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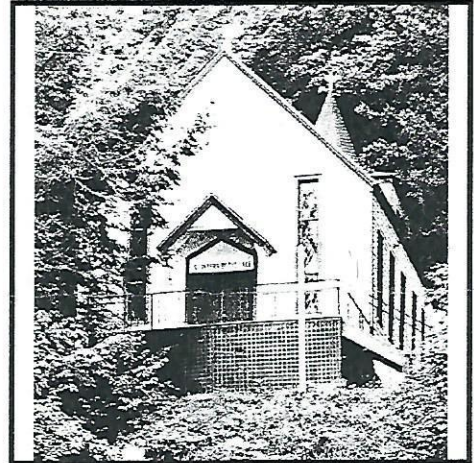
Director
 Peg Masters

From the Director's Desk

TOWN OF WEBB HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION
 BOX 513, OLD FORGE, NY 13420
 PHONE: 315 369-3888

An Invitation to our 3rd Annual Victorian Holiday Open House – Sunday, December 2nd - 1-3 pm

The new exhibit for our December 2, 2001 Victorian Holiday Open House is called "God's Country" and tells the remarkable history of the churches in Old Forge, Big Moose, Otter Lake, The Fulton Chain, Inlet and Raquette Lake. For over 100 years, people of all faiths have gathered within the walls of these historic buildings to share life's most significant moments - weddings, anniversaries, christenings, and farewells to loved ones. Thousands of parishioners and visitors have worshipped together at services, made and renewed friendships, served on community projects, and shared spiritual fellowship. Discover which church is the oldest, who designed or built them, and which ones the congregations came to by boat! We take for granted that they will always be here, but several of these historic dwellings may not survive the next decade – without some help! The Open House at the Goodsell Museum is our way to thank you, our members, for the support you give us each year! We'll be serving delicious refreshments and hope you'll join us singing a few Christmas carols around an antique pump organ. The "God's Country" exhibit will remain open through Labor Day for our summer members and visitors to enjoy.



St. Peter's By the Lake
 Built in 1905 by Chris Goodsell on land donated by Dr. Webb

Memorial Donations 2001

A. Richard Cohen*, Bertha Foster, Betty Pulling, Bill Charbonneau, Bob Heim, Chris Seymour, Curley Deis, Joan Ehrensbeck Brady, Daphne Wilcox, Dorothy & Ken Rivett, Dorothy Gifford, Dr. & Mrs. Robert Warner, Earl & Frances Covey, The Egan Family, Evelyn Russell Smith, Florence & Benjamin Kurtzman, George Sponable, The Hafner Family, Harold "Yock" Youmans, Hazel Scheidelman, Helen Kipp, Helen Kuzio, Jack & John Chaffee, James Keyser, Jean Titus Cardner, John & Jane Roberts, Kay Towne, Peter Rivet, Joe Rivette, Laurel Johnson, Larry Payne, Lelia & Jay Barker, Marie Vanderveer, Meyer Cohen, Michael Codega, The Minnie Family, Naomi & Bill Weedmark, Oma V. Glazier, Paul & Carolyn Chapman, Philis Parson, Rita Dennison, Robert Fedder, Robert Nash, Robert R. Pratt, Robert Searing, Jr., Ronald Soltys, Shirley Zornow, William Santangelo, and Patrick Harney*

*Lifetime Members of the Association

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Correspondence from our Mailbag

Director's Note: This new column will feature items from my mail and email. Four years ago, while doing research for Main Street walking tours, I noticed a sign for Lamberton St. next to the Old Forge Firehall. Despite all my inquires, no one could tell me the origin of the name. The 1898 tax records for the Webb Township - posted on our website - listed a great deal of the property in the heart of Old Forge as part of the "Lamberton Estate".

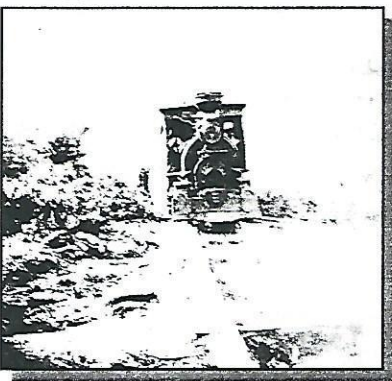
Eunice B. Lamberton, according to "Up Old Forge Way", at one time owned most of the land surrounding the 1300 acre former Crosby & Garmon property —The Forge House. Thanks to the power of the Internet, **Harold Wilson** located our website and sent the following history, for which I am sincerely grateful.



Alexander B. Lamberton was born in Rich Hill, KIilmore Parish, Armagh, Ireland, in 1839. He was the brother of my Great Grandmother, Mary Ann Lamberton Wilson and at onetime a Presbyterian Minister. His parents, Alexander Lamberton and Ann Jane Chambers, were originally from Scotland, but the family emigrated from Ireland about 1841. (Plattsburgh and Mooers Forks, NY) Alexander B. was in real estate and owned lumber mills in NY and Canada. He was a wealthy "hunter/naturalist" who

was recognized as one of the nation's first conservationist. He traveled the world hunting, fishing, snow skiing, and wrote some articles for an outdoor magazine of that time called "Forest and Stream". Alexander eventually moved to the Rochester, NY area where he lived until his death in 1919.

In 1864 he married Eunice B. Starbuck, widow of Obed Hussey - an inventor of a mowing machine and reaper. The Lambertons raised two daughters in addition to a daughter from her marriage to Hussey. Alexander B. was once the Mayor of Rochester, President of the Rochester Chamber of Commerce, President of the Rochester Sportsman's Club, and long time President of the Board of Rochester Parks and Recreation. In 1910, his sister-in-law donated \$20,000.00 to the city to erect a flower conservatory in his honor. The "Lamberton Conservatory" still stands in Highland Park in Rochester. It is well maintained and is the center of the world famous Lilac Festival in Highland Park each year. Eunice Starbuck Hussey Lamberton died before Alexander in 1898. She left a sizable estate. *Harold W. Wilson, ElDorado Springs, MO*



Collections

Wonderful artifacts have been donated to the Association this year including the rare photo above of the "Peg Leg" railroad from Patty Foley. A number of these new items will be on display at the Open House December 2nd. We are always in need of volunteers to help us with cataloging, especially during the winter months. Call us at 369-3838 if you can lend a hand.

Membership Drive

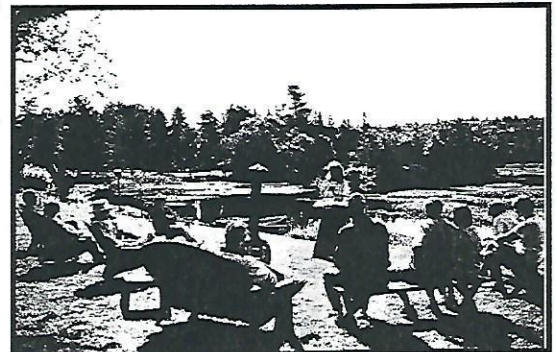
\$7,758 of our \$9,500 goal set by the finance committee has been donated to the Association since May 1st. Dues for this year can be paid up to April 2002. On behalf of the Board of Trustees, thank you for renewing each year and we wish everyone a **Happy Holiday Season!**

Sharing our Heritage

We've had a splendid summer greeting many visitors, giving several group tours, slide show presentations, and sharing our history with researchers, authors, and several business owners. Our historic photos add nostalgia and pride in our unique heritage when added to area business websites and brochures. Two of our steamboat photos were in the fall **Adirondack Life** issue. Numerous folks, including several teachers, have commented favorably on the research and photos we provide for many of Ken Sprague's "History & Heritage" columns in the **Express**. Story ideas are always welcomed.

My greatest enjoyment, I must admit – were the walking tours each Saturday this past summer in **Historic THENDARA**. A big part of the fun is the research process and I cannot thank enough the kindness provided to me during interviews with Ceil Buckley, Betty Rannels, Barb and Reed Proper, Pat Morin, Daryl Carman, Bootie Kokernot, Muriel Marvin, and Stuart deCamp. Many others were a phone call away and shared family photos and histories. I would especially like to thank **Kathy and Paul Rivet** who graciously allowed us to gather on the porch of **Van Auken's** – what a setting!

... and to **Stuart deCamp** for the cozy chairs along the Moose River waterfront! As always, I am grateful to Joan Armstrong who manned the Goodsell museum during the tours. To all of you who joined me, my heartfelt thanks. See you next summer on an **ALL NEW TOUR!**



Peg Masters, Director

Moose River Waterfront – Walking Tours

Traces of the Past – Pioneer Families – “The Tinware Peddler”

Moses Cohen was born in a small Lithuanian town in 1874. As a child, he learned to read from a Hebrew bible and wrote Jewish script from right to left. His older brother David was the first to leave for freedom in America in 1888. Young Moses traveled with his father to a community thirty miles away to buy poultry, eggs and grain that they brought back to sell in the local villages. The trip usually took three days. From his parents, he learned the values of honesty, diligence, and fair dealing.

Facing compulsory service in the Russian military, Moses sadly left his parents and homeland in 1890 at the age of sixteen to follow David to America. Traveling to Hamburg by rail, he then sailed to New York City with a steerage ticket and took a train to Dannemora, NY. His new life began in the rugged woodland of the northern Adirondack Mountains.

No one but his immediate family spoke his language. David was a peddler merchant. Moses too put a pack on his back and peddled tinware, notions, and drygoods from house to house. His pack weighed from 80-100 lbs. and was loaded with pots and pans, socks and underwear, checkered tablecloths, men's shirts and women's wrappers. He also carried a valise strapped around his middle filled with sewing notions such as buttons, elastic, thread, pins and needles. Lodging and food cost him fifty cents a night and he often paid for them with items from the pack. Many nights during the winter, he slept in barns with blankets from his pack to keep him warm. Sometimes he would encounter signs that read "No dogs or peddlers welcomed" but most of his customers were friendly and respected his fairness and grit. Several showed him great kindness and became lifelong friends.

The sales route took three weeks to walk and lay along the Saranac River. Two years later he had enough money saved to buy a horse and cart. Later, with three hundred dollars as a deposit, he and his brother David bought a hardware store in Bloomingdale, NY. Since neither knew the language well, farmers had to go to the shelves to point to what they wanted. To supplement their meager earnings, Moses mastered the craft of tinwork and repaired kettles, pots and roofs. A mended kettle was greatly appreciated by pioneer housewives in those days. Moses Cohen eventually sold out his interest in the Bloomingdale store to his brother.

Moses and his wife came to Old Forge in 1900, impressed with beauty of the place and its possibilities. The young merchant rode into town behind a sorry looking nag with his worldly possessions crammed into a cart lined with cowbells announcing his arrival. One bystander is remembered as saying — "That nag won't have the power to pull him out of town."



Moses Cohen



The three-story building before it burned in 1922.

The legendary Hardware Store has become one of the premiere tourist attractions in the region and celebrated its Centennial Anniversary in 2000. It is still owned and operated by the Cohen family to this day.

Little did early residents know that Moses was in the right place at the right time. He set up operations from two rooms he rented at the Forge House for \$15.00 a month. From 1900 to 1920, three lumber plants ran at full capacity to meet the exploding lumber and building demands. Moses walked to all the hotels and camps for orders -- from Old Forge to Inlet and in the spring from Eagle Bay to the Big Moose region. He tramped to the Morgan Camp, the Vanderbilt's Camp Sagamore, and Woodruff's Camp Killkare. All were good customers of his.

It wasn't long before he purchased a lot and built his corner store, The Old Forge Hardware and Furnishings Company for \$10,000 -- an enormous amount of money at the time. It was destroyed May 10, 1922 when a raging fire in an adjacent poolroom spread to his building and threatened the entire hamlet. The financial loss was devastating but Moses rebuilt. He was a founding member and director of the first bank in Old Forge, a fifty-year plus member of the Northwoods Masonic Lodge and founding director of the Adirondack Museum in Blue Mt. The penniless boy from Russia believed in investing his money in the Adirondacks and bought real estate with his savings, eventually becoming one of the largest landowners in the region. Together with his son, A. Richard Cohen and others, he helped bring a ski center to Old Forge, built the Forge Motel, the Enchanted Forest and Howard Johnson's. In 1976, A. Richard Cohen donated the family Crosby Blvd. home to the community for a library in memory of his father.

COMING EVENTS

On the Web!

If you know of a friend or relative who would like a copy of our newsletter, contact us by mail or send them our website address. It is online at www.masterpieces.com/history/

- Holiday Bazaar – Nov. 17 from 12-4

- Board Meetings – 3rd Tues. each month, 7 pm at the Goodsell Memorial Home
- **Holiday Open House – Sunday, Dec. 2nd, 1-3 Goodsell Memorial House**
- Slideshow – "Journey to the End of the Earth – Antarctica" by Peg Masters, February TBA

The Association is open-year round Tuesdays, Thursdays & Saturdays 9-2
FREE TO THE PUBLIC

Hemmer Cottage

The Association supports the Ad-Hoc Hemmer Cottage Team's effort to preserve Cottage Kent on Park Ave. Marcia Barker is offering a Cat's Meow Limited Edition model of the cottage available at Twin Oaks Gift Shop. All profits will be donated to the preservation fund.