

Warrensburgh Historical Society Quarterly

Volume 16 Issue 1

Spring 2011

The Haskell's of Warrensburgh

**by Roscoe G. Hastings
& John T. Hastings**

George Haskell was born in Chestertown on March 13, 1884. During his early years, he worked at Kettenbach's store near the center of the village. Later, he attended the Glens Falls Academy with his friend Fred Vetter. By April of 1905, George had moved to Warrensburgh and started the business of "Haskell Brother's Grocery" with his brother Frank. They had bought the "stock and good will" of J. H. Remington's grocery store which was located in the Wills Block on Hudson Street. "By fair methods and excellent management" the brothers built up a large trade, so that by 1914, a new business was started. Brothers Frank

and George, along with Frank W. Hall, incorporated to form the "Haskell and Hall Company," to deal in general merchandising. At this time, they also made arrangements to purchase the entire stock of Thomas McGann and lease his store in the Aldrich-McGann block. Fred Hall had come to Warrensburgh from Seneca Falls and had recently run the Warrensburgh Garage in partnership with Edson Granger. George married Ella E. Woodward, daughter of David M. and Rebecca T. (Edwards) Wood-



George & Ella Haskell

An Adirondack Way of Life

**Brook Trout Fishing
by Mark Brown**

Fishing has always been an important part of Adirondack life. Spring, growing up in the Adirondacks meant brook trout and black flies. You didn't need a lot of fancy equipment, just a rod, reel, a few trout spinners/lures, hooks and of course, garden worms or night-crawlers. You dug your own worms or picked night crawlers on a rainy night at some grassy lawn or park. You were not interested in trophy trout, just trout for eating. One of my dad's fishing partners, George Lane, use to say "If it doesn't fit in the small fry pan, it's too big." My dad and George always had a pat of butter, a small iron frying pan and an old coffee pot, which traveled in the old fish creel. A lunch of 6" brook trout cooked over an open fire was a special treat. Spring trout fishing starts when the ponds and lakes first become ice free, usually in early May. You wanted to be the first to fish after the ice went out

In this issue:	Page
<i>Haskells of Warrensburgh</i>	<i>1</i>
<i>Adirondack Way of Life</i>	<i>1</i>
<i>Society Page</i>	<i>2</i>
<i>Veteran Organizations</i>	<i>5</i>
<i>Warrensburgh Trivia</i>	<i>5</i>
<i>Emerson, Bean, Cowden</i>	<i>7</i>
<i>Mystery Photo /Museum News</i>	<i>8</i>

(Continued on page 3)

(Continued on page 6)

PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

The Society was much involved late last fall in a high school environmental science class project, "Then and Now," in which the twenty students were provided old photographs of eleven sites of historic significance in Warrensburg, along with a certain amount of information, names of potential resource people to interview, and guidance from teacher John Burns. Working mainly in teams of two, they took photographs of the sites today and researched some of each sites' history. Class presentations of their findings on December 15th at the high school were attended by several Society members. There was follow-up in John Burns' power point presentation and discussion at the museum on December 21st.

By pleasant coincidence, the Society was given in December a set of video tapes made back in the 1970s in the course of a similar project undertaken by high school students led by English teacher Jean Frulla. The tapes record and inventory a number of historic sites around Warrensburg as they were in the 1970s, creating sort of a time capsule. We've transferred the contents to computer discs and flash drives so they can be shown on modern equipment.

The twelve inch video picture frame the Society recently purchased is one such piece of equipment. It's currently set up in the museum playing video of stock car racing at Ashland Park track in the 1950s.

The Society's Holiday Social was held at Grace's Restaurant on December 10th and was well attended.

In January at Grace's, guide Mike Prescott gave a program, "Armchair Paddler on the Schroon River," taking us from its source 20 miles north of Schroon Lake to its confluence with the Hudson, showing us such items of historical interest as the old hotels of Schroon Lake, log rafts and river

(Continued on page 5)

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

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

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Upcoming Events

April 28: Roscoe Hastings
"I Read It In The Paper It Must Be True" Grace's Restaurant 7:00 pm
May 26: Artifacts Nite
Senior Center 7:00 pm

CURRENT MEMBERSHIP:

203

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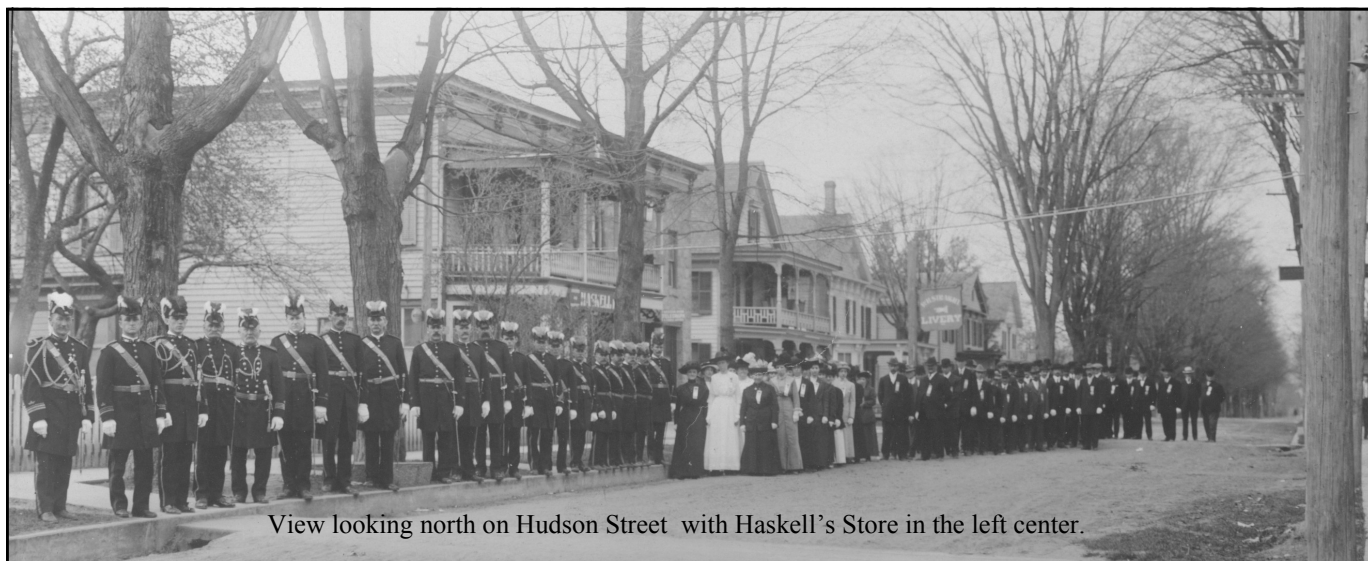
Students \$5.00 Individual \$15.00 Family \$25.00 Senior (62+) \$10.00
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If you would like to join and receive the Quarterly by mail, please send a check for the amount of the membership classification, with name, address, and phone number to: **Warrensburgh Historical Society, P.O. Box 441, Warrensburg, N.Y. 12885**

NOTICE

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

(Continued from page 1) *Haskells*



View looking north on Hudson Street with Haskell's Store in the left center.

ward on October 16, 1907. They had one son, David Charles who was born February 1st, 1909.

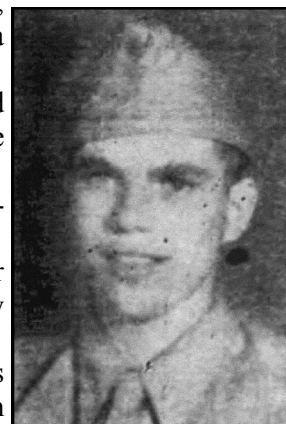
David C. Haskell graduated with honors from Swarthmore College in Pennsylvania in 1930 with a BS degree in electrical engineering. While in college, summers were spent working at the New York State fish hatchery in Warrensburg. Shortly after graduation he began work with General Electric and continued until being terminated due to the Depression, two years later. In 1933 he returned to fisheries management and became manager of the NYS Conservation Department's Lake George (Fortsville) fish hatchery. In 1941 he was promoted to manager of the Rome fish hatchery, the largest in the state. David Haskell became well known for his many papers on fish culture and electrofishing methods. He was known as one of the world's significant contributors to the science of fish culture and was enshrined into the "National Fish Culture Hall of Fame." David was married to Edythe L. Brown and after retirement in 1970, they lived on Lanfear Road in Stony Creek.

In 1945, the recently organized Warrensburg Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) named the post, "The Haskell Brother's Post" in honor of Eldon and Ray Haskell who were killed in Europe during World War II. They were the sons of John and Edna (Smith) Haskell of Athol.

Prior to enlisting, Eldon got a job working at the Rome fish hatchery and spent much of 1942 working for his "cousin" Dave Haskell. After enlisting, he would be sent to Camp McClellan in Alabama and by December of 1943 was "overseas." On June 1st, 1944 when in combat in Italy and "during an attack on a stubbornly defended enemy strong point, PFC Eldon Haskell rode a medium tank to a point only a few yards from enemy positions. He jumped off the tank and stormed enemy positions using hand grenades." He was awarded the Bronze Star.

At the outset of the war, Ray was working in Schenectady. He would later enlist and be sent to Camp Bowie in Texas and later to Ft. Knox, Kentucky, where he was promoted to Corporal. On Septem-

ber 2, 1943 Ray graduated from Tank School. On June 1st of 1944 his brother Eldon was killed in Italy and just 46 days later (July 16), Ray was killed in France. His body was eventually brought home and on May 7, 1948 a funeral was held at the Woodward Funeral Home for Sgt. Ray Haskell. He was buried in the Warrensburg Cemetery.



Eldon Haskell

The question is: Are these two Haskell families related. The answer is yes but not closely. Both families go back to William Haskell in Charlton Musgrove, Somerset, England. Where David Haskell descends from Roger's son William, and Ray and Eldon descend from Roger's son Mark Haskell.

(Continued on page 4)

(Continued from page 3) *Haskells*



Ray Haskell

Mark Haskell was born about 1650 the son of Roger and Thurza (Stone) Haskell. He married Mary Goodale Smith and they had six children including John born 14 February 1681 in

Beverly, Essex, MA. John married Mehitable Clark and they had ten children including Zachariah born 11 April 1718 in Rochester, Plymouth, MA.

Zachariah married Keziah Goss and they had six children including John born 17 July 1749 in Hardwick, Worcester, MA. John married Deborah Meachem and they had thirteen children including Comfort H. Haskell born about 1791 in Newport, Herkimer, NY. Comfort married Ruth Carpenter and they had three children including William Roselle Haskell born 20 August 1839 in Newport, Herkimer, NY.

William R. Haskell married Minerva Dorcus Paull and they had six children including John Ferris Haskell born 8 June 1883 in Wilmurt, Herkimer, NY. John F. Haskell married first Grace Riesing. They had one daughter Iva B. who died as an infant in 1908. Grace died later the same year at the age of 18. In 1921 John F. Haskell married second Edna Smith born 26 September 1897 in Athol, Warren, NY. John and Edna had seven children including Ray Albin born 21 September 1922, Iva Eunice born 2 September 1923, El-

don Loyal born 7 January 1925, Merrill Walter born 12 February 1927, Frank Irwin born 21 February 1928, Charles Roselle born 22 February 1929 and Verna Mae born 13 June 1930.

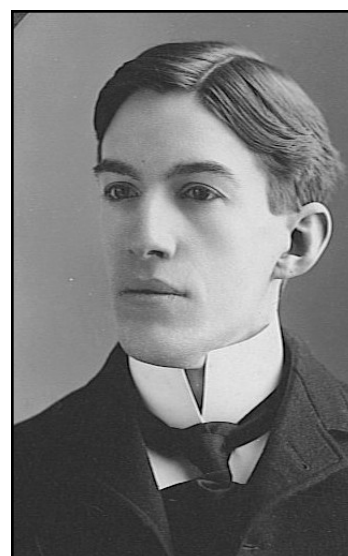
The ancestry of David Charles Haskell can be traced back to William Haskell in Charlton Musgrove, Somerset, England about 1577. William and his wife Elinor (Foule) had seven children including son Roger born about 1614. Roger Haskell was the immigrant coming to America in 1635. Roger married first Thurza Stone and second Elizabeth Hardy. Roger and Thurza had four children including William born about 1645. William married Miriam Hill and they had four children including John born 1679 in Salem, Essex, MA. John married Emma Taylor. They had eight children including John born 20 April 1722 in Manchester, Worcester, MA. John married Eunice Low and they had six children including Stephen born 9 April 1763.

Stephen Haskell married Rachel Lerner and they had eight children including Amasa born 5 August 1794 in Dudley, Worcester, MA. Amasa married Amanda Paul and they had six children including Amasa Franklin born 15 May 1843 in Dudley, Worcester, MA.

Amasa Franklin married Carrie Ann Braley. They lived in Chestertown and had four children. Albert born 1869, died as an infant. The other three sons were, Charles E., Frank E., and George R. All three of these brothers lived in Warrensburg and were involved in retail groceries or the plumbing business.

The Great Great Grandfa-

ther of Ray & Eldon, John Haskell, spent three years in the Continental Army during the Revolutionary War. He was wounded slightly but not severe enough to be discharged. Ray & Eldon's Grandfather, William Roselle Haskell, spent three years in the Union Army during the Civil War. His regiment, 152 NYV, saw action in most of the major battles from 1864 to the end of the war. William was promoted to the rank of Ser-



Frank Haskell

geant.

One other point of interest is that Keziah Goss, Great Great Grandmother of Ray and Eldon may be a Mayflower descendent.

Ray and Eldon's sister, Iva Eunice Haskell married Gilford Hall and is the Mother of Linda, Eldon and David Hall.

This makes David Charles Haskell and Ray Albin Haskell seventh cousins.

Veterans

Organizations

Over the years numerous veterans groups have been formed to help protect and safeguard veterans' benefits. But, can you identify the various groups and when and why they were started?

The first military veterans group was the Grand Army of the Republic (GAR). This was formed after the Civil War to protect the rights of Union soldiers who served during the war.

The Spanish-American War was the first war fought on foreign soil. In 1899 veterans of that war formed the "Veterans of Foreign Wars" (VFW) to protect them from moves that would short change veterans and their associated benefits.

The "American Legion" was formed by WWI vets and "Amvets" (American Veterans) was formed by WW II vets.

During the 1960's, Vietnam veterans were often not welcome to join established veteran organizations, so they formed their own group, Vietnam Veterans of America (VVA) with the motto "They will never turn their back on another veteran."



(Continued from page 2) President's Column

drives, and maps showing what large areas would have been flooded had three proposed dams been built many years ago. Mike can sure draw a crowd; more than 50 attended.

When your next gift-giving occasion comes up, or you're looking for something interesting to read, consider one of the books or other items for sale at the museum's book nook. You can drop in at the museum, or use the order form that we've sent to all our members. Calendars from previous years are ½ price and contain those wonderful old pictures. We also have special note cards and postcards.

We wish to congratulate and send best wishes to Rosemary Maher's mother, Mrs. Murphy, on her 100th birthday, March 17th, St. Patrick's Day.

Paul Gilchrist



Winter scene in front of the Adirondack Hotel

WARRENSBURG

TRIVIA

Trivia Question No. 1:

What do the Church of the Holy Cross and Robert Fulton have in common?

Trivia Question No. 2:

What was the Original Name of the Adirondack Fruit Store?

See answers below

The Adirondack Fruit Store started out as the Adirondack Candy Kitchen and was started around 1922 by James Toney and Louis Jacobs.

Answer No. 2:

Warrensburg News

Feb. 6, 1890

On the first Sunday in Advent, December 1st 1861, the Rev. Robert Fulton Cary, grandson of Robert Fulton, of Hudson River fame, was sent as missionary to Caldwell and parts adjacent. He read evening prayer in the Presbyterian house of worship at Warrensburg on the above date and such services were soon after regularly conducted by him. First Priest of the Church of the Holy Cross.

Answer No. 1:

(Continued from page 1) Adirondack Fishing

and many times you found your favorite pond still covered with ice in that early trip. You often camped on an Adirondack pond either in a lean-to or you built a simple shelter with a tarp. Grandfather (Ralph) Brown always felt the best fishing was a little later during the peak of black fly season, around Memorial Day. Fly dope was a necessity, it was usually bad smelling, sticky and kept both black flies and other fishermen at a distance. Adirondackers always had their favorite trout lures such as Hinckleys, Williams, J. T. Suttons, Lake Clear, or homemade spoons which they felt



made a difference. If you were lucky enough you found a hidden boat or canoe left near the pond. It probably leaked and you spent more time bailing out the water than fishing. Hopefully you even remembered to bring oars or paddles. If you didn't, you made paddles from whatever you found, maybe a stick cut by a beaver

or a branch with a small board tied on the end. Every Adirondack native had their "secret" or favorite pond or lake. My grandfather's favorite was Lake Pharaoh. My dad and George Lane

preferred to fish in new beaver ponds, but loved Wilson Pond near Blue Mountain Lake. Maybe an old hand drawn map showed the "hot spots" or they made mental notes to find the secret location. You told this information to very few. If you had a good day, you might not even tell your friends or relatives the exact pond or lake where you were fishing.

Spring and brook trout fishing will always be a special time for many Adirondackers.



A "mess" of trout, Beaver River Flow

From the July 18, 1929

Warrensburg News:

PROGRAM FOR CONCERT

*Another splendid program has been arranged by director **Lauren Davis** for presentation by the **Warrensburgh Band** at the weekly concert in Pasko's Park tomorrow evening. Marches, overtures, waltzes, fox trot selections, serenades and the like are included.*



Lauren Davis and Art Brown



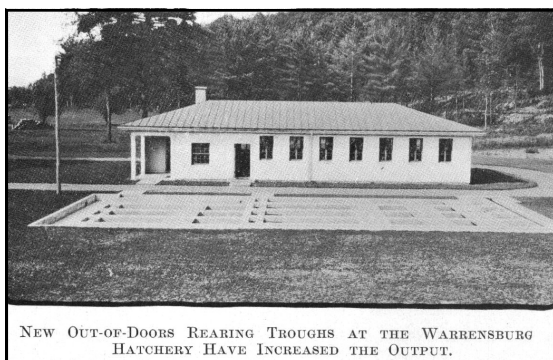
Lauren Davis

Emerson, Bean and Cowden

Early History of the Warrensburg Fish Hatchery

By John T. Hastings

It was early in 1912 that Senator James Emerson introduced a bill "for the establishment of a fish hatchery in the county of Warren." On April 14 of that year the law was passed by the Assembly and Senate and signed by the Governor. This law directed the NYS Conservation Com-



NEW OUT-OF-DOORS REARING TROUGHS AT THE WARRENSBURG HATCHERY HAVE INCREASED THE OUTPUT.

mission to select and purchase a parcel of land in Warrensburg for the rearing and hatching of black bass, trout and other fish for distribution to the public streams of the state. A sum of \$20,000 was to be appropriated for the purchase of lands and construction of buildings and other necessary facilities.

In late 1912, State Fish Culturist T. H. Bean inspected the B. F. Glynn property on the Hudson River for possible purchase as the future fish hatchery site. By July of 1913, the state engineers had made a survey to include a contour map of the Glynn farm. However, it wasn't until November 5, 1914, "after a long struggle against many obstacles" that the state took title to lands owned by Mrs. Addie Glynn and John H. Lockwood. Mrs. Glynn received \$4,000 for 89 acres located on the Hudson

River and Mr. Lockwood received \$1,000 for a lot that contained the springs which would supply water for the hatchery. Both properties were once part of the Lockwood farm. The proposed hatchery was to be the largest in the state and would hatch 10 million fish each year.

In the summer and fall of 1915 the hatchery and facilities were being constructed. By 1916 it was in operation at half capacity, since it was not entirely completed. Superintendent Sumner Cowden put the first hatch in the troughs on January 6, which consisted of 450,000 brook trout. These were to be distributed to vicinity streams in the spring. Beef liver was the primary food source for the fry. Mr. Cowden hoped to construct a number of outside concrete tanks to be able to increase the production and efficiency of the plant by summer.

The farm house on the premises was entirely reconstructed as a home for the super-



Willis "Buster" Hastings and Claude Coleman, 1960s

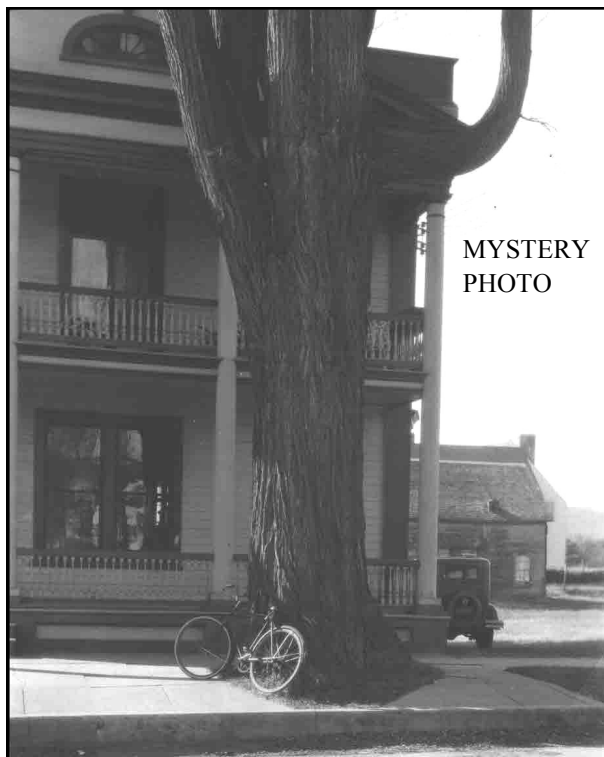
intendent. A steam heating plant and electric lights were installed, as well as baths and sanitary plumbing. The hatchery, a one story building, was to be one of the finest hatchery buildings of the twelve in the state at that time. It was built under contract by George E. Farrar of Warrensburg.

In 1918 the construction of a storage shed and workshop was completed. During 1917-18 lake trout and steel head trout were produced, as well as brook trout and landlocked salmon. However, the first two were discontinued in 1919. It was found that the Warrensburg water supply was better suited to the production of brook trout fingerlings. In 1918 a new supply of water was utilized in temporary outdoor rearing races. This proved so successful that permanent concrete raceways were installed in 1919. Production was near one million fingerlings.

During 1921 two concrete tanks were built, which increased the capacity of the hatchery by 100,000. Grading around the ponds and buildings was completed and drainage tile was laid from the new concrete tanks to the main tile line. Tile was also laid in the pine grove in the rear of the hatchery. The hatchery also received a truck with the capacity to carry 60, forty-quart cans for transporting fingerlings. The following year, one thousand cedar trees were set out. (Editor's note: These are the cedars near the pavilion where the Society holds its Sticky Wicket picnic.) Capacity of the hatchery was up to 1.5 million fingerlings in 1922.

By 1925 it was found that a bigger ice house was needed. The current (1925) ice house could hold 75 tons of ice, but the hatchery still

(Continued on page 8)



MYSTERY
PHOTO

Mystery Photo

Places in Warrensburg's History

Can you identify the building above? Or where it was located? Or any of the previous owners? Contact John at 798-0248 with your answer or email at jthastings@roadrunner.com. The picture in the last Quarterly was a boarding house located on Main Street, near where John Higgins Sales & Service is currently located. I have not determined the name or previous owners. If anyone has any information on this location, please call or email me.

Stock Car Racing at Ashland Park

The new exhibit at the Museum spans the years from 1952 into the early 60's at the Warrensburg Speedway. Pictures of race cars, drivers and builders are on display, along with copies of news articles and race results. A set of starter flags and a movie clip from the late 50's are highlights of the exhibit, which will be on display through May. Thanks especially to Brian and Bruce Keith for stimulating our interest in creating the show, and for lending us photos and artifacts.

(Continued from page 7) Emerson, Bean, Cowden

had to purchase ice each year. In the fall of 1925 the Conservation Commission took movies of the hatchery showing the whole process of the rearing of fingerlings, transportation by railroad and/or truck and the eventual stocking of the fingerlings in brooks and streams.

In the early years of the hatchery, brook trout eggs were obtained from Pharaoh Lake. This took place over a number of weeks in the fall, since a large quantity of trout eggs needed to be secured from the spawning beds each year. In later years, eggs were obtained from Raquette Lake.



Superintendents/foremen at the Warrensburg Hatchery were as follows (with approximate dates of service): 1. Sumner Cowden, 1915-17; 2. James Royce 1918- 28; 3. Kenneth Nichols 1928-49; 4. Charles Mykel 1949-52; 5. Ray Stone 1952-1963; 6. Erwin Annis 1963-78. Other individuals known to have worked at the hatchery include David Haskell, Alfred Rhodes, Frank Nichols, Beecher Wallace, Dick Hyland, Bill Peters, Claude Coleman and Willis Hastings. The hatchery was purchased by Warren County in 1982.

In Memory of Cal Engle, who devoted so much of his time to the community and its people, as well as a long time supporter of the Warrensburgh Historical Society.

In memory of Warrensburg Historical Society member Phyllis Jacobs