



# Warrensburgh Historical Society Quarterly

Volume 14 Issue 1

Spring 2009

## Recollections from the Grist Mill Era

By Linda Lamy

My Dad, Morgan Crandall, worked for Pasco's from Jan 2<sup>nd</sup> 1947 to 1978. He worked primarily at the grist mill. These are many of his recollections of that time. He well remembers many people that he worked with over those years: John Cooper, Clarence Wood, Jim Jackson, Jimmy Morehouse, Cliff Decker, Keith Duell, Bud Olden, Mike Wood, Clarence Simms and Janet Combs.

Pasco's hardware store, grain store-house and grist mill were located on River Street. Originally they were owned by B.P. Burhans & Sons. Thomas J. Smith of Horicon was the general manager as of 1882. Then in 1886 he purchased the grist mill. He turned the mill over to his son Frank W. Smith, who then sold it to Delbert E Pasco around 1927. Delbert died in 1948 and his son, Walter Pasco, took over. Delbert's other son, Wyman, managed A.C. Emerson's. During the 1950's Delbert H. Pasco took over the

*(Continued on page 3)*

We were.....

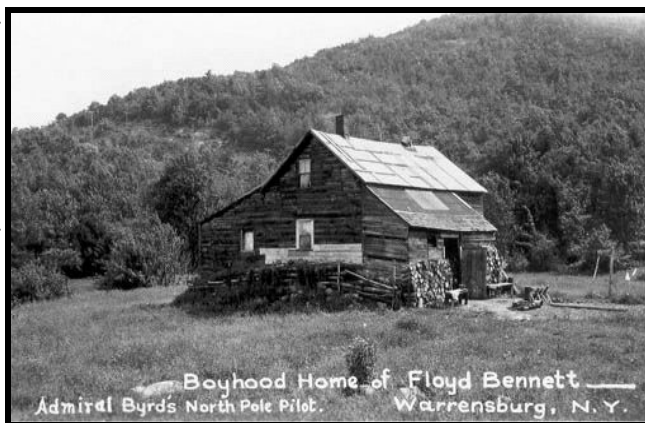
## TICKLED PINK TO FIND FLOYD

By Paul Gilchrist

Early on the cool, damp Sunday afternoon of November 19, 2006, six ardent students<sup>1</sup> of local history met at the Farrar residence in North Caldwell, piled into Steve Parisi's van, and set off on an expedition to locate exactly the site of Floyd Bennett's boyhood home far up Harrington Hill where Floyd had been placed in the care of his aunt, Mary Stanton. The group was armed with several maps, including a copy of the 1876 Warren County Atlas map of Warrensburgh, a USGS topographic map, an aerial photo from Warren County showing property lines, and two photographs of the house (taken before it was destroyed in 1934) that showed the background terrain, which would help confirm the location of the site.

the location of the site on the same topographic map that we now carried with us. Both said that one could still see the cellar hole, if it had not since been covered or filled in. We knew, then, within a few hundred feet, where we wanted to go and what we were looking for.

Since it was hunting season, some wore loud colors so as to be visible to any hunters who might be in the woods. Others chose the opposite strategy, wearing subdued earth tones in order *not* to be seen by hunters. Evidently both strategies were effective, as no shots were heard; or perhaps there were no hunters in the area.



Boyhood Home of Floyd Bennett  
Admiral Byrd's North Pole Pilot. Warrensburg, N.Y.

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The group was guided by John Farrar, who had been shown the site many years earlier and whose grandfather, Stewart Farrar, was Warrensburgh's postmaster for many years. Two years earlier, in 2004, the late Jim Farrar had pointed out

The site is on private property, although it was not certain to us whether the unpaved track itself was private. As no one was around, we interpreted the "Welcome" sign at a

*(Continued on page 7)*

## PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

It's snowing as I write this and I'm watching my friend at the bird feeder, having the chickadees and titmouses take birdseeds from her hand. I call her the bird whisperer. Also at our feeder we regularly see juncos, sparrows, woodpeckers, both hairy and downy, and nut-hatches. Today we saw a purple finch, and always blue jays. January was a tough winter month but these things help to make such difficulties less prominent as time passes.

Just past is our Annual General Membership Meeting. A copy of the report is available by mail to any member of the Society for a cost of four dollars.

If you haven't yet renewed your membership please do so NOW. And if you are not a member, I ask why not? Apparently you're interested in the history of Warrensburg or you wouldn't be reading this Quarterly, so why not help to ensure its continued publication and help to identify and to preserve the history of our community. Society dues make up approximately half the expense necessary to continue our efforts. We promote public programs of historical interest almost every month of the year and of course, the Board of Directors meets every month and members are always encouraged to attend these meetings as well. One more note, we will have several seats on the Board that will be vacated because of term limits. Perhaps you, as a member of Warrensburg Historical Society, would like to help lead.

This year the topic for our Scholarship Program is the four hundredth anniversary of the discovery of the Hudson River (by Europeans). Many of the entries from last year (the topic was the Bicentennial Mural) have been compiled into a small publication and copies can be had for reasonable mailing cost.

In your service-  
-Delbert Chambers

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

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Warrensburg Historical Society

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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-

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## UPCOMING EVENTS

**March 30;** Dr. Hollis Palmer is a regional teacher, storyteller and novelist, who specializing in historic crimes. He will be speaking at the Griffin House at 7:00 pm.

**April 26;** The Artifacts Tea will be held at the Senior Citizen Center at 4 p.m. Please bring something of historic interest to share with other attendees.

## WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

John Takacs  
Cliff Davis  
Pat Leonard

*The next  
Quarterly Deadline  
Is May 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:

Warrensburg Historical Society, PO Box 441, Warrensburg, NY 12885.

## NOTICE

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

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reins from his father, Walter.

Walt Pasco was a shrewd business man. He also owned approximately 40 houses, which he rented. He also owned the Ford car dealership. The story was told that Walt had wind-up clocks for sale at the hardware store that weren't selling for the regular price of \$3.95. So he put a sale reduction sign on them for \$4.95 and he sold over a dozen clocks.

In 1967 the hardware store was sold to Curtis Lumber.

The gristmill was still in operation until 1967 when it was sold and refurbished as a restaurant. A small office was built across the street where the Pasco feed business was now run. The grain storehouse was located near by.

The grain storehouse contained bagged and loose grain in bins. The D & H railroad made deliveries right to the storehouse where it was unloaded by hand. The bagged grain weighed 100 lbs. This included horse and cattle feed. The goat and dog feed came in 25-50 lb. bags. Barley, corn and wheat were put into bins. When these grains needed to be ground they were put into a wagon and taken down to the grist mill. The wheat was ground into flour, the corn into cornmeal and the barley was ground up for primarily animal feed. Loose oats were also ground for animal feed. In the storehouse the loose corn in the storage bins would get very hot during the summer months. This was caused by a combination of a tin roof on the building, moisture from the corn and summer temperatures. In order to cool it down someone needed to get into the bins and stir the corn with a

shovel. Another method of cooling the corn was to let it go down a shoot, then a small conveyor belt with buckets would bring it back up to the bin. The corn was often so hot that it could be felt through your boots.

The chicken scratch feed bags were made of pretty printed cotton material. Once emptied many women used the material to sew dresses, aprons and curtains. The flour bags were made of a heavy cotton mate-



rial that women would bleach, then make sheets and pillowcases out of them.

Flour was sold to 2 bakeshops in town. Loren Hoffman owned a bakery in the building where Riverside Gallery is currently located. William Dorner owned a bake shop on Main Street which was located at the back of his house.

Pasco's had 5 delivery trucks. Grain, hay and straw were delivered to individuals plus Frontier Town, Sun Canyon, 1000 Acres Ranch, Hidden Valley, Ridin-Hy, Painted Pony, and Circle B Ranch.

The gristmill had a flume which measured 12 feet wide, 10 feet high and 150 feet long. The beams were made of oak and measured 8 inches

by 8 inches. Water would be diverted from the flume in order to perform annual maintenance. The Gristmill generated electricity which powered the mill and the grain storehouse.

The grist mill also had a scale for measuring small amounts of grain to be purchased. Red Rose feeds of rabbit pellets, scratch feed and laying mash for chickens were measured out in paper bags. Folks also brought in slaughtered pigs, deer and cattle to be weighed.

Chick Day was held in the spring. People would order the number of chicks that they wanted. If you purchased chicken feed you were allowed 10 free chicks. About 2000 chicks were usually delivered to

the grist mill. One time the chicks were delivered early and my Dad had to bring them all home to our house to keep them warm overnight by the wood stove until they could be given out the next day. I had fun taking them out of the crates and we had chicks all over the kitchen much to my Mother's dismay. Pasco's sold hay, straw and building materials such as tin roofing, cement blocks, chimney blocks and tiles. They also sold gasoline. During the 1950's Pasco's Saturday special included 5 gallons of gas for \$1.00. Can you imagine that?

Employees worked a 6 day week with only Sundays off. The work day was 9 hours plus a one hour lunch break. Vacations were rare.

Del sold the remainder of the business in 1978. Pasco's era had come to a close.

# LOOKING AT WARRENSBURG'S NATURAL (PRE)-HISTORY

## GLACIAL ARTIFACTS

By Paul Gilchrist

The history of Warrensburgh must include its natural history, in which glaciation was a major factor.

Glaciers from the north advanced and retreated at least four times during the last million years (the Pleistocene epoch) and had a profound effect on the natural landscape and, thereby, on human history in this area. Evidence of the vanished glaciers is all around us. An acquaintance with some of it can result in a greater appreciation of our region's natural history, and cause us to contemplate (with considerable difficulty) some perspective of just where we are along the earth's vast scale of time. In this and future articles, we want to point out some of the glacial features that are found in the landscape around Warrensburgh and explain their origins.

### Eskers.

Eskers are ridges consisting of sand, gravel, and boulders deposited by streams that flowed in tunnels within glaciers. As the ice sheet moved, it scoured enormous amounts of debris from the surface of the land over which it moved. In the ice, especially near the southern end of the glacier as it receded, streams of meltwater carried this debris along in the same way as the rocks and gravel one can see in the bed of the Hudson River anywhere along its course between Warrensburgh and Thurman. When the glacial ice was finally gone, eskers were one kind of residual feature left on the landscape, along with such remnants as kames, lakebeds, various kinds of

moraines, kettle lakes, and spillway channels. It may seem strange that a hill (the esker) represents the bed of a stream, normally found at the bottom of a hill, but that's because the stream that formed the esker was somewhere inside the glacier, which was very thick.

Eskers can sometimes resemble railroad embankments, although they are often far too large and tall to be mistaken for a railroad bed. They can be a few hundred feet in length or extend over many miles, usually with gaps. One in Ireland runs from Dublin to Galway and forms the route of the highway between those two cities. The word derives, in fact, from the Old Irish word *escir*.

Heavy forest cover in this area means that eskers are visually not as conspicuous as in more open country, but some excellent examples in Warrensburgh are quite easy to see. Two impressive eskers are found just to the west of the junction of Golf Course Road (or River Road) and Route 28.<sup>1</sup> The southern end of the esker closest to the road (which we'll call "Esker 1") can be approached from the pull-off area on the west side of Golf Course Road just before it meets Route 28, and this is the best way to hike up the esker, as the end has a more gentle slope than the sides, which are very steep. The esker extends thence northward for several hundred yards immediately to the west of Route 28. From the road it looks like a steep wall. It is underlain by rounded boulders and rocks of various sizes and gravel, over which soil has formed and trees have grown up. It's about 60 feet high and has a narrow crest, only about ten feet wide. Its west side is just as steep as the side towards the road. The steepness can be attributed to its being underlain by rocks rather than dirt or sand, which would result in a more gradual slope.

Right next to Esker 1, lying between it

and the river, is another one (we'll call it "Esker 2") which is more spectacular yet, because its crest is even narrower, only three or four feet wide along some stretches (see photo), and its western slope is extremely steep and drops about 150 feet to the river. A good approach to climbing this esker is also from its southern end, which may be reached from the same pull-off parking area as above, walking west a few yards, past the south end of the first esker, then turning left onto a path and proceeding southward with the second esker to the right. After walking a few hundred feet, one can observe the sloping southern end of the esker, which invites one to turn right and ascend northward to the top of the ridge. The river will then be seen on the left, far below. Esker 2 extends northward almost a mile. Another good approach is to park at a smaller pull-off several hundred feet south of the one mentioned



View looking southward at top of "Esker 2," showing the narrowness of the crest. Note also the extreme steepness of the slope to the right (west), going down about 150 feet to the Hudson River. The photo was taken in March 2008.

above, walk the path towards the river, and turn right (north) up the

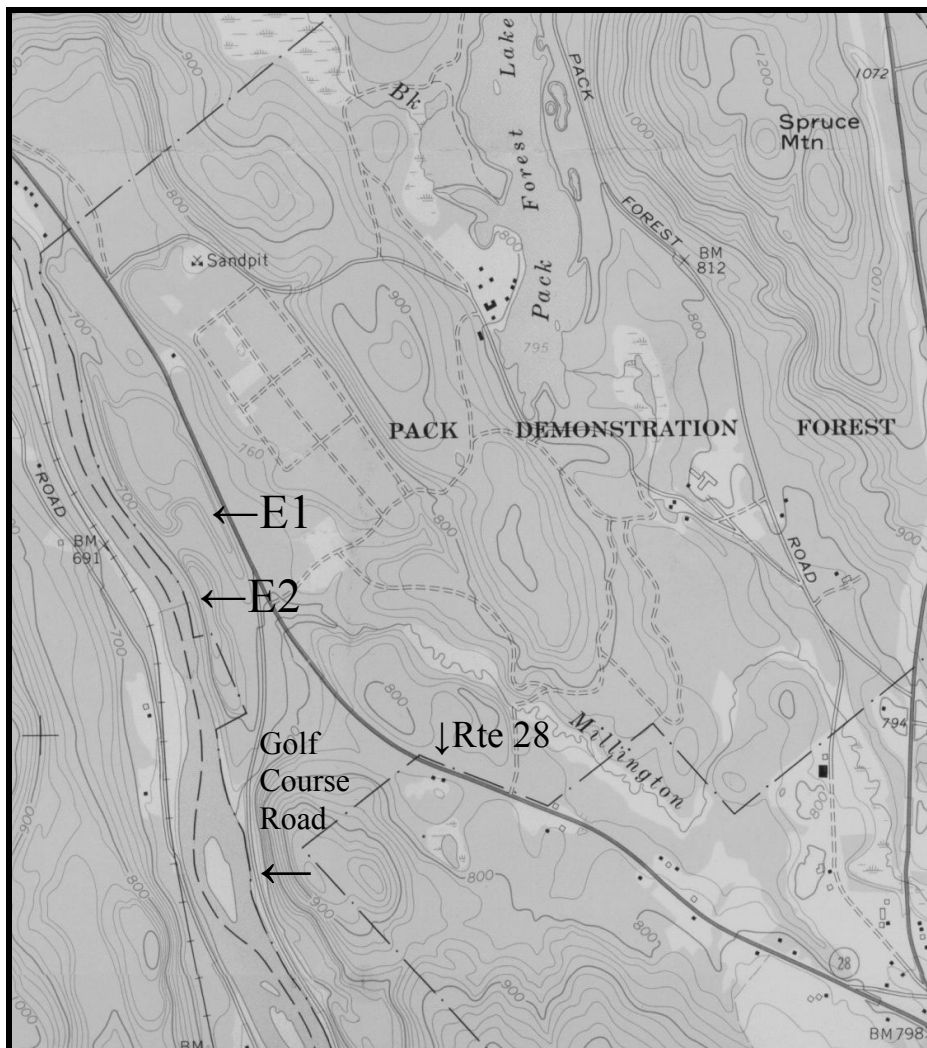
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south end of the esker. These two eskers may represent remnants either of two streams in a branching or tributary system, or else two courses of the same intra-glacial stream as it changed course over time due to changes or shifts in the ice. They are located in Pack Forest and can be seen on the topographic map shown to the right, labeled “E<sub>1</sub>” and “E<sub>2</sub>.” They are exceptionally high eskers and make for excellent snowshoe hikes, if one climbs up the ends. See you there this winter.

Still another esker<sup>2</sup> can be found on Cross Road (aka Floyd Bennett Road), located about 400 yards north from Harrington Hill Road (Old Stagecoach Road), four miles up from the Judd Bridge. The esker, in fact, forms the bed of Cross Road for a short distance and runs off at an angle. It is easy to see, although not as dramatically high as the others mentioned here. The topographic map in the Floyd Bennett article elsewhere in this issue shows this esker as an oval-shaped contour line under the “d” of Cross Road.

Yet another ridge<sup>3</sup> that appears to have all the characteristics and symptoms of an esker is found behind the school bus garage on Horicon Avenue. The end of this esker can be approached through the woods just beyond and east of the town well at the end of Swan Street. (Much of this land is posted, so one must be careful about trespassing.) The ridge can be seen across the Swan Street pond and separates the pond from the river. It is high (about 50-60 feet) and narrow at the top. Behind the bus garage, it's actually a double ridge, indicating two different courses of the intra-glacial stream or two branching streams. One can see another segment of this esker on the west side of Horicon Avenue just beyond the high school. Its southern end is directly across the road from the Schroon River Animal



The two eskers to the west of the intersection of Golf Course Road and Route 28 are labeled as “E<sub>1</sub>” and “E<sub>2</sub>.” Their height is indicated by the contour lines, which have an interval of 20 vertical feet between lines. The western slope of Esker 2 is so steep that the contour lines overlay upon each other.

Hospital, and it extends northward almost a quarter mile, running behind the pond, and ending at Pen-nock Drive.

It can be seen easily on a topo-graphic map; or search Google Maps for “Warrensburg NY”; click on “terrain.”

If and when other eskers in War-rensburg are sighted, they will be sited and cited in future issues.

#### FOOTNOTES:

<sup>1</sup> The location of this esker was pointed out to us by John Hastings.

<sup>2</sup> We were told of this esker by Sarah Farrar, who learned of it from Stewart Farrar, PhD.

<sup>3</sup> The identification of this ridge as an esker was made by Barbara Whitford while snow-shoeing one day in January, 2008.

## TAKING A LOOK BACKWARD The Warren County Fair from First to Present

(From the Warrensburgh News  
Of Sept. 6, 1900)

The Warren County Fair is exactly forty three years old counting from first to present. Reminiscences are sometimes interesting things to ponder over and there are several early incidents connected with this organization that deserve mention to better show its present status from a local standpoint.



Prior to the Civil War, contemporaneous with the torch-light processions of the "Wide Awakes" and the "Little Giants," a modest fairground was marked off at Luzerne. This was in 1857, when the first exhibition was held. Colonel B. C. Butler was president. The total receipts of the Warren County Fair (was) \$331.28, and of this sum \$124 were paid in premiums.

In 1861 the fairgrounds were removed to French Mountain and annual exhibitions were held at that place until 1869. In those days the Halfway House was seeing it's best days and the famous stallion, Joe Brown, was making a mark up in the twenties, something wonderful then in the annals of the race track and the paddock.

In 1870 the society's annual meets were changed to Glens Falls. From that date and for twenty years thereafter annual exhibitions were held at this point. It was known as the Warren County Agriculture society and admirably it sus-

tained its reputation so long as annual exhibitions were held. But these events were abandoned in due time, giving way to the Northern New York Trotting Horse Breeders association, with its magnificent course, ample and beautiful surroundings, fastest record made in a race and finally a national reputation.

For a number of years after the Warren County Agriculture society quit giving field days, the organization was still kept up. The annual meetings of stockholders were held as usual, officers elected and the property interests of the society looked after.

At length the Warren County Agriculture society went out of existence as an agriculture association. Its property interests had been disposed of very advantageously, and having no further reports to file in the state archives, the society ceased to come under state patronage.

With the passing of the Warren County Agriculture society there comes the Warren County Fair in the ordinary course of events. The latter is a direct descendent of the former and capable of sustaining its successful traditions. The executive staff of the Warren County Fair is a guarantee of progressive management and its first annual exhibition at Warrensburgh, September 18-21, requires no other statement.

## THE WARREN COUNTY FAIR First Annual Exhibition Next Month at Warrensburgh

(From the Warrensburgh News  
August 16, 1900)

The first annual exhibition of the Warren County Fair will be held next month on the grounds of the Warrensburgh Agriculture Association. To be exact the fair will be held on Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday, September 18, 19, 20 and 21.

The above announcement will come in the nature of a surprise to the public in

(Continued on page 8)



*View of the fairgrounds from  
Hackensack Mountain*



(Continued from page 1)

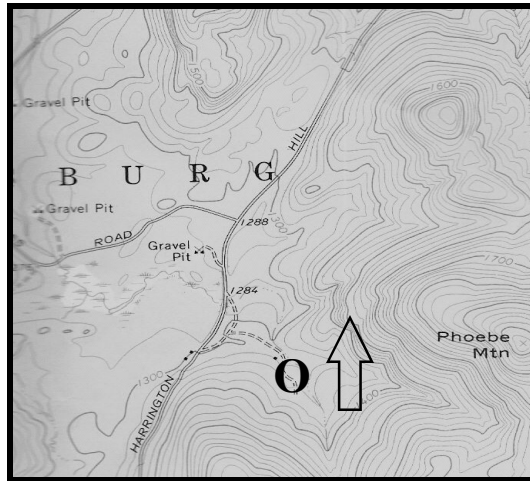
nearby cottage at face value and proceeded along the track, then fanned out into the woods. We soon found the cellar hole about 50 feet off the track, right where a residence was indicated on old maps. The background terrain and power line matched the photographs, although it was somewhat difficult to see through the trees that had grown up. Please refer to the topographic map to the right, and earlier photograph.

Recently, “no trespassing” and “posted” signs have been put up, and the track has been gated, so there is no public access. It’s a good thing we got there when we did. Yet one can get a reasonably good aerial view of the site from recent Warren County aerial photographs or from Google Earth. There has also been some talk of putting a roadside historic site marker along the paved highway, indicating the Floyd Bennett home was six hundred yards to the south.

The circle on the topographic map above shows the site of the cellar hole of the house where Floyd Bennett lived as a child on Harrington Hill.

The site is approximately one-third mile off the paved road. The arrow points to the high-tension power line that can be seen to the left and above the roof of the house in the photograph on the front page, taken about 75 years ago. The cleared area around the house is now almost entirely grown up to woods (see photo above).

1 In reverse alphabetical order (why not?): Pete Wood, Steve Parisi, John Hastings, Jean Hadden, Paul Gilchrist, John Farrar



*The author, Steve Parisi, John Farrar and Jean Hadden at the site. The cellar hole is in the left center of the photograph.*

## Important People from Warrensburg's History

(Taken from the  
Warrensburg News  
circa 1900)

### Delbert E. Pasco

Johnsburgh Farmer's Boy Who Has  
“Made Good” in Warrensburg.

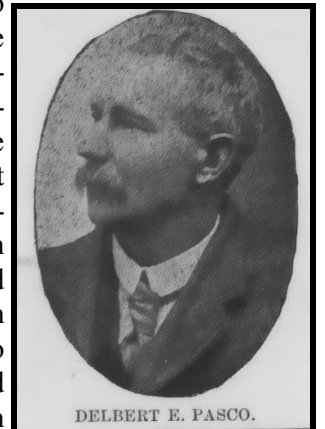
Delbert E. Pasco, who on October 30, 1860, was born a farmer's son in Johnsburgh, during the early part of his life devoted his energies to farming and lumbering in that town. In 1889 he came to Warrensburg and has “made good” here in various lines of business.

After acquiring such education as the district school could supply he attended a select school conducted by J. B. Armstrong and later took a course at the Troy Conference Academy. Naturally industrious and possessing keen business ability he was successful from the beginning of his career.

When he came to Warrensburg he located in Lewisville and engaged in the livery business. Later he established a grocery store. In 1896, in partnership with his brother-in-law, George W. Davison, he bought the planing mill and sash and blind factory of S. Pasco and Brother. The plant was destroyed by fire in 1899 and was rebuilt the same year.

The Hudson Valley Railway in

order to  
secure  
the wa-  
ter priv-  
ilege  
bought  
the busi-  
ness in  
1903 and  
the firm  
of Pasco  
and



Davison  
was then  
dissolved. Subsequently Mr. Pasco bought the machinery and built a mill on South Street. He also conducts a hardware store and deals extensively in wagons and sleighs.

Mr. Pasco is a deacon of the Methodist Church and a Justice of the Peace. On April 27, 1884, he was united in marriage with Miss Abbie Magee of Thurman. Two sons were born to them, Walter H. and Wyman D. The former is now a student of the Troy Conference Academy and later will study medicine.

### Mystery Photo

#### Places in Warrensburg's History

**Can you identify this house? Where it is or was located?**

**Who were the previous owners?**

Note: These photos may be unidentified photos in the WHS archives or may be known places in or around the village.

Call John at 798-0248 with your answers or e-mail [jthastings@roadrunner.com](mailto:jthastings@roadrunner.com)



*(Continued from page 6)*

general. In fact the papers incorporating the Warren County Fair were not filed with the secretary of state until Monday of this week.

The board of incorporators, and the same will serve as directors until the first annual meeting the second Tuesday in January, 1900—are as follows: Henry Griffing, James A. Emerson, Fred J. Hayes, Louis E. Reoux, Emerson S. Crandall, Thomas J. Smith, James M. Somerville, Lewis Thomson, Julius P. Baumann, Charles F. Burhans and Isaac S. Woodward.

For twenty-six years the Warrensburg Agriculture Association have held annual exhibitions, the results of which have been characterized each year with a liberal measure of success. The premiums

and purses have been generous and the patronage responsive.

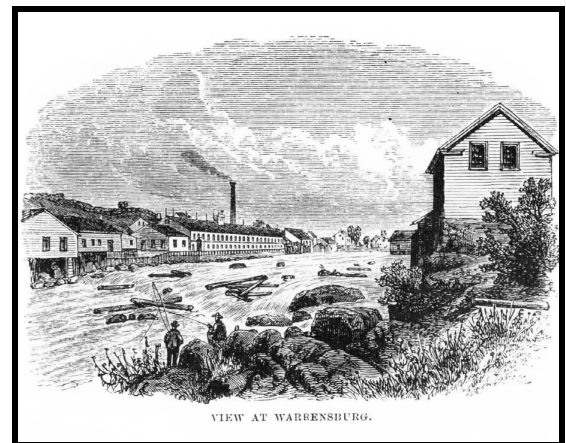
One object in organizing the Warren County Fair is to obtain the benefit in the shape of state aid, which does not fall to the lot of town fairs. Then too, Warrensburg being the geographical center of Warren county is the proper place for its county fair.

There will be no material changes between the local fair next month and previous exhibitions. The same executive that governed the Warrensburg Agriculture association last year will direct the Warren County fair this year. The premiums offered are to be materially increased and the program of events enlarged.

### *Warrensburgh Historical Society 2009 Calendar.*

Additional copies  
may be obtained  
from the Society  
or at one of the  
following

Warrensburgh locations:  
Glens Falls National Bank  
Jack Toney's  
Nemec's  
Richard's Library  
Cronin's Golf course



*From Benson Lossing's "The Hudson"*

### 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.