Isaac Elliott
By Jack Carter

We are very fortunate to have received a gift from W. Wendell Lowe of a handsome oak bureau made by his great grandfather, Isaac Elliott.

Isaac Elliott was born in Groton, New Hampshire in 1827. He moved to Vermont at an early age. Upon the outbreak of the Civil War he mustered into service at Middlesex, Vermont. He was captured at Harper’s Ferry, West Virginia and was moved to Frederick County, Virginia and later to Ohio where he was released. He returned to Vermont on his own will after serving only three months.

He settled in Waterbury. He was married to Harriet Russ who was born in Waitsfield in 1825. In Waterbury they made their home at 141 South Main Street. Isaac died in 1915 at the age of 88 and Harriet died in 1921 at the age of 96. Both are buried in Hope Cemetery, Section C, Lot 50.

One of their children, Lois Elliot married Walter Lowe, a trolley car operator in Boston. They had three children: William, Roy and Russ. William married Ella Rogers and they had five children: (William) Wendell, Raphael, Gordon, Maybeth and Ralph. The Lowe family farmed on Blush Hill for many years.

Isaac Elliott was known to build houses in Waterbury but he was primarily a furniture maker. He made bedroom sets for his three grandchildren as well as other residents of
Waterbury. By the example of the bureau we have been given, his craftsmanship is remarkable.

A side note: photographs of Harriet Elliott and her grandson William Lowe can be seen in the Historical Society’s book *Waterbury Bridges the 20th Century*, page 24. The Isaac Elliott bureau can be seen on the second floor of the museum at the History Center.

Sincere thanks to Wendell for the family information given to me. The Elliott/Lowe family seems to have longevity in their genes. Wendell will be 90 years old in 2017.

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Program Committee Events
by Betty Jones

October Meeting
The October Waterbury Historical Society meeting was attended by about 45 people. They braved the cold, rain, and snowy evening. The Program Committee researched and shared the information about how the local roads got their names. The interactive presentation was of Bidwell Lane, Hough Road, Prospect Street, Hillcrest Terrace, Ellinwood Avenue, Grandview Heights, Maggies Way, Perry Hill, Blush Hill, Swasey Court, Colbyville, Mill Village, Ripley Road, Sweet Road, Guptil Road, and Barnes Hill.

Thanks so much to the Program Committee for the hours of work they did on this program. To Skip Flanders and Jill Chase who assisted us.

January Meeting
The Waterbury Historical Society on January 25 will present the program "Mysteries of the Waterbury Inn". In this program Brian Lindner will tell us about the new evidence and show photographs that have come to light, but will the cases ever be fully solved?

Built in 1865 the Waterbury Inn grew and expanded over the decades to become a "destination" resort. The Inn was located near the train station. On St. Patrick’s Day in 1950 the partially clad body of the owner was found in the snow behind the Inn. Three years later the Inn burned to the ground in a massive fire.

The program will take place on January 25 at 7pm in the Steele Community Room at the Waterbury Municipal Building. A brief business meeting of the Historical Society will precede the program. The program is open to the public and free. It is handicapped accessible. Light refreshments will be served. We will have for sale some books and DVD.

New Members

Susan Chalmers, Waterbury
Donations

Elaine Beal: Train Project donation
Larry Clough, Texas: Theron Clough’s Waterbury High School diploma; Bronze Star citation; Franklin Roosevelt’s letter on Theron’s death; 10 photographs which included Theron in military, with his wife & with his brothers; his Purple Heart, Bronze Star, Good Conduct medal, South Pacific Medal, Victory Medal (Theron Clough was killed in WWII)
Jill Chase: Big Band – Harwood Union Poster; Class of 1973 Commencement Program
David Cutter: Newsletter donation
Brian Lindner: 2 Waterbury Inn Postcards; Green Mountain Club article on William Monroe; copy of a photograph of Tale Mine; numerous copies of newspaper articles for various files
W. Wendell Lowe: Oak dresser made in 1880s by his great-great grandfather, Isaac Elliott
Linda Kaiser: Milk bottles: round quart, Crossman Dairy, amber half gallon Winnisquam, quart cream top Winnisquam, pint Whiting Milk, pint Moody’s Milk
Robert Finucane: Framed 18” x 3’ photo of Waterbury Dam under construction
Camille Mason: 1970 & 1972 HUHS yearbook
Jeff Smith: Two store ledgers from J.D. Smith
Brenda Walbridge: 1958 WHS yearbook; Anson Dwire NRA medals, tie clip & cuff studs; 1968-9 Vietnam lighter; 1934 Class Day Program; Royal Atkins’ 1934 graduation invitation; 1934 WHS Prom dance card; William Michand’s birth announcement; 5 x 7 James Pratt; 1960 yearbook; Harold Atkins’ baptismal certificate; Harold Atkins’ diploma; Class of 1961 reunion; Royal Atkins’ High School Essay; 1946 & 1947 letters by Royal Atkins; 1939 National Guard Yearbook including the Waterbury Guard photos and with personal photos in the back which include Royal Atkins and Rex Morse among others & 8 x 10 photo of Royal Atkins in uniform
Stewart Williams: 4 x 6 & 5 x 7 Bank Hill/South Main; 4 x 7 of Advent Church, Colbyville; 4 x 6 & 5 x 7 Stowe Street; 2 x 7 panorama of Smith & Somerville to Congregational Church; postcard of Moody House; 3 postcards of street scenes
Gordon & Theresa Wood: Newsletter donation

In Memory

Jean M. Trask
May 6, 1929 - May 2, 2016

Jean M. Trask, the daughter of Stanley and Mary (Marshall) Guptil, was born May 6, 1929 in Waterbury. She died May 2, 2016 at Gifford Medical Center in Randolph. Having grown up on Butler Street in Waterbury, she attended school in the Village and was a member of the Class of 1947 from Waterbury High School. She was married to Irwin “Pete” Trask on September 16, 1948 in Waterbury. After their marriage the Trasks lived in W. Lafayette, IN for 2 years, then moved to Hartford, CT for 3 years. In 1954 they moved back to Middlesex, VT and then in 1957 moved to Randolph Center. Jean was a member of the First Congregational Church of Randolph Center where she played the organ and sang in the choir. She loved cooking, knitting, playing the piano and organ, and playing bridge. She was a member of the Waterbury Historical Society

She is survived by her sons; Kenneth I. Trask of E. Montpelier and Douglas M. Trask of Randolph, a daughter Kathy Trask-Bettis of Randolph Center, 2 grandchildren and 4 great-grandchildren. She was predeceased by her husband in 1994, a brother Walter Guptil and a sister Carolee Lafayette.
Mary Dow Bassett
December 13, 1925 - December 12, 2016

Mary Dow Bassett was born in Waterbury Center, Vermont on December 13, 1925, one of six children to Earl and Lillian (Sanborn) Dow. She died in her sleep on December 12, 2016. Mary was a graduate of Waterbury High School, Class of 1943. She attended the University of Vermont and became a dental hygienist. She loved her family and Vermont roots deeply, taking pride in skiing Mt. Mansfield before there were any lifts. She was a world traveler, often with her sisters, nieces and close friends. She spent much of her life in Westminster, Massachusetts.

She is survived by two sons, Jeb and his wife, Mel, of Saco, Maine, Joel and his wife, Kim, of Cape Elizabeth, Maine, as well as four grandchildren. She also is survived by her brother, Calvin Dow and sister, Veiva Knapp, both Waterbury Historical Society members.

Mary’s ashes will be interred alongside her parents in the Maple Street Cemetery in Waterbury Center in the summer of 2017.

**Letters to the Editor**

October 2016
To Linda, Editor

Sam Parks was my classmate, Waterbury High 1938. When my lifelong friend left for the spirit world he took with him an enigmatic conundrum. Why, for 95 years, was he the only man in Waterbury with dark brown hair that never turned grey or white!

Calvin Dow is the last man alive from Class 1938. Who are the women? Maybe Linda could answer those two questions. The Connecticut Motor Vehicle Department sold me my drivers license (Mercury Marquis) that expires in 2020 – age – 100.

Your Connecticut Member
Calvin Dow

(Editor's Note: I checked with Nancy Patterson of the Alumni Association and after discussion have found that Calvin is the lone member of the Class of 1938.)

October 28, 2016

Dear Linda Kaiser:

Two of my older cousins who have spent considerably more time in Waterbury than me, are on your Waterbury Historical Society newsletter list. Stanley Ather brought to my attention several errors in the letter that I wrote dated September 8, 2016. The most blaring mistake was the reason the Demeritt factory closed.

Here is a list of corrections/additions.

1. A fire was not the reason for The Demeritt factory closure. It was shut down and sold because the clothes pins being manufactured could no longer compete with cheaper imports. Stanley indicated that all of the buildings were still intact when it was sold. It is unclear why I thought the factory had a fire ... faux memory or misinformation from some other source or mixing up facts. I was so convinced that it never occurred to me to check with the "experts" first ... a mistake I shall try to avoid in the future.

2. Ruth Madeline Stewart Ather Demeritt was a book keeper, not a secretary for Demeritt Company. Had I simply written, "she was an employee", that mistake would have been avoided.
3. While James Robert Stewart, Sr. was a meat cutter for some period of time at Smith's Grocery store (building demolished for the bridge construction) at the south end of Main Street, I was instructed that he worked at Rock of Ages of Waterbury for a long time as a granite polisher until the Waterbury facilities closure.

4. Addition: Stanley indicated the clothes pins were made from yellow birch.

5. Mom did say that Grampie Jim walked or rode a bicycle everywhere he went. The implication was for activities in Waterbury. Of course he would have had to hitch a ride if working any distance away from the town, since he never owned a car.

Regards,

Denton Conrad

Who Are They?

There are no names on these photos – does anyone recognize them?
Robert Duffus 1905

Sometimes an individual’s collection is not extensive, but still tells a great deal about the person. Robert Luther Duffus is one of those individuals. If you have ever read his book, “The Waterbury Record” then you know a little about R.L. Duffus from his Waterbury stories. His collection consists of books that he wrote and a graduation photograph of him. His photograph can also be found in the Waterbury High School class pictures.

Robert was the son of John and Nellie (Graves) Duffus and was born in Waterbury on July 10, 1888 on his grandfather’s farm. His younger years were spent in Williamstown of which he wrote a book. The family moved back to Waterbury about 1901, where they had relatives which were Robert’s grandmother and aunt. They lived in the family home at 27 North Main Street across the street from Dr. Henry Janes’ home.

Robert knew Waterbury and the people of the Village quite well by the time he graduated Waterbury High School in 1905 with his five classmates.

Robert started working for Harry Whitehill at the Waterbury Record office, first as a delivery boy, then a typesetter, reporter, and janitor during his high school years. That was also how he acquired the title for his book about the town. When he wrote the book, some of the people were named like Harry Whitehill, Henry Janes, some of his school friends and others, but some have the names changed. The interesting part of this was that when I was indexing the Waterbury Record twenty-five years ago, I begin to find the real people behind the stories when I was finding the actual articles. I often wondered why he hid some identities and others were left with their true name. It is a fun look into the town’s past from a teenager’s viewpoint.

After Robert graduated, he attended Leland Stanford University in San Francisco. He was not alone there as his older brother, William, who graduated Waterbury High in 1903, lived in the area with their father, as John and William had moved to California in 1905 due to John’s health. While Robert was there, one of the worst earthquakes (1906) hit the area and he wrote home vivid stories of what had happened. He was to remain at Stanford for five years while pursuing a Master’s Degree in History. While there his father died October 8, 1907 of edema of the lungs believed to be caused by his work as a granite polisher.

Following graduation from Stanford, Robert started working for San Francisco Bulletin as an editorial writer for eight years. He then worked for the San Francisco Call in 1918 to 1919. On February 23, 1914 he married Leah Louise Deane in Palo Alto, California. They had two daughters, Nairne and Marjorie. His daughter, Marjorie was named after his younger sister, who had graduated Waterbury High School in 1910.

Leaving California in about 1919, they moved to New York City where Robert worked for the New York Globe. Eventually, he became a part of the editorial staff of the New York Times. He retired in 1964 and he and his wife began to travel more. They also moved from Weston, Connecticut to Palo Alto, California. He was
quoted about his retirement, “I am glad I did not stay home and learn how to knit.”
Some of the books he wrote:

Robert Luther Duffus died on November 28, 1972 of congestive heart failure in Palo Alto. A quote from his obituary read: “He was tall, thoughtful, alert man; a complete Vermonter and a complete newspaper man. He was philosopher, historian and a man whose sense of humor was sometimes surprising.”

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**Standard Hospital Asylum and Institution Directory**
**Standard Publishing Co.**
**1928**

Information on Vermont Institutions is on pages 71-72 in this book.

Vermont State Hospital – Waterbury – Capacity 3500 patients. 200 yards depot wing. Dr. E. A. Stanley, Superintendent; 900 patients, 160 employees, 4 physicians; training school for nurses. Weekly dance and movie for patients; married quarters for employees. Uniform: women - plain, 4 thread gingham, gathered skirt, white collar, cuffs, plain apron gathered in three inch band; men - white coats. Duty Hours: 14 hours night; 10 hours days. Time Off: 1 day a week, 3 hours a day; night shift attendants 1 night a week. Monthly Salaries: Superintendent $300; Assistant $166; Physicians $137; Steward $125; Clerk $150; Assistant Clerk $62.50; Stenographer $70; Storekeeper $50; Dietitian $100; Farm foreman $120; Gardner $45; Dairymen $92; Engineer $141; Electrician $135; Plumber $75; Carpenter $108; Painter $75; Mason $50; Laundryman $60; Laundress $65; Upholsterer $60; Supervisor $87; Assistant Supervisor $50; Night Supervisor $75; Matron $94; Supervisoress $75; Occupational therapist $75; Domestics (phone, dining room help, laundry help, etc.) $37.50-$50; Cooks $45-$75; Firemen $62.50-$81.25; Farm laborers (unskilled labor on farm and ground, teamsters and truck drivers) $45-$50; Butcher $62.50; Baker $75. Attendants: $45 – $50 men; $35 – $45 women; with pay raised $2.50 a month to $40 and $45 respectively, then $42.50 and $47 in 6 months; to $45 and $50 in one year.
Night attendants: $6.25 additional to all pay schedules.
Nursing graduates: men $62.50; Women $51.25. Payroll $9000.

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Robert L. Duffus
Starting in 1920 I have seen generations come and go. One evening in the winter of 1920 the temperature was 40 degrees below zero and my age was 10. I was walking from my Maple Street home down to my father’s Center Market which closed at 9:00 PM. The road was not plowed; it was packed down by a large, heavy wood roller pulled by four horses. My footsteps elicited complaints. The snow said, “It is so cold that when you step on us the pain makes us shriek and creak.” There was no man-made light pollution so the stars and the constellations seemed so close and absolutely clear. Also no man-made noise pollution so the quietude was all encompassing. From the stark beauty of Mother Nature I stepped into a total man-made environment created from E.C. Dow’s Meat Market started in the year 1918. The center of the large room was dominated by the red, potbelly wood-fired stove, flanked by a few chunks of wood. The six comfortable wood chairs were occupied by four card players around a card table and two regular habitués. The natives all smoked pipes, cigars, cigarettes or chewed tobacco or put Copenhagen snuff inside their lower lip. The last two required a pail half full of sawdust, the spittoon. They had no clue that they were destined to premature death of nicotine poison. Their second class citizen wives were engaged in some form of the hundred year wars to win for women the human rights that were denied to them by the male dominated society.

On the counter a twenty pound wheel of cheddar cheese sat next to a tray of pork rinds related to bacon rinds. Near them was a ceramic jug of pickled tasty tripe. Two large, walk in refrigerators contained the dressed hanging bodies of deer from the November hunting season. Venison stew was a favorite, likewise, rabbit and pheasant.
month of March. This would lead into the Mud Season (the 5th season for Vermont farmers). May 1st the big one, opening day of the trout fishing season. At the crack of dawn my brother and I would arrive at Gold Brook to fish for the wily, beautiful, red speckled trout and the bigger brilliant rainbow trout. It would be 32 degrees and ice would form at the tip of the bamboo fish pole. By the time we finished fishing the sun would be busy spreading some welcome warm rays. By noon we were home dressing the trout, my mother fried them and we all savored that unforgettable taste of Springtime in Vermont. We count our blessings.

Fred Buzzell fished for brook trout and played cards at the Dow’s Center Market- 1925

**Dues**

Check your mailing label. If it does not read 1/1/2018 or higher, you owe dues.

One person $10.00 per year.

Couple living in the same household $15.00 per year.

**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. Please send any stories, photos and comments for the next newsletter by March 25, 2017.

Email: archivistwaterbury@yahoo.com or by regular mail: Linda Kaiser
22 Butler St.
Waterbury, VT 05676

Waterbury Library in 1927.
Photo by Henry Sylvester
Photos by Henry Sylvester

Waterbury Library in 1927

Waterbury Library in Winter, March 1929
WATERBURY HISTORICAL SOCIETY
MEETING
Steele Community Room
October 26, 2016   7PM

42 in attendance

Business Meeting was called to order by Jane Willard,
BOD Chair

1. Secretary's Minutes
There still is no secretary, so there were no minutes taken
at the July meeting.
Jan Gendreau filled in for this evening.

2. Treasurer's Report-Paul Willard
Total of all accounts is $90,659.69.  For more details please
attached.

3. Outreach Committee Report-Jane Willard
-Oral history interviews are on- going and most enjoyable
to those participating.
-A trivia question will be posted on Front Porch Forum
every two weeks.  Skip Flanders is helping with the
research.  Answers and info are posted on our website.

4. Curator's Report-Jack Carter
-The museum guest book indicates visitors from all over
the country.  Exciting!
-The Waterbury time line panels from the Vt. History Expo
are now installed in the museum.
-Wendell Lowe has donated a bureau made by his great
grandfather, Isaac Elliot, a local furniture maker.  It will be
exhibited in the museum in the near future.

5. Archivist-Jane Willard
Cataloguing continues!

Meeting adjourned at 7:10

The Program Committee presented “How the Streets Got
Their Names”  (Second installment)

Respectfully submitted,
Jan Gendreau, interim secretary

Board of Directors, Officers and Committees
April 2016 – April 2017

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Steve Van Esen, Jane Willard, Jan Gendreau

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Webmaster: Paul Willard
http://www.waterburyhistoricalsociety.org/

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

Email: Waterburyhistoricalsociety@gmail.com
Waterbury Historical Society Winter Meeting
Community Room at Waterbury Municipal Center
28 North Main Street
Wednesday, January 25, 2017, 7 pm
Program: "Mysteries of the Waterbury Inn" with Brian Lindner

Waterbury Historical Society, Inc.
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Waterbury, VT 05676-0708