



Waterford Echoes

VOLUME LXIX Number 2 (Issue 69)

Fall/Winter 2019

Waterford Historical Society



Charles Dorr (C.D.) Morse circulated around the village of his birth for more than 80 years. He built, owned or moved many of the buildings in Waterford Flat and was entrepreneur of many of its businesses during parts of two centuries. This is an excerpt of his life history, compiled by his grandson, the late Bill Fillebrown.

At left, the house Charles Morse built in 1879, between the Stone house and the Parsonage; it burned in 1931. Below, the village general store and post office when Morse owned it.

Charles was born in 1853, the son of Augustus Granville Morse and Julia Stone Morse. He had two brothers: Frank Harris Morse, born 1857 (great-grandfather of Peter, Dianne and Ken Morse), orchardist who built the first apple storage building in Maine in 1895, and Augustus Granville "Gus," born 1858 (husband of Lillian Ray and father of Marion Morse Doore).

When C.D. was only 11, his father died and his schooling ended so he could go to work. Not much is known of his life until May 31, 1875 (his 22nd birthday) when he married Mary Adeline Stone, daughter of Leander Gage Stone and Sophia Pride Stone from East Waterford. [Adeline was the sister of Edgar "Ned" Stone—see our books]. This made the couple related to the Stone, Brown, Hamlin and Wilkins families, among others in Waterford.

Leander Stone, the village carpenter, helped his son-in-law build a new house on what had been part of the Parsonage Association Grant, but first he built his own house (today the Raymonds') and then the Parsonage (today owned by Mary Ann Elliott). By 1878 the elegant two-toned Victorian Morse house was probably completed on the Farrar Hill (Rice Road) lot.

In 1879, C.D. helped his father-in-law build the Masonic Hall, cutting granite foundation stones from the foot of Mt. Tire'm — where many of the town's

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C. D. MORSE

— DEALER IN —

Farm and Garden Machines and Tools

Spraying Outfits, Insecticides, Fertilizers and Farm Chemicals
Gasoline Engines, Cream Separators, Poultry
Supplies, Seeds, Roofing, etc.

Waterford, Maine, Sept-24 1914



In the weeks before Thanksgiving while adjusting to frigid temperatures, I was reminded of how quickly the summer of 2019 has gone by. Time passes at a constant rate, but for me it seems to fly by. The future becomes the past in an instant and time is irretrievable. As busy as we all are, it is important to take the time to save current and past memories, and to put names with faces on photos for future generations. We learn so much from history and it is of great interest to those of us who seek it. So, thank you to the meticulous historians who bring history to our attention.

Our summer programs and Echoes newsletters are two means of saving Waterford history. We hope WHS programs spark interest and bring people together. You can reach us with questions by calling our new office phone at 583-8335 at the Town House Museum. **We've also added internet and will begin putting things online.**

In August, we were fortunate to welcome two new trustees, Diane and Andy Dabczynski, for 3-year terms. We thank former trustees Marge Nihan from North Waterford and Robert Spencer from South Waterford for all their help in recent years. Bob has been a prime mover with Friends of City Brook to add historical signs at former mill sites create a walking trail from Keoka to Bear Pond. This past summer in honor of Joan Fillebrown for her dedicated support of the Waterford Historical Society, we added a **plaque with Joan and Bill Fillebrown's names to a bench on the Town Common. The loss of Joan is felt by the Waterford community and all who appreciated and loved her.**

We began the 2019 program season with a second sign dedication on May 25 at the site of the Stanwood Bucket Mill on the corner of Mill Hill and Waterford roads. Our thanks to David Sanderson and Bob Spencer for their work, and to all those who, **despite the black flies, attended and toured Bob Spencer's home on the site of Watson's Mill beside City Brook.**

The annual meeting and election of trustees was held on June 13 with a program about C.D. Morse, a Waterford Entrepreneur and furniture maker here in Waterford, who made good use of Waterford's wood resources. **On July 4, we opened up the Rice and Town House museums from 9 a.m. to noon during the parade. On July 11, Nancy Marcotte, who has worked at the New Gloucester museum producing publications and catalogues, provided the program "Shakers in Maine." On August 8, Lee Bradley of Waterford Woodworking hosted us at his Mill Hill Road studio. He talked about tools, techniques and the different kinds of wood used in making furniture. On September 12, Peter Morse led a lively discussion at the Wilkins House about growing up and working during his teen years at his family's apple business, Morse Orchards. His father, Frank Morse, invented one of the first spray machines. He also created controlled atmosphere for cold storage, the first in Maine if not New England. He used sawdust and ice to keep the apples fresh that were produced from his three apple orchards.**

On October 10, we met at the Wilkins House for a group discussion with community musicians and learned about their

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phone: 583-8335

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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.

2018-2019 OFFICERS

President: Bonnie Parsons
Vice President: Nancy Eaton
Secretary: Nancy Marcotte
Treasurer: Ralph MacKinnon
Membership: Joanne MacKinnon
Newsletter Editor: Bill Haynes
Trustees: Ted Gerber, Henry and Joy Plate
Tony and Donna Butterall
Andy and Diane Dabczynski

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.

President's Corner

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training, professional experiences and travels. Attending were Bill Mead, (drums) Preston Harrison (guitar), Diane Dabczynski (singer and recording artist), Professor Andy Dabczynski (viola and violin), Skipp Green (harmonica), Al Struck (clarinet) and Rex Rounds (guitar and ukulele). Members of the audience shared their musical experiences as well. The year's final program "How We Got Here" was held November 8 at the Waterford Library. Participants shared family stories about how they arrived in Waterford. They learned about each other and discovered summer camp and other connections they had in common with each other.

During the coming winter months, Nancy Marcotte will keep the Town House Museum open from 3-5 p.m. on Wednesdays, weather and health depending. Keep well. We'll see you in 2020, Maine's Bicentennial Statehood year.



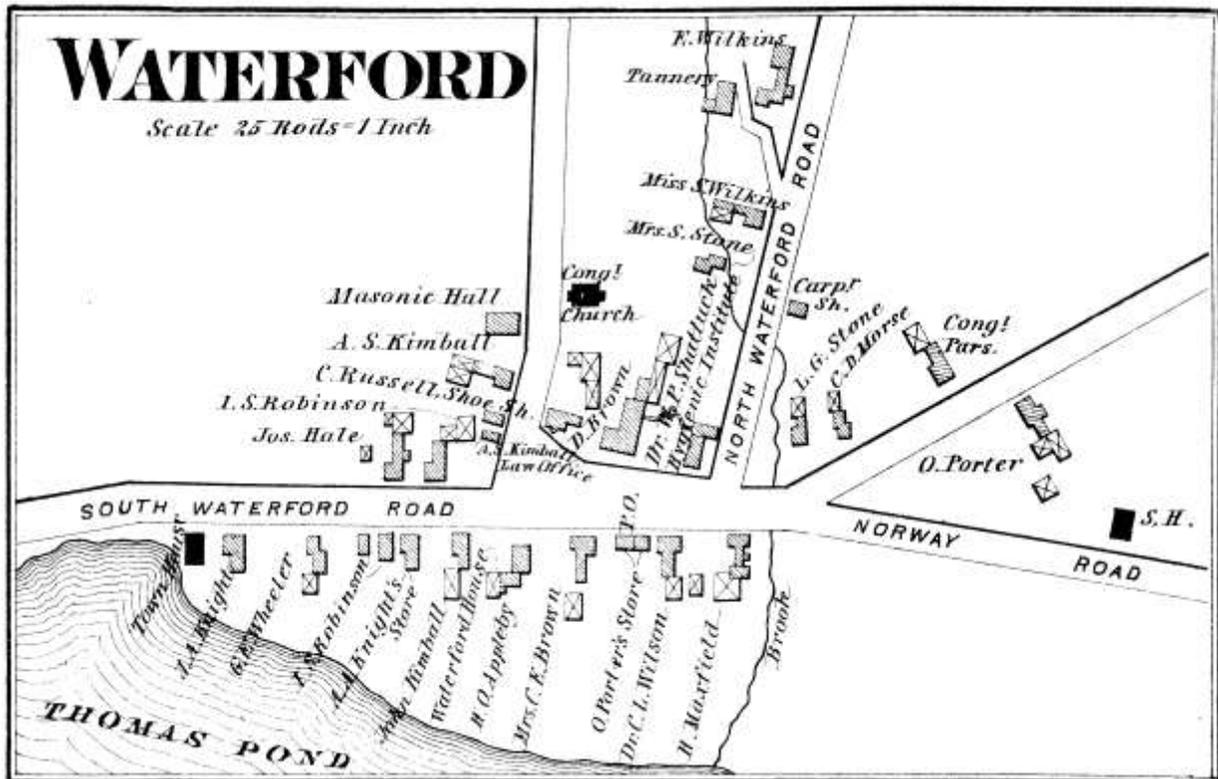
Camp Passaconaway in 1938 (today Waterford Woodworking and the home of the Bradleys). Originally Sumner Stone's Tavern.

Nuances

by Nancy Chute Marcotte
Travelling Post Office

Among the stories in Bill Fillebrown's memoirs is one about the Waterford Post Office. Once upon a time postmasters had to match the political parties of the President of the United States. Republican? The post office would be in the store. Democrat? The post office would move across the street to Florence Brown Rounds' house (built in 1823 by Thaddeus Brown — owned by Daniel Brown on the 1880 map.) That house (today home of the Harrisons) apparently still has a mail slot in the front door.

Another post office story: In England female postal workers are called postmistresses but South Waterford's Flora Abbott refused to be called by that name. She said she was nobody's mistress and postmaster was the correct job title! This was echoed by her niece Mildred Noyes and also by Alice Rounds, both of whom filled that capacity in later years.





Leander Stone Gage and the house he built for his daughter Addie and her husband, which burned in 1931. This is the location of Bill & Joan Fillebrown's last home; the Parsonage is visible in the background.

Charles Dorr Morse

(Continued from page 1)

foundations came from. He remodeled the hall in later years as well.

In addition to being a carpenter and an expert tool sharpener, in 1880 C.D. opened an undertaking business out of his home. C.D. and Addie had three children: Carl (b. 1879, d. ae 8 mos.), Charles Harold (b. 1887, d. 1897 of appendicitis) and Charlotte Dorr Morse (b. 1890, d. 1973).

In 1883, he bought Oliver Porter's store and post office and also began Waterford Mfg. Co. making chairs, as was so often an adjunct to an undertaker's job. However, in 1896 one of his furniture company partners ran off with the funds so Morse was declared insolvent. An aunt bought the store property so he continued to run it and live upstairs until 1909 when he sold it to his workers



The Brown/Rounds home with Morse/Fillebrown buildings in the distance.



Charles and Barbara Fillebrown at play — Ca. 1925

— L. R. and Florence Rounds. C.D. was also treasurer of the Waterford Creamery 1889-1892 and continued as an undertaker until 1918.

In 1909, his daughter Charlotte graduated from Bridgton Academy and her father bought the Dr. Cummings house, which had previously been owned by Daniel Brown, father of Florence Rounds. This became Charlotte's home for much of her life. Next door was a small building which had been moved there from next to the store. Once used as a shoe store, drug store and lawyer's office, it now became a tea room, a hardware store and a gift shop [before being moved again by Charlotte to become the nucleus of Bill and Joan Fillebrown's last home — on the lot of Morse's first house below the Parsonage].

In 1913, Charlotte married her B.A. classmate Walter Fillebrown of Ayer, MA. After a year in Boston, they moved



We have no picture of C.D. Morse but this is his brother Gus and the home he lived in (later Dr. Hubbard's and today the Kilburn/Petersons'). Below, the small building which had been drug store and tea room, among other uses, before its final move to the other side of the village. Here we see Dr. Bishop, who called himself the "soda jerk."



was ca. 1937), C.D. kept many chickens, ran a woodshop and sold dynamite and other hardware out of his property across from the church right up until the end. He was also devoted to the church and built the wooden folding tables still in use today in the Wilkins House (named for his cousin Susan Hamlin Wilkins). There are many other funny and gruesome tales among Bill's memoirs in our files.

If you look at the 1880 map on page 3, you will see people's names on buildings and you will see that Brown, Stone, Morse, Porter and others circulated around the Flat, buying and selling each others' buildings as the needs arose. The same thing happened in each village and between villages, with improvements like electric lights, schools, the Grange, etc. being added.

back to Waterford so Charlotte could care for her mother. Addie Morse died July 4, 1914, just four months after the birth of her first grandchild. The Fillebrown children eventually were Charles (b. 1914), Barbara (b. 1917, m. Martz), William (b. 1924) and Stephen.

In 1915, C.D. and his son-in-law Walter Fillebrown bought Jenkins General Store (originally Knights) which sat on the lot where the Rice Museum is today. Fillebrown's store sold lumber, machinery and rental boats; later it became Charlotte's second tea room for a while. It had been closed in 1937 when it and part of the library burned [see Echoes Issue 65, Fall/Winter 2017].



Since Bill was 13 when his grandfather died (we think it Barbara and baby Bill Fillebrown; the Rounds house in the background.

In Memoriam

C. Alan Bradford, 79, of Waterford, a life member of the Society, died March 25 in Leominster, MA. He was the son of Edward A. and Marjorie B. Bradford of Belmont, MA. Alan graduated from Belmont High School in 1958 followed by a three-year enlistment in the US Army and his marriage to Leslie Andrews. He graduated from the Boston Museum of Fine Arts School where he prepared for his 40 plus year career as a master goldsmith and jeweler. He was co-chairman of the Waterford Conservation Commission and served on the Oxford County University of Maine Extension Board. Upon retirement in 2006, Alan & Leslie RV camped in Texas and New Mexico. Alan is survived by his wife of more than 54 years, son Owen, daughter Ariane Ferland, siblings Peter Bradford and Pamela Perry and two granddaughters. He was predeceased by his brother, Bennett Bradford.

Gerald "Jerry" Geisler, 81, of East Waterford, died July 7, 2019 at the Maine Medical Center in Portland.



He was born on April 15, 1938 in South Fork, Pa. to Joseph and Helen (Schrader) Geisler. Jerry retired from the U.S. Navy. He is survived by his wife of 42 years, Merry (Moxcey) Geisler; three daughters, Anna Marie Granger, Catherine Villegas and Amy Jane Till; a son, John Moxcey; a sister, Sandra Geisler of Mansfield, Texas; and many grandchildren, great-grandchildren, nieces and nephews. He is buried in Lakeview Cemetery in Norway.

Bernard F. Bailey, 95, of Waterford died Sept. 17, 2019 in Norway. He was born in Norway to Harold and Helen (Millett) Bailey on Aug. 1, 1924. A veteran of World War II, revisited Germany where he reminisced about his involvement in the Battle of Remagen that resulted in the capture of the Lundendorff Bridge over the Rhine River. He is survived by his wife of 76 years, Florence, and three children, Renny of Norway, Doreen Scharfenstein of Essex, CT and Brian of Conway, NH.; five granddaughters; six great grandchildren; and two great great granddaughters.



Dorothy E. Sylvester, 92, a resident of Auburn, died Oct. 16 at Clover Manor. She was born in Harrison the oldest child of Martin K. and Evelyn (Morse) Miller. Elaine graduated from Edward Little High School in 1946 and was employed as secretary there for 40 years. On June 17, 1949 she married Ralph Lewis Sylvester of Auburn. She was a member of the Camp Fire Girls, Auburn Art Club, Craft Group at Court Street Baptist Church, Pine Tree Quilters of Maine, High Street Congregational Church, UCC, associate member of Waterford Congregational Church UCC and corporator of Auburn Public Library for 50+ years among many other organizations. Survivors include her husband, a brother Donald Burns and nephews. She was predeceased by her sister Marjorie J. Varney. She is buried in the Maine Veterans Cemetery in Augusta.



Lori Christmastree, a summer resident of Waterford, died at her home in San Miguel de Allende, Mexico on Oct. 16, 2019. Lori was an active and prolific artist on the international art scene, university art professor and also loved to volunteer and help her neighbors. A late-comer to the art world, in 1977 when Lori was in her forties, she entered Wayne State University in Detroit, MI where she studied art. Lori began teaching and lecturing, ultimate-



ly working and retiring as a tenured professor at Buffalo State College in Buffalo New York. After retiring in 2001, Lori and her husband moved from Buffalo, New York, to their summer home on Papoose Pond in Waterford. She joined the art community of Commons Arts Collective in Norway where she participated in many art activities. Lori is survived by her husband Misha Tomic, her five children and eight grandchildren.

Florence E. W. Cairns, 86, died Oct. 28, 2019 at Norway Center for Health and Rehabilitation. She was born in South Paris on Jan. 22, 1933 to Raymond Henry and Mary Prentiss Woodworth. She was educated in South Paris schools, leaving school to marry Warren Cairns in 1950 and start a family. She resumed her high school education years later and graduated with **full diploma. Florence, known by most as "Flossie," worked several jobs over her lifetime,** including the Log Cabin Restaurant and BE Cole shoe factory in the 50s. The family moved to North Waterford in 1963 where she worked with Warren on the chicken farm, cooking meals for his crew and doing other farm and garden jobs. She volunteered for **many years with Warren as members of the Waterford World's Fair. She was a lifetime member of the** South Paris Methodist Church and later the North Waterford Congregational Church, a Grange member and a 4-H club leader. She is survived by two of six siblings, James Woodworth of New Jersey and Geneva Woodworth Holehan of Arizona; her daughter Donna McCarraher of Waterford, sons Reginald, Jackson and Nelson; eight grandchildren; eight great-grandchildren; and innumerable nieces, nephews and great-nieces and nephews.



Peter L. Kane, 70, of Waterford and Okeechobee, FL passed away on Nov 10 at Market Square Healthcare Center. He was born in Lewiston on Feb. 2, 1949 the son of Robert and Barbara Bean Kane. He graduated from Oxford Hills High School and attended CMVTI, now known as Central Maine Community College in Auburn. He was a member of the 4-H club growing up. He raced at Oxford Plains Speedway and **participated in the truck pulls with his "Widowmaker" he was so proud of. Peter owned and** operated Leisure Lady RV for many years, travelling back and forth with the seasons from Florida. He was a lifetime member of the Fryeburg Fair and worked for many **years as an "Organic Engineer," cleaning up around the barns. He leaves behind two daughters, Bridget** Gorton of Fryeburg and Brydie Kane and of Oxford; five grandchildren; and two great grandchildren.



David Lawrence Abbiati, 76, of Gorham, died Nov. 11, 2019. He was born in Boston in 1943 to Ebe and Lawrence Abbiati and lived in the Boston area and Falmouth as a child. Dave received a BA from Bowdoin College, an MS from the University of Maine and a PhD from the University of Connecticut. He worked as a chemistry teacher at Falmouth High School, a human resources director for several companies and later as an Human Resources consultant. Dave sang with the Choral Arts Society as well as with the St. **Alban's choir in Cape Elizabeth. A longtime summer resident of Waterford, David served** as secretary of the Keoka Lake Association for many years. He and Ruth Abbiati were married for 45 years until she died in 2012. They raised their sons, Joe and Tony, in Westbrook. Joe lives in Lebanon and has two sons while Tony lives in Newton, Mass. with his wife and three children. He is also survived by Thea Darrah, who he married in 2014.



FROM OUR FILES

In 1958 Charlotte Morse Fillebrown

wrote about her little Happy Haven — the small building next to her house which she had turned into a winter residence for herself and Walter to save heating the big house.

The little house began as Dr. Charles Wilson's office next to Porter's (Morse's/Rounds') store. It was first moved sometime between



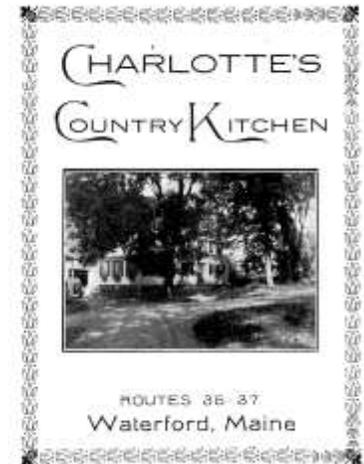
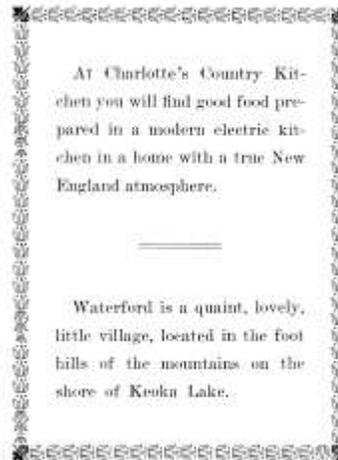
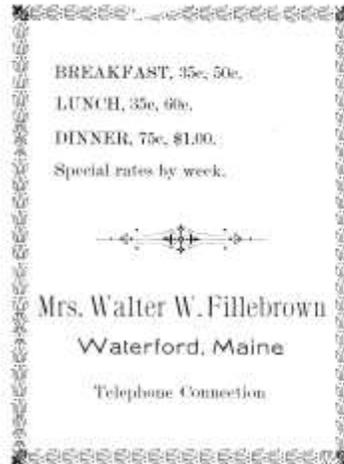
1892 and 1897 when Dr. Packard lived in the big house and used the small building as a drug

store, later run by Dr. Bishop, Dr. Libby and Dr. Coburn.

Next it was the undertaker's office, then Charlotte ran it as a tea room (see brochure above) for two summers, 1919 and 1920. It was rented as a summer cottage for a while and then used as a paint store. Her son Charles, wife Mary and baby son Charlie Gus moved in during and after WWII.

After a stint as a gift shop and Charlotte's Happy Haven, it was moved up to Parsonage hill after Walter died in 1961.

Charlotte Fillebrown
CA. 1910



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