



# Warrensburgh Historical Society Quarterly

Volume 7 Issue 2

Summer 2002

## WARRENSBURGH HISTORICAL SOCIETY SCHOLARSHIP WINNER Kirsten Louise Goettsche



*Kirsten is a new arrival to Warrensburgh. She and her family moved here in August 2000. They own and operate the Cornerstone Victorian Bed & Breakfast, an historic-architectural gem built for Lewis Thomson. Kirsten is a Junior at Mountainside Christian Academy in Schroon Lake. She told the editor that she enjoyed writing the entry since it helped her to learn about her new home.*

*Following is her submission for the scholarship. Sit back and enjoy reading her history of Warrensburgh.*

**Congratulation Kirsten!**

Though Warrensburgh is a small obscure town in the Adirondack Mountains, it is rich with history. Its forefathers have influenced its economy, architecture, and industry. Warrensburgh holds such titles as "The Gateway to the Adirondacks" and "The Queen Village of the Adirondacks."

(Winner – continued on page 3)

## DOLLAR BILL DOES GOOD WORK AT HOME

Traveling in Warrensburgh Passes  
Through Hands of Twenty-five Persons  
BUYS SERVICE AND GOODS  
Demonstrates Benefit of Keeping  
Money in Circulation Among Our  
Own People Where Many May  
Get the Use of It

*(From The Warrensburgh News – June 1931.  
Identifying comments in brackets are from a  
Warrensburg Directory of 1940)*

A dollar bill put in circulation in Warrensburgh by The News at noon on Saturday, June 13, [1931] with a paper attached to it asking every person who received it to use it as soon as convenient for some legitimate purpose and keep it in circulation in Warrensburgh for a period of one week, was returned to this office at the end of the period specified with twenty-five names on the list of persons who had possessed and used it during that time. A representative of the paper was sent to interview each person and ascertain the use he made of the bill and their replies, as we had anticipated, made a very interesting story, and demonstrated what benefits a large number of people may receive from a small amount of money kept in town and spent with our local merchants.

We have no means of knowing where this dollar came from when it found a place in the cash register at our office. but we will assume that it came here from some other town. Under ordinary circumstances it might have gone out of town without passing through other hands in this village, possibly to pay for printing material which is not sold here, but for the sake of an experiment we asked that it be kept in town during that one week, and for compliance with this request we thank all who handled it.

Had this dollar been paid to some out of

town concern it would have passed, probably, forever, from any future connection with local business. Spent here, twenty-five different persons received some benefit from it and with it many dollars worth of goods were bought and paid for and the dollar came back to its original starting place, the same old dollar.

We trust that this demonstration will not go unheeded here and that it will prove the greater value of a dollar spent at home and circulation among our own people where it will help all. This does not mean that we should shut ourselves in from the outside world, but only that if we do not look out for ourselves no one will do it for us, and Warrensburgh first should be our policy. If we get our money here let's spend it here so far as we can with justice to ourselves and to others.

The story of Dollar Bill's travels about town is told as follows:

Mr. Hall in being the first one to exchange the dollar for local merchandise, went to Dickinson & Bertrand's Rexall drug store [Music Hall Block – current location of L.D.'s], where he purchased an atomizer.

Mr. [Henry S.] Bertrand [living at 43



Photo of sign courtesy of Caron Akeley

Elm Street with wife Mabel D.] used the dollar in paying for a pair of shoes he purchased at Rist's boot shop [146 Main St. – now Art Brown's], while Mr.

(continued on page 3)

## From the President

Here it is summer again and the time has come to start thinking Sticky Wicket. The event will be August 25th at the Warren County Fish Hatchery, and is expected to be our biggest yet. I hope everyone can attend.

As most of you know The Warrens-burgh Historical Society sponsored a scholarship in conjunction with Glens Falls National Bank, for the 2nd year in a row. The first year there were no submissions. This year, we had one of the best essays submitted and have declared a winner, Kirsten Goettsche (see article in this issue). The Society is very proud of Kirsten, and we are encouraged that a young person of this apparent caliber is from our town. Remember her name, you might see it some day printed next to the title Senator, or Mayor or even President, (of Warrensburgh Historical Society...Hey, you never know...)

Please Enjoy the summer, see ya at Sticky Wicket.

Tony Fidd, President

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## New Members

Edna Brown  
Bruce Cole  
George Rohrwasser

## Editor's Note

I just picked up a copy of *"Reflections and Recollections of the Town with a Past - Warrensburgh, New York"* By Bea Greenwood, niece of Mabel Tucker. It is available through the Warren County Historical Society, PO Box 769, Lake George, NY 12845.

If you don't know about Ching Sing's Laundry or never heard Mabel's version of "I'm so glad to Live in Warrensburg", sung to the tune of Yankee Doodle Dandy, then I suggest you run out and get a copy of the book.

## Board of Directors

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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 2, 2002  
August 6, 2002  
September 3, 2002

**REMEMBER!**  
**STICKY WICKET**  
**AUGUST 25, 2002**

Society Information, call

Tony Fidd - 668-3004  
John Cleveland - 623-9450

## Contributors to this issue:

Brenda Cleveland  
Sarah Farrar  
Kirsten Goettsche - WHS 2002  
Scholarship Winner  
Sandi Parisi,  
Quarterly Editor

**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

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Individual	\$12.00
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\*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:

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## **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.*

**(Dollar Bill – continued from Page 1)**

[Ernest G.] Rist [living at 37 King Street with wife Francis A.] exchanged the money for some gasoline at the Adirondack Garage [143 Main Street].

B. [Benedict] C. Gurney [living at 66 Elm Street was Superintendent of Public Highway], proprietor of the garage, purchased some window curtains at Woodward's Furniture Store [164 Main Street], while Mr. [Berry] Woodward [living on Hudson Street with wife Susie



Photo showing Crystal Drugstore, Adirondack Candy Kitchen and at the far end of the Music Hall Block is Dickinson & Bertrand's Rexall

E.] used the bank note in purchasing medicine at the Crystal Pharmacy [now the parking lot in front of IGA].

In paying for two dinners at the Adirondack Hotel [147 Main Street], C. H. Gans used The News' dollar. John O'Connor [living on 25 Oak Street with wife Sarah K. later was employed in North Creek], one of the proprietors of the hotel, purchased some paint at R B. Lewis hardware store [17 Oak Street].

The money had not yet been in circulation a day. Saturday night, Mr. [Richard B.] Lewis [living at 12 Thomson with wife Mary F.] had a haircut and shave at E. C. Manzer's barber shop and paid for the service with the dollar.

From Mr. [Ernest C.] Manzer [living at 208 1/2 Main Street], the money went for expenses of his household and Mrs. Manzer spent it early the next week for some breakfast food at the Grand Union store, uptown.

To keep the dollar in circulation, Manager Walter E. Combs [of River Street who later worked at the Schroon River Pulp and Paper Mill], of the Grand Union store, took it to the Adirondack Candy Kitchen [157 Main Street, now Jacobs & Toney] and gave it to Louis Jacobs when he purchased an ice cream soda.

Mr. Jacobs [wife Anna] purchased some postage stamps with the money, but shortly afterward received it from the post office in change, and, this time it went toward insurance he carried with Scott B. Smith & Co [1 Hudson Street].

Having circulated freely about the uptown business section, Mr. [Scott B.] Smith [living at 41 Elm Street with wife Helen V.]

decided to give the dollar a try at the downtown section, so went to Kugel's department store [60 Main Street] and purchased some merchandise, paying for it with the marked dollar.

Again the dollar went to the Grand Union store, but this time it was in the other end of the town and bought: fruit for the [Oscar and Dora] Kugel home.

Manager Henry O. Fassett [living at 8 James Street with wife Jessie who was a clerk in the Grand Union] kept the money on the move when he paid it to Jay D. Enich for a package of medicine.

Mrs. Enich used it toward the purchase of some butter and other groceries at G. H. Dickinson's market.

Fred Howe [living at 5 Terrace with wife Mary D.] received the money in change at the market and paid it to William Matthews for some pastry for his diner [Howe's – currently Potter's Diner] downtown.

Mr. Matthews [living at 66 Hudson Street with wife Blanche] purchased some yeast cakes at J. K. Heffron's [John K. married to Marge C.] store [34 Main Street], and then the dollar again went in change, this time to Harry R. Bennett.

Gasoline purchased at the Au-Kum-On garage [current location of D&G Hardware] was paid for with the dollar by Mr. Bennett, and C. C. Klemm, proprietor of the garage, speeded the paper money on its journey by giving it to W. C. Langworthy for change when he purchased some cigars.

Groceries were again bought with the money. Mr. Langworthy paying it to Samuel Heitner [52 Main Street], who gave it in change to Harry Matteson.

Mr. Matteson gave it in payment for some shoes and clothing at Kugel's store. The week being ended, Harry Rosen then returned the dollar to The News office.

*Editor's Note: Perhaps someone would be willing to try this today.*

**(Winner – continued from Page 1)**

The town of Warrensburg was originally part of the Queensbury patent. On February 12, 1813 Warrensburg was established as a town. The first town meeting was held on April 4, 1813. Settlers began to establish local ordinances and were elected to a variety of posts, which included; supervisor, town clerk, commissioner of highways, fence viewer, and overseer of the poor. "The first town meeting was very productive."

Warrensburg is located in the central southeastern section of Warren County, five miles northeast of Lake George, a hundred and six miles south of Montreal and two hundred miles north of New York City. The town of Warrensburg is bounded on the north by Chester, on the east by Caldwell (Lake George) and Bolton, on the south by Luzerne, and on the west by Thurman. Warrensburg is an approximate sixty-eight square miles,

and the Schroon River forms a natural boundary on the east. The first settler was William Bond who arrived in 1786. His residence was near Bond's Pond, which is now called Echo Lake. Other early settlers include James Warren and Kitchell Bishop. This town attracted many to build and settle here. "Warrensburg has many attractions as a place of residence. It is pleasantly situated, healthful and free from discomforts and annoyances of any kind. The streets are well laid out and shaded by beautiful trees. Most houses are built in the 1800's style and neat and attractive." The first activities of the settlers were agriculture, saw milling and grist milling. Joseph Hutchinson, an early settler, soon built a gristmill, and in the 1790's the first church, schoolhouse, and blacksmith shop were constructed. Around the early 1800's there was also an inn, store, and post office. Warrensburg continued to grow and prosper throughout the years. "There is a home-like air throughout Warrensburg that is recognized by any visitor. It is this that makes the old residents loyal and attracts strangers."

In the 19<sup>th</sup> century Warrensburg was considered one of the most progressive and enterprising country villages in this area because of its many businesses and factories. The gristmill was one of the first businesses in Warrensburg. One belonged to Delbert H. Pasco. The gristmill was able to grind fifteen tons of produce in twelve hours. The sawmill was another early business. It was owned by Dudley Farlin and was known as "an old English mill". It contained seventy saws, set in gangs, which operated with an up and down motion. The Empire Shirt Factory was established in 1879. It manufactured ladies shirtwaists and night robes. They made over five hundred dozen ladies shirtwaists and two hundred dozen night robes daily. The quality of their goods was first class.

The Warrensburg News office was built in 1877. The first newspaper was issued on January 30, 1878. The newspaper was four pages long, with seven columns per page. The Warrensburg Post Office was established in 1806 by Kitchell Bishop. It was initially at the Warren House (a hotel), but after the hotel was destroyed by a fire the post office was

relocated to Main Street. House-to-house delivery was established after the post office moved to Main Street. Warrensburg also had a reputation as a resort town, due to its many hotels. Henry Ashe bought the Agriculture Hotel in 1888. It was located near the famous Warrensburg Fairgrounds. In 1922, a radio-telephone set was installed in the hotel. This was the second set in Warrensburg. The Grand Army House was another hotel that was renovated in 1893 in order to enlarge it. All the rooms had electricity and there were several baths in the hotel. Hetty Green, one of the wealthiest women at that time, was once a guest at this hotel. This hotel was considered a great luxury and was well known. Other hotels include the Adirondack Hotel, The Warren House, and The Riverside Hotel. Many of these hotels were built in the Queen Anne Victorian Style. During the early 20<sup>th</sup> century over half a dozen of these hotels were destroyed by fire. None of these hotels exist today.

Warrensburg is very rich with architecture. Many houses are elaborately styled because most people that lived in Warrensburg at that time were very wealthy. South Main Street of Warrensburg includes some of the best examples of different styles of architecture. The Queen Anne Victorian Style was mostly used between 1885 to 1905. It is characterized by highly decorative, non-classical and vaguely medieval designs.

Stained windows and wooden ornaments were usually used in this style. The Presbyterian Church, The Adirondack House, and the Lewis Thomson home are good examples of this style, the most used style in Warrensburg. The Federal Style was widely used for building during America's Post-Revolutionary years, from 1780 to 1835. This style was found initially in the large economic and political centers of that time but eventually was disseminated to the more remote rural areas, including Warrensburg. The main emphasis of this style is on symmetrical massing and the arrangements of openings in the facades of the houses. The Greek Revival Style is the most popular style of the 19<sup>th</sup> century in America. It was most popular during 1825 to 1860, which was a period of great growth and expansion in America. The bold, symmetrical and orderly

forms of this style was adopted by American architects as the ideal symbol for our country's newly-won freedom and democracy. Good examples of this style is the 1840 Crandall-Howard House and the 1840 Russell-Cunningham House which are both in Warrensburg. The Italianate Style was used for both residential and commercial buildings during the 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter of the 19<sup>th</sup> century, most often by wealthy people. In residential design, this style took on the forms of elegant 17<sup>th</sup> century Italianate country houses. Late 19<sup>th</sup> century Main Streets across the country took their detailing from this style.

Public buildings began taking shape in 1802, which includes the early churches. Kitchell Bishop donated land for the erection of the first church. It was the Methodist church. The next church to be built was the Baptist Church. The Baptist Church was built in 1825. Originally, the church had a steeple, but in 1917, during a severe electrical storm, the steeple was badly damaged and when repairs were made it was decided to replace the steeple with a dome. The first Presbyterian Church was built in Athol in 1806, but shortly after 1830 the Athol society combined with the Warrensburg society, and the original church was closed. The church moved to a farm in Warrensburg, which

was used later as a carriage house. Next to this farm they built the church, which still remains today. A local builder, Albert Alden, a descendant of the famous John and Priscilla Alden, erected the Church of the Holy Cross in 1864. The stone that was used for its construction was quarried from Hackensack Mountain, located in Warrensburg. Colonel Burhans, the church's warden, presented the bell, weighing six hundred and twenty-seven pounds, to the parish. Saint Cecilia's Catholic Church was built in 1874. The bell, weighing nearly one thousand pounds, was cast in the famous Meneely Foundry, at West Troy. At present time, one may worship in one of the nine different churches in Warrensburg.

Warrensburg has had many means of transportation throughout the years. In the 19<sup>th</sup> century Warrensburg was known as "The Bridge" because it was the site of the only bridge crossing of the

Schroon River in the entire section of Warren County. The word, scaroon, or Schroon, originated with the Mohawk word for large lake, sea-ni-a-dar-oon, Schroon Lake, from whence the river flows. This bridge made Warrensburg an important regional travel route. This bridge is part of an international highway running from New York City to Montreal, Canada. The first turnpike was constructed in 1849. It went from Glens Falls to Warrensburg. This turnpike made easy access for people from Warrensburg to travel to Glens Falls or vice versa. This made tourism popular in Warrensburg. The improved roads made stage travel possible, and by 1856 stages were regularly carrying passengers from Glens Falls to Warrensburg. In the following years turnpikes from Warrensburg to Caldwell (Lake George) and Warrensburg to Chester were constructed. These turnpikes were very beneficial to business interests by making it easy to travel to the villages. These three turnpikes are twenty-seven miles in length. Rail service directly to Warrensburg was established between the late 19<sup>th</sup> century and the early 20<sup>th</sup> century. Its two forms were the railroad and the electric trolley. The rail transportation to this region helped Warrensburg continue to grow and prosper. The Adirondacks branch of the Delaware & Hudson Railroad, completed to the Thurman Station in 1869, allowed shipment of lumber and other products from Warrensburg to Albany, Troy, and New York City markets. Before the railroads exports had to be drawn with teams a distance of fifteen miles to Glens Falls and then shipped. In 1902, an electric trolley line was built in Warrensburg. Although the trolley has been removed recent Department of Transportation excavation along Main Street has revealed evidence of trolley tracks. By the second decade of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, transportation resources at Warrensburg included brick, concrete, and asphalt roads. These roads were constructed for a new type of transportation: the automobile. By 1924, resources at Warrensburg included a Town Highway Storehouse, which is now the Town of Warrensburg Highway Department.

In 1800 there was only one small schoolhouse in Warrensburg. Being the only

school within a circle of a number of miles, it was well attended. The first religious meetings were held in this schoolhouse. By 1858 a second district school was built. There were as many as sixty to seventy pupils that attended this school at one time. The Warrensburg Academy was constructed in 1854. It provided a private school education for young men. The building was erected at a cost of four thousand, five hundred dollars, and could accommodate between seventy to a hundred and thirty students who paid tuition to attend. In 1899 the Warrensburg Union Free School replaced the earlier Academy, providing a centrally located educational facility to students regardless of their financial status.

Warrensburg has some very interesting history that contributed to its background. It has been, and still is, a great and prosperous town. Some interesting facts include the story that it is where James Femimore Cooper wrote the final chapter of "The Last of the Mohicans". Also during the 1860's Warrensburg had three churches, an academy, a telegraph office, two hotels and a dozen stores. The town of Warrensburg is also the home of Floyd Bennett, the man who made a historic flight across the North Pole on May 9, 1926. For this he was awarded the "Distinguished Service Medal" by President Coolidge. Warrensburg was also visited by the famous Hetty Green, the richest lady in the late 1800's. Hetty Green was a guest at the Grand Army House.

In conclusion, the town of Warrensburg has proven its historical importance in the history of the Adirondacks. The town's small population and obscure location belie its great history. Throughout the years it has produced many

buildings and homes with architectural grandeur. Its forefathers have left an impact, and their influences can still be felt today. Having stepped back in Warrensburg's past our lives are richer today.



Dennis Martinez, Manager of the Warrensburg Branch of the Glens Falls National Bank & Trust and John Cleveland, Vice President of the Warrensburg Historical Society presenting Kirsten Goettsche with the 2002 WHS Scholarship Award. The Bank and the Historical Society are equal contributors to the Scholarship Award.

Photo by



**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

Tuesday, October 1, 1878 Pleasant & warm Mrs Ray came to day in the P.M.

Wednesday 2 Pleasant & warm I did not go any where Mrs King very sick Mrs Ray left to day fore Glens Falls

Thursday 3 Pleasant & warm Mrs King sick Jim threshing

Friday 4 Pleasant & warm I went out to ride Mrs King not well Jim drawing in corn Started in the night fore Fort Edward

Saturday 5 Plesent & warm Jim & Frank went to Fort Edward I bukeing and lotes to do

Sunday 6 Plesent & warm I went out to church MaCBeth Preached John (?) Burnson and (Burneson) his mother came to day

Monday 7 Plesent day Mrs Rockwell and Mary June & Mrs Goodsell & Katie Clear came to day Jim on the road drawing gravel

Thursday 10 Plesent & warm Jim on the road at work a House full here and lotts to do

Friday 11 Plesent & warm

Saturday 12 Plesent & warm a house full here and lotts to do I was bakeing and got fear full tired

Sunday 13 Warm & Plesent I went to church Miss Clear here Mac Beth here

Monday 14 Plesent & warm Biddie washing Jim went to the Falls for Emerson Mrs King went to Lecture to night at the church Mrs King & myself went to Aunt Abbie's Place

Tuesday 15 Mild & warm I went out to Austoins Entertainment at the Academy Jim to Minnie(?) and Fan to the Falls this AM Sold to day to Farmer

Wednesday 16 Very plesent & warm just like summer Warren Potter daughter died to day. Mrs Boyer came to day Rev Mr Olin Lectured to night

Thursday 17 Warm & plesent Jim & Frank and Jones diging potatoes

Friday 18 Teachers Institute closed to day fear full rainy Jennie & Magpie & Satie & Ida & Emet & Walter & Emma Hall all went to day and Miss Clear. Potters daughter Buried this PM

Saturday 19 Fearfull rainy puling up stones Marie here I Bakeing Callie and Minnes came in & Hesden came

Sunday 20 Plesent but cold Could have went to church. But did not feel well

Monday 21 Plesent & warm Jim diging potatoes I went to ride and made some

calls Biddie washed Callie & Minnie called here Mrs Heffern died (Heffron) to day

Tuesday 22 Plesent & warm I went up to Ransoms to ride Callie & Minnie left this AM fore New York Jim diging potatoes

Wednesday 23 Rainy. Conklin spoke at the Falls Mac Beth & Austoin went also Miss Freeman & Miss Rose

Thursday 24 Plesent Windy Cider came Boiling all day did not go out

Friday 25 Plesent & warm Bakeing and Went to the Lake with Marie

Saturday 26 Plesent & warm Went up the River to ride with MacBeth Bakeing in fore noon

Sunday 27 Plesent I went to church Mac Beth Preached Crosbys came up in the Eve Mac Went down with them

Monday 28 Plesent But Cold I did not go out Jim Husking corn Biddie Washing

Tuesday 29 Cold & Windy I could not go out

Wednesday 30 Plesent But Cold Mrs King & Marie Sewing

Thursday 31 Cold so I could not go out Marie & Mrs King at Work on dress

## Recipe Corner

By Brenda Cleveland

### Bread & Butter Pickles

6 qts cucumbers, sliced thin  
10 onions sliced thin  
1 cup salt  
Cover with water and let stand over night or at least 4 hours, then drain off liquid

5 cups sugar  
3 cups vinegar  
2 cups water  
2 tsp. Tumeric  
1 tsp. Cloves  
2 Tbsp. Mustard seed  
2 Tbsp. Celery seed

2 tsp. Cinnamon

Boil 3 minutes and add drained cucumbers, simmer til very hot.

Pack in sterilized jars and seal.



### Who, What, Where and When

Garry Grant was the first to call in with his reply that it was Warrensburg Garage, in the early 1900's and the location is where his office currently is, at Warren Ford.



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

Sunday, August 25, 2002 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, chicken and beverages will be provided. \$5 entry fee for croquet tournament.

For further information or sponsorship, contact any Board Member.