

Waterford Historical Society Newsbill

Volume 21, Number 4

December 2017 - January/February 2018

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

Calendar

Saturday, December 2
Christmas Sale
10:00 -4:00
(see article inside newsletter)

December 7 at Noon
Holiday
Pot Luck Luncheon
(see article inside newsletter)

Historical Society
Closed to the Public
After Dec. 6, 2017

January 2018
WHS Closed to Public

February 2018
WHS Closed to Public

WHS Reopens the first
Wednesday in March
Weather Permitting

March 24, 2018
Fashion Show
(Mark your calendar!)

If Waterford Schools
are closed
we are closed

President's Notes

The weather has turned at Fish Hatchery Park and the holiday season is in the air. Although Christmas in October is done, you may continue to shop in the Log Cabin and Jacober's General Store during our regular hours on 11/29. Also for last minute gifts, shop Christmas Sale on Saturday, December 2, from 10-4.

Keep in mind our schedule for the coming year: The Hatchery House and Log Cabin close after December 6, 2017, and will open again on March 7, 2018. The Village will open for the season on May 2, 2018. And IMPORTANT, even for March, when the Waterford School District is closed, we are closed.

"Then the Grinch thought of something he hadn't before! What if Christmas, he thought, doesn't come from a store. What if Christmas...perhaps...means a little bit more."—Dr. Seuss, How The Grinch Stole Christmas

Here's to wishing you that "little bit more" of Christmas.



Sally Strait

Village Schedule **CLOSED**

The Waterford Historical Society closes to the public from December 6, 2017 through February 2018. The Hatchery House, Library & Office reopen the first Wednesday in March 2018, 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, 2017. Renew now to keep your membership and newsletter subscription current. See page 5 for details.





Christmas Sale

Our Christmas Sale will take place on Saturday, December 2 from 10 am - 4 pm. The sale will take place in Jacober's General Store and the Log Cabin.

This is the last chance to shop for Christmas Items.

(All proceeds go to the Waterford Historical Society.)

Shoppers will find:

- | | |
|---------------------------|----------------------------|
| -aprons | -jams, honey, salsa, soups |
| -candles, soaps | -jewelry |
| -children's items | -local handmade items |
| -gift baskets | -Michigan items |
| -gift mugs | -pet items |
| -handmade greeting cards | -sachets |
| -handmade Michigan mugs | -stocking stuffers |
| -historic children's toys | -unique holiday items |
| -holiday decorations | -Waterford shirts |
| -homemade cookies | -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 Saturday, Dec. 2nd.
- Customers love the cookies.
Thank you to everyone who bakes!



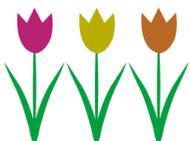
Save the Date!

Celebrate Spring
at the Fashion Show Fundraiser
for the Waterford Historical Society
Saturday, March 24, 2017

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 7th 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 seeing 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 6th or at Christ Lutheran Church December 7th at the holiday luncheon.



History of Christmas Trees



- **1510** – The first written record of a decorated Christmas Tree comes from Riga, Latvia. Men of the local merchants' guild decorated a tree with artificial roses, danced around it in the marketplace and then set fire to it. The rose was used for many years and is considered to be a symbol for the Virgin Mary.
- **1530** – There is record from Alsace, France (then Germany territory) that trees were sold in the marketplace and brought home and set up undecorated. Laws limited the size to "8 shoe lengths" (slightly over 4 feet).
- **1600s** – By the 17th century, it was common in Germany to decorate Christmas Trees with apples. This practice was a holdover from the 14th and 15th centuries when evergreen boughs hung with apples were the only prop used in the "miracle plays" that were performed at the churches on December 24. December 24 was Adam & Eve's Day in the early Christian calendar, and the plays were used as ways of teaching the Bible to a largely illiterate population.
- **1700s** – In parts of Austria and Germany, evergreen tips were brought into the home and hung top down from the ceiling. They were often decorated with apples, gilded nuts and red paper strips. Edible ornaments became so popular on Christmas Trees that they were often called "sugartrees." The first accounts of using lighted candles as decorations on Christmas Trees come from France in the 18th century.
- **1800s** – The Christmas Tree was introduced in the United States by German settlers. It rapidly grew from tabletop size to floor-to-ceiling.
- **1851** – Christmas Trees began to be sold commercially in the United States. They were taken at random from the forests.
- **1853** – Franklin Pierce is credited with bringing the first Christmas Tree to the White House.
- **Late 1800s** – The first glass ornaments were introduced into the United States, again from Germany. The first ones were mostly balls, but later chains of balls, toys and figures became more common.
- **Around 1883** – Sears, Roebuck & Company began offering the first artificial Christmas trees – 33 limbs for \$.50 and 55 limbs for \$1.00.
- **1900s** – Due to overharvesting, the natural supply of evergreens began to be decimated. Conservationists became alarmed, and many magazines began to encourage people to substitute an artificial "snow" covered tree, consisting of a branch of a deciduous tree wrapped in cotton.
- **1901** – The first Christmas Tree farm was started in 1901 when W.V. McGalliard planted 25,000 Norway spruce on his farm in New Jersey. Also in 1901, Theodore Roosevelt tried to stop the practice of having Christmas Trees out of concern about the destruction of forests. His two sons didn't agree and enlisted the help of conservationist Gifford Pinchot to persuade the president that, done properly, the practice was not harmful to the forests.
- **1930s** – President Franklin D. Roosevelt started a Christmas Tree farm on his estate in Hyde Park, New York.
- **1966** – The National Christmas Tree Association began its time-honored tradition of having the Grand Champion grower present a Christmas Tree to the First Lady for display in the Blue Room of the White House. That year, Howard Pierce of Black River Falls, Wisconsin, presented a tree to President Lyndon Johnson and First Lady Lady Bird Johnson.
- **Today** – Approximately 25-30 million Real Christmas Trees are sold each year in the United States. Almost all of these come from Christmas Tree plantations.



**First published image of a
Christmas tree 1836
*The Stranger's Gift***

(Timeline provided by The Rocks Christmas Tree Farm, Bethlehem, NH.)

Story of the Luckiest Child

Christmas has always been my favorite holiday. It was always exciting when my two brothers and I were young. I can't remember any unhappy Christmas. Even during the Depression, when my mother said there wouldn't be much for Christmas, it seemed fine to me.

I loved dolls and usually received one from Santa. One year my doll came from "Santa at the Soo." The beautiful baby doll really came from my Grandmother and Grandfather Carlton along with my aunts and uncles who also lived in Sault Ste. Marie, Mich. It is pronounced "Soo Saint Marie."

The baby doll came with her trunk that opened up and had little drawers on one side & a bar to hang the doll's clothes on the other side. I remember I spent hours playing with the doll and I loved every minute of it. A sweeter baby doll couldn't be found, I was convinced.

But first she had to have a name. I thought about that name for a long time. Finally I had a brainstorm. I discovered the perfect name for my doll that came from the Soo.

I named her "Susan Marie," because if you said it fast, it sounded just like Soo Saint Marie. It seemed to me it was fitting to have my new doll named after her "birthplace." At least, as far as I was concerned, it was her birthplace.

At that time we lived in Laingsburg, Mich. in a small house on my Grandfather Black's farm, and I remember taking my doll, along with her trunk and clothes, outside on the shady side of the house in the

summertime. I would take out outfit, try it on the doll, talk to her while I was doing it and then change to the next outfit.

I did not discover until I was grown up, and a mother myself three times over, how disturbing my dolls were to my cousin Joyce. She was a year or two younger than I was and we never played dolls, I am sure. But she knew I received dolls for Christmas each year.

I thought Joyce was the luckiest child I knew because she had her own pony she could ride any time she wanted. My younger brother, Jim, used to want to ride Joyce's pony in the worst way whenever we went to her house.

It is probably lucky we didn't have a chance to ride the pony named Trixie. We found out the hard way that Trixie had a mean streak. She would step on your feet if you got too close to her.

Joyce told me later how disappointed she was that she never was given a doll when she was young. I couldn't believe no one ever asked her what she wanted for Christmas. She wasn't a backward child.

Now she has a doll collection and keeps inviting me to come to Minnesota and see her dolls. I hope I can manage a trip to see Joyce and see her dolls. I'm sure the dolls will be pleased. I know Joyce would be.

'One Day at a Time' article by Jean Morgan (12-25-2005) for The Daily Journal of the Daytona Beach News-Journal serving the New Smyrna Beach, Florida area

New Hometown Drayton Plains Exhibit (by Rich Welsh)

We wanted to make everyone aware that we have a new display in our train depot. A showcase has been placed in the freight room featuring the town of... Drayton Plains of course! As you know the county ran off with the signs that marked our borders and seeing that our major products in the early days were live fish & blocks of ice, finding physical evidence Drayton Plains existed is challenging. So far we have acquired a badge from the GM's SPO facility, a matchbook from the Drayton A&W, a window card from Drayton's Loon Lake hydroplane races, a Patch from our Boy Scout troop 52, a key & postcard from the Edgewater Beach Motel, a mileage minder from Ken's Mobil gas station, and handbills from the Drayton movie theater.



Our feature item is the dedication plaque from the Drayton Plains post office; If President Eisenhower believed Drayton Plains existed who are they to argue? We want to fill the showcase with tangible evidence Drayton Plains not only existed, we want to prove our town had all the businesses, social groups, and amusements of any typical small town in America. If you have souvenirs which have our town's name DRAYTON PLAINS on them we want to display them. **Smaller items are best and the older the better.** Check that "junk drawer" and those boxes in the basement, things as simple as business giveaways like tape measures, ink pens, matchbooks, are ideal. But please keep in mind, the items need to bear the town's name to be placed in the display. So everybody, dig around and stand up for our town!

The thing at the top of our wanted list is finding a DRAYTON DRUGS Baseball Jersey; do you know anyone who has one? We want it!

Turning the Tide for Turkeys



The pardoning of a White House turkey began in 1863 when President Lincoln's son, Tad, interceded on behalf of the bird and its life was spared. Now a tradition, two dressed birds and one live turkey are delivered to the White House each year. The live bird is "pardoned" and lives its life on a historical farm.

At the Farm Sanctuary turkeys get sponsored or adopted instead of eaten. "Turkeys are friendly and follow you around like puppy dogs. They'll try to sit on your lap to be petted," says Gene Baur president and co-founder of the sanctuary's. At the Celebration for the Turkeys, they feed them cranberries, pumpkin pie and squash. People visit to see them enjoy it.

(The guests' snacks are vegan.)

Horse Shoes /Small Pot Belly Stove

- We can use old horse shoes people might have at home and would let us have permanently to put on the walls of the Blacksmith Shop.
- We can use a small pot belly stove someone might already have and would like to give away. The Doctor/Dentist/Barber Shop waiting area in the Watchpocket Building can use one.



Help Us By Shopping



We appreciate everyone who participates in the Kroger community savings program. Make sure to register the number (82795) on the Kroger card and use it every time you shop. Kroger donates a percentage of your purchases to the Waterford Historical Society. Thanks for your help!

Thank you also to Kroger for their generosity!

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 2018. This entitles members to receive the WHS newsletters. There is much going on. Don't miss out!



Join us...
Help keep history alive.

Waterford Township Historical Society Membership Application - New Address? Check Here:

	<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 close for the season after Dec. 8 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 newsletter is brought to you by Stu & Arlen Magy and Bob & Gwen Jacober. Thank you !!!

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

Upcoming Local Events:

- ◆ **Christmas Sale:** Saturday, Dec 2nd from 10 am-4 pm at Fish Hatchery Park (Waterford Historical Society Fundraiser) www.waterfordhistoricalsociety.org
- ◆ **Santa at the Farm/Christmas Open House:** Sunday, Dec 3rd from noon-4pm Takes place at Fisk Farm in White Lake 248-887-3244 www.hsmichigan.org/whitelake/events/
- ◆ **WHS Holiday Pot Luck Luncheon:** Thursday, Dec 7th at noon Christ Lutheran Church (see article in newsletter)
- ◆ **Kettering Holiday Collage Concert :** December 7th-9th, 7 pm, Kettering Performing Arts Center www.waterfordpac.com (248-673-4205) for tickets
- ◆ **New Horizons Concert Band Performance:** Sunday, December 10th, 3 pm, Mott Performing Arts Center www.waterfordpac.com (248-673-4205)
- ◆ **Mott Holiday Showcase Concert:** December 20th-21st, 7 pm, Mott Performing Arts Center www.waterfordpac.com (248-673-4205) for tickets

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

Waterford Township Historical Society

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

