



THE WATERBOROUGH

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SAME CLAN FOUNDED THE TOWN

After the death of her husband Samuel in 1883, Olive (Chadbourne) Mellen left Boston with her three-year-old daughter Mary to return to the home of her parents in North Waterborough. It was there, at the north end of what has been called Webber's Pond, Chadbourne's Pond and Little Ossipee Lake, where Mary Mellen spent her childhood with her mother, her grandparents James Mills and Mary (Gray) Chadbourne, and her maiden Aunt Etta Chadbourne.

Mary became very fond of her grandfather, a delightful man, the subject (and perhaps perpetrator) of neighborhood legends. James M., as he was known by his cousins up the hill, and his brother Daniel operated the mills which stood between their two homes at the outlet of the lake.

By 1893 Mary's grandparents had died. Mary, Olive and Etta were the three remaining in the house. It was then that Harry Chadbourne, Mary's 18-year-old

cousin, came to live with the three females, helping them with the chores that men seemed better able to do.

Mary and Harry, the cousins, became more like brother and sister, and their close relationship lasted through their lives. In 1906 Mary married J. Hudson Sinkinson and Harry married Frances Wilson. The two cousins lived their married lives elsewhere, but their interest in the family and their family home in North Waterborough remained constant. Both were active in the revitalization of the Elder Grey Meeting House, named for their great grandfather, James Gray/Grey.

Harry and Frances, after retirement, looked forward each year to their winters in Florida. Sprightly Mary, however, didn't care for Florida; said it was too hot and there were too many old people in St. Petersburg. Mary's idea of the ideal winter was house-sitting at Biddeford Pool.

After Frances passed away, Harry was at a loss for a companion to accompany him to Florida. One may assume that it required some persuasion before Mary and Hudson agreed to go with him. It was in Harry's pride and joy, a Packard Straight 8, that the three motored to Florida in 1945. Curious about the origin of its name, they detoured to Chadbourn, North Carolina.

The following Christmas the folks back home received the Christmas card pictured

here. On the reverse is written, "We made a detour to Chadbourn...and Hudson took this picture. Same clan founded the town."

This article first appeared in *The Pied Cow*, the newsletter of The Chadbourne Family Assn. and was written by Linda Hanscom, gratefully acknowledging the recollections of Mary's son, John H. Sinkinson of Scarsdale, NY.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS

The nominating committee was busy this spring -- on Thursday May 3rd the following officers were nominated, voted upon and approved by the membership for the 2001 season:

President.....Jim Carll
Vice President.....Joe Fortunato
Secretary.....Brenda Hamilton
TreasurerDeb Wentworth

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

The Board of Directors for the 2001 season is:

- Lucille Corthell ▪ Linda Hanscom
- Brenda Hamilton ▪ Deb Wentworth

CALLING ALL LEAF PEEPERS

A **Leaf Peepers Quilt and Rug Show** will be held on Saturday, October 6th from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. in the Alfred Parish Church, located facing the village green at Routes 202 and 4. Both new and antique quilts and rugs will be included. There will be a merchants mall and the event will be handicapped accessible.

For more information, contact Alix Golden at 207-490-0342 or Linda Aaskov at 207-793-8404. For quilt or rug entry forms, send a self-addressed, stamped envelope to Alix Golden, P.O. Box 878, Alfred, ME 04002.

CITIZENS' ROUND TABLE

Brenda Hamilton

The Waterborough Historical Society held a Citizens' Round Table on April 22, 2001. Members of the community came together to share information and to ask questions in regard to articles found in the recently published *Reflections of Waterborough*. A senior panel of citizens composed of Forrest Abbott, Jr., Willis Lord, John Smith, James Earle, Jr., Ronald Stuart, Emily Hamilton, Esther Smith and Helen Carpenter answered many questions about subjects in the book.

New topics, such as the latest date the ice left Little Ossipee Lake and a women's birthing center that was once located on Federal Street, generated much discussion.

Thank you to all who participated. Listening to the discussion made me think about all the events that have occurred in Waterboro since I have lived here. Our Town is forever changing. As we preserve memories of people, places and events from many years ago, it is for our generation to record the events of today for generations to follow. Today's events are tomorrow's history. Even when we share on a family level, history is being passed on.

NEWS FROM 100 YEARS AGO

"The Waterboro High School library has recently been presented with about 100 books... The gift was very acceptable, because it adds greatly to our library, as well as to furnish abundance of choice reading to the students. We wish to extend to Mr. Leavitt our most sincere thanks for this beautiful present."

"A number of residents of this place attended the debate between the Waterboro and Limerick High Schools held in the Town Hall, Limerick, Friday evening February 22nd."

The Sanford Tribune, Sanford, Maine
March 1, 1901

(Editors Note: in 1901, Waterboro High School was being taught at what is now the Town Hall at Waterboro Center.)

FIRES AT WATERBORO

Three Occurred Within 24 hours Damage Over \$2,000 on One

"Fires seemed to be the rule rather than the exception in South Waterboro last week. Thursday at 5:30 there was a slight blaze in the store of Carll Bros., caused by a piece of a lighted match falling into some cotton batten, the damage was slight.

There was also a small blaze in the blacksmith shop of O.C.Boothby.

Friday morning at 2:45 the alarm was sounded for a fire in the grocery store of H. Guptill. It was under quite good headway when discovered by Joseph W. Downs. It seemed to have started in the basement. In the upper story an old lady lived alone, but by good fortune she was away.

No better work was ever done by any fire company than was done by the South Waterboro bucket brigade. After two or three hours of hard work the fire was under control.

The goods were all damaged by fire and water and will be almost a total loss; insured for \$1,820. Dr. W.J. Downs owns the building which is not worth repairing; insured for \$200. If the store had burned, the house of Dr. Downs, his drug store and many other buildings would have gone.

There was no wind at the time. No one was injured during the fire."

The Sanford Tribune, Sanford, Maine
December 27, 1901

REFLECTIONS OF WATERBOROUGH

Sales and support of the Historical Society's recently published book *Reflections of Waterborough* has been tremendous. A total of 1,265 volumes were delivered to us last fall – as of May 31st, 790 of those volumes have been sold. Kudos to the continuing efforts of the book committee in making this project a success!

If you would like to purchase a copy, please contact any member of the Historical Society, or mail your request to:

Waterborough Historical Society
P.O. Box 498
North Waterboro, ME 04061

Cost is \$20.00, plus \$2.00 shipping and handling. Please make your check payable to: "Waterborough Historical Society."

CEMETERY CLEAN-UP

The cemetery committee is again hard at work on the huge task of cleaning and preserving the many cemeteries in Town. An extra pair of hands is always wanted – please join us in our continuing preservation efforts.

JOIN US!

Please join us at our meetings – April through October. Meetings start at 7:00 p.m. at the Carle's Corner Museum/Jane McGrath Library next to the Town House.

The 2001 meetings are:

July 12

(note: this is the second Thursday of the month) Combined meeting with the Limerick Historical Society at the old Town Hall, Main Street, Limerick

August 2

Historic Masonry with Rick Irons, owner, Early American Masonry of South Berwick.

Saturday, September 1

Flea Market 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.

October 4

Show and Tell. Try to stump us with an old item and be prepared to share its history.

Saturday, December 1

Craft Fair 10 a.m. to 2 a.m.

(NOTE: Due to a scheduling conflict, the meeting previously slated for Sunday, August 26th at the Taylor House is postponed. The Taylor House is sponsoring "Art in the Barn" on August 25th and 26th to coincide with the lioness-sponsored "English Tea" to be held on the 26th. Deb Wentworth from the Taylor House committee extends apologies for the miscommunication and scheduling conflict.)

LIGHTS, CAMERA, ACTION!!

On Thursday, July 12, the Historical Society is having a combined meeting with the Limerick Historical Society at the old Town Hall on Main Street, Limerick. As a part of the program, members of both Societies will perform a series of skits. So, grab your make-up and costume and join us for this sure-to-be fun event!

Esther Smith's Memories of the Old "New Road"

Long unused now, the old New Road was built in the late 1800s so you would not have to climb up and down all the hills of West Road to Ross Corner, especially in bad weather.

The further end is used today, but originally the road began almost opposite Judge Ivory Smith's home on West Road, about where Star Hill Road begins. It went past Middle Branch and Northeast Ponds and came out

at Ross Corner. Esther, the Smith's younger daughter, remembers it as being a peaceful gentle ride on sandy terrain and much easier on horses than going up the steep grades of West Road. She liked to watch the teams as they broke out of the wooded New Road and started going down West Road perhaps to the railroad station or local shops.

One time, in winter, an early jitney was stuck in the snow on the New Road and the driver made his way on foot to the Smith house to explain his predicament. Immediately the Smiths set-to to make the passengers comfortable and warm. Judge Smith went back with the driver to help move the passengers into his home where Esther and her mother had made up beds for them and were preparing warm food. She recalls they were "two ladies, and a man." One was a normal school teacher going home from her winter assignment & another was an elderly lady. Being only in her teens, Esther recalls this 1928 episode as part of a "rather dramatic adventure."

She remembers the road as being very sandy and horses could travel it quietly not disturbing one's enjoyment of the views of the ponds and woods. Her mother & father, in their courting days before they were married, were taking a ride up West Road and then down the New Road. They suddenly came upon four boys who had been skinny dipping in the Middle Branch Pond and had stopped to play some baseball in the road without bothering to get dressed. Her mother told Esther that "her cheeks were flaming for days while her father was roaring with laughter as the boys dove into the bushes." Remember this was back in 1908!!

Once automobiles came into use, the Town finally voted not to keep up the old New Road as improvements must have been made to the West Road. Horses no longer had to travel over the infamous West Roads dips and valleys, but the quiet peaceful trot along New Road eventually was no more. Esther now lives in Ocean Park, ME

PRESERVATION AWARDS

The Elder Grey Meeting House-Cemetery Association has received word that it is one of three recipients of the Maine Historic Preservation Awards.

The citation reads in part, "Since 1925 the Elder Grey Meeting House-Cemetery Association has been the mindful steward of the meeting house and cemetery. In 1999 the Association submitted an outstanding New Century Community Preservation Program application for timber frame repair work and rebuilding of the dry laid foundation of the Meeting House. The quality of their application proved to be indicative of the quality of the preservation work they undertook with their grant award."

The award will be presented at the Commission's July meeting.

WATERBOROUGH HISTORICAL SOCIETY MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

Donation: \$5.00 per year, Life membership
\$50.00.

Mail to:

Deb Wentworth
PO Box 498
North Waterboro
Maine 04061
