

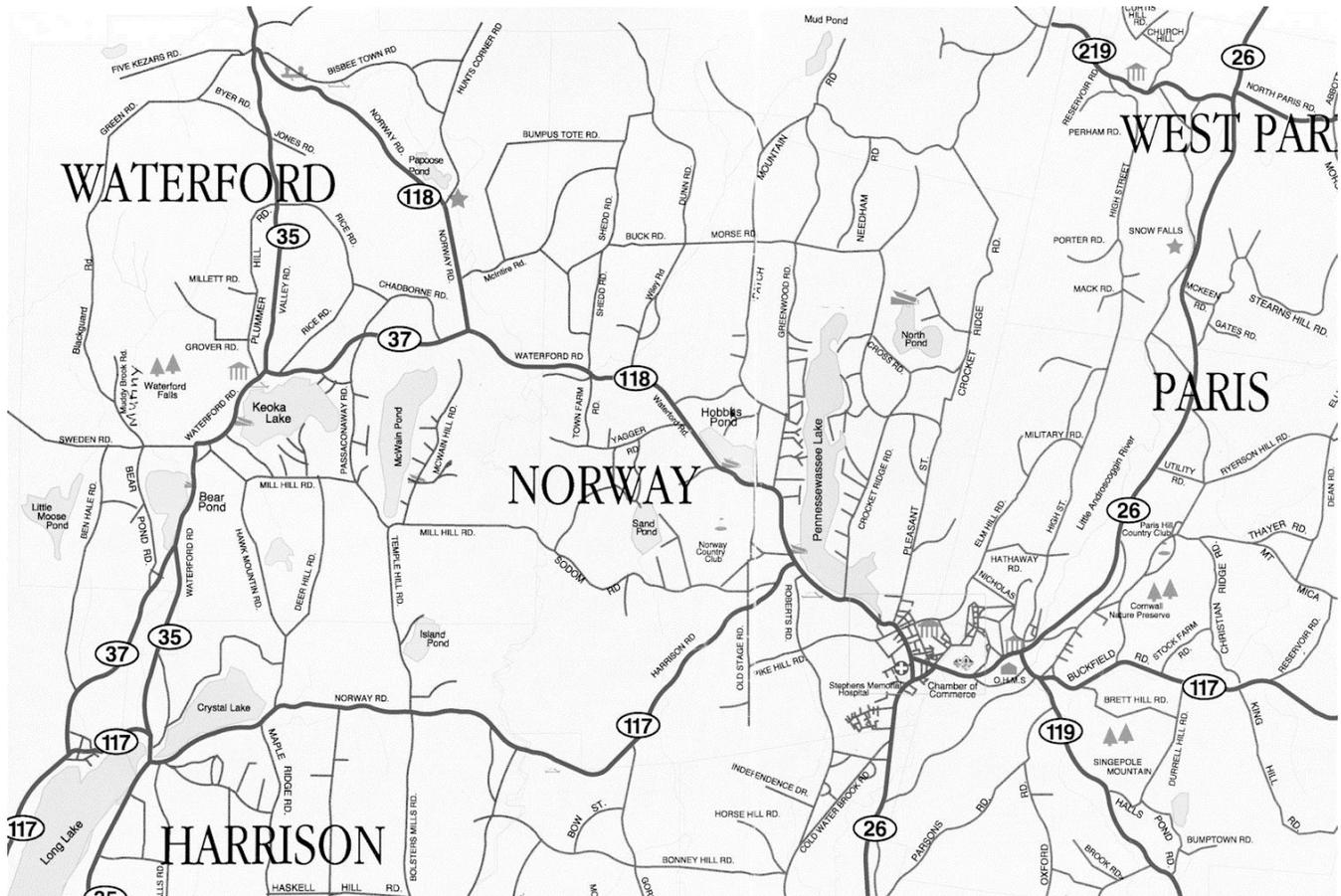


Waterford Echoes

VOLUME XLXIII Number 2 (Issue 63)

Fall/Winter 2016

Waterford Historical Society



The Railway That Never Was

In the summer of 2016, transportation historian Peter Hammond of Norway spoke on one of the most interesting moments of Waterford history—the “Fear and Fighting on the Oxford Central Railway,” as outlined by Lowell D. Henley in 1978 issues of BitterSweet magazine. The story can also be found in the second Waterford history book.

In 1896 a group of local businessmen and farmers, spurred on by Auburn salesman Eugene W. Eastman, began to organize a new electric railway. It was planned to start at the Grand Trunk station in Norway (near today's fire station), run toward Norway Center and to Rice's Junction (today the intersection of Rtes. 118 & 37), then branch off toward North Waterford, Stoneham and Lovell or toward South Waterford and Harrison. At least, that was the plan.



Peter Hammond

Though there were doubters, it seemed a viable commercial enterprise. The *Advertiser* estimated there were already more than 6,000 tons of freight each year being sent by teams from Waterford alone. Among the local men who met to survey and capitalize the route were Melville Monroe, William Watson, James Brown and George Marr. There was an offer to go the other way and take their business to Port-

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Editor's Corner

Waterford Fire History

At the October meeting, former Assistant Chief Bill Haynes presented a brief history of the town fire department with a PowerPoint slide show and Society President Ted Gerber offered a history of the evolution of firefighting in the United States, which included a display of several vintage helmets from his personal collection.

This year marks the 20th anniversary of the dedication of the “new” fire station at the top of Town Farm Hill. It is also the 70th anniversary of the creation or reestablishment of the three fire associations that formed the foundation for half a century of firefighting in Waterford before merging into a unified department. Those associations in the south, north and Flat took on new life after veterans returned home after WWII and served their communities faithfully for nearly 50 years.

In the early 1990s, fire department leaders began looking at consolidation and the possible construction of a new central fire station. After a series of meetings, the associations agreed to dissolve and turn over their assets to the town in an equipment account. At the March 4, 1995 town meeting, voters approved the construction of the municipal complex on a 13-acre parcel owned by Tim and Todd Sawyer, which was traded for a similar sized town-owned piece on Plummer Hill. John Tucker headed up the committee and also served as Clerk of the Works during the construction.

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Above, a Waterford fireman trains water on a house fire on McWain in 2003. Below, firefighters spray water during a controlled burn of a house on Apple Blossom Lane in 2009.



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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.

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MEMBERSHIP DUES

Classification: Individual/Couple

Life member: \$100/\$150 - Annual: \$10/\$15

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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.

Nuances

Six degrees of Connection

by Nancy Chute Marcotte

In our files I found a delightful picture of six women in rigid corsets and very similar hairstyles, seated in front of a white clapboard house. Aunt Flora Abbott's handwriting labelled them "The Stanwood Sisters," so I assumed that was "the Stanwood House" at the top of the hill above South Waterford Village on the Sweden Road.

One of the reasons I call this column "Nuances" is because of the subtle connections I so often stumble upon in our collection. The picture in the Fall/Winter 2015 "Echoes" of the changed Parker House at 10 Mill Hill Road mentioned Eugene Nelson and F. A. Noble, who owned that hotel in the late 19th century.

Separately and completely by chance, I received some genealogical information about Eugene Nelson, a manufacturer born in Waterford who was descended from "one of the oldest families in New England." Thomas Nelson had been one of twenty-seven friends who "emigrated with Rev. Ezekiel Rogers" from Rowley, Yorkshire, England in 1638 to "Mr. Rogers' Plantation" (later Rowley), Massachusetts.

Eugene's grandparents, Moses and Hitta Pingree Nelson, came to Temple Hill, Waterford in 1817 from Rowley, Mass. Their son, Chaplin Nelson (m. Emily Hicks) was a surveyor who later had a general merchandise store. Chaplin died young and his wife married Mr. D. W. Noble, thus connecting those two families. Eugene had two brothers—Llewelyn, who went to Leadville, Colorado, and Charles, a railroad man in New York City; his sister Georgia married Mr. Cyrus Tucker of Norway.

Now, Eugene at age nineteen went to Boston to be a clerk in the water works for a year; then he returned to manufacture "woodenware" and later took up market gardening in his home town. In 1871 he wed Miss Lottie (Charlotte) Stanwood, the Boston-born daughter of Albert & Charlotte Matilda Morse Stanwood. The Nelsons had five children: Albert, Edward, Ethel, Bertha and Charles. (Some of us remember Charles and his wife Florence in the Nelson house in later years.) The Nelson and Stanwood houses were understandably across the road from each other. Today the Nelson house is

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Above is the Beech Hill house from "Echoes" issue 61 identified by Harvey Lord in a letter sent from his new home in Bow, N.H.:

"Regarding "unknown house" on Beech Hill: I knew it back in the 30s and 40s as home of Maude Kittredge and her children, Arthur (Bow), Lillian (who later married Lawrence Herrick of North Waterford), Herbert, Ella (who later married "Winnie" Rolfe) and Henry (who was in my class at North Waterford Elementary School.) Ella and Henry were friends of [my] brother Kurt and me.

"There was a deteriorating barn in those days. I do not know if Maude was a widow or divorced. There was no man living there. Evelyn Beyer (from I don't know when) purchased the farm and invested a lot of \$ to bring it up to better shape sometime during or immediately after World War II. Apparently she also had the barn torn down... Farm is on the road running from 'Valley Road' to Blackguard Road."

Acknowledgements

The trustees have been very busy this year. New weather-resistant benches which can be left out for the winter have been assembled on the common by Tony, Ralph and Henry. Joy has been extremely busy doing research for a church celebration and she has brought to us from Joan Fillebrown many, many church records which will now reside in one of our fireproof files. Thank you, everyone!

Ted Gerber and Bill Haynes contributed interesting stories to a program on fire departments and Bob Spencer has been doing a lot of research with David Sanderson on our manufactories, including Stanwood Bucket Factory, which we will feature next summer.



The former site of the Carding Mill, which today is at Old Sturbridge Village, will soon be identified by an historical marker. Above, carding mill pond ca. 1930.

Nuances...

(Continued from page 3)

owned by John and Regan Martin and the other is owned by Jackie Holmberg of Titusville, Florida.

Eugene was known as an active Democrat and he was Supt. Of Schools for several years. His fine Mansard house had been built by Danleys c. 1850 and was altered in the late Victorian era. The big Federal Stanwood farmhouse was built by William Morse c. 1810 and was used for a time as a hotel. The Stanwoods probably used it in the summer.

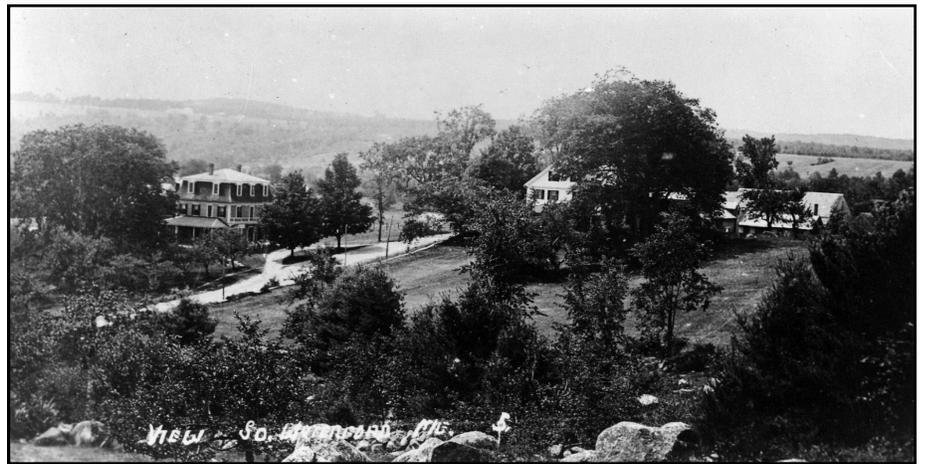
Albert Stanwood, of Bucket Factory fame, had grown up in Newburyport and worked for thirty-six years at Boston water works; he built the Chestnut Hill Reservoir while Superintendent of the water dept. His wife Charlotte was the daughter of innkeepers William and Charlotte Jewell Morse and must have inherited the house. There were nine Stanwood children.

Two sons were both named Albert (one died at age 4 in 1852 and the second was born in 1861, moved "west" and had a lumber business.) Their first daughter, Catherine, died at age 2; then came six other girls: Charlotte (married Eugene Nelson); Catherine (m. [1] Lucius Abbott, [2] T. W. Hardy of Dedham, Mass.); Florence (married Frank A. Noble—aha! The Parker House); Adeline (married Edward Billings of Framingham, Mass.); Emma (married Albert Murphy of Detroit, Michigan); and Alice (m. Bell?).

There are more things to be learned but now I have so much more to think about as I gaze at the six lovely Stanwood sisters.



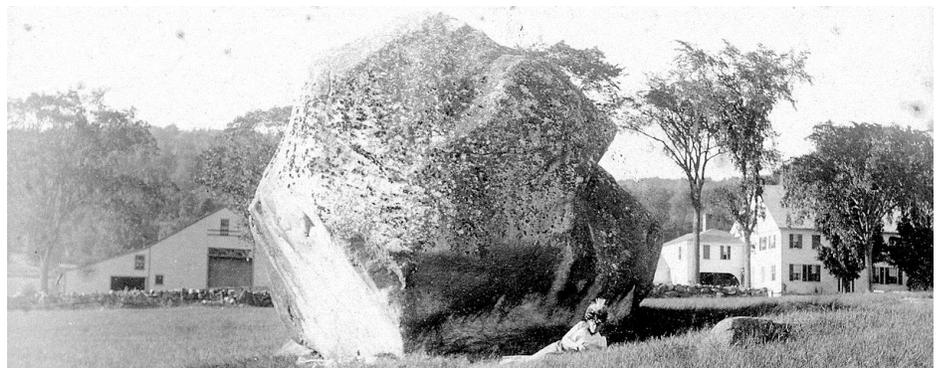
The Stanwood Sisters
Florence, Emma, Charlotte
Kate, Addie, Alice



Above, postcard view of Nelson house, left, and Stanwood house, right. Below, from This Is Waterford, field across the road from the Stanwood house and barn with a view of the huge boulder dropped by a glacier.

NEXT SUMMER

Future issues of the "Echoes" will feature the Stanwood Bucket Factory as we look at the second in our series of Waterford manufactories. The former site of the Carding Mill, which is today in Old Sturbridge Village, will be identified with an historical marker sometime this year. Bob Spencer and David Sanderson have done a lot of research for programs on our mills.



Oxford Central Electric Railway

(Continued from page 1)

land via Bridgton but there was already established a substantial teamster route to Norway and Paris.

Rice's Junction would be the location for a power house, with two steam generators and four boilers planned. Stations were outlined for Norway Lake Village, Norway Center, East Waterford, Bisbeetown, Lynchville, East Stoneham, Waterford Flat (though there was opposition to this), South Waterford and Harrison. The South Waterford stop would be near all the mills—about where Kimballs' store is today—and W. K. Hamlin's creamery, as he was shipping award-winning butter all over the country.

The proposed route was relatively flat and about 26 miles long. The Grand Trunk Railroad offered special rates. The cars would carry a combination of passengers, mail and freight. In January, 1897, 1,000 shares of stock went on sale for \$100 each. The cost of building the railway was estimated at \$55,000.

In April, 1897, Railway Treasurer Judge S. S. Stearns received permission from the State Railroad Commission in Augusta and a head office was set up at Freeland Howe's in Norway. Among the seven directors chosen were A. S. Hapgood and B. G. McIntire of Waterford, Jonathan Bartlett of Stoneham and L. H. Burnham of Albany. Late in the summer, actual construction began.

On August 3rd there was a meeting at the Beals House hotel in Norway; by August 13th there were 125 Italian workers from the Boston construction firm O'Brien & Davis camped near Norway Center. They moved quickly with grading and stringing electric poles, working in three crews of 40 men each. By August 27th timbers and iron rails had been delivered. By September there were 237 men and they had reached Rice's Junction. That's when the trouble began.

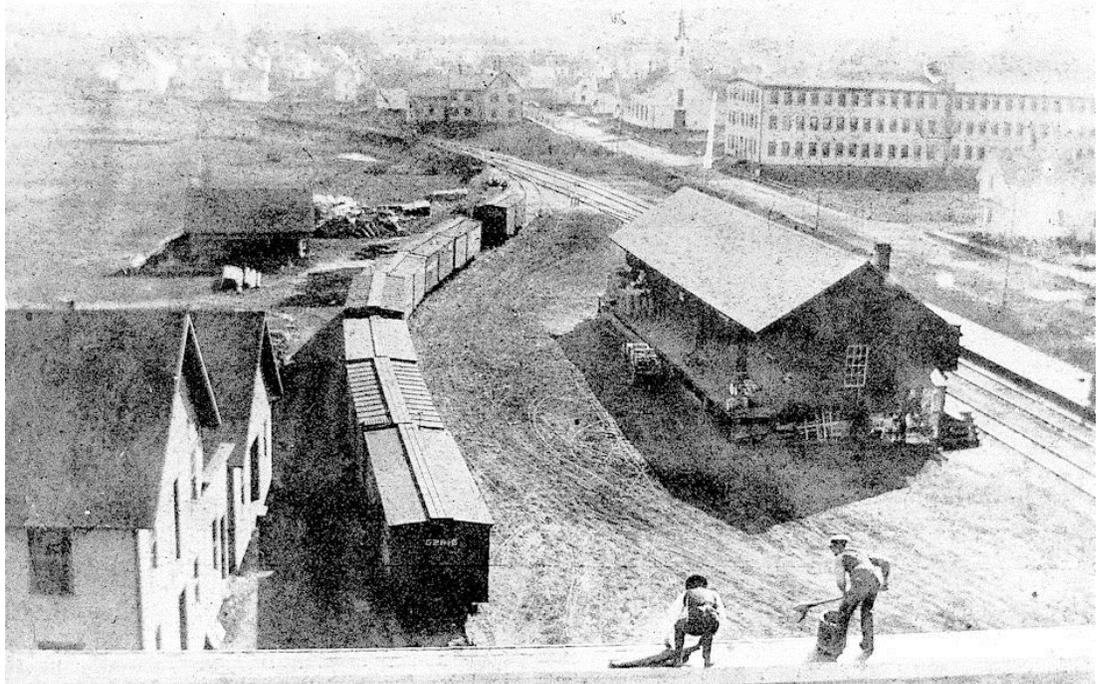
The "Eyetalian War"

On Friday, September 5th, the Italian workers expected to be paid but there was no money. On Saturday, the work ceased and the crowd turned into a mob, armed with knives and revolvers. They took three hostages: foreman Robert Davis, Timekeeper James Hallett and sutler (provisioner) Felix Certosimo. The Italian Certosimo convinced them to take him into Norway to see about funds; he

slipped away and escaped on a train back to Boston. Hallett ran into the woods, evaded pursuers, and hid in Norway. The mob got angrier at losing their hostages.

State Detective Bassett arrived with Chief Engineer Louis B. Wilson and Wilson was taken hostage, too. Assorted sheriffs and deputies from neighboring towns came to survey the situation. Local people sat up all night, armed with rifles and shotguns. The Norway Militia company was alerted. On Sunday Rev. Fr. M. D. Summa, who spoke Italian,

was brought in to negotiate but that didn't help. Meantime one of the contractors arrived from Boston but said the money was tied up in a bank. The workers declared they would cut the hostages into as many pieces as the dollars they were owed (\$2,300.)



The Norway station of the spur of the Grand Trunk Railroad along Beal St., ca. 1920. The shoe shop in the background is on the current location of the town's municipal offices and fire station. This railroad station has been replaced by apartment buildings. The train used to stop here to be unloaded and then would back up to South Paris.

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In Memoriam

Ann S. Bell, 58, died Aug. 12, 2016 at her Waterford home. An educator for 30 plus years, she obtained her Bachelor's degree from the University of Maine in 1980 and later her Master's from the University of New England. Ann, formerly of Farmington, had a varied career that ranged from teaching elementary and middle school children in SAD 17 to high school vice principal for RSU 10 (Western Foothills) and principal at Telstar High to assistant superintendent for RSU 10. She also coached soccer, lacrosse and cross-country skiing. She is survived by her husband of 36 years, Peter B. Bell; two children, Eben O. Bell and McKayla R. Bell; and two grandchildren. She was predeceased by her mother and father, Lillian A. and Fred A. Simpson, and her two brothers, Ted and Larry Simpson. She is survived by her sisters Jane Campbell, Peg Hamilton and Barbara Simpson and her brothers Jerry and Mark Simpson.

Bruce F. Bell, 63, of Waterford died Aug. 23, 2016 at his home on McWain Pond. Born October 29, 1952, Bruce was the first son of Frank and Frances Bell. He grew up in Bridgton, graduating from Lake Region High School in 1971. He retired in 2010 after a 37-year career with Central Maine Power Company Meter Department, working in both Bridgton and Lewiston offices. Bruce married Debbie Smith in Harrison on Oct. 19, 1985. He is survived by his wife, Debbie of Waterford; two daughters, Heather Miller of Kennebunk and Jennifer Vermette of Wells; two grandchildren; two brothers, Cliff of Windham and Ron of Naples; two sisters, Susan Gratto of Portland and Brenda Tobin of Bridgton.



Robert Henry Ross, Jr., 100, died Aug. 25, 2016 at Piper Shores in Scarborough. Bob was born on July 16, 1916 to Marie Deem Ross and Robert Henry Ross, of Germantown, Ohio. He lost his mother in the 1918 flu pandemic, and in 1920, his father was remarried to Helen Bailey of Xenia, Ohio. Bob attended the Germantown School through ninth grade then joined the class of 1934 at Oakwood High School in Dayton, Ohio. In 1934, Bob set off by train for Dartmouth College in Hanover, NH, graduating in 1938 with a Bachelor's degree in English. In 1937, Bob met his wife-to-be, Mary Bishop of Brooklyn, New York, a sophomore at Smith College. On August 3, 1940, they were married in the Congregational Church in Waterford, where her family had a summer home. Bob enrolled at Harvard to pursue graduate studies in English, and the couple settled in Cambridge, MA. On Dec. 18, 1941, eleven days after the Japanese attacked Pearl Harbor, Susan, their first child, was born. Feeling the call to duty, Bob joined the Army in 1942. He served as an Intelligence officer with the Army Air Force, 7th Battalion, in Saipan and Okinawa, achieving the rank of Captain and was awarded three battle stars on his Asiatic-Pacific Theater ribbon. In 1946, Bob joined the faculty of Ohio Wesleyan University and completed his Ph.D in English at Ohio State University. After a stint in England, Bob briefly occupied an administrative position at the University of California, San Bernardino, and in 1966 accepted a position in the English Department at Washington State University in Pullman, teaching and serving as Director of Graduate Studies in 1965. In the early seventies, Bob and Mary returned to New England, where they lived in Haverhill, NH, and Norwich, VT. Bob retired from academic life, had a rare book business in Hanover, NH and Mary took a position as Associate Editor of the Dartmouth Alumni Magazine. For more than 35 years, Bob, Mary and their children had returned again and again for summers at the family home in Waterford, retiring there in 1982. Bob is survived by his daughter Susan Nelson of Madison, WI; son Robert of Waterford; daughter Carolyn of San Mateo, CA; five grandchildren; and two great-grandchildren. He is buried in Elm Vale Cemetery



Elizabeth G. (Tuttle) Adams, 85, of Bridgton died Aug. 27, 2016 at the Hospice House in Auburn. Betty was born in South Paris on July 2, 1931, a daughter of Clayton and Grace (Skinner) Pike of Waterford. She attended local schools and was a graduate of Bridgton Academy in 1949. She was a homemaker most of her life and in 1972, she purchased Tut's Store in North Waterford and ran it until 1987. Betty was active with the Waterford Fair Association. She married Fred Tuttle in 1952 and he passed away in 1980. She later married the late Chester Adams, whom she was married for 25 years. Betty is predeceased by her four brothers, Wendell, Bob, Fred and Herb Pike; and four sisters, Edith Monk, Ruth O'Brien, Rita St. John, and Laura Richardson. Surviving are her two sons, Jerry of Bridgton and Ken of Cape Cod; her daughter, Debbie Merrill of Hawaii; two sisters, Lila Hill of Norway, and Eva Thurlow of Casco; eight grandchildren and five great grandchildren. She is buried in Elm Vale Cemetery.



Joyce Fleck, 74, of Waterford died Oct. 7, 2016 at Stephens Memorial Hospital. She was born in Providence, RI on October 12, 1941 the daughter of George Gardner and Ethel Fortin Wiley. She graduated from Norway High School and had been employed at Pleasant Mountain Moccasin for 28 years cutting and making shoes. She had also been a telemarketer, a riding instructor at Baker Hill Stables and served on Stoneham Rescue. She loved all animals, always had dogs and cats and loved riding horses. She is survived by a son Bobby of Waterford; a brother George, Jr.; a sister Janice Record; and many nieces and nephews. She was predeceased by her parents; and a brother Richard Wiley.

Ralph R. Gardner, 89, died Oct. 25, 2016 at Norway Center for Health and Rehabilitation. Ralph was born on October 17, 1927 in South Waterford to Mary Hamlin Gardner and Horace Gardner. Ralph was a graduate of Bridgton Academy. He worked as a young man for the Oxford Pickle Company. He also drove truck for Charles L. Thomes. Ralph was involved in the CLT Company for 62 years. He also worked for AC Lawrence Company for a number of years. He worked as Head Custodian at the Harrison Elementary School until he retired. He was known as the “Candy Man” by parents and children alike as he always had a pocket full of hard candy to hand out. Ralph was also a caretaker of the town owned cemeteries for several years. Ralph served his country in the U. S. Army. He was a member of the Bear Mountain Grange in South Waterford for 71 years and a member of Crooked River Masonic Lodge in Bolsters Mills for 56 years. He was predeceased by his daughter Allison Baker in 1990, his wife Helen Gardner in 1999 and his brothers Howard, Loren and Edwin and sisters Annie Gardner and Agnes Howe. He is survived by his son Edwin L. Gardner; grandchildren and great grandchildren. He is buried in Maple Ridge Cemetery in Harrison.

Margaret V. McAllister, 79, of Waterford died Dec. 16, 2016 at Maine Medical Center. She was born in Boston, MA on Oct. 21, 1937 to Albert and Hazel O’Neill Allen. She married Eugene McAllister on June 29, 1957 and was a homemaker all of her life. She is survived by her son, Dale McAllister; daughter Lisa Scribner of Waterford; grandchildren and great-grandsons; and siblings Albert Allen, Dorothy McDonald and Merle McAllister. She was predeceased by her parents; her husband Eugene; sisters Ruth Swett, Evelyn McAuliffe and Irene Trimbeck.



Emile E. Muzik, Jr., 85, of Green Brook, N.J., died Jan. 8, 2017 at home with his family by his side. He was born in Elizabeth, N.J. and lived in Clark, N.J. before moving to Green Brook 19 years ago. He was a school teacher working in the Valley Rd. School in Clark for 38 years before his retirement in 1994. He received his Masters in teaching from Kean College and he also graduated from Oxalis College. He served in the US Army during peacetime. He divided his time between Jersey and Maine, where he was a communicant of Trinity Lutheran Church in South Paris. Surviving are his wife, June; three daughters, Barbara Santora of Piscataway, NJ, Mary Mauriello of Dunellen, N.J. and Ruth Muzik of Green Brook, N.J.; two sons, David of No. Plainfield, N.J. and Rey Colon of No. Plainfield, N.J.; a sister, Barbara Louise Whichard of Newport Richie, Fla. and three grandchildren.



Oxford Central Electric Railway

(Continued from page 5)

Bassett and another detective, Wormell, conceived a rescue plot worthy of a movie. They arrived with two carriages and good horses aimed at North Waterford. Hostages jumped into the wagons and raced away. Bassett was injured as he shot at workers who suffered wounds and a broken leg. He escaped through the woods to Waterford Flat. Though rumors persisted for years that two of the rioters had been killed and buried, there was never any proof of that.

After a tense night when watchmen patrolled the streets and electric lights ran all hours in Norway, on Monday some of the rioters gave up and came into town, promising to stay there until they got their money; by Tuesday, most of the Italian laborers were in Norway. Sympathetic townspeople fed them and let them sleep in the Town Hall.

By Thursday, the laborers had all gone back to Boston on the train. In one month they had graded 17 miles for the track, built culverts and stacked ties. No one knows what happened to the carloads of steel rails or the funding of the company. The stocks were worthless. The railway was never built and no explanation can be found among newspaper archives. Thus ended the “Eyetalian War.”

In 2016, you can still see part of a graded terrace, which runs across the snowmobile trail in back of Springer's Store in East Waterford. The 1976 history tells of other traces which can still be seen nearby. We can now be grateful that the commercial enterprise of an electric railway never cut a swath through the beautiful middle of Waterford Flat or out along the Bear Pond or Pa-poose Pond roads.



WATERFORD FIRE DEPARTMENT

(Continued from page 2)

“This is probably the biggest project the town has done next to the school,” said Tucker, whose yeoman effort steered months of research, study and planning leading up to the town meeting vote. “We haven’t found another site that is more centrally located,” the retired sea captain said, adding that the site puts the entire town within a three-mile radius of the new station.

In approving the project, voters also authorized a \$400,000 bond for the project. An anticipated \$250,000 was awarded in August, 1995, which changed the direction of the project. Acceptance of the grant meant acceptance of federal compliance rules. While increasing the cost of the project, the overall benefit was huge and the town was able to pay off all indebtedness in three years. Today, the municipal complex stands as a model of community cooperation, initiative and ingenuity.



At the top, the mid-summer 2005 Avedisian fire on Bear pond. At right, the 2014 Sol fire at the former Gladys Knight House on Valley Road. Above, fire trucks from area towns assembled in Waterford for the 2007 Fourth of July parade. At right, the 2011 MacDonald fire in South Waterford village at the former Harry and Carrie Haynes home.
Photos by Bill Haynes

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