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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

1906 Tragedy in Big Moose

A tragic event still being discussed 100 years later will be the feature of the next exhibit in the front parlor of the Goodsell Memorial Home Museum. Visitors will see artifacts that will represent items referred to in the national news story, turned legend, known as the murder in Big Moose where Chester Gillette and Grace Brown parted forever after leaving the Glenmore Hotel for a boat ride on Big Moose Lake on July 11, 1906.

Gillette was arrested three days later at the Arrowhead Hotel in Inlet, New York. He was transported to the Forge House in Old Forge where he was held before being moved by train to Herkimer. There Gillette remained in jail for trial. The courthouse in Herkimer was the scene of the trial that lasted over three weeks. Strong circumstantial evidence allowed the prosecutors to prove beyond a reasonable doubt that Chester Gillette was guilty.

Included in our exhibit will be photos, posters, documents, postcards, and items such as a guideboat, suitcase, tennis racket, camera, and hat. An attempt will be made to recreate a parlor scene depicting what the interior of the Glenmore Hotel may have looked like. Plans are being made for several programs, a pictorial cancellation by the US Postal Service, and other events.

We invite you to visit the exhibition that will remain in place December 1, 2005—October 31, 2006.

Please visit the following websites for updates and more information:

Town of Webb Historical Association www.webbhistory.org

Herkimer County Historical Society www.rootsweb.com

Dunns Boat Service Big Moose Lake www.dunnsboat.com

Craig Brandon author, *Murder in the Adirondacks* www.craigbrandon.com

Pictured below is the Glenmore Hotel circa 1905



Coming Events

December 1, 2005—Opening of our feature exhibit *1906 Tragedy in Big Moose*—the front parlor will hold artifacts that will represent events that took place at the Hotel Glenmore and Big Moose Lake in July of 1906 when Chester Gillette and Grace Brown parted forever. This exhibit will be in place through October 2006.

December 4, 2005—*Open House* We hope you can join us at the Goodsell Memorial Home Museum for refreshments 12:00 noon—3 PM
Volunteer recognition at 1 PM

June 17, 2006 *Benefit Auction* Preview 9-11 AM
Bidding starts promptly at 11 AM. Antiques, vintage, Adirondack, new and nearly new items—**something for everyone**. Donation items accepted year-round. Guest Auctioneer, June DeLair—Constableville Auction Hall

August 5, 2006 Postcards, Collectibles and Bottles Show and Sale—10 AM—3 PM - Collectibles (smalls, jewelry, etc.) have been added to the show to increase attendance and interest. The show may have to move to a larger location in Old Forge if there is a significant increase in dealers. We will keep you posted.

- *Additional events and programs will be added as dates are finalized*

Museum Committee Thanks Gallery North

Terry and Deborah Jones, owners of Gallery North, a local business on Main Street in Old Forge specializing in custom framing and fine art, has been generous in donating their services in-kind for framing projects needed for exhibits at the museum. The Jones' use the correct acid free products and techniques needed for the preservation of our maps and photographs. The Museum Committee thanks them for their help.

Goodsell Memorial Home Museum

2993 State Route 28—Old Forge

OPEN: Tuesday—Saturday

10 AM– 3 PM or by Appointment

National Archives Week

October 10-16, 2005

The Town of Webb Historical Association conducted a Preservation and Scrapbook Workshop on Wednesday, October 12. Participants learned preservation techniques, scrapbook tips, and received printed information on restoration of photos and care of family documents.

A message from the president

To Future Volunteers.

Remember that table at your mom's house—every time you sat something on it, it would wobble? Mom would then magically produce an empty match book, fold it and put it under the short leg.

Well, we're the wobbly table and you're the support that makes us stable.

Please call and let us know how you can support us. Our number is 315-369-3838.

Cheryl Gerrish

President of Board of Trustees

Benefit Auction

The Ways and Means Committee is working on plans for our 4th Annual Benefit Auction scheduled for June 17, 2006. The committee welcomes donations of vintage items, antiques, Adirondack, new and almost new items. Pick up is available. Please call us at 315-369-3838 for more information.

The Committee has invited June DeLair from the Constableville Auction Hall to be our guest Auctioneer for the event in 2006.

The Benefit Auction will be held under a tent on the grounds of the Goodsell Memorial Home Museum. Please mark the date on your calendar and tell your friends and neighbors. Plan on participating to help us reach our fundraising goals.

The War to End All Wars – a Remembrance

By Town of Webb Historian Peg Masters

Less than a month after President Woodrow Wilson declared war with Germany on April 6, 1917, several hundred citizens in the Town of Webb held a patriotic parade in Old Forge and gathered at the “busy corner” to raise an American flag up the newly constructed flagpole. According to an old newspaper clipping at the Town of Webb Historical Association, students from Old Forge, Fulton Chain, and Minnowbrook marched in the parade and music was provided by the Boonville Band. Dr. Robert S. Lindsay served as Master of Ceremonies and the patriotic addresses were applauded heartily by the spectators.

America had finally entered the Great War that had been raging in Europe since 1914. The declaration, compounded by the Spanish influenza pandemic of 1918, affected nearly every household across the country. More than 23 million men were drafted by the selective service law. The regular army grew exponentially from 127,000 soldiers in April of 1917 to nearly 4 million men in army uniforms on Armistice Day - November 11, 1918. Tens of thousands more participated in the Navy, Marine Corp and National Guard. The Great War claimed 67,813 American lives. Another 206,846 were listed as wounded or missing in action.

While dozens of native sons and woodsmen were called to serve from Webb, some did not wait to be drafted: Harold Bissell & John McEdward of Big Moose, William Brack, Robert N. Lindsay, Leon Goodbout, Frank Yule, Robert Goodsell, Walter Miller, William S. Ball, Phil Burdick, Clarence Perkins of Old Forge, Thomas Carral & Henry Brack of McKeever, Felix Spakowski of Woods Lake - all enlisted within the first months following the declaration of war.

Alexander Landry was drafted while working as a lumberman for Leon Kelly at Brandreth Lake. He died in France October 19, 1918 and is buried in the Meuse-Argonne American Cemetery near Verdun. This cemetery, the largest American military cemetery in all of Europe, contains the burial markers for 14,246 World War I soldiers – nearly 5,000 more graves than in the World War II cemetery at Normandy.

William E. Covey of Twitchell Lake left for the war in September 1917 with the first contingent of soldiers from Herkimer County. At Camp Devens, he was made a Corporal of Company B, 301st Supply Train, 76th Division, then sent overseas and stationed at St. Amand until after the armistice. While waiting to be shipped back home at Le Havre, he contracted the Spanish influenza and died of pneumonia along with thirty-four other men from his company. Sending their bodies home in those days was not an option and all were buried in the American military cemetery at Le Havre.



In Memory of Cpl. William E. Covey from Twitchell Lake who died in France December 3, 1918

In 1919, State Historian Patrick Sullivan sent a request to all NYS historians to submit their local community’s World War I history to the state archives in Albany. Copies of the reports sent by Webb’s historian Lou Garmon Powell have recently been obtained and are now on file at the Goodsell Museum. A number of US Service men gassed, wounded or incapacitated to some degree by the war, came to Old Forge for recuperation and rest. According to Powell, many of these men were sent from Syracuse by the US Public Health Department and included: Arthur J. Tickner, Ernest J. Hauptli, Stephen Welychko, Stephen Bazyliv, and Bernard Hemmer. With the assistance of American Legion Post #893, our Historical is currently compiling additional biographies and photographs of all our local veterans to add to our vertical files. Further information on Webb Veterans from World War I, the Spanish influenza, and how to submit veteran histories is available on our website at www.webbhistory.org.

Items Available in our Gift Shop

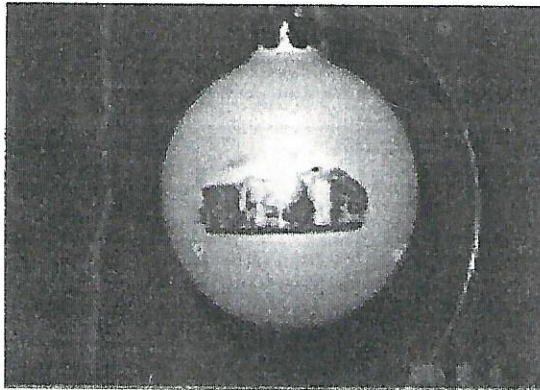
Books

- OLD FORGE – GATEWAY
TO THE ADIRONDACKS - \$19.99
- ADIRONDACK LAKES - \$26.99
- BREAKING TRAIL—\$19.49
- ADIRONDACK FIRE TOWERS - \$20.00
- NIGHT OF DISASTER The New York
Central Gulf Curve Wreck - \$11.95
- HERKIMER COUNTY AT 200 - \$30.00

Other Items

- 2004 Collector Ornament—The Strand \$10
- 2005 Collector Ornament—TOW School \$10
- Poster—The Narrows by
Bernard Hemmer—\$50.00

All items are subject to sales tax—shipping is available in time for the Holiday Season



Above is a picture of the 2006 Collector Ornament featuring the Town of Webb School as it looked circa 1940

Key Club Helps the Museum Committee

On Sunday, October 30, 2005, several members of the Key Club under the guidance of Mr. Mark Johnston, helped the Museum Committee dismantle the Law Enforcement exhibit including the 1905 jail cell in preparation for the new exhibit. In addition, the Key Club helped organize postcards, package picture frames, clean artifacts and the basement. The Historical Association sincerely appreciates their community service spirit and help.

Roundtable Remembrance

Three roundtables were held over the summer. We would like to thank all who came and shared their stories. Audio tapes were made and are being transcribed along with notes from the staff.

Plans are being made to continue this program. Watch the newspaper for dates or call the office to have your name put on a list for personal notification.

Education

Joan Armstrong, volunteer education coordinator, has developed a Children's Museum Guide to be used by visitors to the Goodsell Memorial Home Museum. Eileen Fay, our Herkimer County Summer Youth Bureau student carefully and artistically transformed Joan's notes to the computer. We hope to have the booklet available for summer visitors.

Building and Grounds Update

As of the writing of this newsletter, a preliminary copy of the Conditions Report from the office of Crawford and Stearns has been received. This report was made possible thanks to a grant from the John E. Streb Preservation Fund of the National Trust for Historic Preservation. The committee is reviewing the findings and will take all recommendations under advisement. There were no surprises. The committee will be addressing the needs of the ice house, carriage barn and home museum in the near future.

In addition, the Mid-State Crew from Marcy Correctional Facility returned this fall to work on several projects helping to organize the basement, wash windows, rake leaves, and winterize the buildings and property.

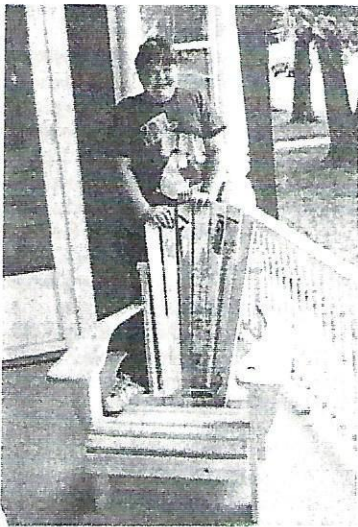
Chairs Along the Chain

Chairs Along the Chain was a beautification endeavor sponsored by local businesses and organizations held Memorial Day to Labor Day, 2005.

The Trustees of the Town of Webb Historical Association pooled their pocket change and purchased an Adirondack Chair so the Goodsell Memorial Museum could participate.

Terry Rozycki, local artist and member, donated her time and skill and painted an interesting chair featuring several outhouses. Visitors and residents were invited to sign up to win the chair. They could enter as many times, for as many chairs, as they like.

The winner of our chair (pictured below) was Nanette Stell of Macedon, New York.



Museum Committee

Brenda Burdick Jones has led the committee in the development of plans for the new feature exhibit "1906 Tragedy in Big Moose" as well as minor adjustments to exhibits throughout the museum.

On the agenda for winter projects are changes to the exhibits at the Hemmer Cottage and continued work with the collections in storage and recently acquired.

Mary Farmer and Betty Rannels helped create a display of vintage quilts. The quilts were gathered from our collection and on loan from individuals and exhibited during the months of October and November.

A Holiday exhibit of vintage ornaments, postcards and other holiday items will be in place for December and January.

Wish List

We are in need of the following items. Please call us if you can help or have any questions.

- Epson RX600 scanner
- New color printer and program compatible with our Dell computer
- Books—*The Hills Beyond the Hills*
Rails in the North Woods
- Cordless Drill
- Vintage and current postcards of the Town of Webb not already in our collection
- Brochures, maps, rate cards, menus of current and past businesses, hotels, motels and restaurants not already in our collection
- Volunteers

Architectural Preservation Committee

Hemmer Cottage Gets New Floor

With generous donations from supporters, Hemmer Cottage now has a new 6" concrete floor in the former garage area, and a new interior, insulated wall with shed doors inside the original swing-out garage doors. Local contractor Pete Bishop and crew did the work to make the area weather tight and more secure.

Architectural Preservation committee thanks all who attended fundraisers, purchased ornaments or made donations. Our next project will be to begin replacement of the bark-slab siding, which age and climate have deteriorated and which gives the cottage much of its unique character, and duplicate, energy-efficient windows in the studio conference room. We're applying for grants that will require matching funds. Should you wish to donate, please mark your check "Hemmer Cottage siding".

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 Gary R. Darling
 Dorothea Una Deis
 Hazel Dellavia
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 Grace Flock
 Linda Folsom
 James Fox
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 Pauline L. Glisson
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 George Hahl
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Keyes Pancake House
Moore and Hart CPA's
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Business Gold

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Helmer's Fuel & Trucking
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Wilderness Interiors

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Stephen and Susan Vekasy
Paul and Florence Villiere

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!

Our membership year runs January-December

Please consider a gift membership for family or friends. We encourage you to spread the word of our work and goals at the Town of Webb Historical Association.

Our Thanks to Edie Morcy

Edie Morcy, long-time community member and Adirondack guide, passed away at the age of 101 on September 26, 2004. Unknown to most people, Edie had a large estate when she died. The Town of Webb Historical Association is grateful that Edie planned ahead and included us in those plans along with several other organizations and individuals in the community that were dear to her heart and worthy of her support. Her generosity will build our endowment or balance our budget or help us with some special projects. Her gift will be long remembered.

If you are able to consider a gift as part of your estate, the Town of Webb Historical Association Finance Committee would be happy to discuss this with you. Please call 369-3838.