



Warrensburgh Historical Society Quarterly

VOLUME 25 ISSUE 3

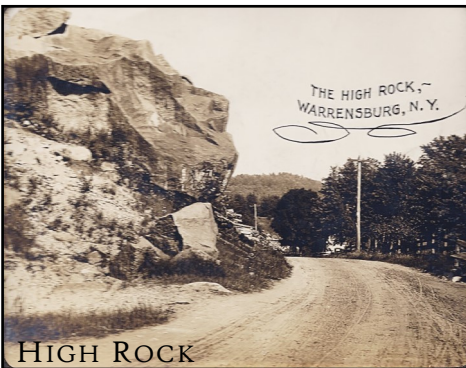
AUTUMN 2020

A SESQUICENTENNIAL LETTER

By Sandi Parisi

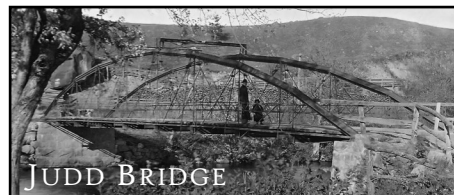
This letter written in 1954 by George G. Hayes [1879-1966] to Robert Hall, Publisher of the Warrensburgh News. It was given to me by Mr. Hall's son, Tony Hall, Publisher of The Mirror. Mr. Hayes sent it in, thinking it would be a good item for Warrensburgh's 150th Anniversary, which occurred in 1963. I haven't found if any of it was published, but it is an amazing recollection of Warrensburgh at a particular time.

I present it exactly as he wrote it, but added information [in brackets], and included photos of what he saw back then. Sandi Parisi - Town Historian

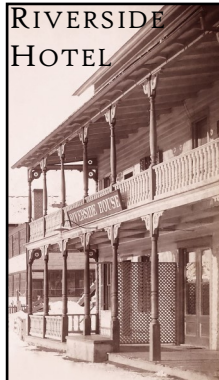


HIGH ROCK

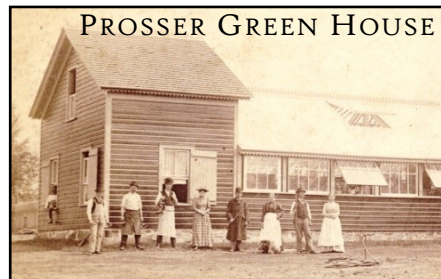
I was born in Warrensburgh in the year 1879 and I would like to differ with some of the statements made in your paper in the last few weeks.



Before Main Street was paved, the High Rock stood on a knoll almost at the end of the Judd Bridge, and the Riverside Hotel was next with the barn on the river bank and S.E.

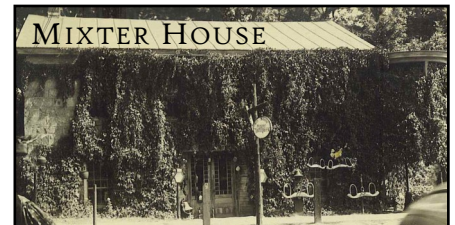


Prosser had a store and green house that went up the side hill with a barn and experimental garden. Across the road was a boat dock with 15 boats to let in the river.



Then next was Mixer house and blacksmith shop with a barn and

Fred Mixer's Hardware Store and Tin Shop on the river side [now Miller Art & Antiques]. Next to the Blacksmith Shop was Pat Ryan's Shoe Shop and house on the corner of Horicon Avenue.



On the river side was a small store where Farrel Prosser cobbled shoes, and John K. Heffron had a store and on the corner north of that was the Grand Army Hotel run by Pat Heffron. I don't remember that it ever burned. [The building was originally painted red and had a set of

Parisi (continued on page 6)

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PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

The Quarterly marks the seasons in a way. As you read this issue summer is drawing to a close, and before we know it there will be fall decorations donning the porches of Warrensburg. This particular year has been full of challenges, and all of us have had to adapt in ways we never would have dreamed possible when we were preparing the fall Quarterly for you last summer.

This time last year Warrensburg faced the possibility of a chain store replacing a beautiful historic building in the center of town. Residents were stirred to speak up, and there was an opportunity to step back and think about Warrensburg from a different perspective. Between emotional pleas for preservation, reality checks concerning the costs, and a deeper examination of Warrensburg's zoning laws, a very important question emerged: is there a way that Warrensburg can move forward without destroying the past?

We invited Steven Engelhart from Adirondack Architectural Heritage (AARCH) to speak at our Annual Meeting in February and had a record turn-out. A program was scheduled at the Town Hall in April to provide tax benefit information for people who own historical homes in town. Momentum was building toward getting resources into the hands of Warrensburg's residents so that one of our greatest assets - our many historic properties (one of the largest collections of homes on the State and National Historic Register in the Adirondacks!) - could have a chance...and maybe even benefit Warrensburg in ways we hadn't previously imagined.

Then a little something called a pandemic came along and changed everything.

I'm tempted to say that the pandemic stole the show and brought all the good steps that were being made in the name of Warrensburg's history to a screeching halt. But when I think about it, I'm not so sure that's true. The pandemic has given us an opportunity to step out of how we have grown so accustomed to interacting with our town and see it from a new perspective altogether. We have come to appreciate our community - our neighbors and the businesses that have kept us going - in new ways. We have been able to place ourselves in time, living through an event that is history in the making. The pandemic has given us an

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opportunity to deepen our love and appreciation of Warrensburg in a way that perhaps is a crucial part of the foundation for finding creative ways to preserve its history and bring it with us into the future.

If you are looking for a way to learn about and enjoy Warrensburg's architectural history, check out: www.warrensburgheritageatrail.org. There are 3 trails that will take you house by house through town, providing historical information about places that still exist and those that have been lost to us. I am working through the trails by video on the Museum Face Book page, so check it out there as well.

The Historical Society has had a lot of fun thinking "outside the box" this year, and we have come up with ideas of how we can reach out and support the community we love. We have purchased an impressive collection of gift cards from local businesses for our 2020 raffle - send back your raffle tickets for a chance to win a hefty prize!

A modified version of the Graveyard Walks is in the works...we won't meet in person at the Cemetery to listen to characters from Warrensburg's past, but we will post videos and a written history of each person for your enjoyment.

We don't know what changes will have taken place before the NEXT Quarterly arrives in your mailbox, but we know one thing for sure - Warrensburg and all of us who make up this community will still be here, doing what we have been doing for well over 200 years! ♦

Beth Kinghorn

SOCIETY PAGE

CONTRIBUTORS TO ISSUE:

Mark K. Brown, Paul Gilchrist, Elizabeth Kinghorn, Sandi Parisi, Steve Parisi, Alice M. Spivey

BECOME A CONTRIBUTOR

Please email Serena with new submissions at, serrie@zoho.com! Be sure to send copies to Beth too at, elizabethlkinghorn@gmail.com!

UPCOMING EVENTS:

Due to the Pandemic all events are on hold until further notice. Keep an eye out for updates on our Facebook page and local newspapers. Thank you for your interest and support.

BOARD MEETINGS

The Board of Directors meets in the Town Historian's Office at 6:30pm on the FIRST Wednesday of each month in the Shirt Factory Building at 100 River Street. Email Beth to confirm: whs7396@yahoo.com

Warrensburgh Historical Society

Website: www.whs12885.org

Email: whs7396@yahoo.com

Phone: 804-232-7347

MEMBERSHIP RATES

Students	\$5.00	Contributing	\$55.00
Individual	\$15.00	Business	\$50.00
Family	\$25.00	Institutional	\$100.00
Senior (62+)	\$10.00	Life (Individual only)	\$300.00
Senior Family	\$18.00		

MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION

For the duration of the Pandemic: **FREE** new memberships in 2020 with full benefits thru 2021! If you would like to join and receive the Quarterly by mail, please send your membership classification with name, address, and phone number to:

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

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CROONING PINES

PART II

by Alice M. Spivey

Here are more memories from Alice's childhood spent at this magical place in Warrensburg around the early 1940s. We'll start with the first few paragraphs from the last issue, which accidentally got a bit rearranged. This will help you recall the scene.

As a little kid traveling north of Glens Falls, I could begin to smell the fragrance of the pines and began to get excited because I was going to camp - Crooning Pines - for the summer! I knew it wouldn't be long until we were there.

Driving through Warrensburg, we'd pass Hall's Restaurant, The Colonial Arms Hotel and the town bandstand, then, veering left, we continue down the street past houses 'til we got to the entrance to the race track. Shortly after that we'd see the big sign saying Crooning Pines and the WW1 Gatling gun that was at the entrance. We drive down a sandy road running thru meadows of wild flowers and weeds. Finally, we see a fence made of silvery branches of trees that had been dragged out of the lake when Kent and Gene Lee and my father, Fred Mason, started the camp.

Francis Kilbourn was the social director for a number of years. In that job she helped people feel at home, introduced people to each other, directed the shows and was very musical. In her regular life during the year she taught voice lessons and other things. She started to teach me how to sing the summer I was 13 and by the time I was 14, she had me singing solos in the shows on Friday night and I continued to take lessons from her for the next 4 years so when I went on to college, I continued to take voice lessons and sang solos as well as being in a sextet and choir while there.

Tony, the maitre d' was in charge of the dining room. I don't remember his last name but he had an accent. I think he was Italian. He ran the dining room with a strict hand making sure everything was spotless

including the servers who, by the way, were also the orchestra boys and when I was 14 I became a server as well. I did my share at camp by waiting on tables and acting in shows. All in all, it was a great way to spend a summer.

My mother, Clara Mason, helped out in many ways at camp. She had a trunk full of costumes which she used to help dress people for the shows on Friday night and also for guests to use on masquerade night which was on a Wednesday night. The guests were to dress up that evening for the dancing. Some made up their own costumes. I remember one couple who went as a clothes line! They used sheets from their beds to turn themselves into poles and tied a rope between them for the clothes line. My mother also acted in the plays as well as other parts of the shows. One summer the chef became ill halfway through the summer. My mother was a good cook but had never cooked the quantity needed for a whole camp full of guests, but she was the only one available so she became the temporary chef until they could hire a new one. I'm not sure how long she stayed on as the chef, but it was certainly longer than a week.

Horseback Riding - There were some guests who liked horseback riding so the camp hired horses and a handler for them for the summer season. They were gotten from the Central Park stable in New York City. I have no idea what it cost for the season, but they needed to be available. Luckily, the camp was right next to the [Ashe's] Race Track so there was a place to stable them and a place to exercise them if no guests wanted to ride that week. I was lucky enough to be able to exercise the horses during weeks when no guests wanted to ride. It was a great experience for a teenager like me!

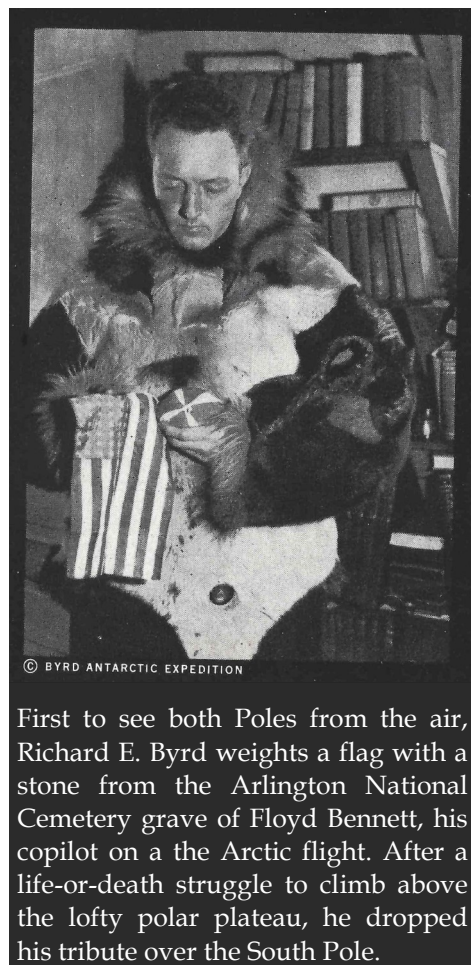
One day I was exercising my favorite, Georgie, who was a mustang. I had ridden him quite a lot and he would follow me around without my even holding the reins because I

Spivey (continued on page 5)

FLOYD BENNETT & NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC

By Steve Parisi

Floyd Bennett, arguably Warrensburg's most famous citizen, served as co-pilot to then Commander Richard E. Byrd in the first flight to the North Pole in 1926. Floyd, who became a trusted friend of Byrd, was scheduled to fly with him to the South Pole before Floyd's untimely death in 1928. Byrd had written, "I would rather have had Floyd with me than any man I know of." Evidence of their friendship is found in the tribute by Byrd described in this photo clip from the November 1963 issue of National Geographic. (Those and subsequent flights by Byrd were backed by the National Geographic Society.) Thanks to Martha Betsey Remington for sending us that issue. ♦



First to see both Poles from the air, Richard E. Byrd weights a flag with a stone from the Arlington National Cemetery grave of Floyd Bennett, his copilot on a the Arctic flight. After a life-or-death struggle to climb above the lofty polar plateau, he dropped his tribute over the South Pole.





MILLEER'S ANTIQUES WITH STEVE



GRIFFIN & SONS WITH STEVE



RIVERSIDE GALLERY WITH SANDI



NEW WAY LUNCH WITH PAUL

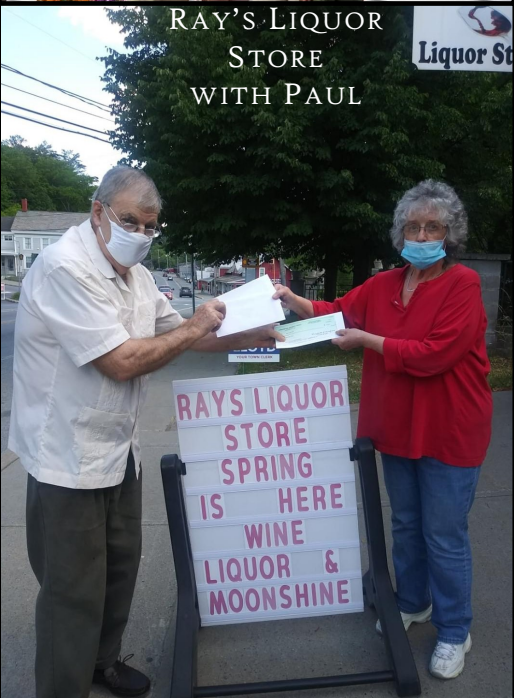
THE WARRENSBURGH HISTORICAL SOCIETY IS SUPPORTING LOCAL BUSINESSES DURING THE PANDEMIC CRISIS!



CRONIN'S GOLF COURSE WITH JOHN GABLE



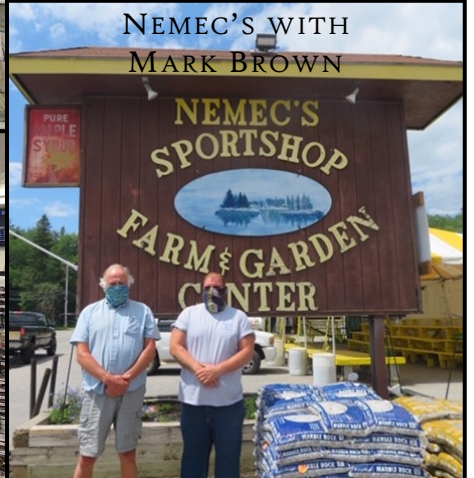
GEORGE HENRY'S WITH JOHN GABLE



RAY'S LIQUOR STORE WITH PAUL



OSCAR'S WITH MARK BROWN



NEMEC'S WITH MARK BROWN



MEAT STORE OF THE NOTH WITH JOHN GABLE



On May 15th at the Warren Tannery Park, Warrensburg Beautification, Inc. had an Arbor Day Celebration and Tree Dedication to Bob Knowles.



THANK YOU NOTE

Hi Steve,

We are thrilled that you took the time to create a virtual museum of history. This is an unbelievable feat and we have enjoyed this as a family and as a school, we are absolutely loving this resource.

Many thanks for all you do for our Town!

Jennifer Orton Casabonne

Elementary Library Media Specialist



Above: Sandi and Steve Parisi listening to Peggy Knowles, wife to Bob Knowles.

Upper left: Maren Alexander of Warren County Soil and Water discusses tree planting with Teresa Whalen, president of Warrensburg Beautification.

Spivey (continued from page 3) always brought him a treat like an apple or some carrots. Anyway, this day, the horses needed exercising, so I took Georgie out on the track and started him off. We got half way around the track and he suddenly stopped. I flipped off him and landed in the soft sand. Georgie had just stopped and looked at me. He smiled! I swear as he looked at me he was thinking, "There you are! You're not the boss, I am!" What a come down for me. ♦

John Gable and Elizabeth Kinghorn at the Farmer's Market.

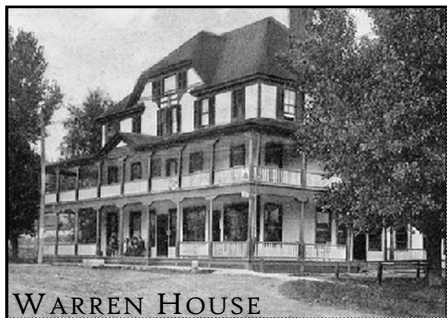


concrete steps for carriages. Most of the step is still there. The menu was acknowledged to be as fine as the Waldorf Astoria. After two fires it was razed in 1974. The current building went from the Warren Inn, to Stew and Brew and is now George Henry's.]



GRAND ARMY HOTEL

The Warren House was on the other corner of Main Street and Horicon Avenue. We called Main Street, Front Street, in those days. The Warren House burned in 1889 and they built a saloon on the corner and called it the Bear Trap. When they built the new Warren House, Andrew Harrington bought the saloon and moved it up the hill and made it a house, next to the Pat Wallace house which then made three houses at the top of the Hill. Allie Brown was the first proprietor of the Warren House that I can recall.



WARREN HOUSE

Pat Heffron ran the Grand Army House until the 1900's, and then Alfred Stone [who later became a sheriff] ran it and Mac Smith, not sure which was first.

Main Street was paved with brick in 1911. Happy [Herrick] Osborne's grandfather [Charles Willis Osborne] and father [Edwin C. Osborne] ran a store on the corner where Walt Pasco's house now stands. Next came James Herrick's house and then John Hockaday had a

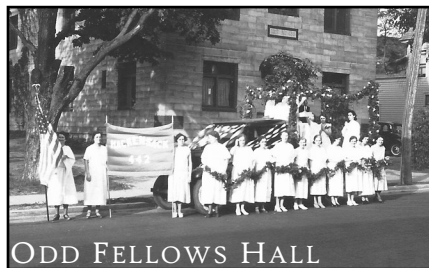


WALTER PASCO

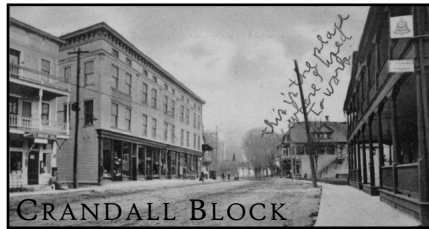
harness shop with a hall upstairs called Hockaday Hall and Charles Granger's barber shop [burned to the ground in 1895]. The Stock Co. used to come and have plays for a week. The Baird Players were one that I can remember. They had a pretty daughter named Maud Baird.

Continuing north, E.S. Crandall had a stone store, which was struck by lightning and burned on July 30, 1887. He built a temporary store on the corner of his lot across from the Odd Fellows Hall. He then built the Crandall Block which burned later.

[At this point Mr. Hayes goes all the way uptown to the Bandstand area].



ODD FELLOWS HALL



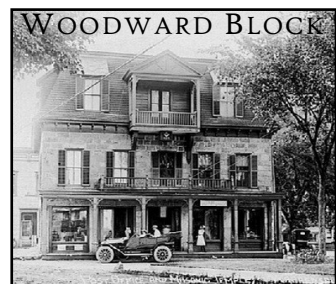
CRANDALL BLOCK

The Post Office was in the Hunt Block before it was in the stone store [Woodward Block] where Dick's gas station is [now Deadwood Mountain Trading Co.]. That was Noxon's Store. George Davidson ran a shoe store in the stone store on the Hudson Street side.

John G. Hunt had a hardware store



HUNT BLOCK

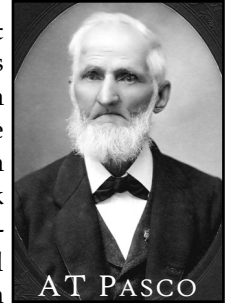


WOODWARD BLOCK

rear with a tin shop on the second floor, facing Hudson Street. The town pump [McNutt

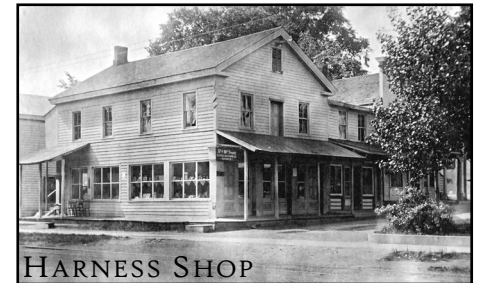
fountain, now on the corner of Hudson and Park streets] was in front of the stone store.

A T Pasco & Son ran a harness shop on the Main St. corner, and the News Office was on the corner of Back Street [Elm St.] facing the bandstand and there was a



A T PASCO

small store between them that changed hands, first a [Wilsey's] meat



HARNESS SHOP

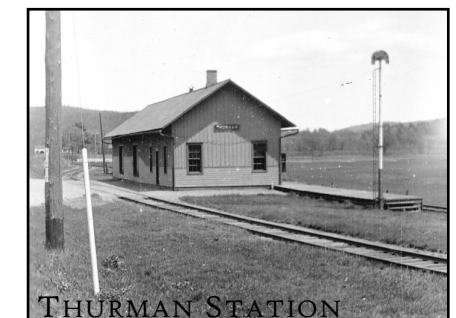
market and a millinery store. Squire [a nickname given him because he was a justice] Dan Aldrich had a store above where Baker Drug store is now [corner of Main and Adirondack Avenue], and L. C. Aldrich Law office was in there with the Thomson store, then O.F. Hammonds Drug Store I have almanacs from Hammonds Store in the 1880's.



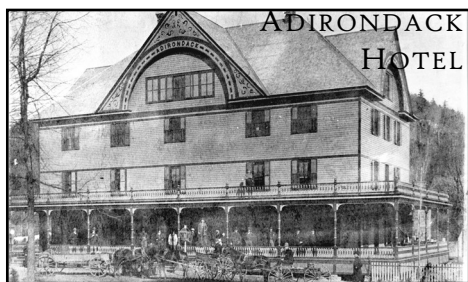
BANDSTAND

Sarah Farlin ran a millinery store about where the bank is now. There were two stage lines to Thurman Station. Denis Bennett ran one and George Lockwood ran the early and evening line. He called his the Blue Line.

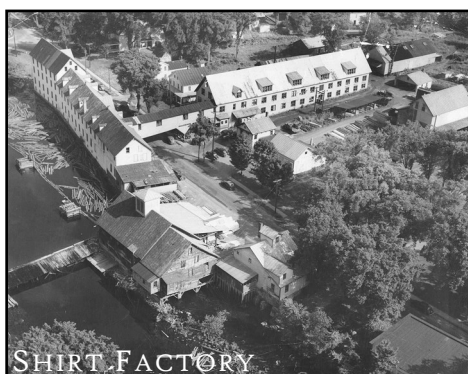
Royal Smith was the first proprietor of the Adirondack Hotel that I recall.



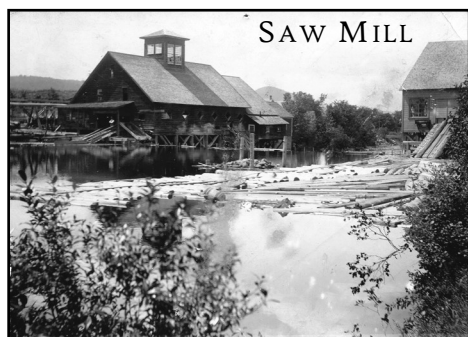
THURMAN STATION



L.W. & James Emerson and Louis Weinman ran the Shirt Factory. They made all white shirts with a bosom and neck band, and used to send the backs and sleeves out to be made. Most every farmer's wife in a radius of 20 miles made those parts. About 1895 or 6 the style change changed and they made negligees with attached collar and hand ironed them and that put the farmers' wives out of business. J.P. Bauman came about that time and made ladies shirtwaists. There must have been about two hundred people working for the two firms.



A.C. Emerson, Ike and Dave Woodward and J. E. Johnson formed the A.C. Emerson Co. and ran the saw mill, sold brick, lime and coal. They drew their brick and lime from Glens Falls and coal from Thurman Station.



My father [Charles Benjamin Hayes] drove team for them and I have gone to Glens Falls with him after lime and

brick. We would leave at five o'clock in the morning, get loaded and back out of the city before noon. We would get ourselves and horses home about six o'clock at night.

You could stop anywhere this side of the old Spinning Wheel and it was about all woods except at French Mountain [3 miles south of Lake George Village] and the Cold Spring Grocery [about two miles north of Route 149 on Route 9] that was this side of the French Mountain House on the old road. You can still find the spring. ♦

TO BE CONTINUED IN THE NEXT
QUARTERLY



WARRENSBURG CENTRAL SCHOOL CLASS OF 1929

By Mark K. Brown

Class Flower - Lilly of the Valley
Class Motto - "TO BE RATHER
THAN TO SEEM"

The Yearbook called "The Cyclone" listed 11 students who graduated in the year 1929. The following is a Brief Account of those Students:

- ♦ Evelyn Brown (My Aunt) - "Mab" was Class Valedictorian, Owner of Class Innocence (Fake) and Class Favorite.
- ♦ Len Carpenter - "Carp" was noted as the Class Sleeper and Class Chauffer.
- ♦ James D. Smith - "Jimmie" was a Member of the WCS Basketball and Baseball teams. He was listed as the Class Nuisance and Owner of Class Sarcasm.
- ♦ Donald Davis - "Don" was a Member of the 1929 Winning Basketball team (2nd place in Adirondack League) and Owner of Class Blushes.
- ♦ Marvin Menshausen - "Mensy" was a Member of the Basketball, Baseball, and Cross Country Teams. He was Class President in 1929, the Class Sheik and Class Heart Breaker.
- ♦ Genevieve Daniel - "Gin" was Vice President of the 1929 Class and was the Class Talking Machine.
- ♦ Nathaniel Lewis - "Live" was Class

Weeper and Class Vamp

- ♦ Carroll A. M'Cuen - "Mick" was a Member of the Basketball team, Class Attorney, and a Basketball Hero.
- ♦ Myrtle Farrar - "Myrt" was the Secretary of the 1929 Class, a Member of the WCS Girls Basketball Team, a Cheerleader, and the Class Prophet and Designer.
- ♦ Marie E. Bruce - "Peg" was Treasurer of the Class of 1929, the Class Historian, and the Owner of Class Ambition.
- ♦ Muriel Lillibridge - "Murlie" was Class Student and Owner of Class Virtue
- ♦ Ruth Cameron, a Faculty member wrote a fitting quote in the back of my Aunt's Yearbook.

"LIVE YOUR LIFE TO ITS FILL
DEAR. WE'RE ONLY HERE ONCE."

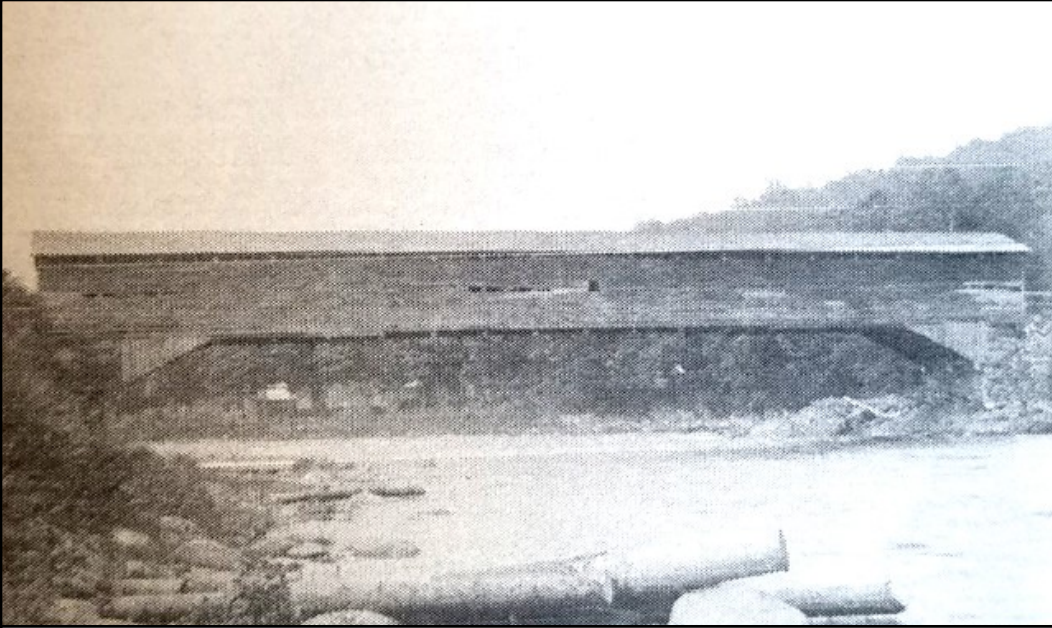


Front row from left: Evelyn Brown, Myrtle Farrar, Genevieve Daniel, Marie Bruce. Back row from left: Natalie Lewis, Len Carpenter, Carroll M'Cuen, Muriel Lillibridge. Missing in photo: Donald Davis, Marvin Menshausen, James D. Smith.

And by the way, Evelyn Brown followed her class notes comments, which said she was going to attend the Glens Falls Teachers Training Class. She went to Plattsburgh, Oneonta, and the National College of Education in Chicago. She returned to WCS and started the first kindergarten class in 1933 where she spent the next 41 years. She continued to keep busy even after retirement. I sure do miss the Sunday night family dinners at her house. Even when I was in college I would sometimes drive 2 hours from Johnson or Burlington, VT with my roommates or friends just for that special dinner. ♦

MYSTERY PHOTO

If you can you identify this Mystery Photo, please email Paul at prg12824@yahoo.com or leave a voicemail at 518-623-3162.



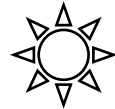
WARRENSBURGH MUSEUM COLLECTION IS NOW ONLINE!

Almost every artifact in our collection can now be viewed online at:

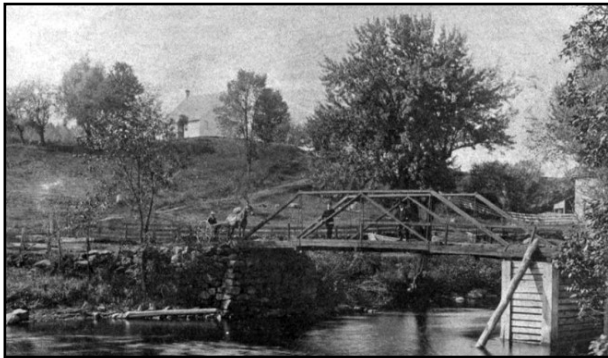
<https://whs12885.pastperfectonline.com>

You can search using keywords or by names of people, places or objects.

Just follow the instructions on the opening page. Please check it out and give us feedback.



LAST ISSUE'S MYSTERY PHOTO ANSWERS



The Mystery Photo in our previous issue was the building that now houses the uptown laundromat and H&R Block. In 1931 it housed the "power & light" company, i.e., Niagara Mohawk for many years before it was taken over by National Grid. Ben Gurney noted that it was earlier known as Niagara Hudson. On the right is the administrative office. On the left is the counter where one could go to pay the monthly electric bill. It was also the showroom for electric appliances which one could purchase - you can see them through the window. Up until 1928 the front part of the building was the passenger waiting room for the trolley. In the back was the trolley freight depot. For many years it was Jim Hull's outdoor (hunting & fishing) sports store.

The Bonus Mystery Photo was of the Judd Bridge and the house on the hill, which is more recently the Kit N Kin Ranch. It had been a dairy farm and then a ski slope with a rope tow directly across the bridge.

Those who correctly identified both photos were: Kevin Geraghty, Suzanne O'Dea, Jack Toney, Ben Gurney, Sarah Farrar, and Sue & Ennis Geraghty in Montana. Tom Remington correctly identified the bridge, as did Tom Roach, who said it had once been a toll bridge.

BONUS MYSTERY PHOTO

Where on Route 9 was this place located? If you know, please email Paul at: prg12824@yahoo.com or leave voicemail at 518-623-3162.

