

# No Name Newsletter

## THE NEWSLETTER REMAINS UNNAMED

### UPCOMING EVENTS

- Next Meeting May 9th at 7pm—Crossett Brook Middle School Cafeteria— Teachers of Duxbury Reminisce.
- Upcoming Newsletter—Duxbury during the Civil War—Please contribute any information you might have.

The first newsletter was well received by the membership of the Historical Society. Delegating the responsibility of naming the newsletter didn't yield a new moniker for the publication as we had expected. It was decided to leave the title as NO NAME NEWSLETTER until inspiration for a new name came to a member to present for a vote at a future meeting. So if you come up with a title that you

would like to use for the newsletter, don't be shy and nominate it at the meeting.

Some members have selected to receive the newsletter by email so they will receive their copy electronically. If we have more than one member at the same address we have sent one copy of this issue instead of two. If you would like to receive copies for each member, just let us know and we

will send them along. By all means, please let us know if we have missed anyone in the distribution.

The newsletter is always a group effort and we need your help for the next one. The subject will be Duxbury during the Civil War. If you have any information or photos that you would like to share, please contact Kelly or Maureen or bring them to the next meeting if that is more convenient.

## ROTARY HOME SHOW

The Rotary Home Show was held March 18th and 19th and was well attended by community members. The Duxbury Historical Society booth which resembled an old school room was well received by attendees. Several Society members including Don Welch, Mark Morse, Bonnie Morse, Eulie Costello, Betsy Allen, Kelly Welch, Mary Welch and Maureen Harvey took turns greeting the people as they stopped by the booth.

A 50/50 raffle was held in hopes to offset the expense of renting the booth space. The income and expenses were

close and the raffle was won by Greg Trulson.

Since the Historical Society is new it was a great opportunity

to make people in the community aware of its existence and recruit some new members.

### CAN YOU IDENTIFY THIS HISTORICAL SOCIETY MEMBER?



Last Issue  
Bob Morse



New member Anna Lamos stops by to pick up an enrollment card.

## COMMUNITY OF NORTH DUXBURY

It is sometimes hard to imagine that an area that is thought of as rural today had a bustling community in the early 1900's. Duxbury had several communities in town and one was North Duxbury.

Prior to the wide spread use of motorized vehicles most of what was needed was within a mile or two. An occasional trip to Waterbury for supplies only happened a few times a month if at all. If you were fortunate enough to attend high school you would make the week-day trip from Ridley Station on the train. The train was not only the school bus, but a link for the area mills to ship their materials out and the tourists to come in.

Many of the people in the area supplied logs to the mills or worked in the mills. On the brook not too far from the Camel's Hump turn was the home of the Duxbury Lumber Company, which supplied broom handles and chair stock in addition to lumber. It was owned by a Mr. Elliott from Burlington until he committed suicide because of the stock market crash in 1928. After that it was operated by Fred LeClair.

The area close to the base of Camel's Hump became known as Durkeyville after all the activity that surrounded the Durkee shingle mill in that area. That area was also the location of George Pape, one of the finest blacksmiths around. People would travel from miles around to use his services.

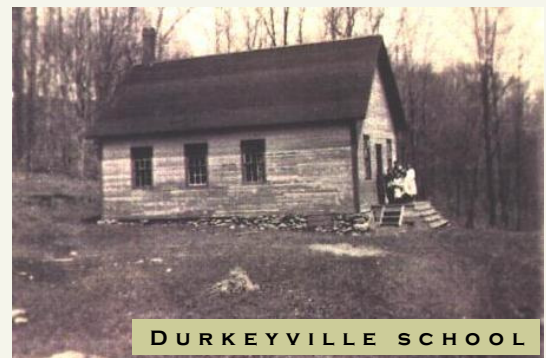
Samuel Ridley was an entrepreneur with a hotel at the base of the Camel's Hump road. He may have taken the entrepreneurial spirit a little too far when he announced to the world that he had discovered gold on one of his trips up Camel's

Hump. He prospered quite well when the people on the gold rush would stay at his boarding house and rent his wagons to make the trek up the mountain. After weeks of digging and paying board the prospectors finally gave up the pursuit and returned home. It was later discovered that the only gold that was ever on the mountain was the gold that was loaded into Ridley's gun and shot into the bedrock for all to see.

The open fields that you see in the photo on the opposite page held a baseball field for all the locals to cultivate their talent. Lynn Lewis recounts the stories of Lewis Morse obtaining his permanent limp from a spike holding the home plate timber and his father, Lynn Sr., playing semi-pro baseball. The area is now covered with trees. The Lewis's had a long history in the Duxbury community. Hiram Lewis obtained distinction when he shot a bear in 1872 and had the location noted in the land map of 1873. The Lewis family residence was also the location of the post office for the members of the community. Abel Lewis was also involved

in the community with his cider mill operation.

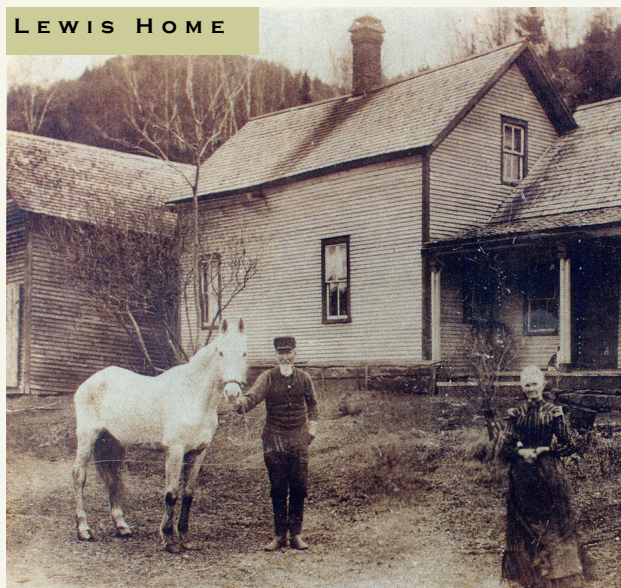
Mary Callahan Reagan has many fond memories of the years spent in North Duxbury. She was raised on the Callahan farm that was later sold to Professor Monroe and then became part of the State Park. She attended the one room school in Durkeyville that her father and grandfather helped to construct around 1896. She later at-



DURKEYVILLE SCHOOL

tended the North Duxbury School when they moved to Sam Ridley's boarding house and then on to Waterbury for high school. The flood took out the bridges while they were at high school in Waterbury. She spent time on bank hill until the water was too high and

they had to retreat to High Street and then take refuge in the school for several days. When it was finally time to go home most of the bridges were gone and she and Daisy Young had to crawl across the high train bridge to make it back home. They later received room and board from the generosity of Professor Monroe and his friends so they could stay in Waterbury and finish out the school year.



LEWIS HOME





View of the intersection of River  
Road and the Camel's Hump Road.  
(above)

The train station and businesses of  
North Duxbury (right)





## BOLTON DAM

The photo below is before the original dam at Bolton Falls was constructed in 1898 and 1899 by the Consolidated Lighting Company, a utility.



The dam was a rock filled timber crib structure. There is a lot to see in the picture below. First, note how the river has not been diverted to construct the dam, but the bottom of the dam has been built as a

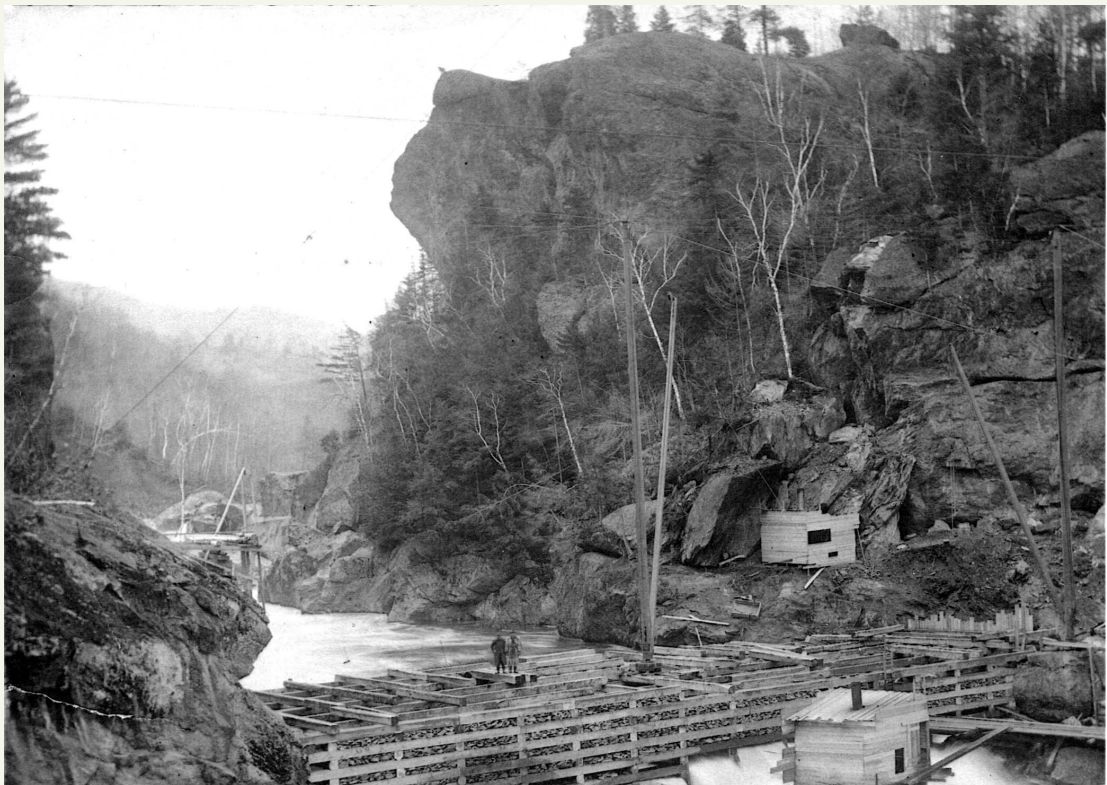
bridge, with the river allowed to flow underneath it. This does not allow the bottom of the dam to form a contiguous seal with the underlying rock, but causes it to depend heavily on whatever points of contact it has to resist any downstream push. This is practical if the forces can be safely vectored through those supports to solid ground and the structure on top is rigid.

Next, note the thickness of the structure. Assuming the men in the center of the picture are between five and six feet tall, the structure is no more than thirty feet thick, and five cribs are used in that span. This is a relatively thin dam, narrower than it would be tall. Also obvious in the picture is that there has been no attempt to use the timbers in such a way as to transfer the downstream thrust of

the river to the rock canyon or base of the dam. There is also no attempt to form triangular sections of cribbing, which would have had much greater lateral strength. The structural integrity of this structure is based on whatever has been used to pin the cribs together and the tight fit of the rocks. Without the rocks, the rectangular cribs could be easily deformed.

When the cribbing had reached full height, the dam was sealed and filled with water. I have not discovered the exact method used to seal the dam, but I suspect that sheathing was applied to the upstream side and rocks or rubble used to block off the bulk of the flow underneath the dam. Skip Flanders has informed me that the original hemlock planking used in the dam came from the nearby Preston Farm.

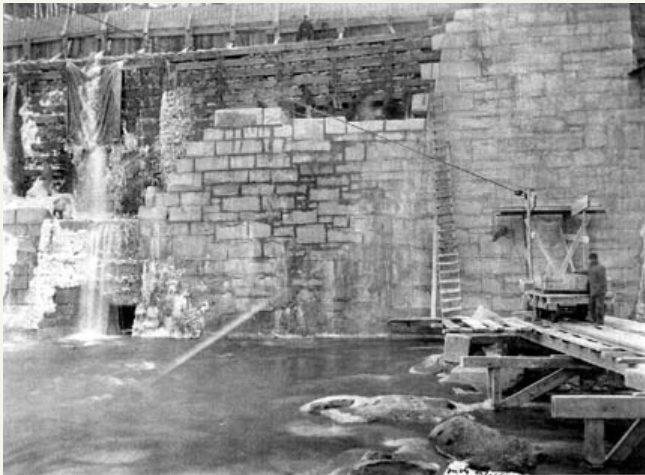
It was at this time that there was a near disaster, and an event that must have forever haunted the designer of the dam. The pressure of the water caused the cribbing to shift downstream, with part of it reportedly bowing eight feet downstream, and the top center of the structure sagging three feet as the rocks and the cribbing resettled.



I believe a lot of the movement was caused by the rocks within the cribs being placed flat, as one would build a

stone wall. This created a structure somewhat like a stack of coins, where side slippage is easy. Another factor may have been the type of rock used and its condition. If local fieldstone from surrounding stone walls was used, as was common practice, the rock fill could have been covered with a layer of moss and lichen that acted as a lubricant when it was turned into mush by the pressure and the moisture within the cribs. The narrowness of the dam was the third factor in the slippage. A wider, more conservative dam would have better resisted forces wanting to create movement through the mass of the structure.

Near panic must have reigned as the structure began to bow. An eight foot bow in a structure thirty feet deep substantially weakens it, and instead of the mass of stones holding back the river, a lot of the water pressure was having to be restrained by tension



on the pins in the wooden cribbing. Continued stress on those pins and the inevitable rotting of the wood would cause the dam to eventually fail.

It was decided that the solution to the problem would be to construct a masonry dam just downstream of the damaged structure. I am not sure of the thought process involved, but I imagine

the idea was to create the masonry wall (at great expense) and then backfill between it and the existing cribbing to transfer some of the load to the masonry. Adding more cribbing and stone might have been an alternate less expensive solution, but the thought of attempting to tie into that cribbing already under tremendous stress must have seemed too dangerous. Excerpts from Bolton Dam History—[www.electricrailroad.com](http://www.electricrailroad.com)

## Body of Lewis Morse Found Frozen in North Duxbury

The partially frozen body of Lewis Morse was found near his home in North Duxbury Saturday noon by Charles Sherman, road commissioner. The body had lain over night some 50 feet from the main highway where Sherman was plowing roads.

Mr. Morse, who lived in a camp some 60 rods from the home of Homer Kennedy had ridden to Waterbury Friday morning with Mr. Kennedy who spent the day auditing in Duxbury. Returning with him at night, Mr. Morse refused an invitation to supper with the Kennedys and while there he spoke of not breathing easily, something which had troubled him for a long time. Leaving about seven o'clock with a knapsack of groceries, and a small can of kerosene he got part way home when, evidently feeling badly, he turned to go back to the Kennedy home. Setting his oil can and knapsack down he travelled a short distance than fell face down in the snow with his arms under him. There was no evidence of a struggle and it is believed he died as he fell.

Though Mr. Sherman had been over the road twice, it wasn't until the second trip that he discovered the knapsack and oil can, and upon further investigation saw the corner of an overcoat flapping in the wind. The body was covered with snow.

Selectman Ray Davis was called to the scene and the body was removed in the V. L. Perkins ambulance.

Lewis A. Morse, son of Samuel and Rose (LaFlam) Morse was born in Bolton in May, 1874. He married Margaret Eaton of Waterbury who died years ago.

He is survived by an adopted son, Donald Morse, in Boston when last heard from in December, one brother, Frank Morse in California, three nieces, Mrs. John Beaton of North Duxbury, Mrs. Mabel Stewart of Montpelier and Mrs. Mildred Rand of Lake Placid, N.Y. and one nephew, Stanley Morse of Waterbury.

The funeral of Lewis A. Morse was held from the V. L. Perkins Funeral Parlor Monday afternoon at two o'clock, the Rev. Myron E. Genter officiating.

## M A N Y T H A N K S

It is a dangerous proposition to start thanking people because you always run the risk of forgetting someone. Newsletters and meeting programs are never the effort of just one or two people, but we would like thanks a few.

The efforts of Skip Flanders were greatly appreciated in providing us the program on Early Duxbury history for the last meeting as well a numerous photos for the newsletter.

In generating the newsletter on North Duxbury we decided to interview a few local experts. We were very fortunate to be able to have Ralph Davis, Mary Callahan Reagan and Lynn Lewis provide a wealth of information on the area.

To all the members that made donations for the town meeting food service that enabled us to raise \$136.00 and feed the attendees. Thanks to all.

L to R—Ralph Davis, Mary Reagan & Lynn Lewis





## PROFESSOR WILL MONROE

Excerpts from the Times Argus—August 4, 1967

Born March 22, 1863, Will Monroe became a teacher and for 40 years taught and was principal in Montclair, N.J. and in schools in Pennsylvania and California. In 1925 he retired and bought the Callahan farm where he could pursue his lifelong interest in nature and mountain climbing. He resented the name Camel's Hump as unworthy of his beloved mountain, which he rechristened Couching Lion and his farm was known as Couching Lion Farm. He planted thousands of trees, all listed with the Vermont Department of Forests and Parks. His garden flowers were many and varied, although he was especially interested in the cultivation of sunflowers and their medicinal uses. He was an ornithologist, making bird surveys in Vermont and New Jersey, and raising creamy ring-necked doves. A dog lover, he raised the first Great Pyrenees dog to be born in America and several other breeds. Nine of his

dogs are buried in the little cemetery where he and his sister, Katherine, rest, similar gravestones marking each burial spot. The inscription on his own stone reads "Will S. Monroe, 22 March 1863—29 January 1936. Teacher, author, trail builder, companion and lover of dogs." Near him rests Scottie "the beloved Collie of Couching Lion Farm 30 April 1925—29 Oct. 1930. Among the stars a star." His will provided for the care of the four dogs who outlived him and for their burial.

An omnivorous reader, he had 2,000 books in his home. His collection of Walt Whitman books was willed to Leland Stanford University and his books on dogs to the American Kennel Club.

He built the Montclair Glen Trail and shelter and numbered among his close friends, hikers and mountain lovers, including Judge Clarence Cowles, Theron Dean and J. Ashton Ellis who were named in his will as trustees of his estate. He recruited nature lovers and hikers, many of whom he entertained at the farm. His friends included students, doctors, lawyers and bank presidents. Charles Cummings once spoke of his "graciousness—that instant discernment which marks the perfect host.."

Professor Monroe belonged to many clubs and held office in many, yet he was something of a recluse and could be on occasion quite brusque in manner. He hated loud noise, litter and did not suffer trespassers silently. However, the children of his neighbors remember many kindnesses and how he entertained groups of them, reading to them and taking hikes on the mountain. Following the flood of 1927, finding that the North Duxbury children were unable to go

back and forth to school in Waterbury because of road conditions, he arranged for money for their room and board during the school weeks with Waterbury families.

He was a prolific writer on almost any subject. He wrote 600 articles, mostly about ferns on which he was an authority. His writings included several books, notably "The Spell of Bohemia and Bulgaria and her People." He lectured in California, New York, Vermont and various European cities. He made

14 trips to Europe and lived there six years. President Woodrow Wilson appointed him to the U.S. Peace Inquiry Commission and he was head of a sub-committee on the Balkans.

In his will he left the farm and public approach as a bird sanctuary, game refuge, wild flower, fern, shrub and tree preserve and public park. "All lovers of nature to be welcome and to enjoy same, but more especially needy teachers and librarians and students of nature be given first opportunity to occupy the house and summer annex."

The trustees finally turned the property over to the State of Vermont, and for the lack of funds, it has been allowed to fall into such disrepair that the buildings have all been taken down and the surroundings not kept up. The Department of Forests and Parks has tried repeatedly to get action from the Legislature without success, although it is still hoped that it may one day become a bird sanctuary. A trust fund administered by the Bank of Waterbury keeps the little cemetery in shape and the spot is often visited by tourists who expect to find a State Park there.



*Callahan Farm which was home of Professor Monroe & his dogs*

## TRAVEL DESTINATION - CAMEL'S HUMP

Portions of the Camel's Hump Club Booklet

**The Camel's Hump Club  
Send Greetings**

The Camel's Hump Club of Waterbury Vermont has issued this little booklet as a guide to those who wish to enjoy a period of rest and recreation amid the Green Mountains of Vermont.

It in no sense offers the ease and luxuries of the great houses of other mountain resorts, but to those who "love the call of the wilderness" and long to live close to nature in all her rare and changing beauties it comes as a distinct boon.

Towering over 4,000 feet above sea level, Camel's Hump is her splendid isolation, stands unique among the mountains of Eastern America, and a view from her summit on a clear day beggars all description.

Within less than 300 feet of the highest peak this Club has selected a campground and erected four tents. One of these tents will accommodate about twenty people: the others about twelve each. The smaller ones are more suitable for private parties desiring a tent to themselves.

On either side of this camp-ground are two remarkable springs of water flowing clear and cool in large volume from this rock-bound summit-a strange freak of nature that should force it from the lower levels to seek an outlet at such a height.

A competent man will be in charge of the camp, and the tents may be rented by those who desire to use them in a proper manner.

Each tent will be quipped with a stove, lantern, cooking utensils, dishes, fragrant boughs for bedding, and many other things necessary for the comfort of the campers.

A supply of clean, new blankets has been placed in the camp, and persons desiring to supplement those brought with them can usually do so by applying for them.

It is the intention of the organization to keep a supply of coffee, tea, sugar, condensed milk, canned baked beans, canned meats, crackers, lunch biscuit and cereals, which can be pur-

**Camel's Hump****Vermont's Famous Mountain**

chased by the campers at a small increase in price, sufficient to pay for transportation.

Fuel can be cut from dead timber, and the care-taker will usually assist those desiring help in preparing it.

**Transportation**

The railroad station nearest to the foot of the mountain in North Duxbury, a small flag station four miles north of Waterbury; but as teams are not available at that place, the train should be left at Waterbury, where the finest hotel accommodations may be had, and transportation, either by automobile or livery team, at reasonable prices, secured to the end of the highway, about eight miles distant, whence a well-defined trail of three

miles leads to the summit.

Parties desiring exclusive use of a tent should engage it in advance of the President or Secretary of the Club at Waterbury.

**The Prices**

The prices charged by the Club will be merely nominal and entirely reasonable, and in no case will the campers be made to feel that they are excessive or that there is an attempt being made to impose upon them. The Club desires to pay expenses, and anything above that will used to improve the camp or the road.

The Hon. Joseph Battell, who owns the land where the camp is situated, respectfully requests that no green or growing timber be cut or destroyed, but be allowed to grow to preserve the beauty of this famous mountain.

**The Camel's Hump Club**

The Camel's Hump Club is composed of representative business and professional men of Waterbury, who care giving largely of their time and substance that the beauty and grandeur of this mountain peak be more widely enjoyed. It is entirely along lines with Greater Vermont development; and the feeling is general that as it becomes better known it compares very favorably with the more extensively advertised mountains in our neighboring States.



## TRAVEL ACCOMMODATIONS ON CAMEL'S HUMP

### CAMP WILLARD

*This well known mountain camp opens for its Sixth Season, June 1st, 1896. Located Four and One Quarter miles from North Duxbury, (formerly "Ridley's") station, on the Central Vermont R.R., and only Three miles from the summit of Camel's Hump. Grand mountain views, shady woods, good Trout Fishing, pure cold Spring Water, good table, plenty of milk, eggs, vegetables.*

*Rate, \$5.00 per week, private room, \$1.00 per week extra. Transients \$1.00 per day. Special rates for June and September.*

*Address D. STEVENS  
North Duxbury, Vermont*

*Camp Willard  
on the lower  
elevation of  
the Hump*

*From the Burlington Daily Free Press of July 15, 1895*

### CAMP WILLARD—NORTH DUXBURY

*A combination of shanty and summer hotel, with the attractions of both. You leave the train at Ridley's and walk (you can ride, but don't) for a cool shaded soft-under-foot road—a trout stream at your side all the way—for about four miles, till you reach an opening 1400 feet above sea level, on a slope directly facing Camel's Hump. Here is "Camp Willard," kept by D. Stevens and Mrs. Stevens, intelligent, obliging, chatty host and hostess. If you want eight-course dinners, terrapin, salads, ices, swallow tailed waiters, flies, mosquitoes, big bills, don't come here. If you are content with comfortable beds, good bread, nice butter, milk, berries, trout breakfasts air full of ozone, woody smells, grand views, immense appetite, sleep like childhood's, come to Camp Willard. But don't tell everything to everybody. Keep the place for yourself and your friends. There are some drawbacks. You miss your local flavor in the water; the song birds are noisy; you are ashamed to eat all you want to at such small board rates, but nobody frowns when you pass your plate for "more." If you are for climbing, the summit of Camel's Hump is an easy three miles walk, and a glorious view awaits you on top. It is not strange that but few people visit Willard Camp, for it has not been advertised; but it would be very strange if any who had discovered it should fail to return to it annually for at least a few days' outing. It is one of the few places in Vermont where the pleasures of camping and the comforts of a hotel can be combined. M.H.B.*



*Sam Ridley's Summit House (above)*

*Camel's Hump Club Camping Party  
and Accommodations (right)*





## WHAT THE WATERBURY RECORD HAD TO SAY ABOUT DUXBURY

### January 14, 1902

The lumber business is booming at No. Duxbury now, there are twenty or more teams drawing logs to W. R. Elliott's mill and the ring of the woodsmen's axe is heard on all sides. William knows how to do it.

A.J. Durkee is stacking his mill in Durkeyville.

Geo. Randall, Jr. is looking after his father's lumber interest at No. Duxbury and the way the logs come in any one might judge he is doing his duty well. George is a hustler.

Mrs. S. J. Luce had the misfortune to lose a horse in the lumber woods one day last week.

Fred Funke was out riding after his stepper (Daisy) one day last week. Leon Town held the ribbons.

Eva Luce is taking music lessons in Waterbury.

Mrs. F.C. Davis and daughter Alice, are on the sick list.

### January 28, 1902

Since the thaw of last week the lumbermen are hustling in their logs the roads are fine and business is brisk.

Bert Stockwell is running eight teams on his lumber job.

Geo Sawyer of Waterbury Center is loading pulp wood on cars.

G.P. Morse is working several men on his job.

Geo. Conant has finished work for Tracy & Howe.

Miss Alice Davis is recovering from several weeks illness.

Mrs. Nancy Young has been stopping at L. M. Lewis.

A. E. Durkee is driving a fine pair of horses which he lately purchased.

Fred Luce has been visiting friends in South Ryegate.

Howard Canerdy is working for G. P. Morse.

Mrs. W. R. Elliott of Waterbury was stopping in town two days last week.

### February 11, 1902

The roads are unusually bad owing to the heavy snow storms

The lumbermen report a great depth of snow in the woods.

Mrs. Geo. Pape returned home from Montpelier Monday.

Mrs. Richard Burk who has been visiting her daughter in Richmond has returned home.

Mrs. F. E. Lewis has been seriously ill the past week.

Master Harold Lewis who has been ill is better.

Mrs. S. J. Luce is on the sick list.

Mrs. S. J. Bidwell of Waterbury was in town a portion of last week.

Geo. Sawyer is still loading cars with pulp wood.

The log pile at W. R. Elliott's mill is growing larger.

There is a social gathering at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Michael O'Brien Saturday evening. The weather was bad but a goodly number was present and several hours spent, tripping the light phantastic toe, which was enjoyed immensely. Bryant's orchestra furnished music.

### February 18, 1902

George Randall, Jr. of Waterbury is pushing his lumber business and George is a hustler.

W.R. Elliot has been running his box factory for the past two weeks full blast with F. E. Lewis as foreman.

Lumbermen report the snow in the woods from four to six feet deep.

Mrs. Lewis is suffering from a very severe attack of the grip.

Miss Una Wrisley of Waterbury is stopping with her aunt, Mrs. F. E. Lewis.

What might have been a serious fire occurred at the depot Sunday morning. The fire had got under good headway when discovered. W.E. Kidd, the station agent and the boys put in some good lively work and the fire was soon under control. The cause of the fire is supposed to be sparks from a passing engine.

Mrs. W. R. Elliott is stopping in town a portion of the time.

Eddie Canning of Montpelier was in town Sunday.

Miss Jennie Morse is ill.

V.L. Perkins of Waterbury was in town Saturday.

Mrs. D.K. Leonard is ill.

George Grover of Waterbury Center was in town Saturday.

Dr. Bidwell was in town Saturday.

A few couple went to the dance in Huntington Friday night.

Mrs. Levi Davis of Waterbury has been at F.C. Davis' caring for Mrs. Davis who has been seriously ill.

A curious incident happened at the farm of W.R. Elliott where Edwin Grace now lives. It seems Mr. Grace had a nice flock of hens which began to disappear in a mysterious way, but could not find the thief. One day last week Mr. Elliott sent some men to the barn after a load of hay and one of the men found that a coon had made a nest in the hay and had lined it with the feathers of the hens he had killed. One hen lay near the nest dead. Mr. Grace was notified and the coon soon disappeared.



D U X B U R Y   H I S T O R I C A L   S O C I E T Y  
C O N T A C T   I N F O R M A T I O N

President: Don Welch  
Vice President: Steve Grace  
Treasurer: Mark Morse  
Secretary: Eulie Costello

Phone: 802-244-7558  
Phone: 802-244-5941  
Phone: 802-244-7080  
Phone: 802-244-1742

E-mail: vtmaplemary@adelphia.net  
E-mail: sgrace1022@adelphia.net  
E-mail: MarkM@GMAVT.com  
E-mail: costie@madriver.com

**General Questions**

Don Welch, President  
136 Hayes Road  
Duxbury, VT 05676

**Membership**

Mark Morse, Treasurer  
804 Vermont Route 100  
South Duxbury, VT 05660

**Newsletter**

Kelly Welch  
5631 Vermont Route 100  
Duxbury, VT 05676  
802-244-5627  
Email: kwelch@adelphia.net

**Newsletter**

Maureen Harvey  
1293 River Road  
Duxbury, VT 05676  
802-244-8912  
Email: mharvey@harveygear.com

If you have any comments or contributions for the newsletter we would love to hear from you.

DON'T FORGET THE NEXT MEETING MAY 9TH AT 7PM  
CROSSETT BROOK MIDDLE SCHOOL CAFETERIA

D U X B U R Y   H I S T O R I C A L  
S O C I E T Y   N E W S L E T T E R  
1 2 9 3   R I V E R   R O A D  
D U X B U R Y ,   V T   0 5 6 7 6

