

Waterbury Historical Society

Spring 2017

Volume 18, Number 2

Waterbury, Vermont 05676

We Are So Very Grateful

By Jill Chase

The unimaginable is about to happen. Linda Kaiser is retiring from her job as archivist for the Waterbury Historical Society at the end of April.

Linda joined the society in 1993 and over the next two and a half decades has at various times served on the membership, program and fundraising committees and held the positions of secretary, co-president, editor of the newsletter (which she founded in 2000), and archivist. She has helped produce and edit books – Civil War Volunteers from Waterbury, Vermont & Duxbury, Best of the Newsletter, Vol. I, Stories of Waterbury People & Places: Best of the Newsletter, Vol. II, as well as Cemeteries of Waterbury and Duxbury, Vermont. And she co-authored Waterbury Bridges the 20th Century with Jack Carter and Lorraine Fava.

In 2009, she received the “Individual Achievement Award” from the Vermont Historical Society, which sums up many of the contributions Linda has made to Waterbury: “With countless hours spent, she has helped the society to grow dramatically and to make their collections far safer, better documented, and more accessible. Her many projects have included the complete reorganization of the paper & photographic collection which includes thousands of items, creation of a quarterly newsletter, research and multiple publications on Waterbury men in the Civil War. She researches and answers all website inquiries, serves as a guide to visitors, and has created a detailed index of the old Waterbury Record newspaper . . .”

Brian Lindner, who has worked with Linda for a long time, remembers the hundreds

of hours Linda spent sitting at a microfilm viewer to do that indexing of the Waterbury Record. Anyone who has had the dubious pleasure of having to read old newspapers in this form knows how dedicated you must be to do it for very long. Brian has this to say: “Her knowledge of Waterbury history is encyclopedic. I don’t think I have ever stumped her on any question. She knows throughout Waterbury history who was related to who. I think she has almost every piece of the WHS collection committed to memory. I always think of her as very quiet, but super competent in anything she tackles.”

Skip Flanders, another colleague of Linda’s, agrees 100%. “Given Linda’s memory and longtime association with Waterbury history, she is a virtual ‘time capsule’, holding all the past secrets of the town.” He tells of the many times when someone needed historical information that was stored in the vault at the library, and the library was closed, and Linda would troop over to retrieve what was called for. She led a group that helped restore the Demeritt cemetery on Blush Hill near the old Fireman’s Camp. Skip also noted that though Linda has got the Past Perfect computer catalog for the collection up and running, it is no substitute for the woman who made it all happen. She is so passionate about Waterbury’s past that all it takes to put a big smile on her face is to give Linda a new tidbit of local history. He feels that, “Well done, good and faithful servant”, certainly applies to Linda’s service to the Waterbury Historical Society.

On the side, Linda runs the local genealogical group that meets monthly at the Waterbury Public Library. The group is warm and laughs a lot, which I think is a reflection of

its leader. This is a place you can still meet up with Linda and ply her for information. Brian says her knowledge of how to use Ancestry.com to the max is extremely helpful.

Linda grew up in Waterbury, and though she's lived in far-flung places like Hawaii, she returned to stay right here to raise her children and help her husband and family.

By all rights, Linda should be leading the next Not-Quite-Independence Day parade as Grand Marshal for all she's done to preserve Waterbury's history. But it's very doubtful she'd ever agree to such an honor. Linda says that's not why she's dedicated the time and effort that she has. It's because she cares. She cares about Waterbury, and all her people, past, present, and future. And we are awfully lucky she does.

WHS Winter Meeting

By Betty Jones

The WHS Winter Meeting was held January 25 at the Community Room, Municipal Building with 79 attending. Brian Lindner guided us through the Waterbury Inn's history, the incidents surrounding it, and cases that will likely never be fully solved. The DVD presentation and pictures were outstanding. We thank Brian for another great program.

The program committee was in the building setting up and unaware of the parking problem. We understand some were unable to come to the program. We are so sorry and apologize.

Grange Hall Cultural Center Hosts Spring Business Meeting And Program by George Woodard

By Betty Jones

The Historical Society is excited to partner with the Grange Hall Cultural Center for the annual spring business meeting and program, "An Evening With George Woodard." The

Grange will host the program in its first floor gallery space on April 26, 2017, from 7 – 9 pm.

George Woodard, whose family has been actively farming on Loomis Hill in Waterbury Center for more than 100 years, is perhaps best known to local residents as an actor, award-winning filmmaker, and founder of the Woodchuck Theater Company. His 2009 feature-length film, "The Summer of Walter Hacks", which takes place in 1952 small-town Vermont, was shot primarily on location at the Woodard Farm. It tells the story of 11-year-old Walter Hacks, who works on his father's farm with his older brother. When tragedy strikes the family, this imaginative and guileless boy is forced to grow up quickly.

Woodard's Woodchuck Theater Company produces the Groundhog Opry, just recently in its second "last" tour through Waterbury. This stage production models itself on an old-time variety radio show format, in the vein of such classics as the old TV show Hee Haw and WDEV's Music to Go to the Dump By.

In this Historical Society program, Woodard will share his interests, experiences, current and future projects, and lessons learned. The program will be preceded by the spring business meeting and annual elections for various volunteer posts within the Historical Society.

The event is free and open to the public. Light refreshments will also be served. General parking is available around the Center triangle and at Hope Davey Park; handicapped parking is reserved at the Grange parking lot.

New Members

Bill April, Waterbury Ctr.
Clem & Donna Despault, Waterbury
Sidnia Orton Gordon, Waterbury
Herschelle Murry, Waterbury
Donald & Cecile Phillips, Florida
Carolyn Ritter, Waterbury

Donations

Kenneth Bassett: Photograph of the Town House; pamphlet of the George Bassett Farm; old newspaper articles; his genealogy notebooks which include Waterbury lines

Jack Carter: 2002 Harwood Union Yearbook; Sue Minter poster

Calvin Dow: Cash donation

Rozanne White Faulkner: "Life in Time, Lost Line of Mayflower William White" (White Line came to Waterbury)

Deanna French: Donald Morse's Vietnam era uniforms; two framed photographs of Donald Morse in uniform & copies of his discharge papers; David Morse's World War II Bond

Harold & Shirley Grout: Cash donation

Marty & Sue Johansen: Cash donation

Brian Lindner: Charles Doherty story; copies of clippings for the files; Waterbury Village Fire Department anniversary glass; Derby & Ball: stickers for scythe snaths, stickers for mailings, several types of letter head & an envelope, several types of sales receipts

Sharon MacMahan: Newsletter sponsor

Queen Esther Eastern Star: Cash donation

Nancy Stanley: Two scrapbooks of Waterbury news clippings and WWII letters

Chris & LeAnn Viens: Cash donation

K. Alan Wallace: Two Winnisquam Farms milk bottle slips to order products

Gordon & Theresa Wood: Poem by George M. Wood; newsletter sponsor

RETURN EMPTY BOTTLES DAILY

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Please leave the following in addition to my regular order

Name _____

Address _____

EXTRA ORDER

_____ Quarts Milk

_____ Pints Milk

_____ Pints Cream

_____ 1/2 Pints Cream

_____ Buttermilk

_____ Orangeade

_____ Lemonade

_____ Tomato Juice

_____ Chocolate Milk

_____ Cottage Cheese

_____ Lbs. Butter

_____ Call to Collect

Winnisquam Farms Bottle form
donated by K. Alan Wallace

Letters to the Editor

Jan. 21, 2017

Hi Linda,

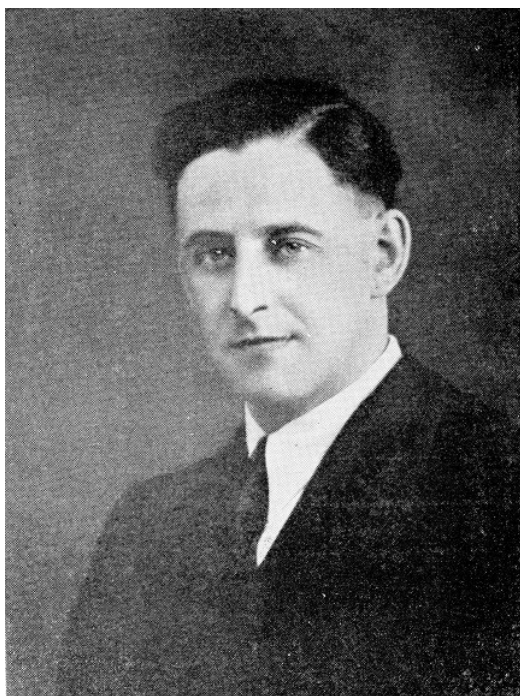
Excellent article by you about Mr. Duffus. I read one of his books – "That Was Alderbury" published in 1941. Set in a small Vermont farm in 1898. Think about Elderbury, Alderbury – Waterbury + Alderbury. A young Vermont school boy growing up in a small town where men worked on farms and Italian and

Scottish granite sheds where they coughed themselves into fatal lung disease. Near the train station was a round table for reversing engines. Four young strong boys could push that table around if there was no train on it. Chores were bringing in wood for the big black kitchen stove, bringing in water to fill the stove reservoir and tea kettle. Mr. Duffus writes good, interesting, historical adventures.

Your Connecticut Member,
Calvin Dow

Our Principal

By Angeline Ducas
Class of 1937
From 1937 "Airwaves"



Dascomb P. Rowe

When the war clouds were gathering in riot-stricken Cuba in 1897, and America was feverishly contemplating the situation, a son was born on the fourth day of September to Edward and Mary Ricker Rowe in the peaceful village of Groton, Vermont.

Dascomb P. Rowe, the eldest in a family of five boys and three girls, received his early

education in the graded schools of Orford and Sutton, New Hampshire and in 1915 was graduated from Peacham Academy. The following year he entered the University of Vermont where he majored in Mathematics. At college he was active in class basketball, baseball, and debating.

When the United States entered the World War in 1917, "Dac" was one of the first to answer the call to duty. Although only a Sophomore in college, he enlisted in June 1917 and served his country loyally till May 1919. In spite of his unwillingness to talk a great deal of this epoch in his life, we received from reliable sources incredible proof of the horrors and cruelties which he suffered at the front, and as students of Waterbury High School, we admire him for his modesty.

In September 1919 he returned to college, earned a berth on the varsity track and cross country squads, and was welcomed into the Phi Mu Delta fraternity. In 1921 he was graduated from the University with a Bachelor of Arts degree and immediately accepted a position at Orleans, Vermont where he taught for five years.

On the twenty-sixth day of December 1921 he was married to Ruth McLachlan of Peacham, Vermont. During sixteen years of marriage life there have been born to Mr. and Mrs. Rowe two daughters and two sons, three of whom attend the Waterbury Junior High and Graded Schools. In June 1926 Mr. and Mrs. Rowe moved to Waterbury where Mr. Rowe accepted the principalship of Waterbury High School.

During his career at Waterbury, Mr. Rowe has earned the esteem and admiration of the townspeople and the student body. As a father, the students of Waterbury High School honor him; as a soldier they admire him; and as their principal they love and respect him. The 1937 eventfully marks the eleventh anniversary of Dascomb P. Rowe's service as principal of Waterbury High School. The whole student body extend their sincere congratulations and thanks in appreciation of his untiring efforts and daily guidance.

Photos Identified

Jim Lovely called to let me know that that he knew the identity of Photo #2 as Wayne Gilman and had even found the same photograph in the Waterbury High School yearbook. Wayne and Jim were both in the Class of 1951.

And the following identified Photo # 3:

Greetings,

I am sure you have by now fully identified Photo 3 in your Winter 2017 "Who Are They?" section. However, just in case you need confirmation of the identity of Kenny Gilman in Photo 3, I offer the following. My friend Edward Robbins, WHS Class of 1946, phoned me to ask if I recognized anyone in the photos. He went on to explain that he knew Kenny Gilman, photo 3, because he and Kenny served together in the National Guard. In fact, after the Waterbury unit was nationalized during the Korean War, they were sent to Camp Pickett in Blackstone, VA, where he and Kenny lived together for about a year. Because Edward does not have a computer, he was unable to email this info, so I told him I would do so for him. He has several stories about their experiences there, but I will not relate them now.

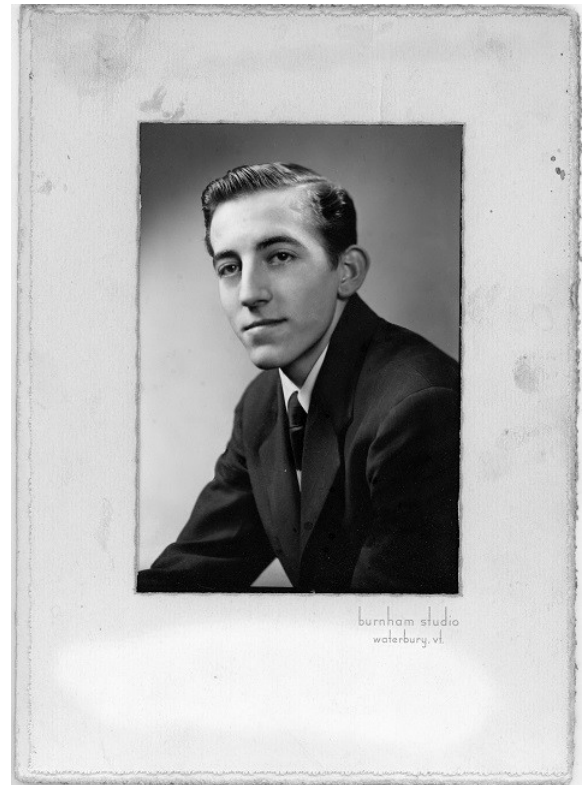
Sincerely, Jim Hanley

Editor's Note:

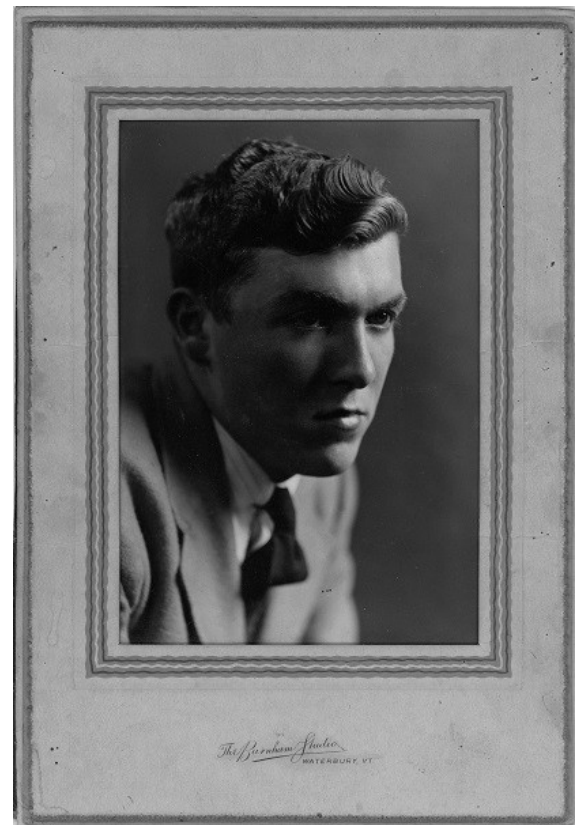
Thank you to all who replied. Gordy Wood, also, called and he was certain of the last name Gilman.

Kenneth and Wayne Gilman were brothers. Wayne died November 2016 and Kenneth in August 2015. For those of you who remember the Candy Kitchen, they were Al Gilman's brothers.

No one identified photograph # 1 of the younger boy.



Wayne Gilman



Kenneth Gilman

A Vermont Centenarian

By Calvin Dow

The last man still alive from the Waterbury High School Class of 1938. The last man veteran alive from Company B, Waterbury, in Quartermaster Regiment of New England that said goodbye to our women, March 1941. Jumped into our ten passenger trucks and said to blustery, chilblainy Vermont – “We will be back to see you in five years.” That is how long it took us to drive the Japs and the Germans back to the bombed out ruins of their own country. Then, that wonderful U.S. country with its Statue of Liberty gave those countries billions of dollars to restart a new life. No other country on this planet would ever display such compassion.



Yvonne in India 1942

Waterbury Quartermaster Supply Base #1 in Karachi, India received from the U.S. all of the components that were necessary to win the war in China, Burma and India. We were not in a combat zone so on Sundays I was able to meet and fall in love with a pretty Anglo-Indian woman age 20. I was biking on Elphinstone Street. Yvonne Jones came out of a Catholic Church, mounted her bike and gave me a tour of

the Parks of this city of one million, Hindus, Muslims and British. That is how it started. One year later the Colonel said, “I think you are getting a little too involved with Yvonne. I am going to summarily dispatch you to our Supply Base #3 in Kunming, China. They need your help to drive the Japs out of their country.” A lachrymose farewell to India and Yvonne!

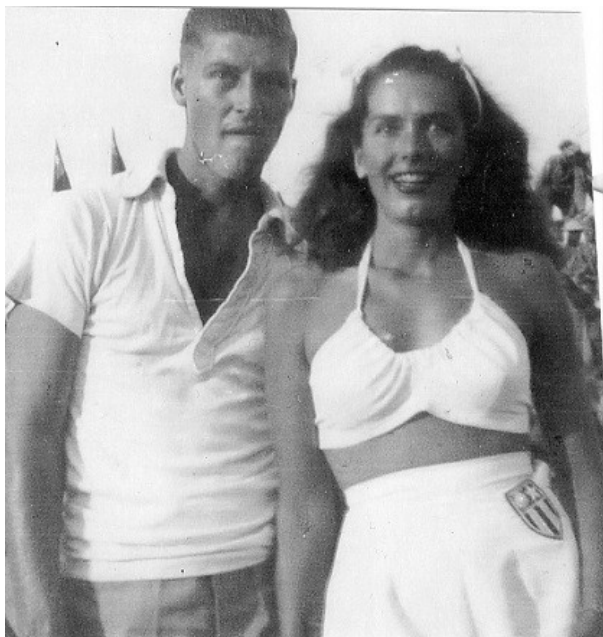
Cargo Plane C47 flew this Vermonter over the roof of the world, the Himalayan Mountains, the highest on the Planet Earth. This was combat country. Jap zero planes shot down our supply planes. This was the first of my four flights fraught with danger. The enemy was getting close. Everyone attached bayonets to their rifles and practiced a drill. This was face to face combat. Who would disembowel who?



With Stacey in China 1943

We had no army hospital in Kunming, a city of one million. For a root canal inflammation I was sent downtown to the office of a German Nun dentist. There I met Stacey Lee, a student of phonetics at Kunming University. While she was teaching me Yunnanese, the Provincial dialect

spin-off of Mandarin, I was teaching her English. I did not have to be taught how to fall in love with a lovely Asian woman with almond shaped eyes. Why are your eyes shaped different from my Caucasian eyes? She said - her ancestors came from Siberia and their eyes had to adapt to windblown dust in summer and glare from sunlight reflecting off snow in winter.



With Jinx in China

On Sundays I played tennis with Americans and Chinese and won a tournament. My reward was to play a tennis exhibition with Jinx Falkenburg, a famous actress who loved the game. She was touring with a group to raise the morale of our Soldiers, 12,000 miles from home.

Our nearest American Hospital was in Assam, India. That was my destination after a general practitioner doctor announced, "You will be incarcerated for one month after your surgery. The hospital with its thatched, leaky roof was 6000 feet high in the foothills of the mighty Himalayas. It was in the heart of the British Tea Plantation country. The patients said – welcome to Pilonidal Cyst Row. Riding in Army trucks and Jeeps with no springs sent many soldiers into surgery. It was a pleasure to talk with American and Philippine nurses.



Jinx flying at 19,000 feet with oxygen mask

Soon after my return to China the big news arrived. My orders from headquarters state – After three years in Indian and China your replacement soldier has arrived. You will fly to Agra, India to visit the Taj Mahal, on to Tehran, Iran to visit the Caspian Sea, on to Cairo, Egypt to tour by camel the Pyramids, on to Casablanca, Morocco and Ingrid Bergman, then the statue of Liberty and the USA! This Vermonter saw and did many things. He met some men and three women who helped to shape the way he would live to become a centenarian.

(Editor's Note: There is still one other person left from Waterbury's Company B Quartermaster Regiment and that is 98 year old Richard Abare, who grew up in Waterbury and was in the Class of 1939 of Waterbury High School. Richard was sent to the Pacific Theater along with a number of other Waterbury men (some who lost their lives) and was in battles of that Theater. Several months ago he was the subject of WCAX's Super Senior.)

Possibly One of the Oldest Items in the Collection

By Linda Kaiser

As I am retiring at the end of April, this will be my last article and I thought it would be of interest to our readers to know about one of the oldest and most unusual items in the collection. It is truly a museum piece.

After 1966 you might remember it setting on a shelf. It is the Santa Maria – a marvelous work of art with a remarkable history.

During World War II, it is a well-known fact that the Germans collected artwork from all over Europe after their invasions. With the end of the War, this ship was one of the items confiscated by the United States to try to find the original owners. It was known that it came from Italy – it has been surmised that it either came from a museum or a church, but those facts have

been lost in history.

How did Waterbury Historical Society receive the Santa Maria? The card that has been with the ship states:

“REPLICA OF THE SANTA MARIA

Carved over 200 years ago by an unknown Italian sailor. During World War II taken to Germany by the Nazis. Purchased by Clayton Jones when he served in Germany with the State Department. Purchased at auction by Lyle Woodward and then given to him by the Waterbury Historical Society in 1966.”

The card has missing pieces, apparently due to a rodent who was looking for bedding. Except for the mouse living onboard the ship for a while, no other damage seems to have been incurred. Wouldn't it be wonderful to know where the ship originally resided!



John Gibbs' House



John and Nancy Annette (Montgomery) Gibbs' house which was located where the Merchants Bank now sets. The front part of the house now sets on Laurel Lane. Nancy Gibbs was great grandmother to Fred & Gordon Wood and John Gibbs was great uncle to Don Kaiser.

George Bidwell's House



On far left the Mid State Bowling Alleys sign can be seen; next to it is Dr. George Bidwell's house and then Coffin's.



This is Dr. George Bidwell's house and his barn just before demolition. Dr. Bidwell kept cows and other livestock. His cows grazed on the field that is now Rusty Parker Memorial Park.

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

As newsletter editor over the years, I have had numerous contributors who have made the newsletter more interesting and I wish to thank all of them. There are also the people who would call me or email me to help with a photograph or to give more information on a story, and it was

always a pleasure to hear from those folks, and you all know who you are, so thank you.

As Archivist my job has been made simpler by the people who have assisted me with inputting data and by helping with research. We have made enormous progress in cataloging the collection. We now have 6700 items accessioned. Special thanks goes to my Assistant Jill Chase and my past and present volunteers, Robert Ayers and Joanna Caswell. Sandy Hough was hired two years ago to help catalog and she has done a tremendous job. Not only does she work through her paid hours, when those hours are completed she surpasses those hours by volunteering.

I would also like to thank Brian Lindner and Skip Flanders for answering research questions for people. They made my job so much easier.

Bill & Mary-Scott Mason's Plane



Thanks to Ann Mason Dedell

Waterbury Historical Society

January 25, 2017 Meeting – 7PM

Steele Community Room – Waterbury Municipal Center

Presiding: Theresa Woods, President

Present: approximately 80, members and public

Secretary's Report – minutes of the October 26th meeting were approved.

Treasurer's Report – Jan Gendreau reported, in the absence of the Treasurer Paul Willard, that there is a balance of all our accounts of \$97,440.34. Treasurer's report was approved.

Curator's Report - Jack Carter spoke about 2017 plans; perhaps moving some to the collection offsite that will increase our visibility and new display cases for the museum. Also the possibility of opening the museum on some Saturdays to help increase visits. The Isaac Elliot bureau is now in place. Thanks to Chuck Kletecka for helping to move it.

Recognition – Theresa spoke of Sandy Hough's good work in helping to document Waterbury Rotary's records into our database.

Waterbury Trivia – Skip Flanders spoke about Jane Willard's work regarding the trivia postings in the Waterbury Record, Front Porch Forum and selected places around town. This takes place every two weeks. He encouraged everyone to check it out. (Skip is also very involved with researching the trivia questions.)

Winterfest – Cheryl Casey spoke about the upcoming event and encouraged the Historical Society to put together a team to compete in the trivia game night on February 4th.

Program Committee – Betty Jones said the committee has been working hard. The April meeting program will feature George Woodard and will be held at the Grange Hall Cultural Center. Monica Callan wants to write a history of the Grange and asked anyone who has information to contact her. The July meeting will be the annual picnic with the program yet to be decided, perhaps Linda Radtke.

Program – Brian Lindner presented a fascinating account of the Mysteries of the Waterbury Inn. He has researched the Inn for decades and told of the early history, the 1950 death of the owner, Mrs. Pauline Gill Molony and the disastrous fire in 1953 that destroyed the building and caused the death of the hotel manager, Robert Molony. Meeting was adjourned at 9 PM. Next meeting will be on April 26th at the Grange Hall Cultural Center in Waterbury

Center.

Respectfully submitted,
Jack Carter

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April 2016 – April 2017

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Skip Flanders
Don Welch
Diane Gardner

Email: Waterburyhistoricalsocietv@gmail.com

Waterbury Historical Society Spring Meeting

Annual Meeting at
Grange Hall Cultural Center, Waterbury Center
Wednesday, April 26, 2017 7 pm
Business Meeting - Election
Program: An Evening with George Woodard



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