

Waterford Historical Society Newsbill

Volume 20, Number 4

December 2015-January/February 2016

Editor Becky Morgan 248-673-2689
rmorgan56301@comcast.net

Calendar

Saturday, December 5

Christmas Sale
10:00 -4:00

(see article inside newsletter)

December 9

Board Meeting 1:00
In the Hatchery House

December 10 at Noon Holiday

Pot Luck Luncheon
(see article inside newsletter)

Historical Society Closed to the Public Starting Dec. 10, 2015

January 2016
WHS Closed to Public

February 2016
WHS Closed to Public

WHS Reopens the first Wednesday in March Weather Permitting

**If Waterford Schools
are closed
we are closed**

President's Notes

I am not sure the goose is getting fat but Christmas is coming! Our Christmas in October is put to bed for the year but our holiday shopping continues. Shop in the Log Cabin and Jacober's Store on Wednesdays during our regular hours and then at the Christmas Sale on December 6, from 10-4.

Keep in mind our schedule for the coming year: The Hatchery House and Log Cabin will be closed after December 9, 2015, and open again on March 2, 2016. The Village will open for the season on May 4, 2016. And IMPORTANT, even for March, when the Waterford School District is closed, we are closed.

"Our hearts grow tender with childhood memories and love and kindred, and we are better throughout the year for having, in spirit, become a child again at Christmas-time."-- Laura Ingalls Wilder

So, get some rest and enjoy your love and kindred. And remember those who may need you this season.

A peaceful Holiday to you,

Sally Strait



Village Schedule



The Waterford Historical Society closes to the public from December 10, 2015 through February 2016. The Hatchery House, Library & Office reopen the first Wednesday in March 2016, weather permitting.

The Village re-opens the first Wednesday in May.

Board Members

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

Vice President
Bob Allen 248-623-0463

Recording Secretary
Becky Morgan 248-673-2689

Corresponding Secretary
Betty Seymour 248-666-4265

Treasurer
Betty Horn 248-673-9708

Bookkeeper
Cheryl Stoutenburg 248-623-0414

Members At Large
Grace Rockey 248-666-3673
Gary Wall 248-674-6201
Norman Watchpocket 248-673-5310
Tammie Wolfe 248-842-1664
Dorothy Webber 248-666-4907

Reminder...

Annual Memberships expire December 15, 2015. Renew now to keep your membership and newsletter subscription current.





Christmas Sale

Our Christmas Sale will take place on Saturday, December 5th from 10 am - 4 pm. The sale will take place in Jacober's General Store and the Log Cabin.

This sale is a fundraiser and all proceeds go to the Waterford Historical Society.

Shoppers will find:

- | | |
|-----------------------------|--------------------|
| -local handmade items | -gift baskets |
| -unique holiday items | -gift mugs |
| -holiday decorations | -pet items |
| -jams, honey, salsa, soups | -aprons |
| -WHS sweatshirts & T-shirts | -candles, soaps |
| -historic children's toys | -sachets |
| -homemade cookies | -children's items |
| -Michigan items | -stocking stuffers |
| -handmade greeting cards | -WHS afghan |

Be sure to tell friends and neighbors about the sale! It is a great place to finish up holiday shopping and find those last minute unique items for those hard to shop for persons.

Cookies WANTED

- ◆ We need cookies baked for our popular Cookie Sale during our Christmas Sale. These cookies are big sellers.
- ◆ Bake and put four cookies in a baggie. Bring them to the Log Cabin on Sat., Dec. 5th.



Customers love the cookies.
Thank you to everyone who bakes!

Save the Date!

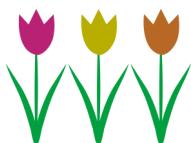
Celebrate Spring

at the Fashion Show Fundraiser
for the Waterford Historical Society
Saturday, March 26, 2016

**Tickets are \$30.00 per person
(Lunch is included in the price)**

Fashions by
The Clothing Cove

For info call
Betty Seymour
at 248-666-4265



Join us for the

**Holiday Pot Luck Luncheon
Thursday, December 10th at noon
Christ Lutheran Church
5987 Williams Lake Road**

The Holiday Pot Luck Luncheon is one of the Waterford Historical Society's ways of saying thank you to all our members for everything they do.



Please join us if you can. This is one of the times we can all get together and enjoy each other's company.

- ◆ The Waterford Historical Society provides the meat, beverages and place settings.
- ◆ Waterford Historical Society members are welcome to bring a guest.
- ◆ Everyone is asked to bring a dish to pass.

People attending the luncheon in the past have loved the variety of dishes provided by our members and look forward to the special dishes that are shared.

Hoping to see a big crowd at our holiday gathering!

Help Waterford Goodfellows

The Waterford Historical Society will once again be donating items to the Waterford Goodfellows Holiday Food Basket Program. Holiday baskets contain the fixings for a holiday dinner, canned goods, candy and a toy for each child ages birth through 12 years old.



The Historical Society will be collecting:

- | | |
|-----------------------------------|----------|
| -canned goods | -mittens |
| -coloring books | -crayons |
| -new children's books | |
| -non-perishable food items | |
| -games & toys for all age groups. | |

In times of emergencies the Goodfellows also provide other assistance to Waterford residents, so monetary donations are also welcome.

Items may be dropped off at the Hatchery House on Wednesdays before December 9th or at Christ Lutheran Church Dec. 10th at the holiday luncheon.

Is There a Santa Claus?

We take pleasure in answering at once and thus prominently the communication below, expressing at the same time our great gratification that its faithful author is numbered among the friends of THE SUN:

"DEAR EDITOR: I am 8 years old.
Some of my little friends say there is no Santa Claus.
Papa says 'If you see it in THE SUN it's so.'
Please tell me the truth; is there a Santa Claus?
" VIRGINIA O'HANLON.
" 115 WEST SIXTY-FIFTH STREET."

VIRGINIA, your little friends are wrong. They have been affected by the skepticism of a skeptical age. They do not believe except they see. They think that nothing can be which is not comprehensible by their little minds. All minds, VIRGINIA, whether they be men's or children's, are little. In this great universe of ours man is a mere insect, an ant, in his intellect, as compared with the boundless world about him, as measured by the intelligence capable of grasping the whole of truth and knowledge.

Yes, VIRGINIA, there is a Santa Claus. He exists as certainly as love and generosity and devotion exist, and you know that they abound and give to your life its highest beauty and joy. Alas! how dreary would be the world if there were no Santa Claus. It would be as dreary as if there were no VIRGINIAS. There would be no childlike faith then, no poetry, no romance to make tolerable this existence. We should have no enjoyment, except in sense and sight. The eternal light with which childhood fills the world would be extinguished.

Not believe in Santa Claus! You might as well not believe in fairies! You might get your papa to hire men to watch in all the chimneys on Christmas Eve to catch Santa Claus, but even if they did not see Santa Claus coming down, what would that prove? Nobody sees Santa Claus, but that is no sign that there is no Santa Claus. The most real things in the world are those that neither children nor men can see. Did you ever see fairies dancing on the lawn? Of course not, but that's no proof that they are not there. Nobody can conceive or imagine all the wonders there are unseen and unseeable in the world.

You may tear apart the baby's rattle and see what makes the noise inside, but there is a veil covering the unseen world which not the strongest man, nor even the united strength of all the strongest men that ever lived, could tear apart. Only faith, fancy, poetry, love, romance, can push aside that curtain and view and picture the supernal beauty and glory beyond. Is it all real? Ah, VIRGINIA, in all this world there is nothing else real and abiding.

No Santa Claus! Thank God! he lives, and he lives forever. A thousand years from now, VIRGINIA, nay, ten times ten thousand years from now, he will continue to make glad the heart of childhood.

Yes, Virginia, there is a Santa Claus.

(on left) Original article

Is There a Santa Claus?
appearing in the September 21, 1897
edition of *The (New York) Sun*



Virginia O'Hanlon
Born: July 20, 1889
in Manhattan, New York
Photo circa 1895

Dear Editor,
I am eight years old.
Some of my little friends
say there is no Santa
Claus. Papa says if
you see it in the Sun
it's so." Please tell
me the truth, is there
a Santa Claus?
Virginia O'Hanlon
115 W. 95 St.

Virginia O'Hanlon's letter to the editor
appearing in *The Sun* on September 21, 1897

Is There a Santa Claus? Was the title of an editorial appearing in the September 21, 1897 edition of *The (New York) Sun*. The editorial, which included the famous reply "Yes, Virginia there is a Santa Claus", has become part of Christmas folklore in the United States.

Dr. Philip O'Hanlon, a coroner's assistant on Manhattan's Upper West Side, was asked by his daughter, Virginia O'Hanlon, whether Santa Claus really existed.

O'Hanlon suggested she write to *The Sun*, a prominent New York City newspaper at the time, assuring her that "If you see it in *The Sun*, it's so." He unwittingly gave one of the paper's editors, Francis Pharcellus Church, an opportunity to rise above the simple question and address the philosophical issues behind it.

Church was a war correspondent during the American Civil War, a time that saw great suffering and a corresponding lack of hope and faith in much of society. Even though the paper ran the editorial in the seventh place on the page its message was very moving to many people who read it. More than a century later it remains the most reprinted editorial ever to run in any newspaper in the English language. Every year Virginia's letter and Church's response are read at the Yule Log ceremony at Church's alma mater, Columbia College of Columbia University.

Virginia received her Bachelor of Arts in 1910, a master's degree in education in 1912, and then received a doctorate. She started as a teacher in the New York City ISD in 1912, became a junior principal in 1935, and retired in 1959.

Virginia received a steady stream of mail about her letter throughout her life. She would send a copy of the editorial in her replies. In an interview later in life she credited it with shaping the direction of her life quite positively.

(Source en.wikipedia.org)



Francis Pharcellus Church,
author of
the famous editorial

We've Come a Long Way Since Last Year! Schoolhouse Update

We've come a long way in one year! At this time last year we were just breaking ground for the schoolhouse. Our dedicated 'men folk' just keep on working away and getting things done. They are again up to their boots in dirt making forms for more sidewalks, but look at what they've accomplished! Yes, there is still work to be done, but our energizer bunnies never stop.

BLESS YOU BOYS!



December 2014

Above Schoolhouse Foundation
Below New Sidewalks



December 2014

Schoolhouse
Interior



January 2015

Schoolhouse
Exterior



October 2015



October 2015



October 2015

The Tradition of the Christmas Pickle

The Christmas pickle is a Christmas tradition in the United States. Parents wait until Christmas Eve to hide a small pickle ornament on the Christmas tree, tucking it deep in the branches. The parents hang the pickle last after all the other ornaments are in place. On Christmas morning, the first child to spot the pickle receives an extra gift. The first adult who finds the pickle traditionally gets good luck for the whole year.

This tradition is commonly believed by Americans to come from Germany. In fact, the tradition is largely unknown in Germany. It has been suggested the origin of the Christmas pickle may have been developed for marketing purposes in the 1890's to coincide with the importation of glass Christmas tree decorations from Germany. Woolworths was the first company to import these types of decorations into the United States in 1890. Glass blown decorative vegetables were imported from France from 1892 onwards. The concept of Christmas pickles has since been imported from the United States and they are now on sale in the country traditionally associated with it.



A glass Christmas pickle

Berrien Springs, Michigan is known as the Christmas pickle capital of the world. They hold a yearly pickle festival in early December. A pickle parade has been held since 1992. The village is in the area of Michigan known for cucumber production. (*Source en.wikipedia.org & countyfairpickles.com*)

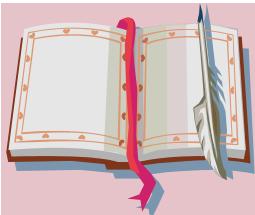
Who Visited Us This Year?

The 2015 visitors came from the following places as recorded on the guest register in the Hatchery House:

Berkley
Clarkston
Commerce Twp
Garden City
Grand Rapids
Hamburg Twp
Swartz Creek
Haslett
Holly
Howell
Kalamazoo
Lake Orion

Livonia
Metamora
Ortonville
Pataskala OH
Rochester
Royal Oak
Sarasota FL
Shelby Twp
Tampa FL
Warren
Warrenton VA
Waterford

West Bloomfield
White Lake



(All are in Michigan unless stated otherwise.)

Thank You to our History Angels



Thanks to all the wonderful people who share our love of history and understand the importance of keeping the history of Waterford alive for the next generation. Those that give of their time, spread the word & the many angels who help financially...**Thank you for all you do!**



Help Us By Shopping



We really appreciate everyone who participates in the community savings program at Kroger. Kroger donates a percentage of the total of your purchases to the Historical Society. Thank you so much for your help! [Thank you to Kroger for their generosity!](#)

Can you help?



Annual Giving

We are including our Annual Giving form with this newsletter instead of sending out an additional mailing.

Our annual giving is a yearly plea for help with the day to day expenses like electricity, gas and insurance.

All our funding comes solely from donations by generous people interested in preserving the history of Waterford.

It might be a member who cannot volunteer on Wednesdays or at our special events. Or maybe a lifetime member who may be able to give a little more. This is a chance to help out. Donations are just as important as volunteering.

We thank everyone for helping us continue to be an organization of which we all can be proud.

Renew Your Membership...

or Become a Member of the Waterford Historical Society

Anyone who is interested in becoming a member of the Waterford Historical Society may clip and fill out the form below. Bring it in on a Wednesday or mail it to:

Waterford Historical Society
P.O. Box 300491
Waterford MI 48330-0491

All memberships coming in now will be good until December of 2016. This entitles members to receive the WHS newsletters.



Join us...

Help keep history alive.

There is much going on. Don't miss out!

Waterford Township Historical Society Membership Application

Date

Phone

\$15.00 Individual

Name

\$25.00 Family

Address

\$100.00 Patron

City, State, Zip

\$50.00 Organizations/Businesses

Mail payment to:
Waterford Historical Society

\$150.00 Lifetime per family

Make Check Payable To:

\$100.00 Lifetime per person

Waterford Township Historical Society

\$125.00 Lifetime per couple

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

\$250.00 Lifetime Org./Businesses

\$500.00 Lifetime Patron

Waterford Historical Society

We are open every Wednesday from 10:30 a.m. until 2:00 p.m. We close for the season after Dec. 10 and re-open the first Wednesday in March.

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:
Sally Strait 248-683-2697

www.waterfordhistoricalsociety.org
Non-profit 501(c)3 organization

Thanks Newsletter Sponsors!

This edition of the newsletter is brought to you in part by Stu & Arlen Magy and Bob & Rose Ranzilla. Thank you so much!

Like to help sponsor a newsletter? Send a check for \$25 to WHS at our address: PO Box 300491, Waterford MI 48330-0491. Write 'Newsletter' on the memo line.



Upcoming Local Events:

- ◆ **Tree Lighting & Santa Celebration:** Tues, Dec 1, 6-8 pm Waterford Township Hall www.twp.waterford.mi.us
- ◆ **Christmas Sale:** Saturday, Dec 5th from 10 am-4 pm at Fish Hatchery Park www.waterfordhistoricalsociety.org
- ◆ **Santa at the Farm/Christmas Open House:** Sunday, Dec 6th from noon-4pm Takes place at Fisk Farm in White Lake 248-887-3244 www.hsmichigan.org/whitelake
- ◆ **WHS Holiday Pot Luck Luncheon:** Thursday, Dec 10th at noon Christ Lutheran Church (see article in newsletter)
- ◆ **Kettering Holiday Collage Concert :** December 10-12, 7 pm, Kettering Performing Arts Center www.waterfordpac.com (248-673-4205)
- ◆ **New Horizons Concert Band Holiday Concert:** Sunday, December 13th, 3 pm, Mott Performing Arts Center www.waterfordpac.com (248-673-4205)
- ◆ **Mott Holiday Showcase:** December 16-17, 7 pm, Mott Performing Arts Center www.waterfordpac.com (248-673-4205)

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

Our Mission Statement:

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



Waterford Historical Society



Waterford Historical Society

Annual Giving 2015

The Annual Giving is the way in which members and friends of the Waterford Township Historical Society go the extra mile for HISTORY. Your generous donation enables us to continue our preservation, growth, and research of history for Waterford Township residents.

Name _____

Address _____

City, State, Zip _____

Please make checks payable to and mail to: _____ \$250

Waterford Historical Society _____ \$100

P.O. Box 300491 _____ \$50

Waterford, MI 48330-0491 _____ \$25

_____ other