



Waterford Echoes

VOLUME XLXII Number 1 (Issue 62)

Spring/Summer 2016

Waterford Historical Society

Last Day of School in East Waterford

In June of 1949, the teacher, Mrs. Viabelle Marston, led the closing exercises at the East Waterford School. In the photo below are, left to right, Mary Gammon (visiting), Janet Lahti (visiting), Patricia Lahti, Ronald Andrews, Alfred Murch, Esther Faulkner, Beverly Cyr, unknown, Mrs. Marston, Herbert Foster, Judy Stearns, Emily Foster, Joyce Wiley, Priscilla Gammon, Sarah Stearns, Vida Wentworth, Linda Lahti, unknown, unknown girl bending, Ernest Nunn, (?) Moxey, John Wentworth, unknown, Janice Wiley (visiting). The following year the new Memorial School opened.



The East Waterford School had been moved from Gambo Corner (near the location of the new post office) to the central location of the population, across from the Haskell mill. In the photo above, right, Sarah Stearns is speaking. Photos were given to us by Priscilla Gammon Stinson.

At left are the four classes in one room, which made up the school population of 1948-49. Front row, left to right, Patricia Lahti, Robert Moxey, Alfred Murch, John Wentworth, Ernest Nunn, Sam Faulkner, Jill (Parsons?) and Francis Moxey. Second row, Joyce Wiley, Robert Murch, Ronald Andrews, Ernest Wentworth, Esther Faulkner and Judy Stearns. Third row, Zillah Faulkner, Sarah Stearns, Herbert Foster, Vida Wentworth, Linda Lahti. Back row, Mrs. Marston, Emily Foster, Joan Bonnive, John Faulkner, Beverly Cyr and Priscilla Gammon.

President's Corner

WATERFORD HISTORICAL SOCIETY 2016 PROGRAM CALENDAR

JUNE 9 7 PM ANNUAL MEETING
Program: *THE HISTORY of CAMPING: KEOKA
BEACH CAMPGROUND*
Place: THE OLD TOWN HOUSE
Potluck refreshments

JUNE 24 BUFFET DINNER
Hosted by: *BIRCH ROCK CAMP*
Time: 5:30pm Doors open, 6:30 Dinner
Entertainment: *MILLTOWN ROAD SHOW*
Tickets: \$20 (Advance sales only)

JULY 4 FOURTH of JULY PARADE
RICE MUSEUM and OLD TOWN HOUSE
Open to the Public 9 am to 12 noon

JULY 14 7 PM
Program: *"THE RAILROAD THAT NEVER WAS"*
Place: WILKINS COMMUNITY HOUSE
Potluck refreshment

AUGUST 11 7PM
Program: *THE CARDING MILL
at STURBRIDGE VILLAGE*
Place: WILKINS COMMUNITY HOUSE
Potluck refreshments

**AUGUST 13 DEDICATION of HISTORIC PLAQUE at
CARDING MILL SITE**

Time: **11 AM**
Place: SOUTH WATERFORD

SEPTEMBER 8 6:30 PM
Program: *TOUR of the HUFFMAN'S HOME*
Hosts: **JOHN and CHARLOTTE HUFFMAN**
Place: 30 VALLEY ROAD, WATERFORD FLAT

OCTOBER 13 7 PM
Program: *HISTORY of FIRE DEPARTMENTS*
Place: WATERFORD TOWN OFFICE
Potluck refreshments

NOVEMBER 10 7 PM
Program: *UNDERGROUND RR during CIVIL WAR*
Place: WATERFORD LIBRARY
Potluck refreshments

**This summer the museum at
the Old Town House will be
open Mondays & Wednesdays
from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.**

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.

2015-2016 OFFICERS

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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
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.

Rocks and Minerals of Waterford

Part II by Robert Spencer

As Jane Perham comments in Maine's Treasure Chest (1972), *"The first collectors in the Oxford Hills sought out the minerals for the pleasure of possessing such wonderful and beautiful creations of nature. Many of these men were highly criticized for spending so much time tramping about the hills in search of tourmaline, beryl, amethyst and other minerals. This was a time when farming provided a man's livelihood and he could hardly afford to spend valuable daylight hours searching for minerals simply because they were beautiful to behold."*

Early Miners

During the early 20th Century, commercial demand for valuable minerals brought many business people from away who wished to find commodities, such as mica and feldspar. To find optimal quantities of these minerals required more than the hand drill, sledge and wheel barrow. Introduction of heavy equipment, dynamite and gas-powered jack hammers put the process of mining in the hands of those who could afford a sizeable investment.

By 1900, according to Van King in Maine Feldspar, Families and Feuds (2009), *"a mica mine was established near the southern summit of Beech Hill and was worked by the Beech Hill Mining Company in 1902, which company was sold to New York investors. About a ton of thumb-trimmed mica was marketed at prices ranging from .08 to \$1 per pound and about 10 tons of scrap mica was sold. Clarence Leslie Potter [of South Waterford] was the miner... while Dr. Hiram Francis Abbott [the purchaser of Shaw's collections] was the President of the company. This mine was located on the then-George L Kimball farm [the father of Ober Kimball]."*

An inspection in 1906 by a U. S. Bureau of Mines geologist stated that the mine *"has been operated for mica on a larger scale probably than any other deposit in the State."* However in 1911 another inspector found that *"much of the mica is worthless for anything but scrap."* In 1913-14 a Mr. Westcott of Portland leased the mine and ran it for six or seven years.

Ober Kimball in a 1958 interview indicated that the Beech Hill Quarry lay idle until World War II when it was prospected by Stan Perham, "The Gem Man from Trap Corner." Kimball says the mine was opened again in 1957 by the Pechnik brothers of Paris with poor results because of *"rather hard luck" with snowstorms and ice. "My sister and I got two checks, at 10% royalty it came to \$28."*

One of the professional miners brought into our community during the early years of commercial mining in Oxford County was Clarence Leslie Potter, born in Nova Scotia in 1870 to a family involved in iron mines. After living for a number of years in Massachusetts, he moved to Waterford in 1899. He and family--wife Lottie Adelaide nee Ritchie, a daughter and four sons (one

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How We Got Here

by Nancy Chute Marcotte

As part of a new initiative to document where we live and how we got here in Waterford, you will find another copy of our house survey from a few years ago, along with a questionnaire generated by Nancy Eaton. We would love to take more house and camp tours, to create a road-by-road architectural database, and to get to know each other better. Please fill it in and return it to P.O. Box 201, Waterford ME 04088.

This year, again, Birch Rock Camp graciously hosts a dinner for us and we get to enjoy the ambience of a lodge on Lake McWain as well as fantastic food. Also, just as we toured the Graney's South Waterford house last year, the Huffmans will open the door of their ca. 1860 home for us—though they don't promise costumes!

Looking back to how ANY of us got here, I have spent some time trying to read and transcribe photocopies of Proprietors' records purchased from the Massachusetts Historical Society. It takes good eyes—they are all handwritten but not all in good Copperplate script, and the spelling is capricious. Mostly they are "rate lists" for taxes assessed on the Township of Waterford (sometimes "Warterford") "so-called," in the county of "York or Cumberland" (things were fluctuating in the Province of "Main.")

The records seem to have been written between 1781 and 1789; on the front was a note that said: "Waterford Papers—keep them saffley. They may be of youse." There are several that say, "Public Notis" and some say the assessments were for the purpose of "incorraging" the "Settelment" of the township, in the name of the committee "that was choze" for the collection. Some assessments (six shillings) were for "the making and mending of rodes;" one (twelve shillings) was for building a sawmill. Some assessments were in pounds.

The Proprietors (sometimes called "The Propriety") did their business in Bolton, Massachusetts during this period, buying advertising in local papers to advise of annual meetings and new taxes. They met for years in the home of Eliakim Ather-ton. The assessors were usually David Nurse, David Sampson and Alpheus Woods, all of whom owned lots in Waterford. Some lots were taken

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Rocks & Minerals

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named after good friend Hiram Francis Potter)—resided in the lower village.

The following year Potter was actively mining here. He operated a mica mine in Waterford with partners Hollis



George Howe with girls of Camp McWain

be a barber. That was the year of his death, Records show that he died in Liskeard, Ontario on July 8, 1906—where silver mines were then being excavated.

Some light may be shed on Clarence Potter's life and times by several stories found on Ancestry.com. Apparently he was blamed for financial difficulties leading to the failure of the Dunton Mine. His good friend Mr. Abbott, in a taped 1958 interview, called him “a damned stinking skunk” because he had kept some of the money derived from a sale of gem tourmaline.

Another tale, told by George Howe of Norway, is that Potter had offered to sell him some valuable pieces of watermelon tourmaline in order to raise money for Boston medical treatments needed by his wife. Howe did not buy them so Clarence carried them to Boston with him. He left them for safekeeping with a pawnbroker acquaintance and he returned to pick them up later, at which time the broker informed him he did not recall any gems being left with him.

George Howe

“Uncle” George Howe, himself an important player in the mineralogy of early 20th Century Oxford County, was a world-famous naturalist who did much to encourage the education of area youth in the wonders of Nature. Here in Waterford he served as a counsellor at both Birch Rock Camp and Camp McWain during the 1920s. Field trips to local mountains and quarries made it possible for both young girls and boys to collect beautiful minerals, crystals and freshwater pearls. Howe, although involved in several commercial digs, continued the tradition of James Shaw's appre-

Dunton (owner/operator of the highly successful Dunton Mine in Newry) and local resident Sandy Morse (superintendent of the Beech Hill Quarry and soon at the Rumford mica quarry and the Dunton gem quarry). Potter must have been a go-getter in the local mining realm. As North Waterford farmer Elmer C. Henley describes in his journal “Life on Sawin Hill,”

“Chalk Pond has changed its name to the more fancy one of Crystal Polish Lake. A party from Vermont having leased it for a year or more, is mining it for the valuable polish they are gathering from it. The clay what is called infusorial earth, being a compound of minute shells and insects and the bones of fish, it is thought that the wash from the mountains above the lake bring into it some mineral matter, too. They are composed mainly of mica and feldspar, etc. Roy Lord has taken a contract to get about 40 or 50 barrels into powder. It is dried then ground, making a fine chalk-like powder that is unsurpassed in polishing and cleaning glass and metals of all kinds. [Many of us know about this type of material used in the product Bon Ami.] Clarence Potter, a miner from the Provinces, first formed the idea of its value, and eased a great portion of the pond and made great preparations of dredging. But he was soon after instantly killed on the railroad, and the matter was dropped until last Fall (1906).”

By 1906 the Beech Hill pits had been leased to investors from New York and the Newry mine had closed down. In the census of that year Potter is listed as a South Waterford resident still, but he is noted to

ciation for the wonders of the world.

During the first half of the last century local commercial mining efforts ebbed and flowed with the economy and a fluctuating, but increasing, demand for regional minerals for industrial use. Mica, for example, was an important insulator for use in the growing electrical industry. Feldspar was much in demand as a basic element in ceramic manufacturing and as an abrasive polish, as was garnet. In the 1930s-40s, local beryl was used by the government in manufacture of armaments and in the burgeoning aerospace industry,

During the 1950 and 60s demand for mica, feldspar and beryl continued at levels sufficient to keep local mines in operation. However, working these sites required bigger and bigger pieces of equipment, larger blasts to free the material and greater risks by owners and operators.

While larger quarries, such as Bumpus in Albany with its excavated tunnel, were able to unearth large beryl deposits, the shallow pits opened here in our town showed very limited promise. The Beech Hill Quarry, mentioned earlier, was opened by George Prentiss and Bill Kimball in 1912-14 on the old Kimball farm. It operated sporadically under lease to several out-of-state companies for a decade before being closed.

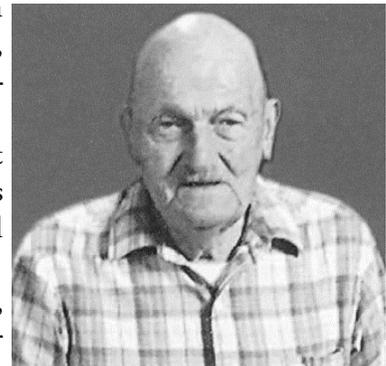
The list of attempted operations in Waterford is lengthy: the mica quarry on Stearns Hill in South Waterford in the 1910s; a feldspar quarry on Burnell Hill in Blackguard during the 1950s; the C. P. Saunders Quarry north of Beech Hill in the 1940s. There was one on Thunder Mountain; another, the Willis True Feldspar Quarry, on Goshen Road just west of Blackguard and another “old mica mine” on the eastern slope of Bear Mountain on land owned by the Hubbard family. In the 1950s the last of the commercial operations, the Knight #1 and #2 Quarries were opened on Lovell Road in North Waterford by Winn Knight and produced quantities of beryl for a few years.

As by-products of these many digs, crystals—some of gemmy quality—were found. Even today local hobbyists are able to discover impressive samples found in the refuse dumps of the digs to show in their home display cases or to trade. Some of this material occasionally shows up for sale on the internet.

These are times which many of you here can clearly recall. The names of the people who worked the pits have been mentioned to me often as I have done my research. One friend mentioned that “Lester Wiley and Clayton Pike did some digging there” in Blackguard. Some of you may remember visiting the “rock shop” set up by Wiley and his daughter at the Bumpus mine during the 1950s. Another neighbor, when asked about the large quartz boulder in her garden, recalled that she and her late husband had spent many a Saturday night with Barry Heath collecting at whatever site he might be working at the time. Beloved local educator Tony Waldeier, like George Howe, regularly entertained local youngsters at schools and at the Fryeburg Fair with a presentation called “Rocks and Minerals...”

When one views photographs of the larger mines or visits quarries which are still in operation, one might say that the past failures of local efforts to harvest the mineral wealth beneath our feet are actually a benefit to us today. Nature has easily reclaimed the small pits and cuts which early marked farm fields and woodlots. Ills associated with larger commercial sites, such as groundwater contamination, never developed here in Waterford.

Treasures are still being produced today in commercial quantities, mined at several “hand-me-down” quarries in Oxford County. Mt. Marie in West Paris continues to produce a large variety of tourmalines in many colors. The original Mt. Mica Quarry, where it all began, is still pulling \$1,000,000 worth of gemstones from its aged pits. While most of this material is sent to China for processing, many of the most beautiful pieces are cut by local artisans or displayed at the new Maine Mineral and Gem Museum in Bethel. For a clear overview of the most important minerals harvested from Maine sites, I would encourage you to visit this new world-class museum when it opens.



Lester Wiley

Robert Spencer is a landscape architect who lives in “The Cider Mill” in South Waterford.

In Memoriam

Ellen M. Haase, 90, died Aug. 25, 2015 at Monroe Village Care Center. Born in West New York, NJ. She had lived in Waterford and Fanwood, NJ before moving to Monroe Village in 2000. Mrs. Haase attended Douglas College, class of 1946, before receiving her BSN from Columbia Presbyterian in 1947. She worked as a registered nurse for 40 years before retiring in 1987. She worked for many years at Overlook Hospital and with the Visiting Nurses Association of Elizabeth, as well as at North Plainfield High School before her retirement. She was a member of the New Jersey Education Association and the College Woman's Club of Scotch Plains - Fanwood. She was also a member of All Saints Episcopal Church in Scotch Plains. She was predeceased by her husband, Alfred E. Haase, who died in 2012; her son, Richard Haase, who died in 1980; and her sister, Anne Sofield, who died in 2011. She is survived by her daughter, Virginia Haase, her grand-daughter Amy and a nephew.



WT Callina (Wanda) McNair, 58, of Pickaway, WV died March 17, 2016 after a lingering bout with cancer. She was born in Norway on Dec. 17, 1957, the daughter of Clara and Walter Hamlin of Waterford. She graduated from Oxford Hills High School in 1976 and from the University of Maine in 1980. Over the years, she was employed in various administrative positions. Besides her regular work, she was a piano accompanist for various musical theater groups, chorales, church choirs and music groups. At the time of her death, she was the financial secretary for the Monroe County Schools in Union, WV, and the accompanist and special music coordinator for the Lewisburg United Methodist Church in Lewisburg, WV. In 2000, she married Timothy McNair, who survives. She is also survived by her sisters Sheryl Hamlin of West Virginia and Cynthia Hamlin of Florida; a brother, David Hamlin of Waterford; Tim's children, Josh, Erin and Melanie McNair; and three grandsons. She was predeceased by her father and a sister, Pam Ward.

Phyllis M. Jordan, 84, born May 20, 1931, in Bryant Pond, daughter of Harris and Edith Mae Andrews Hathaway, died March 24, 2016 in Bridgton. She was married on Aug. 7, 1954, in Locke Mills and predeceased by her husband of 49 years, Reynold E. Jordan Sr. She is survived by her four children, Reynold Jordan Jr., the Rev. Vance Jordan, Delia Gardner and Douglas Jordan. She is also survived by her sister Harriett and her brother Burton Hathaway.

Mary Springer, 92, died April 26, 2016 at Norway Center for Health & Rehab. Mary was born on May 6, 1923 in Hebron to Mildred & Francis Shaw and graduated from Paris High School in 1942. She was a member of the Paris Alumni Association. She attended the University of Maine in Farmington. She worked in local factories as well as in Lewiston/Auburn. Her favorite job was teaching "Special Ed" at the Little Red School House at Norway Lake. She was a member of the Mother's Club and a Girl Scout leader back in the 60s. In 1972, she married Harold Springer, a farmer from East Waterford until 1981. She then moved to Norway and was employed by Raymond Funeral Home, where she lived and answered the phone off hours for several years. Her last independent years were spent in South Paris & Norway where she had many friends at Oxford Meadows Apartments. Her last six years were spent at the Norway Health & Rehab Center. Mary is survived by daughters Donna Card of Conway, NH., Annie Laurie of Intervale, NH and Roberta "Babe" of Oxford; and four grandchildren; three grandchildren; brothers Fernald Shaw of Washington state and Francis Jr. of Lewiston. She was predeceased by sister Kathleen Chapman.



Richard A. Jones, 94, of North Waterford died May 19, 2016 at his seven generation family farm in the company of his wife and son. He was born July 10, 1921 in North Waterford, son of Wallace and Ethel (Kilgore) Jones. He attended local schools and served in the US Army during World War II. He returned from the service to the family farm that was in existence 42 years before Maine became a state. Richard was an avid drum player and played in numerous orchestras and big bands. He is survived by his wife, Frances (Alexander) of North Waterford, whom he married on, June 15, 1946; sons Wallace of North Waterford, Lewis of Milo and Tony of Germany; daughters Richarda Bisson of Poland, OH and Ruth-Ann Lavoie of Poland; 10 grandchildren; 11 great-grandchildren; and three great-great-grandchildren. He was predeceased by daughter Anita Bradley and siblings Leslie Jones and Isabelle Rolfe. His ashes will be scattered on the family farm.



Theresa M. Heino, 85, died May 21, 2016 from a fire at Oxford Meadows. She was born in Casco on July 8, 1930 the daughter of Persis and Martin Qualey and attended local schools. She married Albert Heino in June of 1950 and they started their family in Waterford. Theresa worked at local shoe shops, picked apples and worked at the Bridgton Knitting Mill, often working double shifts when needed, until her retirement. She is survived by her children Charles, Albert and daughter Catherine; several grandchildren and great grandchildren; sisters Sarah Gilkey and Mabel Heino; and a brother Reg Qualey. She was predeceased by her parents, husband Albert in 2007, sister Martha Willey; and brother Joe Qualey.

Frederic R. Engdahl, 79, of Waterford died on June 2, 2016 after a long illness. He was born and educated in Boston and worked in the Boston Public Schools until retirement. He and his family summered in Waterford for many years, moving here permanently in 2000. He was active in the Waterford Congregational Church and was its moderator for 11 years. He was also a member of the Waterford Masonic Mt. Tir'em Lodge and was its secretary for several years. He and his wife Nancy celebrated their 50th anniversary in December. He is survived by daughter Daryl Ann Leonard of Waterford; son David F. Engdahl of South Paris; two grandchildren; sister Doris Ruhl; brothers Donald and Kenneth Engdahl; and several nieces and nephews.



Rev. Norman F. Rust, 77, of Standish died at home June 11, 2016 after suffering a cardiac arrest. The son of Warren and Sarah (Burpee) Rust, he grew up on the Rust Farm in Gorham before attending the University of Southern Maine followed by Bangor Theological Seminary. Norman served many of Maine's communities in his 52 years as a minister for the UCC and the Congregational Christian Council of Maine. He was a member of the Order of the Eastern Star, Oxford Chapter 168, and Chaplain Emeritus of the Grand Lodge of Maine. He is survived by his wife of 52 years Betty and children Brian and Barbara, three grandchildren and two great grandchildren, brother Bill Rust, sister Nancy Adams and many nieces, nephews and cousins.



Nuances...

(Continued from page 3)

back for non-payment of taxes or bought back from widows and then re-sold. Other lots were divided. The cost for a lot, or "right" was six pounds. Thirty families were required to settle here in order for the grant to be maintained.

Included in the lists of lots were the three "Ministers' lots," for support of a church; the "school lots" and "Colledge lots," for support of Harvard—some of the latter were in the three tiers given to Norway. But a lot of us got here by way of our ancestors who braved the wilderness to settle Waterford.

Though hard to read because "s" was written like "f," we can see some familiar surnames among the lot owners: Joseph Stone, Ben Brown, Daniel Barker, Abraham Gibson, John & Dan Hapgood, Ben Hale, Seth Rice, Jona(than) Houghton, Jonas Warren, Jonathan Green, Henry Gardner, Abraham Monroe, John Temple, David McWaine, the "hiers" (heirs) of Ben Woods. Capt. Eleazer "Hamblen" owned four lots— the Captain stayed in Bolton but his sons America, Africa, Hannibal and Eleazer settled his "Rights.". From some of the notes and receipts it seems the captain may have been one of the Proprietors. One receipt was signed by Europe Hamlin but as far as we know that son did not settle in Waterford.

At some time more of the business of the township began to be handled locally, as we can see from a fascinating May, 1788 letter to Capt. David Nurse from Africa Hamlin (Clerk of the Plantation until its incorporation in 1797.)

"Sir,

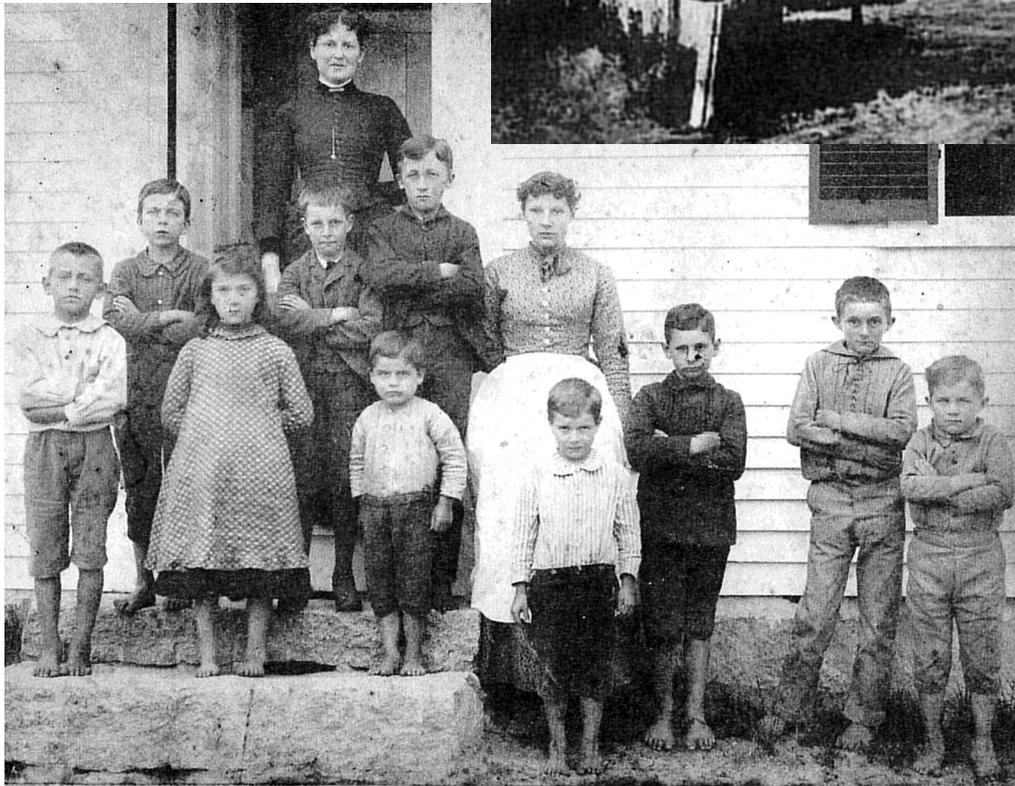
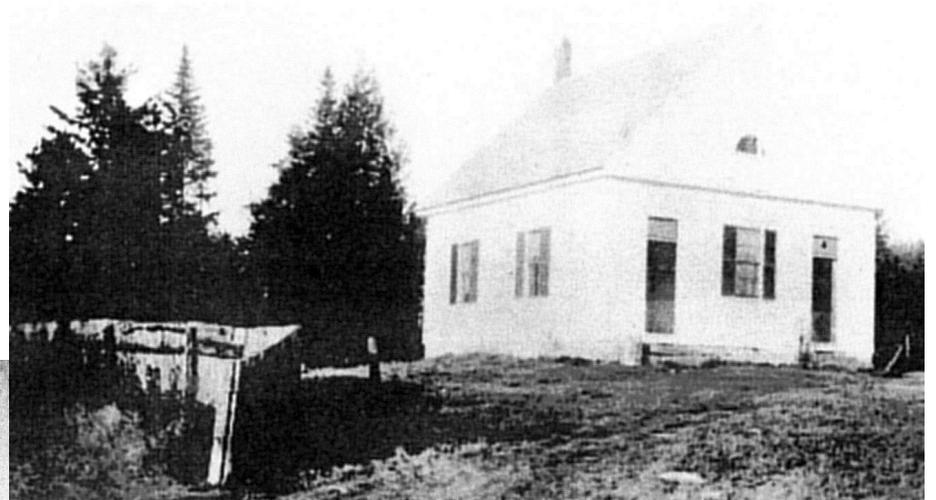
I see Esquire Pervis but a few days since and he informed me that he was agoing to Lot out the upper end of Otisfield as soon as planting was over and that he should run two hundred rods from Bridgeton Corner into Waterford land as he says belongs to Otisfield. I thought it expedient that the proprietors should be informed of it... (illegible)... heretofore in this winter run round and application made for it so that if you suffer Esquire Pieve to take this...must take burnt land for it. I beg you...inform my Father and W. Sampson of it. Something should be immediately done—I am, sir, your most humble servant, Africa Hamlin."

We know the surveying of Waterford was notoriously incompetent, so that lots which all were supposed to be 160 acres were sometimes 120 and sometimes over 250. Probably the many bodies of water got in the way as well, but we can see there was dispute over exactly where the boundaries were. Our first history book tells us tales of the early settlers, many of whom were here by 1783. Philip Hor, the first man to bring his wife to Waterford, is represented in the papers by a receipt of the purchase of his Plummer Hill lot from Abraham Monroe.

Well, whether you got here because your family has been here for centuries, or whether you just arrived by some other means, we would like to know your story. Some people grew up here, moved away and returned to retire in Waterford. Some were children who came here for summer camp and always wanted to return. Some married into a Waterford life. Are there any descendants of Native Americans here? Please share your story with us. How did YOU get here?

FROM OUR FILES:

GAMBO SCHOOL



The Gambo School was at Gambo Corner in 1886. The photograph at left is from David Sanderson and the two determined young fellows on the far right are Burton Sanderson (l.) and Arthur Sanderson. The others are unidentified (maybe some Prides and Haskells?). Above, a photo of the one-room school, possibly before it was moved from Gambo Corner closer to the center of East Waterford population.

Waterford Historical Society
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