



Warrensburgh Thurman Historical Society Quarterly

VOLUME 28 ISSUE 2 & 3

SUMMER / FALL 2023

ENSIGN STEPHEN GRIFFING'S REVOLUTIONARY WAR DIARY

By Keith Rouleau

Introduction and the 1st Battle of Saratoga. I'd like to begin by thanking Paul Gilchrist for his very kind invitation to have me write about my patriot ancestor Stephen Griffing and his Revolutionary War Diary. As Paul stated in the previous Quarterly, I spent some time back in Warrensburgh this past May visiting with my cousin Liz Sebal.

He was generous with his time taking me to significant landmarks around town pertaining specifically to the Griffing and King families, both of which I'm a descendant on my mother's side (Osborne). Years ago, she gave me her copy of the book, *Stephen Griffing – Ancestry and Descendants*, published in 1911 by Henry Griffing of Warrensburg after another relative, Edith West, spent many years gathering the family's history. It's a most cherished possession that has come down to his descendants.

Griffing—continued on page 6

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GREEN MANSIONS COMMUNITY

By John Bishop

America was booming in 1927, two years before the great Wall Street crash. The Adirondack Park was a favorite recreation destination for people escaping sweltering Philadelphia, New York, Boston, and Canada. Each summer, they flooded its lakes and camps.



Samuel and Lena Garlen, owners of Green Mansions.

In 1927, Sam Garlen and his wife, Lena, from New York, originally purchased eighty-four acres of Adirondack land between Warrensburg and Chestertown for \$12,000 (\$210,821 current purchase power) for a resort they named Green Mansions. The Garlens also completed the resort property by purchasing four hundred surrounding acres.

Sam and Lena had previously operated small camps inside the Park. His father, Charles, was the only Jewish baker in Glens Fall. In 1910, he and his brother immigrated to America from Czarist Russia. However, the Jewish tradition

Green Mansions—continued on page 8

A TALE OF EM – PART TWO

By Gary Martin



From the previous Quarterly, which ended with the two daughters of Em pounding on the door of the woman that was going to help Em deliver her baby.

Finally the door opened and they could feel the warmth as it escaped past them. In the door way stood a large bulking man, rifle in hand. Looking down he saw the girls and with a big paw of a hand swept them both inside and closed the door, hollering for his wife, who was already there along with their boys.

The woman led the two girls, completely out breath and shivering, over to the fireplace. One of her sons was stroking the fire back to life, the husband had the kerosene lamp lit. The wife was pulling the clothes off the one sister who was soaked, wrapping her in a blanket, and trying to figure why this nightly visit.

Thru sobs the oldest got it out that they had been attacked by a bear and that their Mother was in bad shape and bleeding and was worried she would lose her baby. The father spoke to his boys to get out to the barn and harness the team, there was no time to lose. The wife was getting her medicine bag and a warm cloak. The oldest girl refused to ride in the wagon. She was going on ahead as she could get there faster than the wagon, her younger sister wanted to too but the woman made her stay and ride in the

Em—continued on page 10

SOCIETY SPOT

BOARD MEMBERS

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 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.

Thurman dates to be determined

QUARTERLY INFORMATION

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We welcome comments, corrections, articles, pictures, letters, and reminiscences. Email to Sandi or mail to

*WTHS - PO Box 441
 Warrensburg, NY 12885*

September/October Save the Dates

Garage Sale Week-end

Sep. 29—Oct. 1, 2023

Thurman Historical Photos Slideshow

Sep. 30, 2023@ 7 PM

Thurman Fall Farm Tour

Oct. 7, 2023

Graveyard Walks

Oct 13 –14, 2023—See pg. 12

CONTRIBUTORS TO THIS ISSUE

Paul Gilchrist, Gary Martin, Gary Bivona, Laura Moore, Mark Brown, Keith Rouleau, Thom Randall, John Bishop

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PLEASE UPDATE YOUR EMAIL

The WTHS is exploring the possibility of providing more digital content to our members.

In order to move forward with this, we need to have a more accurate contact information on file.

If you are interested in receiving updates and other digital content, please email us at whs7396@yahoo.com with your current email address and or cell phone number.

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

Please see membership application on page 7

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		

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.

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

Warrensburgh Historical Society

Website: www.whs12885.org

Email: whs7396@yahoo.com

PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

Greetings

One of the goals of the Society is to recognize historic sites in our town through the placement of permanent signs at each site. The Society believes that the preservation of our historical sites is critical to our community's future. Property owners will have input in the location and configuration of the signs. We are looking forward to these projects highlighting the wonderful history of Warrensburg.

Funding for the signs will be generated through grants from associations such as the Pomeroy Foundation as well as fundraisers hosted by the Historical Society. Our last major fundraising event was the Chicken BBQ which was very well attended. We are currently working on some other fundraising opportunities which we think you will enjoy. Look for us at the Garage Sales and the Thurman Fall Farm Tour. Thank you so much for your support.

Applying for a grant is a very involved and time-consuming process. It requires a great deal of documented historical information. Two of our Board members have taken on the task of applying for grants through the Pomeroy Foundation. Kelly Baker is researching the history of the Ford that people used for crossing the Hudson River from Route 314 to the Fish Hatchery area. David Nabozny is busy researching the Historic Woolen Mill on River Street.

Please take a moment to check our upcoming events listed on page 10. Graveyard Walks and the Thurman Fall Farm Tour are right around the corner.

I'd like to also mention thanks for your membership and please keep it current. If you know of anyone you think would also enjoy our Quarterly, please let us know and we'll send them a complimentary copy to "test drive". Keep in mind your membership is important to us.

Thank you.

Gary Bivona

President WTHS

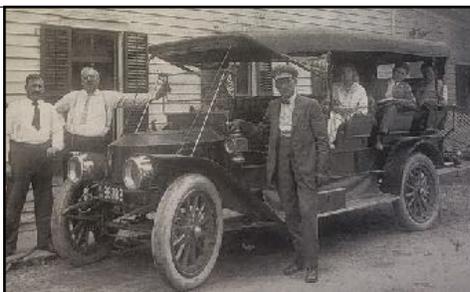
Cover Photo: Cate Mandigo Thurman studio.

AUTO STAGE CONNECTIONS

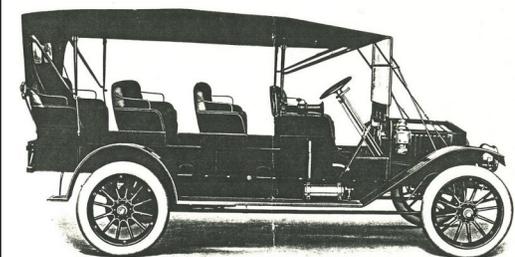
By Paul Gilchrist

Around the turn of the 19th century and the first few years of the 20th, the world was widening for people in Warrensburg. Travelers could arrive or depart by train at Thurman Station, in Lake George Village, or by trolley car in town. Travel for passengers between Warrensburg and several surrounding communities had been by horse drawn rigs. But in 1912 it was replaced by auto stage service to Thurman Station, to Chestertown and Horicon in 1913, and to North Creek, also in 1913. The powerful Stanley Steamer Mountain Wagon was the preferred vehicle. It could carry a dozen passengers and easily handle hills that were a challenge to internal combustion engines of that day. One could find information about the stage connections each week in the Warrensburg News, along with the trolley and D&H train schedules. The item below is from the November 27, 1908 issue. The 1914 Stanley Steamer Mountain Wagon in the photo is parked beside the Grand Army House picking up passengers who probably used the mounting block for assistance to get aboard, especially useful for those climbing into the back seat. One can, by looking closely, notice a small step at the back of the rear fender that could be used by back seat passengers. That step identifies the vehicle as a 1914 model. The Grand Army House may have been the hub of the auto stage services.

STAGE CONNECTIONS
 Stages to and from Warrensburg connect with all trains at Thurman.
 Stages to and from Pottersville, Chestertown and Horicon connect with trains at Riverside.
 Stages to and from North River, Indian Lake and Blue Mountain Lake connect with trains at North Creek.
 Chester stage connects with south bound Hudson Valley trolley at 9:55 a. m., leaves Warrensburg at 2:00 p. m. after arrival of north bound 1:50 car.
 Horicon stage connects with south bound Hudson Valley trolley car at 9:55 a. m., north bound car at 2:00 p. m.



A 1914 Stanley Steamer Mountain Wagon beside the mounting block at the Grand Army House.



STANLEY MOUNTAIN WAGON

Twelve Passenger, Thirty Horse Power
 MODEL 820

Price, \$2300 f.o.b. Newton, Mass.



WARRENSBURGH-THURMAN HISTORICAL SOCIETY / GLENS FALLS NATIONAL BANK SENIOR SCHOLARSHIP

Congratulations to Andrew Moore for receiving this years Senior Scholarship. Andrew ranked 7th in his class and will be attending SUNY Plattsburg. Andrew was a participant in Soccer, Tennis, Track & Field, Snowboarding, Club Soccer, Chess Club, Esports Club, Fishing, Hiking, Mountain Biking, and Band during his years at WCS. Best of luck in your college years, Andrew.

THURMAN NEWS

By Myra Volpeus

There's lot's happening in Thurman this Quarter.

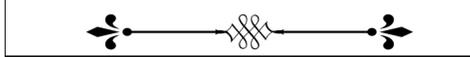
The new Cookbook is almost complete and it's looking like we will be going to print sometime around the end of September. If you have a recipe you would like included please drop it off at the Town Hall or email it to Myra at myravolpeus@icloud.com.

There is an upcoming slideshow planned for September 30, at 7 PM at the Town Hall. You won't want to miss it.

The Thurman Fall Farm Tour is Scheduled for October 7.

Larry Deloria has done an incredible job painting the outside of our Town Hall. If you haven't seen it, take a drive by and check it out.

Thank you Larry.



STICKY WICKET – AUGUST, 2023

By Sharon Stone

It was a slow year for our Sticky Wicket Tournament once again. We did not have anyone sign up in advance but we decided to go ahead with the event. Fourteen people attended and several games were completed. It was an afternoon of fun and camaraderie. Although I was unable to attend this year I can tell from the photos and conversations with the attendees that everyone enjoyed themselves immensely.

It has been difficult for many organizations to bring back so many of the well known and loved activities that were well attended prior to the pandemic. During that two year hiatus, new activities were discovered while old ones fell by the wayside for all of us. The WTHS has not only met this challenge by hosting new and successful fundraisers like Jim Allen's Famous BBQ and our upcoming BINGO event, but we are also working on bringing some of our staples into the future so to speak. We will be having discussions on how to make next years Sticky Wicket popular once again. If you have thoughts on this matter, please feel free to email them to us at whs7396@yahoo.com.

We are looking forward to the Graveyard Walks which will be held the Weekend of Sep. 15—17 and Bingo which will be held at the High School in November. Please watch for more information on those two events. **Photos by Laura Moore.**



*Delbert Chambers, Peggy Knowles
Teresa Whalen*



Brendan Hanley, Teresa Whalen, Delbert Chambers, Mark Brown, Katherine Chambers, Paul Gilchrist



*Brendan Hanley, Teresa Whalen, Delbert Chambers, Mark Brown
Katherine Chambers, Paul Gilchrist*



Brendan Hanley, Delbert Chambers



*Teresa Whalen and friends have picnic
during intermission between games.*



*Paul Gilchrist, Delbert Chambers, Katherine Chambers, Peggy Knowles, Teresa Whalen
Brendan Hanley, John Francini*

Wbg.'s 'Sticky Wicket' croquet fundraiser revives timeless tradition

By Thom Randall

A group of people with respect for history convened Aug. 19 for the annual Sticky Wicket croquet competition and party as they have for the last quarter century. Serving as the Warrensburgh Historical Society's primary annual fundraiser since 1997, the event was held on the groomed grounds of the Warren County Fish Hatchery. Although not wearing flapper dresses or white linen suits with cuffed trousers as in many past editions of the event, competitors played their traditional combination of "cutthroat croquet" and the other primary version which involves players collaborating at will to keep a leading player from completing the course.

In prior years, such conflagration of the rules might have sparked light-hearted debate settled by event founder Delbert Chambers in his traditional role as Croquet Master, but the 2023 Sticky Wicket players — or "strikers" as they were traditionally called — shared more laughs and quips instead of rule challenges subject to arbitration, Society past president Paul Gilchrist said.

"This was a real nice picnic, and we all had a real good time," he said, ostensibly using a quote from the musical Carousel which was set in the late 1800s when croquet first became a trendy sport in the U.S. Teresa Whalen of Warrensburgh echoed his opinion. "It was a low-key, fun get-together with a spirit of camaraderie," she said. Whalen and Gilchrist observed that the event was accompanied by a meal in which people brought dishes to share while Chambers grilled up a variety of edibles for consumption. Winning the two rounds of competition were Katherine Chambers and Brendan Hanley, both prior champions of the event. The event was attended not only by Warrensburgh residents but other individuals hailing from various municipalities in the southern Adirondacks and beyond. The event is supported by dozens of businesses in Warrensburgh and neighboring towns.



Theresa Whalen, Delbert Chambers, Unknown, Dean Moore, Unknown. Photo by Barbara Whitford

WARRENSBURG TAXES 1912

by Mark Brown

While sorting through some old family files, I stumbled upon a box of my grandfather Ralph Brown's dating back to 1912 when he served as the Warrensburgh Tax Collector. The box contained tax bills, receipts, and correspondence which I found to be very interesting.

Unlike today's tax collectors who have computer programs to print bills and receipts as well as to track payments, my grandfather had to hand-write every bill, receipt and reply to Warrensburgh taxpayers. Much like today, however, taxpayers were not always happy with the tax rate and valuation of their property. Some residents and businesses would write back to my grandfather such as the Griffin Lumber Company in regard to a 55-acre parcel in the town of Warrensburgh.

In reading through my grandfather's notes, I discovered some individuals had not paid their 1912 taxes.

A few of the delinquent taxpayers were;

- The Hudson Valley Railroad sent in a letter claiming that they had paid their taxes directly to the County Treasurer on January 16, 1912
- Edward Burton
- Fort Edward Brewing Company
- C.S. Wood
- Fred C. Hall
- H.D. Stone
- New York Telephone Company
- Leonard Beswick
- Jay D. Pasco

Hopefully, all of these bills were eventually paid and my grandfather forgot to make that notation in his records.

COLLECTOR'S RECEIPT [Tax Law, Section 94.]			
NAME OF PERSON OR CORPORATION ASSESSED	DESCRIPTION OF PROPERTY AS SHOWN BY ASSESSMENT-ROLL	AMOUNT OF TAX	
		Dollars	Cts.
Hodges Hill & Sons	W. 9-10 acres 30 40		76
		Total	48 76
		Collector's Fees	1
		Total Amount Paid	49 77

Assessment Roll of the town of Warrensburgh, county of Warren, for 1911, upon which the above Assessment and Tax appears, was delivered to me the 22 day of Dec 1911.

Received payment from Hodges H. Hill

Date of payment of Tax Jan 6 1912

Ralph M. Brown Collector.

No. 341

Form of Receipt and Stub as above prescribed by the State Board of Tax Commissioners, September 20, 1911.

A collectors receipt in regards to \$.77 paid by Hodges H. Hill.

Peggy Knowles, 88, ponders whether to strike an opponent's ball or navigate through a wicket during the Warrensburgh Historical Society's annual 'Sticky Wicket' croquet tournament. Watching her shot are (rear, left to right) competitors Delbert Chambers, Frank LaDuca, Dean Moore, and Trish LaDuca.

Griffing: continued from page 1

Besides the genealogy, a wonderful part of the book is the journal kept by Stephen Griffing during his service in the Revolutionary War. I'm pleased to be able to share with the people of Warrensburg and Thurman his account, in his own words, of the wartime experience of this remarkable early settler, several of whose sons were prominent in the 19th century history of Warrensburg and Thurman.

The following several paragraphs are either quoted directly or closely paraphrased from the book, so quotation marks won't be used and the reader can assume the book is the source.

Then, in italics, come the journal entries up to the end of the first of the two Battles of Saratoga. I'll attempt to clarify place names and locations in the journal (spelling was flexible in those days).

The paragraphs after the journal entries provide details about the battle in order to put his involvement into historical context. As a foot soldier, he was not able to see the overall picture of the battle and his unit's part in it.

The journal, together with Ensign Griffing's commission, were kept at the Thurman homestead until 1832, when they were sent with other papers to Washington in support of the (successful) effort being made to secure a pension for him. From that time they were regarded as lost by the family, and though it was known by a few that such documents once existed, many of those in the younger generations had never heard of them. [The rank of ensign in the Continental Army was equivalent to second lieutenant today.] His descendants owe the recovery of these valuable papers to the late Mrs. Mary Griffing Merrill of Albany, a great-granddaughter of Stephen Griffing. By her personal influence Mrs. Merrill succeeded in having them returned to the family. The signature of Governor Clinton on the commission had been torn off, possibly by an official with a taste for autographs, but after much search, Mrs. Merrill found a signature exactly corresponding, and had it affixed so skillfully that the document appears uninjured.

PRE-REVOLUTION PERIOD Stephen Griffing was born in 1754, the 4th son and 9th of 12 siblings of his father, John, by his first wife. John was a farmer and kept an inn and tavern in Riverhead, which is located on far eastern Long Island in Suffolk County right at the fork where the Peconic River flows into Peconic Bay. Stephen farmed with his father and was somewhat better educated than most for that time. His Whig father was a patriot as the revolution was heating up and the

Founding Fathers were preparing to declare independence.

REVOLUTIONARY PERIOD Stephen Griffing was twenty-two years old when, in June, 1776, he first enlisted in the Continental troops, as a common soldier, in Captain Jonothan Baily's Company, Third Regiment, Westchester County Militia. The regiment was commanded by Colonel Samuel Drake. His term of enlistment was for five months, and the regiment was on duty about New York, then becoming the seat of military operations.

When the British were victorious at the Battle of Long Island in August 1776, representatives of the State of New York advised the residents of Suffolk to avoid British pillaging by migrating with their possessions across the Sound to Connecticut. Stephen had joined the army two months before. [It's uncertain whether Stephen participated in the Battle of Long Island.] Before Stephen's first term of his military service was ended, John Griffing had removed from Riverhead to Connecticut, so when his son Stephen was discharged in October 1776, he probably joined his father in that state. Hence, when, a few weeks after his first discharge, he again enlisted in the Continental service, it was in a Connecticut regi-

ment, the Fourth State Battalion, one of four organized in November 1776 to join the Continental army near New York.

Colonel Ely, the commanding officer, was from Saybrook, Conn., and the regiment was probably recruited in that section where John Griffing was living. This second enlistment, also as a common soldier, was for three months. A portion of Colonel Ely's command, including Stephen Griffing, was sent to New London and thence to Rhode Island, and while stationed at Providence, Private Griffing was detached to guard some fire ships. At the end of his term he was regularly discharged.

It is probable that after his visit in Connecticut in October 1776, he never saw his father again. On the day of his father's death, October 18, 1777, his son was one of the victorious American army taking possession of the British camp on the field of Saratoga.

Stephen Griffing's third enlistment was made immediately after his discharge from the Connecticut battalion. This time he entered the Continental Line, the first of the three classes into which the military forces of the Revolution were divided. The Line was composed of those regiments which were in the Continental service under General Washington. This enlistment was for the war. The records show that Stephen Griffing was appointed a sergeant on February 6, 1777, in Captain Samuel Sackett's Company in the Fourth New York Battalion, commanded by Colonel Henry B. Livingston. This regiment was chiefly recruited in Dutchess County. [History books also call this unit a regiment.]

The army was first stationed in the vicinity of New York [i.e., Peekskill], but in August of that year was ordered to Louden's Ferry, by way of Albany, on its way to the future battlefield of Bemis Heights. Sergeant Griffing's name appears on a muster roll, dated Louden's Ferry, September 5, 1777. [Louden's Ferry was where Route 9 today crosses the Mohawk River.] Thence the army marched by way of Stillwater to Bemis Heights, where, on September 19 and October 7, were fought the two decisive Battles of Saratoga. Later, on October 17, General Burgoyne surrendered and the British forces laid down their arms."

JOURNAL ENTRIES

Head Q" Peeks Kill July 1th 1777. the army attended the Execution of John Murry who was hanged up between the hevens and the Earth and left him hanging there until the Day following when he was buried

Griffing: continued on page 7



Keith Rouleau at a visit to Ticonderoga



Generals Benedict Arnold and Enoch Poor had their headquarters in the farmhouse of John Neilson, who removed to his wife's family in Stillwater during the fighting, then returned and raised a family on a prosperous farm for decades. John Freeman, on whose farm much of the battle was fought, served with the loyalists in Burgoyne's army, retreated as a fugitive to the Champlain Valley where he, his wife and most of their ten children died of smallpox in 1778.

Griffing: continued from page 6

under the Gallows. Nothing Remarkable the Remainder of the Month.

*Camp Peeks Kill August 15 1777. We Struck Tents and Marched for fish Kill the Day Following. Marched Down to the Landing and on the Day Following Embarked for Albany and Came to Ancar [anchor] (at) Esopus Creeck the Next Day we Sot Sail and Came to ancar that Night at the East Camp and on the 19th Day arrived at Albany. About 6 o'clock in the afternoon and on the 20 Instant we Landed at Albany and Marched on for Lowdens Ferry after our Arival there we Sot out bound for Fort Stanwix we Marched to Casnachada and then Crossed the Mohawk River and Marched on for German flatts we Marched Some Distance after Crossing the River and Received orders to Return Likewise We Did and encamped at Casnachada where we Lay Some Days and then Struck Tents and Marched on for Lowdens Ferry and Encamped there and then joined **Genl Poors Brigade** and the 8th of September Crossed the Mohawk River at Lowdens ferry and then Marched For Stillwater and Encamped there where we Lay and fortified Some and then Struck tents and Marched on for Bemott Heights (Bemis Heights) Where we Made our Stand and there Encamped then our troops were Emeditly Employed in fortifying and Securing themselves from the enemy our Regt took post on the outLines we Lay Sometime with out any Disturbance but on the 19th of Sept 1777 they Came out to give us A Challenge and they Met With a Verry Warm Reception and a Very haying (heavy?) firing begain they first obliged our troops to Retreate with a great Loss our Loss but few.*

[Peekskill to Fishkill Landing ≈ 12 mi.; another 22 miles to Esopus Creek by boat; another 60 miles to Albany by boat; 12 mile march to Louden's Ferry; Ft. Stanwix = Rome; German Flats = the area from Little Falls to Ilion; Casnachada is probably Schenectady.] The reader may wonder what rôle **Griffing's unit** played in the battle, as his journal gives little detail. The **4th New York** was ordered north from Peekskill in July, first intended to go to Fort Stanwix, but the Battle of Oriskany occurred in early August whilst they were *en route* just 25 miles away, so they were ordered back to Louden's Ferry where they joined General Enoch Poor's brigade, which had come south from Ticonderoga after the Americans yielded the fort to Burgoyne's force on July 5th. They marched north to Bemis Heights in time to help fortify the defenses in preparation for Burgoyne's advance towards Albany.

On the morning of September 19th battle

was imminent. Gates planned to let the British bring the battle to him, ie, to frontally attack the Americans' fortified works on Bemis Heights that overlooked and blocked the road along the river, the only route to Albany. But Gates' unprotected left flank was exposed to higher ground to the west. From his scouts, Burgoyne was aware of this flaw in the defense and assigned General Simon Fraser's elite Advance Corps, his army's strong right column, to go up and around to attack Bemis Heights on the left flank. This he expected to be the crucial key to the battle.

Benedict Arnold also was keenly aware of the vulnerability and wanted to prevent a flanking attack by going on the offensive against the British. After arguing with Gates, he was finally given permission to take Morgan's Virginia Rifle Corps and three brigades - **Poor's brigade** was one of them - to attack any such flanking attempt. So Griffing's **4th Nw York** was under the aggressive command of Arnold.

While most of the army bided on Bemis Heights, Arnold's modest force went looking to fight the British on rough, forested ground that would not be favorable to the British style of fighting, especially the bayonet charge and field artillery.

It didn't take long. At 1:00 Morgan's riflemen surprised the vanguard of the British center column in the clearing of Freeman's farm and the battle was on. By mid-afternoon the battle intensified and went back and forth for over three hours. The 2nd and **4th NY** regiments of Poor's brigade went in to support Morgan's rifles, thwarting the attempt of Fraser's corps to outflank the rebels. The **4th NY** encountered and drove off Fraser's jaegers and engaged British light infantry in a lengthy fight.

Late in the day, as the two **New York regiments of Poor's brigade** were threatening to break the British line, a relief force from the British left column down by the river arrived just in time with field pieces and fired off canister as the Americans closed to within pistol range. The Battle of Freeman's Farm soon ended as darkness fell. The Americans withdrew to their camps on Bemis Heights and the British began building fortified positions where they were.

Under Arnold, the rebels had fought a numerically superior force with cannons to a draw even though no American artillery had been in the battle, while marksmen had picked off three-fourths of the British gunners. Stephen Griffing's unit, the **4th New York**, had been in the thick of it.

[To be continued in the next issue]

THE MYSTERY PHOTOS IN THE SPRING ISSUE.

The first photo was the 5-points intersection looking southeasterly towards the top of Elm Street, taken from an upper floor of the Woodward block (the stone building). The building(s) on the left are currently under renovation. The bandstand would be built between them and the flagpole. In the distant center is the building (now gone) where the Warrensburgh News was published. In the lower right one can see the McNutt fountain, located about where the canoe flower planter is today. Note all the large elm trees. The second photo was Engle's Department Store across from the Episcopal Church, previously named Clayfield's and, before that, Kugel's.

Responders who got both right were: Linda & Frank Bennett, Donne-Lynn Winslow, Sarah Farrar, Kaie Dunn, Ennis Geraghty, and Ben Gurney. The intersection photo stumped several people who got Engle's right: Liz Sebald, Kevin Geraghty, Virginia Morey, Jack Toney, Steve Bederian, Alice Maltbie, and Tom Remington.



5-points intersection looking southeasterly towards the top of Elm Street, taken from an upper floor of the Woodward block



Engle's Department Store across from the Episcopal Church, previously named Clayfield's and, before that, Kugel's.

Green Mansions—continued from page 1

emphasized supervision and group activities for courting couples. So when Sam and Lena opened the camp, she said, "It's an adult camp for moderns."

Lena made it an artistic and memorable experience, even exhibiting artwork from NYC galleries at early Green Mansions. Lena was years ahead with her vision for an Adirondack resort and a passion for culture and theater.

The best way to understand Green Mansions' attractiveness is to focus on its promotional brochure from 1953. It featured a nine-hole golf course, Tripp Lake for swimming and boating, sandy beaches, thirteen tennis courts, and a "cavalcade of sports" with lessons. In addition, much of the brochure described a Summer Theater performing five nights a week, a resident group of theater professionals, two dance orchestras, excellent food, and cocktails. However, the food was European, not Kosher. Experimental plays, classical music, serious lectures, and dance recitals were all part of the entertainment program. Exciting nightlife at the Playhouse and a Clubhouse with multiple accommodations called "Along Fifth Ave-



Green Mansions Resort dining room photo taken from the 1953 brochure.

nue" completed the package.

The brochure called for a "Crowd" of sophisticated and mature vacationers, married or single, to arrive each summer. Moreover, young men got to choose dancing partners. Management often hired NYC undergraduates in medicine, law, and dentistry and encouraged them to mingle with women guests, who board-

ed four to the room. In the early 1930s, a week of meals, room, and entertainment cost \$22 to \$27 per week; by 1938, it was \$36.50 per week. Early attendance was 300/400 each week, which grew later to 400/500, and some overflow weeks of 600 guests required many to stay locally. Who wouldn't sign up for that?

When The Great Depression occurred, millions became unemployed, including 22,000 in the Broadway theater district. *The Theater Group on Broadway*, founded by the iconic Lee Strasberg and others, were broke and accepted an invitation in 1933 to practice and perform plays at Green Mansions. Eventually, this Group became famous for teaching *method acting*, made well-known by Marlon Brando and James Dean. They received bed and board but, crucially, freedom to create. Clifford Odet, later with 15 plays on Broadway, was the first to arrive. Multiple theater and dance celebrities of that era performed each summer. Later famous attendees like the legendary Elia Kazan of *Streetcar Named Desire* and *On the Waterfront* fame, Imogene Coca, the loveable partner of TV star Sid Caesar, and Carol Burnett, who said the summer of 1955 at age twenty-two, gave her career its most significant break, all attended multiple summers. Lloyd Bridges drove a taxi one summer between Warrensburg and Chestertown in addition to acting. In addition, dance recitals by later Hall of Fame dancers often entertained the guests. 1947 featured a professional company of twelve to dance "modern dance" all summer, and *The New York Times* critic successfully reviewed it. Two hundred playgoers later expanded to five hundred, sat entranced each week from 1933 until after World War II. Green Mansions meant excellence in theater, dance, and culture

An aspect of the Depression times was the fascination with communism by many out-of-work people and intellectuals. Sam's brother, Sender, was one of them. So when McCarthy-era investigations started, Green Mansions was a logical place to look with its liberal-lefty owner, politically engaged artists, and worldly clients. The FBI looked and found nothing. Later, a former performer at Green Mansions appeared before the infamous McCarthy Committee, refused to name friends, and was blackballed.



Carol Burnett, Lloyd Bridges, and Imogene Coca; 3 entertainment stars that got their start at Green Mansions Resort.

World War II changed America. Subsequently, in the 1950s, Americans started vacationing abroad, and by the 1960s, jet travel dramatically changed the recreation habits of America. In 1962, Sam and Lena divorced. However, Lena couldn't give up her Green Mansions, and she bought out Sam for \$250,000.

MUSEUM NEWS

Finally, in the spring of 1972, after forty-five years of ownership, Lena sold the 450 acres of property to John Palermo Senior for \$275,000 (\$1,920,451 current purchase power). He had been in the insurance business in Brooklyn and lived on Long Island before migrating to Chestertown in 1962/3s. His family moved to a property near Friends Lake, with seven summer cabins, which they rented. John started a successful real estate career in Chestertown, opening several offices. Lena gave him the listing when she chose to sell Green Mansion. When John surveyed the property, he discovered a ten-car garage. He is said to have wondered if it remained from Prohibition bootlegging.

Unfortunately, Lena had allowed the property to decline, so in 1973, the John Palermo family began renovations. At one time, they had sixty construction workers reshaping the property. Despite the severe recession of 1974, Palermo kept his workforce busy getting the property ready for this new world in real estate, "condominiums." John Senior retired in 1981, and his son, John Junior, put together a package that included selling the golf course to provide his father with what he needed, and he took over. The Palermo business model had dramatically changed to real estate development instead of Adirondack resort entertainment. Today, there are approximately—178 happy homeowners in Green Mansions.

It was in April of 1991 that John and Diane Bishop arrived in the area from Princeton, NJ, for a weekend of exploration for a second home. They first looked at staying at the Sagamore Resort and found it too expensive. So, instead, they moved to Friends Lake, where they stayed for ninety-nine dollars a night with dinner and breakfast plus a hot tub. The next day, they walked into the first real estate office they found in Chestertown and rode in an agent's pickup truck, with multiple fishing rods sticking out the back, to start looking for their new second home. The first property shown was a two-story cottage resting on top of a small ridge, with one-hundred-fifty feet on Tripp Lake, five miles from Chestertown. They purchased it three days later

June: The museum was open for nine days with 70 visitors stopping in. This included 44 students from the elementary school who came in two separate groups. Our docents put in 41 hours of service

Thank you to Warrensburg Central School for including the Museum in your end-of-year schedule. We enjoy having the students visit.

July: The museum was open for 11 days with 92 visitors stopping in and our Docents put in 42 hours of service.

Thank you to everyone who stopped by for a BBQ meal from our Jim Allen's Famous BBQ fundraiser. The event was a huge success and we increased our sales from last year. Thank you as well to the VFW for the use of their kitchen.

Our docents worked in conjunction with the Warrensburg Beautification to sell tickets to their annual Garden Tour. This went very well, the museum had 44 visitors that day and sold many tickets.



Board member Harold McKinney explaining how Thurman became Warrensburg and Athol.



Board member Paul Gilchrist discussing Floyd Bennett with fourth grader.

HEEREN FAMILY VISITS THE MUSEUM

The family of the late Theophile Heeren, singer with the Metropolitan Opera and former resident of Warrensburg visited the museum in August. They were searching for more information about their ancestors Theophile and Anna Heeren.

Theophile, his wife Anna and son Robert lived in Warrensburg in the early 1930's and are both interred in Warrensburg Cemetery.

Theophile or "Teddy" was a singer with Metropolitan Opera Company during the 1919-20 season and sang with Caruso, Amato and Geraldine Farrar. He started singing with the Company at the young age of 15 years.

Sadly, Theophile became a patient at the Westmount Sanatorium in Glens Falls in his late 20's and passed away at 28 years of age in 1933. Funeral services for Theophile were held at the late home by Rev. A.W. Lewis, Presbyterian church Pastor, followed by interment in Warrensburg Cemetery.

His wife Anna and son Robert remained in Warrensburg until Robert was 11 years old. Anna remarried in 1939 and passed away 1976. She is interred next to Theophile in Warrensburg Cemetery.

Robert passed in 2022 and is interred near his parents. His family was in town for Robert's services.

Thank you to the Heeren family for their donation of family photos to our digital collection.



The Heeren Family



Theophile and his wife Anna on their wedding day

wagon, wrapped in blankets. The team was hitched and the boys had the wagon up to front door, the oldest girl started running for home, all alone or so she thought, one of the boys had easily caught up to her, older by several years his presence was reassuring. Running side by side they entered the blackness of the woods. The urge to get back home quickly burned in her veins, her determination unwavering in spite of the hardship, which steeled her will to fight for her Mother and the unborn baby. Soon they reached the river ford and in they went, the boy grabbing her hand, holding her in an iron grip, he led the way, sure footed and strong they fought the tug of the river current together.

Reaching the other side and scrambling out of the river the two kids ran, finding the woods trail that led home. Pushed by an urgency to just get home, the icy water of the river was barely felt, as over and over in her mind “I need to get home and Mother, please God, let her live and our baby, please,” she repeated in her mind in an never ending circle of thoughts of her Mother. She ran faster than she thought possible, and it seemed in no time they reached the fields. She had not noticed that this young boy still held her hand, breaking free she, in a burst of speed reached the cabin door. Trying the latch the door opened, much to her surprise, her mother was sitting in her chair near the fire. Running to her she buried her face in her mother’s neck, sobbing in total relief to see her alive.

At her feet was their brave and faithful dog laying on a blanket, not able to lift his head, he did wag his tail, thumping the floor. Looking over to the bed there lay her little sister curled up in a fetal position sound asleep. Soon outside she heard the rattling of the (harness) trace chains and the creak of the heavy wagon pulling up as help was here at last.

Stepping inside the woman took over calling out orders for hot water and another lamp. The man tended to his horses, the bear lay where he had been dragged. In the morning light this would be taken care of, along with carrying in more wood. By the bright blaze of the fire place, the woman examined the head wound on Em and taking scissors she cut her hair, exposing the gash. She asked the oldest girl

if her father had any squeezing (apple jack) around? She said I think Pa has a jug out in the barn. She was told to go fetch it and bring it to the house. Coming back with the jug she was told to pour some on the needle and on the woman’s hands. The husband held the lamp close as the woman began sewing up the back of Em’s head, hurting like hell, Em said “I sure could use a snort or two before we go any further”, the woman said “yeah that was a good idea, I could use one myself.” Soon the wound was all sewn up and bandaged with healing salve applied. The woman said everyone outside except you pointing to the oldest girl, I need your help.

Getting Em up on to her unsteady feet the man carried her over to the bed, laying her down gently. He and the others when outside, closing the door behind them.

Day light was beginning to break, the light in the eastern sky weak at first gaining strength of a false dawn. A fire was started in the outside fireplace, pushing back the cold, sitting together they waited, and waited. In the stillness a faint cry could be heard coming from inside the cabin, then a deafening quite as if the new day was holding its breath.

The second girl was sitting between the man and his son, she felt safe, but worried about her Mother, half out loud she whispered “please God.” A big hand came to rest on her small shoulders, she heard the man say, my wife is the best around when it comes to doctoring, your Ma is in good hands. All eyes watched the door, but nothing, just silence, waiting was so hard, but there was no choice but to wait and hope. By now the sun was up, filling the yard with light, in the barn the livestock was looking to be fed and watered. The man said let’s do up the chores, will take our minds off our troubles. Taking the now full milk pail and placing it on the shelf by the cabin door, the man walked back to the fireplace, using a stick he poked the fire back to life, putting on more wood. He sat down and got his pipe going, the kids sat staring at the fire, glancing back to the tightly closed door of the cabin, wondering and hoping that their mother was okay. The man reassured her that he was sure that everything was fine, if not they would of heard by now. The man told the two kids to go over to the smoke house and bring a slab of bacon back, while he went to cut some sticks. Using his jack knife he cut some of the bacon into strips and handed them to the kids, these they speared on the sharpen sticks and started cooking them for themselves. The smell of the bacon cooking and the wood smoke reminded them just how hungry they were. Food is always a comfort when worried, so they sat in silence intent on cooking,

The man saw over at the cabin, smoke coming out of the cabin’s chimney, telling him that a fire was being stirred up, he pointed this out to the kids and said that it was a hopeful sign. Still the cabin door stayed closed so there was no choice but wait, and cook some more bacon. The big bear lay in a heap and would be tended to after they had eaten, but that could wait for now. The bacon was sizzling on their

Mark Your Calendar

Further details will be sent out via Social Media, Website, Emails and, Quarterly as the dates for each event moves closer

Garage Sale Week-end

Sep. 29—Oct. 1, 2023

Thurman Historical Photos Slideshow

Sep. 30, 2023@ 7 PM

Thurman Fall Farm Tour

Oct. 7, 2023

Graveyard Walks

Oct 13 –14, 2023—See pg. 12

Bingo

*November @ WCS
More info. to follow*

Christmas in Warrensburg

Dec. 2, 2023

Holiday Dinner

TBD

Annual Meeting

*Mar. 1, 2024 at Lizzie Keays
5:30 dinner—meeting at 7:00*

Floyd Bennett Day

May 9, 2024

sticks, watching so as not to burn this food, the girl looked longing towards the cabin. She saw her older sister standing in the doorway, Jumping up she ran towards her sister who was running towards her, behind her stood the woman who waved them all inside. The man could tell just by the way his wife looked that everything had turned out alright. Rushing inside the one sister was greeted by the sight of her mother sitting up in bed, holding the baby very close to her breast as she reached her mother's side. Em reached with her free hand and brought her daughter close to her holding her tightly as she wept from relief, pushing her back a little she showed her the newest family member, greedily nursing much like the piglets out in the barn.

The youngest girl, no longer the youngest, sat at the table eating her breakfast, the others following suit, a hardy meal already prepared and ready to be served. A bandage wrapped around her head, a look of deep tiredness etched in Em's drawn face told everyone that the night had been a rough one. Em and her daughters held each other, the scent of her Mom provided comfort for them both, an unbreakable bond between a mother and daughters.

The sun was up fully bathing the yard outside in brilliant light, the door left open, to let the early spring air in, refreshing all that it touched. After their breakfast the man and his two boys hooked the team to the bear. They hung it from a tree limb a ways from the cabin, and proceeded to skin out the bear, the entrails put on a stone sled (pulled by animals) and taken off into the woods far enough away so any animals attracted would likely not come near the cabin.

The meat was quartered up and hung in the smoke house, the hide was rolled up and stored there too. Em's husband would take care of this when he was home from the trap line. The task at hand done, the man needed to get back to his own farm. It was decided the wife and one son would stay to help Em and the girls. Saying their goodbyes' the wagon pulled out for home, his wife stood in the doorway of the cabin watching till her husband and son were out of sight.

With strong lye soap, sand, and with plenty of hot water, the girls and the boy set

about scrubbing the blood stain out of the floor. Soon Em was up and around and able to do some of the work always at hand on a hard scrabble farm. A week had gone by since the attack, every day Em would stand in the doorway looking off in the direction her husband would be coming from, wishing he would hurry. Em was now strong enough to do things on her own and with the help of her girls they could manage till her husband got home In about ten days' time the sound of creaking and trace chains (used with a harness) was heard approaching the cabin. The husband and son had come back to pick up his wife and son and to see how things were going.. Before leaving they made sure, that Em and her girls had all they needed. Helping his wife up onto the wagon seat, he pulled himself to the seat next to his wife and the boys climbed on the wagon box. Clucking to the team they started for home.

Now just Em and the girls, It was slow going as she was still weak, but kept at it, resting when she had to, her girls were of big help tending to caring for the livestock, getting firewood and fetching water from the spring. They had to both carry the heavy wooden bucket of water, setting it down a few times before getting to the cabin, always looking off in the distance in hopes of seeing their father coming back home.

Several weeks had passed since the bear and Em had expected her husband before now, but maybe the rising river had stopped him. Em tried not to think of might cause the delay, work on the farm helped to keep the worry away. One morning the girls were headed to the barn to do chores, when way across the field they saw their father, his heavy pack and sled made for slow going. Rushing to cabin the girls excitedly hollering Pa. Em and her girls started across the field towards her husband and Pa, sweeping his girls up in a giant hug and reaching for Em they stood together at last. Em pulled back a little and unwrapping the bundle she was holding, her husband gently pulled it back and he gazed at his little baby girl.

We will leave Em and her family here on the banks of the Hudson River of so long ago. I hope you have enjoyed this tale of early life in a place, we now call home.

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

**Warrensburgh-Thurman
Historical Society
PO Box 441, Warrensburg, NY 12885**

ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP

Date _____

Enclosed is my check for

\$ _____

Name(s) _____

Mailing Address _____

City _____

State _____ Zip _____

Phone(s) _____

Email _____

Please make checks payable to:

**Warrensburgh-Thurman
Historical Society**

*Memberships expire December 31st of
each year and are tax deductible to the
extent allowed by law.*

Historical Society Dues

_____ \$5 Student

_____ \$12 Senior

_____ \$15 Individual

_____ \$20 Senior Couple

_____ \$25 Family

_____ \$55 Business

_____ \$60 Contributing

_____ \$350 Lifetime

_____ \$ _____ **Donation**
(Tax Deductible)

Annual Membership runs from January 1



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.



Warrensburgh-Thurman Historical Society Graveyard Walks

R.I.P

Walks

Oct. 13 - 7:00 - 9:00

Oct. 14 - 2:00 - 4:00

Tickets: \$8.00 each

Email: whs7396@yahoo.com

Phone: (518) 623-2928
for reservations

Followed by
dessert at the Museum

Dinner with the Dead

Oct. 15 - Details to Follow



Meet
Emerson Stead Crandall or
His daughter Mary S. Crandall
Alexander Trumble Pasko
Colonel Thomas S. Gray
Dudley Farlin
Miles Thomas

Thurman Fall Farm Tour

Oct. 7, 10 am to 4 pm
**Self-guide to farms, sugar houses
and quilt show.**

**Demonstrations, shopping and
hands on activities for everyone:**

- Kids' fun and activities
- Pony rides, Bee keeping
- Baked goods, Maple products, Meats,
Cheese and Farm produce
- Mushroom propagation
- Homesteading ways of life
- Wagon rides, Cider press
- Saw Mill, Black Smithing
- Artisan Market



See <https://www.visitthurman.com/fall-farm-tour/> for details
Made possible by Warren Co. occupancy tax dollars