

VOLUME XL Number 2 (Issue 53)

Fall/Winter 2011

Waterford Historical Society



Above, Miss Maud Purdy, botanical artist, is pictured ca. 1901 at the Keoka Town Landing with her sister Italia Purdy Tomes (Betty Miller's grandmother.) Adams Folio

Rusticating Artists

Among the many "vacationists" who rusticated in the Waterford woods in the late 19th and early 20th centuries were several artists who were well known "away" from Maine. We featured four of them in our July meeting and art show--Pearl Starbird, Ethel Dana, Frank Sanford and Maud Purdy. Miss Purdy's grandnieces shared the following "with enormous respect and love":

Miss Maud H. Purdy 1874-1965

Great Aunt Maud was born in 1874 in Philadelphia to Dr. and Mrs. Charles Purdy. Shortly thereafter they moved back to the New York City area (Linden Blvd. in Brooklyn.) There, Maud's younger sister Italia was born. Both daughters were encouraged to practice the arts. Italia studied music and Maud went on in her studies to Pratt Institute where she earned a degree in art.

In Paris, France, Miss Purdy continued to study botany, horticulture and the application of oil, watercolor and gouache (opaque watercolor.)

Back in Brooklyn (where the one-and-only love of her life, her fiancé, was killed in a horse and buggy accident) Miss Maud Purdy joined the staff at Brooklyn Botanical Gardens in 1913.

President's Column

We've accomplished quite a bit this year: completing a ramp to the Rice Museum entrance, creating a research room in the Old Town House, and following through with monthly events and programs. In August Tim Sample performed to a full house.

What's more, in the midst of July's parade and Open Houses, we got sidetracked by discovering that items, important to WHS, that had been housed in the LAKE HOUSE before its foreclosure in April and subsequent sale in August, 2011, were missing

The facts are that on March 5, 1996 former innkeepers, Suzanne and Michael Uhl-Myers, wrote a letter to the Waterford Historical Society, saying they were "fortunate enough to have collected many pictures of Lake House and Waterford Village. We believe that these pictures lend great historical significance to the area. We are therefore donating a selection of pictures, an original Lake House hotel register that was given to us by an elderly gentleman from Illinois, and the original hand-planed sign which hangs on the front of the building."

Recently, I've talked with both Suzanne and Michael, who said these pictures, taken back in the early 1900's, were donated by patrons over the years. Suzanne and Michael enlarged, framed, and placed these pictures on the walls of the living, sitting, and front dining rooms for viewing. Some pictures were rare and not known previously. The missing Lake House hotel register includes supposed signatures of Hollywood legends Judy Garland, Mickey Rooney, Sterling Hayden, Gloria Jean, Claudette Colbert and Deanna Durbin.

Suzanne and Michael stipulated that these items remain for public display in the Lake House as long as it continued to operate as a public place. At such a time that it should become a private dwelling, then these items were to go to the Waterford Historical Society's museum. Suzanne Uhl was owner/chef of the Lake House from 1984-1996. Michael Myers sold the business in 2006, when it continued to be used as an inn and restaurant by new owners.

We've made several inquiries in an effort to recover the missing items. If anyone knows anything more that would speed things up, please call or write the trustees of the Waterford Historical Society. Our objective is to have the original framed pictures and hotel register returned to WHS safekeeping for the preservation of Waterford history and enjoyment of all interested. We can provide proper copies to museums and collectors. We will continue to work for a positive outcome and hope to have better news for you by next summer.

It's interesting to look back at past Echoes newsletters, a true record of Waterford's changing landscape and people. Over the years many people have contributed by writing family histories, history books, *(Continued on page 3)*

Waterford Echoes

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The Waterford Historical Society newsletter is published to benefit its membership. The Society, founded in 1965, is a non-profit Corporation created for the purpose of preserving and making available to persons interested, any and all historical and other material that shall be deemed valuable and worthy of preservation, in an effort to perpetuate for this and future generations, events, customs and traditions of local history, past, present and future, and to make possible the diffusion of such knowledge.

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Send checks to:

Waterford Historical Society PO Box 201 Waterford ME 04088

Membership renewals are due June 1. Membership dues help to fund our newsletter and its mailing cost.

We have the following publications for sale: "History of Waterford 1775-1875" and "History of Waterford 1875-1976" for \$10 each. "This is Waterford 1803-2003" for \$10 inventory reduction. Add \$8 to ship one book or \$12 to ship two or three books. Paid-up dues members qualify for a 50% discount.

President's column

(Continued from page 2)

and donating old photos. In the summer 1994 Echoes issue, W. William Fillebrown wrote down his memories and musings in the article, THE WAY WATERFORD WAS: THE FLAT, describing all the "changes" he could recall in his lifetime. It's good reading.

We are thankful for all those who've taken the time to do research and write it down. More recently, Marge Kimball has researched and presented programs on schools, churches—her latest on Nov. 10, 2011 about country stores in the 1940s, when she "hitched a ride with Mr. Hersey." Thanks to all who helped.

And so I'll end with a favorite saying from Marge, "The memory fades, the written record remains."

THANK YOU

For participating in our programs this year, we thank David Sanderson, Prentiss Kimball and Lilo Willoughby ("The Artists of Waterford"); James and Eric Long ("Library Centennial"); James Long and Bill "Dood" Haynes ("Cemetery Walk"); Store representatives Joan Fillebrown, Prentiss Kimball, Virginia Knight and Paul Legare ("The Country Store.") Gifts given this year included items from Agnes Lahti (books and other memorabilia); Glenn Della-Monica, Hudson, N.H. (map in a map tin); Joy Smith (Springer's Store pictures, calendars and other items); Jeffrey Winslow (cancelled check from an early business); Lilo Willoughby (photographs and newspaper clippings).





COUNTRY STORES— The November meeting featured a program covering 200 years of stores in town. Above, Joan Fillebrown and Marjorie Kimball barter. At left, Prentiss Kimball talks about South Waterford. At right, Paul Legare of Melby's talks about the north end stores.





A Centennial of People by Nancy Marcotte

The summer of 2011 contained a lot of celebration of buildings and people around Waterford. The 31st of July there were open houses at the Old Town House (new research room) and at the Waterford Library, which is celebrating the Centennial of the Knight building.

During the 4th of July book sale, visitors came into the library and told me about their relatives who used to live in the apartment of this beautiful building. Others spoke of the librarians who have served here--some of whom lived in the building and some of whom did not.

We believe we are the only library in Maine still to have someone resident in the building. This is a blessing to our budget, though we see the day will come when we may be ready for Stage III of our building project — a downstairs expansion into the apartment with a children's room and a few windows on the lake.

Stage II of the building/renovation project was celebrated with James Long and sons Eric and Darin, who not only reinforced the beams in the once-burned building but took many pictures, did some research, fixed the walls, floors and ceilings and gave the building only its second interior painting since its completion in 1911-1912.

Thanks to the Longs and to the grants from the King and Davis Family Foundations, as well as the dedication of trustees (especially Jane Traill), librarian Dorthe Hillquist, and electrician Gaylen Buehl, we now have a safe and beautiful upstairs meeting room, refinished floors, air conditioning, new electricity and a kitchenette.

At the historical society's library program in September, two of the guests remembered their mothers, former librarians: Mary Hubbard Flynn (Amy Hubbard) and Joan Fillebrown (Irene Bean.) Joan also told us a story that she heard from her late husband Bill. It seems the fire which burned the library in 1937 was start-

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Nuances

(Continued from page 3)

ed by a disgruntled husband who set fire to the store next door where his wife lived in the upstairs apartment. Though it was arson, nothing was ever done about it because the local law enforcement was busy with the infamous Littlefield murders next door in Paris! That's a nuance I never heard before.

What follows is a partial list of tenders of the library — as remembered by several people and by the second history book. We hope you will be able to add to it with any other names, dates, etc. If you have any information, please send it to me, care of the historical society mailing address. The library in South Waterford, which eventually became Bear Mt. Library, was started in 1842.

The oldest member was the president and the books were kept for years on the shelves of stores in town. In Waterford Flat, the Ladies' Library Association began in 1899 and books were kept at the Knight Store.

Sisters Sarah & Carrie Knight arranged with the firm of John Calvin Stevens to build an English style rubblestone building. They died before it was completed. A fire in 1937 burned the second floor but Stevens and his son John Howard Stevens had already been making plans to redesign the interior and change the roof to a Colonial Revival gambrel roof. Since the plans were already drawn, the building was swiftly completed by 1938. Those plans are now with the Maine State Historical Association and we have copies.

Mrs. Florence Rounds became the first librarian of the new Waterford Library Association in 1912 and Charlotte Morse (later Fillebrown) was her assistant. Blanche Millett Tyler was in the library from 1912 to about 1919, according to her granddaughter Ginny Cutler Raymond. Virginia Tyler (later Cutler) was born here in 1916 and they moved out before James Tyler was born in October, 1919.

Llewellyn and Mary Millett were here from 1928 until 1933; after them Lillian & Mahlon Rogers and Alma & Lauris Millett. By 1938, Irene Bean was librarian until after she moved in the spring of 1950, with Kay O'Leary assistant at some point. Mr. & Mrs. Lawrence O'Leary and Mr. & Mrs. William Jacobsen were at different times caretakers of the building. I don't know when Amy Hubbard was active.

In more recent years, Paula Easton, Sally Defoe, Andrew & Lissa Merrill, Ian Truman among others lived in the building and were caretakers of the library. Brian Floster is here today. In 1993 this library merged with Bear Mt. At that time I was librarian of Bear Mt., following Flora Abbott and others; Bill Haynes and Jane Strauss and I came here as trustees. We sold the South Waterford building and set about investing in one grand Waterford Library. Having a professional librarian for the first time in Dorthe Hillquist, as well as a very dedicated group of volunteers, has helped this wonderful town resource move into the 21st Century. Today's trustees are: Al Struck, President; Nancy Marcotte, Vice President; Jane Traill, treasurer; Ginny Raymond, secretary; Karen O'Brien, Nancy Forest, John Thompson and Trish Logan.

Artists

(Continued from page 1)

She was appointed the first and only resident artist at a botanical garden.. There she was assigned the complete study of all Iris (now archived at the BBG for students of all nations.) Maud was given the task of illustrating many texts at the gardens; she also was sent to the Galapagos Islands to record sea life, flora and fauna. The Brooklyn Botanical Garden Archive maintains this work along with instructional charts for finite study of botany. Each piece is elegant.

In the 1920s Maud winterized her family's summer home and moved to Pamona Country Club, near Spring Valley, New York. It was a colony of creative people, i.e. authors and artists. She painted portraits for many of these folks. There she also painted porcelain, china, dishes and jewelry. She designed notepaper for Eaton Co. and continued her career illustrating texts. After 25 years with Brooklyn Botanical Gardens, Maud was presented a certificate acknowledging her excellent service.

Maud's sister Italia Purdy Tomes became director of Camp Kokosing in Waterford, where Maud was a frequent guest. With pen or paintbrush in hand, she



created many artistic contributions which are with us daily! (Some are on loan at McLaughlin Gardens.)



Virginia and Pearl

Miss Pearl Starbird 1909-2011

Just before the summer began, a great friend to our area died at the age of 101. Pearl Starbird had been born in 1909 in Boston to Dr. Edward and Mrs. Elizabeth Hurst Starbird. There is a lot which is similar between Pearl and Maud. They were both children of doctors.



Pearl with a scholarship recipient

Pearl had a sister, Virginia with whom she studied music. Pearl was an accomplished cellist but studied painting and costume design in college. She earned a masters degree from Boston University and was an art teacher in the Boston school system until her retirement.

Almost every summer of her life she spent at her beloved camp, Bird's Nest, on Keoka Lake. She reluctantly sold it in 2005 when she moved into the Market Square Health Care Center in South Paris. She never married but her continuing interest in children led her, with the help of Keith and Lilo Willoughby and others, to create a scholarship with the proceeds of the sale of her camp. The Pearl Starbird Scholarship helps students in art and music from the Oxford Hills and Lake Region schools. Miss Starbird enjoyed looking at the portfolios and listening to the performances of her scholarship recipients.

Miss Ethel Dana

In a funny way, our interest in the elusive Miss Dana was what started this pursuit of rusticating artists. From time to time Flora Abbott would mention in her 1940s newspaper columns that Ethel Dana, the artist, was at her camp on Bear Pond entertaining guests or gone visiting with people in Albany and other places. I did a search to find out more about her. I found one painting "Mt. Kearsage" which had sold at auction but no biographical information. Then I heard that Prentiss Kimball knew Miss Dana.

Prentiss owns one of her paintings of Bear Mountain but, even better, he remembers learning to paint at her side when he was just a child. We are not sure where she came from but she spent some winters in the Portland area. She sold some of her work on Martha's Vineyard, which apparently was a wonderful market for New England landscapes.

When she came to her camp, down behind Prentiss and Edith's house, she would row across the pond and walk to Harold Kimball's store (today Kimball Hardware) for supplies. Harold would move an icebox to a shady stream and she would get her ice at the creamery. Prentiss delivered her newspaper. Sometimes Miss Dana stayed with Aunt Lil Kimball. She also had an open roofed pavilion which she called her "studio."

We think her niece still has a cottage in the vicinity of Camp Wigwam so we hope to gain more information about her. Certainly people in town remember her and some own her paintings.

Mr. Frank Sanford

Known as "Sandy," Mr. Sanford was a neighbor of Miss Dana's on Bear Pond and sometimes they entertained guests at picnics together. Hailing from New York, Sandy was most famous for Chatauqua work teaching art to children. He wrote at least one well-known book on crafts. David Sanderson shared quite a bit of information on him. He seems also to have been unmarried and was friendly with the Kimball family, several members of which own his paintings. Prentiss remembers driving him. Art came to Mutiny Corner with the visiting artists and remained there as Prentiss, his daughter Sheree and grandsons Brian and Brandon Pike continued to paint.

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In Memoriam

Edward Eugene Colby, 81, of Green Township, Ohio, and Waterford, died Oct. 27, 2010. He was born in Aberdeen, S.D., June 8, 1929, the son of Roy B. and Hazel I. Hackett Colby. He graduated from Brunswick High School and Princeton University. He served in the U.S. Navy from 1951-54. He married Chloe Gertrude McIntire on March 21, 1953. He worked at Proctor and Gamble for 34 years as the associate director of food technical packaging, retiring in 1988. He is survived by his children, Edward Jr., Roy, Margaret Ann Colby and Grace Elizabeth Colby; five grandsons; and a brother, Lincoln Colby. He was predeceased by his wife, Chloe in December 2009. He is buried in Pulpit Rock Cemetery.

Joseph I. Hatch, formerly of Norway and Waterford, died July 9, 2011 at Ledgeview Living Center in West Paris. He was



born Aug. 31, 1943, the son of James and Arlene Hatch. He was raised in Auburn and graduated from Edward Little High School in 1961. He married his wife, Sharon on June 18, 1966 in Auburn. He earned a bachelor's of science degree in education from Fort Kent State College in 1967. Hired as a mathematics teacher in the fall of 1967, he taught full time at Oxford Hills High School and Oxford Hills Technical School for 34 years. He continued his career in education part-time and opened the Oxford Hills Driving School in 2001. Joe had many interests including coaching football and golf at OHHS. He also raced many different divisions of stock cars at Oxford Plains Speedway. He was a member of the March and Chowder Society and was an active member of the Norway-Paris Lions Club. He helped establish the Norway-Paris Lions Car Show which he also co-chaired for 30 years. He was awarded the Melvin Jones Fellowship, the Lions Clubs' highest individual honor in 2007. He is survived by his wife, Sharon;

his sister, Alice Roy of Caribou; sons, Jim of South Paris and Eric of Sanford; and a grandson, Matthew.

Rosalie Vanderzanden, 90, died at her Waterford home on Aug. 26, 2011. She was born Aug. 13, 1921 and raised in New York City. She moved with her family to New Jersey in 1947. She and her daughter Barbara moved to Maine in 1978 where they ran the Waterford Inne. She was a 1941 graduate of Hunter College and completed graduate work at Paterson State College in the 1970s. She was an avid traveler and saw much of the world with her daughter. Mrs. Vanderzanden is survived by her son Andre of New Hampshire; her son Michael; two grandsons of Pennsylvania; two granddaughters and one greatgranddaughter. She was predeceased by her husband, Andre, and daughter, Leslie, in 1964.

Haynes F. Noyes, 91, of Waterford, died Sept. 6, 2011 at the Maine Veterans Home in South Paris. Haynes was born in



South Paris on Aug. 26, 1920, to Harry and Ida Noyes. Shortly after graduating from Oxford High School, Haynes volunteered to serve in the Army during World War II. Following his discharge, he went to work on the railroad and held various other jobs until opening a small general store in South Waterford. After closing the store, he began his sales career, working for Stan Wallace of Bridgton, before ultimately transferring to Benson and Sullivan Co. in Auburn, where he enjoyed a long and successful career, rising to the position of vice president and general manager before retiring in 1978. Havnes was a lifetime member of Mt. Tir'em Lodge No. 29 in Waterford and was an active member of the Masons, including a year on the lecture circuit as a district deputy for the state of Maine. He was also a deputy sheriff for Oxford County and a member of the Maine State Police Auxiliary. For many years he religiously walked two

to five miles every day, regardless of the weather. In his later years, he traded his walking shoes for his bicycle where he rode 25 to 30 miles daily. Surviving Haynes are his three sons, Leon of Tennessee, Bob of New Jersey and Steve of Florida; seven grandchildren, nine great-grandchildren and one great great-grandson. He was predeceased by Mildred (Haynes) Noyes, his wife of 53 years; and two sisters, Lucy "Dolly" Brown and Dorothy "Teddy" McGray. He is buried in Elm Vale Cemetery.

Jack I. Pike, 56, of Wasilla, AK, died Oct. 16, 2011 at the Alaska Regional Medical Center in Anchorage. He was born Oct.



4, 1955 to Robert Irvin and Althea Mae (Rugg) Pike in Lewiston. He entered into the U.S. Army in 1973, serving four years until he transferred into the U.S. Coast Guard where he served 20 years and retired in 2001. He had lived in Kodiak, AK from 1991 to 1996 before moving to Maine. He had lived in Maine until 2007 when he returned to Alaska and took residency in Wasilla. He is survived by his wife of 26 years, Irene M. Pike of Wasilla, AK; mother, Althea Pike of Waterford; daughters, Jaimi Pike of Sebastian, FL, Alecia Pike of Wasilla, AK and Abbi-Gayle Sterlacci of San Antonio, TX; sons, Christopher Pike of South Carolina and Jack Pike II of Wasilla, AK; daughter, Aleksys Hegge of Charlottesville, VA; sons, Shawn and Joseph Pike both of Wasilla, AK; granddaughters, Nora Hegge of Charlottesville, VA and Isabella

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Sterlacci of San Antonio, TX; five brothers, Steve, Wayne, Kevin, Bobby and Brad, all of Maine and three sisters, Pam, Terry and Linda, all of Maine. He is buried beside his father in the Pike family cemetery.

Phyllis "Penny" N. Tucker of Waterford died Nov. 29, 2011 at the Norway Rehabilitation and Living Center. The eldest



daughter of Philip Tubbs Noble and Eleanor Brown Noble, she was born on Oct. 21, 1926 in the same room that her mother was born in at the Brown Family Farm on the Greenwood Road in North Norway. Penny attended Norway schools, graduating from Norway High School in 1944. She then went on to study dental hygiene at the University of Pennsylvania. After graduating in 1946, she began her career in Great Neck, Long Island, N.Y. While she was living in New York, she met the love of her life, John S. Tucker, who at the time was a cadet at the U.S. Merchant Marine Academy at Kings Point. They were married on June 12, 1951 and while living in New York and New Jersey, she and John had two children, Jeffrey Noble and Kimberly Anne. They continued to raise their family in New Jersey until 1972, when

they moved to Waterville. While in Waterville, Penny continued her career by working for Kennebec Valley Health in the Northern regions of Maine as a visiting school dental hygienist. In 1987, after rebuilding their summer cottage on McWain Pond, John and Penny became permanent residents of Waterford. Penny was active in her community through Christ Church in Norway, the Norway Country Club and her support of political causes. She is survived by her husband of 60 years, Captain John S. Tucker; sister, Mary Bowler of Hampden; son, Jeffrey of Waterford; daughter, Kimberly of Underhill, Vt.; four grandchildren; one great-grandson; and several step-grandchildren. She was predeceased by a sister, Anne Penny.

George D. Tracy, 87, of Waterford died Dec. 2, 2011 at Bridgton Hospital. He was born in Portland May 8, 1924, the son



of Clarence Smith and Gladys Tracy. He worked at Hebron Academy for many years as a dishwasher. He liked to keep the sides of the North Waterford roads clean while taking long walks. He was independent and taught himself to read by watching Sesame Street. George is survived by Merle McAllister; Gloria McKee and her children, Nicole and Shane; Keith McAllister and his wife Crissy, and her children, Adam and Katelyn; Fred McAllister and his family and Beverly and Joel Martin. He is buried in Norway Pine Grove Cemetery.

Dorothy M. Hubbard died Dec. 5, 2011 at the Mary Ann Morse Nursing Home in Natick, MA. Mrs. Hubbard was the wife of the late Roswell E. Hubbard Jr., who died in February 2009. Mrs. Hubbard was born and raised in Natick, the daughter of the late Martin L. Gilleran and Alice (Barnicle) Gilleran and was predeceased by her brother Robert and her sister Mary. She was a graduate of Natick High School's Class of 1942. During World War II Mrs. Hubbard worked for the U.S. Army at the Cushing Army Hospital in Framingham and later worked at the Murphy Army Hospital in Waltham before marrying her husband in 1952. Mr. and Mrs. Hubbard lived for over 50 years in Wayland. She leaves her children Thomas Hubbard of Natick, Catherine Griffin of Hamilton (MA), R. Brian Hubbard of Sudbury and Ellen Hart of Cumberland (Maine). She also leaves 10 grandsons. She is buried in the Hubbard family lot in North Cemetery in Wayland, MA.

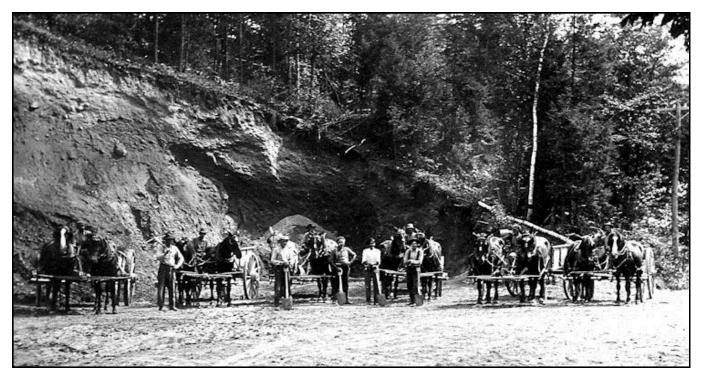
Shirley Chaplin Sr., 78, of Norway died, Dec. 26, 2011 at Central Maine Medical Center. He was born in North Fryeburg



July 29, 1933, the son of Alton and Gertrude Adams Chaplin. He graduated from Fryeburg Academy and had been employed as a skidder operator in the woods for many years. He married Madeleine Morin on July 29, 2000. He served in the U.S. Air Force. He was a member of the Waterford Grange and Pomona Grange, where he was an officer in both. He attended Oxford Advent Christian Church and was the maintenance man there for 11 years. He is survived by his wife of Norway; his children, Shirl Chaplin, Wendy Bruins and Belinda Woitko and their mother, Evelyn Chaplin; six grandchildren; nine greatgrandchildren; and four brothers: Earle, Robert, Burton and Kenneth.

Ruth A. Dingley, 83, of South Paris, died Tuesday, Dec. 27, at Market Square Health Care Center. She was born in Waterford, July 7, 1928, the daughter of Roland and Josephine Learned McAlister. She was educated in South Waterford schools and graduated from Bridgton Academy in 1946. She married David E. Dingley of Harrison on June 18, 1946. They lived in Waterford and Harrison for many years, before moving to the Norway-Paris area. She was a homemaker who enjoyed raising her children and traveling. She and her husband made many trips around the United States and Canada. She worked for 12 years at Oxford County Superior Court in South Paris as court messenger, retiring in 1988. She is survived by her three sons, Duane of South Paris, Douglas of Cleveland, Okla. and Daniel of South Paris; her daughter, Pamela Moore of Berlin, N.H.; nine grandchildren; seven great-grandchildren; a sister, Bertha Samson of South Paris; and two nephews. She was predeceased by her husband in 2002; and her daughter, Patricia in 1954. She is buried in Elm Vale Cemetery.

A Summer Full of Road Work



If it seemed to you that, no matter which direction you drove in the summer of 2011, you met a construction delay, imagine what it would have been like one hundred years ago! Above is a postcard view of a road crew in East Waterford, date unknown. In the Town Report for 1911, over \$1,600 was expended for highway bills, including to E. L. Pike for dynamite; to William Kingman for cement; to Harry Brown for lumber; to A. S. Hapgood for gravel; to B. F. Sanborn for blacksmithing; and to about fifty men (with horses) for labor ranging from 50 cents to \$172.37. Snow rolling in the same year cost \$678.83, paid to 42 different individuals. In addition there was an appropriation of \$130.00 for a snow rolling machine and one additional wooden roller. At that time L. R. Rounds was clerk, Daniel Brown was treasurer, H. L. Whitcomb and J. L. Tubbs were road commissioners. In 1910-1911 there were in town 136 carriages, 7 automobiles , 11 gasoline engines, 309 horses, 5,103 hens, 69 licensed dogs and 37 musical instruments taxed. Town Reports can be fun!

Waterford Historical Society PO Box 201 Waterford ME 04088

