



# The Waterford Echoes

Volume 4 Number 1

January, 1983

Waterford Historical Society



Bill Haynes photo

## DISTRICT NUMBER FIVE SCHOOL OF PLUMMER HILL SPEAKS

Dear Alumni and Other Friends;

My picture looks very dismal, but at heart I am joyful thinking of many past experiences and what the *future could bring*. I would dearly love to be repaired and serve as an early American school again, administered by the Waterford Historical Society.

I was fourth of six completed by 1800 from the town vote of 1797. I was located opposite and just below the Joel S. Plummer place (where The Burns family live now) here on Plummer Hill. The list had expanded to twelve schools by 1830, and the early district schoolhouses were replaced in turn, and I became number five. *Do I have history!*

At my original location, I was in an almost inaccessible location. So, when Addison Millett gave land across from Highland Farm for a new location for me in 1903, I was taken down and reconstructed on that land. The contract was given to C. D. Morse (Charles Fillebrown's grandfather) for \$350.00. Oh, to look like that again!

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## ACQUISITIONS AT THE NORTH WATERFORD MUSEUM

From Stanley Brown of Hanover, Maine "Ancestors and Descendants of Arthur McNutt Brown" by Ira Brown Family.

From Keith Brown of San Diego, California a photocopy of "Ancestors and Descendants of Arthur McNutt Brown". And information tracing Keith from Edmund and Anne Woden Brown to the present generation, worksheet and pedigree of Eunice Brown, photocopies of pages of *John Prescott of Lancaster, Mass.* by Frederick Lewis Weis, published in Dublin, N.H., 1961 and other information about early Waterford families.

From Phyllis Cole, Assist. Prof. of English at Wellesley College 10 pages of Emerson genealogy. She is writing a history of Mary Moody Emerson and was in town in August to get more information which Miriam Monroe supplied to her. Mary Moody Emerson was one of the three aunts in town of Ralph Waldo Emerson. He visited them often.

From Gladys Knight a WWI army hat, Winter Carnival mug, 1935 and 1936 Crooked River Outing Club Programs (10th and 11th annual winter carnivals), Seventh Winter Carnival Program, dated Sat., Feb. 13, 1932.

From Sam W. Kilbourne, Brunswick, 1850 Chaplin Map.

From Priscilla Gammon of Norway a quantity of 1918 and 1919 newspapers - some *Lewiston Journals*, *Lewiston Suns* and *Norway Advertisers*.

From Leona Perry of E. Weymouth, Mass. several sets of drapes suitable for the North Waterford Museum and two floor lamps.

From Norman M. Chew of Norway, Maine an Aug. 11, 1910 *Youth's Companion* with a story, page 416 "The Third Hand" by Constance Warren; an Aug. 15, 1912 *Youth's Companion* "The Boyden Serve" by Constance Warren. Also, in the same issue, page 420, Chap. 10 "Julia Sylvester" by C.A. Stephens. Also, a Mar. 20, 1902 *Youth's Companion* with "A Dicker With the Presidents" by Holman F. Day and "Taste in Music" by Lillian Nordica.

From Forrest M. Longley and L. M. Longley & Son, Norway, a glass display case retired from the L. M. Longley & Son hardware store.

From the Heirs of Flora Abbott, account books of the Waterford Creamery.

From McWain Lake Association, spring and summer issues of "The McWain News".

From Dr. P. H. Greenleaf, Norway, a dentist's schedule of W. H. Haskell & Son, Bridgton, showing that he would be at Dr. C. L. Wilson's Office, Waterford, Tuesday, following the first and third Monday in each month. Wednesday, at Mr. M. H. Mosher's, North Waterford. Thursday at American House, Lovell. Nitrous Oxide gas administered at the Bridgton office. Reasonable satisfaction guaranteed at moderate prices. W. L. Haskell.

## OF INTEREST

Walter Lord celebrated his 100th birthday November 26. He is the holder of Waterford's Boston Post Gold Headed Cane. He lives now at the Pomeroy Hill Nursing Home at Livermore Falls. Society members wish him health and happiness in his second century.

Alan Bradford milled a very fine key for the Mary Gage Rice Museum when one was lost.

Mrs. Wheeler of the Mary Gage Rice home gave for the Mary Gage Rice Museum: "Amos Gage of Bethel, Maine, an account of his service notice by Dr. Thomas Hovey Gage, published in Worcester, 1924."

Bill Fillebrown added more stone to the fireplace chimney at the Mary Gage Rice Museum this summer. Bill has retired from the Portland Pipe Line Corp. in South Portland and has "come home" to live. Welcome home, Bill and Joan.

## FROM THE NORWAY ADVERTISER

From the March 7, 1919 *Norway Advertiser*

Charles A. Fillebrown celebrated his 5th birthday on Tuesday, March 4th with a party at the vestry. Thirty-four children and mothers were present. Games of all sorts and music were enjoyed. Refreshments consisted of ice cream, birthday cake, chocolate cake, frosted cookies, and oatmeal cookies. He was the recipient of many pretty gifts. The children present were Charles and Barbara Fillebrown; Ruth and Junior Rounds; Mary and Margaret Hill; Christine, Ola and Gerald Gardner; Alma and Velma Bancroft; Annie and Howard Gardner; Charles, Albert and Ella Rice; Virginia Tyler; Elizabeth Stone; Annie Grover; Dorothy Holden; Paul Sanborn; Howard and Elizabeth Millett; Lillian Millett.

From the March 14, 1919 *Norway Advertiser*

A birthday party was given Kathleen Lord Saturday afternoon, March 8 in honor of her 10th birthday. Those present were Lottie Sawin, Louise Hersey, Ida Kimball, Barbara Lord, Helen Lovejoy, Donald Matherson, Mildred Littlefield, Ruth Holt, Lee Lord, and Edith Crouse. Refreshments were popcorn balls, candy and cake made by her sister, Gwendolyn. Games were played and a very enjoyable time was had by all. She had many fine presents.

From the March 14, 1919 *Norway Advertiser*

### Wanted Man and Wife

We want a man and wife to carry on the Waterford Town Farm for the coming year. Apply to

R. E. Pinkham  
Freeman Hapgood  
Addison Millett  
Selectmen of Waterford

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I was dismayed a couple of years before school closed for good in 1937, when school board member Burton Sanderson had a lot of red and silver paint left over while painting his kitchen at home, and he decided on his own to paint my insides. He painted my walls silver and my woodwork red; how that disturbed me. I looked nothing like the traditional district school with that combination of colors! And to have school close for good in 1937 was almost more than I could take. I was sold to Addison Millett's son, Arthur.

Arthur moved my annex, which housed the wood shed and boy's and girl's toilets, over to Highland Farm for a milk room. That was too bad, as not too long before the school officials had a board walk attached from my back door and along most of the backside of the annex, so it was much easier getting wood for my furnace.

The original box stove had been replaced by a second-hand furnace with a metal "jacket", probably from the Grange Hall in South Waterford. With the jacket over the heat it was not good for warming hands and feet like the stove had been.

In 1956 Wilson Morse purchased Highland Farm, after the death of Arthur Millett, and I've been used since for a storage shed, holding apple boxes.

Oh, to be a school house again! To keep from feeling dismal (even though I look so) I dream of happy times. One of my dreams is to be repaired and have an APPLEFEST in my room, put on by the Waterford Historical Society. In my dream, Donna Chase, who designed the town seal, paints an apple tree on canvas advertising the one-day APPLEFEST held in early October each year. It is hung between my two front doors. Apple pie, made from Morse Cortland apples, is for sale with bags of all varieties of apples, from Morse Orchards and cider from the Fillebrown mill down the road. A "school marm" graces my room and other members of the Society sell the apple products. I also dream of regular school sessions. My heart lives on.

I am not sure how I got a lilac bush under the front window, but it was very pleasant outside in late May or early June each year when it bloomed. The children were careful not to pick any of the purple flower branches, as they enjoyed the bush in bloom very much.

When there was snow, my children enjoyed sliding at recess and during the noon hour. A few brought their Flying Yankee sleds from home. On occasion, Howard Millett lent his double runner to the children to use at noon; everyone could ride on it. They could slide down Raymond Millett's road, and what fun they had! If there was a crust, sliding was great on the field out back.

I remember well, over many years, some of the teachers who taught here. They occasionally built their own fires and did janitor work, but mostly Addison, Arthur, and Howard Millett were hired in turn to do those things. Either some of the Milletts or other older children got water for my water jug, pumped by the wind mill in back. The windmill pumped water for Highland Farm, and they used a lot for their cattle.

Some of the teachers were Carrie Plummer, Beryl Knight Russell, Fannie Hersey Bradford, Marguerite Welch, Thankful Adams Cobb, Hazel Kimball DeMerritt (she walked through more than a mile of dense woods, coming from the former John Whitcomb farm then owned by her father, George Kimball), June Tracy, Ruby Jillson Green, Emugene Hunt Staples, Pearl Wilson, Charles Dinsmore, Blanche Farwell, Edith M. Pitts, Ruth A. Chadbourne, Eileen MacDonald, Charlotte Morse Fillebrown, Grace Sawin Millett (Mrs. Arthur Millett), Edith Millett Greenleaf, Eloise Millett, Olive Stearns, Charlotte Sawin Silver, Helen Packard, Eleanor Barnes, Hazel Scribner Perham, Hester McKeen Mann, and Annie Gardner. I had so many teachers because they changed sometimes every semester or term, and sometimes oftener. At times it was a real challenge to teach here, as it was in other district schools of the town, but they all did well under trying conditions.

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**SINCE MAY**

- JUNE 3** Met at North Waterford Museum for pot-luck supper. Voted to attend June 25 Artemus Ward Show which was the first show of the season and benefited the Waterford Historical Society.
- JULY 1** Bethel Historical Society visited. Both society members brought their own lunches and Waterford furnished beverages and dessert. Bethel visited our North Waterford Museum and the Mary Gage Rice Museum.
- JULY 4** The Waterford Historical Society had a float in the parade organized by the Buchert Family. It was quite a parade!
- AUGUST 5** Arthur Tenny Hamlin of Wiscasset spoke about his famous grandfather, Cyrus Hamlin.
- SEPT. 2** Philip Richards, former headmaster of Fryeburg Academy, spoke about the Maine Regiment at the battle of Gettysburg, after a pot-luck supper.
- OCT. 7** Meeting was held with Georgia and Raynor Brown in North Waterford. A variety of historical subjects were discussed.
- NOV. 11** Met with Dr. and Mrs. Stephen Dewing. They spoke and showed slides of a month long early summer tour they took through the country side of France.
- DEC. 2** Met with Bill and Margaret Sawyer. Local history was discussed.

**IN MEMORIAM**

Edward N. Bean died June 18, 1982. He was a charter member of the Waterford Historical Society, a trustee of several terms and had been co-chairman of the maintenance committee of the North Waterford Museum. He was always ready to help.

**ADDITIONAL MEMBERS FOR 1982**

**LIFE MEMBERS**

Beatrice Fitts, Easthampton, Mass.; Keith and Lieselotte H. Willoughby, Waban, Mass.

**PATRON**

Ruth C. Osborne, Wallingford, Conn.

**CONTRIBUTING**

Mary U. Andrews, N. Waterford; Richard Andrews, N. Waterford; Agnes E. Blake, Waterford; Elizabeth M. Kilburn, W. Newton, Mass.; Wm. L. and Carolyn Caldwell Patton, Harvard, Mass. (inadvertently left out in 1981); Henry Plate, Manlius, N.Y.; Robert and Mary Ross, Waterford.

**SUSTAINING**

Randall H. Bennett, Rumford; Alan and Leslie Bradford, S. Waterford; Ben Conant, S. Paris; Mary Fillebrown, Waterford; Sally A. Kydd, Boston, Mass.; Charles Mason, Washington, D.C.; Candace, Elizabeth, Dr. John, and John Ather-ton Monroe, Los Angeles, Calif., Maisie Murch, E. Waterford; Dorothy G. Swain, Easthampton, Mass.

**SR. CITIZENS**

Oscar K. Andrews, N. Waterford; Joe and Sally Blackham, S. Waterford; Elizabeth Carter, Bethel; Elizabeth Foster, E. Waterford; Mildred Glynn, Bradenton, Fla.; Charles Fillebrown, Waterford; Elizabeth and John Ingraham, E. Waterford; Gladys Knight, N. Waterford; Elizabeth and Stanley Lord, Bethel; Julia Morse, Brunswick; Wilma Whiting, S. Waterford.

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It was easy for Arthur and Grace Sawin Millett's children to come diagonally across the road from Highland Farm. They were: Howard, Elizabeth, Sylvia, Barbara and Robert; Dwight attended school at South Waterford or the Flat.

Clyde Millett, Jr. and his sister, Irene, walked up Plummer Hill a very short distance to attend here. Stanley and Charles Millett attended school at the Flat or South Waterford after I was closed. They were the children of Clyde and Doris Brown Millett.

John and Harold Kingman came here from their home across from where Merle Millett lives today. The home burned years ago.

A member of the Waterford Historical Society, Orris (Mike) Durgin, was one of my most loyal students, class of 1918. His parents operated the Waterford Town farm on Valley Road, where Alfred and Persis Millett live today. He and his sister, Winnie Cash came up through the woods. Others from the town farm were Carleton Young and Raymond Cross.

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**FOR SALE**

The History of Waterford Maine 1775-1875, reprinted from an 1879 publication \$10.00, plus \$1.10 if mailed. Waterford, Maine 1875-1976 published in 1977, also \$10.00, plus \$1.10 if mailed. Both books are available from the Waterford Town Office, Mrs. Curtis Millett above Waterford Memorial School, and from the Waterford Historical Society, Waterford, Maine 04088, and L. R. Rounds & Co. store in Waterford Village.

*ADV.*

Have you paid your 1983 dues yet?

Join the Waterford Historical Society. Check appropriate category and mail to Box 2, Waterford, ME 04088.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

**MEMBER CLASSIFICATION**

<input type="checkbox"/> Life-Couple	\$75.00	<input type="checkbox"/> Senior Citizen	\$ 1.00
<input type="checkbox"/> Life	\$50.00	<input type="checkbox"/> Student	\$ 1.00
<input type="checkbox"/> Honorary	\$35.00	<input type="checkbox"/> Sustaining	\$ 2.50
<input type="checkbox"/> Patron	\$25.00	<input type="checkbox"/> Contributing	\$10.00

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Before Alfred and Persis, Harold and Elizabeth Millett operated the town farm for a long time. Their son, Herbert (Bud), bought it May 15, 1949. Harold's children came up through the woods from Valley Road; they were Wilson, Chester, Althea, Herbert, and Alfred. Barbara Millett Fortier attended school at the Flat.

I recall hearing the horse coming when George Rice brought his children from Rice Hill, sometimes by wagon and sometimes by sleigh. Sometimes the older children would come alone with the horse and wagon or sleigh and put the horse up across the road at their Uncle Addison's. They walked many times, too, in warm and good weather. Over the years the Rice children who came here were: Charles, Albert, Ella, and the twins, Rachel and Richard.

One time Ella Rice had to stay after school for a while. As she walked home alone, she saw a band of gypsies coming. She wondered if she should run back to school, but quickly jumped over a stone wall and hid. They passed by without noticing her.

I remember Raymond and Grace Dearborn Millett's children hiking up the hill. They were Nina, Mildred, Maisie, Gladys, Katherine and Vern. Elmer, Ralph and Eva went to the Flat or South Waterford.

The children of Henry and Sarah Pike Wentworth came up the same hill from the end of Grover Road beyond where Davis Kimball lives now. They were John, Carrie, Fred, Ernest, Emma, and Ralph. What a long time ago and a long walk that was!

Other Millett children came up the same hill from Frank Millett's also known as the Robbie Plummer place and the Cy Green place. It was demolished in late spring, 1966. His children and a grandchild were: Bertram, Earl, Malcolm, Joe, Ethel, Marian, Ruth, Ruby, Dorothy and Merle. Sometimes Ruby and Ruth came through the woods on shank's mare to avoid going through the field from Raymond's. Leah Day Corbett remembers living at the Robbie Plummer place, but she didn't attend here.

Llewellyn and Mary Rice Millett finally settled where Vern Millett lives today. Their children climbed up the hill to get here. Their children were Blanche, Hazel, Eva (d. 1912), Harold, Raymond, Elwyn (d. 1926), Clyde, Kenneth, Lauris, and Lillian. All have gone on now except Lauris. The Holts lived at the Lauris Millett place many years ago, and Helen Holt Crooker, Ruth Holt Kinsley, and Della Holt Klame attended here.

Myron and Eleanor Buker (Gray) lived with their Grandmother Gardner where Lauris and Alma Bancroft Millett lived.

These are the majority of youngsters I've sheltered for classes during this century and until I closed in 1937.

Many boys and girls have crossed my thresholds and sat at my double desks in front of the tavern table that served as the teacher's desk. When some Augusta officials visited one day, they were surprised that I had such a valuable desk in my school room, even though the cross pieces just above the floor were worn from shoes of tavern patrons.

In the spring of 1981, Annie Gardner was selecting and distributing books in a program called, Reading is Fundamental under a government grant at Waterford Memorial School. She discovered she was using her old desk, the tavern table! The janitor allowed it to be taken to the Waterford Historical Museum at North Waterford where it now serves.

Imagine being voted into existence in 1797 and here in actuality in 1800! And still being here nearly 200 years later! Oh, to be my original self again!

Hoping for progress, I am,  
/s/ DISTRICT SCHOOL NO. 5  
BUILDING

P.S. I thank the following friends for having helped me get my wits together so I could write this letter: Eva Barker, Andrea Burns, Orris (Mike) Durgin, Annie Gardner, Agnes Howe, Leah Corbett, Elizabeth Maxfield, Alfred and Persis Millett, Alma and Lauris Millett, Bertram Millett, Doris Millett, Howard and Marguerite Millett, Albert and Richard Rice, Margaret Sawyer, and Dorothy Thomas.

Waterford Historical Society  
Waterford,  
Maine 04088