

Waterbury Historical Society

Summer 2016

Volume 17, Number 3

Waterbury, Vermont 05676

Fraud At The Church Supper

By Gleason Ayers



Gleason & Dorothy Ayers

For many years my grandmother¹ chaired the annual "Sugar on Snow Supper" at her church² and my grandfather³ always boiled the syrup. There was a somewhat friendly rivalry with the other Protestant church⁴ in our village as to which ladies would have the first supper with the new syrup. They always visited

¹ Bessie Gleason Ayers 1865 - 1933.

² Congregational Church.

³ Orlo L. Ayers 1857 - 1936, wheelwright and merchant, built and owned the home at 18 Elm Street.

⁴ Methodist Church.

each other's supper to support the other church - actually was to spy on each other.

From the time I was eight⁵ or so years old, I would go with my father back into the hills to fill washtubs with clean snow. He had borrowed the washtubs from my grandfather's store⁶. We would bring them to the back entryway and my chum and I would fill soup bowls with packed clean snow for use at the supper. I believe I did this every year until I left home for college⁷.



Gleason Ayers

⁵ This would be spring of 1925.

⁶ Ayers Hardware Store on Elm Street. The Craft Beer Cellar is now located there.

⁷ Spring of 1936 when my dad, the author, was 18.

I was not present for the following, but I have heard the story so many times I might as well have been there. I believe it happened in the late 1910's or very early in the 1920's. In addition to my grandmother chairing the supper and my grandfather boiling the syrup to the correct consistency so that it would candy when placed on the snow, my grandmother prevailed on a bachelor⁸ that roomed and boarded with them, to furnish the syrup. This particular year, to be sure they would be first, they set a date real early and Chancey⁹ promised my grandmother he was sure he knew of a real early sugarplace where he would get the syrup. It turned out this particular year, there just wasn't any sugar weather before the date of the supper but Chancey had guaranteed syrup that afternoon. He hired a horse and wagon early that morning and went to a village about ten miles away and stopped at a farm on the edge of the village and made a deal with the farmer to open up his sugar house and clean up his evaporator ready to draw off syrup. He then continued to the village store and purchased enough tubs of maple sugar to give him the syrup he needed, plus new syrup cans to put it into.

Some of you older readers may know that in the 1920's maple sugar was the principle produce of sugaring and many farmers would pay their winter grocery bills with wooden pails of maple sugar. Normal pails were about 16" in diameter and 14" high and held about 20 to 25 pounds of sugar.

Chancey and the farmer emptied the pails of sugar into the evaporator that already held some water. The farmer boiled the mixture

back to the correct consistency of maple syrup, poured the syrup into cans and Chancey carried the warm cans back to the church and the supper went off as the first syrup of the season. Chancey when quizzed by my grandmother, swore that the truth was that the syrup came from Pike's evaporator that afternoon and the warm cans proved it. My grandfather suspected the source of the syrup but never disputed Chancey even though my grandmother kept saying, "the syrup did not taste like new syrup." The result was that my grandmother, the most prim and proper, upright and honest person I ever knew, unknowingly put on a new syrup supper that was not one. Fortunately she died some years later, never knowing the truth.

(My father, Gleason Ayers, could not tell this story without breaking into great guffaws of laughter every time he related it. To him the funniest part was not the sugar fraud but the fact that his impeccably honest and upright grandmother had been snookered. According to Dad, no one ever told her the truth.

I retyped the story here exactly as my father wrote it for submission to Vermont Life in 1995 where it was printed in the Letters to the Editor section. There are errors but they are his, and it's not my job to correct my dad four years after his death. The only character in this Waterbury fraud that I remember other than my dad is Chauncey Lyman who was a very old man living at 8 Randall Street with my grandparents when we lived at 11 Randall Street. He could completely peel an apple with his jackknife without breaking the peel, and this amazed me as an eight year old.

My dad's typed copy of this true story survived the 2011 flooding of Elm and Randall

⁸ Chauncey Lyman, 1866 - 1952, a butcher and Waterbury merchant and then a railroad foreman.

⁹ The name is misspelled by the author.

Streets, and I could easily read through the light coating of dried flood dirt.

I can hear Dad laughing somewhere over the horizon.)

Bob Ayers June 2016

Needed: Secretary for Waterbury Historical Society

The 2016 Nominating Committee for the Waterbury Historical Society is looking for a secretary to serve a two year term, beginning in 2016 and ending in 2018. According to the Society's by-laws, "the Secretary shall keep minutes of the quarterly meetings of the members and meetings of the Board of Directors, and keep records as may be required by the Board of Directors. The Secretary shall give notice of annual and special meetings and shall have such other authority and perform such other duties as may be requested from time to time." The Secretary is a voting member of the Board of Directors.

If you have interest in serving as our Society's Secretary, please contact Jane Willard at (802)244-6330.

New Members

Steve & Joanna Caswell, Waterbury Ctr.
Roger & Shirley Gilman, Windsor
Jim & Nancy Laird, Massachusetts
Pauline Lemery, Waterbury Ctr.
Don Schneider & MK Monley, Waterbury Ctr.
Steve & Addie Soul, Waterbury Ctr.
Ken & Sharon Talbert, North Carolina

Membership Dues

Check your mailing label. If it does not read 1/1/2017 or higher, you owe dues.

One person \$10.00 per year.

Couples living in the same household \$15.00 per year.

Letter to the Editor

April 2016

Much appreciation goes to Linda and Wesley Kaiser for the years of service as Newsletter Editors. The Kaiser family for years lived next to the Dow family on Maple Street in Waterbury Center, VT. A hearty welcome is extended to our new newsletter Editor.

A fond farewell to the Waterbury Center Grange where country ladies taught me the Fox Trot and the Virginia-Vermont Reel. In the back shed where the horse and buggies were parked, Calvin smoked his first and last cigarette. This rare decision started me on the road to becoming a centenarian in 4 years.

Congratulations to all dedicated members who created the beautiful Waterbury Municipal Center

Your Connecticut Member,
Calvin Coolidge Dow

(Editor's Note:

I'm still here! Linda Kaiser)

The Demeritt Company

By Grace Sweet

(This story is from the Grange Curtain advertisers Program.)



Richard N. Demeritt

The Demeritt and Palmer Packing Company operated at the eastern end of the village near the railroad tracks, presently owned by Charles Grenier. The owners were cousins, Richard N. Demeritt (President), Bertrand Demeritt (Treasurer) and, later, Roy W. Demeritt.



Bertrand R. Demeritt

About 1900 the Demeritts started a canning business, canning primarily string beans and corn in late summer and applesauce and baked beans in the fall months. It was the first canning factory built and operated by native Vermonters in the state. A number of farmers raised yellow beans and corn for a cash crop and kids would help to pick the beans. Walter Ayers, father of Winona Hoffman, had a one ton stake body dump truck. Men picked the corn and dumped it into the dump truck. Kids weren't allowed to pick the corn because it's tricky to tell when it is ripe. Women shucked the corn in an open shed at the canning factory. Creamed corn was processed in Waterbury, whole kernel corn at a similar plant in Randolph. Major buyers were the First National Stores and S.S. Pierce, Inc.



Roy W. Demeritt

Ancel (Mike) Moulton raised both beans and corn as did Ross Green and Ralph Tebbetts. Tom Sweet raised about a half-acre of string beans for two summers when he was a Sophomore and Junior in High School (1957 and 1958). Planting was one thing, weeding was another. He hired about a dozen neighbor kids to help pick the beans. Following the

picking each picker's bag would be weighed. It wasn't unusual for someone to throw a rock into a bag, but the culprit would be pretty quickly found out. Then Tom would take the beans to the cannery where he drove onto the platform scale, got weighed, unloaded and got weighed again for the tare weight. The weight of the burlap bags was deducted. Seventy five pounds of beans would bring about \$1.50. It would take two or three pickings to get all of the beans. Tom paid his help, but he lost money the first year and broke even the second year on the venture. Some of the pickers were adults: Helen Lavery, Bernice White and Marion Moulton, others were kids: Marie Stanley, Marcia Lemery, Bernard Woodard, Mary Ethel (Wood) Welch, Gordon Wood and Louise S. Welch. Don Welch, as high school age person, worked in the cannery.

The Demeritts started to manufacture spring clothespins in 1902 along with a variety of wood turnings and boxes for packing the canned goods operating the mill formerly owned by E.W. Huntley. They wanted to keep their employees working year round. Making clothespins was a logical way to use scrap wood from their sawmill. They had one building at the factory devoted to the clothespin machines while others machines were placed in the workers' homes. The wood and springs and cartons to pack them in were furnished to the families. In most homes, even the children would make the pins as they were paid by the box. The more clothespins made, the more money the family earned.

(Grace Sweet: Information came from Linda Kaiser, Waterbury Bridges the 20th Century and History of Waterbury, Vermont 1915-1991 and from Tom Sweet and Mary Ethel Welch.)

Donations

January - July 2016

- Anonymous Donor #1** - Waterbury Grange #237 Treasurer's book from 1959 -1972
- Anonymous Donor #2** – Library tote bag
- Anonymous Donor #3** – 200 archival sleeves & 12 binders
- Anonymous Donor #4** – Cash Donation
- Carol (Adams) Allen** – Photographs from the Waterbury High Class of 1938 at 1963 Reunion; Recipe book and menu/inventory book for the Ruth Mary Inn Tea Room; Letter from Dascomb P. Rowe to servicemen from Waterbury on October 3, 1944
- Jeffrey & Susan Amestoy** – Cash Donation
- Ayers Family Legacy LLC** - Donation to help with Grange Curtain expenses
- Carol & George Barber** – Advertising pot holder from Steele's
- Elise Barun** – Cash Donation
- Calvin Dow** – Grange Curtain Donation
- Bill & Olene Doyle** – Cash Donation
- Douglas & Elizabeth Finlay** – Newsletter Donation & Grange Curtain Donation
- Vince Franke** – DVD titled “The Community at the Crossroads: Memories of the events that shaped Waterbury”
- Shirley & Harold Grout** - Cash Donation
- Phyllis Grout** – 1963 man's Bicentennial hat
- Waterbury Grange #237** – Painted theater curtain; replica of Grange building by George Wood; 5 framed paintings of the seasons by Mitch Siegel; Cash donation to help with Grange Curtain expenses
- Green Mountain Power** - Donation to help with Grange Curtain expenses
- Sandy Hough** – DVD of 80 photographs of the CCC Trail
- Marty & Sue Johansen** – Cash Donation

Bob & Betty Jones – Boy Scout uniform from late 1970-1980s

Marie Lukowich – United States Post Office Sign for Waterbury Center that hung on the general store in Waterbury Center.

Brian Lindner – Information & photos for various files

Wendy Parrish – 1 each Oatmeal voucher and Bran voucher from Minard Commercial School of the Green Mountain Seminary

Larry & Wendy Nelson - Mt. Mansfield Co-op Creamery wooden sign; E.T. Seabury Estate Receipt; E.T. Seabury Estate Check book 1916-1917; 1910 Appraisal postcard for W.C. Dow; 1923 postcard to W.C. Dow to Vote for Charles Webb; W.C. Dow postcard concerning Hood Farm; Dec. 1921 Will Dow postcard of meeting at Grange; 1930 W.C. Dow postcard for chick feeding demo; Feb. 1924 Mt. Mansfield Co-op Creamery & Grain Assoc.; 1920 Cemetery Association W.C. Dow tax bill; Five 1920 checks written by Will Dow; 1920 E.T.

Seabury bill; Letter to Will C. Dow from Secretary of State; 1935 letter from K.E. Hilton concerning local A&P; Envelopes to Will Dow: 1920 Prudential, Inc.; 1925 Valley Oil; 1929 M.A. Nelson; 1934 R.M. Eagan; 1928 Mrs. Jas. Olson; 1931 Fay Dow; 1920 Fay Dow; 1920 Brown Fence & Wire Co.; 1920 to William Dow from unknown; 1911 to Willis Dow from Winooski; 1929 Sarasota, FL; Waterbury Savings & Trust

Meredith Rogers – Newsletter Donation

Chila Russell – Drawing in color of a train on Slip Hill by Merrill Bennett

Ted Schultheis - Donation to help with Grange Curtain expenses

John & Natalie Sherman – Grange Curtain Donaton

Bob & Val Smith - Postcard of Little River Dam postmarked 1948

Paul & Jane Willard – Class of 1941 Mini Bios; Class of 1938/1941 Reunion photo album; Letters from classmates; 1941 Class Reunion memorabilia; Photos of Class of 1941; Waterbury scrapbook 1990-1996;

Congregational Church newspaper articles; Profile on C.C. Warren; Miscellaneous local news articles; Vermonters inducted in the 43rd Division; Ken Sabin's military papers; Waterbury Bridges- Across the Fence

Gordon & Theresa Wood – Newsletter sponsors

John & Judy Woodruff – Cash Donation

Margaret Wright – Bowl & platter painted by her grandmother

Alan & Beverley Young – Grange Curtain Donation

What's in the Collection?

By Linda Kaiser

I thought it would be interesting to ask a few individuals what their favorite items were in the collection. In the next couple of issues I will also provide people with an idea of what artifacts are actually in the collection. They are not all on display at this time.

Jill Chase: Though I knew there had been an industry, it had never occurred to me how clothespins were made in Waterbury, Vermont until I saw the clothespin-making machine in the Historical Society's collection. I had to ask what it was for. And I had it from one of the people who would know best, Linda Kaiser, having used one of those machines when she was young.

My mom hung her clothes out on the line and I'm sure the pins she used were made in Waterbury. She came to town in 1947 and

we're still using those same clothespins. She never left them out on the line but carried them indoors with the dry clothes. The main reason we're still using them is because they are the best we have. They are stronger and larger than new ones we've bought and we wouldn't trade them for anything. Thanks, Demeritt Company.

Jack Carter: The Cooley-Wright drain, because I had my eye on that for years so I was happy when I was able to obtain it. My second choice is Merrill Bennett's drawings.

Sandy Hough: I liked reading about Dr. Janes and William Monroe and enjoyed Brian Lindner's research on the Waterbury Inn Fire and Pauline Molony's death. (Sandy has been inventorying the hundreds of files).

Wesley Kaiser: Since childhood my favorite has been the Mount Mansfield Electric Railroad models.

Mary Kasamatsu: I can't remember the names of the donors or previous owners of the pieces, but I was always fascinated by the examples of fine needlework / lacework that were displayed. It's so impressive to think of the skill and patience and the many hours that went into creating those items. As I use my special light to spin and knit by, I think of the women making these items under much less optimal conditions, and I marvel at their results. (The needlework is part of the Pride/Caldwell/Boyce Family Collection.)

Nancy Champney: My favorite used to be the butterfly collection, but it hasn't been there for many years. I like the Robert Haseltine mannequin and all the military collection, the Harrington dishes, the antique furniture, and I loved all the small collections that used to be in the glass cases.

Brian Lindner: My favorite item would be Dan Marshall's USMC blanket that he used in combat in the Pacific during WWII. That

blanket could tell some rather amazing stories of Dan's time in the jungles. Dan once told me that he was embarrassed to admit it...but...combat was the best part of his life. He loved the adrenaline rush and the excitement. He had some amazing brushes with death where it was pure luck that saved his life each time.

Wally Wallace: The first thing I thought of was that wooden sign with the "CH" phone number on it. It just reminds me of the good old days for some reason.

Linda Kaiser: My favorite is the Bidwell cradle which dates back to the early 1700s and slept generations of Bidwell babies including Dr. George Bidwell and his daughters. I also like Dr. Bidwell's walking stick which was "designed" by a beaver. Bernice Burnham's 1950s painting of fireworks in Waterbury is a favorite of mine, too.

Here are just a few of the items in the collection:

Ann Witham's collection consists not only of her Bicentennial dress which matched her daughter's dress but her nurse's bags and the instruments and medical supplies that she used as a Visiting Nurse, plus her notes and how it all started.

If you were a descendant of Silas Loomis, imagine seeing his shaving equipment and his wallet.

There are small simple collections such as wooden shoes worn by Joseph Somerville and sample wood shoes that were a store item that people could order in leather and there is a wallet with checks from N. Somerville.

And the CCC collection consists of a handmade wooden box to hold special items; the bed tag from Leonard Pratt's cot at Camel's Hump Camp (located at the pool area); the alarm horn that hung on a building at Camp

Smith (located near the dam); a wooden chair that once was in a CCC building; and more.

There are handcrafted items including a child's wooden cart which is just big enough to carry a doll or a teddy bear; Tony Germana's Noah's Ark; August Boeker's handmade basket; the painted tea cups and painted buttons crafted by Jessie Demeritt; Polly Pride's hair wreath made from her own hair; photograph album that Nap Deguise carved for a friend.

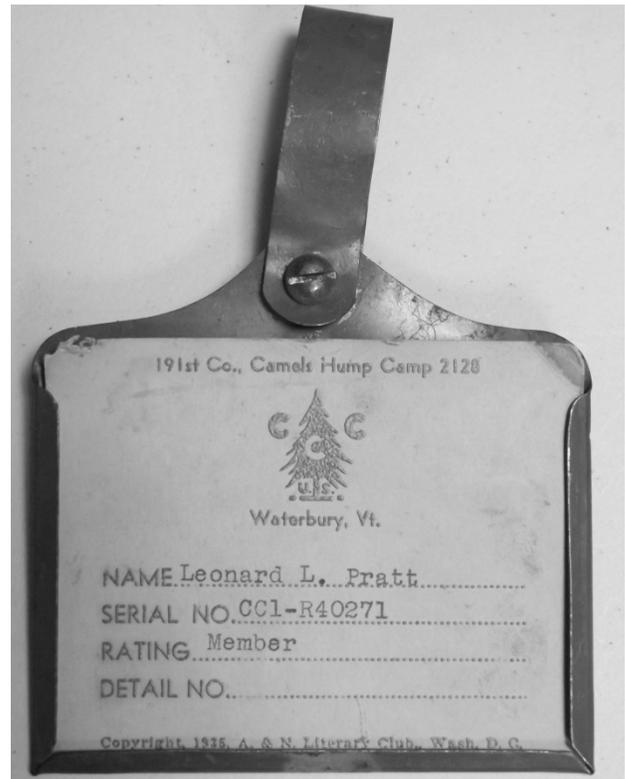
Robert Siegel works twice a week scanning and entering the Waterbury Rotary's notebooks. Sandy Hough works four days a week, mostly with files, which includes an enormous amount of scanning. Once in a while she switches to one of the collections as a change of pace. Joanna Caswell is helping once a week by scanning and entering boxed collections. Jill Chase, Assistant Archivist, also works once a week by photographing and entering items that are on display, but have not yet been inventoried. I am photographing, sorting, and entering the various collections to PastPerfect.



Robert Siegel & Sandra Hough
working on PastPerfect
(Photo by Linda Kaiser)

Until Sandy Hough started working for the Historical Society she could not imagine what types of items were saved, but what she actually found was an amazing array of our town's history. I cannot count the number of times she has said to me, "Can I hold that or at least touch it?" Her exclamation is that she is amazed at being able to hold or look at something from a certain time period or a particular family. And that is the way I see the collection: a marvelous look into our town's past!

There is such a broad spectrum of items and people who owned them that they tell a unique story of Waterbury's past.



Leonard Pratt's Bed Tag
191st Camel's Hump Camp 2128 -
CCC Camp where the swimming pool is now
located

Waterbury Remembered: From a Courtship and to a Final Resting Place

by

Martha Reeves Lang, Ph.D.

Charles Lindbergh



Charles Lindbergh

This photograph was taken by Laura E. Demeritt, daughter of Richard N. Demeritt, in Old Orchard, Maine on July 24, 1927. She wrote on the back, "I stood right beside Charles Lindbergh." In the 1920s Laura was a Home Economics teacher at Waterbury High School.

(Photograph from the Laura E. Demeritt Collection)



Thomas Reeves, the Sheriff

My great grandparents, Bridget McGrath and Thomas Reeves, met and were married in Waterbury, Vermont in 1874. They both made wise choices: he was sensible and tender-hearted and she had a will of steel and was devoted to him. At that time Waterbury was a bustling city. He was working as a carpenter and she was a housemaid. Their time in Waterbury meant enough to them that they made Holy Cross Cemetery, the Catholic burial ground, in nearby Duxbury their final resting place. The plot they bought was large enough so their son, J. Edward, his wife, Violet, my mother, M. Elizabeth, and her descendants could be laid to rest there. Because of the choices my great grandparents made in 1926, Waterbury is a city my family will always

return to.

Great Grandfather Reeves was born in Moretown in 1849. He was the son of an English soldier from Broad Hinton, Wiltshire, England who came to North America through the port of Montreal and later settled in Vermont. He died when his son, my great grandfather, was fourteen years old. Ten years later his youngest son, Edward, an infant at the time of this death, and the brother to my great grandfather, died at twelve years of age. Despite what had to have been difficult times, these deceased family members were given gravestones commemorating their lives in St. Patrick Cemetery in Moretown.

Bridget McGrath was born in 1850 in Northfield and was the daughter of Irish immigrants. A photograph of Bridget in 1859 shows her with her family in front of their farm house. They owned a hand-carved chair with a needlepoint seat signed by a well-known Vermont furniture maker; a member of The Vermont Historical Society identified this chair as one of a kind with historical significance.



McGrath Family in Northfield

My great grandparents moved to Underhill, where my grandfather, J. Edward Reeves, was born in 1876. He was named in memory of my great grandfather's younger brother, Edward. The Reeves family then moved to Burlington where Great Grandfather

Reeves became the county sheriff. During that time he worked with many of the lawyers in Burlington, and when he retired these men gave him a gold-plated sheriff's badge with two rubies with their names engraved on the back.



Reeves Wagon

My great grandparents worked hard, lived sensibly, and ultimately owned more than a half a dozen houses in the Burlington Hill Section; two hundred and fifty-six acres of lake front property in Charlotte; twenty-five acres of land in an industrial section of Burlington; and two farms – one in Essex Junction and one in Shelburne. Not only did they work hard, they cared deeply for their son, J. Edward Reeves, and both of their grandchildren, including my mother, M. Elizabeth Reeves Lang.

Over the years and through many moves Great Grandfather Reeves kept his father's discharge papers from the English army and his military powder horn. When I brought those documents to the McCord Museum in Montreal, an archivist said she had never seen papers like that and immediately gave me white gloves to

wear whenever I touched them so I wouldn't damage the parchment.

Bridget died during a flood in 1926 so the roads were washed out and the Reeves family, devastated by her loss, had to travel by train to Waterbury and then on to the Catholic cemetery in nearby Duxbury. Her husband died within the year; he had lost the heart and soul of his existence. Unfortunately, their much beloved son, J. Edward, died a year later, leaving my grandmother a widow with two young children.

I grew up in Burlington and other than attending the burial of my Grandmother Reeves at Holy Cross Cemetery in 1964 I had no connection to Waterbury. However, after my mother died in 2002 and was buried in Duxbury, every Sunday for years, without exception, I drove through Waterbury to visit the cemetery.

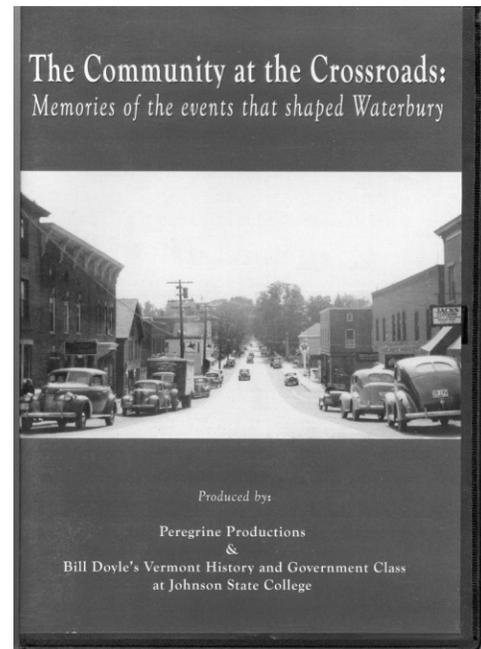
I am proud of my ancestors including my great grandparents, who despite their humble origins, overcame seemingly insurmountable odds with hard work and sensible living. Just as important these relatives showed consideration, and respect, to their predecessors and heirs by keeping and passing on their heirlooms. They have hearts as big as the mountains that loom over them in Holy Cross Cemetery.

In Memory

WHS Member
Elise Braun

October 7, 1932 – June 17, 2016

Senator Bill Doyle's History & Government Class' DVD



If you were not able to attend the premiere in May of the new Waterbury DVD by Bill Doyle's History & Government Class of Johnson State College, you have missed a marvelous glimpse into the history of Waterbury. This forty minute DVD includes interviews with Florilla Ames, Skip Flanders, Brian Harwood, Pauline Lemery, Brian Lindner, Steve Lotspeich, Raphael Lowe, David Luce, Chris Palermo, Ken Squier, Rosina Wallace, Gordon Wood, Theresa Wood and George Woodard.

Vince Franke did a wonderful job of putting the film together with a collection of photographs from the past.

Lizzie Orlantha Hart Minott

1885 – 1979

By Tom Sweet

(This is a story from the 2016 Ghost Walk.)



I am going to share some thoughts of the life of my grandmother, Lizzie Orlantha Hart Minott.

Before I do, however, I want to speak about her grandmother, Lois Morrell Hart who was a midwife and who lived for a time in Waterbury Center in the gray house across the road from the Minott/Moulton farm.

In 1883 on February 6, she, Lois Morrell Hart, was called to the brick farmhouse to assist my great grandmother, Susan Noble Minott, in the delivery of her son, my grandfather, Frances Lee Minott. His impending arrival was a surprise to his parents as Susan was 42 and her husband, Orrin, older. They had a daughter, Mary, who was 17 at the time.

Lizzie Orlantha Hart Minott was born March 11, 1885 in Wolcott, Vermont to George

C. Hart and Lizzie Orlantha Cleveland Hart. Lizzie Minott's mother died 11 days after her birth. It appears that Grandmother Lois Morrell Hart attended her daughter-in-Law, Lizzie Orlantha Cleveland Hart's birth of Lizzie Hart on March 11, 1885. In my opening remarks I referred to Lois Morrell's mid-wife attendant delivery of Frances Lee Minott, only son of Orin and Susan Minott and the man Lizzie Hart Minott married in 1908.

Lizzie spent her early years in the Wolcott and Hardwick area. We do not know a lot about Lizzie's early years. We know that she was listed in the 1900 census for Hardwick and was 15 years old at the time. She could read and apparently had attended elementary school in the Wolcott school system of the time. From comments made to granddaughter Jane Rondeau she and her family lived on the Bear Swamp Road in Wolcott. The Bear Swamp Road is in the northeast part of Wolcott south of the Craftsbury Town Line. Lizzie had 3 siblings, Frank, Ida and Sadie. From all reports it appears Lizzie contributed greatly in labor to the running of the Hart household. From our recollection she never complained nor did she ever speak unkindly of any of her family. In her late teens she went to live with an Aunt in Worcester. She spoke of seeing the fire on the top of Mount Hunger which occurred about 1900 or 1901.

In 1906 or 1907 when Lizzie was about 19 or 20 years old she came to Waterbury Center to help keep house for her Aunt Carrie Seaver. Edward and Carrie Seaver lived on Maple Street in a house on the same location as the Charlie Taylor residence stands today. A distance of about ¼ mile from where we presently stand. The Seaver home was just up the road from the Bryan Family dwelling and Lizzie helped out at the Bryan place. She

milked the cows when Mrs Bryan was away and she helped Mrs. Bryan lace up her corset and assisted in other necessary daily activities.¹⁰

So we have Lee Minott and Lizzie Orlantha Hart in Waterbury Center, much less than a ½ days walk apart which was the rule of thumb for people to meet or for courting to occur. Lizzie married Frances Lee Minott on March 21, 1908.

It appears the stage was being set for Lizzie Minott to become the driving force for most of whatever went on for the next 70+ years at the Minott farm.

Lizzie Minott was a very proactive person. She had a plan and a way to make the plan work. She also had a horse. Lizzie's driving horse was named Daisy. I believe from all reports Daisy was a Pacer. Daisy was quite high spirited and she required a certain amount of special handling that only Lizzie could provide. Daisy had a propensity for not wanting to be behind any carriage driven by any man especially on bridges on the way to Waterbury "To The Street". Lizzie reported that Daisy could not abide any fella's horse being in front of her if she could help it. The family generally agrees that this might have had something to do with the spirit of the lady who was driving her.

The early 1900s from 1908 to 1930 were full of the daily activities of farm life. I perceive that taking care of aging parents and the typical day to day activities of a farm family occupied the time. Lizzie and Lee had three daughters, Mary Alice born 7 July 1912, Marion Esther born 22 November 1914 and Myrtie Jane born 2 October 1917.

1930 was the beginning of the Great

¹⁰ The Maple Street information comes verbatim from some narrative historical information written by Marion Minott Moulton daughter of Lizzie Minott.

Depression years. Much of the food consumed on the farm was grown on the farm and the depression years made that even more important. Lizzie was the "Go To Person" for anyone with a small child that needed some extra care or help and people were not bashful about asking her to help them. There was always room at the table and a place to sleep if needed. By virtue of her knowledge and reputation as a Mid-Wife and willingness to help out, there were many babies either born in the down stairs back bedroom or cared for in that room. My sister Carol and I were born there.

In the early 1930 Lizzie obtained a license to provide foster care to children. There were many children who came and went from the farm during that time.

Frances Lee Minott died in 1948 and Mike and Marion Moulton returned to run the farm. Mike and Marion's daughter, Jane, grew up at the farm and Jane's daughter Andrea Andrus and her family now own and live in the Farm house.

Lizzie was one of the first people to participate as a host in the Fresh Air Program. She hosted a child named Elsie who later became Elsie Harriman by marriage. Elsie continued to come to the farm long after she was too old to participate in the Fresh Air Program. Lizzie frequently visited Elsie at Croton on Hudson, a suburb of NYC. Lizzie with Louise, Gayle, Carol or Jane traveled to NYC by evening train, arriving at GCS in the early morning. A good part of that adventure was numerous Broadway shows and the opportunity to visit Elsie Harriman.

Lizzie started working as a chamber maid at Twist O Hill at about 70 years of age, working for Barbara and Marjorie Luce who she counted as relatives on the Cleveland side.

As near as I can tell it was a perfect fit.

Daughter Louise worked with her first, then granddaughters Gayle and Jane.

Lizzie introduced me to Grace who was working at Twist O Hill in the summer of 1960. Lizzie said “Grace is a Good and Capable girl!” Lizzie knew something I did not know.

Lizzie and Ethel Ayers, Winona Hoffman’s mother, used to go to Maine fishing. Some have said it was to the Allagash however having been in and to the Allagash I find it difficult to believe. Wherever it was, she enjoyed it and just plain relaxed.

Clara Rood who was an older woman and who suffered greatly from Rheumatoid Arthritis lived at the farm all during my growing up years. Clara was a dear friend to Lizzie and Lizzie was very sad when Clara had to move away. Clara made the most intricate handmade lace things.

Following is a short list of some of the children I knew when I was growing up across the road at the former Alonzo Hart dwelling: Beverly (Bea) Tewksbury Farnham, Louise Saurin Welch, Bill Duretto, Mary (Red) White, George Hunter, Martin Jackson, Ronald Hutchinson, and Dick Hutchinson.

Lizzie and Lee’s daughters lived in Waterbury most all of their lives. Alice taught school for 40 plus years both at the Seminary building where she was teaching principle for many years and at the elementary school in Waterbury. Marion worked as an assistant post master with Hazel Slack at the Center Post Office, kept the farm activities going but most importantly did a thorough and exhaustive record search of the Minott and Hart families, the burials in the Loomis Hill Cemetery and compiled most of the information obtained from Ward Knapp about early Waterbury Center. Myrtie and Leo Beane lived in

Waterbury Village. Myrtie worked for Breen Insurance and were very active participants in the Blush Hill Golf club and many other organizations in Waterbury.

Ghost Walk

May 30, 2016

By Jan Gendreau



The sun shone and the sky was a beautiful blue as we held our 10th annual Memorial Day Ghost Walk in the Maple Street Cemetery in Waterbury Center. The American Legion held their traditional wreath laying ceremony. Maggie Cosgrove, 8th grader at Crossett Brook Middle School read a poem by John Bailey, *Taking a Stand*.

As taps were played and the ceremony ended, about 75 people walked on into the cemetery to hear stories of 4 women buried there. Tom Sweet told us about his grandmother, Lizzie Minott (edited version can be found on page 12); Kathleen Hoffman shared stories about her grandmother, Winona Hoffman; Margaret Luce told us about Anne Witham; and Rosina Wallace gave us a glimpse into life on Ricker Mountain through Helen Burleigh. Some of these stories will be featured in future newsletters.

We continue to enjoy learning Waterbury history through the lives of community members that have gone before us.

The Amasa Pride Clock

By Jack Carter



One of our community's most valuable artifacts is again on display on the first floor of the Janes House. The 18th century grandfather clock was made by Abel Hutchins, famous clock maker of Concord, New Hampshire. It was owned by Amasa Pride, Waterbury's first merchant, and passed on to his descendants.

The Historical Society's Board of Directors authorized the clock's internal mechanism repair so that it now keeps accurate time and strikes on the hour. However, upon having that part rehabilitated, it was realized that the rest of the clock needs restoration. Sometime during its more than 200 years the face was poorly repainted and the top of the bonnet lost its distinctive Hutchins style filigree. The three brass finials need to be straightened and reattached.

Since the Board authorized the \$400.00 plus to finance the internal mechanism they decided to start a campaign needed to finance the other remaining work. We are now asking for donations of any amount to accomplish this goal. It is estimated that \$600 is needed to complete the project.

This clock is a wonderful part of Waterbury's history and has been neglected for many years. We think it is time to restore the clock to its original beauty for all to enjoy in our beautiful Dr. Janes House. It is truly a treasure.

If you would like to contribute to this project, please send your donation, earmarked "clock restoration" to:

Waterbury Historical Society
c/o Paul Willard, Treasurer
P.O. Box 708
Waterbury, VT 05676



Get Your History at the Library

By Jill Chase

Whether you've lived in Waterbury all your life or you just moved here, local history can be mighty interesting. Say you're starting to figure out who came before your grandparents and want to know where they lived and what they did for work. Maybe you have a name and a date, but you have no idea in what cemetery they might be buried. Or if they served in any wars. Maybe you find yourself living in a house that's listed on the historic registry and you'd like to know more about the style, age, and who lived there before you. Or your children are asked to do a project on some local figure or historic event. Where's a good place to start?

A great first choice would of course be the Waterbury Historical Society, but on a hot summer day, you could find a cool spot to sit down and check out what the Waterbury Public Library has to offer.

The library has books on Waterbury and Vermont history, including gazettes published in the 1800s that detail local businesses and residents. Some books pertain particularly to Vermont industries and railroads. There are also books on Waterbury and Vermont families, including genealogies and how-to guides on constructing your own genealogy. Local citizens have documented grave locations in a very handy book for the cemeteries in Waterbury and Duxbury. There is also one for Stowe. The library has rosters of those who served in wars from 1812 to the Vietnam War. If you think your family lived in town in 1873, the *Beers Atlas of Washington, Co.* has names attached to houses in downtown Waterbury and the surrounding hills and roads, including the Center. The library is now part of a consortium with a shared catalog of thousands of items

enabling patrons to ask for books from all over Vermont and beyond. They have DVDs on local history, too.

The library's membership in the Vermont Historical Society provides copies of their semi-annual journal, *Vermont History*, which you can find in the magazine area on the second floor. The library also has access to the VHS collection of digital Sanborn fire insurance maps from Vermont for the period 1867-ca. 1948. These maps show detailed footprints of buildings, though they don't cover rural areas or indicate residents' names. Free passes are available to members of the library for the Vermont History Museum as well as state historic sites. There are also some files in house with information about local people and businesses. The historic trust survey that was done a number of years ago to designate Waterbury's historic districts and buildings is included which have descriptions of age, style, ownership and significance.

Anyone can come in and sit down at a computer to do online research. Library patrons have access to Heritage Quest and can take free Universal Classes, such as Genealogy 101 through the website. The local genealogy group meets in the library program room on the last Tuesday of each month and welcomes new members.

So next time you're wondering about people or places in Waterbury or Vermont history, visit the Waterbury Municipal Center. The beautiful new History Center is now in Dr. Janes' house, previously the library, with the new municipal offices beyond that. The Waterbury Public Library is at the very end of the new building. They are open 10-8 M-W, 10-5 Th. & F, and in the summer, 9-12 on Saturday (9-2 from Labor Day to Memorial Day). Walk in for the day or become a member. If you live

in Duxbury or Waterbury, just show proof of your mailing address and it's free. If you live outside that area, for \$10 a year you can take books, audio books, and DVDs home, use all the online services, and the free passes to state parks, sites, and museums.

Come in out of the rain or a scorcher of a day, take a seat upstairs next to the Vermont collection, and enjoy the view of Dr. Janes' meadows (now our recreation fields), the Harvey horse farm in Duxbury, the north end of town, and up the Winooski Valley toward Bolton. It's your history; it's your library. Enjoy it!

2016 Vermont History Expo

"The Power of Water"

By Jack Carter

Thousands of attendees interested in Vermont history once again descended on the Tunbridge Fairgrounds on June 18th and 19th. This is a biennial event that highlights all things pertaining to Vermont history.

The Waterbury Historical Society was among over 150 other local historical societies and museums having an exhibit that focused on the theme "the power of water". Using the theme we created an exhibit entitled – "a history of H2Obury – the power of water". A timeline of 34 water related facts, events and photographs were displayed on a background painted by Sarah Lee Terrat.

We have had an interesting history with water starting in 1763 and the issue of our charter by King George III as the town of WATERbury.

Some of the other interesting water related information noted in the exhibit are; James Marsh, the town's first settler, downed attempting to cross the Winooski River, the

Waterbury Reservoir has the capacity to hold nine billion gallons of water, the municipal swimming pool was built by WPA in 1941 (75 years ago), and of course the catastrophic flood of 1927 and disastrous tropical storm Irene in 2011.

The exhibit is now installed on the second floor of the History Center. Please stop by and enjoy it. The museum is open Monday – Friday 8 AM to 4:30 PM.

Electronic Newsletter or Hard Copy

Linda Kaiser

You now have a choice of how you wish to receive the newsletter. If you still want a hard copy by regular mail, then you do not have to respond. Instead of a hard copy, you may receive an electronic copy of the newsletter by email. Please let me know by sending your name and email address to: archivistwaterbury@yahoo.com

Our first ones to sign up for an electronic copy were Steve & Joanna Caswell.

Editor's Note

Items for the Fall 2016 Newsletter will be due on September 24. Consider submitting a story, photograph or other item of historical interest.

Thank you to all who contributed to this issue. Apologies to anyone who submitted material and it didn't appear in this issue. It will be in the next issue.

Linda Kaiser

archivistwaterbury@yahoo.com

Waterbury Historical Society Annual Meeting
Steele Community Room, 28 N. Main St.
April 27, 2016

Minutes

Approximately 90 in attendance

Theresa Wood, President called the meeting to order

Secretary's Report

Minutes of the January 2016 meeting were accepted as printed in the Spring 2016 newsletter.

Treasurer's Report

The report was accepted as presented. Copy will be included in the next newsletter.

The budget for 2016 was presented and passed.

By-Law change

The Board of Directors proposed a change in the by-laws regarding officers:

-Article III, sections 1 & 4 -- "co-presidents" was changed to "president and vice president."

-Article V—"curator" was added to appointments

Motion made to accept these changes. PASSED

MOU with Town and Library

A Memorandum of Understanding has been signed by the town, library, and historical society regarding Waterbury Historical Artifacts. Document is attached.

Archivist Report Linda Kaiser

In 2013 & 2014 we accessed 885 items. After the summer of 2014 all accession was stopped to begin packing. It was restarted ten months ago and since then the number has risen to 3923. I am currently working on accession with Sandy Hough, Robert Siegel, Jill Chase, and Joanna Caswell.

Curator Report Jack Carter

Items in storage are being sorted with the help of the archivist.

The museum is looking good, filled with displays from past History Expo exhibits for the time being. Getting ready for open house in February was a huge project, but we got through it! We continue to get positive feedback from visitors.

Nominating committee/Election of Officers: Jane

Willard, Josette Meteyer, Cindy Parks

See attachment:

Also: add Lyndi Boudreau to program committee and we are still searching for a secretary. Nominations accepted and PASSED.

Announcements

-BOD is considering a membership committee and a fundraising committee (Friends of Waterbury Historical Society) that would take on an annual campaign instead of having dues. Nothing has been decided yet.

-There will be a public showing of a Waterbury History video created by Vince Franke Bill Doyle's class at Johnson. May 14 at 2PM in the Steele Community Room. The videos will be for sale for \$10. Several local residents were interviewed and hundreds of pictures from our files were used.

-July 27th will be the summer potluck picnic at George Pierce's Community Playhouse. The program will be the Yankee Brass Band

Recognitions:

-David Luce, retiring Board member

-Wesley Kaiser, retiring newsletter editor

-Linda Kaiser, thanks for all she does for WHS

-Thanks to Jack and Jan for work in the museum

-Vermont Historic Preservation Award 2016: Dr Janes' home was one of the awards handed out this year! The annual conference will be held at the State Complex on June 10th where Paul Willard, Jack Carter, and Theresa Wood will represent us. Theresa will lead a historic walking tour from the State Complex to the Community Center.

Respectfully submitted,

Jan Gendreau, Secretary

Program

"Green and Gold" featured the new documentary by Bryce Douglas. The film takes the viewer on the journey of local artist, Sarah-Lee Terrat as she integrated the history of the Vermont State Hospital and Jean Killary's artistic expression. The resulting mural is spectacular

Board of Directors:
Steve Van Esen,
Jane Willard, Jan Gendreau

Budget 2016

President: Theresa Wood

Vice President:
Chris Palermo

Secretary:
Treasurer: Paul Willard

Archivist: Linda Kaiser

Assistant Archivist: Jill Chase

Curator: Jack Carter

Program Committee:
Betty Jones
Betsy Ayers Shapiro
Cheryl Casey
Camille Mason
Grace Sweet
Nancy Murphy
Annette Litchfield

Newsletter Editor: Linda Kaiser

Webmaster: Paul Willard

Outreach Education Committee:
Jane Willard
Grace Sweet
Skip Flanders
Don Welch
Diane Gardner

Proposed Income	
Membership	1000
Donations	500
Sales & Fundraising	1700
Memorial Gift	600
Town	7998.49
	11797.49
Expenses	
Newsletter	1200
Program Committee	1200
Meeting Space	0
Speakers	650.00
Home Show	0
Expo 2015	50.00
Exhibits	200.00
Pack & Send	150.00
Ghost Walk	100.00
Misc.	50.00
Employee to enter data	5040.00
Web Site/Anti Virus	135.00
Curator Expenses	500.00
Archival Storage Supplies	918.49
Sir Richard Storage Unit 85. Mo	2040.00
Gifts	50.00
Office Supplies/PO Box/Checks	200.00
Proposed Budget:	11283.49

Waterbury Historical Society Summer Meeting

Waterbury Festival Playhouse, 2933 Waterbury/Stowe Road

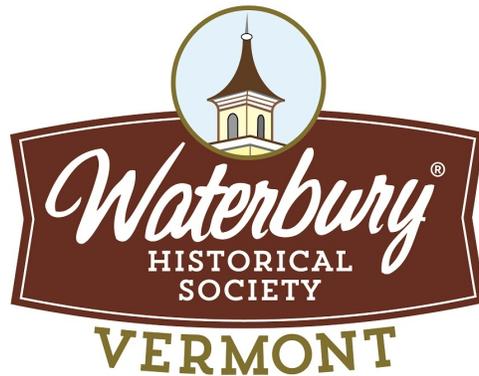
Wednesday, July 27, 2016, 6 pm Pot Luck

Bring a hot dish or salad & a chair; Drinks & dessert provided

Meeting 7 pm

Program – Yankee Brass Band

Dedicated to WDEV 85th Anniversary



Waterbury Historical Society, Inc.

PO Box 708

Waterbury, VT 05676-0708