

Waterbury Historical Society

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Anne Hamel Witham, RN, PHN

By Margaret Luce

Ghost Walk - May 30, 2016

Today we remember Anne Hamel Witham, RN, PHN, for her many years of dedicated service to the health and well-being of generations of Waterbury residents. She served as District Nurse, Town Nurse, Public Health Nurse, and School Nurse from 1942 to 1974. Her lasting legacy is the founding of the Waterbury Home Health Agency (WHHA) in 1967 where she served as its Executive Director from 1967 to 1974.

The Waterbury Public Health Association began operation in 1918 with the help of the Waterbury Chapter of the Red Cross. It ceased operation in 1920. In 1924, the Waterbury Public Health Association was formed with representatives from churches and community groups, and also included the Overseer of the Poor and Town Health Officer. The agency provided limited home visiting as well as hygiene and First Aid courses in the schools; and formed a Mothers' Club. Services were funded through regular appropriations from the Town and Village, plus voluntary contributions. President Johnson signed the Social Security Act in 1965 that created Medicare and Medicaid, that provided funding for home health agencies to visit aging, disabled, and poor in need of nursing care.

In 1966, the Waterbury Public Health Association voted to sponsor the Waterbury Home Health Agency. Anne Hamel Witham, first as a volunteer and then as an employee of WPHA, developed the Medicare grant application and the policies for the new home health agency. The WPHA was awarded a federal

grant of \$18,000, and on June 16, 1967 the WPHA obtained certification and was qualified as the Waterbury Home Health Agency, the ninth qualified agency in the State of Vermont.

Anne Hamel Witham was appointed Executive Director of WHHA with an office located at 8 Elm Street. At first, skilled nursing services were provided only to Waterbury residents. In 1968, services were expanded to those in the towns of Duxbury, Moretown, Waitsfield, and Warren.

Anne (also known as Annie and Anna) Pearl Hamel was born October 4, 1910 to Belle (Campbell) Hamel and William Hamel in Waterbury. She was the younger sister of Ruth Hamel (Donnelly) and Reginald Hamel. She was educated in Waterbury schools and graduated from Waterbury High School in 1930, where she was a member of the basketball team and band. Anne's daughter, Lynn Witham, said her mother decided to become a nurse after observing the pain and suffering that resulted from the 1927 Flood. The '27 Flood seriously affected Waterbury and left 11 people dead and 300 families homeless.

Anne enrolled in the Bishop DeGoesbriand Training School for Nurses (later to become Jeanne Mance School of Nursing) in Burlington, Vermont, and earned her diploma in 1933. After graduation she worked as a private duty and hospital nurse.

Anne returned to Waterbury in 1942 to work as a District Public Health Nurse. She organized blood drives which were critical to supplying plasma and blood products during World War II. Anne also organized tonsil clinics at the Waterbury High School because wartime travel restrictions and gas rationing made transporting local children to hospital in

Burlington impossible. During a clinic held in June 1943, Dr. K.C. McMahon of Burlington operated on 32 children and numerous local nurses provided for their aftercare. As a newspaper article at the time stated:

"Everything simply "clicked" with clockwork precision and according to schedule, thanks to efficient Nurse Anne Hamel in whose ambitious mind the idea was born, nourished, and matured to a "man-sized" clinic. It was successful beyond all aspirations. Nurse Hamel has proved the great value and importance of a public health nurse to the community which she serves."

The article went on to praise the community: *"The success of the clinic further indicates that small communities can do much to help themselves when medical facilities are limited ... The value of organization of lay people as well as professionals in the case of any disaster or epidemic was also made evident."*

Anne credited the success of the tonsil clinic to the wonderful cooperation of local physicians, nurses, teachers, and lay people and institutions such as the Vermont State Hospital. She also thanked the children for being "so good."

Late in 1943, Anne took leave of her position in Waterbury to attend a one-year course in Red Cross and Public Health Nursing at Simmons College School of Public Health Nursing in Boston.

Anne worked as the District Nurse for the Waterbury Public Health Association and check stubs record the payment to physicians for health care for children. Anne was also known to deliver coal or a baby layette to a needy family.

Paul Willard, who chaired the Board of Waterbury Home Health Agency for many years, remembers Anne as "community minded", and praised her efforts to develop WHHA.

Nancy Guild Murphy, a good friend of Anne's daughter, Lynn Witham, wrote of her warm memories of Anne as a neighbor on Guild Hill, and her sense of humor and loving and caring nature.

Lynn Witham recalled that townspeople would call her mother in the middle of the night

if they were ill – sometimes in the middle of snowstorms – and her dad would drive her mother to their homes to take care of them.

Ethel Ryan, RN, worked with Anne at the Waterbury Home Health Agency. She has said "Anne was a visionary". She could see the value of home visits. Ethel said "I used to call Anne the Mother Theresa of Waterbury."

Pat Allen, RN, worked with Anne as Chief of Home Health Services for the Vermont Department of Health. Pat credited Anne with the coordination of Barre, Montpelier, and Waterbury in creating a regionalized home health services in 1968. The agencies developed continuity of care with Central Vermont Hospital resulting in communication of discharge of hospital patients for follow up by visiting nurses

This coordination of care eventually led to the merger of Waterbury with Barre, Montpelier and the creation of Central Vermont Home Health and Hospice in 1987.

Anne Hamel Witham served as Executive Director of Waterbury Home Health Agency from 1967 to her retirement in 1974. She, and her very supportive husband, Kenneth Witham, would be justifiably proud of Anne's legacy of home health services. In 2015, CVHHH provided 4,247 visits to 160 Waterbury clients carrying on Anne's mission to relieve pain and suffering, and promote health with great compassion and skill.

Anne Hamel Witham died June 6, 1981.

Harwood Union Royal Tartan Yearbooks

Waterbury Historical Society needs the following Harwood Union Royal Tartans. Do you have an extra copy to donate?

Yearbooks:

1970

1972

1975

1977

1984 – 1994

1996 – Present

Donations

Anonymous – 1940s child's toy all metal cap gun

Richard & Diane Bilodeau – Cash Donation

Corbin And Palmer, Inc. – Waterbury Inn brochure by William F. Davis and 15 prints of Waterbury Inn & Waterbury

Candice Worden Brunell – Donation in Honor of Ona Bostwick Worden: 100 year old wicker & iron baby stroller that was purchased in 1916 for Crawford Boyce

Robert Davison – “The Story of American Heroism” (contains Medal of Honor recipients from Waterbury), “Under Both Flags”

Ruthanna Davis – Transfer of Lizzie Apphia Stackpole Coburn outfits & items of her husband's from the Carpenter Museum Rehoboth, MA to the Waterbury Historical Society; Lizzie Stackpole Coburn's yarn winder invention & original patent

Nancy Corey – 1966 Longhorn yearbook; Hardwood Union Yearbooks, 1967, 1968, 1969, 1973, 1974

Conrad Denton – Unopened box Holdfast Clothespins from the Demeritt Company

Douglas & Betty Finlay – Cash Donation

Jan Gendreau – Cash Donation

Patty Meade for the Waterbury Rotary – Three 250th t-shirts to sell (two were sold the day they were received); box of 250th Waterbury books to sell; Bicentennial poster of Susan Hood made for 250th celebration

Hood Family by way of Patty Meade – Susan's and Sally's 1963 Bicentennial dresses

Hardwick Historical Society – Two Waterbury postcards

Linda Kaiser – 1928 “Standard Hospital Asylum and Institution Directory”

Chuck Kletecka – Cash Donation

Brian Lindner – Court Martial papers for Meryl Haskins; “Accidents Mt. Mansfield Electric Railroad Oct.2, 1897 to May 2 1931”; Mt. Mansfield Electric Railroad cut rails; “Accidents of Trains in Waterbury Area”, copy of a photo of the Camel's Hump Club building

Kathy Moquin - 1st edition of “When the Water Came to Waterbury”

Mary Jean Sturgis – Cash Donation

Waterbury Rotary – Cash Donation

Gordon & Theresa Wood – Newsletter Sponsor

A special thank you to Charlene “Charlie” Rooney of Morrisville for allowing me to scan, for the collection, the family letters of the Johnson family members which included the Civil War letters of Marcellus Johnson. The Johnson Family lived on a farm on what is now the River Road off South Main Street. Their family cemetery is the one that can be seen from I-89.



Crawford Boyce's 1916 Stroller

Donation Correction

The painted punchbowl and platter were donated by Lorraine (Luce) Wright, not "Margaret" Wright.

New Members

Robert Dornfried, Waterbury

Judith Gale, North Carolina

Mary Jean Sturgis, South Carolina

Museum News

By Jack Carter



Mary Moody Whitehill

Recently, I retrieved from storage some of Mary Whitehill's basket collection and have put them on exhibit in the History Center Museum. They are a nice compliment to Harry Whitehill's, her husband, display and the Waterbury Record and WDEV connection. Mrs. Whitehill had a very large collection of hand crafted baskets from all over the world. There are baskets from Quebec, Mexico, Scotland, Hawaii and the United States to mention a few of the places of origin.

Mary Moody was a fourth generation Waterbury family member, elder daughter of Justin W. and Harriet (Brown) Moody and was born in 1870. She and her younger sister Julia received their early education at Montpelier Seminary. Justin Moody was Waterbury's postmaster for twenty-two years.

On January 19, 1898 she married Harry C. Whitehill and for a few years they lived on Randall Street. However, the majority of their married life in Waterbury was spent in the Moody homestead on Union Street.

In 1922 the Whitehills moved to Saint Albans after Harry was appointed Collector of Customs, a post he held for nine years. They returned to Waterbury in 1931 and moved back to their home on Union Street.

Mary was very supportive of her husband's career as publisher of the Waterbury Record newspaper and founder and owner of the radio station WDEV, Waterbury Record Store, purveyors of books and stationery, and maintaining the Moody family farm on Blush Hill. Harry died suddenly on September 21, 1935. They had no children.

Mary Whitehill endured many hardships during her lifetime. A victim of arthritis and a heart disease for more than twenty years she was confined to her home for the last five years of her life. In her obituary it was said that "her life was marked with perseverance and fortitude that was apparent in the fine character which she maintained until the end. In her absolute confinement she held a rare memory and intellect to the delight and interest of the many who called on her".

One of Mary's joys was the collecting of baskets from around the world. Being homebound she sought delight in these gifts from Harry and friends who would bring them to her at home. Some of the baskets include notes as to their origins. They are an interesting collection of early twentieth century handiwork.

Mary Moody Whitehill died of congestive heart failure on November 9, 1936 at the age of 66 years at the Union Street home in which she was born.

July Meeting

By Betty Jones

An exciting program was performed by the Yankee Brass Band at the Waterbury Festival Playhouse. We started with a delicious Pot Luck with a great variety of food. Between 80-85 people attended. The twenty-five member band played 19th century music on 19th century

instruments.

The program was dedicated to WDEV's 85th anniversary. President Theresa Wood spoke about WDEV and its importance and dedication to Waterbury. Ken Squier spoke of the beginnings of WDEV.

We have received many comments about the program and how organized it was. Due to this feedback we are considering a return performance in the future.

Many thanks to the program committee, George Pierce for the use of the Waterbury Festival Playhouse, the Waterbury Recreation Department for the loan of a speaker system and the Waterbury Fire Department for a tent.

Letters to the Editor

July 14, 2016

Hi,

What a super newsletter. You out did yourself. Great to see so many donations. Thanks for all you do.

As Always,
Theresa & Gordy (Wood)

July 2016

I loved the article about Lizzie Minott. Growing up in the Center, 1920 to 1940 I knew many of the natives that were mentioned. The Bryans, Beverly Tweksbury, the Minotts at the Minott-Moulton Farm, Twist-o-Hill, The Ayers, the Hoffmans, the Jackson family. I think the Minott-Moulton Farm was located near the present Center Post Office.

Your Connecticut Member,
Calvin Coolidge Dow

Recovery of Mt. Mansfield Electric Railroad Rails

Waterbury, Vermont

April, November and December 2010

By Brian Lindner

In April of 2010 Gordon Reynolds on East Street called to advise he would be putting his property on the market. The old Mt. Mansfield Electric Railroad passed through his property, including the Clay Cut near where I-89 is located today. The rail bed itself remains a prominent feature on the landscape and today still Ts into the northbound lane of the Interstate at mile marker 63.2.

Reynolds wanted someone with knowledge of the MMER to look to see if anything of interest still existed which should be recovered/removed. He was concerned a future owner of his property might post the land which could restrict the recovery and preservation of any remaining MMER artifacts.

In the Clay Cut, we found three iron rails on the north side of the rail bed. These were standing on end and embedded in the clay – apparently each with a concrete base well below ground level. These appeared to be the remains of a retaining wall designed to hold back the embankment which routinely slid onto the rail bed after heavy rain storms.

Inside and on the bottom of the Clay Cut we also found two partially buried but loose rails lying perpendicularly across the bed.

I suggested, and Mr. Reynolds agreed, that some or all of the rails should be salvaged. Unfortunately, it would take significant work to clear a path through the tangle of new growth and previously fallen trees.

I polled several members of the Waterbury Historical Society and the Stowe Historical Society. My proposal was that whatever we recover be cut up. I suggested one rail would be for each historical society. 2" - 4" would be cut off to be retained permanently in each collection. The remainder of each rail could be sliced up with the idea of someday selling

each slice as a method to raise funds as the memberships of each society saw fit.

The response was mixed. One person wanted everything left exactly in place but photographed and documented. Others felt the plan to salvage manageable sizes and slice up the balance would be the best plan. Most feared that a future property owner might simply remove/destroy the rails and they would be lost forever.

I made the decision that I would recover at least the two loose rails which were already on the ground. These were the most likely to vanish if not removed. The shorter rail would go to the Stowe Historical Society and the longer to the Waterbury Historical Society. (A section of the Waterbury piece would be given to the Vermont Historical Society.) The landowner supported this decision.

Further, during the recovery process, the landowner would try to lift one of the uprights out of the ground with his tractor. If successful, this would also be skidded out and saved as a whole at some location in Waterbury.

This plan would:

- a) leave two of the uprights in place for future generations in the hope that future landowners would leave them in place
- b) recover one upright to remain uncut and preserved as a full rail
- c) recover two rails to be sliced up with sections for SHS, WHS and VHS
- d) the remainder of “c” above could be sliced up for fund raising purposes.

On Tuesday, November 23, 2010 at 8:30 in the morning, I began working with a chainsaw to cut a path to the rail bed then to clear the bed as far as the second rail on the ground – closest of the five to I-89 and furthest from the starting point. Working in the off-and-on rain, I finished cutting and clearing at 2:30 in the afternoon.

On Thursday, December 02, 2010, at 6:30 in the evening, the landowner and I went in with his 4-wheel drive tractor and skidded out the two loose rails that had been lying on the ground.

Due to the very slick conditions in the ever-present clay, the tractor became stuck time-after-time. We moved it forward inch-by-inch using the bucket and a chain hitched to nearby trees. The tractor had exceptionally little traction in the soft clay. The plan to try and recover one upright was immediately abandoned. All three were left in place.

We worked in the dark until 8:30 before bringing the two rails to the edge of East Street.

On Sunday, December 12th, the longer rail was cut in half so as to be transportable in a small truck.

The rails were taken to Vermont Technical College in Randolph where the slicing was to take place. Unfortunately, the professor (the same Gordon Reynolds who owned the land) in charge soon retired and the rails were forgotten/lost. Finally, in the Spring of 2016 they were located and several 2” and 4” slices were cut. These were divided in half with 50% being delivered to the Stowe Historical Society and 50% to the Waterbury Historical Society. One slice was delivered to the Vermont Historical Society.



Rail Section

In Memory



Florence M. Lindner
October 24, 1925 – August 12, 2016

Florence Lindner of Waterbury passed away August 12, 2016 at Woodridge Nursing Home at the age of 90.

Florence was born in Stowe October 24, 1925 as the second youngest of five daughters belonging to Claude and Margaret Adams. Until 1938 she grew up on a farm in Little River where she attended a one room school house. Both the farm and the school house locations are now underneath the waters of Waterbury Dam.

In 1938 the family moved to Stowe Hollow where she attended Stowe High School making the long walk into the village to attend school. Florence graduated in 1945 as Co-Valedictorian. Remaining in Stowe she was hired by the Mt. Mansfield Company and worked at the Octagon on the summit of the mountain where she met Erwin “Lindy” Lindner who was Director of the Mt. Mansfield Ski Patrol. They were married in 1946.

The following year Lindy was hired by Perry Merrill to work for the Vermont Department of Forests and Parks. The young couple moved into the State Ski Dorm and later into the State Ski Shelter (Base Lodge for the ski

area) where they remained until 1962. Together they ran the State Campground and Picnic Area at Mt. Mansfield until transferring to the State Campground at Little River in Waterbury. Although Florence was never on the state payroll, she was key to operating both state parks for many decades.

Family was always foremost in Florence’s life. She was a great mother who always instilled her values into her children’s lives. She would ski with them (even though she feared falling), and always read to them at bedtime. Her grandchildren will always cherish their time with her, going for walks or to playgrounds, playing games, reading books, or just cuddling.

As a self-taught bookkeeper she was employed by a variety of businesses in Waterbury and most notably for a great many years at Keller and Lowe Land Surveyors and Ward Lumber Company. She later worked for Heney Real Estate in Montpelier. For a period of time she was assistant town clerk in Waterbury.

Florence was very active in community affairs such as the Red Cross blood drives, Emerald Rebecca’s and Waterbury Historical Society. She was active in the Adams/Ayers family picnics. For many years she enjoyed numerous bus trips across the country with her friends. In later years she was a resident at the Squier House and then at Woodridge Nursing Home.

She was predeceased in 1980 by her husband, and grandson Kenny Lindner in 2002. Survivors include two sons, Bruce Lindner and his wife Ruth of Colchester, Brian Lindner of Waterbury, and daughter Patti and her husband Albie Lewis of Berlin; also five granddaughters, Kimberley Lindner, Erica (Lindner) Viens, Kristen (Lewis) Dukette, Brittany and Kaitlin Lewis, as well as four great granddaughters, Lindsey LaCross, Kendra, Cierra and Cydney Viens.

In Memory



Sam Parks

November 17, 1919 – August 28, 2016

Leon H. (Sam) Parks, of Waterbury, passed away, surrounded by his loving family, at his home on Blush Hill in Waterbury on Sunday, Aug. 28, 2016 following a brief illness. Sam was born at home on Hill Street in Waterbury on Nov. 17, 1919, to Abigail (Child) and Ralph Parks, the oldest of four children. His parents both died when he was 16. The family was living on North Main Street at the time of the 1927 flood. They were rescued by boat after cutting a hole in the attic roof.

Sam was a proud member of Waterbury High School's 1937 state championship basketball team, coached by principal/teacher Dac Rowe. In his youth and following graduation, he worked a variety of jobs to help support his family. These included walking horses delivered by train from the Waterbury Railroad Station to the livestock dealer at the Fuller Farm (currently the Cold Hollow Cider Mill) in Waterbury Center, being paid 50 cents per horse; doing chores on the Wallace Farm; being a polisher at the Rock of Ages sheds in Waterbury and Barre; and working at the V.L. Perkins Company (furniture store and funeral

business) in Waterbury.

He enlisted in the Army (after memorizing the eye chart to insure acceptance) during World War II and served with the 843rd Engineer Aviation Battalion where he saw action in Normandy, Northern France, the Rhineland and central Europe.

After the war, Sam attended the New England Institute of Embalming in Boston using the GI Bill. He was a funeral director for several decades, proudly serving families in the Waterbury and Northfield locales.

On Sept. 14, 1946 he married the love of his life, Mary Ellen Lander, at her parents' home on East Street in Waterbury. They shared 64 years of marriage until Mary Ellen's death in July 2011.

Sam is remembered for his kindness, thoughtfulness, compassion, integrity and wit. He cared deeply for his family, including the four-legged members; the families he served through the funeral business, and his community. Sam served on the Waterbury High School Alumni Association's board of directors for several decades; on the Waterbury Cemetery Commission for 42 years; and as an active member of the Waterbury Rotary Club. In 2004 he was awarded the Keith A. Wallace Memorial Community Service Award. His memberships include: Harry N. Cutting Post #59 American Legion; the Waterbury Historical Society; and, for 69 years, the Masonic Winooski Lodge #49 F&AM.

Sam is survived by his cherished granddaughters Sarah B. Jacobs of Brooklyn, New York, and Elizabeth P. Jacobs of Barcelona, Spain; daughter Cynthia Parks of Waterbury; daughter and son-in-law Joan and Neil Jacobs of North Salem, New York; sister and brother-in-law Pam and Dick Semenza; two special nieces, Richelle Semenza and Diana Curtin; and great-niece Danielle Curtin, all of the greater San Francisco area; and several nieces and nephews. In addition to Mary Ellen, Sam was predeceased by two sisters: Lillian P. Rowse of Bradford, and Priscilla P. Murphy of South Barre. The family wishes to express their gratitude to Sam's many

friends, the Woodridge Community, Central Vermont Home Health and Hospice, and Dr. Peter Dale for their thoughtful and compassionate care. A public memorial service will be held in Waterbury at a later date, at the convenience of the family, and will be announced in advance in the newspaper.

Letter from Denton Conrad

September 8, 2016

Dear Linda Kaiser:

I am in receipt of your thank you letter of August 29, 2016. I hope to send some more items as time passes. My mother, who was born in Waterbury, passed in 2012 and I still have boxes of stuff to sort. In the meantime, I thought a bit of background information might be of interest.

By marriage, Roy Demeritt became my uncle. He married Ruth Madeline Stewart Ather. Aunt Ruth had been Roy's company secretary. Roy was around two years older than his father-in-law, James Robert Stewart Sr., and there was around a 20 year difference in age between Ruth and Roy. Ruth was the first child of James Robert Stewart and Florice Belle Corse Stewart.

"Grampie Jim" and "Nanny" lived at 144 S. Main Street, and I think they were the original owners. They had five children:

1. James Robert Stewart Sr. and Florice Belle Course (of 144 So. Main Street)

A. Ruth Madeline Stewart Ather Demeritt Roy Demeritt (Ruth's second husband)

B. Irma Belle Stewart Williams (proprietors of a pharmacy on Main St.)
Donald Benjamin Williams

C. James Robert Stewart Jr. (deceased, WWII 1944)

D. Helen Arlene Stewart Conrad (of 142 S. Main Street for a number of years)

Churchill Perry Conrad

1. James Robert Conrad
2. Denton Perry Conrad
3. William George Conrad II

E. Theda June Steward McKenzie
Phillip McKenzie

Helen was my mother. She recalled to me numerous times, the Flood of 1927 and how they were forced to move to higher ground from the house at 144 S. Main.

For a period of time, my parents Helen and Perry Conrad and kids lived at 142 S. Main Street, next door to Jim and Florice. In 1956, Dad got a transfer from New England Bell to Southern Bell, so, our family moved to Florida. I was six years old. I did manage to go to first grade in the big brick school house up town. I recall walking to school in winter and stopping off at a pharmacy owned by Irma and Don Williams, my aunt and uncle. I am told by my cousin Willsie Williams of Duxbury, that the building was razed many years later.

Roy was a humble and generous man. He told my mother that he knew he was fortunate that his father had left him the Demeritt Company business. He was always kind to our family. One year he took all the sisters on a Caribbean Cruise.

As the WHS archivist, you probably are aware of the prior existence of the clothes pin factory, and that it caught fire which brought it to an end. The packaged clothes pins I sent came from my mother's house in Florida. She had several boxes, one opened with half the pins still in the packaging, the others in a canvas bag that hung on the clothes line, when in use. My wife retrieved the bag from the laundry room after Mom passed away. I suspect some of those clothes pins are many decades old.

While living at 142 S. Main Street as a very young boy, I recall walking out from the house with older brother to the field in the back and over to the stacks of wood which were there

being aged until they could be turned into clothes pins. We liked to sit on the lower overhanging pieces and bounce up and down on them. I think the cure time for the wood was two years.

Despite the fact that my family had moved to Florida, some fifteen hundred miles away, we did make the annual (?) summer trips back to Vermont to visit family. Dad's folks had a farm in Moretown. Dad had his annual two week vacation. It was two and one half days driving up, and two and a half days back, with two adults, three boys and a dog, along with suitcases and camping equipment in a Chevy station wagon. It was cheaper to camp than to rent a motel room for all of us; Dad was very frugal when it came to spending money. We were there for the Waterbury Bicentennial Celebration of 1963.

I recall on one trip that Uncle Roy owned a trailer which was parked in the field behind the house, where once we lived. It was used to entertain his poker guests, I'm sure. We were invited for a cook out. The trailer was also well stocked with a variety of alcoholic beverages. I recall older brother and I sampling creme de mint liqueur ... I found out as a kid that it is an acquired taste; don't think I've ever had any since then!

As my mother told it, my grandfather James Robert Stewart Sr. died with all of his permanent teeth intact and not one cavity (but his liver was probably shot because of his alcohol consumption over the years). He never ate sweets and brushed his teeth with baking powder and salt. He never owned a car; got everywhere on a bicycle or walked. I recall he would do almost anything to make money. He painted and for a while, he was a meat cutter at a grocery store at the south end of Main Street, just before crossing the bridge over the Winooski River. I checked streetviewofhouse.com and that grocery store building is no longer there, and probably has not been for a long, long time. Grampie Jim was also known for converting sugar into alcohol in a twenty-five gallon crock. He had his own store of bottles and a hand capper. I recall going down to his cellar with him and getting a small taste of

his brew, while he took a larger one!

Grampie Jim did the washing in his cellar. I remember a three tub washing machine arrangement, with the rotating wringer, so hot water washed clothes from one tub were hand guided into the wringer, then hand guided out of the wringer into the rinsing tub water. The wringer was motor driven. My recollection is that Grampie Jim had a three tub arrangement, so did the washing, and two stage rinsing operation in sequence.

Grampie Jim's grandfather was Milo C. Stewart. Milo was the town's sheriff for a while. Never saw any pictures of him painted or otherwise (photography was still in its infancy), but Milo has a large granite grave marker in Hope Cemetery. Several years ago, I was informed by a distant cousin who did some genealogy research, that Milo ventured to California during the gold rush as a cabinet maker. Guess he must have made some good money before returning to Vermont.

Regards,
Denton Conrad

(Editor's Note: Denton Conrad has donated a number of family items. I felt that this letter would be of interest because of the family history and stories he has shared in it. Thank you, Mr. Conrad.)

Dues

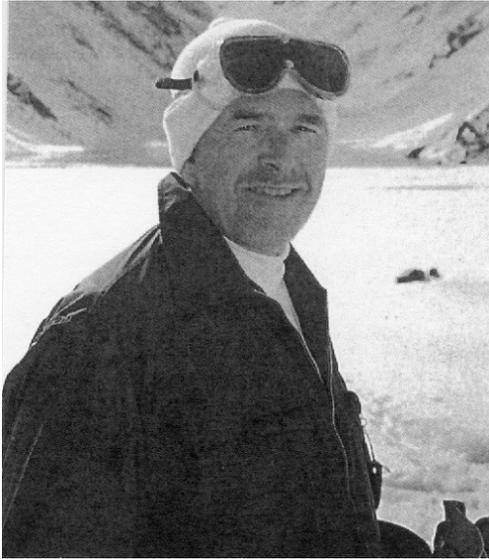
Check your mailing label. If it does not read 1/1/2017 or higher, you owe dues.

One person \$10.00 per year.

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

Meeting a Philanthropist

By Calvin Dow



Cornelius Starr in Andes

Cornelius Starr was the man who financed Stowe-Mansfield into the “Ski Capital of the East.” He started the Starr Insurance company in Shanghai, China, selling maritime insurance. When the Japanese invaded China he moved his business to San Francisco and New York City. He was a skier and a tennis player. I met him skiing on Mt. Mansfield, Vermont and on a clay tennis court in Danbury, Connecticut.

My brother Sam and I started skiing Mansfield in 1934 when we were students at Waterbury High School, playing baseball and tennis in summer and skiing all winter. Saturday and Sunday we skied up the Tow Road, savored the beautiful, unforgettable view from the highest point in Vermont and then skied down the Nose Dive Trail that was cut through the forest of trees.

In 1936 Starr built the first single chair lift and that is when I met him because he was hiring local skiers for the Ski Patrol and professional instructors from the Austria Alps. They spoke English with a strong accent but were deliriously happy to escape from a country where an Austrian named Hitler was starting to murder millions of Europeans.



1936

1st chairlift at Mt. Mansfield

Del Jarvis and I (he was a Stowe native) were on Patrol duty one busy Saturday when we heard a faint call for help. A young woman lost control of her skis, went off the trail, down a steep bank and was trapped in the deep snow with a sprained ankle. We finally rescued her and place her on a toboggan which we guided down the steep Mountain trail. We were given “Ski Ambassador” pins and appeared on the News.



Calvin Dow & Del Jarvis 1947 Ski Patrol

Mr. Starr would stay at the prestigious

Mansfield Lodge where he was well known for giving one hundred dollar bills to various staff workers. The Vermont snow melted and summer arrived he would finance the U.S. Olympic Ski Team so they could train on the Chilean Andes Mountains. Dartmouth student Dick Durrance was the first American Olympic skier to win a downhill race beating European racers who were world class. I watched a big international race on Mt. Mansfield's famous "Nose Dive Trail" featuring Durrance and Austrian champion Toni Matt.



Toni Matt & Dick Durrance 1938

When Starr and the U.S. Olympic Team left for Portillo, Chile, they boarded the luxury liner "SS Mariposa" (Spanish for butterfly) at San Francisco. Six years later in 1942 the Mariposa was converted to a troop ship in WWII. It left Newport News, Virginia destined for Karachi, India. The US troops included federalized members of Waterbury, Vermont National Guard.

What's In the Collection? Pride/Caldwell/Redmond/Boyce

By Linda Kaiser

For the past two weeks I have been cataloging the collection donated in the late 1950s by Estella (Stella) Redmond Boyce. This collection is a nice representation of the women of her family. She was the great granddaughter of Amasa and Polly Pride.



Amasa Pride 1846
Daguerreotype

Amassa was a merchant and owned a tavern. His 1862 obituary reads "*In Waterbury, Aug. 16th Amasa Pride, Esq, age 85 years 10 months and 3 days. Mr. Pride was born in Lisbon Conn. In his fourteenth year he came to Brookfield, Vermont, to which place his father moved two years Before. In 1892 in his 26th year, he opened a store in Waterbury, and became the first permanent and successful merchant in the place. He commenced business with very little capital, but by his sound judgment, sterling integrity, and great energy and enterprise, he accumulated a large property, and became one of the most substantial and valuable men in the community – His hand was*

open to every call of charity and the public good. He had been a consistent member of the Congregational Church twenty-six years.”

On September 1, 1836 sixty year old Amasa Pride was married to twenty-eight year old Polly Hill. Their first daughter was Martha Louise, who was born August 24, 1837. On November 14, 1860 Rev. C.C. Parker performed the marriage of Martha to Dan Carlos Caldwell. Amasa and Polly had a second daughter, Mary who was born in 1841. Mary died May 8, 1862, one month before her twenty-first birthday, of consumption. Polly was not entirely left alone as she had Martha and Carlos along with a one year old granddaughter Myrtie Caldwell.



Polly Hill Pride wife of Amasa 1846

Myrtie Caldwell married W. J. Redmond and they became the parents of Estella Redmond Boyce, who was the donor of the collection.

Mrs. Boyce's donations are a wonderful example of their era. One of the older pieces is a hand forged wick cutter/candle snuffer. For years

Polly Pride's framed hair wreath was displayed in the museum and showed her talent for crafting. Not only would the braiding of the hair take many hours, the collection of the strands from the hair brushes would have also taken months if not years. Also from Polly were her three handmade cotton and lace bed caps. The delicate working of the lace is amazing. Polly made linen napkins from the weaving to the sewing.



Polly Pride's Bed Cap

In later years granddaughter Myrtie Caldwell added Polly's initials "P.H." for Polly Hill. These initials were copied from a sampler that Polly had made as a young woman.

There are several items from Maratha Pride's trousseau, showing that Martha was an expert seamstress. There is a set of cotton and lace undersleeves, handkerchief carried at her wedding, white slippers with long ties worn at her wedding, black lace handkerchief and doilies.

There are two hats that do not identify which family member wore them but from the time period it was probably either Polly or Martha, because they are from the 1870s. One is a "pumpkin seed" hat, which is named for its shape. The other hat is a Conestoga hat, which looks very much like the top of a Conestoga wagon and an extremely fragile piece after all these years. There are three pair of black lace gloves made by Martha – one pair has full fingers and thumbs while the other two have the style of thumbs but only partial fingers. The lace

is so elaborate that it is a wonder how she put then on without damaging the lace. Martha's wedding hairpins unfortunately have deteriorated with age. These are fragile globes hanging from chains which are attached to six inch hair pins similar to the long hat pins that women used to hold hats to their hair. There are two pair of lady's spectacles and one leather case. There is jewelry of the Civil War era – not beautiful but of the fashion of the time.

Martha and perhaps even Polly used decorative fans. Two of the fans had small discreet mirrors for checking one's hair or for checking the people around the room. It is an interesting but fragile collection of fans.

The small round snuff box was not marked as to which family member it belonged to but could have been for either a man or a woman.



Pride House on South Main Street

A small sewn and embroidered wedding announcement case holds Martha and Dan's marriage announcements which was a simple card with "Mr. & Mrs. D.C. Caldwell" and below to the left side "Martha L. Pride".

The women were well represented in this collection as there were all types of needlepoint, embroidery and lace work, personal possessions and more, but what of Amasa? If it hadn't been for what I consider one of the best of the collection, Amasa would have not appeared in the collection, except there I found a

daguerreotype of him. What a prize!! There is also one of Polly taken at the same time and Martha as a nine year old, all from 1846. Amasa was approximately 70 years old and is sitting and resting one hand on his cane. Polly was still a young woman at about 38 years old in her daguerreotype.

Of course, the largest item that came from Mrs. Boyce was the family grandfather clock. All the items were presented by her in memory of Amasa Pride.

Also, given by Stella Boyce was a book of poetry written by Florence Boyce of Waterbury and a hand painted plate decorated by Florence.

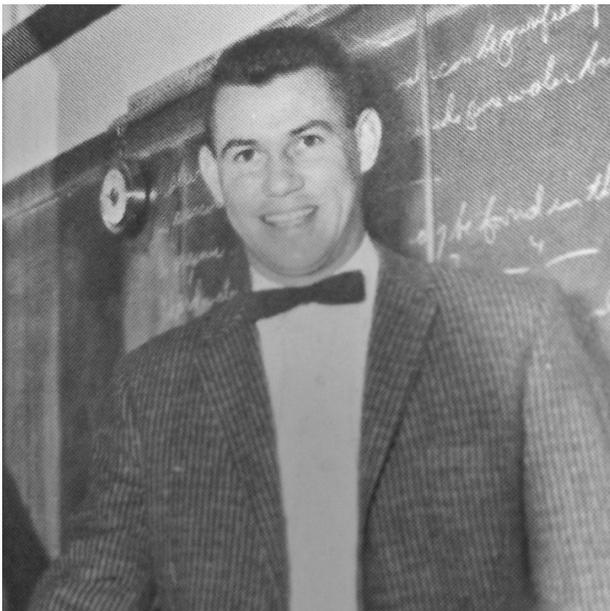
As I am still sorting items, there might be more, but this is one of the better representation of the talent of Waterbury women – thanks to Estella Redmond Boyce.

Vermont Watchman & State Journal March 29, 1882 Waterbury

Extensive repairs on the Waterbury Hotel were commenced Monday. New paint laterally and externally, and paper and kalsomining will freshen up this old-time summer resort from kitchen to parlor, from foundations to attic. The mattresses will be re-made, new furniture provided and other repairs and improvements undertaken. The croquet ground will be filled and graded, and all the surroundings of this house put into an attractive shape. The proprietor, Mr. Collins, expresses a willingness to contribute liberally to a fountain and to the further embellishment of the fine park in front of the hotel, a work in which, of course, he will receive the active co-operation and substantial support of the citizens of the village. And when the old fence around the hotel park has given place to a neat and tasteful enclosure, people will look for corresponding efforts further up the street so that the fences along the main thoroughfare to "The Hill" may present "a harmonious whole" in

respect to neat and tidy appearance. The proprietor has also in view the utilization of Camel's Hump and the picturesque Bolton Falls, the natural adjuncts of Waterbury as a summer resort. The hotel has an excellent summer business in prospect.

**In Memory
Waterbury High School Teacher
From the 1960s**



Richard R. Rushford

Waterbury High School 9th grade home room teacher and math and science teacher, Richard Rushford died on September 23, 2016 at age 81. He had retired in 1992 following a 30 year career which included Waterbury High School, Fairfield Center School, and Richford High School. He is survived by his daughter Jamie and his sister and her family.

Editor's Note

Anyone who would like to submit historical items to the newsletter are welcome to do so. Articles, photographs, remembrances are always welcome.

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or by

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If anyone wishes to contact anyone of the above, write to them in care of Waterbury Historical Society, PO Box 708, Waterbury, VT 05676. To make it easier to direct the mail, please use the person's name in the address.

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	Value		Value
	4/27/2016	Changes	9/29/2016
Checking Account Balance	21508.42	-10434.22	11074.20
Savings Account	6730.94	-6751.81	0.00
T. Rowe Price Mutual Fund	48572.49	16000.00	64572.49
Capital Campaign	5841.23	5001.13	10842.36
Edward Jones	0.00	0.00	0.00
Total of all Accounts	82653.08		86489.05

Waterbury Historical Society Fall Meeting
Community Room at Waterbury Municipal Center
28 North Main Street
Wednesday, October 26, 2016 7 pm
Program: "How some of the Streets/Roads were named"



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