



Warrensburch Historical Society Quarterly

Volume 13 Issue 2

Summer 2008

The Diary of a WW1 Soldier

by Rita Ferraro

The renovation of the Warrensburch Museum located in the VFW building on Main Street has been a work in progress for the past couple of years under the supervision of the town. Meanwhile, volunteer members of the Historical Society have been operating as a team on another work in progress, diligently reorganizing, preserving and storing the museum's collection of artifacts. As one of the volunteers, I can tell you that as grueling and time consuming as this chore may be, the rewards of gleaning a peek into a developing community from the earliest days of its founding are very satisfying and interesting. In fact I know I would be a lot more productive if I didn't get so caught up in reading some of the documents we are so lucky to have in the collection.

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WARRENSBURGH ANSWERS THE CALL

by Rosemary Mahar

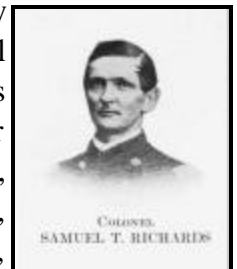
Warrensburch was well represented during the dark days of 1861-1865 when war pulled this country apart. Many townsmen fought and helped preserve the Union. David M. Woodward, a life-long resident, educated in our district school enlisted in the Union Army in August of 1862. He served three years and fought in the siege of Petersburg. He returned to town after the war, married and later joined A.C. Emerson in the lumber industry. Capt. M. Nelson Dickinson resigned his position as Postmaster and entered the army in 1862 as a second lieutenant. For gallant and meritorious service he attained the rank of Captain. Returning from the war in 1865 he was reappointed as Postmaster here in town. Samuel B. Moses enlisted at the age of seventeen in November of 1861. He served as a 1st Corporal until 1865. He earned the title of Captain as commander of an independent company which flourished here for some years after the war. In 1868 he established a furniture and undertaking business which was

successful and he continued working for another 30 years.

At Lincoln's first call for troops Thomas H. Crandall enlisted in April of 1861. Mr. Crandall who was the son of Josiah Crandall, a pioneer businessman of this town, held various offices in local government and was devoted to the interests of this town.

Not everyone was fortunate enough to return. Among the fatalities was Charles Gray who according to Major-General John G. Foster "... fell at the head of his regiment while bravely and splendidly leading it to a successful charge." Colonel Gray was killed in action at the Battle of Kingston in North Carolina at the age of 24.

These are but a few of the men who unselfishly answered the call to arms. Names we are all familiar with - Bennett, Hastings, Combs, Farrar, Baker, Emerson, Morehouse, Burdick, Fuller, Duell and many others - are included on the list. Many families have made sacrifices for the freedom we enjoy today.



COLONEL
SAMUEL T. RICHARDS

Greetings from your new President and as such I want to tout the man and his accomplishments that I follow in this position. It is with sincere respect and appreciation and even humility that I recognize Steve Parisi. As President of this Society Steve has brought together a group of individuals, each talented in their own right, to form a most functional and competent Board. Steve coordinated the effort to have the Bicentennial Mural restored, a daunting task that necessitated significant research at every level of government and then acquired the necessary finance, in which you, the community of Warrensburg, came through with.

Too, in response to a request from the Town to organize and reopen the Local Museum Of History, Steve fronted a Herculean effort. The Society and the Town have joined efforts to clean, remodel and update the museum hall. There have been some delays in our anticipated reopening but I believe your patience will be well rewarded. Steve remains on our Board, your Board, and is also filling the position of Museum Director. We anticipate 'full speed ahead' in our efforts to install displays and re-open the museum. Steve will keep you up to date.

The Society now has its own e-mail address. In the coming months we expect to get on the cyber map as we establish a web site where we can keep you all up to date with what we are doing, programs we are planning and dates.

Don't forget to mark your calendars and attend THE event of the year, the Sticky Wicket Croquet Games and Picnic. Details are elsewhere in this issue but I want to note a change that we began last year. Please consider pre-registering for the tournament because we have decided to limit the number of participants to thirty-two. As always the picnic and good times are free.

-Delbert

Contributors to this issue:

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

Warrensburgh Historical Society
PO Box 441
Warrensburgh, NY 12885

Board of Directors

Delbert Chambers- President
Rosemary Mahar – Vice President
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The Board of Directors meet at the Senior Center, 3847 Main Street, at 6:30 PM on the 2nd Tuesday of each month. Society members welcome. Call Delbert to confirm at 623-3514.

Warrensburgh Historical Society Quarterly
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UPCOMING EVENTS

Thursday, June 12, 7 PM. Architectural STYLE in WarrensburgH, a talk and Power Point presentation by Delbert Chambers. Masonic Lodge, 3893 Main St. Refreshments.

Sunday August 17 Sticky Wicket at Warren County Fish Hatchery 11 to ?

The next Quarterly Deadline is August 1st

NEW E-MAIL

The Society has recently obtained an email address. If you want to contact us directly, send your email to:

whs7396@yahoo.com

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Deborah L. Hallahan
Carolyn Cyr
Suzanne W. Glebus

Membership Information

Student \$8.00 Individual \$12.00 Family \$25.00 Senior (62+) \$8.00
Contributing \$50.00 Business \$50.00 Institutional \$100.00
Life (Individual only) \$250

Membership is on a calendar year basis.

If you would like to join and receive the Quarterly by mail, please send check for the amount of the membership classification, with name, address and phone number to:

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.

Soon the Society hopes to display and exhibit many of these artifacts for public exhibition and educational purposes as well.

I have just completed transcribing the handwritten diary of a WWI soldier who left his job at the Warrensburg Woolen Co. to enlist in the Army in April of 1918. Page 1 of his diary reads: "At the Burg one night in church I made up my mind to join the army." He goes on to talk about joining as if he's applying for a new job: "I got an application to join an aviation band. My intentions then were to join a band. They informed me that there was not an opening at that time but that they would let me know as soon as there was one."

This young volunteer had me hooked from the start and I zipped through his eloquent one-year accounting of a soldier's life in the United States Army **Ambulance** Service (USAAS) with the Italian Army. It doesn't sound as if he got his intention to join a band does it? While serving in Europe his Ambulance Section 571 racked up over 78,000 miles carrying over 7,000 wounded in just one year in the hills and mountains of France and Belgium. He writes of many dangerous close calls, especially while wearing his uncomfortable but necessary gas mask.

As for his wish to join a band, he did purchase a mouth organ somewhere in Italy and became a one-man band for the American Officer's Club earning some extra pay and tips. This remarkable soldier wore another hat (or helmet). He

was assigned as a cook since he did a lot of K.P. He wrote that the ambulance service was a little slow for a time, and so he and Cook Snook (no kidding, his full name was William W. Snook) cooked for their Section.

When our soldiers debarked in Genova, Italy on June 27, 1918, they were the first American troops in Italy and were received with a very



hearty welcome and parade where they were showered with flowers and cries of "viva L Americano". Soon after, a headline featuring a letter written by an unidentified soldier to his "dearest" appeared in The Camp Crane News (the camp in New Jersey where our soldier had his basic training). It read, "USAAS Receive Royal Welcome Over In Italy".

In the Camp News article (a copy of which our Museum has) the last paragraph in the unknown soldier's letter to his dearest reads, "...we

were assigned to quarters and such a nice place to sleep. Eight men to a room on the top floor. Not on the floor itself ...we also had two sheets and a heavy blanket. Luxury at the start..." A very nice letter, but in his diary, our soldier elaborated a bit more: "We had nice new wooden cots with sheets, pillow and one heavy blanket and it looked like we were in good but we weren't there for many hours before we discovered beautiful things moving about on the walls...one of them was caught by the ears just as it was trying to dodge under a cot and after wrestling with it, we all crowded around and someone said it was called a bedbug. That was enough! The boys picked up their beds and slept on the cement floor outside or wherever they could find a space. I escaped many a good bite by being on guard duty. Some of the boys looked as though they had smallpox the next morning." I think the camp article's letter writer didn't want to alarm "dearest" about the creepy crawly, but beautiful bedbugs!

In case you're wondering, our soldier, the writer of this very interesting diary came home safe and sound in May of 1919, and resumed his old job at the Warrensburg Woolen Co. I don't know if he ever got to join a band here at home but I plan to visit our Town Historian, Sandi Parisi and go through the files. Perhaps I'll find some information about his life before and after the war. Whatever I find out, I'll be sure to share with you in a future Quarterly. Stay tuned!

FROM THE HISTORIAN'S FILE

Greetings, G.I. Joes and Janes:

Thanks to Sharon (Hunter) Tar, the Town Historian has almost a full set of *"Doin's In The Old Home Town"*

In June of 1944 a group of Warrensburg and Thurman women got together and started a Newsletter to send to the service men and women, stationed all over the World during World War II. They were Mrs. Aubrey Hull, Mrs. Francis Seville, Mrs. Arthur Woodward, Mrs. James Keays and Mrs. Catherine M. Magee. It was financed by the Warrensburg-Thurman War Chest.

Below is a sample from the August 1945 issue:

"Wish you could have been here on Victory Day (or whatever one is supposed to call August 14). We had all been glued to our radios for days and when the flash came that Japan had accepted the surrender terms, the town became a bedlam! First the siren on the fire-house announced the surrender with it's eerie screams, to be joined seconds later by first one church bell and then another until they were all merged in a resounding chorus; and when the pulp mill whistle got going, well, it just made the chills run up and down one's spine. Al the while, cars were racing through the streets with horns blasting; here and there guns were being fired, with now and then a fire-cracker adding to the uproar —

they saw the ones Leeward Stockwell fired were five years old!! In the distance one could hear the sound of the "blackout bombs" booming in Lake George. In a short time there was a mob of people milling around Floyd Bennett Park — laughing, shouting, pounding each other's back. Several impromptu parades sprang up, with Vern Squires, the town policeman, leading one with screaming siren. The pumper was brought out and added to the din as, loaded with firemen and Legionnaires, it toured the town. People drove uptown and just sat watching others' antics and occasionally joining on the tail of another parade as it went by. Oscar Quintal opened his market, where he had a record player in ac-



tion. He set the loudspeaker outside and soon the sidewalk was swarming with dancing folks who presently moved into the market and believe me, their flying feet must have been a menace to the show cases! Janet Straight was a center attraction as she executed a lively dance-step on the sidewalk — her ample figure just shaking with jolly laughter!! She sure was having a good time. Kids who gathered on

street corners demanded NOISE and MORE NOISE! They enjoined passing drives to "Blow your horn — make some noise!" Churches were open and many gave fervent thanks that the terrific struggle was an end, and soon the boys would be coming home. Tears of happiness mingled with smiles as the full realization of peace grew — and thoughts were also turned sadly and reverently to those boys who will not be coming home, whose supreme sacrifice has helped to make the peace possible."

The letter goes on to tell about men and women such as Charlie Combs who was home and settling in with Laura in the Cameron bungalow on River Street. Ken and Ruth Stone Baker have bought the former Howe Diner on lower Main Street. Anna Fay Smith engaged to Delbert Pasco, etc., etc. Lots and lots of hometown news.

There was also news from the "Four Corners of the World" as service men and women wrote home about where they were and what they were doing. Even a poem from Robert F. Knipe, somewhere in Okinawa. That issue was sent to 276 people.

If anyone has a complete set, or even partial copies, the Town Historian, Sandi Parisi, would like to be able to copy them to complete the one that Sharon donated to the Historian's Office. Contact her at 623-2207

To the editor;

This enclosed picture and article from the Glens Falls paper should correct the misunderstanding about the color of the 1934 Packard in the Merrill Magee auction. I had included the black Packard picture as I couldn't find the original article at that time and this picture was the exact model of the original which was and probably still is a light color.

I have a copy of this so you may keep this article if you wish. Sorry about the misunderstanding. Packard was one of America's greatest Marques probably the greatest and it is a distinction for Warrensburg to have owned one.

I first saw Warrensburg as a young man about 70 years ago. It has come a very long way while still retaining most of the old buildings. A great town to live in.

Sincerely
Ed Kreinheder

The following article from the Glens Falls Post Star (date of article is unknown, but circa 1980) was included with the letter:

Packard Garners \$65,000

By Janet Marvel

WARRENSBURG The bidding on a 1934 Packard started at \$40,000 Saturday increasing in increments of \$5,000.

More than 20 persons tendered their offers until bidding stopped at \$65,000.

The 1934 seven passenger Packard "super eight touring car deluxe" with 34,000 original miles was sold at a "world record" price to a Massachusetts classic

car collector.

The estate of Grace Merrill Magee was sold at auction Saturday in Warrensburg. More than 1,200 registered bidders attended along with many spectators. The auctioned items included American furniture and accessories of the Colonial, Empire and Victorian periods, the 19th Century English furniture and accessories as well as silver, paintings and rugs.

Auctioneers were from the William Doyle Galleries of New York City.

The 1934 Packard, with Mrs. Magee's initials on the door, was purchased by her in 1934 for \$3,400 which included a \$500 rebate for paying cash, according to the auctioneers.



1934 seven-passenger Packard.

Considered to be in mint condition, the car was purchased by Peter Bogren of Classic Carriage Coachworks, Sterling, Mass.

Bogren said the "car was quite desirable as it had never been redone and was original.

He also said it was more desirable because the Packard was a low production car and it was a supereight engine rather than a standard.

Bogren, as did all buyers, paid a 10 percent premium as part of the purchase price as well as the local 7 percent sales tax. Thus

purchase price was \$71,500 plus sales tax of \$5,005 totaling \$76,505.

Mrs. Magee who was born in Albany Dec. 15, 1885, died at her Warrensburg home April 16, 1979. Her relatives were some of the area's original settlers.

Her grandfather Stephen Griffin II operated the Adirondack Hotel (now the Colonial Arms) from 1938 - 1947.

Another descendant name Stephen Griffin, who settled in Thurman in the early 1900's, was an outstanding soldier in the Revolutionary War.

Sold in the auction was the historical document which was the appointment of Griffin as ensign in the company of the 4th Regiment, Continental Army in July 1, 1780. It sold for \$45.

Griffin was one of the soldiers who guarded an aide to Benedict Arnold, after Arnold was captured as a traitor.

According to Henry Merrill of Lake George, one of Mrs. Magee's three living relatives who are all second cousins, Mrs. Magee's father, Dr. Cyrus Merrill came to Warrensburg from Vermont as a medical student who was teaching school to earn funds for his medical education.

Living with Stephen Griffin, who was head of the local education department, he met and married Griffin's only daughter, Mary.

The couple had two children, Mrs. Magee and a brother, Griffin, who died while attending college. Dr. Merrill was a prominent surgeon in Albany.

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(Continued on page 7)

WILLIAM BOND

Below is the Last will and Testament of William Bond who was the first person to settle in what is now the Town of Warrensburg in 1786. He settled in Township No 1 of the Hyde Patent which is just northwest of the village and contained what is now known as Echo Lake, but which was originally called Bond's Pond.

The will is interesting because it identifies many of William's children and also because William passed away just a few days before Warrensburg was established as a town in February of 1813 and before Warren County was formed from Washington County in the same year (1813).

Last Will & Testament of William Bond

To whom these presents may come Know ye, that I William Bond of the Town of Chester in the County of Washington and State of New York, do make, ordain and declare this instrument to be my last will and testament, revoking all others. Imprimis, all my debts are to be punctually paid. Item To my beloved wife, Jane Bond, I give and bequeath the use, profit, and benefit of the equal one third part of my estate, real and personal, during her natural life. After her, if any remains, such remains to be dispersed of in the same proportion: that the other two thirds is directed to be. Also, I give unto her the use of the other two thirds of my estate for the support and bringing up of those of my children that are minors, until they shall arrive to lawful age, at which time I hereby authorize my executives, herein named, to sell and dispose of all my estate, real and personal, to give good & sufficient titles(?) in law for the same, and on such sale to make a fair return of the two thirds of the whole sum and an equal distribution to be made between my sons and daughters. Namely, Elisabeth Bond, Ann Tripp, Sarah Bond, Eliaz Bond, Margaret Bond, William Bond, James Bond, & Joseph Bond. Provided my son Isaac Bond should get the property, that my son Samuel Bond died possessed of, then and in that case he the said Isaac Bond is to have one dollar paid to him out of my estate as his full share and dividend, he having had of me one hundred dollars heretofore. Provided he should not obtain Samuels property, then he, the said Isaac Bond shall come in equal share in the division of my estate. He allowing and accounting for the one hundred dollars that he has received. Lastly, I appoint my beloved wife Jane Bond, my daughter Sarah Bond & Margaret Bond, Executives of this will and testament. In witness whereof I have here unto set my hand and seal this 26th of 1st Mo 1813.



Signed in the presence of
 Charles Leggett
 William Bond
 Samuel Landon
 Isaac Starbuck

Source: Book A, Page 11
 Warren County Wills

Mrs. Magee who was married twice, was an outdoors person and environmentalist. According to Merrill, she was a camper, hiker and canoeist as well as a world traveler.

Items auctioned included Northwest coast blankets and ores and Eskimo artifacts. Merrill said she lived in Warrensburg, New York City and Albany and that items auctioned were from the three homes.

According to auctioneer William Doyle, the auction was successful, grossing \$175,000. Doyle said he was very happy about the bids. A total of 537 "lots" were auctioned.

A quantity of Adams china was sold for \$475. A mahogany desk went for \$275 and a mahogany hatrack went for \$225.

A box of linens went for \$30 and a set of 12 assembled Hitchcock chairs for \$425.

Bicentennial Mural Rededication

Nearly 60 people braved the wet, cold weather Sunday May 18th to help rededicate the Warrensburg Bicentennial Mural which was designed and painted by Eva Cockcroft in 1976 and restored by Mary Lovendusky in 2007. Speakers Steve Parisi, Jim Cockcroft, Mary Lovendusky and Kevin Geraghty reflected on the many social and historical values of the mural.



Steve Parisi & Delbert Chambers unveil the new Mural Plaque

The event also unveiled the new Bronze Plaque listing Contributors and Memorials, which will be displayed with the mural. Essay Scholarship Awards were presented by Rosemary Mahar and Dennis Martinez (see below). A reception followed inside the museum where some preliminary displays were available for viewing.

Mural Contest

By Rosemary Mahar

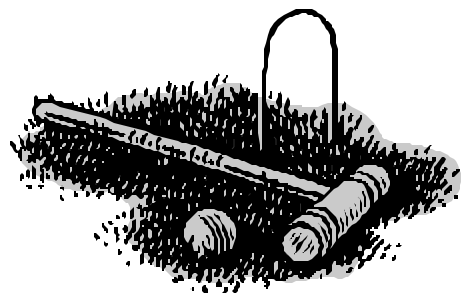
The Warrensburg Historical Society together with Glens Falls National Bank sponsored a writing contest this spring for students in grades 4 and 7 who lived in Warrensburg. Students were asked to visit the town mural and reflect on the history of the town as presented in the mural. They were then asked to write an essay, poem or song based on their observations together with some research.

Over 75 students entered and winners were selected by a panel of judges from the Historical Society in early May. Prizes were presented at the mural rededication on Sunday, May 18th. Seventh Grade resulted in a tie for first place between Tay Karson and Katie Riddle. Third place went to Adam Langworthy. First and Second place prize money was divided between the first prize winners. Forth Grade winners were: First place: Bethany Galusha; Second place, Kayla Sweet; and Third place, Kierstan Baer

All students who participated will be honored at school assemblies on June 13. Stewart's and the Luck-E-Star Cafe will provide ice cream for these students. The winning essays will be on display at Glens Falls National Bank, Main Street, Warrensburg in June and a compilation of the top 20 essays will be prepared for publication by The Historical Society later this summer.

WARRENSBURGH HISTORICAL SOCIETY

12TH Annual
STICKY WICKET
Croquet Games & Picnic



Sunday, August 17

Warren County
Fish Hatchery
11 a.m. till ?

Admission is FREE!!
(with sincere thanks to our
sponsors) We will supply the
chicken and cold drinks...
You're welcome to bring a
dish to pass..

Period dress encouraged
Wear your garden party hat!

Play for the prestigious
STICKY WICKET
TROPHY

Tournament Play open to all
for a \$5.00 entry fee.
For further information or
sponsorship phone 623-3514.

All donations to benefit
THE WARRENS-
BURGH

1956-1970

F.K.Wheeler, Warrensburg
Negative File "Guess Who"

Call John at 798-0248 with your answers or e-mail jthastings@roadrunner.com



28. _____ 29. _____ 30. _____

The photos in the last Quarterly were:

25. Ivan Moore 26. John Countryman 27. James Farrar

Warrensburgh
Historical Society
2008 Calendar

\$8.00

available at the following
locations in Warrensburg:

Nemec's

Richards Library

Miller Art & Frame

Glens Falls National Bank

Mail order single copy \$10.00
includes tax and postage,

additional copies

to same address \$9.20

Mail check to:

WHS - PO Box 441

Warrensburgh, NY 12885

"Architectural STYLE in

Warrensburgh" is a power point program developed and to be presented by Delbert Chambers that will look at 200 years in the development of buildings in the community. An introduction will briefly look at the evolution of construction techniques with the prominent focus being on architectural style in Warrensburg of the periods commonly referred to as 'Romantic', 'Victorian' and 'Eclectic'. Not exhaustively comprehensive, the program will interest the mature audience with many photographs of local architecture and description and detail will awaken in the younger audience a sense of historic importance. It is the intent and hope to instill, or enhance, awareness of architecture in the community and cause you to realize the critical need to both preserve the existing architectural strength and to promote the development of continuing strength in the 'Architecture of a Small Town'. (See upcoming events for details)

ASK THE
HISTORIAN

Do you have a question about Warrensburg's history, people, places, ..? Send an e-mail to sandi.parisi@gmail.com or drop her a note at 115 Hickory Hill Road, Warrensburg, NY 12885. Hopefully the answer will be in the following Quarterly.

BERT MURRAY DVD

A limited number still available. One hour of 16 mm footage shot between 1927 and 1931 by Warren County's first highway superintendent \$5.00/\$6.50 with postage. Call 623-2207 or write the Society at P.O.Box 441, Warrensburg, NY 12885.

This is an excellent film showing Warrensburgh and the surrounding area. Includes plowing snow, roadbuilding, work at Westmount Infirmary, ship wreck on Lake George, camping on Lake George, views of Warrensburgh and much more.

HELP WANTED

Persons interested in helping to organize and preserve the collection in the museum. All skills are useful but training can be provided. Rewards: personal satisfaction and camaraderie with like-minded people. Contact Steve (623-2207) or visit the museum at 3754 Main Street on Wednesdays 10-4 pm.