



Waterford Historical Society Newsbill

Volume 17, Number 4

December 2012-January-February 2013

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Calendar

December 1
Christmas Sale
10:00 -4:00

December 5
Board Meeting 1:00 HH

December 6 at Noon
WHS Holiday Luncheon
Christ Lutheran Church
5987 Williams Lake Road

December 10
WHS Fundraiser at
Buffalo Wild Wings

December 12 - January 1
Historical Society Closed

January 2
First Wednesday Open in 2013

January 16
Board Meeting 1:00 HH

January 30
Fashion Show Meeting 10:30

Feb 6
Log Cabin Days Meeting 1:00

Feb 13
Newsletter Deadline

Feb 20
Board Meeting 1:00

Feb 27
Newsletter Mailing HH 10:30

President's Notes

Christmas in October was a mix of sunshine and rain, but the shoppers came and filled their bags with our wonderful items. Thank you to all who crafted or baked or worked or shopped.

As I reflect on what we have accomplished this year, once again, I am astounded. You are truly turning us into a top-notch museum. Yes...a museum. We have pushed and pulled ourselves around the curve. I have visited several other museums this summer and I always come away in awe of what WE have. We are not a diamond in the rough anymore, we are a diamond!

Please be proud of yourselves as we move into a new year. We will face many challenges as the economy is still slumping. We face the challenge of finishing the Village as we find ourselves turning to maintenance of the older buildings. We face the challenge of presenting ourselves to the public in a purely customer service mode. We face the challenge of moving forward in a totally digital world.

We have challenges because we are successful! And, I am totally confident we can face these head on.

I wish you a safe and peaceful holiday season.



Sally Strait

Village Schedule

Waterford Historic Village closed for the 2012 season September 30th. It will reopen April 17th for the 2013 season.

The Hatchery House, research library, offices and our Log Cabin store will continue to be open all year on Wednesdays from 10:30 a.m.—2:00 p.m. **We will be closed from Dec 12 through Jan 1.**

Board

President

Sally Strait 248-683-2697
sstrait649@comcast.net

Vice President

Bob Allen 248-623-0463

Recording Secretary

Becky Morgan 248-673-2689

Corresponding Secretary

Betty Seymour 248-666-4265

Treasurer

Betty Horn 248-673-9708

Bookkeeper

Cheryl Stoutenburg 248-623-0414

Members At Large

Merrill Paine 248-673-0615
Grace Rockey 248-666-3673
Norm Watchpocket 248-673-5310
Dorothy Webber 248-666-4907

Vice President Emeritus

Dorothy White 248-623-0937

Reminder...

Annual Membership
dues expire
December 15, 2012.



Christmas Sale

Our Christmas Sale will take place on Saturday, December 1st, 2012 from 10 am - 4 pm. The sale will take place in Jacober's General Store and the Log Cabin. This sale is a fundraiser and all proceeds will go to the Waterford Historical Society.

Shoppers will find many handmade items as well as other unique holiday related items. These include gift mugs, holiday decorations, gift baskets, pet items, aprons, gently used children's books, Waterford attire, our Waterford Historic Village afghan, historic maps, children's items, candles, historic children's toys, Michigan mugs and food items, homemade cookies, handmade greeting cards, stocking stuffers, ready-to-give gifts and vintage collectibles.

Hope to see many of you there. Be sure to tell your friends and neighbors! It is a great place to finish up your holiday shopping and find those last minute unique items for those hard to shop for persons on your list.



Cookies WANTED

We need cookies baked for our popular **Cookie Sale**. Please bake and put four cookies in a baggie and bring them to the Log Cabin on Saturday, December 1st, 2012 anytime during the sale. All baggies will be priced at \$1.00. These are quick and our customers love them!



Fashion Show Alert

Save the date:
Saturday, March 16th

Keep this date open and spread the word!
(This event is a Fundraiser for the WHS)

Location - Bartelli's

Fashions presented by - The Clothing Cove

Centerpieces - Dolls donated by the WHS.

Those of you planning on decorating a table for the fashion show may come to the Log Cabin any Wednesday we are open before the show to pick out a doll for each table you will be decorating. The doll will be given away as a table prize at the end of the show.



Waterford Historical Society Holiday Luncheon

You are cordially invited to the Waterford Historical Society **Holiday Luncheon** on Thursday, December 6th at noon at Christ Lutheran Church, 5987 Williams Lake Road.

Join us for food and fellowship. This is one of the two times a year when all our members have the opportunity to get together in a social setting. Please feel free to bring a friend as all are welcome! The Waterford Historical Society provides the meat, beverages and place settings. Everyone brings a dish to pass which makes for a lovely meal.

We will be gathering donations for the Waterford Goodfellows again this year for their Holiday Food Basket Program. You may bring canned goods, mittens and/or a book or toy to our luncheon if you wish to donate. All items must be new.



Looking forward to seeing many familiar faces and some new ones at our holiday gathering!



This and That...

- **New Lifetime Members:** Evangeline Chase is now a lifetime member of WHS.
- **WHS 2012 Visitors:** Visitors who signed the guest book in the Hatchery House came from, literally, all over the world. They came from Oakland and Macomb Counties and upper lower Michigan. Others came from the states of California, Georgia, Missouri, New York, Pennsylvania, Texas, Virginia, and Washington. We also had one visitor from France. Wow!
- **Watchpocket Building:** We have finally completed the exterior of the Watchpocket building! The new section will house the Children's Hands on History Area where children will be able to touch and learn from historical artifacts. The other section, our Multi-Purpose Learning Center, can be used for displays, small gatherings and meetings. The interior is almost done. Work on insulation, dry wall, painting and electrical fixtures is mostly completed thanks to our talented and tireless workers!!!



Vintage Christmas Postcards 1907 & 1911 Bay City, Michigan

The first commercial Christmas cards were commissioned by Sir Henry Cole in London in 1843.



Cole had helped introduce the penny post three years earlier.

Early English cards rarely showed winter or religious themes, instead favoring flowers, fairies and other fanciful designs that reminded the recipient of the approach of spring. The advent of the postcard spelled the end for the elaborate Victorian-style cards but by the 1920s, cards with envelopes returned.



In 1875 Louis Prang became the first printer to offer cards in America.



Sleigh Ride



Below is an excerpt from :
History of Oakland County, Michigan
by Samuel W. Durant
Philadelphia: L.H. Everts & Co 1877

The first entry of land in Waterford township was made by Major Oliver Williams, on the banks of Silver Lake, in section 13, in 1819. In 1823 the eldest daughter of Major Williams married Rufus Stevens, and in June of the same year the couple emigrated to Grand Blanc, and became the first settlers in Genesee county. In the fall of the same year Mr. Jacob Stevens also removed with his family to Genesee county. In the month of January 1826, the young people of Pontiac organized a sleighing party, for the purpose of visiting the Stevenses in their new home. The party consisted of fourteen, and made the trip in one double sleigh, two cutters¹, and two jumps³. They left Silver Lake about seven A.M., and took dinner from their own lunch-baskets at the Big springs, about midway between Silver Lake and Grand Blanc.

They arrived at Mr. Stevens' about sundown, after a pleasant ride of thirty-five miles. On their arrival the company divided, and filled both the dwellings occupied by the Stevens families, which were about a half-mile apart. After a hearty supper, the entire company repaired to the house of Rufus Stevens, which was only fourteen feet in size, yet they managed to get all inside, and a more enjoyable evening was probably never spent by any of the party. The chief orator and story-teller seems to have been Colonel David Stanard, who had a rich fund of anecdotes and amusing stories.

The next day was spent in social visiting, and the second evening the party assembled at the house of Jacob Stevens, where they were joined by all the young people of the vicinity, - in all two couples, - and after a pleasant evening a grand supper was spread, and enjoyed with that keen relish which only the backwoods settler can know.



The next day at sunrise everybody was astir, and, after an early breakfast, the party bade farewell to their friends and turned their faces homeward, arriving at Waterford about five P.M., where they stopped for the night. After a warm supper, the evening was pleasantly passed in games of whist⁵ and other amusements, and after one more night "abroad" the company were again under way, and arrived at Silver Lake about nine o'clock A.M., where they were refreshed with a hot mug of "flip"², after which they separated for their respective homes, somewhat tired, but all satisfied with their

days' experience and enjoyment. Thus ended the great sleigh-ride of 1826.

As a matter of interest to many, we append a list of the members composing this famous party.

Colonel David Stanard, Miss Sylvina Stanard, Origen D. Richardson, Miss Lavina Beach, Gideon O. Whittemore, Miss Sarah Comstock, Elias Comstock, Miss Lucy Sampson, Schuyler Hodges, Miss Mary A. Williams, Ephraim S. Williams, Miss Eunice Stevens, Gardner D. Williams, Miss Martha Stevens.

According to Mrs. Hodges' recollection, the first celebration of New Year's day was on the first day of January, 1823, at the house of Judge Davis, in Rochester, with music and a grand New Year's ball and supper in the evening.

The parties from Waterford, Silver Lake, and Pontiac started for the grand *rendezvous* very early in the morning, and rode for hours in a snow-storm, but in spite of the storm and obscure roads, they succeeded in getting together about all the young people in the county, amounting to about sixty. A part of the company did not arrive until the regular supper was over, but they joined in the dance in a crowded room until about twelve o'clock, when then "the night drave on wi' sangs and clatter" until daylight, when the party broke up. The horses were obliged to stand out all night, on the leeward⁴ side of the house, sheltered as much as possible by robes and blankets. Several of the party came with ox-teams, and these fared no better than the horses. The bill was *twenty-five cents per couple*, and was *paid without a murmur*.

The next New Year's found the same fun-loving party at the house of Judge Bagley, at Bloomfield Centre, where he kept tavern in a large frame house containing a bar-room, dining room, and commodious sleeping rooms in the upper story. The bar-room was used for the dancing-hall, and after supper the dining room was cleared, and both occupied by the "gay and festive" party, who "made a night of it," all ages joining, and enjoying themselves in the highest degree.

These pleasure-parties, together with Fourth of July celebrations and "general trainings," constituted the holidays of the time. A dance once a year was considered about the proper thing. In the warm months the pastimes consisted of logging-bees, house-raising, and fighting the forest-fires.

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|----------------------|---|
| cutter ¹ | - a small light sleigh |
| flip ² | - a mixed drink usually consisting of a sweetened, spiced liquor with beaten eggs |
| jump ³ | - a kind of sled |
| leeward ⁴ | - the side or direction away from the wind |
| whist ⁵ | - a card game: forerunner of bridge |

Eagle Scout Project

The Waterford Historical Society would like to thank Boy Scout Kyler Kirk from Troop 51 in Waterford for the work he did for us on the Hatchery House porches.

Kyler re-built and repaired the front porch of the Hatchery House using historically correct materials. This included replacing a lot of the structure under the porch as well as the wood flooring planks. Kyler also painted the front and back porches and installed safety stair treads on both porches.

Kyler did the labor and also raised the money needed to



complete the work as his Eagle Scout Project. Thank you Kyler for a job well done!

WHS Fundraiser at Buffalo Wild Wings !!

What a fun idea for a fundraiser! All friends and supporters of the Waterford Historical Society are invited to participate in their fundraising event on

Monday, December 10, 2012.

Everyone is invited to gather at Buffalo Wild Wings in Waterford (5223 Highland Rd.) for lunch, dinner, or a snack. **On this day 20 % of purchases* accompanied by the certificate in this newsletter will be donated to the Waterford Historical Society.** You must present the certificate to your server at the time of your order.

Hope to see a lot of you there. We would really appreciate your support.

A great cause and some great food!



Support WHS by eating out!

***Valid towards Dine-In and Carry-Out. Not valid towards gift card purchases. Flyers are not permitted to be distribute inside or outside the restaurant.**

Can you help?



Annual Giving

We are including our Annual Giving form with this newsletter instead of sending out an additional mailing.

Our annual giving is a yearly plea for help with the day to day expenses like electricity, gas and insurance. This year we also had the added expense of completing the Watchpocket building. All our funding comes solely from donations by generous people interested in preserving the history of Waterford.

Maybe you are a member who cannot volunteer on Wednesdays or at our special events. Or maybe you are a lifetime member who might be able to give a little more. This is your chance to help us out. Your donation is just as important as volunteering!!!

We thank you for caring enough to help us continue to be an organization you can be proud to be a member of.

Membership Dues

The time has come for all dues to be paid. All annual memberships will be due on December 15th for the next year. All memberships coming in now will be good until December of 2013. We have much going on and don't want you to miss out!

Clip and fill out the form below and bring it in on a Wednesday or mail it to :



Waterford Historical Society
P.O. Box 300491
Waterford MI 48330-0491

Waterford Township Historical Society Membership Application

- \$15.00 Individual
- \$25.00 Family
- \$100.00 Patron
- \$50.00 Organizations/Businesses
- \$150.00 Lifetime per family
- \$100.00 Lifetime per person
- \$125.00 Lifetime per couple
- \$250.00 Lifetime Org./Businesses
- \$500.00 Lifetime Patron

Date _____ Phone _____

Name _____

Address _____

City, State, Zip _____

Mail payment to:
Waterford Historical Society

Make Check Payable To:
Waterford Township Historical Society

P.O. Box 300491
Waterford, MI 48330-0491

Waterford Historical Society

We are open every Wednesday from 10:30 a.m. until 2:00 p.m.

We are located in Fish Hatchery Park at:
4490 Hatchery Rd
Waterford, MI 48329

Our Mailing Address is:
P.O. Box 300491
Waterford, MI 48330-0491

Contact us at:
Hatchery House 248-673-0342
Sally Strait 248-683-2697

www.waterfordhistoricalsociety.org

SAVE...SAVE...SAVE...SAVE

Please remember to save your receipts when you shop at VG's and Tenuta's. Bring the receipts to the Hatchery House on Wednesday or mail them to us at the above mailing address. This is free money for us. Altogether we have received \$936.00 so far this year from Tenuta's, VG's and Kroger! Thank you for your help.



Upcoming Local Events:

- ◆ **Christmas Sale:** Saturday, Dec 1st
from 10 am-4 pm at Fish Hatchery Park
www.waterfordhistoricalsociety.org
- ◆ **Santa at Fisk Farm :** Sat/Sun, Dec 1&2; Noon - 4 pm
9180 Highland Rd 48386 (at Fisk Road)
248-698-3300
- ◆ **Tree Lighting & Santa Visit:** Tuesday, December 4th
6-8 pm Waterford Township Hall
www.twp.waterford.mi.us
- ◆ **Spaghetti Dinner :** Friday, December 7th
4-6:30 pm at the CAI Building
www.twp.waterford.mi.us
- ◆ **WHS Fundraiser at Buffalo Wild Wings:**
Monday, December 10th, 11 am to closing *
www.waterfordhistoricalsociety.org (* must present enclosed coupon)
- ◆ **Kettering High School Holiday Collage Concert :**
December 13-15, 7 pm
Kettering Performing Arts Center
www.waterford.k12.mi.us/pac/ (248-673-4205)
- ◆ **Mott High School Holiday Showcase :**
December 18th, 7 pm
Mott Performing Arts Center
www.waterford.k12.mi.us/pac/ (248-673-4205)

Our Mission Statement:
Collecting, protecting and preserving the history of
Waterford Township for the interest and education
of present and future generations.

Waterford Township Historical Society

P.O. Box 300491
Waterford, Michigan
48330-0491

