



# Waterford Foundation Newsletter

Volume 4, No. 3

[www.waterfordva.org](http://www.waterfordva.org)

Fall 2005

## Vanished Waterford— New Educational Exhibit Shows Lost Buildings

Although Waterford is a wonderfully preserved example of an eighteenth- and nineteenth-century rural community, a surprising number of residences (large and small) and public and commercial buildings, and dozens of barns, ice houses, stables, and privies, have disappeared. Using period photographs, this year's Fair exhibit will catalogue more than fifty structures that now exist only on an 1875 map of Waterford.

*Continued on page 5*



A vanished Waterford home—then and now

## Come to the Waterford Fair!



Wreath laying ceremony at the Waterford Union Cemetery

Join us for the sixty-second Waterford Homes Tour and Crafts Exhibit on October 7<sup>th</sup>, 8<sup>th</sup>, and 9<sup>th</sup> for a celebration of the best in traditional handcrafts...and a reminder of America's rural past.

From heirloom baskets to fine furniture, herbal soaps and candles, leather and quilts—watch more than 160 renowned craftspeople from all over the country demonstrate their skill with hand tools to create the crafts that were once part of everyday life in rural Virginia. Visit the Country Store on Second Street for jams, pies, pickles, breads, baskets, and more, or the Old Mill at the northern end of town for a huge assortment of Christmas ornaments as well as jewelry, dolls, and other handcrafted gifts and collectibles. Or, if you choose to walk in the other direction, proceed to the Schooley Mill Dried Flower Barn where you'll find an amazing array of dried native botanicals.



Meet talented fine artists, too, as you stroll through the Art Mart in the Red Barn and the Photography Show on the second floor of the Chair Factory. On Saturday, Oct. 8<sup>th</sup>, meet Loudoun County authors who will sign their books and tell you a tale at the Book Nook in the center of town. Geraldine Brooks will sign copies of her new novel *March* from 12-2pm and Barbara Holland, author of *When All the World Was Young*, will sign her books from 2-4pm.

Tour selected historic homes in the village, including the Schooley

*Continued on page 6*

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## Celebrate Our Latest Preservation Accomplishment



This fall marks a watershed in the restoration of the Old School on Fairfax Street. Our Greek revival country school, which once served the community's elementary through high school students, is the second school to occupy this hilltop. It replaced the Waterford Academy, built c. 1880, which burned in 1909. In 1910 the district opened the present school, adding a separate auditorium in 1928 and, in 1948, a kitchen that joined the two buildings. The school closed in 1965 and in 1966 the Waterford Foundation purchased it from the County.

In the early 1990s the school was in a ruinous state. A Foundation campaign to raise funds for the restoration resulted in major gifts from a Private Richmond Foundation, the Richard Gwathmey and Caroline T. Gwathmey Memorial Trust, and the Zachary James Lea Memorial Foundation. These funds made it possible to repair the extensive roof and gutters and paint the exterior, install a heating system throughout the classrooms, and air-condition the auditorium. Around the same time, the fledgling Waterford Concert Series, begun in 1995, began contributing proceeds from its performances. The interior remained in dire need of further funds and work, however, when an anonymous donor stepped up to the plate. This gift, received in 2003, was to update the electrical system, create a small catering kitchen, add bathrooms, patch plaster, refinish and re-paint walls, and even put in place stage lighting and a new stage curtain. One of the donor's aims was to expand the uses of the auditorium so that it could better accommodate requests for short-term rentals for special events such as weddings and retreats.

On Sunday, October 30th the Foundation's popular Waterford Concert Series, now in its eleventh season, presents its first performance of the fall season in the refurbished auditorium, which musicians have described as "incredibly live acoustically." Charlotte Gollobin, a music lover and one of the Series' founders, enthusiastically notes that the Series has greatly expanded awareness of the Landmark over the past decade, and even attracts a different group of volunteers. In pursuing its goal to offer classical music of the highest level to audiences from Loudoun and beyond, the Series honors Waterford history by bringing live opera back to the village in March of each year. Net profits from the Series now help preserve our other historic buildings and open spaces. Through music, the Series reaches out to a new generation within and beyond the Landmark, attracting visitors to the Old School and encouraging them to participate in free walking tours

*Continued on page 3*

## A Note from the President

Our biggest annual event—the sixty-second annual Waterford Homes Tour and Crafts Exhibit—is rapidly approaching. I just want to say how much the Waterford Foundation appreciates the outstanding support provided to the Fair each year by our members and friends. The Fair wouldn't be possible without the help of hundreds of loyal supporters. We hope to see each and every one of you again this year, and wish you a wonderful Fair!

The revenues from past Fairs, combined with several generous donations, have resulted in much-needed maintenance and renovations to the Old School and the Chair Factory. I encourage all of you to stop by those buildings during the Fair and see the good things being done.

## Old Mill Defaced—and Saved Again

Shortly before Wednesday, July 13, the Old Mill was defaced by spray-painted graffiti. We were saddened by the discovery, which caused Properties Planning and Management Committee Chair Rich Biby hours of

follow-up and research into methods of removal that would not damage the soft brick. Waterford resident Ann Belland then recruited Raymond Stillion, of Harpers Ferry, West Virginia, who graciously donated an entire Sunday afternoon and successfully removed the graffiti. A heartfelt thank you to Mr. Stillion! Anyone with pertinent information on this crime is encouraged to contact the Loudoun County Sheriff's Office at (703) 777-0475. ➔



Before

After

## Miss Nickens Scholarship Awards

In 2004 the second Miss Aura L. Nickens Scholarship program began under the initiative of Waterford resident Susan Williams. The program honors the commitment of Waterford's early residents to the education of young people of all races, by making awards to graduating seniors who are residents of Loudoun County, have a minimum 3.0 grade point average, and have been accepted into an accredited college undergraduate program to prepare for teacher certification. This year we had so many strong applicants that it was impossible to choose just one, resulting in awards to two very deserving students: **Melinda Harrison** of Heritage High School in Leesburg and **Lisamarie Morreale** of Park View High School in Sterling.

Ms Harrison worked as a teacher's aide and served as a tutor throughout her years in high school. She is a musician and hopes to work as a choral music educator after she graduates from Ithaca College. Ms Morreale achieved outstanding academic and service records, and while in eleventh grade she won first place in the Park View History Fair. The College of William and Mary granted her early admission. Congratulations to both of these well-rounded, richly deserving young people.

A special debt of gratitude is owed to Susan Williams who developed the scholarship program with the Loudoun County Public Schools' guidance staff and generously donated the award money. Each of this year's winners received a \$1,000 award. Ms Williams' dedication to education and her community spirit also led her to serve as a docent for the Second Street School Living History Program. Ms Williams is one of the hundreds of people who make Waterford a special place to live, visit, and learn. ➔

*(Continued from page 2)*

of the Landmark, which are available at 2pm on concert days.

Additional funds are needed to proceed with the restoration of the second story of the Old School.

Other historic buildings in Waterford also need your help. Watch forthcoming newsletters for information about restorations underway or in the planning stages at the Chair Factory, which will one day house our Local Historical Collection and Waterford Foundation Archives, the Mill (for which \$75,000 is needed to match a challenge grant), the John Wesley Community Church—and others!

Please note that the United States Department of the Interior's 1970 designation of the Waterford National Historic Landmark District did not bring automatic Federal funding. Many visitors incorrectly assume that Waterford is maintained by the National Park Service! It is up to all of us, who find solace and discover history while walking Waterford's leafy streets, studying its humble, handmade structures, contemplating its role as a Union stronghold during the Civil War, or simply gazing at the unspoiled view shed—to protect and preserve the Landmark.

If you are in a position to donate time, funds, or materials to help achieve our goal of fully restoring the buildings, please call the Waterford Foundation: (540) 882-3018.

*Note: On Saturday, October 22nd, graduates of the school will gather for a reunion in the newly restored school auditorium. For more information please call Marilyn Gentry, (540) 882-9691. ➔*

## Supporter Spotlight

The Foundation's directors and staff are enormously grateful for each and every hour of service donated by the hundreds of volunteers who accomplish the hard work of preserving our Landmark. They endure long and frequent committee meetings, accept and perform complicated tasks, brave the elements to perform countless outdoor maintenance jobs, and generously give their valuable professional services to benefit the Landmark. They are as numerous as they are selfless.

While we cannot list each one of you here, as the fall season begins it seems appropriate to single out **Kathie Ratcliffe** for her dedication to the Second Street School. Yellow buses will soon be parked in the lane behind the School and children dressed in "period" clothing of their own fashioning will be surging through the village—because Kathie runs the Second Street School Living History Program. Kathie and her husband, Nick, a current Foundation director, moved to the village in 1978. She was immediately appointed to the Board, on which she served for eleven years, and quickly became Chair of the Education Committee.

In 1984, after benefiting from a National Endowment for the Humanities grant for the development of a curriculum, the long-closed doors of the Second Street School reopened—to fourth-grade schoolchildren from throughout Loudoun and surrounding counties. They spend a full morning at the School where they participate in a reenactment of 1880s classroom activities, taking on the carefully researched identity of a



Kathie Ratcliffe teaching for the Living History program

black student who actually attended the Quaker-sponsored school for recently freed slaves and Freedmen. Now beginning its twenty-second continuous year of operation, this flagship program has benefited more than 25,000 schoolchildren, earned widespread recognition, and inspired similar interpretive programs at other historic sites.

Kathie said, "When my husband and I first visited Waterford, we recognized the essential attribute that makes this place special, which is its unpretentious honesty. Waterford holds its history open for all to see and to judge. I truly hope that it never becomes something it isn't, or was not. The Foundation offers a wonderful opportunity for personal involvement in the delicate job of preserving the historic village while maintaining its rural spirit."

Kathie is also a quilter who exhibits and sells her work at the Fair and at other nationally recognized venues. Thank you, Kathie, for sustaining the Second Street School for so many years, and for sharing your thoughts on what makes the Landmark special, livable, and deserving of the collective effort required to preserve it. ➡

## Seeking Second Street School Docents

Are you looking for a rewarding volunteer opportunity in education? Please consider becoming a teaching docent at the Second Street School and helping us reach our goal of serving 1,600 students in the 2005-2006 school year. *The program depends entirely upon volunteer staff.*

Prospective spring 2006 docents are asked to observe at least four classes between October 17 and November 18. Printed instructional materials and a mini-course in the historic and cultural background of the village are also provided. For an exciting preview, please visit our Web site and view the interactive feature about our Second Street School. The spring 2006 program will open on April 3 and run through June 2 (except during spring break, April 10-14). If you're interested in pursuing a unique educational opportunity—for yourself as well as for the students—please contact Kathie Ratcliffe at (540) 882-3348. ➡

*Note: The Second Street School is always open during the Waterford Fair. Volunteers are needed to greet visitors and offer them a brief introduction. This is a great warm-up opportunity if you're considering becoming a docent! Please call Kathie Ratcliffe, (540) 882-3348, to volunteer for a few hours as a Second Street School greeter during the Fair.*

## John Wesley Church Damaged

Over the weekend of August 26th and 27th four windowpanes were broken on the Leggett Street side of our beautiful Gothic Revival John Wesley Community Church. It appears that gravel was thrown against

the windows, possibly by spinning car tires. Such thoughtlessness mars the beauty of our Landmark and wastes limited resources, human and financial. Please drive slowly and carefully in the Landmark—for your

safety, that of the children and all pedestrians who share our narrow streets with cars, and also that of our historic buildings! ➡

## Thanks to All Our Supporters Ceremony Honors Easement Donation

On July 6th Congressman Frank Wolf, representatives from the Loudoun County Board of Supervisors and Soil and Water Conservation District, and officials from the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), the Virginia Outdoors Foundation (VOF), and the Waterford Foundation gathered at the Old Mill and celebrated the closing of a permanent easement on the Phillips Farm—under a broiling sun. With \$800,000 from NRCS's Farm and Ranch Lands Protection Program, the permanent easement will keep the farm in agricultural use and protect it forever from urban development.

Since 1944 national and state preservation organizations and like-minded citizens, environmental conservation groups, and state and federal agencies have worked together to preserve Waterford, which is Loudoun County's oldest settlement. Keeping the Phillips Farm in agriculture is critically important because Waterford's designation as



Photo by Cephas Hobbs  
Congressman Frank Wolf celebrates Phillips Farm easement

a National Historic Landmark is partially due to the setting of the village. In 2003 a planned development of fourteen luxury homes threatened to destroy this rural context of rolling hills and open farmland. To all who helped make possible the permanent easement on this beautiful segment of Loudoun's agricultural heritage, and helped save our Landmark, we are grateful. ➡

*(Continued from page 1)*

Village descendants, the Library of Congress, and the Waterford Foundation's Local History Collection are among the many sources from which John Souders, one of Waterford's extraordinarily energetic historians who bring their well-honed research skills to bear on our local history, culled the photographs. He also drew upon descriptions provided by letters, newspapers, court and tax documents, and insurance records. John is never happier than when spending time among piles of dusty

documents! Meghan Cantrall designed the exhibit and collaborated on the interpretive text, from which you'll learn the answers to these questions:

- Where was the Waterford brewery?
- What befell the covered bridge?
- What was the sad fate of the Waterford Academy?
- How did a hive of bees bring down three buildings?
- Where did Uncle William Richardson live? ➡

## NOVA Intern Works to Organize Local Historical Collection

Since May NOVA preservation student Maggie Copp has spent nearly every Sunday afternoon at the Corner Store, working on the master inventory of the Waterford Foundation's primary sources (Local Historical Collection). The goal is to merge, into one database, data captured in several earlier inventories of parts of the collection, and to incorporate new data as well. Several individuals contributed valuable information and imposed order in some areas of the collection, while other areas and new additions require beginning at ground zero.

Maggie works under the guidance of Bronwen Souders, a past Foundation president, historian, and author of numerous books and articles on Waterford history, and Edith Crockett, a current Foundation director and information scientist. With Maggie's enthusiastic support, Edith's enduring vision of a Local History Collection is approaching fruition! Watch future newsletters for more information. If you have skills that might benefit this project, please call (540) 882 3018. ➡



Lewis Hough Chair Factory building is being renovated and will become the site of the new Waterford Foundation Local Historical Collection and Archives.

(Continued from page 1)

House (on the "Big Hill"), which has not been open to the public since 1992; the Dormers (Factory and Second Streets), which has not been on the tour for three years owing to the construction of an addition at the back; and Wisteria Cottage, newly restored and never before on the tour.

Watch local farmers Bob Carr and R.T. Legard, with the Farmers Club of Lovettsville, ride their antique farm machinery and demonstrate the old-fashioned way to thresh wheat, one of the crops that sustained early Virginia mills.

Children will learn to make pots, see magic shows, puppet shows, a mime, Irish dancers, and join the scavenger hunt!

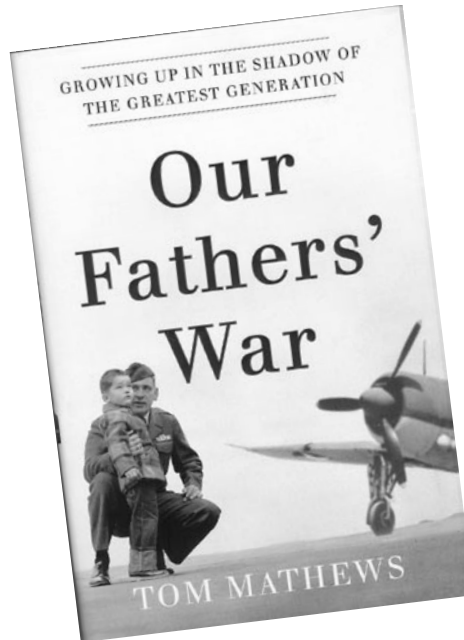
Parents and adults, tickets for the Fair are \$15 per day at the gate or \$13 in advance. Children under twelve are admitted free.

For additional information or to obtain advance tickets or directions, please call the Waterford Foundation at (540) 882-3018 or visit our Web site at [www.waterfordva.org](http://www.waterfordva.org).



Demonstration of timber framing at the Schooley Barn area

## To Honor Veteran's Day Special George Bentley Fall Lecture with Tom Mathews, author of *Our Fathers' War* *Growing Up in the Shadow of the Greatest Generation*



Mathews, a veteran of World War II's fabled 10th Mountain Division. Father and son spent the almost fifty years after the war in "intermittent conflict" and unmet expectations that were finally resolved through a trip to Italy to revisit scenes from his father's battles and make their own peace together.

Mathews has uncovered nine other dramatic and telling father-son tales of veterans in some ways "missing in action," and how internal war wounds shaped their lives as fathers. These include a combat infantryman whose life was saved by the fabled Audie Murphy, and a black member of the storied Tuskegee Airmen corps.

**The George E. Bentley Lecture Series** was established in 2001 to honor the memory of one of Waterford's most ardent preservationists. The program has become a popular book and author series that has brought nationally-acclaimed speakers to Waterford.

Weather permitting, free guided walking tours of the village will leave from the Old School prior to the lecture at 2pm.

The lecture is free and open to the public. A book signing and reception will follow.

For further information, go to our Web site, [www.waterfordva.org](http://www.waterfordva.org).

Critically acclaimed author and veteran *Newsweek* editor, Tom Mathews, will speak on **Sunday, November 13** at 4 pm at the Old School in Waterford. Mr. Mathews is the author of the new book, *Our Father's War*, a powerful and intimate portrait of how war adversely affects father-son relationships. Told through the stories of ten World War II veterans and their baby boomer sons, the book traces the kinetic effect of the war on the men who fought it, their sons, and their grandsons.

Among these moving stories is Mr. Mathews' own. He is the son and namesake of long-time Waterford resident and supporter, Tom

## Ways That You Can Help the Waterford Foundation

The Foundation receives support in many different forms, all of which are greatly valued. We have perennial needs for every conceivable kind of help with the Fair; for help in the office, especially for special projects; and for those able to take on buildings and grounds projects, so please call us. We'll match your interests, skills, and availability to a task. We have dozens of needs!

If you're unable to give your time, please consider other ways you can help. For example, do you own or work for a private company that would donate training to enhance staff and volunteers' computer skills? Can you make a regular monthly donation by credit card or automatic bank transfer, remember the Waterford Foundation in your will, or become a Waterford Concert Series, George Bentley Lecture Series, or Second Street School sponsor? For more information, please call us at (540) 882-3018. ➡



Donors of more than \$100 can choose from a number of Waterford posters

### New Members, Old Members, All! Join Us at the Membership Booth at the Fair

Join, renew, or encourage a friend to become a member and receive a beautiful Waterford poster of your choice. All posters are signed by the artists and depict local scenes or handicrafts.

You'll become part of a growing organization of citizens concerned

about the preservation of this very special place—its historic buildings and surrounding farmland. Receive free Fair tickets, discounts on publications, seasonal newsletters, and invitations to programs and activities—from classical music concerts to lectures by best-selling authors, and more.

Help us share Waterford through our many educational programs (such as the Living History Program at the Second Street School) so that knowledge of life and work in an early rural community will not be forgotten.

*During this year's Fair the Membership Booth will be located, as always, across from the Corner Store. Or call (540) 882-3018 to sign up, or to join online, visit [www.waterfordva.org](http://www.waterfordva.org). ➡*



**YES, I want to help the Waterford Foundation, Inc.**, carry out its mission to preserve the historic buildings and the open spaces of the National Historic Landmark of Waterford, Virginia, and, through education, to increase the public's knowledge of life and work in an early American rural community. Enclosed please find my tax-deductible contribution of:

\$50 "Contributor"    \$100 "Sponsor"    \$ 250 "Advocate"    Other: \_\_\_\_\_

Check enclosed    VISA    MasterCard    American Express

Acct. no. : \_\_\_\_\_

Exp.Date \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

YES, please send me information about bequests to the Waterford Foundation

Mail to the Waterford Foundation, PO Box 142, Waterford, VA 20197 (540) 882-3018



## Waterford Concert Series

### Sunday, October 30, 2005 at 4pm

Internationally celebrated pianist *Myriam Avalos Teie* will perform a program displaying the full range of the Foundation's new piano, from the most tender and melodious to the most brilliant and percussive. Music by Schubert, Chopin, and Ginastera.

### Sunday, November 20, 2005 at 4pm

*The Washington Symphonic Brass*, Milton Stevens, Music Director, will perform a varied repertoire from five centuries, including music to herald the holiday season with special guest, Bill Neil, organist for the National Symphony Orchestra. Music by Monteverdi, Gabrieli, Purcell, Bach, Handel, as well as traditional music for the season.

### Directions

*From Washington, DC:*  
Take Rt. 7 West to Rt. 9 West to Route 662 (Clarke's Gap Road) to Waterford.

*From Baltimore:*  
Take Rt. 70 West to Rt. 15 South to Lucketts, VA, Right on Rt. 662 (Stumptown Road) to Waterford.

### Free Guided Walking Tours

Weather permitting, free guided walking tours of the village will leave at 2pm from the Old School prior to each concert and lecture.

For further information, or to purchase tickets, please contact the Foundation by email: [info@waterfordva.org](mailto:info@waterfordva.org), or by telephone: (540) 882-3018.

Visit our web site, [www.waterfordva.org](http://www.waterfordva.org), for information about all upcoming events.



**Waterford Foundation**  
P.O. Box 142  
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### Mark Your Calendar

The annual Waterford Homes Tour and Crafts Exhibit will take place October 7th, 8th, and 9th this year. If you haven't already done so, now is the time to renew your 2005 membership, which includes free admission to "the Fair."

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