

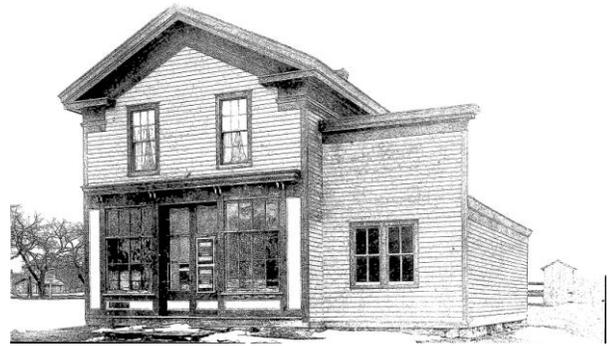
Old News

Watrousville-Caro Area Historical Society

PO Box 15 Caro MI, 48723
Our 39th year of Preserving Local History

May 2011

Editors, Jo Ann Gray & Esther Gorashko
Published by Dave Celani



Watrous General Store

A Note from Cathy...

Happy Spring! My surgery from last December went well and I am almost back to normal. And just in time. Cal Jewett brought over the next set of windows that have to be done. That is paint the outside and stain the inside of the windows. The first set of windows are done and installed on the Leonard-McGlone House. If you drive by, you will notice the first floor windows on the front are complete. A new front door is on order. The next five windows, for the second floor front, have been built and are in my garage waiting to be painted and stained. These should be installed this summer. Cal will be ordering the next group of windows, and these will be for the east side of the house. We have received grants from the Tuscola County Community Foundation to help pay for the windows. The roof is complete, we are working on the windows and the third step will be new wood siding on the house. We will still have more to go but this is a big step forward. Evergreen Moulding & Millwork of Decker, Michigan, are manufacturing the authentic handmade wood windows. They will also be making the door and wood siding for us. Builder, Allen Schneider, is installing all this.

Because of my shoulder surgery, I missed the December meeting. As it turns out, I was unanimously voted in as Vice President. That will teach me to miss a meeting.

Put this date on your calendar. **Founders' Day Dinner - September 13, 2011 at the KofC Hall in Caro.** Esther has booked the band again for this year, Robert Eastham and Paul Vanston. Our speaker will be Dave Tennies. He portrays Senator Howard in historic reenactments. Senator Howard was a Michigan Senator in Abraham Lincoln's administration. He drafted the Thirteenth amendment to the Constitution of the United States, which formally abolished slavery.

Cathy Celani



The windows have been installed on the first floor, front of the Leonard-McGlone House. The door is on order and the second floor windows need to be painted and glazed before being installed. This should be completed by summer.



Officers for 2011 were installed at our February meeting. L to R, Treasurer Jo Ann Gray, Director Robert Gray, President Cal Jewett, Vice President Cathy Celani, Secretary Esther Gorashko, Director Al Gorashko. Not in photo are directors Henry Sugden and Dave Celani.

For the month of May, we have two displays at the Caro District Library. The picture on the right is of the large display window. We have pictures of the old graduation classes along with programs from the graduation ceremonies. Teacher's records, report cards and Nellie Wilder's diploma are also on display.



We Pause to Mark the Passing of our Fellow Members

Charles "Chuck" Vaughan

Charles George Vaughan, age 85, of Caro, passed away on Thursday, March 31, 2011 at Caro Community Hospital. He was born on March 9, 1926 in Caro to the late Arthur and Flossie (Brock) Vaughan. Chuck went to country school, and as a teenager, he went to work at the W. N. Clark Co. At the age of 17 years, he enlisted in the U.S. Navy during WWII. Charles Vaughan married the former Dorcas Dorman on July 6, 1947. They had celebrated 62 years of marriage when Dorcas preceded him in death on December 1, 2009. He and his wife were involved in a variety of business ventures in both Michigan and Florida. Burial was at Almer Township Cemetery with military honors.

PEGGY J. RANDALL

Passed away on Monday, Feb. 28, 2011 at Grand Blanc Rehabilitation and Nursing Center in Grand Blanc, at the age of 65. She was born on July 16, 1945 in Cass City to the late Howard and Leana (Wilder) Asher. Peggy graduated from Caro High School. She was united in marriage to Arthur Randall on April 20, 1963 in Sebawaing. Through the years, Peggy was employed by the State of Michigan. She was a homemaker and a very social person, enjoying chats with most everyone in town. She attended the Caro United Methodist Church in Caro. Peggy loved to help people and received a lot of satisfaction from doing that. Her husband, Art and her two sons survive her.

What we have been doing...

This is the second part of the display that we have at the Caro District Library this month. Located in the small display case in the library lobby, this shows an "Adjustable Steel Horse Collar" manufactured in Caro in the early 1900s. Additional information is in the supplement enclosed with this newsletter.



Above, Kathy Brandt brought this very, very old crazy quilt to our April Meeting.

The close-up on the right shows the embroidered names of some of the old time area residents. The Parks family was Jo Ann Gray's ancestors.



Enjoying refreshments after our April meeting. L to R are Marsha Jewett, Rebecca Brandt, Esther Gorashko, Jennifer Brandt

About the special supplements in this edition of **OLD NEWS...**

Enclosed with this newsletter are reprints of three different documents from the museum archives.

The original of the Dr. Bliss flier is not in very good condition. Al Gorashko used his computer to “clean-up” the flier and we have reprinted a copy for all of our members. Dr. Bliss was married to Cora Leonard (eldest daughter of Orrin W. Leonard). They lived in Watrousville, probably around the 1880s. The flier says they have an “airy mansion” “situated upon high ground in the center of town”. Anybody know where this was? It also mentions the “famous Mineral and Sulphur Boiling Springs” supposedly located two miles east of town. (That would put it about M-81 and Sheridan Road) We are trying to figure out where all this was. Can anyone help us? Marsha Jewett is working with the Tuscola County Register of Deeds to see if Dr. Bliss owned any property in the late 1800s in Tuscola County. We do know that by 1890, Dr. Bliss had passed away and Cora was living in Detroit.

The next flier is for “Howell’s Steel Horse Collar”. Member David Babcock has graciously donated the original copy of this flier to the Museum.

The society has a very faded newspaper article from *The Advertiser* about the Horse Collar Factory. Being printed on newsprint paper, it was not meant to last forever. We have reprinted the article along with other information in the enclosed booklet. In the late 1970s, Jack Cole donated a “Howell Adjustable Steel Horse Collar” (made in Caro) to the Historical Society.

On the Dr. Bliss and the Horse Collar flier, on the back page-lower left corner, it says “Fred Slocum’s Printing Works”. Mr. Slocum was the owner of *The Tuscola Advertiser* and the Printing Office. He eventually bought into the Horse Collar Factory.

The Historical Society has other interesting articles that can be reprinted and passed along to our members. Unfortunately, the cost of postage and printing is holding us back. Most of our resources are being used to restore the Leonard-McGlone House. Donations to our “postage and printing” fund would be appreciated. Right now, Al Gorashko is working on a History of the Wilder Family. Daniel Wilder was a judge in Genesee County and later owned a General Store in Watrousville. Al is also continuing his series on the *History of Watrousville and Western Tuscola County*.

**We are collecting
cash register receipts
(Community Share Points)
from VG’s Supermarket
Be sure to turn them in to Esther.**

Watrousville-Caro Area Historical Society

Officers

President – Cal Jewett
Vice President – Cathy Celani
Secretary – Esther Gorashko
Treasurer – Jo Ann Gray

Board of Directors

Alexander Gorashko
Henry Sugden
Robert W. Gray
David Celani
Neil Jackson (Juniata Township Supervisor)

The Historical Society meets monthly on the second Tuesday of each month (with a few exceptions) at 7:30 p.m. at the Juniata Township Hall, 1971 S. Ringle Road in Watrousville. The Township Hall is a red brick one-room schoolhouse dating back to the 1890s. The Historical Society has the Museum at 4607 W. Caro Road in Watrousville and is currently restoring the Leonard - McGlone House at 4592 W. Caro Road, also in Watrousville.

Additional information is available from -
Jo Ann Gray, 989-823-3638 or
Esther Gorashko. 989-823-2360



Find us on
Facebook

visit us on the web

www.watrousville.com

The **Watrousville Museum** at
4607 W. Caro Road
in Watrousville,
is open June thru September
on Thursday’s from 1-4 pm
and by appointment