



The Waterford Echoes

Volume 4 Number 2

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Waterford Historical Society

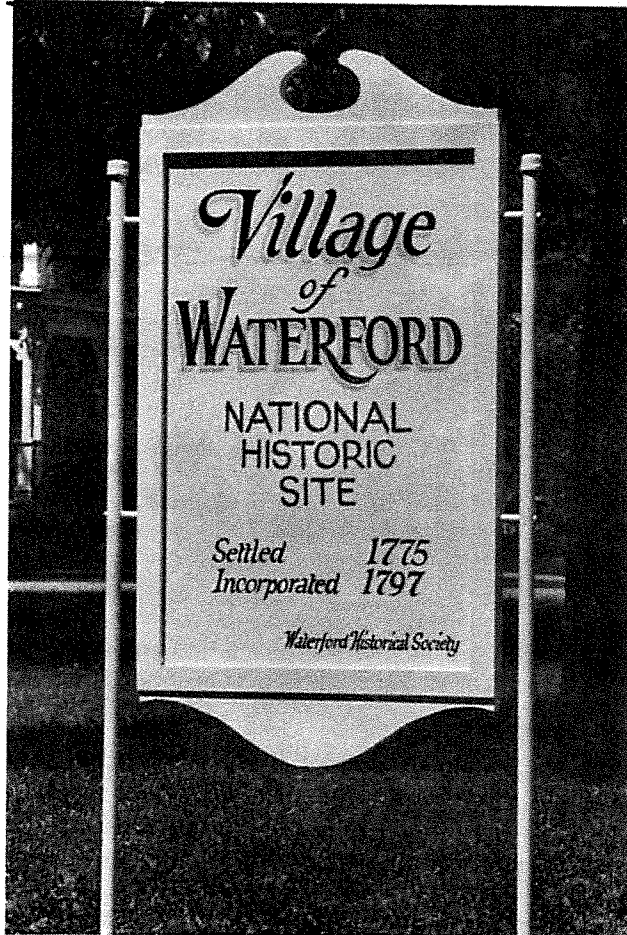


Photo by Bill Haynes

This sign, reminding the passer-by that Waterford was the birthplace of Artemus Ward and Cyrus Hamlin, was on the Common at the Flat for many years. When the posts rotted away, the sign was put in storage. Now, with the Artemus Ward House flourishing nearby, the sign has been repainted and replaced, at the direction of a committee made up of Helen Buchert, Edna Dugan and Margaret Sawyer. Maybe it will make people slow down as they drive through the village.

SOCIETY PURCHASES ARTEMUS WARD PAPERS

Thanks in large part to the generosity of John J. Pullen, a long-time friend of the Waterford Historical Society and authority on Artemus Ward, and Bill Sawyer, Waterford selectman, the Society is the new owner of a collection of papers pertaining to Waterford's illustrious native son, Charles Farrar Browne.

The papers were collected by the late Otis Shaw Smith and offered for sale by the attorney and trustees of his estate.

Museums and colleges put in bids, and the Waterford Society voted at the February meeting to bid \$250 and go as far as \$300 to purchase them. Pullen, whose new book *Comic Relief: The Life and Laughter of Artemus Ward* will be published late this summer by Archon Books' Shoestring Press, and Sawyer each contributed \$100 toward the \$300 purchase price.

The papers pertain to the lecturing phase of A. Ward's career. They include an agreement with and letters to one of his early managers, Charles A. Shaw and are summarized as follows:

1. An agreement between Browne and Shaw relating to his lecture "Children in the Woods," to be delivered on 30 consecutive nights, Sundays excepted, starting Feb. 24, 1862. Browne was to get \$25 a lecture, and Shaw was to pay all traveling expenses, hotel bills, hall rentals, etc. On three 8½ x 14 sheets. Signed "Charles F. Browne" and "Charles A. Shaw." Written in the hand of a third person.

2. A letter from Browne to Shaw written at Quebec, Oct. 12, 1862. In it he declines an offer from Shaw to pay him \$12.50 a night. He is having "big houses" and can get all the lecturing engagements he wants. He advises Shaw to "talk sweeter." On two 8½ x 11 sheets. Signed "Charles F. Browne" and in his handwriting.

3. A letter from Browne to Shaw written March 28, 1864, from Chicago. He had stopped there on his way back to New York from the West Coast, after having delivered his lecture in California and Nevada in the previous autumn and early winter. About 2000 miles of this journey had been made on the Overland Stage, traveling across the then-untamed West and narrowly escaping hostile Indians and death from freezing. The letter refers to this adventure and says Browne has a "first-class idea" for a new show. On his way east Browne had visited Salt Lake City; the idea was for "Artemus Ward Among the Mormons." (See next item.) On two 8½ x 5½ sheets. Signed "A. Ward," and in Browne's handwriting.

4. A printed flyer advertising Artemus Ward's appearance at Dodworth Hall, New York (autumn, 1864) with his show "Artemus Ward Among the Mormons." The lecture was illustrated with a comic panorama. The paintings, according to the flyer, were "twenty feet long and sixteen feet high, each, being six feet higher than any panorama ever hitherto unrolled." The show became one of America's most popular entertainments, playing in nearly every large city from then through the spring of 1866. In late 1866 and early 1867 it was a big hit in London. Artemus Ward died in England in March 1867. On one sheet 9¾ x 7½.

These papers provide fascinating glimpses of the entertainment world as it existed in the 1860's. The Society is very pleased to have obtained them.

OTHER ACQUISITIONS AT THE NORTH WATERFORD MUSEUM

From Marilyn Brown of Paris, *Blueberries and Pusley Weed* by Pauline W. Moore, in memory of Mr. and Mrs. Ennis Bachman.

From Elizabeth Mason Carter, a *History of Oliver Hale*,

From Mrs. Frank Flanders, a picture of the Plummer Hill school and a picture of the Waterford Flat school.

From Diane Sanborn, a Dec. 11, 1909, *The Christmas Colliers* with cover design by Maxfield Parrish. Also a Dec. 10, 1910, *Colliers for Christmas*. It includes a full-page painting, "The Lantern Bearers," on page 12, and a full-page drawing by Charles Dana Gibson on page 16.

From Waterford Town Office, town reports from 1960 through 1982.

1983 OFFICERS

The following slate of officers was elected at the March meeting:

PRESIDENT	Robert H. Ross
V. PRESIDENT	James H. Tyler
SECRETARY	Agnes B. Lahti
TREASURER	Margaret M. Sawyer
PROGRAM	
CHAIRMAN	Helen Buchert
THREE-YEAR	
TRUSTEES	Charles A. Fillebrown Joseph S. Blackham John N. Ingraham

MEET THE NEW PRESIDENT

Having been elected your new president at the recent March meeting of the Historical Society, I am pleased to take this first available opportunity to thank the members for their confidence and to pledge my best efforts on behalf of our Society. My immediate predecessors in this office, Jim Tyler and the late Chris Rounds - not to mention the many others who preceded them over the years - have achieved some notable successes for the Society. I will try as best I can to maintain the high standards they have set.

It won't be easy. Among other things, I am not, as they were, a native of Waterford and therefore necessarily lack some of the first-hand knowledge that was theirs so naturally by both birth and long familiarity. But on the other hand, I'm not exactly "from away" either. A little arithmetic tells me that between us my wife and I have been in Waterford for 107 years; she has known the town for 63 years, I for a mere 44. But until very recently, I concede, we have both been "summer people." Almost a year ago, however, we both retired - Mary from magazine editing, I from university teaching - and now that we have made the move to Waterford all the way from darkest Vermont we are pleased to be perhaps the newest permanent residents of the Flat. We like it here.

The specific pieces of working knowledge of the Society's affairs I'll hope to pick up as I go along. And I'll certainly need the help of all of you to do that. But if interest in our local history, respect for historical traditions, and a modest working knowledge of the processes of historical research count for anything in this job, you may all be sure that I will give it my best shot.

Bob Ross

SINCE DECEMBER

JANUARY 5

Alice Rounds hosted the Waterford Historical Society's January meeting. Members reminisced about their early days in Waterford, Mary Ross recalling when channel-swimmer Gertrude Ederle spent several days at the Lake House and swam at the Town House beach, to the delight of the local children.

FEBRUARY 2

Helen and Phil Buchert hosted the Society meeting. There was a discussion about the Artemus Ward papers offered for sale by a Boston attorney to settle an estate. It was voted to bid \$250 for them and go to \$300 if necessary.

MARCH 3

The annual meeting was held at Agnes Lahti's. After election of officers, a variety of subjects was discussed. It was voted to change the meeting date from the first Thursday to the second.

APRIL 14

Charles and Mary Fillebrown hosted the Society meeting. Charles presented the program, "Water Supplies in Waterford Around 1920," which was followed by a general discussion of springs and other water sources in Waterford. Charles' paper is reprinted below.

MAY 12

Helen and Phil Buchert hosted the Society meeting. Stephen B. Dewing presented a paper on "Silk Culture in Maine." The Society has a braid of silk produced by Martha Robinson in 1840 at the Lincoln Ripley parsonage in Waterford. She raised the silkworms and fed them on leaves from her own mulberry trees.

JUNE 25

Members met by the common in Waterford Village at 10 a.m. and attended Heritage Days at Norlands in Livermore.

WATER SUPPLIES IN WATERFORD AROUND 1920

by Charles A. Fillebrown

The town had five public springs in the village and in between that I remember.

South Waterford had the one that is still going under Bear Mountain and the "Hall" spring. A lot of people got their drinking water from these two springs daily.

East Waterford has one on the right side of the road about 200 yards beyond the store.

Half way between Waterford and North Waterford there is another one still going from Rices' land.

At North Waterford there is a nice spring opposite Bear Paw Mill still going that North Waterford people used. There were others that I don't remember - one by the picnic area on the way to South Waterford.

Early in this century several residents used wind mills. Addison Millett (Highland Farm) had one in back of the Plummer Hill school house. Will Abbott had one in back of the field where Barkers' home is. Morse Orchards had one put up by Frank Morse, father of Mary, Julia, James and Wilson in 1913. It was used for about twenty-five years. The water came from a spring 30 rods beyond the windmill and was pumped about 30 rods to the big house. Water for the little house, where Wilson lives now, came from the tank at the big house. Skinner brothers used to have a windmill on the place that is now Waziyatah. Their storage tank was out of doors

and high enough so the water ran into the house and barn. At the Chadbourne home farm a windmill was erected about 1905. It replaced an earlier one though. It was used to draw water from the well and push it into a 10' x 10' x 10' cement reservoir.

Mt. Tir'em had a lot of springs going to different homes in the village. The late Guy Dudley always wanted to combine them and have a water supply for the whole village.

Starting in one end, Tom Fillebrown's family is using the one that went to the Rev. Lincoln Ripley's house. It runs into Tom's at about 35 pounds pressure so that they can run a dishwasher and an automatic clothes washer.

Mary and I have a new well that Leslie Rogers dug that does the same things and runs our bathrooms as well.

Some of the older springs used to go dry. The one that used to furnish water for the Douglass place we piped into the cider mill, but it went dry. We had to drill a well 240 feet.

David Millett dug a new well that has done well. The next one down the mountain went to the Artemus Ward place. It still has water in it. At one time it had a lead pipe, and when I was around eleven years old they replaced it with iron pipe. It took five or six men to dig it by hand. They dug during the summer and it was pretty hot work. I would show up at about lunch time to see if they wanted me to go to the store to get ice cream or drinks, which they did. They would give me money enough to get me one, too. Most of the septic tanks around the village were dug by hand, too, and I would work the same deal.

The next two springs were side by side. One went to the Round's home and the other to our home (where Margaret Doore lives now), and to the Farnsworth home. These ran into water boxes in the kitchens. The overflows from these boxes went into the barns for the livestock. Twelve horses were kept in the Farnsworth barn and the overflow furnished them.

In the summer we had the overflow from the barrel in the barn flow out to another barrel in the garden and the overflow from that into a big sunken wooden tub for the ducks to swim in and to mate in - they had to have water for mating. My grandfather sold hatching eggs and ducks. He showed them at the Norway fair.

The next spring was piped down to Dr. Wilson's home (now Hammetts'). The next spring was piped to the Bishop home, and it ran into a big tub in the attic shed. The next spring was piped to the Wheeler home (now Bretts').

Down on the old road the spring for the Hubbard home was located. It ran into a large box in the attic. I remember when the roof caught fire from a chimney. An alarm was called (telephone operator then). Several men came with pails. Someone chopped a hole in the roof. Two or three men entered the attic from the hole and we passed them enough water to put it out.

The Knight library had a hand-dug well with a hand pump. The Morgan house had the same arrangement. The well was under the dining room floor.

Brook water from the pool up behind the Nellie Stone (now Burns) place supplied the hotel, store, barn at the Stimson place (now Bucherts'), and the horse trough on the common. It also ran the fountain at the hotel. For drinking water they had a well with a pitcher pump out between the annex and hotel.

The Bancroft place had a good spring located by the school.

It ran into a barrel in the kitchen. Somehow one of the children fell into this and drowned. It made everyone else make good covers for the tubs and troughs or water boxes. A lot of people kept their milk container in these water boxes to keep it from spoiling. The Nellie Stone place had a good spring up near the blacksmith shop.

The spring that seemed to run the most water was the creamery spring in South Waterford which supplied the creamery and four houses. Three of the houses had from four to eight horses and several head of cattle.

Over the years most of these springs have been tested and found to be very good water.

The lower end of the village has found it cheaper and are getting more water from "driven points" than they could to replace pipes to springs. Some of the other places have drilled wells.

OF INTEREST

Agnes Lahti, Mary Fillebrown and James Tyler recently put another coat of white stain on the back of the Mary Gage Rice Museum. Agnes painted the frames of the window and door screens green. The Museum will be cleaned Tuesday, June 28. It will be open every Sunday in July and August from 2 to 5 p.m.

WHAT'S AHEAD

JULY 14

Cyrus Hamlin descendants are invited to bring potluck and their genealogical paper's showing their connection to Cyrus Hamlin.

AUGUST 11

Dr. William S. Tacey will lecture on "How the Civil War Came to Maine."

SEPTEMBER

Society members have been invited to inspect Meade Werner's mill in Bridgton, on a day to be set later.

FROM THE NORWAY ADVERTISER

March 28, 1919 Mr. and Mrs. Merritt Sawin spent the day with their daughter and husband, Mr. and Mrs. Arthur Millett, in Waterford recently; also a day with their daughter and husband, Mr. and Mrs. Merton Kimball.

Sidney Hatch has been helping Charles Marston on his new sap house. Mr. Watson has a very fine and commodious one built ready for business.

At town meeting March 3, the town appropriated \$250 for a hearse house, the timber to be cut on the Town Farm.

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.

1983 MEMBERS

LIFE:

George and Virginia H. Brett, Waban, Mass.; Georgia and Raynor Brown, N. Waterford; Keith F. Brown, San Diego, Cal.; Royce F. Brown, Omaha, Neb.; Chapin and Virginia Cutler, Palo Alto, Cal.; Dorothy Hale Davis, Bridgton; Rachel Rice Deans, S. Portland; Angela D'errico, Worcester, Mass.; Stephen and Elisabeth Dewing, Waterford; Joan and William Fillebrown, Waterford; Beatrice V. Fitts, Easthampton, Mass.; Jane W. Hammett, Stamford, Conn.; Miriam S. Monroe, Waterford; Richard Perkins, Norway; Albert H. Rice, Waterford; Ella E. Rice, Fairfield, Conn.; Alice S. Rounds, Waterford; Thora H. Wardwell, Bradenton, Florida; Keith and Leislotte H. Willoughby, Waban, Massachusetts.

HONORARY:

Ruth E. Rounds, New Haven, Conn.; William A. Wheeler III, Holden, Mass.

PATRON:

Olive M. Elliott, Waterford; Lois J. King, West Haven, Conn.

CONTRIBUTING:

Agnes E. Blake, Waterford; Elizabeth M. Maxfield, Harrison; William S. Tacey, Pittsburgh, Pa.; William A. Wheeler, Unionville, Conn.

SUSTAINING:

Randall H. Bennett, Rumford; Helen Buchert, Waterford; Philip Buchert, Waterford; Anita Cook, S. Paris; Ben Conant, S. Paris; Edna Dugan, Waterford; Orris Durgin, Bridgton; Mary T. Fillebrown, Waterford; Annie H. Gardner, S. Waterford; Merrylyn S. Hilton, Augusta; Stanley R. Howe, Bethel; Edith Kimball, S. Waterford; Prentiss Kimball, S. Waterford; Sylvia M. Libby, S. Paris; Curtis Millett, Waterford; Irene Millett, Waterford; Nancy Millett, E. Waterford; Maisie Murch, E. Waterford; Henry Plate, Manlius, N.Y.; Joyce W. Plate, Manlius, N.Y.; Sylvia F. Pratt, Castine; Beatrice Roberts,

Waterford; Robert H. Ross, Waterford; Mary Bishop Ross, Waterford; Carol Rounds, Waterford; Gary Rounds, Waterford; Laurence R. Rounds, III, Waterford; Billie A. Sawyer, Waterford; Jill S. Sawyer, Waterford; Margaret M. Sawyer, Waterford; Margaret S. Werner, S. Waterford; Meade Werner, S. Waterford.

SENIOR CITIZENS:

Winola Brown, N. Waterford; Elizabeth M. Carter, W. Bethel; Hazel DeMerritt, N. Waterford; Dorothy Erickson, N. Waterford; Charles A. Fillebrown, Waterford; Elizabeth Foster, E. Waterford; Charles A. Gordon, West Paris; Clara M. Gordon, West Paris; Ethel Grayber, Waterford; Irving Grayber, Waterford; John Ingraham, E. Waterford; Elizabeth Ingraham, E. Waterford; Gladys Knight, N. Waterford; Agnes B. Lahti, E. Waterford; Laurence Lundstrom, Waterford; Harold N. Maxfield, Harrison; Julia Morse, Brunswick; John Roberts, Waterford; Katherine Stone Saunders, Mt. Holly, N.J.; Velma A. Thompson, Dryden; James H. Tyler, Waterford.

STUDENT:

Jennifer Millett, Waterford.

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

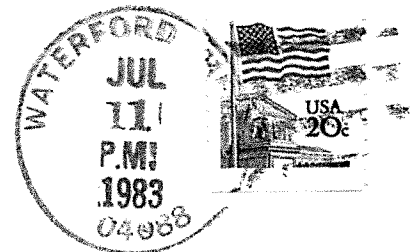
Name _____

Address _____

MEMBER CLASSIFICATION

___ Life-Couple	\$75.00	___ Senior Citizen	\$ 1.00
___ Life	\$50.00	___ Student	\$ 1.00
___ Patron	\$25.00	___ Sustaining	\$ 2.50
___ Honorary	\$35.00	___ Contributing	\$10.00

Waterford Historical Society
Waterford,
Maine 04088



*Bethel Historical Soc.
Bethel,
Maine 04217*