

WATERBURY HISTORICAL SOCIETY



SPRING 2020

Volume 21, Number 1

Electric Surge and Fizzle:

Winter Program Focuses on the Mount Mansfield Electric Railroad

By Cheryl Casey

For the first program of the new year, the WHS Program Committee went with an oldie but goodie: the Mount Mansfield Electric Railroad (MMER). Audience members filled the Steele Community Room to hear local historian Skip Flanders relate history and bits of trivia about this former transportation line between Waterbury and Stowe villages.

Authorized by the Vermont legislature four times before the necessary \$200,000 were raised for construction, the MMER began operating on December 18, 1897. The line began with two freight motors, a freight car, a flat car, a snow plow, and three passenger cars, one of which was damaged early on and removed from service. The snow plow also didn't last very long, as it damaged the tracks.

The MMER line ran for 11.96 miles along the dirt roads from from Waterbury to Stowe, with stops in Colbyville, Waterbury Center, and Moscow. Local sources suggest that the generating station providing electricity for the railroad was located just south of the side road to Moscow.

From passengers and U.S. mail to finished wood products and butter tubs, the electric railroad line supported central Vermont's booming economy. Yet somehow, the venture never proved prosperous.

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Waterbury Women Exhibit Postponed

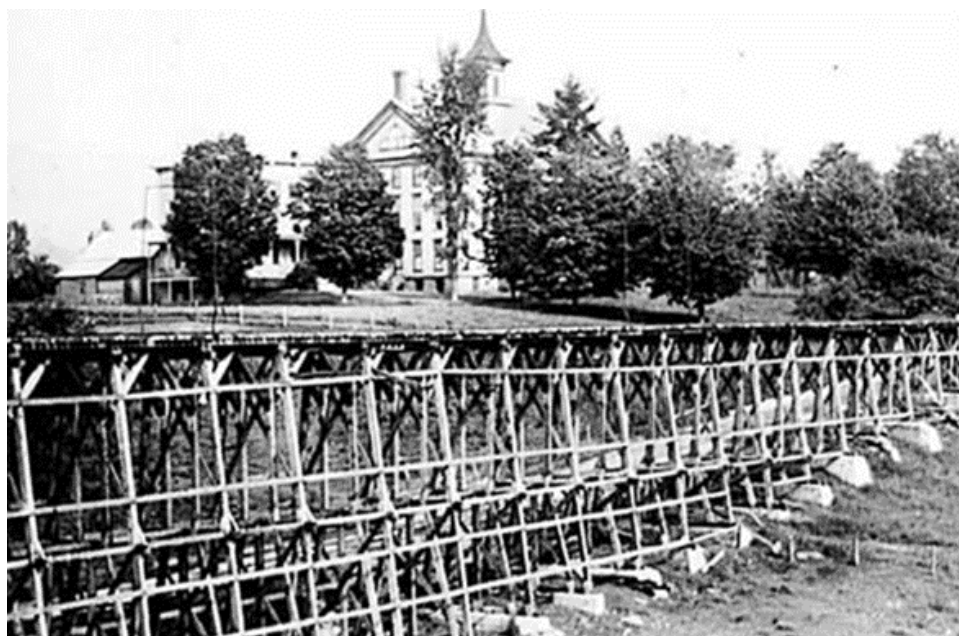
By Carolyn Fox

The opening of Waterbury Historical Society's newest exhibit, *Waterbury Women - Stories & Inspiration*, has been postponed due to recent State and Town regulations in response to the novel coronavirus.

Originally intended to open March 26 in the Steele Community Room at the Waterbury Municipal Center, the exhibit was created in honor of the centennial year of the ratification of the 19th amendment to the U.S. Constitution, which granted women the right to vote.

Waterbury Women - Stories

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**The Mount Mansfield Electric Railroad trestle that ran by the Seminary Building, just north of Waterbury Center.
Photo courtesy of Waterbury Historical Society.**

In This Issue

- Annual Appeal gratitude
- Featured Figure: Zenas Watts
- Waterbury native plans for homecoming
- Remembering the Sheple and Fales families
- PastPerfect update
- Outreach Education Committee update

☒ Items with Images Only
 Search Hints: To search by phrase wrap your criteria in quotes. ex: "Find me"


437 results found.



1900.1.25 - Waterbury High School Shorts - Fred Wood

Fred Wood Collection


Record Type: Object



1900.5.11 - Rowe, Dascomb P. - Recognition Plaque

Dascomb P. Rowe Collection

Record Type: Object



1900.5.12 - Waterbury High School Cross Country Timer

Dascomb P. Rowe Collection

Record Type: Object

Example search results in PastPerfect, using the search term, "Waterbury High School."

Waterbury History Goes Online

By Barb Farr

What is PastPerfect?

PastPerfect is a software program to catalogue items, objects and documents of historic interest. Each item entered is considered a record. Once catalogued, the historic information is available to the general public in a searchable online database. Pictures of documents and objects are included where possible, along with some history on the item.

Several years ago the Waterbury Historical Society decided to invest in this software product to enter our archived material into the database so that we can share it with those that may be searching for information on family members, historic pictures or properties, genealogical research, or Waterbury's history.

The Waterbury Rotary Club has also invested in having their past memorabilia archived, and that has been added to the general Waterbury history files and objects.

How can I find the information that is in the database?

Go to waterburyhistoricalsociety.org and find the PastPerfect link on the home page. Click on that and the program will start automatically. There are several different ways to search for items but one of the best if you are looking for something in particular is to enter your item in quotes.

If you were looking for something on the Congregational Church, for example, you could search "Congregational Church" to see what is on file. If you are looking for old school houses, you could search "school house". Depending on how the data was entered, you could try "Schoolhouse" or "Schoolhouses". Sometimes there are pictures and links to associated articles. We are finding that not all the links currently work properly and are in the process of fixing that.

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Committee Updates: Outreach Education

Submitted By Jane Willard

The Waterbury Historical Society's Outreach Education Committee is connecting with the Waterbury Area Senior Center for monthly, local history-related programs. The Outreach Education Committee met with the Senior Center's Board of Directors and with the seniors to choose programs of interest.

The members of the Outreach Education Committee (Margo Sayah, Grace Sweet, Skip Flanders and Jane Willard) enjoy lunch and interacting with the participating seniors before the scheduled program each month.

The seniors expressed lots of interest in road trips. The road trips planned for 2020 include various tours: Waterbury's historical buildings, our History Center, the Vermont Historical Society's museum, and the CCC Camp Smith and the Waterbury Dam. There will also be a van trip on the back roads of Waterbury with information regarding the history of the names of the roads.

Additional programs will include viewing the documentary about the train trestle, the "Waterbury Special," and a presentation of old Waterbury postcards.

An upcoming program will invite seniors to bring a family heirloom/treasure and share its story. The seniors have delighted in sharing their memories and experiences, and the Committee has acquired some great local folklore!



Waterbury Historical Society is grateful to the following people for their generosity in the 2019 Annual Appeal:

William & Susan April
David Ayers
Elaine Beal
Ben & Jerry's Foundation
Richard & Dianne Bilodeau
Elizabeth Bordeaux
Felix & Geraldine Callan
Monica Callan & Peter Holm
Jack Carter
Jim & Lorrie Casey
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George Clement
David Cutter
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Anthony & Janet Di Blasi
Charles Kletecka R. Dostis
Calvin Dow
Barb Farr & Marc Metayer
Karen Fiebig
Dwight & Martha Fiske
Jan Gendreau
Shirley Gilman
Joanne Goyette

Steve & Breta Grace
Robert & Kathryn Grace
Stephen & Breta Grace
Alan Grout
Ronald & Marge Gulyas
Paul & Patricia Haverstick
Marty & Sue Johansen
Robert & Betty Jones
Ben & Rachael Keaton
David & Pauline Keefe
Philip Kern
Jim & Nancy Laird
Cathy Jo & Luther Leake
Pauline Lemery
Pauline Lemery
Brian Lindner
James Lovely
Dale Lowcock
Kathleen Lumbra
David & Elizabeth MacGowan
Sharon MacMahan
John Malter
Mark & Bonnie Morse
Old Stagecoach Inn
Laura & Bob Parette
Kathy Powell
Edward Robbins & Linda
Kevin & Debbie Rogers

Meredith Rogers
Meredith Rogers
Chila & William Russell
Robert & Isabelle Sanders
Charles & Margo Sayah
Wilford & Sue Sayah
Lawrence Sayah
Theodore Schultheis
Dale Smeltzer
Stephen & Adrienne Soule
Mary Jean Sturgis
Ruth Sugg
Tom & Grace Sweet
Stephen Van Esen
John & Val Vincent
David Vincent
A. James Walton, Jr
Donald & Mary Welch
Fredrick & Karen Weston
Paul & Jane Willard
Scott Wood
John & Judy Woodruff
Mr. & Mrs. Wulff
Alan & Bev Young
Edward & Kathlee Ziedins
John Zimmerman

Electric Railroad Helps Grow Local Economy

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The State of Vermont decided to pave the road from Waterbury to Stowe in the spring of 1932. Combined with consistent operations at a loss, this decision forced the MMER to cease operations and remove its rails, including the 800-foot-long trestle just north of Waterbury Center.

Today, only the Stowe depot and Waterbury's train station remain as structures connected to the MMER. Both buildings have undergone extensive renovations over the years. Waterbury's train station houses a cafe and visitors' center, while the Stowe depot is now Stowe Mercantile, next to the Green Mountain Inn.

Last year, the Waterbury Historical Society sold restored railroad ties from MMER in a successful fundraiser.



**A small shelter sits by the side of the road in Waterbury Center, protecting waiting electric railroad passengers from the elements.
Photo courtesy of Waterbury Historical Society.**

New Members

Jane & Greg Evans
Waterbury Center, VT

Donations

Artifact donations:

Vince Franke
DVD copies (22) of *The Community at the Crossroads* and DVD copies (35) of *Common Ground*

Kenneth Talbert
Photographs of the Interstate construction (5 B&W, 1 color)

Mary Ann Tuft
Photographs, letter, and a copy of *The Unbelonging*, by Alice Robinson

Monetary donations:

Gordy & Theresa Wood
Newsletter donation, \$25

John & Nicole Fisher
In honor of Jan Gendreau, \$50

Margie Schmitz
Research donation, \$50

Letters to the Editor

To the Editor,

Long-time Waterbury Historical Society members Richie Abare and Calvin Dow are the “last of the Mohicans.” Both born in 1920 in the months of January and December, respectively, we are the last two men still alive from our Waterbury High School class of 1938, and from VT National Guard Company B. Together, we drove by truck with the other men of Company B from Waterbury to Camp Blanding, in Florida, to train for World War II.

Your Connecticut Member
Calvin Dow

Celebrating Waterbury Women

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& Inspiration draws on a 2007 scrapbook project sponsored by the Waterbury Public Library. This current, revised display highlights 20 women’s stories from the original project. The scrapbook pages, created by the women’s family and friends, feature narratives and images accenting their distinctive and singular contributions to the community, family heritage, accomplishments, activism, and humor.

Pages pay tribute to such noteworthy Waterbury women as the first to serve on the Select Board, a Battalion Chief of the local fire department, and one of Waterbury’s first business owners. From stories of the everyday to tales of the extraordinary, this display informs how every Waterbury woman is a truly significant part of our community’s past, present, and future.

Jack Carter, a member of the WHS Board of Directors and exhibit curator, notes, “The pages of the scrapbook were created by individuals and groups to honor local women who inspired them, who made a difference...these stories and sentiments are particularly rich and promising during this centennial year.”

The entire scrapbook will be on display throughout the duration of the exhibit. Importantly, the story of Waterbury women will continue as blank pages will be available for ongoing contributions which will then be added to the scrapbook. With this, the story and legacy of Waterbury women continues.

Please look for more information in Front Porch Forum and local media outlets for updates on when the exhibit will become available to the public.

The Waterbury Municipal Center is located at 28 North Main Street, Waterbury, VT 05676.

Return of a Waterbury Native

By Calvin Dow

Bibliophile, historian, and community and political activist, Calvin Dow, is preparing for his final visit to Waterbury Center, Vermont. In 1920, I was born in a house on Maple Street that was to become the ancestral home of the Dow family for fifty years. My father named me after Vermonter Calvin Coolidge, who was Vice President at the time. Our neighbor, Dr. Foster, later delivered my four sisters--not at home, but at the Heaton Hospital in Montpelier.

The three-bedroom cape faced the entrance of Loomis Hill Road. A wide veranda on two sides of the house was laced with English ivy planted by my nature-loving mother. A majestic elm tree gave shade in summer.

Beautiful Waterbury Center was located in a valley surrounded by Mount Hunger, Mount Mansfield, and Camel's Hump. When my grandfather, in Orange, VT, heard about this paradise, he moved his family to Maple Street.

As a student for eight years, I could walk (five minutes) to our spacious Seminary School Building, library, post office, Methodist Church, grocery store, Dow's Meat Market, and a horseshoeing blacksmith's building. Two brooks flowed through the valley, homes for red-speckled trout and a pool where we all learned to swim and dive. In summer my brother and I played baseball and tennis. In winter we skied down the trails on beautiful Mount Mansfield. My father used to say, "Why should I travel? I have got everything right here."

Then came catastrophic WWII! The Vermont National Guard Company B Quartermasters, based in Waterbury, dispatched us to Florida, Mississippi, and Louisiana to train for the war that was raging in Europe. Then Japan killed some 3,000 Americans and I was ordered to China and India to fight Japanese invaders for three years. Then we dropped the atomic bomb and WWII was over.

I became a landscape designer, married, had four children, and lived a long, beautiful life. I became a centenarian in the State of Connecticut.

I will be arriving at the Maple Street Cemetery in Waterbury Center in a tan ceramic "vahz" decorated with paintings of lovely cerulean blue Fringe Gentians, my favorite flower. I will weigh 8 pounds after being immersed in a warm chemical bath, the latest civilized way to reduce the presence of homo sapiens on the overcrowded surface of planet Earth.

I will be next to my father, Earl, mother, Lillian, and sister, Mary. She and I will have much to reminisce about since we enjoyed years of hiking up and skiing down all the mountains of Vermont. I expect relatives and friends from California, Florida, and all of the states of New England to remember some fine October day in the future, when the tree leaves are in gorgeous colors and the late-blooming blue gentians are looking through their fringed eyelashes at the beauty of Mother Nature.



(Top) The Dow family home on Maple Street in Waterbury Center. The house was in the family from 1920-1970. (Bottom) Calvin Dow visits his family plot in Maple Street Cemetery. Photos courtesy of Calvin Dow.

"Why should I travel? I have got everything right here [in Waterbury Center]."

~ Earl Dow

Featured Figure: Zenas Watts

Waterbury Businessman and Public Servant

By Skip Flanders



The business sign likely used at either the Watts feed mill near the railroad depot or the feed store in the Burleigh Block on Stowe Street. Photo courtesy of Skip Flanders.

Zenas Watts was born in Waterbury to David and Beulah Watts on April 2, 1828. On the eve of Zenas's 20th birthday, his father gave notice that Zenas was on his own for debts and contracts. The young man went to California in search of gold, joining other "forty-niners" who sought their fortunes out West. The hardships he suffered working in the California mines aged his appearance beyond his years.

After nearly nine years, Zenas returned east, and in 1860, he married Rosette H. Rust, of Walpole, NH. Their son and only child died at 15 months old in 1865, and Rosette followed him soon after. In 1867, Zenas married Louise Somerville, the sister of well-known Waterbury businessman, Joseph Somerville, who was a fellow "forty-niner."

Soon after his marriage to Louise, Zenas built a new house on the northwest corner of New (now Union) and Stowe Streets. It is likely that Zenas's nephews and builders Rufus A. Watts and Grant Russell built the house. Zenas added a bay window to his bedroom in 1883.

Upon settling down in Waterbury, Zenas launched himself into the grocery business. In 1872, he purchased the Stimson Store on Stowe Street, in partnership with Thaddeus B. Crossett, from L. H. Haines. Two years later, Zenas dissolved his partnership with Crossett and bought the building in which the store was located. He continued on as a dealer in such goods as flour, feed, salt, nails, glass, lime, pork, lard, and fish. In 1875, Zenas bought out the grocery of William H. Ashley and added a retail department to his provisions store, with Mr. Ashley as head clerk. By July 30, 1879, the day a disastrous fire destroyed the entire right hand side of Stowe Street, Zenas and partner Cecil Graves had renamed their building the Stimson and Graves Building.

Although his health was deteriorating from consumption, Zenas avidly pursued his business interests. His next business partner was William Cooley. In 1883, Zenas built a 60x40 two-story feed mill and elevator by the railroad tracks, adjacent to the

Cooley Company shop. The building housed a feed business and custom grinding mill, with the power furnished by the Cooley Company.

However, by 1884, that partnership dissolved, too. Zenas continued the feed business in the Burleigh Building on Stowe Street, while William Cooley continued the grinding business in the building next to his shop. Zenas sold his interest in his feed store to Charles Conant of Stowe in August of 1886.

Zenas Watts wasn't just all business; his life is full of bits of trivia. In December 1880, he was called as a witness for the prosecution in the murder trial of Emeline Meaker, who was accused of murdering her daughter, Alice. Zenas was also a well-known croquet player. In September 1881, he and Frank Atherton issued a croquet challenge to any Waterbury pair who could win best two out of three matches. The prize was a dozen bottles of spring water. A dedicated public servant, he served eight years as overseer of the poor and was the first tax collector when the Village of Waterbury was incorporated in 1882.

Zenas Watts died at his home on September 29, 1886, of consumption. The funeral was held at his home, with a masonic service at the cemetery. His business dealings generated an estate worth \$85,600 (or \$2.3 million in today's currency), which he left to his wife, Louise. Louise Watts continued to live in the house and passed away there on March 10, 1915. Zenas and his wife are buried in the old section of Hope Cemetery, adjacent to long-time Waterbury businessman L. H. Hanes and near fellow "forty-niner" George Randall. The house at 1 Union Street was sold at auction in March 1917 to Phillip Shonio.

Several years ago, Jack Carter, then owner of the Stowe Street Emporium, was given Zenas Watts' wooden business sign. The occupant of the Watts house found the sign in the back barn and thought it should be on public display. The sign is hung at Stowe Street Emporium, on the upper right-hand wall as you

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Archiving Waterbury's History, *PastPerfect-ly*

Continued from page 2

How many records or data files are there?

Currently there are over 7,000 records on file with another 3,000+ to be added soon.

Has the WHS completed entering all the objects and files that are in the museum and storage?

We have completed entering most of our paper files and photos that contain families, buildings, historic events, and so forth. There is still much information in our closets and storage unit to enter.

Some very important details remain to be entered, including names and dates on the patients that Dr. Janes took care of following the Civil War. Dr. Janes kept "bed cards" on each injured soldier at the Sloane Hospital in Montpelier. The library and Waterbury community were beneficiaries of Dr. Janes' good will when he passed away in 1915.

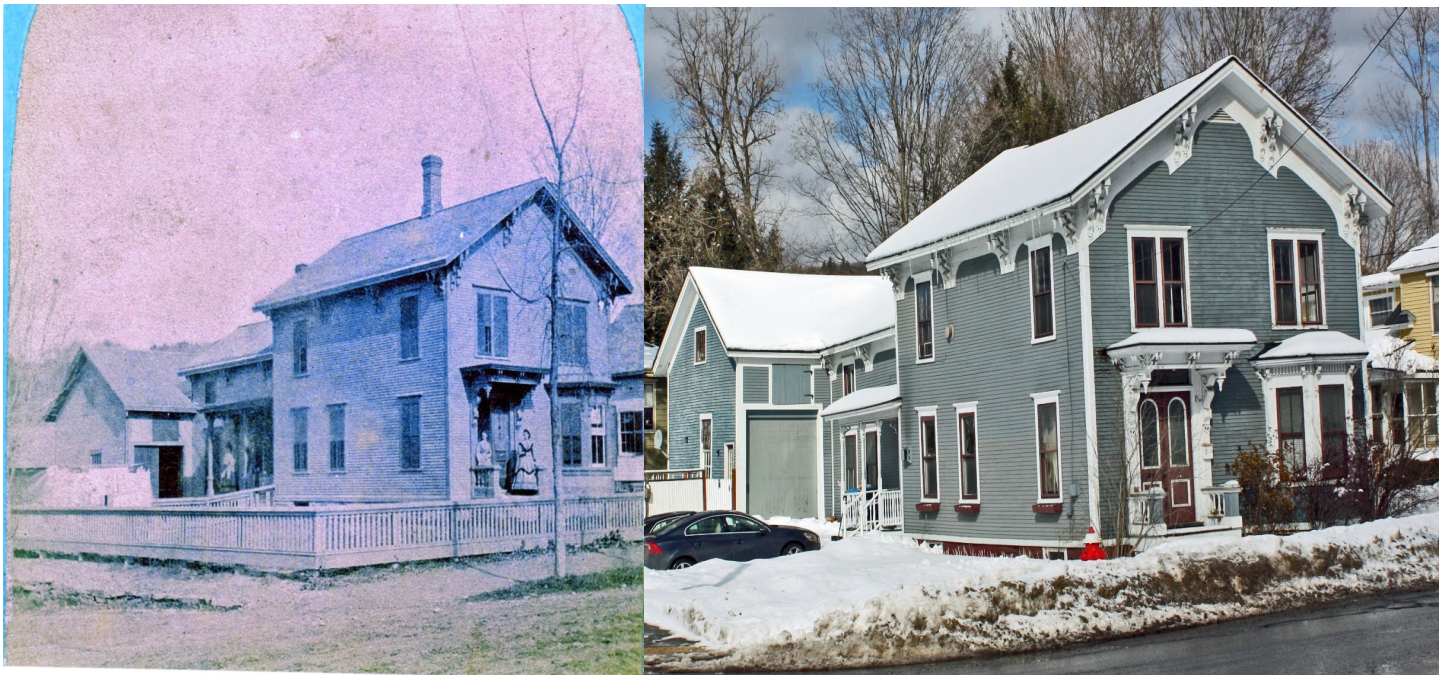
Who do I contact if I need more information?

You can contact the WHS office manager at: officewaterburyhs@gmail.com or WHS president at (802)-244-4300, bfarr@waterburyvt.com, or any Waterbury Historical Society board member.

Watts Home is Reminder of Thriving Businessman and Public Servant

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enter the front door. It was likely used at one of the last businesses that Zenas owned—either the feed mill near the RR Depot or the feed store in the Burleigh Block on Stowe Street. This sign is a great reminder and a memento of the contributions of Zenas Watts and his wife Louise to the growth and development of the Waterbury community. Thanks to all who assisted in preserving and displaying this import artifact of Waterbury's history.



(L) The Zenas Watts house sometime after the bay window was added in 1883, and (R) the Watts house at 1 Union Street today. Photos courtesy of the Waterbury Historical Society and Skip Flanders.

Sheple and Fales Families Increased Education and Public Health for Waterbury Citizens

By Skip Flanders

Many families in Waterbury's history have made significant impacts on the town's evolution as a vibrant community and desirable place to live. In this newsletter issue, we celebrate the Sheple and Fales families, connected by marriage and their commitment to the wellbeing of their beloved Waterbury.

The Sheples build a water system on Main Street

David G. Sheple was born in Calais in 1789 and in 1828 moved to Waterbury with his wife Phebe (nee Bancroft) and his children Columbus, Elliot, and Henrietta. David purchased the General John Peck farm and home on South Main Street through Henry F. Janes, the administrator for General Pecks' estate. The General had passed away earlier that year. The house site was where Ezra and Asaph Butler first made their pitch. When General Peck took over the property, he made various additions and improvements, making the place a showpiece in Waterbury.

The farm included much of the land from Batchelder Street south to the area of former Derby Ball and across the railroad tracks up Perry Hill. Today the house site is the Hospital Nurses Annex on South Main Street, near St. Andrews Catholic Church.

David Sheple passed away in 1864 and is buried in Hope Cemetery along with his wife Phebe.

Not much is known about David's son, Elliott, who married Martha Luce. They had five children, and some of their descendants remain in Waterbury today.



David's eldest son, however, is well known to Waterbury history: Columbus C. Sheple, born in 1815. Known as C.C., he owned and operated a hardware store in Waterbury. After the passing of his father, C.C. acquired the family farm and property. He and his wife, Elizabeth (nee Luce), had two children, Abbie and James Edwin.

C.C. Sheple, being an enterprising businessman, saw a need for a water system in Waterbury as the Village grew. He owned land that was above the Village and had a good supply of water from streams and springs. In 1878, C.C. installed a system of three-inch iron pipes on Main Street for the waterworks at a depth of 6 ½ feet. The joints were packed with oakum and lead. The reservoir was located ¾ of a mile east of the Depot and 141 feet higher. A dam created a reservoir 4 ½ feet deep, 75 feet wide, and 150 feet long. There were even hydrants on the system.

C.C. Sheple died in 1881 and his son, James Edwin, followed in his father's business interests. In 1883, Edwin, as he preferred to be called, extended the water line to serve the Randall Block (the Smith and Somerville building) and the G. W. Moody home. In 1884, water was piped into Thaddeus B. Crossett's home at 51 South Main Street. In May of 1885, Edwin enlarged the reservoir to accommodate the additional customers.

Edwin sold the water system and aqueducts with 92 acres of land to Luther Davis, Thaddeus Crossett, and G W. Moody for \$8,000 in 1887. The water system generated an income of \$600 per year and could be expanded further. In 1888, the new Cooley house at the corner of Elm and Randall Streets was connected to the Sheple water system. By 1891, this system was serving 125 families in Waterbury. This dam and reservoir structure exists in its abandoned state today at the base of Perry Hill, just above the Interstate.

In 1889, G. E. Moody started a new brick yard in Edwin's pasture. Mr. Moody had a contract to furnish 1,000,000 bricks for the south wing of the new State Hospital. This yard was located in the area of Demeritt canning and sawmill property east of the Railroad tracks.

The Fales support reading and education through the Library Association

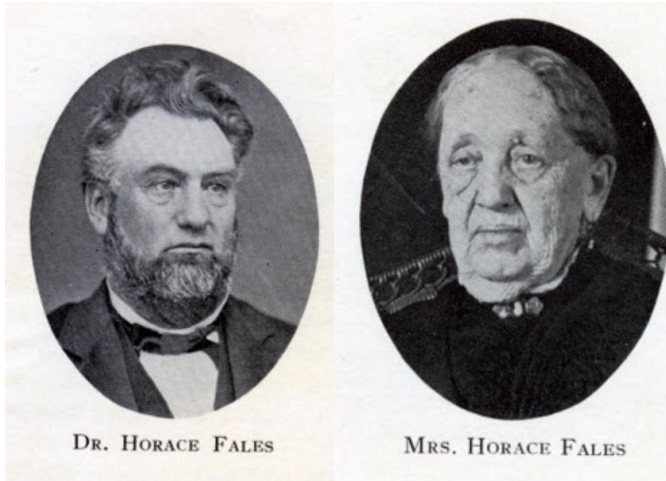
David Sheple's only daughter, Henrietta, married Dr. Horace Fales in 1857. Dr. Fales was born in Sharon, VT, in 1823 and graduated from the Vermont Medical College in 1848. He practiced dentistry and medicine first in Middlesex

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and then in Waterbury when he moved in 1856 to go into partnership with his classmate, Dr. J. B. Woodard. Dr. Fales did a large professional business for many years. One year during the Civil War, his was the only practice in Waterbury owing to the absence or illness of other physicians.

Dr. Fales and Henrietta lived in her father's house on South Main Street. On the night of May 15, 1877, Dr. Fales was awakened by his favorite dog to find his barns were in flames. In a few minutes the fire extended to the house, resulting in the loss of all the property livestock and equipment. Only the furniture was saved. The newspaper reports that if there had been ample water supply, the house could have been saved. There was only a small amount of water from an onsite cistern to supply fire equipment for 20 minutes. With the aid of wet blankets and the small amount of water, the firemen were able to save the nearby buildings of M. C. Canerdy and the Catholic Church. This incident may have been instrumental in C.C. Sheple investing in the development of a water system on Main Street.



DR. HORACE FALES

MRS. HORACE FALES

Dr. Fales immediately rebuilt on the property. The new structure was one of the finest and most commodious residences in town and is today the large brick house known as the Hospital Nurses' Annex.

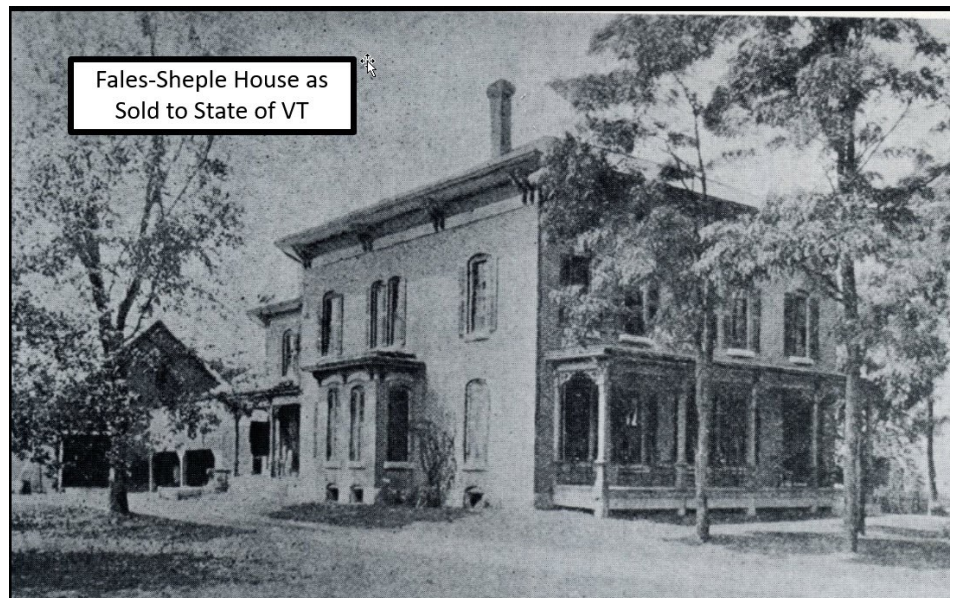
On September 15, 1882, Dr. Fales died of heart trouble. In April of the following year, Henrietta sold her fine estate with twenty acres to her nephew Edwin for \$7,500. She also sold William Deal two acres adjacent to his existing property for \$500. Henrietta said she sold the property because she wanted to live closer to "the hill"--Bank Hill in the center of the village. James Edwin moved his family into the mansion.

In February 1895, Edwin sold the property and 60 acres to the State of Vermont for \$7,000, to add to the State Hospital. He subsequently moved his family to Alston, MA. His wife, Flora (nee Collins), died of consumption in February 1897. Edwin Sheple died in Los Angeles, CA, in July 1903.

After selling her property to her brother Edwin, Henrietta purchased a lot on South Main Street from Joseph Somerville. The lot had previously been part of Judge Carpenter's property. There she constructed a new house, which now sits at 58 South Main Street. From this house, Henrietta watched the Methodist Church being built on the adjacent lot in 1891.

When Henrietta died, her house was purchased by Attorney George W. Morse. In 1935, Everett R. Steele purchased the house, and then he transferred ownership to his son, Edward, in 1977.

At the time of her death on August 16, 1906, Henrietta was one of Waterbury's oldest residents. She was known for her liberal contributions to the Congregational Church and her cheerful, happy words for all. The Fales's contributions to the Waterbury residents did not stop with Henrietta's death. The residuary clause of her will created a trust fund from her estate in the amount of \$15,000 for the benefit of the Waterbury Public Library Association. It was to be named the Horace Fales Fund. In 1906, it was expected that the annual income of the fund for the association would be about \$500 in perpetuity. The \$15,000 in 1906 is the equivalent of \$400,000 in 2020.



Fales-Sheple House as
Sold to State of VT

The reason given by Mrs. Fales in her will for making the bequest is as follows: "I make the foregoing provision for the aiding in the maintenance of a public library in the Village of Waterbury in loving memory of my deceased husband, who had a home there during the major portion of his business life, and whose intimate social and professional relations with

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its people produced an interest in and affection for the place which was as long as his life and which it is my wish to commemorate. I therefore request that the fund set apart as aforesaid be known and called the "Horace Fales Fund."

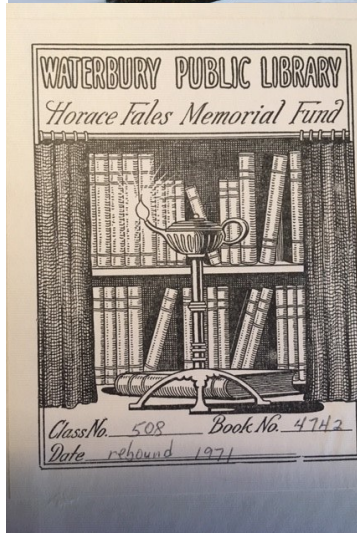
The newspaper of the day reported "that the older inhabitants of Waterbury whose pleasure it was to know Dr. Fales, well understand that Mrs. Fales could not have made a will that would have been better to the late Doctor's liking. Thus it is a double pleasure for the Waterbury people to accept the gift when we consider how much pleasure it must have been for Mrs. Fales to so handsomely remember the town."

The Waterbury Public Library Association and Library Commissioners have faithfully followed the request made in honor of Dr. Horace Fales in the last will and testament of his wife, Henrietta Fales. For many decades now, thousands of young and old readers alike have opened a Waterbury library book and on the front leaf observed the well-known label identifying the ongoing gift of Dr. and Mrs. Horace Fales. This label was placed on every book identifying it as having been purchased through the Horace Fales Memorial Fund. Thanks to the generosity of Horace and Henrietta Fales, many hundreds of books have been made available for the education and enjoyment of all Waterbury citizens.

We, the past and present residents of Waterbury, are indebted to the Sheple and Fales families for their unselfish contributions to the public welfare, education, and enjoyment of their fellow residents in their beloved community of Waterbury.



Above: Henrietta Fales's house at 58 South Main St. Village residents can thank property owner and businessman Ed Steele for carefully preserving the original features of the house. The exterior can be observed today in its near-original state.



Left: The Library label identifying a book as purchased through the Horace Fales Memorial Fund.

Photos courtesy of Skip Flanders.

NOTICE: SPRING MEETING AND PROGRAM CANCELLED

In the wake of recent State and Federal guidelines pertaining to community and event gatherings, the WHS Board of Directors and Officers have cancelled the April program.

The health and wellbeing of our members is our top priority.

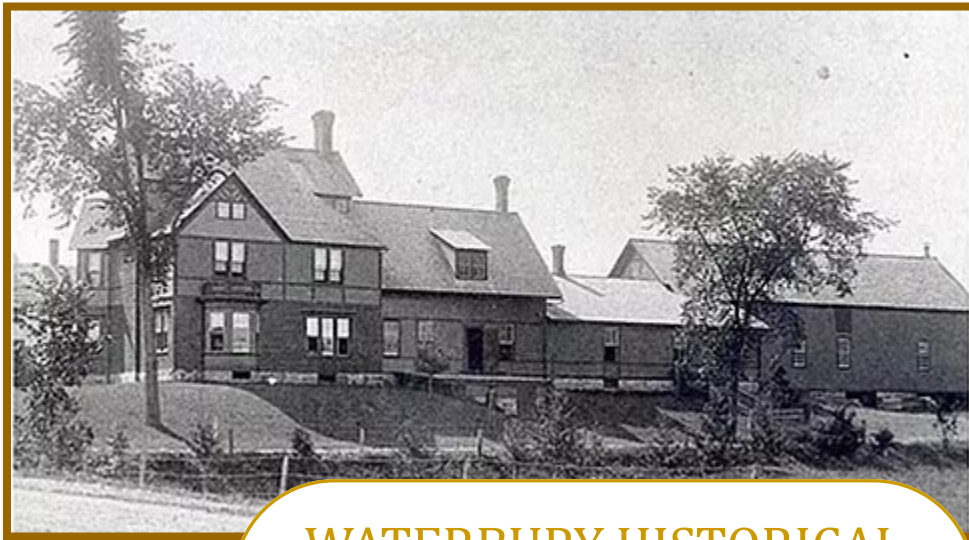
The Society's bylaws require a spring meeting in order to hold annual elections. Our President, Barb Farr, is collaborating with the Board to determine the best means of rescheduling a business meeting when circumstances next permit.

Be well, be healthy, be safe!

SUBMIT CONTENT

To submit a letter to the editor, stories, or photos for an upcoming issue, email the editor at cheryl.casey1010@gmail.com or send by post to: Dr. Cheryl Casey, 1389 Kneeland Flats Rd., Waterbury Center, VT 05677.

Quarterly submission deadlines: February 15, May 15, August 15, and November 15



WATERBURY HISTORICAL SOCIETY HISTORY CENTER

The History Center is open **Monday—Friday from 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.** Located on the second floor of the Municipal Building in the newly renovated Dr. Janes house, the museum is free and open to the public. The Historical Society's vast collections rotate through the exhibits, which are carefully assembled by our Curator. Stop by and learn something new about Waterbury's place in Vermont and national history!

**UPDATE: The History Center is closed until further notice
due to novel coronavirus precautions.**

History Center Acquisition Criteria

Have something to donate to the museum? See if your item(s) meet these criteria:

- *Relevance:* Well-documented link to the town of Waterbury.
- *Non-duplication:* Unique to the existing holdings of the collection.
- *Duration:* Intent is to officially add the item to the collection for the WHS to keep or sell (where proceeds will only go to benefit the Society).
- *Title and Provenance:* Deed of gift or bill of sale should accompany all items.
- *Restrictions:* Items will not be held by the donor to criteria about use, display, or future disposition.
- *Physical condition:* No extensive conservation required.
- *Rights:* Transfer of item(s) includes all pertinent rights (literary, property, copyright, etc.).
- *Costs:* Management and care of item(s) should be financially viable for the Society, or dedicated funds should accompany the donation of the item(s).
- *Tax law compliance:* Gifts must be in compliance with applicable tax law.

**For more information or to begin the donation process, contact:
archivistwhs@gmail.com**



Donations Welcome - We are a community organization that deeply appreciates the support and interest of our community. You can donate online at our website below.

ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP

\$10 per person

\$15 per family (couple and children under 18)

(Check the mailing label on your newsletter to see when your membership expires.)

Please help the Historical Society GO GREEN!

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