



THE WATERBOROUGH

Published by the Waterborough Historical Society

July, 1978

Volume I, Number I

WATERBOROUGH HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Highlights of our eight year existence by
Evelyn Thompson

On September 16, 1969, nineteen Waterboro citizens, interested in forming an Historical Society, met at the Parish House of St. Stephen's Episcopal Church at Waterboro Center. It was a most happy occasion for those of us who had dreamed and hoped for this moment.

Quite a list of projects were suggested, and we were eager to get on with those we thought to be most worthwhile. First, we decided on a printing of an 1856 map of the town, taken from the old County map of that date. We were pleased with the result. They sold readily and gave us some needed funds. Sometime later a printing was done of the 1872 map of the town. These maps are most valuable to researchers as householders name and residence are shown.

For a Spring project, the Town House Cemetery was selected as being in most dire need of attention. The back half was covered with small trees as thick as they could stand, the whole cemetery, a sadly neglected spot. A small group of our members armed with bush clippers, grass shears, and power mowers, put in long back breaking work. As a result, the entire cemetery can now be mowed.

The walls and gate posts were next on our agenda. Both being in such shaky condition as to be a safety hazard. The rebuilding estimate for the complete wall being \$4500 was a shocker, and far beyond our capabilities. Therefore, we decided we must ask the town for help. Consequently, an article appeared in the warrant for the 1972 town meeting asking for \$500 to repair the worst of the damage. This was accomplished. In succeeding years the town has voted enough money to rebuild other portions of the wall. The cemetery is now one in which the townspeople may take pride, provided adequate upkeep is maintained.

Other cemeteries cleared by our Society were: Highland Cemetery on Hamilton Road, Jellerson-Taylor in back of Blaisdell Memorial Church, Weymouth on Deering Ridge, Woodward, in which is the grave of Rev. Pelatiah Tingley, the first minister in Waterboro. Chosen as our Bi-Centennial project was the clearing of the Town Pound on the Ossipee Hill Road—the only pound left intact in town. Bushes were cut and rocks relaid on the wall, making it visible from the road.

Research has been done on Schools, Churches, and some of the older homes in the area. Also a great many old pictures have been copied and added to our collection. Some of them were done by Donald Ricker of Falmouth, the originator of the project.

James Carll is doing the copying of old post cards and snapshots of people and places in town. They have been shown on slides at our meetings, and are very much appreciated. We are always hoping for additions to this project.

We joined the League of Historical Societies in 1971. In 1972, A. H. Ford of Portland took more than one hundred pictures of the older homes in Waterboro, making them up into beautiful eight by ten prints. Also included were exterior and interior views of the **oldest Churches in town and the Johnson Lumber Mill**. These he presented to our Society.

Christmas cards and notepaper, using the two oldest churches as subjects, was another successful project.

A highlight of one of our meetings was the re-showing of the film, "The Village Storekeeper." Filmed in 1946 by the State Department in Washington as an educational film to depict how democracy works best in a small town. It was released by the Department's Embassies and Consulates all over the world. A search was made in other States, but failing to find **what was wanted, it was turned over to the Maine Publicity Bureau**, who found the store and all other features in Waterboro. The cast, except for one professional actor, were towns people. With rapt attention, we watched the story unfold, calling out names of those taking part as they were recognized. A real thrill for us to see so many familiar faces—some of whom are gone from our midst. It is not known how well the film was received in foreign countries, but from our viewpoint it deserves top billing.

James and Judith Carll, owners of the old Johnson Lumber Mill in No. Waterboro, offered to give the mill to our Society, provided we cared to accept the responsibility for its restoration and upkeep. We were invited to an open house at the mill on August 11, 1974. This really ended our indecision, as the possibilities were very apparant. And we spent much time discussing ways and means of financing repairs. The deed to the mill was presented on December 5,

1974. By accepting a deed to property, it was necessary for our Society to be Incorporated. Officers of the Society, excluding the donor, were made trustees of the deed.

Society members, with help from the local JC's and 4H boys worked at cleaning up and painting the mill. **For the past year, the National Guard have been working off and on, making many needed repairs to the building.** Recently, Mr. Frank Beard, from the Maine Historic Preservation Commission, has visited the mill. He was very enthused and feels in time it may be accepted by the National Register of Historic Places.

A few members worked through the Winter of '75 on Revolutionary War Soldiers who came to Waterboro. This material was requested by the Maine Old Cemetery Association. All the names sent in will be permanently recorded. Our Society now places flags on Veterans' graves. Two of our members had made application to be listed as a Bi-Centennial town, and on April 1, 1976, we were informed that Waterboro had been officially recognized as a Bi-Centennial Community. Our Society had more than enough projects to entitle the town to this honor. The flag was received and later presented to the town by James Carll, President of the Waterborough Historical Society.

A Scroll, made by Mary Nutter of Portland, was beautifully inscribed with the name of town and legend from the first town book, which had been presented by Josiah Waters, one of the proprietors of Massabesic Plantation in 1787. This was signed by towns people and on May 16, 1976, was placed on the Wagon Train whose destination was Valley Forge.

The Waterborough Historical Society Float for the Bi-Centennial Celebration Parade, was planned and gradually took form on the morning of July 3, 1976, beginning at 7 a.m. with coffee. Using hammer and nails, they covered the flat bed, borrowed from "Sammy" Woodsome, with heavy paper, then bunt-

ing was draped. Those working were Arolyn Johnson, Mr. and Mrs. Williams, Peter Williams, Virginia Day, Jane McGrath, Rachel Curtis, Dennis Day, Dana Graves, Dwight McPherson, and Darrell McPherson was the errand boy.

The float was to represent a one room school. For it they borrowed a pot bellied stove, three school desks from Arlene Jellerson, two from Jim Carll, and one from Jane McGrath, a pile of wood from Day's woodbox, a schoolmaster's desk from the old mill, a school bell from Arlene Jellerson, also glasses (very strong) worn by the schoolmarm, Virginia Day, and a dunce cap of black roofing paper, inscribed "DUNCE" was worn by Dana Graves.

Girl pupils, Amy Curtis, Heidi Edgecomb, Terry Fay were all in Colonial costume and carried little lunch baskets and slate boards made by Ruth Williams. Boy pupils were Colin Canning and Dennis Day. Dwight McPherson held the flag. Jane McGrath furnished an easel on which was a map of Waterboro.

By 11:30 they still had no way to haul the float. Al Bowles just happened by and they gave him a choice, "work or haul the float". He chose to furnish the truck.

The schoolmarm had a pointer and a switch which somehow disappeared enroute. The children gave the pledge of allegiance to the flag. On the float was a wheelbarrow with hay in it to feed Maria the cow. Peter Williams who was supposed to push the wheelbarrow, ended up driving the truck instead. A sign on the float read, "THE THREE R'S WATERBOROUGH HISTORICAL SOCIETY".

They made it to the parade with little time to spare. All agreed "it had been a lot of fun".

We decided on an Annual Craft Fair as a means of raising money for repair of the Johnson Lumber Mill. Our first one was held on August 2, 1975. It was well attended and very successful despite the extremely hot day—105 degrees inside the mill, 115 outside. For those under the tent it seemed even hotter.

The second fair held on October 11, 1975 was a great contrast weather wise, a cold raw day.

Our third fair on July 31, 1976, was a VERY rainy and cold day. We were dressed in Colonial Costume in keeping with the Bi-Centennial theme. My, what a blessing for concealing "long johns".

The day of our fourth fair was an absolutely perfect day, and the mill was in much better condition, thanks to the National Guard, who have contributed their time and labor.

All our fairs have been financially very successful, despite all variety of weather. The future of our project—restoring and preserving the old mill—has become more encouraging since a representative of the Maine Historic Preservation Commission has visited the mill. According to him, "in time, matching funds may be available."

The Johnson Lumber Mill as a memrobilia of a once thriving industry, is still an asset to our town—even though its usefulness as a saw mill has given way to changing times.

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

If you are interested in joining the Waterborough Historical Society, please clip and mail the following application form.

WATERBOROUGH HISTORICAL SOCIETY MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

PHONE: _____

Donation: \$2.00 per year, Life Membership, \$15.00.

Mail to:

JEAN GRANT
NORTH WATERBORO
MAINE 04061

WATERBORO — HISTORY AND EARLY TOWN RECORDS by James E. Carll

Previous to 1768 Waterborough was a dense wilderness. It was a part of the purchase of Major William Phillips, of Saco, made in 1661, of Indian chiefs—Captain Sunday, Fluellen, and Hobinowell, the latter a chief of Saco River. The proprietors, John Avery, Col. Joshua Waters, and John Wheelwright, of Boston, held it by virtue of a will of Bridget Phillips, Major William's wife. The proprietors records show that they were accustomed to hold meetings to discuss business matters in a coffee-house or restaurant in Boston. The first permanent settlement within the borders of the town was made by John Smith, in 1768, near Waterborough Old Corners. He was followed by others, most of whom settled in the same vicinity, so that in 1770 there were eight families in town: those of John Smith, John Scribner, Robert Harvey, Alexander Jellison, William Deering, Scamman Hodgdon, William Philpot, and William Nason. These several families came from Somersworth, N. H., Berwick, and Scarborough, and engaged in lumbering. The progress of the settlement was slow at first, owing to the breaking out of the Revolution about this time. In 1784 there were 118 souls in town.

In 1784-5 the town was surveyed, and in October, 1785, a plan which is now in the office of the clerk of the court at Alfred, was completed by James Warren. At this time there was a rough logging road running up on the west side of Massabesic (now Shaker) Pond to the Old Corners, where it forked, one branch running to the present location of Waterborough Centre, thence up the west side of Ossipee Pond and on the ford on little Ossipee River, near Ossipee Mills. The left branch passed in a northwesterly direction east of Middle Branch and Northwest Ponds until it came to the outlet of the latter; thence down that stream to within a mile of the Little Ossipee River, and from there bore to the Northwest to Dam's Mills.

The first church was formed in 1782, and the meetings were held at Joshua Ricker's house. It was a

union church with no stated ministry, and the members were afterwards divided among the Baptists, Free Will Baptists, and Congregationalists.

The first school opened in Waterborough was in a barn, in 1784, and was taught by Samuel Robinson. The private schools were continued by Messrs. Denny, Rogers, and Kinsman, until 1795 at which time the town appropriated money for a town school and employed Nathan Hanson as teacher.

Waterboro is very fortunate to still have its town meeting record books intact. The first entry in the first town record book is the incorporation act dated March 6, 1787. It reads in part "An act for incorporating a plantation in the County of York, called Massabesic, by the name of Waterborough. Whereas the inhabitants of a plantation in the County of York, called Massabesic, labor under many inconveniences, for want of being incorporated, and has petitioned this court to be incorporated into this town. Being enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court assembled and by authority of the same, that the same plantation with the inhabitants thereof bounded as follows Viz: beginning at the northerly corner of Coxhall, thence running north 11 1/2 west 5 miles and 3/4 of a mile to the River called Little Ossipee; thence westerly by the same River to the northeast corner of Shapleigh; thence southerly by Shapleigh and Sanford to the westerly corner of Coxhall aforesaid; thence northeasterly by said Coxhall to the bound first mentioned; be and hereby is incorporated into a Town by the name of Waterborough." This incorporation was signed by the following distinguished members of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts: Artemas Ward, Speaker of the House of Representatives; Samuel Phillips, Jr., President of the Senate; James Bowdoin, Governor; and John Avery, Jr., Secretary. The first person to be charged with posting a warrant was Andrew Burley. That warrant was for the first official town meeting of the Town of Waterborough dated April 5, 1787, and it was held at Capt. John Smith's dwelling house. He was an innkeeper. The following articles were voted on:

- 1st Chose William Bean—moderator
- 2nd Benjamin Warren—town clerk
- 3rd Nathaniel Hains—town treasurer
- 4th James Carlile, Andrew Burley, William Bean—selectmen and assessors
- 5th Clement Moody, William Tibbets—constables and collectors
- 6th Samuel Scribner, William Woodward—committee to examine Town Treasurer's records
- 7th Capt. John Smith—deer and moose reaver
- 8th John Smith, 3rd, John Carll, Samuel Cammitt, Moses Downs—fence viewers
- 9th Capt. John Smith, Thomas Gubtail—surveyors of all kinds of lumber
- 10th Vallentine Straw—pound keeper
- 11th Humphrey Downs, Liet. Benjamin Perry—tythingmen
- 12th Timothy Ricker, William Woodward—wardens
- 13th Benjamin Warren—sealer of weights and measures
- 14th William Bean—sealer of leather
- 15th James Hamilton, Capt. John Smith, Nicholas Carpenter, Clement Moody, Joseph Sanborn, Thomas Gubtail, Liet. Simion Tebbets, John Bridges—surveyors of highways
- 16th Voted the thanks of this Town be returned the Honorable Josiah Waters, Esq., for his generous donation in that he has been pleased to bestow on it a book for the records of said Town together with a number of other books for the information of the rising generation.
- 17th Voted to disolve this meeting

The next town meeting was held a month later at Jeremiah Brown's in the North part of town. It was voted not to raise any money for schooling, to raise seventy-five pounds to repair roads, to pay three shillings per day for work on the roads. In this year 1787, there were four accepted roads in the town. In October of 1787, it was voted that the annual March town meeting be held one year at Capt. John Smith's and the next at Mr. Jeremiah Brown's and all other meetings alternately as they come. On December 26, 1787, it was voted to send our first representative to the convention in Boston. The person chosen was

Rev. Pelatiah Tingley. On March 25, 1788 it was voted to build a town pound near Tobias Leighton's, to be 30 feet square and 7 feet high, and to be built by next July 31. Capt. John Smith was to be paid \$12.00 for building the pound. On April 6, 1789, the amount of 60 pounds was raised for use of the schools.

On May 14, 1791, it was voted unanimously to set the Courthouse at the Crotch of the road by Capt. John Smith's, and on September 19, 1791, it was voted that it was expediant to build a Courthouse at the Crotch of the road near Phineas Colcords and that the House be built by subscription. On April 7, 1794, it was voted to petition the general court to divide this town into two parishes for the purpose of building meeting houses in the town, a committee was appointed to make the division line. In May of 1794 the committee recommended that the division line should be about 4 rods northeasterly from Joseph Sanborn's house south 56½ degrees east and north 56½ degrees west across the town.

In September of 1794 it was voted to buy the first stock of ammuniton for the town; it was also voted to take a plan of the town.

On May 6, 1795 it was voted for the separation of the counties of York, Cumberland, and Lincoln into separate states.

In May of 1797 it was voted to build a bridge over the Little Ossipee River on the road from Limerick to Portland.

In April of 1800 an article read to see if the town will pass a vote to dismiss all those persons who petitioned to be incorporated in a Baptist Society in this town, in the actual vote of this article it read voted that those persons who petitioned to be incorporated in a Baptist Society have this town's consent thereof. In 1801 it was voted to petition the General Court to remove the Supreme Judicial Court from Kennebunk to Alfred Meeting House. In 1801 it was also voted to raise \$15 to purchase a plan of the town

and Andrew Burley was to purchase the plan in the best way he could. In 1803 there were 161 qualified voters in the town and 120 were at the meeting. In 1804 it was voted to build Limerick Bridge. A committee was set up to superintend the building of said bridge and 100 dollars was raised to build the bridge. In 1805 it was voted to have a pound in the north part of town near Jeremiah Brown's dwelling house. It was also voted that Joseph Allen have liberty of this town to erect bars across the road leading from his house to Jonathan Knight's for the term of one year.

There was a running battle from 1803 for about ten years concerning the bridge across Buffoms Brook (buff) as to whether the town or the proprietors of a mill near the brook would keep the bridge in repair.

In 1806 it was voted to build a pound on the south side of the town, to be built by Gideon Walker for 28 dollars.

In 1807 it was voted that the town be at the expense of copying the proprietor's book. It was also voted to raise 90 dollars to buy 113 pounds of powder, 254 balls, 254 flints, and 7 camp kettles.

(to be continued)

WHERE ARE THESE GRAVES

WALKER, Daniel C.: b. December 2, 1814, Waterboro living in Waterboro 1889, m. Abigail GOWEN, March 8, 1840.

LASSELL, Caleb Rev. Vet.: b. March 19, 1761, Arundel died: November 23, 1846, Waterboro.

LASSELL, Dorcas WHITE, wife: b. March 16, 1760, Alfred died: May 16, 1839, Waterboro.

LASSELL, Abigail, daughter: b. April 2, 1796 died: age 18 years.

JELLERSON, William P.: b. April 9, 1838 m. Abby S. DROWNS of Syman, April 24, 1869.

JELLERSON, Caleb H.: b. July 15, 1815 died: December 26, 1891 m. Lydia A. LIBBY of Hollis, April 3, 1848.

CRAFT FAIR '78

The annual craft fair will be held on Saturday, August 5, at the Society's mill in North Waterboro. We are in need of plants, books, white elephants, crafts, and children's items. For pick up, call 247-5332. Your donations will be appreciated.

INFORMATION WANTED

WALKER: Who were parents of Simion Walker died: December 4, 1864 age: 68 yrs. 6 mos. wife: Abigail son: Seth Walker died: September 15, 1873 age: 47 yrs. 2 mos. son: Calvin Walker died: February 7, 1871 age: 34 yrs. 7 mos. All buried in Limerick, Maine.

JOHNSON - HILL: Wanted—birth and death dates and parent's names of Abigail Johnson (adm. to Greenland, N. H. church, November 11, 1742), m. (as 1st wife of) John Hill, Greenland, N. H. They had two chn., Abigail (res. Waterbury, Vt.), and David Hill b. October 15, 1753, Greenland, N. H. res. and d. November 27, 1838, Waterboro, Me.; m. Parnell THING August 9, 1778 at Wakefield, N. H. (by Rev. Avery Hall). Also, would like the same info. on Parnell Thing. (Dates and Parents?)

Need d/o/b; parents, wife name (etc.); date of death for Thomas SMITH, Sr. probably of Standish. Son Thomas, Jr. m. Sally COLE of Buxton.

Need parents and date of birth of Hannah HARMON who m. James SMITH of Buxton on May 30, 1858 She died on December 5, 1907.

Need parents and their vital statistics of William H. GOULD, b. November 11, 1838 in Hollis, Maine. m. Sarah E. WRIGHT, 1865 in Mass.

Need parents, etc. of Charles DENNETT of Dayton b. 1850. He m. Hattie Elizabeth BOOTHBY on (date needed).

We hope you have enjoyed our first issue and welcome any comments you may have. If anyone would like to contribute items in this publication or have comments or suggestions, please contact Jim Carll, East Waterboro, Maine 04030 Tel. (207) 247-5878.