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**Melissa Davidson\***, mdavids4@nd.edu. *The Wave Stands Alone: Journey of a Solitary Wave.*

Solitary waves, or solitons, are a popular subject in partial differential equations. They evoke many questions, including where did they come from? Who thought that was worth studying? We shall trace the history of the solitary wave starting from the very beginnings of general wave theory and ending with some discoveries about solitary waves themselves. (Received August 22, 2012)