

# Waterford Historical Society Newsbill

Volume 13, Number 1

February-March 2008

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

## President's Notes

The new year is here! When I was younger time went a lot slower. 2007 flew by and I look forward to a great year 2008 at WHS.

Some tidbits of 2007 business for you...The Christmas Sale grossed \$1366.00, we have collected over \$1800.00 for the Annual Giving, and we received a beautiful certificate from the Waterford Goodfellows thanking us for our food and toy donation from our Christmas Lunch. Thank you all to ending the year on this positive note.

Now we look to the Fashion Show, always a favorite event. After that is our Annual General meeting in March and then, of course, Log Cabin Days Festival 2008.

Try to get involved this year if you can. Jump in with one toe or the whole foot. We need you and value you.

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  
Craig Keen 248-623-0008  
Merrill Paine 248-673-0615

## Calendar

### February

Every Wednesday 10:30-2:00

### February 20

Board Meeting 1:00 HH

### February 27

Pot Luck Noon

### March 5

Log Cabin Day Mtg 1:00 HH

### March 15

#### Fashion Show

11:00 a.m. Bartelli's

### March 19

Board Meeting 1:00 HH

### March 20

Annual General Meeting &

Election, Speaker and

Pot Luck 6:00 pm

### March 26

Pot Luck Noon

### April 2

Log Cabin Day Mtg 1:00 HH

Newsletter Mailing

## Fashion Show

Our 7th annual Preview Spring Luncheon and Style Show will take place on Saturday, March 15th 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. Please call Sally Crake for more information or to purchase tickets. 248-738-7581.

**SAVE THE DATE**

March 15, 2008 11:00 a.m.

## 2007 Lifetime

We would like to recognize and thank our Lifetime members for 2007:

Donald & Grace Blain

Stuart & Arlen Magy

Bob Nelson

Rich & Cheryl Stoutenburg

Thomas & Sharidon Stringer

Just as a note of information-150 of our 200 members are lifetime. We are so thankful for *all* of our dedicated members. You are the reason we are here and so successful!

## Log Cabin Days 2008

As you read this newsletter our first Log Cabin Days planning meeting will be over, however, don't despair. You are still needed and wanted! We are always looking for new ideas and new people. Maybe you have a neighbor recently retired with nothing to do? How about a friend or family member? The more people and ideas we have, the better. T.V. is boring so start thinking about Log Cabin Days and bring your ideas to our next meeting on March 5th.

### SAVE THE DATE

March 5 1:00 Hatchery House

June 28-29, 2008

## Message from Crafty

To the W.H.S. Membership:

Thanks to those who spent time on Wednesdays in the craft workshop creating and constructing.

Thanks to people who donated time and materials to make things at home.

Thanks to the shoppers who spent money and helped with the sale on open days of the store.

But most of all, thanks to those who gave us your moral support. Your encouragement and good wishes are what we always need to bring about a successful project like the craft sales.

Your Jacober Store Crafters

## Historic Waterford

What would you like to see in the Historic Waterford Village? We have Jacober's Store, a Carriage House, Lohff's Printing, Webber's hardware, the Drayton Plains Depot, GTW Caboose, and a RR water tower. We have plans to build a Doctor's/Dentist office, Bakery, Barber Shop, Millinery Shop, and a circa 1920 Gas Station. What about a cider mill or movie house, or a one room schoolhouse? What would you like to see? Turn in your suggestion(s) to a village committee member.

Here is a list of our needs & wants: C.D. sound system for the Depot, 20' wood orchard ladder, a person who can drywall the stairwell in Jacober's Store, wind mill made of steel 25'-30' tall.

Call Craige Keen 248-623-0008 for more information.

## Annual General Meeting

Please plan to attend our first general membership meeting of 2008, on Thursday March 20, at 6:00 p.m. Our pot luck and speaker format is a rousing success so we will continue. Please bring a dish to pass and we will provide the plates, etc, and beverage.

Even more important than good food, we are holding elections. This is the meeting to attend if you never have. And we promise that every one of your votes counts (no political party shenanigans).

In accordance with our By-Laws we are presenting our slate of officers for 2008 as follows:

President-Sally Strait

Corresponding Secretary-Betty Seymour

Treasurer-Betty Horn

If you are interested in running for any of these positions please contact Dorothy White at 248-623-0937 so you can be nominated the night of the election when nominations are taken from the floor.

Our speaker will be Bruce Annett who will speak on the year **1928: The Last Best Year of a Generation**. This is an illustrated lecture that discusses the frantic pace of growth and development in our area up to the stock market crash of 1929 and the near 30-year gap before development picked up again following the Korean War. All examples cited are local and many are Waterford-based, including establishment of the airport.

This is a not to be missed occasion; see you there!

### SAVE THE DATE

March 20 Jacober's Store

## Skeletons, continued from page 3

The new theme was French provincial.

When the Krojewskis bought the house in 1982, they remodeled to achieve the look of a bed and breakfast from out East. In their extensive renovation, the Krojewskis found some bones. Those were given to the proper authorities, who decided they were human bones, probably of a Native American.

The Krojewskis were told the house was built on or near the Indian burial ground and that Chief Sashabaw was buried near the lake on their property. They, as well as previous owners, say they have felt the presence of spirits. The Krojewskis don't mind as long as the spirits are quiet and cause no trouble.

Waterford has many old homes with wonderful stories to tell.

*This article originally appeared in the Waterford Reminder on April 27, 1995 and is reprinted by permission.*

# House has a few skeletons—and more—in closets

Article by Joy Smith

One of the more interesting aspects of working with the Waterford Historical Society is having a homeowner come to us with the history of her house. One such homeowner visited with us and presented a program to the society on one of our Thursday night meetings.

Karen Krojewski opened her presentation with the fact that her house may be part of the original homestead of Oliver Williams, founder of Waterford, along with Captain Archibald Phillips and Alpheus Williams. The latter of the two continued on to homestead on the Clinton River where it crosses over Dixie Highway. Oliver Williams settled on Silver Lake.

This information was quite exciting since Williams came here in 1819. Another intriguing fact stated by Krojewski was the house was believed to be haunted by Chief Sashabaw. The Krojewskis researched the history of their house through Oakland County records, talking to people who had lived there or lived near by.

It was first mentioned in the records in 1915 as being purchased by Harry Stowell. At that time it was a small two-room cabin with a stone fireplace for heating and cooking.

When Stowell died, the house was left in the possession of a minor, James Fredrick Smith, who was almost swindled into selling it for \$1. Helen Fader, guardian of James F. Smith, sold it in 1935 to Archie G. Baun and Helen Baun for \$1,500.

From here, dates get a bit confusing. There are two recordings of selling the house, one in 1936 and one in 1940, to Stanley Brock. The Brocks added on to the cottage and made it into a summer home. They owned the house from 1936?-40? To 1955.

Rumors have it, during that time there was a “blind pig” in the basement. Statements such as “having stumbled out of that basement more than once “ made by others lead them to believe this to be true. Other evidence could be the com-

mercial art deco cherry wood bar, built during the time of Prohibition, that occupied the basement complete with orange and black swivel bar stools bolted into the floor. The back splash mirror was beveled, set in carved cherry wood with tiered shelves for liquor bottles. A cash register and built-in cash drawer along with many empty bottles found in the renovation of the basement also leaves little doubt in their minds that “bootlegging” may have been going on in the residence. Many flat “bootlegging” bottles were also found.

The next door neighbor’s home was a garage and general store with live-in quarters. His basement has a tunnel that goes out to the lake. Bootlegged booze may have come into the blind pig this way.

The house was sold again in 1994 to Mr. and Mrs. Theodor Schroder for \$15,000. The Schroders were related to Dan Blocker, one of the stars on the TV show “Bonanza”.

The house was designed for large parties. Rumor has it Schroder had his own agenda. The house told this story during renovation. A box of receipts for dinners and flowers sent to someone other than his wife was found, as were paycheck receipts showing his take home pay as \$350 (back in 1952).

Schroder ran the Pontiac Foundry. He contracted the work for the cement boathouse on the property. When told two dwellings on one piece of property were not allowed, Schroder had the boathouse built in one weekend. Cinder blocks are still found in the lake where they were hastily thrown.

Schroder left the house and his wife, but she loved it there so much she tried to keep it up herself. She ran it as a boarding house for her much needed income, but poor health prevented her from keeping it in good repair.

She finally had to sell it in 1977 to the Boilie family for \$85,000. The Boilies spared no expense on redecorating.

*Continued on Page 2*

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

## Waterford Historical

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

## Do you Remember?

### **The Band Played on**

Casey would waltz with a strawberry blonde  
And the band played on.  
He'd glide 'cross the floor with the girl he adored,  
And the band played on.  
But his brain was so loaded, he nearly exploded;  
The poor girl would shake with alarm.  
He married the girl with the strawberry curl,  
And the band played on.

### **After the Ball**

After the ball is over; after the break of morn;  
After the dancers leaving; after the stars are gone;  
Many a heart is aching, if you could read them all;  
Many the hopes that have vanished after the ball.

### **I Want a Girl**

I want a girl just like the girl that married dear old Dad.  
She was a pearl and the only girl that Daddy ever had.  
A good, old-fashioned girl with a heart so true;  
One who loves nobody else but you;  
I want a girl just like the girl who married dear old Dad.

## SAVE...SAVE...SAVE...SAVE

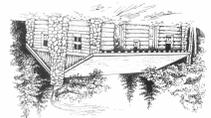
Please save your VG's and Tenuta's receipts and bring them to the Hatchery House on Wednesday or mail them to us at the above mailing address. This is free money for us!



**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