

Warrensburgh Historical Society Quarterly

Volume 18 Issue 1 Spring 2013

From the August 7, 1913 Warrensburgh News

BIG DAY TOMORROW

Warrensburgh Will be Center of Attraction for Centennial Crowds. ORATORY, SOLDIERY, MUSIC, FIREWORKS.

Two Companies and Band of Second Regiment Will Act as Escort for Justice Hughes and Former Governor Dix Glens Falls Had Big Parade Yesterday Interesting Exercises of

Warrensburgh tomorrow will be the center of attraction for the centennial crowds. Everything is ready for their reception and Supervisor Milton N. Eldridge and the

Historical Day

In this issue:	Page
Big Day	<u>1</u>
Charette Post GAR	4
Warren Co. VA	6
Rowland Kellogg	7
Sword Swallower	8

committees he has appointed to assist him are confident of being able to give them a good time.

It will be a big day for Warrensburgh, probably the biggest we have had since the great barbecue at the Grand Army Veterans' reunion in 1887 when some 5,000 people were entertained here.

The village is ablaze with color. All of the hotels and business places and many residences are beautifully decorated with flags and bunting.

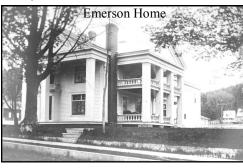
The hotels, restaurants and boarding houses have laid in a large stock of provisions and there will be an ample supply to feed all who come. Prices will not he increased for the occasion.

The special features of the day and evening will be oratory, soldiery, music and fireworks. The festivities will begin at 2 p. m. on the Warren County Fairgrounds.

Through the intercession of former Congressman Louis W. Emerson, of this village, and the Hon. A. B. Colvin, of Glens Falls, chairman of the Centennial Committee, General Lester, in command of the Third Brigade of the National Guard, stationed this week at Camp Sulzer.....Glens Falls, has detailed Company D,

of Albany, Captain Albert S. Callan... ... of the Tenth regiment, and Company B....of the First Regiment, Captain Thomas M. Sherman, son of the late Vice President Sherman, to act as an escort to Justice Charles E. Hughes, of the United States Supreme Court and former Governor John A. Dix, on their visit to Warrensburgh, together with the Second Regiment band, under the leadership of Sergeant George Doring of Troy. As a professional organization this splendid body of accomplished musicians is known as Doring's Band, and is the peer of any band in the state.

The soldiers and the band will leave Camp Sulzer at 1 a. m. and march to the Hudson Valley crossing, near the DeLong brick yard, where they will board cars and be transported to Warrensburgh, arriving here at 2 o'clock. They will detrain at the home of Senator James A. Emerson, where the distinguished guests and members of the Centen-



(Continued on page 3)

Society Page

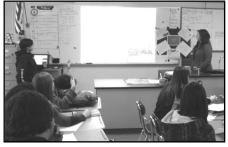
PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

Highlights of Society activities since our last Quarterly include the following:

The Society's holiday dinner was again held at Lizzie Keays, on December 7th. At the museum, Rita Ferraro dressed the ladies on the Victorian porch in proper attire for the season. Delbert Chambers' produced the "Our Toys" exhibit for the holidays. This exhibit was given front page coverage by the *Chronicle*, including photographs. Delbert has announced the plan for next year's exhibit to feature "Our Doll Houses."

Rosemary Maher and Mark Brown lead our efforts to get primary and secondary students and teachers involved in local history. John Burns' high school environmental science classes came to the museum on December 4th to begin their team projects. Each team chose a 20-year period in the town's history, then gathered information about it. They presented their work in January at the high school. Several Society board members attended.

Our Bicentennial Calendar is finished and on sale at several locations around town. This was a huge effort by Sandi Parisi, with major contributions by Mark brown, and others, who also contributed to the Bicentennial book that is now being carefully edited by Steve Parisi. The book has accounts of 200 people, places, and events in Warrensburgh's history. Both the calendar and the book will be collector's items.



The environmental student on the right discusses one of the slides while the student on left operates the computer making PowerPoint presentation.

Audio recordings for seven of the museum exhibits are being produced by 2011 WCS graduate Jesse Scheuttinger, now attending SUNY Adirondack. These will allow visitors to listen to descriptions of those exhibits as they tour the museum. Jesse has recently completed the second of the recordings.

The Society took title in December to the 2.72-acre parcel donated to us by Mr. Richard Emerson. The parcel runs for

(Continued on page 8)

Quarterly Editor

John T. Hastings

jthastings@roadrunner.com

or 518-798-0248

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

Quarterly Editor Warrensburgh Historical Society PO Box 441 Warrensburg, NY 12885

Board of Directors*

Gary Bivona, Mark Brown,
John Cleveland, John Franchini,
Jean Hadden, Bob Knowles,
Peggy Knowles, Sandi Parisi,
Wendy Peluso, Joan West,
Donne-Lynn Winslow
Steve Parisi - Museum Director
*Officers to be elected at
March 6th Board Meeting

The Board of Directors meets at the Senior Center, 3847 Main Street, at 6:30 pm on the **FIRST** Wednesday of each month. Call Paul to confirm at 623-3162.

Warrensburgh Historical Society Quarterly Copyright 2013. All rights reserved.

Contributors to this Issue Sandi Parisi

CURRENT MEMBERSHIP: 238

Warrensburgh Historical Society

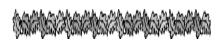
Website: www.whs12885.org Email: whs7396@yahoo.com

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Marcia Stutz Phyllis Gaudia

Masthead Photo

This photo was taken at the lower end of Hudson Street and appears to be a Memorial Day celebration with IOOF members in the front and Civil War Veterans in the back.



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, Warrensburg, 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.

nial Committee will be in waiting, after having been entertained at luncheon by Senator Emerson. Previous to the arrival of the escort all local and visiting automobilists are requested by Supervisor Eldridge to form in line on School and Elm streets in readiness, to take part in the parade to the fair ground, which will move promptly upon the arrival of the soldiers.

At the fairgrounds an address will be given by Justice Hughes, who will be followed by Former Governor Dix, George Foster Peabody and other speakers, if time will permit. Senator Emerson will preside. Following the meeting Senator Emerson will entertain the distinguished guests at dinner.

In the evening there will be a grand pyrotechnical display by the Pain Fireworks Display Company, of New York City. This will comprise about sixty pieces, all out of the ordinary, and including some of cert which will add greatly to the pleasure of the occasion.

Supervisor Eldridge has appointed the following committees for the day:

Executive - Dr. W. F. Wilkinson, Robert Murray, Frank W. Smith, Seth A. Reed, Charles F. Burhans, Charles E. Wheeler, E. C. Manzer, Lewis E. Crandall, Rev. O. H. Purdy, J. F. Cameron, M. U. Brown, Frank Hastings.

Reception—Henry Griffing, Hon J, A. Emerson, T. J. Smith, J. M. Somerville, J. A. Woodward, Charles F. Burhans, Louis E. Reoux, Dr. J. M. Griffin, Michael O'Connor, Dr. J. E, Goodman, Dr. Allen Parker, Dr. C. B. Cunningham, Dr. A. J. Pitcher, John W. Wills, A. C. Stone, B. F. Hammond.

Fireworks—Charles F. Burhans, M. U. Brown, Seth A. Reed, Don Heath, Herbert C. Smith.

Finance—The town board.

Today is Lake George day

and this afternoon the distinguished guests are enjoying a trip through the lake on the steamer Horicon. There will be a motor boat display and speaking at various points.

The exercises of Historical Day, held at 2 p. m.

field) Tuesday simultaneously in all towns of the county, were very interesting. The program was essentially the same in each place. The list of speakers was printed in these columns last week. Only a few necessary changes were made. In Warrensburgh Randolph McNutt of Buffalo, was substituted for City Attorney James Singleton, of Glens Falls, and with all due respect to

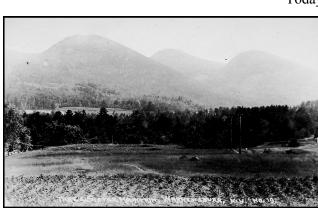


Centennial Monument in front of the Woodward Block Circa 1940

Mr. Singleton, we may say that the change was very agreeable as Mr. McNutt is a former resident whom Warrensburgh delights to honor.

The Rev. Richard Abbott presided and introduced the speakers. Fine addresses were made by George Tait, the Rev. L. S. B. Hadley and Mr. McNutt. A double mixed quartet sang several selections. After the first stanza of America, the Centennial marker which had previously been set up in the park in front of the Woodward building, was unveiled by Seth A. Reed and Frank Hastings. The opening prayer was offered by the Rev. C.S. Agan, the Rev. Guy Harte Purdy read the Centennial poem by the Rev. O. C. Auringer, and the Rev. T. J Hunter pronounced the benediction.

The religious exercises Sunday evening, opening the Centennial exercises, are described in another column and the Historical sermon delivered by the Rev. Richard Abbott, at the Methodist Episcopal church in this village, is printed in full.



View from Richards Lot (Recreation Field)

the most elaborate let pieces ever seen in this section.

The display will be made in Miss Richards' "twenty-acre lot," just off from Library Street. This is a sightly place on a knoll, so situated that the display can be seen from all parts of the village. The Second Regiment band will remain for the evening and will give a con-

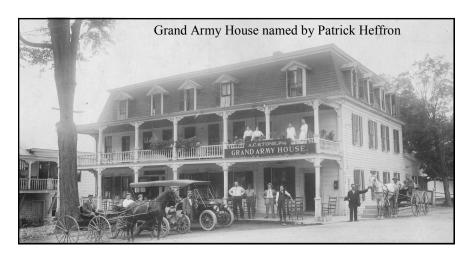
George B. Charette G. A. R. Post No. 558

By John T. Hastings

Over 150 years ago the United States was involved in a intensive debate on the issues of States Rights and slavery. For the first time in U.S. history no resolution or compromise was reached, and the country ended up in a horribly destructive Civil War. Conservative estimates show a casualty rate of over one million, with approximately 620,000 soldier deaths. This total is more than all other U. S. wars combined. Starting in 2011 (through 1915), we began the Sesquicentennial remembrance of these historic events.

Shortly after the war in 1866, the Grand Army of the Republic (GAR) was formed in Decatur, Illinois. It was composed of Union veterans of the Army, Navy and Marines and was the first organized advocacy group in American politics. Its goals were to support voting rights for black veterans, pensions for veteran soldiers and supporting political candidates. At its height, around 1890, its membership was near 490,000. It was disbanded in 1956 when the last veteran had passed away.

One of the major events of the organization became the observance of Decoration Day or as it later (1882) became known, Memorial Day. Although the decoration of soldiers' graves with flowers is an ancient custom, it was on May 5, 1868 that John A. Logan, as commander-in-chief of the GAR, issued a proclamation for the nationwide observance of "Decoration Day" which would occur on May 30th of each year. This was later changed (1968) to the last Monday of May.



Locally, Charette GAR Post No. 558 was chartered June 10, 1885. It was named in honor of George Byron Charette, son of Dr. Louis Charette, who enlisted in the 22nd New York State Volunteers in 1861. He was wounded at the Battle of Bull Run in August and died on September 14, 1862 in a hospital in Washington, D.C.

For all but one year (1896) the Post commander was M. N. Dickinson. Earlier the Post would meet the second and fourth Saturday of each month in the Wills Block. Later, meetings were only once a month and were held in the Music Hall. Although members were primarily from Warrensburg, veterans from surrounding villages such as Thurman, Stony Creek and North Creek, were also members (There were seven other GAR Posts in Warren County; Glens Falls, Luzerne, Horicon, Lake George, Bolton, North Creek, and Chestertown).

The local Decoration Day activities actually started on Sunday when local GAR members would attend church services, which would rotate among the Warrensburg churches from year to year. On Monday afternoon the participants would form a line at the Union Free School and first move to the old

M.E. Church Cemetery where a squad would decorate the graves of soldiers there. The procession would then move up Main Street, then across Third Avenue (now Fourth Avenue) to Hudson Street and then to the cemetery where the main exercises would take place. This consisted of the reading of orders by the Commander, selections by the band, songs by local school children, including the "Star Spangled Banner," speeches by a selected individual or individuals) and the decoration of veterans graves. After the benediction, the lines would reform and return to Woodward Hall or Pasko Park. An annual contribution of \$50 was made by the Post for the observance of Memorial Day.

Besides providing graveside services for members, the Post also provided services for other Civil War veterans in the area. Some of these included Charles Peer (Pier), John F. Towne, Thomas Needham, Allen Lillibridge, and Norman Hazelton. Whether these were Post members or not, is unclear.

In 1892 "a generous friend" presented the Charette Post with a beautiful lot in the Warrensburg Union Cemetery, where the remains of dead comrades could be buried. This had been a desire by the Post so that

no veteran of the Civil War would be laid to rest in the "potter's" field. This "friend" would later turn out to be Henry Griffing. The Post's next goal was obtaining sufficient funds to provide a marker or monument for this plot. This was achieved 8 years later and consisted of a mortar of the pattern of 1848 on a marble pedestal, with a shell beside it. The piece was a gift from the United States government and was secured by Captain Dickinson.

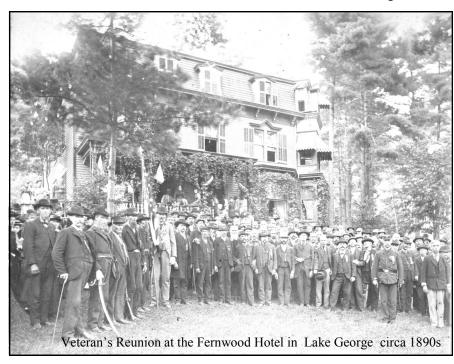
The following year, 1893, the Post was entertained with an informal address by Colonel Fred Mather of Cold Spring Harbor, Long Island, N.Y. Mr. Mather was known for his illustrative war lectures using stereopticon views from photographs taken of the more important battlefields of the rebellion. These photographs were taken by the U. S. Government, Mathew Brady and Alexander Gardner.

One of the most interesting members of the Post was Moses



Harris. He was born in Athlone, Ireland on December 25, 1804. In 1832 he enlisted in the Fifth Regiment, US Infantry, serving with his regiment in the Black Hawk War and was later discharged at Fort Howard (Wisconsin) in 1835. In 1836 he again enlisted and was assigned to the Third US Artillery and participated in many engagements of the Seminole War. Here he met (Gen.) William T. Sherman and became good friends.

He was severely wounded in the battle of Coloosahatchie and although left on the field for dead, he was later picked up and eventually recovered. He was discharged in 1838. In 1839, he once again enlisted and joined the First US Infantry in Florida. He was sent to Fort Leavenworth and other western outposts before re-enlisting in 1844. He participated in all the battles the regiment was engaged in during the Mexican War in 1846 under General Winfield Scott. He assisted in carrying General Shields from the field at Cerro Gordo and was part of the storming party at Chepaltepec. He returned to the states with his unit and was discharged in 1848. In 1863, although long past the military age, Moses joined the Second Veteran Cavalry, NYV and served during the Red River campaign in 1864, before being discharged in 1865. Altogether, he served nearly 17 years in the United States Army. He joined the Charette Post in 1885 when it was first organized and served as officer of the guard. When General Sherman visited Lake George in 1890, Moses drove to the village and had a "long chat," recounting their various war experiences. From 1890 until his



(Continued on page 6)

(Continued from page 5) Charette Post

death in 1893, he was noted as the oldest local veteran of the Civil War.

The observance of Memorial Day continued each year, but membership in the Post declined as veterans moved to their "last resting place." The ceremonies gradually were reduced to the point where often there were no parades at all.

By 1928, the Warrensburg News reported that only three members of Charette Post 558 were left; James Hammond (1845-1929), Edmund Coward (1850-August 3, 1929), and Lafayette Tyrell. Lafayette Tyrrell is likely an error since he died in 1900. It is more likely that they meant Alonzo Terrell, a Civil War veteran (Co D, 118th NYV) who was formally from Warrensburg and lived in Wevertown for the last 26 years before he died on July 5, 1934 at the age of 96. However, Mark Powers (1842-March 21, 1931) also shows up in a later obituary as being a member of the Charette Post and thus appears to be the last living member of the Post. The last living Civil War veteran living in Warrensburgh appears to be Billings Monroe who died on August 6, 1933 at the age of 87. At that time he was a member of E. M. Wing Post GAR in Glens Falls.

Capt. Myron Nelson Dickinson was the heart and soul of the organization. He was born in 1829 in Bolton. During his lifetime, he built a sawmill in Warrensburgh and was elected in 1857 as the first school commissioner of the county. In 1860 he also entered the mercantile field which he followed for twenty years. In 1861, he was Postmaster of Warrensburgh, but resigned in 1862 to enter the Army as a second lieutenant in the 118th Regiment. In 1863 he was promoted

to first lieutenant and shortly thereafter, for gallant and meritorious service, was made captain. In 1866, he again became Postmaster. Although he was very active in politics, having represented the county and state at conventions, he refused many offers to run for political office. In 1885 he was instrumental in the development of the Charette GAR post in Warrensburg and served as commander for all but one year of its existence. He spent much time making trips to state and national GAR encampments, as well as giving speeches to other GAR posts. He was president of the Board of Education from its organization in 1888 until 1898. He married Betsey Coolidge in 1858 and they had two children, Lester C. and Margaret. He died on April 19, 1919.

Known members (54) of the Charette Post are as follows; (Dr.) J. H. Bean, John C. Bennett, Edwin Bennett, Daniel Bennett, Benjamin Cilley, Noah B. Clark, John P. Cole, Edmund (Edward) Coward, Thomas Crandall, Michael Cummings, Frederick A. Darrow, Myron N. Dickinson, Ruel J. Dickinson, William Dow, Joseph M. Doyle, David M. Dunlop, Hartwell S. Farrar, Enos Frost, Henry Gates, Samuel Galusha, Sherman S. Galusha, James Hammond, Harlan Harrington, Moses Harris, Warren Harris, Rufus D. Hastings, Patrick Heffron, David Hoag, Daniel Keenan, Hiram C. Knickerbocker, Isaac Knickerbocker. Clarence Lamb. James A. Lillibridge, W. S. McDonald, Samuel B. Moses, C. C. Mosher, Thomas Needham, Benjamin F. Nolton, Jonathan Nolton, John D. Nutting, Walter Pasco, William Porter, Mark Powers, George Purdy, Charles Rhodes, W. S. Safford, Judson H. Smith, Shepard F. Smith, W. H. Swan, Truman H. Thomas, Joel F. White, K. V. Whittemore, David M. Woodward and George Woodward.

Warren County Veterans Association By John T. Hastings

The Warren County Veterans Association was formed in 1885. Each year an annual meeting occurred during the late summer or early fall, with most if not all of the G. A. R. posts being involved. This included Glens Falls (Post Edgar M. Wing), Luzerne (Post B. C. Butler), Lake George (Post Sylvester Latham), Bolton (Post Selah Randall), North Creek (Post Bennett), Horicon (Post Joseph A. Hastings), Warrensburgh (Post George B. Charette) and Chestertown (Post Charles B. Gray). The Third Annual meeting in 1887, was held in Warrensburg and consisted in part of a huge ox roast and clambake, which saw approximately 5,000 people in attendance.

After conducting one day "Reunions" from 1885 through 1990, it was decided to hold three day encampments, the first of which was to be at Lake George in 1991. It continued here until 1897 and in 1898 was moved to Glens Falls and continued there until 1904, which appears to be the last one held.

In 1893 dues were increased from 25 cents to one dollar. Each veteran who paid his dues would receive a badge and family meal tickets for the reunion. Over \$100 was collected

Business and executive meetings were often held at Patrick Heffron's Grand Army House in Warrensburgh. M. N. Dickinson was actively involved with this association, as well as other Warrensburgh residents George Woodward, Hartwell Farrar, Warren Harris, C. Roberts and Walter Pasco



Rowland Case Kellogg
By John T. Hastings

Rowland Case Kellogg, was born December 31, 1843 in Elizabethtown. Judge Kellogg had a distinguished record as a soldier, politician and good citizen. He was a son of ex-Congressman Orlando Kellogg who was a member of the house of representatives during the administration of President Lincoln, of whom he was a personal friend. In his college days, Case Kellogg quit his studies and enlisted as a private in Company F, 118th Regiment, N. Y. Volunteers in July 1862 at the age of 18. He rose rapidly from the ranks and attained the promotion of Captain of Company D. After being wounded in the battle for Petersburg on June 15, 1864, he was mustered out on 20 June 1864 and Commissioned an officer in the U.S. Volunteers Commissary Department Infantry Regiment and appointed Captain and Commissary of subsistence of U. S. Volunteers. He was promoted to Brevet Major upon his discharge in August 1865. He then went into the study of law, was admitted to practice and served Essex county as district attorney from 1877 to 1885. He also represented this district in the state senate (19th District) from 1886 to 1889. He was serving his third term as county judge and surrogate of

Essex county when death removed him in the midst of a busy life. Judge Kellogg's first wife was Mary E. Livingston, daughter of Capt. A. H. C. Livingstone, of Elizabethtown, by whom he had one son, James Kellogg (abt. 1877 -1924), who was a lawyer in New York City. Judge Kellogg's second wife was Miss Mary Richards (March 3, 1854 - Sep. 23, 1918), of Warrensburgh, daughter of Col. Samuel T. and Mary (Burhans) Richards and grand-daughter to Pelatiah Richards and Col. B. P. Burhans. They were married April 28, 1897 at Grace Church in New York City. Mary and her sister, Clara provided the land, construction, equipment and an endowment fund for the establishment of the Richards Library in 1901.



had two brothers, William Kellogg, an attorney Westport, and Orlando Kellogg, one of the proprietors of the Windsor

Case

hotel, Elizabethtown; also two sisters, Mrs. Boynton, of Keeseville. and Mrs. Livingstone, of Elizabethtown. Judge Kellogg, who had many veteran comrades in Warren county as well as a large circle of acquaintances, was identified with all that was best in his own town and county. He was a vestryman and trustee of the church of the Good Shepherd at Elizabethtown, a member of the Masonic order and was active in G. A. R. post matters. His record in public life was distin-

guished by sterling integrity and honesty of purpose. He died Sunday January 15, 1911 at his home in Elizabethtown, after an illness of several weeks. He was sixty-seven years old.

From; January 19, 1911 Warrensburgh News, Wikipedia, & Smith's History of Warren County

POSTSCRIPT

President Lincoln was indebted to Congressman Orlando Kellogg of Elizabethtown for some cheerful moments during the grim days of the Civil War. "If it were not for Mr. Kellogg's stories," Lincoln once said. "I should get blue some times."

In 1905 there still lived on the Ausable River just below Keene Center a veteran of the Grand Army of the Republic named Hank Fuller. In 1864 Private Fuller faced the prospect of a firing squad on the charge that he had violated military discipline. Rowland Kellogg, a fellow soldier in the 118th Regiment, N.Y. Volunteers, decided to write his father, the Congressman, about Hank's plight.

On receipt of the letter, the Congressman hurried to Mr. Lincoln's study in the White House. "The boys of the 118th didn't go to war to be shot that way," Mr. Kellogg told the President. Mr. Lincoln agreed and the story is that the reprieve, signed by the President, arrived as Hank was being marched down the "Street."

The Kellogg family in Elizabethtown had, at one time, a card to the Congressman, dated Jan. 22nd, 1864, and signed A. Lincoln which read: "I have answer that the execution of Henry C. Fuller is suspended."

From February 9, 1961 Warrensburg News

(Continued from page 2) President's Column

almost 1,200 feet along the Schroon River across from the Grist Mill Restaurant, all the way down to South Street where the power line crosses the river. We have listed it for sale with Linda Marcella's Adirondack Real Estate, LLC

The Society's Annual Meeting was held at Lizzie Keays on February 8th. Annual summaries of committee activities were presented and election of directors was held. Six seats were up for election or re -election to two-year terms. The Nominating Committee put forth the following slate of candidates: Joan West and Donne-Lynn Winslow for election to the two seats being vacated by Paul Gilchrist and Dennis Martinez, due to term limits; Gary Bivona, John Cleveland, John Franchini, and Peggy Knowles for re-election. There being no additional nominations from the floor, the secretary recorded one vote cast for the nominees.

Officers for 2013 will be elected by members of the board at the next regular meeting held at 6:30 on March 6th in the upstairs meeting room at the Glens Falls National Bank. Society members are very welcome at all board meetings (entrance is at the back of the bank).

A reception was held at the museum on Sunday, February 17th, to open the Bicentennial Exhibit celebrating Warrensburgh's 200th birthday. Come to the museum to see it. There will be events throughout the year in commemoration. A special noisemaking event was conducted at 6:00 pm on February 12th, which included the ringing of church bells. Also, a ceremony was conducted by the Warren County Board of Supervisors on Friday, February 16th to honor the town. (The county's 200th birthday will be next month.)

Keep in mind that items at the museum's Book Nook make excellent gifts for many occasions. You'll want Bicentennial postcards @ \$1 for 4, which can also be purchased at the library, along with Bicentennial calendars @ \$10.

"The farther backward you can look, the farther forward you are likely to see" (Winston Churchill), so until next time, keep looking backwards.

Paul Gilchrist

Recollections The Sword Swallower

By Paul Gurney

As I recall the old days, a small circus sometimes came to Warrensburg, but they generally appeared amateurish and were not very well received.

They could not compete with the big circuses that came to Glens Falls. Here was real show business that could bring a strong desire to join up and run away from home.

At one time an aunt took the boy to watch the "101 Wild West Ranch" de -train at a railroad siding in Glens Falls at about 4:30 one Adirondack summer morning.

As the day dawned, an exhilarating entourage of elephants, camels, horses, cowboys, Indians and caged animals were shunted about and river to the site on West St.

Roust-a-bouts team 'worked the great confusion into an operable entity that opened as advertised on the splash of posters that had plastered the countryside for weeks.

The boys spent the afternoon in the side shows because the "Big Top" was best appreciated at night. He was completely taken-in by the performance of the sword swallower, who thrust glistening blades all the way down the esophagus and with a great flourish breathed real fire from his lips.

The act was topped off by firing a .22 rifle anchored to a spindle thrust in his throat. By gosh, these astounding achievements simply had to be explored at home!

A set of short, blunt nosed scissors and a short length of metal rod were greased with vaseline. Oh! Back goes the head, the mouth and throat are aligned am behold, it wasn't so difficult, after all.

A glourishing bow from the waist as he stood in front of the mirror convinced the boy that he had a promising future, like Prof. Zimbo.

Next came a long shiny button hook. (Some shoes were styled with button fastenings in those days). The darned hook got caught on the boy's palate, he got scared and yanked it out, tearing a bit of soft palate.

A hurried but voiceless trip to Dr. Goodman's office stopped the bleeding. "Rashness attendeth youth."

The abject shame of being exposed to such an unexplainable predicament was hard enough to endure, but how did the news get to be so generally known to others?

The gang that gathered about the Music Hall block after supper each evening to socialize or to start a game of "run-sheep-run" was fully informed and the boy underwent a terrific "kidding."

He also decided to forego the possibility of becoming an exponent of the fine art of sword swallowing, as outlined in Prof. Zimbo's pamphlet of instructions that cost an extra 25 cents over and above the price of admission.

Thus, "the experienced person is one who has gained knowledge as the result of actual participation in some field of activity" - so says the dictionary. Amen.

