

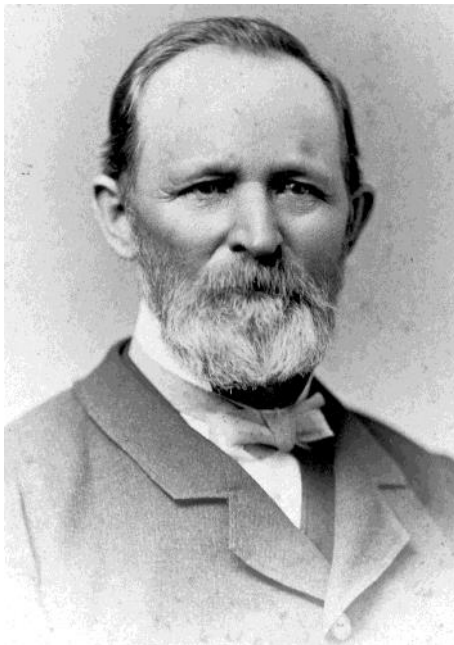


Waterford Echoes

VOLUME LXVII Number 2 (Issue 67)

Fall/Winter 2018

Waterford Historical Society



Peter Haskell and the Mills of East Waterford

PETER N. HASKELL, a member of an old Maine family and one of the largest real estate owners in Oxford County, was extensively engaged in lumbering in the town of Waterford. He was born in Otisfield Dec. 1, 1822, the son of Captain Joseph and Jerusha (Moore) Haskell. His father was a native of Gorham and his mother of Otisfield.

Joseph Haskell was a son of John Haskell, a Revolutionary soldier, who was wounded three times while in the service. John Haskell removed from Gorham, Me., to Knox, Me., where he died. Joseph Haskell went to Otisfield from Gorham, Me., in 1801, or near that date, being then about ten years old. He rode on horseback behind his uncle, Oliver Pierce, and brought with him among other belongings a tin box containing five dollars in silver. The box being not quite full, the coins

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President's Corner

by Bonnie Parsons

Whether you are braving the challenges of snow and ice in Waterford or braving the traffic in warmer places, I hope you are enjoying a safe, healthy and happy 2019. The 2018 program season passed quickly with several building improvements and memorable events.

New windows have been installed in the office and research room on the street side of the building plus new window shades have brightened the work areas. It's a more comfortable environment for volunteers and researchers while at the same time protecting artifacts from the sunlight. This winter, we are maintaining better access via the front steps to the Old Town House by keeping it shoveled, thanks to the services of Dan Carpenter, a recent newcomer to North Waterford.

Last season, the Old Town House was open to the public on Mondays to coordinate with the Farmer's Market and Waterford Library hours. We are hoping to increase our open hours next summer on Mondays and Wednesdays with the help of volunteers. Please contact us if you can help. We continue to receive many requests and donations and continue to offer our history books, 2019 calendars, note cards and throws for sale. They are available at the library or by writing to us via our PO Box 201, Waterford.

We began the 2018 season on May 26 with a sign dedication at the site of Watson's Falls Mill on Back Street in South Waterford. This is the second in a series of 10 signs eventually to be installed along the banks of City Brook. David Sanderson designed both signs. Robert Spencer and his wife Geraldine O'Donnell are responsible for the Watson's Falls Mill renovation and are owners of the honored mill building where they now live.

On June 14, we held our annual meeting and program: Toys & Games/Show & Tell. Patricia Wilson donated a Victorian Doll House donated that is on permanent display. On June 15 at the Old Town House, we were honored to host the launch of Bob Spencer's interesting book, "The Spinster's Hope Chest," imagining past life in Waterford. You can still purchase copies at the Waterford Library. During the July 4 parade, we held Open Houses at the Old Town House and the Rice Museum, and on July 12 we held Open House at the Old Town House with a program on Textiles/Display & Demonstrations. Because of unexpected developments, the program was incomplete and we plan to revisit this program. It would be worthwhile to repeat without any complications.

On Aug. 9, David Sanderson presented a talk about Haskell Mills, Peter Haskell and old photos that David scanned for the program. We were happy to see Virginia Knight and other East Waterford folks. It was suggested that we place a sign at

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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.

2018-2019 OFFICERS

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

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.

Acknowledgements

From the cleaning of the two museums in June, this summer has seen a lot of activity for our two buildings. The Mary Gage Rice museum of household material culture is opened every fourth of July by Donna and Tony Butterall after the breakfast. Our plan is to make it available with other volunteers on some days when the library is open; as well it can also be opened on request.

Thanks to Ted Gerber and local Veterans for their memories; we hope to repeat this for other Novembers. Please remember if you know of a Waterford resident whose name should be on the plaques in the Town Office meeting room, please let us know.

As usual we want to thank people for so many things. We have light-dampening shades at our new office windows, thanks to Bonnie Parsons, Nancy Eaton and Ralph MacKinnon. Gifts were given to us, including Bisbeetown Cemetery listings from Donna Stone Woodward, and many books and photographs from others.

We are hoping to be open more hours next summer, so we will need other volunteers and we will train you.

N.M.

President's corner

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the Haskell Mill's location.

On Sept. 13, the renovated Barn at the Bear Mountain Inn attracted a full house when owners Brian and Julie Sullivan hosted a talk by former owner Mary Andrews, her three sons and daughter. We enjoyed tours of the guest rooms, stayed awhile for refreshments and the locals shared memories of good times with the Andrews family.

On Oct. 11, we gathered at the Wilkins House to learn about the Formal Gardens of Waterford, focusing on landscape gardener Annie Oakes Huntington at the home of Louise Payson; and the home of Mary Gage Rice at Rydal Mount (the gardens were modeled after romantic poet William Wordsworth's Lake District Rydal Mount home, in England. Wordsworth was a "keen" landscape gardener). Nancy Marcotte led the discussion with photos from Karen O'Brien and historical society files. Our last program was held on Nov. 8, 2018, when we met at the Waterford Town Office to "Honor Our Veterans." We listened to several of our local veterans who shared their thoughts and experiences.

A special thank you goes out to our new student volunteer, Cadence Allen. She has been a big help to Nancy Eaton and Nancy Marcotte.



A Little Anniversary

by Nancy Chute Marcotte

From two hundred years ago there was a regular two- or three-day travel route between Waterford and Concord, Mass., regularly travelled by many people, including Ralph Waldo Emerson, his aunt Mary Moody Emerson of Elm Vale Farm, and others of their Haskins and Ripley relatives. Ann Sargent Gage was one of the exiles from Massachusetts (and everyone should read Whizzer Wheeler's fascinating biography of Ann in This Is Waterford).

One could travel by horse, ship or, eventually, railroad from Massachusetts to Portland, stay overnight and then book passage on the Maxfield Stage to Waterford. It was also possible to get steamboat or canal boat passage from Falmouth to Harrison after awhile.

Among the well-known visitors to Waterford was Elizabeth Palmer Peabody, sister-in-law of Nathaniel Hawthorne (of Salem, Mass. and Raymond, Maine) famous 19th Century advocate of new forms of education—especially kindergarten. She partnered with philosopher Bronson Alcott in an experimental school until he alienated the pupils' parents and the school failed.

Bronson failed at many things, particularly at supporting his family. His wife Abby reportedly said something like: "A philosopher is a man in a balloon with women hanging onto the ropes." She and their daughters worked at many jobs in Concord, Boston and other places.

Peabody was a friend of Mary Moody Emerson and Calvin Farrar, transcendental theologian who started the Waterford Water Cure (also uncle to Artemus Ward). This may be the connection that brought Abby May Alcott and one of her daughters to

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Haskell mills

(Continued from page 1)

rattled about, making so much noise that his uncle made him dismount and fill the vacant space with leaves. He resided in Otisfield about seventy years, engaged, after reaching manhood, in farming and trading in cattle and horses. He was a Captain of the State militia, and he was often chosen Constable and Collector. Captain Haskell died in the village of Norway, May 2, 1876. His wife, Jerusha Moores Haskell, died there two years later, May 8, 1878. Her father, Major Jonathan Moores, the grandfather of Peter N. Haskell, was a soldier of the Revolution. He subsequently removed from Otisfield to Groton on horseback. On the first trip she carried her one-year-old son, who would have been the first white child born in Otisfield had she not been taken with an ox team to Gray to stay during her confinement, owing to the



lack of a woman to nurse her at home. Captain and Mrs. Joseph Haskell were the parents of six children -- Rhoda, Jane, Susan, and Cyrus, all deceased; Mary Ann, widow of Eben Andrews, residing in Concord, Mass.; and Peter N., of Waterford, aforementioned.

Peter N. Haskell's early educational advantages were limited to the common schools. He remained at home until 20 years of age, starting then for himself in the lumber business near Bangor. Three years later he returned to the home farm and about 1846 he went to South Waterford, where he lived on a farm some nine years. He then removed to another farm in Waterford, which was his home for 20 years. While attending to its cultivation he was also engaged in jobbing, such as doing stone work and moving buildings, being an expert in the latter business. His next removal was to East Waterford village. Here he purchased in 1870 the sawmill then known as the old Upton Mill, which under his

management is the centre of a large business. His property comprised some 800 acres of land, some of which is under cultivation, but on account of his advancing age he was not actively engaged in farming.

Mr. Haskell was married Aug. 5, 1846 to Mary Green, who was born in South Paris on March 15, 1826, the daughter of Nathaniel W. and Polly (Willis) Green. Mr. Green belonged in Leicester, Mass., Mrs. Green in Paris. He was a currier, tanner and shoemaker; and he and his brother, Josiah Green, made the first sale boot in the State

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of Massachusetts, now so widely noted for its shoe trade. Mr. Green was for a number of years in the boot business. He and his wife died in Norway, this county. Mr. and Mrs. Haskell have twelve children: the eldest child, George A., died in the army; the next two children died in infancy; the third, Rose, is the wife of Sewell F. Millett, of Lisbon, ; the fifth, Susan, lived but one year; and the sixth, Frank, died in 1880. Joseph B., born September 23, 1858, resides with his father, and is engaged in business. He is an experienced mill man, having had charge of mills in Newry and Rumford, Clementine D. is the wife of H.O. Rolfe, of Rumford, this county; Mary Etta is the wife of George Towne, of Oxford, ; Georgia is the wife of E. H. Haggart, of South Paris, this county. The eleventh child died in infancy. The twelfth, Andrew Johnson, resides in East Waterford village, where he is Postmaster, manages a general store, and is engaged in the cider business. He married Miss Della Flint.

Mr. Haskell was a stanch Democrat. Though not a seeker for public place, he has held a number of minor offices in the town. He was widely known in this section of the county and highly esteemed.

Research by David Sanderson



Nuances

(Continued from page 3)

Waterford to work at that interesting establishment for a few months in 1847. Ralph “Waldo,” who loved Waterford and who often helped the Alcotts with monetary aid, may also have played a hand.

For many reasons the two villages of Concord and Waterford were linked and we apparently had Louisa May Alcott working here, waiting on MME at the Water Cure, and boarding with her mother at “Rydal Mount,” the Gage's home, for a short time. This year is the 150th anniversary of the publishing of Little Women and more film and book versions of the veiled Alcott family story will be coming out. And we had a connection!

To read Peabody's description of Waterford, see our book This Is Waterford (2003) or The Waterford Water Cure (1992) by Q. David Bowers. Other references: Girls Who Became Famous (1886) by Sarah K. Bolton and Mary Moody Emerson and the Origins of Transcendentalism (1998) by Phyllis Cole.

In Memoriam

John G. Howe, 83, of Waterford, died June 15, 2018. A native of the Berkshire Mountains, John learned to ski as soon as he could walk and spent his early years skiing in the western shadow of Mount Greylock. As a 10-year-old at the end of World War II, he was actively racing, participating in the Junior National Championships of 1950 and 1953. In 1956, he graduated from the University of Colorado with a BS in mechanical engineering. In 1956 with his bride Connie Willis, he returned east and went to work at the General Electric Co. in Pittsfield, Mass., as a product design engineer. In 1966, he was hired as Head Ski's chief ski design and product development engineer. In 1969, Head Ski was sold to AMF and John continued to work there until 1971 when AMF closed the factory and moved it to Boulder, CO. There he staffed a new ski development laboratory and began making prototype tennis rackets to expand the company's product line beyond single season sports. John holds a dozen patents and is an author of several books. With a second family, John moved back east in 1980 with his wife, Debbie Mead. His competitive drive did not end with skiing. John was also an accomplished lifelong runner who competed in over 30 Mount Washington foot races and scores of local races from 5Ks, biathlons, to half and full marathons. He was a longtime member of the White Mountain Milers in New Hampshire and the Maine Track Club of Portland. Among his other passions was the development of alternatives to finite fossil fuels. John is survived by his wife Debbie of 42 years; sons Edward and Thomas; daughters, Virginia Howe and Tina Marshall; and several grandchildren and great-grandchildren.



Marie W. Rolfe, 78, of Waterford died Aug. 14, 2018 at Maine Medical Center. She was born in Lewiston on April 18, 1940 the daughter of Seth and Althea Millett Wilson. She graduated from Norway High School and married Rodney Rolfe on Jan. 10, 1959. She had been a as well as working at Fox Ridge, Wilner Wood Products and Bridgton Knitting Mill. She is survived by her husband, Rodney of Waterford; sons, Lynn of Liberty, S.C. and Ricky of Albany; daughter Belinda Morel of Greene; eight grandchildren; and nine great grandchildren. She is buried in Norway Pine Grove Cemetery in South Paris.

Perley H. Graham, 67, of Waterford passed away Aug. 18 at home. Born Dec. 10, 1950 in Bridgton, he was the son of Harland R. and Caroline Graham. Perley was a Vietnam veteran, serving in the U.S. Army 101st Airborne from 1968 to 1971. He also served one year in the U.S. Job Corps in Colorado Springs, CO, and graduated from SMTC in South Portland as a heavy equipment operator and diesel mechanic. Perley was predeceased by his parents and a brother Richard H. Graham. He is survived by his wife, Kathleen; daughter Amanda of Buckfield; son Eric of West Paris; sister Carol of Lewiston; and three granddaughters.



William S. Hanger, 72, of Waterford died Sept. 22, 2018. Bill was born in 1945 in Welch, WV, the son of Robert J. and Ellen Hanger. His childhood was spent in Rochester, NY and Westfield, NJ. After graduating from The Pingry School in 1964, he went on to earn a BA in Political Science in 1968 and a master's in education in 1972 from Miami University in Oxford, OH. He and his college sweetheart, Nancy (Miami 1968), continued to live and raise two daughters in Oxford where Bill was first an Assistant Registrar, then Assistant Provost. He spent the last 17 years of his career as Director of Institutional Advancement for Miami University. He was elected to the Oxford City Council, volunteered as the Vice President of the local NAACP chapter and served for 18 years on the Greater Dayton Public Television board of directors. His love of Maine began in 1958 as a camper and then counselor at Camp Waganaki. His parents built a home on McWain Pond in Waterford where the camp was located, and he and his family vacationed there every summer. Bill and Nancy built their home on the lake and move permanently from Ohio in 1999. He became active in the Oxford Hills Growth Council, Maine Adaptive Skiing, Waterford Board of Appeals, and served for 10 years on the SAD 17 school board. He is survived by his wife, Nancy; daughter Lisa Fraley of Raymond; daughter Jill Patton of Liberty Township, OH; brother Robert; and three granddaughters.



Agnes B. Lahti, 101, died Oct. 6, 2018 at the Norway Center for Health. She would have celebrated her 102nd birthday. She was Waterford's oldest citizen and has been the holder of the town's Boston Cane for several years. She was born in Waterford, on Nov. 12, 1916 the daughter of the late Gladys Billings Bancroft and Guy "Moxie" Bancroft. A resident there her entire life, she was the holder of the Boston Post Cane for the past six years. She attended a one room school house in Waterford and then Norway High School. She spent one year of high school in Newton, Mass while living and working for the Brewster Family of Birch Rock Camp. She graduated from Norway High School in 1934 and attended her 83rd reunion in 2017. In her early life, she was employed by Dr. Roswell Hubbard and family for several years and also worked at Camp Birch Rock. In 1936, Agnes married Arne W. Lahti, who predeceased her in 1966. In 1941 they bought their farm in East Waterford where they raised their daughters, farmed the land, raised their food and managed their Tree Farm. She resided there for more than 72 years. Agnes was a home-maker, gardener, farmer, apple picker/packer, florist, factory worker, tractor/truck driver, landscaper, woodcutter or whatever it took to get the work done. She was a devoted volunteer and member of the Stephens Memorial Auxiliary and was a founder, original member and officer of the Waterford Historical Society. In celebration of



her 100th birthday, Agnes was honored by family, friends, community and Waterford Congregational Church members. She was predeceased by her husband Arne, brother-in-law John Lahti and spouse Lulu Lahti (Whiting) of Waterford and her sisters: Alma Millett of Waterford, Velma Thompson of Wilton, Phyllis Bancroft of Arlington, Va. and a half-sister Thelma Merrill of Norway. Also, brothers William "Bill" Bancroft of Albany Township and Guy Bancroft, Jr. of Waterford. She was also predeceased by grandsons Scott Turner of South Paris and Peter Hill of Sweden. Agnes is survived by daughters Linda Blackwell of Hartsville, SC, Patricia Hill of Norway Center for Health and Janet Truman of Waterford along with six grandchildren, 14 great-grandchildren and six great-great grandchildren.

Kevin J. Millett, 44, of Waterford died at Maine Medical Center in Portland Nov. 21, 2018. Kevin was born in Bangor Dec. 5, 1973, the son of Barbara (Shaw) and H. Sawin Millett. He was the youngest of five children and spent the last 41 years of his life living on the family farm in Waterford. He attended elementary schools in Harrison, Waterford and Paris and graduated in 1992 from Oxford Hills Comprehensive High School. After high school, Kevin attended the University of Southern Maine in his freshman year and then transferred to Southern Maine Technical College in the fall of 1993, where he enrolled in the Culinary Arts program. Following the sudden death of his sister Karla in December of 1993, Kevin left college and enlisted in the US Marine Corps. Afterwards, Kevin worked in a variety of jobs within the Oxford Hills area, including time spent in the Manufactured Housing Industry, restaurant management, automobile sales, working with Developmentally Delayed Adults and on the family farm. In 2000, Kevin and the "love of his life" Angela Jutras of Hebron had a son, Jamison. Angela died in 2004. Kevin was predeceased by his sister Karla. He is survived by his parents of Waterford; brothers Kenneth of Winthrop and Kerry of Hammonton, NJ; sister Kathy Ventrone of Tucson, AZ; 10 nieces and nephews; six grandnieces and grandnephews; and multiple aunts, uncles and cousins on both the Millett and Shaw sides of his family. He will be buried in the spring at the Woodlawn Cemetery in North Waterford.



Michael Hamlin, 67, of Gilford, NH died Nov. 30, 2018. Originally from Waterford, he was the son of Carl Oliver and Pearl Hamlin. Mike recalled a fond childhood of family gatherings, summer days hauling hay in the fields of the family farm on Coolidge Hill. After graduating in 1969 from Oxford Hills High School, he continued his education at the NHVTC. He became a Master Plumber and began his career in the HVAC industry. It was in New Hampshire where he met life, Kathryn Ann Payne and they married on Feb. 24, 1973. He is survived by his wife of 45 years, Kathryn; children Christopher and Holly; three grandchildren; his mother, Pearl; and five siblings.



Conrad L. Pike, 79, of Deland, FL, formerly of Waterford, died Nov. 19, 2018, at hospice care. Conrad was born Nov. 17, 1939 in South Waterford, the son of Lewis Pike and Marjorie Burnham. He grew up in Waterford, served in the US Air Force and spent much of his career working with harness horses. He is survived by his wife, Pamela Pike, sister Shirley Sanborn of Waterford and children Rebecca, Johnna, Rhoda Su, Steven and Carrie. He was predeceased by a brother Bion and sisters Lorain Douglas and Diane Haynes.



Walter A. Van Dehey, 91, of Waterford, died Dec. 6, 2018 at Bridgton Hospital. He was born on Aug. 7, 1927, in San Francisco, CA, son of Walter and Ella (Hill) Van Dehey. After graduating from Lowell High School in San Francisco, he enlisted in the Army Air Corps during World War II. Upon discharge, he graduated from college with an AB in Police Science. He joined the San Francisco Police Department from which he retired as a Lieutenant after 30 years of service. He also served over 20 years in The Air Force Reserves and retired as a Lieutenant Colonel. In 1966, he married Susan Weist. He and Sue built their own home in California and later in Maine he helped a friend remodel houses, helped repair and repaint the interior walls of the church and built bookcases matching the originals for the library. He served time as Vice President of the Wilkins House and was "pots and pans scrubber" at the summer breakfasts. He was a Mason in Crocker Lodge, CA for 62 years and was active in the Mt. Tire'm Lodge beginning in 1996. He is survived by his wife of 51 years.



Rachel R. Deans, 98, of South Portland died Dec. 17, 2018 at her home. She was born Nov. 12, 1920, in Waterford, the daughter of George H. and Helen Hamlin Rice. Rachel graduated from Bridgton Academy in 1939 and Maine General Hospital School of Nursing in 1943. On Dec. 25, 1944, Rachel married Edwin L. Deans USN in Goldsboro, NC. Rachel was a member of the Waterford Congregational Church and the First United Methodist Church in South Portland, a life member of the Waterford Historical Society, member of the Eastern Star since 1952 and secretary of the Maine General Hospital School of Nursing Alumni Association for more than 25 years. She was Vice President of the Highland Memorial Cemetery Association and was an honorary member of the Mercy Hospital School of Nursing. Rachel worked at the Maine General Hospital, did private duty at Maine Medical Center and served as Night Supervisor at Mercy Hospital until retiring in 1985. Rachel is predeceased by her husband of 50 years along with siblings Charles H., Albert H., Richard F. and Ella E. Rice. She is survived by her children George of Sullivan, Richard of Hebron, John of Gorham, Miriam Collins of South Portland and Leah Davis of Cumberland along with several grandchildren and great-grandchildren. She will be buried will be at Highland Memorial Gardens Cemetery in South Portland in the spring.

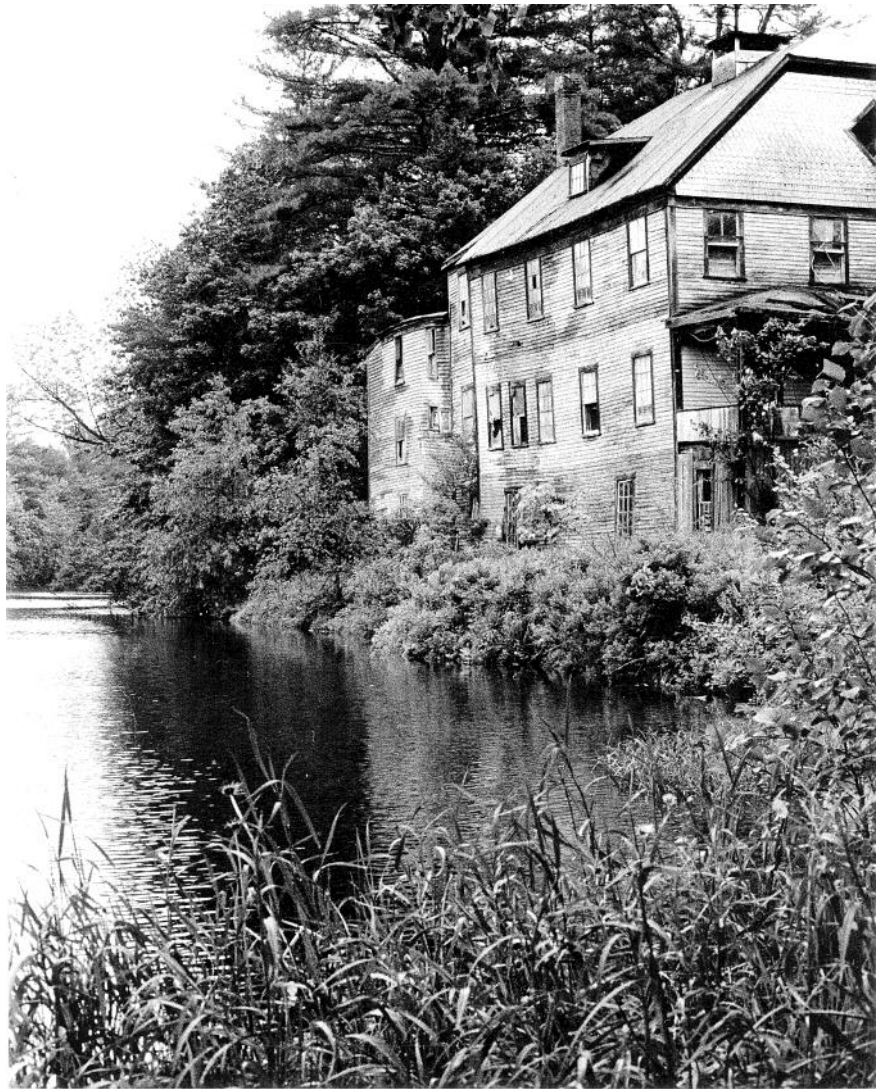


FROM OUR FILES

The End of a Sawmill & a Dance Hall

In April 1980, the Buddy Chick photo at right appeared in the newspaper, along with other photos and an article by Crystal Trundy (which we have in our files thanks to some of our loyal scrapbook keepers.) The Peter Haskell mill was being burned down as a fire department training exercise.

Long a landmark on the East Waterford mill pond next to Rt. 37, the building started as a sawmill until WWI era when Peter and family lived downstairs and built a dance floor upstairs. 1980 owner Raymond Gammon remembered the beautiful shiny wooden dance floor.



(Buddy Chick photo)

From 1929 to 1950, the mill was used as a toy and furniture manufactory until Rupert Aldrich of Norway bought it and turned it into a broiler house. Leslie Gammon lit the torch that fired the end of his father's building and the end of an era of entrepreneurs.

Waterford Historical Society
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