

Dartmouth College Oral History Project
The War Years at Dartmouth
Interview with Sibyl Waterman, spouse of
Charles Dana Waterman '45
By Mary Stelle Donin
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DONIN: How did you and Mr. Waterman actually meet originally?

WATERMAN: It was sort of a double blind date. I was at the time at Pine Manor Junior College before transferring to Smith. And a friend of mine asked me if I would like to go up to Dartmouth Fall House Parties with a young man from Harvard who was the brother of my future husband's sister who was engaged to his brother. Now you see how complicated this gets.

DONIN: [Laughs]

WATERMAN: So I happened to know this young man, by sight only. My freshman roommate had been crazy about him and had dated him. And his name was Jim Hubbell. He was from Des Moines, Iowa. And I knew that he was very attractive, and that was a start. And I was pretty shy and inexperienced, but I said okay, I would go. Well, then in the middle of the week, my future brother-in-law hadn't heard from my friend as to whether I was coming or not. So he got another date for his friend, Jim Hubbell, a girl from Skidmore who was known only as Roddy the Body. [Laughter] Nobody ever did know anything more about her. And so all of a sudden my brother-in-law-to-be, Larned Waterman, had two dates on his hands. And suggested that maybe I should go with his brother whom he'd roped into taking the extra girl. And my friend said, "No, she's very shy. She'd better go with somebody she knows something about." So I got to North Station and met my future sister-in-law. And she said, "Oh, no, you're not Jim's date. You're Dinny Waterman's date." And I said, "Who's he?" Well, anyway, that's the way it went all the way to White River; I didn't know who I was with. Jim sat with me for a while and then went off. So I got to White River Junction not knowing whether I had a date or who. My brother-in-law-to-be, Larned Waterman, met me and said, "No, you are to be with Jim." So we went to the fraternity house, Kappa Sigma. There I met Dinny Waterman; it was a nickname for Dana, I guess. His father had been called Dinny when he was at Dartmouth. And so that nickname stuck with his son. But during the evening nobody paid

too much attention to me. Not my date and not Dinny Waterman. And I sat with the chaperones which they had in those days.

DONIN: Oh, yes.

WATERMAN: In the fraternity houses, a young couple, a young instructor I think at the school, at the College. And occasionally my future brother-in-law, Larned, came over to see if I was all right. And that's sort of the way the evening went. And then finally everyone had to vacate. The girls were staying in the fraternity house. So all of the men, fraternity brothers, and their dates, I guess, had to vacate. And I discovered that everybody went out but me. But before I went upstairs to my room, Dinny Waterman said to me, "How would you like to change dates?" And I said, "What about your date? And my date and you." And he said, "Well, it's fine with me. And if it's fine with you, it's fine with your date." You know it's.... So that was certainly not terribly encouraging for one's self-confidence. [Laughter] But at least somebody was interested. And he said he'd—Dinny said he'd be back for me the next morning to go to comp lit class at quarter of eleven. Inexperienced as I was, I was too shy the next morning to go down and mingle with the boys and girls on the first floor of the fraternity house. So I stayed up in the third-floor room by the window and tried to study my French while looking at my watch. And I had figured out that if he happened to arrive by eleven, I would get a cab and go to White River and go back to Boston.

DONIN: Oh....

WATERMAN: And at quarter of eleven, he came loping along Fraternity Row and into the building and so down I went. "Hello! Here I am." And we didn't go to the class. We went down to the Inn to the coffee shop and had breakfast. And then we went to his house, the house where he was rooming on School Street, Eight School Street, where a bunch of classmates of his were, and I met them. And then we went to the football game. And both of us said very little. He said that I kept giving him courtesy smiles. [Laughs] But we finally went back to the fraternity house after the game. And he said, again, "See here, would you like to switch dates, and would you like to switch back to Jim Hubbell?" And at that point I decided that even though we weren't talking that much, he seemed to be very nice. And I said, "Heavens no!" And that sort of broke the ice. [Laughter] Everything was fine from then on. [Laughter]

DONIN: Great.

WATERMAN: So that's how I met him. It was one of those miserable and happy situations. At first I thought it was going nowhere. And then it ended beautifully.

DONIN: Oh, yes. So what year was this? What—

WATERMAN: This was 1942.

DONIN: So he was—

WATERMAN: He was finishing his sophomore year. He had gone through the summer and was completing the second semester of his sophomore year before going into the service.

DONIN: Had he already signed up?

WATERMAN: Yes. He had just the weekend before had signed up to be in training as a naval pilot in the Navy Air Corps—or whatever it was called.

DONIN: Right.

WATERMAN: So he knew that he was going to be going off in December. Somewhere.

DONIN: Mm-hmm.

WATERMAN: Just when he didn't know, or where.

DONIN: So that was the beginning of the romance, that House Party weekend.

WATERMAN: Yes, yes.

DONIN: Wonderful.

WATERMAN: Actually he informed his future sister-in-law, Mary Hubbell, he said, "You see that girl across the room?" And she said, "Yes, that's my husband's date." And he said, "That's the girl I'm going to marry."

DONIN: Oh!

WATERMAN: And she said, "You're crazy." And he said, "Well, maybe. But you just wait and see."

DONIN: Fantastic!

WATERMAN: Meanwhile, I was sitting there thinking nobody cared and not knowing anything about this.

DONIN: Now you mentioned his brother Larned.

WATERMAN: He was class of '43.

DONIN: I see. Okay.

WATERMAN: His younger brother Bob was class of 1950.

DONIN: Oh, so he's got a huge family connection here.

WATERMAN: Yes. His father was class of 1913.

DONIN: Uh-huh.

WATERMAN: They had a cousin who was class of '31, I think, an older cousin.

DONIN: Mm-hmm.

WATERMAN: And then of course, our son went there and our youngest daughter.

DONIN: So truly the whole Waterman clan is greenbloods.

WATERMAN: A granddaughter, my son's daughter, went to Harvard, but then she went to Tuck [Laughter] for two years and loved the Dartmouth experience, and just was so happy. And her father was so happy.

DONIN: So it continues.

WATERMAN: It sort of....

DONIN: Great. So you were at Pine Manor at this point when he shipped off for his training then because just—

WATERMAN: Well, yes. I went to Pine Manor. I went to the Dana Hall School which Pine Manor was connected with in those days for about 11 years. My mother was a voice teacher there.

DONIN: Uh-huh.

WATERMAN: And my father and mother were divorced, and my sister went to Smith directly from Dana Hall. When the time came for me to go—we were both scholarship students—and it couldn't be worked out. So I could stay at Pine Manor as a scholarship student. And then the important thing was to get Ginny graduated, and then I'd transfer. And I had a year and a half, about a year and a half, there. I was into my senior year when I left to get married.

DONIN: So you stuck it out—When did you find the time to get married?

WATERMAN: Well, not until—I met him in the fall of '42. And it wasn't until the summer of '44 that he had... That's when he told me that he had four weeks and would be going overseas. And before that, I had managed to see him. Very fortunately, I had managed to see him when he had brief leaves of a week or something like that. Because I would go—I would go out to Iowa which is where he was from, Davenport, Iowa. I would go out on the train and stay with his family who were wonderful, welcoming people. So that we could see each other in a homelike natural atmosphere, not just in a bar somewhere and, you know, really unable to get to know each other. This was wonderful because I did. I met his family and met his brother and sister. We had nice relaxed chances to visit together. So I was—Even though you add up the number of days that we saw each other before we were married it didn't come to that much, we'd have good experiences being able to really talk and, as I said, to see him in a home environment. I felt I was very lucky that way. For a lot of young people, they just met in bars and talked that way.

DONIN: Well, especially at that time. I mean, everybody was sort of in a hurry and going in different directions because of the war.

WATERMAN: Mm-hmm. Yes.

DONIN: And people were pressed to get on with things that should have probably taken longer but they didn't have the opportunity.

WATERMAN: Mm-hmm.

DONIN: So you were very lucky.

WATERMAN: I was lucky that way. I think my mother worried about it. She worried about my leaving and not—She was afraid I wouldn't come back and get a degree because she was a professional woman who had had to bring up two girls and educate them, and it was very hard for her. And it was hard for my sister and me because, you know, we worked all the way through college. And we were self-help students. I lived in the self-help house at Smith. And when I wasn't studying, I was working.

DONIN: Mm-hmm.

WATERMAN: But my mother worried that if something happened to him during the war, which was always a distinct possibility.... And he was a pilot which made it, you know, a little more dangerous. When he finished his training, he came out as a marine pilot because the Navy and the Marines had the same training. But he chose to be in the Marines instead of the Navy Air Corps, Force Air Corps. But as I said, my mother was very concerned, and she didn't know his family until they came to the wedding because I kept saying, they'll not let anything happen to me if anything happens to him. You know they'll be—they'll be generous and help me out and so forth. Because she knew there wasn't much she could do.

DONIN: Mm-hmm.

WATERMAN: So I think once she met them, she felt better about it. But it was a worry to her that, you know, without a degree. I did keep reapplying at Smith and getting my scholarships. As a result, developed a great sense of guilt, which haunted me for years because I had nightmares about being back at college and my husband and my children were elsewhere. And then later on when my own daughters—kids—began applying to schools—I think particularly my oldest daughter—I began having the dream; only they rejected me [laughter] and didn't take me. By that time I'd had—it was the early—it was the sixties. And, you know, the turbulent, tumultuous times. And they were—You'd go to Seven Sisters' meetings, you know, pre-application meetings. And they'd be stressing they wanted the girl with a lot of ambition and, you know, capable and very able. And I said, "What about the girl that likes music and poetry and literature?" Well, you know, we're not so interested in her.

DONIN: Oh....

WATERMAN: So that's when I began having my rejection nightmares. [Laughter] So it was a funny, you know, difficult kind of a time. But it all worked out wonderfully.

DONIN: So tell me about how you landed here in Hanover? How did that happen? He came back from the—

WATERMAN: He came back. He got out of the service in December of '45, just after the war ended. That was when they wanted to send him over, and he said, "Thanks but no thanks." And he'd already reapplied at Dartmouth, whatever system they had. And then it wasn't until—I think it was March; it was the end of February—that we came back.

DONIN: So this was March of '46.

WATERMAN: 'Forty-six it was, yes. And we were on the fourth floor of Lord Hall.

DONIN: Oh.

WATERMAN: 405 Lord Hall, which interestingly enough, his brother Larned, it had been his room his freshman year.

DONIN: Amazing.

WATERMAN: But we had two rooms because the Navy had been there during the war.

DONIN: Yes.

WATERMAN: And we had a fairly large room and then an inner very small room which I think originally had been a room for two boys. But there were two bunk beds in there for four. Four boys had been there during the service, during the war. And of course next to nothing for closets, nothing for women, I mean, to hang. It was all made for boys' suits, boys' jackets. And no storage space, no nothing. And we kept the extra bunk bed. Some of them had it moved out. But he was six-feet four, and didn't, you know, didn't really want to sleep on the top bunk. And I was pregnant and didn't want to sleep in the top bunk. So we kept the two bunks. Both of us slept on the bottom bunk. But it was very handy because we used the top bunk for storage and suitcases and sweaters and things got piled up on the top bunk. And we had a hotplate and, you know, a couple of pots and pans. And we kept the milk—When it was cool we kept the milk on the windowsill. We overlooked the cemetery, as I

recall...beautiful view. And this necessitated frequent trips to market of course. Not like now where you can go and buy everything for a week or a month or whatever. But dinners were very, very interesting. The trick was to get things started before the fuses all went out around six o'clock. [Laughter] Everybody was cooking, you see, and it wasn't set up; the electric wiring wasn't set up for that kind of thing.

DONIN: Was it all married couples in Lord Hall?

WATERMAN: Isn't it funny? I know that there were two floors of us, and whether they went all the way to the ground floor, I can't seem to remember.

DONIN: And did you share a bathroom?

WATERMAN: Unfortunately we didn't have a corner room where they had, you know, a toilet and sink. Would have been lovely if we had. We shared a bathroom. Fortunately I was on the floor with the girls', the ladies', the women's bathroom.

DONIN: Good.

WATERMAN: Because otherwise I would have had to go down a flight to use. And it was a communal bathroom, and it had two little sinks, and I think maybe four shower stalls with no doors on them. And two toilets. And the sinks were tiny, and they had the kind of handles where you had to hold them on to keep the water running.

DONIN: Oh! Yes.

WATERMAN: And, you know, a little bowl about this big. Trying to do dishes and pots and pans, it was very interesting, to put it mildly. [Laughs] And it was, as I said, it was the women's bathroom which was fine except that I discovered that – being pregnant, getting up in the night going in there – there was a young man across the hall who was apt to come wandering in when I was in there. But it just made it all more interesting.

DONIN: And '46 was the year that they were just inundated with people coming back from the war. And they were just so overcrowded that they had you crammed in anywhere they could.

WATERMAN: Well, we were.... As I said, we had the one tiny room and then the one bigger room. And we managed. There was a man downtown, down on the lower level on Main Street, called Fletcher.

DONIN: Mm-hmm.

WATERMAN: The guys all called him Fletcher the Lecher. [Laughter] He sold used furniture or cheap furniture. And so, we got a chair which we had for years. It turned out to be not that bad. And a hide-a-bed.

DONIN: Oh, yes.

WATERMAN: So that when my mother came up from Wellesley to see if she could sleep on the hide-a-bed. It wasn't terribly comfortable, but there it was. And we had, you know, a used desk and a few other things. And that was about it.

DONIN: So you were pregnant when you got here.

WATERMAN: Well, I didn't realize it until I'd been here about a month or so.

DONIN: And how long were you in Lord Hall before you could move over to Sachem?

WATERMAN: Well, we were supposed to have moved in fairly quickly, but it took the building Sachem Village—and this was the first Sachem Village, not when they moved it. This was down—

DONIN: By the high school.

WATERMAN: By the high school, yes. So we were in Lord Hall all summer. And fortunately it wasn't ghastly hot.

DONIN: Mm-hmm.

WATERMAN: The way it seems to have gotten with global warming or something. But I don't remember its being ever as hot then as it's taken to being now. But I think it must have been late August that we moved. There again, I can't remember for sure. Maybe you've got that information. I don't know. But—

DONIN: It looks like you were maybe refinishing a table from Fletcher's in that photograph.

- WATERMAN: No, I think we got that in some used store in Lebanon. And my daughter-in-law still has the table out on her sun porch.
- DONIN: That's great.
- WATERMAN: Isn't that amazing?
- DONIN: That's great. They made furniture to last back in those days.
- WATERMAN: Yes, yes. And so in Sachem we had two bedrooms.
- DONIN: Mm-hmm.
- WATERMAN: And a bath and a living room-dining area and a kitchen. And then an oil stove in the living room which kept going out on the coldest night of the year.
- DONIN: Of course.
- WATERMAN: And we had a – in what turned out to be the baby's room – we had a fan that we kept—a heater with a fan that we kept going all the time because it would get pretty cold. But he wasn't born until the end of November. He was born on Thanksgiving Day 1946—November 28th. But before that, we had a little bit of a setback because I developed the measles.
- DONIN: Oh!
- WATERMAN: The hard measles, for the second time. They say you can't have them again, but the night that my son was born, the young intern who was staying with me most of the time 'til the doctor came, said "Don't let them tell you that. I've had them twice." And he was a doctor.
- DONIN: Oh, goodness!
- WATERMAN: I'd had the German measles when I was 11. So I knew that it wasn't that. And of course those were the days when they'd just learned about having German measles at a certain stage that caused birth defects in children. And nobody really knew what happened if you had hard measles or chicken pox or what. So they were worried. And there was no—I was not allowed to be in Dick's House, and there was no room in the quarantined area of the hospital. So I had

to stay down in Sachem Village. And then I got pneumonia on top of the measles.

DONIN: Mmm!

WATERMAN: And I was really sick. I don't remember part of it. Fortunately, we had a good friend who was later president of the board of trustees, Ralph Hunter, who was a Dartmouth graduate and at Dartmouth Medical School. Wonderful man. And as it turned out, he gave my son his diploma when he graduated years later. [Laughter]

DONIN: Great!

WATERMAN: But they had helped us out getting us beds to use. And Ralph made sure that somebody, some young doctor, came down to Sachem Village to check me out and so forth. So I wasn't just there with no care whatsoever. But Ralph said that it was after... My case was what caused them to open up Dick's House to the wives eventually. Because at first, no females allowed. And no females were allowed in classes either. I thought it would be so nice if I could just go—we all did—just go and audit, you know. Not ask for anything more than to just be able to sit and listen. But that wasn't allowed.

DONIN: What was the reason?

WATERMAN: I don't know. They changed their minds later on. See, we were the first ones.

DONIN: To ask.

WATERMAN: To ask. And once—I remember one time, Professor Childs, an English professor who had taught my father-in-law in the class of '13; he was class of '07, I think. He allowed the wives to come once to one of his classes, which was marvelous. But I was really sorry that we weren't able to do that because it would've been such a wonderful experience.

DONIN: Yes, yes. How did you fill your days before the baby was born? What did women do? Did they mostly work?

WATERMAN: I don't think that too many of them did. I don't think that there were that many jobs available.

DONIN: Mm-hmm.

WATERMAN: I didn't. But I don't really know. Went for walks, went to market daily. [Laughs]

DONIN: Right. Where was the market?

WATERMAN: And read and read and read.

DONIN: Right.

WATERMAN: We went to the Co-op, and I forget what other markets were available.

DONIN: Down there on Main Street.

WATERMAN: We couldn't get that much because you couldn't cook that much. Lots of spaghetti, as you can imagine.

DONIN: And you didn't have any refrigerators.

WATERMAN: No.

DONIN: Until Sagem. Then I assume you had a fridge.

WATERMAN: Mm-hmm. Yes.

DONIN: I see. Yes. So it was like camping out at summer camp when you first got here.

WATERMAN: Well, it was really, really camping out. As I said, the electricity would go off in Lord Hall at six. And then it would come on again about six-fifteen. Then you'd get things going again. And then it would go off again about six-thirty. Sometimes it went off three times. So the trick was to get the water boiling and the spaghetti in and the meat, take that off, and get the meat on the hotplate, the one burner. I admit it was a real trick to— And we still had red-and-blue stamps in those days. So, you know, you couldn't get that much meat and that much butter. So we were somewhat limited. We were probably better prepared for that than today's young people would be because we'd all gone through the Depression, we'd gone through the war living in funny quarters while our husbands were either with us or not.

DONIN: Right.

WATERMAN: So, you know, I think we were better prepared to deal with this kind of situation. But—

DONIN: And you were— Sorry, go ahead.

WATERMAN: No. Go on.

DONIN: Well, I was going to say you weren't alone. I mean you had company there, meaning other wives.

WATERMAN: Other wives, yes.

DONIN: To sort of help you through this. Who was your social group? Most of the wives that were in Lord Hall or did you go back to the frat house much?

WATERMAN: We went to the fraternity house, but, I don't know. We didn't seem to get involved too much with other wives from there. One or two. There was a couple in the corner room of Lord Hall, the one that had the bathroom and two little rooms and a corner room, wedge-shaped corner room, that I still keep in touch with.

DONIN: Oh!

WATERMAN: They were—I think he was class of maybe '43, '44 or '43. He was ahead of my husband. It didn't matter in those—you know it didn't matter at all; the veterans were so much older that – my husband... Probably the ones he felt closest to by the time we graduated were a variety of classes, not necessarily class of '45. I don't think he and Harry knew each other at all. Harry of course has gone on to be one of the class leaders for years and years.

DONIN: Right.

WATERMAN: And long before living at the Ridge with him, I knew who Harry Hampton was because of the class newsletter, you know.

DONIN: Was there any question though, in his mind, of his belonging to '45? Because I know some people actually changed their class affiliation because of exactly what you're talking about, that they'd....

WATERMAN: No, I don't think that bothered him. He wasn't a particularly social type. I mean, I would say that his best friends after the war were his professors.

DONIN: Oh, interesting.

WATERMAN: And there were two of them that we were very close to. And several others that came down and, you know, had dinner with us and see. But his really closest... Probably the one we were closest to over the years was Professor Wilson, Arthur Wilson.

DONIN: Mm-hmm.

WATERMAN: And he had taught—He taught all three of that generation, my husband and his brothers. And then he taught our son years later.

DONIN: Amazing.

WATERMAN: It was his last before he left Dartmouth.

DONIN: Yes.

WATERMAN: And then we visited them every time we went to Hanover, you know. We would sometimes stay with them. They came out to Iowa and visited us. And they were older, but they were our really good friends.

DONIN: Mm-hmm.

WATERMAN: Arthur and Maisie. And then, Professor Wheelwright, who was a great inspiration to my husband, in philosophy.

DONIN: Mm-hmm.

WATERMAN: And my husband did a special program under him, a philosophy honors major, in which he wasn't necessarily studying all the great philosophers. But Phil Wheelwright let him conceive his own, build his own program and what he wanted to study. And then I think most of his classes were sort of seminars. And there seemed to be a group of about five men that were in several of his classes with Phil Wheelwright and so forth. One of them is Fred Berthold. I guess he's still around.

DONIN: Oh, yes.

WATERMAN: And I hope that he's going to be there today.

DONIN: Wonderful.

WATERMAN: He's the one I really remember hearing about. He had a certain number of good friends from before the war. But I would say afterward, when we went down to Harvard Law School, he was in a study group with one from the class of '44, Jack Murphy, and one from the class of '46, whose name escapes me at the moment although I can tell you what he looked like. [Laughter] So that it—you know he never really was...I don't think he felt that he had to change his affiliation. But it was, you know, it was 1947 when he got his degree and he didn't go back for his graduation. He was at Harvard Law School, and he was busy and just didn't feel the need for it.

DONIN: So he finished—

WATERMAN: And he never went back to reunion or anything like that. So I think that he felt comfortable with guys from a variety of classes, '43 down to— His brother was class of 1950, and we got to know them all pretty well because we would go back up from law school and visit.

DONIN: Oh, spend time. Right.

WATERMAN: Spend time.

DONIN: Mm-hmm.

WATERMAN: We had found— After graduating, we had come back to Hanover one time, and had come in coming down Lyme Road and saw a little place that said Headland's Guest House. So we stopped there to see if they had a room. And it was a nice little Polish lady who had a great big room up under the eaves on the second floor. She had other rooms. But she said we could have that—two beds and a cot for our little boy. And we would stay there until he went to sleep, and then we had a crib-like thing for him. And then we would tell Mrs. Headland that we were going into town for dinner, and she'd listen for him.

DONIN: Oh, perfect.

WATERMAN: And the dog, the little dog, would keep guard.

DONIN: Mm-hmm. Oh, perfect!

WATERMAN: Guard by his bed.

DONIN: Oh....

WATERMAN: But he was a good sleeper. I mean we knew, you know, he always went to sleep and that was that.

DONIN: Mm-hmm.

WATERMAN: And Mrs. Headland was, you know, babysitting, so it worked out perfectly. And we did it all the way through law school, staying with her and coming back to dearly-beloved Hanover.

DONIN: So do you have any memories of meeting President Dickey at that point?

WATERMAN: Yes, but not any close personal ones. It was just more in a large group.

DONIN: Mm-hmm.

WATERMAN: I don't think my husband got to know him well or anything like that.

DONIN: Mm-hmm. Did he stay in touch with any of his fraternity brothers?

WATERMAN: Yes, a couple of them.

DONIN: Mm-hmm.

WATERMAN: This Bud Shepherd whose name I couldn't remember a minute ago, he was Kappa Sig. But not too much, no. It was a funny time. I mean, you know, and he was at law school with guys who were his brother's age and much younger. And it just happened to be who you were, what time, at what place.

DONIN: Exactly. Well, in those days it seems to me from talking to people that there was a sense that you just needed to move on and get your life back on track.

WATERMAN: Yes, yes. He wasn't really that old, but we thought we were pretty old. We were both—We really were a couple of little old folks; I have to laugh at it. [Laughter] I was 20 when we were married, and he was 21.

DONIN: Yes. It seems so young now.

WATERMAN: So when we came back, he was 22, 23. And I was 22 when my son was born. But I would say that the greatest experiences for him, when he returned to Dartmouth, were the ones that he had with his professors. Very, very close. And every time we came back for years, we would see both Arthur Wilson and Phil Wheelwright and exchange not just Christmas cards but letters. And I still have letters from both of the men that I've saved and books that they had. When Arthur's Diderot volume came out, you know. And Phil Wheelwright's books that begin with a personal message. And every time we went to Phil Wheelwright's, he'd play music for us and sort of instructed us. I mean, I had grown up in a musical world. But fortunately my husband loved that kind of thing, too, classical music. And Phil would always put on records that he wanted us to hear. And I knew a lot about vocal music, but I didn't know that much about orchestral. And so he'd say, "Oh, I want you to hear this." And so we'd sit and listen to that. And then we'd have supper with them and that sort of thing. And they all felt, all the professors that we talked to at the time, felt that they were having such a wonderful time teaching these veterans because they knew exactly why they were there and what they wanted to do. Maybe they didn't know what their lives were going to turn out to be. But they were on their way somewhere. They weren't just.... It was a big difference. And I'm sure it's switched back again now, you know, that the young 18-year-olds who are just basically kids. What did I read the other day that certain parts of your brain don't develop until you're 22 or 23. So.... I mean, my husband knew exactly what he wanted to do and when he wanted to get out of Dartmouth. And he was not—I mean, he always said there's no such thing as pre-law, that the main thing was to get a good liberal education. And so he was studying Dante and writing about Greek tragedies that had nothing, absolutely nothing to do with the law other than being a well liberal arts educated man.

DONIN: Mm-hmm.

WATERMAN: And so, I think he felt very, very lucky that he had this close personal relationship. And I can brag about him because I had

nothing to do with it. But, you know, he was *summa cum laude* and Phi Beta Kappa. And yet he, you know, he was sort of a renaissance man. He loved classical music and Dixieland jazz and sports, golf and baseball and, you know. So that he was very well-rounded. I felt very fortunate because I had had a sort of strange background. And I could have met and married somebody who didn't like classical music and who didn't like literature and poetry and so forth. So we were lucky that way that we shared these interests.

DONIN: Right. And lucky to have made that first train ride up here in 1942.

WATERMAN: [Laughs] That miserable train ride.

DONIN: And toughed it out over that weekend. [Laughs]

WATERMAN: I didn't get a cab and go back to White River.

DONIN: Right. Exactly.

WATERMAN: Take the train to Boston. No. Lucky.

DONIN: Yes.

WATERMAN: But the relationship with Dartmouth was a very wonderful one, but not in the average way. Certainly not in the way that, if there'd been no war, it would have been for him, without what happened. Or in today's or in our son's or into today's graduates, or our daughter's. Hers was quite different because, of course, she was one of the first females on campus.

DONIN: What class was she in?

WATERMAN: 'Eighty-two.

DONIN: Oh, yes.

WATERMAN: So they'd been around. When was it, '73, '74?

DONIN: 'Seventy-two was the first.

WATERMAN: About ten years. But when she first came on campus, there were a few of the old ones there who were kind of anti.

- WATERMAN: They gave them a hard time. So her's was quite a different experience from my husband's obviously. And from our son's.
- DONIN: What class was he?
- WATERMAN: 'Sixty-eight. [...]
- DONIN: Did your husband stay in touch with his classmates and his friends through his adult life?
- WATERMAN: There was one of them that he had met before the war, actually was our son's godfather, Bob Glass, class of '45. He died, well, I don't know, maybe five or six years ago.
- DONIN: Mm-hmm.
- WATERMAN: I kept in touch with his wife for a while, but not recently. She hasn't responded. I don't know whether she's still living or what. And as I said, the other people that we kept in touch with mostly were... One of them was a classmate of his brother's, and another one was this Jack Murphy who was class of '44.
- DONIN: Mm-hmm.
- WATERMAN: Boston lawyer. And another one's Bud Shepherd, who was class of '46? But those two were at Harvard Law School with him.
- DONIN: Oh, yes. Right.
- WATERMAN: And they were in his same study group.
- DONIN: Mm-hmm.
- WATERMAN: So I think there was more of a reason for that. But, no, I think that combination of his maybe being a little bit on the shy side before the war and then being encumbered with a wife and child and pretty soon another child and so forth. [Laughs] I mean, there was, as I said, his return to Dartmouth was not— It was typical of all the others at that time. But we did not see that much of the '45s. Now Harry says he didn't come back until the fall of '46.
- DONIN: Mm-hmm.

WATERMAN: By that time we were out of Lord Hall, and we were in Sachem, and those were all marrieds. And they were from all classes, all years, you know. I think the people next door to us were in his brother's class or, you know, it was just....

DONIN: It was a big jumble back in those days of lots of classes.

WATERMAN: It was funny experiences that we had, in that I would get up in the morning and take care of the diapers. And then my husband would come in and hang them all out on the line. And then in the evening, after we'd eaten, he'd put up blinds from the kitchen. He'd go out and get the diapers, stacked up, frozen solid. [Laughter] You know he was really tall, but he'd come in with this stack of diapers and hang them up over the lines to kind of thaw out. And the next morning we'd be right back at it again. But other people were doing the same thing.

DONIN: Yes, everybody was doing it.

WATERMAN: And as I said, the oil stove went out with great frequency, which necessitated getting it going again at two in the morning.

DONIN: Oh, gee! Especially with a baby.

WATERMAN: And of course he had to deal with a very sick wife, you know, just six weeks before the baby was born.

DONIN: Mmm. Not to mention school. He was a busy man.

WATERMAN: I don't know how he did it. Went off to class and still graduated with straight As.

DONIN: Yes.

WATERMAN: I admired it, his ability to do that so.

DONIN: Well, you know, a lot of the vets that have been part of this project have said that they were better students when they came back from their military service.

WATERMAN: Oh, yes.

DONIN: Much more focused.

WATERMAN: Definitely.

DONIN: More serious.

WATERMAN And that's what I said, that the professors all seemed to appreciate, that it was great fun for them to have this group of motivated young men to teach, for a while. Then it was back to the same group of younger ones.

[End of Interview]