



# Waterford Echoes

VOLUME XXX Number 2 (Issue 45)

Fall/Winter 2007

Waterford Historical Society

## History of the Washburn House and Those Who Called It Home

By Jannette Berard

**NORTH WATERFORD**—The house in which my grandmother spent her childhood is located on a quiet dead-end road nicknamed "Forgotten Alley." The large farmhouse is more than 150 years old, having seen five owners and over a dozen renovations.

Built in the early 1800s by an unknown carpenter for the Washburn family, the house was typical of the architecture of the farmhouse of this time. At first there was a front house and a back house. Later the little house and barn were added onto the end of the big house.

In 1892, the left side of the house was lost to a fire. Alden Washburn got up in the middle of the night and, realizing that the house was on fire, threw his chamber pot out the window to save it from the fire! His wife Sarah asked him why he did that; they could always buy a new pot. Soon after the fire an L-shaped addition was made to the left side of the

house. Included in the addition was a kitchen, an upstairs bedroom, a dining room, a shed and a barn.

The Washburns lived in this house for about 50 years until, after the death of her husband in 1904, Sarah Washburn sold the house to Ezra Labroke, her son by her first marriage. Ezra and his wife Marilla Jane had two daughters, Abby Bernice and Pearla June, who shared their home. To support the family, Ezra worked in the Paris Manufacturing plant in South Paris, making sleds, skis, toys and children's furniture. Because of the 16-mile distance to work, Ezra had to board in a rooming house in South Paris during the week and only made the trip home on the weekends. Marilla Jane, along with working at home cooking and cleaning for her family, was also town seamstress, making men's suits, children's clothes and fancy quilts of velvet. Ezra and Marilla were divorced and sold the house in 1912 to their son-in-law,

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## Nuances

### The Town Forest

When Waterford was chartered as a town in 1797, the Massachusetts Court set aside portions of land for specific uses. One-sixty-fourth was for a ministerial fund; 1/64th for grammar schools and 1/64th for Harvard College. One college lot was sold early in town history and some of the others went with the Three Tiers that were set off to Norway. The ministerial fund originally paid for the Congregational Church and was later divided among four denominations. In more recent years the town's remaining 200 forest acres have supplied income to the town to offset taxes.

In 1927 the state's Forestry Improvement Program gave advice to the selectmen about forest management. According to the 1976 history, 5000 white pine seedlings were planted in fields near the woodlot. Sometime later, David Marston and Benny Cyr set out 2000 more seedlings for the "Peterville Pluggers" 4H Club. Trees blown down by the 1938 hurricane were salvaged for \$1000 and selective cutting begun in 1941 netted \$3000 more—used to buy U.S. War Bonds which helped to finance the Memorial School in 1949. From 1927 to 1951 alone, the forest made a profit of \$14,000 for the citizens of Waterford. It remains a town responsibility today. Since a new committee was formed in 1993, more than \$100,000 has been earned. A small harvest began this winter that is expected to net the town about \$10,000.

### A History of Lumbering

The forest was one of the reasons for the settlement of this township in the first place. Pine timber was an investment for proprietors and grantees. On the fertile ridges, all land fit for farming was pretty much under cultiva-

*(Continued on page 5)*



Art student Brandon Pike is shown with several of his drawings he displayed at the July 29 art show held at the Old Town House. More photos can be seen on pages 4 and 8.

# President's Column

by Lilo Willoughby

Hello Neighbors and Friends,

I hope you had an enjoyable holiday season, and now I want to wish you a very happy New Year. The Society had a busy and exciting year in 2007. Following is a listing of the activities in which we were engaged publicly. In addition, much work goes on behind the scenes to improve our buildings, collections and archives and to keep the spirit of preserving the history of Waterford alive. Take a look at the names of the Board of Trustees. Everyone deserves a big thank you.

## **March Town Meeting**

Supporting verbally our request for funds \$1,500 voted by meeting.

## **June 14 Annual Meeting at Old Town House**

Preceded by ceremony to dedicate flag pole and plaque to Mac Bean, Rep. Sawin Millett provided both US and State of Maine flags.

## **July 4 parade**

Participated in the 4th of July parade. David Sears loaned and drove vehicle decorated with old farm tools.

## **July 12 Regular Meeting**

Karen Fillebrown and Brandon Pike, both of Waterford, explained how they became artists and showed some of their paintings

## **July 29 Art Show at the Old Town House**

73 pieces of art were displayed and 250 people came to see. Birch Rock Camp of Waterford provided cookies. David Sanderson, Waterford, entertained with fiddle music. On the same day, the church had its Musical Sunday in the morning, the library extended opening hours and the Rice Museum was open.

## **August 9 Regular Meeting**

Bill Hanger of Waterford talked and showed photographs about the extraordinary Loon story off his property on McWain Pond.

## **September 13 meeting at the Waterford Grange #479**

We helped celebrate its 100th anniversary. Talk and slide show by Ed Holt about the early settlers on Sawin Hill Road. Books are available on this history.

## **Oct. 11 meeting on Logging and Forest Management**

Bill Haynes and Tim Sawyer, both of Waterford, talked about old times and modern. Photographs and equipment

were shown to demonstrate their talk.

## **November 8 meeting at the North Waterford Church on Finnish Settlers**

A pot luck preceded a brief presentation of the history of Finnish settlers in the Waterford and Harrison area. A description of the Finnish instrument, KANTELE, and how it is played and concert by two musicians followed.

*P.S. The Society also had a table at the World's Fair in North Waterford and the Old Town House was open during the Fall Foliage Run.*

Clearly the dedication of the memorial to Mac Bean and the Art Show were the highlight events of last year. We have exciting plans for the year to come. Remember, we meet from June to November every second Thursday of the month, subject and place to be announced.

Stay well, see you in the spring if not before and stay in touch. We love to hear your thoughts and suggestions.

Lilo Willoughby



President Lilo Willoughby



Win Brown and his logging and sawing crew are seen in this photo from the early 1940s.



**DEDICATION TO MAC BEAN** — Friends and family of Mac Bean gathered June 14 (Flag Day) on the Town Common to dedicate a plaque to remember the man who devoted countless hours to the Society, the library, the church and his community. The Society officially donated the plaque, which reads “in Memory and Appreciation—Mac Bean 1934-2005.” Above, Society President Lilo Willoughby speaks to the gathering. Below left, is Randy Lessard, who bought Mac’s house and now cares for his dog. To his right, Agnes Lahti speaks with Virginia Cutler, Mac’s sister Joan remembers her brother as does his good friend Phil Denison.



## Washburn House

*(Continued from page 1)*

Abby's husband Jesse Linscott Littlefield.

Jesse and Abby Littlefield had four children: Willis, Merline, Edith and a baby girl who died when she was only a day old. Abby was a homemaker who always enjoyed a house full of company—so much so that she took in boarders who worked at the North Waterford Spool Company next door. She had up to five boarders at any given time. Abby cooked three meals a day for the boarders and her own family. She belonged to several organizations in the town, including the Rebekahs, an organization of Christian women in Waterford, and the Grange, an agricultural organization. She also found time to redecorate her home as often as possible by wallpa-

pering, painting and revarnishing the hardwood floors.

Jesse Littlefield worked as an engineer for the spool company. He blew the work whistle three times a day — every morning when he went to work, every noon when he came home for lunch and to take a short nap, and then at one o'clock for the afternoon shift. Each time was exactly on the minute. Jesse's favorite hobby was to trade for ailing cars, fix them up and retrade them for another ailing car. It was this hobby that once prompted him to trade for a car that was too big for the garage. Consequently, an addition was made to the garage to suit the car! In 1925, Jesse began a series of renovations to the house that included building an elaborate fireplace of brick in the dining room. Two years later he built a screened porch that

wrapped around the house. Not long after that, the wall between the kitchen and dining room was moved over so the dining room would be larger. At the same time, part of the old shed was used to build a bathroom off the side of the kitchen as well as a laundry room.

In 1926, Willis moved out of his parents' home to live with his new bride, Anne Walbridge on Sawins Hill in North Waterford. Anne opened a tearoom in their home and Willis ran a garage in the town. They soon had two children, Paul and Shirley. After 17 years of marriage, Willis and Anne divorced and Willis moved to Rochester, NH. In 1934 Edith Littlefield (my grandmother) married Ralph Perry and moved down the road to live in an apartment. In 1937 they moved to the house next door to Edith's

*(Continued on page 4)*



# Washburn House

(Continued from page 3)

parents' home, where my grandmother still lives today. In 1955, Jesse Linscott Littlefield died in his home, leaving behind Abby and their daughter Merline to live in the house. Merline graduated from Gould Academy and then went on to the Maine School of Commerce to study business. For several years she was the treasurer of both the North Waterford Church and the local branch of the Rebekahs. Abby died in 1963 and left the home to her daughter, Merline.

To help with expenses, they had continued to take in boarders. One of these boarders was a Civil War veteran named Dustin McCallister, who lived in the house for 10 years until one day when he died at the table while eating breakfast. In 1964, Merline took in George Cobb, an author who wrote about his life as a game warden in Aroostook County. He boarded with Merline until his death in 1968.

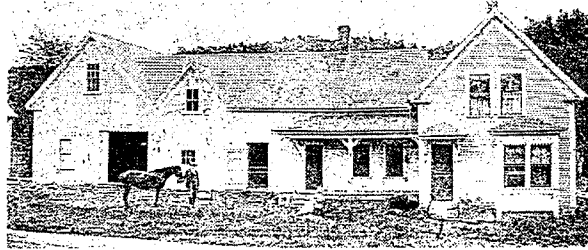
In 1974, a man showed up on Merline Littlefield's doorstep and asked for a meal. This was Howard Record, an artist and a poet. He painted many pictures for Merline, most of them not on canvas but on smooth pieces of wood that were varnished to make them unique. Most of

Howard's pictures were of hunting and fishing in the Maine woods. Howard died in 1977. In 1979 Merline sold the Washburn house to Bill and Darlene Wallace from Rhode Island. Darlene said that this was the "perfect New England farmhouse," which she

had always wanted. Darlene made many renovations on the house in the first 12 years that they owned it. Some of the major changes included taking out the fireplace in the living room, putting in a new septic system and adding a deck to the back of the house. Before doing some wallpapering in 1980 she had to take down what looked to be 8-10 layers of wallpaper—probably six of these layers were Abby's responsibility.

While replacing a water heater in the cellar, the Wallaces discovered a dirt pile that stood in the way of an opening in the wall. On the other side of the wall was a small room that had been hidden for years. It appeared to be an old-fashioned still, with bottles containing various liquids on shelves, on a small

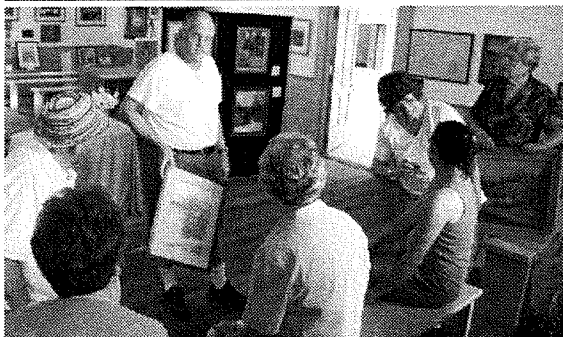
table and all over the floor. Liquor licenses dating from the mid-1800s were also found in the room. Bill and Darlene saw several "ghost-like presences" during their renovations. Darlene also believes she heard children's laughter in one of the upstairs bedrooms, and smelled the



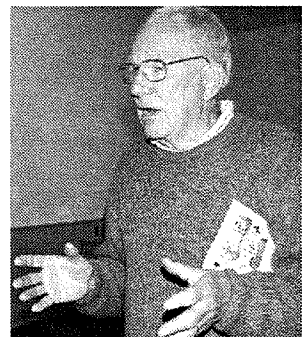
The Washburn House

aroma of bacon frying when no one was cooking. In 1983 a guest of the Wallaces stayed in the same bedroom and swears to have heard and seen the same things. Years ago, Merline claimed to have seen the ghost of her Aunt Pearl in the house. Presently the Wallaces are again renovating their house but they have reported no other ghost-like disturbances. Over the years this New England farmhouse has seen five families grow up, grow older and grow apart. This old house has seen five deaths, the births of four children and four generations that called the house "home." (1991)

*This was the first house history we have received. Please fill out the insert in this issue about your house and send it to us at the address on the next page.*



**A BUSY YEAR**—It's been an active year for the Waterford Historical Society. At top left, David Sanderson entertained visitors at the summer art show with his violin. Above, Nancy Marcotte chatted with Mary Andrews and her daughter, Jeannie Andrews Stone, during the art show. Above right, Secretary Nancy speaks at the annual meeting held June 14. At left, John Applin talks with a group during the art show. At right, Trustee Henry Plate speaks at the annual meeting.



# Nuances

(Continued from page 1)

tion by 1800 but the forests remained intact. Mr. Thaddeus Brown was an agent for several absentee owners from 1800 until 1820. The coastal Maine towns had been exhausted of timber by 1790, the 1875 history tells us, with logs from Raymond and Standish being taken to Sebago Lake and from there to Portland. In Waterford the most valuable white pine stands were in the northwest part of town, along the Crooked River. The first full-scale lumbering was at Bakers Falls in 1808. We are told as much as six million feet were cut from just one lot, with trees 12-14 inches around.

Though most of the virgin lots had been cut over by 1830, the mills run by folks like the Saunders', the McIntires, and Crooked River Dowel continued on into the twentieth century and beyond. Small woodlot owners and loggers still cut the forests today. Though Henry P. Warren wrote that the abundant forest led to "shiftless farming," in reality 9/10 of our settlers were farmers, cutting trees primarily to clear fields and to build barns and houses.

Photographs taken in the late 1800s and early 1900s show vast open acres created by industrious farmers in Waterford. Until 1790 when a sawmill was built at the mouth of "Bear Brook," all sawn lumber had to be carried in from the sawmill at Stevens Brook (North Bridgton).

Other trees began slowly to take the place of the original pine. Apple orchards were planted all over Waterford. Throughout the town today, stone walls



**HARVESTING ON THE WATERFORD TOWN FOREST—**  
Harold Millett stands by his pair of horses while Lauris Millett works in back in the winter of 1942.

in the woods show mixed growth forest has grown back where once there were fields. We also have a champion ash and sycamore. Beginning in 1911 the town raised money to cut down "wild cherry and worthless apple trees" along public ways "before the first day of June of

each year." If the selectmen didn't do it, they were fined! By 1951 the beautiful shade trees in Waterford Village were being decimated by Dutch Elm disease. From 1963 to 1976 money was spent to take down the ruined elms "within the public right of way." (pg. 254, 1976 history.)

## Memorial Tree Fund

In the past several years Bill Stockwell and a group called the "Waterford Memorial Tree Fund," under the auspices of the Historical Society, have been collecting funds to restore the look of Waterford by planting disease-resistant Valley Forge, Discovery and Liberty elm trees. Started with donations in memory of Bill's cousin, Susan Stockwell Swonger, this ad-hoc committee has been looking for locations and for landowners willing to donate a minimal amount and to become invested in the care and maintenance of new elm trees for the village. There is a "Tree Planting Easement Agreement" which property owners sign allowing watering, fertilizing and the like. If you are interested in donating to the fund or planting a tree in your own yard, call Bill Stockwell at 583-2258 or e-mail [hborfudrtr@aol.com](mailto:hborfudrtr@aol.com).

Nancy Marcotte

## Waterford Echoes

Vol. XXX Number 2 Issue 45 Fall/Winter 2007

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.

### 2007-2008 OFFICERS

President:	Lieselotte Willoughby
Vice President:	Bonnie Parsons
Secretary:	Nancy Marcotte
Treasurer:	Ralph MacKinnon
Curator:	
Newsletter Editor:	Bill Haynes
Trustees:	Mary Andrews, David Marston Marjorie Kimball, Henry Plate, Joy Plate, Joanne MacKinnon and Tony Butterall



### 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 June 1, 2007 to May 31, 2008. 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.

We have the following publications for sale: "History of Waterford 1775-1875" and "History of Waterford 1875-1976" for \$15 each (order both for \$25). "This is Waterford 1803-2003" for \$30 (order all three for \$50). Add \$6 to ship one book or \$9 to ship two or three books. Paid-up dues members qualify for an additional 10% discount.

# In Memoriam

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**Charles "Chuck" R. Truman**, 67, died Aug. 16, 2007 at his son's home in Greene. He was born in Norway on Oct. 3, 1940, the son of Gerald and Arlene Bell Truman. He was a graduate of Norway High School and served in the U.S. Air Force during the Vietnam War. After his military service, Mr. Truman was employed by Charles R. Bell and Son, the Dodge dealership on Main Street in Norway. Later, Mr. Truman moved his family to Connecticut and worked at Pratt & Whitney for several years. He moved back to Maine in 1973, where he was the general manager for Evergreen Valley Ski Area. He was also employed in a management role by a holding company that owned several different businesses. Mr. Truman was also the co-owner of Truman Properties. He was a mason of Oxford Lodge 18 of Norway. He was a selectman in Waterford and past chairman of the board. He is survived by his wife, Janet Truman of Waterford; a son, Mark Truman of Brunswick; a son, Sean Truman of Greene; six grandchildren; and numerous cousins, nephews and nieces. He was predeceased by his brother, Brian Truman. He is buried in Pulpit Rock Cemetery.

**Eleanor Hebb Stearns**, 94, died Aug. 12, 2007 at the Bridgton Health Care Center in Bridgton where she had been a resident for the past year. She was born Feb. 25, 1913, to Dr. Angus and Jane Simpson Hebb of Bridgton, the youngest of nine children. She graduated from Bridgton High School in 1931 and continued her education at Gorham Normal School. She taught in a one-room schoolhouse in Lovell. She chose marriage over a teaching career when she married Fred Stearns of Lovell in 1939, because married, female teachers were not hired at that time. During their early married years, both were employed by Rudy Vallee at his lodge on Kezar Lake - Ellie as waitress and inside worker, and Fred as outside caretaker. They moved to Waterford, where they raised their family. She helped organize the Waterford PTA and served as its first president. Later she served on the school board. She assisted Fred in his various endeavors, most notably the orchard, where she supervised the packing operation and bookkeeping. She is survived by three daughters, Sarah of Harrison, Judy Whitney of Veazie and Martha VanSteenburgh of Hudson, Mass.; one son, Mark Stearns of Albany; seven grandchildren; seven great-grandchildren; and numerous nieces and nephews. She was predeceased by her husband, Fred, in 1989; three brothers, Gordon, Henry and Phil Hebb; and five sisters, Marjorie Golmis, Grace Niemeier, Frances Morse, Marian Aris and Dolly Sanborn.

**Curtis Allan Millett**, 77, of Waterford died Sept. 4, 2007 at Bridgton Hospital. He was born in Waterford on Aug. 6, 1930, the son of Lauris and Alma Bancroft Millett. He was a graduate of Bridgton Academy and served in the U.S. Air Force during the Korean Conflict. He married Irene Robertson on July 1, 1955. She died in December, 1998. He had been employed at A.C. Lawrence for more than 25 years. He retired from the maintenance department at C.N. Brown in 1995. He is survived by his daughters, Connie Lebroke of Norway, Julie Millett of Waterford, Vickie Millett of Tennessee, Laurie Hurst of Georgia and Jennifer St. Pierre of Waterford; two brothers, David of South Paris and Gilbert of Waterford; a sister, Veda Taker of South Paris; seven grandchildren; and numerous nieces and nephews. He is buried in Elm Vale Cemetery.

**Albert Heino**, 82, of Waterford, died at his home Oct. 11, 2007. He was the husband of 57 years to Theresa M. (Qualey) Heino. Born in Waterford on July 2, 1925, he was the son of the late Kalle and Liisa Heino. He attended school in Waterford, but had to leave early to work in the woods to help support his family. In 1945, he served in the U.S. Army as a combat engineer in Europe. After his discharge, he returned to Maine to work in the woods and in area mills. He is survived by his wife, son Charles M. Heino of Harrison, daughter Catherine M. Pomerleau of Buckfield, and son Albert R. Heino of West Paris; several grandchildren; and great-grandchildren. He is buried in the Finnish Cemetery.

**Bertha Hersey Kimball**, 86, of Waterford died Oct. 26, 2007 at the Maine Veterans Home. She was born in North Waterford on Feb. 10, 1921, the daughter of Wilfred and Ella Farnum Hersey. She attended at Norway High School and Bridgton Academy. Bertha married Merritt Kimball on June 17, 1939, and he predeceased her on July 29, 2004. In her younger years, Bertha worked in local shoe shops. Along with her husband, she owned and operated Kimball Trading Post in South Waterford, doing bookkeeping and helping customers. She is survived by her three sons, Davis W. and Merritt S. of Waterford and Winfield R. of Bridgton; two daughters, Annette "Nettie" Bennett of Lovell and Elaine M. Kimball of Waterford; 11 grandchildren; 21 great-grandchildren; a cousin, Richard Hersey of California; and several nieces and nephews. She was predeceased by her husband and three sisters, Blanche Button, Marilla Allen and Sarah Andrews. She is buried in Elm Vale Cemetery.

**Rodney H. Kimball**, 79, of Waterford, died Nov. 21, 2007 at Central Maine Medical Center. He was born in South Waterford on Aug. 16, 1928, the son of Prentiss H. and Genevieve Tuttle Kimball. He went to Waterford Elementary, graduated from Bridgton Academy in 1947 and attended the University of Maine. He served in the U.S. Army as a Corporal at Camp Rucker in Alabama. He married Jane E. Cox on Nov. 10, 1956. He worked for Sanborn Machine Co. for 16 years as a foreman and later worked at Wilner Wood Products running the machine shop until his retirement in 1992. He had worked many years in various positions for the town of Waterford including town treasurer. He was a former member of the Wesleyan Methodist Church in South Waterford, a member of the Order of the Eastern Star, Oxford Chapter 168, and a member of the Masonic Mt. Tir'em Lodge 132. He served as master in 1966, the year of Mt. Tir'em Lodge's 100th anniversary.



sary. He was also a blood donor for many years. He was proud of his American Indian heritage and enjoyed showing his Indian relics collection. Rodney and Jane had spent the last 17 years wintering in Florida. He is survived by his wife of Waterford; four daughters, Carla Helsten of Chelsea, Cynthia Mitchell of Waterford, Lorraine Kimball of Kennebunk and Anita Cantara of Cape Neddick; a brother, Prentiss of South Waterford; 10 grandchildren; one great-granddaughter; and several nieces, nephews and cousins. He was predeceased by a brother, Reginald G. Kimball. He is buried in Elm Vale Cemetery.

**Alfred L. Millett**, 81, of Waterford, died Nov. 22, 2007 at Central Maine Medical Center. He was born in Waterford on May 6, 1926, to Harold and Elizabeth (Richards) Millett. He married the former Persis Wilson on Dec. 24, 1947. He worked in construction, owned and operated his own store and worked in the woods. He was a past member of the United States Trotting Association and the American Legion. He served in the United States Navy, earning the World War II Victory Medal, American Area, Asiatic-Pacific and Admiral's Commendation to Ship medals. He is survived by his wife of 60 years; two daughters, Cynthia Bartley of Kentucky and Toni Starbird of Waterford; two sons, Michael of Jefferson, N.H. and Miles of Waterford; 11 grandchildren; 22 great-grandchildren; and one great-great-grandchild. His ashes will be buried on the family farm in the spring.

## Welcome to Waterford(s): A Waterford in Any Other Place...

*The following excerpts come from a Feb. 1, 2007 story that appeared in The Waterford Times based in New London, CT. Authored by staff writer Rachel Harrington, the story examined towns with the same name from Waterford Michigan to our own Waterford, Maine.*

Welcome to Waterford, home of Linsmore Castle, Ardmore Round Tower and Bonmahon's Copper Coast.

No, this isn't Waterford, Connecticut. This is Waterford, Ireland, one of dozens of other communities around the world that share the same name.

Though the name "Waterford" is common, probably because it literally means to cross water, each Waterford is unique.

Waterford, Ireland is actually that country's oldest city, founded by the Vikings in 914 A.D. and part of the larger Waterford County.

"In fact, it is the oldest Viking city in Europe, older than Reykjavik, Copenhagen or Stockholm," said Waterford County Mayor Mary Greene.

.... Waterford, Connecticut is also known for its coastlines and waterfront access, but for many years was known more for its farming. Today, it has grown to a more commercial area, home to Crystal Mall and corporate retail giants.

..... Waterford, Maine, which does have a town center, is a Waterford on a smaller scale, home to a little over 1,450 residents.

Originally Waterford Plantation until it was incorporated into Oxford County in 1797, the town features a nationally recognized historic district that includes the Town Common. It has been noted for its orchards and small wood products businesses. North Waterford's

general store provides gas and basic groceries to residents.

The main village rests on the shores of Keoka Lake and, because of its close location to state routes 35, 37 and 118, provides easy lakeside access.

Today, Waterford, Maine is the home to summer camps for young people. Albert Einstein spent many summer vacations on Bear Pond in South Waterford.

Bob Strauss, who once served as president of the South Waterford Fire Association, has lived here since 1977.

"It's a fairly quiet town in the foothills of the White Mountains," Strauss said. "Many of its citizens are Red Sox fans and therefore hardened but friendly low-key Mainers who are proud of their community."

While every town has its own attractions, "gravity hill" in Maine is unique.

"We have a 'gravity hill' in Waterford, an area on a main road which a car of truck will travel uphill, in neutral, with no impetus from an engine," Strauss said.

A famous road design pointing to various towns like Mexico, Sweden and Denmark, all of which happen to be countries, stands in Waterford. (*Editor's note: the famous Lynchville sign is actually located just over the Waterford line in Albany.*)

Like many old New England towns, Waterford, Maine, is home to much American history. ~~Hannibal Hamlin, Lincoln's first vice president, was born and raised in that community,~~ and Artemus Ward (real name Charles Farrar Brown), who read poetry at Lincoln's first inauguration, lived and taught in the area.

Still, perhaps no Waterford has held more historical significance than Water-

ford Township in Erie County, Pennsylvania—at least that's what former history teacher and local historian Louis Dove argues.

"I don't think there's an area in America that has influenced the world as much as right here where I live," Dove said.

It was Pennsylvania's Waterford that George Washington carried out his first public mission at Fort LeBoeuf.

The fort has been built by the French in early 1753 to protect the Ohio Valley. That same year, a 21-year-old Washington, then a major representing Gov. Robert Dinwiddie of Virginia, came to LeBoeuf warning the French to withdraw their forces from Ohio Country, a region claimed by Great Britain.

The French refusal led to the French and India War that began the following year, which Dove argues "changed America more than anything in history."

.... The story goes on to talk about Waterford, Michigan, population 73,150, which features a major airport which has been visited by Air Force One several times. Waterford, California with its 8,000 population is an agricultural bedroom community. And Indiana features two Waterfords.

The article concludes with:

Whether big or small, Waterfords can be found across the nation and even the globe. And though the name may be common the stories are not. Each town, city or village has its own unique characteristics and quirks.

One thing remains constant. No matter where you look, residents can be found who are proud to tell you a little bit about their Waterford.

# First WHS Summer Art Show a Huge Success

On the last Sunday in July, 2007, the Waterford Historical Society held an Art Show with more than 75 artworks along with an Open House in the Old Town House. The art show complemented a concert held at the Waterford Congregational Church and an Open House at the Waterford Library on the same day.

The Town House itself has been the inspiration for many paintings and some of them were on display, along with other historical pieces generously loaned by many people. In addition, working artists had new pieces on display. We would like to thank all the participants for their generosity in sharing their art with the more than 250 people who attended the show.

The Trustees all participated in the show preparation with Bonnie Parsons and Lilo Willoughby working on posters, flyers and many phone conversations with the artists. Henry Plate and Ralph MacKinnon got the building ready — freshly painted by Dan Drew. Joy Plate created beautiful landscaping and she, along with Joanne MacKinnon and Lilo Willoughby, provided refreshments.

Nancy Marcotte hung the paintings with great assistance from Betty Miller. Nancy's daughter and son-in-law, Tracy and Steve Ludwig from Sweden, came to put special mounting hardware into the walls. Joy, Bonnie and Lilo also helped to mount the show.

Trustees Mary Andrews, Marjorie

Kimball, David Marston and Tony Buterall opened the Mary Gage Rice Museum for the day. Mary, Marjorie and Lilo also manned a booth at the mid-July Waterford World's Fair to advertise the art show, sell books and spread the word about the Society.

Others who deserve special thanks for the show are Carol Waldeier for creation of a flyer, David Sanderson for fiddling and bringing artwork and Birch Rock Camp, which provided cookies as well as artwork.

The show received rave reviews and a call to do it again. We are discussing doing a photo show in 2008 and the art show every other year.

It was a lot of fun even for a hot Sunday in July.



Mary Andrews stands besides some of her needlework depicting South Waterford scenes. At right are Happy and Perry Chapman looking over some of the scrapbooks that were also on display during the summer art show.

Waterford Historical Society  
PO Box 201  
Waterford ME 04088

