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From the Director's Desk

TOWN OF WEBB HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION  
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# Goodsell Museum

## Local Adirondack History



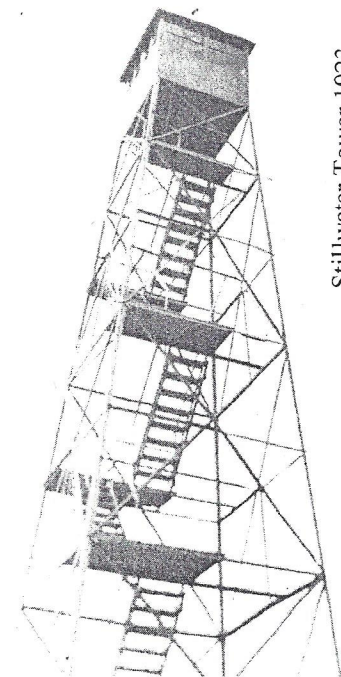
This historic plaque stands on the Rt. 28 roadside by Singing Waters. 1903 was a record year for forest fires in New York State. The year of 1902 was dry and drought conditions prevailed during the winter of 1902-03. Low snowpack and negligible spring rains left the woods dry and combustible. Lightning strikes and manmade fires were a constant threat. This fire, however, was started by a steam locomotive chugging along, spewing ash and cinders out its stack. In his 1903 account for the NYS Forest, Fish and Game Commission report, Henry Suter writes "that although the forest was dry, the lack of trained forest observers and capable firemen hurt efforts to avert and fight fires". In an effort to protect the woods, a series of lookout towers were erected throughout the state.

Herkimer County had 9 towers, six of those were located in the Town of Webb: Mt. Electra, Beaver Lake Mt., Stillwater Mt., Rondaxe Mt. (Bald Mt.), Moose River Mt. (Pete's Tower), and Woodhull Mt.

Five towers in the TOW were operated by the NYS Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) Bureau of Fire Control from 1909 through the end of the 1990 fire season. Mt. Electra was Dr. William Seward Webbs' private tower at Nehasane. Some towers were constructed of wood, and replaced in the 'teens with metal structures. Three of these stand today: Stillwater, Bald and Woodhull.

Both the Bald Mt. and Stillwater Mt. towers marked milestones in 2017. Bald Mt. celebrated its 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary and Stillwater was placed on the State and National Registers of Historic Places.

To commemorate these achievements, the Goodsell Museum will highlight the Town of Webb towers in our feature exhibit: *As Far As the Eye Can See*.



Stillwater Tower 1923

## **Summer Talks and Walks**

### **Thendara Town Hall**

Wednesdays at 7pm

- ♦ July 11: Charlie Herr: The Fulton Chain in photos
- ♦ July 18: Jay O'Hern: Spring Trout & Strawberry Pancakes
- ♦ July 25: Dennis Webster: Haunted Old Forge
- ♦ August 1: John Taibi: A Soldier's Journey through the Heart of the Park

### **Big Moose Community Chapel**

Tuesdays at 7pm

- ♦ July 3: Ed Pitts: 19th Century Adirondack Outdoorswomen
- ♦ July 17: Prof William Powell: American Chestnut Project
- ♦ July 24: TOW Historian Peg Masters: The William P. Weedmark Photographic Collection
- ♦ August 7: Bruce Steltzer: William Covey and the Memorial Bridge
- ♦ August 14: Geof Longstaff: Longstaff Legacy
- ♦ August 28: Dan Josephson: The Adirondack Fishery Research Program

# STAY TUNED - MORE TO COME

## **MOSS LAKE WALKING TOUR**

**AUGUST 9**

**MOSS LAKE TRAILHEAD**

**9:00AM**

**RESERVE YOUR SPOT**

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](http://www.webbhistory.org)



Goodsell Museum

# AUCTION

July 7th

Preview: 10am Bidding: 11am

Under the big tent  
Bring a chair  
Refreshments available

Something for everyone!  
Items listed on our website:  
[www.webbhistory.org](http://www.webbhistory.org)

## As Far As the Eye Can See

Exhibit  
Opening in 2018



### 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.

GET YOUR TEAM  
TOGETHER NOW

## FIFTH ANNUAL NUTTY PUTTY

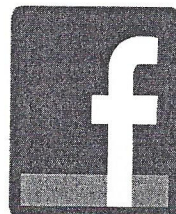


## TOURNAMENT

JULY 19, 2018

\$20 PER PLAYER INCLUDES  
GAME, HAMBURG/HOT DOG  
AND DRINK OF CHOICE  
Family Pack: \$45 for 2 adults and 2 children  
(under 12)  
(each additional child under 12 is \$10)

**LOTS OF FUN PRIZES!!!**



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



## NEW SUMMERTIME FUN

### Talking History & Selling Sweatshirts at the Old Forge Farmer's Market



Put your  
**THINKING CAP**  
on!!

Come and see what we have brought. Help us identify photos and businesses.

Got something to share?



**50/50 RAFFLE**  
**MEMORIAL DAY - COLUMBUS DAY**  
**TICKETS \$10**  
**GET THEM AT THE FARMER'S MARKET**

We placed 5th in the Best Rainy Day Activities category in the 2018 Best of the Adirondacks competition  
**THANK YOU!**



**WE LOVE OUR VOLUNTEERS**

### 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's, anniversaries, birth of a child or grandchild or other notable occasions, are significant and lasting ways to show you care.

Can't decide what to get? Trying to find a gift for someone who has everything?

Give a membership to TOWHA!



Pvt. Charles W. Kiefer (1927-2017) – “Legionnaire”

By Peg Masters, Town of Webb Historian

A few years ago, when the late Mike Burke was Commander of the Covey-Pashley American Legion Post #893, I asked him how they knew where to place the Legion’s American flags on Veterans’ graves for Memorial Day weekend. “*We just follow Charlie Kiefer through the cemetery,*” Mike explained. This year when the Legion leads our community in a tribute to the Veterans buried in Riverview Cemetery on Memorial Day, a flag will solemnly mark Pvt. Charlie Kiefer’s grave.

Charles W. “Charlie” Kiefer was born in Old Forge on March 18, 1927 less than a decade after the Covey American Legion Post #893 was organized in Old Forge. He was a member of the Post for 70 of his 90 lifetime years and knew its history and most of its charter members well. The organization was named for Corporal William E. Covey of Twitchell Lake. Covey entered the Army in August 1917 and was sent to France to serve with the American Expeditionary Forces in Co. B of the 301<sup>st</sup> Supply Train. On December 3, 1918 while awaiting his orders to return home, William died of pneumonia in a hospital in France. His parents, Earl and Addie Covey anxiously waited more than two years for William’s body to be returned to the States for burial which did not occur until July 1921. At the request of Earl Covey, now a widower, members of the newly formed Covey American Legion Post from Old Forge traveled by train down to Utica to escort William’s flag-draped coffin to its final resting place in Forest Hills Cemetery.



The Legion’s program for Decoration Day, as Memorial Day was called when Charlie was a young boy, began on the Town of Webb Union Free School grounds with a wreath laying ceremony at the base of a tree planted in William Covey’s memory. Charlie was in his freshman year in December 1941 when the tragic events of Pearl Harbor occurred. Many of his schoolmates entered the military as soon as they were eligible. Harold Lorenz, William Pulling, Fred Pashley, Ted Risley, Gilbert Denis, Frank Mulchy, and Larry Gaudin, all Town of Webb star players on the varsity basketball team had enlisted in various branches of the Armed Services by January of 1943. So did Charlie’s coach and physical education instructor Jack M. Davis. Jack took a leave of absence from his 34-year career at the school in Town of Webb to join the Navy as a Chief Petty Officer and served on the USS Nashville, the flagship that returned General Douglas MacArthur to the Philippines in 1944.

Less than a month after he graduated from high school, Charlie Kiefer left Old Forge in July 1945 and went to Albany to enlist in the Army. The Town of Webb community had just received word in April that one of their school’s graduates, Sgt. Frederick William Pashley, had been killed in an Army Air Corp military plane crash near Mt. Rainier while on a flight training mission from Buckley Field in Colorado to Seattle. The wreckage of the plane and the three crew members’ charred bodies were not discovered until July 19, 1946. All three were buried in a single grave in the Golden Gate National Cemetery in San Bruno, CA. That spring, the American Legion Post in Old Forge had successfully petitioned their national headquarters to change its name to the Covey-Pashley Post. In August of 1946, a tree was donated by the Ziyara Temple in Utica to the Covey-Pashley American Legion in Fred’s honor. Dr. Robert N. Lindsay led the dedication ceremony when the tree was planted on the school’s grounds.

Pvt. Charlie Kiefer was deployed to Berlin where he organized and ran an athletic program for German orphans until his discharge in December 1946. His post-war life typified the unheralded lives of the majority of the Veterans from his great generation. He used the GI bill to further his education, lived to celebrate nearly 63 years of marriage to the love of his life, June Murray-Kiefer, and raise three children in the hometown that he cherished. As a past-Commander of the Covey-Pashley Post and in his role as its Chaplin, Charlie served as the Memorial Day Master of Ceremonies at Riverview Cemetery for many years. We have lost some great community members over the last year, but at this Memorial Day ceremony for me, the bell tolls for thee Charlie.



## WE REMEMBER

Lori Baster in memory of June Kiefer, Mark & Lori Eddy in memory of June Kiefer, Ian & Tania Coulthard in memory of Charlie Kiefer, Dave & Marsha Barker in memory of Jim Denio, Frank Lesure in memory of Dart-Kronmiller-Lesure families, Mark & Lori Eddy in memory of Charlie Kiefer, Dave & Paula Weal in memory of June & Charlie Kiefer, Lou Foley in memory of John D. and Helen L. Foley, Doc Jones in memory of Lora Jones, Bob and Peg Brussell in memory of loved ones, Doc & Judy Foley in memory of Peter Paravati, Peggy Rotton in memory of Peter Paravati, Ron DeBree in memory of Peter Paravati, Sharon Daviau in memory of Robert Daviau, Ed Vanderveer in memory of Marie Vanderveer, BJ Queen Enterprises in memory of Peter Paravati, Albert & Linda Bostwick in memory of A. Richard Cohen, Elva Roberts in memory of Loring T. Roberts, Barbara & Doug Criss in memory of Jack Burnett and June & Charlie Kiefer, Timothy Graham in memory of Sharon Graham, Richard & Barbara Hart in memory of Charles Kiefer, John & Deb Munyan in memory of Charlie Kiefer, Deke & Carol Morrison in memory of Henry Kashiwa, Francis Knorr in memory of Arthur Knorr, Phil & Sue Freese in memory of Charlie Kiefer, Mathew Scheidelman in memory of June & Charlie Kiefer, The Children of Ed & Mary Diamond in memory of their parents, Bonnie & Robert Kreidler in memory of Bob Hadden, Russell & Susan Isaac in memory of Peter Paravati, Wilson & Dawn Tyler in memory of Sharon Graham, Marty & Don Lawson in memory of Jeff Craig, Brynlsen's Viking Village in memory of Rolf Brynlsen, Omer Hudon in memory of Charlie & June Kiefer, Gilbert Smith in memory of Dorothy Smith and Barney Barnum, Jean Polly in memory of George and Marylee Armour, Prissy Lee in memory of Barbara Wheeler and Wanda Martin, Elva Roberts in memory of Loring T. Roberts, Margaret Hopsicker in memory of Stephen Montanye and Jerry Olsen, John Wilkins in memory of Margaret "Margie" Wilkins, Charles and Joan Wilcox in memory of Charles E. Wilcox and Roy D. Wilcox, Charles Rowlee in memory of Elizabeth Gray, Doug and Judy Riedman in memory of Kyle D. Riedman, Clarence & Marianne McDonough in memory of Jamie McDonough, Charlie & Marsha Herr in memory of Alvin & Margaret Chambers, Ron Christensen in memory of Mirnie Kashiwa, Jane and Jerry Slack in memory of Chris Gaige and Mirnie Kashiwa, John Jones & Christine Grenier in memory of Elizabeth Gray, Mary Wheeler & Karen Popielski in memory of Elizabeth Gray, Timothy Graham in memory of Sharon Graham, Kate Ohno in memory of John & Shirley Mearns, Doug & Barb Criss in memory of Jack Burnett, Doc & Judy Foley in memory of Marian Gibson and Mirnie Kashiwa, Margaret Preston in memory of Elizabeth Gray, Sam Acee in memory of Elizabeth Gray, David and Paula Weal in memory of Mirnie Kashiwa, Chris Gaige, Barb Baker, Marian Gibson, Jim Ehrensbeck, Louise Watson, Connie Smith, and Tom Yacavella, Dave & Carol Clark in memory of Lynda Kellogg, Robyn Craig in memory of Jim Ehrensbeck, Jane & Jerry Slack in memory of Louise Watson, John Jones & Christine Grenier in memory of Elizabeth Gray, Mary Wheeler & Karen Popielski in memory of Elizabeth Gray, Timothy Graham in memory of Sharon Graham, Kate Ohno in memory of John & Shirley Mearns, Doug & Barb Criss in memory of Jack Burnett, Doc & Judy Foley in memory of Marian Gibson and Mirnie Kashiwa, Margaret Preston in memory of Elizabeth Gray, Sam Acee in memory of Elizabeth Gray, David and Paula Weal in memory of Mirnie Kashiwa, Chris Gaige, Barb Baker, Marian Gibson, Jim Ehrensbeck, Louise Watson, Connie Smith, and Tom Yacavella, Dave & Carol Clark in memory of Lynda Kellogg, Robyn Craig in memory of Jim Ehrensbeck, Jane & Jerry Slack in memory of Louise Watson, Irene Wilson, Sara LaFave, and Lynda Kellogg, Peter & Johana Brakeley in memory of Lynda Kellogg, Doc & Judy Foley in memory of Lynda Kellogg, Helen Estabrook in memory of Lynda Kellogg, Jacklynn Burth Kolwaite in memory of Lynda Kellogg, Ed & Heather Stafford in memory of Alice Keyser, Lynn & Chuck Deis in memory of Lynda Kellogg, Mark and Page Hannah in memory of Lynda Kellogg, Maria Greco in memory of Lynda Kellogg, Joan Spring in memory of Lynda Kellogg, David and Paula Weal in memory of Lynda Kellogg.

John F. Herr in honor of Charles Herr, David and Paula Weal in honor of Ash Kellogg and family.