Warrensburgh Historical Society Quarterly

Volume 19 Issue 4 Winter 2014

Editor's Note: If you have seen old post cards of 'Len's Camp' you often see a donkey in the photo. The following article from the March 9, 1939 Warrensburgh News explains about this donkey.

Beau Belle is Dead – Harrington's Donkey Had Too Much Attention

Beau Belle was a donkey with an English accent to its bray, although it had a French name.

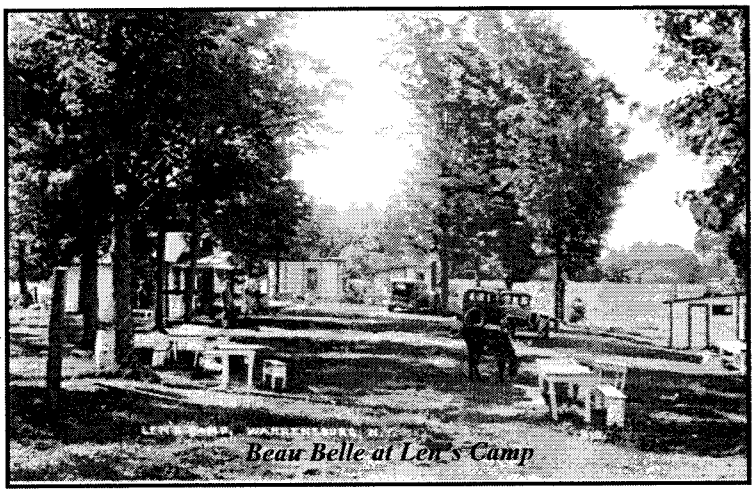
Because Beau Belle is dead. Many children in Warrensburg, Thurman and other nearby towns are sad. Beau Belle was owned by Len Harrington for the last nine years. During that time the animal became a favorite with all children who were privileged to make her acquaintance.

Particularly are Sharkey and Dempsey Baker, twin sons of Mrs. Millicent Baker, cast into the depths of despair by the sudden passing of Beau Belle. Sharkey and Dempsey were giving her their loving care-too good say Len -when Beau Belle just dropped down in her stall and gave up the ghost.

Came From London

Beau Belle was quite a distinctive resident of this community. She is said to have come from London some years ago...that's where she acquired the English accent in her musical bray... to make her home along the shores of Lake George. There are some who claim Beau Belle originally came from Egypt. Perhaps that is why she sometimes stood transfixed like the Sphinx, suddenly becoming awake with a bray that echoed back and forth among the mountains of this section.

When her owner died some nine years ago the donkey was gi-



Beau Belle at Len's Camp

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PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

The Society sponsored a day-long program at **Tom Davis's** property on Lamb Hill Road on Saturday, September 13th. Tom demonstrated working farm and logging equipment from the 19th and early 20th centuries. The machinery, such as shingle makers, pumps, various kinds of saws, etc., is powered by steam or early internal combustion engines. Featured was an early 20th century reconstructed snowmobile.

Harold McKinney was the winner of the two Old Town kayaks raffled by the Society on the World's Largest Garage Sale weekend. Harold grew up in Warrensburg and now lives in Argyle. He's a retired Mt. McGregor corrections administrator and very active in RSVP (Retired Seniors Volunteer Program).

The Society's "circa plaque" program makes ten-inch plaques available at half price ($75) for owners to attach to historic residential, commercial, or other buildings in town. **Sandi Parisi** presented the first of these plaques at the October Town Board meeting. Warrensburg has the largest Historic District in the Adirondacks, containing more than 220 properties. There are many other historic properties that are not located in the Historic District. If you are interested in a plaque, call Sandi at 623-2207.

The Society held an Artifacts Night at the Senior Center on Thursday, October 23rd, reviving a Society tradition in which individuals bring old items for "show and tell." People may be asked to guess what the item is and was used for in bygone days.

The Society's Preservation Committee, chaired by **John Franchini**, continues to apply for grants to fund its work to preserve the Miles Thomas house, aka Senior Center, in cooperation with Warrensburgh Beautification, Inc. A small grant has been received that will help cover costs of providing information necessary for additional grants.

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Quarterly Editor

John T. Hastings

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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

Paul Gilchrist: President, Donne-Lynn Winslow: Vice-President, Gary Bivona: Treasurer, Wendy Peluso: Secretary, Mark Brown, Elaine Cowin, John Franchini, Bob Knowles, Peggy Knowles, Rosemary Maher, Joan West, Sandi Parisi - Town Historian, 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.

Contributors to this Issue

Mark Brown
Sandi Parisi

CURRENT MEMBERSHIP: 265

Warrensburgh Historical Society
Website: www.whs12885.org
Email: whs7396@yahoo.com

Welcome New Members:

Rebecca L. Yates
Brian Dunleavy
Julia Dennison
Alexander Gabriels

Calendar of Events

December 6-7; Christmas in Warrensburgh and opening of Holiday Show at Museum: "My Collection." Museum hours for this weekend are 10-4:00 pm. Holiday refreshments will be served

December 11: Society Holiday Dinner at Lizzie Keays, 5:30. Meal choices of Chicken Parmesan, Prime Rib and Seafood Platter. $35 (includes tax & gratuity). Phone 504-4043 to make reservations before Dec. 6.

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

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.**

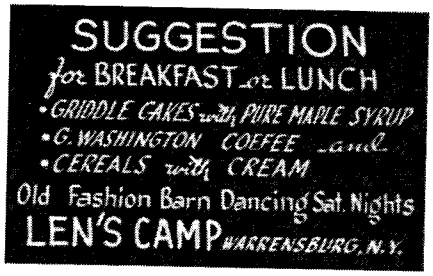
(Continued from page 1) Beau Belle

ven to Mr. Harrington by Mrs. Jacobs who resided in Diamond Point. Mr. Harrington's children made a popular playmate of the donkey and their friends were loyal to them when Beau Belle was included in the play programs. The donkey loved children and would follow any child that had given it the least attention, plodding faithfully behind the youngster like a dog.

Mr. Harrington's children grew older and their interest in the donkey was not so keen. Last fall, not having suitable quarters in which to winter the animal, Mr. Harrington made arrangements with Mrs. Baker to keep the donkey at her farm along Patterson Creek in Thurman. Her sons Sharkey and Dempsey went to their seventh heaven when Beau Belle arrived and were enthusiastic in their care of the little grey animal.

From: ***200 People, Places & Events in Warrensburgh's History***

Len's Camp/Cabins, owned by Len Harrington, operated sometime before 1926 and continued into the 1950s. Besides cabins, camping sites were also located on the property. Len's Camp was located on the Chestertown Road north of Warrensburg. Len and his wife Myrtle lived on Herrick Avenue. Len also ran a trucking service during the 1920s and 30s.



Public Education in New York and Warrensburg in 1890

By Mark Brown

I recently came across the 36th annual report of the Superintendent of Public Instruction for New York (1890) which was sent to School District #4 (Vowers School) in the town of Warrensburg. This publication (over 1,000 pages) showed that for the school year ending July 25, 1889 that 132 school districts existed in Warren County with 10 Districts being in Warrensburg. In the town of Warrensburg 13 teachers were employed and taught 442 children. Efforts were being made by New York Legislators and Andrew S. Draper, State Superintendent to require that all children within specific ages (to be determined) be required to attend school. It was estimated that in 1889 in New York 57% of the school age children (between 5 – 21 years old) attended. Teachers in towns (rural) in New York earned an average annual salary of $418.76 or about $11.79 a day.


Toll Gate School

Arbor Day was an important day in New York and in 1889 Warrensburg Union School had a special day long program which was said to be remembered by the pupils and parents who attended. The program consisted of singing, recitations and tree planting.

Uniform teacher certifications were in place in New York and were broken down into three categories. 3rd grade- certification (good for 6 months), 2nd grade- certification (good for up to 2 years) and 1st grade certification which was issued for 5 years. Testing was required for all 3 categories and only a 1st grade certification could be renewed at the discretion of the school commissioner without re-examination.

What would an examination look like for someone to obtain a 1st grade certification? Educational requirements were confusing and in most cases it was difficult for rural schools to complete the process due to testing locations and the test itself. It should be noted that Fred N. Moulton (Warrensburg) obtained his 1st grade certification on August 14, 1889.

Following is the 13 categories and sample questions which were used for the 1889 test for 1st grade certification.

1. Arithmetic-(10 questions):

-How many acres of land in the form of a square may be included by 160 rods of fence?

2. Geography- (10 questions):

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(Continued from Page 3) School

-On which side of the Andes Mountains are the longest rivers? Why?

3. Civil government- (10 questions):

- How may the salary of the Governor of the state be increased?

4. Composition: Write about one of the following: kindergarten, winter sports or the inauguration of President Harrison.

5. Grammar: (8 questions based on 8 written statements).

6. Physiology & Hygiene-(10 questions):

-In what two ways is the system benefited by exercise in the open air?

7. American History- (10 questions):

- Why were New York and Virginia so named?

8. Algebra- (10 questions):

- What are the terms of an algebraic expression?

9. Bookeeping-(10 questions):

-Define debit & balance?

10. Current topics-(10 questions):

- Name the members of President Harrison's Cabinet, and give the official title of each.

11. School Law-(10 questions):

- What defines and limits the business that may be brought before a special school meeting?

12. Physics- (10 questions):

-What causes the water to fly from a revolving grindstone? Give another illustration of the same principle.

13. Methods- (7 questions):

-What is the manner of procedure in teaching by the Grube method?

How many of these could you get correct?

*It only takes 2 days to complete this examination and you need to get at least 75. You can get partial certification.

*Remember if you misspell more than 25 words you may not receive a certificate in any grade.

*Penmanship will be judged.

* You must show all your work on problems not just the answer.

*Tests must be taken in ink.

*Neatness, order, and punctuation will be 25% of papers.

Congratulation to Mr. Moulton- you passed!!!!

Early class photo in the Union Free School


THE RISING SUN

Vol. 1 Warrensburh, N. Y. August, 10 1880. No. 12.

The Rising Sun

is published at

WARRENSBURGH, N. Y.

Every Tuesday morning,

until further notice is given, by

Fred Cunningham and Charlie Burhans,

Publishers and Proprietors.

Terms 15 cents for 4 months in advance

that 'Rule correspondence is God's speed' to-day. As the current, volume travels of the speaker ceased, and the news re- spective flow had never before experienced. Major Anderson drew the 'Star Spangled Banner' up to the top of the staff, the band broke out with the national air of 'Hail Columbia,' and loud and unchain cheers [illegible]

Historian's Corner
by Sandi Parisi

The Rising Sun

While going through the Richards Library's artifacts, I came across a bound copy of "The Rising Sun." It was a weekly "newspaper" started by two young Warrensburgh boys. They were sons of prominent business men in Warrensburg, Fred Cunningham, age 14 and Charles Burhans, age 12, Publishers and Proprietors.

Vol. 1, No. 1 appeared on May 20, 1880. It was published at Warrensburgh, NY, "every Tuesday morning, until further notice is given." Terms were 15 cents for 4 months, in advance. As it turned out it lasted 16 weeks.

The first issue started with the following paragraph.

"The Rising Sun makes its Bow to the Public with great diffidence and with many misgivings about the future as we are informed by older heads that ours, that perhaps after our first issue, the name of Setting Sun or Sons would be more appropriate for us. In other words we would be 'Played out' but we hope not. We shall now and then come out in a pictorial form, as we are aware of the

(Continued on page 5)

(Continued from page 4) Rising Sun

fact that Illustrated Papers are very popular and nice to have in the house. We shall print what we find good in others' papers and you must pardon us if we do not give the name of the Paper stolen from, as we are frightfully short of type and some papers have such very long names. We shall do our best to please you."

Every issue started with jokes, such as: "A poor fellow up town fairly danced with joy when the doctor told him he had Bright's disease. 'What will the Smith girl say now?' he exclaimed triumphantly. She always said there was nothing bright about me. Oh I guess not: but the doctor's certificate will show what kind of a hairpin I am."

The paper had advertisers such as Robert Jarvis, (dry goods, groceries, hats, caps, boots, shoes, crockery etc. and material) who advertised in every issue as did Haleys (dry goods and groceries). After the first couple issues other advertisers became regulars also, they were Van Dusens (jewelry and eyeglasses) , , E.S. Crandalls (dry goods, notions, clothing, hats, caps, shoes, wallpaper, groceries, etc.), West Bros. (Livery and boarding stable), and W.L. Playford (house, sign and carriage painter). The second to last issue advertised a printing press, stating "Inquire at this office." For some reason Robert Jarvis had an additional ad in every issue "Wanted 10,000 ties, Robert Jarvis." One small ad in the first and only issue read: "Wanted, a girl to do general house work. Inquire of Mrs. Cunningham." I'm sure she paid a premium for that advertisement.

The young men included editorials, and Local News. Each paper was four pages, and also included their own ads for cards, which they made on their printing press. The format was 7 inches wide by 10 inches wide. They also covered news such as: "At Marion, Ark. May 28 – L Ford was hanged for the murder of John Broadway, last October. He protested his innocence to the last."

Their last issue was Vol. 1 No. 16 printed September 7, 1880. They stated that "we were not sick of the job, and should not have set quite so soon, but School commenced on Monday..." They also noted that the paper had been a financial success, "the net proceeds for 4 months without going fishing or swimming half as much as we wanted to, paying our expenses delivering our paper to village subscribers, leaves us the munificent sum of $3.33 apiece....." but not enough for the next semester at the Warrensburgh Academy!

Alas, this project was in the days before television, computers, game boys, etc., etc. I must admit I had to go to the dictionary to look up a few of the words. I plan on making copies of all the papers and putting it together as a little booklet, which will be available at the Warrensburgh Museum of Local History.

The Schroon River Log Drive 1879-1924

By John T. Hastings

Editors Note; The following was extrapolated from information which was provided to me from ***Dick Nason****, retired forester with* ***Finch, Pruyn & Company****.*

The Spring 2014 issue of the Quarterly contained an article on the river drives that occurred on the Hudson and Schroon Rivers (*Birling Down the River*). The following information gives some numerical data on the river drives which occurred on the Schroon River between 1879 and 1924.

From 1829 through 1903 the drives were divided into three section: 1, To the Emerson Mill, 2, From the Emerson Mill to the Pulp Mill (Hudson River Pulp and Paper Company—HRPPC) and 3. From the Pulp Mill to the Hudson River. From 1904 through 1924 the drive had four sections, with No. 1 above being broken down into "From West Branch to Schroon Lake" and "From Schroon Lake to Emerson's Mills." It is important to note that information on the last two sections does not begin until 1894, which coincides with the development of the Schroon River Pulp and Paper Company.

The information on these river drives provides a yearly account of the total number of markets in each section and what amount was that of Finch Pruyn, the total cost of the drive and what percent was de-

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(Continued from page 5) River Drives

voted to Finch Pruyn and cost per market log, per section. There is also a summary sheet for all the sections involved.

From 1879 until 1894 the Schroon River produced anywhere from 21,168 to 87, 545 market logs (Note: One market log is 13 feet long with a small end diameter of 19 inches and contains approximately 200 board feet. A board foot is a one inch thick piece of lumber that is 12" by 12"). From 1879 until 1886 the average log drive was close to 80,000 markets, but then drops to approximately 46,000 markets (The range is 21 to 65,00) from 1887 until 1893. From 1894 until 1903 the average is around 32,000 markets.

River drivers on the Hudson

Starting in 1894 we can subtract the amount that was sent down river from the Emerson Mills to the HRPPC, from the amount that was received at the Emerson Mills and get an estimate of the volume of timber that was being sawed into lumber at these mills.(Note: Prior to the early 1890s, what was later known as the Smith Sawmill, was owned by the Emersons). Also, the difference between what was received and then sent down to the Hudson River at the HRPPC Mill will give an estimate of the amount used there.

Over this period the Emerson Mills used approximately 62,000 market logs. This translates into over 12 million board feet or approximately 1, 200,000 board feet per year. However, the yearly range was from 358,000 in 1895 to 2.7 million board feet in 1902.

Over this same period the HRPPC Mill used approximately 76,000 markets or 15 million board feet with a yearly average of 1.5 million board feet. Since the pulp mill used mostly ground wood, the above yearly use would more accurately 3,800 cords of wood. This amount ranged from 1,700 cords in 1901 to 5,500 cords in 1899.

For the following 21 years between 1904 and 1924 production dropped off at the Emerson mill. During this period average lumber production was about 575 MBF per year. However, at the HRPPC Company, pulp utilization increases to an average of around 4,500 cords per year. Low periods of production occurred near World War 1 in 1916 and 1917.

Cost for getting the logs from the logging banks* to the mills varied from year to year during the 1904-1924 period. For the entire drive from the West Branch to the Hudson River it cost, on average, $4,700 per year. The average drive included over 50,000 markets which is a cost of about 9 cents per market or 45 cents per thousand board feet. Costs for Finch, Pruyn & Company were very similar to this, being approximately 10 cents per market log.

Factors such as winter weather which affected how much wood was cut and snowfall depths, spring runoff conditions due to temperatures, rainfall and snowfall, and economic conditions, affected how much wood was available for use at these mills on a annual basis.

During this period (1879-1924) 35 different log marks were registered for the Schroon river log drives. Some of these included Tefft & Russell, Weed & Thompson, Geo. Freeman, C. H. Faxon, Orsen Richards, J. Orway, James Morgan, A, C. Emerson, Starbuck & Emerson, HRPPC, O. W. Taft, John Coolidge, Sherman & Lapham, Finch, Pruyn & Co., Wm. Baldwin, Kenyon & Baldwin, Union Bag & Paper, Sandy Hill Pulp & Paper, and Bradly & Underwood. Some of these companies had more than two or three different log marks. These log marks were stamped on the end of the logs at the banking grounds and used to separate log ownership at the mills downstream.

* A logging bank is place adjacent to the river where logs are drawn and left during the winter, to be pushed into the river during the spring thaw and ice break up.

Letters to the Editor

Thanks to Ben Gurney for providing the following information;

Sandi

What a nice book!!! Very well done!!! I was horribly shocked and disappointed, though, when I discovered in the text that I'm not the only person on earth who remembers the name of Henry Bertrand's cat that survived the fire!! I can remember my mother taking me into the store, pre-1950, for a sundae and seeing Amos perched on top of the phone booth in the store. I was hoping the newsletter would someday have a trivia question on the subject and I would be the only person who remembered the cat's name.....and thus win a big prize! Thanks again to all who worked on this project!

Ben Gurney
Phoenix, AZ

Hi Sandi & John

I've been poring over old photo albums to see if I could identify the other people in the banjo players photo on Page 66. I'd like to say the person on the left in the photo is my father, but I'm not sure; the person looks too tall in stature to be my father; he was somewhat shorter than Paul. So, I'm stumped.

I have numerous photos of banjo playing activities including both Paul and Tink, along with their cousins, the Côtés, who were also banjo players, all self-taught. The banjo playing also continued while Paul and Tink were at Cornell, so perhaps that's where the photo on Page 66 was taken. I still have my father's banjo on a pot shelf in our house; he purchased it, used, in 1922. I'm sure if it could talk..... J

Many of the photos I have were taken around the house that the family occupied at 66 Elm Street. Earlier photos of Tink and Paul were taken around Music Hall Block where the family occupied (I believe) a second floor apartment.

I never knew my Uncle Paul very well. As the book very correctly points out, he left Warrensburg shortly after college and made his life in Chicago. His wife, Mary Ellen, a native of Chicago, was, at one time, secretary to Mayor Daley. I think she always found Warrensburg to be a little too quaint for her tastes. But they vacationed in Warrensburg for several summers when I was young. Paul had "graduated" from playing the banjo to playing classical guitar, and evidently was well known among classical guitar enthusiasts in the Chicago area.

I was very pleased with the account of my family in the book.....someone in Warrensburg knows more than I do about us..... J

Ben Gurney

Trivia Questions
(From Ben Gurney)

OK....let's try this one.....
With reference to the attached photo, (which obviously are of my father and his brother Paul, circa 1912):
Question 1: What did "W.E." stand for?
Now question 2 is harder yet:
A local personage named Will McGann (whom I know only by name) jokingly called this baseball team by another name, also abbreviated by "W.E". What was that name?

Answer

The true name was the "Warrensburg Eagles". I have no idea if it was a forerunner of the Little League or what, nor do I know who else was on the team.

However, Will McGann called them the "Worm-Eaters".

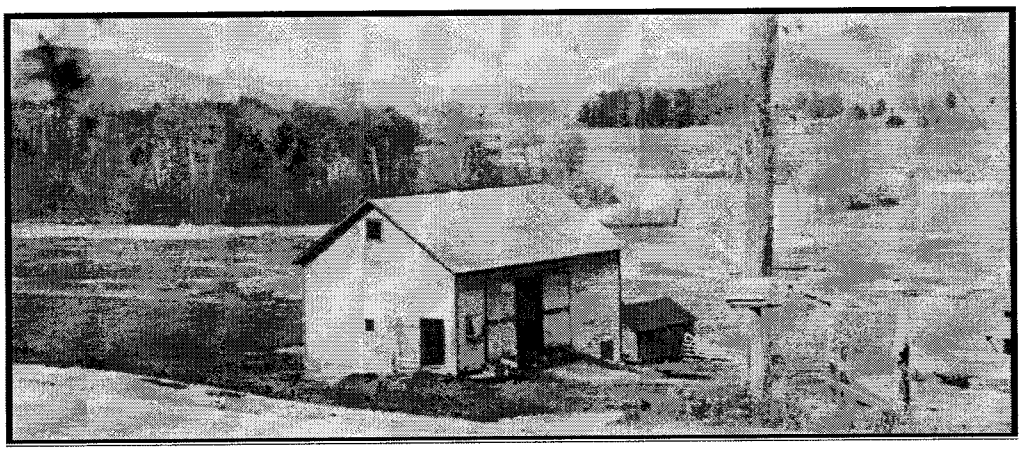
All of this information came from a handwritten footnote to the photos that my mother had added in the album, though I have heard my father corroborate the story many times.

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 structure? If so, contact John at 798-0248 or at jthastings@roadrunner.com. Thanks to **Sarah Farrar** for providing the photo.

Society to Honor Museum Guides.

Fourteen Guides and other museum volunteers will be treated to the Holiday Dinner on December 11 for volunteering more than 25 hours during the year. During winter the museum is open only two days a week, for a total of six hours and sometimes it is difficult to fill all the two-hour periods needed! Won't you consider volunteering? No special knowledge about Warrensburg is required - just a friendly and welcoming attitude. (You will have plenty of time to study the exhibits and become an expert!) Please call **Joan West**, our Guide coordinator at 668-9285 for more information, or check the Museum page of the Warrensburgh Historical Society website for a link to the schedule. Help keep the museum open!

(Continued from page 2)

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. Member **Bob Bradley** is helping with survey and mapping work.

The Society's Education Committee, chaired by **Rosemary Maher**, will be conducting after-school historical enrichment programs for grades 4-6 during the months of February-May. Each of the four monthly units will consist of three one-hour sessions. They will be presented by **Paul Gilchrist, Rosemary, Mark Brown, and Donne Lynn Winslow**.

The Museum will be open on December 6-7 for the annual "Christmas in Warrensburgh" celebration. The special exhibit, running through January, will display "Collections" provided by numerous local individuals. Our Holiday Dinner is on Thursday, December 11, at 5:30 at Lizzie Keays ($35). Call to make your reservation (504-4043). And remember, the Society's bicentennial book makes a great gift; it's on sale at the museum for $20, along with other books and items.

Until next time, keep looking backwards.

Paul Gilchrist

Update - Summer Quarterly Mystery Photo - Update

Special thanks to **Shirley** and **Marie Fisher** and **Sarah Farrar** for helping to identify many of the individuals in the baseball photo. According to Shirley, the photo was taken about 1939 or 1940. The team members are as follows; **Back Row**: L-R; 1. Charlie Cameron 2. Myron Cameron, 3. Donald Cameron 4. Unknown 5. Bill Varnum 6. Bob Swan, Coach, **Second Row**: L-R; 1. Bob Fisher, 2. Ben Guiles 3. Lawrence Cleveland 4. Dan Hewitt 5. Art Brown ? 6. John Fisher 7. Eva Grinnell **Front Row**: L-R; Guy McElroy 2. Howard Combs 3. Walt Grinnell 4. Unknown 5. Robert Vernon Mosher 6. Leeward Stockwell (Killed in WW II). Shirley's husband was Bob Fisher who had four brothers; Mike, John, Bill and Louis. Marie was married to Louis.