

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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Free Museum Day

May 7, 2022

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Christmas in April?

Yes, we are featuring 2021 Christmas past in April. This is our first opportunity to feature the Christmas on the Farm photos and recap this fun event. There were our usual beautiful events and new ones too. Christmas Mart in the Realy Barn, was something new this year. The Granary Gift Shop was part of the Mart as well as five vendors. It was chilly but everyone agreed they would like to do it again.

We had hot chocolate, coffee, and hot cider in the Bake House this year. The Log House was open with a Pioneer Family, the Farmhouse



decorations were exceptionally well done by a great crew, the Ice House had the beautiful greens that were created over Thanksgiving weekend, and the Granary Gift Shop was loaded with great gifts.

The Silent Auction was a big hit as well as the Concession with hot food to warm the insides as well as the soul.

Enjoy the photos and remember to put December 3-4th on your calendar for Christmas on the Farm 2022.

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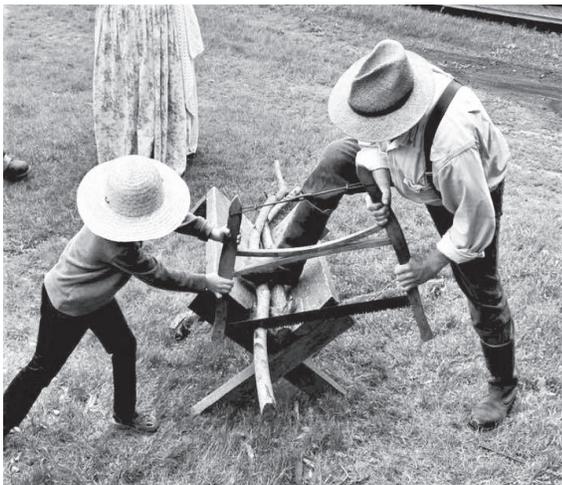
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More Christmas Memories



Pioneer Education Program in Jeopardy

For over 40 years the Waterloo Area Historical Society has provided an education program to the schoolchildren of Jackson, Ingham, Washtenaw and Livingston counties. Children are immersed in history during their visit to Dewey School and the Realy homestead as they become a child of the 1860s. This wonderful program will end without people to lead activities. Imagine yourself teaching students in a one room schoolhouse (with outhouse!), using chalk and slates (no iPads), reading from the McGuffey primer, ringing a bell to call them in from outdoor play (no video here!) You, as Mr. Realy, in the barn helping children saw logs, find eggs, shell corn to be ground into cornmeal. For Mrs. Really, children are fetching water from the windmill using buckets hung from a yoke, beating rugs, scrubbing laundry on the washboard, making cornbread and applesauce. Perhaps you are willing to be the shepherd herding children (not sheep!) to activities.



Imagine yourself sharing these pastimes. Help a child forget they are 'book' learning history while they are having fun experiencing it. These activities that bring history to life are not forgotten. Seeing their joy and excitement is priceless. Qualifications are few- a love of history and the desire to share it. Don't let this wonderful opportunity for students end. If you can envision yourself as the schoolmarm(master), Mr. or Mrs. Realy, or the shepherd, please contact Arlene at 517-392-3195 or email info@waterloofarmmuseum.org for more information

"History is a magnetic force; some are more vulnerable to it than others." J. Benjamin

Education Program

We are almost back to normal with our School Program. We have 16 days filled in April and May with 8 schools attending. It is so exciting to get back to "normal" around the Farm and School. I can't wait to see the children and hear their excited voices when they arrive. It will be a fun filled Spring!



Grant Recieved

Waterloo Farm Museum wishes to thank Creative Washtenaw for its grant of \$1000 from their Creative Washtenaw Aid fund. The fund lends assistance to artists, creative workers, organizations, and businesses adversely impacted by COVID 19. The lack of events and education programs greatly reduced revenues needed to operate and maintain Waterloo Farm Museum and Dewey School. The fund is the result of many amazing donors so please consider a tax-deductible contribution to Creative Washtenaw Aid. What goes in is what comes out!! Help to keep this fund alive.

Free Museum Day

Once again, the Jackson County Museum Group is having Free Museum Day. Eleven museums around the county will be open for free tours. This year we are featuring free Farmhouse and Dewey School tours as well as a self-guided tour around the farm. There will be a 1771 family in the Log House, prepping and planting the garden for this year's crop of flax, which they will harvest in late summer. Spinners Flock, an organization of likeminded spinners and weavers, will be having their Annual Sale. There will be 10 plus vendors selling their wares of wool and wool products. Also featured are Blacksmiths, Soldiers, Granary Gift Shop, and a concession open to serve our guests. Join us for a great day and the beginning of a new season at Waterloo Farm and Dewey School Museums.

Free Museum Day is May 7, 2022, 10am to 4pm at Waterloo Farm and Dewey School Museums



In Memoriam



Beverly Larsen

We have lost a truly good friend to the Museum. Beverly Larsen passed away February 28th. She was a joy to be around, never at a loss to tell a story or teach the art of weaving on her 1870's sock machine. She always wanted to guide you to the perfect pair of sox that would be just right for you. No one went away unhappy from visiting with Beverly. Her zeal for life was contagious. She was curious, creative, and generous with her time and skills. Beverly could not leave a room without making friends with everyone in it. Beverly was best known as a "Leisure Purist". Beverly and her husband James "Big Jim" Johnson met at the Lenawee County Fairgrounds in 1992 and soon after became an item and then shared 27 years of a blissful marriage together. A Memorial Service will be held in Adrian, May 14, 2022. Please contact 517-392-3195 for more information, if you would like to attend Beverly's Celebration of Life.

Joe Hanna

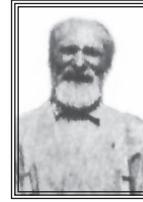
Joseph Hanna passed away on February 9, 2022, after a long illness. Joe was a lifetime member of the Waterloo Area Historical Society along with his wife, Meredith. Joe served on the Waterloo Area Historical Society board of directors, including several terms as president. During his three decades of volunteering at the Farm Museum, from the 1970s through the 1990s, Joe helped acquire and restore the log house, the granary, and the threshing barn, as well as install the white picket fence. Joe and Meredith and their little girls were part of the museum family that met every week for the Monday evening work sessions and potlucks. Their three daughters, Jennie, Ingrid, and Bethany, worked as museum guides. Joe and Meredith were longtime residents of Stockbridge before moving to Essex, New York after retirement.

Joe was born in a sod house and grew up on a wheat farm in western Kansas during the "dust bowl days." He was always very proud of his humble beginnings and had a great appreciation of history. He received his bachelor's degree from the University of Kansas and attended graduate school at UC Berkeley where he earned a Ph.D. in Philosophy of Science and Mathematical Logic. He taught at Michigan State University in East Lansing for 38 years.



"Ideas are a dime a dozen, people who implement them are priceless." J. Benjamin

Waterloo Wisdom from John Benjamin



Good Day Neighbor,

I have been reflectin' more lately on all the blessin's we have before us, livin' out here in the country. Especially now that some of us are gettin' along in years, with what we've had before us every day.

I'm slowin' down enough now, to take it all in.

Preparin' for each season, with the work to be done. Same time observin' the beauty and changes. Spring time, rainbows of blossoms, everything greenin' up, birds singing, the aroma of all things new, breezes, freshly turned soil. Time to plant, watch things begin to grow.

Summertime, puttin' up hay followed by a refreshing dip in our favorite swimmin' hole. The beauty of golden grain, ready for harvest. Findin' shade on a hot afternoon.

Come Fall, chilled evenin's frost on the pumkin, harvestin' the corn, preparin' for what's to come, festival of color with leaves changin'.

Winter, both pleasant and bitter days. Keepin' the fires burnin', animals cared for. Fresh snow always freshens things up, hidin' all the browns and gloom. Rememberin' all the while, "every bad day of weather is one day closer to Spring".

Nowadays, I move a lot slower, but observe more, kinda soakin' it all in, not knowin' how many more days the Good Lord has for me here on earth. The view from the top of the hill, able to see far in all directions. Entertainin' our grandchildren, retellin' same stories over and over, (only if they ask). Sittin' in the shade of a huge Maple tree with at least one on each knee, sayin' "Grandpa! Let's do somethin' ". I reply, " Why we are! We're watchin' this tree growin'. Don't you think it's taller than the last time?" I can just sit still lookin' around amazed and entertained, warmed by the sun, cooled by the breeze, observin' the wonder of gravity.

I pity those townfolk with jobs havin' to be usin' their brains all day, never getting' time to think. While milkin' cows, mowin' hay, and all the things we do in our world, our thoughts can go in all directions, imaginin' all sorts, next thing we know we've finished what we were doin', and probably somethin' we hadn't even planned to do. Some would call it daydreamin'. I call it reflectin' on all the good around us.

**Be Blessed,
Your friend,**

John Benjamin

WAHS Committee Chairs

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Dewey School	Kim Titus
Facebook	Jenny Smith
Gardens	Carol Strahler
Gift Shop	Hillary Muscato
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Public Safety & Security	Chad Kinch
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To Contact Committee Chairs,
Officers, or Trustees email
info@waterloofarmmuseum.org
or phone 517-596-2254

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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



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

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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



"You have to go out on a limb sometimes because that is where the fruit is." J. Benjamin

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ACCURATE TREE REMOVAL & TRIMMING	Grass Lake	(734) 475-7162
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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

Waterloo Farm Museum 13493 Waterloo-Munith Rd., Grass Lake, MI 40940
Dewey School 11501 Territorial Rd., Stockbridge, MI 49285

WAHS Events for 2022

Please note all events will begin at 10am both Saturday and Sunday
 Free Museum Day, May 7, 10am to 4pm
 Blacksmith, Soldiers and Log Cabin Weekend, June 25-26, 10am to 5pm
 Antique Tractor, Truck and Farm Equipment Show, August 13-14, 10am to 5pm
 Pioneer Day, October 9, 10am to 5pm
 Christmas on the Farm, December 3-4, 10am to 5pm
 WAHS Board Meetings - 7pm on the third Monday. Location posted on website and Facebook.



*“Every thought is a seed. If you
 plant crabapples, don’t count on
 harvesting Golden Delicious.”
 Mrs. J. Benjamin*

