

# WARRENSBURGH HISTORICAL SOCIETY QUARTERLY

VOLUME 23 ISSUES 2&3

SUMMER/AUTUMN 2018

## WARRENSBURGH HISTORICAL SOCIETY ADDS NEW LOGO

By Steve Parisi

The Warrensburgh Historical Society has unveiled a new logo for its museum. The logo is in the geographical shape of the town, which is like an hourglass, bordered entirely on the west by the Hudson River and partially on the east by the Schroon River, which cuts across the narrow part of the hourglass as it heads west to join the Hudson. The remainder of the eastern border is with Lake George, while its southern border is with Lake Luzerne. The northern border is with Chestertown.

The logo contains the words, "Discover Warrensburgh." Changing public perceptions and attitude towards museums and history have caused re-examination of how an historical society might present itself. Just as the former Adirondack Museum has rebranded itself as the "Adirondack Experience", the Warrensburgh Historical

*Parisi (continued on page A)*

## THE PASSING OF ANOTHER ADIRONDACK GOLF COURSE: 1000 ACRES GOLF CLUB

By Bill Lamy

As you drive along the Warrensburgh Stony Creek Road, just south of the Thurman-Stony Creek Town line, lies a stretch of open flat land along the Hudson River. It is a lovely pastoral setting and often animals are seen grazing. To look at it, one would think it was always pasture. But this simple piece of land has a more detailed history. In 1970 Jack Arehart built a humble 9-hole golf course there and called it 1000 Acres Golf Club. It was a place for golfers of any ability to gather and enjoy the company of others as they played the game of golf.

The first greenskeeper was Donnie Baker who helped build the course. He was followed by Walt Sparks, Lou Zahra and Art Hoffman. Their job was challenging as the course was built in a flood plain and flooded every spring. The maintenance staff was small and they were faced with the annual removal of debris and sand from the course that had been left after the normal spring flooding. They often had to work around huge blocks of ice that drifted onto the course during the spring floods. The greens were large for that era and the putting surfaces were as smooth as any in the area. The holes were fun to

*Lamy (continued on page B)*

## WARRENSBURGH DISTRICT #3 CONSOLIDATES

By Mark K. Brown

I came across a letter from Byron Harrington on the annual meeting of Warrensburgh District #3 taxpayers that was held on May 5, 1931. The usual business was conducted: Chairman elected, report of trustees, votes on spending money for repairs to building and library and who would supply wood for the school. Then Mrs. Lincoln Williams introduced a resolution authorizing the trustees to make arrangements with the Warrensburgh school board of the Union Free School District #1 to take over the pupils in District#3 and also authorizing the trustees to make arrangements for transportation of said children. The resolution was voted on after considerable discussion by raising of hands. The chairman did not vote and there was a tie. After more discussion another vote was taken by the same method and the results this time was 8-6 against the resolution. After more discussion followed Mrs. Williams insisted that a ballot now be taken on the proposition.

The rest is history since District #3 became part of the Warrensburgh Union Free School District #1. Following is a little background. In

*Brown (continued on page B)*

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**PRESIDENT'S COLUMN**

Herewith is a summary of activities of the Society since early last June.

Enrichment T-shirts given to 4th graders at the Elementary School Pride Day ceremony in June - supported by \$500 Stewart's grant.

The Society and Glens Falls National Bank combine each year to award a scholarship of \$300 to a college-bound senior who intends to include history courses in his/her college studies. The award is given at high school graduation ceremonies. The recipient this year was Matt Gerrain. (see photo on p. 3).

Our treasurer Candice Healy was named Chamber of Commerce Citizen of the Year and recognized at the award banquet held at Lizzie Keays Restaurant on June 25.

David Fiske gave a well-attended talk at the museum July 11 on the subject of his book, *Kidnapped! Black New Yorkers Caught in the Slave Trade* (see his photo on p. 3).

Our 22nd annual Sticky Wicket Picnic and Croquet Tournament was held on August 5th at the Fish Hatchery on a perfect summer day. Karen Hanley won the trophy for the second year in a row.

Andy Flynn of Adirondack Attic renown was at the library on August 23rd with his program about artifacts. Several audience members brought artifacts for a show and tell (see photos on page 6). The program was sponsored by the Society and the Library.

We were greatly saddened in September by the passing of Bob Knowles, dependable without peer. Bob was a longtime member of our board of directors, our most reliable museum guide, and was involved in every activity of the Society. By the time of this writing, 30 memorial donations exceeding \$1,600 have been received by the Society from those

*(President, continued on page A)*

**SOCIETY PAGE**

**QUARTERLY EDITORS**

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**MEMBERSHIP**

**Current: 225**

**UPCOMING EVENTS**

**12.11.2018**

Holiday Dinner at Lizzie Keays.  
Social @ 5:00pm – Dinner @ 6:00pm

**IN MEMORIAM**

Robert Knowles



Bob Knowles selling kayak raffle tickets at Farmers Market on hot summer day, 2017

# Board Members

Paul Gilchrist.....President  
Rosemary Maher .....VP  
Candice Healy.....Treasurer  
Margaret McMahan ...Secretary  
Mark Brown  
Dot Langworthy  
Liz Sebald  
Donne-Lynn Winslow  
Sandi Parisi   Town Historian  
Steve Parisi   Museum Director

**BOARD MEETINGS**

The Board of Directors meets at the museum at 6:30 pm on the **FIRST** Wednesday of each month. Call Paul to confirm at 518-623-3162

**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.

**MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION**

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,  
Warrensburgh, N.Y. 12885

**Please Update Your Email**

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

**Warrensburgh Historical Society**

**Website:** www.whs12885.org

**Email:** whs7396@yahoo.com

**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		

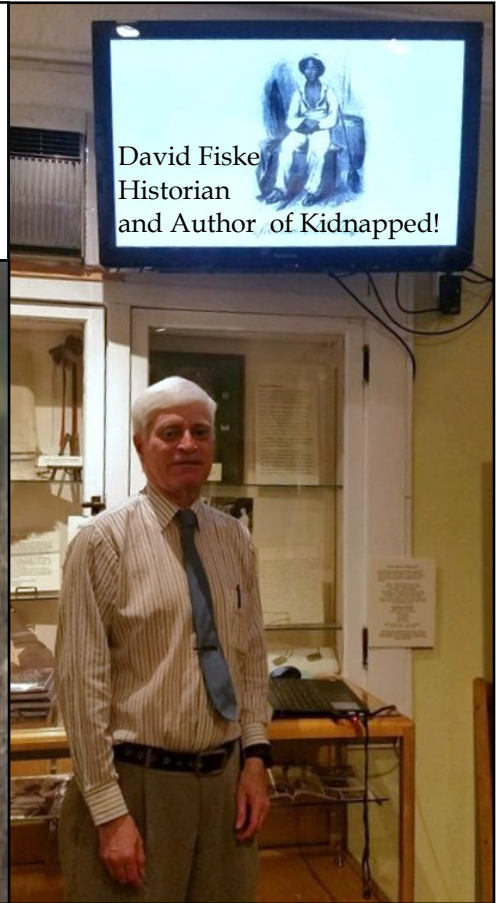
**We welcome and encourage corrections, comments, and additional information as well as articles from our readers**

*Warrensburgh Historical Society Quarterly  
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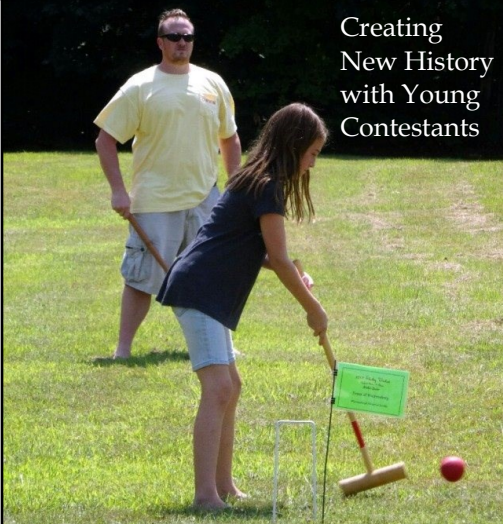
Dear Warrensburgh Historical Society,  
Thank you for honoring me with your scholarship. I promise it will be put to good use in furthering my education.  
-Matt Gerrain



^ Karen Hanley of North Creek was the winner of 2018's Sticky Wicket Croquet Tournament at the Warren County Fish Hatchery on August 5. This was the 22nd annual tournament sponsored by the Warrensburgh Historical Society. Pictured, Karen receives the prestigious and coveted Sticky Wicket trophy presented by Croquetmaster and past champion Brendan Hanley. Karen was also the winner in last year's tournament.



Sticky Wicket Mallet Trick



Creating New History with Young Contestants



Sticky Wicket Picnic





Sticky Wicket Players



^ The 2018 thespian troupe of John Gable, Candice & Aliya Healy, Justin Parker, Adam and Mikelean Allen.

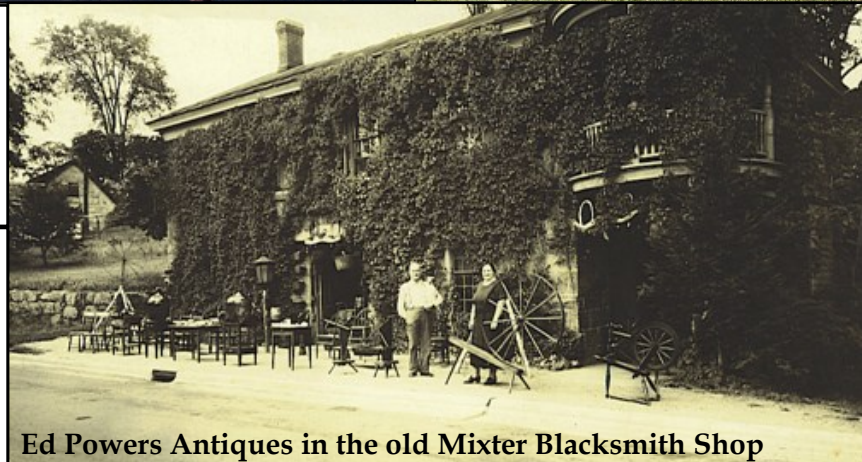
^ John Gable recalls the life of Lee Orton, catcher for the Maplewoods baseball team in the early 20th century and had a brief stint as a professional player in PA. He became Warrensburgh Town Supervisor and Chairman of the Warren County Board of Supervisors for many years.

I. Candice Healy portrays Geneva Kenyon  
II. Joe Anselmo is revived by Adam Allen



^ Thomas Birkholz tells the story of Joe Aiken to Mrs. Gerrain's 5th grade class at the Warrensburgh Cemetery's Military Monument.

The winter exhibit at the museum will feature 20th century toys. If you have toys you would like to display contact Steve Parisi at 623-2928 or 232-7349



Ed Powers Antiques in the old Mixer Blacksmith Shop

^ Mr. Levine's 5th grade class learns about the deadly perils of childhood in the 19th century as they view the small grave-stones of five infants and a five-year-old child who died in the early 1870's. The parents' graves are just off to the left of the photo. Today children are vaccinated against childhood infectious diseases.



The last Quarterly's Mystery Photo featured the stone building (see bottom page 4) on lower Main Street often referred to as the Mixer Blacksmith Shop, built in 1790, according to Jean Hadden. Barns were across the street. The local militia practiced marching in the upstairs room. Ed Powers acquired it for an antiques store in the 1920s, as in the photo. (You can see the trolley tracks in the foreground of the picture. The trolley ceased running in 1928.) From the mid-1940s it was Frances Antiques, which is the name many people still use. The Chamber of Commerce occupied the ground floor for awhile ("ground" is the appropriate word, as it had a dirt floor). If you happen to have the book published by the Warrensburgh Historical Society in 2013 "Warrensburgh New York 200 Years of People, Places and Events," you'll find entries about the building on pages 55 and 111. If you don't have it, it's still on sale for half-price (\$10) at the museum.

Readers who recognized the building (in chronological order) were: Yvonne Miller, Jack Toney, Bill & Linda Lamy, Frank & Linda Bennett, Diane (France) Simpson, Alice Damp, Virginia Morey Pike, Orson (Larry) Richards, Gordon (Rusty MacAlister) McDonnell, Lynn Smith, and Jean Hadden.

Virginia Morey Pike (WCS

'56), who now lives in Corinth, called to say that she and Carol Fleming worked at Frances Antiques, and one of their main duties was to dress in period dresses and stand out in front of the store to attract attention. She sent a photo (below) along with a note that says:

"This photo was taken in the summer of 1952 when I was 14 years old. Carol Fleming is on the left and I'm on the right. We didn't have "foundation" garments which had laces and stays to help us get into those dresses, which smelled something terrible - whew!

"The owners of Frances Antique Shop were Joseph and Frances Carlucci. We worked from 9-6 with an hour off for lunch, which gave me time to walk home at 33 Burdick Avenue and back and still have time for a sandwich. Carol lived across the street from the antique shop with her family in an apartment upstairs. [That would be the Miller Antiques building]. Our other duties were cleaning jewelry, dishes, and other antiques on display, as well as going across the street and dusting the antique furniture. One duty I didn't like was washing Joe's socks.

"I worked there for two years and paid for my own shoes, school clothes, etc. and still saved money in a savings account. We were paid \$15 a



week the first year and \$20 the second year, and Social Security was deducted from our wages. Frances told me the building had [originally] been a blacksmith shop with family living quarters upstairs."

Virginia remembers the mannequin dressed in a 19th century dress that also was placed out in front of shop next to the street to attract customers. The mannequin was a fixture there for many years—almost a landmark of the town. Warrensburgh has long been a great center of the antiques trade.

## Mystery Photo

Can you identify this mystery photo? →

If so contact Paul Gilchrist

Email  
prg12824@yahoo.com

Or

Voice mail  
518-623-3162







^ Wendell Beadnell talks with guides Bob and Judy Korcz back at the museum after the 1st Graveyard Walk on September 21st.



< Jim Lieberum talks with Steve Parisi after Jim's program on "Historical Perspective on Erosion and Hazard Mitigation" at the museum on October 23rd. Jim is the District Manager of the Soil and Water Conservation District.



^ At Andy Flynn's *Adirondack Attic* program on Aug. 23rd at the library, there was opportunity for those attending to show-and-tell an item they had brought. Museum Director Steve Parisi displays a clamp for holding leather while it is being worked on.



^ WHS Board Member Liz Sebald holds a Dibble Stick used for corn planting that she brought to Andy Flynn's *Adirondack Attic* program. The pointed end pokes a hole in the ground for planting the seed. A 3ft. arm (barely visible in the photo) extends off the bottom of the stick to mark the spot for the next hole at the proper distance.



^ Mark Semon, (right), WHS '71 had the winning raffle ticket for the Old Town kayaks. Here, he and his brother prepare to take them away the day after the World's Largest Garage Sale. Mark lives in Warrensburg.

The audience at Andy Flynn's *Adirondack Attic* program in the library's community room, sponsored by the Society and the library.



^ Donne Lynn Winslow and Dot Langworthy sell kayak raffle tickets at the 2018 World's Largest Garage Sale on Sunday, September 30.

## *Thinking about Holiday gift- giving?*

How about books  
from the Museum's  
Book Corner?

Thanks to the generosity of  
several authors, we are able  
to offer special discounts for  
the season.

**Adirondack Gold** by Persis Granger  
A fictional story of a young boy, Hollis, sent to  
Thurman to live with his grandfather around  
1895. For young and old alike. Reg. \$10.00

**A Summer of Strangers** by Persis  
Granger Set in Thurman around 1898, the  
story is a continuation of Adirondack Gold's  
Hollis and the strangers that arrived on the  
train and influenced his life. Reg. \$12.00

**Buy both for \$14.00 incl. tax!**

### **Haunted Warren County**

by David Pitkin. Seven ghost stories in  
Warrensburg alone. Fascinating! Reg. \$18.00

**Holiday Special \$10.00 incl. tax**

**Warrensburg: 200 Years of People,  
Places and Events** A 176-page  
encyclopedia of Warrensburg with over  
290 photos!

**Was \$20.00 - NOW \$10.00**

**A Stitch in Time - Memories of the  
Empire Shirt Factory** Interviews with  
Abbie Hastings by John Hastings; and Elda  
Monroe by Jane Infantino. **\$5.00**

### **NEW: A Grandmother's Memories**

by Abbie Hastings 90 pages of Life in Warrens-  
burg, Lake George and Corinth in the early 1900's,  
with photos and a four- generation ancestry. (Incl.  
the first two books, PLUS Even More!) **\$12.00**

**See more books at [www.whs12885.org](http://www.whs12885.org)**

Order by mail or pick up at the Museum  
and save shipping. All prices include tax.  
Shipping: \$3.00 for first book plus \$.60  
for each additional book. Send check  
payable to Warrensburgh Historical society  
for total order including shipping to:

P. O. Box 441,  
Warrensburg, NY 12885

Warrensburgh Historical Society's  
22<sup>nd</sup> Annual

## STICKY WICKET

### Croquet Competition & Picnic

AT THE FISH HATCHERY SUNDAY, AUGUST 05<sup>TH</sup> 2018

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

**FIRST PLACE WINNER: KAREN HANLEY**

*Our thanks to the following sponsors:*

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### Cronin's Golf Resort

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George Henry's \* Glen Hudson Campsite \* Glens Falls National Bank  
Hometown Oil \* Krystal Chrysler Jeep Dodge \* Lizzie Keays Restaurant  
\*Luck-E-Star Restaurant \* Merrill-Magee Inn  
Nemec's Sports Shop and Farm & Garden Center  
New Way Lunch of Warrensburg \* Oscar's Hickory House  
Raluca Sandler DDS \* Ray's Liquor Store \* Riverside Gallery  
Seasons Bed and Breakfast \* Stephenson Lumber \* Town of Warrensburg  
\*Upstate Insurance Agency \* Warren Ford  
Warrensburg Chiropractic Health & Wellness Center  
Warrensburg Central School \* Warrensburg Chamber of Commerce  
Warrensburg Volunteer Fire Co.

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Heaven on Earth \* Miller's Antiques and More \* Mud Street Maple  
New Beginnings Hair Salon \* Stork Road Farm\* Willows Bistro

*These local businesses support our efforts to preserve  
Warrensburg's history. Please tell them how much you  
appreciate it when you shop there!*

## WARRENSBURGH HISTORICAL SOCIETY





WARRENSBURGH HISTORICAL SOCIETY  
 P.O. BOX 441  
 WARRENSBURG, NY 12885

## MEMBER ADDRESS

### Remembering Robert "Bob" Knowles

Robert "Bob" Knowles, husband of Warrensburgh Beautification Inc. Secretary and Board Member Peggy Knowles, passed on September 18, 2018. Bob had suffered with Parkinson's disease, and earlier this year was diagnosed with cancer. Bob was a fighter and continued to attend our farmers' market every week including the Friday before he passed, helping us when he could and showing his support.

Since moving to Warrensburgh in 2006, Bob and Peggy have been a vital part of our community; volunteering on both our Beautification and Historical Society Boards and St. Cecilia's Church; attending Town Board meetings on a regular basis; and helping wherever needed. Even before moving to Warrensburgh, Bob and Peggy were on the Board of Hickory Ski Center (Bob was also Board President) and would drive up from Scotia to clear trails and ski with their young family.

Bob was an award winning teacher and a student of history. He loved to garden and had a deep appreciation for the outdoors. As an expression of our gratitude for the constant support that Bob and Peggy have given to our organization, Warrensburgh Beautification will dedicate a tree in the Spring of 2019 to Bob's memory.

Teresa A. Whalen, Chairperson -Warrensburgh Beautification Inc.

