

# Waterford Historical Society Newsbill

Volume 17, Number 1

March-April-May 2012

Editor Sally Strait 248-683-2697  
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## President's Notes

*"Ask not what your country can do for you - ask what you can do for your country"*, President John F. Kennedy at his only inaugural address on January 20, 1961.

As we all feel the stress of the economy and election year, how appropriate President Kennedy's words become. In our case I would substitute "community" for "country". Our inclination is to turn inward in a bad economy, but the reverse should be done. Look outward and do even more for your community during the rough patches. This is the time when churches, schools, and community organizations need your manpower. We need to work together to prop each other up to get through.

I attended the State of the Township Breakfast on February 29th, and was struck by the positivity in the room. The movers and shakers of Waterford are regular folks like us, with a firm commitment to moving Waterford forward. We truly are in this together and everyone I speak to and everywhere I go I feel a spirit of cooperation.

Consider what you can do here at WHS. Consider what you can do at your church, Rotary, school, Elks, VFW, Coalition, Optimist, Police, etc. and on.

We do not exist in a vacuum and in my personal involvement at Mott and The Waterford Coalition for Youth and here, I see a common thread uniting us all. As I look back at the life of the early pioneers I again see this thread...to make Waterford a better place to live.

See you soon,

*Sally Strait*



## Calendar

### March-April-May

Every Wednesday 10:30-2:00

### March 3

#### Fashion Show

Bartell's 11:00 a.m.

March 7

Log Cabin Days Mtg 1:00

March 14

Board Meeting 2:00 HH

March 28

Pot Luck Noon

April 4

Log Cabin Days Mtg 1:00

April 11

Docent Training 10:30 and 1:00

April 18

Board Meeting 2:00 HH

#### Village Opens

May 2

Log Cabin Days Mtg 1:00

May 16

Board Meeting 2:00 HH

May 17

Annual Membership Meeting and Election 7:00 p.m.

May 28

Memorial Day Parade 10:00 a.m.

## 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

Harvey Hedlund 248-758-8526  
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

## Village Schedule

Waterford Historic Village will open for the season to tours 2011 on April 18, 2012.

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.

## Log Cabin Days 2012

We have already started planning for Log Cabin Days 2012, but you are not too late. We need participation and ideas. Did you attend a Festival in the fall or a museum in the winter and see something we should be doing? Let us know. The only way we can improve each year is with your help. Please try to attend one of the meetings, stop by on a Wednesday, or call a board member with your ideas.

We need all members to do SOMETHING if they can. So here is food for thought about what you can do:

Before Log Cabin Days-attend meetings, craft if needed, pick a building or area and clean it, redo or revamp a display, help set up tents or white elephant on Friday June 22, clean out your white elephants at home and bring to us, price items, bake cookies for cookie sale.

During Log Cabin Days-work some shifts, attend, tell a family member/friend to attend or bring them.

After Log Cabin Days-help take down tents on Monday.

If you feel that you cannot do any of the above, then maybe you can give us a monetary donation? What we do not get "in kind" for Log Cabin Days we have to purchase (like the cost of the Oakland County shuttle buses). So, your monetary donation goes a long way.

As we go through the last little bit of winter, please contemplate your place with us in June.

### SAVE THE DATES

Log Cabin Day Meetings 1:00 :

April 4

May 2

June 6

Log Cabin Days June 23 & 24



## Log Cabin Days WANTED

1. One or two **Golf Carts** to use on both days for getting around the grounds.
2. White Elephants or Juried Junk for us to sell. Bring any Wednesday from now on out so we can mark and sort before Log Cabin Days. Juried Junk are items a bit "upper scale" than white elephant.
3. Cookies baked for our popular cookie sale. Please bake and put four in a baggie and bring to us Friday June 22, 23 or 24. All baggies will be priced at \$1.00. These are quick and easy for people to eat.

## Annual General Meeting

Please plan to attend our Annual Membership meeting and Election on Thursday May 17, at 7:00 p.m. This is our one and only membership meeting of the year so please plan on attending. Dessert and beverages will be served.

In accordance with our By-Laws we are presenting our slate of officers for 2012 as follows:

2 year terms:

President-Sally Strait

Corresponding Secretary-Betty Seymour

Treasurer-Betty Horn

3 year terms:

Members at large-Norman Watchpocket

If you are interested in running for any of these positions please contact Sally Strait 248-683-2697 so you can be nominated the night of the election when nominations are taken from the floor.

## Fashion Show

The 11th Annual Preview Spring Luncheon and Style Show went off without a hitch on Saturday, March 3rd at Bartelli's in the 300 Bowl Complex. Thank you to everyone who decorated a table, modeled or attended.

Our models this year were:

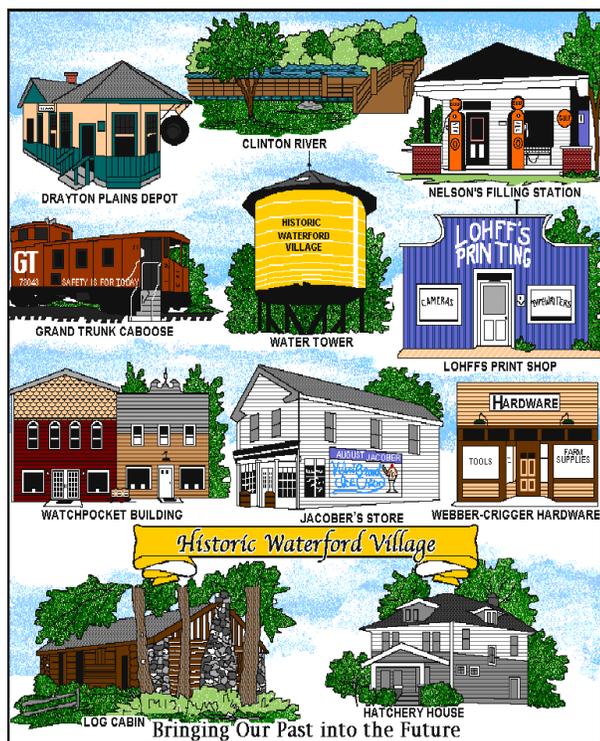
**Fran Amos**, Lifetime Member Waterford Historical Society, **Sue Beaseau**, Sr. Program Director, Waterford Golden Agers Club, **Margaret Birch**, Waterford Township Treasurer, **Sue Camilleri**, Waterford Township Building Department, **Ashley Faller**, Waterford Area Chamber of Commerce, **Kathleen Gallagher**, Membership Chair Person, American Business Women's Association, **Heather Halls**, Executive Director Waterford Coalition for Youth, **Marie Hauswirth**, Executive Director Waterford Area Chamber of Commerce, **Sharon Hunt**, 50+ Recreation Supervisor, Waterford Parks & Recreation, and **Joan Sutherland**, President, Waterford Board of Education.

The patriotic theme was appropriate as we had Paige Daniel, past State President of the Michigan Society, Children of the American Revolution, present us with a \$3000.00 check for Phase 2 of our Watchpocket Building. Paige worked tirelessly on fundraising for the Children of the American Revolution (CAR) Hands-on History Area that will go in the new section.



## New Village Afghan

We are now on our second order of Historic Waterford Village afghans! Pricing is \$40.00 for non-members and \$35.00 for members. The afghan is full color and made in the good old U.S.A. They make wonderful gifts, so get them while you can.



## Historical Toys

We are excited to be carrying a new line of historical toys and games in our Log Cabin Store. If you missed seeing the items at Christmas in October or Christmas Sale, you need to give them a look.

The company, Historical Folk Toys, is based in Charlotte, North Carolina. We like them because they are based in the United States and use all materials produced in the United States while using green manufacturing techniques. Their products are packaged just like they belong in our Log Cabin and include the historical origins for each game or item.

Items we carry are: Schoolhouse Chalkboard Set, Make Your Own Goose Quill Pen, Buzz Saw, Cup & Ball Toss Toy, Hand Propeller, Wooden Dice, Children's Card Game Set, Beginning Quilting Kit, Handkerchief Doll Kit, Indian Bead Ring Kit, Canoe Kit, Stone Arrowheads, *Toys & Games From Times Past* Book, and *Pages From Early American Children's Books* Book.

Also visit their website to find an extensive history of toys and games. [www.historicalfolktoys.com](http://www.historicalfolktoys.com)

## Docent Training

As we gear up for spring, please give heartfelt consideration to becoming a docent for our many visitors. We want these folks to have a positive experience and we want to be ready for them. The future of the Village and the Historical Society depends on this. Customer Service is important and no visitors equals no Historical Society!

We already do a great job, but we can always improve.

With that said, official docent training will be offered on April 11, 2012, to everyone and anyone interested. We will have two shifts for you to choose from: 10:30 and 1:00. You will get training on what to say about each building or area. Do not worry that you have to memorize everything. We will have flip books available in all buildings for you to pick up and carry with you as you tour.

Remember it is our responsibility to educate people with our knowledge. And most people visiting only want to hear a few things, they are not concerned with a long history lesson. The 2nd grade tour is sufficient for most everyone!

If you are interested, please call or email Becky Morgan 248-673-2689 [rmorgan56301@comcast.net](mailto:rmorgan56301@comcast.net).

And remember, this is for gals & guys to learn. Just because you swing a hammer, does not get you off the hook!

## Hatchery House Help Wanted

We have a couple "job" opportunities in the Hatchery House for interested persons.

We are looking for someone to be our "go to" research person. This person would have to be here on Wednesdays and available to people as they come in to do research. They would be a guide/watcher to our archives, steering people in the right direction. You would need to learn where materials are housed and have a general knowledge of Waterford history and local families.

Another job would be to start organizing the family histories we have. Ideally when we pull a family file it would include "everything" about that family: copies of original photos, newspaper articles, maps, abstracts, etc. Much of this job would be making copies and hunting information down.

Both these jobs could be combined or separate. All training would be by Sally Strait.

If you are interested or would like more information, please call or come by on a Wednesday. 248-683-2697.

## Village News

Winter? What winter! The guys have been taking advantage of the good weather and doing some maintenance. The kitchen of the Hatchery House was painted as well as the dining room ceiling. We had a roof leak (fixed with our new roof) and Trace Crothers did the repair work over Christmas break. Benches are being repaired and painted. Never a dull moment is spent.

## Village Plans

Here are the on deck plans for spring, or rather, mid March. In the interest of time and money, we have decided to make phase 2 of the Watchpocket building one story instead of two. The outside will look like a couple more storefronts, but inside will be a Multi-purpose Learning Center with the Children of the American Revolution (CAR) Hands-on History area. This is a fancy name for a nice big room that we can hold meetings and workshops in, have rotating displays, and do anything else we need room for. Paige Daniel, past State President of the Michigan Society, Children of the American Revolution, has raised and donated \$3000.00 to the project. She will outfit the Hands-on History area with historical toys and items for children to use. The family of Gerald Lewis contributed \$1,200.00 as a memorial to Mr. Lewis, a teacher for 40 years. Gary Wall is in charge of the project and will lead the pack.

Meanwhile, we have the opportunity to move the Bicentennial Log Cabin from the grounds of the Drayton Plains Nature Center and turn it into a Blacksmith Shop on our grounds. This cabin was started in 1975 by Charles Welsh and students at Riverside Elementary School on our grounds at Fish Hatchery Park (right in front of our current Jacober's Store). Built to commemorate the Nation's Bicentennial, it was finished in 1976. We think it was 1981 when it was moved to the Nature Center. What a great opportunity to preserve and showcase this unbelievable slice of history in our Village.

In order to put the Bicentennial Log Cabin between Jacober's Store and the Carriage House, we need to move the sheds. The barn like wood shed will be moved between Nelson's Filling Station and the Lohff Print Shop. It will be revamped to represent a shoe shop. Waterford Village proper (Andersonville & Dixie) had a shoe shop in the 1840's kept by Charles W. Harback, who also kept a tavern. We have many shoe making artifacts to outfit a small

shop and represent this early business in Waterford.

Next up will be a one-room schoolhouse slated for the spring of 2013. This gives us time to raise funds and do the proper research for a design. Waterford had eleven one-room schoolhouses and we would like to replicate one of them.

The dust is not settling under our feet. In fact, sometimes we feel like we are moving buildings like on a Monopoly board. We are moving as fast as our volunteers and money will take us. Anyone interested in helping out in any way just let us know or show up on a Wednesday. It is taking a village to build this Village!



Building the Bicentennial Log Cabin on the grounds of current Fish Hatchery Park (where Jacober's Store is). Photo courtesy of Rich Welsh.

## Watchpocket Plaques

In order to help us build phase 2 of the Watchpocket Building, we need your help. The building will cost just about \$10,000 and we have \$4,200.00 dedicated to it. Just like when we funded the Hatchery House library shelves, we are going to have plaques available for you to purchase and these will be put up in the new part of the building. Prices for the plaques are as follows: small \$25.00, Medium \$50.00, large \$100.00. These can be in your name or "in memory" or dedicated to someone. Of course, we would be happy to take larger donations and make a larger plaque!

The plaques are a great way to commemorate a birthday, graduation, retirement; the possibilities are endless. You can make your own place in history and help us to get this Village done. Please see insert in this newsletter if you are interested.

## Village WANTED

Bob Ranzilla has a few requests for the Hardware Store. Keep in mind they must be or look "old":

1. Old women's and/ or children's ice skates or even one skate, does not have to be a pair.
2. Hockey pucks
3. Hammer handles
4. Toboggan

Keep in mind the buildings we have on deck: shoe shop, Hands-on History area, Blacksmith Shop and One-room Schoolhouse. Any artifacts that would be appropriate for these buildings would be appreciated.

## Kroger Community Rewards

We are continuing to participate in Kroger's Community Rewards Program. You use your Kroger Plus card with our number and we will get a check in the mail every quarter! If you already enrolled last year you must sign on again and put our number in by APRIL.

**If you do not have a Kroger Plus card** you can go to the customer service desk at any Kroger to get one.

**If you already have a Kroger Plus card** and an email address:

1. Go online to [krogercommunityrewards.com](http://krogercommunityrewards.com)
2. Click on Sign in/Register
3. Click on SIGN UP TODAY in the "new customer" box
4. Follow instructions by entering all information and agreeing to terms and conditions.
5. You will then get a message to check your email box where you will read the email from Kroger and follow the link to complete your registration process.
6. Click on MY ACCOUNT and use your email address and password to log on.
7. Click on EDIT KROGER COMMUNITY REWARDS information and input your Kroger Plus card number.
8. Enter Waterford Historical Society NPO number:  
**82795**
9. You will now see Waterford Historical Society name under your information.
10. REMEMBER to use your card for all purchases and WHS will get a check every quarter!

## Waterford Center School



Waterford Center Elementary School was on the corner of Pontiac Lake and Airport Roads across from the Waterford Center Cemetery. It was built in 1869 as a one-room schoolhouse for the price of \$1,900.00. In an effort to upgrade the school system in the 1920's, certain standards were set up for the county schools. A metal plate bearing the words "Standard School" was awarded when these requirements were met-and often times, Waterford Center did not measure up. Sometimes, when repairs had been made, it was found that the well wasn't adequate or the dictionary was too old or the maps were out of date. It was a scramble to stay ahead. In 1927, a new two-story four-room schoolhouse was built almost directly in back. In later years, it was used as the Waterford School District Administration building and is now a private church.

Below: 2nd grade classroom in 1928 after new school built.



# The Old Mill Tavern Hotel

by Dorothy Dorman White

*No place was more beloved in Waterford than the Old Mill Tavern. Built right on the Dixie across from where Andersonville Road meets, it was an icon for years. And though people remember the fine food served at the establishment, many do not know the restaurant started as a Tavern and hotel. This article was written years ago by Dorothy White, daughter of Louis Dorman.*

*Note: italics are recent clarifications*

The hotel was built by Louis Dorman who had leased the Waterford Hotel in 1922 along with his father Emanuel Dorman. *(The Waterford Hotel was on the southwest corner of Dixie and Andersonville Road and served as a stagecoach stop during the 1830's.)* They conducted business there while they started building the Old Mill. It was an exceptionally large building and was built as the funds became available which slowed the building.

In the early years we lived in the Waterford Hotel and when the Old Mill was done we moved into the rooms in the upstairs of the Old Mill. Mother Jennie Dorman was the cook along with other employees my dad had hired.

The family consisted of my brother Louis Jr., who was the eldest, then my sister Margaret, another sister Elaine (deceased) and last me, Dorothy. We lived in the hotel until 1931, when dad built a house on the other side of the river.

The restaurant in those early days was very formal compared to today's eating places. People dressed up in their very best to eat out. Dad was the first restaurant owner in the county to get a liquor, beer and wine license. Before that *(during Prohibition)* he did make trips to the Detroit River to pick up Canadian liquor. It was the late 1920s and we kids would go down with him to the boats. Big Boxes would come down from the boats. They would load the car up and cover the boxes with blankets. When the were through, we kids would sit on the boxes. We were the cover for the liquor. He also took us to the Eastern Market where he bought meat and other needs for the hotel.

It wasn't until years later that I realized that we had been decoys. It was all o.k., though, because after all, the bootlegger was my dad!

Prohibition was a joke to most of the country and Waterford Township was no different. My dad would

serve the booze in teacups. The Sheriff from Flint even frequented the Old Mill. However, if the Sheriff from Pontiac was coming, dad would get a warning. He once locked my brother up in the attic with the booze when the Pontiac Sheriff arrived unexpectedly. When Prohibition ended, Mr. Dorman was the first restaurant owner in Oakland County to get a liquor, beer and wine license.

The 1920's were a busy time as Waterford was known as a resort destination. There were four trains a day coming out from Detroit and people would come out to spend the weekend. The Waterford Hotel, The Old Mill Tavern Hotel, and the Windiate Hotel located on Lotus Lake were there for travelers seeking lodging.

The depression years were not easy. There were times when the cash register was empty. The automotive executives and their co-workers from Flint and Pontiac were our best customers.

The Old Mill was highly recommended by Duncan Hines who wrote a book on the best restaurants in the country. In the late thirties dad had floor shows every Saturday night obtained from an agent in Detroit. There would be singers, dancers, magicians, etc. We always had our own dance band with six or more members. For many years we had Irene Bader at the piano and people loved to have dinner and sing with Irene.

Everyone in the family worked. My brother Louis did all kinds of work from dishes to bartender and manager. My sister Mag was a cook and my sister Elaine ran the office and I assisted her once in a great while. My mother gave up cooking in the 1930's and dad hired cooks and bakers.

The Dorman family sold the Old Mill in the 1970's. The restaurant had three different owners and burned down in 1982.



Old Mill in winter, 1939

# Photographs of The Old Mill



Above: Private dining room 1923

Below: Main Lobby 1923



Above: Main Dining room 1950

Below: Billboard on The Dixie 1951



## Waterford Township Historical Society Membership Application

<hr/>		<input type="checkbox"/>	\$ 15.00	Individual
<hr/>		<input type="checkbox"/>	\$25.00	Family
Date	Phone	<input type="checkbox"/>	\$ 100.00	Patron
<hr/>		<input type="checkbox"/>	\$50.00	Organizations/Businesses
Name		<input type="checkbox"/>	\$ 150.00	Lifetime per family
<hr/>		<input type="checkbox"/>	\$ 100.00	Lifetime per person
Address		<input type="checkbox"/>	\$ 125.00	Lifetime per couple
<hr/>		<input type="checkbox"/>	\$250.00	Lifetime Org./Businesses
City, State, Zip	Mail payment to: Waterford Historical Society	<input type="checkbox"/>	\$500.00	Lifetime Patron
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](http://www.waterfordhistoricalsociety.org)

Non-profit 501(c)3 organization

## Things you might like:

- ◆ **Waterford New Horizons Band Concerts:** at the Waterford Mott Performing Arts Center.
  - ◆ Winter Concert-Sunday March 18 at 3:00 p.m.
  - ◆ Spring Concert-Sunday May 20 at 3:00 p.m.
- ◆ **Small Talk “The Root Cellar-Yesterday, today and tomorrow”:** at Oakland County Pioneer and Historical Society. Sunday, March 18 at 2:00 p.m. At 405 Cesar E. Chavez Avenue in Pontiac in the Pine Grove Museum. Please join them for a lecture, open discussion and tour of their Civil War era Root Cellar. Admission is \$5.00 and includes coffee and cookies. 248-338-6732 or [www.ocphs.org](http://www.ocphs.org) for more information.
- ◆ **Spring Collage Concert:** May 15, 2012, 7:00 p.m. at the Waterford Mott Performing Arts Center. A not to be missed night of nonstop music with all bands, orchestra and choirs participating. \$5.00 admission.
- ◆ **Genealogy Page** at the Waterford Library website. A great place to click around and learn more about Waterford’s history. [www.waterford.lib.mi.us](http://www.waterford.lib.mi.us) and click on the genealogy tab.

## SAVE...SAVE...SAVE...SAVE

Please save your VG & Tenuta’s receipts and bring them to the Hatchery House on Wednesday or mail them to us at the above mailing address. This is free money for us!



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

