

# Warrensburgh Historical Society Quarterly

Volume 13 Issue 3 Fall 2008

# PLYMOUTH ROCK TO WARRENSBURG

# By Roscoe Hastings

They say everything changes for the good. Sometimes I am not so sure. Long gone are the days when school children read and memorized poetry. I am reminded of Longfellow's poem "The Courtship of Miles Standish." I wonder if Standish actually sent John Alden to propose to Priscilla Mullins? Do you think she really said,"Prithee, John, why do you not speak for yourself?"

Now my mind wanders to Warrensburg and I remember Alden Avenue. I wonder where it got its name? Could it be from Samuel Rice Alden who settled in Warrensburg in the middle 1800s? Could Samuel Alden be related to John Alden?

With a little research I have been able to answer the last question. Now I have one more question. Are there any descendents of John Alden still living in Warrensburg? I will refer you to our favorite librarian, Sarah Farrar for the answer.

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# THE DIARY OF A WWI SOLDIER "IDENTITY REVEALED"

## by Rita Ferraro

Joseph Adelbert Aiken born April 14, 1889 in Glens Falls; died February 26, 1968, age 79 in Warrensburg; buried West Glens Falls Cemetery, Glens Falls. His parents, both born in the USA, were Lester B. Aiken, born 1862 and Edith R.(maiden name unknown) born about 1865. Lester once owned a pool hall in Glens Falls.

Joseph was the WWI soldier I wrote of in our Summer 2008 Quarterly Newsletter, whose handwritten 1year diary of his wartime experiences in Italy and France from April 8, 1918 to May 1, 1919 captivated my interest and respect while transcribing it for the Museum's archives. I have since discovered that the Museum's collection also includes Joseph's WWI Army uniform. It has been carefully preserved and packed by two of the Museum's dedicated, ongoing volunteer workers, Phyllis Jacobs and Liz Sebald.

In researching Joseph, I learned that he was very well thought of by those who knew him. He was described as a generous, hardworking man who also liked to hunt and fish, especially with his friends, Ray Hayes and Marcus Branch. He also did a little boxing and was a professional drummer, which probably accounts for Page 1 of his diary which reads: "At the Burg one night in Church I made up my mind to join the army. I got an application to join an aviation band...". Alas, he never did get to join that band since there were no openings available. However, when he returned to civilian life following the war, he fulfilled that dream and became a member and drummer for The Adirondack Pipes & Drums, Inc. (Still in existence, this is a NY State not-for-profit corporation to provide education and promote cultural awareness of the traditions and music of Scottish Highland Bagpipes and Drums.)

According to his diary just prior to his Army enlistment Joseph was working at the Warrensburgh Woolen Company. Upon his discharge in May 1919, he returned to work there while "paying \$20 per boarding at Mrs. Bibby's". In the years following, his extensive job history included working at Niagara Mohawk as a meter man and some nighttime work at the Feeder Dam for NIMO. At one time he also worked for the NY State Highway Department. During the WWII years he worked at the mine site at Tahawus, NY (located in the High Peaks Region of NY where iron ore and wrought iron were produced; during WWII National Lead opened the mine for processing the titanium that was found there.)

He had two sisters living in Warrensburg at the time of his

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#### PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

The Sticky Wicket Croquet Games and Picnic were again a great success; again we were blessed with a beautiful day. Thank you to all who supported the event. Thank you to the many businesses and organizations for your donations. Besides your yearly dues these are the folks that help to maintain our fiscal stability. We ask that you patronize these businesses. Thank you to our Board of Directors and a few others that see to it that all the "behind the scenes" work is readied for the pleasure of our guests. A special thank you to Brian Engle, touted "Chef Extraordinaire," and his assistants, for his wonderful barbeque chicken and such. And thank you to those who attended the twelfth annual Sticky Wicket Croquet Games and Picnic. We are pleased and honored that you joined us for this special event. There were many familiar faces and some new ones as well. I understand that the most distant that anyone came from was California but New Jersey was also represented. Our surrounding communities were well represented by guests coming from Glens Falls, Oueensbury, Brant Lake, Chestertown, North Creek and Indian Lake. The picnic included a wide variety of salads and deserts brought by many of the attendees. Board games and raffles and socializing continued under the pavilion throughout the afternoon. Many took advantage of the spectator tent to watch the croquet competition. And then there were those who competed in the tournament. Last year I waxed poetic about the genteelness of the event and expounded on the competitiveness of the last half hour of play. I noted the camaraderie and the fun that was had by, seemingly, all participants. Friendships are made and re-kindled out on the fields. No less so this year. This year we had a tie at second place being just one point out of first and third place was just two points under that. Another exciting finish to the competition. First place was taken by RICHARD STONITCH with a very respectable thirty points. Richard was a first year competitor, a rather quiet and reserved player, perhaps that was his strategy.

Congratulations Richard!

**Delbert Chambers** 



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

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### **Board of Directors**

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The Board of Directors meets at the Senior Center, 3847 Main Street, at 6:30 PM on the 2nd Tuesday of each month. Society members welcome. Call Delbert to confirm at 623-3514.

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## **UPCOMING EVENTS**

**Sept. 28** Artifacts Nite & Tea, Sr. Citizen Center 4:00 pm

October 23 Luncheon with the Dead at Griffin House 12 Noon

October 24 Graveyard Walk & Dessert at Cornerstone Victorian 7:00 pm

October 26 Dinner w/ the Dead at Griffin House 6:00 pm

October 31 Graveyard Walk & Dessert at Maher's (2 Clover Leaf Dr) 7:00 pm

Nov. 13 David Pitkin @ Griffin House "Ghost Stories" 7:00 pm

The next Quarterly Deadline is November 1st

#### NEW E-MAIL

The Society has recently obtained an email address. If you want to contact us directly, send your email to:

whs7396@yahoo.com

## **Membership Information**

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

Membership is on a calendar year basis.

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

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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. We welcome and encourage corrections, comments and additional information.

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# Alden Genealogy

#### Generation 1

1. **Julia Cecilia Alden** is the daughter of Albert Cornelius Alden and Nina Cecilia Kelleher. She was born on 05 Aug 1922 in Warrensburg, Warren, New York, USA [1, 2]. She died on 22 May 1924 in Warrensburg, Warren, New York, US[2].

## **Generation 2**

- 2. **Albert Cornelius Alden** is the son of Seth Alden and Julia C. Burke. He was born on 20 Oct 1896 in Warrensburg, Warren, New York, USA [1]. He died on 16 Aug 1936 in Warrensburg, Warren, New York, USA [2].
- 3. **Nina Cecilia Kelleher**. She was born 1899 in Palmer, Saratoga, NY [3].
- Albert Cornelius Alden and Nina Cecilia Kelleher. They were married on 23 Nov 1920 in Warrensburg, Warren, New York, USA [3]. They had 1 child.
- + 1. i. **Julia Cecilia Alden**. She was born on 05 Aug 1922 in Warrensburg, Warren, New York, USA [1,2]. She died on 22 May 1924 in Warrensburg, Warren, New York, USA [2].

#### **Generation 3**

- 4. **Seth Alden** is the son of Albert A. Alden and Cynthia Stone. He was born on 23 May 1863 in Warrensburg, Warren, New York, USA [2]. He died on 24 Nov 1931 in Warrensburg, Warren, New York, USA [2].
- 5. **Julia C. Burke**. She was born 1868. She died 1946. Seth Alden and Julia C. Burke. They had 1 child.
- + 2. i. **Albert Cornelius Alden**. He was born on 20 Oct 1896 in Warrensburg, Warren, New York, USA [1]. He married Nina Cecilia Kelleher. They were married on 23 Nov 1920 in Warrensburg, Warren, New York, USA [3]. He died on 16 Aug 1936 in Warrensburg, Warren, New York, USA [2].

#### **Generation 4**

- 8. **Albert A. Alden** is the son of Samuel Rice Alden and Eliza Gibson. He was born on 31 Aug 1835 in Whitehall, Washington, NY, USA [1]. He died on 09 Nov 1904 in Warrensburg, Warren, New York, USA [2].
- 9. **Cynthia Stone** is the daughter of John Stone and Jane Herrick. She was born on 08 Sep 1844 in Warrensburg, Warren, New York, USA [2]. She died on 14 Jul 1919 in Warrensburg, Warren, New York, USA [2]. Albert A. Alden and Cynthia Stone. They had 5 children.

- + 4. i. **Seth Alden**. He was born on 23 May 1863 in Warrensburg, Warren, New York, USA [2]. He died on 24 Nov 1931 in Warrensburg, Warren, New York, USA [2].
- ii. **John Samuel Alden**. He was born 1864 in Warrensburg, Warren, New York, USA. He married Ella Louise Huntly. They were married on 25 Dec 1886 in Warrensburg, Warren, New York, USA [3].
- iii. Nellie Jane Alden. She was born on 15 Mar 1869 in Warrensburg, Warren, New York, USA. She married George Washington Farrar. They were married on 01 May 1890 in Warrensburg, Warren, New York, USA [3]. She died on 17 Mar 1958 in Warrensburg, Warren, New York, USA.
- iv. **Emma C. Alden**. She was born 1871 in Warrensburg, Warren, New York, USA. She died 1876.
- v. **William Harvey Alden**. He was born on 12 May 1885 in Warrensburg, Warren, New York, USA [1]. He married Anna. Laura Bennett. They were married on 26 Nov 1908. He died 1964.

#### **Generation 5**

- 16. **Samuel Rice Alden** is the son of Jesse Alden and Sarah Rice. He was born on 07 May 1793 in Cornish, Sullivan, New Hampshire, USA [4]. He died 1874 in Warrensburg, Warren, New York, USA.
- 17. **Eliza Gibson**. She was born 1805. She died 1852. Samuel Rice Alden and Eliza Gibson. They were married on 22 Dec 1827 in Grafton, Windham, Vermont, USA [4]. They had 6 children.
- i. **Harriet Alden**. She was born 1829.
- ii. Mary Alden. She was born 1830.
- + 8. iii. **Albert A. Alden**. He was born on 31 Aug 1835 in Whitehall, Washington, NY, USA [1]. He died on 09 Nov 1904 in Warrensburg, Warren, New York, USA [2].
- iv. Martha Alden. She was born 1838.
- v. **Emeline F. Alden**. She was born on 15 Jul 1842. She married Sela S. Fuller. They were married on 20 Mar 1859 in Bolton, Warren, New York, USA. She died on 04 Nov 1872 in Glens Falls, Warren, New York, USA.
- vi. **Alzina Alden**. She was born on 04 Aug 1846. She married Sidney Fuller. They were married on 04 Oct 1866 in Bolton, Warren, New York, USA. She died 1916 in Glens Falls, Warren, New York, USA.

- 18. John Stone.
- 19. **Jane Herrick**. John Stone and Jane Herrick. They had 1 child.
- + 9. i. **Cynthia Stone**. She was born on 08 Sep 1844 in Warrensburg, Warren, New York, USA [2]. She died on 14 Jul 1919 in Warrensburg, Warren, New York, USA[2].

#### Generation 6

- 32. **Jesse Alden** is the son of Daniel Alden and Jane Turner. He was born on 30 May 1762 in Stafford, Tolland, Connecticut, USA [4]. He died on 02 Apr 1813 in Claremont, Sullivan, New Hampshire, USA [4].
- 33. **Sarah Rice**. She was born on 09 Feb 1764 [4]. Jesse Alden and Sarah Rice. They had 9 children.
- + 16. i. **Samuel Rice Alden**. He was born on 07 May 1793 in Cornish City, Sullivan, New Hampshire, USA [4]. He married Eliza Gibson. They were married on 22 Dec 1827 in Grafton, Windham, Vermont, USA [4]. He died 1874 in Warrensburg, Warren, New York, USA.
- ii. **Amanda Alden**. She was born on 14 Mar 1795 [4]. She died on 05 Dec 1840[4]. iii. **Sarah Alden**. She was born on 09 Jan 1797 [4].
- iv. **Jesse Alden**. He was born on 26 Nov 1798 [4].
- v. **Harvey Alden**. He was born on 07 Jan 1801 [4]. He died on 09 Jul 1835 [4].
- vi. **David Alden**. He was born on 06 Mar 1804 [4]. He died on 17 May 1806[4]. vii. **Hannah Alden**. She was born on 31 Jul 1805 [4]. She died on 21 Mar 1832 [4]. viii. **Betsey Alden**. She was born on 31
- ix. **Mary Alden**. She was born on 30 Jan 1808 [4].

#### **Generation 7**

Jul 1805 [4].

- 64. **Daniel Alden** is the son of Daniel Alden and Abigail Shaw. He was born on 05 Sep 1720 in Bridgewater, Plymouth, Massachusetts, USA [4]. He died on 18 May 1790 in Lebanon, Grafton, NH, USA [4].
- 65. **Jane Turner**. She was born on 30 Mar 1725 [4]. She died on 06 May 1817 in Lebanon, Grafton, NH, USA [4].Daniel Alden and Jane Turner. They were married 1747 [4]. They had 12 children.
- i. **Hannah Alden**. She was born 1750 [4]. ii. **Abigail Alden**. She was born Oct 1750 [4]. She married Jude Converse. They were married 1772. She died May 1814 [4].



RICHARD STONITCH, 2008 Sticky Wicket winner, accepts the trophy from WHS President, Delbert Chambers

# STICKY WICKET 2008

Delbert goes over the rules.....



The raffle prizes..



Paul Gilchrist, Pete Wood & Brendan Hanley size up their shots





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- iii. **Ebenezer Alden**. He was born on 04 Jul 1755 [4]. He married Sarah Bass. They were married Apr 1787 [4]. He died on 16 Oct 1805 in Randolph, Norfolk, Massachusetts, USA [4].
- iv. **Infant Alden**. He was born on 08 Apr 1761 [4]. He died on 09 Apr 1761 [4]. + 32. v. **Jesse Alden**. He was born on 30 May 1762 in Stafford, Tolland, Con-

May 1/62 in Stafford, Tolland, Connecticut, USA [4]. He died on 02 Apr 1813 in Claremont, Sullivan, New Hampshire, USA [4].

- vi. **Samuel Alden**. He was born 1768 in Stafford, Tolland, Connecticut, USA [4]. He died 1842 in Hanover, Grafton, New Hampshire, USA [4].
- vii. **Isaac Alden**. He was born on 11 Feb 1770 in Stafford, Tolland, Connecticut, USA [4]. He died on 25 Aug 1845 [4].
- ix. Sarah Alden.
- x. **Daniel Alden**. He was born 1753 [4]. He died on 27 Jan 1817 [4].
- xi. Mihetable Alden.
- xii. Mary Alden.

# Generation 8

- 128. **Daniel Alden** is the son of Joseph Alden and Hannah Dunham. He was born on 29 Jan 1690 in Bridgewater, Plymouth, Massachusetts, USA [5]. He died on 03 May 1767 in Stafford, Tolland, Connecticut, USA [4].
- 129. **Abigail Shaw**. She was born Abt. 1694 [4]. Daniel Alden and Abigail Shaw. They were married 1717 [4]. They had 11 children.
- i. **Joseph Alden**. He was born on 20 Nov 1718 [4]. He married Susanna Packard. They were married 1742 [4]. He died on 02 Jan 1768 in Worcester, Worcester, Massachusetts, USA [4].
- + 64. ii. **Daniel Alden**. He was born on 05 Sep 1720 in Bridgewater, Plymouth, Massachusetts, USA [4]. He married Jane Turner. They were married 1747 [4]. He died on 18 May 1790 in Lebanon, Grafton, NH, USA [4].
- iii. **Abigail Alden**. She was born on 03 Dec 1722 [4]. She married Eleazer Whitman. They were married 1742 [4].
- iv. **Zephaniah Alden**. He was born on 13 Sep 1724 [4].
- v. **Hannah Alden**. She was born on 23 May 1726 [4]. She died on 02 Jul 1726 [4]. vi. **Hannah Alden**. She was born on 17 Dec 1727 [4].
- vii. **Mehetable Alden**. She was born on 23 May 1729 [4]. She died on 13 Jul 1729 [4].

- viii. **Barnabas Alden**. He was born on 10 Sep 1732 [4].
- ix. **Ebenezer Alden**. He was born on 11 Aug 1734 [4]. He died Jul 1755 [4].
- x. **Mary Alden**. She was born on 12 May 1737 [4]. She died on 06 Mar 173[4]. xi. **Mary Alden**.

#### Rebecca Curtis.

Daniel Alden and Rebecca Curtis. They had no children.

## **Generation 9**

- 256. **Joseph Alden** is the son of Joseph Alden and Mary Simmons. He was born 1667 in Duxbury, Plymouth, Massachusetts, USA [4]. He died on 22 Dec 1747 in Bridgewater, Plymouth, Massachusetts, USA [4].
- 257. **Hannah Dunham**. She died on 13 Jan 1748 [4]. Joseph Alden and Hannah Dunham. They were married 1690. They had 10 children.
- + 128. i. **Daniel Alden**. He was born on 29 Jan 1690 in Bridgewater, Plymouth, Massachusetts, USA [5]. He married Abigail Shaw. They were married 1717 [4]. He died on 03 May 1767 in Stafford, Tolland, Connecticut, USA [4].
- ii. **Joseph Alden**. He was born on 24 Aug 1693 in Bridgewater, Plymouth, Massachusetts, USA [5]. He died on 19 Dec 1695 in Bridgewater, Plymouth, Massachusetts, USA [4,5].
- iii. **Eleazer Alden**. He was born on 27 Sep 1694 in Bridgewater, Plymouth, Massachusetts, USA [4, 5]. He married Martha Shaw. They were married 1720 [4]. He died on 30 Jan 1773 [4].
- iv. **Hannah Alden**. She was born on 01 Feb 1696 in Bridgewater, Plymouth, Massachusetts, USA [5]. She married Mark Lothrop. They were married 1722 [4]. She died 1777 [4].
- ).v. **Mary Alden**. She was born on 10 Apr 1699 in Bridgewater, Plymouth,
- Massachusetts, USA [5]. She married Timothy Edson. They were married 1719 [4]. She died on 14 Feb 1782 [4].
- vi. **Joseph Alden**. He was born on 05 Sep 1700 in Bridgewater, Plymouth, Massachusetts, USA [5]. He died Oct 1700 [4].
- vii. **Jonathan Alden**. He was born on 03 Dec 1703 [4]. He died on 10 Nov 1704 [4]. viii. **Samuel Alden**. He was born on 20 Aug 1705 [4]. He married Abiah Edson. They were married 1728 [4]. He died 1785 [4].
- ix. Mehetable Alden. She was born on

- 18 Oct 1707 [4]. She died on 11 Apr 1737 [4].
- x. **Seth Alden**. He was born on 06 Jul 1710 [4]. He married Mehetable Carver. They were married 1741 [4]. He died on 06 Sep 1784 [4].

#### **Generation 10**

- 512. **Joseph Alden** is the son of John Alden and Priscilla Mullins. He was born Abt. 1627 in Plymouth, Plymouth, Massachusetts, USA [6]. He died on 08 Feb 1697 [4].
- 513. **Mary Simmons**. She was born Abt. 1641 [6]. Joseph Alden and Mary Simmons. They were married Abt. 1660 [6]. They had 5 children.
- + 256. i. **Joseph Alden**. He was born 1667 in Duxbury, Plymouth, Massachusetts, USA [4]. He married Hannah Dunham. They were married 1690. He died on 22 Dec 1747 in Bridgewater, Plymouth, Massachusetts, USA [4].
- ii. **John Alden**. He was born Abt. 1676 [4]. He died on 29 Sep 1730 [4].
- iii. **Mary Alden**. She married Samuel Allen. They were married 1700 [4].
- iv. **Elizabeth Alden**. She married Benjamin Snow. They were married 1691 [4]. She died 1705 [4].
- v. **Isaac Alden**. He married Mehitable Allen. They were married on 02 Dec 1685 [4].

#### **Generation 11**

- 1024. **John Alden**. He was born 1599 in Southampton, Hampshire, England. He died on 12 Sep 1667 in Duxbury, Plymouth, Massachusetts, USA.
- 1025. **Priscilla Mullins**. She died Abt. 1651 [6]. John Alden and Priscilla Mullins. They had 10 children.
- i. Elizabeth Alden. She was born Abt. 1624 in Plymouth, Plymouth, Massachusetts, USA. She married William Pabodie. They were married on 26 Dec 1644 in Plymouth, Plymouth, Massachusetts, USA [6]. She died on 31 May 1717 in Little Compton, Newport, Rhode Island, USA [6].
- ii. **John Alden**. He was born Abt. 1626 in Plymouth, Plymouth, Massachusetts, USA<sub>[6]</sub>. He married Elizabeth Everil. They were married on 01 Apr 1660 in Boston, Suffolk, Massachusetts, USA<sub>[6]</sub>. He died 14 Mar 1701/02<sub>[6]</sub>.
- + 512. iii. **Joseph Alden**. He was born Abt. 1627 in Plymouth, Plymouth, Massachusetts, USA [6]. He married Mary Simmons. They were married Abt. 1660

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- [6]. He died on 08 Feb 1697 [4].
- iv. Priscilla Alden. She was born Abt. 1630
- [6]. She died Aft. 1688 [6].
- v. Jonathan Alden. He was born Abt. 1632 MAYBE in Plymouth, Plymouth, Massachusetts, married on 10 Dec 1672 in Duxbury, Ply- NOT! mouth, Massachusetts, USA [6]. He died 14 Feb 1696/97 in Duxbury, Plymouth,

Massachusetts, USA [6].

- vi. Sarah Alden. She was born Abt. 1634 [6]. She married Alexander Standish. They were married Abt. 1660 [6].
- She married John Bass. They were married 03 Feb 1657/58 in Braintree, Norfolk, Massachusetts, USA [6]. She died on 12 Oct 16[4]. viii. Mary Alden. She was born Abt. 1638 [6]. She died Aft. 1688 [6].
- [6]. She married Thomas Delano. They were married 1667 [6].
- x. **David Alden**. He was born Abt. 1642 [6]. when getting married. He married Mary Southworth. They were married Bef. 1674 [6]. He died 1719 [4].

#### Sources

- 1 Warrensburg Birth Records, Warrensburg, NY Town Clerk's Office.
- 2 Warrensburg Death Records, Warrensburg, NY Town Clerk's Office.
- 3 Warrensburg Marriage Records, Warrensburg, NY Town Clerk's Office.
- dents of the Hon. John Alden (Randolph, one in it. Hence the saying, "Don't Cups made of lead were primarily MA, 1867).
- 5 Massachusetts Vital Records to 1850.
- 6. Robert Charles Anderson, The Great Migration Begins (Boston, MA: New England Historic Genealogical Society).



EVER WONDER WHERE SOME It was common among the poorer OF TODAYS' CUSTOMS **THESE** WORDS WISDOM WILL STOP YOUR USA. He married Abigail Hallett. They were **WONDERING**, **BELIEVE IT OR** 

## by Rita Ferraro

# BACK IN THE OLD DAYS...

vii. **Ruth Alden**. She was born Abt. 1636 [6]. Most people were married in the month of June because they took their yearly bath in the month of May and still A diet of meat could be scarce in the smelled pretty good by June. However, old days and when pork was availthey were starting to smell, so brides able it made the people feel quite ix. **Rebecca Alden**. She was born Abt. 1640 carried a bouquet of flowers to hide the special and fortunate. When visitors body odor. Hence the custom we still came by, they would hang up their have today of carrying a bridal bouquet slabs of bacon proudly. They would

Annual baths consisted of a large tub and "chew the fat". filled with lots of hot water. The head A loaf of bread was divided accordof the household had the privilege of ing to one's status. Workers would the nice, clean, hot water first, then the get the burned bottom of the loaf, the sons, then the women and finally the family would get the middle, and children. Last of all put into the tub guests would get the top, or "the upwere the babies. By then the water was per crust". 4 Ebenezer Alden, Memorial of the Descen- so dirty you could actually lose somethrow the baby out with the bath water". used to drink ale or whiskey. This Many houses had thatched roofs - thick combination of lead and liquor straw piled high with no wooden base would knock out the imbibers, someunderneath. It was a good place for ani- times for days, falling into the mals to keep warm, so lots of cats, streets. They would be assumed mice, dogs and bugs lived in the roof. dead, picked up and prepared for When it rained the roof became slippery burial at home. They were laid out and sometimes the animals would slip on the kitchen table for a couple of and fall off. Hence the saying, "It's rain- days and the family would gather ing cats and dogs".

> The thatched roofs posed a real prob- the custom, "holding a wake" lem..all sorts of things would fall through. It was really a problem in the In some small rural towns, the local bedroom where bugs and other drop- folks would run out of places to bury pings could mess up a nice clean bed. people. So, they would dig up cof-Hence, a bed was devised with four fins from older graves and take the large posts and a sheet flung over the bone remains to a bone-house in ortop which afforded some protection and der to reuse the grave. It was rather gave way to the existence of the cano- bizarre when at least 1 out of 25 cofpied bed.

SAYINGS AND folk that floors were made of dirt. ORIGINATED? Hence the saying, "Dirt poor". The wealthy sometimes had slate floors that became slippery in the winter when wet, so they would spread thresh (straw) on the floor to keep their footing. As winter wore on, more thresh was added until, when the door was opened, the thresh slipped outside. A piece of wood was placed in the entranceway to prevent this. Hence the term, "threshold".

> cut off just a little to share with guests and then all would sit around

'round eating and drinking, waiting to see if they would wake up. Hence

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enlistment. (In my research I could only find the name of one, Jenny Richards, but if any reader can tell us the name of his other sister, and any other information, please write and tell us). It was his two sisters who saw him embark onto the train, off to war. He took with him a package personally delivered to him by "Mrs. Dr. Cunningham", containing a Red Cross comfort kit and khaki bag from the W.C.T.U. (Women's Christian Temperance Union.)

Joseph was 29 years old when he arrived at Camp Crane, PA June 8, 1918 for basic training. Four days later on the 12<sup>th</sup>, he received a telegram from home stating that his father was very ill and he left camp with a five-day pass. His father's health deteriorated rapidly while Joseph visited and he telegraphed his commanding officer for an extended pass. His request was never acknowledged therefore he returned back to camp on the 17th. It was that date on which he received another telegram from home that read "Father is dead".

Joseph was married twice. In 1907 at the young age of 18 he wed Bertha A. McElroy. They had one child who unfortunately died at 6 months of age. Bertha was the daughter of James and Ella McElroy. The photo included here is of Bertha and Joseph posing for the camera on Horicon Avenue. (I could not find any written records pertaining to Bertha's year of birth or the cause and date of her death.) The 1915 NYS census records show Joseph living on Oak Street in Warrensburg.

His second marriage in 1924 was to Ruth Elizabeth Potter and they had two children, a daughter, Josephine F. (once married to Clifton James Davis, maternal uncle of John T. Hastings, Quarterly Editor), and a son, Lester M. The NYS 1930 census shows Joseph and his family living on Warren Street in Warrensburg where they owned their own home, valued at that time at \$1,000.

Indeed, Joseph was a hardworking man not only in civilian life, but as his diary indicates, he was an excellent and dedicated American soldier who earned an honorable discharge signed by WWI General Pershing (this document is contained within Joseph's diary file, along with other very interesting papers and writings by Joseph). It seems he always found time to enjoy his passions for his family, music, fishing and hunting.

February of 1968, Joseph passed away.

In his 1-year diary Joseph never skipped entering a daily account, no matter if he was soaked to the skin and freezing after holding guard all day and night in the cold, pouring rain or the many days when he helped carry the thousands of wounded while in ambulance service. Sometimes it would only be one short line, "Rain today. Again!" The Warrensburgh Town Museum is so fortunate to have Joseph Aikens' writings. Someday perhaps an exhibit will be created at the Museum showcasing the diary of an exceptional north country citizen



Joseph Aiken and his first wife Bertha

Joseph's later years were tranquilly spent with his wife Ruth working their small farm in a little hollow on Route 9 in the town of Caldwell (Lake George) just opposite to where Brunetto's Restaurant is now. This peaceful existence for the Aikens' came to an end when progress reared its head in the mid 1960's and the new Northway construction overtook much of the surrounding land where Joseph's farm was thereby leaving Joseph and Ruth to give up the rural life and move into the town of Warrensburg. A few years later, in

(The writer wishes to thank the following who were helpful in obtaining some of my research for this article: Warrensburg Town Historian; Warrensburg Library Director; NYS Census Records; Cliff Davis & John T. Hastings.)

# 1956-1970 F.K.Wheeler, Warrensburg Negative File "Guess Who"

Call John at 798-0248 with your answers or e-mail jthastings@roadrunner.com







\_\_\_\_\_

33.

The photos in the last Quarterly were:
28. Tom Pratt 29. Ron Dorrance 30. James Smith
Correct answers were received from Sarah Farrar and Carolyn Dorrance

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fins were found to have scratch marks on the inside and it was realized that people had been buried alive. A plan was then devised where a string was tied on the wrist of the "corpse", led through the cofin and up through the ground where it was tied to a bell. Someone would be assigned to sit out in the grave-yard all night (the graveyard shift) to listen for the bell. Thus, someone could be "saved by the bell", or was considered to be a "dead ringer".



## Warrensburg Bicentennial Logo Contest

The Town of Warrensburg will be celebrating the 200<sup>th</sup> anniversary of its establishment in 2013. As the first step in organizing this celebration, a Bicentennial Logo Contest has been announced. The contest is open to all residents of the Town of Warrensburg. Application forms with rules and regulations are available from the Town Clerk's office at the Town Hall or on the Town website;

<u>townofwarrensburg.net</u>. The submission deadline is Friday, October 31, 2008. Entry is free.

The designs will be judged on overall effectiveness, creativity, practicality and aesthetics. The winner will be announced at the December 10th Town Board meeting.

The winner will receive \$100 and a plaque. All entries will receive a Certificate of Participation. The name of the winner will be published on the Town website, in local newspapers and announced on the radio. The will design will be used on all Bicentennial promotions.

# Warrensburgh Historical Society 2009 Calendar

will be mailed
to all members
along with this
Newsletter.
Additional copies
may be obtained
from the Society
Or at one of the
following
Warrensburg locations:
Glens Falls National Bank
Jack Toney's
Nemec's
Richard's Library

#### **BERT MURRAY DVD**

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A limited number still available. One hour of 16 mm footage shot between 1927 and 1931 by Warren County's first highway superintendent \$5.00/\$6.50 with postage. Call 623-2207 or write the Society at P.O.Box 441, Warrensburg, NY 12885.

This is an excellent film showing Warrensburgh and the surrounding area. Includes plowing snow, road-building, work at Westmount Infirmary, ship wreck on Lake George, camping on Lake George, views of Warrensburgh and much more.

#### **HELP WANTED**

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