



John Thurman  
Historical Society

QUARTERLY COMMENTS

Dear Fellow J.T.H.S. Members:-

once again it is a privilege to greet you via the Printed Page and to wish each of you the best the Holiday Season affords!

As far as the J.T.H.S. Quarterly is concerned, may we say at the beginning of our chat that, "Our anticipations are great for 1968!" Of course we will need your help to make this a reality.

Perhaps the knowledge that our Quarterly goes to so different Historical Museum, many different places in New York State, and several different States in the U.S., may spur you on to jog your memory and enable you to write an article to share with others.

We have received many favorable comments concerning past issues and one Museum requested copies of all back issues.

One day while conversing with a relative who has almost reached the Century mark, an Historical article was under discussion when she started reminiscing about people mentioned whom she had known in her earlier life, and many interesting additions were made to the article which might never have been related had her memory not been aroused.

To the best of our ability, we try to be very correct in all we print, but sometimes arguments arise from different sources which make things that much more interesting and a challenge to dig a little deeper to find out for certain from an authentic source the real facts.

Please take note of our Cover on this Month's Quarterly. We are indebted for this appropriate picture to the artistic talents of Mr. Chester Cook. We appreciate his kindness and interest. Thank you Mr. Cook!

The next Quarterly Cover has been done by our Ex-President, Mrs. Joyce Stoddard and we are sure you will look forward to this work of art too. We are indeed fortunate and happy to have such talented people interested in our efforts.

We would like to thank Mrs. Granvel Hack for the interesting excerpts from her Grandmother's Diary and a glimpse of the past. Also to Mrs. Armine Gurney for the very interesting articles she contributes.

Dear Reader, this is your Quarterly. In future years as perhaps your children or grandchildren are perusing these pages, there may be bits of information given by you which will be of great value to them.

Again in closing, Happy New Year! May 1968 be the best year yet. We shall be looking forward to receiving YOUR article in the near future for one of our Pages.

Historically yours,

Mabel M. Tucker



Dear Readers:-

As each year comes to a close, this reader is prone to reminisce a bit about years of the past. So many changes have taken place in the passing of the years that it would be hard to imagine the reactions one of the people of yesteryear if they could get a glimpse of life as it is today.

WE are indebted to Mrs. Granvel Hack for contributing some "Glimpses into the Month of December 1884" as recorded in a diary written by her Grandmother, Mrs. Emora J. Harris. We had some excerpts from this Diary in our December 1965 Quarterly.

Perusing the pages and the thoughts of the writer, we can see reflections of love and happiness and a "togetherness" rarely found in the hustle and bustle of today's busy home life.

Mon., Dec. 1st-

Hals and I cleaned the pantry. Em and my brother James D. Reynolds went to Johnsburgh. Marve Kenyon, John Pelletier and Nellie called here. I am very tired.

Tues., Dec. 2nd-

Em and I did a big wash. Em went to Horace's after his fills. (Mrs. Hack believes this to be Horace Lillibridge). Tom Gallup ate dinner with us. Fred Loveland was here to see us. Mary brought me some buckwheat flour. Em cut sausage meat at night.

Wed., Dec. 3rd-

I prepared my sausage. Libbie Ingraham came to see us. Em made his fills. Hals cut mincemeat. We had a spare rib for dinner; Em made a threshold for the Pantry door. Charles Harris, the Taxidermist, Em's brother came here today.

Thurs., Dec. 4th-

Em cut some hoop poles. George Waddell came here. Em and I went to Church to meeting. Hals went home with Freddie.

Fri., Dec. 5th-

I did my ironing. Then washed windows and pictures. Em cut wood and a load of hoop poles. Hals got a pint of oysters for supper. Em, Hals and San Dow went to Will's to prayer meeting.

Sat., Dec. 6-

I did not do much work because I am most sick. Hals and Em cut wood. Em made shingles. Hals prepared dinner. I fixed Mince Pie ingredients. We received a letter from Em's sister, Helen M. Evans, near Watertown, N. Y.

Sun., Dec. 7th-

Rainy. We all stayed at home. William Henry Kenyon and wife, also Annie Dunlap came here. I had to bake pie and cake as I was not able to do my baking yesterday.

Mon., Dec. 8th-

I did my washing. Halsey churned. Em worked on the road and went down to Holden Kenyon's. Minerva came here. Brought me some Beef. She ground her pepper. I weighed my rolls (wool). Had 6 lbs. 6 oz. sheet and all.

Tues., Dec. 9th-

I baked pies. Repaired Hal's shirt sleeves. Em went over to Henry Hewitt's. Came home about 2 P.M. Made some shingles. He and Hals have gone over to Will Labrum's to Prayer Meeting. I am all alone and very lonesome.

Wed., Dec. 10th-

I did my ironing. Put 3 pockets in Em's pants. Em cut hoop poles on John Baker lot in forenoon. In afternoon made some shingles. Halsey went to school.

Thurs., Dec. 11th-

I worked on Em's pants and did my housework. Em went to Charles Harris' and weighed 1800 of hay for Holden Kenyon to draw to Joe White.

Fri., Dec. 12th-

(Continued on Page 3)

finished Em's pants. Hals and Em cut wood. They killed a porcupine today. In the evening they went to Will Labrum's to meeting. Sarah Dow stayed with me, while the Halls, Em and San Dow went to Prayer meeting.

Sat., Dec. 13

did my Saturday's work. Baked pies and cookies. Em and Hals made some shingles, also cut wood.

Tues., Dec. 16

I went to San Dow's and ate dinner with them. My brother, James D. Reynolds and Em went to Delbert Pasco's and bought calves. Em bought one calf, "Nosey" for three dollars. I went and stayed with Sarah Dow while Em and San went to Em's brothers near Mud Pond, Thurman, N. Y.

Wed., Dec. 19

Belle, Louisa and Charles Harris came to see us; consequently I did not do much only house work. Em made some shingles. I baked bread and boiled some beef. Very cold and windy today.

Sat., Dec. 20

Louisa and Charles Harris went home. Em went to Warrensburgh. I went as far as Jennie Reynolds Kenyon's (Mrs. Clayton Y. Kenyon's, Athol). We came home about 4 o'clock the next morning. Belle and Hals stayed home. Some warmer and pleasant.

Sun., Dec. 22

colored Belle's yarn and my stockings scarlet. Em drew logs out of the woods. Made some shingles. Belle fitted my blue dress. In the evening I twisted four knots of yarn for Belle. She is ill. Rainy and quite warm today.

Wed., Dec. 24

I sewed some on my dress. Em piled some logs. Hals went to school. Belle is ill. I rolled up clothes.

Thurs., Dec. 25

baked pies, then sewed some on my dress. Louisa Harris came through the snow here. Al brought Em and I a basket which he had made. Al stayed all night. Belle worked on my dress. Em drew hay from the new barn.

Sat., Dec. 27

did my Saturday's work. Baked pies. Sewed on my dress. Em cut logs, when he went to San Dow's to cut wood for him. Em carried Louisa a way with the horse toward home, (Mud Pond) Thurman, N. Y. Belle finished my wrapper. I learned to make wheel ric rac.

Sun., Dec. 28

We all stayed at home. Al Britten came here to visit us. Belle and I had some warm sugar most 10 o'clock at night I helped her make and put plaster on.

Mon., Dec. 29

Belle finished packing her trunk. She then fixed a back on my little picture. Em carried Belle and her trunk to the Depot at Athol (Thurman Depot). I straightened up her room. Then hung up my clothes. Em got home at 6 P.M. Bought a barrel of flour.

Tuesday, Dec. 30

did my washing. Sewed some on my calicos. Em and Hals cut logs in the forenoon. Then Em and San skidded logs for Em. Hals straightened up the shed some. Warm and thawing.

Wed., Dec. 31

I sewed some on Hal's pants. Em and Hals cut wood. Em cut logs for San Dow. It is still warm and thus ends this year of 1884.

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Due to limited space some of the entries of this interesting Diary have had to be omitted. It is very interesting to observe the everyday of life as it was and yet to see the happiness and contentment which seemed to be pictured in each entry as each one was concerned with those around him, and tried to help in any way to make life happier.

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## THE POST CARD BUG

One day a fellow customer in one of our local antique shops saw me rummaging around through a boxful of old postcards. Filled with curiosity, she approached and said, "What in the world do you want of old postcards? What do you do with them?" I answered her questions at great length since she seemed interested; then she said, "I have a basket full of cards at home in New Jersey. I've been intending for years to throw them away but now I can hardly wait to look them over." Maybe a new card collector has joined the ranks!

You see, it used to be a great fad to collect postcards in the early 1900's when the card industry was in its infancy. Albums were filled and put on the parlor tables to replace the out-moded family portrait albums of the earlier generation. Before the days of radio and television visitors were entertained by seeing all the latest views of popular scenes about the country. Many collectors had pen pals with whom they exchanged cards either by mailing them separately or enclosing a few in envelopes along with their messages by letter.

Probably the perfection of the first home cameras and later of the movie camera along with the development of colored film lessened the desirability of keeping picture postcards as souvenirs in more recent times. As families moved out or homes were modernized old card albums were relegated to the trash heap. Fortunately some landed in attics or sheds and so, albums have been picked up by antique dealers at auctions, etc. Nowadays, with the changing scene due to super highways, urban renewal, modern transportation, different style of dress, the old cards have taken on a new appeal. To possess a picture postcard used in the year 1906 is to hold in one's hand an actual representation of that era. It "existed" in 1906 and is not a reproduction or a copy of something that belonged to that time. Should the picture portray some building long gone, a bridge since rebuilt, a fountain now removed, a lonely lake shore today lined with motels, its value is enhanced thereby.

Post cards can be of significance not only to an individual for memory's sake but to a society such as our J.T.H.S. for their historic value. They can be reproduced and made into slides for group viewing. Often the messages written on old cards give insight into the daily life of half a century ago. Why not see if you can round up some old cards of our area to donate or lend to this society? If you are fond of visiting antique shops in neighboring counties you might run across some choice views of our own communities that no one else has yet discovered!

Generally, old post cards cost about a dime apiece but with the revival of interest in how things used to look, some cards are priced higher than others. Modes of transportation are in particular demand; collectors often seek pictures of old bridges, old school houses, old luxury hotels, etc, and as the market for them increases so does their price. However, as a hobby, card collecting is inexpensive compared to some others!

--Contributed by Mrs. Armine Gurney.

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## KINSHIP KORNER

Would any of our readers have any knowledge of the Jeremiah and Charlotte Harrington family. Gamaliel Harrington and wife, Sybil Ward Harrington resided in Johnsbury, N. Y. around 1850 or thereabouts. They were connected with Baptist Churches in this area. Anyone having information may contact Mabel M. Tucker who will see that the information reaches the interested persons.

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JOHN THURMAN HISTORICAL SOCIETY, INCORPORATED  
INDEX TO QUARTERLIES - August 1963 THRU December 1967

August 1963

ORGANIZATION OF THE JOHN THURMAN HISTORICAL SOCIETY - The Publications Committee...I CAN REMEMBER - Frank Cameron and Ruth Lanfear...RELICS OF OLD THURMAN - Myra Magee.

November 1963

OLD TIME AMUSEMENTS - Ina Wood Eiklid...CIVIL WAR LETTERS...ANECDOTES: RIDING THE BUBBLE - selected by Ruth Lanfear...PATCH ON THE MOON - selected by James Magee...Account Book circa 1865, selected.

February 1964

BLACKSMITHING - Letha Wadsworth...HIGH SPOTS IN THE TOWN OF THURMAN - Ruth Rolleston.

May 1964

MY RECOLLECTIONS OF AN OLD HOUSE - Kathleen Baker...SPRING IN THE MOUNTAINS - Poem selected by Ruth Rolleston...

September 1964

More on the BLACKSMITHING article - Letha Wadsworth and Mary Kenyon...World War I's THURMAN HEROES - Mabel Tucker and George Burch.

December 1964

CONTENTMENT - Poem selected by Ruth Rolleston...1878 Warrensburg News items.

March 1965

LEST WE FORGET - Ina Wood Eiklid...ROCKIN' CHAIR REMEMBRANCE - M. Tucker...1882 News items.

June 1965

RECEET FOR WASHIN' CLO'ES - selected by Mabel Tucker...A Glimpse INTO THE PAST - Alice Parker...More old newspaper and scrapbook items.

September 1965

AS THE YEARS ROLL BY - 1882, 1907, and 1961 diary entries, selected by Fannie Hack...JAMES LILLIBRIDGE - Beryl Venton...MEMORIES - by James Lillibridge.

December 1965

DECEMBER 1882 - diary excerpts - Fannie Hack...Newspaper and scrapbook items, around 1895.

March 1966

PURPOSES FOR WHICH THE JOHN THURMAN HISTORICAL SOCIETY WAS FORMED - a reprint...RANDOM RECOLLECTIONS - Will S. Hayes...THOUGHTS ON THE IMPORTANCE OF RECORDING RECENT AND CURRENT EVENTS OF THE AREA AS WELL AS THE LONG PAST - James A. Magee, Thurman Town Historian.

June 1966

MORE REMINISCING - Will S. Hayes...CAMPOUT ON DIPPICKILL IN 1882 - Mildred Wells Vaughn.

September 1966

DISTRICT NO.2, THURMAN - Myra Magee...CLOSING DAY EXERCISES AT KENYONTOWN SCHOOL DISTRICT NO.3 (1909), and KENYONTOWN METHODIST CHURCH DEDICATED (1910) - old newspaper items...PERUSING THE PAST and ODDITIES IN THE NEWS - Mabel Tucker, Warrensburg Town



Historian...items selected from old papers (1879).

December 1966

Yuletide buying and bartering in Thurman 1865 and in Johnsbury (1860) - from old account books...Area tanning industry items from an 1885 and 1886 diary.

March 1967

JEANNE ROBERT FOSTER issue...Suggestions for sources of material for articles for the JTHS Quarterlies.

June 1967

TWO TREES - Poem by Arthur P. Sanborn, contributed by Mrs. Mildred Sanborn...CLOSING OF THE GLEN POST OFFICE - From Florence Goodman...PROMINENT PEOPLE OF WARRENSBURG'S PAST - Mabel Tucker, Town Historian, Warrensburg.

September 1967

HILLTOP - Arthur P. Sanborn...Several articles by Armine Gurney - HILLTOP POEMS: WHO WAS SPENCER K. WARD? SOME CLUES: also some of the Spencer K. Ward writings...WARRENSBURG BUSINESS PLACES IN 1866 - Mabel Tucker, W. T. Hist'n...ROAD TO THE PALM BEDS - Ruth Rolleston.

December 1967

GLIMPSSES INTO THE MONTH OF DECEMBER 1884 - diary excerpts - Fannie Hack...THE POSTCARD 'BUG' - Armine Gurney...INDEX TO THE JTHS QUARTERLIES - August 1963 thru December 1967.

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!!! AN ANNOUNCEMENT OF IMPORTANCE !!!

As of June 1967, our society became the JOHN THURMAN HISTORICAL SOCIETY, INCORPORATED.

Very deserving of our appreciation and thanks is the Incorporation Committee, the Board of Directors; and a special thanks to good neighbor, John S. Hall, who contributed advice and all legal services to this project.

Myra Magee, President

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Your copy of the Quarterly can be picked up at any meeting by you or a friend, unless you are on our mailing list.

Back copies are also available, as are single copies of most of the articles. List the issues or single articles desired and notify Mrs. James Magee, Athol, N. Y. 12810.

Please allow time for reprinting, as we might be short of some issues or articles. There will be a charge of 20¢ for articles and the regular charge of 25¢ for Quarterlies.