



THE CRIER

Official Newsletter of the Waterford Historical Society, Inc., Waterford, CT
Mission Statement:

To Collect, Protect, Preserve and Serve as
Caretakers of our Past, Present and Future

Special Golden
Anniversary
Edition

Volume 50 Number 3

Upcoming Programs

September 9, 2017
An Olde-Fashioned Gathering
at The Green

October 7, 2017
Harvest Day Celebration

November 2, 2017
Build A Flag

December 6, 2017
Caroling & Cookies
Town Tree Lighting

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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 Courtland 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

www.waterfordcthistoricalsociety.org

Now Linked to 3 CT State & Town Websites

waterfordcthistoricalsociety@gmail.com

A Trip Back in Time

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"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

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



This image is reprinted with permission of The Day. Photo by Sarah Gordon/The Day/July 8, 2017

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.

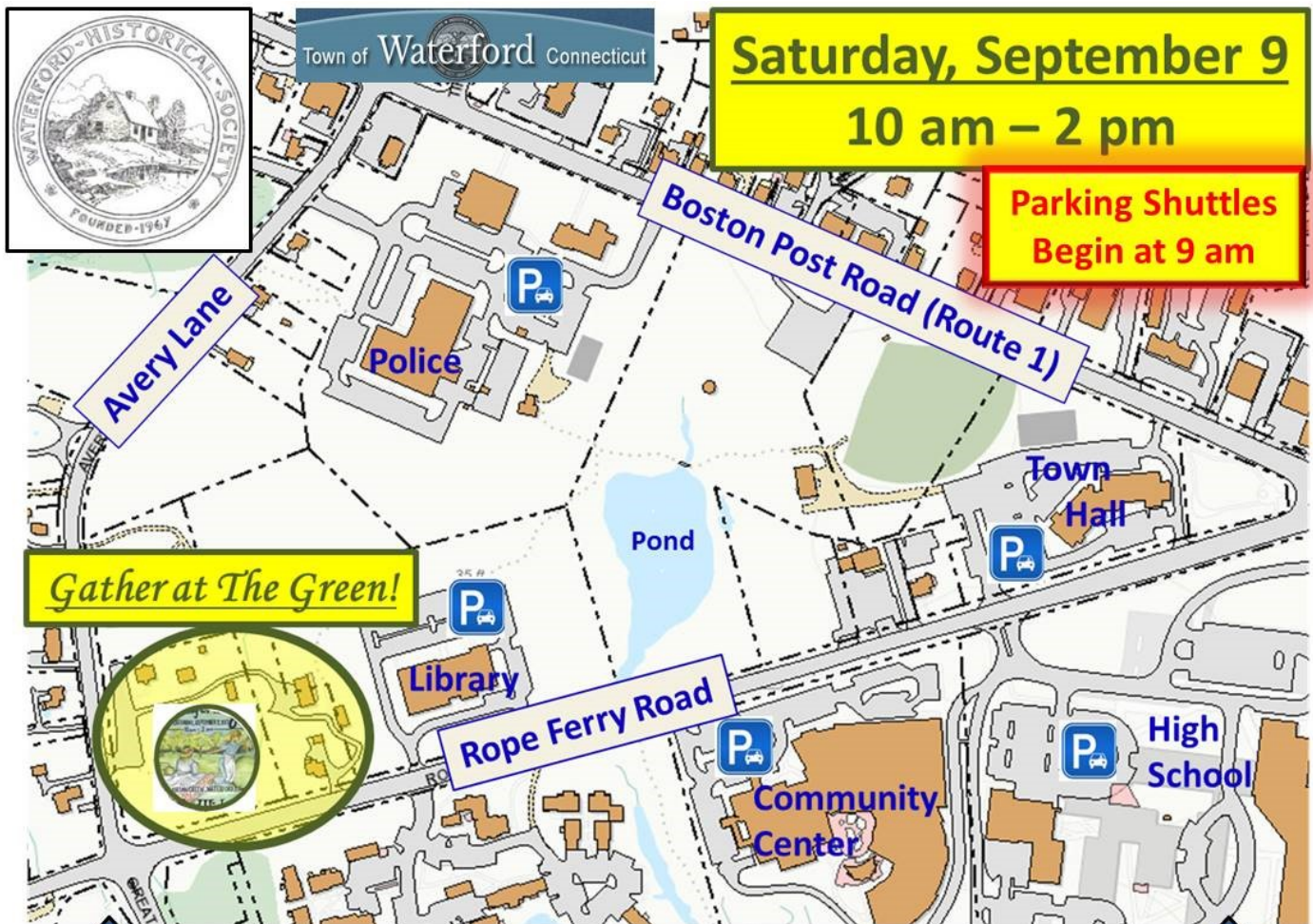
Welcome



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.

Golden Anniversary Celebration

"It's like our former Waterford Week all rolled into one day" -- Brian Flaherty,
Director, Town of Waterford Recreation & Parks Commission



FREE
Event

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

Rain
or
Shine

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)





Thank You



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

**WATERFORD HISTORICAL SOCIETY, INC.
July 2017 – June 2018 CALENDAR**

<u>August</u>			
25	10:00AM-12:00PM	Terry Wilmot Garden Clean-Up	Jordan Green
26	9:00AM- ???	Clean Building Interiors (w/ Lunch)	Jordan Green
<u>September</u>			
1	10:00AM-12:00PM	Terry Wilmot Garden Clean-Up	Jordan Green
8	Daytime	Set-Up for The Gathering	Jordan Green
9	10:00AM-2:00PM	“An Olde-Fashioned Gathering At The Green”	Jordan Green
14	5:30PM 6:00PM	Social Time Monthly Business Meeting	Jordan Green Schoolhouse
30	9:00AM	Decorating Jordan Green for Autumn	
<u>October</u>			
7	2:00 PM-6:00 PM	Harvest Day Celebration	Waterford Beach
12	5:30PM 6:00PM 7:00PM	Social Time “West Neck Cemetery: Its Past and Its Present” John R. Morgan, Secretary/Treasurer WNCA Monthly Business Meeting	Stacy Barn Stacy Barn
<u>November</u>			
2	6:00PM	“Build A Flag National Sojourners	Waterford Public Library
9	5:30PM 6:00PM	Social Time & Presentation Monthly Business Meeting	Community Center #103
24	9:00AM	Decorating for Winter Holidays	Jordan Green
<u>December</u>			
6	4:00-6:00PM 6:00PM	“Caroling and Cookies” Serve Refreshments at Tree-Lighting	Beebe-Philips & Schoolhouse Town Hall
7	5:00PM 6:00 PM	“Candlelight Tour of Jordan Green” Holiday Party & Monthly Meeting	Jordan Green Waterford Public Library
<u>January</u>			
6	9:00AM	Change to Winter Decorating	Jordan Green
11	5:30PM 6:00PM	Social Time Monthly Business Meeting	Community Center #103

<u>February</u>			
1	6:00PM	“Restoring Historic Chimneys” Charles Jasmine, President, Chimney Champs LLC	Waterford Public Library
8	5:30PM 6:00PM	Social Time Monthly Business Meeting	Community Center #103
<u>March</u>			
8	5:30PM 6:00PM	Social Time Monthly Business Meeting	Community Center #103
15	6:00PM	“Discover Your Waterford Genealogy” Michele Pedro, et. al.	Waterford Public Library
<u>April</u>			
5	6:00PM	“Colonial Kitchen Gardening” Thames River Garden Club members	Waterford Public Library
7	9:00AM	Decorate Jordan Green for Spring	Jordan Green
12	5:30PM 6:00PM	Social Time Monthly Business Meeting	Jordan Green Schoolhouse
<u>May</u>			
10	6:00PM 7:00PM	PROGRAM Monthly Business Meeting	Waterford Public Library
<u>June</u>			
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 8th 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, waterfordethistoricalsociety@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

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

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

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 new-

est 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

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.

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

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): _____

-----TEAR HERE-----

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: waterfordcthistoricalsociety@gmail.com