

Preservation NEWS

COLLECT • RESEARCH • DOCUMENT • PRESERVE • EXHIBIT

Camp Charles M. Smith Restoration Preserving History and Nature

by Anne M. Imhoff



A large group of volunteers, with the approval of the Vermont Department of Forest, Parks & Recreation, in 2009 began clearing the old roads of Camp Charles M. Smith, the location of the Civilian Conservation Corps Camp #11064, 6th District (CCC). The site, located on the North Plateau opposite the Waterbury Dam in the Mount Mansfield State Forest, was the location of 27 buildings for the ten companies of CCC men who built the Waterbury Dam.

After nine years of alternate Saturday summer mornings with volunteers clearing brush, shoveling out cement pads

of former kitchens and bath rooms, mowing the trail, and a day of accurately surveying the old roads through the camp, final construction of the first one-third of the universally accessible mile-long trail was completed by the state in 2017. But the three 15-foot, 80-year-old river stone chimneys that were part of administration offices for the camp needed attention. Stones were falling out, cracks were appearing in the mortar, moss and small plants were growing on and in the chimneys.

Chimneys are not buildings. Nor are they a recreation facility. Finding the funds to fix the chimneys became a challenge. A fund-raising campaign began with the help of the Waterbury Historical Society and slowly a number of generous donors provided funds, but not sufficient to do the work needed. Finally, two grants were received from the Walter Cerf Community Fund and Waterbury Winterfest, making it possible to have stones replaced and cracks filled in the chimneys.

The remaining two-thirds of the trail still needs to be made universally accessible, as soon as the state can allocate the financing. In the meantime, 17 permanent interpretive signs are being installed along the current part of the trail. Forty-two place markers identifying the one time buildings are being placed.



Notice to Members
ANNUAL MEETING
November 18, 2023 | 1:00 PM
Steele Community Room
28 North Main St., Waterbury, VT
Light Refreshments Provided

All members of WHS are called to attend the society's annual meeting to deliberate and vote on current business, including the election of board members and approval of the 2024 operating budget (see page 7).

For a Zoom link to attend and vote at the annual meeting, please email whspresidentvt@gmail.com. An in-person program open to the public will immediately follow the meeting (see page 3 for details). At this time, a remote option is only available for the meeting.

The Great Flood of November 3-4, 1927, devastated Vermont and caused an estimated \$21 million in damage. After the flood, Perry Merrill, then the Director of Forest, Parks and Recreation, prepared plans to build flood protection dams around the state. When President Franklin D. Roosevelt established the Civilian Conservation Corps in 1933, Vermont was "shovel ready."

The Sixth Civilian Conservation Corps District of the First Corps Area, in the Winooski River Valley, was headquartered in Montpelier. After building dams in East Barre, Wrightsville and Montpelier, the Corps moved to Waterbury where ground was struck for building the Waterbury Dam in May of 1935.

During its existence, Camp Smith housed over 2,000 men and was the largest

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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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Preservation News is published by the Waterbury Historical Society, a non-profit organization. Contributions of manuscripts, photos, illustrations, and news are welcome from members and nonmembers. Quarterly submission deadlines are February 15, May 15, August 15, and November 1. The editor can be reached at laura@lauraparette.com

Postings From the President

What we're working on—new features, new look, new plans

I am excited to share some updates about what the Waterbury Historical Society (WHS) Board, staff, and volunteers have been working on to expand how we engage with our members and present inspiring programs.

First, in an effort to add another layer of convenience for our members and supporters, WHS has established a secure onlinepayment option for dues and monetary donations. We selected DonorBox, a platform that specializes in meeting the needs of nonprofit organizations, as our payment processor. Some folks have already discovered this new feature! Of course, if you prefer to show love by check or cash, you can keep doing so without any changes. We are grateful for support in all forms!

If you're on our website to use the donation form, you'll find something else that's new—the website itself! In order to engage with a growing and increasingly diverse membership, we redesigned and reorganized the website to streamline access to the most recent and relevant content.

Our collections manager, Mike Maloney, has been doing amazing work to bring WHS in alignment with best practices in curating, cataloging, and exhibiting our collections. Thanks to the many hours put in by Mike and a handful of volunteers, especially the accession/deaccession committee, we are able to begin accepting donations again.

Finally, these projects represent the initial stages of a five-year strategic planning initiative. On Saturday, October 28 (details page 8), current and former members of the Board and committees will collaborate to clarify the WHS mission, set goals for fulfilling our mission, and identify the actions we'll take to achieve our goals.

As our most recent book, *Waterbury in the 21st Century*, and even the last few months have made clear, Waterbury's history is not distant and dusty. Rather, our resilient little town continues to add important chapters to our story every day. Capturing that history for future community members to cherish is a daily pursuit requiring vision, intention, and resources.

Preserving Waterbury's history means planning strategically for Waterbury Historical Society's future. Volunteers are our most important resource, and a strategic plan will ensure our volunteers feel efficient and effective with their time. Please stay tuned for more updates as we embark on this work. And if you're interested in being involved, send us an email! Waterbury's history is part of your story, too, and all of our stories matter.



CHERYL CASEY

Peter Miller

The family of Peter Miller, a well-known photographer who passed away in April, donated one of Miller's most famous photographs, a 1997 portrait of Vermont dairy farmer and politician, Fred Tuttle. In the image, Tuttle is shown holding a photo of his father, who in turn is holding a photo of his father. The photo was published in Miller's *A Lifetime of Vermont People* (2013).



Photo by Joe Camaratta for WHS

Skip Flanders (left) and Jan Gendreau (right) present the framed Peter Miller photograph of Fred Tuttle to program attendees on July 27.

WRECKS OF *Waterbury*

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



BRIAN LINDNER
Photo by Mark Bushnell

A Fatal Train Accident On Lincoln Street

by Brian Lindner

According to an article in the *Stowe Journal*, this “crossing is the worst one on the railroad.” On July 27, 1899 it was the scene of a fatal accident. There is still some evidence of the crossing despite the railroad having disappeared over ninety years ago. Drive out Lincoln Street and where it turns right to climb Perry Hill, notice the old rail-bed still cut into the hillside a few feet off today’s road. From 1897 until 1931 this was the location of the Mount Mansfield Electric Railroad as it moved passengers and freight from the Waterbury train station to the Depot Building in Stowe with many stops in between.

On this Thursday afternoon around 2:30, local attorney and prominent Waterbury citizen Columbus F. Clough, Esq. was a passenger in a wagon being pulled by a team of horses and driven by G. B. Evans. They had decided to take “the back road” to Clough’s farm by driving up the Perry Hill Road. As they rounded the right-hand turn at the end of Lincoln Street, they were shocked to see the oncoming motor freight only a few feet away as it pushed a coal car towards Stowe. Evans had a split second to whip the horses and their fast reaction yanked the wagon over and off the tracks.

Upon reaching the other side, Evans turned to look just in time to see Clough “hurled in under the cars.” It was not clear if he had jumped or fallen when the horses bolted forward. The unconscious

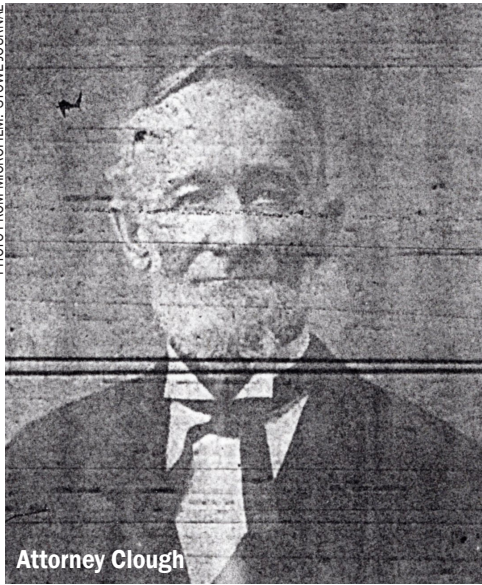


PHOTO FROM MICROFILM. STOWE JOURNAL

Attorney Clough

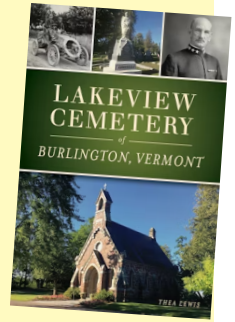
attorney was found to have multiple head injuries, a broken arm and a “badly smashed” leg. He was placed back in the wagon and driven to his residence on Winooski Street. En route they found Dr. George S. Bidwell who rendered first aid as the wagon proceeded. Upon arrival at Clough’s home, Dr. Henry Janes joined Bidwell in trying to save the 68-year-old Clough. He died of his many injuries within an hour of the accident. An estimated four-hundred people attended his funeral in the Congregational Church.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

THE HISTORY OF BURLINGTON'S LAKEVIEW CEMETERY With Historian and Author Thea Lewis

**Saturday, November 18,
1:15PM Following the
Annual Meeting
Steele Community Room
Free and Open to the Public**

Thea will share stories of the lives of some of Vermont’s notable citizens interred there. Lakeview Cemetery has citizens who have a connection to Waterbury such as General William Wells, his family and some of his brothers.



Learning about Waterbury's history one person at a time.

2023 Waterbury Historical Society Meetings

Board meetings are held on the 3rd Wednesday of each month in the Steele Community Room. Meetings are open to the public.

October 18, 4:30 - 6:30pm

November 18, 1:00pm

December - no meeting



Jane and Paul Willard accept gifts of appreciation from Skip Flanders. Jane for the Outreach Education Committee and Paul for his years as Treasurer and Web Master. Photo by Joe Camaratta

*WHS thanks
Jane Willard
for her many years
of service in leading
the Outreach
Education Committee*

WHS RUNS ON VOLUNTEERS



Go to waterburyhistoricalsociety.org/volunteer for descriptions of different ways you can be involved

Time Carries on for Amasa Pride's Clock

by Jan Gendreau



Photo by Laura Parette

An elegant 17th century gentleman.

Amasa Pride's Tall Clock was likely made in the late 18th century for his parents, Abner and Abigail Pride. It passed down through the next four generations before coming to the Waterbury Historical Society (WHS) sometime in the early 1970s. WHS is fortunate that Estella Boyce gave her Pride ancestors' collection to us, which includes many fine objects such as needlework and photographs, in addition to this clock. The name Abel Hutchins is on the face of the clock. He and his brother, Levi, were clock makers who as teens apprenticed with Simon Willard, a famous clockmaker from Roxbury, MA. (You'll find Simon on one of the branches of Paul Willard's family tree! Paul, retired pastor and active WHS volunteer, had a spell of making clocks, so maybe it's in the genes.) Abel and Levi made their way to Concord, New Hampshire where they became well known in the trade (samples of their work can be found online, including one on display at The Currier Museum of Art in Manchester, NH). When the historical society received the clock, some restoration was needed. After the museum moved to its new home, our curator Jack Carter managed the step-by-step project. Skip Sjobeck, owner of Skip's Clock Shop in Randolph, VT, cleaned it and stopped by periodically to balance it and make adjustments to keep the proper time. (Something that will need to be monitored as we continue to care for the clock in the future.) Jack's next step was to have fretwork on the bonnet created. After researching examples of Hutchins' clocks, and consulting with clock restorer Fred Ringer of Essex Junction, VT, the WHS Board of Directors (BOD) voted to have Fred restore the bonnet with chimneys and caps, and the new fretwork. Fortunately (amazingly) the finials didn't get lost or damaged in the process of moving and sorting for the building renovation.

Looking Good

At some point in the past 200 years, the metal face, or the dial, of the clock had been repainted by someone lacking in skill. Some of our members liked the primitive folksy look which was part of the clock's history (the number four was backward) but I felt a clock of this value deserved better. Through my experience with Early American Decoration, I knew of Astrid Donnellan in Hingham, MA, who is well known throughout the country for her knowledge and ability to restore and preserve antique clock dials. With the BOD's go ahead, Jack and I, with the help of Chuck Kletecka, carefully took off the clock's face and mailed it to Massachusetts. Astrid was kind enough to send a picture of each step in the process. She said, "The artistry on the moon disc is spectacular. Fine and delicate work." The dial was back in less than a month with a clean face and moon disc, and beautiful new numbers. Skip Sjobeck returned to put everything back together and partway through 2018, the restoration was considered complete. Bill Shepeluk, Waterbury Town Manager, took on the task of winding the clock every week. It chimes on the hour.

Please visit the History Center to take a closer look. These pictures don't capture the wonderful details. The clock is on the first floor of the History Center in the meeting room with the round table.

Chuck and Jan carefully remove the dial face for restoration.



Photo by Nicole Fisher



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!

Meet The HISTORY KEEPERS

History is both about the past and happening right now – and right now there is a group of dedicated people who work to collect, preserve, and share Waterbury’s vibrant history for future generations. Waterbury Historical Society (WHS) would like our readers and members to meet these wonderful folks and learn more about what draws them to the Waterbury story. Each issue of Preservation News will highlight a board member, a volunteer, or a staff member.

Name: Mike Maloney

Career: Library and Archive Management

Role with WHS: Collections Manager

Waterbury Historical Society (WHS): Did you choose Waterbury or did it choose you?

Mike Maloney (MM): In a lot of ways, it chose me. I was planning to move away from Vermont before the opportunity to work at WHS arose. This role, and this town, provided a way for me to stay in the area and embrace Vermont in a new way.

WHS: What about Waterbury keeps you here?

MM: I have never lived in a place with such a strong community. While I don’t live in Waterbury, working with the town’s history has put me in a position to experience the dedicated community of both the past and present that exists in Waterbury. It has been very impactful to see the strength of the Waterbury community, and that has been a big part of why I enjoy coming here each week.

WHS: What about history interests you most?

MM: The personal stories we uncover when digging into the history of a place is what drives me to study and preserve history. So many of my favorite artifacts we have in our collection are the ones that tell the stories of individuals. Add up all those stories and you get the bigger picture of a place’s history, which is a really wonderful way to look at the world.

WHS: If you could go back in time, what historical event would you want to see?

MM: I studied medieval Europe while in



college, and I think it would be fascinating to go back and see a coronation of some medieval king. Were those events as fanciful as old tapestries, manuscripts, and paintings make them out to be? What effect, if any, did they have on the common people of the time?

WHS: If you could have a superpower, what would it be?

MM: Super speed, it would give me the ability to read more books... and catalog our collection quicker.

WHS: As a child, what did you want to be when you grew up?

MM: I was sure I would be an inventor, an immensely vague job title to have. Turns out I liked reading sci-fi books more than I enjoyed taking science and math classes in school.

WHS: Are you a hunter or gatherer?

MM: Gatherer.

WHS: What would you like to see for the future of WHS?

MM: I’d like to see WHS have the staff and volunteer capacity to have a diverse set of rotating exhibits, both in person and online. This would require a fully organized and cataloged collection (which I am hard at work on right this minute!) and more space for the storage and care of our materials. Providing access to information is a passion of mine, and if we can I’d like to provide engaging displays that bring in community members, out of town visitors, and researchers alike who want to learn about the fascinating history of Waterbury!

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camp in the state. When the CCC boys completed the Waterbury dam in 1938, it was the largest earthen filled dam in the world. Over two million cubic yards of earth fill were required to construct the dam, which at completion was 1,845 feet long, 187 feet high, and nearly 900 feet wide at its base. A six-mile storage reservoir totaling 1,330 acres contains the water.

When President Franklin D. Roosevelt established the Civilian Conservation Corps in 1933, Vermont was “shovel ready.”

A walk through the historic CCC camp at any time of year is a pleasure to observe nature and remember a part of Waterbury, and the nation’s history. The trail and its parking area are clearly marked on Little River Road leading to the dam and Little River State Park.



One of three remaining CCC administration building chimneys.

FOUND!

IN THE COLLECTION

by Michael Maloney, Collections Manager

In the last few weeks, I have been busy cataloging some of our items on display that were never officially added to our digital collection. One such item I came across was a trunk used by Colonel Rex W. Morse during his time in the military. This trunk, as I discovered, was filled with Colonel Morse's personal belongings from World War II. Colonel Morse brought the Vermont National Guard to Waterbury, and under his leadership only two men of Company B, 118th Quartermaster failed to return home from World War II. His materials were donated to the Waterbury Historical Society (WHS) in 2010 by Michael and Helen Bell. Because our digital collections project was not initiated until July of 2013, the materials hidden away inside Colonel Morse's trunk were never re-cataloged into our records on PastPerfect. We are hard at work rectifying that now.



I would like to focus this issue's column on one item of interest within the trunk, and that would be Colonel Morse's Officer's Sword. I had to do some research on this sword, but it appears to be a standard issue ceremonial Model 1902 Army Officer's Sword. This would have been given to Colonel Morse sometime during or after World War II in recognition of his status as a commissioned officer. In the photos we have included, you can see that the length of the sword is engraved with a beautiful flowering pattern and the name "R.W. Morse." Right at the hilt of the sword is engraved "B. Turk & Bro Burlington, VT." This was a clothing

company operating in Burlington from the late 1800s until the store burned down in 1946. While we cannot be sure, one might assume that the Turk & Bro Clothing Company helped with the engraving on the sword or perhaps the leather tassel attached to the hand guard. Regardless, this is a priceless artifact in our collection that helps to memorialize and keep the history of a great military leader from Waterbury, VT. Stop by the History Center and visit the Pilgrim Partnership Room to see some of Col. Morse's belongings alongside materials from other Waterbury citizens who fought in World War II.

Vermont Historical Society Announces 2023 Flood Archive

When it became apparent that the flooding that took place in early July was going to rival some of the other floods that loom large in our collective memory, we at the Vermont Historical Society (VHS) decided to set up a new digital archive to collect images and other ephemera from it.

We hold a considerable number of records of past floods in our collection, including images and video from the Flood of 1927, the Montpelier flood of 1992, and of Tropical Storm Irene in 2011, and others. Those records exist because they were documented by the people of Vermont and sent to VHS to preserve, and they're currently used by researchers, journalists, and members of the public to recall and understand those events.

VHS Librarian Kate Phillips says "this flood will drastically change the landscape of Vermont in ways we do not yet know. It is essential that we document the experiences of individuals and small businesses, as well as new directions in conversations about climate change and housing. We hope that careful documentation of this moment can help inform future decision making, as well as contribute to our collective processing of this monumental event."

VHS wants to be able to have records of the 2023 flood as well: we're inviting the public to submit their photographs, audio files, video recordings, and other related documents to this crowdsourced archive, in order to preserve the memories of this tragic event for the future.

You can view & contribute to the archive at floodof2023.digital.vermont.org/collecting

As part of this initiative, VHS has also begun to expand the media collection for the Flood of 1927 on its archival portal, Digital Vermont, uploading dozens of photographs and scans of documents from VHS's collection for the first time, making them more widely available to the public than ever before. *The 1927 Flood in Vermont Collection* can be found on Digital Vermont.

For questions or troubleshooting, contact VHS at info@vermonthistory.org.

COLLECTION MANAGER'S HOURS

Monday: 8:00-12:00 | Tuesday: 8:30-4:30 | Friday: 8:30-4:30

Research assistance, access to WHS archival materials and History Center tours by appointment.

Contact Mike: WaterburyCollectionsManager@gmail.com

Waterbury Historical Society Invites Members to Annual Meeting

Sat. Nov. 18, 2023 | 1:00 PM
Steele Community Room
28 North Main St., Waterbury, VT

For a Zoom link contact board
president Cheryl Casey at
whspresidentvt@gmail.com

AGENDA

2024 Budget
Membership Dues Structure
Bylaws Addition
Elections

SLATE

Vice President: Jill Chase
Secretary: Grace Sweet
Member at Large: Anne M. Imhoff

Proposed addition to the Waterbury Historical Society By-Laws

ARTICLE V, SECTION 5:

There shall be a Collections Acquisition Committee consisting of at least three society members appointed by the Board. The committee will bear, in part, the role of "Archivist" as defined in the Collection Policy and Guidelines, and be responsible for both accession and deaccession of collection materials according to the criteria set forth in the aforementioned guidelines. Committee participants may be recruited by the committee at any time. At such time that the committee participation drops below three members, the Nominating Committee shall be responsible for recruiting additional participants in order to fulfill the minimum number required.

Other adjustments accordingly

The current sections 5 (Appointment of Staffing), 6 (Appointment of Curator) and 7 (Appointment of Newsletter Editor) would be renumbered as sections 6, 7, and 8, respectively.

PROPOSED BUDGET 2024

Income:	Proposed
Membership Dues	1,500.00
Donations	1,000.00
Sales and Fundraisers	1,200.00
Memorial Gifts	100.00
Town of Waterbury	9,400.00
Annual Appeal (Unrestricted and Designated)	12,000.00
Grants	2,000.00
T. Rowe Price CG/STG/DIV	11,654.86
	38,854.86
Expenses:	
Newsletters	1,904.86
Program Committee	1,000.00
Meeting Space 200.00	
Speakers 800.00	
Ghost Walk 100.00	
Outreach Ed 200.00	
Annual Appeal	2,500.00
Book Committee	0.00
Cataloger	7,000.00
Collection Manager	21,000.00
Web Site	200.00
Curator Expense	500.00
Archival Storage Supplies	500.00
Sir Richard's Storage	2,400.00
Gifts	100.00
Office Supplies & PO Box	500.00
Online PastPerfect 20,000	700.00
Miscellaneous	500.00
Vermont Historical Society	50.00
	38,854.86

Donations

Donations and membership renewals May 17 through September 20, 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.



WHS has established a secure online payment option for dues and monetary donations. You may use DonorBox, a platform that specializes in meeting the needs of nonprofit organizations, to process your payment.

George Clement
Rose Barnes Farkas
Philip Kern

Eddie Miller

Kendel Stafford

Theresa & Gordon Wood

Donations in memory of Earle Dunphy:

Anonymous

Susan & Frank Connors

Christina Dunphy

GateWay Community College

(on behalf of Elizabeth Dunphy)

Stephen Grace

Membership and Gift Form

Over 225 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

WaterburyHistoricalSociety@gmail.com

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.

Open to all
community members!

Waterbury Historical Society

STRATEGIC PLANNING RETREAT

Saturday, October 28 | 10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m. | Steele Community Room

Potluck Lunch | Bring a snack or dish to share

rsvp: whspresidentvt@gmail.com

The WHS is primarily looking for materials that have origins in Waterbury or tell the story of the people or history of Waterbury. If you are looking for direction on what to keep and what may be more worthwhile to donate to other organizations, please consider our criteria below. Questions? Contact Mike at Waterbury CollectionsManager@gmail.com

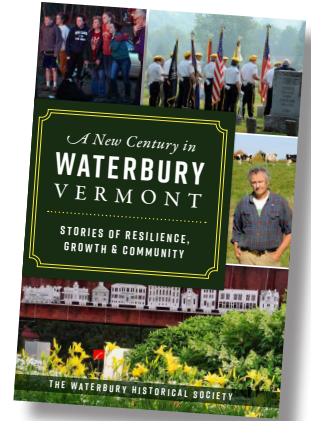
Items WHS may be interested in collecting:

- Photographs
- Handwritten notes, letters, or diaries
- Objects made in Waterbury by members of the community

Items WHS are likely not looking to add:

- Mass produced materials
- Antiques, furniture, tools, or dishware not made by an industry in Waterbury
- Book collections that could be found in libraries

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 Friday from 9-11am at the History Center offices on the 2nd floor.

Cash and check accepted only.

Proceeds support the Waterbury Historical Society.



PO Box 708, Waterbury, VT 05676