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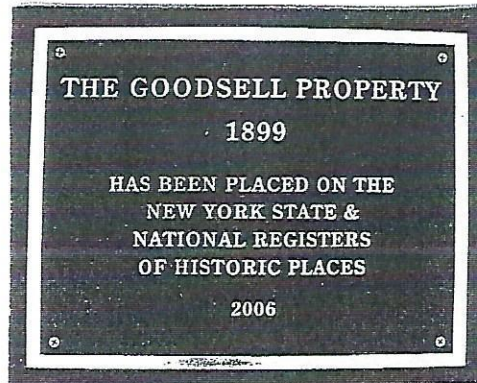
TOWN OF WEBB HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION  
PO BOX 513, OLD FORGE, NY 13420  
PHONE: 315 369-3838

## New York State and National Register of Historic Places

The Town of Webb Historical Association is proud and pleased to announce that the Goodsell House has been officially listed on the State and National Registers of Historic Places.

Thanks goes to Peg Masters, Ed Girtler and Reed Proper for many hours of hard work, research, documentation, personal contacts, and compiling of information following the guidelines of the application submitted in 2005.

During our Open House on December 3rd, a brass plaque designating the Goodsell House listed on the registers will be attached to the building near the front door. A special ceremony will take place at approximately 1 PM. We invite Town of Webb Historical Association members and the public to join us on this proud occasion. The museum will be open at noon and refreshments will be served. We hope you share our excitement and will join us anytime from Noon—3 PM.



## Benefit Auction 2006

Over 250 items were generously donated by members, friends and visitors for the Benefit Auction held on the Goodsell Museum grounds on June 17th. Our guest auctioneer June DeLair, from the Constableville Auction Hall donated her time and quickly went through the collection of interesting items completing the auction in approximately three hours. The proceeds from the Auction were designated for general operation support.

Plans are being made to have another benefit auction on June 16, 2007. June DeLair has agreed to help us again. If your New Year resolution is to clean out the closets, garage or attic, the Town of Webb Historical Association would gladly accept donated items. We are looking for antiques, vintage, and nearly new items. Pick up can be arranged. Please give us a call.

## Victorian Party on the Porch

The Victorian Party on the Porch fundraiser held on Wednesday, September 6th at Camp Mark Seven (the former Mohawk Hotel) was a huge success. In spite of the rain, it looked like everyone had a good time. Our guests enjoyed conversations, food, beverages, and entertainment by the Old Forge Ballet Company. Dave Staehle, Director of Camp Mark Seven allowed our volunteers to transform the porch and meeting room into a wonderful Victorian setting. Many visitors chose to dress in period clothing adding to fun.

A big thank you to everyone who helped make the event possible. Thanks to the designers, bakers, servers, transporters, cleaners, sign makers, chefs, entertainers and staff.

The Town of Webb Historical Association applauds Camp Mark Seven and their efforts of building preservation and restoration, and congratulates them on their upcoming 25th anniversary in August of 2007.



Jon and Linda Martin, Big Moose  
Photo courtesy of Michelle deCamp

### Goodsell Memorial Home Museum

2993 State Route 28—Old Forge

**OPEN:** Tuesday—Saturday

10 AM— 3 PM or by Appointment

## The Man and His Turn of the Century Wildlife Photos

A program on the wildlife photographs of Hobart V. Roberts was presented at the Old Forge Library on Wednesday, September 27, by Robert Dicker of New Hartford. The program was sponsored by the Town of Webb Historical Association. Mr. Dicker showed a series of slides and displayed his extensive collection of Hobart V. Roberts items.

The Historical Association is grateful for Dicker's donation of a Roberts nighttime photograph of a deer with a miniature calendar dated 1913 for its collection.

## Collecting History

The Thendara History Group has met several times during the past year at the Goodsell Memorial Home Museum. The group has two committees. The Discover Thendara committee is interested in collecting stories, photos, ephemera, and information about homes, businesses and people from the Thendara area. Lots of new information has been received, including details about Kate's Diner and the Sequoia Restaurant to mention just a couple. The Current Issues committee is concerned with subjects such as sidewalks, sewers, traffic and flooding and has been gathering support for certain issues.

The Historical Association has also begun working with residents of the Twitchell Lake area and Okara Lakes and hopes to assist them any way possible. Our goal is to encourage people to write down their stories, collect and share photographs, and to document events.

Society can learn from studying the past thanks to organizations dedicated to documenting events. History can educate us to make thoughtful decisions about the future.

We are grateful to the Big Moose History Project group for a donation that will be used to assist residents of the Town of Webb in the collection of history of the area.

### Correction

The picture on the front page of the Fall/Winter 2005 issue was misidentified as the Glennmore. After studying the details of the photo, it was determined that the photo was the early Wood Hotel, Inlet.

**The Town of Webb Historical Association is grateful to the many members and non-members who choose to remember the lives of loved ones with memorials to our organization. The names below reflect memorial donations from January – October, 2006**

Patricia Ballard in memory of Eleanor V. Dennis; Ellen and John Best in memory of Beverly Joslin; Richard and Roxanne Bird in memory of Don Bird and Marion Bird; Bonnie M. Bushman in memory of Donald G. Bushman; Eileen Chaffee-Schultz in memory of Jack and John Chaffee; John Paul and Mary Crangle in memory of Gail Ball; Bill and Joan Davis in memory of Madeline Case; Dorotha Una Deis in memory of Tom Milton; Fred and Judy Ehrensbeck in memory of Barbara Roberts; Janet B. Fedder in memory of Robert Fedder; Dr. and Mrs. Jack Goldstone in memory of Tobby C. Nathan; Tim and Joanne Gross in memory of Dot & Ken Rivette, George Gross; Virginia R. Gross in memory of George Gross; Mark and Page Hannah in memory of Ann B. Williams; Ron and Jill Hollister in memory of Beverly Joslin; John and Margaret Hopsicker in memory of Lisa Kott; Charles and June Kiefer in memory of Marilyn Denio, Robert Pashley, Sandra Hugh, Margaret Farmer; Robert and Terry Lehnen in memory of Tom Milton; Jednine Levy in memory of Beverly Joslin; Wanda Martin in memory of Howard E. Martin; Muriel Marvin in memory of Laurel Marvin; Clarence and Marianne McDonough in memory of Jamie McDonough; Lee D. and Laura Minnie in memory of Marilyn Denio; Lois Murphy in memory of John F. Murphy; Philip and Jeanne Osepchook in memory of Fred and Jean Liddle; F. Eugene Romano in memory of Jeanne Ulrich Romano; Robert U. Palmer in memory of Betty W. Palmer; Mike and Beth Pashley in memory of Betty Burdick Blystone Corrigan; Kevin Ponder in memory of Beverly Joslin; Tim and Stephanie Ponder in memory of Beverly Joslin; Shirley Preston in memory of Stuart Preston & Mr. & Mrs. Robert T. Searing; Josephine Santangelo in memory of William Santangelo; Carol Searing in memory of Robert T. Searing, Jr. and Jon F. Searing; Edgar VanderVeer in memory of Marie VanderVeer; David and Paula Weal in memory of the Farmer Family; Theresa Winslow in memory of Helen Michel; Albert and Izzie Worthen in memory of Sandi Hugh; Carol N. Wiard in memory of Aaron B. Wiard & Alva F. Nolan

**Donations in the memory of deceased members of the class of 1956 and designated to the Barn and Ice House Restoration Project were given by:**

Charles and Sandra Barrows, Matthew and Anita Bolmer, Stephen A. and Constance Milligan, Lee and Laura Minnie, Bernard and Brenda Thibado, David A. and Kathleen Tickner, Jack and Rebecca Turner

**The following would like to recognize certain individuals and have made a donation to the Town of Webb Historical Association in their honor:**

Linda and Sarah Cohen in honor of Don DiOrio's Birthday, Linda Cohen in honor of Peg Masters and Ed Girtler, Sarah Cohen in honor of Dick Olson and Charles Tollett, The Waldheim in honor of William Scheffler

**We truly appreciate these donations, they continue to help support this organization in many ways. THANK YOU!**

**Reminder**

**We Hope You Can Join Us!**

**OPEN HOUSE - Sunday, December 3, 2006 Noon—3 PM**

**CEREMONY recognizing the listing of the Goodsell Home on the New York State and National Registers—1 PM**

## 5th Annual Taste of the Fulton Chain Cruise

On Sunday evening, June 30, 2006, the cruise boat "Uncas" left the dock on the Old Forge Pond with passengers ready to enjoy the 5th Annual Taste of the Fulton Chain Cruise fundraiser. Signature appetizers and desserts were provided by many of the area's finest restaurants and chefs. Doreen Alessi, Conservator and Assistant Curator for the Adirondack Museum of Blue Mountain Lake was our guest peaker. A sunset sing-a-long led by Audrey Crafts and joined by Rolf Brynildsen; and many passengers brought music to the Fulton Chain.

Proceeds from the event were used to match the grant for re-siding and energy improvements of Hemmer Cottage.

The Historical Association appreciates the volunteer help, donations, and great weather that made this event a huge success.

### Technical Assistance Grant

We are pleased to announce that a major portion of our 2006-2007 technical plan will be underwritten by the Glenn and Carol Pearsall Adirondack Foundation. This grant will allow for the purchase of a new computer, networking of our existing computer, and purchase of software to allow remotely gathered materials to be integrated into our system.

The Glenn and Carol Pearsall Adirondack Foundation is dedicated to improving the quality of life for year-round residents of the Adirondack Park. To find out more about the foundation see [www.pearsallfoundation.org](http://www.pearsallfoundation.org).

## Trolley Tours with Peg Masters

Peg Masters, Town Historian, conducted several Historic Trolley Tours this summer on the "Women of Webb". The town Trolley left the Hemmer Cottage and traveled the back streets of Old Forge for approximately one hour. Peg included stories of a guide-trapper, the first female fire tower observer in New York State, a one-room schoolhouse educator, a librarian-historian, a Native American entrepreneur (see the story on page 6), an author and pioneer female aviator, a military nurse in WW II and Korea, and a wife of a President who spent her honeymoon on the Fulton Chain of Lakes.

In addition, two Tall Tales and Ghost Stories trolley tours (one in July and one in August) were filled with riders interested in hearing more about the spirits said to inhabit buildings in the area and tales of historic happenings in Thendara and Old Forge.

## The Community Foundation of Herkimer and Oneida Counties

The Town of Webb Historical Association is grateful for the existence of the Community Foundation of Herkimer and Oneida Counties, Inc., a group dedicated to increasing its holdings with a desire to give back to the communities it serves.

Our organization benefited this year from the newly formed Town of Webb Fund, a donor advised fund, with grants to the Historical Association for general support and funds designated exclusively for the Hemmer Cottage re-siding and energy efficient window project.

In addition, a recent grant from the A. Richard Cohen Family Fund, a donor advised fund, will help us continue to serve our community enabling the museum to be open to the public for research and visits full-time and year round; and building maintenance of Hemmer Cottage.

## VOLUNTEERS

The Historical Association has many opportunities available for volunteers. If you like to talk to people, love the history of our area, like to work with your hands, type, research or organize closets, we may be able to use your help for a few hours here or there. Your choice! There are lots of projects started that need finishing.

Visit our Website

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

email

[director@webbhistory.org](mailto:director@webbhistory.org)

## Grant received to rehouse Weedmark and Harris Collections

The National Endowment for the Humanities awarded the Historical Association a grant of \$4,998 to support our project to re-house our William Weedmark negative and photo collection and the Bruce Harris negative collection. Cheryl Gerrish, president, has been working with volunteers and moving the collections from crowded boxes, containers, and envelopes to an acid free environment. We will have 18 months to complete the project. These collections include images from the early 1940's to the late 1990's and document events, tragedies and portraits that tell the story of the era. The Harris collection also includes the interiors of many area taverns and restaurants in photos taken for liquor licenses.



## Museum Committee

Over the past several years, the front parlor in the Goodsell Museum featured many interesting exhibits and topics. Each year, the Museum Committee is challenged to select a topic that hopefully will be of interest to local full-time and part-time residents and our visitors alike. The "Tiech's Old Trading Post" exhibit brought back many memories for visitors who visited the Eagle Bay establishment when it was in its heyday. The "Law Enforcement In the Rural North Country" exhibit educated many visitors on the history of the State Troopers and our local Town of Webb Police along with other law enforcement groups that service our area. Recently, the 1906 Tragedy in Big Moose exhibit, the story of Chester Gillette and Grace Brown and the murder that won't die, attracted an incredible amount of attention to our area.

Our next exhibit "**Fire—100 Years of Answering the Call**" will attempt to briefly tell the history, development and accomplishments of our local Fire Department. In addition, the neighboring fire companies of Big Moose, Eagle Bay, Inlet, Otter Lake and Woodgate, will also be recognized as they are valued for their mutual aid. The exhibit will run December 1, 2006 through October 31, 2007.

The committee also created interesting displays at the Antique and Classic Boat Show at the Old Forge Pond in July. Many sales were made of our books and reproductions of photographs.

In addition, a display of the Women of Webb was installed in the chalet at McCauley Mountain at the Story Telling Festival sponsored by the Old Forge Library on September 10th.

## Women of Webb — Cleopie O'Bomsawin Dennis (1877-1934)

By Peg Masters, Town of Webb Historian

Cleopie O'Bomsawin was born December 11, 1877 at the St. Francis Abenaki Reserve in Odanak, Quebec, the daughter of Pierre Joseph O'Bomsawin. The territory of the Abenaki community of Odanak, also known by the name of Saint-François-du-Lac, is still located on the south shore of the Saint Lawrence River along the Saint François River. The Abenakis were originally based in New England and came to Quebec at the end of the 17th century. The principal language spoken in the community was French. The O'Bomsawin family was well known for their fine craftsmanship in traditional Abenaki ash splint and sweet-grass basketry.

During the summer months of the 1890s and early 20th Century, many of the St. Francis Reserve residents came to the Adirondacks to sell their Native American goods, setting up camps at Lake Luzerne, Lake George, Lake Champlain, and along the Fulton Chain. According to Bill Marleau in his book "*Big Moose Station*," there were as many as 80 Abenakis in the Old Forge area at that time, particularly

along Fourth Lake. Among them was Julius Paul Dennis (1866-1953), also from the Reserve at Odanak. Julius traveled over the partially constructed Mohawk and Malone Railroad corridor to Big Moose, NY, then hiked through the woods to Old Forge. Julius was an Abenaki Chief and a craftsman with exceptional ability for making baskets, birchbark canoes, and snowshoes.

Cleopie married Chief Dennis at Odanak and came with him in the summer months to the Fulton Chain of Lakes. In 1909, they brought their 7-month old son Maurice. The following year their son Bernard was born. For several years they camped near the Minnowbrook Hotel on Fourth Lake. In 1917, the family moved permanently to Old Forge setting up a home and workshop on North Street. In addition to helping her husband weave baskets, Cleopie applied her artistic talents to making traditional clothing for the family and beaded moccasins to sell to



Cleopie O'Bomsawin & Family  
weaving baskets at their workshop in Old Forge

tourists. In the winter months, Chief Dennis scoured the woods for craft materials and trapped to supplement the family's income. Their children attended the Town of Webb School but early in the 1920s, Julius and Cleopie tragically lost their son Bernard to tuberculosis.

In 1932, Cleopie obtained her naturalization papers and voted in her first election for Franklin Roosevelt. That winter she worked on a sweet-grass basket to send to Mrs. Roosevelt in Washington. She used special dyes for the choice grasses and wove in symbolic characters that appealed to the Great Spirit to bring luck and prosperity to the recipient. A gracious thank you note was sent to Cleopie from the White House acknowledging the gift and wishing her much happiness. Mrs. Roosevelt had a long and celebrated life, but prophetically the Great Spirit called Cleopie home in 1934. While working at the coal stove in her kitchen, her clothes caught on fire. Jules rushed in from his workshop and called for Dr. Stuart Nelson and Dr. Robert S. Lindsay. Cleopie was transported to St. Elizabeth's Hospital in Utica where she died that night.

Chief Julius and Cleopie's artistic talents for making Native American crafts and the family legacy were passed along to their son Maurice Dennis (1908-1987) and their artisan granddaughter Andree Newton who continues to live in Old Forge today. Examples of this talented family's work are on display at the Town of Webb Historical Association. Plan to join us this summer every Friday morning for more stories about the "Women of Webb," on the Hemmer Cottage Shuttle Bus History Tours. Contact the Town of Webb Historical Association at 315.369.3838 or email [director@webbhistory.org](mailto:director@webbhistory.org) for details.