



Waterford Echoes

VOLUME XLI Number 1 (Issue 54)

Spring/Summer 2012

Waterford Historical Society



Fred H. Johnson at the Johnson Farm, ca. 1920.

This self-portrait appeared in *Images of America: Lake Region* by Jack & Diane Barnes.

The Visual History of a Home Town Fred Johnson's Photography

A little over 100 years ago Fred H. Johnson (1876-1948) acquired a camera which took photographs on glass plates. The earliest images are ca. 1895 photographs of the family farm on Johnson Road (today the Webb/Swan home.) The latest seem to be in the 1920s.

Thanks to Sid Gordon of Norway, who collected and printed the plates, and to David Sanderson of East Waterford, who brought them to our attention, the Waterford Historical Society has acquired the original plates. We celebrate them this year with the sale of a 2013 calendar and a display of Fred's Photos in June and July.

We hope to add the photos of Fred Stockwell to our Open House exhibit on the last Sunday in July (Music Sunday). Fred Johnson built two of the Stockwell family cottages across from his farm.

President's Column

2012 Calendar

The Trustees met during the winter and made quite a few plans for this season. In June and July we will be focusing on Fred Johnson and his photographs, both during the Annual Meeting on June 14th (7 p.m.) and the Open House on July 29th (11-2), both at the Old Town House. July 12th we will be returning to a summer potluck supper, which we haven't done for some time. Our meeting will be "Remembering Doctor Hubbard," and we hope some of the family will be there. The supper will be at 6 p.m. and the meeting at 7 p.m. at the Wilkins Community House, where the Boston Post Cane will be presented to the town's oldest citizen, Agnes Lahti.

On Aug. 9th, the folks from Pie Tree Orchard in Sweden will talk about some of their initiatives and we will have potluck apple desserts at the Wilkins House. On Sept. 13th we will be looking at "Chautauqua"--the actual place in New York and the travelling revival meetings that used to take place on the Waterford Common. This will be upstairs at the Waterford Library. As usual, our meetings are on the second Thursday of the month at 7 p.m. and feature potluck refreshments.

On Oct. 11th John O'Brien will talk to us about Ralph Waldo Emerson at the Wilkins Community House. We also will tell you a little about Emerson's relatives in Waterford--both in the past and today! Our last meeting on Nov. 8th will be a potluck supper at 6 p.m. at the North Waterford Church; the 7 p.m. meeting will feature local musicians.

Post your bookmark schedule on your refrigerator so you won't miss a thing! We want to tell you about a grant we will be receiving which will help us get some computer equipment and training for the Maine Memory Network.

Waterford Echoes

Vol. XLI Number 1 Issue 54 Spring/Summer 2012

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.

2010-2011 OFFICERS

President:	Bonnie Parsons
Vice President:	Carol Waldeier
Secretary:	Nancy Marcotte
Treasurer:	Ralph MacKinnon
Membership:	Joanne MacKinnon
Newsletter Editor:	Bill Haynes
Trustees:	Tony and Donna Butterall, Marge Nihan, Lilo Willoughby and Henry and Joy Plate Marjorie Kimball, honorary trustee

MEMBERSHIP DUES

Classification: Individual/Couple

Life member: \$100/\$150

Annual: \$10/\$15

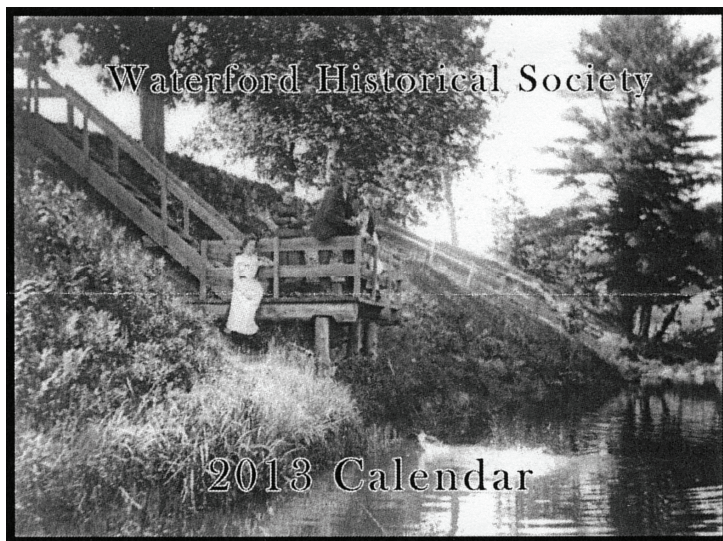
Seniors (65 & over) — \$5/\$8

Send checks to:

Waterford Historical Society
PO Box 201
Waterford ME 04088

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.



FOR SALE: 2013 calendars featuring Fred Johnson photographs—\$15. David Sanderson believes we have mis-identified this cover picture as on McWain. He thinks it may be the Crooked River behind McIntyre's farm.

Where Is The Boston Post Cane?

The Boston Post newspaper gave 14-karat gold-headed inscribed ebony canes to 700 New England towns, beginning in 1909. They were to honor the “Oldest Citizen”—meaning men; women were added after protest in the 1930s. For generations the Waterford selectmen have been in charge of presenting it and retrieving it when the time came to pass it on. Many towns' Boston Post Canes have gone missing—BUT NOT OURS.



In 1969, a Portland Press Herald article detailed the presentation of the Boston Post Cane to Arthur Sanderson, who was at that time 89. He lived to be nearly 100, so he probably held it longer than many. At that time an incomplete list of previous holders included Ezra Lebroke, Phoebe Crossman, Nellie Stone, Virginia Merrill and Sadie Merrill (with no dates.)

Through obituaries we have been able to trace it after “Uncle Arthur's” death in February of 1980. Walter Lord held it from March 1980 until October 1983. Then Suzie Grant held it in 1984. In the spring of 1989 it was mentioned in the “Echoes” that Waterford Boston Post Cane-holder Ethel Lovejoy was celebrating her 100th birthday at the Hicks Nursing Home in Fryeburg. She died in the fall of 1989.

The next mention we have found is of Grace Howe, who died at the age of 105 in 2002. She would have been 92 in 1989, so she may have been holding the cane all that time. The last record we have been able to find is Alma Millett's obituary. She died in March 2004 at Market Square Health Care Center and she might have held the cane since 2002.

Selectmen will present the cane to Agnes Lahti (Alma's sister) at the July 12 historical meeting at the Wilkins House.



The Cemetery Gates

By Nancy Marcotte

Once again the Long family has been working more miracles during the past winter in preserving parts of Waterford history. They have been stabilizing the Elm Vale Cemetery gates.

The book *Oxford County Maine: a Guide to its Architecture* (Randall H. Bennett, 1984) calls our white gates “aesthetically pleasing and architecturally handsome.” We have not discovered who built them or exactly when, but we know it was mid-to-late 19th Century.

Originally they matched gates at Norway's Pine Grove Cemetery*, next to the high school in South Paris, which have been dated to 1860 by Father Don McAllister (*Bound by Memories' Ties.*) Eclectic, as many Victorian styles were, the triple-arch openings are built of wood to resemble stone quoins in a Romanesque Revival style, but the tops of the columns are Italianate, such as one may see in the Victoria Mansion in Portland. Both styles were symbolic of pride and a sort of modern outlook toward Europe.

Between the Civil War and WWI much aesthetic updating went on--particularly in South Waterford, which has more architectural variety than our other villages. Maybe the Industrial Revolution was at work in “The City!” (See photos of W. K. Hamlin's house on the last page.)

The Pine Grove gates were replaced in the 1960s by gray stone pillars and a chain-link fence--probably for the same reason ours need regular work. Their proximity to the road means snow gets plowed up onto them.

*Why is Norway's Pine Grove Cemetery in South Paris? It's an interesting tale of shifting town lines that went back and forth between Alpine Street and the Gary Street area until finally fixed by vote of the Maine legislature.

N.M.



The mild winter helped James M. Long & Sons complete the first phase of the Elm Vale Cemetery gate restoration project. Town officials working with Long felt an emergency situation existed with the gate leaning severely toward the road and feared it might not make it through the winter. Above, Albert Heath from the Waterford highway department is shown excavating beneath the westerly arch in preparation for two of the four concrete foundations to come. At right, Eric and Darin Long hoe concrete to the back of the form. The digging and concrete work was done in two stages with the two inside posts being poured first. Before anything could be done, the structure had to be jacked and straightened.



Donations to the Elm Vale Cemetery Gate Restoration Fund should be made payable to the Town of Waterford and mailed to 366 Valley Road, Waterford ME 04088.

A Pioneer Table

The first pioneer woman in Waterford may be debated, but our first History of Waterford 1775-1875 says it was Hannah Harrington Horr, who came with her husband Philip in 1783. Their daughter Hannah married Asa Johnson and had nine children. The first was Clarissa Johnson, b. 1787, the first girl born in town (pg. 265.)

In 2003 Edward Holt of Harpswell donated to the WHS a maple drop-leaf table which his family tradition said was once owned by either the first woman or the first child in Waterford. Certainly the Holts/Merrills/Herseys/Sawins/Johnsons intermarried over the centuries and this table came to Edward from Della Holt Klament and her mother Annie Sawin Holt. Annie used the table to prepare meals for boarders, which provided a funny story about why the table corners were rounded off. Whatever the stories, the table is back in Waterford now.

Fred Johnson's Photographs



Keoka Lake from behind Johnson Farm, ca. 1910

Fred Johnson was the son of Jerome and Fanny Bancroft Johnson. Both Jerome (1880s) and Fred (1916) served terms as Waterford selectmen. Their ancestor, Asa Johnson, a Revolutionary soldier, was one of the first settlers in the eastern part of town, elected “field driver” when the town was incorporated. Asa came from Templeton, Mass. in 1785 or 1786 and married Hannah Horr, the daughter of Philip & Hannah Harrington Horr (the first family in town) who lived near Joel Plummer. Asa & Hannah's daughter Clarissa was the first girl born in town (1787).

Agnes Bancroft Lahti, a relative of his, remembered Fred Johnson as “tall, very thin and gentle.” He married Eliza “Lide” Green of North Waterford. They had no children, but Green family homes and people feature prominently in Johnson photos.

Bea Fitts recalled that he owned the first automobile in town, so it is no surprise that he travelled around to take pictures. In addition to architectural and pastoral views, Fred Johnson recorded a time at the turn of the 20th Century when interesting things were happening—like the crew stringing wire in East Waterford. His photos of Edgar “Ned” Stone's ice-cutting machine appeared in *Popular Mechanics*.

Most interesting may be the long and remarkably treeless vistas around Keoka when the forest was cut back by diligent farmers (ca. 1900-1910).



Stringing wire in East Waterford

In Memoriam

Shirley A. Kimball died on Saturday, Feb. 25, 2012 at her home in North Waterford. She was born on Oct. 7, 1935 in South Paris, to Ida Mae (Lapham) and George Gurney. She graduated from Norway High School in 1954. She worked as a clerk at Herbie's Shop-Rite until she became a full time homemaker. Later in life she was a butcher's assistant for Herbie Roberts Meats. She married Richard Kimball in 1965. The couple had one daughter in 1973. She participated as a Girl Scout troop co-leader, was active in the Norway-Paris Fish and Game Association and served as President in 2002, one of only two women to hold that position up until that time. Mrs. Kimball is survived by her husband, Richard Kimball, of North Waterford; a daughter, Jennifer Colburn of Rockland; a granddaughter, two stepgranddaughters and two step-great-grandchildren. She is buried in Elm Vale Cemetery.



William W. Haynes, 89, of Waterford, a **life member of the Society**, died Dec. 28 in Sarasota, FL after a brief stay at Sarasota Memorial Hospital. He was born in Waterford on Aug. 5, 1922, the son of Harry N. and Carrie (Hamlin) Haynes. He was educated in Waterford schools and graduated from Bridgton Academy in 1941. He enrolled in the ROTC program at the University of Maine in 1942 but was called to serve on March 5, 1943. Upon his discharge as a Sergeant on Jan. 25, 1946, he returned to Waterford where he married Diane K. Burnham of Harrison on June 22, 1946. He worked on the farm with his father through the remainder of the post-war decade, re-entering the University in 1950 and graduating in 1954 with a degree in Agricultural Economics and Farm Management. He began his poultry career with Corbett Enterprises in Winslow as part of the management team where he was responsible for numerous broiler growing operations throughout southern and western Maine, including his own which at its peak totaled 32,500 birds on a three-month rotation. The company went through several ownerships including Ralston-Purina Co. and Fort Halifax Poultry Co. He retired in 1984. Bill continued to carry on his family's farming tradition. He was an active member of the Oxford County Agricultural Society for more than 50 years, twice serving as its president. He also was a longtime trustee of the West Oxford Agricultural Society (Fryeburg Fair) as well as Director of Harness Racing until his death. Additionally, he was a member of the Bear Mountain Grange No. 62 where he was honored with a 50-year Golden Sheaf certificate in 2008 and a member of the VFW. Upon the death of Diane in March 1989, he married Judith Williams Munn on Oct. 19, 1989. This year marked the 23rd year they had wintered in Acadia, FL. He is survived by his wife of Waterford; two sons, William Harry of Waterford and Frederick Henry of Gray; and a sister, Ruth Chute of South Paris. He was predeceased by sisters Helen Haynes and Mildred Noyes. He is buried at Elm Vale Cemetery.



Herbert L. Andrews, 92, of Kittery, formerly of North Waterford, died Wednesday, Feb. 29, 2012 in York Hospital. He was born October 24, 1919 in North Waterford, a son of the late Luther N. and Edith M. (Palmer) Andrews. He was an Air Force veteran of World War II. He had worked for the Portsmouth Naval Shipyard for many years before retiring. He spent 20 years wintering in Lakeland, FL along with his wife, Leona (Tracy) Andrews. He leaves two grandsons, Malcolm D. Andrews and Christopher L. Andrews of York; seven great-grandchildren and two great-great-grandchildren. He was predeceased by his is wife, son Ronald K. Andrews, granddaughter Naomi Andrews, brothers Charles, Arthur, Oscar, William and George and sisters Jennie Rice and Carrie Andrews. He is buried in Bisbeetown.

Isabelle J. Rolfe, 99, died Friday, March 23, 2012 at Norway Rehabilitation and Living Center. She was born in North Waterford on Sept. 19, 1912, the daughter of Wallace and Ethel Kilgore Jones. She attended schools in North Waterford and married Marshall Rolfe on May 29, 1937. She had been a sales clerk at J. J. Newberry's, a cook at the Fryeburg Fair and at the Waterford Fair Firemen's booth. She was president of the Woodlawn

Cemetery Association, a member of the American Legion Auxiliary in Bethel and the North Waterford Congregational Church. Mrs. Rolfe is survived by her sons Robert of E. Hartford, CT and Rodney of Waterford; a brother, Richard Jones of North Waterford; 11 grandchildren; 23 great-grandchildren and five great-great-grandchildren. She was predeceased by her husband on March 9, 1994, son Edwin, daughter Jeanne Fleet and brother Leslie Jones. She is buried in Woodlawn Cemetery.

Gail P. Harmon, 63, of Waterford died at home on May 4, 2012. She was born in Bridgton on May 1, 1949 to John and Phyllis Pike of North Bridgton and graduated from Bridgton High School in the Class of 1967. She worked at the Maine Credit Union League in Portland. She married Stan Harmon, her high-school sweetheart, Feb. 15, 1969. After raising her two children, she started two Bridgton area businesses: "The Cover Girls," a painting and wallpapering business, with her sister and then "The Fair Exchange" consignment store. Surviving Mrs. Harmon is her husband of 43 years, son Steve, daughter Natalie Veilleux, brother Dale Pike of Berlin, NH. and two grandchildren. She was predeceased by her younger sister, Faye Chadbourne. She is buried in North Bridgton Cemetery.



George Brett, of Cape Elizabeth, a **life member of the Society**, died May 15, 2012 in Cape Elizabeth. He was born in Boston, Mass. March 23, 1923, lived in Brookline, Mass. and attended school there until 1936 when the family moved to Newton. A graduate of Kimball Union Academy in 1941, he attended Harvard College with the class of 1945 and graduated from Babson College Class of 1948. In World War II he enlisted in the Army Air Corps and trained as an aerial navigator serving with the Seventh Air Force flying missions over the Philippines, China and Japan. In 1954, Mr. Brett married the former Virginia Harvey. While they lived in Brookline he was active in All Saints Church serving on the Vestry and as Treasurer for five years. After moving to Waban, he was active in The Parish of Good Shepherd, again serving on the Vestry and a term as Treasurer. A Chartered Financial Analyst, Mr. Brett spent most of his working life as a portfolio manager, retiring from the Bank of New England in 1983. For many years the family maintained a second home in Waterford. He was one of the original campers at Birch Rock Camp in Waterford. In 1986, he moved to Maine permanently when he married Deborah Lombard Farnsworth. George is survived by his wife, daughter Nancy Brett of Waterford, one granddaughter and three step children. He was predeceased by his son George Robert Brett II in 1979, his first wife in 1984, step daughter Deborah Farnsworth in 2002 and daughter Carolyn Brett in 2009.



Donald L. Rice, 68, of Waterford died May 21, 2012 at Stephens Memorial Hospital. He was born in Rumford on June 1, 1943, son of Rufus E. Rice and Mary (Clough) Kenniston. Don graduated from Gould Academy in 1961. He worked as a bridge engineer for the State of Maine for 40 years, retiring in 2001, after which time he assisted in the operation of Rice Tree Service of Waterford. He was a member of the Mt. Tirem Lodge. Don is survived by his sons Adam of Augusta and Sheldon of Waterford, brother Douglas of Guildford CT; sister, Donna Rice-Howe of Waterford, four grandchildren and numerous nieces, nephews and cousins. He was predeceased by his parents and sister, Sally Rice-Twitchell. He is buried in Song Pond Cemetery in Albany.



Luther P. Hilton, 72, of Waterford died Sunday, May 20, 2012 at Stephens Memorial Hospital. He was born in Naples on Feb. 10, 1940, the son of Everett C. and Leona A. (Rolfe) Hilton. He lived in many places growing up: Bridgton, Otisfield, Gorham and Edgecomb. He worked on the pipeline in Pennsylvania and in the woods most of his life. He won numerous woodsman competitions at Maine fairs, including Fryeburg Fair. Luther is survived by his wife of 44 years, Priscilla (Heino); son, Anthony of Waterford; two grandchildren; brothers Guy of Standish and Larry Flagg of Norway; sisters, Betty Proctor of Harrison, Lillian Hebert of Buxton; and many nieces and nephews. He was predeceased by sisters Ada Inverso of N.J. and Margaret Strickland of Bridgton.

FROM OUR FILES



Victorian Renovation

Above is a photo of W. K. Hamlin's house, probably in the 19th Century. This came from David Erickson. Below is a postcard view of the house after a Victorian renovation in 1914. (The postcard is addressed to W. K.'s daughter, Jane Sanderson, and says: "...Bessie is feeling better but is quite tired. Baby is pretty good most of the time and is awful cunning. I like pretty well...will close with love, Ethel Skinner." Postmarked 1915 or 1916.) Most recently this building has been divided into apartments. Today all that is left of the building on the right (the first Masonic Hall) is a hitching post dated 1838.



Waterford Historical Society
PO Box 201
Waterford ME 04088

