The History of our Buildings

Background

The Waterford Historical Society, Inc. was founded in 1967. Its purpose was to preserve the quality of life in Waterford and to present activities, lectures, demonstrations, and programs to the community.

In 1967 the newly organized Waterford Historical Society saved the slated-for-destruction circa 1740 gambrel-roofed house at 157 Boston Post Road that had earlier served as the Jordan Schoolhouse. It is the oldest surviving public building in Waterford.

In 1974, the 1839 Lydia and Orrin Beebe house was also moved to the historic Jordan Green. The floor plan of this house is typical of Waterford homes of almost two centuries, and the furnishing are in keeping with this period of time.

In 1983 the Margaret Washburn Stacy Memorial Barn/Museum and the Village Blacksmith Shop, both of post and beam construction, were added to Jordan Green. The barn/museum houses farm implements and tools from Waterford’s farming past. The blacksmith shop has a working forge and is equipped with a complete set of 19th century smithing tools for display and demonstration. In that same year, the Courland R. and Alice L. Darrow Corn-Crib was moved to the Green.

In 1989 the J. Morgan Miner, Jr. Education Center was constructed and dedicated giving much needed space for workshops, seminars, and other group activities of an historical nature.

As originally printed in our 25th Celebration brochure

Now Linked to 3 CT State & Town Websites

waterfordcthistoricalsociety@gmail.com
"WHAT DOES BEING A MEMBER OF THE WATERFORD HISTORICAL SOCIETY MEAN TO YOU?"

< I >

"I was born, raised and have lived in Waterford all my life (80 years). I went eight years to the former Jordan School before entering and graduating from W.M.I. in New London. I have seen Waterford grow from a rural town to what it is today. Having belonged to the Waterford Historical society since its inception, I have learned to appreciate my heritage from the excellent programs the Society has given; being aware of what I had overlooked while growing up and meeting so many good Waterford people who have shared their backgrounds with us. "My one hope is that the younger people will continue to do the good work the Society is doing now."

--- Louise ('Weedee' Robinson) Byars

< II >

"The years I've been a member of the Waterford Historical Society have increased my enjoyment of local history and have certainly increased my knowledge of the town's past. However, I think the most valuable aspect of the Waterford Historical Society is the group of extraordinary members who make things happen. Not only have I enjoyed the fruits of their labors, but I've also enjoyed the distinctive personalities which give such character to the Society and the community. In today's world of impersonal contacts, it is heartwarming to find people who care so much about the past and its relationship to the present and the future."

--- Dotty Reed

< III >

"As a transplant from the Midwest, I was in New England without those deep roots from the past to help me understand the present. The Waterford Historical Society has helped to fill in that background and show me that people are people no matter where they live and that the New England flavor is delectable."

--- Margo Rose

Reprinted from an earlier edition of The Crier
Continuing to Travel Back in Time

< IV >

"The Waterford Historical Society means many things to us. As members of the Society, we share with kindred spirits fellowship, friendship and meaningful experiences. Our involvement is a learning opportunity, a window on the past and the preservation of that past. We record the present. We have concern for the future by teaching children and youth through inter-generational activities, lessons from the past.

"We appreciate the cycle of life. We share the history of art, music, crafts, customs, lifestyles, religions, vocations, avocations, and others. We have a non-partisan involvement with our Town. Our collective presence on the scene makes a positive difference."

--- Emily and Herbert Schacht

< V >

"Our historical society and its buildings are important to me as they help me remember and cherish the memories of parents and loved ones. The school house is especially nostalgic as my mother, Mary Chappell Leland, taught at the Lakes Pond School and Jordan School for 56 years, and my mother-in-law, Adeane Brooks Skinner, and our aunt Lena Brooks were both teachers at the West Neck School. When my husband Philip died, our family and his fellow teachers bought the antique desk that is in the schoolhouse as a memorial to him. It is always a pleasure for me to show visitors through the schoolhouse, as education has been such a rich part of our family's lives. It was a delight for me to prepare the slides and script on the 'History of Education in Waterford', which have been used in our town's schools.

"The farm map project was also very close to my heart, as I was born and brought up on two small farms in Waterford. My father's friends were almost all dairy farmers, and it has been a joy to help future generations realize that they were the backbone of our town. Our living history programs that the sons and daughters of these farmers presented have been preserved on tapes so that our grandchildren can realize their rich heritage. We all should be proud of the firm foundation and high standards given us by our parents and grandparents."

--- Verna Leland Skinner

< VI >

"As newcomers to the area, my husband and I joined a group of about twenty to attend history lectures given weekly by Bob Bachman. We traveled to nearby places, where Bob enlightened us.

"After traveling about six months, we joined Bob to learn more Waterford history. His lectures were held in the Waterford Library. Soon others joined our group, and we became the Waterford Historical Society."

--- Mary Sweeney

Reprinted from an earlier edition of The Crier
The rich history that our society has helped to preserve for the past 50 years is enabled through our loyal members such as Marilyn Davis, pictured on the right above, volunteering for the D.A.R. during Sailfest this past July. Marilyn is a long-time member of the Waterford Historical Society and is the researcher and co-author of numerous historic publications that will be available at An Olde-Fashioned Gathering at The Green on September 9. Read about life in the past in “The Nehantic Way”, “Brooks That Feed the Falls” and the “Clark Lane Region of Waterford, 1600 – 2000”, all by Herb and Marilyn Davis.

Check out the display case in the Town Hall across from the clerk's office! The Waterford Historical Society has been given permission to furnish the case with an historical display, and to refresh it as often as we wish. Currently, it contains a poster-sized advertisement for our Olde-Fashioned Gathering at The Green on September 9th. Surrounding the poster are sketches of our historic buildings located on Jordan Green that will be open for tours that day, along with interesting facts about each. The use of the Town's display case is just one example of the collaborative relationships the Waterford Historical Society continues to nurture during our 50th year, and beyond.
"It's like our former Waterford Week all rolled into one day" -- Brian Flaherty, Director, Town of Waterford Recreation & Parks Commission

The Waterford Historical Society, Inc.
Town of Waterford ~ Civic Triangle

An Olde-Fashioned Gathering at The Green

Attractions and Activities
- Hot Air Balloon Rides
- Youth Parade – Wagons, Bikes & Doll Carriages
- Barbershop Quartet
- Historical Demos
- Build-a-Flag by Veterans
- Free Face-Painting
- Talk to Local Historians
- Food Trucks & Vendors
- Meet Town Selectmen
- 5 Different Fire Engines & Free Fire Truck Rides
- Tour Historic Buildings
- Pet Live Farm Animals
- Waterford Community Band
- Olde-Fashioned Yard Games
- Free Kid’s Fingerprint and Identity Kit (CHIP)

Saturday, September 9
10 am – 2 pm
Parking Shuttles Begin at 9 am
We sincerely appreciate those who have already expressed their support for the Waterford Historical Society. Your contributions have helped make our celebration special and enable us to continue our preservation and revitalization efforts outlined in our 5-year plan.

We will publish a complete list of our benefactors in The Crier newsletter following our event.

Our list of sponsors is growing every day and we gratefully embrace the support our business community is showing. The Waterford Historical Society would like to acknowledge the generosity of the following companies who have made donations at the time of this publication:

- Arrow Paper Party Rental
- Ballestrini Child Care
- Benoit Law Office
- Carelot Children's Center
- Chelsea Groton Bank
- City Tire
- Cluff Carpet One
- Design to Consign
- Dominion Energy
- F. W. Webb
- Fastsigns
- Filomena’s
- Gabriele’s Martial Arts
- Girard BMW & Toyota
- Grader Jewelers
- Great Neck Country Club
- Groton Town House
- Hendel’s
- Ivy’s Simply Homemade
- J Y Nail Spa
- Jared’s
- JR’s The Shack
- Langley’s
- Professional Eye Care
- RE/MAX Home Team
- Recovery Room
- Silvia’s Package Store
- Supreme Pizza
- Waterford Dental Health
### August

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Location</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>25</td>
<td>10:00AM-12:00PM</td>
<td>Terry Wilmot Garden Clean-Up</td>
<td>Jordan Green</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>26</td>
<td>9:00AM- ???</td>
<td>Clean Building Interiors (w/ Lunch)</td>
<td>Jordan Green</td>
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### September

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Location</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>10:00AM-12:00PM</td>
<td>Terry Wilmot Garden Clean-Up</td>
<td>Jordan Green</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>Daytime</td>
<td>Set-Up for The Gathering</td>
<td>Jordan Green</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>10:00AM-2:00PM</td>
<td>“An Olde-Fashioned Gathering At The Green”</td>
<td>Jordan Green</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14</td>
<td>5:30PM</td>
<td>Social Time</td>
<td>Jordan Green Schoolhouse</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>6:00PM</td>
<td>Monthly Business Meeting</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>30</td>
<td>9:00AM</td>
<td>Decorating Jordan Green for Autumn</td>
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### October

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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>2:00 PM-6:00 PM</td>
<td>Harvest Day Celebration</td>
<td>Waterford Beach</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>5:30PM</td>
<td>Social Time</td>
<td>Stacy Barn</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>6:00PM</td>
<td>“West Neck Cemetery: Its Past and Its Present”</td>
<td>John R. Morgan, Secretary/Treasurer WNCA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>7:00PM</td>
<td>Monthly Business Meeting</td>
<td>Stacy Barn</td>
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### November

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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Location</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>6:00PM</td>
<td>“Build A Flag”</td>
<td>Waterford Public Library</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>National Sojourners</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>5:30PM</td>
<td>Social Time &amp; Presentation</td>
<td>Community Center #103</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>6:00PM</td>
<td>Monthly Business Meeting</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>24</td>
<td>9:00AM</td>
<td>Decorating for Winter Holidays</td>
<td>Jordan Green</td>
</tr>
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### December

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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Time</th>
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<th>Location</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>4:00-6:00PM</td>
<td>“Caroling and Cookies”</td>
<td>Beebe-Philips &amp;Schoolhouse</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>6:00PM</td>
<td>Serve Refreshments at Tree-Lighting</td>
<td>Town Hall</td>
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<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>5:00PM</td>
<td>“Candlelight Tour of Jordan Green”</td>
<td>Jordan Green</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>6:00 PM</td>
<td>Holiday Party &amp; Monthly Meeting</td>
<td>Waterford Public Library</td>
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### January

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<th>Event</th>
<th>Location</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>9:00AM</td>
<td>Change to Winter Decorating</td>
<td>Jordan Green</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>5:30PM</td>
<td>Social Time</td>
<td>Community Center #103</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>6:00PM</td>
<td>Monthly Business Meeting</td>
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February
1  6:00PM  “Restoring Historic Chimneys”  Waterford Public Library
Charles Jasmine, President, Chimney Champs LLC

8  5:30PM  Social Time  Community Center #103
6:00PM  Monthly Business Meeting

March
8  5:30PM  Social Time  Community Center #103
6:00PM  Monthly Business Meeting
15  6:00PM  “Discover Your Waterford Genealogy”  Waterford Public Library
Michele Pedro, et. al.

April
5  6:00PM  “Colonial Kitchen Gardening”  Waterford Public Library
Thames River Garden Club members

7  9:00AM  Decorate Jordan Green for Spring  Jordan Green
12  5:30PM  Social Time  Jordan Green Schoolhouse
6:00PM  Monthly Business Meeting

May
10  6:00PM  PROGRAM  Waterford Public Library
7:00PM  Monthly Business Meeting

June
14  5:00PM  Potluck Supper & Annual Meeting  Jordan Green Barn

We Need You!
We're looking for volunteers as we prepare for our big event. In addition to helping set up and take down, there are plenty of opportunities for you to contribute to our successful event. “Many hands make light work”, our President likes to say…

Friday August 25th and Friday September 1st (10 am until noon, both dates). Do you have a green thumb? Work alongside the Thames River Garden Club to weed and tidy up the Terry Wilmot Garden in front of the Beebe-Phillips House. RSVP to Jan at 860-442-9127.

Saturday August 26th (9 am until ?) All you dusters, sweepers and moppers – your help is needed inside our buildings to freshen them up for our upcoming visitors. Simply show up with a rag at 9 am and get a free lunch for your much appreciated efforts!

Friday September 8th (7 am until ?) Drive by Jordan Green to see the Big Top Tent erected. Better yet, bring your work gloves and lend a hand – there’s bound to be something to do.

Saturday, September 9th (9 am – 10 am). A total of 8 Volunteers are needed to help tether the hot air balloon. Apparently, this is as much or more fun than the balloon ride itself! On a first come basis; adults 18 years and older, please. RSVP with your name and contact information to our email address, waterfordcthistoricalsociety@gmail.com

Saturday, September 9th (7 am until ?) We need our members to help manage our multiple areas of responsibility. Greet our visitors as they arrive at our Welcome Area, invite new friends to join and sell our historical publications at our Membership Booth, don a vintage costume and play a historical role for the day, hand out maps and schedules for the day’s activities at one of our parking lot / bus stops...and more…. 
Community Collaboration

Connecticut College Arboretum
Flock Theatre Presents: Shakespeare's Richard II
August 17 - 20, and August 24 - 27, All performances at 7:00 pm
General Admission: $15 Adults, $12 Students, seniors, active military
Since 1994, the New London-based Flock Theatre has presented "Shakespeare in the Arboretum" during July and August. People, picnics and blankets cover the amphitheater's grassy slopes and the Arboretum pond makes a perfect backdrop for enjoying these marvelous productions. For more information call: 860-443-3119 or visit: http://flocktheatre.org

Guided Tour: Native Plant Collection
Sunday, September 3, 2017, 10:00 am – 11:30 am
Join one of the Arboretum's knowledgeable docents for a free guided tour of the Native Plant Collection starting promptly at 10:00 am. Open to the Public. Registration is not required. Meet at the entrance of Olin Science Center. Please call 860-439-5020 or email arbor@conncoll.edu

Guided Tour: Caroline Black Garden
Sunday, September 10, 2017, 10:00 am – 11:30 am
Join one of the Arboretum's knowledgeable docents for a free guided tour of the Caroline Black Garden starting promptly at 10:00 am. Open to the Public. Registration is not required. Meet at the entrance of Olin Science Center. Please call 860-439-5020 or email: arbor@conncoll.edu

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New London Public Library
Genealogy Club Meeting
Tuesday, August 29, 4:30 pm – 6:30 pm
63 Huntington St
New London, CT 06320
(860) 447-1411
The last Tuesday of the month from 4:30 pm to 6:30 pm local history and genealogy enthusiasts young and old, experienced and newbies gather in our local history room. Together we research and explore our family histories. For more information call Kate Treadwell-Hill at 860-447-1411 or email at ktreadwell@plnl.org

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East Lyme Historical Society
Labor Day Weekend Flea Market
Saturday and Sunday, September 2nd and 3rd, 9:00 am to 4:00 pm
Grounds of the Thomas Lee House Museum
228 West Main Street
Niantic, CT
Phone: 860-739-6070 or e-mail: info@eastlymehistoricalsociety.org

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New London Maritime Society
Lighthouses, Tall Ships, and Submarines: Maritime Photos from The Day's Photojournalists
Through September 10, 2017 (Extended)
150 Bank Street
New London, CT 06320
860-447-2501
A photographic collection by Tim Cook, Dana Jensen, Tim Martin & Sean Elliot
Community Collaboration

New London Maritime Society

Lighthouse Boat Tours, Sunset Tours
Through October
Twilight is a magical time to be on the water. Explore the region's lighthouses - - as the sun sets -- with the one who knows them best. Take a memorable one-hour ride to view the three picturesque lighthouses of New London Harbor: New London Harbor 'Pequot' Light, a classic octagon, the oldest and tallest lighthouse on Long Island Sound; 1909 brick New London Ledge Light reputed home to Erie the ghost; and Avery Point Light built in 1943, the newest lighthouse in Connecticut. The boat takes six passengers, only. Trips coincide with the dates of the full moon. Best of all, all monies raised by NLMS go towards restoration of our local lighthouses. Call 860-447-8700 for more information

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Town of Waterford

Waterford Harvest Day Celebration
Saturday, October 7, 2:00 pm – 6:00 pm
Waterford Beach Park
Free to the public. The Town of Waterford is hosting its’ annual Harvest Day Celebration with activities including Touch a Truck, Bike Helmet giveaway, Children’s concert, pumpkin painting and much more.

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New London County Historical Society

8th Annual Thames River Cruise Featuring Presentations on New London County and WWI
Saturday, October 14, 3:00 pm – 6:00 pm (Boarding Begins at 2:30 pm)
Cross Sound Ferry Pier
2 Ferry Street
New London, CT
For more information, call 860-443-1209 or info@nlchs.org. Purchase tickets online at www.nlhistory.org

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The Quaker Hill Fire House

Annual Children’s Hallowe’en Party
October 31, 6:00 pm – 8:00 pm
17 Old Colchester Road
Quaker Hill, CT 06375
The Quaker Hill Fire House is hosting its annual Hallowe’en party for children featuring games, candy, pizza, soda, popcorn, and costume contests. Admission is free.
Waterford Historical Society, Inc.

Membership Form

Please Check One:

___ Student $ 5.00
___ Individual $ 20.00
___ Household $ 30.00
___ Lifetime $200.00

ANNUAL DUES THROUGH YEAR ENDING JUNE 30, 2018 $_______

Name (s): ________________________________________________

Phone: ________________________________________________

Address: ________________________________________________
           (Street)
           (City, State, Zip-code)

Email(s): ________________________________________________

Please mail your above completed form and check made payable to:

   Waterford Historical Society, Inc.
   P.O. Box 117
   Waterford, CT 06385-0117

   Thank you for becoming a member of the
   Waterford Historical Society, Inc.!

As a paid member of the Waterford Historical Society, you will receive email copies of the Society’s Newsletter, The Crier, advance notice of Public Events, discounts to Special Events, guided tours of our historical buildings at Historic Jordan Green (with advance appointment and always when open during Public Events), access to genealogic records (upon request) and many other benefits.

Phone us at: 860-389-7529

Visit our Website at: www.waterfordcthistoricalsociety.org

E-Mail us at: waterfordcthishistoricalsociety@gmail.com