



Warrensburgh Historical Society Quarterly

Volume 15 Issue 4

Winter 2010

HANKIE CLUBS

One of the true fashion innovations of the sixteenth century was the introduction of the handkerchief as a fashion accessory. Handkerchiefs themselves were not new; people had been carrying a small cloth for blowing their nose for years. These soiled items, however, were kept tucked away out of sight, causing uncertainty as to when the first handkerchief was actually invented.

In the Middle Ages ladies presented men with their handkerchiefs to show their favor. Decorated with luxury embroidery, silver and golden fibers and fringes, the handkerchiefs were used to perform church and coronation ceremonies. However, hankies appeared in vogue during the Renaissance when they

became an essential part of any up-scale wardrobe. The same women who dressed in exquisite silk gowns had their tailors add lace or a scalloped edge to a fine linen cloth and elevated the handkerchief to the status of fashion accessory. A fine lacy handkerchief, or hanky, was not tucked away in a pocket but held in the hand or draped coyly across the arm.

Handkerchiefs have remained fashionable ever since. It is rumored in fashion history that Marie Antoinette (1755-1793) was frustrated that handkerchiefs were offered in so many shapes; round, oval, rectangular, etc. Her husband, King Louis XVI (1754-1793), made it a law that all handkerchiefs must be square, and have remained so ever since. An old Irish proverb advised "Always carry two handkerchiefs, one for show and one for blow."

Skip in time to America when up until the early part of the 20th century people worldwide either wiped their nose on their sleeve or on their handkerchief. During this period inexpensive decoratively printed squares of cotton and linen were carried in handbags, given as

The article below is from the Warrensburgh News of July 16, 1916.

NEW MOVIE THEATRE

Building for Fairyland to be Erected by D. E. Pasco and Sons
Structure to be of Concrete, 30 x 80 Feet, One Story, With Seating Accommodations for Five Hundred People.

Warrensburgh is to have a new theatre, devoted principally to the film drama. It will be the home of Fairyland, at present conducted in the Swan Block by G. W. Dickinson and Jerald La Rocque. The present quarters, too small to accommodate the large audiences that regularly patronize the "movies,"



Fairyland Theatre

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PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

Tempus fugit when you're having fun (which I guess it does, no matter what); so here we are sending you the Winter 2010 issue of the Quarterly already.

Prizes were awarded in September to winners of our 4th and 9th grade historical writing contest, coordinated by Rosemary Maher. Twenty-five people attended the event at the museum to see Tori Oehler, Nicole Tedrick, Garry Ross, and Katie Riddle receive recognition for their efforts, now on display at the museum.

The Society has begun a new endeavor of video-taping interviews with individuals who tell us about things of historical interest in their own experiences. Our brave pioneer in this was Ray Combs, who demonstrated operation of the ox yoke on display at the museum. Ray was an appropriate first subject, and we can say "bravo"- ten years ago he was interviewed at the Military History Museum in Saratoga Springs to tell the remarkable story of his survival of a kamikaze attack against the aircraft carrier on which he served off Okinawa in 1945. We hope to obtain a copy of that interview for the museum.

We hosted the annual meeting of the Warren County Historical Society in October. The theme was Civil War experience by citizens and soldiers from Warren County. John Hastings gave a discourse on his museum display.

The Graveyard Walks and Dinner With the Dead livened things up again this year. Orlando Bryant tried to make himself understood and repair his reputation as a chicken thief. Great thanks go to Rita Ferraro for all her work in the production of this event, and to Filomena Riviello who trained the actors in her Actors' Workshop. Following the walks, desserts at the Cornerstone B&B and at the Maher's were well attended and appreciated.

Another event on the educational front was a field trip on October 28th for John Burns' environmental science high school class. The class went to Pack Forest for a good look at eskers, took a hike on two of them, saw the old Woodward homestead, then journeyed to the old Bissell Farm just north of Cronin's Golf Resort, where they climbed a delta kame (like eskers, a kind of residual landform from glacial streams), saw where ferry service once operated across the Hudson, and had lessons in tree identification. Proceeding to the fish hatchery, they saw embankments revealing deep

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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 744-7568.

Warrensburch Historical Society Quarterly

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Upcoming Events

Dec. 10: Holiday Social 6:00 pm @ Grace's, 3 Hudson Street, Phone 623-2449 to make Reservations, \$30 including tip & tax.

Jan. 20: Presentation "The Armchair Paddler of the Schroon River" by Mike Prescott 7:00 pm Grace's Restaurant, 3 Hudson Street

CURRENT MEMBERSHIP: 221

Warrensburch Historical Society
Website:

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Email:

whs7396@yahoo.com

NEW MEMBERS:

Elvus Cupp

Mary Beth & Jack Carroll

John Cleveland

Membership Information

Students \$5.00 Individual \$15.00 Family \$25.00 Senior (62+) \$10.00 Senior Family \$18 Contributing \$55.00 Business \$50.00 Life (Individual only) \$300 (membership is on a calendar year basis)

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

NOTICE

The recording of history is an interpretive and ever changing study. Therefore, the Warrensburch 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) *Hankie Clubs*

gifts, and pulled out when tears were about to be shed, or a sneeze was on its way. They dabbed at lipstick, were sprinkled with perfume, and were even dropped in strategic locations to be picked up by that certain person.

The history of handkerchief bazaars, or hankie clubs, is an interesting one which made headlines on more than one occasion. During the first two decades of the twentieth century, thousands of requests for handkerchiefs were printed on penny postage postcards and mailed to women across North America. One of the most famous of these resulted in the following New York Times headline:

Mrs. Roosevelt Stops Gifts; Declines to Send Handkerchief to the Women of Minnesota.

The Minnesota Territorial Pioneers Association could thank

the women of Texas for Mrs. Roosevelt's decision to abolish the White House Handkerchief Bureau after a group of Austin women labeled her donation to their handkerchief bazaar, "a cheap cotton rag."

Finally some historians blame Little Lulu for the decline of the handkerchief. Used as an advertising icon in the 1940's, the popular cartoon character touted the benefits of using disposable paper tissues, and sales of Kleenex soared. But cloth "hankies" had been losing ground to paper since 1924, when Kleenex tissues were first marketed as cold-cream removers. Almost immediately consumers began using the disposables, instead, to blow their noses.

So ended the popular widespread utilitarian use of the cloth hankie. Do any of our members remember anything about Hankie Clubs? Please contact John at 798-0248

The above article was taken from the following internet site: baum-textile.com/cgi-bin/fabricshop/gallery.cgi

The following is from the October 16, 1908 New York Times:

MRS. TAFT MAKES A GIFT

Handkerchiefs for Sale at Working Girl's Bazaar in Evansville

Evansville, Ind. Oct. 15. A dainty lace handkerchief, said to have been hemmed by Mrs. William Howard Taft herself, has been received by the Working Girl's Auxiliary here for sale at the bazaar which it is proposed to conduct in a few days. When the auxiliary determined to open its bazaar, notice of the fact appeared in the papers, and the mail today brought the present from the wife of Judge Taft.

The handkerchief has been greatly admired, and many offers of purchase have been received, but the auxiliary girls feel that it will not only sell better at the bazaar, but will be a drawing card.

The handkerchief is of the sheerest linen, bordered with lace. No price has been put on the handkerchief, but if it brings less than \$100 there will be great disappointment.



This hankie was sent by "Bonnie Minor, 86 Library St. Warrensburg, New York."

(1/4 view of hankie)

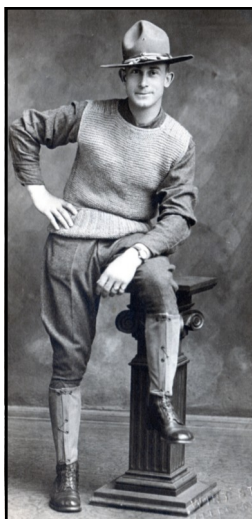
BRIEF BIOS FOR **2010 OCTOBER** **GRAVEYARD WALKS**

By Rita Ferraro

CHARACTERS PORTRAYED BY:

Joseph Aiken: Tom O'Dea
Orlando Bryant: John Gable
Jennie D. Cameron: Cyndi Muratori
Thomas Cunningham: Dennis Martinez
Melinda Warren: Ruth Fruda & Susan Jennings

Joseph A Aiken (portrayed by Tom O'Dea) was born in 1889 in Glens Falls, and lived most of his adult life in Warrensburg. Those who knew this WWI veteran described him as a generous, hardworking man who also liked to hunt and fish. When he wasn't busy doing all those things, he gave much pleasure to music lovers and parade spectators with his talent for playing several instruments. He



was a professional drummer and member of The Adirondack Pipes & Drums, a NY State corporation, still existing today, that promotes cultural awareness of the traditions and music of Scottish Highland Bagpipes

and Drums. During his wartime service from 1918 to 1919, Joseph meticulously recorded daily entries in his personal diary, the original of which having been donated, is now

proudly part of the collection of the Warrensburg Museum of Local History. Visitors to the museum can see an exhibit in the new "Veterans Appreciation Room" displaying Joseph's Army uniform, plus a few rather interesting excerpts from his wartime diary.

Orlando Bryant (portrayed by John Gable) "the hermit of Harrington Hill" as this "farmer" was known to be called, was born in January of 1849 somewhere in New York according to the state census records. His parents migrated here from Vermont. Not such a hermit as a young man, Orlando married and this union produced two children. It must not have been too "blissful", since his wife eventually divorced him and moved away, and his two children did just about the same. The word "eccentric" was often associated with some of Orlando's deeds, such as mysteriously luring too many of his neighbor's chickens into a sack to feed himself and his three elderly sisters who shared a humble home with him. Orlando did live up to his reputation, but in the end, too many of his escapades landed him in "hot water".

Jennie D. Cameron (portrayed by Cyndi Muratori) Born in England in October of 1909, Jennie moved across the Atlantic Ocean to America with her parents in 1921 when

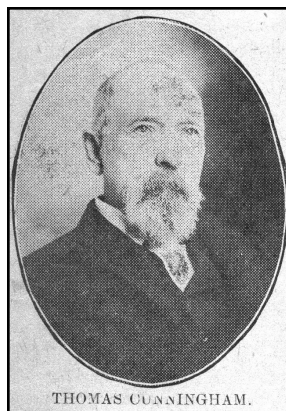


she was just 12 years old. She married her husband George Cameron in 1935

and they had one daughter Marcia who still lives in Warrensburg today. Jennie was an avid reader who especially enjoyed reading, not only for her own pleasure, but also reading to young children. With this great love for the printed word, Jennie found her niche working in the Richards Library and went on to enjoy a career there of 57 years. She retired from the library in 1990 after having served as faithful Librarian for 47 years. For this service and for the many volunteer projects Jennie participated in, she was honored by the Chamber of Commerce as Warrensburg's Citizen of the Year in 1986.

Thomas Cunningham

(portrayed by Dennis Martinez) was born on a farm in 1826 in Essex County, NY. The arduous life as a farmer was not what Thomas wanted for himself.



Being of keen mind at an early age, he chose to become an attorney. Taking on odd jobs and additional

chores, earned him enough money to enroll as a student at the Troy Conference Academy. Continuing studies as apprentice with an Elizabethtown law firm he was admitted to the bar in July 1853. Soon he took over the small practice of a retiring Warrensburg attorney and waited for clients to knock on the door.

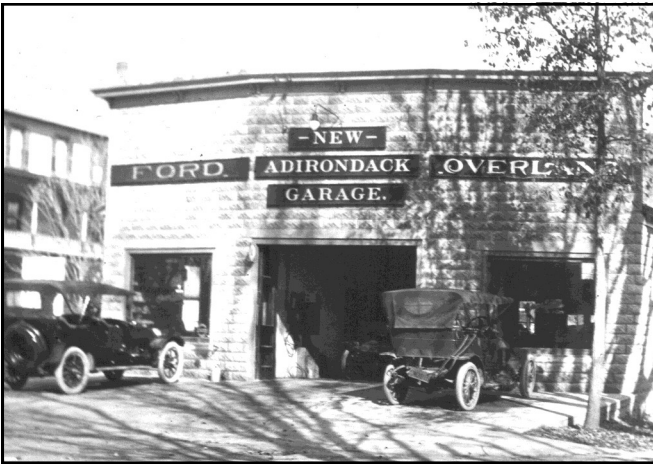
(Continued on page 5)



As a follow up to the story in the last Quarterly, about Motoring in Warrensburg, Chuck Wheeler provided these photos of the Adirondack Garage which was located between what is now Rite Aid and Final Rinse Laundromat. The garage was built in 1914. Can anyone identify the people in the automobile?



Photos are by Charles E. Wheeler



(Continued from page 4) Graveyard Bios

The knocks were few and far between but one very famous, prominent town businessman took a chance and engaged him to collect a few small debts owed to him. Word of this successful endeavor began the long career for Thomas not only as attorney, but also a political career including two-time Warrensburg Town Supervisor, 1861/1862 and 1864/1865. Eventually the Thomas Cunningham estate encompassed an area stretching from Main Street to Milton Avenue, lower Library Avenue, Ridge Street and Burdick Avenue.

Melinda Warren (portrayed by Ruth Fruda & Susan Jennings) was born in 1771 in Salisbury, CT. She married James Warren from Dutchess County, NY and with their young son, Nelson settled here in 1804 in a town called The Bridge, (this was several years before the town of Warrensburg was organized.) The Warren family successfully operated a town tavern and well-known hotel called The Warren House (now the site of Stewart's), in addition to a potash factory, and a general store. Tragedy befell the Warren family when in 1812, James drowned in the Hudson River leaving Melinda and

their young son to carry on. This capable woman successfully continued running all the family businesses with the help of her son and a few employees. The Warren House was the site of the town's first post office and historically known as the place where the town meeting of February 13, 1813 produced the organization of the new town of Warrensburgh. Speculation persists that the town may have derived its name from this important family of first settlers, not from the Revolutionary War Hero, General Joseph Warren as in most other towns. Co-incidence, who knows?

From Sandi Parisi, Town Historian

Received a letter from Nellie Bates:

"Regarding the Bidwell family picture in the October page of the 2011 Calendar. I believe the four young men are Frank, Lyman, Louis and George Elmer Bidwell. The bass drummer I believe is my great uncle Loren Brown."

I am enclosing a picture of my great uncles Loren and George Brown. I am also enclosing a picture of Charles Bidwell and his brother-in-law Elijah Brown. I never saw Charles, but I do remember Uncle Lige. He picked on me and I was scared of him. I was 5 when he died. He was laid out in the living room of Alice Underwood Bidwell's home. I sat on great aunt Daisy Brown Combs lap in the kitchen during the funeral.

I am also enclosing a family tree from Gladys Bidwell Smith,

Gladys was a grade teacher at Warrensburg for several years. She was the daughter of Frank Bidwell and was brought up by Clarabel Bidwell Wells. She had 7 brothers and sisters. She married Donald James Smith. Gladys and I came from the same Brown family. Donald James was 16 and lived with his mother Grace Baker Smith Hicks at 8 Summit Street when I was born at 6 Summit Street. Small world.

Also is a copy of Evelyn Brown's family tree of the Browns which included my grandmother Nellie Elizabeth Brown Rhodes. You will notice her brother Delbert Brown married Tessie V. Smith. Tessie was my husband's mother's sister. We had her double.

Nellie R. Bates"

The above information is available at the Historian's office if anyone is interested.

(Continued from page 1) New Theatre

and lacking in facilities for ventilation and heat, have been long since outgrown and the managers have been for some time seeking new quarters, but insisting on a downtown location. There being no available building to suit their needs they have endeavored to purchase a site for a new building, but without success.

Arrangements have now been made with D. E. Pasco and Sons, who own a desirable site, formerly part of the Nelson Warren property, just south of Harry Lavine's block. They have agreed to build at once, for the use of Fairyland, a concrete structure 30 x 80 feet, one story high, and equipped with all modern conveniences. The ceilings will be high and particular attention will be paid to ventilation. A steam heating plant will be installed to furnish uniform heat in the winter.

Provisions will be made for a dance floor and basketball court. This will probably be accomplished by having a double floor which will give an inclined surface for the theatre seats and a level surface for dancing when desired.

The building will be first equipped only with a picture screen, but will be so constructed that a regulation stage may be added later.

Dickinson and LaRocque will take a 5 year lease of the building with the privilege of a 5 year extension. The work of construction will be started as soon as possible and it is expected that the building will be ready for occupancy the later part of August.



Warrensburgh Historical Society's

14th Annual

STICKY WICKET

Croquet Competition & Picnic

Fish Hatchery Sunday, August 8, 2010

Our thank you to these sponsors:

Croquetmaster's Circle:

Cronin's Golf Resort

Premier Membership Level: Adirondack Rustic Interiors - Alexander Funeral Home - Bill's Restaurant - Brunetto's Restaurant - Champlain Stone Ltd. - Country Road Lodge B & B - George Henry's - Glens Falls National Bank - Grace's Restaurant/Griffin House B & B - Grist Mill on the Schroon - Jacobs & Toney - Krystal Chrysler Jeep Dodge - Luck-E-Star Café - Maynard D. Baker Funeral Home - Nemec's Farm & Garden Center - Oscar's Smoked Meats - Paraco Gas Company - The Patriot of Lake George - Ray's Liquor Store - Ridin-Hy Guest Ranch - Stephenson - Lumber - Stewart's Shops - Town of Warrensburgh - Warren Ford & Mercury - Warrensburgh 50+ Club - Warrensburgh Car Care - Warrensburgh Chamber of Commerce - Warrensburgh Laundry/Dry Cleaning - Warrensburgh Volunteer Fire Co.

Plus these generous supporters . .

Bob Griffin & Sons - Cumberland Farms - Hometown Oil - LeCount Real Estate - Riverside Gallery - Warrensburgh Chiropractic - Cornerstone Victorian B & B - Hastings Maple Syrup - Marco Polo Pizza - Smith's Garage - Stork Road Farm - Treasure Shoppe Farm Market - Willows Bistro and Abbie Hastings

Another great success, thanks to a good crowd, good weather, and Super Chef Brian Engle!

First Place Winner: Joelle Stonitsch

Tied for 2nd: Bobby Brady & Brendan Hanley

Historian's Corner

TIME IS RUNNING OUT. My office has many old photographs of people. However, many of them are unidentifiable. Please make sure that you put names on the backs of all of your photos and preferably add a date. Sit down with an older relative, ask questions, make notes. When they are gone, you and your family will have something to remember them by. Record all family members, plus ancestors. Include as many names and dates as possible, such as birth, death, marriage, etc. Don't feel it has to be fancy, just start a simple notebook with photos, descriptions, etc. Build simple family trees, which can be added to as you go on. Start with yourself, parents, grandparents. Later you can add siblings, cousins, etc. Even better if you can put a face to a name. Don't forget to include pictures of your house, places you visit, family pets, items that you treasure, anything that brings back memories. Maps of where your ancestors came from are fun to look at with younger family members, helping them to learn a little bit about their heritage and a little geography in the process.

An Example:



On the back is written "Angeline & Clarence Carpenter 1-29-1902 Wedding Day"

Looking at the census and birth/death records for this period we can determine that Clarence was born Sept. 30, 1876 and died October of 1946 in Thurman. His father, Levi, was married to Charlotte Norton.

Angeline (actually Evangeline) was born in Thurman August 1, 1878. Her father was Jabez Kenyon and mother was Augusta Baker.

In 1900, Clarence was a sewing machine operator. Both were working at the "Pants factory" in 1910.



Mystery Photo

Places in Warrensburg's History

Can you identify the above building? 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 post card view of the Balsam Lodge located just north of Pack Forest on (old) Route 9. The Lodge was built over the small stream that flows into Pack Lake and at one time was run by the Raymonds.

Warrensburgh Museum of Local History
3754 Main Street (VFW Building)
Entrance at rear, fully handicap accessible
Hours: Wed., Sat. & Sun. 1-4 PM
Free admission.

MUSEUM GUIDES NEEDED
No experience necessary.
Call Steve Parisi at 623-2207
for information

(Continued from page 2) President's Column

accumulation of deposits on the bed of glacial Lake Warrensburg and learned that Echo Lake is an excellent example of a glacially-formed kettle lake. Visiting the museum in November, they see, among other exhibits, the display of natural features they saw first-hand on the field trip.

Also as part of our educational outreach, Sandi Parisi visited the class at the high school in November to teach about genealogy research methods and local cemeteries.

Paul Gilchrist

Museum News

The Museum continues to be open on Wednesdays, Saturdays and Sunday, 1-4 PM. In addition we will be open the evening of the "First Thursdays" of the month from 6 to 8 PM. during which time we will have a theme of interest to different segments of the community. See the schedule below.

Our Veterans Appreciation Room officially opened on November 11, although it is still being added to. Take the time to read the excerpts from Joe Aiken's WW I diary, a thoughtful commentary on a terrible war and one man's personality. You'll see some of his snapshots too.

Numerous people have spent time volunteering countless hours to serve as guides as well as helping with the maintenance and organization of the collection and the facility. A special welcome and thanks to new volunteer, Gary Bivona, who has been assisting in facility maintenance. And best wishes to faithful weekly guide, Ray Combs, sojourning in Florida for the winter. We're looking forward to his return in the spring.

Schedule of events:

Thurs., Dec. 2, 6-8 pm - Sneak Preview: Dressed for the Winter, Vintage Toy Train Accessories.

Sat. & Sun., Dec. 4 - 5, 10 am-4 pm - Christmas in Warrensburg Town wide celebration. "Dressed for the Holidays", plus Vintage Toy Train Accessories. Refreshments.

Thur., Jan. 6, 6-8 pm. Theme: Warrensburg Area Family Photos - show yours, help identify ours!

Thur., Feb. 3, 6-8 pm. Preview: Stock Car Racing - tell us your stories!

Sun., Feb. 6, 1-4 PM Opening of special exhibit: Stock Car Racing at Ashland Park.

Steve Parisi

Museum Director