

# Waterford Historical Society Newsbill

Volume 15, Number 5

October-November 2010

Editor  
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## President's Notes

As the school busses start rolling so do we find Christmas in October upon us. The greatest support you can give us is to come out and shop in our Log Cabin and Jacober's General Store. The economy is tough, but our gifts are reasonably priced and will appeal to everyone on your list. Bring a friend or neighbor, we know you will be impressed.

This summer we had the most visitors we have seen on our regular Wednesdays. Many times we had 3 or 4 tour groups going at the same time. This is great news, but we need a little help. Anyone so inclined to lead some tour groups on Wednesdays stop in and let us know. We promise the tours are not that hard to learn. Think of it like doing Sudoku or crossword puzzles to stimulate your brain. Do tours and get the same results!

Finally, please drive out to see the Hatchery House. The painting is almost finished and you will hardly recognize our old friend. The first time I drove in and saw the white primer on I had tears in my eyes. Now the original two tone gray and white scheme is getting done and it is unbelievable. So much of what we do is to build something new to look old. So much of what happens in a bad economy is to tear down and let the old buildings go. You can never replace the history and craftsmanship like in the Hatchery House.

I am often reminded of the old Girl Scout saying: Make new friends, but keep the old. One is silver and the other's gold. So true for us here at WHS.

Hope to see you Soon!

*Sally Strait*



### Board

**President**  
Sally Strait 248-683-2697

**Vice President**  
Dorothy White 248-623-0937

**Recording Secretary**  
Dorothy Webber 248-666-4907

**Corresponding Secretary**  
Betty Seymour 248-666-4265

**Treasurer**  
Betty Horn 248-673-9708

**Bookkeeper**  
Cheryl Stoutenburg 248-623-0414

**Members At Large**  
Bob Allen 248-623-0463  
Harvey Hedlund 248-622-9509  
Merrill Paine 248-673-0615  
Norm Watchpocket 248-673-5310

## Village News

So much has been going on recently. The Service Station has siding and all cement work has been completed in front. A new section of sidewalk now goes from the Service Station to the Print Shop. As the weather cools the men will move inside: to finish the Service Station, to build the rest of the counters for Jacober's Store and to work on the Bakery and Barber Shop. Stay tuned.

## Calendar

### Oct-Nov-Dec

Every Wednesday 10:30-2:00

### October 13

Board Meeting 1:00 HH

### October 15 & 16

Friday & Saturday

Christmas in October

10:00 a.m.—4:00 p.m.

### October 27

Pot Luck Noon

### November 17

Board Meeting 1:00 HH

### November 24

**NO WORKDAY**

### December 1

Newsletter Mailing

### December 4

**CHRISTMAS SALE 10-4**

### December 8

Board Meeting 1:00 HH

### December 9

**CHRISTMAS PARTY**

Christ Lutheran Church

## Membership Dues

Now is the time to get your annual membership paid for next year. All annual memberships are due on December 15th. All memberships coming in now will be good until December of 2011. We have much going on and don't want you to miss out!

Clip out your form and bring it in on a Wednesday or mail it to our post office box:  
Waterford Historical Society  
P.O. Box 300491  
Waterford, MI 48330-0491

## Christmas in October

Our Log Cabin store features Waterford sweatshirts, t-shirts and ball caps. Our Waterford afghan is a popular item as well as our note cards, mugs and cookbook. Our new 2011 calendar "Service Stations" will be available for only \$5.00.

Jacob's General Store will feature unique craft items made by our members, ornaments, gift baskets, pet items, aprons, collectibles, hand made greeting cards, gently used children's books, and a guarantee of something for everyone.

This year our bake sale in the Log Cabin will be cookies only. If you want to bake, please package your cookies four to a bag and we will sell the bags for \$1.00 each.

It is also not too late to help the **Crafty Ladies** in these last few days we have left. We have lots of last minute finishing touches you can do. If you made crafts at home, please bring them in. Any crafty questions call Margaret Maneese 248-332-0839.

## Hands on History

Hands on History Pins will be available at Christmas in October (as well as here at the Hatchery House every Wednesday). The pins are \$5.00 and are part of Paige Daniel's Children of the American Revolution President's project to help build phase 2 of our bakery/millinery/doctor/dentist/barber building. These pins would make a great gift for someone who has everything! And they will know their donation is going to our Historic Waterford Village. Let's help Paige help us! Website: [www.handsonhistorywaterford.webs.com](http://www.handsonhistorywaterford.webs.com)



## Leggett, continued from page 3

help Martin Welsh [*his fathers' farmer who had come with them from New York and was living in one of the cottages*] draw stone. In the meantime, father had brought a team of horses and a yoke of oxen. So we were prepared to work. Martin drew stone and I drew lumber and was not long before work began on the house. I was boarding with Martin and going home Saturday nights. The house was to be a big one 40 x 40 and a wing 20 x 20. The main building was three stories high with a cellar under both main and wing. Of course, as soon as the house was finished we wanted to live there. So father sold the Pontiac house to my uncle Sam and that made the coast clear. We moved up into the new house in May 1854 and how happy we were.

*And later in his letter...*

About this time there were rumors of the Civil War and great was the excitement. Boys began to enlist. Cousin Perce came to me one day and said, "I am going to enlist but I want you to stay home for you have a family and besides you must take care of Mother and Father." Well, he went and gave his life. Johnny Cooper who was working for me at the time enlisted and left me in the harvest field and nearly all the young men went. And what an anxious time for us at home. Never knew what minute news of the death of some boy.

Your uncle, Percy Seaman Leggett proved himself a brave soldier (really too brave). He went into the army as a private and in less than a year he was a Lieutenant on General Kilpatrick's staff. At one time Kilpatrick called for a man to cross the Rappahannock River and to into Rebel lines. Uncle Percy said he would go and go he did and got valuable information. Of course he was a spy and would have been shot if caught. Another time he and four orderlies were reconnoitering ahead of his command. His men stopped at a house to inquire and Percy rode on. He came upon a rebel picket of five men who shot him to death. If he had waited for his men, it might have been different. He was over-brave, poor fellow. He was a noble man and we have always felt his loss not only as a brother and friend, but as an advisor.

*Next issue: Mortimer writes about Eliza Seaman Leggett.*

## When Johnny Comes Marching Home

Written by Patrick S. Gilmore in 1863, this Civil War song was sung on both sides of the firing line as well as at home.

*When Johnny comes marching home again, Hurrah, hurrah,  
We'll give him a hearty welcome then, Hurrah, hurrah!  
The men will cheer, the boys will shout,  
The ladies, they will all turn out,  
And we'll all feel gay when Johnny comes marching home.*

# Letter of Mortimer Allen Leggett

Contributed by the Rev. C. Corydon Randall, Ph. D

*The following are excerpts from a letter written by Mortimer Allen Leggett (age 86) to his nephew in New York. The letter was written at "The Willows" on January 2, 1924. The Willows was the Leggett farmstead on Walton (where Mason North, or the old Grayson Elementary School, is). Mortimer's mother was Eliza Seaman Leggett, famous abolitionist and women's rights advocate. The family lived in New York until moving to Michigan in 1854. We pick up as he is describing how the property in Waterford was bought, while they still were living in Roslyn, Long Island.*

At this time father began to talk of the West. He had such a family that he thought he ought to have a broader field to work in. And as father and mother had so many rich relatives in New York who were everlastingly visiting us and eating us out of house and home. So, the folks came to the conclusion to go West. Thus it came about that father advertised to trade his farm for western property. Now it so happened that a man from Michigan was coming to New York and while in a harbor shop read father's advertisement. He came right to our place, liked, whereupon father and grandfather went to Michigan to see the property he wanted to trade. This consisted of a comfortable brick house and twenty acres of land in Pontiac, a large flour mill, a saw mill, three cottages and two hundred acres of land. [The mills were in Clintonville.] Well, they traded even. And when he got home all was excitement and the stories that father told of the fine farms surrounded by lakes that were running over with fish and ducks and how the boys would work, one in the mill, another in the saw mill, while I was to be the farmer. And the wonderful things that were coming out of our work made us boys think that we were on springs and could jump into Michigan.

*After reaching Pontiac by train, they stayed in their home in Pontiac while waiting for their furnishings to arrive. They were anxious to see their property farther north (in Clintonville).*

The first Sunday the boys were so crazy to see the farm and mills that we walked up. It was a pretty good walk, six miles up there and it seemed about twenty back. Well, we got there and how I cannot tell now for of course we knew nothing of the roads. And the roads at that time were very different than now. They ran through the woods often and not where they do now. We were going along through the woods and were walking up a hill when all at once we came upon the prettiest lake (Silver Lake) and were overjoyed with its beauty and we went wild in walking along its bank to see the water alive with big fish. They came almost to the bank and as far out as we could see. I have never seen the same thing since. We kept on walking and pretty soon came to two other lakes. Never saw anything so beautiful as they were to me on that beautiful Sunday morning. We kept on going, not knowing where, when as we rose a little hill, the great old mill came in view. We then knew where we were. We met a lot of boys who had heard that the mill and farm had changed hands. So they were very kind, showed us the farm, the cottage and the flour and saw mill. We were highly pleased with everything and especially the boys who were so good and we were soon acquainted. It was now time to start back and we hated to leave the boys.

Of course, our desire was to have the family there, but the trouble was that we would have to have a house. So we all began to plan a house. I was sent up there to  
*Continued on Page 2*

## Waterford Township Historical Society Membership Application

|  |  |                          |          |                          |
|--|--|--------------------------|----------|--------------------------|
|  |  | <input type="checkbox"/> | \$15.00  | Individual               |
|  |  | <input type="checkbox"/> | \$25.00  | Family                   |
|  |  | <input type="checkbox"/> | \$100.00 | Patron                   |
|  |  | <input type="checkbox"/> | \$50.00  | Organizations/Businesses |
|  |  | <input type="checkbox"/> | \$150.00 | Lifetime per family      |
|  |  | <input type="checkbox"/> | \$100.00 | Lifetime per person      |
|  |  | <input type="checkbox"/> | \$125.00 | Lifetime per couple      |
|  |  | <input type="checkbox"/> | \$250.00 | Lifetime Org./Businesses |
|  |  | <input type="checkbox"/> | \$500.00 | Lifetime Patron          |

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|                                       |                              |  |
|---------------------------------------|------------------------------|--|
| Date                                  | Phone                        |  |
| Name                                  |                              |  |
| Address                               |                              |  |
| City, State, Zip                      | Mail payment to:             |  |
|                                       | Waterford Historical Society |  |
| Make Check Payable To:                | P.O. Box 300491              |  |
| Waterford Township Historical Society | 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:

- ◆ **October 16 Fisk Farm Community Garage Sale:** and Flea Market from 10:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m. On the Fisk grounds at 7525 Highland Road in White Lake. Set up charge \$10.00 per seller. Call 248-360-0188 for info.
- ◆ **Small Talks** at Oakland County Pioneer & Historical Society. Sundays at 2:00 p.m.
  - ◆ October 10-John Wilkes Booth
  - ◆ November 7-Photographic History of PontiacFor more info 248-338-6732 or [www.ocphs.org](http://www.ocphs.org)
- ◆ **Escanaba in Da Moonlight** at Waterford Mott Performing Arts Center. October 27-30 at 7:00 p.m. Performed by Mott Drama Club. 248-673-4205 box office.
- ◆ **Civil War Talk** at Waterford Library. November 16 at 7:00 p.m. Jack Mason, Waterford author of *Until Antietam: The Life and Letters of General Israel B. Richardson*, will discuss his book. Major General Richardson retired to Pontiac to farm after his involvement with the Mexican American War. He raised a regiment in Michigan when the Civil War broke out and was wounded in battle and buried in Oak Hill Cemetery in 1862.

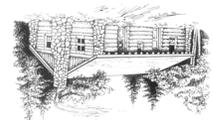
## SAVE...SAVE...SAVE...SAVE

Please save your VG's and 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.

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



Waterford Township Historical Society