



Warrensburgh Historical Society Quarterly

Volume 20 Issue 1

Spring 2015

(Editor Note: The following article came from *Tales of a Mining Engineer* by Frank C. Hooper, published in 1950.)

Garnet Lodge

During the time I was at the Delmar mine I had received a letter from my brother, George, which had interested me very much. It told of the existence of garnet in large quantities and superior quality in the mountains around the little village of North Creek in the central Adirondacks. As only one of these deposits was of a formation that could be hand-picked, and this deposit was already owned, George wanted to develop a mechanical process for separating the garnet from the hard rock in which it was embedded. The possibility of producing the stone for abrasive purposes in large enough quantities for a commercial market and the challenge this presented, appealed to me

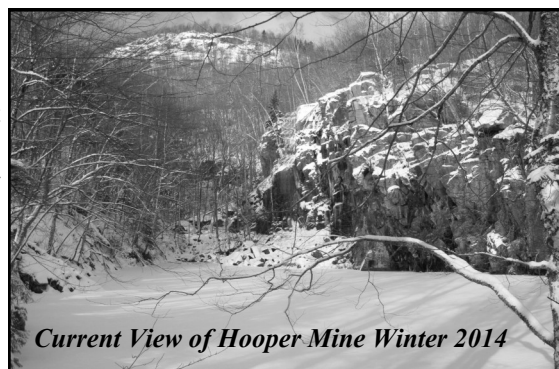
at once. So when I returned from the Bahamas, we went to work.

George was then manager of the Dixon Graphite Plant at the Hague mine near Ticonderoga and it was there that we made our experiments. We tried first to separate the garnet with machines that were used for treating other ores such as copper and lead but didn't get better than a 50% pure concentrate of garnet. This was not enough, although I had sent a ton of crushed ore to Professor Monroe at the Columbia School of Mines and his report had been that he thought it impossible to get a product any richer than that by mechanical separation. Then one day, while following a suggestion of our father's we got sidetracked and accidentally discovered the principal of a machine which gave a 95% concentrate.

This was a wooden trough containing water into which was poured the crushed, unseparated rock. Constant vibration of the trough caused the garnet, because of its greater specific gravity, to settle to the bottom. When this settling was complete the men would scoop up a ladle full of the crushed stone, brush off the top

waste rock or "tailings" and an almost pure concentrate of garnet remained. This machine we patented and called the Hooper Vanning Jig.

We then built a small pilot, or test mill to tryout our new machine, near the banks of the Hudson River a mile below the hamlet known as "The Glen" which was one of the stops for the Delaware and Hudson railroad. There was no garnet deposit in this section but we selected it for the pri-



vacy it afforded as we wished to make our test in secret until we could prove its worth. The result was entirely successful and warranted our next step, which was to locate a deposit of garnet of sufficient quantity to operate. After examining the territory in the vicinity of North Creek an ore body was found about three miles from North River and about a mile east of the foot of Ruby mountain, in

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PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

The Society's Preservation Committee, chaired by John Franchini, continues to apply for grants to fund its efforts to preserve the 1873 Miles Thomas house, aka the Senior Center, in cooperation with Warrensburgh Beautification, Inc. and the Town. A thorough and professional condition assessment of the house is intended to be produced in the form of an Historic Structure Report that will be the basis to acquire major funding for restoration work. It is expected there will be opportunity for volunteer work and monetary donations to support this project.

The Committee continues to develop its plans for the Tannery property that stretches for 1,200 feet along the Schroon River across from the Grist Mill Restaurant. The Society's plans include walking trails, historic markers, and benches that will add to Warrensburgh's recreational resources. Member Bob Bradley is helping with survey and mapping work.

The Society is producing a website and brochure for a Heritage Trail that can appeal to visitors and locals alike and guide them to our many historical sites and sights, both within and outside the hamlet. The project will be funded by \$1,500 of occupancy tax money granted from the town. Local residents undoubtedly will appreciate the descriptions and photos that will be included. Members Sandi Parisi and Teresa Whalen are much involved with providing information and working with Terry Jamison, who has taken many photos and will actually create the website.

The Society's Historical Enrichment Program at the Elementary School is well underway. Our Education Committee, chaired by Rosemary Maher, is conducting after-school programs for the 4th grade during the months of February-May. Each of the four monthly units consists of three 1¼-hour sessions. In February, Paul Gilchrist presented local landforms created by glaciers and

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Quarterly Editor

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

Quarterly Editor

Warrensburgh Historical Society

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Warrensburgh, NY 12885

Board of Directors

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Lynn Winslow: Vice-President,

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Steve Parisi - Museum Director

Note Change

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.

Warrensburgh Historical Society Quarterly

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Membership Information

Students \$5.00 Individual \$15.00 Family \$25.00 Senior (62+) \$10.00
Senior Family \$18 Contributing \$55.00 Business \$50.00 Life (Individual only)
\$300 (membership is on a calendar year basis)

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

NOTICE

The recording of history is an interpretive and ever changing study. Therefore, the Warrensburgh Historical Society or its Board of Directors or members shall not be held liable for the accuracy or authenticity of the material herein. **We welcome and encourage corrections, comments, and additional information.**

Contributors to this Issue

Sandi Parisi

Paul Gilchrist

CURRENT MEMBERSHIP: 204

Warrensburgh Historical Society

Website: www.whs12885.org

Email: whs7396@yahoo.com

Welcome New Members:

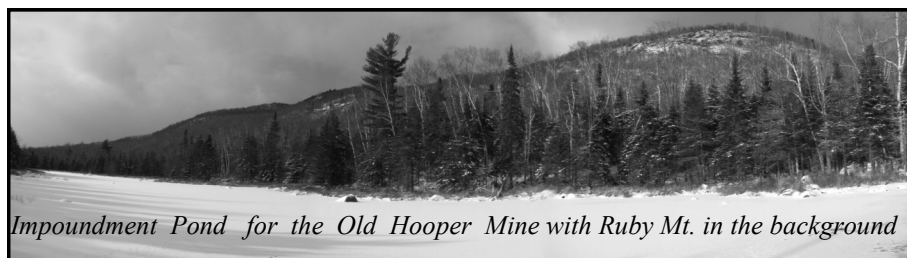
Adirondack Real Estate LLC

Nick Jacobs

Calendar of Events

For more events and details go to: www.whs12885.org.

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Impoundment Pond for the Old Hooper Mine with Ruby Mt. in the background

the town of Minerva, Essex County, which was of fair size, quite rich and uniform in quality.

To build a mill and develop a mining operation in this day of motor trucks and generally good roads is still quite an undertaking. But in those days of unplowed country roads and horse drawn vehicles it became a formidable task. We were ten miles from the railroad, the last five winding upwards on a rough, narrow road. An example of the difference may be shown by the fact that it took two weeks to bring up the first crusher (a huge piece of machinery weighing many tons) by putting it on logs with six horses pulling in front and men pushing from behind, taking out the logs as they were passed over and putting them under the front again, edging along by inches only and often getting bogged down in the mud. Compare this with the two days it took to bring a crusher to my last mine a few years ago!

Much of the labor in building the mill was done by hand where today it would be machine made. The big main timbers were cut from large trees and hand hewn to the square sizes needed. We built our own sawmill and produced the lumber needed for all the buildings; mill and office, homes for the married workmen and a boarding house for the single men, and the house which was to be my first home and which I called "Garnet Lodge." Considering the obstacles to be overcome,

the fact that we started the work in December, 1893, and had the mill operating that May was in itself a most satisfactory achievement.

Before the plant was complete our funds were very low and I went to the nearest bank which was in Warrensburg and owned by two brothers, Jim and Lou Emerson. I was unable to see them and left my request for a loan with a younger brother who was cashier. A few days later Lou Emerson and his friend, Senator Eldridge, came to the mine to see what was being done there. They chose a poor time for me. Things weren't going at all well in the plant that morning. The big crusher, which was used for breaking rocks of 24 to 30 inches in diameter, had broken down and practically all operations stopped. I had crawled in under it and was lying in the dust and grease trying to fix it when one of the men came up and said that Mr. Emerson and the Senator were waiting in the office to see me. I said, "You go tell them to go to..... and I'll be down in about an hour." A fine message to be sent to a banker by a man who wanted to borrow ten thousand! When at last I went down to the office, covered with dirt and grease, Mr. Emerson said,

"How much do you expect to get sending a message like that?" "Every damned cent," was my reply.

"Like....! you will," he retorted. "Let's see your mine."

Later, as he was getting into his survey to leave, he turned around and said, "Send down your note. We'll take care of you."

This was the beginning of a long business association and friendship between us. Years afterwards, while we were in New York together, Lou called on the president of the Federal Reserve Bank and during the conference he said, "Do you know how our customers apply for a loan in a country bank?" and then he told the above story.

If a product is produced it must also have a market. Before the development of machinery to separate the garnet from the rock there was not enough available to interest buyers who would use it in quantity. Before going on the road as my own salesman, I produced and stored in North Creek four carloads ready for shipment. Then I went to Brooklyn to see Robert Behr, manager of the Herman Behr Company, one of the largest manufacturers of sand paper at that time. I said to him,

"I understand you make garnet paper. I can supply you with all the garnet you need."

His reply was that they were not interested. They had tried handpicking the garnet themselves and found it too expensive, the contracts that had been made with miners had not brought a satisfactory supply, either, and they had now given up the idea of producing garnet paper.

Then I poured out on the table some of my concentrated garnet in various sizes. Mr. Behr looked at it.

"Well," he said, "Sit down. You can supply that kind of garnet?"

"Yes." I replied.

"Well, then, send me three tons." And

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(Continued from Page 3) Garnet Lodge

that was the beginning of the commercial market for garnet and a lifelong association with the Herman Behr Company. Their next order was for ten tons, then a carload, then one hundred tons. Some years later Mr. Behr told me he never expected to even see the three ton order and the hundred ton one he was positive would never be filled.

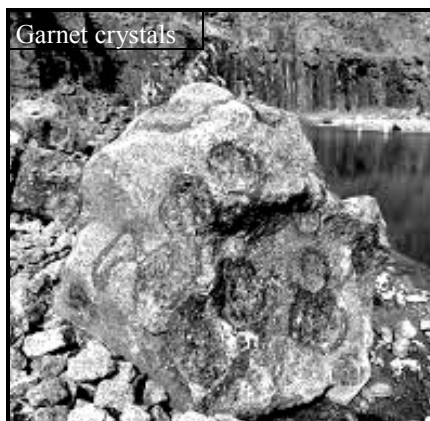
With very few exceptions the contacts with my customers were always satisfactory. One example of their fair dealing occurred during the first World War. The cost of labor and supplies had increased so much that I was forced to write my customers that in two months the price of garnet would have to be increased by ten dollars a ton. Before the two months were up costs were still higher, enough to wipe out the advantage of this increase. Among the plant managers with whom I had had much contact was a Mr. Valentine, head of Armour Cabinet, which controlled the Armour industries. I wrote him asking for a conference the next time I was in New York. When we met I stated my problem and asked him if he had any suggestions to make.

"Yes," he said. "I think I would like to send an accountant to go over your books and see if you have any items in costs that don't belong there. And perhaps your customers at the Carborundum Company would like to do the same."

The two accountants came to my office and spent about a week going over the books. Then, a month later, I had a wire from Mr. Valentine asking me to meet him in New York again. He there gave me a tabulated statement and I saw that one or two small items of our costs had been left out but that he had added three dollars a ton to the price of garnet in order to

increase my salary. He explained that I was not getting the salary that my position warranted and considering the development work I had done, he was sure that the consumers would stand the increase.

Another example of the fair dealing I received occurred during the early days of my venture into the garnet business. We had been operating our first mine for just a year when one



night the mill caught on fire and burned to the ground. There was no fire protection other than the crude equipment we had rigged ourselves, the fire was beyond our control and the destruction complete. As we had taken out insurance with a local broker I wasn't worried about the financial loss, at least until I found out that the policies had been placed with a company which the State Industrial Department had just started investigating! The outfit was known as the Lloyd Companies and consisted solely of a shyster lawyer and his secretary. They had built up their business on a supposed association of one hundred affiliated companies and the underwriter names of these companies had been taken from the tombstones of a cemetery in Brooklyn! The fake lawyer skipped the state when the investigation began and with him went the hope of collecting any fire insurance.

In this crisis, I decided to discuss the situation with Lou Emerson.

With no money to rebuild the mill, it looked as though this one short venture into the garnet business would have to be my last. I went to him with little hope, but came away in a much different frame of mind, for he said,

"Look here. You can handle this situation all right. I'll sell you the lumber for a new mill from my saw-mill on credit and you needn't pay a cent for five years."

"But how about the payroll?" I asked.

"Go to your customers and get an advance," was his reply.

"How is that possible, when they have been buying my garnet for less than a year?"

"You try it," he said, "and you'll get the advance. They have to give it because they need the garnet and no one else is producing any."

To my surprise I succeeded in getting enough loans on future contracts to take care of all financial demands until the new plant was built and in operation. One of the concerns which had helped me out even returned the amount of the interest which was included in my payment of their loan. They returned my check for the interest with the remark that they didn't see why they shouldn't stand some of the hard luck.

While the development of the Hooper Vanning Jig was really quite a stunt, I always felt that my greatest invention was a dryer, designed to dry the garnet before bagging it for shipment. As the Vanning Jig depended on the action of gravity, using water as the medium, the necessity for drying the garnet is obvious. The dryers on the market at that time consisted either of

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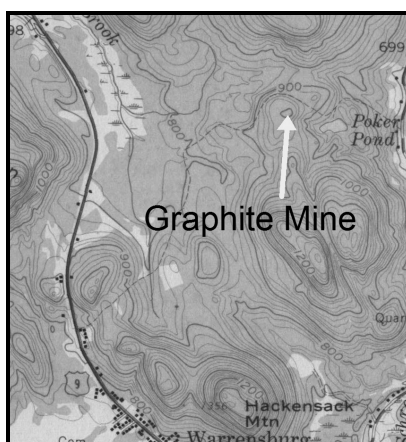
(Continued from page 4) Garnet Lodge

large brick furnaces roofed with metal plates, the mineral being dried by mechanical arms scraping it over the hot plates; or another type, which was a long steel drum like a boiler about 15 feet in length which was heated and in which the mineral was revolved. Neither of these methods was satisfactory for the drying of garnet, as its edges would be made round and smooth, thus spoiling their cutting and abrasive quality.

As a temporary process, I had the men carry the wet garnet in bags up on to the mill roof and spread it out to dry in the sun. Then one day it happened that I asked a new workman to take the garnet up to dry. A few hours later I went up to see how it was and I couldn't find a single garnet. So I asked the man, "What did you do with that garnet. Did you eat it?"

"O", he said, "I put it on the boiler roof". So up there we went, but could find only a few scattered grains! On investigation, we discovered that the garnet as it dried had rolled off the steeper roof of the boiler room, having stuck there until it was dry.

This discovery furnished the idea for a dryer that proved satisfactory and which I used for many years. It consisted of a wooden trough, about four feet wide and twenty-four feet long, lined with steel plates. In this trough were two sets of steam pipes, one set a couple of inches from the bottom of the trough and the other some six inches higher. The trough was set in an inclined position with a bin at the lower end to catch the dried garnet, the angle of slope being the same as the boiler room roof. The dryer was filled from an elevator which discharged the



Location Map of Graphite Mine



John Farrar holding a pole (15 ft. long) he dropped into the mining pit, which was filled with water. The pole never touched bottom.

crushed garnet at the upper end and this when dry would gradually work out the lower end. The movement was very gentle, just a little sliding motion with practically no attrition to dull the grains.

“The Commons” Graphite Mine FOUND!!

By John T. Hastings

After getting a tip from Bernie Baker, who used to play in the mine when a child, myself, John Farrar, and college buddy, Jim Beil, set off to try and locate the “lost” graphite mine which was located on the Commons just north of Warrensburg (See Fall 2013 article). However, none of the previous accounts describes exactly where the mine was located.

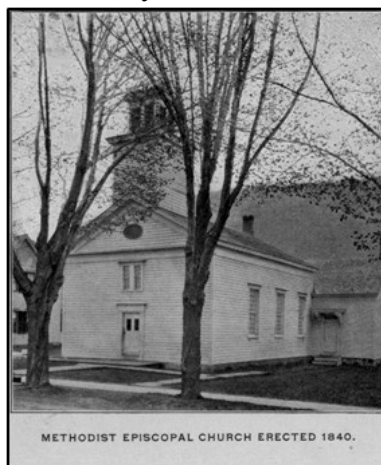
Using information from the Warrensburg News, and Bernie Baker, we set out exploring the area just west of Poker Pond. Much of this area has sustained heavy commercial harvesting and thus is composed of a high percentage of full grown brambles, i.e. raspberries and blackberries, which makes hiking difficult, to say the least. But upon reaching the height of land, there it was, a definite long depression, approximately 50+ feet long and 15 feet wide. Extensive tree growth has occurred since the mining (1890s) and standing water was in much of the pit, but the large amount of tailings piled around the pit gave positive evidence of the location.



John Farrar holds a piece of tailing from the old graphite mine

A Short History of the Methodist Church

Editor's Note: The following excerpts are taken from the booklet **"Historical Sketch of the Methodist Episcopal Church in Warrensburgh and Vicinity"** which was published in 1904 and recently donated to the Museum of Local History by Marcia (Pasco) Stutz. It is unique in that it contains an early picture of the second church which was built in 1840 and many details of the history of the church.



The first Church organization formed in the town, or what is now the town of Warrensburgh, was Methodist, and dates its origin back to 1796. The present Methodist Episcopal Church of Warrensburgh, however, is a part of the same organization, belonging to the general circuit system, which was a prominent feature of the early days of Methodism.

In 1796 Rev. Richard Jacobs passed through Warren and Essex Counties. He was one of the band of pioneers under Rev. Mr. Garretson, who first explored this region, and laid the foundations for the exercise of a free and full salvation according to the Methodist usage. In the spring of 1796 he left his family at

Clifton Park and took a tour through Northern New York as far as Essex and Clinton counties. After spending some weeks along the western shore of Lake Champlain he started in company with a Mr. Kellogg to return to his family by way of the Schroon woods to the head of Lake George and thence to Clifton Park.

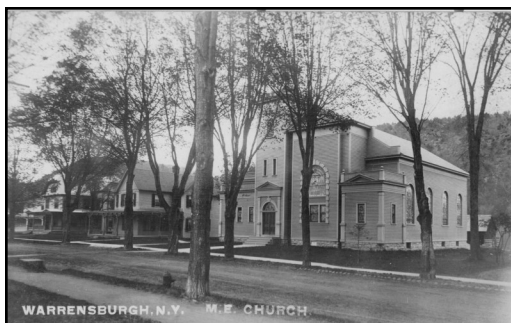
From the years 1800 to 1810 we find but little about this region, as to who were the preachers, but we find traces of their footsteps on these sands, and the work progressed, as it is not the motto of Methodism generally to turn backward. It is the testimony of the world that no one can out travel a Methodist preacher with his saddlebags. It is nailed to the masthead of our church, "The world is my parish."

Since writing the above we have been able to gather something for the years 1800 to 1809 from an old Bible in the possession of Brother W. F. Woodward, which indicates that the following named preachers were here: Shadrack Bostwick, 1801; Roger Searl, 1802; Elias Vanderpool or Vanderlip; (Phineas Cook, assistant), 1804. N. Gage, 1806; Noble W. Thomas, 1807. God gave them wonderful suc-

cess, especially on that part of the Cambridge circuit then known as Thurman's Patent.

Why we think the good work was going on, we find that in 1802, or a little later on, the first Methodist Church was erected on this street. Judge Kitchel Bishop gave the land whereon the building stood, a tract embracing the present plot or church site. Major Richardson Thurman gave fifty dollars in money, and Josiah and Isaac Woodward contributed work and timber. In 1804 Judge Kitchel Bishop settled in this place near or on the place now occupied by Dr. Howard. The records tell the story that in 1807 Judge Bishop deeded the present lot to the first Methodist Episcopal Church, and the Methodists erected a small church edifice on the site of our present church, and worshiped in goodly numbers. In 1840 the old edifice was removed bodily to a lot near the post office building, and is now on land owned by Mr. Johnson, just west of Mr. Hunt's hardware store, and the church of 1840, which we are now just giving up, was built on the old site by Joseph Woodward and his brother, John Woodward and Francis Woodward. Mr. Joseph Woodward gave two hundred dollars in money and also work; Mr. John Woodward contributed money and much labor and tim-

ber. When the church was finished there was a debt (strange, wasn't it?) of sixty dollars. Mr. Joseph Woodward, Peter Cameron, Asa Crandall, Josiah Crandall, Aaron P. Wills and one other, doubtless this man was



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Historical Enrichment Program for 4th Graders. By Paul Gilchrist

One of the Society's long-term goals is to help enhance our children's knowledge and appreciation of the local history of their hometown. This year the Society's education committee, chaired by Rosemary Maher, is conducting a four-month after-school historical enrichment program for 4th graders. Paul Gilchrist, Rosemary, Mark Brown, and Donne-Lynn Winslow are leading the enrichment classes in February, March, April, and May, respectively. There are three classes during each month covering topics such as landforms, local historical artifacts, museums, and Warrensburg's historical architecture.



Paul Gilchrist introduces 4th graders to glacially-created landforms found in Warrensburg.

Participants in the Society's first Historical Enrichment Program pose for a photograph on February 5th. Dr. Kathleen Bernhard, Barbara Whitford, Dr. Paul Gilchrist, Donne-Lynn Winslow, and Bonnie Jenks comprised the team for the glacial landforms class which also met on February 12th. A dozen 4th graders registered for the class, even acting as research assistants for some experiments that simulated processes of geomorphology. Dean Moore will conduct a class on February 26th using a model based on running water processes.



Help WHS

Bring your returnables into **Direct Deposit** on Main Street and have the refunds designated for the Historical Society. **Dean Ackley** will pass the money on to WHS based on the containers returned.

**Thanks Dean &
Contributing
Members!!**

Mystery Photo



Can you identify the above photo as to where it is located and who currently or formerly owned this farm? If so, contact John at 798-0248 or at jthastings@roadrunner.com. Thanks to **Sarah Farrar** for providing last months photo. Those correctly identifying the last photo of Frank Hill's barn which is now part of Lazy River Farm, are Cliff Davis, Don Hastings, Kevin Hastings, and Tom Roach.

2014 Donations to Warrens- burgh Historical Society and Museum of Local History

Society Donations Regina Porter \$25.00, Harold McKinney \$100.00, Herbert Smith \$60.00, 50 Plus Club \$10.00, Sally & John Kubin \$10.00, Robert Underwood \$25.00, Barbara Moore \$90.00, Thomas & Beverly Roach \$57.00, Greg Stone \$25.00

Museum Donation Box \$597.72

Museum Herb Smith \$330.00, Brunetto's Restaurant \$20.00

Memorial Donations Rosemary Maher \$25.00 In memory of Reginal Needham, Sandi & Steve Parisi \$25.00 In memory of Gary Rounds

Special Donations Peter & Donna Wood \$25.00 In honor of Abbie Hastings 100th Birthday, Janess & Gary Cunningham \$150.00 In honor of Gary Bivona, Gary & Char Bivona \$500.00 In honor of Sandi & Steve Parisi

Other Donations JPC Management, LLC \$700.00 Price Chopper opening; Glens Falls National \$292.50 Appreciation Day; Direct Deposit \$27.95 Bottle returns; Glens Falls National Bank \$150.00 Match

for Society's Scholarship Donation
Eight people made a small donation with their memberships, totaling \$26.00



(Continued from page 2) President's Column

Dean Moore modeled running water processes. Artifacts will be Rosemary's topic in March. In April, Mark Brown will talk about museums, and Donne Lynn Winslow, in May, will teach students about architectural styles found in Warrensburg. Dr. Kathleen Bernhard serves as coordinator at the school. We are excited that this type of program can give us opportunities to reach students in other grades in coming years. It does not intrude on regular class time and attracts those students most interested.

The Society has set up a modest endowment fund at Vanguard as an appropriate place to keep donations and bequests in order to maintain value and stay ahead of inflation.

Until next time, keep looking backwards.

Paul Gilchrist

(Continued from page 6) Methodist Church

Mr. John Woodward, each paid ten dollars of the sixty, and so the edifice was dedicated free of debt, just as it always should be. Rev. William Amer was preacher in charge, and the church was dedicated by Rev. S. Covell. Some years later a vestry was built onto the rear end of the church, and in 1884 this was removed and a larger one erected, when Rev. W. Ingersoll was the pastor.

The first class leaders were Josiah and Isaac Woodward. Mr. Josiah Woodward moved here in 1787, from Connecticut, and settled on the place now owned and occupied by Mr. J. L. Russell of our village.

The Methodist Episcopal church of Warrensburg owes a debt of gratitude to the various branches of the Woodward family for the interest taken by them from the earliest period of their existence as a church down to and including the present, and in turn the Woodwards are indebted to Methodism for bringing to them light or instruction concerning the path of life and its glorious end. Render to Caesar the things that are Caesar's and to God all the glory.