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WATERTOWN
HISTORY MUSEUM

The Westbury

Preserving the History of Watertown and Oakville since 1945

We are closed until further notice. We appreciate your continuing support and hope to welcome you into our new home again soon.

President's Message

Spring has Sprung!

We hope...it has been busy and interesting thus far!

Thank you to all of you that came out in support of the presentation of Mumbet, the first use of Woodward Atrium at the Watertown Library as well as our annual dinner at Gayle's featuring *Stories in Stone*. We were happy to showcase our new curator and to share what we are discovering within the collection.

We are so glad you opted to receive our newsletter via email. As we transition into the 21st century using electronic communication, we are not only reducing costs, it's better for the environment!

We continue to catalog the collection, discovering many interesting items. I'm so very pleased with all the work the board and our volunteers have done and continue to do. This is a time intensive process to get these artifacts ready for new exhibits. We have many new volunteers and are always looking for more.

I thank you for your dedication to the history of our community.

The *Good to Great* Grant will continue to keep us all busy. These dollars from the state will further our mission by creating interactive exhibits, unveil the second-floor exhibit areas, as well as further maintain the safety of our collection.

We have some upcoming events, be sure to read on to our [Save the Date](#) section.

When we are able to reopen, the new museum at 401 Main Street will be open twice a week: Wednesday and Saturday from 10-2 or by appointment.

You will be happy you came to see what the excitement is all about!

Hope to see you all soon,
Linda Merriman, President



Stories in Stone

Opening Soon

This new exhibit explores the stories inscribed on memorial stones in Watertown with a focus on the Old Burying Ground at the corner of French & Main. This ongoing project will have additional resources added weekly to the display including:

- Historic Documents
- Family Trees
- Personal Histories
- Items from the Collection, including Quilts and Photographs

We invite you to come and discover the stories when we reopen! Stay tuned for the date of the Exhibit Grand Opening.

We thank Eversource and the Watertown Dept. of Public Works for their support of this exhibit.

What's old/ What's new

Curator's Message

For the past couple of months, volunteers have been helping to catalog and organize the textiles in our collection. We have so many lovely items, but the most fascinating to me are the quilts. These one of a kind handmade works of art are fragile remnants of our history - the story of the women who made them and of the families that used them, often for many generations.



This 6-Point Star Quilt was donated to the Museum by Carrie Edna Woodruff, the librarian at the Oakville Library for many years. There is



no record of who made this lovely piece or when it was used, although a note indicates it may have been used in the 1800s at their family home at 99 Colonial Road. Carrie's family roots in Watertown are deep. Her great-great-grandparents, Nathaniel Woodruff and his wife, Esther Hungerford, are among the many relatives whose final resting places are found at the Old Burying Ground and Evergreen Cemetery.

This quilt will be on display as part of the Stories in Stone Exhibit. Fragile textiles like these should not be on permanent display, so new quilts will be showcased every 6-8 weeks.

We look forward to sharing more stories as we explore the Museum's treasures.

Diane Ciba, Curator

Membership Update

Thank you if you are one of the 129 individuals and families that have recently renewed your membership. Your membership is more important than ever as we face the challenges of social distancing. We hope we can count on your support during this difficult time.

If you haven't had a chance to send in your form, we invite you to go to our website to sign up now:

<https://www.watertownhistorymuseum.org/membership/>

Volunteer Opportunities

What is it like to volunteer for the Museum? You can choose your hours, choose your focus, even choose to sit or stand.... [just kidding]... If you have an hour or more, once a week, once a month, or once a year, we can use your help to catalog, organize, file, clean, research, write, create displays, and much more. For complete information on the variety of options available, see our website:

<https://www.watertownhistorymuseum.org/volunteer-opportunities/>

SAVE THE DATE

[these will be updated on the website as new info is available.]



Watertown History Museum

Charity Day

Monday, June 1

If we are able to eat out, come enjoy breakfast, lunch, or dinner (eat in or take out) at this local family restaurant. Ten percent of total sales for the day will be donated to the Museum and special door prizes will also be available. Hours: 8 am - 8 pm.



Watertown presents

The Leatherman

on June 13

Connecticut Open House Day

The Leatherman, Jules Bourglay, was a vagabond who traveled between the Connecticut River to the Hudson River from 1857 to 1889. Come visit with the 365 Mile Man (our own David Jean) and learn more about his travels. We can also help you find a nearby cave where he is reported to have stayed.



Cancelled

The Museum Board has decided to cancel the Spring Fling for this year.

Over the years, so many local businesses have helped to make this a successful fund-raiser.

We encourage you to support these neighbors and friends who will need us when they are able to reopen:

Agnew Florist
Allyn's Cleaner

Mangia with Gigi & Mike
Mark's Garder Center

Ami Marshall
Anthony's Pizza
Barbara Getsinger
Barbers & Company
Bethlehem Winery
Black Market Kitchen
Buddha Bistro
Cakes & Sweets by Emanuela
Choppers Barber Shop
Daveluy's
Diane's
Essential Healing Arts, Natural Wellness
Evergreen Cemetery
Fascia's Chocolate
G's Burger/Carvel
Gayle's Farm Shoppe
Hair on Main
Hartford Yard Goats
Hawk Ridge Winery
Health Complex
Highgate Liquors
Hosking Nursery
Jimmy's of Watertown
Liquor Superstore
Liza Zambero

Michaela Kusaila
Nancy Byrnes
Nejaime's Liguor
Nonna Lucia's Restaurant
Oakville Pizza
Onyx
Ordinary Joes
Papparazzi
Pasta Heaven
Pasta Gallery
Quiet Zone
Raymond's Jewelry
Rebers Plumbing
Ro's Pizza
Rock Garden
Roma Ristorante
Sakura Japanese Steakhouse
Starbucks
Sunset Grille
Sweet Pea Florist
Tony's Seafood
Town & Country Liquor
Uncommon Grille
Watertown Golf Course
Watertown Meat Center



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