



Warrensburgh Historical Society

WARRENSBURGH HISTORICAL SOCIETY QUARTERLY

VOLUME 4 ISSUE 3

FALL 1999

Railroad Freight and Antiques in Warrensburgh by Ed Kreinheder

Another story about antiques! Well the antique business has been a minor Warrensburgh industry for almost a century so it should go on record.

Usually there were about three antique dealers in Warrensburgh on a full time basis; always several as a part time business, others were engaged as a part time business in finding antiques and selling to dealers, sometimes called *pickers*. Also a few older or unemployed worked as furniture strippers or restorers. Most of the sales came from tourists or from other areas, bringing a constant flow of money into town.

The regular dealers had a good relationship with the tourists and out of town buyers and would crate and ship anything they sold. Often crating was included in the sale or very cheap, as the labor and lumber was available at low cost.

Usually customers were willing to wait and receive articles by R.R. Freight which was slow but very reasonable and safe. They were usually unable to transport things by themselves; station wagons and pick-up trucks were not so common then.

The picturesque old R.R. Freight station is sadly gone now. A traditional well constructed frame building of typical R.R. style architecture. The employees, often only one in later time, were professional, accommodating and skilled in their business.

A set of six Hitchcock or plank seat chairs could be fitted together in a crate five feet long by three feet high and two feet wide. This could be shipped safely at a very little cost anywhere in the country. We used to



Al Leger receives trophy as winner of this year's Sticky Wicket Tournament

ship marble top chests of drawers to a dealer in South Carolina where Victorian furniture was very popular. We never had any damage. A peacock with spread tail and about three feet high was crated and shipped out West and arrived safely. This was from the Emerald Pasko's taxidermy collection in Warrensburgh. Edison cylinder gramophones with hugh morning glory horns were shipped without damage if they were carefully crated.

We once bought the complete front section of a 1912 Cadillac car, put it on skids and transferred it from our truck to the freight platform without any crating or covering. It was delivered safely without serration or damage to it's delicate raditor core. The 1912 Cadillac was the first car in the world to have a complete electrical system, lights, starter, generator, battery, and

ignition. [The photograph on page four showed the complete car with Mrs. Fisk.] The car was bought from Lee Fisk who used it for a powerplant in later years in his sawmill.

Lee had property on Diamond Point Road. With a steam powered sawmill, an accomplished saw mill man could set up a mill to perfection. He later set up a diesel powered mill at Stony Creek and was noted as a sawyer who could get more board feet from a log than anyone else. To this I can attest.

We also shipped antique 18th and 19th century grandfather clocks. A crate had to be built for the case and a separate one for the movement and weights. We never had one damaged in shipping. Railroad Freight was a great boon to the antique dealers as they could inexpensively ship from an area where

(continued on page four)

From the President

The Sticky Wicket Croquet Games and Picnic can indeed be considered a success. Although the day started out wet and dreary, by the start of the event the rain had stopped and by early afternoon we enjoyed bright sunshine and beautiful clouds. To say the weather turned out to be perfect would not be far from true. Unfortunately, the questionable weather early in the day was an excuse for some of the ladies to forgo their garden dresses and big hats for more sensible attire. But then there were those who, undaunted by the weather, "dressed to the nines". Not to ignore mention some of the gents dressed rather smartly also.

Attendance was as good as ever, and if anyone left hungry it was certainly not due to the lack of variety or abundance of food. The table overflowed with wonderful presentations of gastronomical delight.

We were honored with an appearance by Warrensburgh Supervisor Jerold Quintal and Cathy Quintal, both his and Warrensburgh's first lady. They and their guests, JoAnn and Art Smith took refreshment and shared stories with others under the pavillion while others began tournament play.

The Croquet Tournament was competitive both in the number of participants as well as in their ability. Fear struck our hearts in the presence of Mrs. Lydia Shipley. This octagenarian knows more of the game than the rest of the competitors combined and being the gracious lady that she is, was more than open in giving advise on how one might best make a particular shot, either to score a point or to hinder a competitor. What a lady she is! The hustler of the tournament was Al Leger. I'm not so sure that his lovely wife Clair appreciated being "roqueted" by this fellow but it wasn't the first time the competitiveness of the game created a bit of a "sticky wicket" between man and wife. Last year it was Sandi and Steve Parisi; they seemed to have found a way to work out their

differences though. This year they played in separate groups! Al did win fairly and we congratulate him for a game well played. Second and third places were taken by yours truly and Phil McLaughlin, respectively. I think I should like to mention the other players as all exhibited true sportsmanship and competitiveness. Including those already mentioned, they were: Marilyn VanDyke, Sandi Parisi, Steve Parisi, Regina Porter, Caron Akeley, Joe LeCount, Pam Morin and Barbara Doty. I'm convinced that the Sticky Wicket Croquet Tournament is *the August event north of Saratoga!*

...from the "credit where credit is due" department we acknowledge those who helped put on this event. Pat Terrell, besides preparing the abundance of chicken for the grill, also took the responsibility of insuring the food table was prepared and adequately set. She was well supported through the efforts of Caron Akeley, who also hosted our greeting table, procured and arranged the table flowers and insured that our gaming equipment was in order. Len Denner assisted in laying out and setting up the fields of play, and getting the ice to the picnic. He and wife Linda made a very delicious strawberry ice cream. This was their second year to make ice cream and it has become an anticipated treat at our event. Patty Steves and Caron did clean-up duty. A daunting effort in itself. Others to be recognized include Sandi and Steve Parisi and Regina Porter.

NOTICE

The recording of history is an interpretive and ever changing study, therefore the Warrensburgh Historical Society or its Board of Directors or members shall be held liable for the accuracy or authenticity of the material herein.

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Sandi Parisi, Treasurer

Linda Denner, Secretary

John Cleveland

Leonard Denner

Jean Hadden

Kaena Peterson

Teresa Whalen

Quarterly Editor..Linda Denner

Calendar of Events

October 21 Board of Directors

Meeting, 7p.m. Glens Falls National Bank, Conference Room.

October 28 Special Program WHS at the Richards Library, 7p.m. See details on page seven

November 1 Deadline for Winter Issue WHSQ

November 18 Board of Directors Meeting, 7p.m. Glens Falls National Bank, Conference Room

December, Winter Issue of WHSQ

December 16, Holiday Dinner Social, more information will be mailed to membership

Contributors to This Issue:

Caron Akeley

Delbert Chambers

Linda and Len Denner

Gordon Graves

Sandi Parisi

Pat Terrell

Nat Menshausen

Sharon Hunter Tar

Julie Rounds Brown

Send submissions to:

Warrensburgh Historical Society

Post Office Box 441

Warrensburgh, NY 12885

Warrensburgh Historical Society
Quarterly

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Antique Soup

by Caron Akeley

a tisket, a tasket,

How about a....

BASKET

All during the 19th and well into the 20th century, all sizes and shapes of baskets were highly utilized everywhere and for every conceivable purpose. By around 1900 factory made, machine cut splint baskets which could be made quickly and cheaply just about did away with the demand for the individually handcrafted baskets of the 19th century. These earlier baskets were quite labor intensive and time consuming to make, as the basket makers had to gather and prepare their own materials and then do the weaving. Factory made baskets thus became more readily available to the public and at a much lower cost.

A quick and easy way to tell the difference between a factory made and handcrafted basket is to look at the splint. If it varies slightly in width and straightness it is hand cut. Machine cut splint is always perfectly straight and of uniform width.

"Working" baskets were made to be purely functional, while "fancy" baskets were just pretty and decorative..perhaps used around the house to store the lady's treasures such as ribbons or sewing impliments.

Work baskets were commonly used to gather fruits, vegetables, berries, and even the day's eggs, and then for the storage of same. A basket with a fine, very open weave was used to collect and dry herbs from the garden. Baskets with raised "kicked-up" bottoms were made to distribute the contents, such as potatoes, evenly, so that more weight could be carried. There were even special baskets with a lid that slid up and down along the handle for collecting feathers so that they could be put in without risk of them blowing back out. Feathers of course, were the necessity of yesteryears feather beds. Baskets were always carried to market, both carrying things for sale and trade and returning purchases to home.



photograph courtesy of Caron Akeley

As modern conveniences of the 20th century became more common and widespread, the demand for baskets grew less and less. The next time you find yourself carrying your groceries from the supermarket in a paper or plastic bag, just remember that a hundred years ago you would have been toting a basket.

many old friends during the short time he was here.

November 2, 1922

Frank J. Harris last week completed his first season supplying *Echo Lake Ice* to a large number of customers in this village of Warrensburgh. There can be no question of the absolute purity of *Echo Lake Ice*, and so long as it can be procured at the reasonable price established by Mr. Harris and delivered as it has been by him, Warrensburgh people may consider themselves favored by the Harris service.

November 2, 1922

Leonard E. Harrington, proprietor of Valley View Farm has purchase one of the new world's champion motorcycles, a Harley-Davidson big twin, 74 cubic inch motor, with a *Family Delight* side car. It surely is a beauty!

I remember Leonard Harrington or as he was call *Len* or *Lenny*. He and his boys known as the Harrington Construction, working in all kinds of weather from dawn to dusk, always giving a nod or good word. Several decendents still live and work in Warrensburgh and are still referred to as "You know, one of the Harringtons".

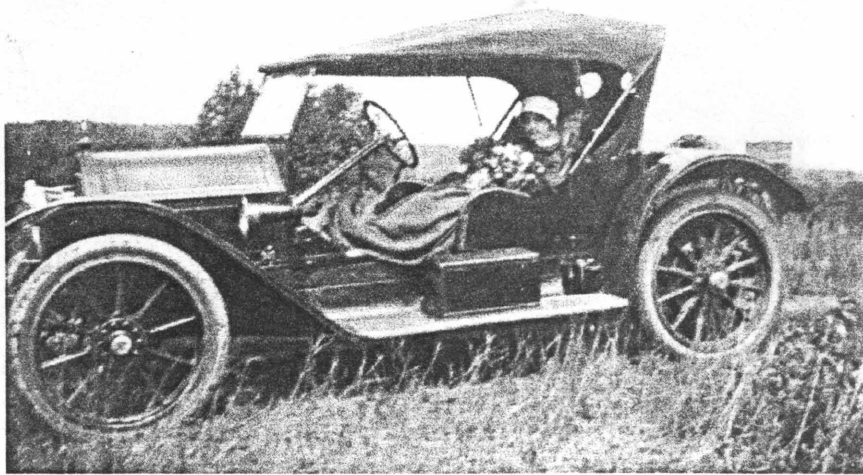
(Continued page five)

Pat's Column

Where is it Now?

June 5, 1930

A machine gun which saw service in the First World War, and no doubt dealt death to many men, has been presented to the American Legion Post 446 of Warrensburgh. Fred M. Harrington of Bennington, Vermont, who brought it here on Memorial Day and carried it on a truck in the parade, afterwards presented it to the post. It is now, in the rooms awaiting a site on which to place it. It has been suggested that it be set up in Memorial Park, near the **Floyd Bennett** memorial flagpole base. Mr. Harrington was formerly a resident of Warrensburgh and greeted



*Lee Fisks 1912 Cadillac
courtesy Ed Kreinheder*

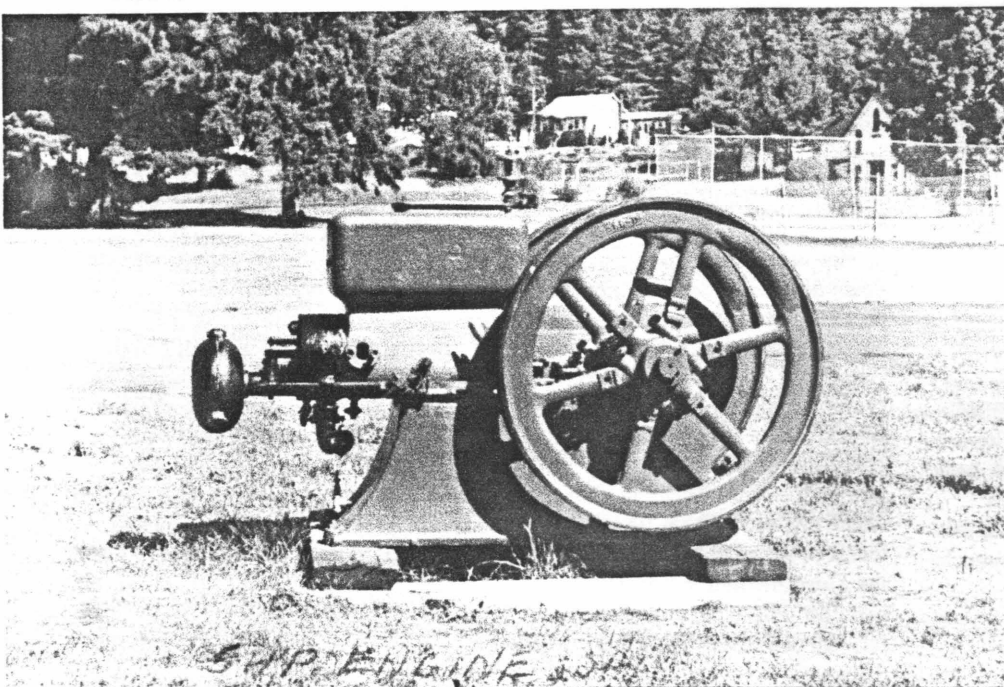
(continued from front page)

antiques were cheap and plentiful to an area South and West where they brought a much higher price.

Today antiques have become much scarcer and higher priced and there are many more dealers in town. Perhaps we

currently have as many as twenty-five dealers in the antique centers and individual shops.

It still remains an important source of income in the town and hope it will survive.



The two photographs below were provided by Ed Kreinheder. The lower left picture features a 5 horsepower engine sold and shipped to the Plessville Foundrie in Plessville, P.Q.

The photograph in our lower right page demonstrated one of the many grandfather's clocks typically found and shipped successfully by Mr. Kreinheder via R. R. Freight.



oops!

Sorry but our printing went astray! The assembled Newsletter contains a duplicate for page five and six. The separate sheet is the correct five!

page five

Pat's Column continued

From the Past

Post Office

The first Post Office in town was established in 1803 when the town was a part of Thurman.

The name was changed to Warrensburg in 1832 and to Warrensburg, dropping the H on May 9, 1894.

January 11, 1912

John T. Bryant has closed his meat market in the Pasko Block and returned to Lake George,

Orson P. Wilsey has removed his cooler from the building and *Upstreet* is now without a market.

*MD Relocating in Warrensburg
April 19, 1923*

Dr. P.H. Huntington of Fort Edward who has been Assistant Chief Physician at Dannemore, Clinton County Prison, has decided to locate in Warrensburg for the practice of his profession and will have his residence in C. S. Woodward's House, Hudson Street. He is expected to be here in about about a week. Dr. Huntington is a graduate of Albany Medical College.

Dr. Huntington was the WCS doctor for many years and was known in my school years as always using a dull needle when giving us our "school shots".

He and his family lived at Hudson Street until he and his wife passed away. The house is owned now by Ed and Cindy Anderson.

A Questionnaire

This questionnaire appeared in the Warrensburg News on August 4, 1921.

Has Anyone...

Died....Had a Fire....Eloped....Had a Party....Divorced....Had a Baby....Left Town....Been Arrested....Embezzled....Sold A Farm....Come to Town....Had Twins or Colic....Sold a Cow or Lost an Auto....Stolen a Dog or his Friends Wife....Committed Suicide or Murder...Fallen from an Aeroplane....Fallen into a Well..Fallen



into a Legacy....

Well Then

That's News!

So Phone or Mail it to

The Editor

We Make your Troubles Known!

The following is a final thought from
Pat:

A Short Course in Human Relations

The six most important words,
"I admit I made a mistake."

The five most important words,
"You did a good job."

The four most important words,
"What is your opinion?"

The three most important words,
"If you please."

The two most important words,
"Thank you."

The one most important word,
"We."

The least important word,



*Warrensburg Historical Society Participates in Chestertown's Bicentennial Parade. Attending the float, Delbert Chambers, Pat Terrell and LeeAnn Rafferty
photos courtesy of Jean Hadden*

I Remember

by Gordon Graves

Years ago, in the mid forties, there was an old barn where our house now stands. It was a rather small barn as barns go. Attached to the barn were a pig pen and a chicken coup. The main house was covered with clapboards. My Dad and Mom bought enough cedar shingles to cover the house, and they stored the shingles in the old chicken coop. One rainy day a "bunch" of us kids had nothing to do, so Mom gave us some nails and told us to go down to play in the barn and nail some of the old boards together. Well, you know when kids are left to their own devices it will soon turn to trouble. This day was no exception. Soon we decided to shingle the inside and outside of the chicken coop. We put in about ten or twelve nails per single. Well, when Dad came home and saw what we had so proudly done, he became very angry, to put it mildly. We found out that Dad knew how to spank! As the neighbor kids ran home, Dad called all their parents and they shared equally in the pain.

We lost our allowance and boy were we ever grounded! No fishing or swimming or any fun for awhile.

More Remembrances for Gordon..

I remember that as a child one of my chores was to empty the "Thunder Mug". For those of you who are too young to remember what a thunder mug is, years ago most of us had no indoor plumbing. In our house the mug sat in the hallway near the top of the stairs. It was covered with a ceramic pot that was decorated with a pretty floral design.

Now this may not be the nicest of jobs for a young man to have to do, *remember everyone in the house had chores*. It was particularly onerous on hot summer days and on frosty winter morns.

In those days we did not have the luxury of indoor plumbing. Our water supply was a spring out back of the maple tree. Hauling water was another of my chores.

From the Files of Former Town Historian Mabel Tucker...

The Sure Bee Trap

Fill a pail or any shallow pan or dish with water to the top. Add one or two tablespoons of liquid dish detergent. Do not stir the mix too much to avoid it foaming.

Next, string a narrow stick with any kind of old fish bait, or old meat, and lay it across the container. Yellow jackets and wasps or any sort bee will find the food. When they get their fill, they invariable dip down before taking off, thereby hitting the solution which kills them. Many bees are simple crowded off the stick of bait and they fall into the solution. So I'll have to skim the dead ones over from the surface of the water to give a chance for those falling to hit the water solution. You won't be bothered very long, before they're all gone.

Letters to the Editor

Dear Warrensburgh Historical Society,
Pat Terrell's column in the Summer 1999 issue of the Warrensburgh Historical Society Quarterly brought back some childhood memories.

When I was a child, my family lived on Horicon Avenue (or did we spell it Horican?), in "the last house in the limits of the town." My best friend, Edna Williams (now Blaner), lived across the brook and outside the town limits. I well remember Jimmy and Pauline Terrell (who, as I remember, had no children) taking Edna and me—in their car with a rumble seat—to go swimming "up river." That swimming hole was someplace where the Schroon River ran wide and shallow, past Bleeker's camp but before before the Town or Horicon. The Schroon was very familiar to Edna and me, having spent most of our summer days either in it or on it—but only close to home. Getting the chance to explore the "far reaches" was a real treat.

I also remember at least one occasion when Edna and I walked to the Terrell's home on Harrington Hill to visit. The high point of that excursion to me was being allowed to play the "sweet potato" (ocarina) that was displayed in the Terrell's living room.

(continued next page)

WARRENSBURGH HISTORICAL SOCIETY

INVITES YOU TO PARTICIPATE

SUBMIT YOUR REMEMBRANCES, PHOTOGRAPHS

OR STORIES TO OUR QUARTERLY;

WARRENSBURGH HISTORICAL SOCIETY

POST OFFICE BOX 441

WARRENSBURGH, NY 12885

(Continued from last page)

I seldom get back to Warrensburg anymore, so I particularly enjoy receiving your publication.

Sincerely,

Julie Rounds Brown
Horse Shoe, NC
e-mail downtown@brinet.com

***Special Program Presented by the
Warrensburgh Historical
Society
October 28th at the Richards
Library***

***Renowned Storyteller Conjures up
Scenes of Fright and Horror!***

Catherin Charron LaBier, raconteur, draws from her French-Canadian heritage to conjure up scenes of fright and horror. From frivolity to moralist fables she will entertain and delight our audience. The timing is right and refreshments will be served, assuming you are able to swallow!

Come join the fun at our own "Fright Night" with the Warrensburg Historical Society.

The place is the Richards Library, the witching hour is 7p.m.. We caution you that when the Harvest moon is full....venture at your own risk!!!!!!!

***To Join our organization write for
membership information to***

***Warrensburgh Historical Society
Post office Box 441
Warrensburgh, New York
12885***

or call:

518 623-3514



*Chestertown Parade , Society Float
Photograph taken by Sharon Hunter Tar and courtesy of Nat Menshausen*



*Preparations for the Sticky Wicket Picnic begin as President Chambers assists
our Vice-President Pat Terrell barbecue chicken for the festivities.*



Society Treasurer Sandi Parisi studies the opposition during the Sticky Wicket Tournament

**We Invite You All to Submit
Stories, Photographs, and
Remembrances
for Inclusion in our Upcoming
Issues of the
Warrensburg Historical
Society Quarterly
We publish a Fall, Winter,
Spring and Summer
Edition**

**Mail to:
Warrensburg Historical Society
Post Office Box 441
Warrensburg, NY 12885**

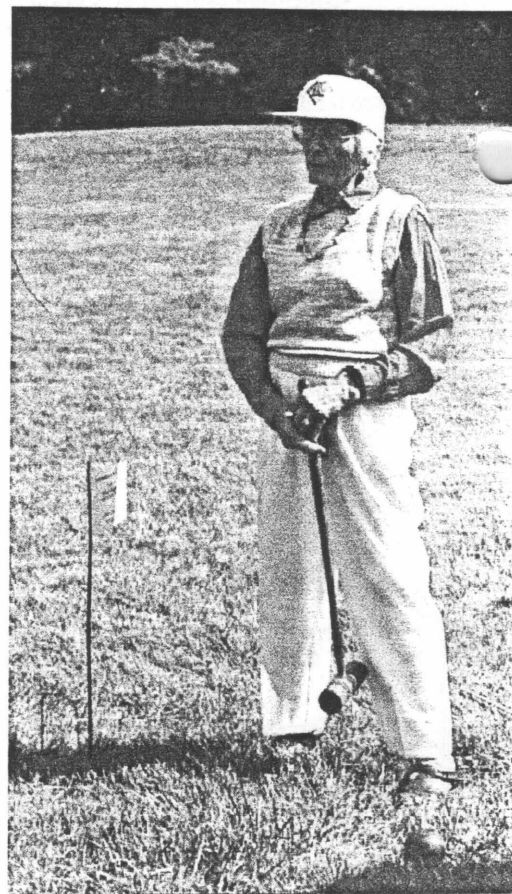
***We Wish to Thank
all our
Wicket Sponsors***

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LD's Pharmacy
Warrensburg Lions Club
Marco Polo's Pizza, Subs, & Pasta
The Merrill-Magee House
Nemec's Sport, Farm & Garden
Center
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The Pillars
Town of Warrensburg
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***Please acknowledge and support
those listed here as they, through
their sponsorship of this event
and the Warrensburg Historical
Society encourage the well being
of our community through efforts
to maintain her
historical integrity.***



*Lydia Langworthy Shipley
a serious contender at the Sticky Wicket
photos courtesy of Caron Akeley*