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

Fire—100 Years of Answering the Call

Our feature exhibit honors the 100th anniversary of the Old Forge Fire Department. Displays contain vintage photographs, ephemera, fire-fighting equipment, uniforms, patches, badges, pins, etc. Exhibits include information of the EMS Emergency Medical Service, transportation of patients by train, air and ambulance as well as fire towers, fire watch by air, firefighting by railroad and on foot. Collections of items from our neighboring communities of Woodgate, Otter Lake, Big Moose, Eagle Bay and Inlet who respond with mutual aid are also included. In addition, photo scrapbooks, a collection of vintage fire department related items and postcards and displays of early fires of buildings that changed the village can be viewed.

Please stop in and learn more about the Old Forge Fire Department and related subjects. This exhibit is open through October 31, 2007.

Benefit Auction Saturday, June 16, 2007

Excitement is building for our benefit auction. Preview of auction items is 9-11 AM. Registration will be ongoing before and during the event. June DeLair, guest auctioneer from Constableville Auction Hall will conduct the bidding starting at 11 AM. Items will be selected at random.

This event will take place under a large tent on the Goodsell Museum property. It is suggested you bring a chair. Many items have already been donated but additional items are welcome. We have silver-plate, posters, maps, jewelry, furniture, coins, dolls, and much more.

We encourage our members and the community to come out and support this fundraiser. We hope bidders will find a treasure they need or don't need but will take home anyway. All proceeds go to help our operating expenses.

Refreshments, 50-50 drawing, and cash & carry table will be available on-site.

Collecting Our History and Information

In our quest to document the past, the Historical Association asks for the assistance of others. The hospitality industry is and was a major industry in the Central Adirondacks. We are interested in including as many as possible, items identifying individual places that have been a part of that history. Items such a hotel dinnerware, brochures, match books, post cards, menus, invoices, bills, advertisements, etc. will help tell the story and document the existence and time period. Photographs of local businesses, signs, landmarks and people are welcome and the photos and items can be from any era. As time goes by, photos and items from today will be valuable from a historical perspective.

Donations can be received any time. Copies can be made of photos and ephemera and the originals returned to you. If you have any questions, please give us a call.

ILVEOLDFORGE.COM

Where To See What's Goin' On

2007 Coming Events

June 16—*Benefit Auction Preview* 9-11 AM Bidding starts promptly at 11 AM. Antiques, vintage, Adirondack, new and nearly new items—**something for everyone**. Donations of items are needed as is the purchase of items at the auction. Please support the Historical Association!

June 21—*Slide Show and Talk*—Linn Tractors and Adirondack Logging 7:00 PM. Ernest L. Portner from Rome, New York will present a program at the Old Forge Library sponsored by the Historical Association.

July 11—*Flower Arranging Contest and Garden Tea* to be held at the White House Inn Bed and Breakfast Noon—3 PM. Tickets \$4 for the Tea. Entries \$10, prizes awarded.

July 14—*Barn and Ice House Restoration Cocktail Party* held at Cedar Gables on First Lake, home of Greg and Dawn Timm 5-8 PM. Refreshments, entertainment, silent auction. \$35 each or 2/\$60

July 13, 20, 27 & August 3—1 1/2 hour 9:30 AM *Walking Tour* begins and ends at the Goodsell Museum with Town Historian, Peg Masters. Tour centers around historic fires in downtown Old Forge and related buildings and events. Contact us for more information.

July 19—*Devil Bug*—Program about the Devil Bug fishing lure created and produced by O.C. Tuttle and the history of his family. Presenter, Sharon Yager, Westmoreland, New York. Held at 7 PM at the Old Forge Library and sponsored by the Historical Assn.

August 4—*Postcards, Collectibles, and Bottles Show and Sale*—116 Fulton Street, at the Old Forge Fire Department 10 AM—3 PM. Admission \$3

August 10, 17, 24—1 1/2 hour 9:30 AM *Auto/Walking Tour* led by Town Historian, Peg Masters, will begin and end by carpooling from Hemmer Cottage to Hollywood Hills Beach Road. Tour topics include Niccolls' Point, deCamp Island, J. Young and more.

August 16—*A Season to Remember*—fundraiser begins at 6 PM under the tent at Hemmer Cottage and moves to the Strand Theatre. Tickets \$45 each. See article on page 3 for more information.

August 22—*Victorian Party on the Porch*—Benefit held at the Moose River House at 3 PM. Tickets \$20.

Business Members

We are pleased to announce the following Business memberships as of the end of April, 2007. Please note that in this area of many family run businesses, many businesses choose to be recognized as Households or other levels of membership.

BUSINESS GOLD

Enchanted Forest/Water Safari
Helmer's Fuel and Trucking
O'Brien Lumber
Old Forge Hardware
Wilderness Interiors

BUSINESS SPONSOR

Adirondack Bank
AnDix Indexing Associates
Artworks
Bob's Painting & Staining
Camp Danmark, Inc.
Camp Mark Seven
Candy Cottage
Community Bank, NA
Daikers'
Four Seasons Cottages
Great Camp Sagamore
Mark Hannah Contracting
Moose River Trading Company
Mountain Peddler
Northeastern Loggers Association
Old Mill Restaurant
Shades of Adirondacks
Souvenir Village
Strand Theatre
StumpUgly Stump Removal
Sunset Nursing & Rehabilitation Center
Timm Associates, Inc.
Waldheim Inc.
Wrap City-n-Glue

COPIER DONATED TO THE HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION

Special thanks goes to Doug Criss and Tim Harwood for delivering and setting up a copier no longer needed by the Hudson River—Black River Regulating District in Watertown, New York. The copier had no trade in value for HRBRRD and was donated for use by our organization because we are a 501 (c) 3 not-for profit. We are very grateful as our need to make copies has increased dramatically over the past several years.

Flower Arranging Contest and Garden Tea

On July 11th, from noon – 3 PM, Margaret Haynes, owner of the White House Inn, a cozy bed and breakfast located at 2945 State Route 28 in Old Forge, will open her lovely B & B to the public for a fundraising opportunity. Area garden clubs and the public will be invited to compete. Entry fee is \$10, requirements include 'approved' vintage containers or a container provided by the Historical Association and use of live flowers. Susan Kiesel, of Sauquoit and Old Forge, will assist the Historical Association staff and place live flower arrangements throughout the four floors of the Inn in competition for prizes to be awarded. A limited number of tickets will be sold at \$4 each to the Garden Tea that will include refreshments. Ticket holders will vote on favorites. Call 315-369-3838 for more information.

A Season to Remember

Committee co-chairs Judy and 'Doc' Foley invite you to share photos of your memorable moments, special occasions, family events, graduations, and fun times between Memorial Day and August 1, 2007 on the "big screen" at the Strand Theatre. On August 16th, the fundraiser formal gala begins at 6 PM under the tent at Hemmer Cottage with cocktails and appetizers. Guests will then make their way to the 'red carpet' at the Strand Theatre for the premier show that will include YOU as the cast. A limited number of submitted digital images will be selected for viewing. Admission \$45 each. Call for details 315-369-3838.

Congratulations
Camp Mark Seven
 on your 25th Anniversary
 August, 2007

Goodsell Memorial Home Museum
 2993 Main Street—Old Forge
OPEN: Tuesday—Saturday
 10 AM– 3PM or by Appointment
 315-369-3838

Barn and Ice House Restoration

Cocktail Party

Reservations are being taken for a cocktail party to raise matching grant funds for the restoration of the Barn and Ice House located on the Goodsell property. The party will be held at Cedar Gables on First Lake, the home of Greg and Dawn Timm on July 14th from 5-8 PM. The event includes entertainment, beverages, refreshments and silent auctions. A limited number of pre-paid tickets will be sold for \$35 each or 2 for \$60. Please call 315-369-3838 for more information.

Victorian Party on the Porch

Moose River House in Thendara will be the location of our 4th Annual Victorian Party on the Porch on August 22nd. Guests are invited to gather on the porches and first floor common rooms of the Moose River House at 3 PM. Food, beverages and entertainment will be provided. A limited number of tickets are available for \$20 each. Vintage Victorian dress is welcome to add to the fun but not required. Call 315-369-3838 for reservations.

VOLUNTEERS

The Historical Association wishes to thank our many volunteers and invite others to come help. 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.

Web Sites of Interest

Okara Lakes—www.okaralakes.com
 Old Forge—www.oldforgeny.com
 Calendar of Events—www.iloveoldforge.com
 Town of Webb Historical Assoc.—www.webbhistory.org
 Herkimer County Historical Association
www.rootsweb.com/~nyhchs/index
 Clinton Historical Society—www.clintonhistory.org
 New Hartford Historical Society
www.newhartfordlibrary.org/history

Sharing with the Adirondack Museum

Four items from the collections at the Historical Association have been loaned to the Adirondack Museum in Blue Mountain Lake for their exhibit *Adirondack Rustic: Nature's Art 1876-1950* that will feature art, architecture, and furniture from throughout the region.

At the Adirondack Museum, visitors will view some of the best examples of rustic artistry including our very own two-part desk made by George Wilson and yellow birch armchair by Dexter Furniture Company. In addition, an original watercolor rendering by Harold VanBuren Magonigle and one of our original Beach panoramic images of the construction of the Albedor on Fourth Lake will be on display.

The exhibit opens to the public on May 25th. Adirondack Park year-round residents are reminded that there is no admission charge from May 25 until the end of June and during open days in October with proof of residence.

Outreach

The Museum Committee is working with the **Arts Center/Old Forge** to add a special display to their Adirondack Theme Exhibit titled "Leave Only Footprints, The Adirondack Wilderness and the Impact of Man" that runs from May 9th - June 3rd.

The Historical Association display is called the *Adirondack League Club, Good Stewards of the Land* with information about fish, wildlife and forest management, the Cornell University connection and more.

Another project the committee is working on with the **Old Forge Library**, is a display at McCauley Mountain Ski Center during the Adirondack Story Telling Festival on July 28th. Titled "Recreation in the Adirondacks" the display will focus on early sports and ways of relaxing. Story tellers, craft sales and demonstrations, exhibits, organized hikes and refreshments at the food booth will entertain seniors, adults and children all day. Call the Old Forge Library for more information at 315-369-6008 or visit their web site at www.midYork.org/oldforge.

Architectural Preservation Committee

At the February meeting of the Architectural Preservation Committee, it was decided that it would take a much needed hiatus from meeting regularly. The Committee evolved from its early beginnings in 2001 where its main mission was to help preserve Cottage Kent (now known as Hemmer Cottage). The Committee recognized the importance and architectural significance of the 1931 structure, the resourcefulness of the builder, and the history behind the last remaining building of the cottage colony.

Successful in its project, Hemmer Cottage is now the location of the offices of CAP-21 (Central Adirondack Partnership for the 21st Century) on the second floor and contains first floor displays maintained by the Historical Association relating to Adirondack Guides, waterfront transportation, and the Hemmer family and business. Hemmer Cottage is now informally open to the public Tuesday-Thursday thanks mainly to the CAP-21 staff. Their staff admits visitors who are then welcome to take a self-guided tour of the first floor. Visits by appointment at other times may be made by calling the Historical Association at 315-369-3838.

Barn and Ice House Restoration Project

A matching grant of up to \$37,000 was awarded to the Town of Webb Historical Association through the New York State Barns Preservation and Restoration Program. This grant will assist in the restoration of the ice house and barn located at the Goodsell Property.

Bids were solicited and part-A of the work began in February adding collar ties to support the barn roof. ARS Construction from McKeever, NY completed that portion of the work.

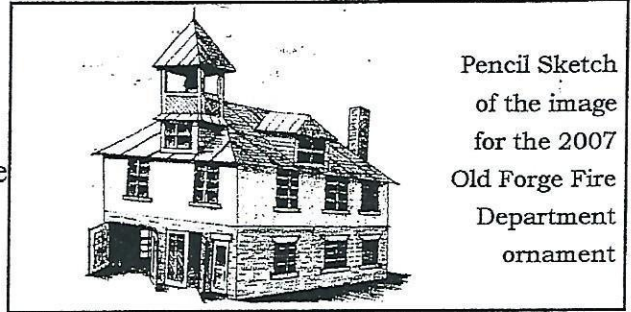
Part-B of the renovation will begin after July 1 and will be completed by two contractors working on separate projects. The structural portion bid was awarded to ARS Construction and roof replacement bid was awarded to Sunset Ridge Construction of Eagle Bay.

Additional donations are still needed to help us meet our goal for the match. If you can help, please indicate on your donation that you want your support to go towards our special project match for the restoration. Thank you!

Local Landmarks Collector Ornaments

The 2007 collector ornament will be available for purchase in June if all deadlines are met. The building used by the Old Forge Fire Department will be featured on one side of the red glass 3 ¼ inch diameter ornament. The image was provided from a pencil sketch drawn by local artist Terry Rozycki. Words on the opposite side identify Old Forge Fire Department, circa 1911 - Crosby Boulevard. The structure, built by George Goodsell, was used by the fire department until the current fire department building was finished on Fulton Avenue. The Crosby Boulevard building also housed the library on the second floor and a club meeting room. The Knights of Columbus purchased the building in 1949. Currently Nathan's Adirondack Bakery occupies the first floor while the second floor houses an apartment.

The green 2006 ornament featuring Bald Mountain Tower and the white 2005 ornament featuring the Town of Webb School are still available for purchase. Our first ornament featuring the Strand Theatre released in 2004 is sold out. The collector ornaments can be purchased for \$10 each plus 8% tax. Shipping is available upon request.



Pencil Sketch
of the image
for the 2007
Old Forge Fire
Department
ornament

Annual Meeting—May 15, 2007— 7 PM

We hope you can join us for our Annual Meeting. Three of our current trustees, Mary Farmer, Harry Kellogg, and Dick Olson have fulfilled their 3-year terms and their positions will be filled with new members. In addition, Reed Proper, who is overseeing the Barn and Ice House Renovation, will have a short presentation about the project including drawings and photographs. Immediately following the Annual Meeting, a short monthly meeting will take place and election of officers will be held. Refreshments will be provided.

Programs

Linn Tractors and Adirondack Logging

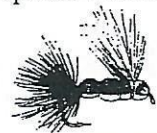
Ernest L. Portner of Rome, New York will present a slide program and talk on the Linn Tractor and early logging in the Adirondacks on June 21st at 7 PM. Due to space requirements, this program will be held at the Old Forge Library. Mr. Portner comes from a logging family and has spent years restoring an operating Linn tractor and collecting information about the Linn tractor and Adirondack logging camps.

The program will include information about the founders of the Linn tractor, different Linn models and designs and the Gould Paper Company's use of the Linn tractor in the Adirondacks. (The powerful logging tractor became very popular with Adirondack loggers in the early 1900's because it could pull up to 200 tons of logs, the equivalent of what 20 teams of horses and logging sleds could pull.)

The Devil Bug

The Devil Bug program is scheduled for July 19th at 7 PM and will also be held at the Old Forge Library on Crosby Boulevard. The program covers the development of the Devil Bug fishing lure created and produced by Orley C. Tuttle of Old Forge, a brief history of the talented Tuttle family, and traces the growth of their successful fishing lure business. It concludes with an outline of the highly popular and competitive hobby of fishing lure collecting. Numerous pictures and a collection of many of Tuttle's lures will also be featured.

Spinner Devil Bug



The presenter, Sharon Yager, is a retired school teacher from the Westmoreland School District and lives with her husband George in Westmoreland. She is president of the Westmoreland Historical Society and a member of the National Fishing Lure Collectors' Club. Sharon also belongs to the James Dean chapter of Questers. (Questers is an international organization for people who are interested in antiques, history, and the preservation of historical artifacts.)

The Commodore – Theodore Seeber (1847-1910)

By Peg Masters, Town of Webb Historian

The volunteer fire department in Old Forge began as The Rescue Hook and Ladder Company No. 1 that formed May 18, 1907. At the first meeting were two boat builders, two fish culturists, three Adirondack guides, two store clerks, a hotel clerk, two bookkeepers, a stone mason, a blacksmith, three carpenters and a baker. They ranged from 22 to 60 years of age and the most respected and senior member of the group, Theodore Seeber, was chosen as the first fire chief engineer.

The men called him "**The Commodore**," a name he rightfully earned as a master craftsman of steamboats and guideboats. In 1883, he helped to bring the first steamer *The Hunter* to the Fulton Chain. It was hauled by sleigh from Boonville to Minnehaha and took two days to navigate up the Moose River to Old Forge. In April of 1889, Theo worked with John Sprague installing the engine and boiler in the deCamp's side wheeler, *the Fawn*. Other steamboats to his credit include the *Ettie S.*, the *Fulton*, the *Zip*, and the *Stowell*. As a skilled mechanic, Seeber was frequently called upon to repair the engines of many boats on the lakes.

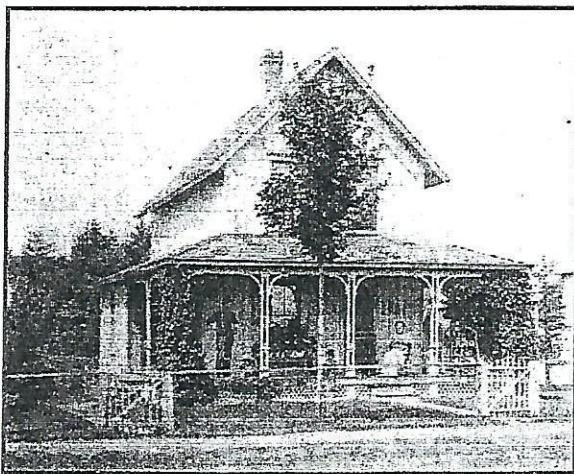


Theodore Seeber—First Fire Chief in Old Forge

Born in Germany in 1847, he immigrated as a small boy to Utica with his family. While living in Rome in 1874, he served as foreman of a Hook & Ladder Company. Two years later, Theodore married Esther C. Griffin of Remsen. The couple moved to Boonville where he worked with master guideboat builder H. D. Grant. While in Boonville, Theo joined the local Cataract Fire Company and served as the foreman and a bugler in the parades.

In 1888, Forge House Hotel owners Garmon & Crosby built a sawmill at the Old Forge waterfront reserving space inside for Theodore to open a boat shop. That winter Theo completed his own stately Victorian home on Codling St. Although childless, the couple loved to entertain. One New Years Eve they had everyone in the community over for an oyster supper. Skilled as a carpenter, Theo was selected to build the rustic Catholic Church on Crosby Blvd., completed in 1897.

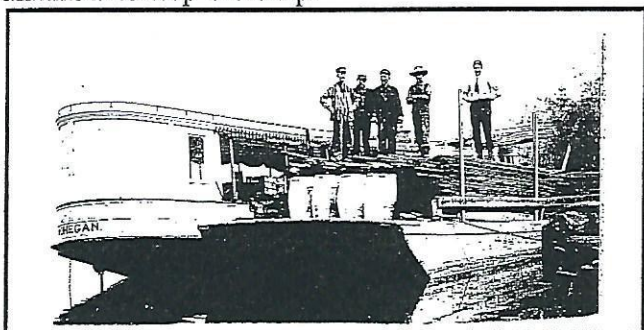
At a meeting in October of 1909, learning that their Chief was ill and confined to his home, the firemen voted to engage a woman to take care of him. They decided to all contribute 50¢ a week for as long as needed. A benefit dance for the Commodore was held Friday, December 1st. During the midst of a severe winter storm, Theodore Seeber died at his home January 4, 1910 of stomach cancer. The balance of the funds the firemen collected, \$86.73, remained on the books and was referred to as the *Seeber Fund*. It became the seed money used by a "sick committee" to send fruit, flowers, a box of candy, or even a carton of cigarettes to any member in the hospital or confined at home. Today, this service continues through the department's Sunshine Committee, a tradition established by the first firemen to serve our community in honor of their beloved comrade, Theodore Seeber.



Theodore & Etta Seeber Home
Corner of Rt. 28 & Codling St.—The Forge Corner Shop

Postcards, Collectibles and Bottles Show and Sale

Dealers are already signing up for space at the 8th Annual Central Adirondacks Postcards, Collectibles and Bottles Show and Sale on **August 4th**. Held in the meeting room and emptied truck bays of the Old Forge Fire Department at 116 Fulton Street (next to the Old Forge Hardware) dealers will display postcards, bottles, and table top collectibles for sale to the public. Start a collection now, add a treasure to your existing collection or purchase a gift for someone special!! Admission is only \$3 and goes to help the operation of the Goodsell Museum. Mark your calendar so you remember to stop and shop!



Historic Walking Tours

Town Historian, Peg Masters, will be holding free walking tours again this summer. Peg's first tour will center around historic fires in downtown Old Forge and related buildings and events. The 9:30 AM 1½ hour tour will begin and end at the Goodsell Museum and will take place rain or shine. The tour will be held on July 13, 20, 27 and August 3. Fires at the Goodsell home, Old Forge Hardware, Forge House, Drug Store, old Moosehead Hotel, and the school fire in 1912 are just a few of the topics on the tour.

A second auto/walking tour is scheduled for August 10, 17 and 24. The tour begins and ends from Hemmer Cottage on the Old Forge Pond waterfront and carpooling to Hollywood Hills Beach Road. Stories on the tour will include the histories of Niccolls' Point, deCamp Island, Joseph P. Young (developer of Hollywood Hills), burning of the steamer Clearwater, and the hotel conversion to condominiums. Tours will begin at 9:30 AM and last approximately 1½ hours rain or shine. Reservations are limited to 20 people for each Hollywood Hills tour.

There are no charges for these tours, but donations are gratefully accepted to help us continue sharing our historical heritage through exhibits, tours and presentations.

Memorials November 1, 2006—April 30, 2007

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 donations.

In memory of Philip S. Agae, Joan Jackson; in memory of Fred Bolmer: John and Margaret Hopsicker, Marty and Don Lawson; in memory of Jack Chaffee and John Chaffee, Eileen Chaffee-Shultz; in memory of Margaret Dall, Albert C. Bostwick; in memory of A. Richard Cohen, George J. Villiere; in memory of LeRoy W. Deis and Burton N. Deis, Dorothea Una Deis; in memory of Kit Ehrensbeck, Fred and Judy Ehrensbeck; in memory of James Evans, Mary Evans; in memory of George E. Gross, Virginia R. Gross; in memory of Edmond Harris, Jack and Joyce Goldstone; in memory of Bertha Holmes and Marion Holmes, Al and Ruth Brussel; in memory of Howard E. Martin, Wanda Martin; in memory of Wanda Kinne Martin: Marie Adams, Linda Cohen, Sarah Cohen; in memory of Laurel Marvin, Muriel Marvin; in memory of Jamie McDonough, Clarence and Marianne McDonough; in memory of Dot and Ken Rivett, Tim and Jody Gross; in memory of Joel and Estella Potter, Joyce P. Hall; in memory of Laurel Johnston and Larry Payne, Philip J. Hardy; in memory of Ray and Julia Placious, Joseph and Natalie Placious; in memory of Robert T. Searing, Jr. and Jon F. Searing, Carol Searing; in memory of Norman L. Simpson, Marge Bonnett; in memory of Richard Villiere: Charles and Sandra Barrows, Jack and Rebecca Ann Turner; in memory of Charles E. Wilcox, Charles J. Wilcox; in memory of Clair P. Wilcox, Fred T. Wilcox III; in memory of Mary Jane York: Catherine G. Ballard, Susan K. Cable, Judith Dillon, Ken and Grace Dillon, Anne M. Dinkwoods, Kevin and Marie Duhamel, Carol Farruggia, Kathleen M. McCarney, Joanna Piotrowski, Scott and Patty Reitz, Theresa Yerves, Sharon E. York; in memory of several people, Charles and June Kiefer.

In Addition:

A donation in honor of Jim Ulrich's 70th birthday was received from Linda Cohen and Sarah Cohen.