



# Historically Speaking

VOLUME 1

WINTER 2022

No. 1

## WELCOME MEMBERS...

As promised, here is the first WHA quarterly newsletter for 2022. This is our way of keeping in contact and sharing information with those who have purchased an annual membership that runs from January 1-December 31. In addition to the quarterly newsletters, members will also receive early notice of upcoming events and an invitation to the Annual Meeting/Social in November.

**WHA'S MISSION:**  
**TO BE THE CARETAKERS OF OUR COMMUNITY'S HISTORY FOR PRESENT AND FUTURE GENERATIONS.**

**EMAIL:**  
[info@waddingtonhistory.com](mailto:info@waddingtonhistory.com)

**WEBSITE:**  
[www.waddingtonhistory.com](http://www.waddingtonhistory.com)

**PHONE:**  
315-388-3041 (Leave message)

**FACEBOOK PAGE:**  
Waddington Museum and WHA share a Facebook Page  
<https://www.facebook.com/WaddingtonMuseumandWHA>

**MAILING ADDRESS FOR WHA AND HISTORIAN/MUSEUM**  
PO Box 221, Waddington, NY 13694

**HISTORIAN & MUSEUM DIRECTOR:**  
Kathy (Badlam) Putney  
Town Hall Museum is open by appointment. Call: 315-388-3041  
Email;[waddhistorian@gmail.com](mailto:waddhistorian@gmail.com)

## FROM KA-NA-TA-RA-KEN TO HAMILTON TO WADDINGTON

Over the years the Village of Waddington has had three name changes. The original inhabitants of the area, the St. Regis Indians, called it “Ka-na-ta-ra-ken” or “Wet Village”. Following the purchase of the tract of land that included the Village, the owners (David A. Ogden, Thomas L. Ogden, and Joshua Waddington) named it “Hamilton” in honor of their late friend, law partner and first Secretary of Treasury Alexander Hamilton. When it was learned that name was already being used by a post office in Madison County, the post office in the Village remained under the name of Madrid from 1807 to 1818. In 1818 the town board passed a resolution officially changing the name to Waddington, in honor of Joshua Waddington. Mr. Waddington was a New York capitalist and merchant who saved the whole Ogden venture in Madrid township by meeting mortgage payments of over \$26,000, which David and Thomas, partly owing to the untimely death of their father in 1798, were unable to meet. In return Waddington was deeded one third of David’s and Thomas’s land. In 1804 he married their sister Gertrude Gouverneur Ogden, so the land remained, in effect, in the family.

Historian Ethel C. Old’s wrote the following in the March 15, 1966 issue of the Waddington Town Crier:



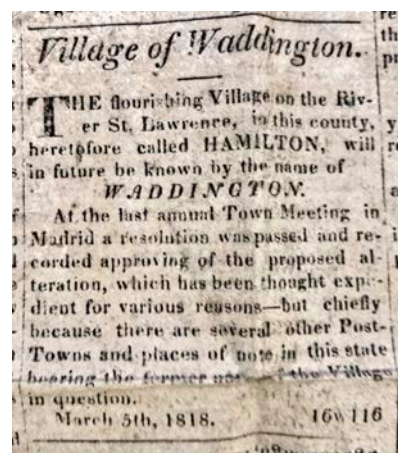
Among the prized possessions of the Waddington Historical Collection is a copy of the St. Lawrence Gazette of Tuesday, March 24, 1818. It is a two-page newspaper published every Tuesday by Strachan & Fairchild, at

their printing office and bookstore in Ogdensburg, N.Y. The name Hon. D.A.Ogden is written in ink across the top of the front page.

It contains the following:  
VILLAGE OF WADDINGTON

The flourishing Village on the River St. Lawrence, in this county, heretofore called HAMILTON, will in future be known by the name of WADDINGTON

At the last annual Town Meeting in Madrid a resolution was passed and recorded approving of the proposed alteration, which has been thought expedient for various reasons - but chiefly because there are several other Post Towns and places of note in this state bearing the former name of the Village in question. March 5, 1818



**WHA OFFICERS AND BOARD MEMBERS**

Mary (Badlam) Hamilton, President  
 MaryAnne Martin, Vice-President  
 Mary Brady, Secretary  
 Katherine (Paradis) Hayes, Treasurer  
 Sue (Hunter) Parisian  
 Katelyn (Bernard) Osoway  
 James Miller

**WHA COMMITTEE MEMBERS:**

Bobbie Davis, Patty VanPatten,  
 Ashlee Dumas, Mary Loomis,  
 Morgan Carmody, Sean Tiernan,  
 April Sharlow, Tracey Putney

WHA Board Meetings begin at 7 PM on the 4th Tuesday of each month in the Upstairs Room, Waddington Town Hall on Main Street. Anyone interested in working on a committee is welcome to attend. If you have ideas for events for us to pursue, please let us know.

We are extremely pleased with the progress the WHA has made since its organizational meeting in August. There is a wonderful core group of local history enthusiasts who have been meeting monthly resulting in a historical organization that is well on its way to becoming recognized as a 501(c)3 non-profit group. When that distinction is realized we will be able to explore grant monies for special projects for Historian Kathy Putney and St. Paul's Church property the Village is acquiring.

We are planning upcoming events and have been hesitant to do anything this winter because of Covid issues. We are hoping to do an Easter egg event for children of the community in April and a historical event during Memorial Day weekend. Look for announcements about upcoming events.

**MESSAGE FROM WHA PRESIDENT MARY (BADLAM) HAMILTON**

**A** look back over the 5 months since the WHA became an official organization shows good progress. The WHA now has an official logo created by Sean Tiernan and we crafted a mission statement that compliments the design: *"To be the caretakers of our community's history for present and future generations."*



We started off our fall events calendar with a Founding Fathers Cemetery Tour lead by our Educational Committee Chairperson Bobbie



Davis that showed how some of Waddington's founding fathers buried in the Brookside Cemetery were connected to our nation's founders. At the November Paint n' Sip History fundraiser that featured artist Patty VanPatten, participants painted fall scenes and listened to Town Historian Kathy Putney share pieces of Charlotte Ogden's diary along with oral histories of Waddington

residents who shared their memories about life in Waddington before the Seaway.

A second Paint n' Sip History event was held during the "Christmas in Waddington" weekend where participants again enjoyed Patty's creative painting techniques as they used paper towels and one small brush to create a "winter wonderland" scene. Educational committee chairperson Bobbie



Davis spoke and shared a video she produced that focused on the life of America's first woman saint Elizabeth Seton and her connection to the OGDEN family of Waddington. The WHA would like to thank Kathy and Bobbie for their contributions and recognize Patty for her donation of all proceeds from both events.

The WHA participated in the Festival of Trees that was a real highlight of the "Christmas in Waddington" weekend. Many thanks to Fundraising committee members Patty VanPatten and Kay-C Hayes for donating, designing and decorating our theme Christmas tree entry that included four hand-blown glass bulbs donated by Waddington glass artist Tim Tiernan and a family membership to the WHA. The high bidder was Mayor Mike Zagrobelny.



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# MORE CANDID SHOTS OF 2021 EVENTS



## PRESIDENT’S MESSAGE CONTINUED FROM PAGE 2

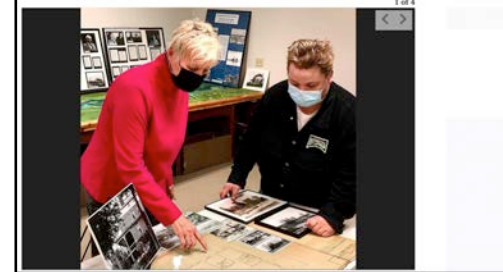
As a result of the “Christmas in Waddington” event, the organizers divided the proceeds that were raised between the WHA and the Waddington Neighbor Center. This generous donation means a lot to the WHA and a “huge thank you” goes out to Brittany Bush, Kevin Liddell and all the amazing organizers and volunteers who made the weekend so successful and special for the community.



In December we were also fortunate to be featured in an extensive article that

New times for past times: A fresh look at history creates enthusiasm in Waddington

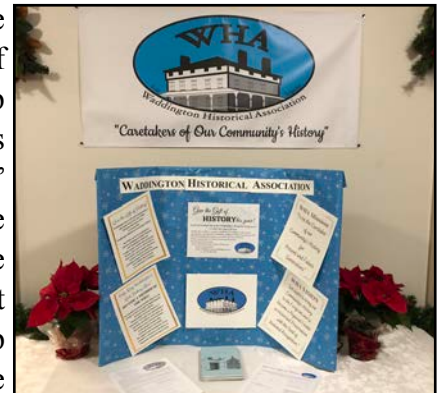
By CHRIS BROCK  
cbrock@wtdt.net Dec 25, 2021 Updated Dec 27, 2021 1 of 4



spoke about the renewed interest in Waddington history that has been happening. It was written by Watertown Times reporter and Waddington native Chris Brock and included interviews with the WHA president, Historian, Mayor, Museum Board members and a community resident as well as quotes from our Facebook page. It gave our organizations and Waddington some

wonderful exposure. Here is the link to the full article: [https://www.nny360.com/artsandlife/localhistory/new-times-for-past-times-a-fresh-look-at-history-creates-enthusiasm-in-waddington/article\\_b1116972-eeb9-5cf6-8fe4-bbbc66bd2769.html?](https://www.nny360.com/artsandlife/localhistory/new-times-for-past-times-a-fresh-look-at-history-creates-enthusiasm-in-waddington/article_b1116972-eeb9-5cf6-8fe4-bbbc66bd2769.html?)

December 2022 was the beginning of our first Membership Drive and we have been very pleased with the response from the community. We set up a display in front of the Museum door with membership applications and handed them to visitors during the “Christmas in Waddington” weekend festivities. We had several people respond with completed applications. We are in the process of developing a website that will make it easier to purchase a membership online. Until that time we will be sharing the




*Give the Gift of*  
**HISTORY** *this year!*

A gift of membership to the Waddington Historical Association is a gift that gives all year.

- Membership includes: a quarterly newsletter, an invitation to the annual membership meeting/social in November and early notice of upcoming events.
- Gift Acknowledgement Cards will be provided for you or will be sent to those you are purchasing the membership for.
- Makes a perfect gift for family, friends and associates
- Membership levels include:  
Junior, Individual, Family, Sponsor and Patron

For more information:  
email: [info@waddingtonhistory.com](mailto:info@waddingtonhistory.com)  
or call 315-388-3041



membership application online to print and mail in with payment. We have included a membership application on the last page of this newsletter for you to pass along to friends and family who are not yet members. A receipt and membership card will be mailed to them. Gift certificates are also available for birthdays, anniversaries, etc. and can be

mailed to you or the person you are purchasing them for.  
If interested email: [info@waddingtonhistory.com](mailto:info@waddingtonhistory.com) or call: 315-388-3041.



## Historian's Corner

**Kathy Putney**  
**Historian & Museum Director**

### WADDINGTON HISTORIAN'S REPORT FOR 2021

2021 was a busy year! I attended all of the Museum Board meetings and kept them updated on my progress during the year. After many months of discussion and collaboration between the village and town boards, the decision was made to sell the Moore Museum building and look for a new location. Early discussion involved

using the old Waddington Railroad Depot as the museum but after a suitable location wasn't able to be found, that idea was dropped. The focus then turned to the Episcopal Church property. The village will acquire the property and it was agreed upon between village, town and museum boards that the new direction would be to sell the property on Fenton Street which is owned by the church. The old manse that is connected to the church would be dismantled and a new public museum built in its place. St. Paul's Church would be preserved by the Village, and the Museum and the Historical Association would be the caretakers. The money obtained through the sale of both properties would be applied towards this new facility. This building would be maintained by the village. Donations acquired by the Historical Association will be used for maintenance projects for St. Paul's Church.

Research was done and several articles were written for the local Waddington Recorder including: The Corrigan House on Dry Island; James Ricalton: The Explorer and Photographer; The Building of the St. Lawrence Seaway Project. I attended all Village Board meetings and all but one Town Board meeting as well as a zoom meeting of the St. Lawrence County Historians in October. I hosted the St. Lawrence County historians summer meeting at Island View Park in Waddington and I toured the Potsdam Museum and met with their director to gain knowledge about storing items in a museum.

Volunteers helped me work all summer long moving the contents of the Moore Museum to its new temporary location under the Old Town Hall. We will continue to work in the new year taking inventory and organizing files and pictures and loading them onto a hard drive with help from volunteers. The oral history committee plans to go out into the public and get more oral histories from past residents and older residents of Waddington.



#### 2021 Programs and Exhibits

We arranged a Seaway exhibit for July and August which saw over 100 visitors to the museum. I gave my first talk at the November WHA's Paint 'N Sip History event. The topic was Ogden Island life using oral histories compiled by the Friends of the Library. I attended the Waddington's First Founders cemetery tour hosted by local resident Bobby Davis in October. The tour was attended by over 20 people. We arranged an exhibit for Christmas in the Waddington Weekend, highlighting the Ogden Family. The museum had over 50 visitors throughout the weekend. I helped

host the second Paint 'N Sip History event in December with a review by Bobbie Davis on the life and connection to Waddington, of Elizabeth Seton, America's first female saint. I helped to hand out information on the Historical Association's membership.

It has been a very busy year for renewed interest in the history of Waddington. I am sincerely grateful to all the volunteers who helped during the year: Jamie Tiernan, Patty VanPatten, Mary Ann Martin, Mary Hamilton, Mary Brady, Bobby Davis, Sue Hunter, James Miller, Betsy Mott, Sean Tiernan, the MW Jr. Honor Society members and Molly Bogart and Avery Hill.

A special thanks goes to Village and Town Boards, and the Village and Town crews for their continued support and all their help this year.



## ETHEL C. OLDS: DOCUMENTING WADDINGTON'S HISTORY

By Historian Kathy Putney

Ethel C. Olds was responsible for documenting so much of Waddington's history and the changes that the community experienced, especially in the 1940's and 50's. She was appointed Waddington Town Historian on June 1, 1945 and served in that position until 1969. She was the third historian appointed by the town. In 1943 the County Board of Supervisors found that the law requiring each town and municipality to name a historian was being neglected so they started enforcing it. Miss Eunice Crapser was appointed as Waddington's first town historian in 1943 and she held the job for a year. She was followed by Rev. George Harland in 1944 who was also on the job for a year before resigning in May of 1945.

Ethel (Craig) Olds was a native of Rensselaer Falls and a graduate of St. Lawrence University. She taught high school English in downstate schools before moving to Waddington in 1932 with her husband, Carlton B. Olds, who had just been appointed District Superintendent of Schools for Waddington, Madrid, Lisbon and Louisville. The couple quickly immersed themselves in the community and over the years spent countless hours volunteering and helping out with various organizations. Quoting accomplishments from her 1972 obituary, "She organized and coordinated local efforts in combatting the effects of cystic fibrosis, well before the childhood disease was widely known and before research was funded by national drives. She organized and chaired the committee that supported two Waddington siblings who both suffered from the disease in the late 1950's. She was responsible for organizing and chairing the Waddington Branch of the American Red Cross. She was a volunteer spotter at the Waddington aircraft observation post during WWII. Ethel was a member of the Waddington and Lisbon Study Clubs, the Waddington Garden Club, and the St. Lawrence County Historical Association where she served as an officer for several terms. She was a member of the Waddington Presbyterian Church and their Women's Society, and was a lifetime member and past matron of the Fulton Chapter 515 Order of the Eastern Star.

Ethel's interest in local history made her a perfect fit for the job of Town Historian. She became historian toward the end of World War II and in her year-end report for 1946 she wrote: "The most important work of the town historian when I assumed office in June 1945 was to obtain the war records of the service men and women. At that time hostilities had not ceased and records could be made only in part. The records to be of any value must be correct and the historian has found much persistence has been required to get the exact information."

In addition to answering the regular requests a historian receives over the course of a year, there were special projects she was asked to complete by the county historian to help document local history. In 1950 she embarked on a project to map the Waddington's cemeteries that had no existing maps. In addition to assembling documents and records of historical value, Ethel did presentations for the Waddington Study Club, audio clips for the local WSLB radio station, maintained scrapbooks of Waddington news as it was made, and kept her eye out for auctions and sales where she could find valuable memorabilia to add to the historical collection. She writes in her 1953 Historian Report: "At the sale of household goods stored by the Clark family in the Pierce house, some interesting records were brought to light and have come to the historical collection. Among those is a copy of an award to the women of the village for the work they did during the Civil War. Another is a crayon portrait of George Redington, done by himself and signed. This was sold to a dealer who wanted the frame. I asked for the portrait and by driving to Potsdam for it I was able to get it."

The mid-1950's were increasingly busy for the Town Historian as Ethel documented changes that were occurring with the coming of the St. Lawrence Seaway. It was said she never went anywhere without her camera during this time as she recorded and documented the Seaway construction, the relocation and raising of buildings, burial grounds and landmarks in the Township. As she states in her 1957 Historian Report, "Changes have followed each other speedily during 1957 in Waddington. To keep up with these events and record them has been a major part of the historian's program." We can only imagine the emotions she felt as she watched and documented her town being changed forever.

1959 saw the opening of the Seaway as well as the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the founding of Waddington and Ethel played an important role in planning the 4-day centennial observance. It was a precursor to the present-day Homecoming Weekend and saw the first power boat race (Blue Water Regatta) held on Lake St. Lawrence and sponsored by the Waddington Fire Department. We are told she may have been instrumental in making that Regatta a reality.

Ethel continued her Historian's duties until she retired and passed the reigns along to Dorothy Hill who served in that capacity for five years before Pauline Tedford assumed the role at the start of the 1976 Bicentennial festivities. In closing,

Ethel was exactly the right person Waddington needed at exactly the right time. The organized, multi-tasker spent the 24 years she served as Town Historian pulling together almost 150 years of history and attempting to fill in the blanks that existed. She and her husband, Carlton wrote extensively about our local history for the St. Lawrence County Historical Association's Quarterly publication as well as local newspapers. The files she assembled were a testament to her ability to know what was important and how it needed to be documented before there were computer programs that could help with that task. We hope to honor her legacy by continuing the work she started.





**Waddington Historical  
Association  
PO Box 221  
Waddington, NY 13694**

**POSTAGE**

**1 CENT**

**THE WADDINGTON HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION (WHA)**

**OUR VISION:**

**WE ASPIRE TO BRING OUR COMMUNITY'S HISTORY TO THE FOREFRONT AND TO BECOME A REGIONAL  
LEADER IN HISTORICAL PRESERVATION WITH THE GOAL OF NATIONAL RECOGNITION.**

