



# Waterford Echoes

VOLUME LXVIII Number 1 (Issue 68)

Spring/Summer 2019

Waterford Historical Society

## Formal Gardens of Waterford

“The golden age of American gardens” (1890-1940) as outlined by Maine Citizens for Historic Preservation and The Maine Historic Preservation Commission was also the golden age of women landscape designers, such as Beatrix Farrand and Ellen Shipman in New England. It was one of the few careers originally open to women.

Annie Oakes Huntington, dear companion to Miss Jeanette Payson at Lanes' End (today Fresh Fields) overlooking Keoka Lake from the Mill Hill side, was herself an early expert on botany. Annie studied at Arnold Arboretum and wrote two influential books on trees and other flora; she could have become a professional had her health been better. As it was, after designing a few private gardens in the Boston area, she began in 1907 working on her Waterford gardens at the house Miss Payson designed and had built off Coolidge Hill.

In the heyday of “shaping the environment,” formal gardens became more natural and less formal. Designing them required painterly use of color and composition, native vines, trees and flowers. It was very much a creation of outside “rooms,” divided by grids, hedges, trellises and stone walls, usually with bird baths, fountains, sculptures and seating areas.

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*“Rydal Mount” from the front*



*Mary Gage Rice in her formal garden at “Rydal Mount.”*

Your Trustees meet through the winter to make plans for May through November. This year we have taken a slightly different direction and have made some experiments in time. The whole schedule will be printed on colored paper and will be available to members and at our museums, as usual. It is very handy to put up on the refrigerator or the bulletin board. In addition we try to do posters and newspaper and town website announcements to remind you, but still people don't always notice.

Waterford Historical Society meetings are usually the second Thursday in each month, beginning with the June annual meeting, which is always at the Old Town House (museum). This year we began with a look at furniture maker, undertaker and general businessman Charles D. Morse on June 13. The research was done by his grandson Bill Fillebrown and examples of his work will be found at the museum. Unless otherwise advertised, meetings start at 7 p.m. and feature pot luck refreshments.

Taking woodworking as a continuing theme this year, we will feature Shakers in Maine at our July 11 meeting, presented by Nancy Marcotte, who worked for six years at Shaker Village in Sabbathday Lake and who has done much teaching and lecturing on that religious society and its arts. This will be at the Wilkins House at 7 p.m. with potluck refreshments. Then our August 8 meeting will be slightly different as we will meet at Lee Bradley's Waterford Woodworking workshop in his barn at the corner of Mill Hill and Passaconaway roads. In order for us to have plenty of time and light to look around, we will meet at 4 p.m. instead of 7 p.m. and there will be some pre-dinner snacks provided instead of desserts. Lee's work owes much to the Shaker history.

September 12 will feature Peter Morse, talking about the revitalization of our apple orchards, at the Wilkins House at 7 p.m. October 10 will be some version of local musicians explaining what they do and why they do it, in addition to performing some music. As the autumn days get shorter, we are experimenting with meeting at 6 p.m. for this evening at the Wilkins House. Please give us feedback on different meeting times. Potluck refreshments return; donations gratefully hoped for.

The final meeting for 2019 will be November 14, also at 6 p.m., but at the Waterford Library. We like to move around and share the various buildings in our town. This is a storytelling meeting, so be thinking about family genealogy and *How We Got Here*. Has your family been here for generations or only weeks? Did you come here to summer camp or grow up here? Did you marry into Waterford or pick it to retire? Please plan to share your experiences, photos, etc.

In addition, we will had a special dedication of a new mill plaque in South Waterford on Memorial weekend (and Open House on the 4th of July at both museums, 9-12. Come on over).

This brings us to planning for 2020. It will be a big year, the Bicentennial of the State of Maine. We are thinking about families and houses that were here in 1820 as well as nineteenth century pastimes, like contra dancing, travelling by horse or boat, staying at inns. It might be a good year to do another retrospective on Artemus Ward and the Browns, the Hamlins or the Warrens. We will welcome your suggestions.

### 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.

#### 2018-2019 OFFICERS

President:	Bonnie Parsons
Vice President:	Bob Spencer
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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](http://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.

## Thank You's

Waterford's loss of Joan Bean Fillebrown this past winter reminds us of how much she has been interwoven in the town, even though she spent a lot of her adult years in South Portland. She and her brother Mac grew up first in South Waterford and then in the Waterford Library [check the stairway wall for the children who grew up in the library]. She was church organist and organized many of the records of the church to put in our archives. Between Joan and her husband Bill, we have many of the Morse and Fillebrown family pictures and papers. Following her parents' lead, Joan was the official recorder of the annual ice-out on Keoka. We thanked her while she was with us and we will thank her forever.

In the same way we thank Sylvia Sebelist, who moved to Arizona with many books and clippings of her mother Margaret Sawyer and has been sending them to us for archiving for several years. We thank you, Sylvia, as we thank Linda Blackwell for continuing in the footsteps of her mother Agnes Bancroft Lahti by recording obituaries of local interest, which she sends us from South Carolina. And there you have the continuing influence of some of the earliest members of WHS upon their children.

David Sanderson reflects an attic full of memories of his grandfather Burton as well as his own research skills and faithfully brings us answers to our questions. After the last issue of the *Echoes*, he discovered an article in the 1904 Oxford Democrat about J. B. Haskell's dedication of his dance hall with a ball on January 30. Packard's Orchestra played for 50 couples and many spectators and, at the end of the evening, B. G. McIntire called for three cheers for J. B. Haskell. David says the building was NOT a sawmill, and I confess I never understood how it could have been, in its location above the millpond...though it was later a woodworking factory.

Also, in reference to Louisa May Alcott, David confirms that Ralph Waldo Emerson's letters mention her at the age of 15 coming to work for a season at Calvin Farrar's Waterford Water Cure. Thank you is not enough for David for sharing his voluminous knowledge.

Finally if you have been noticing the changing seasonal decorations in the outside bulletin board of the Old Town House, thank the creative Joy Plate. She has been arranging them for years. She also volunteers for a lot of sifting through scrapbooks and files in our office. We need a few more volunteers like her!

This summer we would like to open the museum on Monday and Wednesday afternoons and perhaps Saturday mornings. It would take more volunteers. We do not have computer access yet — though it is a future hope — but please write a note to the mailing address or come to a meeting or volunteer to a trustee if you would be interested in helping. We have heated the office and shoveled the steps all winter and have been organizing in order to help volunteers and researchers find things. We will train you. N.M.



*"Hill of Snow" bushes in the informal garden behind the home of Alice Hamlin Warren.*



Sylvia

## Nuances

### The Dooryard

*by Nancy Chute Marcotte*

#### "When Lilacs Last in the Dooryard Bloom'd"

That poem by Walt Whitman reminds me that rural farm and village houses usually had two kinds of landscaping (besides gardens, orchards, fields and wood lots): the practical barnyard and the decorative dooryard. Since front doors were rarely used, dooryards were usually around the side or back doors, and "dooryard calls" were quick visits outside. A self-respecting dooryard was planted with flowers: I remember lilacs, roses, peonies, forsythia, hollyhocks and "hill-of-snow" (hydrangeas).

They were usually not formal gardens as featured elsewhere in this issue, but nurtured for purely aesthetic reasons by farm wives. Below is a picture of me at 19 months with my grandmother Carrie Hamlin Haynes, in front of her sister Alice's "hill-of-snow"

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**Nancy Chute Marcotte with her grandmother Carrie Hamlin Haynes**

## Nuances

*(Continued from page 3)*

bushes in South Waterford village, 1950. Many words have been written about the farms that were first built on high hillsides in New England.

In the Waterford Library I found three books by under-appreciated local author Marguerite McIntire, which describe in lovely ways the farms of Waterford: Free and Clear, Heaven's Dooryard and Carey Brown. The first one, written and set in 1939, describes the villages of "Four Corners" and "Westerly" (which seem to be around East and North Waterford) and some real places, such as Norway and Portland. It's a richly evocative picture of Farm Bureau meetings, dances, school socials, horse logging, sap houses, Finnish neighbors, ice fishing on Bear Pond and even a fire in the village.

Heaven's Dooryard, written in 1940, describes 1840 settlers Jonathan Chadbourne and Margaret Hutchinson. Dedicated to her husband's cousin Clayton McIntire ("gentleman and farmer whose courage and integrity are a constant inspiration to me"), it's about clearing trees, house raising, good farming practices and a dooryard with views to the White Mountains.

She writes: "It's a good county, Oxford, and you are wise to settle here, even if it is set up on edge. A chance for a mixed crop and that's best. A farmer can grow both his hay and his grain, his own firewood, raise his own vegetables, small fruit and berries. That's as it should be. He can grow flax for linen and keep enough sheep to supply wool to clothe the whole family and some to spare. He can have milk and butter and eggs. And in our county there is running water everywhere, so that most farmers can have a little mill and spring freshet time they can saw out their own lumber." [ppg. 211-212]

Marguerite Pearman [1902-1984] was born in Washington D.C. and graduated from Tufts with an English degree. In 1925 she

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## Formal Gardens

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The pictures graciously loaned to us by John and Karen O'Brien show "Lane's End" at its beginning — a modern house in 1908 with simple non-Victorian structure a la Frank Lloyd Wright — easy access to the outside, windows placed where

**"Too much science and no poetry takes the life out of every subject." A.O.H.**

needed and unexpected vistas over the lake. Later it was expanded by Miss Payson's "Finnish carpenter." The women eventually had cows, chickens, geese, ducks and guinea fowl on their land, assisted by their neighbor Carl Hamlin.

Visible across the lake is the much older Colonial home of their friend Mabel Gage and later Mary Gage Rice and her husband Albert. It was built by Dr. Leander Gage, was sold out of the family and later returned. We do not know who designed the gardens that used to be at "Rydal Mount" (named for Wordsworth's home in England's Lake District). Whizzer and Meg Wheeler gave the historical society these photographic views of the formal structures that were there at a time when all of Waterford Flat was delineated by elm trees and white picket fences. I would be surprised if Annie didn't influence the Gage garden; she and Mabel had in common that they both spent time in China. More about their friendship can be found in This Is Waterford.

A Biographical Dictionary of Architects in Maine includes Louise Payson (1894-1977), a niece of Jeanette, daughter of Edgar and Harriet Payson from Portland. She attended Waynflete and then Lowthorpe School of Landscape Architecture and then went to work for Ellen Shipman in Cornish, NH. Louise eventually had an office in New York City but continued to design Payson family gardens in and

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*“Lane's End”  
with window boxes  
and beds growing.  
At the bottom of  
the page is a later  
addition to the  
house with lattice  
trellises and shut-  
ters, and a vista  
across the field with  
remarkable stone  
walls.*



## Formal Gardens

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around Portland's Western Promenade and Falmouth Foreside.

Louise's inspiration had been her childhood days in Waterford at her aunt's house, as Jeanette helped her brother raise his three children after their mother died in 1898. Louise closed her office in 1941, then worked for two years at Eastern Aircraft in Pennsylvania before going to Lisbon, Portugal as a relief worker in 1944. In 1953, she purchased a farm in Windham and designed her own landscape with the help of local landscape contractor Royce O'Donal. She died in 1977.

Annie Oakes Huntington died in 1946 but Jeanette Payson lived to be 93 years old. She had been a continual benefactor to the schools, the church, the library and many struggling individuals through the years and at her death in 1955, Constance Warren (another Waterford benefactor), wrote a letter to the Portland Press Herald which appreciated the life of JP:

“[Jeanette] returned every year with the first signs of spring to the charming rambling home which she had designed and the building of which she supervised with such loving care. Then she and her close friend Annie Huntington of Boston stayed often until the ice formed on the lake and occasionally all winter... they carefully studied seed catalogs and agricultural manuals, planning with Holden Sawin, who had charge of the place for many years, a bigger and better vegetable garden, finer apple crops from the double row of trees which lined her lane, more expert care of the hens and ducks and especially of the Brown Swiss cows which roamed her pastures, keeping clear of the view of the distant mountains across the lake.”



# In Memoriam

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**Joan B. Fillebrown**, 88, of Waterford, a life member of the Society, died on March 10, 2019 at her home. She was born in South Paris on May 28, 1930, the daughter of Edward Bean and Irene King. She graduated with third honors from Bridgton Academy in 1948. She married Walter William Fillebrown Jr. on July 1, 1950. She became a stay-at-home Mom to their three children in South Portland. After their youngest started public school, she worked for the South Portland Elementary schools for 12 years as a library technician. She was a member of the First Congregational Church in South Portland where she sang in the choir and was a member of their Women's Guild. In 1983, she and husband moved to Waterford to start their retirement years, residing in the family home that Bill remodeled.



Joan was involved in her community both in South Portland and Waterford. She joined the First Congregational Church in Waterford and became the full-time organist in 1983. She only missed one day each for two knee replacements and a hip replacement until her health forced her to retire in 2019. She was a member of the Western Maine Knitting Guild, Waterford Women's Fellowship, Waterford Historical Society and an organist for the Sweden Church for many years. For many years she served as hostess for the Wilkins House summer breakfasts, worked the polls at town elections and organized the Waterford food pantry. She is survived by her daughters Karen Fillebrown of Waterford, Susan Hunt of Norway, son Paul Fillebrown of Waterford; three grandchildren; and a great granddaughter. She was pre-deceased by her husband and brother Malcolm Bean. She is buried in Elm Vale Cemetery.

**Deborah Ann Dabczynski**, 69, of Harrison died on March 24, 2019 at the Androscoggin Hospice House in Auburn following a battle with cancer. The daughter of Elizabeth H. and Henry S. Dabczynski, Debby was born on March 9, 1950, in Newton, N.J. She grew up in Kinnelon, N.J., graduating from Kinnelon High School in 1968. Debby began studying cello and piano at age seven, at first taught by her parents, both being musicians and school music educators. She became an accomplished cellist, won competitions, was selected for prestigious student orchestras, and played chamber music with her parents and brother. Her musical achievements were rewarded with a scholarship to the Eastman School of Music in Rochester, N.Y., graduating in 1972. Debby chose to pursue the "family business" as a musician and educator. Following stints in the Syracuse, N.Y., and Calgary, AB, symphonies, she followed her lifetime desire to live in Maine. Debby was selected to join the Portland Symphony Orchestra in 1974 and played her final concert with the PSO in December. She also performed and helped manage the North Conway, N.H., Bach Festival, and served as a board member of the Sebago-Long Lake Chamber Music Festival. Debby was sought as a teacher, instructing many private students, and serving on the faculties of the school districts of Oxford Hills and Old Orchard Beach. She conducted many youth orchestras and was noted for her leadership of the Portland Young People's String Consort at the University of Southern Maine. She became a proficient jigsaw operator, cutting wooden jigsaw puzzles for the Waterford Puzzle Company (formerly Elms Puzzles) from 2002 until 2018. Formerly married to the late Edwin Rolfe Jr., of Harrison, she is survived by her children Rex Rolfe III and Renata Rivard, both of Waterford, and Joseph Rolfe of Hudson, N.H.; two grandchildren; her brother Andrew Dabczynski of Saco; and two nieces.

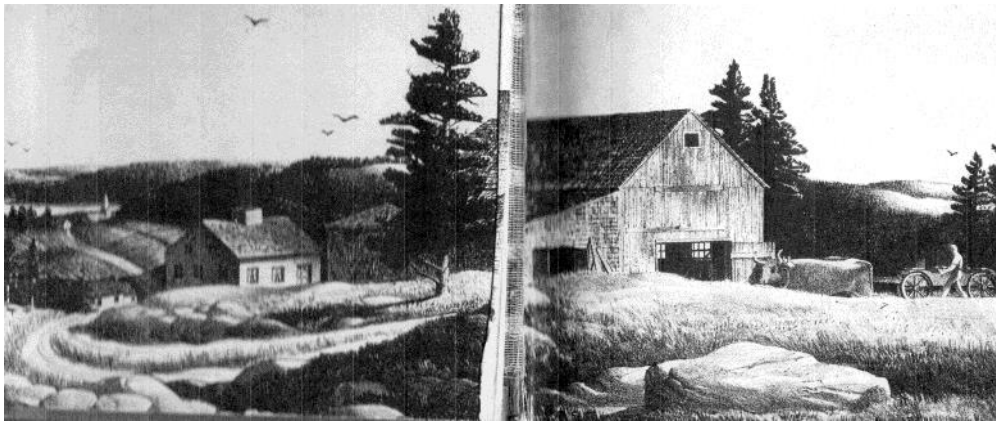


**Carl McAllister**, 81, died on May 3, 2019 at his home in Norway. He was born on February 11, 1938 to Clement and Rebecca (Bubier) McAllister in South Waterford. Carl attended Waterford Schools and Norway High School. Carl served in the United States Army. He married Jean Truman on June 5, 1959. He had been employed as a caretaker at Camp Waziyatah for many years. In his younger years, Carl had been employed at a number of local businesses including Encon Oil, Oxford Homes, Jones' Mill, Truman Plumbing and Heating, Wilner Wood Products and AC Lawrence. Carl was a



member of Waterford Fish & Game, Norway Paris Fish & Game and the Norway Fireman's Relief Association. He served on the Norway Fire Department for 16 years. He was a member of the Swinging Bears Square Dancing Club. Carl is survived by his sister Mildred Pope; sons Scott McAllister and Steve McAllister; daughter Becky McAllister; eight grandchildren; and 15 great grandchildren. He was predeceased by his parents, his wife Jean Truman McAllister, son Jamie McAllister, three sisters and one brother.

**Bruce E. Swett**, 55, of Waterford died unexpectedly Monday, June 10, 2019 after complications from an automobile accident. He was born in New London, CT on Oct. 28, 1963, the son of Edward and Ruth (Allen) Swett. He was a 1982 graduate of Oxford Hills High School. He married April Rugg May 11, 1991. He joined the U.S. Air Force in December 1982, where he was a firefighter stationed at Pease (NH) Air Force Base. He also was the owner of Woodman's Sporting Goods for several years. He was a member of the Waterford Fire Department for 40 years, president of the Waterford Sno-Packers Snowmobile Club, member of Pulpit Rock ATV Club, member of the Waterford Fish and Game Club and longtime member of Stoneham Rescue. He was predeceased by his parents. Bruce is survived by his wife of 28 years, April; daughter Tammi Mercier and son Jeremy Edwards; sister Andria Grover; and six grandchildren.



## Nuances

*(Continued from page 4)*

came to Norway as assistant pastor at the Universalist Church and the following year was ordained. In 1927 she married Glenn, son of Bertrand and Alice Sawin McIntire of East Waterford, Glenn became Bursar of Bowdoin College and he and Marguerite raised three children in Brunswick: Justin, Sally and Chloe — who we remember as Chloe Colby. Chloe wrote of Thanksgivings at the McIntire farm in our book [This Is Waterford](#).



*At left, artwork from end pages of two of Marguerite McIntire's books, which can be found in the Waterford Library.*

## FROM OUR FILES



Flag Day at the turn of the 20<sup>th</sup> century at the intersection in the Flat.  
Today, the flagpole on the Common is in honor of Mac Bean.



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Waterford Historical Society  
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