



# Waterford Echoes

VOLUME XXIX Number 1 (Issue 42)

Summer/Fall 2006

Waterford Historical Society

## Nuances

### The Building of Waterford by Nancy Marcotte

When the original grantees of Township #6 in New Hampshire petitioned the General Court of Massachusetts in 1774 to trade it in for a different township in the unappropriated lands" (of Maine), they promised to settle 30 families in the new township within six years, and to lay out one-sixty-fourth parts each for ministerial lots, for grammar schools and for Harvard College. This they did and the particulars can be read on page 15 of the 1875 History of Waterford, Oxford County, Maine.

The township was a traditional seven miles square, but so imperfectly surveyed in 1774 that what should have been lots of 160 acres each varied in size from 120 to 254 acres, with lines that zigged and zagged. The 12 ponds and many hills didn't help! Since settlers had already started to move in, the unnamed proprietors decided not to have the lines redrawn, but merely put their own lots on the market.

The township was then in York County, which had a population of 17,000 — most of whom were in Berwick, Wells, Kittery and other coastal towns. Travel was primarily by water and by an old Indian trail called the "Scoggin" (for Androscoggin Indians) or Pequawket Trail, which ran by the Kezars, by Songo

(Continued on page 4)



This photo of the Warren-Green reunion was taken Aug. 15, 1900 at the Henry P. Warren house.

## Amethyst found in Waterford

*The following was printed in the Oxford Observer, Sept. 23, 1824.*

AMETHYST — The precious gems have, in all ages, carried with them an intrinsic value. They have ever sparkled on the bosom of beauty, and shed their radiance around the brow of the chieftain. The regularity of their forms, and the sun-like splendor of their colors, have, in many ages, warranted the belief of their magical creation and talismanic power. In common apprehension, it can hardly be believed that the more beautiful crystallized minerals, are thus fashioned from the ordinary operations of nature. Their origin has been attributed to some mysterious agency, and they have been wrought for use, and worn by many, more from some supposed

inherent virtue, than for the beauty of the gem. Amethyst derives, its name from two Greek words signifying an antidote to drunkenness; and it was supposed by the ancient Persians, that wine, quaffed from a goblet of this mineral, lost its power of intoxication over the reveller. Rings containing this mineral were supposed to extend to the fortunate wearer the same propitious influence.

This mineral is found in the towns of Waterford and Lovell, in this County, possessing uncommon beauty. Mr. Joseph Sanderson, of the former place, in ploughing on his farm, a few years since, accidentally discovered a beautiful purple looking stone, which he preserved. It is a crystal of Amethyst; a six-sided prism, with a similar pyramidal termi-

(Continued on page 3)

# President's Column

by Lilo Willoughby

Hello neighbors and friends.

This issue of "Echoes" was supposed to be published in the spring, but fall is definitely upon us with cooler temperatures and beautiful colors all around. Much has happened, or did not happen, this spring and summer. We had resignations and new elections. A new board of trustees is in place, newcomers as well as old timers. The newly-elected board is listed below. We are eager to assess where the Historical Society is, has come from and is planning to go. "Forward" is the battle cry.

To that end we have studied what needs doing. Our three buildings (the old Town House, the Rice Museum in the Flat and the Museum in North Waterford) have been visited by a committee of trustees and priority plans drawn up. All structures need im-

proved maintenance and repairs. Much of our archival materials and books had been stored at the Waterford Library for some time to be accessible during the winter months. The library, however, needs the space as programming and activities are expanding. The office in the old Town House can be heated. Many of our "belongings" have been transferred there and need to be sorted, catalogued, cross referenced, filed and put on the computer. I hope after reading all of this you get the idea that we need HELP. We need help of all sorts — cleaners, gardeners, carpenters, painters, Jacks-of-all-trades, grant writers, hosts for meetings and publicity writers. You name it, we can use you. No talent or contribution is too small.

We live in a beautiful, historic

town. The Society is the custodian of many historic and beautiful objects. We are determined to be good and responsible stewards. Your new board feels strongly about this. Our meetings have been interesting and well presented. Come and join us, we are a fun bunch, too.

P.S. A very special thank you to the Masons of Mt. Tire'm Lodge #132. When the memorial benches did not mysteriously appear on the Town Common this spring, we, once again, realized how much we miss Mac Bean, who always looked after things, more than we ever knew. Fortunately for all of us, the Masons decided that this was community project they liked to do. We, the Society, and all of Waterford are very grateful. Thank you.

L.W.

## Waterford Echoes

Vol. XXIX Number 1 Issue 42 Summer /Fall 2006

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.

### 2006-2007 OFFICERS

President:	Lieselotte Willoughby
Vice President:	Bonnie Parsons
Secretary:	Nancy Marcotte
Treasurer:	Karen Wright
Director/Curator:	
Newsletter Editor:	Bill Haynes
Trustees:	Mary Andrews, Cynthia Hamlin, Marjorie Kimball, David Marston, Henry Plate and Joy Plate



### MEMBERSHIP DUES

Classification: Individual/Couple

Life member: \$100/\$150

Annual: \$10/\$15

Seniors (65 & over) — \$5/\$8

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

Current membership in the Waterford Historical Society runs from July 1, 2006 to June 30, 2007. 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.

# Amethyst found in Waterford field

(Continued from page 1)

nation. It measures eight inches and a half in circumference; the faces of the pyramid are two inches in length, but the prism is quite short, not being much longer than the faces of the pyramid. - It is very transparent for large a specimen, but presents a most splendid rich purple color. It was supposed by many to be thus, fashioned by the Indians, and now nine out of ten, who see and examine it, cannot believe but that the hand of art has been applied to its lustrous and angular sides. Some search has been made at the same place for other specimens, but none yet have been found. As there is in that vicinity an abundance of crystallized Quartz, and as this is a sub-species of that mineral, it is very likely that more Amethyst, may be found.

Mr. Oliver

Stone, of the same town, a few years since, in sinking a well near by his house and in blasting a ledge that hindered his progress, broke in upon a cavity in the rock, that was lined with Amethysts. They were small; but beautiful in their color and crys-

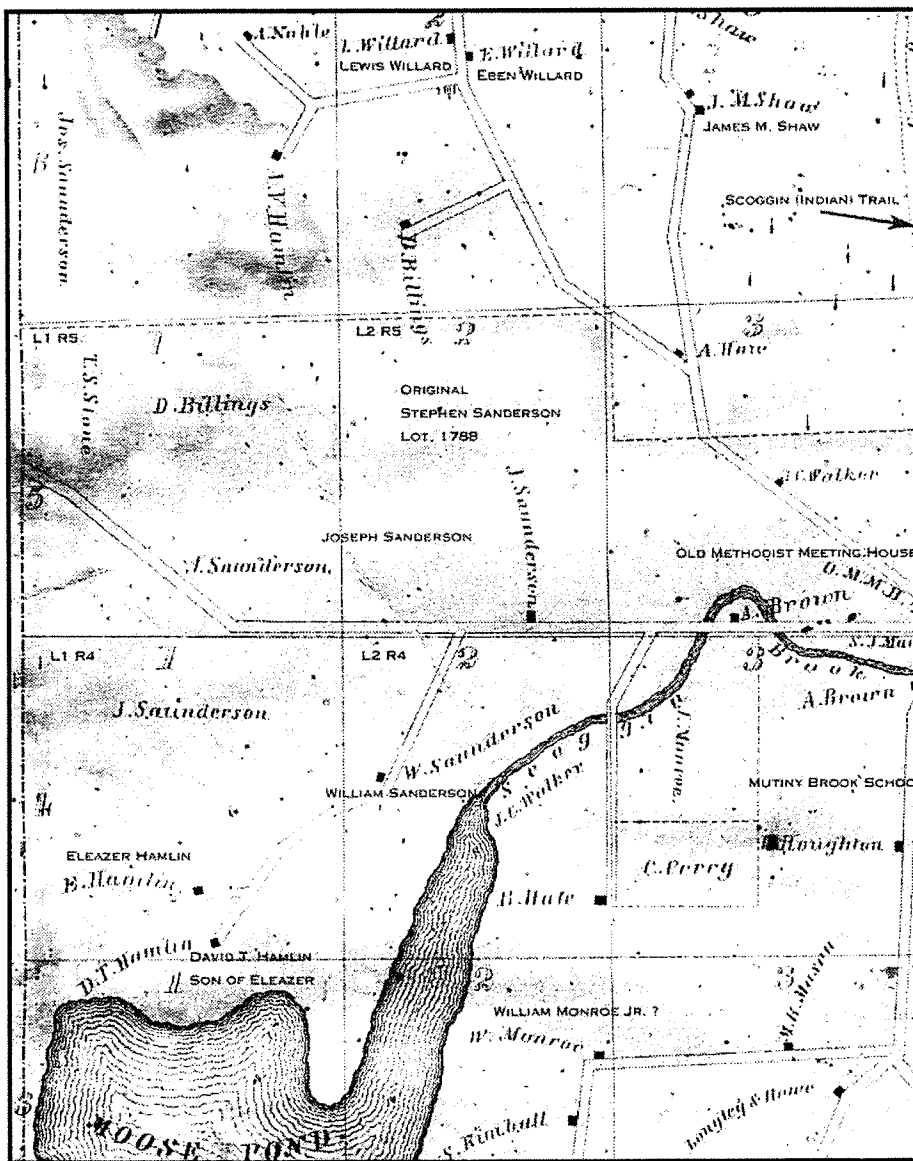
tallization. None others have ever been found, in that vicinity, but fine crystals of Quartz are common.

A Mr. Hutchins of Lovell, about

finest specimens of Amethyst he had ever seen. The writer has in possession the larger fragment, exhibiting an imperfect crystallization. It is

transparent as the finest specimens of quartz, exhibiting a delicate purple color, not quite so deep as in the one at Waterford, but equally beautiful. I have seen a few poorer specimens from the same place. This locality richly merits a careful examination. In analyzing this mineral it yields silic 97.50, and the remaining parts belong to Alumina, Iron and manganese, and it differs only in its color from common crystals of Quartz. This mineral sometimes exhibits a fine blue color, and had always been deemed valuable in the hands of the lapidary. The ancients esteemed it highly, and put it to a variety of purposes. In the Royal Library, at Paris [France], is a bust of Trajan, en-

graved on Amethyst. These are the only localities known in this State, and it is very rare in any of the other States. Some few very imperfect specimens have been obtained from the White-Hills in New Hampshire, near by the Notch."



**The Joseph Sanderson farm, located on the Sweden Road and referenced in the *Observer* article, can be seen in the middle of the above amended 1850 Chaplin map. The ploughed field referred to is now heavily forested.**

three years since, picked up on his farm a beautiful looking stone, about the size of a 12 lb. shot, and breaking it into pieces, disposed some of them to the Jewellers in Portland. Professor Cleaveland obtaining one of them, pronounced it to be one of the

# Nuances — The building of Waterford

(Continued from page 1)

Pond, Bear Pond and "Long Pond."

Eventually a cart road was built to Falmouth and the 1875 history says "every year the people of Gorham drove two hundred or more cattle to be wintered on the great meadows of Fryeburg." While there, herdsman cut hay and hunted game for food. By 1780 there was a road passable by

wheeled vehicles that came by Stevens Brook into "Bridgetown" (Bridgton). Capt. Richard Kimball kept a store and a sailboat route from what is today North Bridgton, and his was the nearest saw-and-grist mill until 1790.

After 1777, David McWain was living in the township of Waterford. Three other families tried to settle here during 1780 and 1781 but hardships caused them to withdraw to more established settlements and he was alone in town until 1784. At the close of the Revolutionary War in 1783, many soldiers saw the frontier in the Province of Maine as their best future.

Among those soldiers who came to Waterford in that decade were the Athertons (John and Joel), the Browns (Aseph, Jabez and Thaddeus), the Chaplins (David and Daniel), the Hales (Israel, Oliver and Benjamin), the Jewells (Samuel and John), the Longleys (Jonathan and Eli), and the Hamlins (Africa,

America and Eleazer — the book says Europe but that is the wrong brother). In addition came Asa Johnson, Eliphalet Morse, Ephraim Chamberlain, Daniel Barker, Eber Rice,



**The Bear Mountain Grange held a picnic at the old Hamlin Farm "sometime before 1919," according to the photo's handwritten note.**

Stephen Sanderson, David Stone and others. Many had fought at Bunker Hill and the Burgoyne Campaign (pg. 37).

The proprietors, to encourage immigration (and incidentally to keep the French up in Lower Canada), gave the first 30 persons who would clear three acres of land, plant it and build a house 16 ft. square ("settling duty") a right to lands thought worthless except for the timber.

Other acreage sold for 50 cents an acre.

The first settlers — usually just the men — came by Stevens Brook Rd. and the Scoggin Trail. Philip and Hannah Hor (the first white

woman) hiked in and built a "hut of hemlock bark," which was their only shelter for two years. This was the usual pattern in frontier settlements across the continent: building huts until a sawmill could be constructed near enough to get lumber sawn to build a more substantial shelter.

These were usually not horizontal log buildings, as those were introduced later by Scandinavian and German immigrants to the United States. These were built of vertical logs and saplings, in the Indian or medieval English manner.

The settlement of Waterford in our first history is recounted in a centennial historical address given by

Henry P. Warren. On pages 43-47 he relates a rather poetic story about his grandfather, Major Samuel Warren, a cooper who came to North Waterford from Norridgewock guided only by his pocket compass.

The first year young Samuel Warren cleared 15 acres and lived in a bark hut. He bought corn at Bethel Hill and "backed" it home. He planted rye on his lot and then went back to the Kennebec for the winter to work as a cooper and to fish for alewives. The fish he sold in Portland and bought clothing and provisions for the next summer.

The book tells how he made a "bedstead of spruce pole, a bedcord of elm peelings; he brought a bed-tick with him and filled it with straw" which he had purchased from a neighbor. He ate primarily "corn-cake, wild berries and game."

In 1788 he built a two-storied square house and a 30 x 70 ft. barn. Samuel Warren had learned to make and lay bricks, foreseeing the need of all the coming building in this area. It is said that he built nearly all the chimneys in Waterford and in parts of Lovell and Albany.

Warren's lovely hip-roofed house

*Waterford residents are asked to share information on the history of their own homes so that we might compile a road-by-road architectural history of the town. Send information to the WHS care of Nancy Marcotte, Box 201, Waterford ME 04088.*

has been the location of Waterford Historical Society meetings in the past—speaking about its possible use as part of the Underground Railroad in the 1860s — and we hope to look it again this year as we focus on the architecture of Waterford at our summer meetings.

The 1802 valuation of the town counted 107 houses—only six of which were two-storied. 86 were one-storied and 15 were log. There were 80 framed barns. They were mostly timber-framed buildings, raised “a broadside at a time,” by neighbors at a raising directed by a master carpenter, and held together by “pins” or wooden pegs (pg. 132). It must have been a re-

markable twenty years of work after the first sawmill was built by Jacob Gibson near the mouth of Bear

buildings still stand today. Floorboards were bare, “sanded” and swept. Furniture was “simple, neat and sufficient” says Henry P. Warren. These were for the most part low-posted center chimney houses which today we mis-name as “Capes.” Their shingles or clapboards were not painted until the classical revival fashion of the 1820s made everything white — and even then the backs often were not painted.

The books, old maps and our own

visual observations can give us much information about the nuances of the building of Waterford. Please help us collect even more concrete data—from deeds, old photos, oral histories and family letters and stories.



**This photo of the old Hamlin Farm was taken around 1932 by Merrick Atherton Monroe, whose ancestors “lived down the road a piece” in the old Atherton homestead, later the Earl Marr place.**

Brook in 1790. Ezra Jewell built a grist mill right about the same time — near where Bear Mt. Grange stands today — and the first frame house in Waterford close by two or three years later (pg. 51). Many of these



**A Bear Mountain Grange field day held at the America Hamlin Farm on Skunk Alley, date unknown.**



# In Memoriam

---

**Ida G. "Jennie" Rice**, 94, of Waterford, died May 3, 2006 at Norway Rehabilitation and Living Center where she had been a resident for 14 years. She was born in the Bisbeetown section of Waterford on March 7, 1912, the daughter of L. Newell



**Ida G. Rice**

Andrews and Edith Palmer Andrews. She married Ralph Emerson Rice of Waterford on April 27, 1936, in North Conway, N.H. They lived in the McIntyre neighborhood of East Waterford and moved to Bisbeetown in 1943. During World War II, she enjoyed watching her brother, Herbert, fly over the house, and she would stand in the dooryard waving a white towel; he would dip the plane's wings to her. Along with her brothers, she loved music and played the piano in the Andrews Family Orchestra. They provided music for local dance halls during the 1940s. Her brother, Oscar, played the drums, her brother, Charles, played the saxophone and her father, Newell, played the fiddle. The fiddle was donated to Oxford Hills High School a few years ago by her brother, Oscar.

During the 1930s, she cooked for Camp Kokosing, a girls' camp on Keoka Lake in Waterford. She also provided food for the public suppers at the North Waterford Congregational Church. She is

survived by her daughter, Betty and her husband, Rev. Norman F. Rust, of North Waterford; her daughter-in-law, Hilda Knightly Rice of Jacksonville Beach, Fla.; her brother, Herbert L. Andrews of South Paris; six grandchildren; three great-grandchildren; and several nieces, nephews and cousins. She was predeceased by her husband in 1961; son Robert E. Rice in 2004; sister Carrie; brothers, Charles, Arthur, Oscar, William and George P. Andrews; and grandson, Renwick. She is buried in the Bisbeetown Cemetery.

**Berkeley N. Henley**, 79, of Norway, died May 17 while residing at Market Square Health Care in South Paris. Berkeley was born in Bridgton on Dec. 16, 1926, the son of Berkeley G. and Mary C. (Harriman) Henley. He attended schools in Bridgton, South Harrison and North Waterford before graduating from Norway High School in 1944. He worked on his father's poultry farm several years before going to work at H.E. Callahan Inc. in the construction industry. Except for the 12 years he worked at the B.E. Cole Co. in Norway, where he worked his way up to production manager, he worked in construction until he retired. He worked for H.E. Sargent, Lane Construction, Bridge Construction, Callahan Bros., DiRenzo and Pike Industries, mostly as a grade foreman. He was married secondly to Natalie A. (Hodsdon) Halkett on March 31, 1974, who survives him. He is survived by his wife of Norway; a sister, Jean McAllister and her husband, Harlan; three nieces; three nephews; great-nephews and great-nieces. He was predeceased by his first wife, Ada Lowe; a brother, Basil R. Henley; and a sister, Linda Davis.

**Robert J. Hanger**, 86, of Fort Myers, FL died on February 22, 2006 at Shell Point, FL. He also lived part of the year in Wa-



**Robert J. Hanger**

terford. He was born on May 15, 1919 in Columbus, OH, a child of Wallace and Mary Hanger. A graduate of Ohio State University, he majored in Dairy Technology and was a member of Beta Theta Pi fraternity and Sphinx, a senior men's honorary. Mr. Hanger enlisted in the Army Air Corps as an Aviation Cadet and was commissioned as a Second Lieutenant, Armament. He served in non-flying duty in New Caledonia with the 13th Air Force P-38, 339th Fighter Squadron which was credited with shooting down the Japanese architect of the Pearl Harbor attack, Admiral Yamamoto. He then entered an aerial navigation school where he completed flight training as a multi-engine pilot, flying B-24s, before being separated from the service in August 1945. He retired in 1982 as manager of export sales for the Kelco Company. In 1983 he moved to Sanibel Island and was a life member of the Sanibel-Captiva Conservation Foundation where he volunteered much of his time and energy to the raising of money to purchase land on the island for preservation. He was a member of Sanibel's Second

Congregational Church where he sang in the choir. Earlier he was a member of a barbershop quartet and a Rotarian in Westfield, NJ. Mr. Hanger is survived by his wife, Jane Dillard Hanger; his sons, Bill (Nancy) of Waterford and Woody (Pam) of Oxford, OH; four grandchildren; three great-grandchildren; his brother, Sherwood and his sister, Mary Katherine Powers. He was the husband of the late Ellen K. Hanger, who died in 1992. A memorial service was held on Monday, February 27 at the Chapel in the Village Church at Shell Point. In lieu of flowers, memorial gifts may be sent to the Sanibel-Captiva Conservation Foundation or the Waterford Congregational Church.

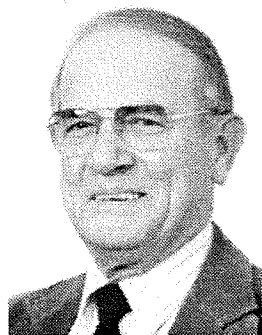
**Ruth A. Swett**, 62, of Norway, died July 17, 2006 at Central Maine Medical Center. She was born in Boston on Jan. 25, 1944, the daughter of Albert and Hazel O'Neil Allen. She graduated from Gould Academy in 1962. She married Edward N. Swett Jr. on July 28, 1962, at North Waterford Congregational Church. She operated the Open Door boarding home for more than 20 years. She had been a dedicated Wal-Mart employee for the past 10 years. She is survived by her husband of Norway; a son, Bruce Swett and his wife, April, of North Waterford; a daughter, Andrea Grover and her husband, Bradley, of North Waterford; grandchildren, Tammi and Donn Lemay of AFB, Little Rock, AR., and Jeremy and Danielle Edwards, U.S. Army, stationed in Germany; great-grandchildren, Sydney Lemay, Bridget and Brianne Walls, Natalie and Jeremiah Edwards; and siblings, Dorothy McDonald, Evelyn McCauliffe, Albert Allen, Merle McAllister, Margaret McAllister and Irene Trimback. She is buried in Riverside Annex Cemetery in South Paris.

**Herbert "Skip" W. Durant Jr.**, 59, of Waterford died July 30, 2006 at Stephens Memorial Hospital. He was born on Feb. 9, 1947, the son of Herbert W. Durant Sr. and Hazel Proctor Durant. He attended Waterford schools and four years at Gould Academy. He served for three years in the U.S. Army here and in Southeast Asia. He worked as a builder, a trade he learned from his father, until 1981 and worked on various woods crews for several years. He painted houses until poor health in 2004 forced him to retire.

**Leona Kimball Perry** of East Weymouth, Mass., died July 30, 2006. She formerly lived in North Waterford. She was a retired supervisor of the Newton-Wellsley (Mass.) Hospital. She was the widow of Kenneth B. Sanderson and Henry L. Perry Sr. She is survived by her daughter Priscilla Stanley of Newtonville, Mass, three grandsons and three great-grandchildren. She is buried in Elm Vale Cemetery.

**David C. Prince**, 63, of Waterford and Willington, Conn., died Aug. 16, 2006. He was born in Lovell July 22, 1943, the son of Janet M. McAllister and Thomas Prince. He married Deborah L. Goins July 24, 1976. He is survived by his wife; two sons, Jesse Prince of Willington, Conn. and Thomas M. Prince of Marlborough, Conn.; three sisters, Wanda Vandnais of L. Florence, Mass., Candace M. Bernard of Porter and Carol L. Leighton of Andover, Mass.; two brothers, Joseph E. Leighton of East Conway, NH and Jeffrey A. Leighton of North Conway, NH; and several grandchildren.

**Alton L. Howe II**, 83, of Waterford, died Sept. 8, 2006 at the Maine Veterans Home in South Paris following a period of declining health. He was born Feb. 20, 1923, in Norway at the Howe Homestead to the late Alton and Ethel McKeen



**Alton L. Howe**

Howe. He attended Norway schools and graduated from Norway High School in 1942. After graduation, he drove a bus, transporting shipyard employees from the Norway area. He served in the Medical Corps of the US Army. He worked as a game warden in the Cherryfield district of Maine. When he returned to the Norway area, he worked as a deliveryman for Cushman bakery for several years. In 1970, he became an officer with the Paris Police, and then served as a deputy sheriff for the Bethel area. In 1972, he was elected sheriff of Oxford County. He served for 18 years, being re-elected every two years until 1986. He worked with the Legislature to have the law changed from a two to a four-year term of office and in 1986, he was elected to a four-year term of office. He retired in 1990. He was president of Maine Sheriff's Association from January 1983 to December 1984, completing courses through the Bureau of Corrections in Boulder, Colo., and Philadelphia, Pa., during his term as Sheriff, graduating from the National Sheriff's conference at the FBI Academy in Quantico, VA, as well as being responsible for starting a defensive driving

course and the Neighborhood Watch Program. He also assisted in writing of a manual for small jails used nationwide. During his career, he was instrumental in the building of the new jail in 1979 and implementing a new communication system. He served as Waterford selectman for six years. He was a member of Round Mountain Grange, Past Master of Mt. Tirem Lodge 132 and a member of the American Legion. He was also a member of Spurr's Corner Church in Otisfield and he held a lifetime membership to Norway Country Club. He married Donna Rice on Nov. 19, 1966. They resided in Augusta and South Paris, and finally settled in Waterford at Papoose Pond with their two children, April and Chip, in 1969. Alton is survived by his wife of 40 years; , Donna (Rice) Howe, daughter, April Olmstead of Cranston, R.I.; son, Alton "Chip" III of Scarborough. He is also survived by a son, Rodney Howe, of Waterford; his sister, Marion B. Howe, of Norway; nine grandchildren and one great-grandson. He was predeceased by a grandson, Ian Olmstead. He is buried in Pulpit Rock Cemetery.

# Historical Society has busy summer

by Bonnie Parsons

The Waterford Historical Society has held three programs this summer.

The Annual Membership Meeting kicked off the Society's season on June 15, beginning with a business meeting at the Old Town House, followed by a program at the Wilkins House. Earl Morse presented his program **Discovering the Eight Wonders of Waterford Flat**. The orienteering program was prepared for the Waterford Library and the Oxford Hills One Book One Community 2006.

Earl began with a demonstration of how to use map and compass for the purpose of doing a historical treasure hunt in walking distance of the Old Town House.

You are invited to visit the Waterford library and check out a map, compass and instructions for an exciting, self-paced discovery tour of the wonders of Waterford Flat. You'll find out: how ladies with the complaint of "inordinate lust" were cured, how Maine men felt about women getting the vote, why the town green

is triangular, where revolutionary war vets met to chew and tell tales, why Waterford ice went to China, whether Artemus Ward had Van Gogh's ear for music, why a chicken was worth a tooth and the answer to other questions of "dubious, yet curious import."

Several townspeople have shown interest in orienteering with their children and grandchildren this summer.

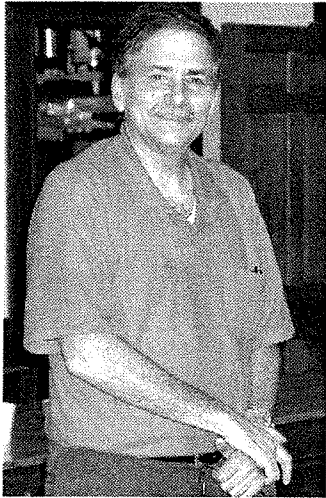
Waterford Historical Society trustees have started a collection of house histories which they hope will eventually lead to the a collection of histories of all the houses in town. Townspeople are encouraged to learn the history of their houses and share details with the Waterford community at society meetings.

On July 20, Karen Wright, a preservation educator in her former career and now Society treasurer, presented slides of historical houses and pointed out their architectural details and significance. She included in her discussion numerous slides of houses from cities and towns in Maine, including Portland as well as Waterford.

Society Secretary Nancy Marcotte presented the Aug. 17 program at the North Waterford Museum. Nancy, an art teacher at Oxford Hills Comprehensive High School, continued the topic of architectural style and history of houses in Waterford. There were many questions for Nancy to answer at the conclusion of her presentation.

Attendance has been excellent. Donations to the society have been generous and welcome. The society has three buildings, as well as historic artifacts and archives to maintain. This requires that the trustees continue the preservation work.

The September program will be held at the Wilkins House at 7 p.m. Sept. 21. Members of the Western Maine Senior College will present a choral reading of "John Brown's Body." A potluck dessert and social time will conclude the meeting. Members of the community are always welcome.



Earl Morse gave an orienteering program June 15. (Ginny Raymond photo)



Please contact the Society if you know anything about the house, driver or date of this photo.

Waterford Historical Society  
PO Box 201  
Waterford ME 04088

