

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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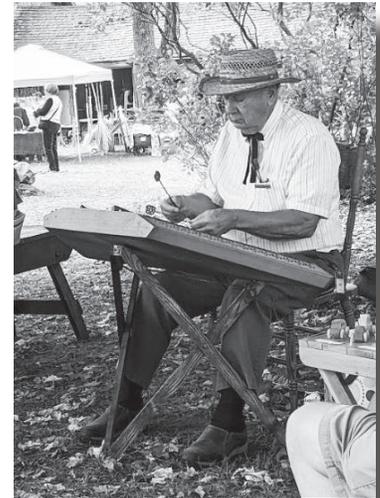
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Pioneer Day 2021 by Jenny Smith

The grounds of the Waterloo Farm and Dewey School Museums swarmed with activity on the sunny morning of October 10th. Pioneer Day, an annual celebration of late 19th century farm life, has been a tradition for many local families since the 1960's, but each year attracts more first time visitors from all over the state and beyond. As the piper's tune rang across the grounds, families streamed into the farmyard to see history unfolding before their eyes. Many interpreters and reenactors told of the exploits of Michiganders throughout history, from Brian Dewey and Jim Hunt's tales of explorer LaSalle and his companions who camped on the museum grounds, to Susan



Dewey's demonstration of Native American cooking. Union Civil War Reenactors pitched tents near the woods and educated the curious on a soldier's life. The nearby log cabin housed a display of historical medicine and equipment, some recognizable today, and some, thankfully, no longer in use.

Demonstrators of several crafts and skills were scattered about the grounds. While the adults gravitated towards the forges of blacksmiths such as Chris St. Charles, Anthony Davis, Byron and Jackie Gansley, and Lance Walker, the hands-on activities proved to be the most attractive to the young. Children clustered around the flintknapping circles, chipping away stone with bits of copper and antler to form arrowheads under the watchful eye

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of two volunteer flintknappers. The laundry area proved nearly as popular. Multiple children astonished their parents by scrubbing socks against the washboard with far more enthusiasm than they had ever shown for their own laundry. Other hands-on activities included trying woodworking tools with longtime volunteer Stephen Hopkins, shelling corn on an antique corn sheller, carding wool, making rope, and creating a dried flower a tussy-mussy.

Fiber artists of many talents showed different ways to process fiber into textiles. LaFae Markle brought a number of wheels and spindles to the event and taught several patrons about the process of creating yarn from roving. Mary Minney showed off stick weaving and had several hand-woven rugs available for purchase. This author manned a display of natural dyes such as walnut and marigold as well as the tools for processing fleece. For those curious about the origins of wool, Faethe and Faelan the Icelandic sheep provided a demonstration under the skilled hands of a shearer. Other demonstrations included quilting, clock making and repair, broom making, and cider pressing. The large Really barn housed the dried flower wreathes, swags, and centerpieces lovingly crafted by volunteers.

Animals played a big part on historical farms, and they were also a crowd pleaser at Pioneer Day. Two young goats let out

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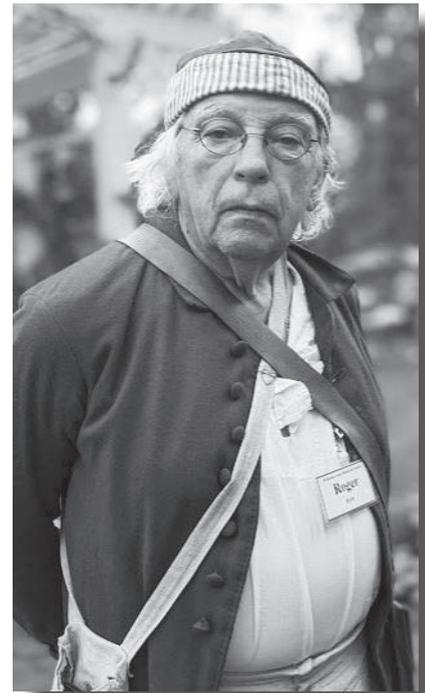
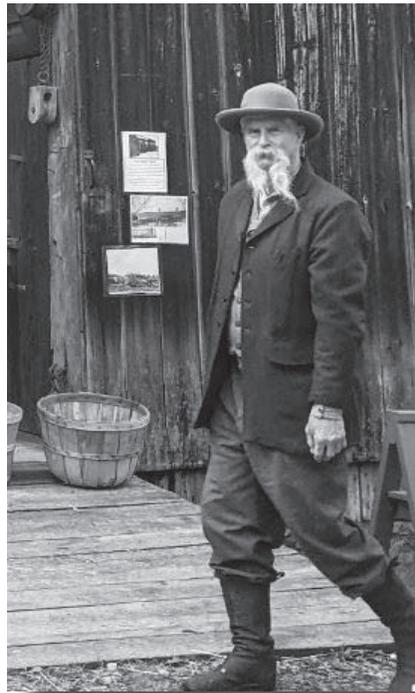
"Good judgment comes from experience; and experience, well, that comes from bad judgment." J. Benjamin

curious bleats as customers visited the soap vendor, the milk of their species being a key ingredient. A coop full of chickens occupied the time of multitudes of children. In addition to the aforementioned fiber sheep, a pen of smaller sheep also drew many onlookers. Arguably the most popular animals were the powerful draft horses. The teams took throngs of visitors on a winding back road journey and gave a glance into the less hurried transportation of the past.

A tour of another sort took place in the farmhouse, where the public was treated to a guided look at the many rooms filled with historical furnishings and décor. The Dewey school was also open for Pioneer Day. For generations, many schoolchildren visited this school on fieldtrips, and for many parents it is an exciting experience to be able to point out items they remember from their own childhood.

We at the Waterloo Farm and Dewey School Museum would like to thank all who helped to put on this great event. As an entirely volunteer run nonprofit, we depend on an amazing crew of volunteers to lend a helping hand in every step of the way. Thank you to all who visited, made purchases, bought raffle tickets, or made a donation.

This article was previously printed in the Stockbridge Community News.



Christmas is Coming!



We are so excited to be able to present Christmas on the Farm this year. It will be so good to be able to greet our guests in the Farmhouse, with music and to have all the usual events, such as Concession, Silent Auction, the wonderful offerings of the wreaths and greens in the Ice House, home baked goods and Gift Shop.

This year we are including a Christmas Mart. The Realy Barn will be filled with vendors of all sorts. There will be many gifts to choose from to complete your shopping list. The Bake House will be filled with the warmth of the oven, Hot Chocolate, Hot Cider, and Molasses Cookies.

Please join us for this fun-filled event, December 4th and 5th, 10 am to 4 pm on both days.

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Unfortunately, the Dewey School will not be open this year due to unforeseen events.

Have your Family Photo Taken with SANTA!

Santa will be available for photos November 30th and December 1st, from noon to 5pm both days. The cost is \$40.00 per sitting. Please call Arlene, 517-392-3195 to make your appointment for this fun event!



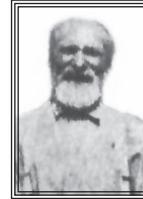
"You can only grow as high as you reach." J. Benjamin



It's GREENS MAKING DAY!

November 27th, 9am to 4pm at the Waterloo Farm Museum. Please join us for a fun day of crafting, decorating wreaths and filling containers to sell in the Ice House at Christmas on the Farm. Bring your own hot glue gun, hot glue sticks, pruners and scissors. We will provide greens, and decorations. Also bring a passing dish to share with everyone for lunch. We will have coffee, water and pop. Please contact Arlene at 517-392-3195 if you have any questions. We look forward to seeing you!

Waterloo Wisdom from John Benjamin



Good Day Freund,

Thinking about all the things I remember as a lad. Sauerkraut served with pork, mashed potatoes and gravy, beans and lots of desserts.

The sweet spicy smell of molasses as Mother was baking Lebkuchen, and the lemony taste of Springerle, only made with hand-carved German molds with Christmas scenes.

A beautiful spruce tree filled a corner and almost touched the ceiling, decorated with apples and little shafts of wheat. Many small candles were fastened onto the ends of the branches, When lit they looked like tiny stars.

After the wonderful meal, all gather to sing “Ihr Kinderlein Kommer, (Oh Come Little Children), “Oh Tannenbaum”, “Stille Nacht, Heilige Nacht” and many others, as the Children go to bed with a Guten Nacht to all.

Yes, a trip to the old country would be wonderful, but I can return at any time to my memories. But right here with all my relatives, friends and neighbors, I am blessed to celebrate Christmas with them.

Be Blessed,

John Benjamin



1st place

Raffle Winners!

Winners of Chainsaw Raffle were 1st place Roland French, and 2nd Place Justin Richardson. Thank you to all who participated. We are looking forward to next year when we can offer this fantastic prize again.



2nd Place

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Facebook	Jenny Smith
Gardens	Carol Strahler
Gift Shop	
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To Contact Committee Chairs,
Officers, or Trustees email
info@waterloofarmmuseum.org
or phone 517-536-2254

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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



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- 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 \$_____.

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The Waterloo Area Historical Society

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



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

PLACE
POSTAGE
HERE

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

WAHS Events for 2021

Christmas on the Farm, December 4th-5th, 10am to 5pm
WAHS Board Meetings - 7pm on the third Monday. Location posted on website and Facebook.



Your path in life isn't about where you are going, but who you bring along. Mrs. J. Benjamin

