

# Waterford Historical Society Newsbill

Volume 16, Number 2

June-July-August 2011

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

## Calendar

### June-July-August

Every Wednesday 10:30-2:00

June 15

Board Meeting 2:15 HH

June 22

Workday bring own lunch

June 24

Log Cabin Days workday 10:00 am

### June 25-26

**Log Cabin Days 10-5**

June 29

Pot Luck Noon  
Log Cabin Day Mtg 1:00

July 20

Board Meeting 2:15 HH

July 27

Pot Luck Noon

August 17

Board Meeting 2:15 HH

August 31

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

## President's Notes

May showers bring...? Not sure, but we are definitely wet! As we dry out we are trying to get everything spruced up for Log Cabin Days.

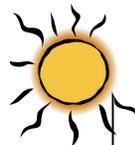
Speaking of Log Cabin Days, please sign up and enjoy your time with us. We have a place for you. That is all I will say!

Big news for us, the Village is open on Wednesday nights from 4:00 p.m.-8:00 p.m. through August. Norm Watchpocket will be your host and you can tour the Village on your own with our new walking tour brochure. We have also updated our regular brochure. In this twitter, Face book age, we are trying to be user friendly. In fact, most visitors only want the "2nd grade tour", or the tour we give on our school visits. People want quick bits of information, and if they are interested, they will ask for more. And we are printing on regular paper, no color glossy. We can print in small batches easily and change information as we go. We hope you will appreciate our fiscal responsibility!

As I watched the final Oprah Winfrey show last week, I could not help but think of my place here at the Historical Society. As I saw our buildings through the eyes of the 409 second graders we hosted in the last weeks, I realized we are doing something good. Oprah talked about finding what you are passionate about and always paying it forward. I know we are doing that here. We have made a valuable place in the community. And we will continue to push forward knowing we have your support.

See you at Log Cabin Days.

*Sally Strait*



## 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 248-622-9509  
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

## Memorial Day Parade

Thank you to all of you who marched in the 44th Annual Memorial Day Parade sponsored by the Heart of the Lakes V.F.W. Post 1008. The sun was bright and the crowds were large for this fitting tribute to our men and women who so valiantly fought and continue to fight for our freedoms.

## Log Cabin Days 2011

Here is my last minute plea for help during Log Cabin Days....please, please get involved.

Here is what you can do:

**GO TO GARAGE SALES**-in your neighborhood and give them our flyer to bring their leftovers for our white elephant sale. Available at Hatchery House.

**DONATE WHITE ELEPHANTS**-everyone has these lurking in your closets. In fact, come on a Wednesday and help us mark them as you bring them in.

**JURIED JUNK**-as you are going through your white elephants, keep in mine Merrill's sale. A step up from the White Elephant.

**BAKE**-cookies for our Bake Sale. We are only doing cookies this year. Put them four in a baggie. These will all be priced \$1.00 per bag and be on sale in the Log Cabin. This was a huge hit at Christmas in October.

**WORK A SHIFT**-as always, if we all worked a shift then no one would have to work all day. Hatchery House is even air conditioned and you can call Dorothy Webber to work there 248-666-4907.

No matter what your available time or talent, we have a place for you at Log Cabin Days. This is one time when we really need you to step forward and step into the past with us. I guarantee you will be smiling.

Amanda Harner, docent,  
welcomes you to the Hatchery House

### SAVE THE DATES

Wednesday June 22, last minute spruce up-bring your own lunch.

Log Cabin Workday Fri. June 24 starting at 10:00 a.m.  
Lunch provided.

Log Cabin Days June 25 & 26



## Village Update

Nelson's Filling Station is almost finished, with gas pumps waiting in the wings. Three new counters are installed in Jacober's Store and all the shelves are filled with goods. The Hardware has new displays for sporting goods. New benches were purchased from the Harold Horn memorial fund to add to our grounds. Upstairs in the Hatchery House the war room and bedroom have been revamped. You will be pleasantly surprised every time you visit.

## Annual General Meeting

Thank you to all of you who attended the Annual General Meeting, it was the biggest group we have ever seen! How gratifying for all of the board to see your support. And speaking of the board, here are the results of the election:

Vice President-Bob Allen

Recording Secretary-Rebecca Morgan

Bookkeeper-Cheryl Stoutenburg

Members at large-Dorothy Webber, Grace Rockey

Vice President Emeritus-Dorothy White

We thank and congratulate all of them for their commitment to paying it forward here at WHS.

## Donations Needed:

As we fill the shelves in Jacober's Store we realize the need for more sporting goods. The Hardware does carry these items, but we are looking for more or doubles of what we have.

Croquet sets

Badmitten racquets, shuttlecocks (feathers preferred)

Baseballs, old mitts, etc.

Horseshoes and horseshoe sets

We are always looking for a small ice cream table with or without chairs for the bakery.

We do trade with other historical societies. We recently were given a croquet set from the Clarkston Historical Society and have many items given to us from the White Lake Historical Society and the Oakland County Pioneer and Historical Society. Rod Wilson, president of the Rochester Avon Historical Society, recently stopped by with a gift of photographs of the Drayton Plains Depot circa 1910 and the Judd General Store. We all try to distribute artifacts to the appropriate places. We are all in this together, folks!

## Book Drive

Please continue to bring in your books. We are especially looking for older books, but bring us anything you have because they recycle the books they cannot sell. We received two small checks already and still have books for sale online.

They are happy to work with us and dedicated to making us some money. So, keep it coming.



## Proof is in the Pudding

Don't think you are making a difference with your shopping trips? I am happy to say our last check from Tenuta's was for \$169.07 and our first check from Kroger will be \$38.36! This is free money and is very much worth all of our efforts to jump through the sign-up hoops.

I am reprinting the VG's Yes Rewards program because if you have not signed up for this yet, you must for us to get the credit. And you must continue to bring in your receipts.

I am also reprinting the Kroger Community Rewards Program. And, to confuse us all, even if you signed up with our last newsletter, you must go back online and renew (in 3 easy steps) because the year ended April 1st. So, please go back online and renew.

Unfortunately this is a web based program and many of you are not online. However, you may want to get help from your kids or grandkids to sign you up. You must have an email address and a Kroger Plus card. Have them use their own email address or create a simple free one for you. Based on our first check (with not many people participating), it will be a great source of income for us.

## A Soldier's Story, continued from Page 5

Beebe, Ealies Ford; Faines Conner, Ealies Ford; Albert Churchill, captured and hung as a spy; Andrew Jackson, Brandy Station; Andrew O'Brien, wounded and died in hospital at Point Lookout; Fletcher Wood, wounded and died in hospital in Washington; Isaac Perkins, killed in action at Trevilion Station.

When I look back to the 11th of May, when we had that awful fight at Yellow Tavern, and our gallant and noble hearted Captain Axtil got his death wound, H. David, G. Fisher, Andrew O'Brien and G. M. Richmond were wounded, it brings tears to my eyes, and although it has been 34 years since that time, still it is fresh in my memory, and I can see how our dear old Captain looked when he was brought to the rear with his thigh all shot to pieces. When the column moved on after the fight was over he begged for us not to leave him, but we had to go and leave the poor fellow to die in the hands of the enemy and in the prime of his life.

*"Ah! Yes, many a hand that vigorously grasped these Flagstuffs and led the van, now lies crumbling in the grave; and not color-bearers alone, but nearly 15,000 others who fought beside them—the flower of Michigan—return not to receive your thanks and the plaudits of their grateful countrymen."*

General O.B. Wilcox, Presentation of Civil War Flags to the State of Michigan, July 4, 1866.

## Kroger Community Rewards

We are now participating 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! No receipts to turn in, as they keep track with your card.

**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!

## VG's yes Rewards

You are now required to have a "VG's yes Rewards" card for your receipts to count towards community rewards for the Waterford Historical Society, and all non-profit organizations.

If you already have the card and use it to take advantage of all the specials and fuel awards, etc., then you **do nothing** but continue using the card every time you shop. Your receipt will automatically list the community share points at the bottom. **Still send in or bring in your receipts so we can tally them up.** This part will work the same for us.

If you do not have a VG's yes Rewards card, then your receipts will not show the community share points at the bottom, and **therefore will not be counted**. So, please go to VG's and sign up for a card. You can also sign up online at [myrewards.com](http://myrewards.com). When you get your card, use it every time and your points will show on your receipt and can be counted by us.

## A Soldier's Story

### Article and history of George M. Richmond, Waterford Civil War Veteran

*In honor of the beginning of the Sesquicentennial of the Civil War, we are printing a letter written by George M. Richmond in 1898. And though quite lengthy, tells of his experience in the War and is filled with the names of early Waterford residents. It is well worth the read!*

Before we start the letter, the background of the family is thus: George M. Richmond was born in Waterford Township on September 23, 1840 and lived his whole life in Waterford until his death in 1926. He was 22 years of age when he enlisted in Company A, 5th Regiment, Michigan Volunteer Cavalry. He was seriously wounded at the battle of Yellow Tavern and was honorably discharged after his three years of service. He carried the regimental flag at Gettysburg and was allowed to keep the flag at the end of the war. His family later donated that flag to the capital rotunda display in Lansing, where it was replaced with a replica in 1990 and placed with the Michigan Historical Museum. He came home to Waterford and resumed farming and the successful raising of thoroughbred cattle.

George M. Richmond was born in Waterford, Oakland County, Michigan, September 23, 1840. Lived at home with his parents until he was 10 years old, then went to live with a neighbor by the name of H.P. Covert; lived with him three years, then went home again and stayed at home until the death of his father in 1851, December 21st. Later on his mother died in 1884, October 16.

When the war broke out, thought he would make a good target for some reb to shoot at, so enlisted in the Fifth Michigan Cavalry, Company A. Was made a corporal in the same company and acted in that capacity until July, 1864, when he was promoted to commissary sergeant, Company A, which was raised in and around Pontiac. Enlisted on the 18th day of August, 1862, and was mustered in on the 26th of August, 1862; mustered out the 13th day of May, 1865, at the close of the war, and while with the company participated in the following engagements: Hanover, June 30, we had a sharp engagement; at Hunterstown, Pennsylvania, July 2, 1863; Gettysburg, July 3, 1863; Monterey, July 4, 1863; Cavetown, Maryland, July 5, 1863; Smithstown, Maryland, July 6, 1863; Boonesburgh, Maryland, July 6, 1863.

I would say there I captured a big, burly rebel after shooting him twice and his horse three times; I took him to the rear and delivered him over to the provost guard; he was very mad and somewhat ugly, but got tamed before I left him. Then we moved on to Hagerstown, and had an engagement, July 10; Williamsport July 10, 1863, and at Falling Waters, July 14. There we crossed the river into Virginia, and back over the

mountains to the Rapidan River, where we did but little more than picket duty that fall.

Custer's brigade, of which I was a member, have good reasons for remembering the engagements referred to. At Todd's Tavern, Gen. Custer led his brigade with drawn saber, driving the rebel line and taking their position. A battery in our right front, behind a knoll, and near the woods, made terrible havoc with our horses. Gen. Custer ordered our regiment (the Fifth Michigan Cavalry), to the right, into the woods, where we dismounted and charged the battery. The enemy succeeded in drawing the guns away, but left twenty-one dead and wounded, among them, I think the captain of the battery. After two days we started toward the rear, wondering what next. Along in the afternoon we were cautioned against loud talking, and our coffee pots had to be adjusted so that they would not rattle. About this time we were passing around the rear of Lee's army, when between sundown and dark we struck Beaver Dam Station, gobbling up, among the rest, about 400 of our men, who had been taken prisoners. They were a happy lot of men, and were glad to see the cavalry. They went to work and armed themselves from the captured arms that had been sent back there, and took up the line of march towards Richmond with us. Just what regiment or brigade opened the fight at Yellow Tavern I do not know, our brigade being in the rear of the column.

I well recollect the column being halted and our standing in the road while some fighting was going on in front, and that some shells came over our heads rather too close for comfort. Finally our brigade was ordered to the front, where we found a large field with a rail fence running east and west through the middle with woods mostly on the sides. We supposed some of our troops had been driven out of this field, and found several of Sharpe's carbine cartridges lying on the fence rails, and concluded they were left there when our men fell back. Our regiment and the Sixth Michigan were moved down on the north side of the field in the woods, where we were formed, and dismounted for a charge across the field. I well remember that as we were about to leap the fence into the field, for we were under fire at the time, the Colonel said: "Now, boys, keep a good line, for General Sheridan is watching us." General Sheridan and quite a body of troops were on an elevation to our right overlooking the field. My tentmate and friend, Daniel F. Miller, remarked, "Now, Tripp, let's keep together."

We had not advanced over 20 rods, I think, before murderous cross fire was opened on us out of the woods on our left and rear. Words cannot picture the scene that followed. Out there in that level field, without any chance of cover, we were trying to return the fire, shooting in three different directions. Poor Miller received his death wound while on one knee shooting in the direction the left of our line had come from.

Our brave and noble Custer rode up on his horse into that field

among us, always cool, with the words, "Lie down, men, lie down. We'll fix them. I have sent two regiments around on the flank." His words of cheer and sympathy to the wounded were deeply appreciated. All of this was a short duration, but it seemed like an age. Then, right there in that field, I think, Gen. Custer decided on taking that battery. Custer's brigade, the First, Fifth, Sixth and 7th Michigan Cavalries, were now all engaged, but the First Volunteer had formerly belonged to our brigade, and to it Custer went for help.

The story went at the time that Gen. Custer went over and told the First Vermont Cavalry what he wanted, and it, of course, volunteered to go; but the commanding general objected to have Gen. Custer fighting his troops, and then Custer appealed to Gen. Sheridan, who told him to take any regiment that was willing to go with him. The First Vermont went and there was an advance all along the line. The battery was taken.

Gen. Stuart received a death wound while endeavoring to rally his men. Although on the next day a part of our forces were among the defenses of Richmond, where we were once before on the Kilpatrick raid, I don't think we were in force enough to capture Richmond. (Comrade R. says he could never conceive why we did not).

I don't think I should have written this but the comrades seem to have the impression that the first troops that crossed went over on the corduroy bridge. In the early part of the day Custer's brigade was ordered down toward the railroad bridge, which the rebels had not destroyed, our regiment in the advance. We met the regulars coming from there, some of them wounded. They said we would find some work down there. This bridge was covered by the rebel battery and line of works spoken of. We dismounted and picked our way along under cover until we reached the tug of war, as the saying is, to get across the bridge. A few of us nearest the bridge resolved that while others kept up the fire with the Spencer's, to try and cross it. So a few at a time, we crossed our whole regiment, and worked off to the left in the swamp, and were skirmishing there for hours while the corduroy bridge was being built. We had worked around on

their flank so far that when the charge was made we could shoot lengthwise of their line of works. How they succeeded in getting that battery away I don't understand, but it was a race for dear life, they occasionally turning about and returning our fire.

They had established a hospital at the house about half a mile in the rear of their works, showing that they must have had some wounded. We, of course, felt rejoiced when we had broken through the trap in which they boasted of having us. Their papers stated that the city officials were coming out to look us over, but we couldn't wait.

I feel sad when I think of our brave comrades who laid down their lives in these engagements, and there were many who wore the gray equally brave though in a mistaken cause. I hope some of my comrades will tell us more about this expedition at some future time.

In regard to the casualties of the company will mention a few of the captured, wounded and dead. The captured are as follows: Edwin W. Wood, John S. Wolverton, Charles Austin, William Fall, Peter Haverland, B.F. Johnston, George B. Marble, David Pierce, Solomon Russell, Theophilus Lyon, Lucian B. Spencer, Oscar C. Wood, John E. Norton.

The wounded were: Lieut. Samuel Harris, wounded near Richmond; Lieut. John Allen Bigelow, Hagerstown, Md.; Diton Voorheis, Trevilion Station; Lieut. P. Mothersell, at Yellow Tavern; Lewis Y. Struble at Gettysburg; G. M. Richmond, Yellow Tavern; Jessie Chapman, Trevilion Station; David G. Fisher, Yellow Tavern; Anthony O'Brien, Gettysburg; Fletcher Wood, died in hospital at Washington; Andrew R. Evans, wounded at Gettysburg, died in hospital in Washington.

The killed were: Captain Axtel, at Yellow Tavern; Lieut. Percy Leggett, at Port Conway, Sept. 1, 1863; Richard Whitehead, Trevilion Station; Frank A. Barber, Ealies Ford; Hyram Ackerman, Trevilion Station; Peter Lavalley, Gettysburg; Henry C.

*Continued on Page 3*

## 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:

- ◆ **Hess Hathaway Concerts in the Park:** Hess Hathaway Park at 825 S. Williams Lake Road. Free Admission. Concerts begin at 6:00 p.m. with food and beverages available. Call 248-666-8600 for more information.  
**June 16**-New Horizons Concert Band  
**July 14**-Toppermost Beatles Tribute Band  
**July 28**-Lookin' Back-Bob Seger & the Silver Bullet Tribute Band  
**August 11**-Annabelle Road
- ◆ **Movies Under The Moonlight:** at Pierce Middle School. Gates open at 6:00 p.m. with movie starting at dusk. Activities galore! Admission \$2.00. Call 248-618-7424 for more information.  
**June 24**-"Shrek 2" rated PG  
**August 26**-"Up" rated PG
- ◆ **Annual Ice Cream Social:** Oakland County Pioneer and Historical Society. Saturday, July 30, from noon to 5:00 pm. Rally Round the Flag and help commemorate the Sesquicentennial of the Civil War. Admission \$5.00 and \$10.00 per family. 248-338-6732.

## 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

