

Hello Everyone.

Memorial Day will soon be upon us, and, sadly, once again we will not be able to openly celebrate the rich heritage of our wonderful Waterloo community.

First, let me introduce myself, I'm Pam Becker, docent of the Memorial Day Museum and researcher for the Waterloo Library and Historical Society.

As I was thinking about Memorial Days of old, I remembered how generations of my family would visit the cemeteries of loved ones who had passed and leave plants that we would tend throughout the summer. I now take my grandchildren on the same pilgrimage as I tell them stories of my parents and grandparents, helping them make their own connections to the past.

Sadly, there are many founding families who no longer have anyone to remember them and tend their graves. I've spent the last three years researching the people who have helped create our village. Some of their stories are inspiring, some heartbreaking. Most of these people spent their lives just as we do, living each day as it was handed to them, doing whatever they could to help those around them.

I would like to start a tradition. Below is a list of families that helped contribute to the growth of Waterloo. You may only recognize them as names of streets and buildings. These were mothers, fathers, sons and daughters. I've included the cemeteries where they are buried. I think it would be outstanding if we could make a commitment to adopt one of these family names and visit their grave this Memorial Day. Maybe you could leave some flowers and thank them for all they did to pave the way for us to be here today.

The stories most of these families are found on the website findagrave.com. Those that aren't are available upon request at the Waterloo Library & Historical Society. You can Facebook Message me with your request, or email waterloolib@gmail.com and I will set you up with a family. I am also open to suggestions for other names who need some special attention. This is by no means a comprehensive list.

Here is the list of families:

1. Kendig Family buried Maple Grove Cemetery
2. Swift family buried in Elisha Williams and Maple Grove Cemeteries
3. Sentell Family buried in Maple Grove Cemetery
4. Fatzinger Family buried in Maple Grove Cemetery
5. Genung Family buried in Maple Grove Cemetery
6. Semtner Family buried in Maple Grove Cemetery
7. Schott Family buried in Samuel Bear and Maple Grove Cemeteries
8. Logan Family buried in Maple Grove Cemetery