



# Waterford Historical Society Newsbill

Volume 16, Number 4

December 2011-January-February 2012

Editor  
Sally Strait 248-683-2697

## Calendar

**December 3**

**Christmas Sale**

**10:00-4:00**

December 7

Board Meeting 1:00 HH

**December 8**

**Christmas Lunch Noon  
Christ Lutheran Church**

**December 14-January 3**

**Closed**

January 4

First Wednesday open

January 18

Board Mtg. 2:00

January 24

Fashion Show Mtg 10:30

January 24

Pot Luck Noon

February 1

Log Cabin Days Mtg 1:00

## President's Notes

Despite the somewhat shaky weather, Christmas in October was once again a success. Thank you to all of you who crafted or baked or worked or shopped!

If you did not get a chance to stop by or still have last minute gift items to buy, please come by for our Christmas Sale on December 3rd from 10-4. The elves are busy and we have new items. Do not forget to purchase our 2012 Recreation calendar for the low price of \$5.00, still the same price since 1991! Talk about savings!

I can never give enough thanks, or even begin to express how I feel about all my "family" of volunteers. I am not the Waterford Historical Society, YOU are! We are a team and all of us are a piece of the puzzle that makes us great.

Keep the ideas and good work rolling.

Wishing you a peaceful holiday,

*Sally Strait*



## Christmas Luncheon

You are cordially invited to our Christmas Luncheon on Thursday, December 8th at noon, Christ Lutheran Church, 5987 Williams Lake Road.

Join us for food and fellowship and please bring a friend as all are welcome. We will supply the meat, beverages and place settings. You bring a dish to pass.

We will be donating to the Waterford Goodfellows again this year for their Christmas Food Basket Program. Please bring a canned good and/or book or toy to our luncheon. All items must be new. Hope to see you then!

## Board

**President**

Sally Strait 248-683-2697

**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

## New Schedule

Waterford Historic Village will close for the season to tours after September 30, 2011, and will re-open 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.

## 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 2012. 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

## Annual Giving 2011

In the interest of saving paper and expenses, we are including your Annual Giving with this newsletter and not in a separate mailing. Our Annual Giving is a yearly plea for help with the day to day expenses like electricity, gas and insurance. Maybe you are a member who cannot volunteer on Wednesdays or at our special events. Or maybe you are a lifetime member who might want 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.

## Docent Training

Official docent training will be offered in early April to everyone and anyone interested. Most of our visitors like to go through the Village at their own pace using our walking tour brochure. However, we do need to actually "know" a little something about the buildings when we get questions or if you are helping out with scheduled tours.

Please do not be intimidated by the tours or knowledge. You will be surprised how much you already know just from hanging around on a Wednesday! Remember that this is what we are here for. This is part of our mission statement, to educate present and future generations with our knowledge of Waterford.

We have built this Village, now we must show it off!

We really need your help, especially for school tours and summer visitors. Please give this some heartfelt consideration.

If you are interested, please call Becky Morgan 248-673-2689. She will start keeping a list and you will then be contacted as we know more.  
[ramorgan@comcast.net](mailto:ramorgan@comcast.net)

## The Heat is On

We want to sincerely thank Fran Kotz and his wonderful employees at Kotz Heating & Air Conditioning for installing a new heater in the Log Cabin at cost to us. The Log Cabin was toasty and comfortable for us during Christmas in October.

We plan to be open throughout the winter months in the Log Cabin as we are seeing such an increase in visitors. Kotz has always gone the extra mile for us and does many little jobs all year long for us at no cost.

We are grateful to have their continued support and hope you will support such a great community business.

## New Historical Society Afghan

We are thrilled to announce our new Afghan for 2012! We were sold out of our old versions and had many requests for something new. The afghan is full color, made in the good old U.S.A., and depicts our Historic Village and buildings.

We cannot guarantee Christmas delivery, but if you pay and preorder at our Christmas Sale on December 3, and they do come in, we will call and get it to you. Pricing will be \$40.00 or a special price of \$35.00 for members! What a great Christmas or birthday gift.



Designed by  
Betty Horn.

Committee:  
Betty Horn  
Becky Morgan  
Betty Seymour

## Book Drive Ends

Unfortunately our book drive has ended. The company could not sustain in this economy and with Borders folding, the market was saturated with books. Books we have already donated are still online and we will get a check if they sell, but they will not be accepting any more books. Thanks to all who gave it a try.

## A Pioneer Christmas

By the mid 1800s the American Christmas tradition included much of the same customs and festivities as it does today, including tree decorating, gift-giving, Santa Claus, greeting cards, stockings by the fire, church activities and family-oriented days of feasting and fun.

But, for those in the Old West [and the Michigan Territory was certainly considered the "west" for a time], far away from the more civilized life of the east, pioneers, cowboys, explorers, and mountain men, usually celebrated Christmas with homemade gifts and humble fare.

Christmas for many in the Old West was a difficult time. For those on the prairies, they were often baraged with terrible blizzards and savage December winds. For mountain men, forced away from their mining activities long before Christmas, in fear of the blinding winter storms and freezing cold, the holidays were often meager. But, to these strong pioneers, Christmas would not be forgotten, be it ever so humble.

Determined to bring the spirit of Christmas alive on the American frontier, soldiers could be heard caroling at their remote outposts, the smell of venison roasting over an open hearth wafted upon the winds of the open prairie, and these hardy pioneers looked forward to the chance to forget their hard everyday lives to focus on the holiday.

Laura Ingalls Wilder wrote of the preparations for Christmas on the Kansas Prairie: "Ma was busy all day long, cooking good things for Christmas. She baked salt-rising bread and *r'n'Injun*\* bread, and Swedish crackers, and a huge pan of baked beans, with salt pork and molasses. She baked vinegar pies and dried-apple pies, and filled a big jar with cookies, and she let Laura and Mary lick the cake spoon." That very Christmas, Laura Ingalls was delighted to find a shiny new tin cup, a peppermint candy, a heart shaped cake, and a brand new penny in her stocking. For in those days, these four small gifts in her stocking were a wealth of gifts to the young girl.

Though perhaps modest, these hardy pioneers made every attempt to decorate their homes for the holidays with whatever natural materials looked attractive at the bleakest time of year, such as evergreens, pinecones, holly, nuts, and berries.

For some, there might even be a Christmas tree, gaily decorated with bits of ribbon, yarn, berries, pop-

corn or paper strings, and homemade decorations. Some of these home made decorations were often figures or dolls made of straw or yarn. Cookie dough ornaments and gingerbread men were also popular. In other places, wood was simply too scarce to "waste" on a tree, if one could be found at all. Other pioneer homes were simply too small to make room for a tree.

At the very least, almost every home would make the holiday a time of feasting -- bringing out preserved fruits and vegetables, fresh game if possible, and for those that could afford it, maybe even beef or a ham. Many women began to bake for the holiday weeks ahead of time, leaving the plum pudding to age in the pot until Christmas dinner.

Many of the homemade gifts, including corn husk dolls, sachets, carved wooden toys, pillows, footstools and embroidered hankies, might have had the family members working on for months ahead of Christmas. Others knitted scarves, hats, mitts and socks. If the family had had a good year, the children might find candies, small gifts, cookies and fruit in their stockings.

Christmas Eve would generally find most families singing carols around the Christmas tree or fireplace. On Christmas Day, most would attend church, return home for the traditional Christmas meal, and spend the day visiting with friends and neighbors.

*Kathy Weiser, Legends of America website*

\*Rye n' Injun Bread from Little House Cookbook

### Ingredients:

1 1/2 c. corn meal  
1 1/2 c. rye flour  
2 tsp. baking soda  
1 tsp salt  
2 eggs  
3/4 c. molasses  
1 c. buttermilk



### Directions:

In a large bowl, mix flours, baking soda and salt. In a separate bowl, mix eggs, molasses and buttermilk. Pour liquid ingredients into dry ingredients and stir until well mixed. Do not beat. Grease a 9x13" pan. Put mixture in pan. Fill another 9x13" pan with water and put on bottom rack of oven. Preheat oven to 200 degrees. Bake at 200 degrees for 3-4 hours. Cut into 16 pieces. Serve hot or cold. Great with butter and/or honey.

Makes 16 servings.

## Chronicle Points Out 1958 Events

### Lakeland Tribune, 1958

*The following are excerpts from an article printed in the Lakeland Tribune highlighting important events in 1958. This is a continuation of last issue.*

#### August

August opened with a primary election in which only 3,012 of the Township's registered 17,500 voters cast their ballots. On local issues, a majority voted to retain the annual township meeting and to ban all hunting within the Township.

Other news that first week in August was the appointment of Mrs. Donald (Dorothy) White as chairman of the Women's Division of the Pontiac Area United Fund campaign.

Business progress was evidenced by the move to larger quarters by Gallagher's Drugs, Tina Marie Salon of Beauty, Colonial Lumber Company, Houghton Wallpaper and Paint Company and the Lakeland Tribune.

This trend continued through the next few weeks as the new Federal Department Store opened in the Drayton Plains Shopping Center, following close on the heels of Neels Shoe Store there. The Sherwin Williams Paint Store opened the following week, coinciding with the grand opening of the entire Center, now almost completely occupied.

#### September

Big news of the Labor Day weekend was the announcement of a federal grant of \$390,000 for the Pontiac Municipal Airport. The second such grant this year. It served as a go-ahead signal for the improvement and expansion of facilities there, including plans for a new terminal building.

Plans were announced that same week for a new post office building in Drayton Plains by congressman William S. Broomfield who made it known that the Post Office Department had accepted a land option for a site on the Dixie Highway, across the street from the present post office building.

The third week of September was the addition of a new telephone exchange, Orlando 4, in Waterford Township. Bell telephone officials announced that the supply of Orlando 3 numbers had been used up.

Campaigning for the forthcoming November election got underway as numerous candidates and/or their wives put in appearances at local functions, and the township board passed a resolution to place before the

voters the matter of adding two trustees to the Township Board.

In a special meeting during the final week of the month, the school board awarded contracts for the construction of the new Haviland Elementary School to the Bundy Construction Company, who submitted low bid of \$263,870. The board also approved an offer to purchase a 5 1/2 acre parcel on Walton Boulevard just east of Frankman Street as an elementary school site, with an eye toward providing relief for the overcrowded Adams school.

#### October

Waterford Township's Fire Fighters earned honors in the Fire Prevention Week activities early this month when they emerged the victors in the annual water battle, ousting the Commerce team in the play-offs and defeating last year's winning team from Brooklands to take the trophy.

On October 15, The Lakeland Tribune marked its tenth anniversary of service to the Waterford Township community. That same week Mrs. Ralph Bump was named chairman of the United Fund Commercial Division drive in Waterford Township, and the Jaycees presented their old time minstrel show "Cotton Town Carnival," with a cast of 300.

Kenneth Squiers was named acting general foreman of the Water and Sewer Department when that position was created by the Township Board at its meeting October 20. At the same time, assignments of work for all department employees were established.

That same week the Township Treasurer's office began preparing tax statements for approximately 27,000 individual property descriptions and Treasurer Dorothy Olson pointed out that the rate per \$1,000 this year is \$71.72, an increase of \$2.20 over last year's \$69.52.

The last week in October saw plans completed for Halloween trick-or-treating hours as well as community parties for the children at various township schools. Coinciding with these activities were "last chance" appearances at special rallies and other functions by state and local candidates for next week's election.

#### November

Excitement ran high at the Pontiac Municipal Airport when a turbo-jet plane radioed in for instructions to make an unscheduled landing at the field, where the

## Chronicle continued

pilot planned to pick up packages from relatives in this area. The easily executed landing and take-off added to the speculation commercial airline service for the port.

In this week's election, a record 13,170 of the Township's 18,826 registered voters cast their ballots and approved the addition of two more trustees to the Township Board. Although G. Mennen Williams was re-elected Governor of Michigan, his opponent, Paul D. Bagwell captured 335 more votes than Williams here in Waterford Township.

Nine Waterford Township area Girl Scouts qualified through and training this past year to attend the National Senior Girl Scout Round-Up in Colorado Springs next summer. The girls were selected early in November by the Northern Oakland Girl Scout Council and will be among 16 to participate in this event from this council.

This month also saw an increase in banking facilities with the opening of a Community National Bank branch in temporary quarters in Waterford at the corner of Dixie Highway and Andersonville Road on November 5, and Pontiac Federal Savings celebrated the grand opening of their new branch on the Dixie Highway next to the Drayton Plains Post Office on November 17.

Other grand openings this month included Richardson's Farm Dairy and Spencer Floor Covering, both on the Dixie Highway in Drayton Plains.

Book Fairs at most of the elementary schools throughout the Township to celebrate National Book Week shared the cultural limelight this third week in November with Miss Mildred Dilling, world renowned harpist,

who appeared in concert here on Sunday, November 22. Her performance was the second in this season's series sponsored by the Waterford Township Civic Music Association and was received here with much acclaim.

### December

Results of the Pontiac Are United Fund Campaign were announced the first week of December, with receipts totaling \$584,568.06, or 116.5 percent of the goal. The Women's Division, under the direction of Mrs. Donald White, brought in 119.5 percent of their quota.

This week also was notable for the annual Goodfellows Newspaper sale, in which 75 local men participated, and the recommendation from the Waterford Township Library committee that the question of building and operating a Township Library be placed on the April ballot.

Tax notices were mailed out to Waterford Township property owners this second week of December (just in time for Christmas), and the annual residential Christmas lighting contest, sponsored by the Jaycees, got underway.

The approaching Christmas season took on greater import as children in all of the Township schools presented programs of carols or plays for their parents and friends. And productions of beauty and inspiration were the pageants, cantatas, carol sings and candle lighting services scheduled in the churches during the weeks preceding the birthdays of their Lord.



## Waterford Township Historical Society Membership Application

_____		<input type="checkbox"/>	\$15.00	Individual
_____		<input type="checkbox"/>	\$25.00	Family
Date	Phone	<input type="checkbox"/>	\$100.00	Patron
_____		<input type="checkbox"/>	\$50.00	Organizations/Businesses
Name		<input type="checkbox"/>	\$150.00	Lifetime per family
_____		<input type="checkbox"/>	\$100.00	Lifetime per person
Address		<input type="checkbox"/>	\$125.00	Lifetime per couple
City, State, Zip	Mail payment to:	<input type="checkbox"/>	\$250.00	Lifetime Org./Businesses
	Waterford Historical Society	<input type="checkbox"/>	\$500.00	Lifetime Patron
Make Check Payable To:	P.O. Box 300491			
Waterford Township Historical Society	Waterford, MI 48330-0491			

## Things you might like:

- ◆ **Motor City Brass Band Holiday Concert:** on December 3, 2011, at 7:00 p.m. at Central United Methodist Church on M-59 and Cass Lake Road. Annual event brought to you by the Waterford Cultural Council. Tickets can be purchased at the WCC offices, 8:00a-5:00p, Waterford Library or at the door.
- ◆ **Waterford Kettering Christmas Collage Concert:** at the Waterford Kettering Performing Arts Center. December at 7:00 p.m. A not to be missed night of non-stop Christmas music with all bands, orchestra and choirs participating.
- ◆ **Holiday Concert New Horizons Band:** December 18 th at 3:00 p.m. at the Mott Performing Arts Center.
- ◆ **Waterford Mott Holiday Showcase:** Another chance for you to enjoy Christmas music at the Waterford Mott Performing Arts Center. Tuesday, December 13 at 7:00 p.m. Admission is \$5.00 per person (family max \$15.00). Gold Card holders free admission.
- ◆ **The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee:** February 18-20, 2012 at the Waterford Mott Performing Arts Center. Musical performed by the Waterford Mott Drama Club. 7:00 p.m. Box Office call 248-673-4205.

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!



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



Waterford Township Historical Society