



Warrensburgh Historical Society Quarterly

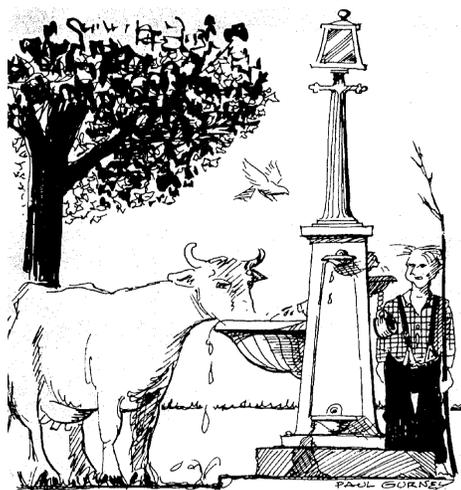
Volume 5 Issue 2

Summer 2000

Randolph McNutt

Author Unknown

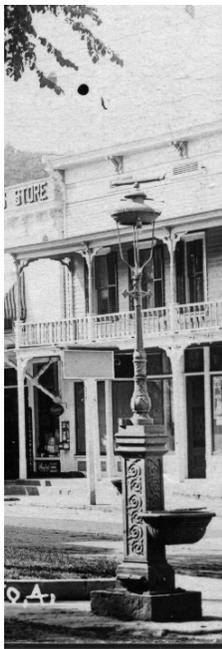
Randolph McNutt was born in Warrensburgh on May 31, 1851. His parents were Hiram and Rebecca McNutt whose home was on Main Street, the former dwelling of Miss



Helen Somerville.

Both Randolph and his older brother, Hiram E., attended the Warrensburgh Academy and graduated from Dartmouth College. Hiram became a doctor and practiced medicine in South Dakota while Randolph studied law at Albany Law School and had a legal practice in Warrensburgh for a time. He was School Commissioner of Warren County during the period from 1877 to 1880. He left Warrensburgh in 1880, married Evelyn Merrithew of Hudson Falls, settled in Buffalo, NY in 1884 to establish a school furniture company. Here he bought the Hotel Markeen, conducted it for many years, making

it a home for his wife and later for his widowed mother. Through the years he revisited Warrensburgh frequently, sometimes joined by his brother to renew old friendships here. He kept track of doings back home through the columns of the Warrensburgh News and showed his affection for his old home town by bestowing many useful gifts for public use. Some of these gifts were: in the 1890's, pulpit furniture to the Presbyterian church; in 1900, a new flag to commemorate the opening of the new stone schoolhouse on the site of the old Academy; in 1914, a map of Europe to the Richards Library; in 1915, \$100 to the Library to augment a fund for purchasing books to replace those lost in the fire of 1914.



Picture from postcard, courtesy of Caron Akeley Collection

But the best remembered of all his gifts was the cast iron fountain for man and beast which stood in the town square from the late 1880's to the early 1930's when it was displaced to allow paving over the little triangular park in front of the old Stone Block.

Fortunately it was not immediately

junked but was stored in the old barn on the recreation field, so that when Miss Kathleen Goodman heard rumors of plans to scrap the fountain she arranged to have it moved from the barn to her back lawn on Hudson Street where it is to this day!

Randolph McNutt died in 1927 in Buffalo where he and his wife are buried. Our townspeople were saddened by the loss of such a good friend to the community.

Diary of Grace Noyes

(18 January 1825 - 5 January 1881)



Transcribed by Sarah Farrar exactly as Grace wrote it, spelling, punctuation, etc. The notes in parenthesis are Sarah's notes, explaining who and what

Continued - Page 6

From the President

I was very glad to see so many people at the "Ethnic Enclave" presentation by Amy Godine, at Richards Library on April 18th. John Cleveland did a wonderful job of setting up the event with snacks and coffee. I would like to thank Teresa Whalen for her efforts in securing Amy Godine for the Society. A speaker, like Ms. Godine, brings to light some of the basic ideas behind an Historical Society. She made mention of some folks from Warrensburgh and was able to show some of our history, through the immigration and travel in our area.

May 29th is Memorial Day, the day we as a people say thank you to the men and women of the armed forces. I hope to see some of you folks there, I always look forward to this event, somehow I never seem to have the right words, but I think by being there I can somehow convey to our veterans, a thank you.

Happy Spring...

Tony Fidd
E-mail - AMF@capital.net

SOCIETY NEEDS:

20-30 cup stainless steel
coffee maker

2 Coffee thermoses

Board of Directors

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Quarterly - Sandi Parisi

Contributors to this issue:

Caron Akeley
(Owner - Cleverdale Antiques)
Sarah Farrar
(Librarian - Richard's Library)
Jean Hadden
(Director - Warrensburgh Museum)
Steve Parisi
(Hickory Hill Road Resident)

Sandi Parisi,
Quarterly Editor

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 not be held liable for the accuracy or authenticity of the material herein

Calendar of Events

Board of Directors Meetings

7:00 PM

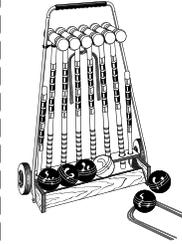
Tues., July 6, 2000

Tues., Aug 1, 2000

Tues., Sept. 5, 2000

August 27

**Sticky Wicket
Picnic & Croquet
Tournament
12 Noon - ?
Fish Hatchery
Warrensburgh**



*Warren County
Historical Society - Heritage Cruise -
Oct. 1*

New Members

Joe Ferrone
Jeanette Parisi Maass
Johnsburgh Historical Society
Jane Combs
Marilyn M. Hayes

**We welcome comments,
corrections, articles, pictures,
reminiscences, and
letters to the editor**

Send submissions to :

Warrensburgh
Historical Society
Post Office Box 441
Warrensburgh, NY 12885
or e-mail
Parisibb@netheaven.com

Quarterly Deadlines

February 1

May 1

August 1

November 1

Warrensburgh Historical Society
Quarterly
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Antique Soup

By Caron Akeley

Blue and White Stoneware

Blue and white stoneware was an inexpensive utilitarian type of ware produced from the late 1800's into the early 1900's. It was made for



constant hard use and was a part of every home. These were the days before we took for granted the use of glass and tin for food storage and many foodstuffs were either produced at home or bought in bulk quantities and needed places to be stored. These were also the days before widespread refrigeration.

This type of household stoneware was made in molds rather than thrown as the plain and decorated salt glazed stoneware crocks and jugs we see and collect. The most prominent color glaze is blue. Blue, cobalt, was able to stand up to the high firing temperatures needed for these tough, functional pieces plus it was as desirable a color to the housewives of yesteryear as it is to today's collectors. The white on these pieces, actually a grayish white, is the color of the clay from which the piece is made showing through the glaze. Most were decorated with patterns molded right into the stoneware. These patterns ranged from birds and butterflies, to fruits and

berries, to flowers, chains, basket-weaves plus many more.

The glazes and high firing temperatures made for a product that held up well and was unbeatable at the time for storage. It was impervious to leakage and "guaranteed" to keep food fresher, longer, without altering the taste.

Some of the blue and white pieces we encounter today are butter crocks, with and without lids, salt crocks, oft times with wooden lids, mixing bowls, icewater coolers with spigots, vessels for vinegar and cider, along with coffee and tea pots, mugs and pitchers of various sizes.

Good Old Days

By Jean Hadden

Stay Away From Me!

I often wonder why I am so tired when bed time rolls around. I live in a modern world full of labor saving devices. I don't have to get up at the crack of dawn to make bread, I have no cow or chickens to feed, I don't even own a butter churn. I have no horse to hitch up when I want to go into town, I just turn the key in my little red buggy. I very seldom (if I can help it) get my flat iron out and when I do I don't have to heat it up on a wood stove. When I am cold I don't have to carry wood or coal, I just push a button. I push computer buttons, telephone buttons, microwave buttons. I have all these mechanical slaves ready to serve me, but when nightfall approaches, ... I am tired. How did Grandma Hadden

ever do it?

My mother-in-law, Ida Mae Robinson came to Warrensburgh from Massena in 1903 to work in the Woolen Mill on Milton Ave. She did work there and later on at the Shirt Factory for fifty years. during the great depression she received about eight dollars for a 48 hour week. She married Edward Hadden and by working hard they did well. They owned a home on Ridge Street and later another one on Newton Street.

I have a 1902 copy of an advertisement for the "Burdick Street Development Plans" that says "\$2 a week buys a nice home - 8 rooms with running water. Plenty of room. \$1,200 is our highest price." (see next page)

Grandma was 94 years old when she died in 1973 and she never did get used to prosperity. I will always remember the time she stalked out of the Blue Mountain Lake Museum and said to me, "I have been looking at that old stuff all my life and I don't need to see any more of it." When she got older she never stopped working. She made quilts and her grandchildren loved her donuts. If you dropped one of them on your toe, it would probably break it but they had a special taste all of their own. I think that her secret was aged lard, an ingredient seldom used by the modern housewife any more.

She also made her own soap. It was hard, yellow stuff that resembled the "Fels Naptha" sold in the stores that my mother used to shave with a knife to melt down to put in her washing machine. I was only a little girl but I can remember the big pots of water boiling on the stove ready to be poured in the wringer washer.

In an 1899 issue of the Warrensburgh News I came across a receipt for home made soap. I quote... "Procure a half pound tin of

98 per cent caustic soda (which may be obtained from a grocer) which will cost about 12 cents, and put it in a large basin or other earthenware vessel containing one quart of cold water. By stirring it will get very hot. Let it stand until cool. this is called "soda lye." In a larger earthenware vessel melt three pounds of any kind of fat without salt, and for this purpose save all refuse fat or grease of any kind from the table,

melted and the pure fat strained off. Allow it to cool until it just begins to set, and then pour the soda lye into it in a continuous stream, stirring until it becomes like honey. Then pour the mixture into a wooden box capable of holding six pounds of soap. the box should previously be lined with a piece of damp calico. cover it up well with a piece of old blanket and let it stand until next day in a cool place to set. You

will then have six pounds of soap at about the cost of 12 cents for caustic soda plus the price of fat, which has the advantage of bleaching calico without injuring the fabric."

I am sure that the past would be a great place to visit, but if H.G. Wells came along with his time machine and offered me a ride, I think that I would pass it up because I would be afraid of being stuck there and not being able to get back. I would hate to give up my button pushing world in the twenty-first century.

Copy of Map 9/18/1902 BURDICK STREET DEVELOPMENT
(Article from Warrensburg News 11/06/1902 Burdick Street Boom)

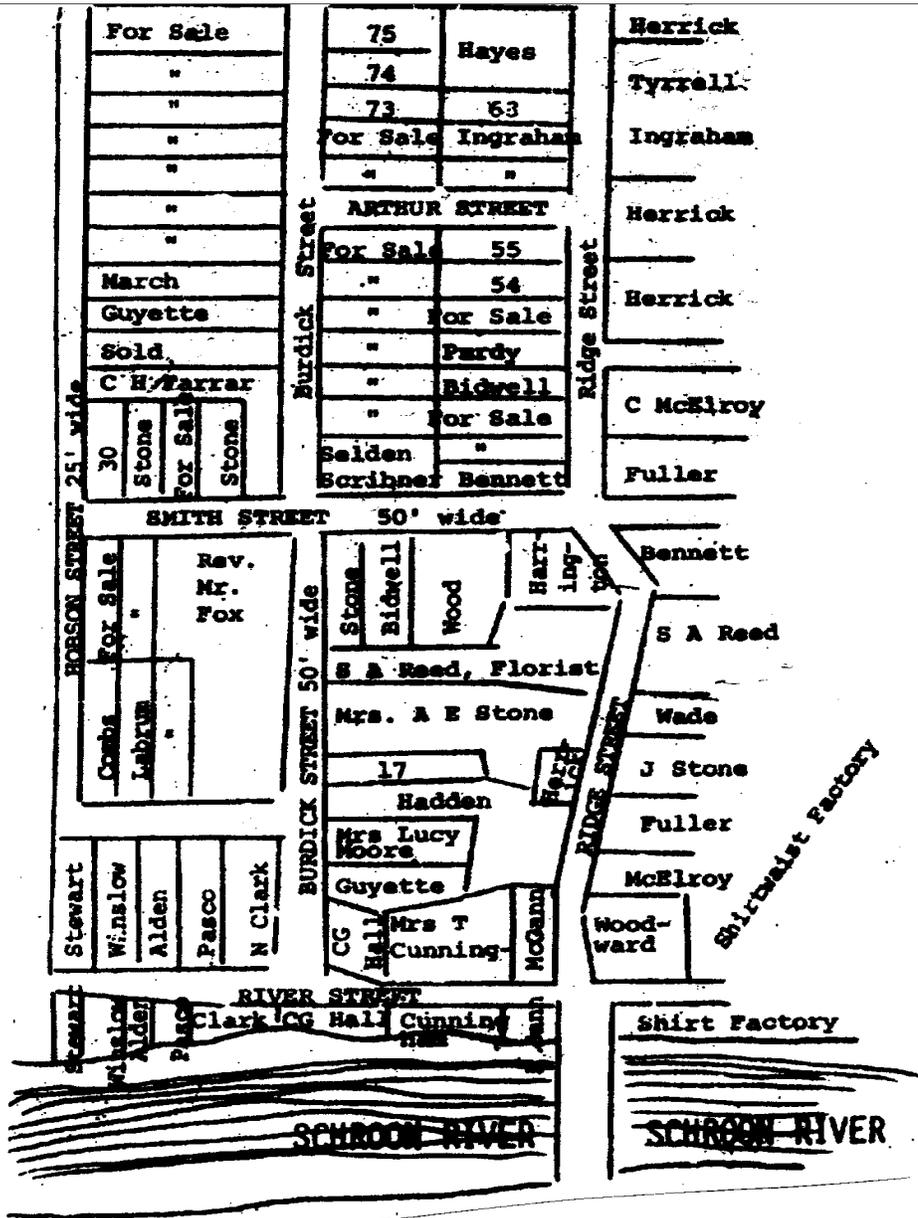
Further Recollections of Katts Corners Road

Steve Parisi

Not long before our November 1946 move into the former Daggett farm near the end of Katts Corners Road (apologies for my incorrect spelling in the previous newsletter), a noticeable change had taken place. This was due to the construction in 1940 of the new Thurman bridge and the relocation of Route 418 to make a safer approach.

The old road hugged the river's edge, and resulted in a sharp right hand turn going over the old bridge. (You can still visit this remnant of the old road on the left immediately before crossing the bridge to Thurman.) This worked in horse-and-buggy days but certainly not for cars. The sweeping curve Thurmanites now barely slow down for was cut through the sand bank on properties owned by Rexford Stone Sr. and Charles Hovey. Katts Corners Road was shortened by about 100 feet. The Swinton's house, the former tavern at the original Katts Corners, now faced away from Route 418.

Rex and Mary Stone's property, adjacent to Katts Corners, was sizable. At that time it contained an old farmhouse, several outbuildings, and two small cottages at opposite sides of a natural, deep lake. Rex Jr. once told me he had tried to find the bottom



Honorable James Sweeney, Contractor-Builder
Fred Cunningham, Owner

but could not. Also, there was a sawmill which Rex operated from time to time. It was located between the old and new State Route 418. I believe it was in the early sixties that then widowed Mary Stone sold the property to the late Jack Arehart, who developed it into Sit'n Bull Ranch Resort. Charlotte Swinton, now widowed, also sold to Arehart, and her historic old home gave way to a new horse barn for the ranch.

Heading down Katts Corners Road, the first thing you noticed, on the left, was a small man-made pond, with a big rock in the middle. On the right lived Charlie Hovey and his wife, in what I believe was a newly constructed "prefab" which may have been bought out of a Sears Roebuck catalog. They kept chickens and a cow and, like my mother two years later, Mrs. Hovey would have to go out and restake the cow when it started mooing for fresh grass. Both the Hoveys and the Stones were very good neighbors to this humble new family, and "city girl," that moved into the neighborhood to "work" the Daggett farm.

Several years after we moved there, the Hoveys sold their property to a Yugoslav couple named Katusich and bought a housekeeping cottage colony on the Luzerne Road south of Lake George. Ivan Katusich worked for a time at the government sponsored Voice of America, and commuted on the D & H from Thurman Station. Subsequently, the Katusichs developed a brief arrangement with Oscar's Smoke House, and built a smokehouse and walk-in. Following that they operated a modest restaurant serving European cuisine. In the early seventies present owners Ed and Marie Brown also ran a restaurant there, popular with locals and tourists alike, known as LBJ Barbecue.

Further down Katts Corners Road, the next property was a very old plank & beam farmhouse owned by a retired seaman, now antique dealer,

named Leon Rogell. This was once owned by a family named Bennett, and may be one of the oldest houses left in Warrensburg. I remember Mr.



Rogell as a somewhat reclusive, aloof man who went away for the winter. Ironically, he came from an area of Brooklyn just three blocks from where my mother grew up. Not surprising, he developed a fast friendship with my mother and stepfather, and used to regale us with funny anecdotes of his experiences in the area.

Opposite his house the road "teed" to the left, going up the mountain past another farmhouse owned by a "city" family named Walsh, and on up along a tumbling brook between two of the famed "Three Sisters" mountains. My parents bought some

old furniture from the Walshes just before they sold their property to two entrepreneurial couples named Win-

bauer and Bates. The winter of '47-'48 Ski Hickory Hill was born! (It was years later that the town decided to rename the road, Hickory Hill Road.)

The main branch of Katts Corners Road continued through a tall pine wood, emerging in a small clearing. On the right was an old cellar hole of what had been a small farmhouse. Raymond Stone was born in that farmhouse and still owned the property. Ray managed the Warrensburg Fish Hatchery before his retirement in the sixties. His wife, Pearl, worked at the Richards Library for many years. The cellar hole, with its small cement stoop, an old crabapple tree, lilac bushes and day lilies, is still there, but with several substantial trees growing out of it. "Slim" (Mott) Waddell, our good friend from Stony Creek, was also born in that house. His mother, Venilia, was Ray Stone's sister.

Continuing along, the road crossed the Warrensburg railroad spur, passed through the Daggett farm property with the remains of the greenhouse on the left and the "new" (in 1905) home/guest house. The road continued past the remains



1947 view of Daggett house and railroad bridge, both built in 1905

of the barn and chicken coop, skirting the left bank of the Hudson River, to a tiny shingled cottage at the end of the road. Here lived a middle aged couple by the name of Riley. He was a logger and a storyteller. Many a winter evening was spent at their house or ours playing Chinese checkers. He would entertain us all with his stories and got my sister and I giggling by wiggling his ears. That was a time when entertainment, like chocolate or ice cream, came infrequently and in small doses.

That shingled cottage, then owned by the locally renowned Earl Woodward, had been built in 1929 by Charles Brown. It was his escape from the activity of the milltown that was Warrensburg. (He lived on the corner of Ridge & Smith streets, presumably on the lot designated as Harrington, since that was his wife's maiden name.) An old photograph in the Warrensburg Museum of Local History, taken before the 1905 railroad bridge, depicts an earlier farmhouse and barns on the same site.

It was this tiny "camp" that was bought by my mother in 1967 when the Daggett house burned. Over the years I have enlarged it and it is now the building in which my wife and I live and operate our bed & breakfast, at the end of a country road. But that's another story.

Most of the above is as I recollect it but I would welcome corrections or additions from anyone who may remember better than I. Send your comments to the Quarterly Editor.

Grace Noyes
(continued from Page 1)

Grace was talking about. (Thank you Sarah.) The year of entry was omitted to save space – Ed.

Grace Noyes born in Connecticut. Moved to Warrensburg. Admitted to

communion of First Presbyterian church of Warrensburg 4 April 1840 with Mr. Carlos Morgan, Mrs. Mariah Morgan, Miss Ann Lobdel, Mrs. Christi Ana Jackson, and Miss Margaret McDonald. Listed as black or coloured servant in the household of Peletiah Richards in 1850 census. Worked in the household of Minerva Richards King. Kept two diaries that are known and in possession of Richards Library. Buried in Warrensburg Cemetery on the west side of Hudson Street.

"Grace Noyes Jan 1st 1878"

Thursday, January 3 Not well
Thursday the Primes came to day

Saturday, January 5 Mrs King and Fred (her son) went to the Falls She got my interest 61 & 88 cts And paid Fowler 44.68 And I had 16.17 cts It is the first cold night

Sunday 6 Fearful cold this AM MacBeth (Presbyterian minister) preached

Monday, January 7 Biddie (Bridget Healey, servant from Ireland) washed to day School commenced to day Opened with forty scholars

Tuesday 8 Mrs Burneson & Mrs Butler from Luzerne came to day also Mary & Johnny came back We had ever so many calls to day Sociable at Mr West The Crosbys were up to day & MacBeth went home with them

Wednesday, January 9 MacBeth at Lake George he did not get back to prayer meeting Mrs Hunt called in the eve Mrs. King had sore throat

Thursday, January 17 Pretty cold Jim (hired man) went to Fort Edward to day for printing press (The Warrensburg News commenced printing in January 1878) It is the first one over here MacBeth took tea at Mrs. Grants Mrs King went down to see Mrs McEwen

Friday 18 A real pleasant day Rev Alex Smith (former Presbyterian minister 1870-72) called here to day Prayer meeting to night at Joseph Wood(w)ards Mrs Hunt called to

day

Saturday, January 19 Jim went to Thurman for bark I Bakeing The funeral of Mrs Harriet Farlin attended to day at Chicago Illinois

Sunday 20 MacBeth preached today All went out to church (Presbyterian) but me

Monday, January 21 Thawing all day Jim cutting wood Mrs Bryden very sick indeed Hesden (King) went down this AM

Tuesday 22 Sociable here this evening very bad walking got Jim one dollar

Wednesday, January 23 It was most dreadful cold

Thursday 24 We just heard of the death of Mrs Farlin thawing Jim sawing wood

Friday, January 25 Jim after bark for Hubbell Mrs McEwen here fitting for dress for Mrs King ???Biddie went to get dresses cut Mrs King about sick

Saturday, January 27 Thawing Present in the AM but cloudy in the PM MacBeth preached It snowed in the night John C Mother died

Monday 28 We had a light snow Biddie good today She was washing Jim drawing bark from Thurman MacBeth went to Chester to attend the Country Anniverserys (Warren County 65 years old) Emerson called in the eve

Tuesday, January 29 Not well Jim drawing bark from Thurman Real cold this AM Mrs. King sewing I had letters to day Mary J Brydon is better Mrs. Emerson & Charlie Cunningham has been to see us letter from Saml (King) to day

Wednesday 30 Jim went after bark very cold The Primes have decided to leave here Wayland Lewis came home with a new Wife First paper in W-- Printed to day by Mr More (Morris) Jan 30th 1878

Thursday, January 31 Jim after bark Mrs Barron and Miss Lobdel called Dan Howard (son of Dr. Eliakim Howard) sick Mrs King & Fred went to Mrs Hunts Donation at the Babtpist Church They got 100-25 dollars.

Friday, Frbruary 1 Snowed about one foot Jim cuting wood and clearing about

Saturday, February 2 Caldmas (Candlemass) Day very cold Jim went for bark Rev Alex Proudftt came up from Saratoga to day Preach Communion at our church Mrs J P Watson Mrs Theabould Julia Chrette (Charette - daughter of Dr. Louis Charette) & too other girls taken in the church MacBeth here

Sunday 3 Sunday AM It is most fearful cold 24 below zero Rev Proudftt preached Marie went down there to church (Episcopal) Communion at our church Mr Proudftt preached in the eve

Monday, February 4 Jim went for bark It was 10 below zero Rev Mr Proudftt went to the lake with Mr Emerson Fren & Mac Beth went to Lake George Minister Ogden (Episcopal) called to see us he leaves to morrow fore Europe It is real cold to night

Tuesday 5 Jim went to the Falls fore Hunts (John G. Hunt had hardware store upstreet) Mr Ogden left today for Europe Sarah Patterson called to day the Primes came in to see us Mrs King working at silk dress Shepard took calf last night

Wednesday, February 6 Jim went fore Bark Mrs King went to prayer meeting Jim Eldridge died this AM Cold buy very plesent

Thursday 7 Jim went for Bark Very plesent day Mrs Tucker 7 Mrs Eaton from lake George called to day The Primes left to day for Ogden's house Pope of Rome died to day

Friday, February 8 Jim went fore Bark Mrs Otterson died to day at Sandy Hill Sociable at Methodist church Tinker Eldridge buried to day Rose Owen Brother died to day

Saturday 9 It snowed all day Jim choreing about Biddie fell down stairs & hurt her I bakeing___

Sunday, February 10 Still snowing None of the folks went out to church But Fred and Mr MacBeth Jim went home Proff MacClarín (McLaren on faculty of Glens Falls Academy) at the Falls died this AM of heart disease

Monday 11 Jim went fore Bark Marie washing MacBeth went to Glens Falls It has been plesent but cold Mr Eaton called

Tuesday, February 12 20 below zero Jim went fore Bark Marie



Before it burned, the King house once stood on what is now the north side of the Grand Union Plaza parking lot on Main Street

setting room up stairs Letters came today from Saml & Callie and I had a letter from Currie Dartois

Wednesday 13 Pretty cold Jim went fore Bark Phillips girl came to day Biddie ironing Mrs King sewing

Thursday, February 14 Jim went fore Bark very cold The Crosbys and Mrs Eaton were up here to tea Mrs King sewing Madam Jorly Wax

Works met this <evening?> (play at Smith's Hall)

Friday 15 Jim after Bark Mr MacBeth & Mrs King went to Lake George Aurther and Isa Richard (Mrs. King's relatives) came while they were gone Met here to night

Saturday, February 16 Jim went to the Falls fore grain Edd Trap came up & Hesden (King) Biddie sick I bakeing

Sunday 17 Pretty cold MacBeth preached Aurth & Isa here Hesden went down to day The Crosbys were up in the eve and took MacBeth down to go to Presbytery Biddie sick

Monday, February 18 Jim started in the woods this AM MacBeth gone Isa Richards here Marie washing Biddie sick Fred deranged with his tooth and me got dinner

Tuesday 19 Jim away 24 below zero MacBeth away Biddie sick Fred with tooth ache

Wednesday, February 20 The weather moderated last night It is now snowing The Wax Works at Smiths Hall to night and the Crosbys were up Thursday 21 Fred was quite sick with his face Mrs

King did not feel well at all Marie ironing It was real cold

Friday, February 22 Pretty cold Jim in the woods Fred sick with tooth Sociable at Stevne Pasko Biddie mean as blazes

Saturday 23 Ironing thawing first of the day Aurther came for Isa to go home there were a few young folks in the evening

Sunday, February 24 MacBeth Preached It was real plesent Aurther and Isa here It was a real plesent day Austoin & Miss Freeman here Fred had tooth out

Monday 25 A real plesent AM Mrs King went to Fort Edward with Aurther and Isa & MacBeth went Marie & Biddie washing Miss Phillips went home this PM

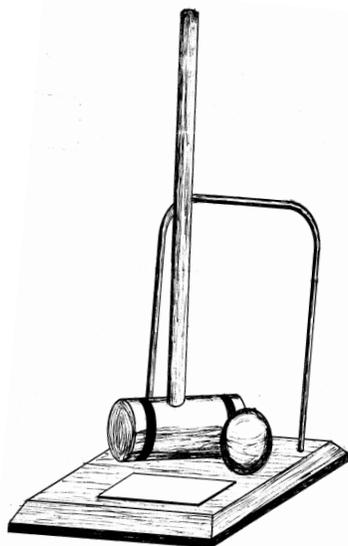
Tuesday, February 26 a real plesent day Mrs. king at the falls and we are all well a sociable at the Babptis church and the Band were invited there

Wednesday 27 it is a lovely day and we are all well Miss Jennie F and Miss Emma Hall and Harry came today Mrs King at the Falls B Thomas lectured at the Methodiest churce

Thursday, February 28 Mrs King got home to night from the Falls School examination commenced to day a real plesent day B Thomas lectured too night at Babptis church Dr Davis Babie very sick indeed

To be continued in future newsletters

The Coveted and Prestigious
STICKY WICKET Trophy



Warrensburgh Historical Society

Presents the Fourth Annual

Sticky Wicket

Croquet Games & Picnic

The Pink Flamingo
Course
for young children
Ladies Hat Review

CROQUET
HORSESHOES
BADMINTON

Sunday, August 27, 2000 at the Warren County Fish Hatchery beginning at Eleven o'clock and continuing throughout the afternoon.

In this beautiful setting on the Hudson River we will turn back time and invite you to an "old-fashioned" affair.

Admission is Free

Wear your Garden Party Hat and be entered in a drawing for a flower arrangement provided by A Little Touch of Country

We will provide the chicken and the cold drinks.
You bring some fixin's to share.

The Coveted and Prestigious **STICKY WICKET** Trophy will be awarded to the winner of the Croquet Tournament.

Tournament play is open to all with a \$5.00 entry fee.
Warrensburgh Historical Society Rules are available.

Further Information or Sponsorship Opportunity
518 623-3514

All Donations to benefit the endeavors of the
Warrensburgh Historical Society