



Waterford Echoes

VOLUME XLXI Number 2 (Issue 61)

Fall/Winter 2015

Waterford Historical Society

Rocks and Minerals of Waterford

by Robert Spencer

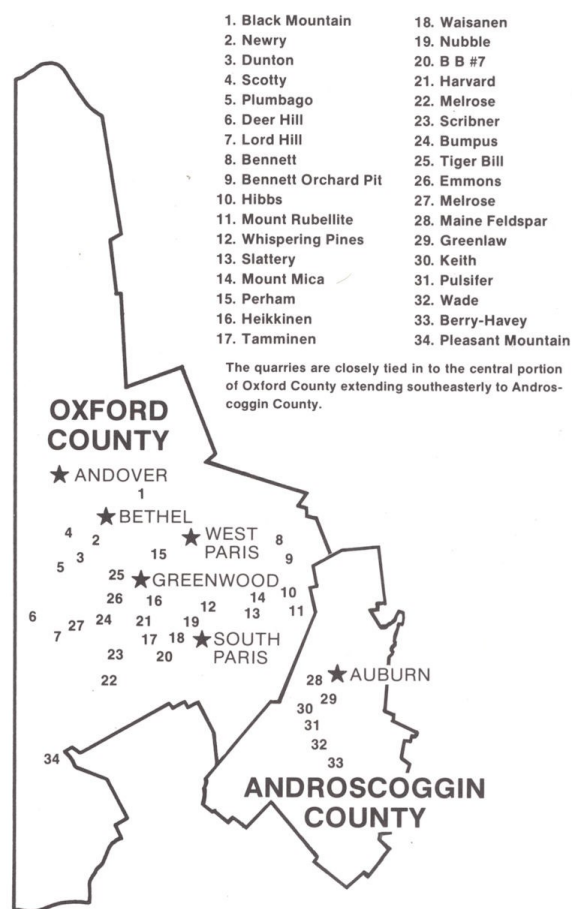
During the summer of 2015 we featured several programs and a tour of the mining past of Waterford. Following is part of the research done by Bob Spencer for his presentation.

Last year, a friend lent me Jane Perham's book Gems and Minerals of Oxford County... Reading that book opened my eyes to the rich subculture of mineralogy and rock hunting hereabouts. I began to wonder if our town, known for its agricultural and industrial heritage, might also have a similar history of mining.

In that book (and others by Van King and Jean Blakemore) the Pegmatite belt where most of the mining and collection has been done seemed a crescent running from Rumford in the east, through Andover, Newry, Hebron, Woodstock, Buckfield, Greenwood, West Paris to Albany, Stoneham and Lovell in the west. Then I learned of George Howe's discovery of gemmy amethysts on Pleasant Mountain in Bridgton in the 1920s and a more recent discovery of the same gem in Sweden during the 1970s. If the geological crescent ran all around us, surely the same deposits must lie beneath our fields and hills.

At our annual meeting, geologist Jim Dover explained how we sit on the largest intrusion of granite in the eastern U.S., the Sebago Batholith. We know that pegmatites, the source of many of the world's rare crystals and minerals, form at the edges of such large plutons... (By definition a pegmatite is a type of granite in which crystals of its chemical elements are larger than 1/2" but can be as large as 42" long.)

One of the great attributes of the Oxford Hills is the abundance of mineral wealth which lies in such veins or intrusions which permeate the rocky ledges stripped bare by ancient glaciers. Residents and visitors alike, ever since the earliest finds of gemmy (gem quality) crystals of amethysts on Mt. Mica in West Paris, on our own Bear Mountain and in West Waterford (Blackguard) in the 1820s, have come to fill their buckets and sacks with choice specimens.



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President's Corner

By Ted Gerber

The 2015 Program of the Waterford Historical Society began with the annual meeting at our traditional venue, the Old Town House on June 11. Our speaker was Jim Dover of Bridgton. A geologist, formerly with NOAA, Jim presented the fascinating and often overlooked prehistory of Waterford and vicinity. We learned about the origins of the topography of our town and how volcanic and glacial events shaped this area.

On June 19, we were treated to a buffet dinner prepared by the management and staff of Birch Rock Camp. Food was excellent and plentiful, and entertainment was provided by Edward Gabrielsen, singer and musician, who stepped in at the last minute through the efforts of Bonnie Parsons and Joy Plate.

On July 9, through the efforts of Bob Spencer, we enjoyed a program on "Rocks and Minerals in Waterford." This was a great follow to the Jim Dover presentation the previous month. It was an eye opener to learn that Waterford had several active mines at one time. Who knew? Two days later, Bob led a tour of a local mine with several hardy individuals. A lot of fun for those who attended.

On August 13, we were hosted by the North Waterford Congregational Church to learn about North Waterford before and after the fire that nearly wiped out that section of town in 1900. Nancy Marcotte was the principle presenter that evening and she also provided several photos that illustrated the contrast between the before and after.

At the September 10 program, David Sanderson presented a comprehensive look at the land and homes of David McWain and the history of McWain Hill from 1690 to 1835.

The October 8 program was unique in that Kathy and Dan Graney assumed the identities of Mr. & Mrs. Nathaniel Rounds as they led a tour of their antique residence in South Waterford. The large crowd squeezed into the various rooms, hallways and stairways to learn about the history of the house and the Rounds family that once occupied it.

The final presentation of the season was held on November 12 at the Wilkins House where Dr. Stanley Howe of Bethel spoke about the role of local people in the Civil War. Bill Colbath and Henry Plate brought examples of Civil War era weapons. Bill also spoke at some length about the likely route of the Underground Railroad that may have seen escaped slaves passing through Waterford.

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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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MEMBERSHIP DUES

Classification: Individual/Couple

Life member: \$100/\$150 - Annual: \$10/\$15

Seniors (65 & over) — \$5/\$8

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

Visit www.waterfordme.org/WatHistSoc
or the Facebook page of the Waterford Library

Send checks to:

Waterford Historical Society
PO Box 201
Waterford ME 04088

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.



2016 calendars are still available from trustees or by mail. The cover photo is an unidentified house labeled only "Mrs. Jennie Haynes."

Acknowledgements

Many people contribute to the work we do. Bob Spencer, Bonnie Parsons and Joy Plate have all done considerable research and cataloguing of scrapbook information. David Sanderson willingly contributes his vast archives and knowledge to us. Henry Plate makes sure signs and benches are put away for winter. Ralph and Joanne MacKinnon keep our records. Tony and Donna Butterall give tours of the Rice Museum.

Thanks to Agnes Lahti who, even in the nursing home, continues to save historical clippings and obituaries for us. Jeff and Donna Springer donated items from Clarence "Cad" and Lillian Johnson Pride, which were in the attic of Pride Farm on McWain Hill in East Waterford. We are very grateful.

This reminds us that we frequently are given photos, books and artifacts but we don't always know whom to thank or where to send acknowledgements. Please include names and mailing addresses or identifying information.

Nancy Eaton has come back to Maine and we are thankful she is on a project to collect info on cottages that have been in families for a long time. Expect to see a survey in the spring. "How Did We Get Here?" will be a focus of next year's programming. We'd love to tour some of our older cottages and camps.

The Society received a lovely note from Angela Adams in South Carolina with a membership for her brother David. She wrote, "He and I are descendants of Julia and Eugene Dudley, who were the proprietors of the Lake House in the late 1800s. Our maternal grandmother was Anne Dudley Douglas, and our mother is Dorothy Douglas Adams. Many of our childhood summers were spent swimming in Keoka, climbing Mt. Tirem, helping Urban and James Tyler herd their dairy cows to and from the pasture and watching the milking machines, picking wild blueberries and raspberries, attending those wonderful community breakfasts and savoring "birch bark beer" from the soda cooler at Rounds store. These are some of the happiest moments of my 67 years!! David just ran in Waterford's fall run with our dear friends Tom Hammett and his sister Dos. Lastly, the best gift I received this Christmas was a bottle of water from Keoka from David. Now I have a little touch of this beloved village right here in SC. "This is probably 'TMI,' but I wanted to share with you our family history and connection to the village and our deep love for it."

Nuances

MYSTERIOUS HOUSES

by Nancy Chute Marcotte

Our calendar for 2016 has a great picture of a connected farmhouse, a classic Cape with dormers and Greek Revival details (see this page.) We don't know where it was located when Ralph MacKinnon took the photograph out of its frame for calendar prep. On the back was penciled "Mrs. Jennie Haynes."

She was my great-grandmother, wife of William, mother of Harry Haynes and Edna Haynes Tarbox. Some of those figures in the photo may be Hayneses but I don't know. Jennie's father Sam Marr built a house at Mutiny Corner but that doesn't quite match. The Hayneses lived on Haynes Road off Sweden Road. We have a couple of pictures of that house — one with summer boarders — before it burned. Not exactly the same.

Jennie also lived at the tea room house opposite Elm Vale Cemetery, which had two separate fires, and, as an old lady, lived with her son's family in the South Waterford house that burned in 2012.

Maybe this house is also just a cellar hole today. Perhaps it was the Marr house in Sweden, which also burned. It might still exist but totally remodeled so we'll never be able to identify it. Does anyone recognize it?

The photo probably was taken ca. 1900 when it seems to have been the

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Nuances...

(Continued from page 3)

fashion to photograph people standing outside their homes and businesses — we have a lot of those.

I always wish people had or would identify their photographs. As we pursue some more house and camp histories for next year's programs, we hope to gather more photos with identifying information.

It's definitely western Maine when you see connected farms because Thomas Hubka discovered that's practically the only place they were built (Big House, Little House, Back House, Barn). But where? 'Tis a mystery! Where was this one?

Among other mysterious photos which intrigue me is this postcard labelled only “Beech Hill” with a charming little house. Can anyone tell me what house? Please write. Send other pictures.

Meanwhile, I'm going to go label more of my own photos. That's a good task for winter by the fireside.



Family and summer boarders at the old Haynes Farm near Sweden, Maine, ca. 1908. Jennie is seated on the bench at left and Will is standing at the right.



Unknown house on Beech Hill, North Waterford. Postcard is signed Erle Beyer in 1966. If you can identify it, please let us know.

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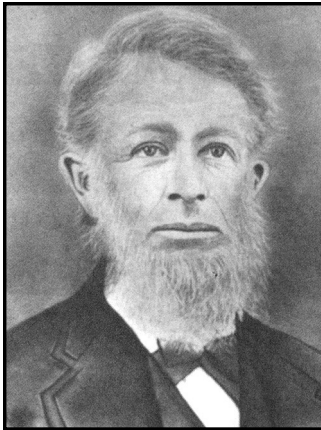
Elijah, Ezekial, James and Joseph (Minerals)

Here in Waterford itself, the history of mines and quarries is dwarfed by comparison to what has transpired in the towns just to the north and west. However, mineral finds in North Waterford, on Beech, Burnell, Stearns and Thunder hills, have provided some business for local farmers, investors from away and hobbyists who have combed our hills for nearly 200 years.

The legendary discovery of lovely amethyst quartz crystals in 1821 on Mt. Mica in West Paris began the first stage of mineral discoveries in Oxford County. Many of you may know the story of two young naturalists, Elijah Hamlin of Paris and his friend Ezekial Holmes. As Augustus Choate Hamlin describes it in his 1873 book Tourmaline:

“They had been searching for minerals during the day along the Mountain, and were then descending on their way to the village. It was the last day of autumn; and the glimmering rays of the setting sun were gilding with renewed splendor the then faded colors of the landscape. The view of the distant mountains, the intervening valleys softened with purple shadows, the patches of green grass in the meadows untouched by early frost, the variegated hues of the forest leaves left by the autumnal winds, the broad extents of the russet brown of the stubble fields contrasting vividly with the glorious hues of the sunset sky, composed a scene of exquisite loveliness. As they turned to descend the hillock, a vivid shade of green flashed from an object on the roots of a tree upturned by the wind, and caught the eye of young

Hamlin. Advancing to the spot, he perceived a fragment of transparent green crystal lying loose upon some earth which still clung to the root of the fallen tree. The students clutched the gem with eagerness. They closely searched the surrounding soil for other specimens. But the rapidly increasing twilight soon compelled the youthful mineralogists to abandon the search. They, however, resolved to return at daybreak and continue the exploration. But during the night a storm arose and covered the hill and its adjacent fields with a thick mantle of snow, which remained until spring.”



James M. Shaw



Photo of West Waterford in back of the Frank Stearns place

Of course the poetic story of this historic find continues the following year when the lads return to fill their satchels with many pounds of gemmy crystals. As they do not know exactly what has been unearthed, samples are sent to noted geologists who identify it as high grade tourmaline, some of which became gemstones set in the crowns of royalty and adorning the wealthiest women in America. According to Van King, Elijah Hamlin [cousin of the local family] moved to Waterford by 1824 where he practiced as a lawyer. He also continued mineral collection...

James M. Shaw was a leading citizen of Waterford. Born in 1818 to Rev. Josiah Shaw, a prominent citizen and early settler of town (1795)... James became a farmer like his dad in the neighborhood known at that time as West Waterford (now Blackguard), near where the Pike Farm is now, on Mutiny Brook. Although only three years old when the distant Mt. Mica discovery was made, he certainly knew of the discoveries of amethysts in Waterford in 1822 and 1824. Farmer Oliver Stone, while blasting ledge for a new well on his Deer Hill lot, was the first to unearth the purple crystal here in 1822. Whether this find was a loose piece dragged from far to the west by a glacier or an actual pocket of the stone, no other specimens were ever found.

Mr. Joseph Sanderson, while plowing his field near the Sweden line, revealed a particularly select crystal, “a six-sided prism, with a similar pyramidal termination. It measures eight inches and a half in circumference: the faces of the pyramid are two inches in length... It is very transparent for so large a specimen, but presents a most splendid rich purple color.” Apparently the crystal was so perfect that locals thought it a work of Indian craft. Further searches were made in the area around Little Moose Pond, but no other such stones were ever found.

Mr. Shaw was a very accomplished man. He considered himself a naturalist. He even listed himself as “Scientist” in several national directories of scientists and engineers during the 1880s. Several local news clippings of the time paint a picture of his later years: “There was a very pleasant gathering at the residence of Mr. James M. Shaw on the evening of October 20th. It was his 75th birthday... At the appointed hour about forty responded to the invitation. The house was brilliantly illuminated, showing off the many beautiful plants, of which he has a great quantity and many choice varieties. Mr. Shaw has a nice sunny house, and a large farm which he cultivates, raises the best apples in the market, pears, plums, and peaches, grapes and small fruits of all kinds, which he markets in season. In the winter he devotes his spare time to binding books—doing a large amount in satisfactory manner; quite often giving lectures at the Grange [Bear Mountain #62] upon Botany and Mineralogy; has one of the finest collections of minerals in the county and has many rare specimens. Who will say he is not a busy man? He is well preserved for his years, stands more erect than many of our young men.

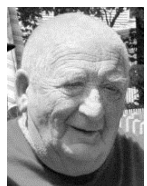
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In Memoriam

Evelyn M. "Evie" McAuliffe, 85, died June 9, 2015 at her home in North Waterford. She was born on July 17, 1929, in Cambridge, MA a daughter of, Albert and Hazel (O'Neill) Allen. During her married life, Evie, formerly of Watertown and Marlborough, MA, enjoyed vacationing with her family in Wellfleet and participating in church activities. In her later years, Evie loved visiting with her sisters and keeping up online with distant family and friends. She is survived by her children, Marilyn Connelly, Daniel McAuliffe Jr., Amy Queander and Judith Cabaniss; nine grandchildren; 11 great-grandchildren; one brother, Albert Allen and three sisters, Dolly MacDonald, Merle McAllister and Margaret McAllister. She was predeceased by her husband, Daniel J. McAuliffe in 1988; sisters Ruth Swett and Irene Trimback. She is buried in the St. Patrick Cemetery in Watertown, MA.



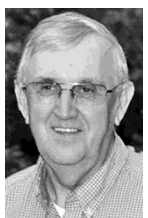
Ralph L. Millett, 80, of Waterford, died July 11, 2015 at the Androscoggin Hospice House in Auburn. He was born on Jan. 6, 1935 in Waterford, a son of George Raymond and Grace (Dearborn) Millett. He attended Waterford schools and started working on the family farm at an early age. When Ralph was old enough, he enlisted in the US Army, returning home to marry Betty Jean Eaton on June 15, 1957. They made their home in Norway for a few years until settling in Waterford. As a young married man, Ralph worked alongside his brother logging nearby woodlots, which he continued to do even after taking on work in the AC Lawrence Leather Company in South Paris. When the "tannery" closed, he went to work for Howell Laboratories in Bridgton, retiring at the age of 72 in 2007. He is survived by his children Donna Scribner of Standish, Rusty Millett of Waterford and Ray Millett of Naples; five grandchildren; four great grandchildren; two sisters, Gladys Emery of Mechanic Falls and Eva Barker of Waterford. He was predeceased by his wife, Betty on Aug. 27, 2013; a son, Rick Millett in 2009; brothers, Vern and Elmer Millett; sisters, Nina Bisbee, Mildred Murch, Katherine Millett, and Maisey Murch. He is buried in Pulpit Rock Cemetery.



John W. York, 82, died on August 2, 2015 in Covington, TN. He was born on September 5, 1932 in South Paris, at Mrs. McAllister's birthing hospital, the son of Charles and Hilda York. He attended Waterford and Norway schools and graduated from Norway High School in the class of 1951. He went to the University of Maine and graduated in 1955 with a Mechanical Engineering degree and a commission as a 2nd Lt. in the U. S. Army Ordnance Corps. Upon graduation he went to work for The General Electric Company on their Engineering Training Program continuing his education in Company and available college courses. He took a leave of absence from GE to go on active duty in the Army after which he spent several years in the Active Army Reserves as a Captain commanding the 871st Ordnance Company in Saco. He returned to GE after his active duty and subsequently worked for Rogers Fibre Company as plant engineer, Colonial Board Company as a corporate engineer and Araujo-Ford Bacon and Davis in Brazil. Upon returning to the US he joined with an old friend and papermaker in purchasing and modernizing an old binders board mill, then joined Simons, an international engineering consulting firm as a process engineer. At age 65 he started his own engineering consulting engineering company, York Consultants, Inc. which hired other retired engineers from the paper industry for part time pulp and paper process trouble shooting. His greatest love in later life was his tree farm in Waterford. Early in life he married Susan Ashton, his school sweetheart and they had three children: Jay and George of Portland and Catherine of Waterford. Later in life he married Sarah Scott of Covington, TN and they spent many happy years dividing their time between a home in Covington and the tree farm log cabin in the woods of Maine. He was active in Christ Church, Boy Scouts, Masons and educational activities. He is buried in Lakeview Cemetery in Norway.



Jeffrey Allen, 67, of Waterford, Oct. 6, 2015 at home after a battle with cancer. He was born on Feb. 27, 1948, a son of Rex and Geraldine (Gallaway) Allen. Raised in Lovell, he graduated from Fryeburg Academy in 1966 and attended the Auburn School of Commerce. He enlisted in the U.S. Army, serving two tours of duty in Vietnam in a combat engineering unit. Upon returning home in 1970, he married Barbara MacDonald of Waterford (formerly of Arlington, Mass.) and they settled in Waterford to raise their family. He worked for Cianbro, CN Brown and P&K Construction. For more than 20 years he transported manufactured homes throughout New England for the local modular home companies. He eventually started his own business, Northern Home Transport, which he ran for several years before retirement. He is survived by his wife, Barbara of Waterford; daughters Lori Allen of Maynard, MA and Kimberly Bernero of Upton, MA; sisters Jane Perry of South Paris, Jeannie Nelson of Winslow and Jo-



anne Allen of Bowdoin; and three grandchildren. He was predeceased by sister Nancy Barker and brother Neil Allen.

Michael E. Bryer, 55, of Waterford, died Oct. 8, 2015 at Central Maine Medical Center in Lewiston. He was born on Apr. 9, 1960, in Newport, RI and attended local schools. Mike moved to Maine in the early 1990s and continued his work as a carpenter and builder here. He was joined by Kelly Pike and raised six children in North Waterford for more than 22 years. Michael is survived by his children Mike Jr., Patrick, Alicia, Frank, Shannon and Jeremy and grandchildren. He was predeceased by his brother Georgie.



Eva E. Barker, 77, of Waterford died at her home on Oct. 12, 2015. The youngest of 10, she was born on April 29, 1938 to Raymond & Grace (Dearborn) Millett at her family's farm in Waterford. Eva married Merl Barker on Oct. 16, 1959. Together they welcomed sons Dale & Richard and daughter, Debra. Besides being a mother and wife, Eva worked in local apple orchards and used her warm-hearted personality as a caregiver to children and family members. She is survived by her three children: Dale, Richard and Debra; six grandchildren; 11 great-grandchildren. She was predeceased by her husband Merl; three brothers - Vern, Ralph and Elmer; and her five sisters - Mildred, Maisie, Nina, Katherine and Louise. She is buried in Elm Vale Cemetery.



Elizabeth R. Larsen, 90, of Waterford died Oct. 20, 2015 at her home. Known as Betty, she was born in Pittsburgh, PA. on October 31, 1924, the daughter of Dennis W. and Frances E. Leeper Ryan. In 1941 she graduated from East Haven (CT) High School and later attended New Haven Teachers College. For many years, Betty worked as a secretary at Yale New Haven Hospital, where she would meet Harold Ludwig Larsen. The two married on January 21, 1950, and started a family with five sons and two daughters. They loved vacationing in Maine and in 1981, Harold and Betty moved from Connecticut and settled on Papoose Pond. Betty was active in the local community, volunteering her time with the Good Shepherd Food Bank and the lunch counter at Stephens Memorial Hospital. Long-time residents may remember Betty and Harold from the Waterford Community breakfasts (Betty cooked and Harold waited tables). She loved music and sang with local groups such as the Sweet Adelines and the Tune Timers and she and Harold made many friends in the square dancing community. She is survived by her brother William Ryan of Branford, CT; children, Janet Healey of Waterford, Richard of Oxford, Kathy Esposito of Hamden, CT., William Larsen of Hebron, CT., Thomas Larsen of Wakefield, RI, Bob Larsen of Harrison, and Bruce Larsen of Sutton, MA; nine grandchildren, four great grandchildren and many nieces and nephews. She was predeceased by her husband of 47 years as well as brothers Thomas and Dennis Ryan.



Minerals

(Continued from page 5)

"The first of the evening was very pleasantly spent in social gatherings, music and songs. We were then invited to his laboratory to look at its many curiosities and listen to their history which he kindly explained to us."

Following Shaw's passing in 1896, according to a September 1910 article in the Lewiston Evening Post, he had "a collection of about fifteen hundred minerals and shells, the larger part of which he has collected by himself, and which he values at several hundred dollars." The more choice specimens were sold off to a collector, Dr. Hiram F. Abbott of Rumford Point for \$150. The remainder somehow ended up in David Sanderson's attic [he is a descendant of the Shaws.] These boxes of rocks, each sample numbered and listed in James' own ledger, shows us that he was not only interested in alluring gems. His quest for knowledge of the natural world led him to collect samples of all the rocks and minerals surrounding him, not just the most valuable.

My research has shown that between that first recorded find in 1822 and today there have been 11 documented "mines" or prospects in the Town of Waterford. You may see from the map approximately where these may have been located. Some may have been only small pits and have been lost. Some, such as the Stearns Hill Mica Mine on Blackguard Rd. are still remarkable scars on the landscape. At this point I must caution everyone not to rush out and seek to dig in these sites which are on private property. We have asked permission of the owners to enter their land; we ask you to do the same.

Continued next issue: George Howe and Early Miners

FROM OUR FILES:

10 MILL HILL ROAD

A few years ago, WHS sponsored a building questionnaire that asked people to tell us the history of their houses. About 30 people responded, which gave us the tiny beginning of a Road Survey. We will do the same thing again in the spring.



Kerstin and David Gill wrote about their house at 10 Mill Hill Road, just above their Wesleyan Chapel. Old-timers know it as the home of Ed & Irene Bean where their children Joan (Fillebrown) and Mac Bean grew up. The Gills identified previous owners as Esquire Nelson, Mrs. Parker, the Bean family, Mr. & Mrs. Reid and Adrienne Cote, who sold it to them.

It was probably built around 1835. The 1880 map identifies it as the home of "F. A. Noble." Our second history book calls it the "Nelson/Noble House" and tells the tale of Mrs. Seward Parker, who ran it as a summer hotel until it had a fire in the 1930s. The pictures below show it from postcards in our collection and the way it looks today, with a roof rebuilt after the fire. The rate for room and board with Mrs. Parker was \$3.00/day with a special Sunday Tourist Dinner offered for \$1.00. Willis Learned may have owned it between Mrs. Parker and the Beans.

Then: Postcard view, early 20th Century...



...And now: New roof after the 1930s fire



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PO Box 201
Waterford ME 04088

