



THE WATERBOROUGH

Published by the Waterborough Historical Society

March 2002

2001

by Brenda Hamilton

The year 2001 was a good one for the Society. Our programs were filled with interesting and informative speakers. We are looking forward to hearing the speakers that are lined up for this year.

While Don Day was president of the Society, he made great strides in organizing the collection into categories. Three members of the Society attended a Maine State Archives, archival workshop on May 17th to learn more on filing, cataloging, and protecting the collection for years to come. In July our archives were again discussed and a committee was appointed to work on protecting our materials. The committee is hoping 2002 will be very productive in this area. We have also had many new donations, which will further enhance the Society's collection.

The Christmas Craft Fair was a great success with the Society making \$382.00. We are trying to get a head start on making items for this year's craft fair, which will be on December 7th. Anyone who is interested in helping, either by making a donation or attending the workshops, please speak to someone at the Society.

Spring is right around the corner and it is time to start preparing for the Society's annual flea markets. This year the spring flea market will be held on May 25th and the fall one will be held on August 31st. The Society is in the process of gathering articles for the flea markets.

There are still copies of *Reflections of Waterborough* available for \$20.00 (plus shipping and handling if mailed). Anyone wishing to purchase one can write to the Society at P.O. Box 498, North Waterboro, Maine 04061.

Gideon Walker

By Brenda Hamilton & Linda Fortunato

Prior to 1785, when Waterborough was not yet a town and was known as Massabesic Plantation, Gideon Walker and his wife came to make their home here. Gideon was of Berwick, Maine, and was baptized there on May 24, 1752. On May 22, 1775, he married Abigail Bunker of Dover, NH.

In 1785 surveyor James Warren made a proprietors' map showing individual lots. On this map, Lot 40, composed of 95 acres and 100 poles in the area, which is now known as South Waterboro, was credited to Gideon Walker. It is here that Gideon and Abigail settled down to raise their family. They had five children.

Elijah born October 18, 1780, marriage intentions to Susanna Kimball of Wells

Judith born August 19, 1786, married Gideon Tebbetts of Waterborough

Lovey born October 30, 1789, married Adrial Hamilton of Waterborough

John born January 14, 1793, married Hysabeth Roberts of Waterborough

Nancy born Dec. 27, 1798, unmarried

Although it is shown that Gideon settled here in 1785, he did not receive a deed for the land until August 15, 1804, when he purchased it from Abel Sawyer, a lawyer for John Bromfield, the son of the deceased owner Edward Bromfield.

According to Ernest Knight's book *Twice Told Tales*, Gideon was an innkeeper at this location. The Court of General Session at Waterborough issued a license to Gideon as an innholder in the town of Waterborough in August 1804. This is the last year he was listed as having been issued or having renewed his innholder's license.

On August 11, 1808, Gideon made his last will and testament naming his wife as executrix, and just a few days later on August 16th he died. As stated in his will, Gideon had fallen and had been seriously wounded. Ernest Knights reported in *Twice Told Tales* that he fell from the barn while it was being raised. Gideon's will further states his debts were to be paid out of his personal estate and any remaining debts were to be paid out of his unimproved lands. He left his wife all the use and improvement of the real estate until his youngest son, John, reached the age of 21. At that time she would receive the use and improvement of only one-third until her death, when it would become John's. Gideon on that same day conveyed to Elijah, his oldest son, 48 acres, approximately half of the acres described in 1785. Elijah held part interest in some of the lands, a portion of which was a one-acre parcel of orchards.

On October 13, 1808, an inventory of Gideon's personal estate was taken and contents were valued. The total value of the inventory including house and barn was \$1,058.91. Just a few of the items included were: 1 yoke of steers, \$35; 3 cows, \$39; 3 swine, \$8; 6 tons of hay, \$20; 9 dining chairs, \$7.50; 2 old maple tables, \$4; 2 waiters & bread basket, \$1; a parcel of glassware, \$1; 4 pewter platters, \$1.60; 18 pewter plates, \$2.50; 8 pewter basons, \$2.15; 1 case of 6 bottles, \$.83; and 4 kitchen chairs, \$1.33. The large quantity of plates, platters, etc. helps to further verify the fact an inn (tavern) was being run here.

On September 25, 1810, it was ordered that the property was, "*To be sold at public auction, at the dwelling house of the widow Abigail Walker inn holder in Waterborough, on Monday the twelfth day of November next, at two o' clock in the afternoon, so much of the real estate of Capt. Gideon Walker late of Waterborough, deceased as will amount to six hundred & eighty five dollars, including one hundred & eighty dollars which has heretofore been sold, consisting of about forty seven acres of land part of the dwelling house and barn, with the encumbrance of the widow's right of dower.*"

After several attempts the property was auctioned, splitting up the property five ways: His son Elijah Walker purchased two parcels, one for 16 acres, 30 rods and one for 5 acres 60 rods for \$43 including interest. Job Roberts purchased 10 acres, for \$58.70 including interest. Abel Hamilton purchased 25 acres of land for \$87.97 including interest. Capt. John Hamilton received part of the house and 21

acres for \$56 plus interest. The widow was able to keep her share of the property (dower). Lastly, Gershom Ricker purchased the remaining part of the house and barn, for \$52 plus interest.

On January 4, 1812, after the auction of Gideon's property, there was not enough money to pay the creditors all that was owed them. The court of Probate directed proportionate payments, and each creditor received 45 per cent of what was due.

On July 16, 1811, Abigail purchased back the barn and house from Gershom Ricker and John Hamilton. On April 11, 1837, Abigail purchased Job Roberts' portion of land giving her 32 acres.

Abigail sold all of her property including the house and barn April 12, 1837, to her youngest son, John Walker, for \$500.

Having never remarried Abigail Walker died in Waterborough March 24, 1848. Both Gideon and Abigail are buried at the Chadbourne Cemetery on the South Waterboro Road in Lyman. Their daughter Nancy Walker also rests with them.

The house stayed in the family until Hypsabeth Walker, John's Wife, sold it April 20, 1876, to Martha Hill. Since that time there have been several owners of the homestead. Among them are George & Mary Smith and Cora & Will Roberts. In April 1953, the house, which still stands at the corner of Route 202 and Hamilton Road, was purchased and is still occupied by Wendell and Mary Hamilton. The barn, in severe disrepair, was torn down on October 1, 1994.

Sources: *The Hamilton's of Waterborough, Twice Told Tales, Records of the First & Second Churches of Berwick, Maine, Vital Records of Berwick, South Berwick and North Berwick, Maine. Vital Records of Waterborough, Maine, York County Maine, Court of Sessions, York County Probate, York County Registry of Deeds. Waterborough Maine Proprietors Map, 1785.*

Newspaper Items

Waterborough Center

"A local telephone has recently been placed between the Knights and Walker residence." *From the Sanford Tribune, July 11, 1902*

Newspaper Items continued

North Waterborough

“Several from this place attended the dedicatory services at the Free Baptist Church, East Waterboro, Wednesday.” *Sanford Tribune Nov. 7, 1902.*

“Johnson’s Mill has been shut down so the crew could go with others to fight the forest fires raging in the west part of the town and Shapleigh this week.” *From the Sanford Tribune & Advocate, April 21, 1927*

Unmarked Veterans Grave Found

By Edie Hutchinson

By a most unusual set of circumstances the gravesite of one of our Revolutionary Veterans has at last been located. Old Town Records listed Samuel Caimmett/Cammett as being buried in the Caimmett Cemetery in North Waterboro. The only problem was, no one had any idea where this cemetery could be. Nor had they even heard of it!!

Enter an e-mail correspondence with someone looking for directions to the Whitehouse-Earl-Gerry Cemetery on old Edgecombs Bridge Road. Today this is renamed Chadbourne Ridge Road Extension. We did know where this cemetery was and gave directions and assurances that the dirt road would be passable at that time of the year and just where to look. All went well. Then the e-mails continued as the writer’s niece was also looking for Cammetts Ridge!!

The correspondence was going back and forth very quickly now, neither of us having any idea who this “stranger” was on the other end of our e-mails. Finally, with enough clues from members of the family, we determined the correct spot was way up old abandoned Clark’s Bridge Road where the Levi & George Thing cemeteries lie. Historical members had always wondered why a carefully walled site lay directly behind Levi Thing’s walled cemetery. And now we know!! This is where Samuel Cammett, Revolutionary Veteran, born in 1756 and living in 1818, lies with his wife Elizabeth Sleeper, (no dates available). Also in that site are two young boys, tiny sons of Grover Thyng, (yes Thyng with a Y). None of this could ever have been gleaned without that very first chance e-mail. Thank you, Martha Storer. We owe you!!

A Tiny Piece of Waterboro Stays in Washington

By Edie Hutchinson

How many of you are aware that a quilt, celebrating women in U.S. military service, contains a medal earned by a woman from Waterboro? In the fall of 2000, Helen Brock, as the daughter of Elizabeth Lewis, gave away a bit of history, a small faded World War I service ribbon earned by her mother many years ago.

“I thought my mother would like her medal to go onto the quilt,” said Helen, a Falls Church, VA resident who returns to Waterboro each summer. Elizabeth Lewis served as a Navy nurse during WW I in a hospital near the headquarters of Gen. John J. Pershing at Verdun, France. Her gold medal with the red, blue, yellow and green ribbon represents service in St. Mihiel, the crucial Meuse-Argonne and the Defensive Sector.

“The area would be bombed, and they would turn the lights out. If they were operating on a patient, they would have to stop so there was no bleeding”, Helen said, recalling her mother’s words. “They operated on the American’s first, then the Germans. [And] the soldiers wanted the nurses to be cheerful and try to cheer them up.”

The idea of a U.S. Military Woman’s Quilt began in 1989, by Rosemary Jack, a retired career Navy officer, to “recognize and thank the American women by blending honor with feminine art – a quilt.” She describes the 5-by-6 ½ foot quilt as containing “Army and Navy caps, chevrons, patches, dog tags, letters, photos, even a piece of a World War II wedding dress made from a silk parachute and a button belonging to Mattie Pinette, (from Fort Kent, ME), personal secretary to Gen. Dwight D. Eisenhower”.

Helen’s mother, a registered nurse from Fort Fairfield, Maine, married Ernest G. Knights in the 1920s. An excellent article concerning Elizabeth Lewis Knights, appears on page 152 of the recent Historical Society’s publication, *Reflections of Waterborough*. A postcard of the U.S. Military Women’s Quilt is in our society’s library.

PROGRAMS 2002

May 2

Annual Meeting & Election of Officers
For 2002-2003, A Skit will be presented.

May 25

Flea Market at the museum, Space Available for
your table- \$10

June 6

James Welsch
Life of a Civil War Soldier

July 6

Old Home Day Tours
More information will be posted.

July 11

"The Village Storekeeper" at the Town Hall

August 8

Douglas Coffin
Hand Letter-Cutting In Stone

August 31

Flea Market-Same as May 25

September 5

Don Day
Portland/Rochester Railroad

October 5

Jim Carll
Waterboro Slides

December 7

Christmas Fair at the museum,
9 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Thursday evening meetings are held at 7:00 p.m. at
the Carle's Corner Museum/Jane McGrath
Memorial Library next to the Town House.

Officers for 2002

James Carll, President 247-5878

Joe Fortunato, Vice President 247-3767

Brenda Hamilton, Secretary 247-5148

Debra Wentworth, Treasurer 247-8548

The Waterborough Historical Society
PO BOX 498, NORTH WATERBORO, ME 04061

Membership Form

Total Amount \$

Name

Address

City/Town

State

Zip

Phone

- Individual Annual Dues \$5.00 Life Membership \$50.00 Additional Gift
- Records/Typing Museum Guide Displays Cemetery Clean-up
- Painting/Repairs Cleaning Refreshments Computer

I would like to occasionally volunteer for:

February, 2002

Since Reflections of Waterborough was published in November, 2000, the following should be noted:

ADDENDA

Travel To And From Waterborough

Page 56: In the photograph, the center man has been identified as Walter Woodward.

Making A Living in Waterboro

Page. 74: In the photograph, Charles Clark is the gentleman holding the reins.

The Schools of Waterborough

Page. 81: Two boys in the Red Schoolhouse photograph have been identified. To teacher Chester Woodward's nearest right is Walter Woodward, and the shorter boy in front of Chester is Alton Woodward.

Interesting Places To Visit

The Cemetery Map now has a new cemetery site, #123, that of Samuel Cammet, Revolutionary War Veteran. It was found in 2001 after being "lost" for many years.

Men and Women in Military Service

Page 213: The following men should be listed under the Korean War: Chauncey C. Gerry, Lewis Graffam, George Knights, and George Wheeler .

Chauncey C. Gerry also served in the Vietnam War, making him a veteran of three wars.

Photography Acknowledgements:

Page. 216: The photograph of the Elder Grey Meeting House on Page 5 was supplied by Linda Hanscom.

Index

Page. 221: Under Robert Fay, pages 101 and 192 refer to Robert Fay Jr.

Page 191 refers to both Robert Fay Jr. and Robert Fay, Sr.

ERRATA

Making a Living in Waterborough

Page 73: The Waterboro Box and Milling Co. was in South Waterboro.

Page. 74: The Waterboro High School class of 1930 held their graduation exercises at the I.O.O.F. Hall, not at the Goodall Worsted Mill.

The Schools of Waterborough

Page. 98: This photograph is that of District #7 on Chadbourne's Ridge, not District # 16 as labeled. The teacher and pupil identification is accurate.

A Few of Our Interesting People

Page. 146: Midge, of the "Don't Fence Me In" family story, is the youngest granddaughter, not the oldest daughter of Judge Ivory Smith.

Organizations

Page 163: The Grange Hall photo was taken after the 1947 fire.

Our Churches

Page. 182: Frank W. Blaisdell obviously did not move to Old Corner in 1833, twelve years prior to his birth.

Men and Women in Military Service

Page 205: Bubier and Freedom Warren are misspelled.

Frank, Benjamin should read Barnes, Benjamin Frank.

Page 206: Appleton and Freedom Nason's names are listed twice.

Waterboro's John W. Brown Post was #117, not #177.

Interesting Places To Visit

Page 199: Billy Parker, not Charlie Jellerson, should have been listed as a close buddy.

Josie Abbott was a Hersom, not a Chadbourne.