

Waterford Historical Society Newsbill

Volume 19, Number 1

March-April-May 2014

Editor Becky Morgan 248-673-2689
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Calendar

March-April-May

WHS is Open

Every Wednesday 10:30-2:00

March 5

Log Cabin Days Mtg 1:00

March 19

Board Meeting 1:00

March 29

Fashion Show

11:00 a.m. at Bartelli's

April 2

Log Cabin Days Mtg 1:00

April 16

Village Opens

for the Season

Board Meeting 2:15

May 7

Log Cabin Days Mtg 1:00

May 14

Board Meeting 2:15

May 15

Annual Membership Meeting and Election
7:00 p.m.

May 26

Memorial Day Parade

President's Notes

I am hoping by the time you are reading this newsletter we have melting snow, but I am not holding my breath! The weather has kept us out of the Hatchery House for a record number of days. So, let's hope we are on our way to spring.

We are just starting to roll into our year with the Fashion Show the end of March and the Village set to open on April 16th. We always need some help dusting ourselves off and fluffing up for visitors. If you have some spare time on a Wednesday, please stop by to dust or sweep in one of the buildings. That is when the snow melts and we can get to them!

The Village opening brings our school tours and summer brings many visitors and groups that will come through. Part of our mission statement is educating present and future generations. Think about becoming a docent (tour guide) and getting involved with this extremely important facet of who we are.

Also looming on the horizon is Log Cabin Days. Hard to believe this will be number eighteen! Please think about joining us. This is always our biggest time to give back and shine for the community. Attend a meeting or give me a call with an idea or wish to volunteer. WE NEED EVERYONE to make this event a success.

Hope to see you soon,

Sally Strait



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

Bob Nelson 248-681-0971
Grace Rockey 248-666-3673
Norm Watchpocket 248-673-5310
Dorothy Webber 248-666-4907

Vice President Emeritus

Dorothy White 248-623-0937

Reminder...

A n n u a l
M e m b e r s h i p s
e x p i r e d o n
December 15, 2013. Renew now to keep your membership and newsletter subscription current.



Log Cabin Days 2014



We are already planning for Log Cabin Days 2014! We would really appreciate help from as many of our members as possible. Here are some things that can be done to help make Log Cabin days a success:

- Save White Elephant or Boutique items to sell. Bring them any Wednesday from now on. Boutique items are a little more upscale than White Elephant items.
- Help sort and price White Elephant and Boutique items any Wednesday starting April 16th.
- On Wednesday, June 11th, 18th, or 25th help clean a building.
- Bake cookies for the Log Cabin Days cookie sale.
- On Friday, June 27th come help set up tents or the White Elephant sale.
- Sign up to work a shift during Log Cabin Days.
- Attend Log Cabin Days.
- Tell a friend/family member or neighbor about Log Cabins Days or attend with them.
- Monday, June 30th help take tents down.
- Consider giving a monetary donation to help with Log Cabin Days expenses. The shuttle bus alone is a big cost.

Log Cabin Days WANTED

1. White Elephant or Boutique items to sell. Bring it any Wednesday from now on. Boutique items are a bit more 'upper scale' than White Elephant.
2. Cookies baked for our popular cookie sale. Bake and put four cookies in a baggie. Bring them on Saturday, June 28th or Sunday, June 29th. Every cookie sold last year!!!

Dance like there's
no one watching...
And live like it's
heaven on earth.

Mark Twain



Annual General Meeting

Please mark your calendars for the Waterford Historical Society **Annual Membership Meeting and Election on Thursday, May 15th at 7 p.m.** This is our one and only membership meeting of the year. **We need everyone's vote!** Hope to see lots of members there. Dessert and beverages will be served.

In accordance with our By-Laws we are presenting our slate of officers for 2014 as follows:

2 year terms:

President - Sally Strait
Corresponding Secretary - Betty Seymour
Treasurer - Betty Horn

3 year terms:

Member at Large - Dorothy Webber
Member at Large - Grace Rockey

If you might be interested in running for any of these positions please contact Sally Strait 248-683-2697 so you can be nominated the night of the election when nominations are taken from the floor.



Fashion Show Fundraiser For the Waterford Historical Society



Saturday, March 29th - 11:00 a.m.

At Bartelli's in the 300 Bowl Complex

Fashions by: The Clothing Cove

Tickets are \$30.00 per person

(Lunch is included in the price)

Come join us for a breath of spring at the 13th Annual Spring Preview Style Show and Luncheon. The latest fashions will be presented by the Clothing Cove of Milford.

Enjoy a lovely lunch, a fashion show with the latest styles and great company all while raising money for the Waterford Historical Society. Be sure to tell a friend or neighbor!

For tickets: Call Betty Seymour at 248-666-4265

The First Settlers in Waterford

An Excerpt from: *History of Oakland County, Michigan* by Samuel W. Durant Philadelphia: L.H. Everts & Co 1877

The Williams Family Journeys to Waterford

The fall of 1818 witnessed one of the first settlements of Oakland County. In the latter part of September of that year, Major Williams, Calvin Baker, Jacob Eilett, and, it is believed, Colonel Beaufait, together with Mrs. Oliver Williams and Mrs. Alpheus Williams made a journey to Oakland County on horseback. They had a French guide along, who was probably familiar with the country, and followed the Indian trail towards Saginaw, which crossed the Nattawa-seepe (the Clinton river) about where Saginaw street now crosses in the city of Pontiac. The party found the country most beautiful from Royal Oak to the present site of Waterford, and literally alive with all kinds of game, - beast, bird, and fish.

The party selected their lands in the vicinity of Silver lake, searched out the surveyors' lines, and marked the corners. There are three lakes closely connected in this vicinity, called at the present time Loon, Silver and Upper Silver lakes. The Indian name for Loon lake, and it possibly included others, was *Nis-so-ga-mong-ne-bing*, "place, or lake, of the three loons." The Indian name for lake was *ne-bing*, and for river or creek *se-pee* or *se-bee*.

After an absence of three or four days the party returned, carrying many specimens of the shrubs and flowers of the region. 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.

The exploring party entered their lands at the United States land-office, the price being at that time two dollars per acre, only a part of which was required to be paid at the time of purchase.

A Frenchman's Impression of Waterford

An extract from Alexis de Toucqueville's "Fortnight in the Wilderness" is appropriate in this connection, giving as it does a graphic picture of the country as it appeared to the first settlers and those who visited it for pleasure: "After we left Mr. Williams' we pursued our road through the woods. From time to time a little lake (this district is full of them) shines like a white tablecloth under the green branches. The charm of these lonely spots, as yet untenanted by man, and where peace and silence reign undisturbed, can hardly be imagined. I have climbed the wild and solitary passes of the Alps, where nature refuses to obey the hand of man, and displaying all her terrors, fills the mind with an exciting and overwhelming sensation of greatness. The solitude here is equally deep, but the emotions it excites are different. In this flowery wilderness, where, as in Milton's paradise, all seems prepared for the reception of man, the feelings produced are those of tranquil

admiration, - a soft melancholy, a vague aversion of civilized life, and a sort of savage instinct, which causes you to regret that soon this enchanting solitude will be no more."

Alexis de Tocqueville
1805-1855

His "A Fortnight in the Wilderness" was written aboard the steamboat "Superior" in August 1831

Undated Sketch
by
Unknown Artist



The Move to Waterford

The succeeding autumn and winter were remarkable warm and open, scarcely any frost or snow being seen until March. Major Williams during the winter built on his land at Silver lake a double log house, fifty by twenty feet in dimensions, one and a half stories in height, and in March, 1819, moved his family from Detroit to their new home in the wilderness.

Overnight at Royal Oak

The journey is graphically described by Mrs. Hodges, a daughter of Major Williams, from whose notes we quote: "In the early part of March, the fifth day, I think, at seven o'clock in the morning, we left Detroit, all snugly packed in two sleighs. There was a light fall of snow, about six inches, perhaps, but there was no frost on the ground. There was not much road, only the Indian trail. We arrived at Royal Oak at sundown, and stayed at Wm. Thurber's overnight. Mr. T. had built a small log house, and lately moved in a family to keep house for him. The lady had several children, but she generously divided her house with my mother and her nine children. There was but one room in the house, and she gave us one side of the fire-place, occupying the other herself. Each soon gathered her flock into her corner. The fire-place was in the old Dutch style, extending entirely across one end of the dwelling. This feature was extremely novel to us all. After a good warm supper, the beds were made on the floor and all camped for the night, but did not sleep much, for we were too full of play, - amusing ourselves looking through the 'chinks' between the logs, counting the stars, watching the moon, and listening to the hooting of owls, the barking of foxes, and the howling of wolves, while every now and then a 'hush, children!' came from our dear, good mother.

We finally passed the night, and at daybreak were astir. A big 'back-log,' ten feet long or more in length and two feet in diameter, was rolled in by two men, and a rousing fire built that heated the whole habitation. After a hearty breakfast the teamsters called out, 'All aboard for Pontiac!' and soon we were snugly packed for another day's journey. The day was bright and warm, the snow melting a little, and we arrived at Dr. Swan's about ten o'clock in the forenoon, near the present village of Birmingham. The doctor had erected a simple 'shanty' and moved his family in a few days before. Here we halted for a few minutes, to chat and exchange compliments, of which I remember nothing, excepting that when we parted from them I saw mother, Mrs. Swan, and Mrs. Dale (her daughter) all in tears. These ladies were real *pioneers*, and were well known by their repeated kindness to the early settlers of Oakland County.

On to Pontiac

"At noon we arrived at the famous town of Pontiac, situated in the *Not-ta-wa-se-be* (or crooked river), as the Indians called it. The town then consisted of one little log house, containing three families and a few workmen, who were felling the oak trees for lumber to construct the Pontiac mill, which, I think, was the first *flouring*-mill in the State, and the first propelled by water-power, all the others being wind-mills.* At this house we took dinner, which was spread on boards laid on barrels. Some sat on rough stools, while others stood up and waited their turn. All was gay and generous hospitality. After dinner we re-embarked and, bidding all a hearty 'good-by!' left the prosperous little town for Silver lake, where we arrived about four o'clock P.M.

The Family Arrives at Silver Lake

"The workmen had occupied a little log shanty while building the house for the family. The latter was in an unfinished state, -the logs were all up and the roof was on and a rough floor laid down, but the gable-ends were not finished, and there was no hearth but the ground. The walls were 'chinked' but not plastered, the material for this last work being clay mortar. This house was quite aristocratic, being fifty feet long and twenty wide, with a ten-foot hall running through the middle. The front door opened to the south and the back door towards the lake. In the hall was a closed staircase leading to a half-story room above, and also down into the cellar, which was thirty feet long and twenty wide. It was walled up with square timbers laid closely together and made very tight, to guard against wild animals and snakes which were everywhere abundant and exceedingly troublesome. Rats were unknown for some years.

* There were mills about Detroit at a very early day, -1753 or earlier, -both water and wind-power.

First Night at Forest Home

"Our first night in our forest-home was a great novelty to us. A field-bed was spread on the loose floor, and a large fire built on the earthen hearth, -which hearth was replaced by one made of clay as soon as the material could be obtained in the spring. Carpets and blankets were nailed up to protect us from the weather, and we were very comfortable, and our good father made us happy by telling us that we had the largest and best house in the country; so we fell asleep talking about the big fire, the big logs of which the house was made, and all the strange things and wonders around us."

The rumbling of the cracking ice upon the lake, as it contracted, alarmed the children until they became accustomed to it, but the greatest scare of all was when the Indians visited the family. They were encamped at various places in the neighborhood, and came to pay their respects to the "Yankees" and become acquainted with the new-comers. They were all introduced and shook hands, and the chief kissed all around.



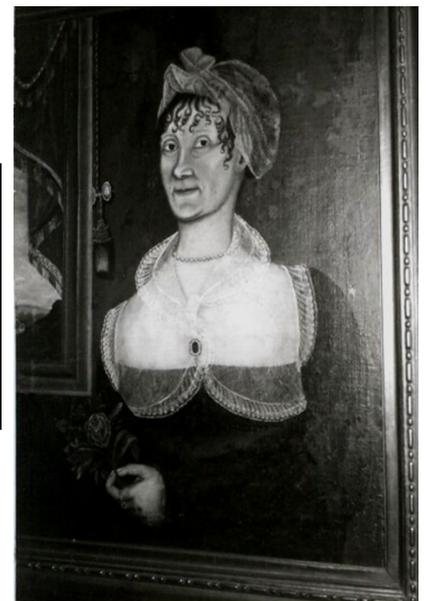
Major
Oliver
Williams

1774-1834

Mary
Williams

(Mrs.
Oliver
Williams)

1777-1860



Thank You Newsletter Sponsors!



A big THANK YOU to Robert & Constance Albertson and Stu & Arlen Magy for sponsoring this edition of the newsletter.

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

Kroger Community Rewards

We are continuing to participate in Kroger's Community Rewards Program. Use your Kroger Plus card with our number and we will get a check in the mail every quarter!



If you enrolled last year, you must sign on again and put our number in by April.

You can get a Kroger Plus card at the service desk of any Kroger.

When you have a Kroger card and e-mail address:

1. Go online to krogercommunityrewards.com
2. Click on Sign in/Register.
3. Click on SIGN UP TODAY in 'new customer' box.
4. Follow instructions and agree to terms/conditions.
5. You will get a message to check your e-mail box. Read the e-mail from Kroger & follow the link to complete the registration process.
6. Click on MY ACCOUNT. Use your e-mail address & password to log on.
7. Click on EDIT KROGER COMMUNITY REWARDS info and enter your Kroger card number.
8. Enter Waterford Historical Society NPO #: 82795
9. You will now see WHS name under your info.
10. REMEMBER to use your card for all purchases and WHS will get a check every quarter!

Community Share



We really appreciate all of you who participate in community savings programs by shopping at Kroger, VG's and Tenuta's. This is free money for us. Thank you so much for your help!

Tenuta's shoppers please continue to bring receipts to the Hatchery House on Wednesday or mail them to us at the address below.

Kroger and VG's shoppers keep using your store card.



Renew Your Membership... Or Become a Member of the Waterford Historical Society

Would you or someone you know like to renew their membership or become a member of the Waterford Historical Society?

All memberships coming in now will be good until December of 2014. We have much going on and don't want anyone to miss out!

Clip and fill out the form below and bring it in on a Wednesday or mail it to :



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

Come join us!

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

Waterford Historical Society

We are open every Wednesday from 10:30 a.m. until 2:00 p.m. **If winter roads are bad we are closed!**

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

Village Schedule

Waterford Historic Village opens April 16th for the 2014 season.



The Hatchery House, library, offices, and our Log Cabin store are open every Wednesday from 10:30 am to 2:00 pm. **If winter roads are bad we are closed!**

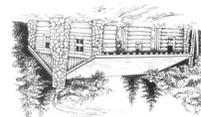
Upcoming Local Events:

- ◆ **Waterford Rotary Bowl-A-Thon :**
Tuesday, March 18th - 5 pm, at Airway Lanes
- ◆ **Fashion Show WHS Fundraiser :** Sat. March 29 - 11 am at Bartelli's in 300 Bowl Complex - Tickets: 248-666-4265
- ◆ **Sheep Shearing/Pancake Breakfast:**
Saturday, April 26th - 10 to 11 am, Hess-Hathaway Park
- ◆ **Mott Orchestra Concert:** Wednesday, May 14 - 7 pm
Mott Performing Arts Center*
- ◆ **Mott Band Concert:** Thursday, May 15 - 7 pm
Mott Performing Arts Center*
- ◆ **Kettering Choir Concert:** Wednesday, May 21 - 7 pm
Kettering Performing Arts Center*
- ◆ **Mott Choir Concert:** Wednesday, May 21 - 7 pm
Mott Performing Arts Center*
- ◆ **Kettering Orchestra Concert:** Tuesday, May 27 - 7 pm
Kettering Performing Arts Center*
- ◆ **Kettering Band Concert:** Thursday, May 29 - 7 pm
Kettering Performing Arts Center*

* Performing Arts Centers Information may be found at :
www.waterford.k12.mi.us/pac
Box Office: 248-673-4205

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

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



Waterford Township Historical Society