

# Waterford Historical Society Newsbill

Volume 13, Number 6

December 2008-January 2009

Editor  
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## President's Notes

Christmas in October was a rousing success and we profited over \$3,400.00! The weather was beautiful; could we be making up for the rainy Log Cabin Days? Aunt Sally does a great job of thanking everyone in her article on page 2, but I just want to add my two cents. This group of volunteers is amazing. Each of us seems to have a talent that fits in to make the whole machine go. No task seems to small or too big for us. We get it done.

As the year draws to a close be thankful for your friends and family. And I also mean the friends and family here at WHS. The camaraderie and kinship experienced here is a blessing.

I truly thank each and every one of you for all you do and wish you all a very peaceful and joyous holiday season.



*Sally Strait*

## Christmas Lunch

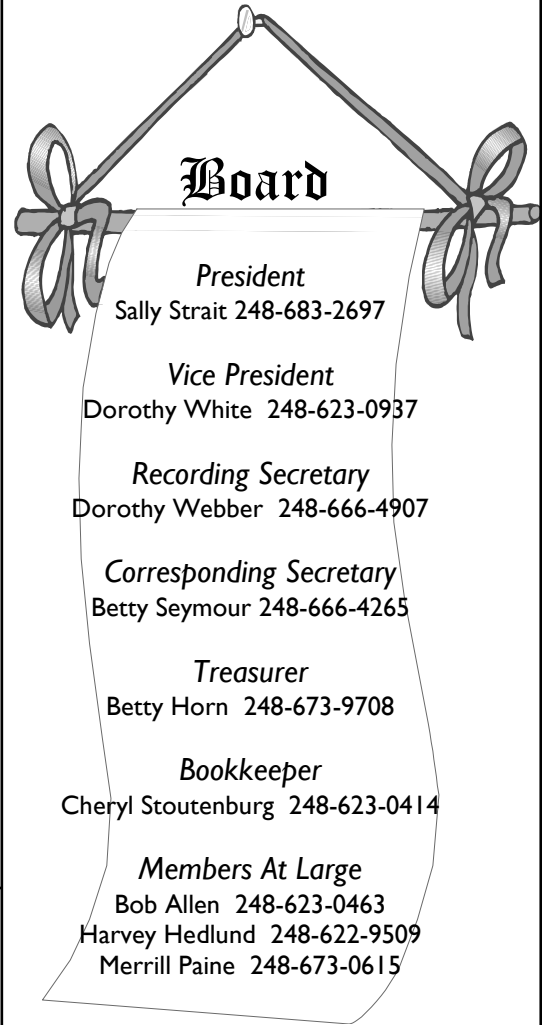
You are cordially invited to our Christmas Celebration Pot Luck on Thursday, December 11th at noon, Christ Lutheran Church, 5987 Williams Lake Road.

This is a great day of fellowship and fun for us. Our pot lucks are legendary and we hope you can bring a friend to "taste and see" the food and the Waterford Historical Society.

We will have raffles and table prizes and a promise to have no sign-up sheets!

We will supply the meat, beverages, and place setting. You bring a dish to pass.

We will be donating to the Waterford



## 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

**December 6**  
**Christmas Sale**  
10:00-4:00pm

**December 10**  
Regular workday  
Board Meeting 1:00 HH

**December 11**  
**Christmas Lunch Noon**  
**Christ Lutheran Church**

**December 17-Jan 7**  
Closed

**January 7, 2009**  
First Wednesday open

**January 14**  
Board Meeting 1:00 HH

**January 21**  
Fashion Show Meeting  
10:30am HH

**January 28**  
Pot Luck Noon

**February 4**  
Log Cabin Day Mtg 1:00HH

Goodfellows again this year for their Christmas Food Basket Program. The economy isn't improving so let's once again make an effort this year to give in a big way. Here is what they need: canned goods, non-perishable food items, mittens, coloring books and crayons, new children's books, games and toys for all age groups.

We hope to see you there!

**SAVE THE DATE**

December 11, 2008 Noon

## Christmas in October

### By Sally Crake

Golden sunshine and colorful balloons welcomed our guests for Christmas in October. All were smiling and amazed at the beautiful gifts. They shopped, took time to visit and couldn't resist the bake sale. Warm hugs and compliments came from the seniors as they departed the busses for the awesome adventure.

Thank you to Margaret Maneese and her Crafty Ladies who spent endless hours creating the miniature "Bronner's" in Jacober's Store, displaying all of the hand-made items. It was a fantasy.

Thank you Betty Horn and her gals who once again changed the Log Cabin into a miniature "Macy's"; all very happy with the new look! The bake sale was a sea of tasty treats, organized by Dorothy White and her helpers. To all who baked, we appreciate it!

To Bill Hayter, J.D. Powell, Stu Magy and Bob Johnson goes a special thanks. I couldn't do it without you!

Sincere thanks to all of the volunteers who worked, baked, crafted, and as always did an excellent job...you are priceless.

Lots of Hugs, Aunt Sally Crake

P.S.-It's early but as you do your holiday cleaning, please remember to box up your unwanted items and

## Membership Dues

Here is your last plea for membership dues, please send them in if you are due! All memberships coming in now will be good until December of 2009. We really don't want to lose you, but printing costs prohibit us from sending you a newsletter without membership. Keep in touch and keep active. We need 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



## Fashion Show

Our 8th annual Preview Spring Luncheon and Style Show will take place on Saturday, March 14th, 2009. Planning Meeting will take place on January 21, 2009 at 10:30 a.m. at the Hatchery House. Hold these dates!

## Annual Giving

You will soon see your year end Annual Giving cards in the mail. 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 with the many day to day expenses we have, like electricity, gas and insurance. 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.

## Log Cabin Days 2009

We just put Christmas in October to bed and now we must think of our events for next year and Log Cabin Days Festival 2009. The first planning meeting will be on February 4th at 1:00pm at the Hatchery House. **This is your chance to give us your valuable input.** Keep your eyes peeled for new ideas over the winter. Is there something you want us to try? Jot down some notes and get ready for action as February comes around.

### SAVE THE DATE

Log Cabin Day 2009 Meeting, Feb. 4th at 1:00pm HH

## Young Visitor, continued from page 3

to Williams Lake, about eight miles over a good road.

"We met a large party of Indians, men, women and children, on their way to Detroit and Fort Maiden on the British side (now Amherstberg, Ontario); to the former place to receive a payment from our government in return for their land; to the latter for their British presents.

***That government (Britain) in return for their services during the war (of 1812), agreed to pay them annually five dollars a head for a certain number of years. That time has expired, but they cannot get rid of them.***

"The squaws carry as many polls as they can—all their own children and all they can borrow. The presents are usually in blankets or trinkets, which, however, they will often pawn for a canteen of grog—'more whiskey' is the invariable demand. The men are stout, fine looking fellows and many of the women and children are handsome. They wear blankets, many of them leggings, but most of them have their legs entirely bare.

"They have an abundance of silver bands, collars, bracelets and broaches (brooches) and the women, pendants in their ears. The children are generally barefoot; the adults usually wear deerskin moccasins. Crowds of these fellows we have met, from Detroit to Pontiac, going in either direction."

**Next: Williams Lake and a trip in the country.**

# Many 'Ponds' Around Pontiac Surprised Travelers of More Than a Century Ago

Article 3 of a 6 part series appearing in the Pontiac Daily Press in 1949

*(This is the third 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.)*

After this day in the Oakland County court, young Cyrus P. Bradley woke up on the morning of May 17, 1835, in a Pontiac tavern thinking he may have incurred an attack of chills and fever himself. Instead, it turned out to be only a sick headache. With the resilience of youth, he quickly recovered, in time for the fishing trip he had planned.

In this third installment of extracts from his journal, the 16 year old Concord, New Hampshire, youth vividly describes scenes familiar to all of us in Oakland County today as they appeared 114 years ago. He took the excursion he describes with a recent graduate of Dartmouth, where he was then a sophomore, Mr. Dunklee, and James Draper, son of a Pontiac attorney. Here is Bradley's account:

"About ten o'clock I jumped into a wagon with Draper and Dunklee and started. We had fishing tackle and guns for the whole party, so we anticipated sport. They call here every little pond a lake, an affection which is peculiarly displaced in a territory surrounded by the largest sheets of inland water in the known world.

*Pontiac is situated directly among about a dozen of these lakes, and to one of them, Pine Lake, we directed our horse. Why called "Pine," I know not, as there is not pine in this region. The lake is about four miles distant—the road, a private carriage track through the opening.*

"Pontiac, where there is no clearing is entirely covered with what is called 'oak opening,' and so is a great part of the territory. The oaks are noble trees and stand like apple trees in an orchard, from one to three rods asunder. The intervening part is covered with a sort of scrub oak, some

four or five feet high, and you may ride for miles here without seeing a tree or bush that is not an oak.

"The labor of cutting a road over such land is of course trifling—the soil is first rate for grain and makes good roads without labor. Even on the public highways, nothing is more common than to see a tree blown across the road and turning the path round it—each traveler preferring to ride round the tree through the underbrush to making any exertions to remove the obstacle.

*Jude Fletcher informs me that he has driven his two-horse carriage 40 miles in succession through these openings, where there was no path or trace of wheels, the horse perfectly accustomed to the underbrush.*

Michigan's oak openings were famous among the pioneers. They were almost like parks, their soil was exceedingly rich, and the few scattered trees, in contrast to the dense woods elsewhere, made them easy to plow and cultivate.

The openings were the first areas settled in most of southern Michigan. James Fenimore Cooper, the novelist, visited Kalamazoo about the same time Bradley was in Pontiac and wrote a story about Michigan called "Oak Openings." Back again to Bradley's fishing trip:

*At Pine Lake there is a handsomely situated farmhouse, the owner of which, a trader in Pontiac, gave us permission to use his boat, but the keeper, a surly, suspicious fool, fancying that there was something supercilious in Dunklee's manner, swore, like an independent man as he was, that if Dunklee were worth millions and he a poor farmer, he'd be damned if he'd be trodden upon and we might whistle for the boat.*

Our spokesman returned him as good as he got and we set off, retraced our steps, passed directly through Pontiac and

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 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:

- ◆ **Performing Arts Centers Holiday Collage Concerts.** December 11th at 7:00pm at Waterford Mott and December 12 & 13 at 7:00pm at Waterford Kettering. These are not to be missed Holiday concerts featuring bands, orchestras, choirs of each school. If you haven't gone, make a date to go.
- ◆ **[www.twp.waterford.mi.us/waterfordsoundwaves](http://www.twp.waterford.mi.us/waterfordsoundwaves)** -site where you can download the audio walking tour of the Waterford Historic District on Andersonville Road. Take a walk and tour on your own schedule and at your own pace. **Drayton Plains Nature Center tour now also available to download!** 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.
- ◆ **Danny May's Cafe** at 3418 Highland Road between Cass Lake Road and M-59 is now featuring a collection of pictures of old Waterford businesses from our archives! Stop by to check them out (the pictures and the great food). 248-681-9500.

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

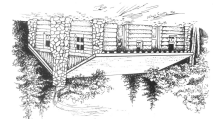
Please save your VG's and Tenuta's receipts and bring them to the Hatchery House on Wednesday or mail them to us at the above mailing address. This is free money for us!



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



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