

Our Mission

The Waterloo Area Historical Society's mission is to foster an understanding and appreciation in children and adults of the pioneer farmers of Michigan, their family life, and their children's schooling.



Waterloo Area Historical Society



PO Box 37, Stockbridge, MI 49285 ♦ Phone: 517-596-2254 ♦ www.waterloofarmmuseum.org

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What's Next:

Volunteer Appreciation Social

Sunday, May 19th

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Christmas on the Farm

The Log House was crowded with guests all day. The warmth of the fire and friendly hosts, Tom Bertrand and Roger Kerr, "Bloodworth and Kerr Toymakers", and Brian and Sue Dewey, as Pioneer family, cooking and homemaking, brought smiles to everyone.

Dewey School teemed with school children most of the weekend. These students took time to learn about 1800's lessons and enjoyed the Christmas decorations created by Stockbridge Heritage Elementary School students.

The Ice House was once again filled to the brim with wreaths, wall and table decoration for sale. Many hours were spent creating these works of art by over 15 volunteers on Greens Day, the first Saturday after Thanksgiving. If you are interested in this fun and creative day let someone on the board of directors know.

The Silent Auction was a great success with donations from individual and many, many businesses in the Chelsea, Stockbridge, Jackson and Lansing areas.

Beverly Larsen was in Mary's Room, in the farmhouse, crafting her beautiful socks on her 1870's sock machine. The artistry and quiet elegance of her work add authenticity to the house. Samantha Huber from the Capital Area



District Library, Stockbridge Branch, read the Night Before Christmas to children, throughout the day, on Saturday of the event. She enjoyed herself to the point of not being sure who got more out of the experience, the children or herself. She requested to be invited again.

Ladies from a lace making guild filled the sitting room with lace bobbins and lap pillows for guests to try their hand at making lace. With careful instruction they were able to work a few rows. Maybe a new desire to creative arts was born.

Mary Minnie set up her spinning wheel in the Parlor giving demonstrations of just one of her many talents. Mary is an accomplished weaver, spinner and many, many fiber arts. Look for Mary at Blacksmith-Soldiers and Log Cabin Weekend and Pioneer Day.



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Christmas on the Farm Continued

Lesa Patow, the Museum newest weaver, gave demonstrations and allowed folks to try their hand at weaving on the large loom. Lesa has taken the loom and the museum under her wing and is a joy to work with.



The farmhouse, decorated for the holiday by Henry and Dena Crawford and Earlene Landis, as it would have been in the 1870's, welcomed guests by way of the "front" door. The door that faces the East is the door where special guests would enter. Only on special occasions could visitors be in this part of the house. They were greeted at the door and escorted into the parlor. This is where the experience of the "formal" parlor ends for our guests, as they then can go to the bedrooms in the hall and upstairs, where a guest of the 1800's would never venture unless they were from far away and spending a day or two with the family.



Our guests enjoyed the Loom Room, Mary's Room, then up the stairs to the Children's Room, Toy Room and Parent's Room where guides explained how and by whom the rooms were used. Then on into the Attic where either Krampus or the poet Will Carlton, (Dan Hovator) would greet them with stories and tales of old. You may recognize our Attic host as the resident Flint Knapper of the summer and fall events.

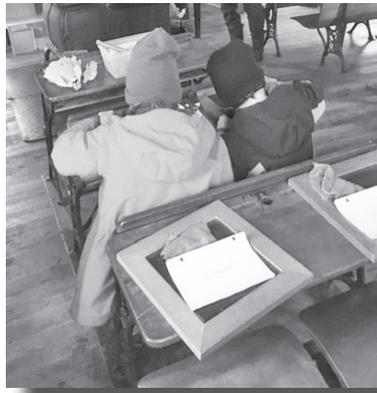
The guests then navigated the back stairs, or "itinerant farmhands" stairs, down to the dining room where Dena Crawford explained the treats and foods displayed on the table and how an open house was a common way for neighbors to get together to celebrate Christmas. The Realy family were always welcoming to visitors and planned a holiday event every year.

From the dining room they traveled through the Pantry where pies were being made and on into the kitchen where bacon, cut fresh for the slab was being fried up on the cookstove, ready to be sampled. Bob and Sandy Motice were cooking and immersing themselves in the era and the holiday.

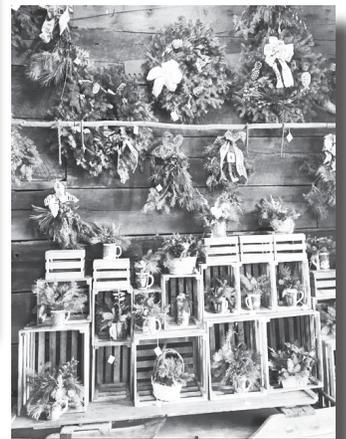
The Woodshed, as usual, was the Bake Shop with sweets for sale. Thanks to all who donated and to Cathy Porszolt for pricing and displays.

It was a cold and wet weekend, but it didn't dampen the spirits or deter the visitors. They stayed and enjoyed all the Museum had to offer. From the concession's yummy soup, the Silent Auction, to the Blacksmith Shop where Chris St. Charles crafting iron, or to the Ice House full of greens for sale, to the Log House, and then to the Farmhouse filled with music and diverse sights to enjoy, it was a successful and beautiful way to celebrate Christmas with friends, old and new.

“Don't let yesterday use up too much of today.” J. Benjamin



More Memories from Christmas on the Farm



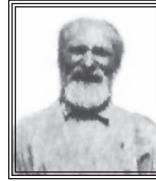
2019 Docent Training

April 13th 9:30- 3pm at the Waterloo Farm Museum

Fantastic Lunch Provided

For more information phone Arlene Kaiser 517-851-8745

Waterloo Wisdom from John Benjamin



Good Day Neighbor,

Down at the mill fellas were discussin' the strongest drink ever imbibed.

Says Otto, "I had somethin' brought up from West Virginia by a cousin. So clear when held up to light, it had a blue halo, much like the flame over wood alcohol on fire. So powerful it would take the hair off deer hide, but as sweet as raindrops on high corn. When I wiped my mouth afterwards, it burnt a hole in my sleeve."

"Ain't nothin'," says Willie, "had some from East Tennessee was so strong, couldn't be bottled, had to be kept in a jug with a corncob plug so's it could breathe. Fella said when drawin' some off his still, spilled some on his boot, ate the uppers clean off down to the sole. Said you'd better cut it ten to one with branch water, but still swallar a good mouthful of o' bacon grease to coat your stomach.

Well, them's good stories alright says I, but I go a real eye witness 'count of an episode with witnesses. We was playin'cards, four of us, when ole Chephus brings out this bottle of somethin' looked like lamp oil, kinda cloudy and heavy. He says, "This is something, like you'd never had before, and probably never see again. Been in my cellar for nigh on twenty years. Always been 'fraid to touch it, let alone have a sample." Old Will speaks up, "Let me have a little sample of that, I'm always a good judge of quality of licker, specially that's been seasoned." "I don't know," says Chephus, "don't rightly recall where it come from, but think I got it in trade for some corn from some southern fella. Never had the nerve to try it."

Well, old Chephus draws off a sippin' glass, hands it off to Will, who looks at it thru the light, then takes a big long swaller. He sits real still for quite a spell, then gets real stiff, face redder than a fresh painted barn. Then all color drains from him, eyes open wider than you ever seen, a grin so big it musta' hurt. We all watched him in disbelief for nigh on three hours, he liked to never took a breath in all that time, nor blinked. Well, he commenced to come around, hands shakin, then quakin' all over, throws his head back and lets out a yelp that musta', riled neighbors' dogs for over two miles. Finally, he comes around, stands up straight like a statue, grinnin' like a baked possum, and belts out, "I've seen Armageddon, light so bright, like a thousand stars, burnin' out all to once." We all decided that Chephus should put that bottle back in the cellar for some fool to find twenty years from now.

Well, seems like those boys had some en-lightnin' experiences. I think I'll stick to the Realy's cider, strong enough for me. Been times couldn't feel my legs, but no long-time afflictions, and I vow to never die of thirst.

Best Regards,

John Benjamin



It's that time again!!!

We will be cleaning the Museum on April 6th cleaning 9:30 am - 3pm

Come one, come all!

Farm Gourmet Lunch Provided!



WAHS Committee Chairs

Committee	Name	Phone	e-mail
Collections	Linda Tengman	(517) 522-8109	gldorttengman@aol.com
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House Guides	Arlene Kaiser	(517) 851-8745	roarkaiser66@gmail.com
Restoration & Repair	Ron Kaiser	(517) 851-8745	roarkaiser66@gmail.com
Property Management and Site Development	Ron Kaiser	(517) 851-8745	roarkaiser66@gmail.com
Public Safety & Security	Ron Kaiser	(517) 851-8745	roarkaiser66@gmail.com
Webmaster	Charles Durbin		

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Trustee	Dave Wilson	(517) 596-2782	wilsonbloodhound@yahoo.com

Waterloo Area Historical Society Membership Form

A private nonprofit 501(c)3 organization, the Waterloo Area Historical Society works to fund all the operation expenses for the Farm and Dewey School. Donations are fully deductible to the extent of the law.

Snip Snip

- PLEASE CHECK HERE IF RENEWING

- PLEASE CHECK FOR EMAILED NEWSLETTER

CHOOSE ONE:

- \$18.00 SINGLE
- \$25.00 COUPLE
- \$25.00 FAMILY (Two adults + children under 18)
- \$50.00 CONTRIBUTING MEMBER
- \$60.00 BUSINESS
- \$250.00 INDIVIDUAL LIFE MEMBER

Ages Sixty-two and over:

- \$12.00 SENIOR SINGLE
- \$18.00 SENIOR COUPLE
- \$175.00 SENIOR INDIVIDUAL LIFE MEMBER

- I WOULD LIKE TO MAKE AN ADDITIONAL CONTRIBUTION TO SUPPORT **WAHS** IN THE AMOUNT OF \$_____.

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ **ST** _____ **ZIP** _____

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PHONE _____

Please make checks payable to:
The Waterloo Area Historical Society
 Mail to: WAHS Memberships
 P.O.Box 37, Stockbridge, MI 49285

- I AM INTERESTED IN VOLUNTEERING AT THE MUSEUM, PLEASE CONTACT ME.



WAHS Business Sponsors



"It's not flies that bother me it's just that I don't know where they've been." J. Benjamin

Company Name	City	Phone
THE ABBOTT & FILLMORE AGENCY INC	Stockbridge	(517) 851-7777
ACCURATE TREE REMOVAL & TRIMMING	Grass Lake	(734) 475-7162
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WATERLOO NATURAL HISTORY ASSOCIATION	Grass Lake	(734) 475-0223
THOMAS WORTH - PROFESSIONAL SURVEYIOR	Jackson	(517) 788-9806





*WATERLOO AREA HISTORICAL SOCIETY
P O BOX 37
Stockbridge, MI 49285*

*PLACE
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HERE*

We're on the web!
www.waterloofarmmuseum.org

WAHS Events for 2019

Annual Meeting and Volunteer Appreciation Social - *May 19th*

Blacksmith, Soldier, and Log Cabin Weekend - *June 22nd and 23rd*

14th Annual Antique Truck, Tractor, and Farm Equipment Show - *August 10th and 11th*

Pioneer Day - *October 13th*

Christmas on the Farm - *December 7th and 8th*

WAHS Board Meetings - 7pm on the third Monday. Location posted on website.



***“A mother’s love is an unequalled
force of nature.”***

Mrs. J. Benjamin

