

# Waterford Historical Society Newsbill

Volume 14, Number 4

August –September 2009

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

## Calendar

August-September  
Every Wednesday 10:30-2:00

### August 19

Board Meeting 1:00 HH

### August 26

Christmas Oct Mtg 10:30  
Pot Luck Noon

### September 16

Board Meeting 1:00 HH

### September 30

Pot Luck Noon

### October 7

Newsletter Mailing

### October 14

Board Meeting 1:00 HH

### October 16 & 17

Friday & Saturday

Christmas in October 10-4

### October 28

Pot Luck Noon

## President's Notes

Whew....take a small breather because we are done with Log Cabin Days for one more year! We are not getting any younger but it seems we all survived to tell the tale. The weather was perfect and the crowds were plenty. We made a profit of over \$9,400.00!

Thank you, thank you, thank you to everyone who so tirelessly helped out in any way shape or form. You really outdid yourselves this year. All the buildings looked awesome and Parks & Rec. had the grounds looking like a million bucks. We are a great group of people, folks, and I hope you are as proud of us as I am.

We seem to be on a roll from Log Cabin Days. We are really working hard to pull out artifacts from storage and revamp our displays. As the Village progresses



## 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

## Christmas in October

We are having our first pre-season planning meeting for Christmas in October on Wednesday, August 29th at 10:30 a.m. Please plan to attend and present your new ideas and suggestions because they are always welcome. Can't make the meeting? Please call Sally Crake with your questions/suggestions 248-738-7581.

**SAVE THE DATE**

August 26 10:30am

## Crafty Christmas to You

The sun is high in the sky and so the time has come to sharpen your craft skills. August means the Crafty Ladies are starting to make their great crafts for Christmas in October. As always, you can come and work in Jacober's Store on Wednesdays or at your leisure at home. The Ladies have crafts for you to do here or take with you. Even if you have your own idea, please check out the craft area upstairs in Jacober's Store for pieces and parts and supplies you may need. We accumulate a lot of craft "stuff" all year long and we would love to have you recycle that "stuff" into treasure.

By the way, we are equal opportunity crafters. You guys are welcome and encouraged, also!

Please call Margaret Maneese for any questions or suggestions 248-332-0839.

### SAVE THE DATE

Christmas in October

October 16 & 17, 10:00am-4:00pm

## Village Update

We hope you enjoyed our beautiful quilt display on the pristine white walls in the new building during Log Cabin Days, but down go the quilts to get ready for more finishing. Indoor pine floors and outdoor siding were ordered and will be installed when delivered. As soon as those floors get finished, the artifacts will be lining up to get out of storage and into place. We have a beautiful wood and glass bakery cabinet, wood cabinets from the Drayton Plains Nature Center for the millinery, a barber chair for the barber shop, a dentist chair for the dentist, and a surgeon's table for the doctor's office. Not to mention all the smaller items packed in boxes awaiting unwrapping.

The roof is on the Depot and a local business, Copper Bays, is making and donating a copper lightning rod to finish it off.

Just think, one day you could pay a visit to the Village and get your teeth cleaned, your consumption cured, a new hat made all while sitting at one of the ice cream tables in the bakery while you read the freshly printed newspaper! P.S. the material you ordered for your wife's new dress came into the Depot this afternoon, please pick it up at Jacober's Store on the way home.



## Log Cabin Store

Here is a list of items we have for sale every Wednesday in our Log Cabin Store:

Calendars-current year and previous years

Recipe Book of WHS recipes

Waterford Walking tour books & CD

Sweat-shirts & T-Shirts with "Waterford" logo

Historic Waterford Afghans & pillows

Tote bags with Waterford Village

Mug with Historic Waterford Village

Depot prints in two sizes

\*\*New mugs with Waterford Center School—the first in a series of mugs depicting Waterford's one room school-houses

Wooden train whistles

Note cards & postcards—log cabin, caboose with water tower, Waterford schools, various pictures of Waterford

Beeswax ornaments—made by a local company (MI Natural) to be hung anywhere in your house. These are beautiful hanging in a window and smell great. Shapes include: log cabin, birds, various flowers, train, eagle, leaves, canoe, angels

Handmade soaps from the above company

Oven sticks, recipe cards, pencils, notepads

Waterford Maps—

Oakland County Indian Trails

1817 Saginaw Trail

The Original Survey Waterford Township

Waterford Village 1872

Stage Coach Routes 1835

Waterford Plat Maps: 1872, 1896, 1908, 1910, 1930, 1947, 1964

Road Map of Oakland County 1930-1931

## Roast Beef!

Gracie Allen's Classic Recipe for Roast Beef

1 large roast beef

1 small roast beef

Take the two roasts and put them in the oven. When the little one burns, the big one is done.

## Junior Historical Society

We are proud to announce the start of a Junior Historical Society at Crary Middle School this fall. The group will be open to all students grade 6-8 and will promote learning our local history, community involvement and community service for the students. Some activities the students might do include: assess and organize Crary's history, research students own genealogy, learn about the preservation of artifacts, make costumes to wear at our various events, march in the Memorial Day Parade, participate in bake sales at Christmas in October and Log Cabin Days, participate in all our events, learn to give tours, participate in the Oliver Williams dig, and more!

We are excited for this to happen so stay tuned!

## Membership Dues

Early birds catch the worm. 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

## 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.



## Helpful Household Hints

The following comes from a 1908 book of Dorothy Webber's, *Hints and Helps for the Home Maker, A Practical Guide to Good Housekeeping*.

"Each day has duties which should be carried out on that day if the household machinery is to run smoothly. Holding to this rule brings peace in the family, and keeps the strain of housework from being too heavy for the housewife.

One must grow accustomed to the routine of housework; first, to that planned for each day and then to the division of tasks for each hour. Minutes are wasted while one stops to decide 'what to do next'."

Well, now that we are in the right frame of mind (!), here are some hints:

"A disordered stomach may be helped by taking a pint of hot water before each meal and before going to bed.

Drink plenty of water. It will help nervousness and promote health.

The hot foot bath is an effective remedy for a bad cold. Cover the body; have the receptacle deep and narrow and add a teaspoonful of mustard to the water.

For bruises, bathe with tincture of arnica, using two teaspoons to half pints of water, or one part vinegar to three of water.

A few drops of oil will dislodge an insect from the ear.

For poisonings of carbolic acid, give large doses of olive oil or melted butter.

For convulsions, give a hot bath and rub the body right away. Do not give medicine unless ordered by a doctor.

For croup, give an emetic and warm bath, and apply a sponge wrung out of warm water to the throat.

For fever, undress and put patient to bed. Do not cover too warmly. Give cooling drinks. Nothing to eat except milk. Bathe with cool water.

For colic, apply heat over pain. Hot baths also.

For Burns and scalds, apply a linen cloth saturated with a solution of carbonate of soda, keep wet. Or a rag soaked in linseed oil and lime water. Keep a bottle of the oil and lime water mixed in equal parts. If the burned skin is removed sprinkle the place with flour and cover with cotton to exclude air. Seldom remove the dressing.

For rough hands rub with Indian meal and lemon juice, then wash and rub with glycerin.

For hands that perspire, bathe with the following lotion, which should be bottled and kept on the toilet table: powdered alum, boiling water, ammonia. Apply and dust with oatmeal."

## Williams, continued from page 5

was one who drew the pine logs from a pinery, about one and a half miles from the old home, for the finishing and enclosing of the barn. The plank boards and shingles were sawed and made on the place.

Oliver kept a few goods and they traded considerably with the Indians, collecting a good many furs and skins, sugar, wax, etc., which they sold in Detroit, procuring in exchange many comforts they could not get from the new farm.

The road direct from Pontiac to Detroit became, after some travel almost impassable, so wet and muddy to any depth. Oliver purchased a corn mill, which was put up in a tree in the yard; the hopper would hold half a bushel or more. With two cranks his boys would grind out a bushel of corn when wanted, which gave them nice corn meal. The neighbors also came and ground their corn, and this proved a very great convenience to the neighborhood.

"Deer and all wild game were very plenty. We boys became quite expert hunters. I hunted considerable, but for a long time could kill nothing, often having deer stand all around me, distant from three or four rods to ten, fifteen and twenty. I would take the nearest, aim and fire, but could not get one, although I was a splendid marksman--could hit the size of a quarter of a dollar twice out of three times at twenty rods. The trouble was, I was excited, and in sighting a deer I would see the deer's body, and, of course, I would fire above the deer. My younger brothers had killed many, and they laughed at me, to my great annoyance.

I started out one morning early and said to myself, Now, if I get a shot, I will be calm and take time and take good aim, as if shooting at a mark, I will have no more fooling. I had not got out of sight of the house before I saw a deer about twenty or thirty rods from me. I took deliberate aim, drew a fine sight, and my deer fell. Then to get him home. I thought I could carry him on my back, as I had often seen the Indians do. So I fixed him, got him on to a log, and then on to my back, and started, but did not go far before I backed up to a log and let him off. After a little I started again, but it was no go. I was in sight of the house for which I had started. Such a looking object as I was! I had daubed myself

from head to foot with blood and deer hair. Oh, how I looked, but I marched bravely home, for I had killed a deer.

The family were at breakfast as I went in. As soon as my father saw me he and my brother shouted, "He's killed a deer !" Mother, good woman, smiled and said, "Why, Ephraim, how you do look! Just look at your clothes." I said, "Never mind, mother, I have killed a deer." I was then over the buck fever and could kill a deer every time I fired on one. Father took his horse and wagon and we went and brought him in. We never spent much time in hunting, for we could go out an hour or two, morning or evening, and kill a deer.

Our lakes were almost black with ducks, spring and fall. We could kill a mess in five minutes near our house. I recollect father and myself crawling beside a fence leading from the barn to the lake, and, upon his giving the word, we fired together into a flock of ducks near the shore, and we got eleven large, fine, black-neck ducks.

An Indian family by the name of Wa-me-gan lived on the high bank near the house, and were a fine, friendly family. Wa-me-gan started out one morning a-hunting, went in north a few miles, when it commenced snowing. He fell upon an old bear lying under a turned-up tree. We supposed he found and wounded him, and the bear made fight. The old man defended himself, losing his knife and tomahawk in the fight. The bear struck him on the head, cutting gashes with each claw like a blow from a tomahawk, the thumb claw taking out one eye. We supposed this blow knocked him down, then the bear bit him through his legs and arms terribly, and left him for dead. The old man recovered, went a few steps, set his rifle beside a tree, sat down with his head on his hands and knees, and was found frozen dead. His sons found him, after one or two days' search. It had snowed several inches: his knife and tomahawk were never found. The sons followed the bear, but never found him. My brother and myself took the horses and sleigh, and, with his sons, brought him in. He was buried on the farm. This grave was always protected, and I presume it is to this day."

The Williams family had fourteen children, ten boys and four girls. Oliver died in 1834. His wife, Mary, died in 1860. In January, 1884, seven of those children were alive, six being of the eight that came to Detroit in 1815. Two died in California during the summer of 1885.



# Oliver Williams

## A History Lesson-Part 2

The following Information comes 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.

*In the last newsletter we left Oliver Williams and family living in Detroit in 1817.*

In the fall of 1818, Oliver Williams, his brother in law Alpheus Williams (who would later settle at Dixie and Andersonville Roads in Waterford Village) and others, made a journey to Oakland county on horseback with a French guide. Following the Indian trail towards Saginaw (Saginaw Trail then Dixie Highway), they crossed the Clinton River at Pontiac. After exploring the surrounding country, Oliver selected three hundred and twenty acres of land upon a beautiful lake, which he afterwards named Silver Lake. After an absence of three or four days, the party returned. Their report electrified the staid, quiet inhabitants of Detroit, among whom the belief was general that the interior of Michigan was a vast impenetrable and uninhabitable wilderness and morass.

In the winter of 1818 and 1819 Oliver Williams started with his horses and wagon, provisions and tools, and three men for his new home, to build a house for the reception of his family in the spring. This was the first team and wagon ever driven to Pontiac, taking three days, cutting his road and bridging streams and bad places.

The Williams' house was of hewed logs laid up very nicely, fifty feet long and twenty wide, one and a half stories high, with a shake roof.

In March, 1819, he moved his family into his unfinished yet comfortable house and all commenced to make a farm among the Indians, flies, mosquitoes, snakes, wild game, and fever and ague. Oliver used to say, when asked if the family had the ague, "Yes, we had a little about thirteen months in the year."

*(Ague—pronounced "A-gyu": successive stages of chills and fever that is usually a symptom of malaria.)*

The family suffered much from sickness, privations and lack of the comforts of life. Mrs. Williams (Mary) lived there six months without seeing the face of another white woman. She was quite depressed until her sister and daughter visited from Detroit, staying a few days to help and cheer the whole family up.

The Indians were kind and very friendly during our sickness, bringing us many luxuries the shape of wild meat and berries of the choicest kind. We found them not bad neighbors.

In the summer of 1820, they raised and finished a large barn, 40x40, which was the first frame raised in Oakland county and which still stood upon the old homestead in a good state of preservation (at least in 1885 when his son, Ephraim, wrote this). Ephraim

**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

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:

- ◆ **Waterford Mott Performing Arts Center** and the Waterford Mott Drama Club presents **The Outsiders** on October 8,9, 10 at 7:00 p.m. Tickets online at: [www.seatyourself.biz/motths](http://www.seatyourself.biz/motths) or call 248-673-4205
- ◆ **Harvest Happening** at Hess Hathaway Park. Family Barn Dance Friday October 2 from 7-9 p.m. 5K Cross Country Run at the farm on Saturday October 3 at 9:30 a.m. and Harvest Happening on Sunday October 4 from 10:00-4:00. Contact Parks & Rec for info 248-674-5441.
- ◆ **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](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 website. You can print a schedule of events and also past newsletters.

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

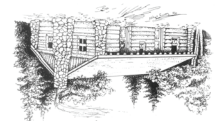
Please save your VG's and Tenuta's receipts and bring them to the Hatchery House on Wednesday or mail them to us at the above mailing address. This is free money for us!



Our Mission Statement:  
Collecting, protecting and preserving the history of  
Waterford Township for the interest and education  
of present and future generations.

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

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



Waterford Township Historical Society