

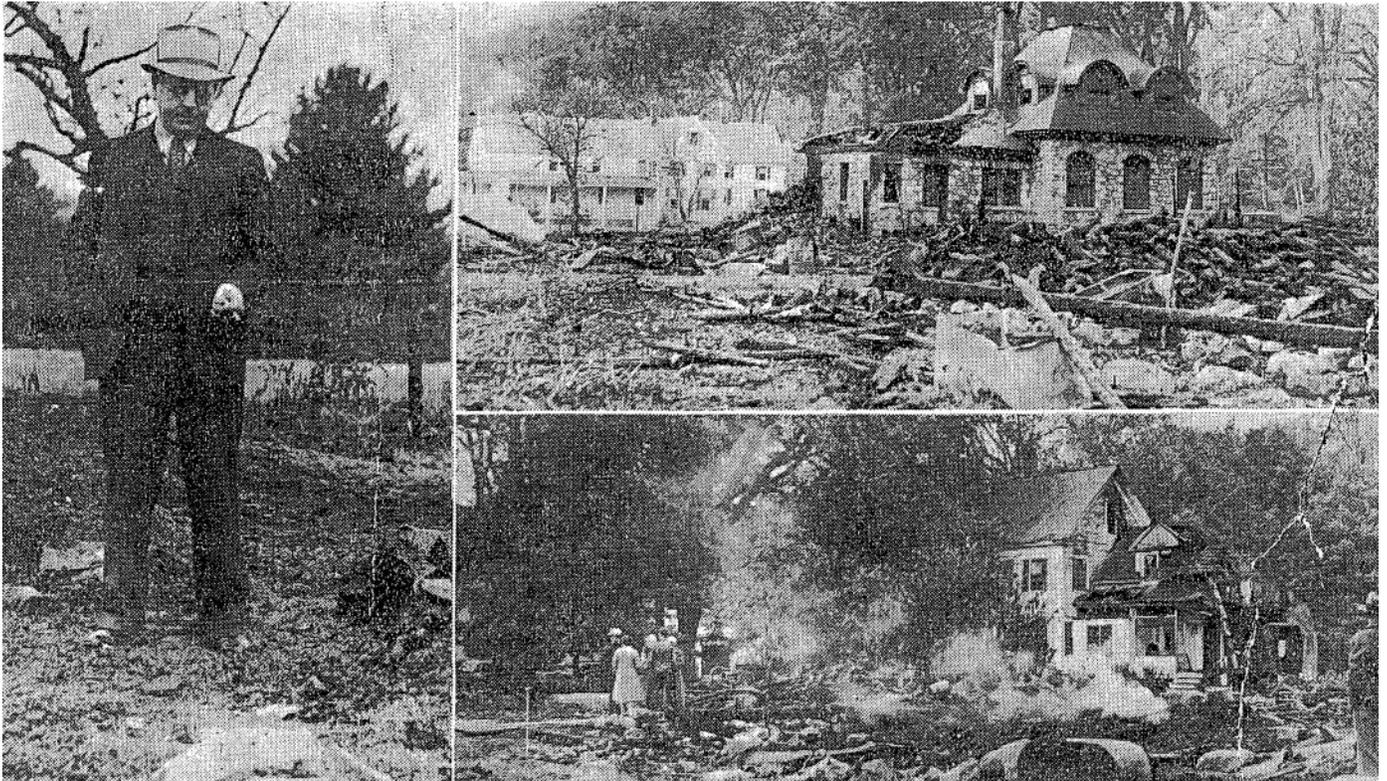


# Waterford Echoes

VOLUME LXIV Number 2 (Issue 65)

Fall/Winter 2017

Waterford Historical Society



## EIGHTY YEARS AGO

### A Dramatic Fire

On October 1, 1937, a dramatic fire swept through several buildings in Waterford Flat, taking part of the ell and barn of Frank and Ida Morgan's house [Shriver's today] and the second story ell of the Knight Memorial Library building, among others.

Lauris Millett, at that time live-in caretaker of the building, managed to rescue from the library apartment his wife Alma, 3-day-old baby Gilbert and two older children (Curtis, 7, and Veda, 9.)

Also destroyed was the summer cottage of Mrs. Bertha Adams of Chatham, New Jersey as well as Mrs. Charlotte Fillebrown's store.

The *Lewiston Daily Sun* reported that Frank Morgan, "widely known professional guide," was awakened at 1:30 a.m. by the crackling flames and he woke his wife Ida and stepson Percy Kimball. The fire started in an ice house at the back of the Fillebrown store and was at first blamed on the Lundstrom children, who lived in an upstairs apartment there. Later there was a suspicion that it might have been set by someone who had come to the Waterford World's Fair, because a car had been heard in the neighborhood after midnight.

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# President's Corner

by Bonnie Parsons

Good news! It's been a very productive summer and fall for WHS in a variety of ways. The programs held each month from May through November drew the enthusiasm of many history buffs, making it enjoyable time well spent.

We started in May with the installation and dedication of a sign at the Site of the Hapgood/Hamlin Carding Mill on Park St. in South Waterford; more of "The City's" history — the Stanwood Bucket Factory, — as researched and presented by Robert Spencer at the October program. Also new are notecards for sale including a South Waterford Scene taken from a painting by Frank Sanford.

Other program highlights of the summer were: in June "*The Scholars of Bridgton Academy*"; A presentation in July by Bob Plate inspired by his grandfather Plate's letters about his experiences as a World War I Soldier in France; An Open House in August with "Art and Artists" of Waterford on display at the Old Town House; in September *An Architectural Heritage...John Calvin Stevens* at the Waterford Library; and in November, the *Pequawket and Wabenaki cultures*, both given by Nancy Marcotte.

And, with the help of Trustees Nancy Marcotte and Robert Spencer, the Old Town House was open in the daytime to visitors on Mondays and Wednesdays.

In the midst of all this activity, the Old Town House building has undergone significant improvements. This includes insulating the front section of the building, the ceiling and exterior walls of the office areas. A rubber vapor barrier was also installed under the entire length of the crawlspace, and insulation was placed directly under the office floors. The plan is to expand office activities this coming winter. Now, the electric heat can remain on, making it warmer for printer and electronics to function, as well as for workers and visitors to comfortably sort through the files, weather permitting.

Our wish list for the Old Town House next year is to replace the office windows for greater energy efficiency and function. This is a big project since they will have to be custom made. Thanks to Ralph MacKinnon's work, we are fundraising for this project and will need donations to finance these improvements. Thanks to the town of Waterford for the new Handicapped Parking sign. The Trustees of the Waterford Historical Society sincerely appreciate any help the membership can give to these financing efforts.

## Waterford Echoes

Vol. LXIV Number 2 Issue 65 Fall/Winter 2017

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.

### 2016-2017 OFFICERS

President:	Bonnie Parsons
Vice President:	Bob Spencer
Secretary:	Nancy Marcotte
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### 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](http://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.

# Acknowledgements

So many people have done so much to aid the WHS this year, starting with donations of money, photographs, print ephemera and objects, that we have been kept very busy cataloging it all. We hope we don't miss anyone to thank. We appreciate all our donors.

Thank you to the Trustees, who have taken on insulating the offices and adding a vapor barrier at the Old Town House. We have been open more often and more comfortably, and more people have come in to ask questions and do research. Thank you to Dan Drew for a fine job painting the meeting room, hanging big signs for display and finishing off the upstairs. Ralph MacKinnon aided in making that happen, as well as carrying our books, calendars and throws around to sell.

Other trustees who deserve notice are Donna and Tony Butterall, who open the Mary Gage Rice Museum on July 4th and on request; Henry and Joy Plate, who pay attention to our buildings and products and who coordinated a great WWI program by their son Bob; Joanne MacKinnon, who keeps us supplied with membership reminders and amazing cookies; Ted Gerber, who coordinated the cleaning of the painting we are using on notecards; and Bonnie Parsons, who has been continuing to do research on various things. The trustees meet all year, usually on the first Friday of every month at the Town Office.

We could not have done the Art Show without Bob Spencer and he also does much work with the collection as well as research for programs. He enlists the help of David Sanderson, whom we also thank for loaning us electronic equipment and books as well as donating items.

Thank you to everyone who helped with the Art Show, especially Nancy Eaton with her family, and the Stockwells, Raymonds, Fillebrowns, Kimballs, Graneyns and Nancy Engdahl. It was a great turnout with more MacKinnon cookies and sales.

The Kilburn-Petersons gave us interesting objects, including medicine bottles and baseball items from Dr. Hubbard's house. John Barton sent us a wonderful brochure from Camp Passaconaway in the 1930s. Clara Hamlin made a gift of a George Elliott painting of Keoka Lake, which she had at her camp for many years. Fred Fortier, through the generosity of Prentiss & Edith Kimball, gave us the Sanford painting which graces our notecards. The Leon Lovejoy family gave us World's Fair articles and Town Reports. Henrietta Lovejoy brought us an old Remington typewriter.

Thank you to Linda Blackwell, who continues to do the job her mother Agnes Lahti did for years—she collects and types obituaries, both current and past. We have four notebooks full already. Sylvia Sawyer Sebelist is in Arizona but she has sent many boxes of materials and several scrapbooks from her mother Margaret's collection of newspaper articles and photographs.

Joann Fillebrown has donated many church and family records and photos. Ginny Raymond gave us a drawing this year. Donna Stone Woodward brought us Stone/Lebroke and other family photos along with an 18th century bonnet. And thank you to Keith & Lilo Willoughby, who left us theirs and Vance Jordan's books and clippings when they moved.

And I would like to personally thank Bill "Dood" Haynes for his help with the editing of the "Echoes." I give him difficult challenges with old pictures and he fixes them. In addition he gathers obits and talks to so many people; he is an endless source of information. Thanks, cous. N.M.

**Correction: There was a slip of the key in last issue's article about photography. The Olde Rowley Inn burned in the 1990s.**



## More About Stanwoods

by Nancy Chute Marcotte

In Issue #63 (Fall & Winter 2016) of the "Echoes" I wrote about Albert Stanwood, whose bucket factory will be featured in a Bob Spencer program this year. Albert married Charlotte Morse (not to be confused with Charlotte Morse who married Walter Fillebrown). They moved from Newburyport to live in the old William Morse house in South Waterford (today the Holmbergs).

The Stanwoods had nine children, seven of which survived to adulthood, and I featured a photo of the six Stanwood sisters. The youngest, Alice, married someone named Bell. I suspected it was Irving Bell, a local boy.

Also in our collection is a photo given by Harry Bell, labelled: "Irving and Alice Bell bought [their] house in the Blackguard section of Waterford in 1940. It was transferred to Archie and Ethel [Skinner] Bell (cousins and neighbors) in 1956. In 1959 they sold it to the Brigham family who discovered they had a resident ghost in the house. [This was written up in Hans Holzer's book Ghosts of New England, Random House 1997.] Several visitors have evidently felt and seen a presence who looks like Alice."

We have previously published a picture of Irving and Alice Bell "looking across Elden Willard's place toward Stearns Hill."

The Willard place in West Waterford burned about 1908. Also published is a young lady who looks like Alice in the same hat and outfit, by the glacial erratic boulder across from the Stanwood House. It seems possible that these photos could have been taken the same day.

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# Library

*(Continued from page 1)*

The town's 2-year-old fire pumper wouldn't start right away but Harrison and Norway fire departments arrived to find four buildings ablaze. By stationing a forestry pumper on the shore of Keoka Lake with 500 feet of hose, they were able to contain the fire, though embers were discovered a mile away. It was out by 4 a.m.

Charles Lockwood, who lived in the Artemus Ward house, stood on his roof playing a stream of water over it to save it. The article says the humorist was actually born in a house that had been on the site of the Ward house. In 1937, the house had family memorabilia in it [some of which has ended up in WHS collection].



Some furniture was saved but the Milletts lost a cow and a pig, which had been in the Fillebrown barn as well as their clothing and 14 cords of wood stored in the library shed. An estimated 1,500 books burned, though they were able to save 3,000 of the "best books." The Fillebrown store was at that time used as a storeroom for antiques and lumber, which were lost.

It was later learned that the fire may have been set by the estranged husband of Mrs. Lundstrom, who had recently moved to the village from Temple Hill. The case was never prosecuted because this was the same time as the infamous Littlefield murders in Paris, which implicated the Oxford County Sheriff.

The library building was begun in 1911 as a memorial to the Knight family by sisters Sarah (Sadie) and Carrie Knight. The sisters died before the building was finished in 1912 but their choice of famed Maine architect John Calvin Stevens has bequeathed to the town of Waterford a gem of a building now overseen by the Waterford Library Association.

In preparation for work that the library association is undertaking, local surveyor John Bell has done a yeoman's job of tracking down the evolution of deeds of small parcels of land which make up the library grounds. [See plot plans.]

In 1896 the Knights' store, the Robinsons' store and a small cottage seem to have been on this site, bounded by Annie Morgan on the northeast and by George Wheeler on the southwest. By 1911, the Robinson store had burned and the library was under construction. Augustus Morse and Jane Knight

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owned the outside edges.

By 1915, parts of the lot and store became Charles Morse and Walter Fillebrown's [Charlotte's father & husband]; Charles Morse eventually owned all of the U-shaped parcels around the library. After the fire in 1937, Charlotte & Walter owned it. In the 1940s, Mary Gage Rice acquired the small bits now labelled II, III, IV, V, VI and her generosity consolidated it all for the library.

In 1979, the Mary Gage Rice museum was moved to the library lot with a 100-year lease and placed on the site of the store.

Now that the Library trustees have taken on fundraising for further changes to the building, they have been working with Portland architect Paul Stevens, who feels a connection to this lovely building designed by his great-grandfather. It is part of the National Register of Historic Places and is one of the last libraries in Maine with an income apartment. Everyone feels the need to honor those facts and the charming building we love. Having worked for years to make Waterford Library a community center, they are now faced with a building limited in functionality, in particular handicap accessibility.

### **The Stevens Style**

The original building was an example of romantic Romanesque cottage style, one of the early hallmarks of John Calvin Stevens. Its fieldstone and shingle construction featured eyebrow windows and an apartment at the back and upstairs. After the fire, the architect and his son John Howard Stevens redesigned the roof in a Colonial Revival gambrel style—one most associated with his name throughout Maine. This made the upstairs more functional and fit a cottage aesthetic along the shores of Keoka.

*(Continued on page 7)*



**Original library in 1921**



**Fillebrown store.**



**In front of the A.A. Knight store sometime before 1897 are, front row, l-r: Ida Kimball, Percy Kimball, Harold Morse, Charlotte Morse, Eleanor Huse, Annie Kimball and Dorothy Parker. Back row: A. G. Augustus Morse, Luther Wheeler, Ellen Knight, Jane Knight, Adeline Morse, Sadie Knight, Mrs. Baker and Mrs. Parker.**

# In Memoriam

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**Betsy A. Hodges**, 66, died on June 16, 2017 in Lakeland, FL. She was born in Norway on July 10, 1950 to Wallace and Happy McDaniels of Waterford, where she grew up. She was an X-Ray tech and a school nurse. Betsy was predeceased by her father Wallace and her brother William. She is survived by her mother Happy Chapman of Waterford; husband Terry Hodges; daughter Erin (Hodges) Leathers; son William Hodges; three grandchildren; and a great grandson.



**Herbert H. Strauss**, 88, died on August 11, 2017 in Norway after an 11-month battle with brain cancer. Herb was born in Vienna, Austria on March 27, 1929 and immigrated to the U.S. with his parents in 1938. He grew up in New York City and joined the Boy Scouts at age 12, attaining the rank of Eagle. After graduating from Adelphi University, Herb became an executive with the Boy Scouts where he served for about a decade. He then became the Assistant Director of Development at Rider University where he met and married his second wife, Lois Richardson. He worked for Tamblin and Brown Fund Raising firm and later served as a Regional Director with the Multiple Sclerosis Society after which he was the National Field Director with the Epilepsy Foundation. Herb and Lois moved to Maine in 1981. After a couple of years at Point Sebago in Casco, they purchased Papoose Pond Family Resort and Cabins. He managed Papoose Pond for much of the rest of his life until recently selling it to his daughter Kitty and son-in-law Duncan. Herb served several terms on the Oxford Hills Chamber of Commerce and was a member of the Norway-Paris Chapter of Kiwanis. He also served as a counselor for the Oxford Hills Chapter of SCORE. He is survived by his wife Lois Strauss and his first wife Jean Henneke Dean; children Bill and Bob Strauss and Kitty and Duncan Winship; five grandchildren; and two great grandchildren. He is buried in Pulpit Rock Cemetery.



**Dorothy “Dolly” M. MacDonald**, 89, of North Waterford, formerly of Arlington, MA, died on Sept. 4 at Stephens Memorial Hospital following a lengthy illness. Dorothy was born on January 27, 1928 in Boston to Albert and Hazel O’Neil Allen. She married Robert MacDonald in 1950 and lived in Arlington, MA until they moved the family to Maine in 1966. She was employed for several years at Raytheon before becoming a homemaker. She is survived by her daughter Barbara Allen of Waterford, sons Charles of North Waterford and William of Lovell; her step-daughter Helen O’Quinn of Alachua, Florida; step-son Robert MacDonald of Effingham, NH; nine grandchildren and seven great grandchildren; brother Albert Allen, sister Merle McAllister and many nephews and nieces. She was predeceased by her husband, Robert, sisters Evelyn McAuliffe, Ruth Swett, Irene Trimback, Margaret McAllister and son-in-law Jeffrey Allen. She is buried in Woodlawn Cemetery.



**Charles H. Whichard**, 87, of NJ, Waterford and Florida died October 19 in New Port Richey, FL. Chuck was born in Long Branch, NJ on Dec. 24, 1929 the son of Oscar H. Whichard and Mabel Bonner Morrison. He grew up in Newark, NJ, attended East Side High School and graduated as valedictorian in 1948. He graduated in 1952 from Newark State Teachers College with a Bachelor’s Degree in Industrial Arts. It was there that he met his future bride, Barbara Louise Muzik. After graduation, Chuck joined the U.S. Army, where he was stationed in Japan for the duration of the Korean War. After his discharge, Chuck began teaching at Edison Junior High School in West Orange, NJ. Chuck and Bobbi were married in Elizabeth, NJ on March 24, 1956. Chuck earned a Master of Arts Plus Six Year degree in Education. In early 1958 they purchased their first home in West Orange, NJ where they raised their three sons – Craig, Glenn, and Bruce. He also taught at Millburn Junior High School and Paramus High School, finally transferring to Indian Hills High School in Oakland, NJ, where he spent many years, concluding his career in education as a Guidance Counselor at Ramapo High School in the early 1990s. As soon as the school year ended the family would load up the station wagon and head to Bobbi’s parent’s family camp in Maine – Camp McWain. Charles is survived by his wife of 61 years, Barbara; sons Craig, Glenn and Bruce; six grandchildren; and five great-grandchildren.



# Library

(Continued from page 5)

John Calvin Stevens (1855-1940) was a functionalist. He was attracted to Colonial Revival because of his work restoring actual colonial buildings. He was also an artist—a painter and a proponent of an anti-industrial, rural aesthetic using native materials such as shingle and stone. His son John Howard joined the firm in 1904 followed by his grandson John Calvin II.

In 2011, James Long and Sons builders worked to refine and retrofit the upstairs, which showed signs left over from the fire until their work salvaged it. They modernized the upstairs reading room [now the children's room] named in honor of library benefactor Flora Abbott. This was done with the help of architect Nancy Barba and then-president of the library association Andrea Burns. The current board is made up of Geraldine O'Donnell, Jane Traill, Al Struck, Bob Spencer, John Wait, Doretta Colburn, Russ Alexander and Nancy Marcotte.

For more information on the architects, please see John Calvin Stevens: Domestic Architecture 1890-1930 (John Calvin Stevens II and Earle Shettleworth Jr.) and Maine Forms of American Architecture (Edited by Deborah Thompson.)  
N.M.

## Stanwood-Bell



Irving and Alice Bell ca. 1953

**RECORD OF A MARRIAGE.**

Groom Irving B Bell  
Bride Alice B Stanwood  
Residence of Groom Boston Mass  
" Bride Waterford  
Age of Groom 31 yrs  
" Bride 33 "  
Color of Groom White  
" Bride "  
Occupation of Groom Furniture Moving  
" Bride Housekeeper  
Birthplace of Groom Boston Mass  
" Bride Waterford  
No. of Marriage of Groom 1<sup>st</sup>  
" Bride 1<sup>st</sup>  
Groom Widowed or Divorced \_\_\_\_\_  
Bride " " " \_\_\_\_\_  
Intention Filed June 9<sup>th</sup> 1900  
By whom Married Stoverman S Perry  
Residence Waterford  
Official Station\* Overseer  
Date of Marriage June 20<sup>th</sup> 1900  
Place Waterford  
\*Clergyman, Justice of the Peace, etc. [Record continued over].

# FROM OUR FILES

# Stanwood — Bell

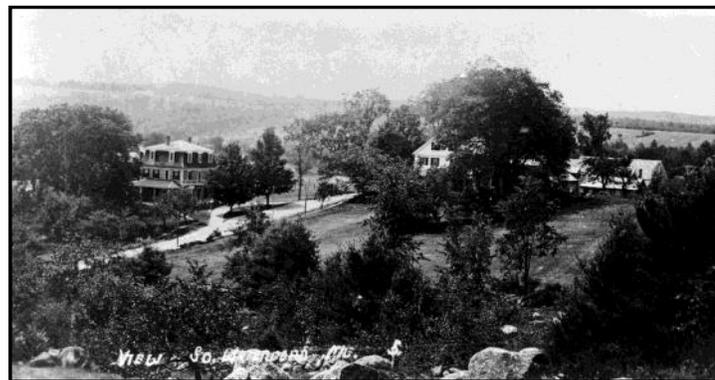
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The other photo is an unusual winter view, looking through South Waterford toward the Stanwood House on the top of the hill. At left is W. K. Hamlin's big house before the remodel, the old Masonic Hall (torn down now), and a glimpse of Bill & Judy Haynes' home. At right is the Graham house before an addition was added for the former post office and the Helen Nevitts' house, once Eric & Pat Hamlin's home.

*Next issue: Stanwood Mill*



South Waterford village looking toward the Stanwood House



Post card of the Stanwood House



Alice Bell (?) by glacial erratic boulder across from the Stanwood House



Irving and Alice Bell looking across Elden Willard's place toward Stearns Hill

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