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Goodsell Museum

Local Adirondack History

Fulton Chain Fish Hatcheries

It's hard to believe that by the mid-1880s there was a need to replenish the fish population in area lakes. Looking at photos taken in that era, we see one day's catch of 50 or more fish. Multiply that number by 10 or 12 fishermen and you can see why the population decreased. Add in predation by other species and you have a cataclysmic end. The idea of "limit" or "catch and release" was years away.

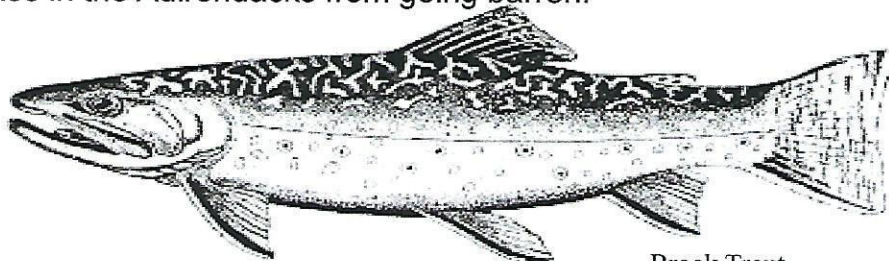
Thankfully, such visionaries as Alexander Lamberton, Seth Green, General Richard U. Sherman and Emmett Marks saw the results of over fishing and decided to do something about it.

In 1876 Lamberton and Marks brought 50,000 fry (fish babies that are capable of feeding themselves) here in milk cans and released them. It was the first large scale restocking of the Fulton Chain. In 1883 General Sherman and the Bisby Club built a hatchery near their main lodge. It was the second hatchery built in the Adirondack Park.

By 1885, General Sherman and the Boonville Sportsman Club had raised private funds and erected a fish hatchery on Fourth Lake. Two years later, because of fluctuating water levels, it was moved to a location just below the Old Forge dam. Until 1933 it was known as the Fulton Chain Fish Hatchery owned by the State of New York. That year the operation transferred to the newer, larger Rome Fish Hatchery. The building is now home to the American Legion and Town of Webb Court.

During their formation in 1888, the Adirondack League Club stated an interest in preserving nature. Keeping with this concept, they opened and closed a total of 5 hatcheries on their preserve. In 1930 they built the Hatchery Camp on Little Moose Outlet. Dr. Dwight Webster and Cornell University took over operation of the facility in the 1950's. Today, Field Station 1 includes hatchery facilities and continues the tradition of fish culture at the Adirondack League Club.

Thanks to the work of these many men, they have saved ours and numerous other lakes in the Adirondacks from going barren.



Brook Trout

From the Director's Desk

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

Summer Programs and Walks

Goodsell Museum's Lectures on the Lawn

Thursdays at 2:30pm

- ◆ July 16: Peg Masters: A Little Moose Love Story
- ◆ July 23: TBA
- ◆ July 30: Niki Kourofsky: Adirondack Outlaws: Bad Boys and Lawless Ladies
- ◆ August 6: Bruce Bonfield: Early Camps and Hotels on Fourth Lake
- ◆ August 13: Dennis Webster: Haunted Old Forge
- ◆ August 20: Nancy Best: Saving Your Memories
- ◆ August 27: John Taibi: Around the Park During the 1950's

Big Moose Community Chapel

Tuesdays at 7pm

- ◆ July 7: Geof Longstaff: Moss Lake Camp for Girls
- ◆ July 14: Dick Williams: Eagle Bay: A History in Words and Photos
- ◆ July 21: Charles Herr: Big Moose Landing
- ◆ July 28: Steven Engelhart: There's More to Adirondack Architecture than Great Camps
- ◆ August 4: William "Jay" O'Hern: Spring Trout & Strawberry Pancakes: Quirky Cures and Camp Recipes
- ◆ August 11: Frank Carey: The Trip to Blue Mountain Lake
- ◆ August 18: Peg Masters: Remembering Rev. Dr. Samuel J. Niccolls
- ◆ August 25: TBA

MOSS LAKE WALKING TOUR

JULY 8 & AUGUST 5

MOSS LAKE TRAILHEAD

9:30AM

Programs are free, donations are welcome. All are subject to change. For confirmation or questions please call the museum (315) 369-3838 or see our Facebook page or website:
www.webbhistory.org

GHOST WALK

AUGUST 15

8:30PM

GOODSELL MUSEUM

**WITH PSYCHIC
READINGS**

RESERVATIONS REQUIRED



Tickets now on sale!

\$10 each

Drawing

October 10, 2015

GET YOUR TEAM
TOGETHER NOW



TOURNAMENT

NUTTY PUTTY

JULY 16, 2015

\$20 PER PLAYER INCLUDES
GAME, HAMBURGER/HOT DOG
AND DRINK OF CHOICE

LOTS OF FUN PRIZES!!!

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.

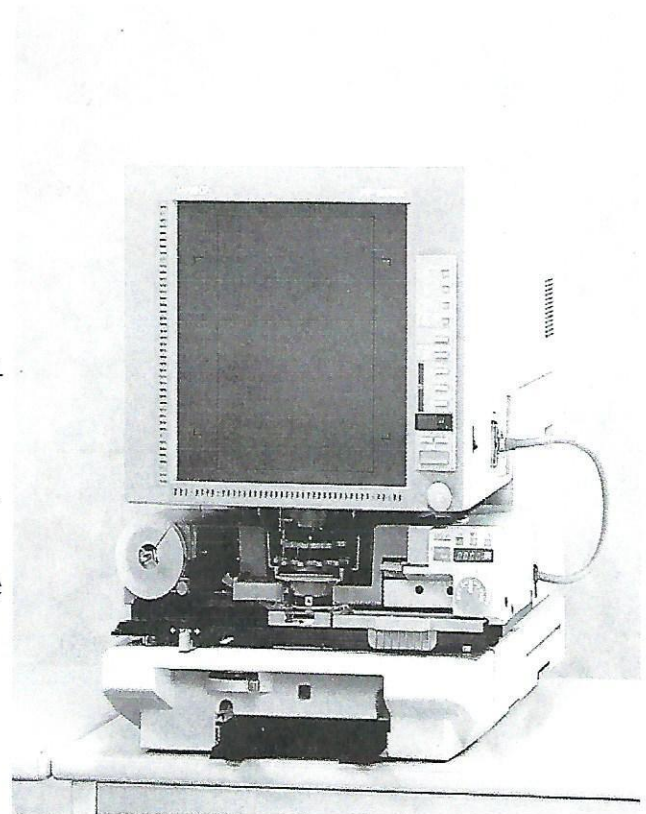


Help promote our
Facebook page.
Share our link with a
friend.

Old Forge Library Donation

The Town of Webb Historical Association wishes to thank Izzie Worthen and the Old Forge Library Board for the generous donation of a Minolta Microfilm System. This gift is in memory of Jean and Bruce Ellis, who were both avid supporters of the library.

Included in the donation were film cartridges of scanned Adirondack Echo's, our early local newspaper. This reader will enable the Historical Association's staff to view, not only the new cartridges, but films already here at the museum, for research purposes. The machine has print capability, which makes it so much easier to duplicate and footnote information.



THANK YOU!

WE LOVE
OUR VOLUNTEERS

Stay tuned for extra events!!

We are still in planning mode.... We have several other events that are currently in the works. Dates to be announced soon. Please see our website or Facebook page for current information. As always, programs are subject to change (life happens!) and we have last minute substitutions.

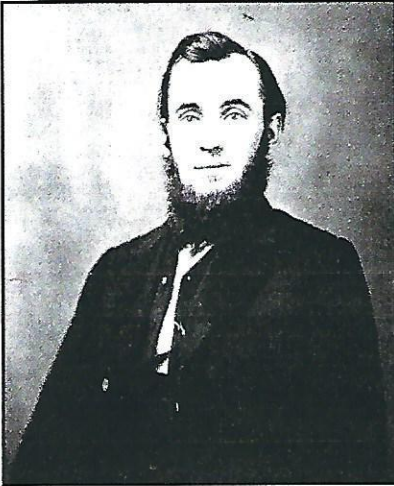
Thank you for your continued support of the Historical Association and Goodsell Museum!

Rev. Samuel J. Niccolls, D. D. (1838-1915)

By Peg Masters, Town of Webb Historian

One-Hundred years ago on Sunday, August 15, 1915, Rev. Samuel J. Niccolls stood before a devoted congregation at the Presbyterian Chapel on Crosby Blvd. in Old Forge and preached the very last sermon of his legendary career. The shocking news of his death from a stroke while fishing with his guide George Villiere at Combs Brook Hatchery in the Adirondack League Club reached town several days later.

Samuel Jack Niccolls was born on August 3, 1838 at the family's farm in Westmoreland County, Pennsylvania. His mother, Elizabeth "Eliza" Jack Niccolls, died before his first birthday. Samuel's father, William Todd Niccolls remarried but died in April 1847 several months before his son's ninth birthday. The young orphan was shipped off to a rural boarding school by his step-mother who had four small half-siblings of her own to raise.



Samuel was an exceptional student. He graduated from Jefferson College at Canonsburg, Washington County in 1857 and was ordained in 1860 after completing studies at Western Theological Seminary at Allegheny. That year, Samuel married his hometown sweetheart, Margaret "Maggie" A. Sherrick. The Civil War dominated the next four years of their lives. Rev. Niccolls served as Chaplin of the 126th Pennsylvania Regiment while on leave from his duties as pastor of the Falling Spring Presbyterian Church in Chambersburg, Franklin County - located on the Confederates' route to Gettysburg 25 miles away.

In January 1865, Samuel accepted a position at the Second Presbyterian Church in St. Louis. One of his parishioners, Benjamin Stickney (1808-1875), was a wealthy hotel owner who had previously lived in Boonville, NY. Stickney invited Samuel to join him at his camp on the North Shore of the Fulton Chain between First and Second Lakes. Here the good Reverend set up a tent on Sunday mornings and began preaching to anyone who paddled in for the service. Guideboat builders later elongated their designs to accommodate more people into what were called "church boats." Steamers too pulled up to the Stickney dock to offload Samuel's faithful summer parishioners.

Another good friend from St. Louis, Samuel Dodd, eventually purchased Stickney Point and sold the property in 1895 to Rev. Niccolls. Contractor James C. Pullman built a new commodious cottage for the Niccolls' family in 1897 that still stands on this historic 10-acre site known today as Morrow Point.

Rev. Niccolls carefully prepared each one of his sermons but always preached fluently without any written notes. His words inspired many prominent people such as William McKinley, Teddy Roosevelt, and Mrs. Benjamin Harrison, who invited him to co-officiate at the former President's funeral in 1901.

Determined to provide regular services to the residents and visitors in the North Country, Rev. Niccolls worked with the Utica Presbytery in 1897 to establish the Southern Adirondack Mission. In addition to chapels built at Old Forge, Inlet, and the Fulton Chain, Mission ministers travelled to various hotels and deep in the woods to outlying lumber camps.

At the Synodical Home Mission conference held in Syracuse in April 1916, Southern Adirondack Mission Superintendent Rev. Benjamin Knapp proposed building a bigger church in Old Forge to be named Niccolls Memorial in honor of Rev. Samuel J. Niccolls. The Mission that Rev. Niccolls envisioned had reached more than 2,000 people a week during the past summer and represented 16 denominations according to Rev. Knapp. "*The Sabbath should be kept holy even in the State's great playground,*" he pleaded. Niccolls Memorial Church on Crosby Blvd., dedicated two years later, continues to serve local residents and visitors of all faiths to this day. In honor of the centennial anniversary of his death, the TOWHA has scheduled a memorial tribute chronicling the extraordinary life of Rev. Samuel J. Niccolls on Tuesday, August 18th at 7PM at the Big Moose Community Chapel.

WE REMEMBER

Charlie and Olga Adams in memory of Don Norton; Elizabeth Gray in memory of David Gray; Edgar Vanderveer in memory of Marie Vanderveer; Betty Rannels in memory of Gaston and Mickey Denoyers; Mr. and Mrs. Albert C. Bostwick in memory of A. Richard Cohen; Edward Diamond in memory of Mary Diamond; Gilbert A. Smith in memory of Dorothy A. Smith; Peter J. Tennis in memory of the Tennis Brothers; James and Judith Denio in memory of Doris and Ellis Denio; Bob Desnoyers in memory of Diane Desnoyers; Chris Cardner in memory of Jean Titus and Tena Titus; Robert D. Wilcox in memory of Charles E. Wilcox and Roy D. Wilcox; Elva I. Roberts in memory of Loring T. Roberts; Linda and Sarah Cohen in memory of Donald Potter; Richard and Roxanne Bird in memory of John Hopsicker, Billy Martin, Tom Fox; Heather and Ed Stafford in memory of Donald Potter; Edgar Vanderveer in memory of Marie Vanderveer; Albert Bostwick in memory A. Richard Cohen; Fred T. Wilcox III in memory of Claire P. Wilcox; Omer R. Hudon in memory of Dr. and Mrs. A. R. Hatfield; Eugene and Loretta Romano in memory of Dick Cohen and Jack Young; Vincent & Lucille Cicero in memory of Dan Hitchcock; Clarence and Marianne McDonough in memory of Jamie McDonough; Tim & Jody Gross in memory of P. "Doc" Keeling; David Sperry in memory of The Sperry Family; Deke and Carol Morrison in memory of Bob Lowenberg,

In memory of Sharon Graham: Dave and Carol Clark, Robert and Sharon Daviau, Jane Graham, Louisette Lecours, Mary Denn, Doug & Peg Masters, Phil & Sue Freese, Tom & Judy Thibado, Jane & Jerry Slack, Glen Amrhein, Betty Copperwheat, Mike & Beatrice Hegeman, Richard & Janet Graham, Pete & Jane Meneilly, Tim & Pat Harwood, John Maestri, Wilson Tyler, Bob & Linda Kennerknecht.

In Honor of

Doc and Judy Foley in honor of our friends

Mirnie Kashiwa's 90th Birthday: Ron Christensen

