



Waterford Historical Society Newsbill

Volume 16, Number 1

March-April-May 2011

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

President's Notes

As spring starts to thaw us out we can look ahead to sunnier days. Spring means gearing up for tours. We have several 2nd grade classrooms scheduled and Log Cabin Days on the horizon.

Here is my plea for history. I have said this before but you can hear it again. We need members to step up for these tours and at Log Cabin Days. Seriously think about dressing and going into one of the buildings to "become" someone from the past. 2nd graders especially love when you dress up! Wear an apron and become the shopkeeper at Jacober's, the barber, the baker, the station master at the depot.

Please do not be intimidated by the history. You only have to learn a few lines and I promise as you go along you will become an expert. As we build the Village we have to remember that we are here to teach the history of Waterford. We are progressing to the next steps as we start to look totally authentic. We display items, sure. But our goal is to have each of the buildings look as though the shopkeeper just stepped out. That means looking and acting as though the doctor is "in" and performing surgery!

We are recreating life in the early 1900s. Have fun with this and get into the spirit of it. Please offer to help us out as we do tours and during Log Cabin Days.

Hope to see you soon.

Sally Strait



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

Calendar

March-April-May

Every Wednesday 10:30-2:00

March 16

Board Meeting 1:00 HH

March 30

Pot Luck noon

April 6

Log Cabin Days Mtg 1:00

April 20

Board Meeting 1:00 HH

April 27

Pot Luck Noon

May 4

Log Cabin Days Mtg 1:00

May 18

Board Meeting 1:00 HH

May 19

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

May 25

Pot Luck Noon

May 30

Memorial Day Parade 10:00am

Village Update

The piles of snow do not intimidate our faithful men as they continue to move forward. Using Jacober's Store as a workshop, the men have been painting our park benches and making shelves for the Gulf Station. Bette Lagalo made and hung muslin café curtains in the upstairs of the Watchpocket Building (newly named in honor of the Watchpocket & Spooner families)...Apartment for rent above the bakery, anyone?

Log Cabin Days 2011

As you read this we will be done with two Log Cabin Days 2011 meetings . If you missed it, don't worry. We still need you! Please come to our next meeting or just stop by on a Wednesday or call a board member with your ideas. The main thing is for you to get involved with this fun event.

Dress in character and spend time in the Depot, the caboose, the print shop or the bakery. Play checkers in the Doctor's waiting room. Ham it up a little. People really love this and we are teaching the history of Waterford as we go.

Of course, we have plenty to do if you would rather give house tours or work at the Strawberry Shortcake booth. This year we will have a hands-on activity area in the Village proper for people to use the farm tools, corn sheller, wringer washer, etc. Maybe you would like to demonstrate and help there.

Instead of a true bake sale we will bring back our popular cookie sale from Christmas in October. Bake some cookies and put them four in a baggie. These will all be priced \$1.00 per bag and be on sale in the Log Cabin.

No matter what your available time or talent, we have a place for you at Log Cabin Days. This is one time when we really need you to step forward and step into the past with us. I guarantee you will be smiling.

SAVE THE DATES

Log Cabin Day Meetings 1:00 :

April 6

May 4

June 1

Log Cabin Days June 25 & 26



Township Hall Display

Folks, it is time again for our wonderful display at Town Hall for the whole month of March. The theme this year is *Service Stations* and will celebrate our newest building in our Village, a Gulf Station.

Join us for the days when maps and drinking glasses were freebies, your windshield was cleaned with a smile and grease monkeys were common.

The display case is on the 2nd floor of Township Hall. You can come in the main floor and walk up the steps or come in from the back and the case is right when you walk in. Any way you get in, please come. These displays are always excellent and a little known gem in Waterford.

Annual General Meeting

Please plan to attend our Annual Membership meeting and Election on Thursday May 19, at 7:00 p.m. This is our one and only membership meeting of the year so please plan on attending. We will serve dessert and beverages and Harvey Hedlund will give us a slide show of pictures from our events over the years.

Even more important than dessert, we are holding elections.

In accordance with our By-Laws we are presenting our slate of officers for 2011 as follows:

2 year terms:

Vice President-Bob Allen

Recording Secretary-Rebecca Morgan

Bookkeeper-Cheryl Stoutenburg

3 year terms:

Members at large-Dorothy White, Dorothy Webber

If you are 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.

SAVE THE DATE

May 19 7:00pm Jacober's Store

Lease Renewed

At the Waterford Township Board Meeting on February 14, 2011, the Township voted unanimously to renew our lease at Fish Hatchery Park. The Board watched a virtual tour of our buildings through a PowerPoint presentation. We are grateful to have such a beautiful place to function. No group is an island, and we operate with the help of many volunteers and much cooperation from the Township and Waterford Parks & Recreation. As times get tougher, we will all be feeling a pinch. We are confident we can step up when we need to and keep moving forward together.

Book Drive

Please continue to bring in your books. The first load was picked up and is already for sale online. We are especially looking for older books, but bring us anything you have because they recycle the books they cannot sell.

They are happy to work with us and dedicated to making us some money. So, keep it coming.



Hands on History

Mark & Sally Strait had the distinct honor of attending the 78th State Conference banquet of the Michigan Society of the Children of the American Revolution on February 12th in Lansing. What an impressive group of kids! This banquet marks the last few months of Paige Daniel's term as State President. And though her term will be ending, Paige has committed to keep pursuing her goal of helping us build the second half of the Watchpocket Building. This side of the building will house a multi-purpose community room on the first floor and a hands-on education center on the second floor. Part of our mission in "educating present and future generations" is to have a place where we can facilitate workshops and meetings. Groups can come to us and learn a craft or trade from the past. We will also have a place to showcase some of our historical collections not previously displayed. This area will be invaluable as we move forward.

We have about \$4,000.00 for this project and need \$10,000.00 total. This may seem like a huge amount, but look at all we have done so far. All it takes are many small donations and soon hammers and sawdust will fly. After all, we already have the cement pad ready. So, keep this project in mind as we move into the spring.



VG's yes Rewards

Vg's has recently updated their Community Rewards program. They will now require you to have a "VG's yes Rewards" card for your receipts to count towards community rewards for the Waterford Historical Society, and all non-profit organizations.

If you already have the card and use it to take advantage of all the specials and fuel awards, etc., then you do nothing but continue using the card every time you shop. Your receipt will automatically list the community share points at the bottom. **Still send in or bring in your receipts so we can tally them up.** This part will work the same for us.

If you do not have a VG's yes Rewards card, then your receipts will not show the community share points at the bottom, and therefore will not be counted. So, please go to VG's and sign up for a card. You can also sign up online at myrewards.com. When you get your card, use it every time and your points will show on your receipt and can be counted by us.

These programs are almost like free money for us. With a minimal effort we get a check. We hope you will continue to participate.

Kroger Community Rewards

Speaking of community rewards, we are now participating in Kroger's Community Rewards Program. You use your Kroger Plus card with our number and we will get a check in the mail every quarter! No receipts to turn in. They will keep track through your card. So, here is how it works:

If you do not have a Kroger Plus card you can go to the customer service desk at any Kroger to get one.

If you already have a Kroger Plus card and an email address:

1. Go online to krogercommunityrewards.com
2. Click on Sign in/Register
3. Click on SIGN UP TODAY in the "new customer" box
4. Follow instructions by entering all information and agreeing to terms and conditions.
5. You will then get a message to check your email box where you will read the email from Kroger and follow the link to complete your registration process.
6. Click on MY ACCOUNT and use your email address and password to log on.
7. Click on EDIT KROGER COMMUNITY REWARDS information and input your Kroger Plus card number.
8. Enter Waterford Historical Society NPO number:
82795
9. You will now see Waterford Historical Society name under your information.
10. REMEMBER to use your card for all purchases and WHS will get a check every quarter!

If you do not have an email or computer access:

Please bear with us! At the date of this newsletter, the specific person at Kroger I needed to talk to was on vacation and I was unable to get a good answer. So far, you will be unable to sign up your card with our NPO number at the actual Kroger stores. I am working on this so stay tuned.

Email/Online Newsletter

Let us know if you would rather have your newsletter sent to you through your email rather than by snail mail. You are not required to do this, but in the electronic age, many of you may rather have this feature, then you can print it out or not. And we can save a stamp.

Also, WHS newsletters are archived and always available on our website for your perusal.

Let me know by email: ssstrait649@comcast.net

Reflections on the Fiftieth Anniversary of the Old Town Hall

Letter from Donald E. Adams dated October 22, 1991

This letter is an invaluable snapshot of the mind set of some of these men as they made decisions in the Township.

Our family has long had its roots in Waterford Township. Great Grandfather John Windiate came to the shores of Silver Lake in 1836 from England. He was looking for a fish pond and a woodlot. Silver Lake provided the fish pond and the oak trees now along the third hole of the Silver Lake Golf course provided the woodlot.

My grandmother, Harriet Windiate, was born there and later married Oliver Clark Earl, the son of Oliver Earl, an early Circuit Minister in the area. He presided at the first burial in Sashabaw Cemetery in Independence Township. The Earls purchased the farm lands to the west of her father and mother. My mother, brother and myself were all born in the same bedroom in the white frame house (no longer white) still standing on the west side of Walton Blvd.

Dad Adams, soon after he married, acceded to his wife's desires and moved to her home area of Silver Lake. Their first child, Dorothy, was born in Holly in 1899 and shortly thereafter the family moved into the farm home in Waterford Township when Grandpa and Grandma Earl followed the customary pattern of retiring to a house in town. They bought a frame house at the corner where Baldwin Avenue splits off from Oakland Avenue in Pontiac and had the lot across Baldwin for pasture of a driving horse. Later the Oakland Motor Car Company, and even later the Pontiac Motor Administration Building were located there.

Both Dad and Mother took an interest in community affairs and Dad ran and was elected Supervisor of Waterford Township in 1903. Most farm townships operated on a meager budget and a full attendance at the annual Town Meeting demanded a careful explanation and lean but fruitful was the watchword for public moneys.

Alfred Gale was clerk during Dad's terms as Supervisor and succeeded him as Supervisor. When Alfred became Supervisor he kept an eagle eye on the whole tax picture. One year there was some dissatisfaction over his assessments and a Republican was elected. The new Supervisor called on the State assessor to review the assessments and the resulting increase caused a tremendous reaction. Alfred was returned the next year and the high taxes caused by his predecessor's reassessment insured his reelection as long as he was a candidate. By law their figures could not be

adjusted for three years.

I was elected as Justice of the Peace in 1937 and became a member of the Town Board under the statutes of that time. It provided me with a wonderful education of how to make tax dollars reasonable and still produce maximum benefits. A memorable illustration occurred when the State was in dire financial circumstances and a former member of our Township Board was elected State Representative. In his first term he was chairman of the taxation committee of the House. The Sales Tax of 3% was enacted and soon replenished the State's needs. Quite often people dealing with the Township would send a billing which would add the 3% tax item. Alfred would take a red pencil and cross out the tax item and the Board would then authorize payment of the reduce amount. Townships were exempt from paying the new sales tax.

An outstanding accomplishment of this frugal tax policy occurred with the building of the Township Hall at the corner of Crescent Lake Road and M-59. To begin with, the Township was able to acquire this land that had been taken over for delinquent taxes. It was indeed poor farm land and M-59 had not developed much at that time. Alfred, through his tenure on the Oakland County Board of Supervisors, had known Fred Madison, an architect from Royal Oak. Fred was employed to draw up plans for the town hall. I can remember at a meeting on the preliminary draft Alfred said to Fred: "We can't afford anything a fancy as that—go back and design some more practical plan that Waterford can afford." This Fred did. An example was his use of speed brick—the oversized unit reduced cost and especially the labor cost of laying them.

The design took advantage of the location on M-59 so as to give fire trucks easy access to a main highway in the center of the Township.

The plans were offered for bids and one of the stipulations was that the cost was to be spread over two tax years. As a result the entire cost was paid for at its completion. The new town hall was dedicated fifty years ago in November 1941.

For the first time all the township offices were in one building and the second floor was adequate for the annual township meeting, caucuses and elections. I was pleased to be able to use the Board room for hearings of the Justice Court and in January, 1942, began holding court there. **Continued next page**

Reflections on the Old Town Hall continued

Another important lesson I learned from its construction. All of us were local folks and made frequent inspection of the day to day progress as construction took shape. This insured a quality product when the building was completed.

An interesting sidelight has family involvement. It just so happens that the location of the old Town Hall is the geographical center of the Township and Waterford Township is the center of the twenty-five townships of Oakland County. Dad Adams opined that an American flag should fly at such a central location and he donated flag pole and flag. The flag was first raised by Dad Adams, assisted by Alfred Gale, at a dinner June 9, 1942, honoring seventy selectees from the area prior to their leaving for Detroit for their final examinations before leaving for the army.

Time have changed. Waterford is no longer a farming community and its population has increased by leaps and bounds. A new Town Hall has been erected on a site originally bought by the Township Board to be used as needed for cemetery purposes. Now, fifty years later, the old Town Hall is being used as an enlarged Fire Department.

When the building was completed a plaque was prepared for the wall near the entrance. It contained the names of the Town Board members and the contractor. This plaque was removed after the new Town Hall was occupied and is displayed in one of the exhibit cases in the first floor foyer. As the one survivor of all the persons named on the plaque, I consider myself indeed fortunate to be here to enjoy the advantages of Waterford Township.

Signed, *Donald E. Adams*

The current or "new" Township hall was finished and occupied in 1979. The original Town Hall on Crescent and Hatchery was then used as an expanded Fire Department. The Fire Department occupied this building until 2000 when the current state of the art Fire Department Station One and Headquarters was built on Crescent and Hatchery.

The Police Department also occupied the old Town Hall from the years of 1953, when it was created, to some time between 1954 and 1960. At this time the Police Department moved right next door to share a small red brick building occupied by the Water Department. By June of 1964, the Water Department moved to their new building on the Civic Center grounds (Crescent and Tubbs), leaving the Police Department to occupy the whole building. In 1982, the Department moved into the Monteith Elementary School Building on Crescent Lake Road. Finally, in 2001, the new Police Department Headquarters building on the Civic Center grounds was finished and the Police moved into their current location.

A Demolition Permit for the old Town Hall building was applied for in late August of 2002. The site work for the new CVS Pharmacy began in early November of 2002, at which point the Town Hall building was already torn down.

Goodbye to an old and well-used friend!



Police Department with M-59 on right. We are still trying to date this picture.

Thank you to Carl Solden for helping with the above information. Also the Fire Department and Police Department websites.

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

Non-profit 501(c)3 organization

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!



Things you might like:

- ♦ **Oliver:** February 24-26, 2011 at the Waterford Mott Performing Arts Center. Musical performed by the Waterford Mott Drama Club. 7:00 p.m. Box Office call 248-673-4205.
- ♦ **Music Lasts A Lifetime:** March 13, 2011 at 3:00 p.m. New Horizons Concert Band performs at Waterford Mott Performing Arts Center. Featuring Specialists Flute Choir Directed by Kassia Martin.
- ♦ **Steel Magnolias:** May 19-21, 2011 at the Waterford Mott Performing Arts Center. 7:00 p.m.

2011 Gasoline Station Calendars are still available

Purchase one at the following places around town:

Township Hall in the Treasurer's office
Waterford Parks & Recreation on Crescent Lk Rd
The Hatchery House on a Wednesday

Current calendar still only \$5.00

And remember at the Hatchery House we have previous years available for only \$2.00! They are full of great photos and history.

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