



Waterford Historical Society Newsbill

Volume 14, Number 5

October—November 2009

Editor
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President's Notes

Silver bells, silver bells, it's Christmas time at WHS...yes, it sure is hard to start thinking about Christmas, but it's here at the Historical Society. Christmas in October makes all of us hum a Christmas carol as we work. And everyone has been working hard crafting and cleaning. You can do your part by making your list and checking it twice and doing your shopping with us. Everyone loves a bargain and you know our prices are low for such great quality. We are so proud to offer you a beautiful place to shop, please stop by. We guarantee you will find something special for everyone on your list.

Sally Strait

P.S. Don't miss our 2010 calendar "Hometown Drayton Plains", featuring a short history of Drayton Plains with photos "then and now" of downtown Drayton.



Christmas in October

By Sally Crake

Jacober's Store and the Log Cabin are dressed in their Christmas best, just waiting for our guests to do their early shopping.

We have lots of new items in Jacober's, hand made greeting cards, gently used children's books and lovely crafts made by our own ladies and men.

The Log Cabin's features are jewelry, ornaments, candles, afghans and much more.

We also have a kid's table, stocking stuffers, cute as can be.

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

Calendar

October-November
Every Wednesday 10:30-2:00

October 14

Board Meeting 1:00 HH

October 16 & 17

Friday & Saturday

Christmas in October 10-4

October 28

Pot Luck Noon

November 18

Board Meeting 1:00 HH

November 25

NO WORKDAY!

Happy Thanksgiving

December 2

Newsletter Mailing

December 5

Christmas Sale 10-4

December 9

Board Meeting 1:00 HH

December 10

Christmas Party Lunch

Christ Lutheran Church noon

Our bake sale, a crowd pleaser, lots of "yummy" treats, you can't pass up!

All our gifts are perfect for family, teachers, friends and of course yourself.

Invite your friends and neighbors and we'll see you on October 16 & 17 from 10:00 am until 4:00 pm. Shop early for your best selection!

Please call Sally Crake if you would like to bake or volunteer or have any questions. 248-738-7581.

Street Names, continued from page 3

Street names with historical connotations also suffered at the hands of the county. Daniel Windiate, who built the mill

at Drayton Plains had named a major road after himself in the 1840's. But most of Windiate's road became Andersonville Road in 1950. And Mill Street, leading to the mill on the Clinton River, is now Milo.

Some historical figures remain, though. Isaac Voorheis, an early supervisor, has a road named in his honor. So does a later supervisor, Alfred Gale. The Whitfields, Van Zandts and Van Syckles, pioneering families, are represented. So is Jayno Adams, with an Adams street and Jayno Heights subdivision.

Of course, in the water-logged township, roads named after lakes stuck. The likes of Pontiac Lake, Cass Lake, Scott Lake, Watkins Lake, Williams Lake, Silver Lake, Cooley Lake and Cass-Elizabeth Lake roads make travel about the township an easy matter. Find the lake, find the road. Find the road, find the lake.

General Cass was perhaps smarter than most for naming lakes after himself and his wife, Elizabeth. The road names weren't among those considered for changes in 1950.

Also among Waterford's streets are as many Indian names as there once were tribes roaming the woods and waters. Waterford has Wigwam, Moccasin, Totem, Cheyenne, Ute, Arapaho, Kewadin, Miami, Oregon, Nokomis, Choctaw, Manitou, Navaho, Muskingum and Iroquois. But the township did lose Hiawatha in 1950, long after Henry Wadsworth Longfellow found him under a waterfall in Michigan's Upper Peninsula.

Other Indian names disappeared from township sign posts just as the tribes vanished with the woods. Once Waterford boasted Paw Paw, Seneca, Delare, Owosso and a gathering spot in Cherokee Hills known as Indian Punch Bowl Parkway.

While losing trees during the period when the township converted from a resort area to a population center, streets named after trees also disappeared. In Huron Gardens subdivision, Hickory became Tilden, Maple became part of Telegraph and Beach became Josephine. Old Orchard is the solitary street remaining from 14 Orchard streets.

But flowers remain on the street signs with Iris, Crocus, Daffodil and Zinnia.

The eccentricities of some subdivision planners becomes obvious from the street names. Have Jack and Marion Rothberg ever been to Spain? Well Cortez himself might be tempted to come looking for gold if he heard the street names in Lake Angelus Heights. There's no El Dorado, but there are Costa Mesa, Montebello, Reseda, Escondido, San Mateo, Segundo and Redondo.

Another developer apparently spun the globe to the British Isles. Highland Estates subdivision streets are named Argyll, Sunderland, Dundee, Strathdon, Shetland and Loch Leven. Perhaps some sailor planned Lake Oakland Heights. The streets are Breaker, Shoals, Mariner, Aquarina and Embarcadero.

Marion and Mary Benson had plumbing in mind when they named the streets of the neighborhood built in their old peach orchard. The streets of Benson's Old Orchard are named after nationally known plumbing companies—Universal, Crane, Briggs, Standard and Kohler.

A car buff may have had a lot to do with naming the roads in LaSalle Park. There one will find Mott, Chrysler, Paige, Nash, Chevrolet, Peerless, Buick and Oldsmobile.

Membership Dues

Time for all annual members to start thinking about your membership dues. All annual memberships will be due on December 15th for the next year. All memberships coming in now will be good until December of 2010.

Our By-Laws state that "Dues shall be due on Dec. 15 of each year for the next calendar year of Jan.-Dec. Individuals shall be dropped from the membership if their dues have not been paid by Dec. 15 and they will not receive January newsletter of the following year."

Try to mail in early and avoid the rush. We have so much going on that we don't want you to get left behind and we certainly don't want to lose you!

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

Village Update

The pine floor in the new building is installed and sealed and is a beauty to behold. The men folk worked overtime on that and may get a raise! Outdoor trim has been painted and some siding will start to go up. Indoor trim to match the floor is being installed around the windows, doors and floor as we speak. We are officially hooked up to electricity so will no longer have cords running all over. The larger artifacts are getting a dust-off, clean-up and fix-up before they move across the village to their permanent location in the bakery, barber, and doctor and dentist offices.

One side of Jacober's has shelves filled with "stock" for a permanent display. We are making progress, come and see.

Waterford's Street Names Show Touch of Eccentricity

By Dennis Foley - Oakland Press

This amusing article was found in our archives with no date— though we can guess it was written in the early 1970's.

Waterford Township—What's in a name?

Waterford's 740 street names—from Adamson to Zinnia—carry with them plenty of history. There's a touch of eccentricity in some street names, a mixture of the common and bizarre and an accident or two.

Some of the planning for subdivision street names was carefully plotted by the builders of neighborhoods. Other streets got names haphazardly—with an assist from the county.

The county giveth the right to founders of subdivisions to name the roads (in good taste). But, the county also taketh away when it comes across duplicates.

The county changed 540 street names in Waterford in 1950. The names were changed to protect innocent postal authorities who discovered they were delivering Pontiac mail to Waterford streets where the names matched. To eliminate that duplication, most of Waterford's street names had to go. Where once there were 28 Lakeview streets, there is but one. First and Second streets became Fleet and Sarvis. Main Street, plotted in several subdivisions, gave way to one—a street one block long with five houses on it.

The people who laid out subdivisions and named streets after themselves, their wives and children, also suffered some from the massive 1950 effort. Martin Gilbert may have thought it romantic to name a street in Elizabeth Park Acres Frances, after his wife, but in 1950 the road became Winding Drive.

It is doubtful, too, that Grace Kerr changed her name to Graves in 1950; but the county changed the name of the street named in her honor anyhow. At least Kerr Acres, laid out by Grace and her husband Robert, is still with us.

"We certainly didn't mean to deprive anyone of their history," said Bob Grady of the road commission. Grady was around in 1950 when the overhaul of the township's road names came about. "We just had to eliminate duplication in the general area," he said. "It helps avoid confusion among ambulance drivers, police and postal authorities.

If Sherman Wilson were looking for the streets named in his honor in 1929, chances are he would be lost on Springle and Wilse. That's what the roads are now.

Others had more luck, especially those who laid out some of Waterford's 366 subdivisions after 1950. After all, Percy King Road still exists, and the potato farmer did get by with David K. and Grace K., honoring his son and wife.

And for every Jones Road changed to Jonquil, with no slight to Charles and Abigail Jones, there is still a Linabury, Frembes and Denby, calling to mind the original landholders of the area.

Former Supervisor Carlos Richardson lives in a subdivision he planned—on Carlos Drive, no less. The adjacent street—Evadna—he named after his wife.

And the tradition of naming streets after kin continues in one of the newest township subdivisions which developer Walter Jackson called Priscilla Meadows, after his wife. The only street in the neighborhood, Jennifer Agnes is also the name of Jackson's daughter.

But the only rhyme or reason to many of the name changes by the county appears to be that the new name begins with the same letter of the alphabet. Every street—save one—in Huntoon Lake subdivision was changed in 1950 along that pattern. Roosevelt begat Rowley; Clifton begat Cutler; Oak Ridge begat Oak Beach; Ardmore begat Ardreth and Normandy begat Norris. As the exception to the rule, Guilford begat Clayton.

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	
<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:

- ◆ **Small Talk “Chief Pontiac: Ottawa Indian Who Challenged an Empire”:** Sunday October 11 at 2:00pm at the Carriage House at the Oakland County Pioneer and Historical Society. Admission is free, donations accepted for this event marking the 240th anniversary of the murder of the Ottawa war chief Pontiac. Talk given by Charles Martinez, historian for the OCPHS. More info call 248-338-6732 or visit their website: www.ocphs.org
- ◆ **Holly Historical Society Field Trip** Mark your calendar to Join us on Thursday December 3rd at 1:00 p.m. for dessert at the Holly Historical Society Museum. We will get to see their museum decorated in Victorian Christmas finery. Watch your newsletter for more details.
- ◆ **www.twp.waterford.mi.us/waterfordsoundwaves** - site where you can download the audio walking tours of the Waterford Historic District on Andersonville Road and the Drayton Plains Nature Center. Check it out.
- ◆ **www.waterfordhistoricalsociety.org** Visit our website. You can print a schedule of events and also past newsletters.

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.

Ancillary Service End.

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

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



Waterford Township Historical Society