



# Waterford Historical Society Newsbill

Volume 13, Number 3

August-September 2008

Editor  
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## President's Notes

We had to pull the umbrellas out, but we all survived Log Cabin Days Festival 2008! We sure were spoiled in years past. Luckily we had some spots of sun and still had a good turnout.

We worked so hard for so long but it sure showed in how beautiful all the buildings were. We see the buildings all the time so we don't think about them. Log Cabin Days always gives a fresh perspective in what we are doing. Listening to the people talk about how astounded they are and how wonderful everything looks makes me really see how much we have done. You can be proud of us. I can't tell you how proud I am to even be part of this organization.

Of course, a very sincere thank you to everyone who had any part in Log Cabin Days. Every single action, no matter how small you think it might be, helps to pull off this huge undertaking. You made a difference; you made it happen.

Remember over the rest of the summer and on into fall and winter, take notes of ideas you might have for next year. If you go to a festival really check it out. Maybe there is something we should have. We can all come back fresh and ready in January when we have our first meeting for Log Cabin Days 2009!

Sally Strait

## General Meeting

Hard to believe but this month is our 3rd General Meeting, speaker and pot luck for the year. This is an enjoyable night of good fun, good conversation and great food. It's an opportunity to catch up on all that's going on. Please bring a dish to

### 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

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## Calendar

### August

Every Wednesday 10:30-2:00

### August 20

Board Meeting 1:00 HH

### August 21

**General Meeting**  
**Speaker & Pot Luck**  
**Jacober's Store**

6:00 p.m.

### August 27

Christmas in October meeting  
10:30 a.m.  
Pot Luck Noon

### September

Every Wednesday 10:30-2:00

### September 17

Board Meeting 1:00 HH

### September 24

Pot Luck Noon

### October 1

Newsletter Mailing

**Christmas in October**

**October 17 & 18**

## Christmas in October

Put on your Santa hat and start thinking about Christmas! It's time already for our pre-season planning meeting for Christmas in October. The meeting is Wednesday, August 27th at 10:30 a.m. Bring your ideas and suggestions and get into the Christmas spirit. Can't make it to the meeting? Please call Sally Crake with your questions/suggestions 248-738-7581.

SAVE THE DATE

August 27 10:30 a.m.

## Crafty Christmas

Speaking of Christmas in October, time to oil up your rusty crafting skills. August means the Crafty Ladies are starting to make their great crafts for Christmas in October. As always, you can come and work in Jacober's Store on Wednesdays or at your leisure at home. The Ladies have crafts for you to do there or take with you. Even if you have your own idea, please check out Jacober's Store for pieces and parts and supplies you may need. We accumulate a lot of that stuff all year long and we would love to have you turn it into a treasure.

New this year will be a Cookies & Refreshments Craft Reception Open House in Jacober's Store on Wednesday September 3rd at 10:30 a.m. until lunchtime. Come to exchange ideas and see our craft facilities.

Please call Margaret Maneese for any questions or suggestions 248-332-0839.

SAVE THE DATE

September 3 10:30 a.m.  
Cookies & Refreshments Craft Reception

## Town Hall Display Case

The Historical Society is on display once again at the Waterford Township Hall the whole month of August. The theme this year is *A Visit to Grandma's Kitchen*. This will be a turn of the century look at you guessed it, Grandma's kitchen! This is certainly a topic we all know and love. Mmm...I can smell the cinnamon rolls baking now...

The display case is on the 2nd floor. You can come in the main floor and walk up the steps or come in from the back and the case is right when you walk in. Any way you get in, please come. These displays are always excellent and a little known gem in Waterford.



## A Day at Pine Grove

Plan on supporting the Oakland County Pioneer and Historical Society for their big fundraiser of the year. The event takes place on Sunday, August 17th from 12:00-4:00 p.m. Admission is \$10 per person at the gate and includes cake, coffee, ice cream and all tours of the museums. Lunch of hot dogs, chips & canned pop is available for \$3.00.

Antique appraisals will be done by the DuMouchelle Gallery for a fee. On display will be cool cars, demonstrations of pioneering living and crafts, talks with Moses Wisner, musical groups performing in the grove and museum tours.

For questions or more information please call 248-338-6732 or visit their website at: [www.ocphs.org](http://www.ocphs.org)

## Member in the News

Lifetime member Carol LeMarbe was named Outstanding Chapter Regent at the Michigan Daughters of the American Revolution Spring Awards Day in Lansing. Carol has served as regent of the local Lydia Barnes Potter Chapter of the DAR since its organization in 2002. Kudos to Carol!

## Pontiac, continued from page 3

*The sun shines on it only when at the zenith—hence we find the road muddy and full of deep holes, but a real Christian highway compared with Ohio turnpikes, though from the representations we received of it at Detroit we hardly expected to find it passable.*

“We were not obliged to get out during the whole distance, though I did walk some, through choice. Once I was some distance ahead of the coach, and spying a singular flower in the border of the wood, I leaped a log to get it. Just as I jumped I saw a snake coiled up in the rotten wood under my feet, and after some difficulty found a stick, attacked him and killed him.

“Just then the stage came up and stopped and from the driver I learned that my conquered enemy was the Mississauga, the Michigan rattlesnake. This reptile is short but thick—from the accounts, I should think him not so venomous as our own rattlesnake.

*“His bite is often death, but if properly treated not usually so; his fang is exceedingly short and the wound is small. He cannot bite through the boot, nor often through woolen cloth, nor can he strike higher than the knee.*

“Surveyors and woodsmen usually tie some kind of sackcloth about their legs and thus are secure. This snake does not always give warning. Little barefooted children, while picking berries, etc., often suffer severely; the Indians are said to make no account of the bite at all.”

**Next issue: Early court session in Pontiac**

# Pontiac was 'Neat, New England Village' 114 Years Ago

Article 1 of a 6 part series appearing in the Pontiac Daily Press in 1949

*(Below is the first of a series of extracts from a journal kept by Cyrus P. Bradley while making a visit to Pontiac and Oakland County in 1835.)*

Pontiac in pioneer times, when it was a "neat, New England village," made a fascinating picture in the mind of Cyrus P. Bradley.

Only 16 years old and a sophomore at Dartmouth College, Bradley made a visit to Oakland County 114 years ago and recorded his impressions frankly and graphically in his journal.

A native of Canterbury, Hew Hampshire, young Bradley studied too hard at Dartmouth and had to take a year's vacation to restore his health.

With \$100 given him by his father, he started from New Hampshire with a Mr. Fletcher, a Dartmouth trustee, for what was then the wild west. They traveled by stagecoach to Boston, New York, Philadelphia, Baltimore, Washington and Wheeling, West Virginia.

***"From there they took a paddlewheel steamer down the Ohio River. At Portsmouth they turned north through Ohio to Sandusky, where they took a steamboat to Detroit. The trip began April 12, 1835.***

We join them in early May at Sandusky, where young Bradley is amazed at one of the pests of the lakes, the familiar May fly or fish fly. He writes:

"The air was filled and every sunny wall or building was covered with myriads of a disgusting fly, about an inch long, with large wings and feelers. They are sluggish in their movements and perfectly harmless—nobody seems to notice them. A gentleman assured me...they are called, improperly, gallnippers, that being the name of a fly which, in common other species, oddly enough called Pontiacs, from the old chief of that name, are exceedingly troublesome to horses."

***It may be news to most Pontiac residents that the pioneer name for the horsefly was Pontiac!***

"After spending several days in Detroit and looking in on Michigan's first constitutional convention then in session, Bradley and Fletcher set out for Pontiac.

The purpose of the trip, aside from seeing the country, was to visit Fletcher's brother, Judge William A. Fletcher, one of the territorial judges then holding court in Pontiac.

"Having no objections to see a little of the interior," Bradley continues in his journal, "I shall accompany Mr. Fletcher. The judge, his brother, lives in Ann Arbor, and held his court there last week, where we expected to find him. We should have done so had we not been so grievously delayed in Ohio (by the terrible roads).

"May 16, Tuesday—At 8 o'clock the stage for Pontiac called at the tavern and we put ourselves aboard. This stage is neither ore nor less than a very long wagon; the body placed directly upon the axletrees and covered with a screen or oil-cloth (somewhat like the later covered wagons on the west). This is the only species of coach that the horses can draw over this road.

***The distance is 25 miles, and we were from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. traveling it. The road is a perfect deal level till you get within a quarter of a mile of Pontiac, where you meet with swell (hills), stones and sandbanks."***

Bradley gives a detailed description of the trip over what is now the Woodward superhighway. In the 1830's the road as he describes it was taken by hundreds of pioneers making their way to settle in Oakland County. He continues:

"It was through a great extent of thickly wooded timber land, but the trees were generally not of the largest kind. There is a little tavern every four miles and occasionally a dwelling, but no village. The road over the low meadows, and for much of the distance, is built of logs laid side by side and is christened a corduroy turnpike. **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

  

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](http://www.waterfordhistoricalsociety.org)

Non-profit 501(c)3 organization

## Things you might like:

- ◆ [www.twp.waterford.mi.us/waterfordsoundwaves](http://www.twp.waterford.mi.us/waterfordsoundwaves) -site where you can download the audio walking tour of the Waterford Historic District on Andersonville Road. Take a walk and tour on your own schedule and at your own pace. **Drayton Plains Nature Center tour now also available to download!** Check it out.
- ◆ [www.waterfordhistoricalsociety.org](http://www.waterfordhistoricalsociety.org) Finally our new website is up and running and waiting for you to visit. You can print a schedule of events and also past newsletters. A must see.
- ◆ **Waterford Parks & Rec. Summer Concert Series**  
Take advantage of the remaining concerts left in this *free* series held at the Gazebo at Hess-Hathaway Park. Concerts are on Thursday nights and start at 7:00 p.m.  
**August 14**-Mark Stewart & the Naked Pilots (country rock)  
**August 21**-Blackthorn (Irish Music) For more information call the Parks & Recreation office at 248-674-5441

## 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.

Non-Profit Org.  
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Waterford Township Historical Society