

# Waterford Historical Society Newsbill

Volume 17, Number 2

June-July-August 2012

Editor Sally Strait 248-683-2697  
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## President's Notes

My message to you this time around is Log Cabin Days, Log Cabin Days, Log Cabin Days! Sign-up sheets are up and we are in full throttle mode.

Please do what you can. I know I am preaching to the choir, here, but we really do need each and every one of you in some capacity to make it happen. If you cannot be here physically, maybe you can give a monetary donation. Every dollar we pay for ahead is a dollar made after. We are on the downward slope for the Village, but still need to complete much more.

Summer also brings an increase in visitors to us and we always need folks willing to help meet and greet on Wednesdays. Welcoming our guests and getting them started on a walking tour is an easy task and extremely valuable. Please help out in this area if you can.

School tours are scheduled for June 7, June 8 and June 11. Give me a call if you would like to sign up for a slot to help out with our 2nd graders.

*Sally Strait*



Waterford School 1892

## Calendar

### June-July-August

Every Wednesday 10:30-2:00

June 13

Board Meeting 2:15 HH

June 22

Log Cabin Workday  
10:00 a.m.

June 23 & 24

Log Cabin Days  
10:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m.

June 27

Log Cabin Days Mtg.  
1:00

July 4

NO WHS  
Independence Day

July 18

Board Meeting 2:15 HH

August 15

Board Meeting 2:15 HH

August 29

Christmas in October Mtg  
10:30 a.m.

## Board

### 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

Harvey Hedlund 248-758-8526  
Merrill Paine 248-673-0615  
Grace Rockey 248-666-3673  
Norm Watchpocket 248-673-5310  
Dorothy Webber 248-666-4907

### Vice President Emeritus

Dorothy White 248-623-0937

## Village Schedule

Waterford Historic Village is now fully open for the season on Wednesdays from 10:30 a.m.—2:00 p.m.

The Hatchery House, research library, offices and our Log Cabin store will continue to be open all year on Wednesdays from 10:30 a.m.—2:00 p.m.

## Log Cabin Days 2012

We need all members to do SOMETHING for Log Cabin Days. Here is what you can do:

Before Log Cabin Days-craft if needed, pick a building or area and clean it, redo or revamp a display, help set up tents or white elephant on Friday June 22, clean out your white elephants at home and bring to us, price items, bake cookies for cookie sale.

During Log Cabin Days-work some shifts, attend, tell a family member/friend to attend or bring them.

Here are places you can work a shift: White Elephant, Watchpocket Building, Depot, Hardware Store, Print Shop, Library, Log Cabin, floater to relieve people for breaks.

After Log Cabin Days-help take down tents on Monday.

If you are a volunteer, please park at Pierce Middle School and take the shuttle in. Please leave the handicap parking on site for out guests. Even better, have someone drop you off. Of course, we love our volunteers, but during Log Cabin Days our guests are number one! We have to put our best foot forward for customer service. This is our time to shine!

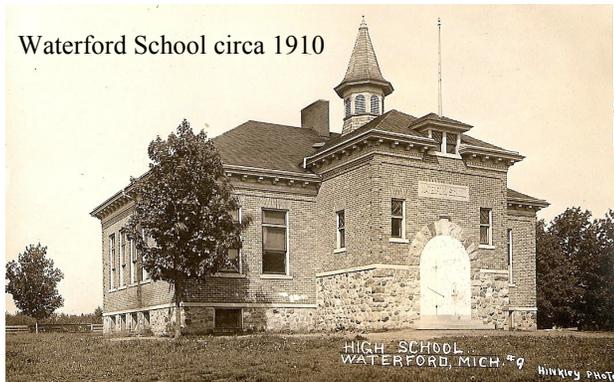
### SAVE THE DATES

Log Cabin Days June 23 & 24  
10:00-5:00 each day



## Log Cabin Days WANTED

1. White Elephants or Juried Junk for us to sell. Bring any Wednesday from now on out so we can mark and sort before Log Cabin Days. Juried Junk are items a bit "upper scale" than white elephant.
2. Cookies baked for our popular cookie sale. Please bake and put four in a baggie and bring to us Friday June 22, 23 or 24. All baggies will be priced at \$1.00. These are quick and easy for people to eat.



Waterford School circa 1910

HIGH SCHOOL  
WATERFORD, MICH '09  
HINKLEY PHOTO

## Annual General Meeting

Thank you to all who attended our General meeting on May 17th. We enjoyed a wonderful presentation by Ron Campbell, Preservation Architect for Oakland County.

Here are the new officers elected:

2 year terms:

President-Sally Strait

Corresponding Secretary-Betty Seymour

Treasurer-Betty Horn

3 year terms:

Members at large-Norman Watchpocket

Give these folks a round of applause for stepping up and working so hard to lead our group into the future.



Waterford School  
First Graduating Class  
1894

Back, l to r: Jennie Goit,  
Maggie Windiate, Wesley  
Stevens, Carrie Campbell  
Front, l to r:  
Elsie Maxam, Nellie Van  
Zandt

## Hatchery House Help Wanted

We have a couple "job" opportunities in the Hatchery House for interested persons.

We are looking for someone to be our "go to" research person. This person would have to be here on Wednesdays and available to people as they come in to do research. They would be a guide/watcher to our archives, steering people in the right direction. You would need to learn where materials are housed and have a general knowledge of Waterford history and local families.

Another job would be to start organizing the family histories we have. Ideally when we pull a family file it would include "everything" about that family: copies of original photos, newspaper articles, maps, abstracts, etc. Much of this job would be making copies and hunting information down.

Both these jobs could be combined or separate. All training would be by Sally Strait.

If you are interested or would like more information, please call or come by on a Wednesday. 248-683-2697.

# Waterford Village School celebrates 140th Anniversary

## From 1872-2012

*Waterford Village Elementary School is located on Steffen Road, right off of Andersonville Road.*

The first school in the area of Waterford Village proper (Andersonville and Dixie Highway) was the Methodist Church building, built in 1937 or 1938, as a log structure on the northwest side of Andersonville Road across from Steffen Road.

The second school, called Waterford School, built in 1871-72, was a two-story, three-room, Union style brick schoolhouse. This school was built at a cost of \$5000 on the present site of Waterford Village Elementary School on Steffen Road. Instead of paying a millage, parents were assessed two cords of wood for the pot-bellied stove. On November 8, 1890 the school burned.

In 1901 Miss Grace Reid laid a brick corner stone for the new building (third school) on the same site on Steffen Road. It was a modern style two-room brick building with square windows separated by sandy brick pilasters with an arched front door. The construction was paid for as follows: 25% by fire insurance and 75% by fundraisers such as plays, square dances and box socials. A box social was an auction event for single adults. The "box" was a beautifully decorated box lunch for 2 that was prepared by single women and then auctioned off. If you won the lunch, you got to eat with the lady who prepared it.

This school taught grades 1-10 with five grades in each room. The teachers in the new school were Mr. and Mrs. Henry Mehlberg, who taught literature, language and algebra. The school also had a large basement used

for classrooms as the population increased. The students, normally numbering between 50-75, came from Waterford, Clarkston, Ortonville, Milford and other nearby settlements. Some came by horseback and the walkers sometimes walked more than three or four miles.

Four classrooms were added to Waterford School in 1927 and then four more were added in 1939. In 1939, the school still only had 10 grades. At this time students graduated from the tenth grade. When you graduated you had a choice of going to Clarkston or Pontiac High School. Some students did not go on to finish school as they had to go to work. A majority of students did continue on with their education. They had to hitch hike or beg rides as buses were not in existence until the Waterford School District consolidated in 1942. They could also ride on the train to Pontiac.

Graduating classes were small, usually from twelve to eighteen students, even up until the 1930's. Graduation ceremonies were held in the school and Baccalaureate services were held at the Waterford Community Church. Graduation banquets were paid for and sponsored by the ninth grades.

The building eventually became Waterford Village Elementary School when Waterford Township High School opened in 1949-1950 and then Crary Junior High and Pierce Junior High Schools were opened in 1954 and 1957, respectively. The school is a wonderful blend of the old and new as you will find modern white boards and vintage glass fronted cabinets in some of the rooms.

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### 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.

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:

- ◆ **3rd Annual Peacefest Art & Music Festival:** June 4 and 5 from 11:00 a.m.-7:00 each day on Dixie near Andersonville Road. Information available at L.A. Café.
- ◆ **Hess-Hathaway Concerts in the Park:** Free event at Hess-Hathaway. Bring your blanket, lounge chairs, family and friends. Local Talent 6:00 p.m. Featured Bands 7:00-9:00 p.m.
  - ◆ June 14-New Horizons Band
  - ◆ July 19-Acoustic Brothers
  - ◆ August 16-The Groove Council
  - ◆ August 23-Blackthorn
- ◆ **Movies Under The Moonlight** Friday June 22nd at Pierce Middle School. Movie is "Secretariat-The Impossible True Story". Movie begins at dusk. Activities galore for kids of all ages. Admission \$2.00. Call 248-618-7424 for more information. Sponsored by the Waterford Coalition for Youth and the Waterford Area Chamber of Commerce.
- ◆ **OCPHS Summer Social** July 28th from noon-5:00 at Pine Grove Museum in Pontiac. Local authors, white elephant, gift shop, tours, children's games, hot dogs and chips, ice cream and cake free with admission. Admission \$5.00 or \$10.00 for family. 248-338-6732

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

Please save your VG & 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.

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



Waterford Township Historical Society