

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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Christmas on the Farm

December 3rd and 4th

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Pioneer Day

Originally printed in Stockbridge Community News

October 9th marked the 60th annual Pioneer Day at the Waterloo Farm and Dewey School Museum, and the grounds of the centuries-old farm welcomed visitors from across Michigan. The mild Sunday morning enticed many out of their homes and into a journey through history to mingle with 1680's trappers crossing the territory with LaSalle, an Ojibwe camp, settlers from the 1770's settling down for a hearth-cooked meal and preparing flax for linen clothing, a Revolutionary War soldier on patrol, and encampments of Civil War Soldiers. A table of historic toys beckoned to youngsters and the young at heart to play, as Dr. Bloodsworth explained the rules and trick to each piece. The percussive sound of the flint knapping pit attested to the popularity of fashioning arrowheads and stone tools. Next door, the Swallowtail Pottery booth demonstrated wheel throwing of their popular vessels. The blacksmiths were busy at the forge, and wood workers shared techniques for using the shaving horse and hand



planes. Other demonstrations included hand quilting, corn shelling, beer brewing, broom making, basketry, and a horologist, or clock repair person.

Sheep shearing drew a large and curious crowd. The 1890's hand cranked mechanical shears were a site to see, and made quick work of removing the summer fleece from fiber sheep Faethe and Faelan. Shearer Matt then demonstrated the wool box, used to package the fleece into tidy bales. For those interested in the fiber arts, there were multiple opportunities to see many of the processes involved in turning fleeces like these into clothing. Several spinners demonstrated the yarn making process on wheels and spindles. Weavers were in attendance as well as lace tatters. The Spinner's Flock fiber guild sold many products to hand crafters, from unprocessed fleeces and angora bunnies to intricately dyed yarns and even finished pieces.



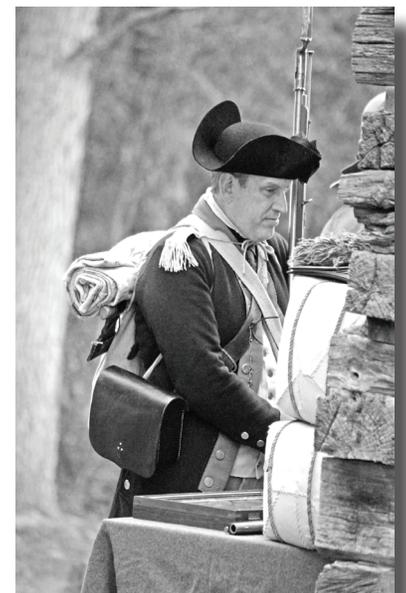
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Continued From Cover

Much more was available at the event. The multitude of vendors sold wares such as pottery and jerky. The gift shop was stocked with historically inspired goods and memorabilia of the museum. The market wagon included produce from local residents, and the baked goods tent featured their culinary creations. The largest barn housed dried flower arrangements and wreaths for purchase, along with craft opportunities for the children. The ever popular pulled pork sandwiches and bean soup were among the offerings at concessions.

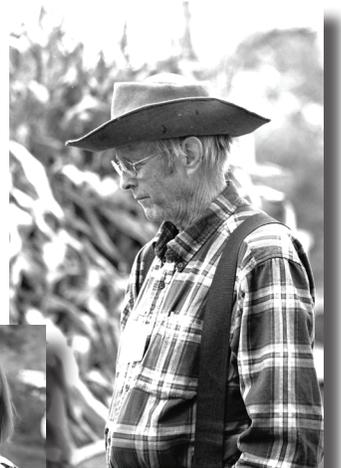


Woven through all the activity was the melody of musicians on porches and under arbors plucking away at banjos and guitars and singing merry songs. As the soft creaking of wagons drawn by heavy draft horses ferried families on scenic rides passed by, they traced routes first blazed by Native Americans and followed by subsequent waves of explorers, trappers, traders, and eventually settlers to this region. The voices of volunteer docents echoed through the farmhouse and Dewey School, recanting the Victorian experiences of the Realy family and others whose lives intersected on this land throughout time. For 60 years, volunteers have strived (Striven?) to preserve and share the story of our local history with the public. Won't you join us?



More From Pioneer Day

"You grow up the day you have your first real laugh -- at yourself." J. Benjamin

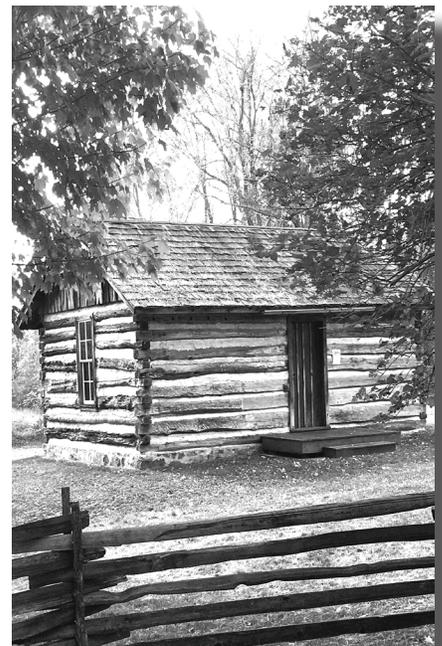




Waterloo Farm Museum and Dewey School need YOU! For six decades this museum has lived up to its mission to foster an understanding and appreciation in adults and children of the pioneer farmers and their children's schooling. The Really Farm and Dewey School have provided events, school programs and opportunities to immerse oneself in the past. BUT, all this will be in jeopardy if no one helps maintain property, leads tours or becomes Mr/Mrs Realy or schoolmarms. The current volunteers (most 65+) are aging out in body and spirit. So many opportunities exist to help - there is a role for you! Outdoors/indoors; behind the scenes/in the public eye; occasionally/on-going. You get to choose!! Invite a friend or family members to be with you. Make it a social event. The setting is serene and low-stress. Please give us a call (Catherine 517-648-3676) so we can find the perfect spot for you.

By working faithfully eight hours a day, you may eventually get to be boss and work twelve. J. Benjamin

The WAHS Board of Directors would like to thank Cathy Alter for her dedication and time spent as a trustee on the board. Cathy's input and strive for excellence are seen in everything she does for the museum. She has decided to step down from the board but has by no means stopped being of service to the Museum. She is still a Volunteer and Docent/Guides Coordinator. Besides these duties, she is always there when you need her to organize. We don't know what we would do without her. Thank you, Cathy.

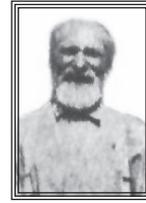


The WAHS Board of Directors would like to introduce its newest member, Colleen Vedro. Colleen has taken over the duties of bookkeeping. She is sharing the duties of Treasurer with Brian Dewey, and Kim Titus. Colleen comes to us with the abilities and the desire to help the museum rise to all its potential. Her qualifications are numerous, including Payroll and Benefits Manager LAFCU, Masters in Business Administration and Bachelor of Business Administration, Human Resource Management. Not only is she Co-treasurer, but she and her daughter Eli are also docents. You will see them in the farmhouse during events telling our guests about the museum and how much they love the farm. Welcome Colleen



The WAHS Board of Directors and Committee Chairs would like to thank all our wonderful volunteers who have worked so diligently for the last year to make the Waterloo Farm Museum and Dewey School Museum shine for our guests to see. Whether you were in the house giving tours, taking money at admissions, cleaning a building, or sweeping a floor, you are all valued and very much appreciated. Without you, the museums would not exist. Thank you!

Waterloo Wisdom from John Benjamin



Good Day Neighbor,

Appears winter's comin' on as usual this time of year. Some folks say "gonna' be a mild one, little snow", others say "this is the big one, dang cold, heavy snow".

Got some indicators for you 'bout what to expect from these signs that a hard winter is ahead. Thicker than normal corn husks, woodpeckers sharin' a tree, early arrival of the snowy owl, early departure of geese and ducks, early migration of Monarch butterflies, thicker hair on the nape of a cow's neck, horses with longer winter coat, heavy and numerous fogs during August, raccoons with thick tails and bright bands, mice chewin' furiously to get into your home, early arrival of crickets on the hearth, spiders spinnin' larger than usual webs, and enterin' the house in great numbers, pigs gatherin' sticks, ants marchin' in a line rather than meanderin' early hibernation of bees in the hives, unusual abundance of acorns, walnuts, and hickory nuts, squirrels scamperin' fast and furious, gatherin' and storin' nuts, apple skins tough, muskrat's houses taller and larger, wooly bear caterpillars more black or brown (your interpretation). If you've observed any or all these signs, looks like we're in for a bad one. I'll let you know in April how it all turned out.

Be Blessed,

Regards, John Benjamin

Windows to the Past

In October most of the windows on the first floor were stripped and repainted. Some amazing discoveries were made as the windows were painted various colors over the decades.

They were varnished probably with shellac, painted light green, dark green, and black.

We also found Roman numerals on each window that correspond with the shutters. The windows are now painted white, reglazed, and the all the windows can now be opened.



WAHS Committee Chairs

Committee	Name
Collections	Linda Tengman
Dewey School	Kim Titus
Facebook	Jenny Smith
Gardens	Carol Strahler
Gift Shop	Hillary Muscato
Educational Program Co-ordinator	Mary Spaan
Insurance	Butch Richmond
Membership	Deirdre Fidler
Newsletter Editor	Jennifer Hawthorne
Private Events Co-ordinator	Arlene Kaiser
Publicity and Advertisement Chair	Cathy Alter
Room and Building Cleaning Co-ordinator	Arlene Kaiser
House Guides	Cathy Alter
Restoration & Repair	Ron Kaiser
Property Management and Site Development	Ron Kaiser
Public Safety & Security	Chad Kinch
Webmaster	Charles Durbin

**To Contact Committee Chairs,
Officers, or Trustees email
info@waterloofarmmuseum.org
or phone 517-596-2254**

WAHS Officers and Trustees

Office	Name
President	Brian Dewey
Vice President	Rae Pierce
Co-Treasurer	Coleen Vedro
Secretary	Amanda Taylor
Trustee	Arlene Kaiser
Trustee	Butch Richmond
Trustee	Jenny Smith
Trustee	Kim Titus
Trustee	Dave Wilson

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** _____

EMAIL _____

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



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

"Experience is something you don't get until just after you need it." J. Benjamin





*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 13, 10am to 5pm
Blacksmith, Soldiers and Log Cabin Day-June 24-25, 10am to 5pm
Antique Tractor, Truck and Farm Equipment Show-August 12-13, 10am to 5pm
Pioneer Day-October 8, 10am to 5pm
Christmas on the Farm- December 3-4, 10am to 4pm
WAHS Board Meetings - 7pm on the third Monday. Location posted on website and Facebook.



*There are only two kinds of people
in the world- those who wake up
in the morning and say, "Good
morning, Lord!" and those who
wake up in the morning and say,
"Good Lord, it's morning."
Mrs. J. Benjamin*

