



**Strike Up the Band!**

Did you know the town of Waters had a band? The Waters Coronet Band was organized in 1881. Thankfully someone wrote down the names of the musicians.

Front Row: Byron Scott, Unknown, Ed Chalker, Will Chalker, Hugh Parker, Unknown. Middle Row: Albert Anderson, Unknown, Dick Marlatt, Unknown, Henry Chantelle, Unknown. Back Row: Tom Marlatt, Bob Jacobson, Jack Marlatt, Unknown, Earl Taylor.

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The Gaylord City Band was also organized in 1881. W. H. Cooper was the drum major. Other charter members include Will Carpenter, Orrin Bolton, Richard Harding, John Brodie, Sam Sellers, Freem Wells, C. S. Dodge, Myron Fuller, Daniel Hutchins, Stephen Humphrey, Charles Carpenter, George W. Smith, Elmer Hale, Dexter K. Mitchell, Forrest Humphrey, Elmer Carpenter, Sanford Buck, and Elmer Humphrey.

The octagon shaped bandstand was located on the courthouse lawn where summer concerts were presented. The band played in parades, at baseball games, and special events. They also were a regular on Mackinac Island.



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Under the direction of Mr. TerWee, the Gaylord City Band is shown here at the grand opening of the stock yards in 1941. (Current location of Gobblers)

For a copy of this photo with the list of members, [click here](#). Can you identify person #14?

Vanderbilt also had a community band. Did Elmira and Johannesburg? Do you have photos or other information to share?



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When Gary Waldo was hired as the high school band teacher in 1963, his job also included City Band concerts during the summer. Funding dried up a few years later resulting in a silence of the music. The County's centennial in 1975 brought about a return of the summer concerts. The following year, the Gaylord Community Band was established with Ralph Schweigert as conductor. The group is currently under the direction of Aaron Hotelling.

**Why it Matters:** Community Bands enrich the quality of life for the residents and visitors to our area as well as the musicians who share their talents. Music is an important part of Otsego County history.

