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90th Anniversary—Thendara Golf Club

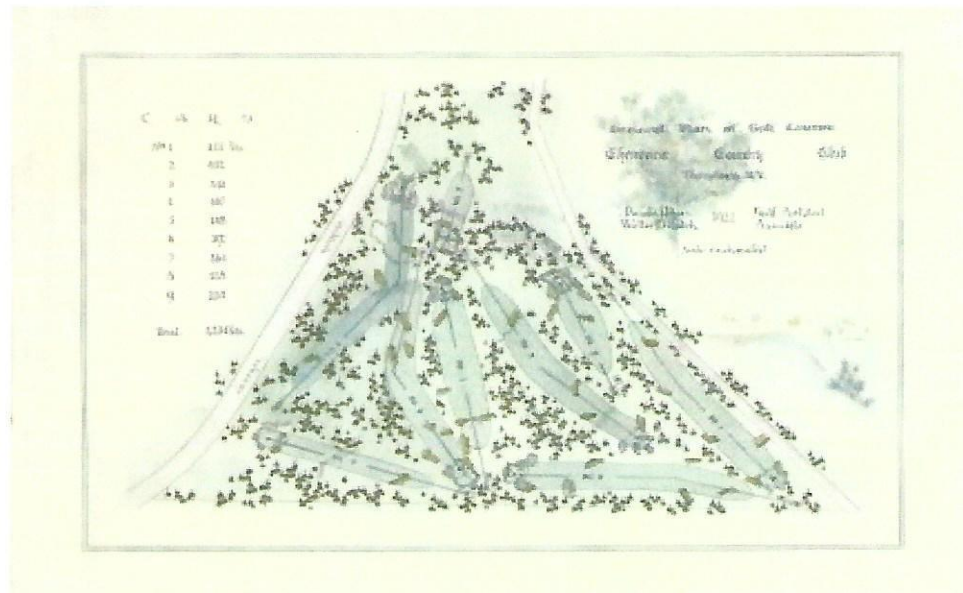
A temporary exhibit in the Webb Room on the second floor of the Goodsell Museum will display information, photographs, trophies, and interesting items relating to the Thendara Golf Club to honor their 90th Anniversary. This exhibit will be in place through the fall of this year.

The Thendara Golf Club, Inc. was formed on May 18, 1921 to operate and maintain a proposed nine hole golf course and building on land owned by The Western Adirondack Golf Corporation (est. April 22, 1921). The land was obtained from Ga-Wan-Ka Inc., a land development company in Thendara whose president at that time was Lyon deCamp.

The original nine hole course was designed by landscape architect Donald J. Ross and constructed under the direction of E. J. Buryne. The course opened in the spring of 1922. Construction of the second nine holes began in 1956 under the direction of Joseph Lindsay, of Hall and Lindsay, Inc., and was designed by landscape architect Russell Bailey. The Club's current 18-hole course has a par of 72, is open to the public and holds private membership as well. The course is open, weather permitting, May 1 through early October.

The first 'club house' was a simple tent according to information found in the files at the Town of Webb Historical Association. The second club house was an Oriental style building designed by the architect Harold Van Buren Magonigle. The current club house was built in 1965. The Historical Association has blueprints of the proposed club house revised September 2, 1964 by N. H. Goldsworthy, Thendara, that indicate Robert M. Watson, General Contractor, Old Forge.

Reproduced prints of the general plans for the proposed golf course, dated 1921, are available at the Goodsell Museum gift shop. Two similar designs are available. The color print is available in two sizes, 36" x 24" for \$50 and 18" x 13" for \$25; and an 18" x 13" black and white design for \$15 (all plus tax).



From the Director's Desk

TOWN OF WEBB HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION
PO BOX 513, OLD FORGE, NY 13420
PHONE: 315 369-3838

FIRST FRIDAY ART WALK

The Goodsell Museum will be promoting art-in-history during the First Friday Art Walks. The museum will be open during the first Friday of each month, June - October with extended hours 5-8 PM and special displays.

Our schedule is not final at this time, although we do know we plan to display photographs of local architecture; selections from our collection of McKenney-Hall American Indian lithographs that once hung in the former Mohawk Hotel (currently Camp Mark Seven); art, photographs, and items relating to fish or fishing; and a display of vintage quilts as an art form.

Several area businesses and organizations also participating in First Friday Art Walk include: Gallery 3040, The Artworks, Starving Artists, Ozzie's Coffee Bar, 5-Corners Café, Wrap City 'N Glue, Gallery North and the Old Forge Library.



MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS

It is never too late to send in your membership renewal. We can continue our valuable work only by the generosity of others and your support of our mission. Our membership year runs January-December.

If you are uncertain of your membership status, please give us a call at 315-369-3838 or email director@webbhistory.org.

Thank You

OUR MISSION

To preserve, protect, restore, and exhibit objects and properties of historic, natural and antiquarian interest for the education and enjoyment of the public.

2011 Coming Events

May 17—*Annual Meeting Town of Webb Historical Association* 7 PM, Election of new or renewing Trustees, By-Law changes, refreshments, Goodsell Museum.

May 27 and 28 — *Memorial Day Sale* 9-4 PM, Items donated to the Historical Association to be sold to benefit the Goodsell Museum Fuel Fund. Under the tent and in the barn (behind the museum—Gilbert St. side driveway)

May 29— *Open House* NOON—3 PM, Stop by the Goodsell Museum anytime for a tour and refreshments.

June 3—*First Friday Art Walk* 5-8 PM Subject To Be Announced—watch the local newspapers for more information

June 16—*Adirondack Ice* 7:00 PM, Program presented by and based on the book “Adirondack Ice, a Cultural and Natural History”, Caperton Tissot—author. Sponsored by the Historical Association and held at the Old Forge Library, Crosby Blvd. Donations appreciated.

July 1—*First Friday Art Walk* 5-8 PM Subject To Be Announced—watch the local newspapers for more information. .

July 7—*Moss Lake Walking Tour* Leave from Moss Lake trail-head 9:30 AM rain or shine, narrated 2 1/2 hour walk around the lake. Led by Geof Longstaff. Pre-registration is required, space is limited. Donations appreciated.

July 9—*Benefit Auction* Preview and registration 1 PM, bidding starts at 2 PM. Antiques, collectibles, new, and nearly new items. Bring a chair—refreshments available. Held under the tent at the Goodsell Museum.

CHECK OUR WEBSITE FOR PHOTOS

www.webbhistory.org

July 13—*Climbing Your Family Tree* 7 PM Genealogy talk presented by Richard Williams at the Goodsell Museum. Pre-registration is suggested.

August 1—*Victorian Party on the Porch* 2-4 PM Fundraiser—refreshments, silent auction, entertainment. Held at the Goodsell Museum, admission \$15 per person

August 3—*Civil War Program* 6:30-9 PM Held at the Thendara Town Hall. See complete description on page 3. Donation \$3.

August 5—*First Friday Art Walk* 5-8 PM Subject To Be Announced—watch the local newspapers for more information.

August 11—*Moss Lake Walking Tour* Leave from Moss Lake trail-head 9:30 AM rain or shine, narrated 2 1/2 hour walk around the lake. Led by Geof Longstaff. Pre-registration is required, space is limited. Donations appreciated.

CIVIL WAR PROGRAM

Wednesday, August 3, 2011—6:30 PM

At the Thendara Town Hall

2011 marks the 150th anniversary of the beginning of the Civil War, a war that would

Bruce Bonfield, Old Forge and Naples, Florida, will present a program “The American Civil War—A Soldier’s Story”, based upon the Civil War letters and diary of Lt. Gilbert Cooley, a soldier in Company ‘D’ of the 21st Iowa Volunteer Infantry that fought out West in the Civil War. Bonfield, is the great-great-grandson of Lt. Cooley and has written the book “Make the Rebels Bawl” on this topic. Bonfield will include background on the battles, marches, and camp life in the 21st Iowa, along with showing previously unpublished period photographs and maps from his book.



“Make the Rebels Bawl”

Lt. Gilbert Cooley
Company ‘D’
21st Iowa Volunteer Infantry

By Bruce Bonfield

After a brief intermission and refreshments, Town Historian, Peg Masters will present a program “The Civil War Veterans of Brown’s Tract”, a slideshow illustrating the military and biographical histories of local guides, hotel proprietors, and Brown’s Tract property owners who served in the Civil War.

We hope you will join us at the restored Thendara Town Hall located next to VanAuken’s Inn in Thendara on Wednesday, August 3rd at 6:30 PM. The fee for this program is \$3.

(New York State officially recognized and created a “Thendara Historic District” that includes the Thendara Town Hall and VanAuken’s Inn on September 29, 2010 and then was listed on the National Register on November 10, 2010.)

Kayak Raffle

YOU could be the lucky owner of this Swift, 12-foot, black, carbon fiber Kayak, life vest, and carbon fiber paddle!

Raffle tickets are available for \$5 each at the Goodsell Museum, from any Trustee (names listed on the front page), local businesses, and at many events during the year.

Or, send a SASE and a check payable to TOWHA for tickets. The drawing will be on a date in September, 2011 to be announced.



SALE—SALE—SALE TO BENEFIT OUR FUEL FUND

The Historical Association will be participating in the town-wide Garage Sale during the Memorial Day weekend by holding a sale in front of the barn located behind the Goodsell Museum (driveway located on Gilbert Street) on Friday, May 27 and Saturday, May 28—9 AM - 4 PM.

We are currently looking for donations of clean, usable, table-top items (no clothes please). Avoid the hassle of set up, pricing, and staffing your own sale and help TOWHA instead. Call 369-3838 for pick-up or drop-off times.

Floating Letters—The Town of Webb’s Mail Boats—Over 100 Years of Postal Tradition and Summer Fun

Current exhibit on display through
October, 2011

ILVEOLDFORGE.COM

Where To See What's Goin' On

Capital Improvement Project

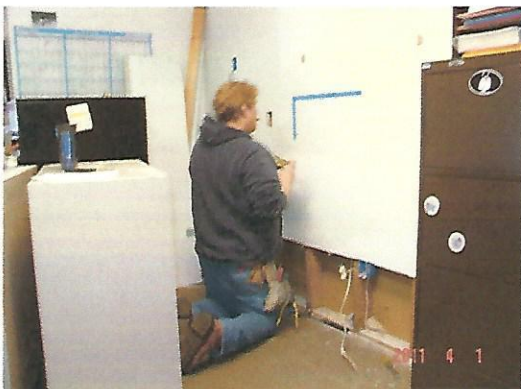
The Town of Webb Historical Association was awarded a grant from The Community Foundation of Herkimer and Oneida Counties, Inc. in January of this year, for a capital improvement project. The funds came from the Robert R. and June F. Farrington Fund and the General Fund of The Community Foundation. Money was used to purchase custom-made cabinets to be installed in the business office of the Historical Association located in the Goodsell Museum. Middle Branch Woodworkers, a local business, may have already installed the new cabinets by the time you read this.

Additional projects were required to prepare the room for the new cabinets. Those projects were funded by leftover funds from the Main Street Grant solicitation and in-kind service.

Local painter, Bob Kennerknecht (below), donated his time and talent and painted the office, new cabinets, and adjacent restroom.



Electrician, Joe Stefanko (below), was hired to move electrical and phone outlets in preparation for the new cabinets. Unexpected additional work was donated in-kind.



VOLUNTEERS

The Historical Association is very grateful for the many volunteers who have put in countless hours on a variety of projects. For example, Dave Clark has completed a research project and has compiled information about the Town of Webb Schools soccer and track teams, players and coaches; Therese Capone comes in almost daily and helps organize our files in the research room; Mary Denn and Sally Vaughn continue to help with the photo collections, data input, and special projects; Nancy Jo and Jack Reed have put many volunteer hours into organizing garage sale and auction items stored in our basement and barn; Terry Rozycki, Deb Evans and Betty Rannels work on the Museum Committee and develop new displays and exhibits; Donna Lynch has put many hours in scanning our collection of postcards for input in our museum computer software; Ellen Wilcox, Terry Olsen, Ash and Lynda Kellogg and George Hildebrandt continue to work on photo identification as time permits; John Munyan helps with our office space arrangement and woodworking projects; Deb Munyan stops by to work on our map collection and Mary Hofer recently helped with a special project.

This list is certainly not complete. Many more people and our Board of Trustees continue to volunteer and help with fundraising events and outreach opportunities. We also look forward to the return of our seasonal volunteers as the weather warms.

The work at the Historical Association will never be done because history is constantly being made. We will continue to collect, preserve, and protect our history and serve the community. If this sounds like fun and something you might want to do, please join us as a volunteer. We would be very grateful.

We are better because of the help and friendship of our volunteers.

Goodsell Museum
2993 Main Street—Old Forge
OPEN: Tuesday—Saturday
10 AM– 3 PM or by Appointment
315-369-3838
www.webbhistory.org

The Civil War Veterans of Brown's Tract

By Peg Masters, Town of Webb Historian



SAM DUNAKIN

Legendary Adirondack guide Samuel Dunakin was listed in the 1860 Federal Census as one of eleven residents living in two households in the most remote northern section of Herkimer County, known then as Brown's Tract. Three weeks after the first shots of the Civil War were fired at Fort Sumter in Charleston Harbor on April 12, 1861, Sam signed up to serve two years with Co. E of the 22nd NY Volunteers. Thus, one of the least settled areas in the State, present day Town of Webb, was not spared from sending one of its own to the bloodiest war ever fought in American history.

Dunakin and other veterans came to Brown's Tract after the war, seeking a peaceful refuge in contrast to their horrific experiences on the battlefields. Having grown accustomed to the rigors and comradery of camp life, the thick forests and pristine waterways provide a perfect place to renew their faith in mankind, heal their war-torn bodies, and find solitude and rest.

Some of the veterans like Sam Dunakin, Jack Sheppard, Augustus "Gus" Syphert, John Commerford, and H. Dwight Grant carved out a living guiding sportsmen for decades into the Tract in the late 19th Century. Gus and his wife May Syphert established a tourist lodge on Fourth Lake called Crystal Springs Camp next door to 121st Reg. veteran George A. May's Cold Spring's Camp, near the Shoal Point Lighthouse on Fourth Lake today. Nearby Rev. Isaac Gibbard, Chaplain for the 143rd NY Volunteers, built his summer home called Stone Cottage.

Several Civil War veterans connected to Brown's Tract were well-known such as Gen. Benjamin Harrison who built a retreat on the South Shore of First Lake in 1896 and Rev. Dr. Samuel Niccolls, a resident of St. Louis. Dr. Niccolls served as a Chaplain with the 175th Pennsylvania Infantry, spent 54 years summering in Brown's Tract, and died on a fishing trip here in 1915 just days after celebrating his 51st wedding anniversary. C. Sanford Sperry, Joel T. Comstock, and Alexander Briggs were Civil War veterans that hosted thousands of visitors while proprietors at the most popular hostelry in the region, the Forge House.

One of the most poignant veteran stories is that of Josiah Helmer who enlisted at the age of 19 for three years of service in the 146th NYS Regiment on August 29, 1862 at Boonville, NY. The regiment fought its first battle at Fredericksburg, suffered heavily at Chancellorsville, and participated gallantly at Gettysburg in July 1863. The severest fighting occurred at the Battle of the Wilderness on May 5, 1864. That night, the survivors lined up in their tattered uniforms under their bullet-ridden flag for the saddest roll call in the history of the regiment. Only 10 of the commissioned officers out of 24 and 254 of the 556 enlisted men responded to their names. In the confusion and disorganization, Josiah Helmer was reported killed in the battle. Several days later, his name appeared in a New York newspaper as one of the Union prisoners taken to a rebel hospital at Locust Grove, VA. Josiah spent seven months at Florence Prison in South Carolina, hastily built by slaves for the Confederate authorities to keep the prisoners out of the way from Sherman's invading forces.

Although nearly 3,000 prisoners died there that winter, Josiah survived and was mustered out in the spring of 1865. He returned to Boonville where he married Florence A. Grant in 1868, the sister of H. Dwight Grant. As early as 1872 he was listed as a guide for hire from Boonville and he also kept horses for ladies and invalids heading into Brown's Tract. Florence Helmer gave birth to a daughter, Nellie in 1872 and a son Francis in 1875. Two months later she died at the age of 31. His sister Mary, the wife of Civil War veteran George Noble, helped Josiah raise his two young children. In December of 1892, young Francis Helmer, who had taken a position at Edmund Abbott's new store in Old Forge, accidentally shot himself in the hip and abdomen while hunting for rabbits near the Hellgate Ponds, present day Okara Lakes. His father Josiah, living in the woods at the time, hurried to his son's side but recovery was impossible and the poor lad died the following day. Less than six months later in late May of 1893, Josiah was presumed drowned when his empty boat was found adrift near the Power's Camp on Fourth Lake.

For more on the Brown's Tract veterans, plan to join us at the Historical Association's program at the Thendara Town Hall on August 3rd in recognition of the Sesquicentennial Anniversary of Civil War.

Annual Meeting

May 17, 2011

Town of Webb Historical Association members and the public are invited to attend our Annual Meeting to be held at the Goodsell Museum. The meeting will begin at 7 PM. Agenda will include Standing Committee reports, election of new trustees for a 3-year term, by-law changes and other business.

Immediately following the Annual Meeting, a short monthly meeting will take place and election of officers will be held.

Refreshments will be served.

**HISTORIC WALKING TOURS WITH TOWN HISTORIAN, PEG MASTERS,
WILL TAKE PLACE ON FRIDAYS IN JULY AND AUGUST, 2011.**

PLANS ARE NOT COMPLETE AT THIS TIME.

LOOK FOR DETAILS ON OUR WEBSITE *www.webbhistory.org*,

**CHECK OUR LOCAL NEWSPAPERS,
OR GIVE US A CALL AT 315-369-3838**