



Waterville Valley Historical Society Newsletter
Volume 4, Number 1, February 2022

Dear Fellow Historians,

The WVHS Board sends you wishes for a very Happy New Year. May your year be filled with good health, and good times, with friends and family.

We apologize for the lateness of this Newsletter; what is usually a slow time for the Society has become an unexpectedly busy time. The mountain is not the only source of flurries. Our headquarters are a flurry of activity.

In an effort to get the skills needed for the projects we are working on, we have reached out to our community and formed partnerships. The partnerships are mutually beneficial; we gain the expertise we so sorely need, and in return, offer the opportunity for real life experience.

Member Harvey Gertel is working with teacher Lena MacLean from Plymouth Regional High School's Technology Integration and Media Arts Department, and her students, on our "Oral Histories of the Valley" project. The first interview was with "old timer" Bruce Andrew, aka "Bear"; it was conducted in the school's sound studio. The students are now in the process of editing the video. Our aim is to produce a series of video interviews. Some of the subjects we plan to focus on are: early life in Waterville, stories of the families who had cottages in the Valley as told by their descendants, development of the ski area and resort, and Waterville's part in the development of freestyle skiing. The videos will be made available in various venues for all to enjoy.

Our newly formed partnership with Plymouth State University has provided us with Intern Sydney Letters. Sydney, a senior in PSU's Communication and Media Program, brings with her a variety of skills. She took the lead on our recently completed exhibit in our "Little Museum at the End of the Road". Please stop by and check it out. It is located in the display window to the right of the post office. Sydney will also be working on our "Oral Histories" project.

Intern Sydney Letters, hard at work at our new exhibit



We are very fortunate to be the beneficiaries of the labors of Rick Kipphut, our intern from Keene State College. Rick has been very busy continuing "Anne the Archivist's" work archiving the collection. He can be found most Saturday mornings laboring over the computer at headquarters.

As always, we invite you to become more involved. We have many plans for future projects and would love to hear your ideas. If you have some spare time, and would like to meet your fellow historians, we have a place for you. Please contact us at vwhistorybuffs@gmail.com.

Our new supply of Society hats has arrived. Hats (\$20) and Notecards (\$10) can be purchased at Dreams and Visions in the town square. See pictures below.



Look for us at Town Meeting in March. We will give an update about the Society's activities.

History Tidbit: Winter Fun

As we enjoy a snowy winter with all the outdoor recreational opportunities, and watch the remarkable athletes in the winter Olympics, it is interesting to remember some early days of winter in Waterville Valley. I would guess that the early farmers did not enjoy winter much, but things changed by the mid-1800's when more people came to the Valley for recreation. For years, the Waterville Inn provided a warm base since most of the cottages were not winterized. In the late 1800's and early 1900's eager outdoor adventurers snowshoed, hiked and skied. We have photos of both men and women climbing mountains in the snow. For skiers, there were no lifts back then. Skiers like my Great Uncle Nathaniel Goodrich climbed Mt. Tecumseh with hides on their skis to grip the snow. At the top, they stowed the hides in a backpack and skied down the one ski trail that existed back then. We certainly have it easier today, but I like to think that there was joy in both the climb and the descent, and satisfaction in a winter day well spent.

Susan C. Scrimshaw

Please enjoy winter photos from our collection donated by
Jerauld and Sara Adams





THE "STEPS BRIDGE."
(SNOWING HARD.)



IN THE SLEIGH IN FRONT OF TECUMSEH COTTAGE
READY FOR DEPARTURE.



ON THE
ROAD
TO
CAMPTON

VIEW OF
THE ROAD
TAKEN
ABOUT
THREE
MILES
DOWN
FROM
WATERVILLE

Board of Directors:

President: Reggie Breeckner

Vice President: Susan C. Scrimshaw

Treasurer: Lori Horton

Secretary: Reva Gertel

Members at large: Jim Dunn, Beth Goldsmith, Charles Hastings, Rich Rita, Rob Wilson