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Medicine Up North

During the 1800's, if a doctor or medicine was needed and the patient lived in the Fulton Chain area, they faced at least a 35-mile trip on a very rough dirt road to Boonville. Once there the patient most likely would have to wait to see a doctor. A serious injury or illness requiring a hospital stay meant a trip to Utica often by train.

In 1897, Old Forge got its first full-time physician, Dr. Stuart W. Nelson. In July, 1899, Eugene De La Mater opened the first 'drug store' in the Forge House Hotel. This drug store relocated, changed owners, and operated until bankruptcy in 1903. With no 'drug store' in town after 1903, Nelson personally prepared medicine using his knowledge of pharmacology. Dr. Robert S. Lindsay opened a medical practice in 1902. Given's Drug store opened in 1913 and served area residents and visitors for many years.

Reports show a dentist took care of patients as early as 1898 at the Forge House, Drs. Nelson and Lindsay pulled teeth when necessary and in 1911 the first recorded regular dental office operated three days a week by Dr. Thomas McGraith in the Covey Building (once located at the site of the current Souvenir Village).

The new feature exhibit in the Goodsell Museum will contain more details about the people listed above along with information about other Doctors, Nurses, and health care professionals as well as the people and modes of transportation to move patients to medical help from the late 1800's to present day. The exhibit will open on Friday, November 25, 2011 and remain in place through October 31, 2012. We hope this exhibit will 'grow' as more information about the past is collected. The Museum Committee welcomes input from anyone willing to share facts about Medicine Up North.



Dr. Stuart W. Nelson

ADIRONDACK LEAGUE CLUB MEMBERS SUPPORT THE TOWN OF WEBB HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION

Thirteen members of the Adirondack League Club presented the Town of Webb Historical Association with checks totaling \$3,400. The money will go toward the operation of the Goodsell Museum. George Goodsell was the chief builder for the ALC architect Augustus D. Shephard, the master designer for the Club in the early 1900's. Goodsell built many of the historic buildings and camps at the ALC. The money was collected in a fundraising effort by the ALC members, themselves, who wanted to recognize the achievements of Goodsell and emphasize the strong links between the town and the Club.

Civil War 1861-1865

This area of the Adirondacks was not very populated when the Civil War began in 1861. The Town of Webb Historical Association plans to present two programs on the subject of the Civil War during the summer of 2012. More details will be released as plans are finalized.

Volunteer Work Day Saturday, October 1st

Outdoor scheduled projects were changed to indoor projects due to the constant rain during our Volunteer Work Day. Several volunteers worked along side of Historical Association Trustees to complete a list of projects. Work was done in the basements of Hemmer Cottage and the Goodsell Museum as well as the Barn on the Goodsell property. The staff and Trustees are grateful for all volunteers who give back to the community by helping in many ways.

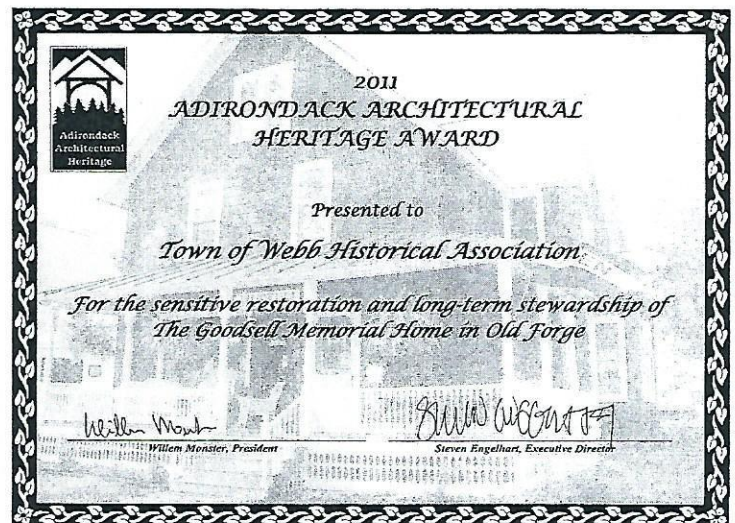
Town of Webb Historical Association Receives Adirondack Architectural Heritage Preservation Award

The Sixteenth Annual Adirondack Architectural Heritage (AARCH) Preservation Awards were handed out at the Garnet Hill Lodge in North River, NY on Monday, September 26, 2011. Among the six awardees was the Town of Webb Historical Association for the sensitive restoration and long-term stewardship of the Goodsell property (currently operated as the Goodsell Museum). Gail Murray, accepted the AARCH Stewardship Award on behalf of the TOWHA and gave credit for the award to many people involved in some of the recent projects including Peg Masters, Town Historian for her research and help in writing some of the grants used to make renovations and to Reed Proper, former board trustee, for his building knowledge, attention to detail, and oversight of several restoration projects. Joining Murray at the luncheon awards program was Jane Slack, trustee of TOWHA.

EXHIBIT SPONSORSHIP RECEIVED

The Town of Webb Historical Association is pleased to announce the receipt of \$500 from the Town of Webb Health Center Fund as sponsorship of the new exhibit Medicine Up North.

The Museum Committee will use these funds to change over from the Floating Letters exhibit. New paint on the walls, signs, displays, descriptions, photographs and artifacts will be part of the new display on exhibit through October 2012 in the front parlor of the Goodsell Museum.



Business Members*

We are pleased to acknowledge the following Business Memberships in 2011 (* as of November). Please note that in this area of many family run businesses, many choose to be recognized as Household or other level of membership support to the Historical Association.

Membership year is January—December

BUSINESS GOLD

Adirondack Homes
Enchanted Forest/Water Safari
Helmer's Fuel and Trucking
Old Forge Hardware
Otter Lake Veterinary Clinic
Rivett's Marine Recreation and Service, Inc.
Timm Associates, Inc.
Wilderness Interiors
Wilmarth & Associates

BUSINESS SPONSOR

19th Green Motel	Middle Branch Woodworking
Adirondack Bank	Moore & Hart, CPA
AnDix Indexing Associates	Moose River Trading Co. (Life Member)
Benny's Ice Cream	Nathan's Adirondack Bakery
Billy's Restaurant	Northeastern Loggers Association, Inc.
Bird's Marine, Inc.	Nutty Putty Golf
Blue Spruce Motel	Old Mill Restaurant
Brynilsen's Viking Village	Otter Lake Station
Camp Danmark, Inc.	Raquette Lake Navigation
Camp Gorham	Shelter
Camp Mark Seven	Strand Theatre (Life Member)
Candy Cottage	StumpUgly Stump Removal
Christy's Motel	Sunset Nursing & Rehabilitation Center
Community Bank, N.A.	Thendara Golf Club, Inc.
DiOrio's Supermarket	Thor Information Services, Inc.
Dunn's Boat Service	Touch of Ritz
Garmon Holding, LLC	Tow Bar Inn
Hannah Construction	Villiere Law Office
Heroux Construction	Waldheim Inc.
Herron Realty, Inc.	Wrap City 'N Glue, LLC
Meyda Tiffany	

OUR MISSION

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

IL[♥]VEOLDFORGE.COM

Where To See What's Ooin' On

Coming Events

December 4, 2011 — *Holiday Open House* Stop by the Goodsell Museum anytime between Noon—3 PM. Refreshments, music, new exhibits, volunteer recognition

May 25 and 26, 2012 — *Memorial Day Sale* Avoid the hassle of set up, pricing, and staffing your own sale. Donate your clean, usable, table-top items (no clothes please) to the Historical Association to be sold to benefit the Goodsell Museum Fuel Fund. Call for pick-up or drop-off times.

July 7, 2012 — *Benefit Auction* to be held under the tent at the Goodsell Museum. Preview of items 1 PM—bidding starts at 2 PM. Something for everyone—please support this fundraiser.

August, 2012 — Date to be announced—*Victorian Tea* to be held at the restored Thendara Town Hall. Entertainment, refreshments, silent auction, conversation.

Moss Lake Walking Tours and Civil War Programs to be announced.

Hemmer Cottage move—10th Anniversary Celebration details to be announced

GOODSELL MUSEUM

2993 Main Street—Old Forge

OPEN: Tuesday—Saturday

10 AM– 3 PM or by Appointment

315-369-3838

www.webbhistory.org

THIS PLACE MATTERS

Estate Planning

The Town of Webb Historical Association set up an investment fund with the Community Foundation of Herkimer and Oneida Counties Inc. in 2005 to help make certain that funds are available for the operation of the Goodsell Museum and Historical Association for future generations. Perhaps you, too, are making investment plans for your family's future. We would like to ask if you would consider including the Historical Association in your estate plans that would make a lasting legacy and impact preservation of the historical heritage of the Town of Webb.

Big Moose Chapel Donates Papers, Photos and Financial Support to TOWHA

Dick Williams, clerk for the Big Moose Chapel brought many pieces of Chapel history to add to the collection of Town of Webb information stored at the Goodsell Museum. Included in the paperwork were copies of Chapel minutes 1927-1931 and the Treasurers account 1928-1931 along with newspaper clippings, memorial service booklets, service programs, calendars and photos.

The Historical Association is very grateful to receive these items and will preserve and protect them for future generations to enjoy and research.

The Big Moose Chapel Outreach Committee made a donation to support the work done at the museum. Included in the note that accompanied the check was this statement: "Your mission and service are of great value to our local community and held in high esteem by the members of our congregation." This recognition is important to the staff and Board of Trustees of the Town of Webb Historical Association.



Dick Williams with TOWHA Director, Gail Murray

Mary Doolan's Cure Cottage for Consumptives

by Peg Masters, Town of Webb Historian

Mary Doolan made a special effort to create a festive atmosphere at her Forest House boarding establishment for the 1916 holiday season. Among her guests were two four-year-old girls, both named Helen. The girls were inseparable and bore such



Forest House Twins on the Porch in 1916

a strong resemblance to each other that townsfolk began calling them "The Twins." They played in the open air all the time even when the bright autumn season turned to the dark, dreary days of winter. Both of their fathers suffered from tuberculosis. The two men came to the Forest House hoping the cool, spruce and balsam scented breezes and Mrs. Doolan's nourishing cuisine would relieve their suffering.

Mary and her husband, Edward Doolan, begin operating the Forest House on Main Street in Old Forge shortly after they returned from their wedding trip in November 1900. Edward was an experienced stage operator and he met Mary at the Wakely House, now known as Van Auken's Inn, where she worked as a domestic. Mary was a long way from her childhood home in County Armagh, Northern Ireland. After immigrating to the states in 1889, she married Roger B. Irvine while living in New York City. They moved to New York Mills where Roger worked as a coachman. He died in March 1897 of pneumonia. According to Mary's obituary in 1948, she was the mother of three children, all who died in infancy. Devoted to her Catholic faith, Mary contributed money in 1917 to purchase a statue of St. Joseph in memory of her son Joseph for the newly dedicated chapel at St. Elizabeth's hospital in Utica. A beautiful stained glass window donated by the Doolans enhances to this day the Park Avenue facing side of St. Bartholomew's Church.

The first two resident doctors in Old Forge, Dr. Stuart W. Nelson and Dr. Robert S. Lindsay, set up their practices at the Forest House before purchasing homes nearby on Main Street. Dr. Nelson and Dr. Lindsay's wife Ella suffered from tuberculosis and both were restored to good health in the healing woods of the North Country. Yet in the early 1900s, many Adirondack resorts, hotels, and boarding houses openly advertised that tuberculosis patients, also called consumptives, were not welcomed. This did not deter Mary whose patrons often sat on the open porch of the boarding house in mid-winter wrapped in blankets with heated soapstones to keep their feet warm. In 1906, the Doolans expanded their facility by purchasing from Carrie Charbonneau-Zimmer an additional property across the street that they called the Annex.

As Mary decorated the boarding house for the 1916 holiday season, she no doubt recalled the loss of a young widow who died at the Forest House on a blustery Christmas Eve in 1909. Twenty-eight year-old Katherine Gamber from Batavia, NY had been a house guest since June. Katherine's husband, Irvine Gamber, died of consumption in November 1908 at the House of the Good Shephard in Syracuse and now his wife lost her battle with the dreadful disease. Two years later in March 1911, the Gamber's three year-old orphan, Ethel Margaret, died at the contagion cottage at the Batavia hospital. In a house, often racked by tragedy, Mary wanted little Helen Witzenberger and Helen Corey to have a special Christmas. Sam Levi and Leo Eiffe of Utica, Howard Sears from Bristol Springs, Miss Laura Acken from Brooklyn and Nellie Gibbons from Whitesboro, part of the Forest House winter tuberculosis colony, all helped with the preparations. Word spread throughout the village and many local children bought gifts for "The Twins" and called to wish them a Merry Christmas and to see Mary's tree.

Helen Corey resided at the Forest House off and on for the next several years and attended school in Old Forge. After her father Jack Corey's death, she returned to Brooklyn with her mother, Marie E. Corey. Helen Witzenberger's father, Henry P. Witzenberger underwent surgery in Utica in January 1917 and died in April from complications of tuberculosis and Bright's disease. His wife, Eva Dority Witzenberger succumbed to tuberculosis in April 1921. The Doolan's Forest House, Herron's Realty office today, and its connection to the early medical history of our township is but one of the many poignant stories featured in the Historical Association's new exhibit that premieres on November 25th. More on early tuberculosis care in our region and what happened to "The Twins" will be posted on our website: www.webbhistory.org.

Holiday Open House
Sunday, December 4, 2011
Noon-3 PM

Please join the Historical Association Trustees at our annual
 Holiday Open House at the Goodsell Museum.
 We invite you to stop in any time between Noon-3 PM
 for conversation, refreshments, holiday music and
 volunteer recognition.

10th Anniversary

Hemmer Cottage was moved from its original location next to the Town of Webb School to its current location overlooking Old Forge Pond on May 31, 2002. Plans are being developed to celebrate the 10th anniversary of the relocation of the former Cottage Kent, one of the buildings in the Hemmer Cottage Colony built in the early 1930's. Details to be announced.

Old Forge, NY 13420
 P. O. Box 513



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