



Waterford Echoes

VOLUME XLIX Number 1 (Issue 58)

Spring/Summer 2014

Waterford Historical Society

All That's Left Of the Mills of the City

Flora Hamlin Abbott wrote often of the many mills starting “from the foot of Tom Pond [Keoka]... and coming down the stream...a saw mill, a foundry, plaster mill, saw and grist mill, carriage shop, saw mill, tannery and a wool carding mill, all getting their power from this small stream.” They were the reason South Waterford was called The City and the stream has been called at various times Bear Brook, Mill Brook and City Brook.

For Robert Spencer and his wife Geraldine O'Donnell, who have been coming to The City since 1976, the last mill still standing has been a labor of love to preserve and to restore. This August, they will share it with us — both their home and the preserved mechanical mill artifacts in the cellar.

Bob has done a lot of research on the “Privileges” or mill sites along the brook — privilege being the colonial right to run a water-powered enterprise. Theirs is the “Fifth Privilege” along the stream, which was originally granted to Isaac Smith in 1795 for a saw mill. Josiah Farrar owned it next, as a cloth and linseed oil mill, at the same time living in the house adjacent to the mill now owned by Dan and Kathy Graney.

George Kimball Hamlin (son of Luther Hamlin and Hannah Kimball, grandson of America Hamlin and Sally Parkhurst), operated it again as a saw mill until such time as he sold it to his future son-in-law. William Watson, a wounded pensioner returning from the Civil War, bought the mill in 1864-5. Primarily a farmer, he married Marietta Hamlin and became a manufacturer of wooden items, including spools and boxes for packing salt (and later nails.) He was credited with inventing labor-saving devices at the mill.

The Falls is still called Watson's Falls and it has been built and rebuilt often as a flume or spillway over the years. Watson's Salt Box Factory became a cider mill at some point. Watson's daughter Edith was born in 1874, attended Douglass Seminary and Bridgton Academy before becoming a teacher; she married Fred

(Continued on page 5)

Cider Mill then...



William Watson Salt Box/ Haynes and Pike Cider Mill Bill Haynes photo from the 1970s

And now...



The refurnished home of Robert Spencer & Geraldine O'Donnell Bill Haynes photo

President's Corner

PROGRAMS 2014

June 12 - 7 p.m.
Annual Meeting &
Lake House Memories
at Old Town House
Waterford Flat

July 4 - 9-12 a.m.
Parade, Open House
Rice Museum,
(next to Library)
and Old Town House

July 10 - 7 p.m.
Reflections on the Five
Kezars
North Waterford Church

August 14 - 6 p.m.
Tour of rebuilt Watson's Mill
and film at Bear Mt. Grange
South Waterford



The Lake House before it was painted white

Sept. 11 - 6 p.m.
Tour of Beech Hill Farm
and Bison Ranch
North Waterford

Oct. 9 - 7 p.m.
Marr Family of Sweden
and South Waterford
Wilkins House
Waterford Flat

Nov. 13 - 7 p.m.
Dr. Cyrus Hamlin
Missionary to Turkey
Wilkins House
Waterford Flat



There will be a range
of local speakers, from
Kezar Lakes families to
Ted & Doretta Colburn;
and from Bob Spencer
and Geraldine O'Donnell
to Sweden historian Dick

Lyman.

We hope you will come and
share your recollections of these
people and places, as well as of
the Lake House, where we hope
to see Michael Myers. All meet-
ings will have potluck refresh-
ments except Beech Hill, where
the Colburns will treat us.

Come one, come all.

Waterford Echoes

Vol. XLIX Number 1 Issue 58 Spring/Summer 2014

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.

2013-2014 OFFICERS

President:	Bonnie Parsons
Vice President:	
Secretary:	Nancy Marcotte
Treasurer:	Ralph MacKinnon
Membership:	Joanne MacKinnon
Newsletter Editor:	Bill Haynes
Trustees:	Tony and Donna Butterall, Ted Gerber, Joanne MacKinnon, Marge Nihan, Henry and Joy Plate and Bob Spencer 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.

Entertainment in the “Good Old Days”

Elmer Henley's diaries (as summarized by Edward Holt) showed the long hours and hard work of a farmer's life as the 19th century turned into the 20th century. But there was plenty of entertainment as well.

Visiting among neighbors was probably the primary form of entertainment, but that included quilting bees, ball games, family reunions, picnics at places like Albany Basin, sledding and skating parties, croquet, May baskets (and “June boxes”), musical evenings, “kitchen junkets” and dancing 'til midnight at Grange Halls and other locations.

Elmer's wife Rena played piano with dance bands and it was not unusual for them to go to dances two or three times a week!

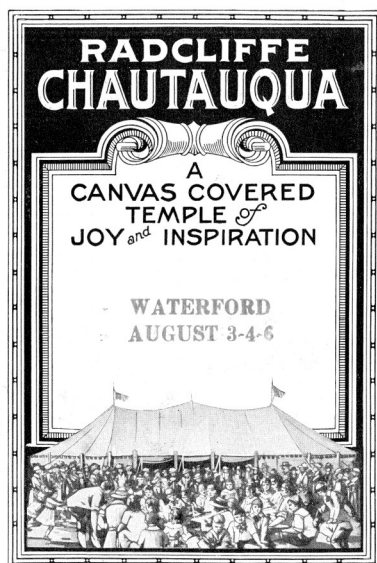
They went to barn dedications, concerts, Grange meetings and other fraternal organizations. They saw the movie “Birth of a Nation” (1918) and illustrated lectures (“magic lantern” shows) such as one on MacMillan the polar explorer.

In the summer there was Chautauqua. Below is part of a brochure on the Radcliffe Chautauqua which came to town in 1923, recently donated by Meg and Whizzer Wheeler. The other side shows a whole list of performers, including an opera company and several soloists and lecturers.

There have been a series of singing schools in Waterford over the years. We have a brochure for the “Waterford Institute of Music and Drama” in the 1950s, directed by Clyde Holt and featuring choirs, drama workshops and organ instruction.

Plays were frequently put on in town, especially at North Waterford Winter Carnival and by the Bear Mt. Community Club or the Granges.

There was a lot of entertainment in the “good old days.”



Nuances

Hills and Marrs

by Nancy Chute Marcotte

In 1921 George Hill and Earl Marr Sr. started a long-lumber saw mill at the outlet of City Brook into Keoka Lake. On our 1880 map it is labelled “Saw and Grist Mill” and on the 1850 map it is near the site called “S & G Mills.”[see insert for maps.]

In an undated “To Our Boys Away” newspaper column from 1943 or 1944, Flora Abbott wrote that “the fall of heavy, wet snow on last Tuesday night was more than the Hill-Marr mill could stand and it collapsed...This mill had done a lot of business for a great many years and in this way has been of great value to the town and I am really sad to know that the end has come to that, as well as to most of the other mills down along the stream. Of the eight in scarcely over a half mile early in the eighteenth century there are now only three still doing business: the W. K. Hamlin & Son Box Mill, the Haynes Cider Mill and the Hamlin Wool Carding Mill...”

George Hill was an entrepreneur who went on to become a car dealer in Norway. He married Bessie Hamlin, daughter of James Hamlin and namesake for “Bessie's Beach” (today Keoka Beach). An extensive land holding of more than 75 acres came from Bessie's inheritance and covered all of the Keoka property, the lake outlet and beach, as well as continuing across Mill Hill to the old Hamlin Farm under Hawk Mountain at one time.

Earl Marr was the eldest of seven children born to William Leaver Marr and his wife Minnie. Earl and his wife Alice (Kneeland) lived most of their lives in the farmhouse at the top of Mill Hill and raised four children: Earl Jr., Mary (m. Oscar Andrews), James, Roger and Ann.

Since the Marrs will be a topic of one of our 2014 meetings, I will tell you a little more about them. It's a tangled and interesting genealogy beginning with Sir John Erskine, 23rd Earl of Mar in Aberdeen, Scotland. He led a Jacobite uprising against King George I in 1715.

(Continued on page 4)

Nuances...



Keoka Lake from Bear Mountain field (today woods). The house was first the Athertons, then Hills, then Marrs. Today, Anderson's.

(Continued from page 3)

As a result of his loss to government forces, Erskine/Marrs emigrated to France and to the U.S. The path becomes muddled here.

We do know that James Marr (b. 1725) came from Scotland to Portsmouth, N.H. and later to Scarborough, Maine. His son James (b. 1754) married into my father's family, the Scarborough Libbys. The next generation, Joshua Marr (b. 1797) married Mary McKinney and had four children.

Sam Marr (b. 1821, son of Joshua & Mary) married Almira Sanborn and built a house at Mutiny Corner (later Bill Kimball's). They also had four children and one of them was my great-grandmother Jane "Jennie" Marr who in 1874 married her neighbor William Haynes. They had two children: Edna (m. Chester Tarbox) and Harry (m. Carrie Hamlin-- my grandparents).

Here it gets interesting again. Joshua Marr had two daughters after Sam, whose lives intertwined. Louisa (b.

1822) married a William Leaver in Kansas and died giving birth to a son also named William; the baby was adopted by her sister Mary Jane (who had married Rufus Marr) and he was re-named William Leaver Marr.

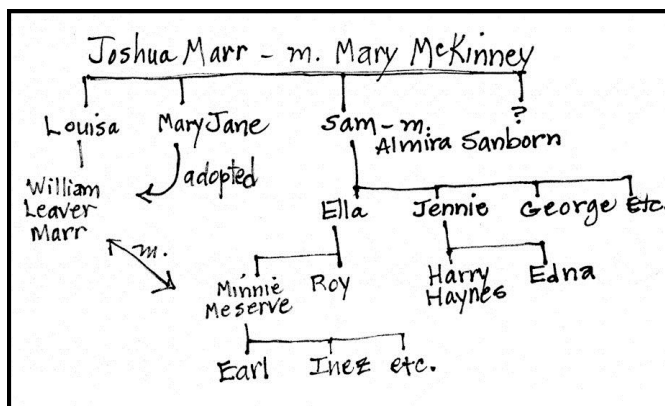
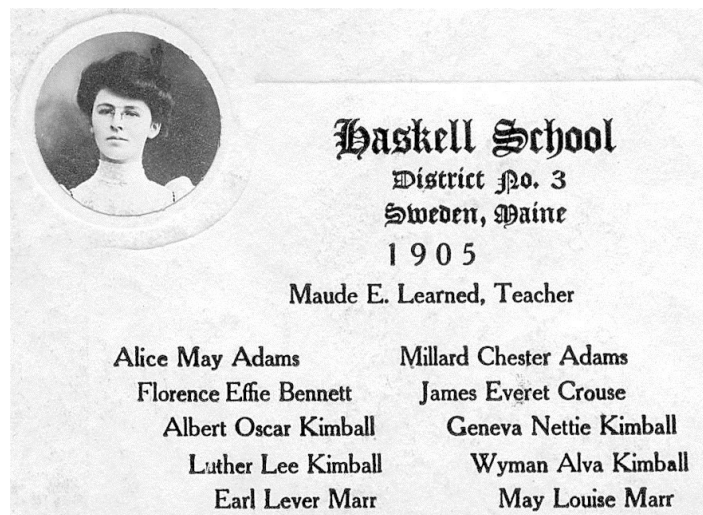
Meanwhile Jennie had a sister Ella who married Charles Meserve and their daughter Minnie eventually married her second cousin William Leaver Marr! [See diagram because it's hard to follow.] Multiple Marrs.

Among other children Ella and Charles also had a son, the well-known local carpenter Roy Meserve.

Minnie & William Leaver Marr had seven children, among them our mill owner Earl Leaver Marr. And, by the way, Earl's sister Inez married Horace Skinner and had two children: Philip and Betty (Merrill).

Barry Sanborn, out in Kentucky, sent to Facebook a card from his grandmother's school teaching days. Before she married Carroll Sanborn, Maude Learned taught at Haskell School--today the maroon-colored home between Pie Tree Orchard and the Marr Road in Sweden. In 1905 two of her students were Earl (b. 1895) and his sister Louise (b. 1898, who later married William Dunlop).

How it all intertwines! And how Waterford folks are related to each other. Nuances!



Mills...

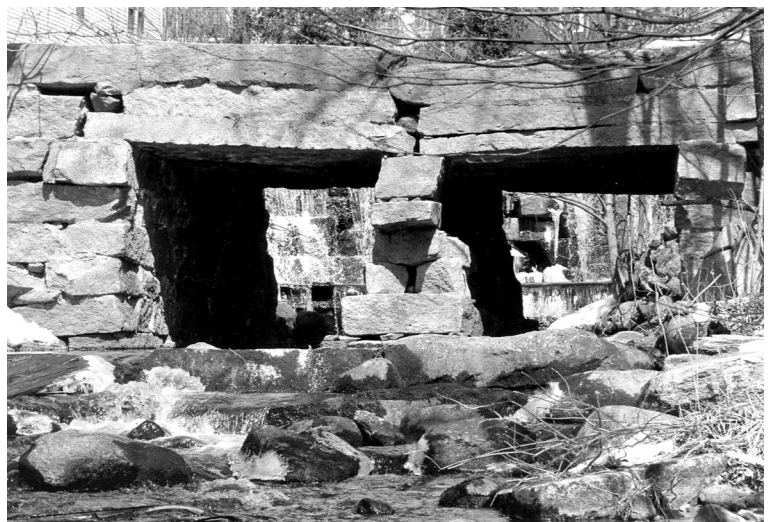
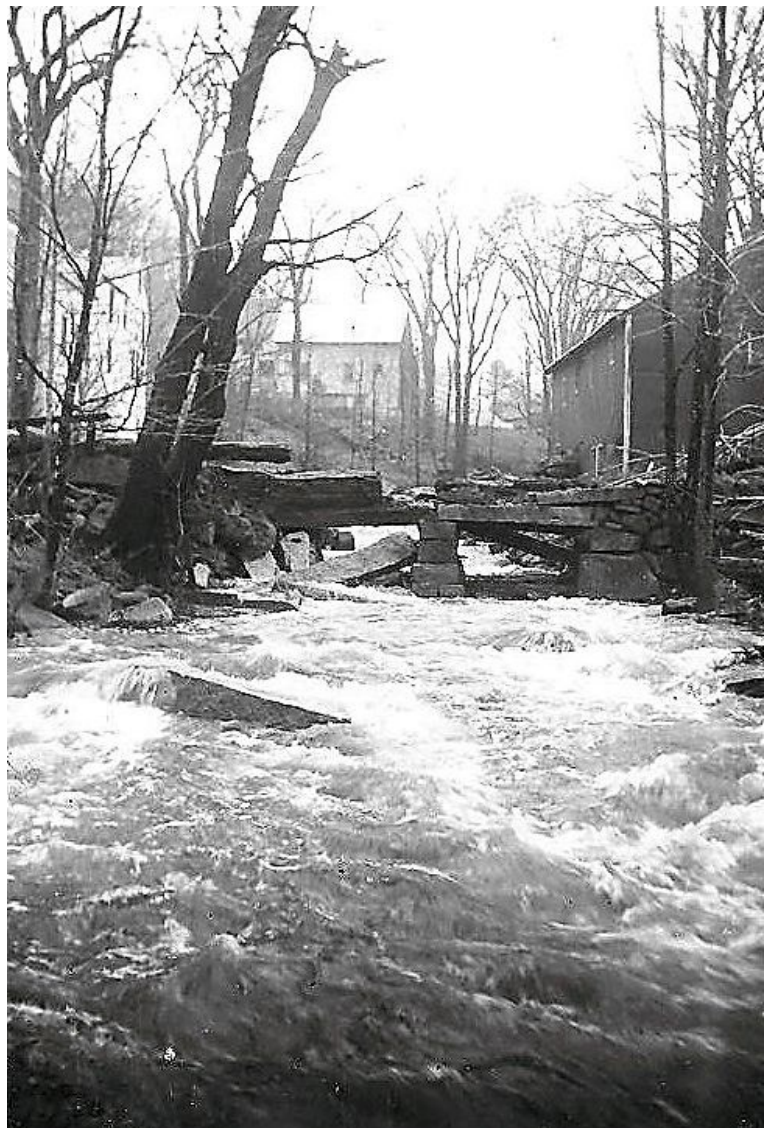
Haynes and that is how Fred and his brother Henry came to run the cider mill into the 1940s. In 1944 "Uncle Henry" was recorded as making a new spillway and other repairs at the mill. He was 86 at the time ("To The Folks Away and at Home," Flora Abbott).

William and Marietta's son Harry (b. 1879) became "Doc" Watson, beloved veterinarian, auctioneer and one of the worst drivers in town, according to Walter Brown. Now at a Fryeburg nursing home, Walter spent so much time at the cider mill and following Uncle Henry that they called him "Hen" as a child. He recalls they delivered to regular customers who bought several kegs of cider each fall — some to drink, some to turn to vinegar, and some to ferment for other reasons!

There is much to be learned about the vanished mills. Pictures previously unseen have been turning up, thanks to Bob's interest. Thanks to Cynthia Hamlin and Barry Sanborn for sharing pictures.

Bob and Gerry, along with Happy and the late Perry Chapman and Betsy McDaniels Hodges,

(Continued on page 7)



Rockwork in bridge across Mill Brook shows the bridge rebuilt by Raymond Millett after the 1953 flood.

Bill Haynes photo

Photos of South Waterford after the Flood of 1953

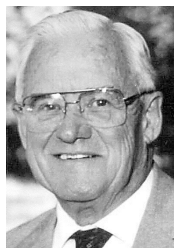
In Memoriam

Stephen H. Wilcox, 73, of Cape Elizabeth, formerly of Rochester, N.Y., and longtime summer resident of Waterford, died on Jan. 26, 2014, at Maine Medical Center following a long illness. He was born on Feb. 25, 1940, in New York City, the son of Harry Anderson Wilcox Jr. and Louise Gay Twyford Wilcox. Steve was a 1958 graduate of Mt. Hermon School in Mt. Hermon, Mass. He graduated from Tufts University in 1962 with a BS in Engineering and he earned an MS in Engineering from Worcester Polytechnic Institute in 1964. He served for three years as an officer in the U.S. Navy on the USS Farragut. Steve's career at the Eastman Kodak Corp. extended over 30 years. During that time he worked in microfilm, the Business Information System department, and a co-venture with the Heidelberg Printing Company. He enjoyed a two and a half year assignment in Taichung, Taiwan, R.O.C. On Oct. 26, 1985, he married Polly D. Schwensen in Longmeadow, Mass. Since his childhood, Steve and his family have loved spending time at Keoka Lake in Waterford. His father built a cottage many years ago at the lake, which was one of Steve's great passions. He was involved in the Keoka Lake Association over the years. During his retirement he enjoyed working as a shuttle driver at Berlin City Motors. Steve is survived by wife Polly Wilcox of Cape Elizabeth; daughter Elizabeth Disney Wilcox of Cape Elizabeth, son James H. Wilcox of Morristown, N.J.; two sisters, Nancy Wilcox Smith of Southbury, Conn., Judith Carol Wilcox of Chestnut Ridge, N.Y., brother Robert Willis Wilcox of St. Paul, Minn.; several cousins; nieces, nephews; and three grandnieces.

Dwight B. Perry, 76, of Norway, died June 13, 2014 at Market Square Health Care Center. He was born in Lewiston on Jan. 21, 1938, a son of Ralph and Edith Littlefield Perry. He attended schools in Waterford and graduated from Norway High School in 1957 where he met his wife, Patricia, in 1956. Dwight lived in North Waterford his entire life until moving to Norway four years ago and then to Market Square Health Care Center in December, 2012. He served in the U.S. Army and was stationed in Germany. He married Patricia Boyce Estes on Dec. 15, 1973, and they celebrated their 40th wedding anniversary in December. Except for the time he served in the Army, he worked at the same job as a truck driver in the concrete business. The company was sold several times and had different names, but it was the same job and he received a gold watch from the Cianbro Co. when he retired. He was a director and former president of the Waterford World's Fair and during his tenure he was the chief negotiator for the purchase of the land which had been leased for many years. He considered this his greatest accomplishment as a director. Dwight also served as a Maine State Fair Association director until illness hindered his traveling. He was a licensed firearms dealer and had his own gun shop, following in his father's footsteps. Dwight is survived by his wife, Patricia, of Norway; two daughters, Debra Perry of Buckfield and Diana Lufkin of Peru; a son, Scott Perry of Paris; stepchildren, Stephen Estes of Waterford and Deborah Gary of Poland; eight grandchildren; seven great-grandchildren; and two sisters, Janice Enman and Katherine Berard. He was predeceased by his brother Kenneth; granddaughter Jill Millett; and an aunt, Merline Littlefield. He is buried in Bisbeetown Cemetery.



John "Jack" Trinward, 88, of Waterford died June 18, 2014 at the Togus Hospice Unit. John was born July 5, 1925, in Lewiston, the son of William John and Hazel (Jordan) Trinward. He moved to Mechanic Falls with his parents and graduated as valedictorian from Mechanic Falls High School in 1943. He later graduated with honors from Maine Maritime Academy in 1944. He served as a deck officer and first lieutenant on APA 139 in the Pacific until June 1948. On Aug. 22, 1948, John married Margaret Greenleaf Trinward. They moved to the Boston area where John completed the Tufts dental program, graduating in 1952, 14th in his class. They moved back to Bethel, and John practiced as a dentist there for 35 years. He was president of the Maine Dental Association in 1968. John was a member and chairman of the Maine Board of Dental Examiners for 10 years, Northeast Bank board for 10 years, potentate of Kora Shrine in 1975, president of the Bethel Chamber of Commerce and president of the Maine Cancer Society. John was a Mason for more than 60 years, a Shriner for more than 55 years and 46 years with the Bethel and Northeast Savings Bank. John was one of the founders of Sunday River Skiway that opened in 1959. Since 1987, the Trinwards have been living at their home on Papoose Pond in Waterford. He is survived by two sons, Kevin of Gray, and Steve of Tennessee; six grandchildren; and two great-grandchildren. He was predeceased by his wife, Margaret, after 64 years of marriage; his daughter, Nancy; and his son, John.



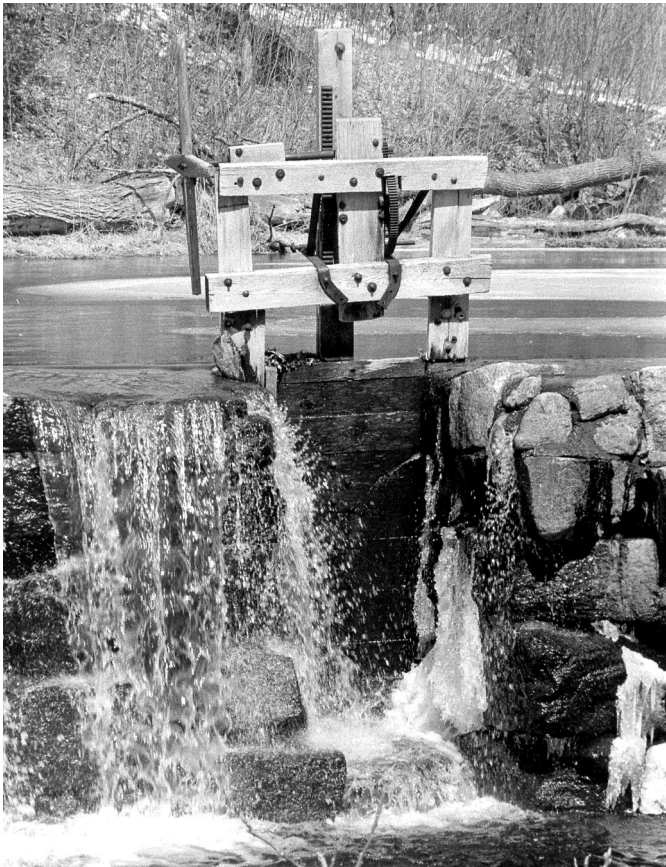
Barry J. Heath, 68, of Waterford, died July 20, 2014 at the Hospice House in Auburn after a brief battle with cancer. He was born in Lewiston on Jan. 5, 1946, to Wilfred and Arline Judkins Heath. He graduated from Oxford Hills High School in 1964 and enlisted in the U.S. Air Force. He served four years, two of which in Vietnam. Shortly thereafter, he joined the Masons and had been a member of Mount Tir'em Lodge. In June 1972, Barry married Ellie Brown and they enjoyed 30 years of marriage before her passing in 2002. Also in 1972, he began his own bottled gas delivery business, Heath Gas, in which he delivered liquid propane locally for 30 years. He was a member of both the Waterford ATV and local snowmobile clubs. Barry's true passion was mining for local gems with his longtime friend Frank Perham. Together, with many different colleagues along the way, they mined the BB#7, GE#2, Ski Pike, Harvard, Morgan, Tamminen, Waisanen, Albany Rose and Quart Side East quarries over the past 26 years. Barry is survived by his companion and partner Pam Lyons of Rumford; his son, Toby Heath of Goffstown, N.H.; his sister, Trudy Truman, of Norway; and two granddaughters. He is buried in Woodlawn Cemetery.





(Continued from page 5)

have been instrumental in creating “Friends of City Brook,” which one day hope to create a walking trail along the mill sites, where much rock-work and many artifacts can still be seen.



The gate at the dam which controlled water power used to run the machinery in the salt box factory/cider mill.

Bill Haynes photo from 1970s

One of the mills, of course, still survives elsewhere — the Hapgood/Hamlin Carding Mill (ca. 1810)* today a part of Old Sturbridge Village, Massachusetts, complete with the original waterwheel mechanism and wool carding machines. The only other extant building is what Uncle Bill Haynes called “the stable,” across from Werner Park on Park Street.

**See “This is Waterford” book.*



Plaster mill, right, after the 1953 flood

FROM OUR FILES

A Little More About 1938

On Bear Pond

One of the more delightful things about being in the Historical Society is when people share new photos we have not seen before.

John Monroe (son of Miriam at Bear Mt. Lodge) sent us a note from Los Angeles about the Hurricane of 1938 and the blow-down log boom on Bear Pond. He sent the wonderful picture to the right, along with his memories of the Bear River portable saw mill and the three-story-high sawdust pile that existed after the logs were sawn. He used to play there as a child.

This photo is taken from present Routes 35/37 about midway up Bear Pond, looking toward the west side of the pond (now Ned Strauss' but formerly belonging to Dr. Charles Sylvester, John's grandfather.) Among the rocks on the shore you can still find an iron bolt in a large boulder which held the boom chains. Thank you, John.



Valley Road After the Storm

William "Whizzer" and Meg Wheeler have moved from their wonderful old family home, "Rydal Mount" in Waterford. Topsham's gain is our loss, but with great thankfulness we accepted some wonderful pictures and ephemera from them for the WHS. You will see more in the future.

This photo at left is a view up Valley Road looking toward what is now Kedarburn. The road crews are repairing washouts after the 1938 storm, according to handwriting on the back. Thank you, Meg and Whizzer. We will miss you.

Waterford Historical Society
PO Box 201
Waterford ME 04088

