



Waterford Echoes

VOLUME XLIX Number 1 (Issue 59)

Fall/Winter 2014

Waterford Historical Society



Above, Cyrus Hamlin at about the age he began missionary work. Below, the farm on Mill Hill Road where Cyrus grew up. Note the English style barn. Today this is the Brian & Shelly Shibles home.

[Photos WHS collection]

A Missionary to Turkey

Cyrus Hamlin: His Life and Times

One of the greatest minds of the 19th Century began life on a hillside farm in Waterford, Maine on January 5, 1811. The son of Hannibal and Susannah Faulkner Hamlin—two of the earliest settlers of the town—Cyrus was the beneficiary of a great name. His father had a twin brother, Dr. Cyrus Hamlin of Paris, Maine, whose son Hannibal became Vice President of the United States.

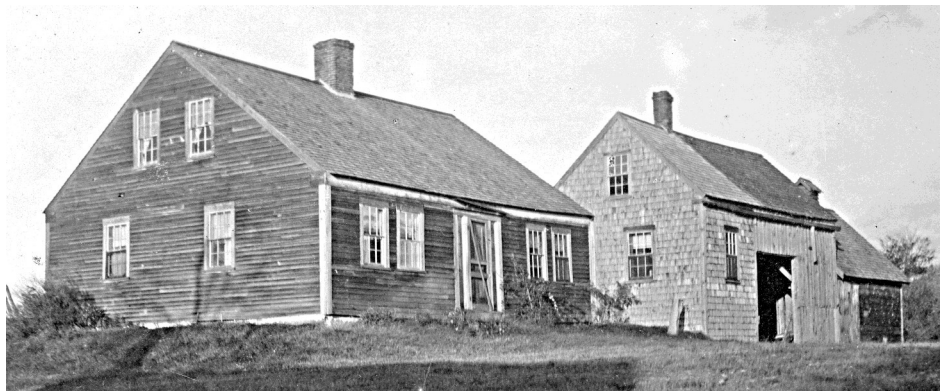
His father died when he was just seven months old, but a stalwart and loving mother raised Cyrus to be a man of piety, humor and Yankee ingenuity. He remembered her disappointment when he did something wrong. One day there was a tea party and the visitors had crying babies. A rock came sailing through the window and broke his mother's beloved sugar bowl. When Cyrus was chastized for this misdeed, he said he wasn't aiming at the tea set but at the crying babies. His mother's punishment, he said in later years, gave him a lifelong respect for babies!

The holidays celebrated by the settlers then were Thanksgiving Day, Election Day, the Fourth of July and Muster Day—when soldiers gathered and held a sham fight with “Indians” in war paint and feathers. His mother gave him seven cents for spending on gingerbread and other treats but

she admonished him to put a cent or two in the contribution box for sending to educate “heathen children.” Cyrus got to thinking that five cents for gingerbread and two for heathen souls was not right and so he dropped all his coins in the contribution box and went hungry. It was the first step in a life of service and sacrifice and it made his mother cry.

But Cyrus was a sickly child and Dr. Leander Gage advised that he should not pursue a life of farming. Apprenticed at 16 to his brother-in-law, a silversmith in Portland, Cyrus learned that he was mechanical and also that he loved the church. His essay on “Profane Swearing” so impressed the parishioners at Dr. Edward Payson's Church that they voted \$1,000 to send him to Bowdoin College and eventually to Bangor Theological Seminary.

First, however, Cyrus had to go to Bridgton Academy to learn Latin and Greek and to augment his early education in the one-room schools of Waterford. He boarded at North Bridgton with various families and paid with his labor. He wrote about going home every other Saturday — walking by Bear Pond and up Hawk Mountain. On one such excursion he noticed a boulder at the edge of a precipice. Other young men had tried to push it over, but Cyrus figured out how to do it: dig out the gravel underneath and leverage it with stakes. With his brother and a friend he sent it crashing down, “where no



(Continued on page 4)

President's Corner

by Bonnie Parsons

Farewell

I'm happy to announce that one of our new Trustees, Ted Gerber, has agreed to accept the leadership role as President of the Waterford Historical Society. Ted has demonstrated interest in Waterford's history by his steady attendance at our programs over the years. He is also an historian and collector of early fire department artifacts. Thank you to Ted and to Bob Spencer, who has agreed to serve as Vice President — a position which had been vacant for a while.

One last Board change to announce: Lilo Willoughby decided to retire from the Board last June. We can't thank Lilo enough for her long-standing leadership while serving as President of the Board of Trustees, Vice President in earlier years, and for her dedication to WHS.

Programs in 2014 were all worthwhile! In June we filled the benches of the Old Town House on a damp, chilly night to listen to the history of the Lake



Lilo Willoughby

House, presented by Nancy Marcotte. She displayed early photos and other memorabilia. In July we gathered at the North Waterford Church to listen to humorous, heartfelt talks by members of the families who live on the Five Kezars. The evening was well organized by Marjorie Kimball and Kathy McAlister. Thank you to all who brought memories and research.

Bob Spencer and his wife Geraldine O'Donnell prepared all summer to give us a tour in August of Watson's Mill, the last mill standing in South Waterford (formerly the Haynes Cider Mill.) Their mill home represents years of preservation and restoration. You can read about "All That's Left of the Mills of the City" in Waterford Echoes issue Spring/Summer 2014.

In September Doretta Colburn presented the history of the Beech Hill Bison Farm. We enjoyed distant views of the bison, took a tour of the restored farm house, and then walked to where

there was once an Indian trail, an old road which cut across to Plummer Hill. This is where the first road in Waterford was built by the early settlers (pg. 48, History of Waterford.) hanks to Doretta's thoughtful preparations we stayed awhile to enjoy her homemade treats and left with tomatoes from the garden!

In October, Richard Lyman and his wife Kay presented their research on Sweden and Waterford, of a hundred and more years ago, including a genealogy of the Marr Family of Sweden and Waterford. Many Marr relatives were there to participate, including Bill Haynes, whose great-grandmother was Jennie Marr, the wife of William Haynes 2nd. A gift from Mary Marr Andrews was presented by her son Tom Andrews: a 1700s deed from Africa Hamlin to John Atherton, of what was for many years the Marr farm on Mill Hill.

The season ended in November with a program about Dr. Cyrus Hamlin, a man of genius (See pg. 5 of the Waterford Maine history book). Next year's programs are already in the works. Season's greetings and may you stay warm wherever you spend the coming winter season!

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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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.

Reflections on Spring/Summer Echoes

by John B. Monroe

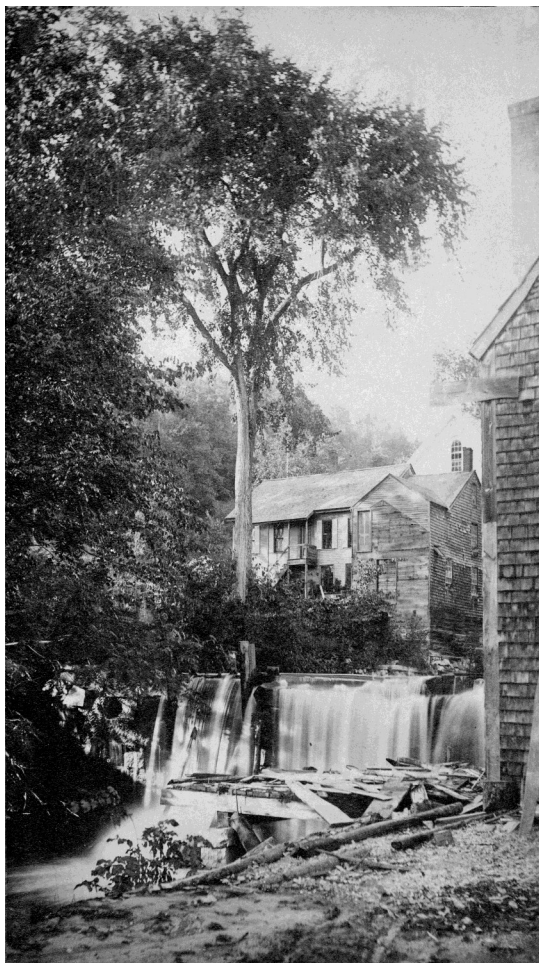
A recent e-mail came to us from John Monroe who lives in California and at a cottage by Bear Pond. He wrote that they hated to leave South Waterford--"such an oasis of quiet, calm beauty." But he wanted to comment on the last issue of the Echoes, which he enjoyed. As he said, "Our generation is fading and falling by the wayside. Therefore... I will add my little bit to Waterford History, perhaps of interest, or even use, to future generations.

"Although the Monroe family's three residences in a row appear in the maps along the lower course of "City Brook" in the 19th century, my Great-Grandfather's Tannery does not appear as such on the map. I believe only three of the buildings remain in 2014: The lower-most, at the head of Bear Pond, is now the Bear Mt. Inn. The area below this building, along the east side of Mutiny Brook, is probably where his business existed with extensive tannery pits for soaking and curing hides. This is just labeled with his name in the early map (misspelled using a 'u' instead of an 'o')..."

The house that burned they called the "Old Monroe Farm" and he has many photographs of it—though "none seem to show any evidence it was a school. I do not doubt Flora of course, she knowing more of Waterford than any one else in her time." (Of course early schools were held in people's homes, as the colonial "Dame Schools" were for girls.)

John also reminisced about his Atherton and Plummer relatives and his "Cousin Bessie" Hill. The Monroes arrived in town when William Monroe, Jr. moved here from Lexington, Mass., where the "Monroe Tavern" owned by his father still stands.

At right is one very old photograph of the mill and Watson's Falls that we could not fit into the last issue. In the background is the former J. O. Longley Store which became Flora Abbott's store and home, with a later addition to the shed.
[WHS collection]



Nuances

Coming and Going

by Nancy Chute Marcotte

Recently I was reading a spy novel set in post-WWII Istanbul (*Istanbul Passage* by Joseph Kanon, Washington Square Press, 2012) when I discovered these words: "Remember early forty-two, all of a sudden Robert College gets a whole new group of teachers? You'd meet them at parties, they'd never talk about their classes..."

"Maybe they came for the view.' A hilltop looking down at Bebek and the Bosphorus. Cocktail parties on the terrace in the evening light. Not what the founding missionaries had had in mind." The implication was that they were really part of the Office of War Information.

Since I happened to be doing research for this issue and a program on my distant cousin Cyrus Hamlin—the founding missionary of the college—it intrigued me. Definitely no cocktail parties for the Temperance man Cyrus. But who knows if it is fiction or not? The missionaries were gone by 1942.

Also while preparing for our programs this summer, I read Ron & Carol Gestwicki's 1992 booklet, "The Five Kezar Lakes Maine: An Informal History." The geological and historical perspective was fascinating. It included the following:

"As you head toward the Five Kezar Lakes from North Waterford, the road to the left of the Congregational Church is presently called Green Road. As growth... took place, one could travel between North Waterford and Lovell over this road, built around 1800, then called the Sabbath Road. Until 1858 this was the only road in this direction. It served the farms on the high ground of the hills... The entrance to the North Waterford cemetery was originally off of this road. Which is why half the grave-stones face toward it while the other half face toward the present entrance from the tarred road."

Since Woodlawn Cemetery was accepted by the town this year, it seemed interesting to know why the odd arrangement of graves. Woodlawn joined Bisbeetown (sold out), Pulpit Rock and Elm Vale cemeteries being managed by the town. By the way, in 1858 the road to the right of the church (the Lower Road to Lovell) was constructed.

Gone but not lost is our North Waterford building. In 1973 the former I.O.O.F. building had been in danger of being torn down when the Rebekahs deeded it to the WHS. Built in 1902 on land received from Thomas and Lizzie Sawin, it replaced an earlier hall which had burned in the 1900 North Waterford fire. The International Order of Odd Fellows disbanded in 1961 but their auxiliary,

(Continued on page 4)

Nuances...

(Continued from page 3)

Rebekahs had continued meeting there.

The Society's artifacts were displayed and stored there for many years and Ober Kimball (our first president) had worked very hard to maintain it. Unfortunately it never really suited our needs either as a museum or as a meeting space. There was no water, no good parking and it was so damp we had to move out our photos, books and ephemera. In recent years it had no electricity upstairs and no heat. We could not get anyone interested in creating a Museum of Industry in this facility and we were facing potentially expensive painting and other costs.

Fortunately a buyer came out of the community and we were relieved to have someone take on the care of this building. We have moved many items to our other two museums—Mary Gage Rice and the slightly modified Old Town House. Some things have gone into storage and we will put them on display in rotation. Pieces of furniture which originally came from Flora Hamlin Abbott's house were sold at auction to give us funds to maintain our buildings and collections.

Once again the trustees have stepped forward to work very hard on this transition — especially Ralph MacKinnon. Thanks to their Herculean efforts, we will continue to see the preservation of a building which we have been very thankful to occupy for 40 years. And we move on..



As we go to press, the completion of the work on one of the Elm Vale Cemetery gates is under way (October.) We can all be thankful for the dedication of the town and the cemetery committee, as well as for the good workmen who have been on the project over the past couple of years.

Cyrus...



(Continued from page 1)

academy boys will ever disturb its repose. Legends of the achievement still exist in the neighborhood, considerably magnified," he wrote in 1893.

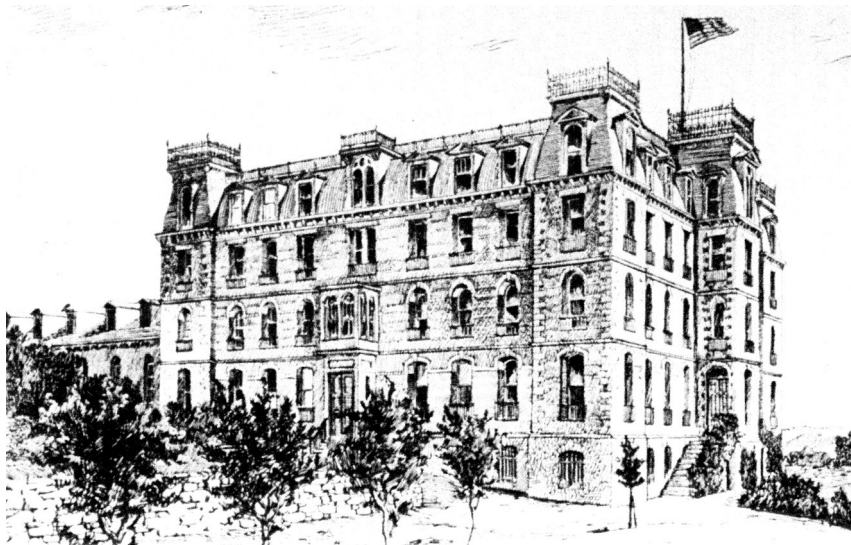
After his ordination as a Congregational minister, he was sent to Constantinople (today Istanbul) where he began a high school and seminary to teach English, moral philosophy, science and engineering to young men of many nationalities there where Europe met Asia. Never a proselytizer, Dr. Cyrus Hamlin taught with humor and a healthy respect for the religions, languages and cultures of his students. He earned the respect of various pashas and viziers.

An innovator ever since the tinkering days of his youth on the farm and from the time in which he built the first steam engine in the State of Maine (still on display at Bowdoin College) he was able to solve many problems for the love of his people—including inventing washing machines (from beer barrels!) to rid the lice from soldiers' uniforms during the Crimean War.

With no formal architectural training, he designed such a fine building (today called Hamlin Hall) on the stunning site overlooking the Bosphorus, that it was later praised for its inventiveness. Historian Arnold Toynbee wrote in 1954 that Cyrus was "The first Westerner to think of frankly turning the iron girder to account as a building material without bashfully drawing a Gothic veil over his Volcanic vulgarity." In 1869-71 this "inventive amateur" with uncommon skill and energy used his lifetime practice of mechanical arts to build as well as to set up many businesses.

It was a hard life, with so much disease—cholera, typhoid, consumption—that it killed his first two wives (all three wives were missionaries) and several of his 13 children. Eight children grew to outlive him; one (Alfred) became Dean of Architecture at Columbia University and consulted on the Cathedral of St. John the Divine in New York City. His son Christopher served as pastor in many places in New York, New England,

(Continued on page 5)



Above, Cyrus Hamlin's Robert College Building, drawn by his son Alfred Hamlin.

(Continued from page 4)

Nebraska and New Jersey. All of his daughters became teachers, ministers' wives or missionaries: Henrietta, Abbie, Clara, Mary, Emma and Alice.

When sent out to Turkey by The American Board of Commissioners for Foreign Missions, Cyrus did not expect to build a college. Dedicated as he was to providing a classical education along with scientific skills necessary for a modern life, Dr. Hamlin often ran afoul of the other missionaries and the board. When he built an industrial shop in the cellar of his first seminary, people thought he was sacrificing spirituality for commerce. When his

Armenian students and their families could not find work because of the "anathema" of the Ottoman Empire, Cyrus started a bakery and imported a steam engine to grind the flour. He was known as an honest man whose bread was the finest at the best prices in Constantinople. He would never deliver it on Sunday however!

Described as "short in stature, intense and forceful in the outward thrust of his personality, but possessing a wealth of good humor, tolerance and worldliness," he was also a superb teacher who loved chil-

(Continued on page 7)

Below, Robert College, ca. 1928 with Hamlin Hall at center, nearest the river. [Photo from Margaret Sawyer courtesy of her daughter Sylvia Sebelist.] At right Cyrus Hamlin, ca. Civil War era.



In Memoriam

Richard F. Rice, 93, of Waterford died on April 4, 2014 at home. He was born on Nov. 12, 1920, the son of George H. and Helen Hamlin Rice. He attended the Plummer Hill School in Waterford and graduated from Bridgton Academy in 1939, where he excelled in track. He stayed on the family farm, helping his parents and caring for his mother in her later years. He worked along with his brother Albert producing milk, raising vegetables and selling firewood and timber. For many years he worked for Morse Orchards in the fall picking apples. Richard married Alta Chaplin on Jan. 26, 1980 and together they continued to carry on the work on the farm, along with their son, Rick. He is survived by his wife, Alta; son, Richard F. Rice; sister, Rachel Deans; cousins, nieces and nephews. Richard was predeceased by brothers Charles and Albert and sister Ella. He is buried in Woodlawn Cemetery.



Sylvia J. Grover, 79, of North Waterford, died Aug. 24, 2014 at the Norway Center for Health & Rehabilitation. She was born on May 24, 1935, a daughter of, Thomas and Hazel (Swan) Johnson. She attended local schools, graduating from Paris High School. On Oct. 20, 1956 she married, Reid H. Grover of North Waterford where they made their home and she worked as a homemaker. Sylvia is survived by her son, Brad of Waterford; a sister, Marguerite Verrill of West Paris; a brother, Erwin Johnson of Arizona; a granddaughter and four great grandchildren. She was predeceased by her husband Reid, a son, Michael and brother Roland Johnson. She is buried in Woodlawn Cemetery.

Mary F. Andrews, 92, of North Waterford died on Oct. 5, 2014 at the Norway Center for Health and Rehabilitation. She was born on July 18, 1922, in Brooklyn, NY, the daughter of Dr. Joseph Herben and Dr. Mary Langmuir Essex. She was raised in Waterford and Princeton, NJ and graduated Phi Beta Kappa from Vassar College. In 1944 she married Richard L. Andrews, an artist, and taught school while he served overseas in the Army Air Corps. At the end of the war, they moved to New Canaan, CT, where her husband taught art and they raised their family, spending summers at their home in North Waterford. She earned a joint Master's Degree in Old Testament Studies from Union Theological Seminary and Columbia University. Following work at the New Canaan Congregational Church, she taught elementary grades at Scarborough School and St. Luke's School in New York, retiring with her husband in 1986 to live full-time in North Waterford. She continued to be active in education, volunteering her time at the Waterford School and as a Literacy Volunteer at Oxford Hills Adult Education. She is survived by two daughters, Judith Green and Sarah Brown; three grandchildren; four great-grandchildren; and two sisters, Lysbeth Engle and Judith Fisher. Mrs. Andrews was pre-deceased by her husband, and by their son, Joseph Andrews. She is buried in Woodlawn Cemetery.



Bion H. Pike, 77, of South Waterford, died on Nov. 21 at the Hospice House in Auburn. He was born in South Waterford on Oct. 13, 1937, the son of Lewis Pike and Marjorie (Burnham) Pike. He was an Army veteran. He was a local farmer who raised horses and cattle, worked his hay fields and had a life-long involvement in harness racing. He was predeceased by his sisters, Lorain Douglas and Diane Haynes. He is survived by a brother Conrad Pike and sister Shirley Sanborn both of Waterford; two sons, Bion "Rusty" Pike of York and Chris Royal of Bradford; daughter Jennifer Finch, of Wells; step-son Bill Loubier of Waterford; two grandsons and three granddaughters. A celebration of his life will be held in the spring

Craig A. Richardson, 69, of Norway died Monday, Dec. 1, 2014 at the Maine Veterans' Home where he had been a resident since January, 2014. He was born in Lewiston on July 4, 1945, a son of Donald and Marguerite (Murphy) Richardson and grew up in Waterford. He graduated from Oxford Hills High School in 1963. He entered the US Navy in 1964 and part of his tour of duty was in Vietnam. He served on the USS Valley Forge and was honorably discharged in January of 1969. In 1970, Mr. Richardson started working at Norway National Bank, which is now Key Bank. In 1982 he began working at Norway Savings Bank. He remained there until his retirement on Dec. 31, 2010, where he served as vice president of commercial loans. He is predeceased by his parents, his son Douglas Richardson and a brother, Stephen Richardson. He is survived by his daughters Pamela Chaplin and Jessica Richardson, both of South Paris; and two grandsons.

Merl F. Barker, 78, of Waterford died Dec. 6 at Bridgton Hospital. The son of the late Edwin and Ruby (Decker) Barker, he was born in Bridgton on Nov. 22, 1936. He graduated from Bridgton High School in 1955. Merl was a jack-of-all-trades, from his early days as a Bridgton paperboy to his years working at various lumber yards, including N. T. Fox and Brill's. In October of 1959 Merl married Eva Millett. Together for 55 years, they created many memories in the house "on the hill" that he built for them. Merl is survived by his wife, Eva Barker; three children, Dale and Richard E. Barker of Waterford and Debra Cash of Thaxton, Virginia; seven grandchildren; 10 great grandchildren; a sister, Ruth Lawrence of West Paris; a brother, Richard S. Barker of Casco; and numerous nieces, nephews and cousins. He was predeceased by his father and mother; and three brothers, Lewis, Earl and Raymond.



Richard T. Hunt, 77, died Dec. 19, 2014 at Androscoggin Home Care & Hospice in Auburn. He leaves behind his wife of 55 years Phyllis; a daughter Deborah of Waterford, a son Richard of Naples; a grandson; a great-granddaughter; a great-grandson; and his younger brother Kevin of Brooksville. Richard was born on Jan. 29, 1937 in Jersey City, N.J. Six months later he and his parents and brother (Robert) moved to Norwalk, Conn., where his father (Thomas E.) was born and raised. Richard went through all his school years in the Norwalk system. He started his college years at the University of Connecticut (Storrs), but then transferred to the University of Maine in Portland in 1958, majoring in Accounting. In 1959, he and Phyllis were married between his sophomore and junior year of college. Richard started his military at the 265th AC&W group in Cape Elizabeth, but upon his return to Connecticut he completed his tour at the 103rd AC&W in Orange, Conn. Richard and Phyllis spent 22 years living between Norwalk, Ridgefield and Redding. After working 11 years with the then Union Trust Company in Stamford, he went into business for himself. From 1974 to 1984 Richard was self-employed as an accountant and tax practitioner. In 1984, the Hunts moved to Waterford. In 2000, Richard sold his Windham practice and reopened his doors in Waterford until June of 2014. Richard was active with the Rotary Club, serving as president, and the local Chamber of Commerce serving as its treasurer for 10 years. Richard was treasurer and then president of the National Association of Income Tax Practitioners, the American Society of Tax Practitioners, the Institute of Tax Consultants and Treasurer of the Northern New England Society of Enrolled Agents. He was a Selectman for the Town of Waterford for just under six years. He will be buried in Elm Vale Cemetery.

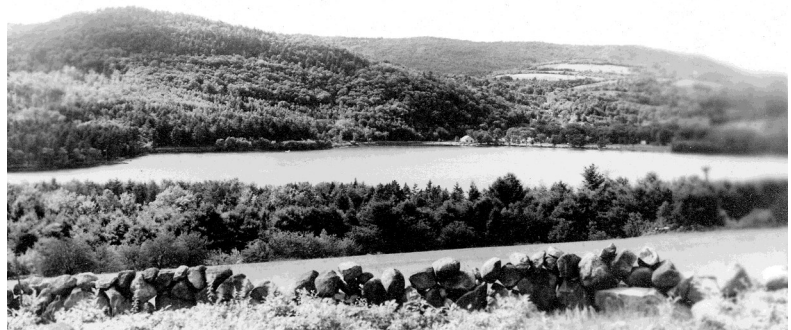


Hugh Roak, 85, of North Waterford, died Jan. 5, 2015 at Stephens Memorial Hospital. He was born in Auburn on Oct. 26, 1929, a son of Ralph and Emma Francis Roak. He attended Auburn schools and served in the National Guard for many years. He married Maxine Pierce on Dec. 29, 1950. Hugh was a logger and had been a licensed professional forester since 1977. He was a member of the Waterford Grange, the National Grange and the State Grange. He was a former member of the Waterford Fire Department and the SAD 17 school board. He is survived by his wife of North Waterford; two daughters, Kathryn Pulsifer of Oxford and Cheryl Hamilton of South Paris; two sons, Darrell of Casco and Gary of Lewiston; eight grandchildren; 11 great-grandchildren; 10 step-grandchildren; 30 step-great-grandchildren; a brother Donald of North Attleboro, Mass.; a sister Dolly Lagasse of Enfield, Conn.; and many nieces and nephews. He was predeceased by his sisters, Lena, Edith and Florence; and brothers, Waldo, Lester and Roger. He will be buried in Woodlawn Cemetery.



Cyrus...

*The view from approximately
the Hamlin Farm [WHS photo collection]*



(Continued from page 5)

dren. Though his son-in-law George Washburn undercut Cyrus with the college's benefactor Christopher Robert so that when Cyrus returned to the United States for a vacation he was never able to return to Turkey, yet they remained friends at the end of Dr. Hamlin's life.

He wrote two books ("Among the Turks" and "My Life and Times") as well as many articles and pamphlets for the Congregational Sunday-School and Publishing Society. He was president of Middlebury College and saved it from closing. He served at Bangor Theological Seminary and filled many pulpits and lecture halls in his later years.

In all his travels, however, Cyrus Hamlin remained a child of God and a child of Waterford, Maine. When he climbed Mt. Olympus (which he did four times) he gloried in how it reminded him of New England—the granite rocks, grass, hemlocks and birch trees. It was at the same climate and geological level as Maine and he wrote his brother Hannibal: "Here is Deer Hill and there is our own pasture with its pine bushes and swamp... everything... breathes of home, sweet, half-forgotten home, just as it was in '27 when I left it, dearer to me than all other scenes on earth."

On August 8, 1900, Cyrus died at his nephew's home in Portland, Maine, sitting in his mother's chair from Waterford. He was 89 years old.

[Some research taken from Against The Devil's Current by Marcia and Malcolm Stevens and other material from My Life And Times by Cyrus Hamlin.]

FROM OUR FILES

1953 Flood in North Waterford

The flood which destroyed parts of Waterford in April 1953 (see last issue) was not confined to just the southern part of town. Linda Hatch of Norway recently gave us some snapshots of the damage wrought on the roads, the old bridge and the North Waterford spool mill. In the lower photos are Claudia, Linda and Sandra Hatch and the man is their father Vivian. We welcome old photographs.



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