

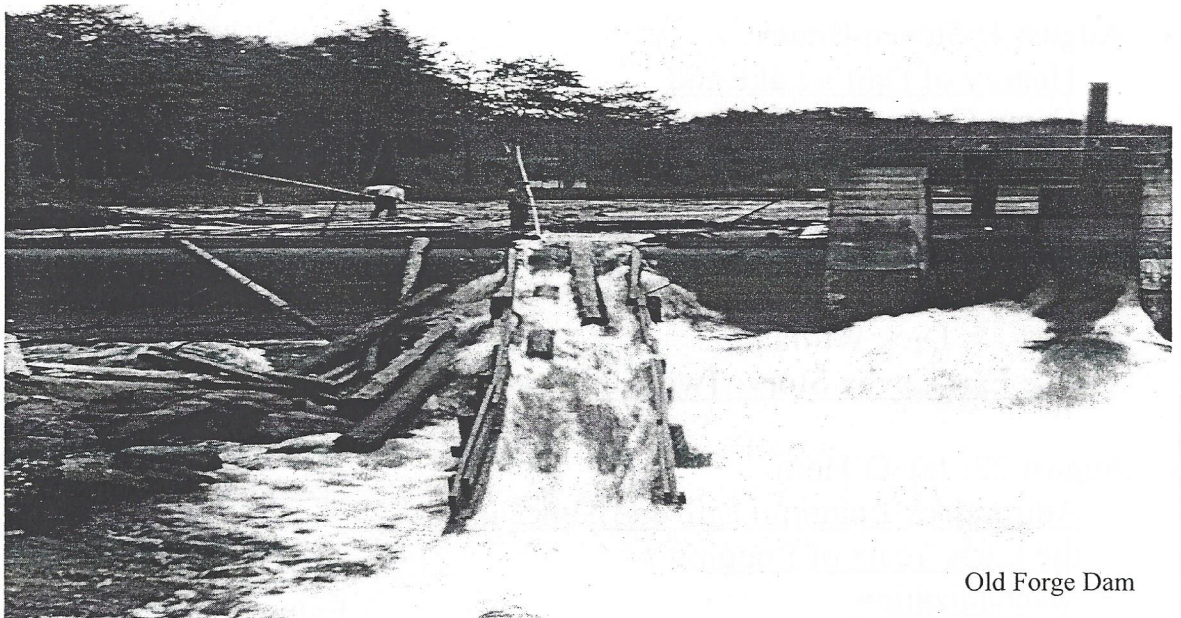


## Goodsell Museum

Local Adirondack History

### INTO THE WOODS

Deep in the woods today, it is not uncommon to come upon an old clearing that was once a bustling logging camp or the ghostly remains of former logging communities such as Onekio, Moulin, Clearwater, Woods Lake or the Moose River Settlement. Thousands of immigrant loggers, teamsters, jobbers and road monkeys swarmed through the woods cutting the primeval forests and transporting the logs to the Moose, Independence or Beaver River. At various times there were prosperous sawmills along the middle branch of the Moose River at McKeever, Fulton Chain, and Old Forge.



Old Forge Dam

Logging also flourished to the north in the Big Moose, Beaver River and Stillwater regions. Other than tourism, logging and related activities provided far more employment opportunities than all other industries

In the springtime the logs began the tumultuous descent down the river at Fulton Chain, McKeever, Lyonsdale, Lyons Falls, and Port Leyden. Logs were turned into French heels, piano sounding boards and violins, wooden spoons and bowls, plywood veneers and paper. Many were harvested to provide materials for the early 20<sup>th</sup> -century construction boom in the Old Forge region or to fuel the steamboats chugging up the lakes.

Passage from *Old Forge Gateway to the Adirondacks* by Linda Cohen, Sarah Cohen and Peg Masters

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From the Director's Desk

TOWN OF WEBB HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION  
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# Summer Programs

## Big Moose Community Chapel Tuesdays at 7pm

- July 11: Jim Fox  
Stillwater Fire Tower: The Unheralded Historic Site in the TOW
- July 18: Mitch Lee  
Adirondack Storyteller
- July 25: Peg Masters, TOW Historian  
Commemorating our WWI Vets
- August 1: Steven Braun  
History of Dart's Lake and Camp Gorham
- August 8: Gary Lee  
Boreal Birds and Warblers
- August 15: Dick Williams  
The Earl Covey Story: Twitchell Lake
- August 22: Jay O'Hern  
Adirondack Logging: Life and Times in the Early Years of Logging's Mechanization
- August 29: TBA

## Thendara Town Hall Wednesdays at 7pm

- July 5: Stuart deCamp  
Thendara Historical District
- July 12: John Taibi  
Through the Years at Fulton Chain Station
- July 19: Bruce Bonfield  
Early Camps and Hotels on 4th Lake
- July 26: TBA
- August 2: Ed Pitts  
The History of the Rap-Shaw Club
- August 9: Geof Longstaff  
The Longstaff Legacy
- August 16: Bill Killon  
Verplanck Colvin: Father of the Adirondack Park
- August 23: Charles Herr  
Fulton Chain History
- August 30: Dr. Melissa Otis  
At Home in the Adirondacks: a History of the Iroquoian and Algonquian Peoples?

PLEASE PRINT THIS AND SAVE

Programs are free, donations are appreciated. 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](http://www.webbhistory.org)

# SUMMER FUN

*You are cordially invited to a  
Garden Party Fundraiser*

Thursday, June 29, 2017

*4pm to 7pm*

*Moose River B & B, Thendara NY*

*\$50 non-members \$45 for members*

*RSVP: 369-3838*

**MINI  
GOLF**

**TOURNAMENT**

## **NUTTY PUTTY**

JULY 20, 2017

4pm—7pm

\$20 PER PLAYER

INCLUDES

GAME, HAMBURGER/HOT DOG AND  
DRINK OF CHOICE

Family package: \$45 for 2 adults and 2 children  
(under 12)

(each additional child under 12 is \$10)



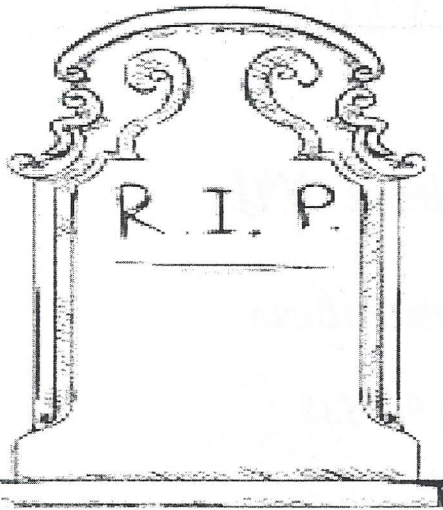
# Moss Lake Hiking Tours

Wednesday, July 5

Wednesday, August 9

9 am at Moss Lake parking lot

Reservations requested



## RIVERVIEW CEMETERY

WALKING TOUR  
SATURDAY

JULY 15  
10 am

Reservations requested

### 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.

We are partnering with the Herkimer County Historical Society's banner project in honoring our World War I Veterans

Private

Robert Goodsell

Co. E, 14<sup>th</sup> Regiment  
Engineers



If you would like to receive the e-newsletter only, please let us know. We are trying to cut down on our paper usage. Contact us at: [towebbhistorical@gmail.com](mailto:towebbhistorical@gmail.com)

## Memorial Tribute to WW I Veterans – The Brack Brothers by Peg Masters, Town of Webb Historian

Several years after the Civil War, the head of the Grand Army of the Republic (GAR) Maj. General John A. Logan organized a ceremony at Arlington National Cemetery to decorate the graves of the war dead with flowers. The event was called "Decoration Day" and it was attended by over 5,000 people. Maj. General Logan recommended it should be an annual tradition on May 30<sup>th</sup> when flowers are in bloom across the country. After World War I, Decoration Day or Memorial Day as it is now called, was expanded to honor all those who have died in America wars.

A century ago in 1917, America was drawn into the First World War and Congress passed a Selective Service Act which required all men ages 21-31 to register for military service. Among the scores of men to register from the Town of Webb were three brothers; John E., Henry, and William Brack. John E. Brack registered for the draft in Old Forge in June 5, 1917. He was employed as a guide and caretaker for Mrs. F. H. Jones at the Adirondack League Club (ALC) at Little Moose Lake. In December of 1917, John enlisted for the service at Fort Slocum, MA. He underwent training with several Aero Squadrons on Long Island until he was sent overseas to France where he served with the Air Corps until June 27, 1919.

Henry Brack was a resident of McKeever when he registered for the draft in Herkimer in June 1917 while he was employed as a teamster for the Bisby Club. Henry enlisted in the US Navy in December and served on the USS Antigoné out of Norfolk, VA as a Fireman 2<sup>nd</sup> Class until his discharge on July 20, 1920. The Antigoné dodged the hazards of the Atlantic and made eight round-trip voyages to the war zone carrying general cargo, medical supplies and over 16,000 troops to French ports. After the Armistice, she reversed her transports and brought more than 22,000 men home safely from Europe by September 1919.

William Brack was a farm worker at the ALC's Forest Lodge working for Mr. Piggot according to his draft registration in Old Forge in June 1917. William enlisted March 2, 1918, trained in Washington, D. C. and went overseas in May 1918 with the 29th Co., 20th Engineers. William was discharged on July 11, 1919.

The Brack brothers had two other siblings who served in the war. Frederick G. Brack joined the Navy and served stateside at military arsenals as a mechanic. Jacob Emil Brack stated on his military application that he was born in Old Forge, NY. He enlisted with the 10th NYS National Guard in 1916 and was transferred to the Machine Gun A. E. F., Co. G. of the 105<sup>th</sup> Infantry in December 1917. Sgt. Jacob E. Brack survived "*going over the wall*" several times in the trenches but died in a hospital in Rouen, France from lobar-pneumonia on October 22, 1918. Four years later, his body was disinterred from its grave in France by the US Government and sent home for burial in the Albany Rural Cemetery.

An astonishing part of their story is that Henry, William, Fred, and Jacob were all residents of the Albany Orphan Asylum according the 1900 Federal Census but were not orphans. Children were sometimes placed there when their parents neglected them or could not provide for them. The boys' father, John Jacob Brack was an immigrant from Switzerland who worked on and off as a wheelwright until his death in 1910. Their German-born mother, Elizabeth Gottschalk-Brack was a patient for many years at the Hudson River State Mental Hospital in Poughkeepsie where she died in October 1927. In spite of their disadvantaged upbringing, the five Brack brothers – sons of immigrants, all served with honor in various branches of the military for their country during the First World War.

John, Henry, and William Brack all returned to Old Forge after the war and worked as guides, caretakers, and carpenters. All joined the Masonic Lodge in 1920 and were awarded their 50 year pins in 1970. William "Bill" Brack was the Chaplin of the Lodge for many years. He married Mildred Mae Allen from Oswego in 1931 and they lived on Harvey St. Two years earlier in 1929, John E. Brack married Lillian M. Allen, a Town of Webb teacher and Mildred's sister. They lived for decades on Fern Ave. in Old Forge.

In his speech at Arlington Cemetery on May 30, 1868, Maj. General Logan noted that the fallen soldiers' bodies lie in almost every city, village, and hamlet church-yard in the land. "*We should guard their graves with sacred vigilance. Let pleasant paths invite the coming and going of reverent visitors and fond mourners.*" Rest in peace John, Henry, William, Fred, and Jacob Brack.

## WE REMEMBER

Doc Jones in memory of Lora Jones, Roger Blind in memory of Catherine Blind, Paula Peck in memory of David A. Peck, Robert Haughton in memory of Anne M. Haughton, Mr. and Mrs. Albert Bostwick in memory of A. Richard Cohen, Joan Davis in memory of Madeline Fallon Case, Joseph Walter in memory of Peter and Barbara Walter, Mimi Spain Hannan in memory of Peg Spain Murtagh, Louissette Lecours in memory of Therese Capone, Eric and Linda Hopkins in memory of Beverly J. Hopkins, Doc and Judy Foley in memory of Jeffrey Craig, Marty and Don Lawson in memory of Jeff Craig, Jack and Barbara DeBevoise in memory of Kirsty Sutherland, Tim and Pat Harwood in memory of Jack Burnett, John and Deb Munyan in memory of Jeff Craig –Faithful Auction Slave, Mathew Scheidelman in memory of Joseph Scheidelman and Warren Scheidelman, Jane Barlow in memory of Mark Barlow, Dr. Richard Lindsay in memory of Robert Lindsay Jr., Gilbert Smith in memory of Dorothy A. Smith and Barney Barnum, Elva Roberts in memory of Loring T. Roberts, Ronald Christensen in memory of Adam Winslow, Robert Wilcox in memory of Roy D. Wilcox, Ozzies Coffee Bar in memory of Kirsty Sutherland, Walter and Carol LaGraves in memory of Helen M. LaGraves, Tim Mayers in memory of Dave VanPelt, Gerald and Jane Slack in memory of Paul Kelley, Edgar Vanderveer in memory of Marie, John Wilkins in memory of Margaret “Margie” Wilkins, Sharon Daviau in memory of Robert “Bob” Daviau, Wilson & Dawn Tyler in memory of Sharon Graham, Vernice Gilbert in memory of Dave VanPelt, Phil and Sue Freese in memory of Jeff Craig, Patricia Palmer in memory of Robert and Bette Palmer, Tim & Judy Gross in memory of Richard “Dick” Rivette, Fred & Judy Ehrensbeck in memory of Jeff Craig, Elizabeth Gray in memory of David Gray, Fred T. Wilcox III in memory of Claire P. Wilcox, Jean Polly in memory of Marylee Armour, Joyce & Richard Ploss in memory of Nicholas Ginther, Jennifer Evans & Robert Fitzgibbon in memory of Barbara Kinne Wheeler, Kathy Hollister in memory of Harold & Eunice Hollister, Clarence & Marianne McDonough in memory of Jamie McDonough, Peggy Rotton in memory of her friends in Old Forge, Jane Slack in memory of Patricia O’Driscoll, Betsy Schermerhorn in memory of Bill Apgar, Margaret Hopsicker in memory of John Hopsicker, Ed and Heather Stafford in memory of Barbara DeBevoise. David & Paula Weal in memory of all the great business people who got us started – Wallace & Eldridge, Farmer Pontiac, Skip’s Diner, Kate’s Diner, Brate’s Indian Arts & Crafts, Thompson’s, Strand, Eddie’s Barber Shop, Millie’s Beauty Salon, Wally’s Barber Shop, BBQ Shack, and Hall & Lindsay.

Joan Davis in memory of the Fallon, Davis, and Case families

### Memorial Candles

Scott & Michelle deCamp in memory of : Jane and Bud Kopp, Frank G. deCamp, Mary F. deCamp, Bob Lowenburg, Bill Martin, John Hopsicker, Dave Geiger, Tom Fox  
 Ash & Lynda Kellogg in memory of: Harry Kellogg, Gertrude Kellogg, Pitt Smith, Elizabeth “Nibbs” Smith, Janice “Pookie” Smith Scott, Dave Hollister, GiGi Hollister, Jack Ball

### In Honor of

Doc and Judy Foley in honor of Family and Friends

The Historical Association wishes to thank everyone for their generous donations.