

# THIS DATE IN

# HISTORY

# EVENTS OF LOCAL INTEREST

These historical notes were taken from the Public Opinion newspaper archives.

## 1919: 100 years ago...

**Charlotte Walker** who portrays with vivid realism in the title role and Eugene Walter's gripping six-part super production "Just A Woman" stands in the forefront of American dramatic actresses. As the wife of Eugene Walter, world famous playwright, she has divided with him the distinction that has come to this accomplished twain. A long list of dramatic triumphs stands to the credit of Miss Walker. She took up acting as a profession when at an early age. Her first noteworthy achievement perhaps was in the "Warrens of Virginia" the famous play of Civil War times in which she interpreted with rare skill one of the most important roles.

## 1944: 75 years ago...

Wartime industrial developments will bring new merchandise and new opportunities for business and employment to America after the war, **Fred E. Sperling**, secretary of the Wholesalers' department of the St. Paul Association of Commerce, told 300 members and guests of the Watertown Chamber of Commerce at a quarterly meeting in the Masonic Temple last night. Mr. Sperling displayed hundreds of new materials which have been developed during the war and which he said will be placed on the market in the form of new-type merchandise after the war. Thousands of business firms are already preparing to capture the civilian market with vastly improved items he said, and many manufacturers are ready to plan production of new items, entirely unrelated to the goods they produced during the pre-war period. Watertown's record during the last few years has shown excellent progress, Sperling said. Retail sales in Watertown from 1939 to 1943 have increased 86 percent.

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## 1979: 40 years ago...

The Watertown Area Arts Council met at the Watertown Regional Library for a "brown bag" lunch and meeting. A review was given of the various Arts Council activities for 1978-79. Included were: sponsorship of the Classical Films at the Plaza Theatre, a bus excursion to Brookings to see "Auntie Mame"; sponsorship of the visiting craftspersons in February and March; Senior Citizens Art Contest; Tuscan Boys Choir in April; Old Time band; and cars available for productions in Aberdeen and Brookings. It was announced that Dakota Roads will be presented in Watertown again next year with a completely new presentation. **Jim Barber** a magician will put on his magic act this summer. New officers elected were: president, **Mrs. Chester A. Tangren**; vice-president, **Mrs. James Hart**; secretary, **Mrs. Paul Halonen**; and treasurer, **Harold Collins**. The next meeting will be in the fall.

## 2004: 15 years ago...

Daughters of the American Revolution met July 23rd at the Hunters Inn in Watertown with the following members present: **Bonnie Lien**, reagent; **Terry DeGraw**, secretary; **Mary Anderson**, **Dorothy Fuller**, **Karen McGraw**, **Phyllis Froke**, **Sharon Collins** and **Ramona Moke**. Bonnie Lien read the president generals message. Mary Anderson presented the National Defense message. Phyllis Froke gave the flag code. Terry DeGraw gave the secretary's report. A regular meeting was conducted and following adjournment **Kevin Baily**, manager of the Watertown Heritage Museum gave a program involving the history of writer **Mercy Otis Warren**. The next meeting will be Friday August 27th in Aberdeen hosted by **Twila Rodan** and **Sally Johnston**.

Did today's DIH spur a memory? Do you know where the people mentioned today are and what they are doing? If yes, please email our newsroom at [news@thepublicopinion.com](mailto:news@thepublicopinion.com) and let us know.

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