

"The horizon of  
the present cannot  
be formed without  
the past."  
– Hans-Georg  
Gadamer

# Fort LeBoeuf Historical Society NEWSLETTER

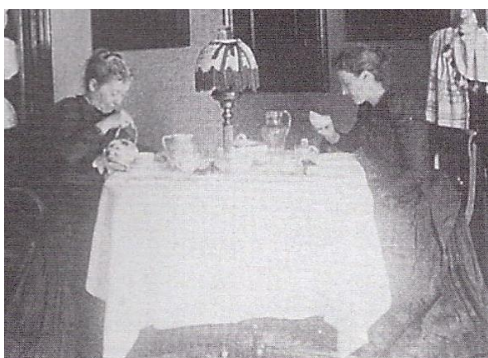


Fortleboeufhistory.com

January 2018

## Review of 2017 Events

The **Pierogi and Ham Dinner** was held at the American Legion on April 29<sup>th</sup>. Thank you to Joanne Lenart-Weary, Sandy Williams and B'linda Wilcox for planning this event. We will do Pierogi to Go event again this year, but we will only sell pierogis and Haluski (cabbage and noodles) to take home. This will take place at the American Legion on March 9<sup>th</sup> from noon to 7 pm. Visit our web site for information and order form.



We had a good old fashioned **Victorian Tea** held at the Judson House on May 7<sup>th</sup>. Tea, sandwiches and cookies were served while the rules of tea etiquette were discussed. We would like to thank Marsha Strohmeyer, Marilyn Stubbe, B'linda Wilcox and Sandy Williams for planning and working this event.



The **Witches Teas** were held on October 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup>. These are very fun and spirited events with audience participation as well as gallery readings by local well-known psychics and talks about metaphysical objects and local history. The guests came dressed as witches and they were served tea, sandwiches and sweets. The event ended with the famous Wolfshäger Hexenbrut Witches Dance. This was our second year for the tea and we will have more this coming Fall. A very big thank you to Kathy Williams for organizing this successful event.



**Waterford Days** was held July 14<sup>th</sup> – 16<sup>th</sup>. A three-day event filled with handmade crafts, food, reenactors, Cruise-Ins, free music and a parade. There were many events in the Park and around town. This is a big event and is always a success. We would like to thank all the vendors and businesses for your participation and give Kathy Williams a great big giant thank you for organizing this.

**The Jingle Bell Holiday House Tours** were held Nov 17<sup>th</sup> -19<sup>th</sup>. These were self-guided tours in 5 beautiful homes in Waterford. There was everything from an old barn converted into a home to an almost 7000 square foot mansion. Participants walked through the houses at their leisure, in any order, while enjoying light refreshments. There were Chinese Auction Baskets and 50-50 tickets. This event was a huge success with many good reviews. A very big thank you to the homeowners and to Joanne Lenart-Weary, Sandy Williams and B'linda Wilcox for organizing this amazing event.



**Colonial Christmas** was another successful event. It was held Dec 1<sup>st</sup> – 3<sup>rd</sup>. Colonial Christmas is a Waterford, PA tradition!

All 3 museums of the Historical Campus plus 7 other places participated in this Holiday Experience.

Visitors enjoyed beautiful decorations, great food, music, bake sales, auctions and more! We would like to give a very big thank you to everyone that helped to organize and make this event a success.

We are always looking for suggestions for fundraisers. If you have any ideas for events that you would like to see us do or if you would like to organize a fundraiser, please come to any one of our meetings or contact Judy Nelson at (814) 796-4817 with your suggestion.



Maintaining our properties is costly. We are a non-profit, volunteer run organization. We recently had an unexpected setback. Snowmobilers were riding through Waterford and drove on the wooden boardwalk at the Eagle Hotel and tore it up and broke 2 of our light poles. We don't know who the responsible people are. This will cost several thousand dollars to repair. The deductible on our insurance is more than the cost to do the repairs, therefore we must shell out the money to pay for this. We are not against snowmobilers or the local snowmobile clubs. We like seeing people enjoying outdoor activities in the Waterford area. We are only asking everyone to please be careful and to please take responsibility for your actions. The person or persons that hit those light poles could have been badly hurt or worse. We would also appreciate it if the people involved with this would come forward and help pay for the damages. We will keep your identity confidential.

Please include your email address to receive the newsletter in your email.  
This will help us save on postage costs.

**Keep your membership current to continue receiving a newsletter. Make sure your 2018 dues are paid.**

Apply for or renew your membership with the Fort LeBoeuf Historical Society by mailing a check for the appropriate amount to the following address. In the Memo area of your check, indicate the type of membership you are applying for. Do not send cash.

Make check payable to: Fort LeBoeuf Historical Society  
Mail to:  
FLB Historical Society  
P.O. Box 622  
Waterford, PA 16441-0622

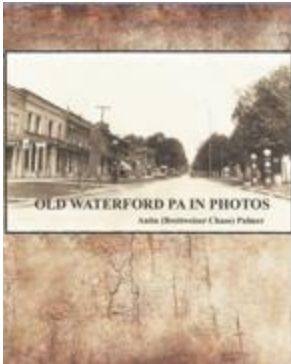
You can pay your dues using your PayPal account on our web site.

#### Membership fees

Yearly – Individual.....	\$10.00
Yearly – Family/Children under 18.....	\$20.00
Yearly – Supporting – Individual or Family.....	\$35.00
Yearly – Civic/Social Organization.....	\$50.00
Life – Individual .....	\$150.00
Life – Family/Includes children under 18 .....	\$250.00



# A New Book by Waterford's Renowned Historian Gets Rave Reviews



Anita Breitweiser Chase Palmer wrote a wonderful new book entitled "OLD WATERFORD PA IN PHOTOS". It's 230 pages of Waterford history, photos and newspaper clippings. If you would like an autographed copy sent to you, send a check payable to Fort LeBoeuf Historical Society for \$37.00 (this includes tax, shipping, and handling) and mail to:

*Fort LeBoeuf Historical Society  
Box 622  
Waterford, PA 16441*



The book is based on her popular Facebook group of the same name.

## Calling All Volunteers!

The Historical Society is in immediate need of volunteers. For more information, call Judy Nelson at (814) 796-4817



I ♥  
HISTORY



## ADVANTAGES OF VOLUNTEERING

- ~ Make new friends.
- ~ Learn the local history.
- ~ Learn new skills.
- ~ Your skills and experiences can be put on your resume.
- ~ Networking possibilities.
- ~ Boost self-esteem.
- ~ It's fun!

Benefits  
Job  
Seekers!



You can visit

<http://www.washingtonstrail.org>  
to download the brochure for Washington's Trail 1753.

WASHINGTON'S TRAIL is a driving route through western Pennsylvania. The route commemorates young George Washington's first military and diplomatic venture in the Fall and Winter 1753 - 1754.

Our web site recently underwent a makeover!

Be sure to visit us at [www.fortleboeufhistory.com](http://www.fortleboeufhistory.com) to see the changes.



## Waterford Nostalgia

A member submitted segment of the Newsletter. If anyone would like to share a fond memory of Waterford or the surrounding area, please email me your story at [Heidi72562@msn.com](mailto:Heidi72562@msn.com)

### **Submitted by Barbara Eck-Duchini**

My grandparents first moved to a house on Rt. 19 and Lee a Road. They later bought a farmhouse on Elk Creek Road. I grew up there with them, my dad, aunts and uncles.

I remember going to Waterford to do our shopping. We did not go to Erie very often even though we lived almost equal in distance from Kearsarge or Waterford.

I recall going to Doolittle's Market and watching the butcher cut the meat however the shoppers asked. One time when I was about 4, I was watching him grind hamburger. I didn't know my family had left. They got a block away when they realized I was missing. After frantically backtracking they found me still watching the butcher. I thought Doolittle's was the best grocery store with the friendliest staff.

The First National Bank, which is now a law office, was where my grandparents did all their banking. I recall the safe looked huge and rather scary to me as a small child. One time I imagine I was running around the lobby and most likely making a nuisance of myself and a gentleman who worked there (Bank president? Loan officer?) said, "Here's where we put little girls for the night." and pointed at not the safe. Wow! Was I ever scared. For a long time I didn't want to go back there!

I also remember some of the veterans selling poppies for Decoration Day. I recall my grandmother telling me one older gentleman had been in World War I. He had lost an arm. This was probably 1960, so he was probably in his 60's, maybe 70.

There were a couple of Dairy Bars. I vaguely recall going to one with the stools I could spin around on. Later on there was a store that sold ice cream treats, candy and comic books.

One of my favorite stores was like a 5 and Dime Variety store, I think where the tattoo parlor is now. With money I received in a card, I bought pink scented stationary for my birthday there.

At Christmas we would shop at Western Auto. There was something for everyone.

Across the street a new store was built. It was a florist and gift shop. I loved everything in there! My aunt bought me a set of those 'Weather Poodles'.

My grandfather took me to a circus one year that was set up where the ball field is now. I remember how beautiful the performers looked. They had a parade around the circus ring with all the animals. I realize now it must have been a small circus but backed then I thought it was the most exciting thing I had ever experienced. I also recall we went to a building to get 'Government Cheese'. I guess because my grandparents were retired they were eligible for assistance such as SNAP would be today. We got cheese, powdered milk and crackers and ginger snaps. There might have been other items, but that's what I remember. I also think this was where I had to go get the sugar cube with the medicine. I believe this was the oral polio vaccine, probably about 1962. The building was a firehall I think, but it was not the Stancliff Fire Department. I think it was somewhere around the Library.

When our pets were sick we took them to Dr. Sturrock's. I was fascinated with his circular drive and the dog kennels.

One time we went to look at new cars in the building that is now Jake's restaurant. That was the original Humes I've been told.

In the summer we would go to Lake LeBoeuf and Porter Park. I went roller skating at the rink by the lake which later on was a furniture store and then burned down.

Because of where we lived, I went to Summit Central for Kindergarten and then the fairly new Robison Elementary for 1st grade.

At Summit Central I had Mrs. Smith. I'd love to go inside the apartments and see my old classroom. At Robison, I had Mrs. Beals. The class was half first grade and half second grade. About 15 years later I returned to do my student teaching with Mrs. Annamaria McNamara.

Over the years I traveled and lived in Buffalo, NY; Portland, OR and Minneapolis, MN. In 2015 we built a house on Hamot Road so once again I live in Waterford, PA.

**Submitted by Robert J. Catlin, Sr**

## **Growing up on 'different world' of Waterford's Lake LeBoeuf**

by the late Herb Walden  
Fort LeBoeuf Class of 1956

About 11,000 years ago, the great glaciers of the last Ice Age were in full retreat as the climate warmed. Huge chunks of ice broke off the glacier and were covered with mud and gravel as meltwaters raged over them. As these giant ice cubes melted, depressions in the earth were left. The depressions, like great amphitheaters, filled with water, partly from streams whose courses were defined by the melting glaciers, and partly from springs. These water-filled depressions are called "kettle lakes." The one at Waterford is Lake LeBoeuf.

Lake LeBoeuf is almost round, in a triangular sort of way. There is a wooded island in the center, very swampy. The lake is fed primarily by LeBoeuf Creek, which has its beginnings north of Waterford and winds its way through Gameland 109 under the covered bridge, past the spot where the French built Fort LeBoeuf, and then into the lake. We always referred to the lower portion of the creek as "The Inlet."

Several smaller streams also empty into the lake, and springs under the lake feed it as well. South of town, "The Outlet," also LeBoeuf Creek, carries water from the lake to French Creek near Hughes Corners.

Lake LeBoeuf is known for Muskie fishing. Fishermen really devoted to the sport will spend hours on the lake in hopes of landing the legendary Muskellunge. Many leave empty-handed, but a few are in the right place at the right time.

My uncle, Stanley "Pete" Walden, loved fishing above anything else. He practically lived on the lake.

One summer, Uncle Pete got a small kayak. It was just the thing to paddle around easily catching panfish. He was doing just that one day, using a light fly rod, when he hooked a large Muskie! That presented a predicament. He couldn't boat the fish because there wasn't room in the kayak. What's more, Muskies are very ill-tempered when irritated by a fishhook. A Muskie has a mouthful of needle-sharp teeth. An angry Muskie is not a fish to cuddle up to!

Uncle Pete did the only sensible thing: He let the Muskie tow him around in the kayak until it finally tired and gave up. Then he towed it to shore. It was more than four feet long!

When I was a little kid in the '40s, Dad went Muskie fishing at night. Mom and I would meet him at "The Inlet" at a predetermined time, quite an adventure for me.

The boat livery and the bait/refreshment stand were at "The Inlet" in the area known as Porter Park and were presided over by Chet Comer. Boat houses and summer cottages were along the creek just before it entered the lake. A string of lights illuminated the footbridge one had to cross to get to the boat livery. In the summer there were always people around in the evenings. Some folks were there to see the fishermen come in, some were summer campers, and still others came just to sit and talk.

Sometimes in the early evening, Dad would take Mom and me for a boat ride. No motor boats were allowed; just rowboats and canoes. Mom was always nervous, but I loved every minute of it. I remember rowing through the lily pads to see the white water lilies up close and the yellow spatterdocks nearer the shore. What a different world!

When I was older, Dad and I went fishing on the lake quite often. The best time was at daybreak. We'd get to the lake when the sky was just graying in the east. Most often there was a thin layer of fog over the water. We'd row silently out to the island, our favorite spot, and anchor just as the sun began to rise. It seemed so quiet, yet there were plenty of sounds around: a squeaky oarlock, water dripping off the oars, a few birds tuning up for the morning, and thousands of frogs calling in an unseen chorus. The glassy smooth water looked almost thick.

As the sun rose higher, birds sang louder and a slight breeze would spring up. We'd have our hooks baited with minnows, and on a good morning would be hauling in crappies as fast as we could.

Around 10 o'clock, the fishing would slacken, and as the temperature increased, the birds would quiet down only to be replaced by buzzing insects. I got drowsy about this time. Usually I'd slip down onto the floor of the boat so I wouldn't doze off and fall overboard.

About noon, we'd pull in our lines and head for shore. Sometimes we had a stringer of fish; sometimes not. It didn't really matter.

Most folks preferred to fish in the evening, and Dad and I did a lot of that, too. It was fun because as we rowed along, it was like walking down a street, running into old friends here and there. We'd pass the Zewes and the Boyers and many others. We'd wave and say hello, and I'd always marvel at the way Mr. Boyer could fly-cast. It was a grand time.

One evening, as Dad and I started out for a couple hours of fishing before dark, Dad decided we'd go clear across the lake instead of the island.

I was rowing, a newly developing skill, and that probably influenced his decision.

It was cloudy, but Dad said it wouldn't rain. And it didn't either - not until we got our lines in the water. Then it started! A deluge. After a short time, Dad thought maybe we ought to go back.

We pulled up the anchor, and I started rowing, even though my shoulders weren't quite back in their sockets from the trip out. When we got to the island, about half way across, Dad dumped the worms and started bailing water out of the boat with the worm can. It was raining so hard we couldn't even see the boat landing. No lightning. No thunder. Just rain!

A little further, Dad spotted a female mallard just ahead of the boat. She was just paddling slowly around as if it were a bright, sunny afternoon. And then, Dad surprised me. He said: "Let's follow her!"

I asked if he thought the duck would lead us home through the storm. He said of course not; he just wanted to see how close we could get to her. With the rain coming down in buckets and roaring on the water, we started following the duck. When we'd get about three feet from her, she'd speed up a little and change direction. We'd do the same. We followed that stupid duck around for twenty minutes or so in a cloudburst. (The duck might not have been the stupid one!)

Eventually we quit playing duck tag and made it safely back to the boat landing. I never had been wetter. I never had more fun. Dad and I laughed all the while as we became water-logged, especially while following the duck. We laughed about it for years after.

Dad and I never caught a great many fish, certainly never anything to brag about. But we always had a good time, and we always laughed.

My only regret: Those mornings I slept in and let Dad go alone. Wish I hadn't.



**The beautiful Meeting Room at the Fort LeBoeuf Museum is available to rent. It's perfect for small meetings, showers, and rehearsal dinners. We provide tables and chairs. It will hold 25-30 people. The cost is \$50. Contact Jim Edwards (814) 449-0607.**

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We are in the process of creating an online store. We will have some of the items that are available in our Eagle Hotel gift shop for sale. An announcement will be made on Facebook and our web site when it is ready.

# UPCOMING EVENTS



It's that time of the year when the women of the Fort LeBoeuf Historical Society gather up their rolling pins and head to the American Legion kitchen to create delicious pierogi for you. This year we have added delicious Haluski (cabbage and noodles) to the menu. All orders are for takeout only.

Preorder below and pick up at the American Legion, Post 285, Waterford, PA 16441 on March 9th from Noon-7 PM.

Questions, call JoAnne at 814-440-3044 or Sandy at 814-438-7255.

## PIEROGI TO GO ORDER FORM

### FORT LEBOEUF HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Mail to: P.O. Box 622, Waterford, PA 16441

814-440-3044

NAME:

ADDRESS:

PHONE:

EMAIL:

**Orders must  
be in by  
March 3<sup>rd</sup>!**

PRODUCT	PRICE	QUANTITY	SUB-TOTAL
1 DOZEN PIEROGI	\$15.00		
3 DOZEN PIEROGI	\$39.00		
HALUSKI-SERVES 4-6	\$19.00		
		TOTAL	

Make checks payable to Fort LeBoeuf Historical Society

Mail to: P.O. Box 622, Waterford, PA 16441

QUESTIONS: 814-440-3044

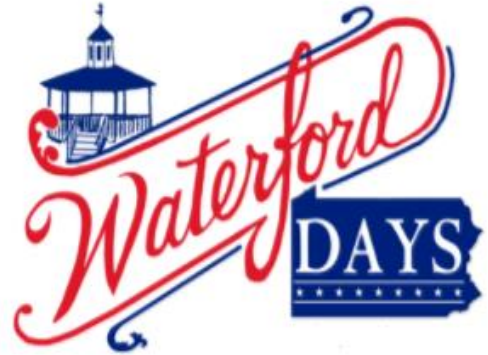
### PICK UP:

March 9, Noon to 7 PM

American Legion Post 285, West 4<sup>th</sup>, Waterford, PA (upstairs)



**Waterford Days** is celebrated every year on the third full weekend in July. This year it will be on July 20<sup>th</sup>, 21<sup>st</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup>. We will update our web site and <http://www.waterforddays.com> for more information as it becomes available. If you would like to volunteer to help with this fun event, contact Kathy Williams at 814-881-8235



**Trail to a Nation.** We are in the planning stages for events celebrating the 265<sup>th</sup> year of George Washington's visit to the French Fort LeBoeuf. We will update our web site and our Facebook page when details are complete. Keep the date Saturday December 15<sup>th</sup> open for our grand celebration.

## Waterford Trivia

1. Who built the Eagle Hotel?
2. When did George Washington arrive at the French Fort LeBoeuf?
3. Why did Strong Vincent's parents give him the first name of Strong?
4. How old was Michael Hare when he died?
5. What was the name of the surveyor that mapped out the town of Waterford?
6. What is the name of the covered bridge?
7. What is the name of the horse buried in the park?
8. What is a LeBoeuf Creeper?

1. The Eagle Hotel was built in 1826 by Thomas King.
2. December 11, 1753.
3. Strong was his mother's maiden name.
4. Michael Hare was 115 yrs. 8 mo. 22 days.
5. Andrew Ellicott was sent to Waterford after surveying and designing the streets of Washington DC.
6. The covered bridge has been known by 2 different names. The Brotherton Bridge and the Old Kissing Bridge.
7. The horses name is Old Frank.
8. A LeBoeuf Creeper is a fishing lure invented by Reginald C. Exley, Sr. It was designed to catch muskellunge in Lake LeBoeuf.

## Help Sheepman Find the Covered Bridge

