



OWASCOAG NOTES

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

<i>Beech Ridge School</i>	2
<i>Recent Donations</i>	2
<i>Genealogy Research— Family Files</i>	3
<i>Annual Meeting</i>	3
<i>Scarborough's Centenari- an, Mary Ann Water- house</i>	4
<i>Opening a Gate at Dun- stan Cemetery</i>	5

Meetings/Events

May 5, 2024
2:00 PM
Scarborough Public Library
*Looking at the Past for Scar-
borough's Land Conserva-
tion Future*

June 2, 2024
2:00 PM
Scarborough Public Library
*Farming in Maine at the
Time of Statehood*

Find us at the Lions Club
yard sale, Saturday, May
18th, 8:00 AM to noon.

COMING PROGRAMS: LOOKING AT THE PAST FOR SCARBOROUGH'S LAND CONSERVATION FUTURE; FARMING AT THE TIME OF STATEHOOD

In May Andrew Mackie, Scarborough Land Trust Executive Director, will present a mapping project recently completed by the Land Trust looking at development change in the town since 1970. He will use this data to support a bold conservation plan moving forward. This will include recently completed acquisitions by Land Trust and some in progress. Andrew will also discuss the Town Council's resolution regarding 30x30 and the current Open Space plan for Scarborough.



Warren Woods, Scarborough Land Trust



Oxen at work
SHS Archives

Farming methods at the time Maine achieved statehood differed vastly from how agriculture is practiced today. Agricultural historian Neil Piper's June presentation will look at how farmers eked a living from soil in Maine in the early 19th century and the role they played in Maine becoming a state. It will show how a Department of Agriculture was developed to support the growing agriculture industry.

IMPROVED ORDER OF REDMEN REVISITED: SUMNER HUNNEWELL

Many thanks to Sumner Hunnewell for providing additional information about the Improved Order of Redmen.

- They still exist in Maine: StateGreatCouncils (iorm.online)
- One of the organization's goals back then was taking care of orphans of deceased members (and burying members, if additional monies were paid when dues were due). I believe the Depression and government safety net legislation led to many fraternal organizations' declines. Today, they support Homes for Our Troops & Freedoms Foundation at Valley Forge.
- If a member was sick or stranded or "whathaveyou" in another town, they could apply to a local group for help. The other group (or "tribe") would telegraph the local group.

BEECH RIDGE SCHOOL UPDATE

KARLENE OSBORNE

Restoration of the 1860s one-room schoolhouse at 184 Holmes Road, Scarborough, continues. The mason has capped and pointed the chimney. An airtight membrane and vapor retarder sheet has been installed on walls and ceilings. Once interior partitions are completed, electrical wiring and plumbing can be started as donations allow. We have raised \$184,000 toward the original budget of \$280,000.



The Society is a 501(c)(3) non-profit. Please consider a tax-free donation to <https://www.gofundme.com/SHS-Restore-Beech-Ridge-School> or mail a check to Scarborough Historical Society, P.O. Box 156, Scarborough, ME 04070. We greatly appreciate your support.

Above: Beech Ridge School interior
Left: Beech Ridge School

Photos Karlene Osborne

Recent Donations

Don Taylor, Historian



Thank you to everyone who has kindly given and shared their treasures with the Scarborough Historical Society during February and March 2024. Items donated included:

Source	Donated Items
Gordon Carrier	Slides of Eight Corner School & Students
Alan Douglas	Scarborough High School jersey, books, & a booklet
Linwood Dyer	Photos - Berryman, Morse, & Smith; Church pamphlet (UMC)
Bruce Larrabee	Grange-related booklets
Cynthia Noyes	Various town reports & a booklet regarding the 1886 Tax Assessment Act

We are open Tuesdays (9 AM to noon) and the 2nd Saturday of the month (9 AM to noon). We are also available by appointment. Please email the museum (scarboroughhist@gmail.com) or call 885-9997 to make an appointment.

GENEALOGY RESEARCH—FAMILY FILES: DON TAYLOR, HISTORIAN

The Scarborough Historical Society has many resources for genealogy researchers. Resources include **SHS Family Files**, Digital Collection, Bill Tolman Memorial Database, Obituaries, Cemetery Records, Genealogies, Vital Records, and the Linwood Dyer Genealogy Collection.

My first recommendation for researchers is to review the material in our **SHS Family Files**. The **SHS Family Files Collection** comprises 647 file folders (about 15 linear feet) with information on various surnames and several key individuals. Besides specific details, the file folders often include pointers to other records, such as Vital Records. Several file folders have been digitized and are available electronically through our Surname Files Webpage. Contact the Society via email (ScarboroughHist@gmail.com) for the availability of the files not included on the Surname Files Webpage {Library | People | Surname Files}.

Next time, I'll briefly examine the **Digital Collection**, what is available, and how you can access that information.

Our thanks to Linda Broadwater & Betty McKown for their indexing of these folders.



ANNUAL MEETING

The annual meeting of the Scarborough Historical Society was held April 11, 2024, at the Scarborough Public Library. Fifteen members were present. In his opening remarks, President Rodney Laughton reported on many of the ongoing projects in which Board members and volunteers are involved:

- Beech Ridge Schoolhouse restoration
- Dyer House renovations and accessioning, genealogy, and archival work
- King Memorial Cemetery repairs and upkeep
- Alger Hall: ongoing purchase agreement
- Archival mile marker repairs and possible relocation at MMC campus on Rte. One
- Ongoing accessioning, cataloging, research, visitor tours, outreach programs

The Nominating Committee presented the slate of Officers and Directors for the coming year. Members present voted to approve the nominations.

- Officers (one-year terms): President, Rodney Laughton; Vice President, Bruce Larrabee; Secretary, Karlene Osborne; Treasurer, Joyce Alden; Historian, Don Taylor.
- Directors (two-year terms expiring 2026): Jan Makowski, Sarah Jane Matteau, Mary Pickard.

Updated By-Laws were presented by Don Taylor. After discussion, members present voted to approve the By-Laws with one abstention.

Centenarian, Mary Ann Waterhouse (1825-1928)

Linda Snow McLoon

We often hear of people reaching their 100th birthday, but when Mary Ann Waterhouse of Scarborough reached that marker in 1925, it was a big deal. A community celebration was held at the Knight's of Pythias Hall at Oak Hill, which included speeches, refreshments and a special gift to Mary Ann. Later that day, the woman known as "Scarboro's Grand Old Lady" was the guest of honor at a reception at her home on Scottow's Hill, where a birthday cake with 100 candles was served.

Mary Ann Waterhouse was born in Saco on April 10, 1825, the daughter of Robert and Mary Polly Spear. Speaking of the years before she married Isaiah Brooks in 1864, when she was age 39 and he was 48, Mary Ann commented that she had worked in every mill in Biddeford. The marriage did not last, and in 1873 Mary Ann married widower Alvan Waterhouse of Scarborough. Not having any surviving children of her own, the couple adopted Elmer Merrill when he was a baby. In later years she lived with Elmer and his wife. A delight in her declining years was the Merrill's baby daughter, Rosalie.

nd Press

LAND, MAINE, FRIDAY MORNING, APRIL 10, 1925

Scarboro's Oldest Citizen,
Mrs. Mary A. Waterhouse,
To Observe 100th Birthday

Recalls Girls Of Her Day Were "Doers"
Not "Goers" As Today---Reception
Planned For Tonight



Mrs. Mary A. "Auntie" Waterhouse, Scarboro's "Grand Old Lady," who is 100 years old today, with her little chum, Rosalie Merrill, nine months old.

Above: Mary Ann Waterhouse with Rosalie

Right: Mary Ann Waterhouse and flight companions

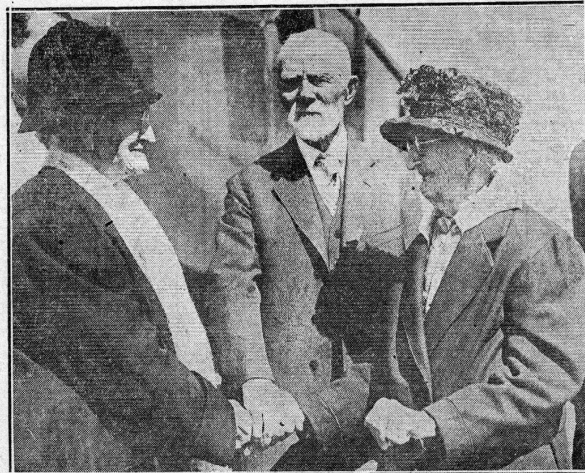
Hard work was never something to be avoided by Mary Ann Waterhouse. In addition to chopping up kindling wood, at age 102, she picked a hundred quarts of blueberries, created a crazy quilt of 999 pieces and several hooked rugs. At 101, she rode four miles in a snowstorm to attend exercises dedicating a new school in Blue Point, at which she delivered an energetic address to a large audience. Perhaps the most exciting event in Mary Ann's later years was an airplane flight over Portland in 1928.



Mary Ann Waterhouse chopping wood at age 102

When Mary Ann Waterhouse passed away on November 2, 1928, at age 103, she was in possession of Scarborough's Boston Post Cane signifying she was the oldest resident in Scarborough. She was also the oldest person in Maine.

Centenarians Passengers In Plane Flights



Back to earth again, Mrs. Almatia "Grammy" Bennett, 102, of Chicopee, Mass., Charles W. Bradley, 100, of Rochester, N. H., and Mrs. Mary A. Waterhouse, 104, of Scarboro, left to right, talk over the sensations of their flight over Portland Saturday. The centenarians are now confirmed aviation enthusiasts and look forward to the next opportunity to fly.

Opening a Gate at Dunstan Cemetery

Ron Romano

Under the large pine trees at Dunstan Cemetery's main paved drive is the Leavitt family lot. It's easy to find since it is surrounded by a handsome cast iron fence, the only one of its kind in the cemetery.

Four marble markers memorialize members of the Leavitt family interred within the lot. Elbridge G. Leavitt was the patriarch. He died in a tragic accident January 19, 1855, at the young age of 34. He worked for the railroad then and was responsible for the maintenance and repair of tracks. The regular morning train had left Portland for Boston that day. In addition to two engines and four passenger cars, a snow plough was attached to the front of the train. Shortly after embarking, the axle of the snow plough broke and the six-ton machine was thrown into the air, somersaulting and landing facing backwards fifty feet away. The forward engine came off the track and travelled one hundred feet before it overturned, breaking completely apart. The second engine also left the track but remained upright. Three of the passenger cars derailed, leaving the 150 passengers shaken but unharmed. One engineer was bruised but survived, a second was thrown from the wreck and so badly injured he lived only twenty



Leavitt lot, Dunstan Cemetery
(fence only one of its kind in cemetery)



minutes after being found. Elbridge Leavitt was eventually discovered crushed beneath the wrecked engine; he had suffered severe injuries and would have died instantly in the crash.

With his untimely death Elbridge left behind his 32-year-old wife Frances, 7-year-old daughter Mary, and 3-year-old daughter Frances. His 1-year-old son Elbridge Jr. had predeceased him by two years.

Iron fencing around cemetery lots was most popular in the nineteenth century. Many have not survived due to vandalism, theft and natural deterioration. It's nice to see that the Leavitt fence has fared quite well these past 170 years. A close look reveals three noteworthy details. First, the gate is decorated with a grieving infant, an image that usually suggests the death of a child. Elbridge Jr.'s 1853 stone is there. . .could he have been the inspiration for this design?

Second, the gate was forged with the family name, but it is misspelled as "Leavett." Hopefully, the fence maker gave the family a rebate for this error!

Third, the gate is dated 1855, which coincides with Elbridge's tragic death. So the fence—forged the same year Elbridge died—would have decorated the *original* burial place for him and his infant son. But that couldn't have been Dunstan, since Dunstan didn't even exist as a cemetery until 1878.

Elbridge's daughter Frances died in 1879 and his wife Frances died in 1880. They have matching stones within the lot, suggesting they were made at the same time in the same stone shop. I think they are at rest in their original graves at Dunstan, while Elbridge and his son were moved from elsewhere (along with the fence) around 1880.

I'll be visiting the Leavitt family on my tour of Dunstan Cemetery on Saturday, May 18. For tickets and more information please visit: <https://scarborough.maineadulted.org/>.

Ron Romano is a local cemetery historian and author of four gravestone-and cemetery-themed books. He designs tours of historic cemeteries in Maine and is a frequent lecturer on the subjects of Maine's old cemeteries, historic markers, and gravestone carvers.

Scarborough Historical Society & Museum
647 Route 1
Scarborough, ME 04074

Mailing address:
PO Box 156
Scarborough, ME 04070-0156

Phone: 207-885-9997

Email: scarboroughhist@gmail.com
www.scarboroughHistoricalSociety.org

Hours: 9:00 AM–Noon
Tuesdays & 2nd Saturday each month
Other days by appointment

Editor: Mary B. Pickard



Reminder: Our membership year is April 1 through March 31. If you have not yet done so, it's time to renew your membership. If you have been receiving this newsletter and are not yet a member of Scarborough Historical Society, please consider becoming one. Your membership supports the society's mission to collect, preserve and exhibit items of historical significance to Scarborough.

SCARBOROUGH HISTORICAL SOCIETY MEMBERSHIP FORM

Your contributions are tax deductible. We are a 501(c)(3) non-profit.
Membership year: April 1-March 31

207-885-9997

<https://ScarboroughHistoricalSociety.org>
scarboroughhist@gmail.com

Individual \$15 (65+...\$10)

Family* \$25

Student \$5

Life \$100 (Family...\$150)

Business \$50

Corporate/Benefactor (Annual)

Level I Cammock \$100-250

Level II Jocelyn \$251-500

Level III Scottow \$501-1,000

Level IV Owascoag Society \$1,000+

Gifts are tax deductible \$ _____

Date _____

Name _____

Street _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____ Cell _____

New Member Renewal

Email _____

*Family: 2 adults and children to 18

Make checks payable to
Scarborough Historical Society
P.O. Box 156, Scarborough, ME 04070-0156