



# Waterford Foundation Newsletter

Volume 2, No. 1

Summer 2003



This issue includes a special supplement, *Waterford Matters!*, which focuses on the latest news from the Save the Landmark Campaign.

The Phillips Farm “was the first land settled in Loudoun County and was the basis for the creation of Waterford. The loss of this rural character through the development of the property would be devastating.”

U.S Senator John W. Warner



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## Annual Meeting Celebrates 60 Years of Preserving & Restoring Waterford

More than 100 Foundation members and friends attended the March 29, 2003 Annual Meeting of the Waterford Foundation in the auditorium of the Old School. Newly elected officers for the 2003-2004 term are: Kevin Ruedisueli, President; Cordelia Chamberlin, Vice President; Evelyn Godfrey, Secretary; and Robert Jackson, Treasurer. Nominees Edward Good, Nancy Doane, and Edith Crockett were elected by the membership to serve on the Board of Directors. Re-elected for a second term were Cordelia Chamberlin, Robert Jackson, and John Malcolm White, Sr.

Outgoing Foundation President Gravatt offered a brief overlook at the past 60 years of Foundation activities, including some highlights from last year, such as the “Celebrate Waterford” event to which Senator Warner and Congressman Wolf came. He thanked Virginia State Senator Russell Potts for the Senate Resolution, which commends the Waterford Foundation in its 60<sup>th</sup> year.

Guest Speaker Tersh Boasberg described preservation efforts in Washington, D.C. Boasberg practices law specializing in land use, historic preservation and environmental law, and currently chairs the DC Historic Preservation Review Board. He is an Adjunct Professor of Law at the Georgetown University Law Center and the author of numerous articles on cultural and historic preservation. In the 1980s, he was associated with the Waterford Foundation in activities to preserve the Huntley Farm.

Kathryn Taylor Chamberlin was honored with a Lifetime Achievement Award for her extraordinary dedication and hard work in the early years of the Foundation. (See separate story on page 2). Ruth Smith gave awards to the following individuals without whom the Fair could simply not continue to function: Fran Holmbraker in her role as Fair chairperson; Janet McLean for her many years of running the Red Barn Art Show; and commemoratively to Ruth Bentley and Ruth Shoaf, both of whom have recently passed away but were ardent Fair supporters.



Guest Speaker Tersh Boasberg

Photo by Ed Lehmann

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Kimberly Jack  
Bookkeeper

(Annual Meeting, con't.)

Eric Breitreuz presented additional awards to volunteers who have helped support the National Historic Landmark: Marsha Thompson for keeping the Foundation's website up and running so well; Terry and Diana Arney for placing their



Margaret Good  
congratulated by Cary Gravatt



Taylor Chamberlin, Sherry Satin, and  
Kimberly Jack

Photos by Ed Lehmann

property in easement; and Virginia McGehee Friend, who has been a true friend indeed to Waterford by placing easements on both the Talbot and the Huntley farms, thereby protecting the southern side of the village from any future development.

Cary Gravatt presented departing board members Eric Christenson, Margaret Good and Ann Mathews with tokens of the Foundation's thanks and esteem. In turn, Margaret Good presented him with a gift in recognition of his term as Waterford Foundation president. A reception followed the meeting. 🌿

## Kathryn Chamberlin Receives Lifetime Achievement Award



A highlight of the Annual Meeting was the presentation of a Lifetime Achievement Award to Kathryn Taylor Chamberlin, one of the Foundation's earliest members. Her involvement began in 1943, when her husband, Edward (Ned) M. Chamberlin, Jr., and her mother-in-law, Vera Chamberlin, helped create the Foundation and served on its first Board of Directors. Vera's husband, Edward Chamberlin, Sr., had died several years earlier, and both she and her son supported the Foundation as a means of

continuing his dream of preserving the village.

Kathryn embraced this vision as well and, despite the rigors of raising a small infant during World War II, helped make the first Fair, held in 1944, a success as a member of the Crafts and Sales Committee. In subsequent Fairs, she supervised the sale of needlework and other handmade goods at the Old Insurance Office on the corner of Patrick and Second Streets. In 1947, Kathryn replaced her mother-in-law on the Board of Directors, and she and her husband served on this body together until 1951. While the preservation of Waterford's historic buildings has always been an important goal of the Foundation, it was also founded to preserve the county's rich tradition of handcrafts. From its earliest days, the Foundation sponsored classes that included woodworking, stenciled design, lampshade making, rug making, china decoration, quilting and weaving. Kathryn participated in many of these activities, and her handiwork was shown and sold at numerous Fairs. Even after moving to Hillsboro in 1951, she and Ned continued to work in each Fair. She is still an active member of the Waterford Quilters, and her work can be seen in the Old School each fall. Without volunteers like Kathryn, the village as we know it would not exist. 🌿

## Margaret Good Named Director of Development

Fresh from her six years of service as a member of the Foundation's Board of Directors, including serving as treasurer, vice president, and president, Margaret has graciously agreed to lead the Foundation's fundraising program, which has become more and more critical to its mission of preservation and education. In recent years, the Foundation's income from and dependence on grants has increased significantly, sometimes coming close to equaling revenue from the Fair.

Margaret will also manage special events in Waterford, such as weddings and other celebratory occasions. 🌿



## New Office Staff Sign On

In January of this year, Heather Bradley joined us as the new WF Office Manager. Heather comes to us from the Sales Strategy Institute, where she served as Executive Assistant. Heather has been hard at work since January, sorting out files, rearranging furniture and organizing the Foundation's daily workflow.

Also joining the staff as a part-time receptionist/clerk is Jennifer Worcester. As Fair time approaches, Jennifer will be a very busy individual.

Welcome Heather and Jennifer! 🌿

## Melodious Notes Highlight Annual Concert Gala

On May 17th, "A Musical Evening in May," the annual fundraising dinner and concert sponsored by the Waterford Foundation Concert Committee, was held at the home of Thomas and Margareta Blitz in Paeonian Springs. In its ninth year of bringing classical music to Waterford, the concert series has become a force to be reckoned with on the cultural scene in Loudoun County. The series began when four residents decided to bring live music to the village. It has grown to be one of the main cultural attractions of the region with the audience hailing from the entire metropolitan area.

One hundred and twelve invited guests attended the catered dinner and were enchanted by the music of the Okapiiec Trio. The group performed a wide variety of music, including their own compositions. The identical triplets from Poland play the violin and have performed together since they were three years old. They are currently enrolled in the Shenandoah Conservatory of Music. They have performed throughout Europe and the United States and have participated in several major televised concerts and festivals in their native Poland.

A special thank you to Karen Fuog, who created the food and donated her profit and time to the event. In addition, 10 local young people also donated their time and effort to help serve at this event. 🌿



Antonia Walker and her husband Tim McGinn with Mary Lib and Hal Glovier, the winners of her painting, which Antonia generously donated for the fund raising raffle



The Okapiiec trio from Poland

Photos by Virginia McGehee Friend

## Getting Ready for the 60th Anniversary Waterford Fair

Fair Committee Chair Fran Holmbraker, Fair Assistant Kitty Rose, and a committee of dedicated volunteers are already hard at work to ensure that the 60th Fair will be a memorable one for all visitors. This year's Fair dates are October 3rd through 5th. It's not too early to think about signing up as a volunteer for any number of activities that are crucial to the Fair's success. A high priority will be finding enough volunteers willing to serve as docents for the houses that will be open during the Fair. With an average of 5 to 6 houses open on each of the three days, the Fair's Home Tour Coordinators will need between 180 and 200 volunteers. If you're interested in serving as a docent, please contact Carolyn Taylor at 540.882.4100 or Mary Sue Couser at 540.882.4459. To volunteer for other Fair activities, please call Fran Holmbraker or Kitty Rose at 540.882.3018.

## 60th Anniversary Celebration Makes a Fashion Statement

On March 22nd, the Waterford Foundation played host to close to 200 merrymakers who celebrated the Foundation's 60th anniversary in fine style and showcased a remarkable diversity of attire not seen since the 1940s. Out came the fox stoles, stockings with seams, hats of every description but true to the time period, 3/4-length gloves, aviator jackets and goggles not seen for decades, and yes, even an old military uniform or two. That his still fit perfectly after

all these years clearly pleased Neil Hughes, and was viewed with considerable envy by those who could no longer make such a claim. Guests danced to the tunes of the '40s, played by the JP McDermott and Western Bop band, dined on delectable fare and imbibed a wide variety of refreshing beverages, entirely underwritten by special donations just for this event. Almost everyone purchased at least

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Photos by Beth Erickson

one raffle ticket, and the bidding on an excellent array of prizes, all generously donated by local businesses and Foundation supporters, was decidedly spirited. An aerial tour of Waterford, Tiffany watches for ladies and gentlemen, and original artwork by two of Waterford's resident artists, Antonia Walker and Kevin Chadwick, joined Patricia Shoaf's collage necklace, lunch with Diane Rehm, a Scottish Highland vacation, and more among the auction items.

The event also served to launch a major fundraising effort to save the Phil-



lips Farm from development. The Save the Landmark Preservation Bond Drive, which debuted that evening (see special insert for more information), brought in \$7,350. When the evening was finally over, more than \$40,000 had been raised, an amount that a generous anonymous donor offered to match. We owe grateful thanks to the following for sponsoring the party: Tiffany & Co., Erin and Mark Clinard; Nancy and Don Devine; Sydney McNiff Ferguson, Cate and Steven Wyatt; and Margaret and Ed Good.

Kudos to Kevin Chadwick for the wonderful invitation that no one who received it could resist, and to the remarkable and indefatigable party organizers: Trisha Beisler, Debbie Burke, Debra Clarke, Paige Cox, Beth Erickson, Christina Huebner, Alice Music, Sky Richardson, Mary Ripley, Susan Verdin, and Cate Wyatt.

## 21st Century Waterford Lyceum Off to An Enthusiastic Start

The first meeting of the newly formed Waterford Lyceum was held on Wednesday, March 11th at the Waterford Foundation office. John and Bronwen Souders initiated the attendees in the mysteries and procedures of where and how they could locate historical information about their houses, about tracing genealogies, and about the numerous resources available for researching local history in general.

On April 16th, participants were treated to a fascinating description of the history of Greystone, the home of Cordelia and Taylor Chamberlin. Almost as absorbing as the discussion of the gradual metamorphosis of the house from its earliest 2-room beginnings to its present state, passing from owner to owner, was the process by which the information was unearthed, and how the Chamberlins tracked down the numerous records in various places.

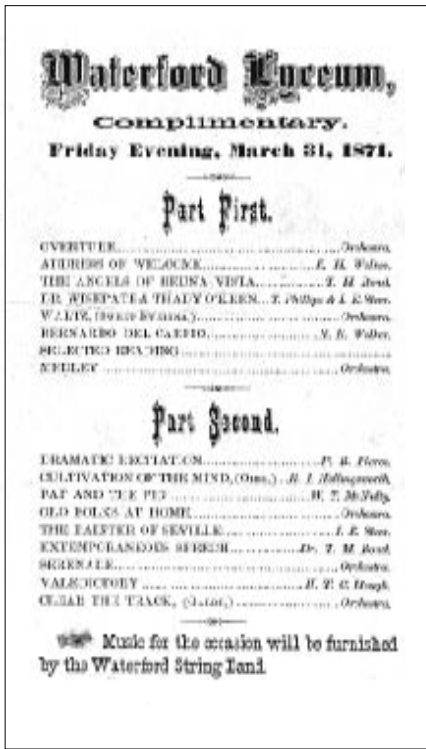
In May, attendees visited 'Old Acre' the residence of Joel and Sherry Satin on Second Street, where the group learned about the architectural evolution of the house, parts of which date to 1790. Sherry Satin also described the various industries originally located at Old Acre, and which earned the road its name of Factory Street.

The June meeting was held at the Robert Thomas /Samuel Steer house, the home of Ed Lehmann and Edith Crockett. The topic of the evening was "19th Century Gardens."

Waterford historian John Souders discovered an unattributed newspaper clipping from 7 April 1871 in the

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(Waterford Lyceum, cont'd)



Waterford Foundation's Local History Collection which makes reference to an earlier Waterford Lyceum Exhibition: "The Waterford Young Men's Lyceum closed its exercises for the present season on Friday night. The evening was delightful, and a large number of ladies and gentlemen of the town and vicinity were present at the Academy Hall on the occasion.

After music by the Waterford String Band, the exercises of the evening were opened by Professor E.H. Walker, in an eloquent and interesting speech appropriate to the occasion ..."

Souders notes: "Professor Walker was all of 27 at the time. He was the son of James M. Walker, owner of Talbot Farm. The "Academy" was the "Waterford Academy" (known today as the Trough Road School at the corner of Routes 662 & 704), which the elder Walker had built on the farm for his son's use as a school for Waterford children a few years earlier. There was an earlier Waterford Lyceum that operated in the 1830s, apparently as

a school for young children, but we know very little about it."

The Waterford Lyceum meets on the second Wednesday of every month, except during July and August, and is open to all with an interest in local history. A special 'surprise' meeting is scheduled for September 9th. For further information, contact Kimberly Jack by phone: 882-3132 or by email: hatmender@yahoo.com. When space permits, we plan to include highlights of each meeting in subsequent issues of this newsletter.

## In Black and White – What Made Waterford Different

The African-American Experience in Waterford, Virginia is the subtitle of a newly released, illuminating study of the lives of African Americans in and around the village by Waterford historians John and Bronwen Souders. The book's title, *A Rock In A Weary Land, A Shelter In a Time of Storm*, is borrowed from the refrain of an old Southern spiritual, and could not have been better chosen. The idea of safe haven was an essential element in the history of the black people who, for more than two hundred years, lived in



Old Acre

the village, so near the border between North and South. African Americans almost always had a harder lot than their white neighbors. Yet something in their long, shared experience left many with a powerful sense of belonging and of self-worth rare in much of their county and state. This is their story, from their arrival in the mid-1700s to their gradual exodus in the latter half of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. Though they never numbered more than a couple of hundred at any one time, they experienced in their small world much of the worst, but also the best, that American society has offered the African-American people.

The Souderses have done a remarkable job of chronicling the lives and labors of Waterford's African-American citizens since Amos Janney founded the village in 1733. Over the past decade, the authors have interviewed, worked with, and enjoyed the support of many former members of Waterford's black community. The descendants of earlier African-American residents have generously shared letters, photographs, memories, stories, and traditions that enliven and personalize this story. The meticulous and extensive research undertaken by the authors in this book is very evident in the breadth and scope of the sources used: from scholarly books to National Archives materials, to periodicals, to unpublished church records, to census documents, to Waterford personal account books and diaries, to letters and interviews of former village residents and their descendants. Lists of African-American families who lived, studied, worked and worshipped in Waterford, including those who served and sometimes died in military service from the Civil through the Vietnam Wars, have been incorporated in this volume. We learn that Benjamin Kins, "a free black man" purchased 2 acres in 1811 just

Photo by Ed Lehmann

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across from the main Waterford mill for \$100; that, by the end of the 1820s, 78 free blacks and 42 slaves lived in Waterford, accounting for a sizeable portion of the village's overall population at that time; that, although generally frowned upon by most Quakers, a number of Waterford area residents did indeed own and traffic in slaves until at least the middle of the 19th century. With

the general decline of the economy, which had begun in the 1830s and continued to worsen through the war, Waterford became a backwater; so much so that many houses were simply abandoned as their owners, black and white, sought to make their living elsewhere. After the Civil War many Quakers, who had been strong supporters of blacks and the abolition of slavery for decades, moved out of the area in considerable numbers.

The many steps that led to the establishment of the Second Street School for black children and the determined efforts of Waterford's black residents that culminated ultimately in the construction of the John Wesley Methodist Church in 1891 are brought vividly to life in this book. Excerpts from

passages by Pastor J.T. Moten of the "Waterford circuit in 1885 and 1886" in issues of the Loudoun Telephone on the appeal to the public by Waterford's African Americans for funds to help build the church are especially poignant. Carefully selected early photographs, many previously not publicly available, join selections from newspapers, personal contracts, and sketches that add much to the text. Excerpts from a book originally published in 1936 and reprinted numerous times since then, monitor Virginia's so-called "black laws" from 1670 to 1928 and offer new insights into black-white relationships.

If by the above you surmise that this reviewer genuinely enjoyed reading *A Rock In A Weary Land, A Shelter In a Time of Storm*, you are absolutely correct. There is much to discover in this book about some very remarkable individuals who helped to shape Waterford. We are grateful to the authors for opening up a new window on the heritage of the village. Copies may be purchased at the Foundation's Corner Store, and also at the Loudoun Museum, Thomas Balch Library, Books A Million in Leesburg, and Final Draft in Purcellville. You may order it online directly from the Foundation at [www.waterfordva.org/waterford/virginia.shtml](http://www.waterfordva.org/waterford/virginia.shtml), or use the order form in the Waterford Matters! special insert of this newsletter. The price is \$13 plus \$4 shipping and handling per order.

The research review and publication were underwritten by a grant from the Virginia Foundation for the Humanities and Public Policy. 🍂



Photos courtesy of Anne Minor Cooper

Hiram Minor in 1938 with Lucy Rucker Roy and, on the fence, Helen Gaskins, Annie Minor,

## Waterford Foundation Headquarters Now Open Sundays

Thanks to several dedicated volunteers, the Corner Store, headquarters of the Foundation, is now open on Sundays between 12noon and 5pm. The decision to open the store was made taking into account the increasing number of weekend visitors to Waterford, particularly during the spring, summer and fall months. The Sunday hours will remain in effect through November 16th, the date of the last of the 2003 Waterford Concert Series. If you're interested in helping visitors better understand the unique nature of Waterford contact Edith Crockett at 882-3801; email: [edith@waterfordconnection.com](mailto:edith@waterfordconnection.com).

## Take a Guided Walking Tour of Waterford

Under the energetic leadership of Kimberly Jack, the WF is providing free, guided walking tours of Waterford by trained docents. Still to come on this year's calendar are tours on:

Saturday, August 9 - 7pm

Saturday, September 12 - 2pm

Sunday, October 26 - 2pm

Sunday, November 16 - 2pm

The tour on August 9 will take place in the evening. All tours begin at the Old School at the top of Main and High Streets. For further information, contact Kimberly Jack at 882-3132; email: [hatmender@yahoo.com](mailto:hatmender@yahoo.com).

## Membership Reminder

Forgot to renew your Waterford Foundation membership for 2003? It's not too late. Please send in the renewal form on page 4 of the special enclosed insert.

Since 1943, the Foundation has depended strongly on the support of its membership to preserve and protect our National Historic Landmark. Now, more than ever, the Foundation needs your support.



**Waterford Foundation**  
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