



Warrensburgh Historical Society Quarterly

Volume 6 Issue 2

Summer 2001

On The Street Where You Live

Our Old House

(3922 Main Street Next to Post Office)

By Ed Kreinheder



From postcard - on back is written "Myron Dickenson,

The first deed to the property was to a Hilkins in 1855 and we presume the house dates from this time. Not of any particular style of architecture, I call it poor man's "Greek Revival." The extra wide corner boards at the four corners with molded capitals and four inch cyma curved (OGEE) crown moldings along eaves and gable ends, give a hint of this style.

The original part of the house was about 30 feet wide by 40 feet long, plus a side and back porch. I was told the back porch contained an indoor privy. A well beside the house supplied the water. Also a lead pipe brought spring water from the base of the mountain.

The foundations were made of field stone and so well laid up that they are still strong and straight as ever. The cellar has always been dry while houses around flood during the wet season.

These were fashioned from some of the large boulders left by glaciers at the foot of the mountain.

A line of holes about four inches deep and a foot apart were made by hand with star drill and hammer. Round steel wedges were then hammered in until the rocks split open. Sections about 12 inches wide were split off and then cut into face stones about 12 inches by 18 inches. Workings of this type of quarrying can still be seen up in the woods. I believe many of the foundations and stone buildings were cut in this manner from quarry ledges and boulders at the base of Hackensack.

Hand-hewn eight inch square sills were laid on this foundation with cross beams mortised in. These were connected by

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Hamlet of Warrensburgh



Current photo courtesy of Pam Morin

Historic District State & National Register



On Saturday, June 23, 2001 Warrensburgh Beautification Inc. held a ceremony commemorating the listing of nearly 400 properties in the Hamlet of Warrensburgh Historic District to both New York State and National Historic Registers. Keynote speaker was J. Winthrop Aldrich, Deputy Commissioner for Historic Preservation, NYS Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation, who spoke on the role historic preservation plays in communities and also the opportunities open to residents and businesses whose properties are placed on the historic register.

Additional remarks were offered by Betty Little, state assemblywoman for the 109th district, Kaena Peterson, Teresa Whalen, Jean Frulla, Delbert Chambers, Jane LeCount and Sarah Farrar. The following is excerpted from the souvenir program:

Warrensburgh Beautification Inc. was incorporated in 1985 as a not-for-profit organization created to preserve the natural and man-made environment, revitalize and beautify the Town of Warrensburgh through education, advocacy, rehabilitation, historic preserva-

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From the President

It is finally summer and plans are in the works for the 5th annual Sticky Wicket. This year's event is scheduled for August 26th at the Warrensburgh Fish hatchery. I hope everyone is marking those calendars.

Memorial Day this year was a little rainy, but as usual Warrensburgh folks pulled through. This year the society's "marching soldiers" were accompanied by Chuck and Pat Wheeler in their vintage Military Jeep. I would like to thank them both for helping with the event, it was truly the finishing touch to our theme. I would also, like to thank Caron Akeley for allowing us to use her driveway to decorate and prepare for the march, and for her coffee and pastries.

I look forward to seeing everyone at the Sticky Wicket, let's have a safe summer... and please watch those kids swimming, please.

I can be reached at 623-3348 or e-mail at AMF@capital.net.

Tony Fidd

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Warrensburgh Beautification, Inc.

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The Board of Directors will meet at the Glens Falls National Bank meeting room at 7 PM on the following dates. Members welcome.

July 10, 2001
August 14, 2001
September 11, 2001

Calendar of Events

The Johnsbury Historical Society presents the 100th Anniversary Commemoration of the Adirondacks Great Stagecoach Robbery Saturday, August 11, 2001 10am to noon at the North Creek Railroad Depot



Sticky Wicket, Sunday, August. 26, 2001 – 11 AM – 5 PM

Scarecrow Festival
Ghost Stories
Thursday, October 25, 2001,
Richards Library 7:00 PM

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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Membership Information

Membership Classifications

Individual	\$10.00
Student	\$ 5.00
Junior	\$3.00
Family	\$20.00
Senior	\$ 5.00
Contributing	\$ 50.00
Corporate	\$ 50.00
Institutional	\$ 50.00
Life*	\$250.00

*Individual Only

Membership is on a calendar year basis
If you would like to join and receive the Quarterly by mail, please send check for amount of membership classification, with name, address and phone number to:

Warrensburgh Historical Society
PO Box 441, Warrensburgh, NY 12885

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.

Our Old House

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beams still in the round, flattened on top 30 inches apart and mortised into the cross beams and ran the length of the house. They were then covered with rough sawed planks overlaid with three-inch matched maple flooring running the full length of the house.

The upper frame work was of hand-hewn beams covered vertically with wide planks a full one-inch thick and another layer over these covering the cracks. The rafters were made of small straight trees about eight-inch diameter to six-inch at top. These were flattened on top and nicely mitered at top and notched over the upper plate at bottom and three feet apart. A rough sawed two-inch by six-inch rafter was placed in between for strength, due to the extreme weight after the slate roof was added .

The outside of the house was covered with basswood clapboards 1/2" thick and 6" wide untapered. Good pine was getting scarce and there were many tall straight basswood left, free from knots and having poor structural strength and unsuited for furniture so could be obtained for little money. The untapered boards were very easy to make but would curl if not kept well painted

An attempt was made to do some fancy work inside the house. Very wide casings with molded edges and raised panels under the windows. The doors were all handmade on the site with six raised panels. The outside doors were mill made, the front being oak with a large oval beveled glass.

The front hall was large with a round corner. A steep stairway leads upstairs with a molded hand rail and fancy spindles and newel post.

The opposite back corner of the hall was also rounded with a very clever curved door no doubt mill made, being beyond the skill of the carpenters. This has since been squared off.

This hall was once the waiting room of Dr. John Gillespie, the resident doctor who owned the property in the late 19th century up until his death around 1900. This curved door led to his office about

12 feet by 14 feet and is now a laundry room.

The upper floor was not finished off quite as nicely, the doors had four panels not raised and the windows had two lights in each sash while the down stairs had but one. No sash weights, the sash was held in place by pull-out buttons which engage small holes at intervals. The smaller glass panes were very wavy blown glass, some with imperfections and bubbles.

The whole house was built with the most economy of materials and carpenter work rather than by skilled finish workers. The plaster laid over wooden lath was sand and lime as were all but the finest houses, which had a finish coat of real plaster. The result was that it would crumble often in 50 to 100 years. We had to replace all the ceilings and repair the walls.

Not too many years later the foundation was extended with an addition about 30 feet wide by 35 feet long. Not as well constructed but the entire building has been put in pretty good repair and a comfortable place to live. People who lived here 50 years ago told us what a cold place it was to heat. The cellar with a huge brick chimney had a wood furnace, probably coal later. One of the living rooms had a fireplace. Now it is oil heated with central air conditioning and quite comfortable but expensive to heat.

The house and lot about one acre was bought in 1923 by Anna and Henry Parker. In the 1930's they sold the Bonnie Brae (later Chalet Swiss) and added the wood lot of Bonnie Brae, making this property a total of about 19 acres. They lived here until 1964 when nearly 100 years old Mrs. Parker sold it to us.

A small barn was built behind soon after the house was built. Mrs. Parker covered the wooden clapboards with insulated aluminum siding and installed a large oil furnace a few years prior to our taking over.

Editor's Note: Please submit articles for this column. The history of each house in Warrensburg is important.



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 Grace was talking about.

Continued from previous Quarterly

Grace Noyes' Diary, July 1878

Monday, July 1, 1878 Fearfull warm
Biddie not here Marie washed today
Jim not here Mrs King Sewing

Tuesday 2 Fearfull warm Marie ironing
I done the work Jim Father Buried
to day Fred went up to the funeral

Wednesday 3 Fearfull warm Marie &
Mrs King Ironing I Baking Jim Drawing
gravel on the Road Biddie not here

Thursday 4 Verry warm We had a
little Rain and a verry Plesent Band
Entertainment No one here But Mac Beth
I did not go any where

Friday 5 Verry warm I was Sewing all
day went up to Mary Ann and out to
ride Hesden came up to night Rev Mr
Zell lectured to night at Babtist Church

Saturday 6 Plesent ? Biddie not here
Marie sewing Hesden and Mrs King
looking over papers two ladies came to
dinner

Sunday 7 Biddie not here I went out
to church Marie went to the Falls with
Kate The Ladies went to Lake Gorge

Monday 8 Verry warm indeed Hesden
went to Pottersville this PM Marie
washing I baking got ? pretty tired
Jim hoing potatoes

Tuesday 9 verry Plesent and warm
Saml came down to the Falls with me.
Went to the Bank & got my interest 30\$
Thirty dollars went up to F ? It rained
some

Wednesday 10 verry warm & plesent
there was quite a shower had my hat fixt

to day Went with Annie & Hesden in the Eve to hear C. C. Frost lecture at the Opera House

Thursday 11 Warm & present I went & paid Fowle. And the ladie for my hat and went & seen Ann & Mary Jane

Friday 12 Warm & present Annie & my self went to call on Mrs Gray & Nellie Goodman & Mrs Morgan & Miss Luthe Peck

Saturday 13 Very warm & present We went to the Cemetary in the fore noon & to Mary Janes in the PM It was a lovely Eve

Sunday 14 Verry warm I did not go out to church in the A M took dinner at Mrs Cowles Went to church in the Eve with Hesden and Anna Ann R here in the PM

Monday 15 verry warm indeed I went to Mary Ann ? to tea unwell

Tuesday 16 Verry warm indeed I went up and spent the day With Mary Ann Traphagens all went to the Lake

Wednesday 17 Verry warm Gracies Been here in town Ann had sick head ache

Thursday 18 It was so hot I did not go out any where Eliza came to see me

Friday 19 verry warm indeed Went and spent the day with Mary Jane and Allie

Saturday 20 here at Mrs C went up to John Traps an the PM

Sunday 21 A verry hard showr this AM Went to Presby church & heard Mr Stray Preach was at Mrs Cowles

Monday 22 Weather rather cooler Went to Mrs Davis to call & went down street

Tuesday 23 verry Present & warm Came up to Traps to day

Wednesday 24 Warm verry Mrs Trap not well Gracie Went to Saratoga to day Austain came to day & stopt at Emersons I at the Falls

Thursday 25 Verry present We were going to Mr Lattimores to spend the day. But Mrs Cowles was sick Austain came here to day

Friday 26 Rainy We did not go Mrs Cowels a little Better I at Mrs Traphagens all day rained hard all night

Saturday 27 Present all day Samuel came down for me I paid B B Fowler eleven dollars Fore Druget Came home to day

Sunday 28 Present I went to church Mr Mac Beth Preached Austain here Biddie not here

Monday 29 Present I felt real mean all day Biddie came this AM Marie done the work I done But little

Tuesday 30 Rainy Cloths not dry Mrs King & Marie sewing

Wednesday 31 Rainy Mrs King and Marie sewing on her dress

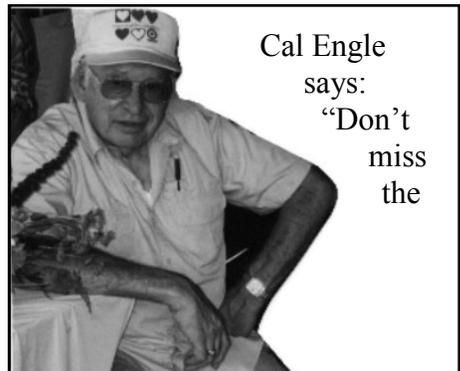
Hamlet of Warrensburgh
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tion and community initiatives. WBI's first involvement with architectural preservation began in 1990 with the Miles Thomas House.

The Architectural Heritage Committee of WBI formed in 1993, met with Linda M. Garofalini from the NYS Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation for assistance publishing an Architectural heritage Tour of Warrensburgh, NY (Sept. 1994), to serve as an educational tool for local government, economic development, tourism, schools and residents to create awareness of the architecturally significant and historic buildings found in our town. We were encouraged to undertake an Intensive Level Survey of Historic and Architectural Resources in the Hamlet (Jan. 1996), a necessary step toward a Multiple Resource National Register Nomination (July 1991), leading to the state and National Register of Historic Places listing (May 2001), a follow-up to the preservation work begun in 1974 by the WHS placing the Warrensburgh Mills Historic District on the National Register (1975). Along the way, Jessica Po-

emischer, an architectural historian, compiled information from various sources, funds were raised, grants awarded, and donations accepted to keep the project moving forward.

A Circa Plaque Program (sample on page 1) has now been established to identify the 428 historic resources that comprise the district, the largest north of Saratoga to the Canadian border.



Cal Engle says:
"Don't miss the

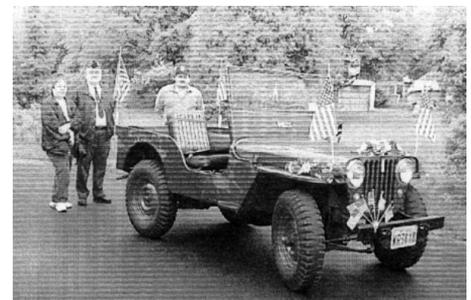
Warrensburgh Historical Society's Fifth Annual Sticky Wicket Croquet Games & Picnic

Sunday, August 26, 2001 at the Warren County Fish Hatchery beginning at eleven o'clock and continuing through the afternoon.

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

Free admission to picnic (bring a dish to share). \$5 entry fee for croquet tournament.

For further information or sponsorship, contact any Board Member.



Memorial Day Parade photos by Caron Akeley