



Waterford Echoes

VOLUME XXXII Number 1 (Issue 48)

Spring/Summer 2009

Waterford Historical Society

A Museum of Waterford Industry



This image, ca. 1910-1925, was a postcard from Eastern Illustrating, Belfast, Maine. It was donated by David Sanderson.

LOOKING AT OUR BUILDINGS: THE NORTH WATERFORD MUSEUM

This hall of the Oxford Lodge #61 of the International Order of Odd Fellows (I.O.O.F., founded 1875), was built in 1904, soon after the fire of January, 1900 destroyed much of North Waterford village — including the place where the organization had been meeting.

In 1960, the Odd Fellows organization, which had been losing members steadily for a decade, joined with a lodge in Norway and sold its building for \$1.00 to its women's branch — the Daughters of Rebekah (est. 1877.) They had shared the use of the hall for many years anyway.

In 1973, when the Rebekahs could no longer maintain it, they donated the building to the Waterford Historical Society. (They continued to meet in the North Waterford Fire Hall.)

Up until that time the WHS (founded 1965) had housed its collection at the Bear Mt. Library — also the home of one of its founders, Flora Hamlin Abbott. Mrs. Abbott died in 1976, so by the time of the publishing of the second Waterford History in 1977, the society had moved its archives and memorabilia into the former I.O.O.F./Rebekah building.

This two-story vernacular white clapboard meeting hall which features a hip roof with dormer and an attractive gabled front porch was built for an estimated \$2,000; the members had established a \$3,000 building fund. It features a hand painted canvas stage curtain but no plumbing.

With 100 members in 1886, the Odd Fellows grew to 127 members by 1910. Local names associated with the organization were John Pike, John Kingman, Guy Bancroft, Mahlon Grover, Haynes Noyes, Basil Henley, Leon Kilgore, Earl Libby, Velma Cummings, etc. (see ppg. 216-217 of the 1976 history).

The I.O.O.F./Rebekah Hall was sometimes rented to other groups in town. Plays were performed

(Continued on page 4)

Plans for 2009

The trustees have met all through the winter to work on ideas for programming and for fundraising. As we go to press, these are the initial plans. Unless otherwise noted, all meetings are at 7 p.m. on the second Thursday of the month, with potluck refreshments. (Watch local newspapers for more information.)

JUNE 11 - Annual Meeting at Old Town House

JULY 4 - Rice Museum & Old Town House open with exhibits during breakfast & parade on Saturday

JULY 7 - Regular meeting - Program on Artemus Ward with David Sanderson at the Wilkins House

JULY 26 - Annual Music Sunday at the Waterford Congregational Church
Art Show at Old Town House featuring local artists from Waterford or Waterford scenes
Also open: Library & Rice Museum

AUGUST 13 - Regular meeting - Program on the Maine Woods at North Waterford Museum

SEPTEMBER 10 - Regular meeting - TBA - Early Roads of Waterford & Harrison

OCTOBER 8 - Regular meeting TBA -
60th Anniversary of Waterford Memorial School

NOVEMBER 12 - Final meeting of the year
Pot luck supper at 6:30 at No. Waterford Church - Oral History & Historical Film

Waterford Echoes

Vol. XXXII Number 1 Issue 48 Spring/Summer 2009

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.

2008-2009 OFFICERS

President: Bonnie Parsons
Vice President: Carol Waldeier
Secretary: Nancy Marcotte
Treasurer: Ralph MacKinnon
Membership: Joanne MacKinnon
Curator:
Newsletter Editor: Bill Haynes
Trustees: Mary Andrews, Tony Butterall,
Marjorie Kimball, Lilo Willoughby,
Henry Plate and Joy Plate.

MEMBERSHIP DUES

Classification: Individual/Couple

Life member: \$100/\$150
Annual: \$10/\$15
Seniors (65 & over) — \$5/\$8

Send checks to:

Waterford Historical Society
PO Box 201
Waterford ME 04088

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

We have the following publications for sale: "History of Waterford 1775-1875" and "History of Waterford 1875-1976" for \$15 each (order both for \$25). "This is Waterford 1803-2003" for \$30 (order all three for \$50). Add \$6 to ship one book or \$9 to ship two or three books. Paid-up dues members qualify for a 50% discount.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Thank you to all who continued to write us after our 2008 Membership and Fund Drive. We are still getting memberships and donations. The Book Discount will continue for all members: 50% off each of our books. (See the previous page for more information.) Orders must be placed through the trustees and shipping is extra.

Architectural Surveys

Around 50 families have sent in the histories of their homes (salmon-colored insert in past issues of "Echoes.") Thank you to all of them! If you have been thinking about it but haven't done it yet, it is NEVER too late. Our eventual goal is to have a road-by-road history of all the buildings in town.

New Life Members (Since 1/09)

Andrews, Newell & Ellen	Little, Nancy
Gill, Kerstin	McMenimen, Kathleen & Schulze, Gerard
Jodrey, Eleanor L.	Wichard, Jared
Leslie, Peter & Kathleen	
Little, Keith	

New Annual Members

Estes, Robert & Sarah	Racine, Ernest & Ellen
Graney, Daniel & Kathleen	Reynolds, Susan
Grigg, Lois	Rothenberg, Stanley & Carole
Larson, Sarah W. & Flynn, David R.	Shibles, Brian & Shelly
Long, James & Caron	Stanley, Ralph & Priscilla
Merrill, Robert	Thompson, Judith A.

Renewed Members

Please remember: Annual Dues for 2009 will be paid in June.

Applin, John	Colby, Edward & Chloe
--------------	-----------------------

FRIENDS OF CITY BROOK

An organization recently formed to look at the former mill pond and site of our Carding Mill (now at Old Sturbridge Village in Massachusetts) has begun an even-more ambitious quest of cataloguing the above-ground archaeology of at least 14 mills which once stood along City Brook between Keoka Lake and Bear Pond. A grant has been applied for and the Waterford Historical Society is supporting these efforts. One goal would be to see "the City" of South Waterford on the Register of Historic Places; another is a walking path along the brook, designed by a landscape architect. If you want to know more about this venture, please come to our annual meeting in June. Two days after that, there will be a tour of the brook sites.



BUILDING SCHOOLS by Nancy Marcotte

In a journal kept by Alice Hamlin Warren, the life of the four Hamlin brothers who settled in Waterford (Africa, America, Eleazer Jr. and Major Hannibal) is remembered. Hannibal (father of the missionary Dr. Cyrus and uncle to the Vice President) had been a school teacher in Harvard, Massachusetts and eventually became High Sheriff of Oxford County.

After 1799, with his farm cleared and his wife Susan (Faulkner) brought to Waterford, the journal indicates, "Hannibal and his wife took great pains to keep up Massachusetts culture down in the new settlement in Maine."

Once other families were located in the neighborhood, Hamlin "established for the winter months a weekly spelling match for old and young. After spelling a while, everyone communicated whatever news or new thoughts he had; public affairs were discussed, etc. It was in effect a rural lyceum and it knit the families together and did much to cultivate the intelligence which characterized those early inhabitants of the town."

Individual schools were held in various private homes for short periods of time in the early days. Though a vote in 1797 authorized the town to raise funds to build schoolhouses, none was built until 1800.

At first there were six school districts, with one-room schoolhouses built for \$80 each, according to the 1976 Waterford history. None was authorized for the Flat, though, since it was determined they already had a "dangerous number of privileges: a tavern, a post-office, and a church..."

In 1825 there were 394 scholars out of a population of 1035 people and the town raised \$344 for the schools.

By 1830 there were 14 districts (two at first remained unorganized):

- | | |
|--------------------|---------------------|
| 1. Blackguard | 8. Deer Hill |
| 2. South Waterford | 9. Bisbeetown |
| 3. Temple Hill | 10. North Waterford |
| 4. East Waterford | 11. Unorganized |
| 5. Plummer Hill | 12. Flat |
| 6. Rowley | 13. Unorganized |
| 7. Mutiny | 14. McIntire |

By 1883, schools were held in three terms (winter/summer/fall) and teachers were paid by number of pupils.

In 1891 the school year was 27 weeks long and only district #13 remained unorganized. District

(Continued on page 5)

Museum — IOOF building

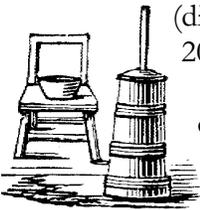
(Continued from page 1)

here during Winter Carnivals sponsored by the Oxford County United Parish and the Crooked River Outing Club from 1926 until WWII and again 1955-58. Dances were held by the Andrews Family Orchestra.

The roof of the building has been a particular focus, with leaks repaired in 1907 and a new aluminum roof put on by Prentiss Kimball in 1979. The ell roof was patched in 2004 but a big leak in the hard winter of 2008 necessitated roof and floor repair by Dan Drew with volunteer help from Joanne and Ralph MacKinnon and Henry Plate.

In 1996, several windows broken by wind damage were replaced with \$500 worth of new shades to protect the exhibits purchased in 2000. Merle Barker painted the building for \$890 at some point and it was painted again in the spring of 2000. This summer it is due to be painted for a cost estimate of \$2,250.

In 2002, new lights and wiring were put in downstairs with the electricity discontinued upstairs in 2005 (dictated by insurance concerns). A new outside egress stairwell was built by Dan Drew in 2006. Our nice neighbors the Lains keep the lawn mowed.



Long-range plans of the Waterford Historical Society call for this building to be specifically a Museum of Waterford Industry, with focus on mills, tools, logging and the woods industry. We are looking for someone knowledgeable who would like to assist us with this goal by curating the building and its exhibits. The museum will be open for a meeting on the Maine Woods on Aug. 13, 2009.

The museum can be open at other times by request, remembering that work will be going on here during the summer.

An Auction of Artifacts

In keeping with our Long-Range Plans to focus on industry, architecture, photographs and material culture of Waterford and Western Maine, as well as to help raise funds for maintaining our collections, WHS trustees have decided to put up for auction items which are either duplicates, not specific to Waterford, or in some way unused by the Waterford Historical Society. George Morrill and Jim Rivard, two well known local auctioneers, will be assisting us with this task.

We want to assure our readers that NOTHING given to us from individuals or families specifically related to Waterford will EVER be sold; nor anything unique from western Maine. Our mission statement on the masthead says it all.

At the **Mary Gage Rice Museum** we will be putting on display more clothing and household items, which is the primary focus of this little museum of Material Culture. Susan Shriver and her sister helped us begin the process by painting part of the display area last year. This year we will also have a display of Artemus Ward items and photos there in the vicinity of his birthplace.



In the **Old Town House**, photos and other artifacts will be displayed — this year particularly relating to our schools and to the carding mill which is now at Old Sturbridge Village. The ongoing efforts of the Friends of City Brook will be the focus of our annual meeting.



In addition the last Sunday in July will be time for another art show in this facility.

Please come and join us in all of the fun we will have in 2009.

by Nancy Chute Marcotte

Nuances — Building Schools

(Continued from page 3)

#11 had become Upper Blackguard but it didn't last long — it was sold in 1896 (and today may be part of Bill and Mary Colbath's barn). District #6 was consolidated with Lovell and #4 (Gambo) had been moved to near Haskell's Mill in East Waterford. There was an experiment with free high schools around this time, as well.

The Plummer Hill School (#5) was moved up the road in 1903 to the Addison Millett farm, where it was later used for Morse Orchards storage before being dismantled. Terms were then winter/spring/fall. The District #1 Blackguard school burned that year two days before the opening of April term. In 1903 fourteen scholars were tuitioned to Bridgton Academy and Bridgton High School, but the majority of citizens received their total education in the eight grades of the “common schools” of town.

Consolidating

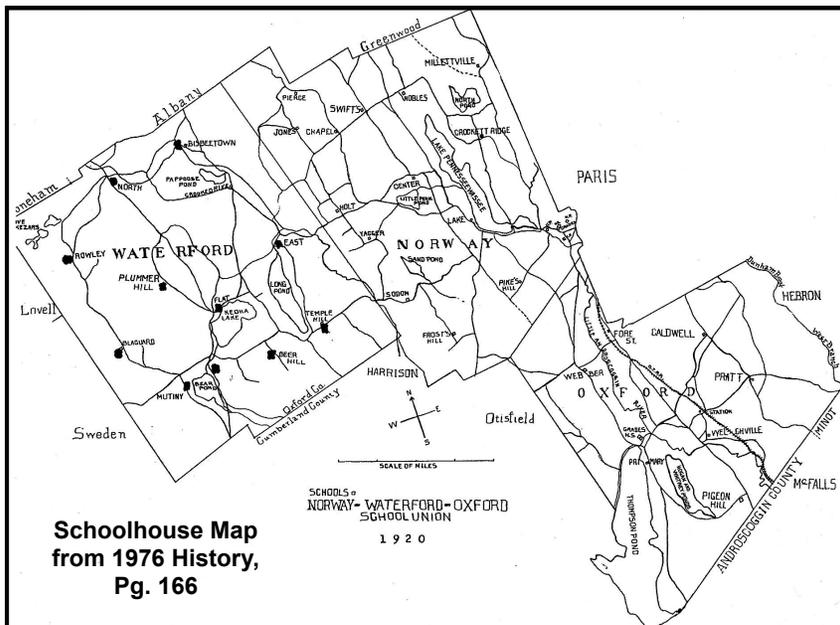
In the devastating fire of January, 1900, the North Waterford schoolhouse burned while school was in session. Books, tables and chairs were saved and there was insurance of \$800 on the building. By March of that year plans were being made for a new two-room Grammar and Primary School replacement and it was completed by September. Students of the Bisbeetown School (#9) seem to have been consolidated in the new school that fall. The furnace (purchased from Wales and Hamblen of Bridgton) never did heat the building properly and within a year or so people were calling for individual stoves in each of the two rooms.

The building continued to be used for grades 1/2/3 and Sub-Primary even after 1949 — until 1954 when two rooms were added onto the Memorial School. (Today the North Waterford School (#10) is the Post-Office — stop by to see pictures of school-children hanging there).

The McIntire district school (#4) was sold in 1910 to L. E. McIntire. Other changes



#10 North Waterford



were in the works early in the 20th century, including consolidation of the Superintendent with Norway (and later with Oxford). In 1915-16 the Mutiny School (#7) was sold and those scholars joined with South Waterford in the two-room school downstairs at the Grange Hall.

In the 1915 census there were 129 girls and 125 boys in Waterford schools, with 23 tuitioned to high schools; the town raised \$2125 (one-fifth



#5 - Plummer Hill

of taxes.) A new two-room building was proposed about this time, to combine South Waterford, Plummer Hill, the Flat (#12) and Temple Hill (#3) schools — probably for the field near Hapgood's (now Betty Merrill's home) but no agreement could be reached and soon WWI created many problems, including fuel shortages and 300% inflation.

Teachers in the 1920s often came from teacher training courses at Norway and Oxford High Schools, as Waterford was then part of School Union 21 with those two towns. Mr. Edminster was Superintendent. The school year was cut from 34 to 32 weeks in 1933 to save money but music and art were added in 1937; a school nurse in 1940; and physicals for all students by Dr. Hubbard in 1944.

In 1940, Wilson Morse began to talk about consolidating all the remaining smaller schools into one new building but it took nine years of arguing before that came about. One lot was bought but sold in 1948; then the “Perkins lot” was purchased (today's location.) Lester Harriman became Superintendent (1976 history, ppg. 170-175).

A vote in March 1948 created a building committee of Clayton McIntire, Rex Rounds and Ted Howe. The regular school committee that year was Maud Brown, Lloyd Minard and Albert Hamlin.

Money to begin the process came from U.S. War Bonds which had been purchased with \$3,000 from the 1941 cutting of the town forest. Accordingly, it was decided to name the school Waterford Memorial School in honor of those who served in the war.

Next Issue: the 60th Anniversary of Waterford Memorial School and Vignettes of Waterford Education ca. 1900 by David Sanderson

In Memoriam

Gertrude Hamlin, 89, of Waterford died Monday, Dec. 21, 2008 at her home. She was born in Fitchburg, Mass. on Jan. 15, 1919, the daughter of Toivo and Aino Wirtanen Lehtola. She graduated from Norway High School. She had been employed as a secretary for Frank Bjorkland at Harrison Insurance Agency and had been a homemaker all of her life. She married Albert Hamlin Jr., who predeceased her in 1987. She enjoyed playing Bingo. Mrs. Hamlin is survived by her daughters, Sharon Cummings of South Waterford and Charlene of California; sons Gary of Harrison, James of Naples, Ronald of Waterford, Warren of Norway, Mark of Denmark; several grandchildren and four great-grandchildren. She was predeceased by a brother, Walter Lehtola. She is buried at Elm Vale Cemetery.

Carolyn Brett, 53, of Portland, died at her home on Feb. 14, 2009. Born on March 3, 1955, in Boston, Mass., she was the daughter of George and Virginia (Harvey) Brett. She attended public schools in Newton, Mass., graduated from the Walnut Hill School in Natick, Mass. in 1973 and graduated with honors in 1977 from Skidmore College in Saratoga Springs, N.Y., earning a degree in History. After college, Carol worked at the New York State Legislature in Albany, N.Y., where she applied her considerable research skills and developed some of the conscientious business and management talents that would be present with her throughout her adult life. After the legislature, Carol moved to her family's summer home on Keoka Lake in Waterford, the site of many important friendships and family ties. Once there, Carol honed her organizational aptitude by managing the 302 Traveler, a tourist publication. These diligently developed business talents eventually led to an early collaboration with theatrical icon Tony Montanaro and his Celebration Barn, the world renowned mime theater in South Paris. Through this complementary association, Carol took a step into the world of theatrical management that would eventually evolve into what would become the career passion of her adult life. In this early manifestation of her vocation in the arts, Carol helped to manage and develop Tony Montanaro's Theater of Fantasy in Portland as well as one of Tony's companies, The Celebration Ensemble. This collaboration allowed for the evolution of Carol's vision and energy for artistic development and management that eventually led to her ownership of the Celebration Barn. In 1988, Carol became the Executive Director of the Celebration Barn where she not only continued Montanaro's legacy, but also built upon it. Carol loved to laugh and was well known for her uninhibited, infectious belly laugh. Carol is survived by her father and step-mother, George and Deborah Brett of Cape Elizabeth; her sister, Nancy Brett; and niece, McKinley Virginia Page, both of Waterford. She was predeceased by her mother, Virginia Harvey Brett; and brother, George Robert Brett. She is buried in Elm Vale Cemetery.



Carolyn Brett

Roswell E. Hubbard Jr., 85, of Wayland, Mass., died Feb. 16, 2009 in Salem, Mass. Mr. Hubbard was born in 1923 in Waterford, the son of the late Dr. Roswell E. Hubbard and Mary Amy (Field) Hubbard. He attended the one-room schoolhouse in Waterford Flat and went on to graduate from Bridgton Academy, where he played football and basketball. He was inducted into the Bridgton Academy Hall of Fame in 2006. He attended Bowdoin College, where he also played varsity football. His college career was interrupted by World War II, in which he served as an Army Air Corps meteorologist after graduation from the Air Corps meteorology school at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. After his Air Corps service and upon graduation from Bowdoin, Mr. Hubbard attended the University of Maine where he trained as a chemical engineer. He worked for the Dennison Manufacturing Company of Framingham, Mass. for 38 years, retiring as vice president of technical papers. He also served as president of Dennison's Dunn Paper Company in Port Huron, Michigan. Mr. Hubbard maintained a house in Waterford with his family. He is survived by his wife of 56 years, Dorothy M. (Gilleran) Hubbard; his sister Mary (Hubbard) Flynn of Brooksville, Fla.; his sons Thomas of Natick, Mass. and R. Brian of Sudbury; his daughters Catherine Griffin of Hamilton, Mass. and Ellen Hart of Cumberland; and by his 10 grandsons. He was predeceased by his brother, Dr. John Hubbard, and his sister Jean Hubbard, for many years a nurse at Stephens Memorial Hospital. He is buried in North Cemetery, Wayland, Mass.

Virginia Louise Tyler Cutler, 92, a life member of the Society, died Feb 21, 2009, after a short stay at Market Square Health Care Center in South Paris. Virginia was born in Waterford on April 13, 1916 to Blanche and Urban Tyler. Because her mother was librarian at the time, Virginia was born in the Waterford Library building, a fact of which she was most proud. Virginia spent her childhood in Waterford, attending the village one-room school. She was active in 4-H, learned to play piano from Dora Rounds, was a member of the Women's Circle and participated in the Waterford young people's club. She became a member of the Waterford Congregational Church when the church was rededicated in 1929. Having been a member 80 years, she believed herself to have had the longest membership in that church. Virginia attended Bridgton Academy, playing field hockey and basketball. She received her teaching degree at Farmington State Teacher's College. She taught elementary school at The Mile Square one room school in Phillips.



Virginia Cutler

She married C. Chapin Cutler on Sept. 27, 1941 in the Waterford Congregational Church following an 8-year courtship. They were married for 61 years. The Cutlers lived in Gillette, NJ early in their married life, making frequent trips to Waterford to visit Mrs. Cutler's family and to help with the dairy farm her parents owned in the village. Virginia was a homemaker and mother of three

children while her husband was a director at Bell Telephone Laboratories. In those years, she was active in the Passaic Township PTA, Cub Scouts, Girl Scouts and the League of Women Voters. In 1978, the Cutler's moved to Palo Alto California where Mr. Cutler was a professor of Applied Physics at Stanford University. Mrs. Cutler was active in the Stanford University Women's Club. In 1998, the Cutler's returned to a full time residence in Waterford where Mrs. Cutler became more active in the church and other town activities. Mrs. Cutler was an avid poet and wrote four volumes of poetry: *From The Heart and Other Places: Family and Friends*; *The Compromise, God and Country*; and *This, That and the Other Thing*. Her poetry reveals her zest for living and is full of humor and thoughtful reflection. Mrs. Cutler is survived by her son C. Chapin Jr. of West Roxbury Massachusetts, daughter Ginny Raymond of Waterford; one grandson and two great granddaughters. She was predeceased by her husband, son William Urban Cutler and brother James H. Tyler. She is buried in Elm Vale Cemetery.

Dr. Charles W. "Bill" Hersey, 84, of Rumford Center, and a resident of Schooner Estates in Auburn, died April 14, 2009. He



Dr. Charles Hersey

was born June 27, 1924, in North Waterford, the seventh child of farmer Charles A. and Carrie (Kingsbury) Hersey. He graduated from Bridgton Academy in 1941, attended the University of Rhode Island and graduated in 1946 from Ohio State University with a doctorate in Veterinary Medicine. He had been married for 62 years to the former Jean Howard of Columbus, Ohio. He practiced veterinary medicine in both Bridgton and Fryeburg. In 1957, he moved to Rumford Center, where he operated the Rumford Veterinary Hospital until his retirement in 1979. He was the executive director of the Maine Veterinary Association for 15 years, where he founded the scholarship programs for Maine students interested in pursuing veterinary medicine. He served as fire chief of the Rumford Center Fire Department until it merged with the Rumford Department. He served as sexton of the Rumford Center Cemetery, where he is buried. He was also active in town affairs, serving on the Rumford Finance Committee for many years. He was chairman of the Planning Board, and a member of the Appeals Board. He served on the school building committee that built the present Mountain Valley High School. For 49 years, he was an active member of the Rumford United Methodist Church, where he served on many committees. For 18 years, he filled a seat on the district committee for ministry. In Rumford, he was treasurer of Blazing Star Masonic Lodge, and an active member of the Service Corps of Retired Executives, Rumford Historical Society and the Duplicate Bridge Club. He owned and operated a certified Maine Tree Farm for more than 40 years. He volunteered as an unpaid tax aide for the last five years. He is survived by his wife, Jean of Auburn; their three sons, James of Vienna, Va., David of Springfield, Mo., and Iain of Glendale, Calif.; one daughter, Jane Chandler of Woodstock; seven grandchildren; and four great-grandchildren.

Nancy Allen Barker, 65, of Higgins Road, Waterford, passed away on May 2, 2009 after a long battle with pancreatic cancer. She was born in Lovell, Oct. 21, 1943, daughter of Geraldene Galloway and Rex Allen and graduated from Fryeburg Academy. She is survived by her husband, Errol "John" Barker of Waterford; a daughter, Amy Pike of Stoneham; son, Nicholas of Norway; granddaughter, Denali; two brothers, Neil Allen of Lovell and Jeffrey Allen of Waterford; three sisters, Jane Perry of South Paris, Jeannine Nelson of Winslow and Joanne Allen of Gardiner; two sisters-in-law; and many nieces and nephews.



Nancy Barker

John "Jack" Nihan, 77, of Waterford, died May 31, 2009. Jack was born in Lynn, Mass., on Aug. 31, 1931, the son of George and Annie (Rogers) Nihan. He was educated in Lynn schools and graduated in 1949 from Lynn English High School, where he was an all scholastic baseball player. He attended Salem State College and taught school in Lynn public schools for 44 years and while teaching he worked part-time at the Lynn Post Office and was a counselor at the Boys Club Camp for many summers. Jack was a member of St. Joseph Catholic Church, the Waterford Grange and the American Legion. He is survived by his wife of 55 years, Marjorie (Cooney) Nihan of Waterford; five sons, Paul and Mark Nihan of Peabody, Mass., Michael Nihan of Wilmington, Mass., John Nihan of Lynn, Mass. and Christopher Nihan of Andover, Mass.; three daughters, Diane M. Suslak of Lynn, Mass., Joann M. Teed of Boxford, Mass. and Katherine M. Holmes of North Andover, Mass.; one daughter-in-law, Claire Nihan of Peabody, Mass.; one sister, Ruth M. Konecki of Falmouth; and 18 grandchildren. He was predeceased by one daughter, Donna M. Nihan, and five brothers, George Jr., Robert, Roger, William and Leonard.

TIME COLORS

by Virginia Tyler Cutler

People come from miles around
To see the colors in the fall —
The browns, the reds, the golds.
They ooh and ah and note
His Handiwork so light.
Usually, the natives say: The leaves are pretty
But not so bright this year.

Does that mean that in their memory,
The leaves are brighter than they are?
The world of autumn is a dying world.
The leaves are dying on the trees.
Autumn is a crying time.
I much prefer the spring.
I'd come from miles away
To see the maple in the spring
Dressed in brilliant red.
The evergreens are clad in softest
Green, and in stark relief,

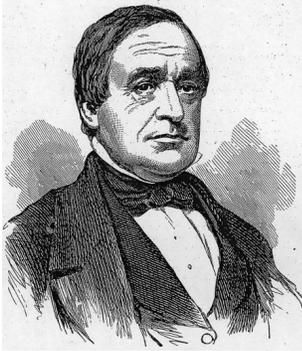
Some trees are bare--and wait.
Others are covered in hazy pink.
The willows are alive with paint
And above it all, the blue blue sky,
The world of spring is a birthing world,
Spring is a laughing time.
I like the world in spring.

Written at The Compromise
May 15, 1986

HANNIBAL, CYRUS and ARTEMUS

Our Summer of Famous Men

August 2009 is the 200th Anniversary of the Paris Hill birth of Hannibal Hamlin, Governor, Ambassador and Vice President of the United States under Abraham Lincoln. A celebration will be held on August 22 at Paris Hill and much about his life has been published in the Advertiser-Democrat this year.



Hannibal Hamlin

There has long been confusion about the Hamlins, particularly since twin brothers (two of the children of Revolutionary War quartermaster Major Eleazer Hamlin of Harvard, Mass.) named their sons after themselves and each other.

Dr. Cyrus (b. 1769) married Anna Livermore, settled on Paris Hill and fathered children: Elijah, Dr. Cyrus (1812), Eliza, Anna, Vesta, Hannibal (V.P. born August 1809) and Hannah. Twin brother Major Hannibal (also b. 1769) settled in Waterford, married Susanna Faulkner and fathered (among others who died young): Susan, Rebecca, Hannibal (b. January 1809) and Cyrus (b. 1811)! This unfortunate trend continued in subsequent generations as well.

The Waterford Hamlins used to ride to Paris Hill to borrow books from the library of their uncle Dr. Cyrus in his large farmhouse with its great view of the White Mountains. Young Hannibal was sent to Hebron Academy for his education.

Up here on the ridge in Waterford (see "This Is Waterford," ppg. 20-21; now the home of Brian & Shelly Shibles), the younger Cyrus and his brother Hannibal were struggling to help their mother after the death of their father. Considered too weak for farm work, Cyrus was sent to his brother-in-law in Portland to apprentice as a silver-smith.

In Portland, his fellow parishioners at Dr. Payson's church recognized his true calling and raised the funds to send him to Bridgton Academy, Bowdoin College, Bangor Theological Seminary and from thence to missionary work in Turkey, where Cyrus Hamlin D.D. founded Robert (now American) College in Constantinople.



Cyrus Hamlin

And finally, "Artemus Ward," known hereabouts as Charles Farrar Browne, was another of Maine's claims to fame — one which we are looking at this year, with an exhibit in the Rice Museum, a program in July, and an article in the fall issue of the "Echoes." Colloquial humor writer under his pseudonym, Charles (1834-1867) travelled on an international lecture circuit and influenced Mark Twain. (See "This Is Waterford," ppg. 31-35).

The most-told story is about the reading of Ward's humor by President Lincoln to his cabinet just before his serious announcement of the Emancipation Proclamation. Less well known is the connection of Charles F. Browne to Vice President Hannibal Hamlin.

Grandson of Thaddeus Brown, a timber dealer and early settler in 1786 from Harvard, Mass. and son of Levi and Caroline Farrar Browne, Charles had several Hamlins in his genealogy. Levi's brothers Jabez and Daniel both married relatives of the Vice President.



Artemus Ward

Be watching for summer programs and fall articles

Waterford Historical Society
PO Box 201
Waterford ME 04088

