

Waterford Historical Society Newsbill

Volume 14, Number 1

February-March 2009

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

President's Notes

I hope everyone is enjoying our winter wonderland! We might as well enjoy because it looks like it might be here to stay awhile.

As we go into the new year we are thinking of the Fashion Show and Log Cabin Days Festival 2009. We are planning on participating in the Waterford Chamber of Commerce Expo in April and already have school groups signed up for spring tours.

We are always assessing, cataloguing, sorting, making and doing. And yes, we do stop along the way for coffee and some social chat. So, if this frozen weather is bringing you down, come over on a Wednesday for some hot coffee and good cheer. 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

Calendar

February-March

Every Wednesday 10:30-2:00

February 4

Log Cabin Day Mtg 1:00HH
Newsletter Mailing

February 18

Board Meeting 1:00 HH

February 25

Pot Luck Noon

March 4

Log Cabin Day Mtg 1:00HH

March 14

Fashion Show at
Bartelli's 11:00am

March 18

Board Meeting 1:00 HH

March 25

Pot Luck Noon

April 1

Log Cabin Day Mtg 1:00 HH
Newsletter Mailing

2008 Members

We would like to recognize and thank our new **Lifetime Members for 2008:**

Jessica Anzures
Bette J. Hartmann
Gary & Donna Wall

And our new Annual Members for 2008:

Linda Boritzki
Vicki Chrisman
Mack & Pam Hohmann
Donna Mallonen
Maureen Margraf
Scott & Denise Roberts
Roy C. Smith

Fashion Show

Our 8th annual Preview Spring Luncheon and Style Show will take place on Saturday, **March 14th at 11:00 a.m.** Sally Crake and her committee will once again make this a day of food, fun and fashion. This event is one of the highlights of our year and is not to be missed. Tickets are now being sold but are very limited. Please call Sally Crake for more information or to purchase tickets. 248-738-7581.

Goodfellows Thank You

Thank you, Thank you, Thank you! I would like to personally thank you, the Waterford Historical Society members, for your generosity in providing food and toy items for the Waterford Goodfellows Christmas Basket program. We packed 400 baskets this year and we couldn't accomplish this feat without your help. You are the best!!

Thank you again for opening your hearts and making it a "Merry Christmas" for our Waterford families.

Cindy Cartmill
Waterford
Goodfellows
Toy Chairperson



Wanted List

This is a general call out for books. As you go through the year, please pick up a new book or two for the Goodfellows Christmas Basket program. Books were scarce this year and in no way filled even a fraction of the 400 baskets. I wondered if WHS could step up to the plate for them. As you go through the year watch for sales. These BRAND NEW books should range from baby to teenager. We will keep a basket at the house in case you want to give them early. Then we will take them to our Christmas lunch and on to the Goodfellows in mid-December.

The next call out is for gently USED CHILDREN'S books. One of our lifetime members, Jessica Anzures, sets up a table and sells these used children's books for us at Log Cabin Days and Christmas in October. Her table has become very popular and she can never have enough books! Everyone loves the idea of recycling so maybe clean out your shelves and bring a few in. Again, we will have a basket at the house to keep these books for when Jessica needs them.

Books are not a priority for people when they are trying to pay their electric bill and keep foreclosure at bay. Let's try and make this a WHS priority.

Annual Giving

We would like to sincerely thank all the members and friends who are so generous in your giving. We have over \$2600.00 so far from our Annual Giving! These funds go to the day to day expenses we have to run our business. And yes, WHS is a business. We try very hard to keep all these expenses to a minimum, but you can well imagine that paper and printing and Consumers power and archival supplies, and insurance, etc. etc. adds up. We appreciate your confidence in us.

Log Cabin Days 2009

As you read this we will be done with our first Log Cabin Days 2009 meeting. If you missed it, don't worry. We still need you! Please come to our next meeting or just stop by on a Wednesday or call a board member with your ideas. The main thing is for you to just get involved with this fun event. We have a place for everyone at Log Cabin Days you; just need to come on down!

Also, please start thinking about the white elephants lurking in your closets...we want those too!

SAVE THE DATES

Log Cabin Day Meetings 1:00 HH:

March 4th

April 1st

May 6th

June 3rd

Log Cabin Days June 27th & 28th

Library Findings

Here are just a few of the interesting publications we have in our library. All are published by the Oakland County Genealogical Society. Stop by sometime and peruse...

Marriage Returns for Oakland County 1836-1884.

Over 2700 marriage returns from the Oakland County courthouse. Alphabetical with brides under maiden name, previous married name and cross-referenced to groom. Provides names of couple, ages, residence, date and place of marriage, person officiating, witnesses; amount of data varies. Later records add birthplace, groom's occupation.

Naturalization Records for Oakland County 1827-

1906. Includes declarations of intention and final papers for over 4000 early settlers, dates of papers, place of original declaration if other than Oakland County, country of origin, & names of those giving oath for applicant.

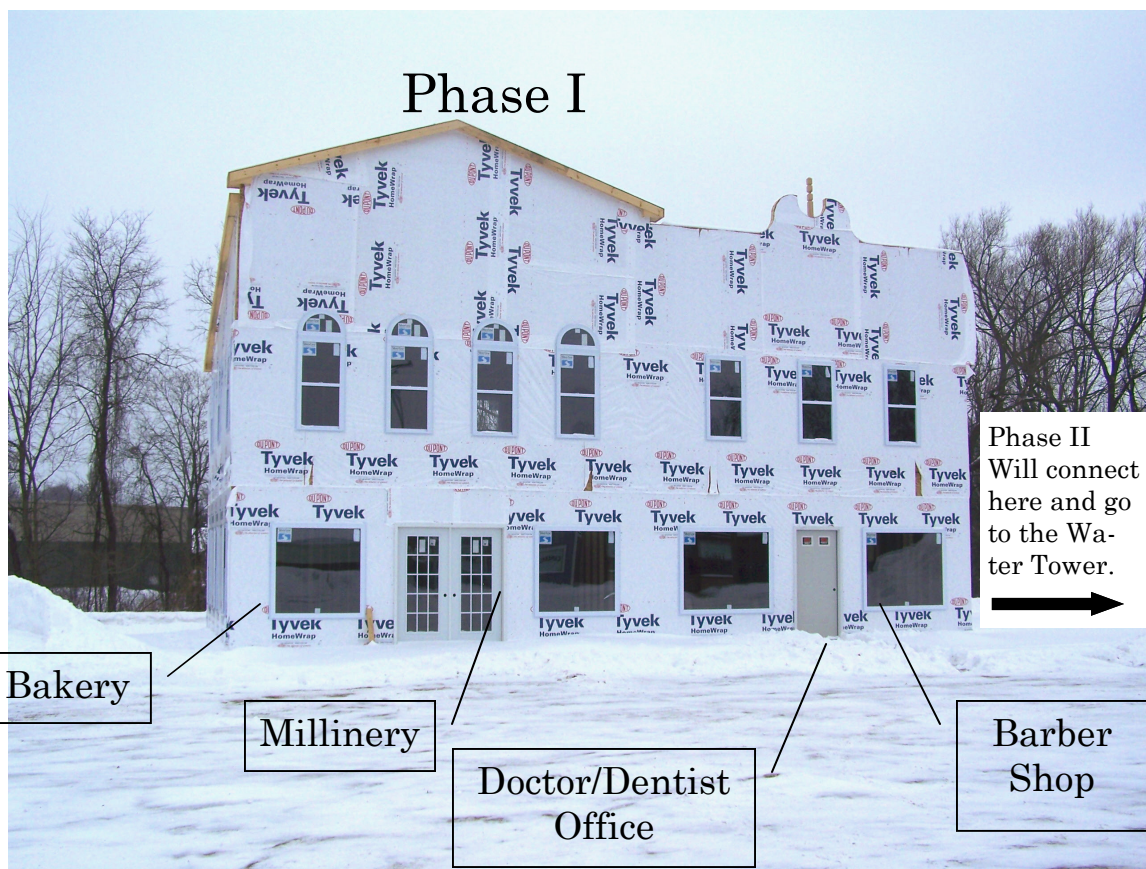
1857 Plat Map Transcription, Oakland County. Transcription of all landowners with acreage, if recorded; map and brief history of each township; history of 1857 maps by Dr. LeRoy Barnett; every-name index.

First Landowners of Oakland County, Michigan.

Includes names, residence, location of land, acres, date of purchase. Indexed.

Village Update

Great goings on at the village! The winter may be cold but the guys have been red hot. The village never really got put to bed this winter and much progress has been made. Our local builder, Gary Wall, has been battling the frigid temperatures to get our new building up. AND HERE IT IS!



We will divide the space into 4 shops as shown above. There will be plenty of room to move between the shops from the inside. The upstairs will give us some much needed storage space for now. As weather permits the roof, insulation and electrical will go in.

Funds for this phase have partially come from the following members: Ron & Joy Smith (Doctor/Dentist Office), the Watchpocket family (Bakery), and Carol LeMarbe & family (Millinery). What a wonderful gift you have given the Waterford community.

The guys responsible for this from the cement up include: Bob Allen, Larry Bencoter, Bill Hayter, Harvey Hedlund, Bob Johnson, Stu Magy, Bob Nelson, J.D. Powell, Bob Ranzilla, and Scott Roberts.

These guys have also been working diligently in the Print Shop and Hardware Store all winter, as well as doing all the maintenance projects that come up all year long. We are so lucky and thankful to have such talent here at WHS.

Stay tuned or stop by to see our progress.

Funeral Customs

Here is an interesting list of funeral customs from the book *Death in Early America* by Margaret M. Coffin. These are definitely a little weird and creepy but please take them tongue in cheek in 2009:

1. If a dead person's eyes are left open, he will find a companion to take with him.
2. Place a quarter in the coffin of a dead person so he can pay his toll across the River Jordan.
3. Do not wear anything new to a funeral, especially shoes.
4. A corpse must be taken from the house feet first. If his head faces backward, he may beckon another member of the family to follow him.
5. Taking ashes out of a stove after sundown will bring a death in the family.
6. If rain falls on a corpse, the deceased will go to heaven.
7. Pull the shades at a funeral. If the sun shines on the face of a mourner, he will be the next to die.

continued on page 4

Funeral customs, cont. from page 3

8. If a dead person's eyes are left open, he will find a companion to take with him.
9. It is bad luck for a bride and groom to meet a funeral procession
10. A person who sees thirteen white horses at the same time will soon be carried in a hearse.
11. You will have bad luck if you meet a white chicken when you are on your way to a funeral.
12. To lock the door after a funeral procession has left the house is bad luck.
13. If you hear a clap of thunder following a burial, it indicates that the soul of the dead person has reached heaven.
14. If the deceased has lived a good life, flowers will bloom on his grave; if he has been evil, weeds will grow.

Small Talks

The Oakland County Pioneer and Historical Society is offering a series of programs for the winter months on a variety of entertaining and historical subjects that will appeal to many people in the area.

All programs start at 2:00 p.m. in the Carriage House at Pine Grove, 405 Cesar E. Chavez Ave., Pontiac 48342.

No admission charge but donations accepted. Refreshments are served after the program. Seating is limited so reservations are not required but encouraged and appreciated. Please call 248-338-6732 for information or reservations.

Saturday, February 14: Small Talk with Richard Stamps: Hear the latest on the archaeological study of the Oliver Williams pioneer homestead in Waterford Township, explained by Oakland University professor and OCPHS Board Member Dr. Richard Stamps. History really does lie in our own backyards—come and learn how it's being uncovered!

Sunday, March 15: Small Talk with Bruce Annett: *Small Wheels, Big Fun* is the theme of this program by OCPHS board member Bruce Annett. Almost as quickly as the new-fangled automobile filled our streets, scaled down versions became immensely popular toys for children. These now-antique toys and ever more intricate (and expensive) newly-made scale models have attracted a growing adult market. Bruce will discuss the popular hobby of automotive model collecting, including examples, factors in determining value, and what to look for in starting or expanding a collection of your own!

Frontier, continued from page 5

and we labor on till we are obliged to take our departure, as tired of this world as we are unprepared for the rational happiness of the next.' "

"May 18, Thursday. Soon after breakfast, Squire Fletcher and I took the judge's horse and carriage for a ride. The judge is obliged to have his private carriage, for there are not public conveyances through which to travel his circuit.

He has a handsome pair of horses, sports a splendid gold watch and is a very great man. His duties are, however very arduous and were it not for waiting to see what may be the aspect of affairs on the formation of a state constitution, he would resign and return to the practice of law.

Bradley here refers to the burning ambition then animating all of Michigan—statehood. In 1835 the territory had sufficient population to apply for admission to the Union. As noted, Bradley had visited a session of the 90-delegate convention in Detroit then drafting Michigan's first state constitution.

But these ambitions were doomed to disappointment. Ohio was then already a state and claimed Toledo, where it was building a canal. Michigan had every legal right to Toledo, but not being a state had no voice in Congress. For two years Congress refused to admit Michigan as a state as long as Michigan refused to give up Toledo.

Then in 1837 Michigan capitulated, received the upper peninsula in exchange for Toledo, and entered the Union as a full fledged state.

Bradley continues his description of the territorial court: "Judge Fletcher is obliged to hold a court in each county (there were then 30 organized counties in the territory)—this occupies him eight months of the year.

"His usual session hours are from 8 to 8, with one hour's intermission. His associates are mere ciphers, like our own county judges in New Hampshire, and we can see from this how great are his opportunities for study and reflection on the causes which occur. His jurisdiction is over civil and criminal cases—the highest court of the territory.

"There is a superior court, the judges of which receive their appointment from the general (federal) government, and who have cognizance of questions of law. Judge Fletcher's salary is 1,500 dollars."

Next: Hunting quail and strawberries.

Oakland County Was Part of Western Frontier in 1835

Article 4 of a 6 part series appearing in the Pontiac Daily Press in 1949

(This is the fourth of a series of six articles taken from the journal of a student who visited Oakland County in 1835 and wrote his impressions of the people and the area before Michigan became a state.)

Everything in the wild west—and Oakland County was on the frontier in 1835—excited the interest and enthusiasm of 16-year-old Cyrus P. Bradley.

Already a skilled writer, and the editor of a short-lived new Hampshire literary magazine, young Bradley accurately described everything he saw in Oakland County during his stay here.

Arrived at last at Williams lake, he tells in this fourth installment of extracts from his journal about the delights of a day's fishing and a real country meal.

Next he takes a ride through the Oakland countryside in the fine carriage of Judge William A. Fletcher of Ann Arbor, presiding in the Oakland County court.

He describes the court, and a brief but fruitful hunting trip in his journal for Wednesday, May 17, 1835:

"At Williams lake, a most beautiful little sheet of water, we found a handsome farmhouse, inhabited too by civilized people, and in a most delightful situation.

The house has a large front yard and faced the street—from the rear there was a gradual descent to the pond, beyond which many settlers' houses were visible in the distance.

"Mr. Williams was from old Concord and settled here about 17 years ago. He died last fall, having raised a large family of children most of whom he established near him.

The old lady and the youngest son, the only native of Michigan in the family, were at home and my companions being acquainted with them, we were handsomely treated.

They have an extensive apiary and noble garden. The orchard is fine, and the fruit in great abundance—particularly the plums, of which they have every variety and in great quantity. We took the boat, a light, fragile dug-out, and sailed over the surface of this delightful little lake—then returned.

"A dinner was ready for us—hot bread, fresh butter, fresh honey and new milk. It was late, we were hungry and did full justice to this delicious repast.

This was indeed a land flowing with milk and honey. After dinner we prepared to fish. I caught the first; we had excellent luck and returned home just at night—in season for my tea, very much pleased with my excursion.

Indeed, how much better it is to live as do the Williams family than in the style of their brother farmers in Ohio. There is something by William Roscoe which just speaks my mind on the subject:

" 'Surely,' he says, 'man is the most foolish of all animals, and civilized man, the most foolish of all men. Anticipation is his curse; and to prevent the contingency of evil, he makes life one continual evil. Health, wisdom, peace of mind, conscience—all are sacrificed to the absurd purpose of heaping up for the use of life more than life can employ, under the flimsy pretext of providing for his children, till practice becomes habit

Continued on Page 4

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	
<hr/>		
Name		
<hr/>		
Address		
<hr/>		
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

Non-profit 501(c)3 organization

Things you might like:

- ◆ **Waterford Mott Performing Arts Center** presents **Little Shop of Horrors**. March 26-28th at 7:00 p.m. A great musical for you to enjoy. Call 248-673-4205 for information or to reserve seats.
- ◆ **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** Visit our new website. You can print a schedule of events and also past newsletters.
- ◆ **Danny May's Cafe** at 3418 Highland Road between Cass Lake Road and M-59 is now featuring a collection of pictures of old Waterford businesses from our archives! Stop by to check them out (the pictures and the great food). 248-681-9500.

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 edu-
cation of present and future generations.

Non-Profit Org.
U.S. Postage
PAID
Waterford, MI
Permit No. 123

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



Waterford Township Historical Society