



Preservation NEWS

COLLECT • RESEARCH • DOCUMENT • PRESERVE • EXHIBIT

Bedside Treatment Cards From Dr. Henry Janes' Collection

These handwritten bedside treatment cards are from Dr. Henry Janes' personal collection. The Historical Society is currently in ownership of five boxes of roughly 250 cards each, totaling nearly 1,250 bedside cards. Each card contains information on a soldier that fought in the Civil War and they are dated between 1864-1865.

Dr. Janes details each patient's name, age, home town, and rank. Along with this information comes his diagnosis of their injury or ailment, his treatment methods, and notes on if they survived, passed away, or deserted camp. Dr. Janes' meticulous note taking while caring for his patients contributed to several improvements in medical care for bullet wound injuries and amputations. Displayed in this edition of our newsletter are cards from two of his patients from Waterbury, VT - Amos C. Chase and Amariah Cox. In future issues of *Preservation News* we will share more bedside cards.

The ongoing digitization project for Dr. Janes' papers is being spearheaded by Steve Martin, who has been generously donating some of his time to come in each week to scan and take notes on each of these bedside cards.

Hospital Number 1042 Bed 314

Name Amos C. Chase
 Age 45 Nativity American
 Married or Single Married
 Residence Waterbury VT
 Post Office address of wife or nearest relative Susan C. Chase

Rank Priv Co. C Regiment 17th VT Vols

When admitted Dec. 2 1864
 From what source Amesbury Mass DC

Diagnosis: (in surgical cases state explicitly seat and character of wound or injury.)
G. S. Wound left arm, fracturing humerus. Amputated at shoulder joint in the field
first to amputate

On what occasion wounded W. H. R. Road
 Date Sept 30th 1864
 Nature of missile or weapon Mining a grape

Amos C. Chase

TREATMENT.
 [HERE NOTE IMPORTANT COMPLICATIONS AND ALL OPERATIONS.]
Wound healed without accident
in about six months,

RESULT AND DATE.
June 12th 1865 Discharged
on certificate disability
wound healed H.A.C.

Hospital Number 531 Bed

Name Amariah Cox
 Age 33 Nativity American
 Married or Single Single
 Residence Waterbury
 Post Office address of wife or nearest relative Mary C. Cox

Rank Priv Co. G Regiment 4th

When admitted Aug 20th 1864
 From what source San Diego Bitter Lake

Diagnosis: (in surgical cases state explicitly seat and character of wound or injury.)
IB Wound
Right Thigh
Wound all healed

On what occasion wounded
 Date
 Nature of missile or weapon

TREATMENT.
 [HERE NOTE IMPORTANT COMPLICATIONS AND ALL OPERATIONS.]
Discharged July 17/65 1/3 d at
Wash DC for 3 or 4 days
contraction of the hamstring muscles
inability to straighten the leg upon
the thigh - C.M.C.

RESULT AND DATE.
May 25 wound all healed
on right side in hospital
Wound healed by slightly
flexed up the thigh
leg 1 1/2 inches shorter than
normal

Amariah Cox

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The Waterbury Historical Society collects, researches, documents, preserves, and exhibits artifacts related to the history of Waterbury, Vermont to help others gain a deeper appreciation, education and inspiration through connections with our past.

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Postings From the President Tell Your Own Story

In the previous newsletter posting, I concluded with my vision for the society as being witness to and participant in the present stories of our community, not just collectors of the past. I am delighted, therefore, to report out on a recent event series that the Waterbury Historical Society (WHS) co-sponsored with Bridgeside Books and Waterbury Public Library: a Q&A on May 17 with *Wall Street Journal* obituary writer James R. Hagerty and podcaster Tamatha Thomas-Haase, held at Bridgeside Books, and a writing workshop with Hagerty the following evening at the Library.

After reading the above paragraph, you might reasonably be thinking that obituaries sound like a topic geared much more to stories of events past rather than the goings-on of the present. On the contrary!

According to Hagerty, author of *Yours Truly: An Obituary Writer's Guide to Telling Your Story* (Citadel Press, 2023), the word, "obituary," tends to make people really uncomfortable and they would rather just avoid such an exercise. But what is an obituary but a story about someone's life? In that case, our personal stories are unfolding daily; why shouldn't we be the ones to write them?

Thomas-Haase, founder of the podcast, *Grand Exit*, noted that the lead feature of any obituary, no matter how detailed or sparse, is the date range; date of birth - date of death. The real story "is what happens in the dash" between those two dates. And that story is an ongoing process of living.

At both the Q&A and workshop, Hagerty described how, in his hundreds of conversations with the children of people who have died, the children are thrilled that their parent's stories will be told yet can contribute little to the telling. They know some basic facts "in the dash," but not the "whys" or "hows" behind those facts. He lamented how many compelling stories have been lost, especially stories told in a person's own words. Not having something directly from a person is the hardest part of writing an obituary, Hagerty confessed.



Tamatha Thomas-Haase and James R. Hagerty

What does any of this have to do with a historical society? I see two very important and related answers to that question from what both Hagerty and Thomas-Haase shared in their respective remarks.

First, Hagerty's call to action, to "help other people tell their stories," is a core part of our mission. We have to take notes in the present if we are to have stories to tell in the future. Further, we must attend to the present stories of not just individuals, but of the businesses, groups, events, traditions, and rituals that are integral to the life of the community—including, if not especially, the subjects that make us uncomfortable or that are often treated as taboo. Sanitized history doesn't teach anyone anything.

Second, in recording the stories of the present, we as a community have an important opportunity to engage in ongoing reflection about the "why" and "how" of who we are—it is "an ongoing process of updating and living," said Thomas-Haase. That, I believe, is how communities like Waterbury truly thrive.

And so I invite all members of the community to help WHS collect the compelling stories of Waterbury present so that Waterbury future has a rich, nuanced, diverse story of its past.

Cheryl Casey



CHERYL CASEY

WRECKS OF *Waterbury*

This series highlights historic accidents and concentrates on those where photographs have been located.

A Train into the River

by Brian Lindner

On Tuesday, March 11, 1924 a train wreck took place on Bolton Flats that remains as the largest (non-flood) mass casualty incident in Waterbury/Bolton history.

After passing through Waterbury, the Boston to Montreal Express was steaming northward at 60 MPH on a cold morning when it hit a broken rail at 4am. The engine and mail car managed to stay on the rail bed, but all the passenger cars were flung off the tracks and tumbled over a steep embankment. Some ended up on the ice and in the ice-cold water of the Winooski River. Three people died (including a 3-month-old infant), 63 were injured, and 12 hospitalized.

In the minutes after the crash, victims began to extract themselves from the tipped-over cars and away from the river. Several showed up at a nearby farm seeking warmth and medical care. Within the early hours a repair crew was sent from St. Albans while another train approached from the south with doctors and nurses gathered at Montpelier and Waterbury. Although derailed, the upright mail car soon became a first aid station.



Photo by Mark Bushnell



Photo of the 1924 crash.

Authorities were unsure of the total count of people on board, but it was soon confirmed that the crew had all survived without serious injury. Initially, it was thought 25 passengers were on board but that was later revised upward to more than 60.

Once it was realized the infant was missing, a search was begun, and he was eventually found deceased in a partially submerged passenger car. Passengers with little or no injury were treated then sent along on a special train that had come south from Burlington to pick them up.

Luck was with the dozing passengers in the Sleeper Car that had derailed, pitched over the embankment but remained somewhat upright and stopped just before plunging into the river. Two coaches and a baggage car tipped onto the ice and spilled into the freezing water.

The Central Vermont railroad had been replacing old iron rails from both directions, but this section had not yet been upgraded. The cold weather made the old rails more brittle and were deemed responsible.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

WATERBURY PARADES

FROM OUR PAST

Wednesday, June 28, 12:45

Waterbury Senior Center

Stowe Street.

Free and open to the public.

There will be a sing-along of patriotic music interspersed in the program:

America the Beautiful
You're a Grand Old Flag
My Country 'Tis of Thee
Armed Forces medley
And...your special requests

The Senior Center will provide a reasonably priced, delicious lunch at noon. For more info contact the Senior Center 802-244-1234.

Co-sponsored by the
Waterbury Historical Society and
Waterbury Area Senior Center

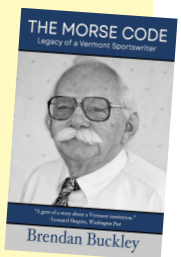
THE LEGACY OF VERMONT SPORTS- WRITER DAVE MORSE

**Book talk and Q&A with
author Brendan Buckley**

**Thursday, July 27, 6PM
Steele Community Room**

Dave Morse (1937-2015), who grew up in Waterbury and graduated class of 1956 from Waterbury High School, went on to become a Vermont Sports Hall of Fame sportswriter and beloved member of the Hardwick community. There, he spent 20 years writing the weekly sports column and inspiring youth with his kindness, resilience, and generosity. Vermont author Brendan Buckley's new book, *The Morse Code* (out July 11), recounts the legacy of this humble giant in a small town.

Co-sponsored by the
Waterbury Historical Society and
Bridgeside Books.



Program Highlights: Alice Meaker Murder, April 23, 1880

by Skip Flanders



Emeline Meaker



Louis Almon Meaker

At the April 26 Waterbury Historical Society program, Don Welch and Skip Flanders gave a presentation on the murder of 9-year-old Alice Meaker at the hands of her half brother's wife Emeline and her son Almon Meaker. A detailed account of this murder by John Stark Bellamy II that appeared in the *Vermont Sunday Magazine* June 11, 2006 described Alice's murder as the "Crime of the Century."

Alice was born in Charlotte on August 25, 1871 in her father's third marriage. Her father Orrin was 69 at the time of her birth, and died a few years after the birth of her brother Henry in 1872. After the death of Orrin, due to family circumstances, Alice and her brother Henry were sent to live on the Charlotte Poor Farm. The children were treated badly at the Poor Farm with little Alice claiming an attempted rape by a neighbor that was dismissed.

In 1878 the overseer of the Poor Farm thought it would be better if the children were raised in a family situation by their half-brother Horace Meaker who lived in Duxbury near the current driveway of Crossett Brook Middle School. Horace was Alice's brother from her father's first marriage. Horace's wife did not want Alice to live with her and the neighbors reported numerous instances of physical and verbal abuse of Alice by Emeline.

Emeline convinced her son Almon to assist in a plan to poison little Alice Meaker with strychnine. At his mother's direction Almon purchased strychnine

at the Waterbury drugstore and rented a team of horses to transport Alice and his mother. On April 23, 1880 they took Alice out of her bedroom window in the dark of night, carried her through Waterbury and gave her the strychnine near the present-day Waterbury Flea Market. They carried her body up Little River Road and buried her in a swamp.

The neighbors missed Alice and asked the County Sheriff to investigate and upon repeated questioning Almon confessed. Emeline and her son were tried and found guilty of murder and sentenced to hang. The convictions were appealed to the Vermont Supreme Court and upheld. The Vermont Legislature later commuted Almon's sentence to life in prison for his cooperation and consideration that Emeline was the mastermind of the murder.

Emeline was the first woman to be hung in Vermont on March 30, 1883 and is buried in an unmarked grave in the prison plot in Windsor. Almon died in prison. The program closed with a moment of silence in memory of Alice and the suffering she endured in her short life. Alice Meaker is buried in the old cemetery at Duxbury corner. The program was presented 143 years and 3 days after the death of the 9-year-old.

Both Don and Skip are members of the Duxbury and Waterbury Historical Societies.

There were 40 members and guests in attendance at the program.

Memorial Day Remembrance and Ghost Walk

by Cheryl Casey

On May 29, WHS hosted its annual Memorial Day Remembrance Ceremony and Ghost Walk at Holy Cross Cemetery in Duxbury. This year's theme was the immigrant experience, featuring the stories of the Callahan, Grace and Healy, and Kadric families. Presenters shared the families' stories of hardship, hard work, and how they came to call Vermont home. WPTZ coverage at: <https://www.mynbc5.com/article/waterbury-memorial-day-ghost-walk-immigrants-who-made-a-difference/44030602>



Presenter Kathryn Grace shares the story of the Kadric family, who came to Waterbury in 1992 as refugees from war-torn Bosnia. Their son Samir lost his life in a car accident in 1997 at the age of 22.



Retired UVM history professor and author Vince Feeney gives a special presentation about the Irish immigrant experience in Central Vermont in the 19th and early 20th centuries.

All photos Joe Camaratta for Waterbury Historical Society



Board member Jan Gendreau (back center) has organized the remembrance ceremony and ghost walk for 17 years. Volunteers (front row, from left) Cheryl Casey, Skip Flanders, Jane Willard, and Paul Willard helped with the event.



Presenter Mark Morse describes the early history of the Callahan family, who settled on Camel's Hump in the late 19th century after emigrating from Ireland.

WHS Adds “Nugget” to Vermont Historical Society’s *History in the 252* Digital Project

by Cheryl Casey

To further its mission as “the only museum in Vermont where visitors experience the entire breadth of Vermont’s history” and its commitment to local history, the Vermont Historical Society recently unveiled a new local history project entitled, *History in the 252*.

For the project, VHS invited each of the nearly 200 local historical societies and museums across the state to submit a brief “nugget” of history important to their respective towns, along with a photo. The WHS Board selected Dr. Henry Janes and the Janes house as its featured nugget of history.

The information is organized online both as an interactive map and an alphabetical listing by municipality. A physical exhibit was displayed in the Card Room at the State House on April 5 to celebrate local history in advance of Vermont History Day events on April 8.

The project can be explored at vermonthistory.org/history-in-the-252

Refreshment Table Brings in Donations, Delight Over Period Costumes

by Cheryl Casey

On April 1 and 2, Waterbury Historical Society (WHS) members dressed up in their 1940s rural Vermont best to support local filmmaker George Woodard and the Waterbury premiere of his newest film, *The Farm Boy*, at Brookside Primary School. Many community members volunteered to bake and assemble packets of cookies, which WHS offered by donation to moviegoers, along with milk (to go with the cookies, of course!), apple cider, and freshly-popped popcorn.

WHS offers a hearty congratulations to George on the success of his film and heartfelt gratitude to all who showed their support for our society. In total, we raised nearly \$800 for future programming and exhibits!



WHS board members Jan Gendreau, Grace Sweet and Cheryl Casey.

2023 Monthly Waterbury Historical Society Meetings

Waterbury Historical Society (WHS) board meetings are held on the 3rd Wednesday of each month. Meetings are open to the public.

While the WHS welcomes public participation and input, it is a forum to conduct business. Times and locations subject to change.

June 21, 4:30 - 6:30pm in Steele Community Room

July 19, 4:30 - 6:30pm in Steele Community Room

August 16, 4:30 - 6:30pm in Steele Community Room

September 20, 4:30 - 6:30pm in Steele Community Room

October 18, 4:30 - 6:30pm in Steele Community Room

WHS to Participate in *Find Waldo Local* 2023

by Cheryl Casey

This July, the Waterbury Historical Society (WHS) will once again participate in the *Find Waldo Local* event organized by Bridgeside Books. *Find Waldo Local* is an annual event to support “shop local” initiatives in communities across the country.

For the month of July, participating locations hide Waldo standees somewhere among their wares or displays, and, in true scavenger hunt fashion, players receive a stamp or signature on their Find Waldo card each time they spy the intrepid explorer in his red-and-white-striped shirt. At the end of the month-long scavenger hunt, Bridgeside Books will award prizes.

Now in its 11th year, *Find Waldo Local* is co-sponsored by Candlewick Press and the American Booksellers Association. Independent bookstores register for a Find Waldo packet, which accommodates participation by up to 25 additional local businesses and organizations.

WHS invites visitors of all ages to search for Waldo and find pieces of Waterbury history in the History Center all next month during our regular hours, M - F, 8:00AM - 4:30PM. Stay tuned for some special weekend hours, too!



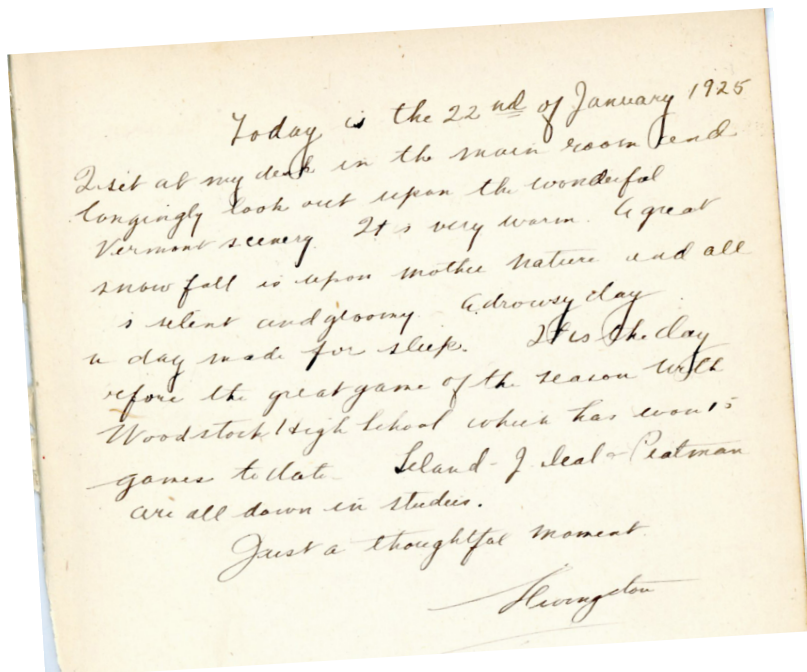
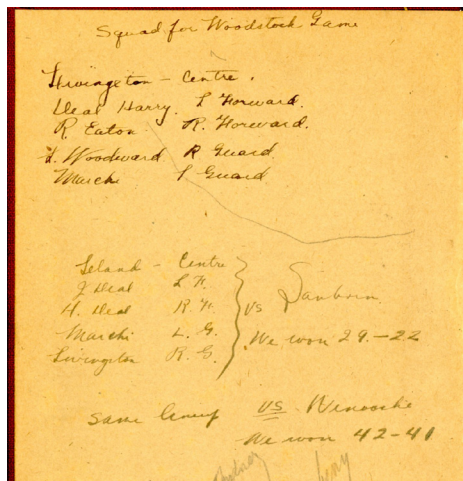
FOUND!

IN THE COLLECTION

by Michael Maloney, Collections Manager

In the ongoing project of processing donations made during the pandemic with the Accession/De-accession Committee, I have come across so many fascinating tidbits of Waterbury history. My favorite from the past few weeks has been pages from a 1920s Algebra textbook. Owned and used by Sydney Livingston, a senior at Waterbury High School in 1925, this textbook is made relevant to Waterbury's story by the notes Sydney wrote on the inside of its covers. The inside front cover contains the lineup for that year's basketball games against Winooski, Woodstock, and Sanborn High Schools. Names on the team include Livingston, Deal, Eaton, and Woodard. However, my favorite piece of these notes from Sydney is an entry he wrote in the very back of the textbook. It reads:

"Today is the 22nd of January, 1925
I sit at my desk in the main room and longingly look out upon the wonderful Vermont scenery. It is very warm. A great snow fall is upon Mother Nature and all is silent and gloomy. A drowsy day. A day made for sleep. It is the day before the great game with Woodstock High School which has won 15 games to date. Leland, J. Deal, and Peatman are all down in studies. Just a thoughtful moment. ~Livingston"



This type of writing is what really drives me to do this job and to dig into the history of a place. Seeing that even a century ago, people are just the same as we are now. High schoolers are still worried about their big game, tired of their school work, and sleepily looking out at the wonderful scenery we have here in Waterbury. I look forward to finding more treasures like these as I continue sifting through the history kept here at the Historical Society.

Public Help Needed

by Michael Maloney, Collections Manager

The Waterbury Historical Society (WHS) is looking for help identifying photographs of unknown people and scenes from Waterbury. In this edition of the newsletter are three such images, or groupings of images, that we need the public's help in identifying! If you can identify anyone or anywhere in these images, email WaterburyCollectionsManager@gmail.com.

The first is an image of an O'Neill Bros. cart. Who do you think is standing by the cart? Where in Waterbury was this photo taken?



The second is a selection of photographs of possible members of the Buzzell Family from Waterbury. Do you recognize any of these faces?



The third is an image of a woman with two young girls sitting on each of her knees. We have in our possession several more childhood photographs of these girls. Do you know any of them by name?



Waterbury Historical Society Invites New Volunteers

Curator • Website Support • Social Media Management

Interested volunteers should contact board president Cheryl Casey at whspresidentvt@gmail.com

Curator

Responsibilities include:

- Research and design of new exhibits for the WHS museum on a quarterly or biannual basis through research in our digital and physical archives or collaborating with the Collections Manager or Board members
- Maintain and update permanent exhibits as needed
- Develop and propose new content and exhibit plans to the WHS Board of Trustees
- Maintain digital records of developed exhibits for future reference

Skills needed:

- Creativity
- Attention to detail
- An eye for design
- Strong organizational skills
- Clear and concise writing skills, with ability to draft descriptive summary
- Desire to inform and delight
- Basic knowledge of computers and data entry

Hours are flexible based on your needs and availability.

Website & Social Media

WHS is currently seeking to grow its communications team with folks familiar with website design and layout, social media planning, and digital content production. We are a committed and supportive group of volunteers that combines our love of history with a little bit of digital savvy to engage community members and visitors in Waterbury's story. Even if you don't feel digitally savvy at all but are interested in learning some skills to help support the society's mission, there's a role for you!

Donations

Annual Appeal donations and membership renewals February 12 through May, 17 2023.

The Waterbury Historical Society sends our appreciation to those who gave during our annual campaign and renewed their membership. If you have yet to renew your membership please use the form below. Thank you.

Bradley Ather
Karen Carpenedo
Carol Cook
Rebecca Ellis
David Goodman & Sue Minter

Harold Grout
Order of the Eastern Star, Queen Esther
Chapter #7
Lucy Ely Pagan
Stowe Historical Society

Florence Teats
Mary Ellen & Francis Trask
M.J. Warnstedt
Theresa & Gordon Wood

Membership and Gift Form

Over 180 members support the Society's work to collect, research, document, preserve, and exhibit Waterbury's history. We invite you to become a member today!

Name(s) _____

Address _____

Town _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____ Email _____

Membership Type: ☐ New ☐ Renewal

Membership Levels: ☐ Individual (\$10/year) ☐ Household (\$15/year)

☐ I would like to make a gift to the WHS in the amount of \$ _____

I would like to receive the WHS newsletter by: ☐ email ☐ USPS

Please send this form and check payable to:

Waterbury Historical Society
PO Box 708, Waterbury, VT 05676

waterburyhistoricalsociety.org
waterburyhistoricalsociety@gmail.com



@waterburyhistoricalsocietyVT

*Thank you for your support of the
Waterbury Historical Society.*

WHS is a volunteer-run 501(c)(3)
nonprofit organization.
All donations are tax-deductible.

A Visit from the Stowe Historical Society

by Jill Chase

Our neighbors from Stowe paid the Waterbury Historical Society a visit on President's Day, February 20th. About a dozen folks from the Stowe Historical Society came for a tour of the History Center and to hobnob with fellow volunteers. Skip Flanders, Bill Woodruff and myself had them start in the work area near the elevator to see the kinds of artifacts we are sorting through from our donations and show them our storage area. We traded info about storage methods, guidelines for what to keep, display suggestions and what systems we use to catalog our items.

In the museum, we unlocked our file cabinets for perusal, and the Stowe-ites happily wandered the exhibits. Since Stowe and Waterbury history (e.g., the electric railroad) and families (many!) overlap, they not only asked plenty of questions but supplied us with different information.

Some took in the office, then we went down to the first floor exhibit, ending at the round table for more discussion. We compared notes on volunteers, programs, membership fees, open hours, security, and community interest. Both societies are delighted with local enthusiasm for preserving their towns' past.

Before they left, we were invited to visit Stowe's historical center with a tour of the Trapp Family Lodge included. It's a good opportunity to see what others do well and to stimulate ideas for our own plans. Thanks so much for coming, Stowe Historical Society!

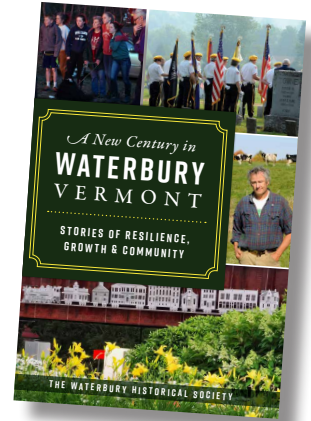
**The History Center and Museum is open Monday to Friday from 8am to 4pm.
Located in the restored Dr. Janes house at the municipal complex.
The museum is free and open to the public.**

The Waterbury Historical Society's vast collections rotate through exhibits.
Stop by and learn something new about Waterbury's place
in Vermont and national history!



PO Box 708, Waterbury, VT 05676

Waterbury Historical Society's Latest Book



Told by members of the community in their own words, this collection of stories captures the spirit of Waterbury from 2000-2020.

\$25

Available from the Waterbury Historical Society at the Waterbury Municipal Center. You can also purchase a copy of the book every Wednesday from 2-4pm at the History Center offices on the 2nd floor.

Cash and check accepted only.

Proceeds support the Waterbury Historical Society.