



# Waterford Historical Society Newsbill

Volume 14, Number 3

June-July 2009

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

## President's Notes

Give yourselves a pat on the back. At the 2009 Waterford Business Recognition Breakfast on Thursday, May 7, the Historical Society was awarded the **2009 Special Recognition Award**. I was honored and proud to accept this award on behalf of the whole membership. The work we do in preserving Waterford's history while building the Village for the future is not going unrecognized. We are an asset to the whole community. Stop in and see our beautiful plaque on display at the Hatchery House; you have earned it.

Now switching gears...**Log Cabin Days 2009** is upon us! Get ready because it's time to shine up and show off. We really need everyone's help to pull this off. Yes, we work hard, but this is the good kind of hard work. The kind you have fun doing and are proud of after. See the inside article to find out where you can jump in.

Please thank the local businesses you see listed on the Log Cabin Days flyer. These local businesses support us, many of them year after year, despite the economy. In fact, Genisys Credit Union increased their sponsorship this year! Smith's Disposal is a brand new sponsor giving a monetary donation and a free dumpster. Hungry Howie's is donating pizza for our workers and is stapling thousands of flyers to their pizza boxes the week before Log Cabin Days (something they have done for years). **These donations allow us to offer free admission and parking!** We are grateful for their support so support them.

See you at Log Cabin Days!

*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

### June-July

Every Wednesday 10:30-2:00

### June 17

Board Meeting 1:00 HH

### June 24

Regular Work Day  
NO POT LUCK

### June 26

Log Cabin Workday  
Lunch provided  
10:00 a.m.

### June 27-June 28

**Log Cabin Days**  
10:00 a.m.—5:00 p.m.

### July 8

Log Cabin Day Mtg 1:00HH

### July 15

Board Meeting 1:00 HH

### July 29

Pot Luck Noon

### August 5

Newsletter Mailing

## Memorial Day Parade

Wow, what a parade this year! The weather was perfect and the crowds were huge. Thanks to all who made the annual "march down the Dixie" with us to honor our veterans. We were lucky to have a group of "pioneer" girls from Haviland Elementary School march with us this year. They really stole the show.

We are so thankful to have the Heart of the Lakes V.F. W. Post 1008 host this parade each year-this year was number 42!

## Log Cabin Days 2009

Here are the ways you can help us for our biggest event of the year:

We have flyers available for you to take to local businesses you frequent. Just stop in and grab a few. We also have postcards for you to take and personally invite your friends and neighbors. People really want to come and might just need a little reminder.

You could come by and get a handful of garage sale flyers and distribute them as you see sales in your area. These tell people that we would like their leftovers for our sale. Many people are happy to have a place to donate them. Bring us your own items, too. Remember that items too good for the white elephant will go to Merrill's antique and collectible sale (248-673-0615).

You can bake for our ever popular bake sale. If you receive a call, try to help out. Cookies, brownies, small quick breads, etc. are great sale items. Anything people can grab and eat and can stand the heat! We need fresh items for both days so Call Dorothy White if you want donate 248-623-0937.

Our cakewalk was again a success last year so we will also need cakes for our cakewalk. Bake a few small cakes or cupcakes and bring them in on that Saturday or Sunday.

Sign-up sheets are out and ready for your signature. We have places for every ability and inclination. We are happy to have you for as much or as little as you would like. Here are the places we have gaps:

**Welcome Booth**-greeting and directing people. Saturday morning and all times Sunday.

**White Elephant**-on your feet selling our elephants on Saturday afternoon and Sunday afternoon

**Log Cabin Store**-selling items

**The following are mostly sitting and talking to people as they view the displays-** (you do not need to be an expert on these buildings for this)

**Jacobser's Store**-Saturday & Sunday afternoon

**Depot**-all times

**Hardware Store**-Saturday afternoon & Sun morning

**Print Shop**-all times

**New Building**-all times

**Library**-sit down job in the air conditioning! Saturday and Sunday afternoon.

**SAVE THE DATE**

**June 27 & 28**

**Sat & Sun 10-5**



**WE NEED YOU!**

## Annual General Meeting

Our Annual General Meeting on Thursday, May 21, was well attended and full of information. Deserts were provided by Inn at Cass Lake and we thank them for their community service to our group.

Here are the results of our election:

2 year terms:

Vice President-Dorothy White

Recording Secretary-Dorothy Webber

Bookkeeper-Cheryl Stoutenburg

3 year terms:

Members at Large: Bob Allen and Norman Watchpocket

We are a group with much going on and your board members work extra hard to keep our organization moving forward.

Harvey Hedlund showed us an awesome slide show of the construction of our new building. We will have this showing during Log Cabin Days in the new Building. Wives, you can actually see the evidence that your husbands were indeed working!

**SAVE THE DATE**

Annual General Meeting & Election

May 20, 2010 in Jacobser's Store

## Library Plaques

Library plaques are still available to purchase. This is an on-going project and will continue until we run out of room. Plaques are \$20.00 and can be made in your name or "in memory of" or even for an event like a birthday, graduation, etc. Make your check payable to "Waterford Historical Society" and mail to our P.O. Box.

## Native Americans

**By Scott Roberts**

We are currently seeking personal and historical information regarding American Indian life and settlement in Waterford Township and the nearby Oakland County area. If you or any member of your family, neighbors or acquaintances are of all or partial American Indian descent and trace your family to this area; we would be pleased if you would contact us or stop by on a Wednesday from 10:30 a.m.-2:00 p.m. Hatchery House recorder 248-673-0342 or Sally Strait 248-683-2697.

## Digging Oliver Williams

At our Annual General Meeting we also saw a presentation about the Oliver Williams Settlement Project. This is a joint project with the Waterford School District, Oakland University, Oakland County Pioneer & Historical Society and the Waterford Historical Society. Dr. Richard Stamps from Oakland University, and Carol Egbo, from the Waterford School District talked about Oliver Williams life before and up to his coming to Waterford in 1818 and how they have been trying to pinpoint the exact location where his house and barn would have been. They have been doing test digs with students from Oakland University and some elementary students from Waterford. This is a fascinating project that we are thrilled to be part of. Oliver Williams was and is important to Waterford, of course, but also to the settlement of Oakland County. Stay tuned for further details about this project.

If anyone has any information about the original location of the Oliver Williams rock & plaque that sits off of Dixie Highway (right across from where Scott lake Road ends) on Omira please contact me by phone or email. This rock was move by the Road Commission more than once and we are actively seeking the original spot (and the Road Commission has no record of this). Sally Strait 248-683-2697 or [sstrait649@comcast.net](mailto:sstrait649@comcast.net).

## Oliver Williams A History Lesson

In honor of the Oliver Williams Settlement Project, I figured a history lesson was in order for all of us. We know that Oliver traveled to and settled Waterford on the banks of Silver Lake (which he named) in 1818 and 1819. Here are some facts about Oliver Williams before his travels to Waterford that you may not know:

**Major Oliver Williams** was born in Roxbury, Massachusetts in 1774. He came to Detroit in 1808, established the mercantile business there, purchasing his goods in Boston, carting them overland in covered wagons to Buffalo, and shipping them by water to Detroit. He ordinarily made two trips a year, on horseback, between Boston and Detroit.

During the winter and spring of 1810-11 he built a large sloop, which he named the *Friends Good Will* to be used for his Detroit merchant business. During the War of 1812 (between the U.S. and Great Britain), and while at port in Fort Mackinaw, *Friends Good Will* was chartered by the U.S. government. She was to go back and forth from Mackinaw to the garrison at Chicago carrying military stores and supplies.

On the first return trip from Chicago, and unaware that the British had captured Fort Mackinaw (the British had purposely left the American flag flying over the fort), *Friends Good Will* was captured and Major Williams and his crew were made prisoners. The name of the vessel was changed by the British to "Little Belt," and it formed a part of the British squadron and was captured the next year by Commodore Perry on Lake Erie. At the time of the battle she mounted three guns. She was burned at Buffalo the following winter, having, with two others, been driven ashore by a gale.

Major Williams was paroled at the end of the war and went back to visit his family in Concord, Massachusetts. When he then returned to Detroit to look after his business and property he found Detroit and the entire frontier laid to waste and his property scattered to the winds. The most that he saved from the general ruin was his residence on the corner of Jefferson avenue and Bates, and some twenty acres on Woodward Avenue (all of which he later sold when he purchased his farm in Oakland County).

In the fall of 1815 he moved his family from Concord, Mass., to Detroit. His wife, Mary, and eight children traveled with spring carriages and their goods in double covered wagons. They stopped in Buffalo, New York, for three weeks until obtaining passage to Detroit by way of a small schooner. On their Jefferson Avenue property they opened a successful hotel and boarding house known as the Yankee hotel.

An interesting note was that in August, 1817, President James Monroe visited Detroit and was received with public honors during a procession led by Oliver Williams, then city marshal. Passing the Williams residence on Jefferson avenue, Mary Williams beckoned her husband to dismount and summon Dr. Brown, living next door. In a short time a son was born to Mary, who they then named James Monroe Williams in honor of the visiting President!

**To be continued** with the Williams first exploration into the wilderness of Pontiac and Waterford in the fall of 1818.

The above Information taken from the Michigan Historical Society Records (Volume 8) of their Annual Meeting in 1885 where Ephraim S. Williams (Oliver's son) gave a speech to the meeting about his family history.

## Ride , continued from page 5

***Road and met and overtook a great number. Two stout fellows, whom I remembered seeing at Pontiac, kept abreast of us several miles.***

“They beguiled the tedium of the way by a pipe which served them both, amicably dividing between them its use and the time. Occasionally, when opposite a wood, one would take up a sort of wooden pipe hung at his girdle, and whistle upon it, making a perfect imitation of the bleating of a young fawn.

“This would often bring up to them a deer, and gain a shot at her—they both carried guns. A little girl of the party, yesterday in Pontiac, led a beautiful tame fawn.

***Several violent showers made our way extremely tedious, in our exposed condition, and the aggravation was increased by the sloth-like pace at which we were obliged to progress.***

“Oh! When they get the railroad finished, what a difference it will make! Ten miles of it will be finished next year. (This was the Detroit & Pontiac Railroad, which was the ancestor of the Grand Trunk and reached Pontiac in 1844.)

“This is the finest country in the world for railroad—a perfect level, no deep cuts, no inclined planes, no high banks, no ledges. To be sure there is no stone, but they can do without it. At the depth of three feet there is a solid hardpan.

“The intention is to cut sticks of timber—say eight feet long—and drive these piles into the ground; on the butts of the sticks lay the rails, and all agree that such a road will be far more cheaply constructed than any other good road could possibly be, over this route.

***Being hungry, at about 1 o'clock, we stopped at a tavern and ordered a dish of milk. The milk was sweet, but the bread was dry and stale and as it began to saturate, the little red bugs rose, kicking most hastily to the surface where they were immediately skimmed off and most barbarously committed to the flames.***

“After our repast we found the road lined on both sides by Indians, returning with their loads—men, women and even little children toiled on with their faces bent to the ground, their backs loaded with blankets, bundles, kettles, frying pans, spinning wheels, guns, etc., among which motley burden the

black eyes of some happy little papoose not infrequently blared out with a brilliancy which might have put a masasauga to the blush. We arrived at Detroit at half past two.”

**This ends Cyrus P. Bradley’s journal insofar as it tells us about Oakland county and Pontiac and US -10 to Detroit in the summer of 1835. The mouldering calfskin-bound volume was rescued from an attic in 1906 by one George H. Twiss and printed in the Ohio Archeological and Historical Society publications for that year, or it would now be forgotten and Bradley’s tale of Oakland county untold.**

Young Bradley reached home in Concord, New Hampshire, in October, his hundred dollars spent, but his eyes still full of sparkle from his experience in the new west. His health regained, he returned to Dartmouth college and graduated with highest honors in 1837. But before he ever started on what promised to be a brilliant career his illness returned and, at the age of only 19, he died in July, 1838. No member of the Bradley family is alive today.



*Cyrus P. Bradley (1818-1838) was 16 when he wrote this journal of his tour of Concord, New Hampshire, Boston, New York, Philadelphia, Baltimore, Washington, Ohio and Michigan. He was traveling to recover his health. When he returned home he said, "My friends received me, as one returning from circumnavigation of the globe, as having providentially escaped accident and death and as having a clear and undoubted right to the title of - a great traveler!!!"*

**Picture and Quote from the Clarke Historical Library at Central Michigan University**

More information can be found if you Google “Cyrus P. Bradley, Ohio”. You can find information and an excerpt from his journal on the Central Michigan University site (<http://clarke.cmich.edu/detroit/bradley1835.htm>) and his entire journal on the Ohio Historical Society site [www.publications.ohiohistory.org](http://www.publications.ohiohistory.org)

# Ride From Pontiac to Detroit in 1835 Jostles Young Visitor

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

*(This is the last 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.)*

With the gusto of youth, young Cyrus P. Bradley hugely enjoyed his stay in Michigan. He found so much more up and coming than staid Ohio, which had been settled much earlier, was already a state and whose inhabitants were—to him, at least—stodgy farmers and not far-seeing pioneers.

In fact, on his whole trip, which covered several thousand miles and lasted from April till October, 1835, he was nowhere as enthusiastic or exuberant in his journal as in his account of his stay in Michigan.

It is evident that he hated to leave Oakland county, where he had met the Williamses at Williams lake, the Drapers, with their two “intelligent” daughters, young Dunklee, just our of Dartmouth and now in business for himself in bustling, booming Pontiac.

But he was traveling with Trustee Fletcher of Dartmouth college, a man of affairs. Fletcher had had his visit with his brother, Judge William A. Fletcher of Ann Arbor, holding court here in Pontiac, and had to return to Detroit. So we pick up this sixth and final extract from Bradley’s journal:

“May 20, Saturday. Started (for Detroit) early. It did not rain, but yesterday’s storm had by no means improved the quality of the road. Our coach was this time an open wagon and we the only passengers.

*There were not springs to the carriage, the seats were boards placed on top of the box, and what*

*with the jolts of the vehicle, the holes in the road and our efforts at balancing, no exercise of the gymnasium could have been more salutary.*

“I have read somewhere the question, who ever heard of a dyspeptic state driver? I would defy all the attacks of indigestion, even if I shared the food of the ostrich, and as to the hippo—the blue devils would have their little souls jolted out of them by a ride from Pontiac to Detroit. Our driver was sociable and we did very well.

“The flats for a mile or so were entirely drowned and we waded in the water where it stood over the road perhaps two feet deep. At the edge of the flats we found a woman and her daughter waiting for us to take them across—they were going for strawberries.

“The woman had lived here for five years, had last moved from Ohio, said she felt lonely and reckoned it was about time to move off—all her children had left her but five!

“As we proceeded I noticed every log of the causeway that happened to rise above the surface was crowned with villainous rattlesnake—probably driven out of his nest by the deluge.

“The driver said, whenever he saw a very large one, he jumped out and killed him, but the little ones he never disturbed. One of his leaders (horses) had been bitten by one, a strange conformation of the nose was the consequence. It looked as if it was sliced off literally with an ax. He was with difficulty cured.

*We passed several camps of the Indians on their*

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

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Date	Phone	
Name		
Address		
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](http://www.waterfordhistoricalsociety.org)

Non-profit 501(c)3 organization

## Things you might like:

- ◆ **June 26 Movies Under the Moonlight** on the football field at Pierce Middle School on Hatchery. Sponsored by the Waterford Chamber of Commerce and the Waterford Coalition for Youth. Gates open at 6:30pm and movie "Charlotte's Web" with Dakota Fanning starts at dusk. Live band, food and activities for kids of all ages. Suggested donation \$1.00.
- ◆ **July 25 Annual Ice Cream Social** at the Oakland County Pioneer & Historical Society grounds at Wisner Home at 405 Cesar Chavez Avenue in Pontiac.
- ◆ **[www.twp.waterford.mi.us/waterfordsoundwaves](http://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](http://www.waterfordhistoricalsociety.org)** Visit our new website. You can print a schedule of events and also past newsletters.
- ◆ **Restaurants with our Pictures** visit these local restaurants to view some WHS pictures...Bob Evans on M-59 and Rib-Shack on Dixie Highway.

### 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.  
U.S. Postage  
**PAID**  
Waterford, MI  
Permit No. 123

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



Waterford Township Historical Society