



Warrensburgh Historical Society Quarterly

Volume 12 Issue 1

Spring 2007

CHARLES R. WOOD FOUNDATION AWARDS GRANT FOR MURAL

We received \$7,000 from the Charles R. Wood Foundation for the restoration of the historic Warrensburgh Mural on the museum building.

We applied for this grant in August, after finding a professional muralist, who provided us with a comprehensive plan for its restoration, at a cost of \$14,000.

Before we can begin, we need to raise the remaining \$7,000. Your support of this worthy project is welcome. Please make your tax-deductible check out to the "Warrensburgh Historical Society – Mural" and send it to P.O. Box 441, Warrensburgh, NY 12885. Gifts of \$500 or more will be permanently recognized with a plaque. All gifts will be publicly recognized, unless requested otherwise.

The mural was designed and painted by the late artist, Eva Cockcroft, in 1976, the U. S. Bicentennial Year. It was funded with a NYS Council for the Arts grant received by the North Country Art Center, then based in Warrensburgh.



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Front Row. L-R; William Ticknor, Herrick Osborne, Howard Hull, Louis Crandall
Back Row. L-R; Loren Hoffman, Arthur Irish, Joseph Anselmo, William Hastings, Edward Frye, Sig Wachter, Frank Bisbee.

EARLY HISTORY OF THE WARRENSBURG FIRE COMPANY

By John Hastings

"It is the last straw that breaks the camel's back. In the case in point, the recent fire in Lewisville represents the straw. During the last 5 or 6 years, Warrensburgh has been visited by several conflagrations. Upon each occasion, in chronicling the event, The News has urged upon the people the necessity of providing some means of protection against the destroying element. These suggestions have hereto been ignored, the citizens of the town thereby signifying their willingness to trust in Providence and a bucket brigade."

"It is to be hoped, however, that a more

satisfactory state of affairs will soon exist. If such is the case, the fire of last Thursday (11-5-1891) night may be considered a blessing in disguise." The following Friday (11-6-1891) morning, L.J. Labrum conceived the idea of organizing a fire company and adopted a plan to achieve these results. The plan proposed to purchase a hand engine, 500-1000 feet of hose and build cisterns at various sites around the town to provide water. Total cost was estimated to be under \$2,000. If a fire company was established, \$400 would be available annually from the state. A state tax of 2% on all fire insurance premiums was paid to fire companies.

The first meeting to organize a fire company was held in Will's Hall on November 11th and was chaired by John

Continued on page 3

President's Letter:

The good news and the "bad" news – That \$7,000 from the Charles R. Wood Foundation (See story on page 1.) for the Warrensburg Mural Restoration means we have to quickly raise another \$7,000 so we can start the project as soon as the weather makes it possible! Help!!!

In other news, when you read this your Board of Directors will have eleven members. The slate proposed by the Nominating Committee: Delbert Chambers, John Hastings, Rosemary Maher, and Peter Wood (all incumbents), plus Paul Gilchrist, Dennis Martinez and Lenore Smith will be in place pending your approval at the Annual Meeting at the Merrill Magee House on February 27. The additional board members will help in accomplishing all we have undertaken. Remember that nothing happens – programs, the Quarterly, the scholarships – without considerable effort on the part of volunteers. Please come forward and volunteer.

A hearty "Thank You" goes out to Jean Hadden for her constant support for these first eleven years of the current Society. (Our Constitution dictates that no individual may serve more than three consecutive terms, a clever device to insure that the board stays in touch with the membership.) Jean's incredible knowledge about Warrensburg has been invaluable and she assures us that she will not go away. She will continue to serve on the Calendar Committee and, hopefully, continue to attend board meetings.

If you are close to any middle or high school students, encourage them to participate in the Historical Society/Glens Falls National Bank-sponsored history contest developed by Rosemary Maher and reading teacher Kelsi Johnson. There are cash prizes!

I'm looking forward to seeing you at our upcoming events. They promise to be especially interesting.

Steve

IN MEMORIAM

We regret to note the passing of long-time Society supporter, Father Michael Abraham, who has been a life member since the original founding date, 1973.

HELP WANTED

Persons interested in helping to organize and preserve the collection in the museum. All skills are useful but training can be provided. Rewards: personal satisfaction and camaraderie with like-minded people. Contact Steve (623-2207) or visit the museum at 3754 Main Street on Wednesday 10-4 pm.

Contributors to this issue:

Delbert Chambers, John Hastings
Rosemary Maher, Charles Wheeler
Peter Wood

Sandi Parisi, Quarterly Editor

New Members

Chris Carlson, Gretchen Conaway,
Mary L. Cooper, Betty Ellsworth,
Filomena Riviello, Donald Robinson,
Barbara Whitford

UPCOMING EVENTS

Wed., March 21. – Artifacts Night.

Join us with your historic treasure for this perennial "show-and-tell" favorite. Senior Center, 3847 Main Street (easy parking and access off Elm Street next to Glens Falls National Bank).

Tue., May 15 – Amy Godine, noted local historian and author, will talk about some of the ethnic groups that helped shape the Warrensburg area. Merrill Magee House. (*This is a "don't miss" program!*)

June – (Date and location to be announced) The Business of Warrensburg. Herb Smith *et al*, will talk about some of the businesses that are part of Warrensburg's 20th century history, among which are Oscar's, Jacobs & Toney, Engle's Department Store, Don's Drive In (now Hometown Skillet) and others.

Sun. Aug. 12 – Sticky Wicket Warrensburg Fish Hatchery – Save the date.

Send comments, corrections, articles, pictures, reminiscences, and letters to:

Sandi Parisi, Quarterly Editor

115 Hickory Hill Rd.

Warrensburg, NY 12885

or sandi@countryroadlodge.com

Board of Directors

Steve Parisi- President
John Hastings – Vice President
Jackie Leonbruno - Treasurer
Rosemary Maher - Secretary
Delbert Chambers, Rita Ferraro
Jean Hadden, Marilyn Hayes
Peter Wood

The Board of Directors meets at the Senior Center, 3847 Main Street, 6:30 PM on the second Tuesday of each month. Society members welcome. Call Steve to confirm at 623-2207.

TOWN HISTORIAN TO FOLLOW SIXTH GRADE TO GRADUATION

Town historian Sandi Parisi has developed a project to introduce genealogy and local history to the current sixth grade. This is the class that will graduate in 2013, the bicentennial year of the founding of Warrensburg.

Students have been encouraged to inquire at home and from other relatives about their ancestry, from wherever they originated. For their first project, sixth grade history teacher Mrs. Baker asked each student to interview a parent or other relative about their family history.

Each child will receive a loose-leaf notebook in which they will add information, photos and drawings, that they will carry through the next six years until graduation. Appropriate genealogical information will become a permanent part of the Town Historian's files.

The next Quarterly Deadline is May 1st

Warrensburg Historical Society Quarterly
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Membership Information

Student \$8.00 Individual \$12.00 Family \$25.00 Senior (62+) \$8.00
Contributing \$50.00 Business \$50.00 Institutional \$100.00
Life (Individual only) \$250

Membership is on a calendar year basis.

If you would like to join and receive the Quarterly by mail, please send check for the amount of the membership classification, with name, address and phone number to:

Warrensburg Historical Society, PO Box 441, Warrensburg, NY 12885.

NOTICE

The recording of history is an interpretive and ever changing study. Therefore, the Warrensburg Historical Society or its Board of Directors or members shall not be held liable for the accuracy or authenticity of the material herein. We welcome and encourage corrections, comments and additional information.

L. Tubbs, with L.J. Labrum as secretary. Three committees were established to (1) look into the cost of fire fighting apparatus; (2) draw up a constitution and by-laws; and (3) circulate subscription papers to see how much could be raised. At the next meeting, a week later (Nov. 18, 1891), the committees reported as follows: Frank Cobb noted that a first class hand engine

would cost \$600, hose would be about \$125 and cisterns would not total over \$200 or that the total cost would be under \$1,000. The subscription committee reported that \$200 had been pledged by private property owners so far. Officers were also elected as follows: Foreman, Frank Cobb; First Assistant, George Foster; Second assistant, G. W. Davison; and Engineer, C.S. Woodward. They agreed to meet the following Wednesday (11-25-1891). At this meeting, the subscription committee reported that only a small sum had been secured since the last report and it was becoming evident that "the citizens of Warrensburg didn't take an interest in this matter as they should." On December 2nd the committee appointed to solicit subscriptions was discharged and a new one consisting of John Tubbs, George Foster and Horace Palmer, was appointed. It was decided that this committee would thoroughly canvas the town over the next two weeks and if, at the end of that time, the sum required was not subscribed, the committee would disband and make no further efforts in the matter.

Apparently they could not get the necessary subscriptions, since a fire company was never formed at that time. It would be another 25 years before anything else would be done. Around 1916 the town elected three fire commissioners and purchased equipment, consisting of two chemical engines and some fire hose. This

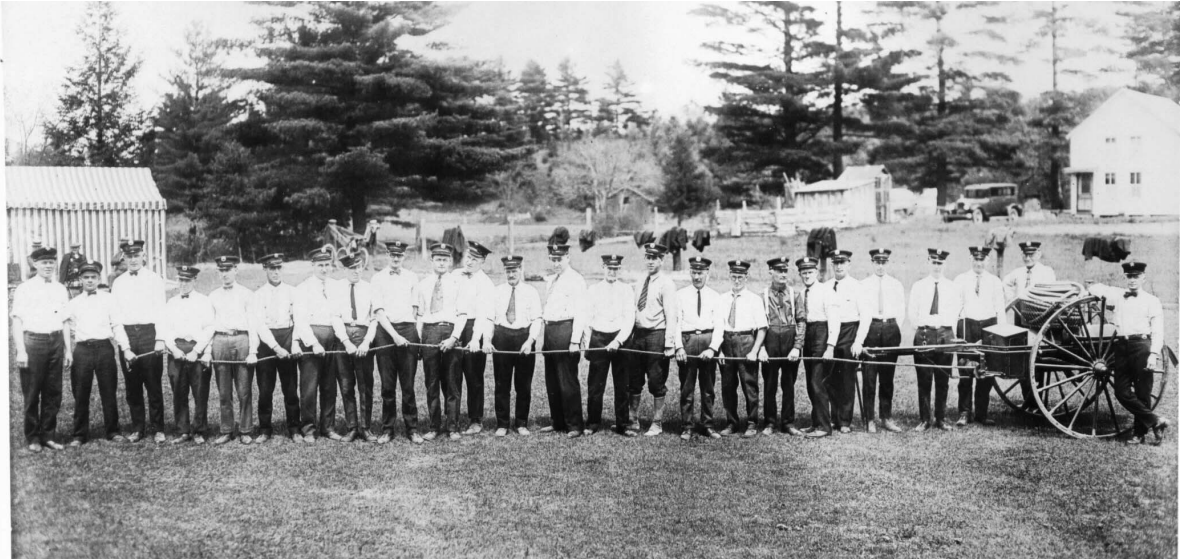


Photo courtesy Warrensburg Museum of Local History

equipment was stored at various locations around the town, one engine being stored at the shirt factory and some hose was kept at the Warren House.

A Citizens Committee appointed by the American Legion under the auspices of the Americanism Committee of American Legion Post 446 held its second meeting on April 15. It was appointed to investigate the improvement needs of Warrensburg, one of which was fire protection. M.L. Livingston, Earl Hitchcock, and Frank Smith were appointed to write a report on the need for fire protection.

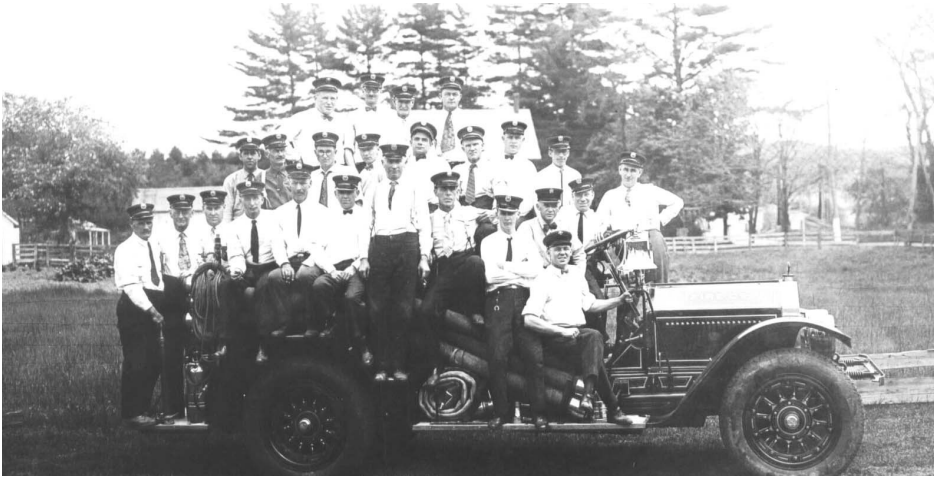
Also, on April 15, 1921 Earl Hitchcock called a meeting to consider the formation of a fire company. Only two other people attended this meeting: Rev. Guy Purdy and (Supervisor) Milton Eldridge. They decided to plan a second meeting to be held a week later at the Church of the Holy Cross. On the morning of the proposed meeting (April 21, 1921), the Warren House was destroyed by fire and demonstrated the complete lack of fire protection in the town. As a result, there was such a large turnout for the meeting that it had to be conducted on the church lawn. At the meeting, 35 men indicated that they were willing to serve in a volunteer fire company and voted to organize.

At a public meeting on May 6, 1921, the Citizen's Committee recommended that a new fire company be organized. The meeting was held at the Music Hall and the Citizen's Committee presented

various reports, of which the fire protection committee made the following recommendations:

- "That there shall be organized in the town a fire company of thirty men who shall elect their own officers and shall have charge of financing the company to provide the necessary equipment.
- That there shall be appointed or elected a chief and assistant chief of the department who shall be known to be competent firemen and who shall have charge of all operations at fires.
- That the town board shall be petitioned to appoint an inspector to make careful inspection of all fire apparatus at least twice a month and who shall be paid by the town for this service.
- That fire caution and prevention shall be taught to the pupils of the Warrensburg High School and that the same shall be given to the residents of the town by lectures and other means."

On June 9, 1921, the town board took action. Town Clerk Charles Wheeler was instructed to secure prices on metal street signs to be placed on all street corners. An inspector for the fire equipment was to be appointed at the next meeting. Seth Reed was appointed chief and William Ticknor assistant chief with the understanding that a fire company of 30 men might be organized at once. Also, the damaged fire hydrant near the Warren House was to be



Warrensburg Fire Co., 1926. Back Row: Lester Love, Hap Osborne, Jay Griffin, Bill Vernum. Middle Row: Charles Brown, Charles Wheeler, Myron Parker, Floyd Rhodes, Len Harrington, Frank Bisbee, Fred Hastings, Art Irish. Front Row: Will Langworthy, George Hitchcock, Will Hastings, Milan Brown, Lou Smith, Sherb Fogg, Mark Webster, Frank Harris, Judson Smith, Bill Ticknor, Frank Farrar, Walter Pasco. Seated: Loren Hoffman. Photo courtesy Warrensburg Museum of Local History

replaced.

On June 21, 1921, the Warrensburg Fire Company became a reality. With Fire Commissioner G. W. Dickenson presiding, fifteen private citizens and the members of the town board constituted the first membership of the Warrensburg Fire Company. These original members were William Ticknor, Arthur Irish, Jay Griffin, Walter Pasco, William Varnum, William Hastings, Charles Brown, Milton Brown, George Hitchcock, M. J. Livingston, Earl Hitchcock, Joseph Hertz, M. L. Runner, William Condon and John Ryan. Earl Hitchcock was appointed secretary and Dr. A. J. Pitcher was elected treasurer. A simple alarm system was devised for the village so that firemen might know the general location of the fire. Above School Street was "Three," from School Street to the river (including Horicon Avenue) was "Five," and Lewisville was "Seven." These numbers were tolled by church bells or factory whistles, at ten second intervals. William Ticknor, William Hastings and William Varnum inspected the equipment and found there was 1,850 feet of hose but a shortage of axes, lanterns, pike poles, etc.

Seth Reed was invited to serve as the first fire chief along with William Condon as assistant. However, Mr. Reed declined and William Condon agreed to temporarily be Fire Chief with William Ticknor as Assistant. Mr. Condon resigned a few months later when he moved out of Warrensburg. Mr. Ticknor

was then elected chief and held that position until 1936. Loren Hoffman was elected Assistant Chief on October 4, 1924 and also held this position until 1936.

When the company was formed, the equipment consisted of two hose carts with about 400 feet of hose and two hand drawn chemical engines. Nine fire hydrants were located around the town, but had a limited supply of water.

At this time, there was a Fire Commission composed of G.W. Dickenson, Andrew Magee, Philip Rice and Dr. A. J. Pitcher, treasurer. However, their terms had long since expired. Mr. Dickenson and Mr. Pitcher agreed to continue until their successors could be appointed. This happened on January 10, 1922 with the election of Rev. Guy Purdy, Delbert Pasco and Thomas Smith as commissioners. Fred Hayes was named treasurer. Later, a new town law was passed and five commissioners were named to replace the commission of three. These five were Berry Woodward, Thomas Smith, Milton Brown, D.E. Cameron and Sig Wachter.

In 1922, the company rented a barn in the rear of the Fairyland Theatre which they eventually purchased. Next they purchased a Ford chassis on which they installed a chemical tank and a hose body. The tank was taken from one of the old hand drawn carts owned by the district. Once the truck was completed,

members started work on rebuilding their headquarters.

Two years later, the voters of the town agreed to purchase a modern up-to-date piece of equipment in the form of a LaFrance pumper. It was observed that the first year after the pumper was purchased it saved its own cost in keeping the Woolen Mill from being burned when a forest fire passed along the Schroon River from Library Avenue to Echo Lake.

The next movement was to purchase and enlarge the water works. It was felt that this, coupled with an up-to-date fire company and good water equipment, would substantially reduce insurance rates for the district. This was accomplished in October of 1929 when the board of fire underwriters gave the district a rating of Class B and BB which resulted in lower insurance rates.

On February 6, 1934, a special election was held asking the district to vote \$6,000 to build a new firehouse on the lower Elm Street property previously purchased by the company from the Burhans. The bond was issued to pay part of the cost, while a grant from T.E. R.A. (Temporary Emergency Relief Administration of NYS) was to pay the rest. Six months later the equipment was moved from the old firehouse to the new quarters.

On April 3, 1936 Chief William Ticknor called his last meeting to order. Fifteen year service awards were given to Firemen Hoffman, Irish, Varnum, W. Hastings, Love, L. Smith, C.T. Brown, Rhodes, Hitchcock, Osborne and Chief Ticknor. At the time of his retirement, Chief Ticknor had answered 292 fire calls.

Herrick Osborne was elected chief after William Ticknor retired. Howard Hull was elected assistant chief. After several years of service Mr. Osborne retired as a result of business pressures. Mr. Hull was elected to succeed him. The following year (1940), Mr. Hull was elected to a full term with William Hastings as assistant chief.

Some of the important early fires which took place in Warrensburg are as follows:

- July 12, 1923: The Frank Smith storehouse containing two carloads of buckwheat flour burned and the firemen wore pancakes on their feet after the flour became soaked.
- May 13, 1925: A fierce 40 acre forest fire threatening the Woolen Mill on one side and the Fairgrounds on the other side, proved the value of the new pump.
- September 19, 1926: The first big fire downtown resulted in the loss of \$100,000 and 9 buildings due to a lack of water from hydrants. It was rumored that the cause of the fire was the explosion of a "still," as this was during prohibition.
- October 24, 1926: The Aw Kum On Inn burned under suspicious circumstances.
- February 9, 1927: Second big fire downtown (Crandall Block) causing a loss of \$200,000 in 7 stores and 7 apartments within a half hour. Several members made speed records driving back from a basketball game in Corinth. (Note: See Warrensburg Historical Society Quarterly Volume 9 Issue 4, Winter 2004-5)
- August 22, 1929: Warren Inn fire stopped before the building was destroyed.
- May 30, 1930: Fire in the Toney-Jacobs and Goldsmith blocks at the north end of the village, burned out the upper floors. Because the power in the town was turned off for repairs, the siren could not be used. Firemen were summoned using telephone operators.
- June 22, 1931: The Company fought its first fire in which there was a loss of life when the home of Frank Smith burned. He was overcome and was found on the porch trying to make his escape.
- December 29, 1935: Fire at Hastings & Ovitt Garage.
- July 21, 1939: A fire on top of Hackensack Mountain was the most exciting of frequent grass fires due to dry weather.
- December 27, 1939: The Duell Garage fire which featured the narrow escape of the family of Karl Duell who resided in the apartment

overhead.

- December 27, 1950: The Music Hall Block fire which started in the basement of Eric's Market. It was 20 degrees below zero and several firemen's ears froze.

Sources were articles in the Warrensburg News and Post Star.

WATCH FUTURE ISSUES FOR ARTICLES ON SPECIFIC FIRES.



SAMUEL MOSES, PATRIOT AND PRANKSTER

By Rosemary Maher

Warrensburg has been home over time to many interesting characters. Not the least of these was Samuel B. Moses.

Moses, born in August, 1844, moved here as a baby with his parents. Not much is known about his early years but at 17 in November, 1861 he enlisted in Company I, Ninety-Sixth N.Y. Vols., where he served until January, 1865. He participated in battles of Williamsburg, Fair Oaks, White Oak Swamp, Melvern Hill, Fort Harrison, Cold Harbor, Kingston, White Hall, and Goldsboro. He earned the title of Captain as commander of an independent company which flourished here for some years after the war. Captain Moses was the proprietor of a cabinet shop at the corner of River Street and Alden Avenue. He made excellent pieces of furniture and designed caskets with the workmanship of an artist. A popular figure in Warrensburg, he also designed floats for Fourth of July parades and other activities. He was said to have been a genius at building things and had even designed a steam engine. Engineers who came to view it urged him to apply for a patent, but he failed to do so and took the steam engine apart to build something else.

His sense of humor was a bit unusual and it is said that once he ran home to tell his wife that he had shot a man at a local bar and he was running away to hide in the woods. He quickly packed and ran off. She organized some people to search for him and he was found under a tree on his own property peacefully sleeping. Another time he

came and told her he was going to kill himself. He went off to the chicken house and she heard a shot. When she ran out he was laying on the floor with his gun next to him. She called for help and as some neighbors arrived he jumped up and laughed.

He married Miss Pliney/Pauline Bennett (1849-1912) of Warrensburg on August 16, 1865 and although they had two children both died in infancy. His wife suffered from depression during their life together and on one occasion is said to have shot herself in the head with a 22 caliber revolver but survived the injuries. About two months before her death she stopped eating and was unable to tolerate any food. Even weakened, she walked to his shop every day to watch him work. The few weeks before her death he carried her there. Finally she was unable to make the trip and died three days later.



Capt. Samuel B. Moses

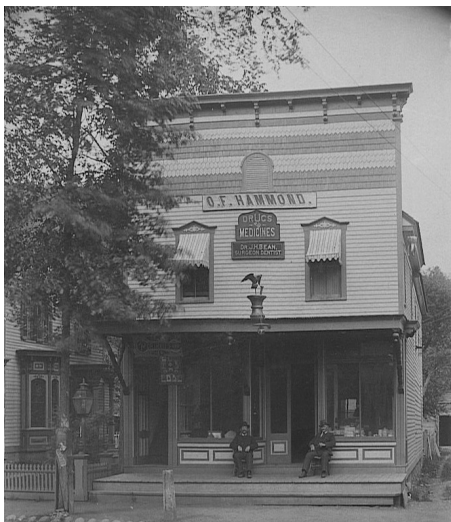
Samuel continued living in his home alone and was seen shopping the day of his death. He was planning a Thanksgiving dinner for some friends. The preparations were on the table when his body was discovered. Dr. J. M. Griffin said he had died of apoplexy on Wednesday evening, Nov. 24, 1915 between the hours of 9 and 10 P. M. He was 72 years old.



CURES FOR WHAT AILS YOU – 100 YEARS AGO

By Peter Wood

*This information was taken from the Warrens-
burgh News published in winter issues 1907.*



O.F. Hammond Drug Store. Owned by Oscar Frederick Hammond, father of Benjamin..

The B.F. [Benjamin F.] Hammond Drug store has a wonderful collection of cures for various ailments available. A weak woman is never attractive, not even to herself. Electric Bitters restores a weak woman, gives strong nerves, bright eyes, smooth velvety skin and beautiful skin. Guaranteed by B.F. Hammond. Cost 50 cents.

For years, Dr. Shoop has fought against the use of opium, chloroform or other unsafe ingredients commonly found in cough remedies. Dr. Shoop has welcomed the Pure Food and Drug law recently enacted, for he has worked along similar lines for many years. He has thus made it possible for mothers to protect their children by simply insisting on having Dr. Shoop's Cough Cure. Dr. Shoop also has a "Magic Ointment" for piles.

One of the days we remember with pleasure, as well as profit to our health, is the one on which we became acquainted with Dr. King's New Life Pills, the painless purifiers that cure headaches and biliousness for 25 cents.

I have tried everything for my baby, until Dr. Lyle recommended Cascasweet. I can truthfully say it is the best medicine I ever used for babies. Our baby was a mere skeleton from stomach trouble, but now is entirely well and we can almost see her grow.

When cold winds dry and crack the skin, a box of salve can save much discomfort. In buying the salve look for the name on the box to avoid any imitations, and be sure you get the original – DeWitt's Witch Hazel Salve.

An aged physician gives the following advice. "If you have anything to do with medicines at all be pretty sure you know what you are taking." Our local druggist, B.F. Hammond, says this is a strong point in favor of their valuable cod liver preparation, Vinol. Everything it contains is plainly printed on the label; therefore it is not a patent medicine. Vinol contains in a highly concentrated form of all the medicinal elements of cod liver oil, actually taken from fresh cod's livers, but with the useless, nauseating oil eliminated and tonic iron, which is a needful constituent for the blood, added. This is the reason that Vinol accomplishes such wonderful results in curing chronic coughs, colds, bronchial and lung troubles, and there is nothing known to medicine that will so quickly build up the rundown, overworked, tired and debilitated, or give strength and renewed vitality to the aged, as Vinol. We can only ask every person in Warrensburgh who needs such a medicine to try Vinol on our offer to return their money if it fails. B.F. Hammond, druggist.

I appeal to all person's with weak lungs to take "Dr. King's New Discovery." It saves more lives than all other throat and lung remedies put together. Used as a cough and cold cure the world over. It



Frederick O. "Barney" Hammond, brother of Benjamin Photo courtesy Richards Library

cures asthma, bronchitis, croup, whooping cough, quinsy, hoarseness and phthisis, stops hemorrhages of the lungs and builds them up. Guaranteed by B.F. Hammond. Cost \$.50 and \$1.00 – trial bottle free.

To feel strong, have a good appetite and digestion, sleep soundly and enjoy life, use Burdock Blood Bitters, the great system tonic and builder.

"Preventics" will promptly check a cold or the grippe when taken early on at the "sneeze stage". "Preventic" cures seated colds as well. "Preventics" are little candy cold cure tablets and Dr. Shoop, of Wisconsin, will gladly mail you samples. The samples prove their merit. Check early colds With "Preventics" and stop pneumonia. Sold in \$.05 and \$.10 boxes by B.F. Hammond.

When you need a pill, take a pill, and be sure it's an Early Riser. DeWitt's Little Early Risers are safe, sure, satisfactory pills. The pills with a reputation. They do not gripe or sicken. They are sold at B.F. Hammond.

"Out of sight, out of mind," is an old saying which applies with special force to a sore, burn or wound that's been treated with "Bucklen's Arnica Salve." It's out of sight, out of mind, and out of existence. Piles too and chilblains disappear under its healing influences. Guaranteed by B.F. Hammond.

The children like it – Kennedy's Laxative Cough Syrup – one minute cough cure for coughs, colds and croup.

For children – to succeed these days you must have plenty of grit, courage and strength. How is it with the children? Do not forget Ayer's Sarsaparilla. You know it makes the blood pure and rich and builds up the general health in every way.

Accidents will happen, but the best regulated families keep Dr. Thomas' Eclectic Oil for such emergencies. It subdues the pain and heals the hurts.

[Ed. Note: Through census records I found that Benjamin ran a drug store. I assume he took over after his father's death. After Benjamin's death, his wife Fanny continued running it. The census records also showed Barney working as a clerk in his father's store. In the 1920 census he is listed as a cigar salesman.]



ARCHITECTURE OF A SMALL TOWN

Photographs by Delbert Chambers

GABLES AND PEDIMENTS



91 River Street



3831 Main Street



64 Hudson Street



63 Hudson Street



3839 Main Street



36 Hudson Street



54 Elm Street



40 Elm Street



King Street & Mountain Avenue



2 Stewart Farrar Street



7 Mountain Avenue



19 Elm Street



3802 Main Street



4 Stewart Farrar Street



66 Elm Street

There are many more interesting examples so again, "Look Up."

1956-1970

F. K. Wheeler, Warrensburg Negative File "Guess Who"

Call Sandi at 623-2207 with your answers or e-mail sandi@countryroadlodge.com



13. _____



14. _____



15. _____

The photos in the last Quarterly were:

10. Mary Clayfield, 11. Peter Raymond Keyes., 12. Ralph Pasco

Letter to the Editor – Reminiscences of Grace Merrill Magee

Another great story in the Quarterly, the [Grace] Merrill Magee story. What a great looking person she was. Tall and erect even in her old age. I used to see her walking by the house about 30 years ago on a nice summer day. Neatly dressed but wore sneakers for comfort, no slave to style. She crossed the street into the Chalet Swiss where Willy had lunch for her and a talk with Hilda, maybe a drink.

She took tea in the finest houses and castles in England, no doubt. They were very prominent people. Dined with royalty and with her dear friend Tsar Nickolas? The Tsar and Tsarina were very careful who they dined with, usually royalty and nobility.

Her father, Dr. Merrill, was a very prominent and wealthy physician. They (Tsar and Tsarina) were very concerned about their son and only heir. He was a hemophiliac, and could bleed to death from a very slight wound. Without an heir they would be in a precarious predicament. Perhaps her father was treating him. That would certainly be an access. After all a most detestable sorcerer and hypnotist, a monk [Rasputin] was treating him with some success, and he more or less controlled the family. Any way, this probably came out of the old Warrensburg News files and who could deny print? An interesting thought.

The auction [of the Grace Magee property] held on premises in town was a great affair, but the greatest treasures were auctioned in New York City and there were many of them. The Packard was on site, so it was auctioned here. I saw it when she was alive, and sat directly in front of it at the auction. Phil Roberts, so his wife Ethel told me, was Mrs. Magee's chauffeur and caretaker when he first came to Warrensburg.

The story about the car was making a choice between a Cadillac and a Packard. They liked the upholstery in the Packard, but the paint on the Cadillac. So, they had the paint changed to a cream color and bought the Packard. This may account for the black color. I know it was a light color cream.

A large document was auctioned, the Charter of the Sons of Liberty of Albany, signed by 90 patriots and prominent men of Albany in 1764. This is the genesis of the Revolutionary War. We bought it for \$300. There was also a New York City Charter bought by Walt Kennedy.

We traded ours for a powder horn of the French and Indian War. It was dated 1759 at Lake George and signed by the famous scrimshaw artist Gay, a map horn of New York Mohawk Valley, of the finest scrimshaw we have ever seen. Later it brought several thousand dollars.

Also, the discharge of Ensign Stephen Griffing from his service in the Revolutionary War sold for \$12.00! No one in Warrensburg wanted it so eventually it sold at a very good price. It was signed by Governor Clinton. Stephen Griffing was Mrs. Magee's great

grandfather.

If you can use any of this or wish to keep it you are welcome, else drop in the waste basket. I had the pleasure of ruminating. To the success of the Society,
Ed and Pearl Kreinheider.

[Who could or would drop such a wonderful recollection and letter in the basket?]



BERT MURRAY DVD

A limited number still available. One hour of 16 mm footage shot between 1927 and 1931 by Warren County's first highway superintendent \$5.00/\$6.50 with postage. Contact the Society by mail or at 623-2207.

CORRECTION



The article in the last issue of the Quarterly (Winter 2006) about the washout on Route 418 was taken from a news article from May 3, 1939, not December 1943, as stated. The original photo provided by Lenore Smith was credited to the late Warrensburg photographer, Earl Austin. The erroneous date was extrapolated from another article pasted on the same page of an old scrapbook. That article was about a meeting between FDR and Eisenhower in Sicily, which an internet search found to be in December 1943. That scrapbook was obviously not well organized. Another scrapbook we discovered not only included specific dates but also subsequent articles about the problem.

This demonstrates a number of truths:

1. You can't always believe what you read;
2. Newspaper scrapbooks are a great way to preserve historical events;
3. You should always date every clipping in your scrapbook; and
4. Historical research is challenging (but great fun!). – Editor.