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From the Director's Desk

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

Goodsell Museum

Local Adirondack History

125th Anniversary: Adirondack League Club

100,000 ACRES of PARADISE

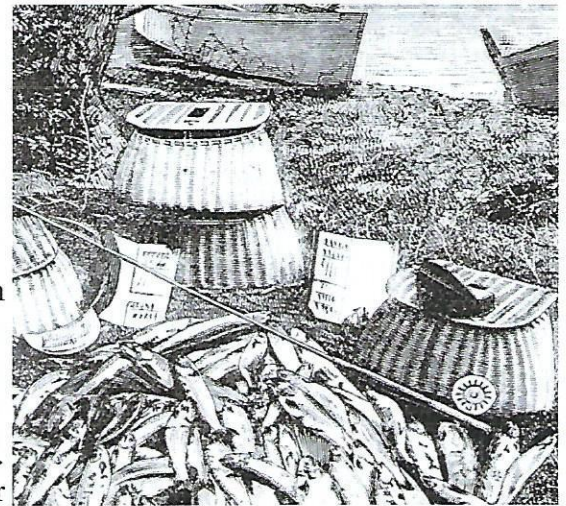
The Industrial Revolution brought a surge in personal wealth to many. Fortunes were made from railroads, mining and manufacturing. The newly rich found ample leisure time and became sportsmen. They sought vacation spots which would offer peace and tranquility. With the introduction of railroads families like the Vanderbilts, Huntingtons and Webbs purchased vast tracts of land in the Adirondacks as private preserves and built elaborate camps. In addition to these family estates, private, jointly owned "Clubs" were established. Money raised from memberships helped defray the cost of the acquisition of land, the construction and maintenance of lodges and the hiring of staff and guides. Members were permitted to hunt and fish on all of the club property and to own individual lots for personal camps.

One such organization, the Adirondack League Club (ALC), purchased property beginning in 1890. Between 1890 and 1894, they purchased 120,000 acres and leased an additional 71,000 acres.

By 1890, lumber companies already had a foothold in the area. They were clearing and stripping the forests. ALC trustees had visions for their property: preserving the integrity of the forest while profiting from controlled cutting became a major focus of land management. Timber was sold to help maintain the property, but conservation was the key. Reforestation was a must.

A healthy forest would produce healthy animals and help sustain the animal population. Game restrictions and hunting rules were major elements in their by-laws. Early on, the ALC issued a ban against deer jacking (hunting deer in the dark with lights) and later, hounding. Safeguarding fish populations was needed. Hatcheries were built to strengthen and help manage the fish population. The ALC put restrictions on the number of game and fish that could be taken. Preserving and protecting the forest and its creatures, for future generations, was paramount.

Today, the Adirondack League Club encompasses over 50,000 acres. Its commitment to preservation and conservation has served it well for 125 years, making it the largest, privately owned preserve in the Adirondacks.



“Summer’s lease hath all too short a date.”

William Shakespeare

We had record numbers sign our guest book, attend our lectures and join us for our fundraisers. Thank you to our volunteers, guest speakers and all that made summer 2014 the best season yet!.

Thank you also to the Big Moose Community Chapel for its invitation and generosity.

We are looking forward to summer 2015!



Congratulations to Midge Daiker winner of the 50/50 raffle. Thank you Midge for donating the money back to the Historical Association!!

WE LOVE OUR VOLUNTEERS

MEMBERSHIP

2015 membership renewals will be sent in January. We rely on your support to help us fulfill our mission. Please help us continue our valuable work!

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 towebbhistorical@gmail.com

Thank You

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.



Help promote our Facebook page. Share our link with a friend.

What we did this year:

Installed Harrison Ave street sign on Gilbert St. corner
Published the Goodsell Gazette, our online newsletter (on-going)

Partnered to provide historical displays, information, assistance:

Provided props for a Civil War event at the TOW Schools
Provided information and artifacts for display at TOW Schools (on-going)
Participated in New York State Museum Week
Appeared on Mohawk Valley Living TV Show
Wrote 4 history stories for Adirondack Express
Entered the Antique and Classic Boat Show

Hosted event, meeting or tour:

Beta Sigma Phi meeting
Inlet School Fieldtrip
TOW School, First Grade, Fieldtrip
Kiwanis Paddle Classic from Hemmer Cottage
3 bus tours
Ghost Walk
Paranormal Investigation of Goodsell Home
First Friday Art Walks
Reindeer Run
Holiday Open House

Walking Tours:

Moss Lake - July 10 and August 7
Main Street Hotels - July 23 and August 13

Programs:

Lecture on the Lawn series (13)
Diary of Lottie Tuttle: Peg Masters & Therese Capone
Preserving ADK Stories: Jay O’Hern and Nancy Best
RR’s, Robber Barons & Great Camps: Chuck and Meg Higgerson
When Men & Mts Meet: Glenn Pearsall
President Harrison’s boats: Ted Comstock
Forge House: Charles Herr
Time in the Mist: Dan Moynihan
Moss Lake Camp for Girls: Geoff Longstaff
Wicked ADK’s: Dennis Webster
Search for Station 77: Peter Nelson
Corpse at Eagle Creek: Peg Masters
ADK Pack Baskets: Barbara Green
From City to Camp – RR ride to Beaver River: John Taibi
Big Moose Community Chapel (4)
Loggers Among Us: Steve Bick
Occupation: ADK Hermit: Roy Reehil
Big Moose a Century Ago: Peg Masters
War of 1812: Dick Williams

Fundraisers:

- ◆ Recyclable bottles and cans – on-going
- ◆ Billy’s Charity Dinner – June and November
- ◆ Memorial Day Garage Sale – May 23-24
- ◆ 50/50 Raffle May - September
- ◆ Farmer’s Market Popcorn - June-September
- ◆ Hemmer Cottage Parking lot donations - July 4th
- ◆ Benefit Auction – July 12
- ◆ Postal Stamp Cancellation – July 10
- ◆ Mini Golf Tournament - July 17
- ◆ Harrison Inauguration Party - July 31
- ◆ Ghost Walk – August 16
- ◆ Antique Appraisal – August 23

**Completed over 100 research requests.
Assisted 9 authors with material for upcoming books.**

3 New Exhibits:

Webb: Wired to Wireless

100th Anniversary of the Old Forge Library

Pres. Harrison’s Summer Retreat: Berkeley Lodge

Welcomed over 3,000 visitors to the Goodsell Museum!

Don't forget our May Garage Sale and July Auction!!!

Why donate your car, boat, RV, camper, snowmobile, trailer or motorcycle to us?

Feel good about helping. Proceeds from your donation underwrite TOWHA's educational programs. Your donation is tax deductible; please consult an advisor to determine how a donation may help you.

3 EASY STEPS

1. Make sure that you have a clear title, without any liens.
2. Call us to arrange a time for you to deliver the donation or for us to pick it up.
3. Sign the gift form.

Frequently asked questions:

- Q. What are the benefits of donating my car to TOWHA?
- A. TOWHA benefits by receiving a donation to fund our existing educational programs and events. You benefit by being able to reduce your taxable income when taxes are itemized. Also, you avoid the costs associated with selling your car. No need to pay for advertising, no loss of privacy and possible security risk, and no need to pay for vehicle registration, insurance, and repairs to keep your car in running condition while you wait for a buyer.
- Q. Do you only accept cars for donation?
- A. Many types of motor vehicles are accepted including boats, motorcycles, trucks, vans, snowmobiles, trailers, as well as cars.
- Q. Does my car have to be running to qualify for donation?
- A. In some cases, we can take your car, running or not. However, it must have an engine and be towable.
- Q. What paperwork do I need?
- A. The only paperwork needed is a signed, clear title. Have your title with you when you call in about your donation. (Please note that a clear title indicates the title is in the name of the donor without a lien.)
- Q. What if I lost the title?
- A. You will need to get a duplicate title or a transferrable registration.
- Q. What can I claim as a deduction?
- A. According to the tax law, if the claimed value of the donated vehicle exceeds \$500, the taxpayer is limited to the gross proceeds of the sale.

If you have questions, please call us at 315-369-3838.

Sherman's Band of Brothers

by Peg Masters, Town of Webb Historian

Long before any permanent dwellings were erected along the Fulton Chain, an elite fraternity of sportsmen and their guides gathered every evening around a fire-lit camp to robustly sing their anthem called "*We are a Band of Brothers.*" The annual pilgrimage members, who called themselves The North Woods Walton Club, included clergymen, lawyers, editors, politicians, a musician, and a poet-librarian. The composer of the fourteen-verse anthem was the group's first President and charismatic leader, General Richard Updyke Sherman (1819-1895).

The initial purpose for the Club's springtime excursions into Brown's Tract was to share Sherman's passion for fishing. All the participants soon came to value the spiritual nature of the misty mountains, the crystal lakes, the rushing streams, the rejuvenating slumber, and the campfire camaraderie. Shanty camps were established at will on Third and Fourth Lakes, Raquette and Seventh Lakes, and Big Moose Lake that once bore General Sherman's name, and that one Waltonian described as having "*a hundred points of beauty.*" The location of their annual rustication and the election of officers were determined at the Club's winter reunion dinner-meetings in one of the State's larger cities.

The spiritual nature of the woodlands inspired the Band of Brothers to hold most likely the first ever religious service on the Fulton Chain. General Sherman conveyed the story in 1893 upon receiving the news of the death of former Walton Club member Rev. Dr. S. Hanson Coxe of Trinity Church in Utica.

I well remember meeting with him some 35 years ago at a camp of the historic Walton Club on Fourth Lake of the Fulton Chain where now stands the hostelry of the veteran guide Alonzo Wood. Dr. Coxe, it being Sunday, was asked to conduct religious services which he readily assented. There were among the party present the late George Dawson, Ned Buntline, the hunter and writer, the late Major Scholefield and some forty others including a number of good vocalists. Mr. George Dawson wrote out from memory on bark slips several appropriate hymns and led the choir of voices in a "temple not made with hands" that would have honored any great cathedral.



Richard U. "Dick" Sherman was born in Vernon, Oneida County, New York, June 26, 1819. He proudly traced his ancestors back to Plymouth Colony in the 1630s and to Patriots in the American Revolution. An early career in journalism led to important political positions in both Albany and Washington, DC. Sherman enlisted in the State's militia as a youth and was commissioned a brigadier general of the Twenty-First Brigade, Sixth Division, New York National Guard in 1852.

General Sherman and his wife Mary were the parents of six children, including James Schoolcraft Sherman, who served as Vice President of the United States under President Taft from March 1909 until his death while in office on October 30, 1912. The General's intense interest in protecting the State's wildlife led to more than a decade of service on the State's Fish and Game Commission.

In 1878, Richard U. Sherman helped organize the Bisby Club, now part of the Adirondack League Club Preserve. The Bisby Club was the first sportsmen's organization in the State to purchase its own club lands. Guided by General Sherman, the Club's first President, strict laws were invoked to protect wildlife, fish and forest lands. Various members, including some of the original Waltonian Band of Brothers, fought valiantly in Albany for the creation of the Adirondack Park. For the present generation, the Walton's legacy lives on as paraphrased from an 1859 Club pamphlet – to roam the woods, row the lakes, or rest in camp – to sing, dance, swim or turn summersaults as they be in the mood. Huzza! Huzza! Huzza!

Perfect Gifts for every occasion!

Giving gifts that truly benefit the needs of others can be a wonderful way to pay tribute to special people in your life. Gifts given in honor of family and friends at Mother's Day, Father's Day, birthday, anniversary, birth of a child or grandchild or other notable occasions, are significant and lasting ways to show you care.

Consider the choices:

There are several ways to make gifts to **TOWHA** in honor or in memory of others:

Gifts of cash: These are the most popular vehicles for honoring family and friends. They are convenient and can be tax-deductible.

Other property: Memorial and honorary gifts can also be funded with assets such as stocks, bonds and mutual funds that have increased in value. Gifts of assets, other than cash, often provide tax savings and may also help reduce or eliminate capital gains tax on assets.

Leave a legacy:

- ◇ A gift included in your **will** or **living trust** can be the foundation of a lasting legacy.
- ◇ A gift of excess **retirement funds, pension plans** or **IRA's** may enable you to give more while eliminating taxes that could largely deplete these assets.
- ◇ Gifts of **life insurance** that are no longer needed may offer excellent tax benefits and also be a wonderful way to honor someone.

Because the Town of Webb Historical Association is a 501 (c) (3) not-for-profit corporation, charitable gifts to us often provide significant tax benefits and considerable options for philanthropic involvement.

We are thankful to Robert Goodsell for making *his* home *our* home.

We are also grateful to Millie Wark, Marie Flo and Edie Morcy for their legacy gifts that keep giving, year after year.

WE REMEMBER

Louisette Lecours in memory of Claude Lecours; Betty Rannels in memory of Fern Purcells, Nivea Deis, Bob Watson, Bill and Betty Pulling; Carol Searing in memory of Robert T. Searing Jr. and Jon F. Searing; Prissy Lee in memory of Wanda Martin & Bob Winter; Edward & Heather Stafford in memory of Nick Spring; Doc & Judy Foley in memory of Nick Spring; Linda and Sarah Cohen in memory of Bob Watson, Tom, Lolly and Tommy Deis; Marilyn Paul in memory of Janet Regner; Ron Christensen in memory of Dorothy Sponable

In Honor of:

- Charlie & June Kiefer's 60th Anniversary:
Linda and Sarah Cohen; Jim and Margaret VanDelinder
- Skip and Marion Oswald: Gail and Randy Murray

