

'Handyman' par excellence! There was just about nothing he could not

do. His accomplishments are much too numerous to mention here but the evidence is all over town. "There are many shoes to be filled for the work to be continued in so many organizations in Waterford. Let's all pitch in

his memory. Mac, may your soul rest in peace."

Board member Nancy Engdahl recognized Mac's many contributions.

"Mac Bean . . . a country gentleman — kind, considerate, generous, gentle, humorous, a wonderful friend. Because of who Mac was, a deep unexpected loss has been felt by the Waterford community and beyond. If there were a problem, a task to be completed, a person needing help, Mac was there quietly assisting, never seeking recognition as he did things for others day after day.

"For many years, Mac was a

member of the Waterford Historical Society, a leader, a resource person, an officer whenever the need arose, a guardian of the maintenance of our buildings and an assistant to whomever needed support at any time, the last to leave meetings

when all was done and everything put away."

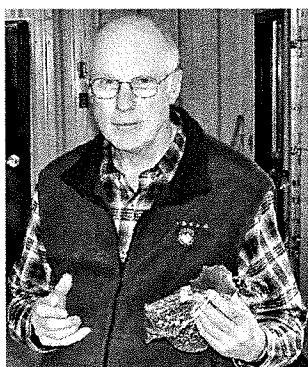
To Mac

*You are in the sunrise and the sunset
Your spirit lives in the hearts of the people.*

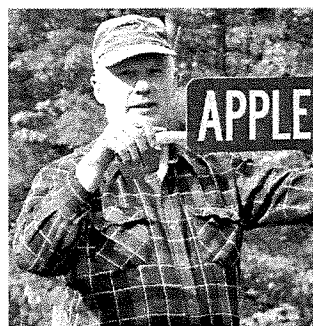
Mac's committal service was held June 4 at Elm Vale Cemetery.



Mac chats with Richard Jones at the 2002 town meeting.



Time out for a whoopee pie.



Mac putting up road signs.

Ober Kimball — Society's first president

Ober W. Kimball, one of the founders of the Waterford Historical Society four decades ago, would have been 100 years old had he lived past May 1, 1979. The Waterford native and lifelong educator moderated the organizational meeting of the Society that attracted 27 people and was elected the group's first president.

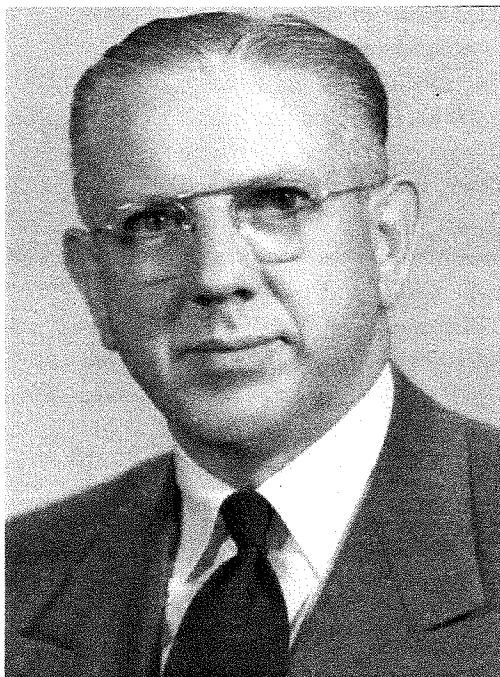
The idea of a historical society was borne of the dreams of Ober, Blynn Davis of the Bridgton Historical Society and Flora Abbott, a business woman and founder of the Bear Mt. Library along with many others.

The initial gathering along with several of the early meetings were held in the Bear Mt. Library building in South Waterford. The building was the former general store and post office owned by Flora, who had urged the establishment of a historical society for nearly a decade.

Ober was born in Waterford Nov. 4, 1904, the son of George and Sadie Whitcomb Kimball. He graduated from Norway High School, the Maine School of Commerce and the University of Maine. He taught in Waterville from 1930 to 1955 and returned to Waterford to teach at Norway High School and Oxford Hills until his retirement in 1964.

The first meeting was held March

4, 1965 and a month later, the first officers were elected. Serving as Ober's vice president was Berkley Henley while Margaret Sawyer was elected secretary and David Erickson treasurer.



Ober W. Kimball

In May, the society accepted a constitution and over the summer, the society incorporated. Elected in addition to the officers were Edward and Irene Bean, Arthur Sanderson, Charlotte Fillebrown and June Pike. Flora gave artifacts and furniture along with

the second floor of the library as a museum.

The society continued meeting at the library into 1973, but by July had accepted the deed to the Rebekah's Hall in North Waterford. The first meeting in the hall was held in September with 44 attending. When Flora died Dec. 22, 1975, she gave the building to the Bear Mt. Library Association. Artifacts and furniture were moved to North Waterford.

Ober's influence figured prominently in the first decade and a half of the new society, including the acquisition of the Mary Gage Rice Museum, donated by the Wheeler family, and the writing and publishing of the 1976 history.

From the early days, those involved nurtured their vision of a 100-year history to pick up where the first, called the Warren history, left off. Materials were assembled, research papers written and family histories gathered. Rev. Bertram Wentworth, a frequent and favorite speaker at meetings, agreed to edit the book that was published in August, 1976. The first issue of the Echoes was published in January, 1980.

For more detail on the early days of the society, refer to issues 21, 24 and 25.

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