



Waterford Echoes

VOLUME XXIII Number 2 (Issue 41)

Fall/Winter 2005

Waterford Historical Society



THE FAMILY TREE

by Nancy Marcotte

A few years ago my friend Randy Bennett of Bethel sent me a treasure trove of genealogical information from Albert Hamlin's Bible, which he had happened upon in an antique store in Harrison. The photocopies he sent me filled in some blanks in my information about the Hamlin and Bell family trees (my great-grandparents being W. K. and Clara Bell Hamlin).

Albert Hamlin I (1816-1875) was the father of Walter Keyes (W.K.) Hamlin (see the book "This Is Waterford"). He was born the son of America Hamlin II and Huldah Keyes and on 21 Dec., 1845 he married Sarah K. Woodsum (1817-1894) from Harrison (the Woodsum farm featured in the book "Big House, Little House, Backhouse, Barn"). Their seven children were Harriet (b. 13 Sept., 1846, d. 1923), Samantha (1848-1926), Ann Maria (1850-1925), Mary (1852-1927), W. K. (1854-1940), James B. (1857-1907) and Cora J. Hamlin (1859-?).

These children went on to lead interesting lives. Harriet married G. W. Morgan in Nashville, Tennessee in 1871. Mary wed R. P. Bean in South Waterford (1873), Ann Maria wed O. G. Fish in Lewiston (1874) and J. B. wed Addie Atherton in South Waterford (1884). The other three siblings all married Bells. Samantha wed T. C. (Timothy) Bell in

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Arrowventure, the girls segment of Camp Ironwood in 1949 from camp photographs.

Camp Ironwood remembered

by David Sanderson

Many of us will recall the Camp Ironwood buildings along the east side of Bear Pond. The camp sign remained long after the children's camp was closed, and Margaret Werner was a summer resident until her death at age 98. Werner Park, in South Waterford, which opened in 1969, was endowed by the Werners as a gift to Waterford's children.

The Werners were from St. Louis, Missouri, where L. Matthews Werner (1903-1981) was the son of a prominent lawyer. His connection to Maine came about through one of those chance occurrences that ends up changing peoples' lives. Werner was a student at Interlochen School, near South Bend, Indiana, one of eight schools he attended during the course

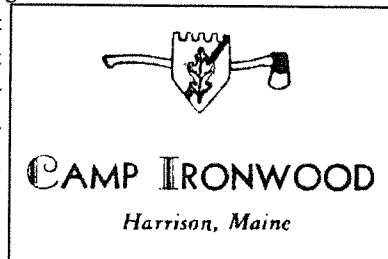
of a stormy high school career. A thorough rebel against conventional education, he did complete high school, but refused flatly even to consider college.

Following a particularly provoking incident, the principal of Interlochen remanded Matt for punishment to A. E. Hamilton, one of Interlochen's teachers. In his own way, Hamilton was as unconventional as Werner; he was able to reach the boy and turn him from a rebel against education into an educator of young people. It was Hamilton

who first brought Matthews Werner to Maine.

Albert E. Hamilton was the husband of Katherine Gulick, one of the daughters of Luther Halsey Gulick, and thus a part of a family that was deeply involved in organizations and

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Logo from camp stationary. The name "ironwood" in New England normally refers to hop hornbeam, which is extremely heavy and dense. The leaf used for the logo looks much more like bur oak, a hard, heavy wood, though not usually called ironwood.

In Memoriam

Agnes L. Howe, 81, of Norway, died Aug. 5, 2005 at Stephens Memorial Hospital. She was born in Waterford on Jan. 11, 1924, the daughter of Horace and Mary Hamlin Gardner. She graduated from Bridgton Academy and attended Auburn School of Commerce. She married Paul W. "Bill" Howe on June 26, 1943. A bookkeeper and a housewife, she was a member of the Second Congregational Church of Norway and the Barton Reading Club. She is survived by her husband of Norway; two daughters, Beverly Cronin of Scarborough, and Beth Brainerd of Norway; two granddaughters of Norway; three brothers, Edwin of Waterford, Charles (Loren) of Norway and Ralph of Harrison; and one sister, Annie Gardner. She was predeceased by a son, Dennis Howe; and a brother, Howard Gardner. She is buried in Elm Vale Cemetery.

Annie H. Gardner, 91, of Norway died Oct. 14, 2005 at Norway Rehabilitation and Living Center. She was born in South Waterford on April 5, 1914, the daughter of Horace M. and Mary Hamlin Gardner. She attended school in Waterford and graduated from Portland High School. She attended Gorham Normal School and received her bachelor's degree from Gorham State Teachers College. She received her master's degree from the University of Maine and did graduate study at Boston University. She taught school for 10 years at Plummer Hill in Waterford, Livermore Falls, Brownville Junction and Cape Elizabeth. She spent 32 years teaching at South Portland. She later taught in state homes for the disabled and problem children. She was listed in "Outstanding Educators in America" (Who's Who in American Education by the Academy of American Educators, Chicago). She was a member of the Barton Reading Club, Waterford Historical Society, Women's Fellowship at the Second Congregational Church in Norway, Maine Education Association and the Oxford and Cumberland county teachers associations. She was the first member of the first chapter in Maine of the Alpha Delta Kappa Fraternity. She was on the Housing Committee of the YMCA in Portland, the Bear Mountain Library, Bear Mountain Grange, Oxford Chapter O.E.S., American Association of University Women and the Zonta Club for Professional and Business Women. She is survived by three brothers, Edwin of Waterford, Ralph of Harrison and Charles (Loren) of Norway; and several nieces and nephews. She was predeceased by a brother, Howard, and a sister, Agnes Howe. She is buried in Elm Vale Cemetery.

Erlon F. McAllister, 73, of Waterford died Oct. 14, 2005 at Maine Medical Center in Portland. He was born in Waterford on Aug. 8, 1932, the son of Winfield and Edith Crouse McAllister. He attended Bridgton Academy. He served in the U.S. Marines during the Korean Conflict. He was stationed in Japan. He worked as a heavy equipment operator for R. K. Brown, Callahan Brothers and the Town of Waterford, where he retired after 24 years as road commissioner. He married the former Merle Allen on Feb. 19, 1955. He is survived by his wife of North Waterford; two sons, Fred and Keith of North Waterford; two daughters, Beverly McAllister of Kezar Falls, and Gloria McKee of North Waterford; six grandchildren; one great-granddaughter; two brothers, Eugene and Lawrence of North Waterford; and many nieces, nephews and cousins. He was predeceased by a brother, Irving; and a sister, Sue Littlefield. He is buried in Woodlawn Cemetery.

Nuances

(Continued from page 1)

Waterford (1877), W. K. wed Clara J. Bell (1878) and Cora wed W. F. Bell in Harrison (1879), according to the family Bible.

The children of W. K. and Clara Bell Hamlin all were listed: Alice May (b. 1879) and Jennie Bell (b. 1881) in New Haven, Conn.; Flora Gertrude (b. 1884), Carrie Augusta (b. 1886) and Albert W. (b. 1890), all in South Waterford. Their marriages were also in the Bible. Sarah Woodsum Hamlin recorded a note in spidery penmanship

about her mother Mrs. Rebekah Woodsum, who died Oct. 2, 1862 (See handwritten note on page 4):

Samantha married a considerably older husband and was widowed; she then married Joshua Bennett but had no children, nor evidently, did Hattie Morgan or Mary Bean. Annie and Oscar Fish had one daughter, Florence. James and Addie Atherton Hamlin had one daughter also, Bessie who later married George Hill (see "This Is Waterford"). Bessie's Beach, now Keoka Beach, was named for her. Cora and William Bell had two children, Annie and Albert.

Also included among the pages was a bit of Bell genealogy. John Bell married Hannah Peacock in Tewksbury, Massachusetts and they came to Albany, Maine. Of their seven children, the known names are John, Mary, Betsy, Thomas and William. The son of William and his wife Tabitha Holt, Ebenezer Flint Bell (b. 5 Aug., 1820, d. 5 June, 1900) married Jane M. Willard in 1849 and fathered seven children—a numerical pattern!—Oscar (1849), Mary (1850-1868), Lewis (1852), Clara Jane (1854-1938), Eben M. (1856-1870), William F. (1858) and

(Continued on page 4)

Plummer Hill School — Active from 1800 to 1938

By Richard G. Durnin

The matter of public schooling in Waterford had its beginnings on 7 June 1797 when the villagers, at a town meeting, voted \$100 for that purpose. On 21 August that same year a committee was chosen to establish school districts and \$80 was appropriated to build each schoolhouse. Waterford was settled in 1775 (and incorporated in 1797) and the first schooling was private, taking place in different houses. No town money was involved.

Six schoolhouses were planned and their completion took place by 1800. One of these early schools was the Plummer Hill School. Plummer Hill, rising to the west from the village (the "Flats"), was named after the Plummer family who settled there from Rowley, Massachusetts. Jonathan Plummer (born 1768), his wife Hannah Jewett, with five children, and Samuel Plummer (born 1769), his wife Elizabeth Jewett, with eight children, were the first of that family to arrive.

The Plummer Hill School was known as "District 5." It was first located further up on Plummer Hill Road, across the road from the present red house of Henry and Andrea Burns.

By 1830, there were 12 school districts in Waterford. Weathering, wear and tear resulted that by the 1870s, all town schools had been rebuilt. An early town report stated that the Plummer Hill School was in "deplorable condition, very cold, and inapproachable location. In 1903 the school was taken down and re-

inside and outside of the schoolhouse were painted. The roof was shingled, new chairs, a table and a water cooler were provided. In 1933 it was stated that globes and maps were needed.

A photo of 1918-19 shows the students with the teacher, Eloise Millett, and all eight students were named "Millett."

In 1882 Waterford had 14 school districts. From 1934 to 1936, reports from the superintendent of schools recommended that a consolidated school be built for Waterford. The last listing of the Plummer Hill School as active was in the report of 1937-38. The school was closed in February of 1938.

In 1944 the abandoned Plummer Hill School was sold to Arthur Millett, son of Addison Millett. In recent years the building stood abandoned and beyond restoration. It was taken down in the fall of 2003.



The Plummer Hill School in 1983, 45 years after it was closed.

built eastward on land of Addison Millett. The cost of the job was \$350. A report of 1923-24 noted that toilets were either repaired or installed (privy or chemical) at a cost of \$250. In 1926-27 the

A summer resident of Norway Center, Dr. Durnin is a lifetime member of the Waterford Historical Society. He is Professor Emeritus from the City College of New York where he taught the historical foundations of education.

Waterford Echoes

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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.

Nuances

(Continued from page 2)

Frank (1861).

Thus Ebenezer and Jane were the in-laws of W. K. Hamlin (Clara) and Cora Hamlin Bell (William). The other sibling of W. K., who married a Bell was Semantha, who wed into the previous generation--Ebenezer's brother Timothy Carter Bell, uncle to Cora and W. K. When they married in 1877, T. C. was 48 and Semantha was 29; they were married 17 years until his death in 1894, after which she married again.

This all looks much clearer drawn out in diagrams on a family tree. Some of the Bells went west - one to Mankato, Minnesota of "Little House On The Prairie" fame. The present-day Bells in Waterford I believe are all descendants of Frank Bell and his son Archie. In addition to other Holts and Willards, those who intermarried with the Bells were Wardwells, Chamberlains, Kendalls, Eatons, Flints, Shedd, Besseys, Nobles and Saunders. From Albany the Bells came over the hills to Blackguard neighborhood in 1851 and bought property from the Billings family. According to the Register of Deeds, one of the petitioners for incorporation of Waterford, Isaac Smith, had sold his 1799 homestead to Nathaniel Geary of Harvard and thence to the Billingses. It passed from William to William F., to Timothy C. Bell and then to his widow, Semantha. She transferred it to her niece Caroline Bell (?) and Caroline's son Irving and his widow Alice left it to Archie and Ethel Bell.

Like a jigsaw puzzle, pieces from various places fill in the picture of the

Bell family tree. When author John Governale spoke to the Waterford Historical Society this year, he advised beginning a quest for your family tree by talking to family members and reading family documents, like Bibles. Interview the oldest members of your family and write it down or tape it. If you are among the eldest members of your family, write down everything you can remember - use the genealogy sheet enclosed in this newsletter, photocopy it and fill in the information

cally? "Digital" magazine, published by "Time" in 2000, advised ways to search databases on the internet. If you type in one name, they cautioned, you may be deluged with information on everyone in Christendom who has the same name. Start with the telephone instead. Call your oldest living relatives and gather the oral history. Then begin checking the facts. Start with yourself and work backward. For relatives who died after 1960, check the Social Security Death Index

(SSDI), which is available as a free database on websites such as ancestry.com. You can check a national telephone directory such as whitepages.com and see if there people with the same last name.

U. S. census figures (collected every 10 years since 1790) are available to the public from 1920 back. (The exception is the 1890 census, which was destroyed in a fire.) Another great source of information is the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints (the Mormons), who have

been undergoing genealogical research for years as part of their religious mission. John Governale spoke to us on behalf of his wife, Jackie Governale, who holds the research reins at the Oxford church; she would be glad to talk to anyone about this resource. The church's website, familysearch.org can connect you to the International Genealogical Index. Be careful to examine original documents, the magazine cautions.

Other possible family tree technologies include newenglandancestors.org (the New England Historic Genealogy Society), usgenweb.org (which has some cemetery records), genforum.com (by Genealogy.com,

*Mrs. Rebecca Woodsum
died Oct. 2nd 1862 aged 84 years & 8^{months}*

*Happy soul her days are ended
All her days of trials here*

*We stood a circle of mourning friends
For the loss of a dear loved mother weeping
She smiled, it was over; the spirit ascends,
But the smile it remains on her pale cheek still.
'Till the ties of life shall part forever
I cannot forget that moment never.
Harrah*

for your descendants.

You can search vital records for more information. Births, marriages, deaths are often recorded in the towns where your ancestors lived. Look for historical society records, town reports, published books with genealogies. Look in public libraries.

John advises beginning to write dates in this fashion: 10 Nov. 2005, to avoid confusion about months and days. He says to include counties with place names wherever possible. And remember that any information is only as accurate as the person who recorded it--this particularly includes spelling, which was often random.

Want to approach it technologi-

which allows free queries by surname), and ancestry.com (a subscription site which also has free databases, including SSDI). Please remember this list was published in 2000 so there are no guarantees. I have not had time to pursue any of these sites myself, yet. When I have time, one of the things I want to research is a connection to Bette Davis, the actress.

In her first autobiography, "The Lonely Life" (G. P. Putnam's & Sons, New York, 1962), Bette Davis writes of her grandmother Eugenia Favor, who "was going to equip her children for a life of personal fulfillment and public service" by piano lessons, by good deeds, and by required reading of Emerson, Whittier, Wordsworth and the Bible. Eugenia "buried her

own grandmother, Harriet Keyes Thompson in Lowell, Mass. Harriet's mother, in turn, had been a Hamlin and first cousin to Lincoln's Vice President Hannibal Hamlin." (pg. 17.)

Somehow, there is a Hamlin/Keyes connection that keeps repeating (see Albert I's mother and father. America II was also a first cousin to V.P. Hannibal). The Keyes family, Bette writes, arrived in New England in 1634 and intermarried with Favors and Hamlins (both Huguenot families from France, pg. 16).

I'd like to know more about that. I have been accused of having "Bette Davis eyes," though truly it is my sister, Linda, who does. But when I compare pictures of young Bette and young Flora Hamlin - first cousins

three times removed - I see resemblances.

Bette Davis had a lot of connections to Maine. Her parents, Ruthie Favor and Harlow Morrell Davis, met at a Chataqua in Ocean Park, Maine. He was a Bates graduate, Phi Beta Kappa, son of a Baptist Deacon in Augusta, Maine, who went on to study law at Harvard. She was the eventual single parent to Bette and her sister Barbara, a photographer who practiced her art in Peterboro, N.H. as well as Ogunquit, Maine. In later years, of course, Bette was a resident of Cape Elizabeth. It's all so interesting!

Kindly send the Waterford Historical Society any genealogical information and we will put it in our files.



WATERFORD FLAT SCHOOL 1934 — The Flat school removal project was finally completed this fall. Students from this 1934 photo are, front row, left to right: Guy Bancroft, Wilbur Bull, Walter Fillebrown, Mary Hubbard, Marion Morse and Miriam Bull. Second row: William Bancroft, Roswell Hubbard, Alice Morse, Anita Collins, Esther Pike, Ruth Bull, James Tyler and Edwin Gardner. The teacher back left is Muriel Sloan.

Camp Ironwood — A Werner family legacy

(Continued from page 1)

programs devoted to improving the development of young people in America. Luther Gulick (1865-1918) was an M.D., prominent in the physical fitness movement after 1880. He was working for the YMCA in the 1890s when he directed James Naismith and others to create an indoor game for the boys - basketball. In 1909, he was a member of the committee that started the Boy Scouts in the US; shortly thereafter he served as mentor to his wife and others who created the Campfire Girls. The familiar YM/YWCA triangle was Gulick's design, carried forward to Wohelo's tripartite name - Work, Health, Love.

The Gulicks had started a summer camp in Connecticut in 1891, primarily for their several daughters. By 1907 their ideas had developed, and they founded Camp Wohelo on Sebago Lake, still operating, still in the hands of the Gulick family.

Albert Hamilton was thus part of an active circle of educators who placed great importance on outdoor recreation and a connection with the natural environment in the training of young people. By the time Matt Werner met him, Hamilton was directing one of the Gulick camps in Maine, almost certainly Camp Timanous, in Raymond, and when Hamilton offered Matt a counselor's job there Matt accepted it. Matt was a success there, and even served as temporary Director for a time, a real accomplishment for a young man of 19.

When Werner returned to St. Louis in the fall of 1923 he started the Sebago Club, a year round day camp

where he put into practice what he had learned from working with Hamilton and the Gulick family. By 1926 the membership had grown to 108, a girls' program had been added, and a woman named Margaret Steele was hired to manage the girls' activities. She had a law degree, but in an act that echoed the path of Matt's life, had chosen to work in St. Louis supervising playgrounds and running dance programs (she was a trained ballet dancer who had danced at the St.

about whether A.E. Hamilton started the camp, or whether Matt founded it. It seems most likely that Hamilton founded Ironwood, but that Werner was an important part of the new camp. As of about 1928, Hamilton is listed as Director (see the map of local camps reprinted on page 8). As will be seen, the Werners took over as principals about 1930.

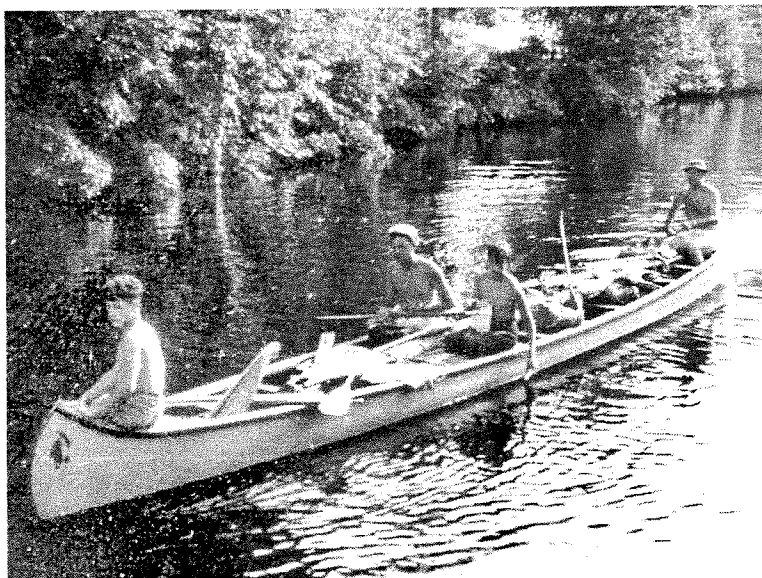
This account differs substantially from the account in the 1976 Waterford history, which says that Werner opened Sebago Canoe Camp on Panther Pond in Raymond in 1923, moved to Vergennes, Vt. in 1924, and purchased the Bear Pond property of Harold J. Staples, called Bear Mountain Camp that winter. It says that he opened it as Sebago Bear Mountain Camp in 1925, and renamed it Camp Ironwood in 1929.

Since the 1976 history does not include information on sources for this account, it is impossible to compare

documentation for the two stories. The history that includes A.E. Hamilton as an important figure is drawn from St. Louis newspaper stories over a period of years, and from the descriptive material included with the L. Matthews Werner papers, which are part of the Western Historical Manuscript Collection at the University of Missouri-St. Louis. They were donated in 1983 by Margaret Werner and might provide additional documentation if they were consulted.

We can document a few things. First, we know from the Bridgton Academy brochure that as of the date

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Ironwood campers canoeing on the Songo River, headed for Sebago Lake.

Louis Municipal Opera). The marriage that later resulted must have seemed almost inevitable.

The Sebago Club operated for 35 years, until 1959, when the Werners moved to Florida. Besides the Club, the couple established the Sebago School in 1929, taking disturbed children into their home to guide and educate them. The school moved with the Werners and operated in Florida until 1963.

Matt was 20 when he started the Sebago Club. He returned to Maine for the summer of 1924, where Camp Ironwood was starting its first season. The available references are not clear

(Continued from page 6)

of that publication, A.E. Hamilton was listed as Director of Camp Ironwood. Second, the camps on Panther Pond at that time included Camp Timanous, the Gulicks' boys camp, founded in 1916, with J. Halsey Gulick as Director. A Post-Dispatch story says that "...at 19 Werner had taken over the directorship of a separate section of Hamilton's camp." Wohelo, the original Gulick girls camp, is on Sebago; so Werner directing the boys camp on Panther Pond makes sense of both versions of the history. On the other hand, the Post-Dispatch places him in New Rochelle, N.Y. during the following summer; there is no mention of Vermont.

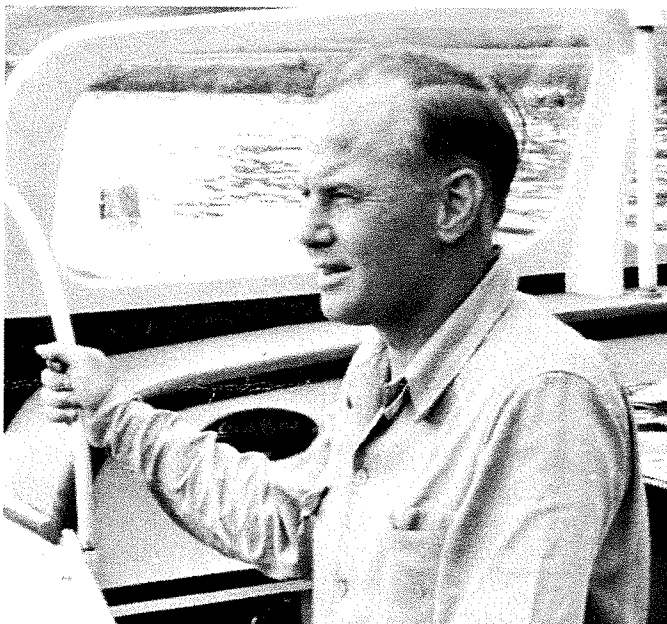
Additional light is shed by the original corporate record book for Camp Ironwood, acquired by luck via Ebay and a Bridgton antique dealer. This documents the organization of Camp Ironwood, Inc. in September of 1930, by A.E. Hamilton, of Raymond; John B. Wentworth, of New York; and D. Eugene Chaplin, of Bridgton. The purpose of the corporation is described as operating childrens camps and engaging in related activities.

Chaplin acted as attorney and clerk for the corporation and was a stockholder only for organizational purposes. On Sept. 27, 1930 he transferred his one share to L. Matthews Werner, who became a director, and the treasurer at an annual meeting the same day. Margaret joined the Board in August of 1931, at which time Matt replaced Albert E. Hamilton as President of the Corporation and Hamilton became Vice President.

At the Aug. 1932 annual meeting of the new corporation, we see what must have been the purpose of forming Camp Ironwood, Inc. The board votes at this meeting to purchase,

from "L. Matthews Werner, lessee" the remainder of a 10-year lease "...covering the real estate and camp equipment owned by Sebago Clubs and Camps Inc....said lessor and owner having consented to such subletting and assignment of said lease." The appearance is that the Werners owned the property, and had been leasing it to Matt's camp; now they transferred the lease to Camp Ironwood, Inc.

More research is needed to fill in the blanks in this history, especially in explaining the conflicting purchase dates and other details. We know



Matthews Werner in 1949.

from the records that Camp Ironwood, Inc. continued to operate until 1955, at which point it requested relief from filing annual reports to the state, since "...said Corporation is not now and has not for more than one year prior hereto, conducted any business." A similar move was considered at the annual meeting in 1950, but rejected.

Albert E. Hamilton remained on the board until 1953, which implies a lifelong connection with the Werners. Matt received no compensation for his work as director until 1937, when an annual salary of \$2,500 was voted. The Waterford history's account of the

camp talks about a program called Leaders-in-Training, which brought college students to study Werner's methods and theories, though no dates or other details are provided.

In 1935 Werner assembled his thinking about camps and managing camps into a book, "My Child and Camp." It was aimed at both parents and camp directors. A St. Louis Globe-Democrat article reports that "it is being used as a textbook throughout the country by Scout and Y' leaders, as well as those directly interested in progressive education."

But it was a statement of educational philosophy as much as a textbook. The article continues: "The summer camp offers the best opportunities today of bringing to children truly progressive education. Its freedom from the formal, traditional expectations of parents, schools and colleges gives it the chance to adventure into the realms of the old Greek schools when interested learners gathered around a chosen teacher to guide them along the lines of their interests. Stuffing, instead of leading, is the characteristic Werner applies to most school methods.... A summer camp is not a school. It must, above all, be a glorious, happy experience, with learning as a by-product. To learn campcraft, handicraft, the use of tools and equipment and how to be master of a situation by a knowledge of material resources is education by doing that leads from interest to voluntary study and self-discipline."

One idea must have seemed radical at the time: "Not the least of the value of summer camps is the opportunity it affords for parents and children to be separated for a time, Werner declares. It is mutually beneficial for each of them to have purely

(Continued on page 8)

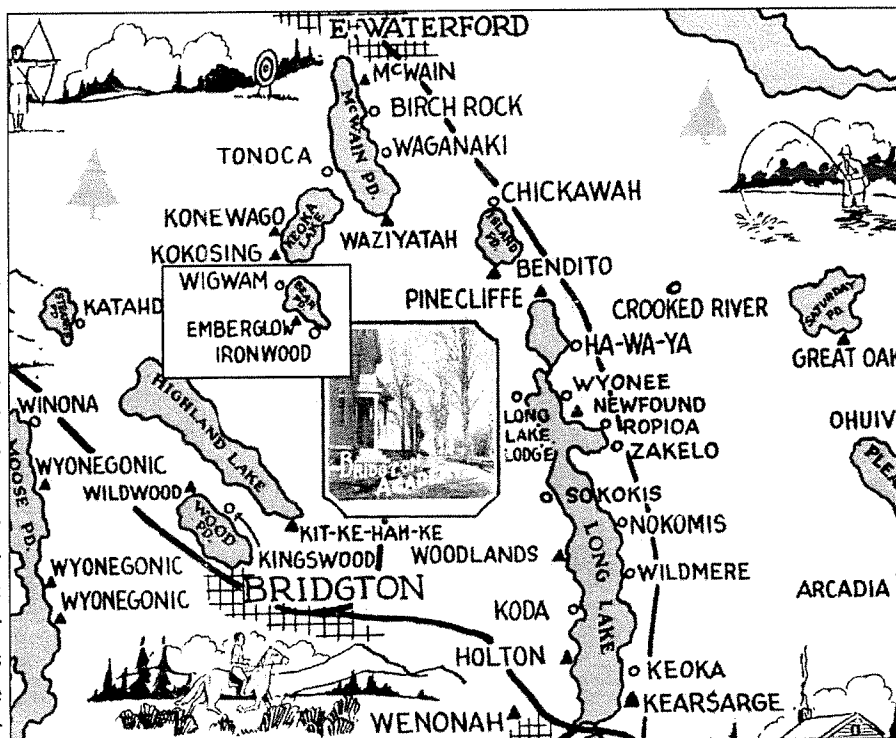
Camp Ironwood on Bear Pond - 1924 to 1964

(Continued from page 7)

individual interests, he says, and to prove that he practices his own preaching he is making preparations to send his own 8-year-old son to a camp other than his own. He needs to get away from his parents as much as any other child,' he explains."

The article also describes the Ironwood girls' program: "...his wife looks after a small group of girls in a camp across the lake. Mrs. Werner does not designate her work as that of a real summer camp, as the group is always less than ten, which is too small for a formal camp program." This was later larger, and operated as Camp Arrow-venture; a 1949 photo of the group, in a set of photos for that year obtained with the corporate record book, shows 33 girls, ranging widely in age.

"Across the lake" here must indicate that the Werners had by this time purchased the land along the east side of the pond where they later resided. Note from the 1928 map that Iron-



Part of a map printed in a brochure advertising Bridgton Academy, undated, probably about 1927. The Academy was advertising itself using the reputation of the area's children's camps: "...located in the heart of the summer camp region of America...." The map was accompanied by an inventory of area camps, some 75 in all.

wood at that time occupied the site that is now Bear Mountain Village campground; this continued to be the camp's main site for most of its history.

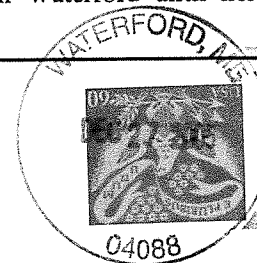
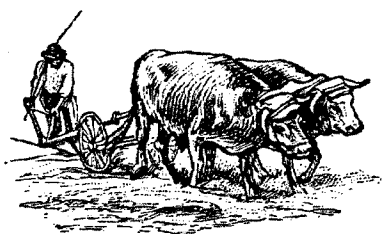
When the camp size was cut and everything transferred to the east side site is unknown, but this seems to be what occurred as the Werners began to curtail their various enterprises around 1960. Unlike other family-run camps, the Werners' two sons, Meade

and Marlen, did not become involved in the camp operation, nor do we hear of any attempt to find new operators. It seems clear from the available information that the camp, like the other Werner businesses, was very much centered around Matthews Werner and his educational philosophy. Like many such efforts, when the key individual stepped back there was no way to fill his shoes.

The Waterford history dates the closing of the camp to 1964, after the

Werners had shut down the St. Louis programs and moved to Florida. Shortly thereafter the Werners split the site into three parcels and sold two, keeping their residence. Now fully retired, they spent the warm months in Waterford and wintered at their large home in Miami. L. Matthews Werner died in 1981 at age 78 while Margaret remained a familiar figure in South Waterford until her death in 2000.

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♪ Life member ♪
 Mr & Mrs Henry Plate
 327 McWain Hill Rd
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