

Marstons Mills Historical Society
Interview with Kathy Verkade
(by David Martin)
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Kathy Verkade, a resident of Marstons Mills since the early 1960's, built a home with her husband, Charlie, on Newtown-Santuit Road during 1963-64 and have lived there since that time. She grew up in Hyde Park, MA.

They bought the two acres of land for their house from John Warner for \$1000 in 1963; Warner was the owner of all the land now occupied by the Homestead subdivision on what is now Olde Homestead Drive and Colonial Farm Circle. She lived in Hyannis prior to moving to Wakeby Road. The sister of Art and Charlie Thifault's mother had a house on Wakeby Road, which Kathy and Charlie rented before buying the land for their own house.

In reflecting on her life in the Village, she recalls a number of well-known Mills names. Roger Hamblin did the framing for their house as it was being built, and Tom Gifford was the builder; Roger's wife was Harriett Esther Pierce (see Pierce and Gifford interviews elsewhere in this Interview Collection). Both she and Charlie worked on building their own home; she learned an important lesson—do all the work on building the house before you move in!

Kathy pointed out that originally there were few houses or streetlights on Wakeby Road, and then a few people built relatively small houses; that then attracted other families to build similar houses, and Wakeby became populated. Kathy's sister and brother-in-law (Sherman Hamblin) live in the house on the northeast corner of Wakeby and Newtown-Santuit Road, in front of which is an old tractor. Sherman is the only one of six brothers in his family who still lives on Cape Cod. Among other things, Sherman does the mowing for the Airfield.

Kathy and Charlie raised four children; all of whom at one time or another attended the Marstons Mills School. Their son Eric worked at the Osterville Bike and Mower store, run by Peter Van Leeuwen.

Recalling Marstons Mills church history, she indicated that Rev. Bill Sherman was the last minister of what was then the Methodist Church on Main Street; he left there in the 1970's and the church subsequently became the Community Church. Facing the church, the house to the right was owned by Bea Lapham; Kathy recalled that Bea was a poet, and one of her poems was "Buzzing Around with Bea." The Lapham's son, George ("Buddy") built a house next to Bea and lived there. (See the Lapham interview elsewhere in this Interview Collection).

Kathy was acquainted with Al and Barbara Fuller, and knows Debbie Lovell Hinckley, the daughter of "Cop" Hinckley (see Hinckley interview elsewhere in this Interview Collection).



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