



Warrensburgh Historical Society Quarterly

Volume 21 Issue 2

Summer 2016

Corporal Israel Meade

5/25/1835 – 12/19/1903

[Enlisted, August 16, 1862, at Fort Edward, to serve three years; mustered in as private, Co. E, September 25, 1862; promoted Corporal, June 30, 1865; mustered out with company, 169th Regiment, July 19, 1865, at Raleigh, N. C.]

By John Wulfken

In the fall of 1998, I accompanied the supervisor of Warrensburgh to look at a small cemetery. The cemetery was about one-half mile or so up on Harrington Hill Road. Upon getting out of the vehicle we walked into a field. After looking for a while neither of us found any evidence of a graveyard. As we walked back to the vehicle a scruffy looking gentlemen came out of the house. At the same time I noticed several stones with writing on them lying on the ground next to the old house. Maynard Baker asked about them, and the gentleman assured us that the stones were not from the cemetery on his property. Being a rather busy person and feeling this was in good hands, I never felt a reason to learn about this cemetery or whether the stones were returned to their rightful place.

I recently was on Ancestry.com and came

across a post on their member connect network about a Civil War historian looking for a gravesite for Corporal Israel Mead, buried on Harrington Hill in Warrensburgh. Several people had replied that they could not locate his headstone at the old Harrington cemetery. *[Historian's note: The 1908 Memorial Services list Israel as being buried in the Harrington Hill Cemetery. However, there are no records showing that burial or a stone.]*

It turns out Steven Wiezbicki, a Civil War historian, was researching a Civil War hero named Israel Mead. According to Steven Wiezbicki he was a prominent war hero and Corporal of the 169th Regiment. At the end of the war Corporal Israel Mead and his brother Private William Mead, both of Company E, were thanked for their gallantry at the battle of Fort Fisher in North Carolina in January 13-15, 1865.

When he returned from the war he built a house on Harrington Hill. He married Eliza Ann Harrington (1840-1895).

[Historian's note: Both the 1880 and 1890 census records show Israel living there as a farmer.]

Israel and Eliza had nine children;

- Silas born 1868,
- Cordia born 1869
- Phillip born 1871
- Alphonso born 1872
- Mercy Ann born 1874
- Nelson born 1875
- Mary Elizabeth born 1877
- Myrtle born 1881
- Hosea born 1881.



Abbie Hastings / Interview by Sharon Stone

Abbie Lydia (Davis) Hastings was born on July 30, 1914, in Glens Falls. Her parents lived behind Glens Falls Hospital on Coffin Street, now where the old hospital parking lot is. Abbie recalls her mom and aunt once talking about the day she was born - two months prematurely. The doctor handed her to the nurse and said either, "Set this aside, it will not amount to much," or "she will not survive." Abbie weighed two pounds the first time she was weighed, six weeks later. Her mom used to rub her down with oil, wrap her in cotton and carry her around on a pillow.

Fast forward almost 102 years - Abbie is still going strong. She wishes she could have met that doctor somewhere along the way and let him know she made it. Abbie's mom did tell her that while visiting Abbie's aunt in Glens Falls, she learned the nurse was still alive. Abbie could have spoken to the nurse and let her know the tiny premature baby girl had survived.

Abbie has one memory of living in Glens
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Society Page

PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

This issue's masthead has two photos of historic buildings on Main Street. On the left is a photograph of a small building that was the law office of Thomas Cunningham, located right on the corner of Main Street and Stewart Farrar Street. This building is now on Library Avenue across the street from home plate of the baseball diamond. In the background is the Cunningham house, no longer there. On the right is the Miles Thomas house, which has been known as the Senior Center, located beside the Glens Falls national Bank.

The Historical Enrichment Program at the Elementary School had 28 participants this spring from 4th and 5th grades. Supported by a \$500 Stewart's Holiday Match grant we were able to buy materials and supplies as well as Tee-shirts for the school recognition day assembly on May 31.

The 4th graders learned about glacially created landforms found in Warrensburg and stream erosion dynamics, taught by Paul Gilchrist and Dean Moore during February and March. In April, the subject was museums and artifacts, led by Steve Parisi, Rosemary Maher, and Mark Brown.

The 5th graders learned about Vikings in the Medieval period - their explorations, trade, culture, conquests, agriculture, etc., led by Peter Gross. Dr. Kathleen Bernhard and Bonnie Jenks assisted in all sessions. Both are retiring, but Bonnie will help with the program next year. Photos on p. 4.

In celebration of Earth Day and Arbor Day, five students from the Jr./Sr. High School, supervised by science teacher John Burns and our board member Bob Bradley, came to clear brush at our tannery property on April 21. Their work is much appreciated, and the students heard a brief talk about the history of the property, whereon was once located a tannery, saw mill, and electric power plant.

On May 15, we unveiled a roadside plaque identifying the site of another electric plant that powered the trolley from 1902 to 1922 between Warrensburg and Queensbury. It used water power from the dam across the

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We welcome comments, corrections, articles, pictures, letters, and reminiscences. Send to:

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Bob Knowles Peggy Knowles

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Sandi Parisi: Town Historian

Steve Parisi: Museum Director

Board Meetings

The Board of Directors meets at the Senior Center (May-October) or at Richards Library (November-April) at 7:00 pm on the FIRST Wednesday of each month. Call Paul to confirm at 623-3162

Contributors to this issue

John Wulfken
Mark Brown
Brady McElligott
Sandi Parisi
Sharon Stone
Paul Gilchrist

Upcoming Events

July 3: Warrensburg Industries museum exhibit opens

August 7: Sticky Wicket

CURRENT MEMBERSHIP:

248

Warrensburg Historical Society

Website: www.whs12885.org

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NEW MEMBERS:

Joe DeMatties
Camille Dougan
Mark Jezewski
Brian & Joy Pratt
Bonnie Somers

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John Wulfken

Former VP of the Historical Society

Robert Frank

Music teacher Warrensburg High School

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.

Membership Information

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

**Warrensburg Historical Society P.O.
Box 441,
Warrensburg, N.Y. 12885**

Membership Rates

Students	\$5.00	Contributing	\$55.00
Individual	\$15.00	Business	\$50.00
Family	\$25.00	Institutional	\$100.00
Senior (62+)	\$10.00	Life (Individual only)	\$300.00
Senior Family	\$18.00		

Schroon River. The plaque, across from Curtis Lumber, was funded by a grant from the Wm G. Pomeroy Foundation of Syracuse and was acquired thanks to the effort of Gary Bivona, our treasurer.

After the plaque unveiling a "power point" presentation of photos and maps was held at Richards Library showing the trolley's route from Warrensburg to Glens Falls, narrated by Paul Gilchrist. It was well-attended, and thanks to Wendy Peluso, those present enjoyed marvelous refreshments during the program.

We congratulate our board member, Peggy Knowles, who received co-recognition as Warrensburg Citizen of the Year. Peggy also chairs our Sticky Wicket event.

With this Quarterly you'll find four kayak raffle tickets which you can purchase, give to someone else to purchase, or ignore. This is our major annual fund-raiser. "You must be in it to win it."

Two Heritage Trail brochures have been completed, and tours were conducted on June 18 and 19, led by architectural expert Delbert Chambers. The brochures are the product of a great deal of work by Sandi Parisi and Terry Jamison. There will be a total of six when the project is finished. It's supported by occupancy tax money and a "Healthy Places to Live" grant from the Glens Falls Hospital.

All three sections of the 4th grade visited the Museum on the morning of June 21. This has become an annual event intended to introduce elementary school children to the history and heritage of their home town.

There will be summer youth program at the Museum this July, schedule TBA. The next Museum focuses exhibit on Warrensburg Industries, opening July 3.

This issue of the Quarterly features a mini-biography of Abbie Hastings, based mainly on an interview by Sharon Stone, assisted and recorded by yours truly. We hope to do more of these "living history" stories and perhaps put edited videos on our website.

Don't forget the Sticky Wicket Croquet Games on August 7 at the Fish Hatchery.

Until then, keep looking backwards.

Paul Gilchrist

A response to Lori Story Summer 2015 Quarterly By Brady McElligott

I recently came across the Warrensburg Historical Society Quarterly, from Summer 2015, and read the article on Balsam Lodge.

My grandparents, Richard and Carolyn McElligott, owned Balsam Lodge during a time in the 1920's. My dad, Richard Hardy McElligott, who was born in 1917, remembered the place built on the stream, and as for the "speakeasy" part, he remembers how my grandparents would suspend a jug of apple-jack from a rope, down into the icy stream, so that the water would freeze, and the alcohol could be more easily poured off for customers at the Lodge. Dad also told me that my grandmother always kept pickled eggs on the counter, which she would give to the customers for free, to make sure they had protein in their stomachs.

Yes, during Prohibition, my grandfather was a bootlegger. My dad used to tell me stories of how his mom would flavor the "bathtub gin" with various things, to make various types of booze. Juniper berries for gin, burnt sugar for rum, rotting veggies for whisky, etc. My dad went to Annapolis, with a commission procured by my grandfather, no doubt as a "return favor" from someone "higher up".

Oddly enough, my other grandfather was a Prohibition-Era policeman in Oklahoma City, and I heard all about the "other side" of bootlegging from him.

Thanks for putting your publication online. Every now and again, I check the internet for pertinent information about my father's family, and this time, I hit the jackpot.

Welcome and Congratulations to New Member Margaret McMahon By Steve Parisi

Margaret McMahon moved to Warrensburg last November and quickly expressed an interest in the programs of the Warrensburgh Historical Society and the Warrensburgh Museum. Although she grew up in Nyack, NY, friends with a home in Warrensburg introduced her to our town. She liked it enough to make it her retirement address. Margaret was a Custodian Engineer for New York City's

Department of Education for more than twenty years, overseeing the operations and infrastructures of numerous school properties. Following her retirement she was honored, this past March, by the Emerald Society of the NYC Education Department, as "Irishwoman of the Year." The citation recognizes her as the only female DOE Custodian Engineer to hold both high Pressure Steam Engineers and Refrigeration licenses simultaneously for many years. It also cites her activity with Local 891 of the International Union of Operating Engineers, serving as its Assistant Legislative Director. Margaret, a third generation operating engineer, has two sons, both of whom followed in her footsteps as NYC DOE Custodian Engineers; she has five grandchildren.

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Falls. She recalls that the family was moving to a new place and her parents were in one room talking to the owners of the property while the children waited in another room. There was a spigot coming up through the floor and Abbie showed her siblings how to hold their fingers over the spout and spray water everywhere. She remembers her parents coming into the room and making them stop.

In 1920, when Abbie was six years old her family moved up to Warrensburg into a home at the end of Library Avenue where they lived for about a year, after which they moved to a farm on Harrington Hill. While living on Library Avenue she recalls walking cross lots to the race track behind Ashe's Hotel to watch the horses. There was quite a view from the Harrington Hill farm; you could see across the entire valley and watch the car lights as they came over the hill down into Warrensburg. This seems to be a favorite memory of Abbie's judging from the smile on her face as she talks about it. They lived on Harrington Hill and worked the farm until Abbie was 11 or 12 when they moved to Truesdale Hill, they rented a farm from a Mr. Putnam who moved away from the area for a time. When Mr. Putnam returned, Abbie's parents rented a summer camp from Jesse Carpenter where they lived until her dad finished building a new home also at the bottom of Truesdale Hill. Abbie's parents moved into their new home in 1938 the year that Abbie was married. Abbie and her husband moved into the summer camp for a time.

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4th graders who participated in the Historical Enrichment Program received their tee-shirts, recognition certificates, and "I ♥ Local History" badges at the elementary school assembly on May 31.

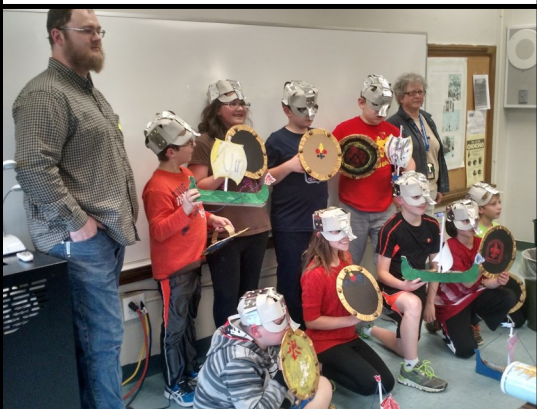


5th graders who participated in the Vikings history enrichment program also received similar awards at the school assembly. Dr. Kathleen Bernhard and Bonnie Jenks coordinated the programs for both the 4th and 5th grades.

Dean Moore teaches enthusiastic 4th grade students about stream erosion and dynamics using the Soil & Water demonstration model table during the Historical Enrichment Program in March.



Peter Gross led the 5th graders in studying Viking history and culture in the Historical Enrichment Program during the spring semester, assisted by Bonnie Jenks.



Bonnie Jenks stands beside 5th grader Mace Gross who participated in the Vikings history program and also gave extremely valuable assistance to the 4th grade enrichment program on glacial landforms. He is wearing the tee-shirt given to participants by the Society, made possible by a Holiday Match Grant from Stewart's.



Trolley Power Plant Plaque located at the Warrensburg Farmer's Market Park

Photo compliments of Carol Baker



Recently the museum received five oil portraits that were previously hanging in the Town Hall basement. The portraits have now been hung in the museum. portrait shown here is Louis W. Emerson. Please come in and take a moment to view the other portraits.



Bob Bradley and science teacher John Burns led five Jr./Sr. high school students in helping to clear brush on the Society's tannery property along the Schroon River in celebration of Earth Day and Arbor Day in late April.



Thank you to Abbie Hastings for participating in the first of our "Living History" series

In the two photos below, Donne Lynn Winslow and Mark Brown discuss architecture and ice cutting, respectively, to the 4th graders.



Corporal Israel Mead and Eliza Ann and their son Hosea were all buried in a small cemetery on their property. This cemetery became known as the Mead cemetery. Could this be the same cemetery that Maynard and I had tried to find so many years ago?

Steven Wiezicki and I began to acquire information about the stones that I had seen so many years ago and the whereabouts of the cemetery. Steven had sent me a copy of a letter sent from a relative, Ann Florence, granddaughter of Corporal Israel Mead. The letter stated that the gravestones had been missing since Ann went to visit the gravesite in 1974. We also uncovered that where Maynard and I had stopped was called the Mead house where Corporal Israel Mead had lived. With the help of the town historian, we located relatives of Israel Mead and they confirmed the final resting place of Israel, his wife, and his son Hosea to be in the Mead cemetery. Now we are trying to establish the whereabouts of the headstone that was placed in the cemetery. We located several pictures of the headstones. We also located the outline of the cemetery. I was told that it used to have a set of steps, which led up an embankment to an iron gate and a concrete landing. An iron fence also surrounded the cemetery many years ago

Your Help Needed



We are hoping to find out more information on the headstone and cemetery. Corporal Israel was such a prominent Civil War hero and we hope to place his headstone where it belongs. If anyone has an idea where the stones could be or anything else about the cemetery we would appreciate the information.

Please contact the Town Historian,
Sandi Parisi, at 504-4135.

Photo compliments of Carol Baker

Editor's note: John Wulfken passed away a few days before this went to press.

Vera Brown- World War II Veteran, Teacher, Mom and More- 1917-2011

By Mark Brown

Vera Brown may not have been born in Warrensburg but she had an impact on the Warrensburg community and the people who live here.

Vera was born on December 2, 1917 in Boston, Massachusetts. Her parents Oscar Kalley (Kalejs) and Wilma Sarin Kalley were immigrants from Latvia who made their way to New York City at an early age.

Vera spent her early childhood in Brooklyn, New York and Floral Park, Long Island. She earned her Bachelor Degree from Adelphi College (Long Island) in Ancient History with a minor in Religion and extensive studies in Latin, Greek, Spanish and Italian. She won a fellowship to study and teach in Damascus, Syria but World War II broke out and she enlisted in the Special Services Division of the Women's Army Corps on January 16, 1943 in New York City. She obtained the rank of Captain and S2 Intelligence Officer while serving in the Mediterranean Theatre in Italy, Morocco and Egypt. While in the Army she continued her education while in Caserta, Italy in Modern News Reporting, Conversational Italian and Psychology and Life. Following World War II, she obtained her Master's Degree in History and Social Sciences in Secondary Schools from Columbia University. There was a surplus of teachers and her lack of teaching experience led her to other careers. She worked as a secretary in market research for Carter Products, Inc. in New York City. She later also worked as a private secretary in New York City with American Business Papers, Inc.



Vera and Art Elgin
Chateau 1947

doing advertising and she continued graduate studies at New York University. She even taught two nights a week at Arthur Murray's Dance School. Her parents had built a summer home across the Schroon River from Arthur Brown's residence in Warrensburg and this is where they met.

She married Arthur Brown on May 30, 1947 and they moved to Warrensburg. They bought Rist's Boot Shop owned and operated

ed by Ernest G. Rist, on Main Street in Warrensburg - thus the beginning of Brown's Shoe Store.

Vera and Arthur started a family with Mark being born on May 29,



Vera and Mark 1951

1948 and twin daughters Janis and Judy born on November 9, 1958. She worked as a clerk and bookkeeper at the store, substitute taught at Warrensburg Central for a few years, and renewed her certification for secondary teaching and later earned a permanent certification in elementary education. She always enjoyed yoga and exercise classes even when she was in her 70 and 80's. She taught Sunday school at the Presbyterian Church and taught a woman's adult exercise class at WCS. She worked as a Director at the Warrensburg summer Youth Program and was a Secretary for Chamber of Commerce. She was a member of the B.P.W., 4H instructor and fair judge, a Girl Scout and Brownies leader but always felt she was more of a non-joiner. She taught primarily 3rd Grade at Warrensburg Central. Vera continued her lifetime love of education throughout her teaching career taking classes and workshops at Adirondack Community College, SUNY - Plattsburgh, Niagara University, Elmira College, University of Rochester, Cornell University and SUNY Potsdam. She taught for more than 37 years at Warrensburg and at 79 years old retired in June of 1996. After retirement she spent time at the store, working in the Christmas Trees at Brown's Tree Farm, reading, spending time with her 6 grandchildren and until her later years travelling. Vera died in her home in Warrensburg on October 5, 2011.

Teaching was a special love for Vera. She always saw the good in every student she had and knew they all could succeed. Vera's philosophy on teaching was "help the child to be so that they may become- Don't expect miracles and overnight changes; look for and be glad for small successes. Make the classroom say 'this is living', but not pressure, not tension, not competition----but, 'I want to and like to come to school'". (excerpts from profile written by Vera Brown in the 1960's).

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Abbie's parents were Robert E. Davis and Satie Myrtle Whitmore. She had four siblings. Her sister Elda was born in 1916, also in Glens Falls. Elda passed away at 91 years of age in October of 2007. Her brother Robert, born in 1918 passed away at the age of 90 in March of 2009. Robert went into the military in 1940 and served as a mechanic in the 3rd Armored Division in Germany. The doctor who presided over his birth was given a pig in lieu of cash payment. Her younger brother Clifton was born while they lived on Harrington Hill and will be 92 on July 7. Abbie's younger sister Hattie was born in 1912 and has passed as well.

Abbie talks about her sister Elda's wedding ceremony to Leon Monroe being performed in the big bay window at a house on River Street next to Herrick's Store. Abbie was the Maid of Honor. She recalls people walking by on the street stopping to watch the wedding couple in the window.

Abbie's dad worked the family farm and also had a job as an ironer at the shirt factory. Later on when Abbie had married and moved into her own home her dad fulfilled one of his wife's dreams and built her a grocery store off the side of their house a little east of Bakers Crossing. While the store mostly sold groceries, they had items like hats and mittens in the winter. Abbie made children's clothing which her mom sold in the store. After Abbie married she would grocery shop at her mom's store. For clothing she would travel to Glens Falls with her husband.

Abbie's maternal grandparents were caretakers of the Irish Farm (now Roaring Brook). She remembers riding the trolley with her sisters down as far as the Luzerne Road, then getting off and walking up the road to visit them. She recalls the trolley passed over the Luzerne Road, which went under the tracks through a short tunnel. [One can see today that the tracks at the Best Western Motel were on a grade well above the Luzerne Road.] Abbie's paternal grandparents lived in Pottersville part of the time and are buried there. She never knew her grandmother Davis, but from the way her father talked about her, Abbie thinks she must have been a nice lady.

Abbie had cousins a little younger than herself who lived on Crandall Street in

Glens Falls, but she did not see them very often after her family moved to Warrensburg. She has memories of attending the county fair, held at the fair ground behind Ashe's Hotel, and recalls one time when they packed a picnic lunch and met her father's sister and (we presume) those cousins at the fair for a picnic and a fun time. Years later she would go to the fairgrounds to attend the 4H events to see her children who were active in 4H.

When the family lived on Library Avenue Abbie attended 1st grade at the Union Free School located where Stewart's is now. Abbie smiles fondly as she speaks about her teacher, Mrs. Flynn and says "She was a sweetheart and so good with the little kids." After the move to Harrington Hill, Abbie and her siblings attended the North Caldwell one-room school (still standing today beside the exit ramp of the Northway). Her teacher was Mrs. Summerfield. Abbie finished 6th grade, received her certificate, and moved on to 7th grade at the Union Free School

The transition was not an easy one however. Mrs. Summerfield told Abbie that her new teacher Mrs. Frost was not happy about having new students in her classroom as she felt she already had too many. Abbie recalls Mrs. Frost not being very nice or helpful to her. A young girl by the name of Hayes invited Abbie to sit with her and study civics. But after a few minutes Mrs. Frost sent Abbie back to her seat. Abbie says the principal and Mrs. Frost would have discussions in the back of the room all the while looking at Abbie. It was not long passed before she was told she was being sent back to 6th grade. This move back to 6th grade at the Union Free School turned out to be a blessing that Abbie says she "could be very thankful for," because she had a nice teacher she liked very much by the name of <<— Frank Cameron.



Abbie went on to finish 7th and 8th grade at the Union Free School. She was only able to complete a few weeks of 9th grade before having to leave school and get a job to help support her family. She was then 16.

Years later Mrs. Frost joined the Rebekah's, the ladies' branch of the Odd Fellows. Abbie and her sister Elda were already members; Abbie held the title of Warden, a prestigious position in charge

of training new members. Abbie recalls joking with other members that she could "black ball" Mrs. Frost, preventing her from becoming a member. But she didn't, and she actually escorted Mrs. Frost in the procession to the initiation ceremony. Abbie says, "The beauty of it is that Mrs. Frost came to me and thanked me for being so nice, and that has done more good even than having been sent back to the 6th grade." Abbie says she is sure Mrs. Frost was a good teacher, but let the situation of her crowded classroom "get the best of her"

Abbie's first job was in Glens Falls. However it did not take her long to gain employment at the shirt factory in Warrensburg where she joined her dad, and two sisters, Hattie and Elda. She worked there from 1930 until it closed due to the Great Depression. She began working there again in 1936 when it was reopened. During the years the factory was closed, Abbie worked at the blouse factory in Glens Falls and the shirt factory in Corinth. When Abbie started working, the Bureau of Labor Management was not yet created and it was not until 1938 that the Fair Labor Standards Act was passed which set a minimum wage and banned child labor.

At that time the factory was owned by a Polish gentleman whom everyone called Mr. Parker because they could not remember his name. When asked if he was nice to work for she Abbie says "Oh, he was all right" but he was not nice to her. Abbie's job was to sew pockets on the front of the shirts. Abbie had a natural talent for sewing and averaged about 50 dozen pockets a day, but was known to be able to finish up to 60 dozen. The forewoman Edna Harrington, often had, Abbie filling in for absent employees or completing other tasks. She learned all the operations needed to complete a shirt. Abbie received \$.03 for sewing the (2) pockets on a dozen shirts and then later got an additional 3/4 of a cent for sewing the two parts of the shirt tail together and an additional 1/4 cent for the button stay... or 4 cents for doing all of the above on one dozen shirts. Abbie worked at the shirt factory until the spring of 1940 helping to support her family. The work day started at 7:00 and went to 4:00 or 5:00. Abbie laughs when she says they were very generous and says that is why they called them sweat shops. But Abbie came in to work one morning to find the

Continued on next page.

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owner waiting for her. Apparently, the girl who was in charge of turning in the counts reported Abbie for only completing 20 dozen pieces the previous day. Abbie says this young lady was quite jealous of her success at the factory. The owner Mr. Parker questioned Abby as to why her counts were so low and Abbie tried to explain to him that she had been training a new girl as well as completing other tasks for the forewoman. He did not seem to understand what she was saying and after trying several times to clarify she said to him "you will never understand". At this point, he fired her. The question remains as to whether he fired her for low production counts or because she was wise to him in her response.

Abbie has always been very active in the Baptist Church. She helped found a Christian Young Peoples group and has fond memories of the various activities the group took part in. These activities ranged from picnics to concerts and lunch box parties. She was "chums" with Pastor Haight's daughter Mae, who played basketball on the local team and would go and watch her play at the Music Hall. Pastor Haight married Abbie and her husband.

Before they were married Abbie's husband Willis "Buster" Hastings used to visit when they lived on Truesdale Hill. He worked with Abbie's father at the shirt factory, He would come to the house and help to cut firewood but as Abbie says he had another "motive" He was nearer her sister Elda's age and Abbie's parents thought that they would make a good match. He drove his father's Peerless car and she and Hattie would sit in the rumble seat and sing love songs at the top of their voices while going for rides with him and Elda. One song she recalls singing was "I'm Looking over a Four Leaf Clover." That song charted at #2 for Nic Lucas in 1927. Hattie and Abbie were quite good singers, and when they would take their dad's lunch pail to the Shirt Factory he would ask them to stay and sing for the boys in the laundry. Buster stopped coming to visit when he took a job with his brother Frank in Stony Creek, and Abbie did not see him again until she was 23. Buster started to come around again to visit in 1937 and he & Abbie started "going together." People were still going through tough times from the Great Depression, so when they decided to get

married Abbie thought it would be a good idea to have their Thanksgiving and wedding dinner on the same day to save money. Abbie and Buster tied the knot on Thanksgiving Day in the Baptist church in 1938, Abbie was 24 years old. Abbie and Buster moved into the summer camp that her parents had rented from Jesse Carpenter for a short time, they eventually rented a place from Edna Harrington on Catharine Street for \$10 a month.

Eight years later in 1946 Buster and Abbie purchased a home on Potterbrook Road. In 1921 running water was put into the house, Abbie liked having running water and electricity. It was here as well that the family got their first telephone and television sometime in the 1950s. She does not remember the first phone call she made or received. She does recall that it was a party line and some people were fond of listening in other people's conversation. She says her sister Elda had a phone before Abbie did, so it would not be unreasonable to think she would have called her sister first. Her family did have a radio when she was younger but she does not recall listening to it often. Her dad would listen to the prize fights and ball games on the radio.

Their five children, Roscoe, Don, John, Jennie and Dave, were all raised in this home where Abbie still resides. Abbie smiles a lot when she talks about her children. She says that it was mostly up to her to discipline the children. Abbie did not believe in switching her children, but on occasion she would do so if she thought it was warranted. "Spare the rod, spoil the child" she says. "That's the way people disciplined their children back then." Some people she says used razor straps but she did not do that. She remembers switching John once, but neither she nor he recalls why he was in trouble. It was Abbie and Buster's daughter Jenny who was the most challenging and often got her brothers into trouble. Once Jenny told her brother to go inside and tell their mom that Jenny had broken her leg. So he did and Abbie believed him and went running out to find it was not true. Abbie hopes that her children did not find her to be a mean mother. Abbie and Buster's five children went on to give them 9 grandchildren and 8 great grandchildren with two more on the way. Sadly, Abbie lost Buster in 1997; he was 90 years old. She says they had a good marriage and her advice to young people on the secret

to a good marriage is to have patience.

When Abbie's children started school, she worried about them because they were so young. After all she says, "I was 7 when I started and they were only 5." She shared these stories about their first days of school.

I decided that it would be the right thing to do to go to school with my children to make sure they were all right. I would get on the bus with them and ride it to school; no one told me that I could not do this. Once Roscoe came home and told me about something that one of his teachers was doing which I thought was not right, so I wrote a letter to the principal explaining why I did not agree with what was happening and why. The principal took care of the situation and the teacher and I eventually became good friends.

Abbie had said, when talking about her own school years, that she wondered why her parents did not question her being sent back to the 6th grade, so it is not surprising that she wanted to be more involved in her own children's school experience.

Abbie does not seem to have many regrets about her life.

She does wish that she had learned to drive. Abbie's dad had an Overland car, and her brother Bob tried to teach her to drive it. They started at the barn and drove down to the fence along the road. Bob was telling her to hit the brake and she was so busy looking for it that she didn't look where she was going and ran into the wire fence along the road. She never drove after that. She wanted to take adult Driver's Education which was offered at the school, but Buster and the children talked her out of it.

Abbie dreamed of becoming a nurse when she was young. In fact she wrote a letter to Ellis Hospital to find out what it would cost for her to go to school for nursing. The hospital replied with \$500, which was way beyond Abbie's means, so she was unable to fulfill that dream.

Abbie will be 102 years old in July of 2016. Her mother lived to the age of 92, her father until he was 98, and her siblings into their 90's as well.

When asked how she felt about her age, her response was

"I read about someone who was 117 years old, I can't imagine that."

From the Historian's Corner

By Sandi Parisi

In an election year, this article struck me as not so different from what is going on today. Joseph Russell was born in 1800, probably in Warrensburg, and was a very successful businessman.

The following article was printed on November 3, 1844 in the Glens Falls Clarion, word for word.

“READ” The following is a copy of a handbill printed by the Locofocos [The Locofocos were a faction of the Democratic Party that existed from 1835 until the mid-1840s.] of this county, and circulated in large numbers in the counties of Clinton and Franklin. The handbills have been very cautiously concealed from the electors of this county. They dare not circulate so gross an outrage upon the public sentiment. We give the contents of the Handbill without comment, trusting to each elector’s knowledge of the facts, and to public opinion, for a verdict.

A GROSS SLANDER REFUTED To the Electors of the 15th Congressional District.

The undersigned, citizens of Warrensburgh, in the county of Warren, the residence and native place of Joseph Russell, Esq., the democratic candidate for your suffrages in this district, have seen with mingled sentiments of astonishment and indignation, the following communication, published in the Clinton County Whig of the 26th October instant:

Joseph Russell, the Loco Candidate for Congress, Mr. Editor: Will you answer some in-

quires respecting the moral character of Joseph Russell, the Loco candidate for Congress?

Is it true that he is a man of Depraved morals? That he is a Gambler, and the associate of Gamblers?

That he has kept and now keeps a Mistress, and has two sets of children?

That he has been complained of before the Grand Jury of his county for a violent assault upon the person of a female?

And that he is a man of intemperate habits?

Now sir, I am desirous of knowing whether these things are true, and whether we have a man of this character presented to an intelligent and moral community for support. Will you be good enough to give the people some light upon this subject?

An Elector

Now this is to certify, that we all have known Joseph Russell, whose character is malignantly attacked in the foregoing article, for many years, that most of us have been intimately acquainted with him from his boyhood and that we take pleasure in pronouncing all the allegations and insinuations, embraced in the foregoing article, to be in every particular wrong, unfounded, and most wickedly false.

Mr. Russell is not a professedly religious man – and more than that his most unscrupulous personal enemies, of whom he has fewer than any other man of his extensive business and acquaintances, cannot, with truth, assert against him. As a man of clear, sound judgment, vigilant and indefatigable business habits, correct deportment, exemplary moral character, as a man possessed of all, in a word, that constitutes the valuable member of society,

and the good citizen, Mr. Russell stands amongst us deservedly high, and most respected wherever he is known.

Mr. Russell has been seven times Supervisor of his native town, in 1834 he was elected Sheriff of this county by the unprecedented majority of 648, and in 1839,

amidst the defections of Conservatism, and when no other democrat was willing to take the nomination, he was elected to the Assembly by a signally triumphant vote.

But we prefer to leave the vindication of his character to the Electors of his own county – and to this end we do not hesitate to venture the prediction, that, at the coming election, he will run far ahead of his own ticket. Warrensburgh, Oct. 28 1844

[Signed by] Geo Pattison, F. A Farlin, Joseph Woodward, Stephen Griffin, Benj. P. Burhans, N.J. Warren, George S. Pattison. [All very prominent businessmen in Warrensburg.]

In addition, there is appended to the Handbill, a certificate from Orville Clark, Senator, 4th District, in which he certifies that he has been intimately acquainted with Col. Joseph Russell for more than 20 years and fully and cordially concurs with the foregoing gentlemen in all they have said. There is another from Clerk and Sheriff of this county, certifying to their acquaintance with signers of the handbill and corroborating their statement.

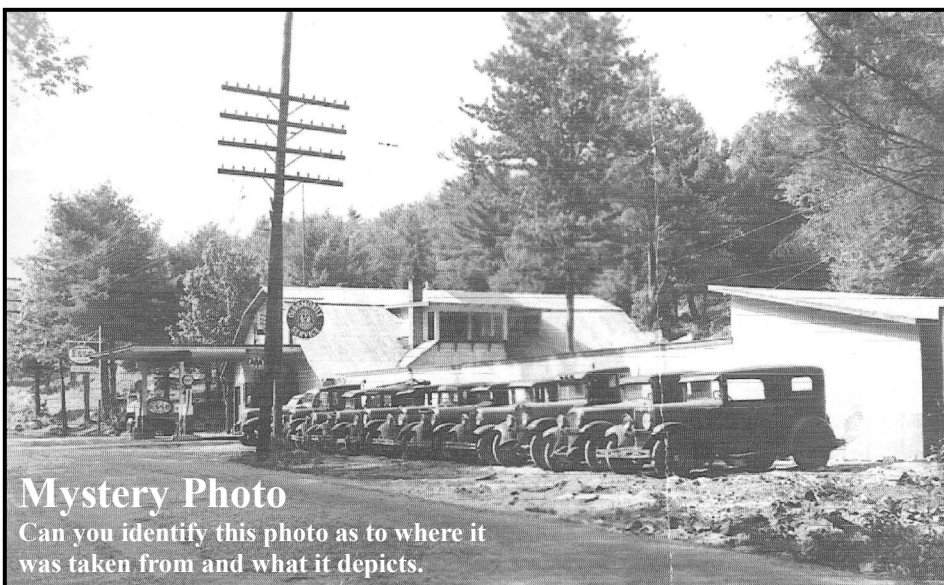
As we said before, we shall make no comments on the above handbill, but submit it to the judgment of the electors and those who know.”

Mr. Russell did win the election and served two terms. 1845-1847 and 1851-53. He was married to Ann Vowers, a member of one of Warrensburg’s first families. They had six children. He died in 1875.

This article was in a notebook given to the Museum by Sarah Farrar. The notebook includes many letters dating from 1832 to 1892. One of the letters, dated Sept. 11, 1843, addressed to B.P. Burhans informs him that he was appointed one of the NY Delegates to the Democratic National Convention, and instructed him to present the name of Martin Van Buren for nomination for the Presidency.



Joseph Russell



Mystery Photo

Can you identify this photo as to where it was taken from and what it depicts.

The mystery photo in the last Quarterly (Vol 21, #1) shows the grist mill. The tower is still there on the Grist Mill Restaurant. The Emerson sawmill is off the picture to the right; that's why the 4x4s and 6x6s are on the ground. Ray Keyes lived in the house on the left side of the picture.

His father, Commander Keyes, as the ranking veteran in town, was the Grand Marshal at our Memorial Day parades. The hill in the background is the hill between Echo Lake and the river.

The photo was correctly identified by M. Betsey Remington