



THE WATERBOROUGH

Published by the Waterborough Historical Society

June, 1983

JANE ROBBINS McGRATH MEMORIAL HISTORICAL LIBRARY

In September 1982, the Historical Society lost one of its most valuable and dedicated members. Jane McGrath's dedicated work over the years produced many rewarding activities for the Society and the Town of Waterboro. Her tireless efforts produced a craft fair that has become an annual event, research, and her up attitude gave members the feeling that with hard work and faith anything was possible. Nothing epitomized this faith more than her perseverance in acquiring the Belval House on the Town House Road. Until her death she continued to work with the National Guard on the renovation of this building.

In October, Society members unanimously voted to recognize Jane's dedication by naming the library section of the building in her honor.

We join her family in grieving the loss of a loved one and friend. We believe the Jane Robbins McGrath Memorial Historical Library will be an inspiration to future members and a monument to Jane's memory.

A formal dedication will be held when the room is completed.

PROGRAMS FOR 1983

On April 7 at the town house there will be an organizational meeting for members and those interested in joining. Bring ideas for activities for the coming year. Time: 7:30.

On May 8 at the town house State Senator Frank Wood will speak about "York County Records" There will also be the annual election of officers. Annual dues will be collected. Time: 7:30.

On June 2 at Old Corner Church in South Waterboro, Esther Smith will give a "History of Old Corner Church. Time: 7:30.

On July 7 at the town house Patricia Lord will speak about "The Historic Savannah Foundation" Time: 7:30.

On August 4 at the Elder Gray Meeting House Barbara Lord will present a "History of the Elder Gray Meeting House" Time: 7:00.

On September 1 at the town house Dr. Robert Bradley of the Maine Historic Preservation Commission in Augusta will present "An Illustrated lecture on the Archeology of Colonial Maine" This program will be presented before the business meeting. Time: 7:30.

On October 6 at the town house John Morningstar will present a "History of the "Beehive" in Alfred and restoration of old organs" Time: 7:30.

WATERBORO NEWS --- AS TAKEN FROM OLD NEWSPAPERS

Taken from THE MAINE SENTINEL, Biddeford Maine, Wednesday, May 4, 1887.

North Waterborough

Alonzo Bradeen has a pair of white face steers, two years old, that girt 6 ft. 2 in.; their weight is 2470 lbs.

Niles Bradeen has a cow that girts 6 ft. 2 in., that dropped a calf April 29, that weighed 110 lbs.

School in Dist. No. 7, commenced May 2, with Louisa Guilford of Hollis, teacher.

Miss Cora West of West Buxton, is visiting friends in this place.

Mrs. Hubbard and daughter spent last week in Portland.

John S. Mitchell and family have returned from Florida. At present they are in Portland, but are expected here soon. They will occupy the house formerly owned by his late mother.

Taken from THE MAINE SENTINEL, Biddeford Maine, Wednesday, June 22, 1887.

North Waterborough

Last fall a road machine agent visited our town leaving one of his machines expecting the town would buy it; but at our annual spring meeting it was rejected by a decided majority, however. The agent left the machine with the selectmen desiring them to make use of it that its work might be shown. This has been done by repairing several pieces of road, giving good satisfaction wherever used. But many of our citizens wanted to see it put to a practical test on Dist. 28, running from the oak tree to Hollis line. Last Thursday, under the management of I. N. Deering, the machine, drawn by six oxen and a pair of light horses, performed a most satisfactory job, this is one of the hardest districts in town, being very hilly and rocky. It was a surprise to all to see how easily the team handled its working both ways on the smallest hills. It is the opinion of all who live in that district that one thousand dollars used in connection with the road machine will keep our roads in better repair than double that amount expended under the old system.

Taken from THE MAINE SENTINEL, Biddeford Maine, Wednesday, July 6, 1887.

North Waterborough

Charles Harmon returned to his home in Scofield, Penn., last Monday.

The four last days of last week were excessively hot, it being from 96 to 110 above zero.

Farmers will begin haying this week in earnest, and with favorable weather they will have something to show for their work when they get done.

Mrs. Nellie Saddler of Freedom, with her two children, have been the guests of Isaac Horne the past week.

John Woodsum at Ossipee Mills cut his knee

very badly last Thursday, while peeling bark.

Merrill Bagley at Waterboro Centre, on Monday, June 27th, carried 20 bushels of peas into Biddeford market, the first that had been carried in this season, and was intending to carrying in thirty bushels more before the 4th. Where is Parsonsfield?

We were sorry to find our friend and former townsman, Henry Bradeen, prostrated by disease when we were in Biddeford the other day. He has our sympathy, and we hope he will soon be out again.

Miss Lillian Sawyer closed a very successful term of school in Dist. No. 5 in this town, last Friday. The exhibition in the afternoon was attended by some sixteen of the parents and friends of the scholars, and all declared it a perfect success. Miss Sawyer leaves next week for No. Conway and will stop at Sunset Pavilion until Sept. when she will return to teach the fall term of school in Dist. No. 5.

Mrs. Simon Harmon went to Saco last week, and called on Dentist Burnham and had 19 teeth extracted. Who says she has not got courage? But she can't bite.

Taken from THE BIDDEFORD JOURNAL, Friday, March 30, 1888.

Waterboro

A. J. Roberts returned to Colby University Wednesday.

Capt. Wm. H. Johnson of Portland was in town over the Sabbath.

D. M. Brock has returned to Dover, N. H. He is a first class mechanic.

Your Shapleigh correspondent, in his communication of last week, stated that the roads were so badly blocked up by the big snow storm that "the man who went over with Teacher Smith Monday night did not get away until the next day," when the fact was he did not get away until Thursday. So the roads were blocked even worse than he described them.

Quite recently, D. E. Russell was observed coming from his house towards his mill at a very brisk gait, to the wonderment of the crew. As Daniel came within hailing distance one of the number sang out, "What is it?" and instantly the reply came, "It's a boy, and an eleven pounder!" We will here add that when the question was asked the party had no reference to the subject to which the answer referred, but as soon as the questioner could recover from his surprise he replied in a cheery tone, "Well done, Daniel," which was repeated in chorus by all hands.

In Waterboro, March 11, Mr. William Littlefield, aged 83 years, 3 months, and 13 days, Passed to that world of light where there is no more "sorrow nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain for the former things have passed away." The subject of this notice was born at Wells, Nov. 28, 1804. During his childhood his parents moved to Shapleigh, where he lived until his early manhood when he went to Massachusetts to seek his fortune. There he remained until March, 1838, when he moved from South Danvers (now Peabody) to

Waterboro. His occupation was farming and he had always been a hard laboring man. Mr. Littlefield and his devoted wife (Anna Mildram) had journeyed together nearly fifty eight years, sharing joy and sorrow, prosperity and adversity, and to her whose devoted care the deceased was largely indebted for the peaceful years that closed his long life. The deceased passed through some three weeks of extreme suffering ere release came for his stricken form, during which time all was accomplished though in vain, which affection and love could suggest, or medical skill could avail. The sublime fortitude and patience with which he bore his intense suffering, his loving consideration for those who ministered to his wants and his grateful acknowledgement to all service to him bore testimony to the sustain power of the Holy Spirit and left blessed memories to his last days. He died as he lived happy in the faith of the world's Savior. During his last days he often expressed a desire to cross the river and be at rest, although his sorrow was great at the separation, but his support was in the firm belief that the loved ones gone before would welcome him and eventually it would be an unbroken family. He was a strong advocate of temperance, truth and justice. As a friend there was a heartiness, a trueness in his friendship that made it seem like an abiding benediction. The basis of a high character, unsullied integrity and unimpeached honor belonged to him. Here in briefest manner has been outlined the earthly life of a devoted husband, loving father, kind neighbor and friend. He leaves a sorrowing wife, four sons, Charles M. Littlefield, Kezar Falls; Seth J., Chelsea, Holsea M., Waterboro; John T., Limerick, one daughter, Jennie L. Sayward, East Waterboro, and ten grandchildren in whose hearts his memory will be sacredly cherished. The funeral took place at his late residence Saturday, the 17th, and the terrible snowstorm prevented a large attendance. The services were conducted by Rev. Mr. Marshal, who gave an impressive and appropriate discourse from John XI:35, "Jesus Wept." Mrs. H. M. Littlefield, daughter-in-law, sang "Gone" and "Beckoning Hands." The body reposed in an elegant casket of black broadcloth and velvet. Among the floral offerings were a large cluster of calla lilies, and two elaborate sheaves of wheat closely united with a tablet of ivy leaves surmounted by the words "At Rest." They rest the flowers upon the grave as the last tribute of love and respect they could confer.

North Waterboro

J.H. Chase has purchased the Silas Brown house and will move it near his store and repair it for a tenement house.

W.C. Nason has invented a floor jack and a new kind of carriage gear on which he is trying for patents.

The overseers of the poor have hired D.P. Knight as agent on the town farm for another year, he have successfully managed it for five years previously.

Dennis Johnson has recently had his engine boiler repaired and tested and found it to be as

good as new. There is some danger of his mill falling down, but the engineer feels confident that the boiler will not blow up.

John Chase is very sick with pneumonia and his physician and friends are fearful that he may not recover.

Walter W., son of George P. and Hattie A. Chase, died last Sunday night after a short but distressing sickness of typhoid pneumonia, aged 9 years and 6 months. The family feel deeply their affliction and have the heartfelt sympathy of a large community of friends, for little Walter was a boy that was loved by all who knew him. He will be greatly missed, not only by his nearest connections, but by all; especially his little schoolmates and playfellows with whom he was a general favorite.

South Waterboro

Rev. J.F. Lord closes his labors with the Lyman Church April 1.

James F. Lord, formerly of this town, died in Buxton Feb. 27, aged 72 years, 1 month and 17 days. He leaves four sons, two of whom were in the army, and three daughters. His wife, who departed nearly thirteen years ago, was the youngest sister of the Revs. James, John and Theodore Stevens, who were so well known in the Free Baptist denomination a few years ago. He was buried under Masonic order, by his brethren of Moderation and Freedom lodges.

And now we have vests added to our industries in this village. Good luck to it.

C. H. Knight and I. S. Lowe, Jr., are to move into D. M. Morgan's house.

We hear that I. S. Lowe is to occupy his new home soon.

Langley and Ricker are talking of transplanting their coat business to Bar Mills.

H. Guptill bought some Florida oranges in Portland last Monday that weighed one pound each.

Taken from THE WEEKLY RECORD, Biddeford, Maine Friday, January 11, 1901.

South Waterboro

Representative Smith returned from Augusta last Saturday for a few days.

Miss Bessie Small returned from Boston Monday.

Mr. and Mrs. John Bourne of Clinton, Mass. are in town for a few days.

A. Ronald McKenney, Esq. of Springvale, w. in town Sunday.

Business at Hon. C. W. Smith's will continue to be rushing, notwithstanding the lack of snow.

Ice fishing continues to be the popular recreation. George W. Knights caught a pickerel last week that measured 25 inches and weighed over four pounds.

"Doc" Merriman of Hollis Center was in town Sunday and Monday.

L. E. Taylor, Esq. mayor of Ross Corner contemplates a trip to Boston during the latter part of this month, in the interests of the municipality.

Many of our younger generation attended the

dance at Hollis Center Tuesday evening.

Next week we shall begin a series of articles on the different industries of this town, beginning first with that of our honored townsman, the Hon. Charles W. Smith. All of our citizens should, therefore, endeavor to secure THE RECORD and ultimately become subscribers.

Messrs L. Ellsworth Libby and G. Ernest Knights are shortly to reopen the dancing academy at Ross Corner which excited so much favorable comment four years ago this winter; they will personally conduct these balls as before, and besides will be assisted by Sherman Young and Ivory Bean.

The local branch of the YMCA is reported to be in a very flourishing condition.

Our local horsemen are anxiously awaiting the falling of the snow in order that they may test the speed of their "nags" here for a village of its size there being no less than six that can best 2 30.

A few of our citizens attended the free supper at Hollis Center Tuesday evening.

Elmer Smith has recently laid in a large supply of tobacco, in anticipation of the large demand during the coming winter.

Mr. and Mrs. Melville C. Boynton of New York City were the guests of G. W. Knights Tuesday.

George H. Smith, Esq. returned to Augusta Tuesday.

The writer had occasion to visit the little new church at the lower end of the village last Sunday and we were greatly pleased at the addition to our little village; The house has been built during our absence from this village,--it having been completed during the latter part of last summer; Its members are disciples of Elder Bullock and a talk with a member reveals the interesting fact that there are nearly fifty members in good standing in this little town. They have not as yet, a settled pastor, the pulpit having been supplied at different times by Elders Cotton, Strout, Perry and Maddocks; its membership is composed entirely of our best citizens, and with the increasing interest that is being shown, it bids fair to become a factor in the general betterment of our social and spiritual condition.

John O'Donnell and a party of friends from East Rochester were in town Tuesday on a fishing excursion; they were quite successful securing over 70 pickerel.

Taken from THE SPRINGVALE ADVOCATE, Springvale, ME., June 24, 1904.

North Waterboro

Died at North Waterboro, Mrs. Annie wife of Henry Lane, after an illness of two weeks of the typhoid pneumonia. Her age was 60 years. She leaves a husband to mourn her loss and lots of friends. Her neighbors will miss her very much for she was a good neighbor in every way.

Died at Ross Corners, Shapleigh, June 18th, Mr. Hosea M. Littlefield, formerly of this town. His horse ran away with him some four weeks ago and he had been gradually going down ever since. He was a well educated man and had done lots of business for his friends in and out of the

town. He was buried on the Pike farm on Middle Road, June 21. Mr. Littlefield leaves a wife and one son and one daughter and a host of friends to mourn his loss. His age was about 65.

HELP WANTED

We are in great need of newsletter articles. If you have articles you have written, found, borrowed or whatever, that you think would be appropriate and of interest, please forward them to James Carll, Box 326, North Waterboro, ME 04061

MUSEUM

If you have items that you are planning to dispose of--think of the Museum and Library. We are going to need tables, chairs, book cases, a small wood stove, kitchen items, etc.

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

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

WATERBOROUGH HISTORICAL SOCIETY MEMBERSHIP FORM

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

PHONE: _____

Membership: \$5.00 per year,
Life Membership \$25.00

Mail to:
Edith Pierce
Box 46
North Waterboro, ME 04061