



Warrensburgh Thurman Historical Society Quarterly

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FALL 2022

THURMAN'S FIRST SAW MILL

by Gary Martin

From the John Thurman Historical Society Quarterly, Sept. 2007



The distinction of starting the first sawmill in Thurman belongs to Caleb Reynolds, according to a book titled History of the Lumber Industry in the State of New York, by William F. Fox, whose own family played a significant role in lumbering in our region. The original homestead of the Reynolds family was on the Great Lot 13 of Hyde Township, and consisted of about 122 acres. The house site, according to Joan Prouty Reynolds, is at what is now called 471 South Johnsbury Road, the property presently owned by Robert Galusha. William Fox dates the

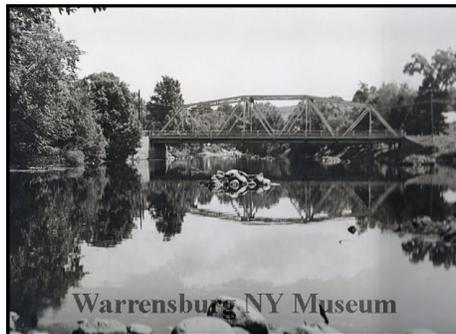
Mill - continued on page 5

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WARRENSBURGH HIGHWAY SUPERVISOR REPORT 1917-18

By Mark K. Brown

I recently found an old ledger neatly kept by my grandfather Ralph Brown when he was Town Supervisor of Highways in Warrensburgh 1917-18. What did he do? He of course had to attend Town meetings, make out work schedules and orders, inspect the 7 bridges (2 on Harrington Hill Road, 2 on Viele Pond Road, Osborne Bridge, Glen Road, and Spruce Mt), determine cost estimates of projects, inspect sidewalks, and determine if work was



Osborne bridge from down river

completed.

He also assisted in scraping sidewalks, shoveling snow, viewing and reporting instances such as D. Pratt's sheep killed by dogs, and hauling coal ashes to be used on roads with a team of horses he owned. My grandfather loved his team of work horses and used them for hauling wood, logs, and rocks, plowing gardens, cutting and raking hay and for town highway work. Even in 1917 it seems a lot of time was spent on office paperwork, es-

Highway - continued on page 7

2022 THURMAN FALL FARM TOUR

By Sharon Stone

Autumn 2007: Cheryl and Marc Kenyon of Adirondack Gold Farms were out walking their sugar bush enjoying the beauty of the autumn colors. Their discussion at the time centered on how they wished others could not only enjoy the beauty of autumn in Thurman but understand the amount of work that went into getting products ready for the Spring season. Cheryl contacted other farms in the area about her idea, all of whom were on board. Cheryl started planning and organizing for this new event and was the driving force behind the first Thurman Fall Farm Tour in October of 2008. Perky Granger took over managing the Tours 3—4 years in. Fifteen years later, the tour is not only still operating but has expanded and become an area favorite event.

The self-guided tour begins at the Thurman Town Hall where visitors pick-up their map which, is a necessity. Also at the Town Hall is the Annual Quilt Show



Carol Rounds, Susan Shepler, Gail Frenz, Dawn Freligh, Avis Russell

Thurman - continued on page 3

SOCIETY SPOT

BOARD MEMBERS

PRESIDENT: Gary Bivona
VICE PRESIDENT: Paul Gilchrist
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 Dave Nabozny Gary Martin
 Miles Martin Shelby Burkhardt
 Evelyn Wood Harold McKinney
 Myra Volpeus

MUSEUM DIRECTOR: Laura Moore
TOWN HISTORIAN: Sandi Parisi

BOARD MEETINGS

The Board of Directors will meet in the Town Historian's Office at 6:30 PM on the FIRST Wednesday of each month in the Shirt Factory Building at 89 River Street.

PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

GREETINGS FELLOW MEMBER

The Society had its first ever Chicken Barbeque dinner prepared by Jim Allen in September. It was a great success. Our customers' feedback was very positive. The takeout dinner was delicious. We are considering doing it again next summer. The VFW was very generous in allowing us to use their kitchen to assemble the dinner boxes.

Preservation efforts are moving forward very nicely. The historic Mounting Block, located at George Henry's, has been rebuilt under the direction of our Vice President, Paul Gilchrist. Paul's research was vital in assuring the specifications were exact. There are pictures in the Quarterly of the finished Block. A plaque will be installed soon describing the history and use of the structure.

In addition to the Mounting Block, we are working with Warrensburg Beautification and Warren County Soil and Water to create the Tannery Park

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Please Update Your Email

If your email has changed, please update the Society at:
 whs7396@yahoo.com

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near the Elementary School. This will celebrate the history of the Tannery that existed on the river for many years. Paul Gilchrist and Mark Brown are leading the effort on this worthy project. The design phase has begun as a joint effort and hope to begin construction in the Spring of 2023.

We are also preparing possible projects/sites in Thurman to celebrate certain historical sites there.

A special thank you to Laura Moore and Harold McKinney for organizing Jim Allen's famous BBQ. Thank you as well to our volunteers for helping to make it such a success; Manu Davidson, Mark Brown, Sharon Stone, David Nabozny, Sandi Parisi. Beth McKinney, Shelby Burkhardt and Char Bivona

I hope you enjoy this edition of the Quarterly.



Renew or join on line at the following address:

<https://bit.ly/3LVWGBM>

MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION

Membership Count: 231

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, and if a graduate year of graduation

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

MEMBERSHIP RATES

Students	\$5.00	Contributing	\$60.00
Individual	\$15.00	Business	\$55.00
Family	\$25.00	Institutional	\$100.00
Sr. (62+)	\$12.00	Life (Individual only)	\$350.00
Sr. Family	\$20.00		

Become a Contributor

*A friendly call to writers, photographers and local history admirers alike:
 Send us copies of Warrensburg artifacts, photographs and writings of Yesteryear.*

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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.

UPCOMING EVENTS

- Holiday Dinner—
 - Dec. 8th
- Christmas in Warrensburg
 - Dec. 3 & 4
- Glens Falls Senior Center Visit
 - To be determined
- Graveyard Walks
 - Sep. 14th

Thurman - continued from page 1

and quite a show it is. The entire room is filled with amazing and beautiful hand-made quilts. Visitors are expected to vote on their favorite quilt before they head out for the tour. My personal favorite was the owl quilt which was hauntingly beautiful. Congratulations to Dawn Freigh for taking 1st place and to Carol Rounds and Dawn for tying for 2nd place.

Lunch this year was offered at Nettle Meadow Farms between noon and 2pm. For \$18, guests were treated to lunch on the 2nd floor of the main barn. The food and the ambiance were both amazing. I am not sure which I enjoyed more. Every bite was mouth-watering and my photographer's eye simply could not stop finding possible photo ops. Visitors could walk around the farm and enjoy the variety of farm animals. On top of running a renowned cheese company, Nettle Meadow Farms is also the Kemp Animal Sanctuary. The farm was established in 1990 by Lorraine Lambiase and Sheila Flanagan, the sanctuary has been operating for over 12 years. Goats, sheep, pigs, cows and llamas are among the variety of animals that call the sanctuary home.



Lunch at Nettle Meadow Farms

Just down the road from Nettle Meadow is the Martin Saw Mill. More than a saw mill, this family operated business has added wood-crafts, jewelry and woods walks to its repertoire. Visitors to the Mill were treated to a mushroom woods-walk as well as the creation of their very own pressed oyster mushroom container gar-

den. There were several vendors on display offering crafts and mushroom tinctures and food products. There was an amazing Birds of Prey booth where visitors could experience seeing these birds in person as well as learn about their lives. It was wonderful to see our display table set up with Museum Director Laura Moore educating visitors about the history of the area.



Martin's Lumber and Lucyann's Artistry



Museum Director Laura Moore running the Warrensburgh-Thurman Historical Society Table set up at Martin's Lumber.

The drive to Toad Hill Maple Farms during peak leaf season was a treat and the views from and around the farm did not disappoint. The farm offered tours of its sugar house, pony and wagon rides and of course the shop was open for purchases of its amazing maple products. I took home some maple tea as a holiday gift for my tea loving daughter.



Pony rides at Toad Hill Maple Farm

These were the four stops that I was able to make before the day ended. I am already making plans to return next year so that I can experience the entire array of farms and activities that I missed. I was quite looking forward to painting pumpkins at Whitefields' farm, maple coffee at Mud St. Maple, learning about homesteading at Rustic Acres Farm and Bakery and, the honey bees at Windy Ridge Farm. *Watch for another Thurman story in the next Quarterly.*

MYSTERY PHOTO ANSWERS FROM SUMMER QUARTERLY

by Paul Gilchrist



Campus of the DEC Environmental Education Camp at Pack Forest, which opened in 1998 to conduct high school level environmental studies. It is owned by the State University of New York College of Environmental Science and Forestry at Syracuse University and was originally used for several decades since 1927 for forestry college education, research, and a summer camp, utilizing the demonstration forest.

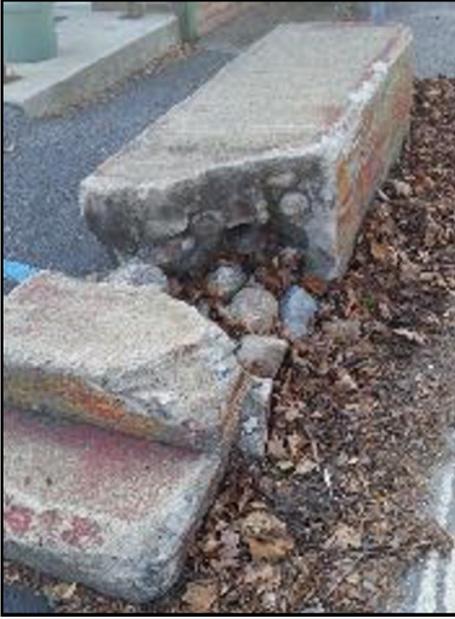


Colonial Arms Bowling Alley (6 lanes), which was located behind the hotel on land now occupied by an apartment complex. In the late 1950s, automatic Brunswick pin-spotters were added. It cost 45¢ per game and you could rent bowling shoes for 15¢. After careful, meticulous research, I believe the automobile is a 1941 Chevrolet Special

Mystery - continued on page 7

RESTORATION OF MOUNTING BLOCK

Thank you to Joe Tedesco of Savvy Custom Builders for restoring the Mounting Block located in the parking lot of George Henry's Restaurant. Thank you to Todd Trulli, owner of George Henry's for understanding the historical significance of the block and for their agreement to allow the restoration and contribute to the cost. Historical Society funds used were from Memorial Donations made to support the efforts of preserving Warrensburg's history.



Mounting block prior to restoration



Stones left exposed to reveal what's inside.



Joe Tedesco and his crewman Alex

STICKY WICKET 2022

Sticky Wicket did not turn out exactly as planned this year. That being said, we had an awful lot of fun playing two rounds in the drizzly weather. There was a lot of ribbing and some slightly unconventional choices made during the two rounds played. Brendon Hanley was crowned the winner of the day.



GARAGE SALE 2022



Books for sale

JIM ALLEN'S FAMOUS BBQ

Our BBQ fundraiser was a resounding success. Thank you to everyone who helped us in this new endeavor. We sold 192 dinners. Special thanks to the Warrensburg VFW for the use of their space, New Way Diner for allowing customers to exit via their parking lot and of course to Jim Allen and crew for the wonderful food.

Jim Allen and crew preparing the chicken



Board members Gary and Char Bivona & Mark Brown packing up orders



Board Member Harold McKinney coordinating stations.

Museum Director—Laura Moore, Town Historian Sandi Parisi and Char Bivona taking care of the pick-up table.



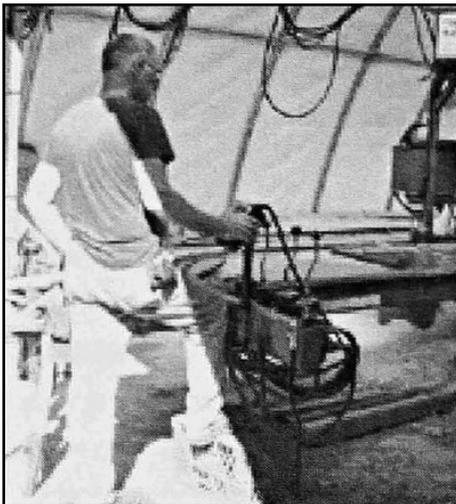
Mill - continued from page 1

establishment of this mill at about 1815. This would put Caleb at twenty-one years of age. It would be fair to assume that the mill site was on Glen Creek, and I have been told that it was below the present-day alignment of South Johnsburg Road on the side occupied by the old Meadowbrook Stock Farm (now Nettle Meadow Goat Farm). There is very little evidence of this, so some guesswork has to be employed. It would make sense and is well-known that most creeks in Thurman were used to power gristmills and sawmills, as the livelihood of all residents were dependent on them.

Fox talks in his above-mentioned book about the composition of the forests. Eastern white pine, spruce and hemlock predominated, with some hardwoods on higher ridges. But it was the white pine that was most valuable. Most likely Caleb Reynolds' mill used the up-and-down style of saw. That had a large straight blade attached to a waterwheel. Shafts, gears and a crank provided the up and down motion of the blade, much like a handsaw. I can only guess that Caleb would have used this, because, although in 1815 the technology for circle saws existed, they would have been very expensive. This topic needs to be explored further at a future date.

With the help of Joan and Leo Reynolds, as well as others, we may be able to piece together what life was like for Caleb Reynolds and family. He is listed as sixth generation in Joan Reynolds' book *The Ancestry and Some Descendants of Caleb Reynolds and Mary Kenyon*.

I am listed as 11th generation, and Caleb was my fourth great-grandfather. I reside on Valley Road in Thurman, only a few miles from the South Johnsburg Road site of that Reynolds homestead. My wife and I run a tree farm and sawmill business, custom sawing in a manner probably very



much like that of Caleb. We face each day the same set of problems that Caleb faced, moving heavy logs from the woods to the mill, sawing and storing the finished lumber. Although the problem of moving heavy timber remains the same, the methods have changed with modern technology.

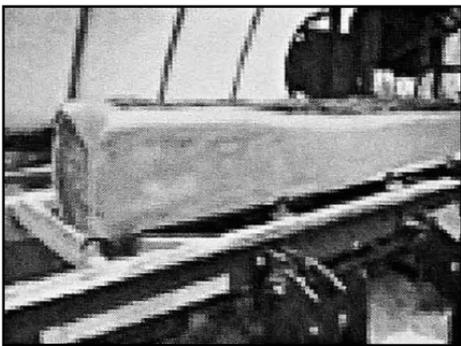
But some are the same. For example Caleb would have used a peavey hook for rolling logs, as well as an axe, a spud, chains and other hand tools, all of which we use every day in sawing our own lumber. Caleb would have worried about breakdowns and repairs; we do, too. In closing this acknowledgement of first sawmills in Thurman, I'm reflecting on what it might be like here in Thurman in the year 2199, 192 years into the future, just as we are wondering about Caleb's life 192 years ago. Further research on Caleb is a good winter's project. Might there be hidden evidence on Glen Creek, or in a letter written in Caleb's day and now in the possession of some unknown kin? Who knows what one may find? It is my hope that some who read this may wonder about their own family history and find the time to do some research or perhaps to record their own life history for some future generation to wonder about.

This paper is by no means written with bull's-eye accuracy, nor is it to be deemed a complete work. It is simply acknowledging a past Thurman resident, Caleb Reynolds, as being the first to operate a sawmill in our town. In closing this, I invite anyone interested in further discovery of this first sawmill to stop in for a visit here at Martin's Tree Farm, located at 280 Valley Road.

We are a small certified tree farm practicing agriculture to promote sustainable forestry management, not only looking at what can be harvested today, but planning and striving to ensure crops for future generations. We selectively cut our trees, thinning and releasing, giving the healthiest room to grow and harvesting the diseased or injured trees. The latter can yield some of the most unique pieces of lumber on our portable band sawmill. We specialize in this unique lumber, creating softwood slabs for counter tops or tables and seeking out hardwoods of various grains and coloring from many varieties of trees. We feel privileged to discover the beauty each new log holds. Crotch wood and knurly pieces, especially, have grains and colors unique to each sawn board, just waiting to be turned into rare, one-of-a-kind pieces. We also will custom saw your own logs, and have dimensional lumber and Adirondack siding in stock.

We believe that private property and good stewardship ensure healthy forests, and we also realize that the fruits of our labors in the forest will belong to some other generation. Our hope is that they not only will use the forest, but will pass along to future generations vibrant, thriving woodlands. Humans schedule events on day-planners; a forest's timeline stretches over many hundred years. Private forests in New York now are under tremendous pressure from high taxes, subdivisions and strict regulations, burdens all borne on the backs of landowners. Our work here at Martin's Lumber is comprised of one part belief, one part learning, mixed with generous amount of elbow grease and fun. We are glad to share with you, and hope that in some small way you will know when you leave here that this small part of the earth is being cared for and loved.

Gary Martin operating his portable sawmill



HISTORIAN'S CORNER

by Sandi Parisi

I have been working on entering the graduates of Warrensburg, going back to the 1800's. I have used both newspaper articles and Yearbooks. I am up to the 1970's so far. I am missing several yearbooks, and would like to ask for loans or donations of the following years: 1896-97, 1902-03, 1908-16, 1918, and 1921, 1933-35, 1974, 1977, 1987, 1998, and 2000, 2002-03, 2006, 2012 and 2022.

I would also like to add Thurman's graduates before they were able to attend Warrensburgh Free School. If there are any records of those seniors, please contact me.

As of the end of September I have over 31,000 people entered in my Ancestry computer program. One of my daily duties is checking the newspapers for anything about anyone in Warrensburg, and now Thurman, and I enter them in the computer.

Today's events are tomorrow's history!

My file cabinets are bursting at the seams. When I came to office in 2004 (in the basement of the Town Hall), there were three 4-drawer file cabinets, one drawer had photos that were not identified and one other drawer had three file folders, 1800's A-Z, 1900's A-Z, and 2000's A-Z. The rest of the drawers were empty! At that time the Library was cleaning out a lot of stuff and they donated three copies of the Warrensburgh News, going back to the late 1800's, to the Museum. The Museum kept two copies and gave me the third set of copies. For the next two years, I and two volunteers (Susie West and John Cleveland) went through it all, cutting out articles about Warrensburg and their people, and filing them in folders pertaining to whatever they were about.

After a few years in the cellar, I was promoted to the Senior Center, and added more file cabinets. After the town sold the Senior Center, they moved me to a much larger office at the old Shirt Factory, on the third floor (with an elevator) and I added more file cabinets and a lot of shelving. I am there on Wednesday's from 10-4 and in the winter, since the Museum is closed, I am there also. My

office # is 518-623-5153. Call to make sure I am there or call my cell phone to make an appointment. 518 932-7935.

As of this year, I have 46 file drawers, 16 of which are drawers filed by surname, plus 4 drawers with yearbooks.

By emptying folders, volunteers (Char Bivona and Darlene Gunther) and I have started notebooks on families, and notebooks on Adirondack Hotel/Colonial Arms, the Saw Mill and Sun Canyon. They are working on School and Fire Department notebooks by year. I have finished, Sun Canyon, and a few families. This is an ongoing project, and if anyone is interested in helping, I would be overjoyed to have you volunteer! Especially if it's one of your family members, you never know what you might find!

The Society and I will be updating the 2013 Bicentennial book. We sold out both printings. If we missed something you feel should be in there, please contact me or Laura. If you found anything that needs to be corrected, please let us know, now is the time!



Notebooks from file cabinet folders

MUSEUM REPORT

By Laura Moore Museum Director

Thank you to everyone for a very successful Museum Season. During our 3rd Quarter, 156 visitors and 18 students passed through our doors. Our wonderful docents logged 108 volunteer hours, we could not remain so successful without their dedication.

Grants submitted

* Pomeroy Grant for NYS History in the amount of \$5000.

Correspondence

- * Information request on Civil War Sword
- * Henry Swartz would like to donate a sharpening stone
- * Pennsylvania student contacted the town for information on the Town of Warrensburg for a report he is working on. The Museum will provide a book and rack cards for him.
- * Request for information on Green Mansions, Devil's Kitchen and High Rock.
- * Request from Mr. Ronnie Hoffman for more information on a painting he purchased at Stony Creek Inn 50 years ago.

Bicentennial Book Committee

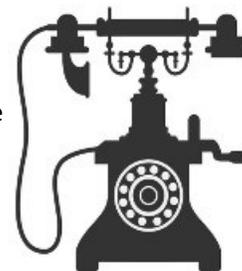
* Meetings will run from November to February

Social Media

* Check out our Museum Monday posts on our Social Media. We will be highlighting our permanent exhibits over the next few months.



Experiencing the wonders of a rotary phone during the garage sale at the Historical Society table.



Highway - continued from page 1
pecially making out work orders.

A lot of the projects and maintenance were done by locals. For example Fred Bennett from November 1- December 1,



1923 Snowplow with men.

Source: Discover Warrensburg Museum via Charles Wheeler

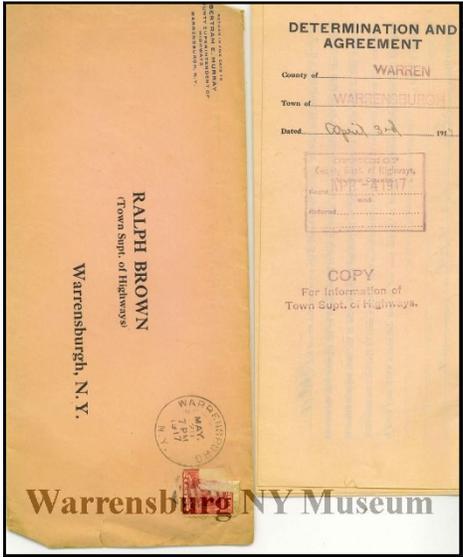
1917 cleaned out ditches on Harrington Hill and received \$10.00 for his work. George Chapman and John Archer worked on the 15 culverts in the town of Warrensburg and even painted Osborne Bridge. The paint expense was \$75.65 and with labor being \$117.86. Harry Williams ran road machinery (by horse) which included raking and grading gravel roads. Timothy Donovan shoveled hardpan on Glen Road, graded coal ashes on Alden and Horicon Avenue, shoveled and raked on River Road and shoveled out hydrants.

Work had to be done on all 7 bridges with a cost ranging from \$10.75 (labor, planks and stringers) on one of the 2 bridges on Harrington Hill to Glen Road Bridge where material, cement, sand and labor cost came to \$344.90.

In regards to culverts a 21 foot long iron culvert with a 12" opening (cost \$24.15 and labor being \$2.00) had to be installed on a stream on the River Road.

My grandfather as Highway Supervisor received \$3.00 day with the big money going to horse team operators and owners who received \$5.50 a day.

Others individuals listed as being paid included Timothy Donovan, Harry Bolton, Arthur Morrison Jr and Sr. Willet Merrihew, Chas Wood, Dennis Fuller, Robert Moffit, Carl Brown, Fred Harrington, John Cassel, James Harrison, Orley Potter, Harry Williams, W. Ross and James Stuart. Horse teams were also used and were operated by J.M. Sommerville, A. C. Emerson & Company, George Morehouse, Harry and Benjamin Whipple, Loren Brown,



Agreement for expenditures of Highway moneys to Ralph Brown, Warrensburg Town Supt. of Highways, 1917
Source: Mark Brown

THURMAN THURSDAY

We recently launched a Thurman Thursday Social Media Campaign which we will be using to highlight some of History of Thurman using the Thurman Quarterlies for source material. In addition, we are working on uploading those Quarterlies to our website at www.whs12885.org. Our first post garnered this photo from Lisa Grant featuring her grandmother (right) Ruth Rolleston and Ruth Cameron-Lanfear-St. John



Do you have a photograph or memory to share. Email to dennae@frontiernet.net

Deluxe.

Sandra (Bunker) Fisher correctly identified the bowling alley. Her husband, Tom, was a pin spotter there in the 1950s, along with his brother, Lou. It is said just the two brothers together could spot games on all six alleys simultaneously. Jack Toney also identified the alleys, as he bowled there very frequently, sometimes with Albert Emerson. Mary Geraghty called from Pullman WA to identify the bowling alley. She grew up in the house directly behind it on King Street. She guessed the car as a 1941 Ford.

Ben Gurney from Arizona supplied the bowling alley photo. He learned to swim in the pool that was later added onto the front of the building, between the alleys and the hotel. For the car, he guessed 1941 Plymouth. Ben, after long, laborious searching on Google, correctly identified the forestry campus at Pack Forest, partly because in high school he once dated a girl whose father lived there as a staff employee. I should note that in the 1960s, one could drive all the way through, past the campus, and exit onto Route 28, but the road has been gated now for many years.

Did You Know

In the rivers of the lower Adirondacks, the fish are jumping. Three water bodies have just gotten a fresh injection of freshwater fish, a contribution that serves both fishermen, and the county.

This month, 4,450 rainbow and brook trout were stocked between the Schroon River, Hudson River and Glen Lake by the Warren County Fish Hatchery in Warrensburg. Staff offload excess trout every year in order to make room at the hatchery prior to winter. After the practice was started, it quickly became annual, after a quick positive response from those heading out to cast a line.



**BECOME
A
MEMBER**

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Warrensburgh Historical Society
P.O. Box 441
Warrensburg, NY 12885

Member Address

MYSTERY PHOTOS



If you can identify these photos
and their locations, please email
Paul at prg12885@aol.com or
leave a voicemail at 518-623-3162.