



## All Aboard—Up the Tracks

A new exhibit is scheduled to open to the public on Friday, November 23rd at the Goodsell Museum. "All Aboard—Up the Tracks" will feature photos of railroad passenger stations, sidings and flag stops in the Town of Webb and neighboring communities. Many stops along the tracks picked up passengers; other stops had passing sidings and industrial sidings. The photos will show evidence of services such as water towers, bunk houses, and tool houses.

The exhibit will contain maps of many of the railroads through the Town of Webb area including the early Peg Leg Railroad (first Fulton Chain Railroad), Adirondack and Saint Lawrence (aka Mohawk & Malone), Fulton Chain Railroad (the railroad that ran between Fulton Chain (now known as Thendara) and the Old Forge Pond, Raquette Lake Railway and industrial railroads such as The Moose River Lumber Company Railroad and Champlain Realty Company Railroad to name a few.

Also on display will be artifacts including signs, spikes, nails, trunks, train sets, lanterns, railroad china, books, locks, tickets, and timetables on loan from individuals and the Adirondack Museum, and from our own collection. Interactive exhibits will include a lighted map and telegraph key.

Two programs will be held during the summer of 2008 on related topics by Frank Carey and Michael Kudish. More information and details will be available in the next newsletter. This exhibit will remain through October of 2008.

### OFFICERS;

**President**  
Cheryl Gerrish  
**Vice President**  
Martha Denio  
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Gail Murray

### ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT

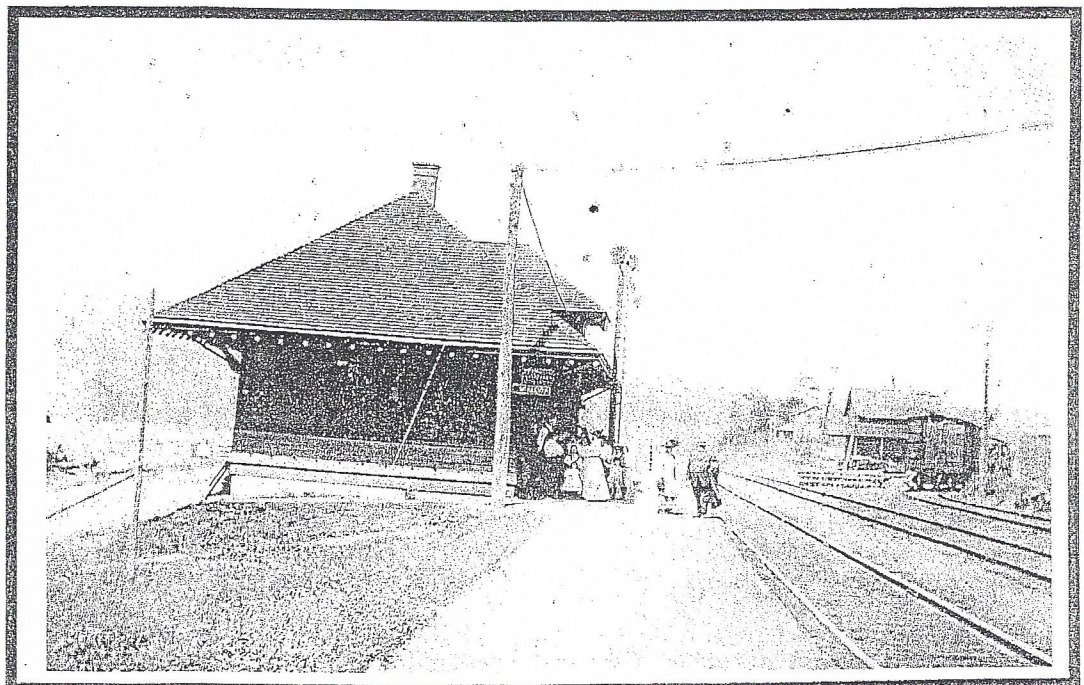
Kate Lewis

### FACILITIES MANAGER

John DeVoldre

From the Director's Desk

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



McKeever Train Station—image from a postcard

## Business Members

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

### BUSINESS GOLD

Adirondack Express  
 Enchanted Forest/Water Safari  
 Helmer's Fuel and Trucking  
 O'Brien Lumber  
 Old Forge Hardware  
 Touch of Ritz / Village Wick  
 Wilderness Interiors

### BUSINESS SPONSOR

Adirondack Bank  
 AnDix Indexing Associates  
 Artworks  
 Big Rock Cottages  
 Bird's Marine  
 Brynlsen's Viking Village  
 Camp Danmark, Inc.  
 Camp Mark Seven  
 Candy Cottage  
 Community Bank, NA  
 Daikers's  
 Four Seasons Cottages  
 George's Gifts/ Florist  
 Great Camp Sagamore  
 Kennerknecht Painting and Staining  
 Knotty Pine Restaurant  
 Mark Hannah Contracting  
 Moose River Trading Company  
 Moore and Hart CPA's  
 Mountain Peddler  
 Northeastern Loggers' Association  
 Old Forge Department Store (Ace Hardware)  
 Old Forge Lake Cruises, Inc.  
 Old Mill Restaurant  
 Shades of Adirondacks  
 Souvenir Village  
 StumpUgly Stump Removal  
 Sunset Nursing & Rehabilitation Center  
 Timm Associates, Inc.  
 Villiere Law Office  
 Waldheim Inc.  
 Wrap City-n-Glue

### **Goodsell Memorial Home Museum**

2993 Main Street—Old Forge  
 Tuesday—Saturday 10 AM– 3 PM or by Appointment  
 315-369-3838

## Pearsall Foundation Grant

The Town of Webb Historical Association received a grant for just over \$1400 underwritten by the Glenn and Carol Pearsall Adirondack Foundation in October of 2006 for technology improvements. The grant money was used to purchase a new Dell computer, keyboard, mouse and monitor in January of 2007. Network equipment and additional compatible software programs were also purchased to increase efficiency. Our internet service was upgraded from dial-up to DSL to allow better use of the internet for research of archived newspapers, and increased communication with organizations, members, and donors.

We are very grateful for this grant. The Glenn and Carol Pearsall Adirondack Foundation is dedicated to improving the quality of life for year-round residents of the Adirondack Park. For more information on the Pearsall Foundation visit [www.pearsallfoundation.org](http://www.pearsallfoundation.org).

## 50TH ANNIVERSARY

The Okara Lakes Association will celebrate its 50th Anniversary on August 9, 2008. A gathering will take place at the home of the Tappan's. In preparation, the Okara Lakes History Committee has sent questionnaires to home owners in the Okara area looking for funny stories, construction notes, and information about what was going on in the area at the time. They are also looking for copies of old photos. For more information about Okara Lakes, visit their web site at [www.okaralakes.com](http://www.okaralakes.com)

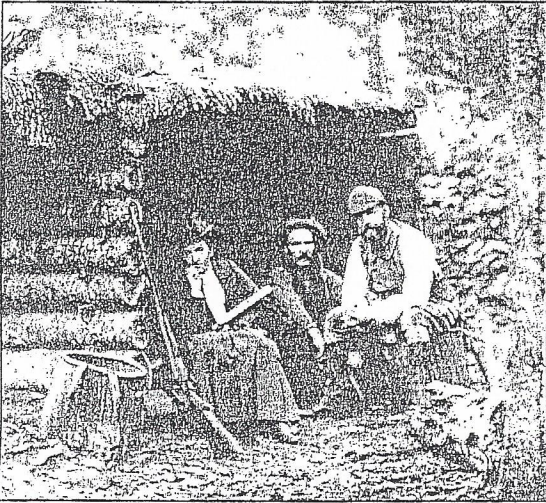
## Open House 1-3 PM Sunday, December 2, 2007

An Open House is scheduled for Sunday, December 2nd from 1-3 PM at the Goodsell Museum. Trustees of the Town of Webb Historical Association invite members and the community to stop in, enjoy refreshments, holiday decorations, exhibits and conversation. Door prizes will be given away and there will be a 50/50 raffle. We hope you can attend!

## The Smudge-Faced Engineer

By Peg Masters, Town of Webb Historian

An Adirondack visitor returned to New York City in September of 1892 with an interesting tale he related to a newspaper reporter friend. While the visitor waited at a new Adirondack railway station running south of Malone, a train came in and the engineer leaped to the ground and conducted an inspection of the locomotive. The smudge of coals on his face and an engineer's cap with a long visor obscured his features but the gentlemen sensed something familiar about the man. "Hello Seward," he heard someone say. The engineer looked up, smiled, and the New York City gentleman realized the engineer was none other than Dr. Seward Webb, the millionaire builder and owner of the railroad. "He is thoroughly acquainted with every part of a locomotive," one of the head mechanics on the New York Central system later told the newspaper reporter. "He could run the Empire State Express if necessary. He can take an engine apart and put it together, and he is running engines up in the Adirondacks not for the fun of the thing, but so he can study the consumption of coal, find out how well they make steam, and whether they are fitted for the rather rough service they have got to perform."



Lila & Seward Webb with their guide (center)

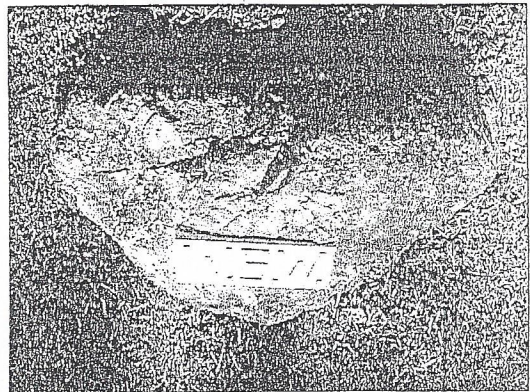
William Seward Webb was born on January 31, 1851 in his parent's home above his father's Courier and Enquirer newspaper office at 8 Union Square in New York City. He was the oldest of five sons born to James Watson Webb and his second wife Laura Virginia Cram. Accustomed to a stream of the mid-19<sup>th</sup> century's most influential politicians, writers, and newspaper legendaries frequenting their household, Webb's childhood was filled with nannies, private schools and foreign travel to places in Europe and South America. James Watson's anti-slavery stance forged an alliance with his son's namesake – Abraham Lincoln's Secretary of State, upstate New York's William Seward. During Lincoln's first inaugural parties, Dr. Webb's mother stood at Mrs. Lincoln's side introducing her to the guests coming through the receiving lines. Young Seward chose to study medicine and trained at the College of Physicians and Surgeons in New York City and in Europe. All that changed when he met Lila Vanderbilt in 1878, the youngest daughter of railroad tycoon William Henry Vanderbilt. They became secretly engaged and endured nearly two years of separation before her father consented to their marriage in December of 1881.

Dr. Webb was no stranger to the Adirondacks. The family's connection to the New York's Northwoods began in 1836 when his father James Watson Webb purchased thousands of acres of land in the Totten-Crossfield Patent, later Hamilton County, which formerly belonged to Peter Smith, father of Gerrit Smith the abolitionist. Additional parcels were bought for speculation in Essex and Warren Counties. In Dr. Webb's journals from the late 1870s, he recorded vivid accounts of two hunting and fishing trips to the mountains with his brothers and friends.

They traveled by train to Potsdam, then by stage coach 26 more miles to the Faust House at Stark Falls on the Raquette River, a gateway to primitive tent and bark shelter camps deep in the interior of the forests. Jordan Lake was one of his favorite places. With tar oil smeared on his face to keep from being bitten by the flies and mosquitoes, he fished, hunted, and tramped miles in pouring rain, frequently sleeping in damp blankets under the stars. One year Seward took over the baking chores and made bread and fresh biscuits over the open fire, declaring himself to be a rather good cook. In June of 1880, a telegram reached him regarding urgent business in the city. Three days later he was back at the Webb Camp at Jordan Lake after an all day hard walk from 8:30 in the morning till sunset. The guides and all the boys were so glad to see him. "It made me happy to be home again," he wrote in his journal.

In 1895, Webb bought out all his surviving siblings' land rights to their father's Adirondack parcels, adding them to the extensive holdings he had acquired building the only railroad ever to traverse the entire Adirondack Park. On August 3 of 1926, Dr. Webb signed the guest book at his beloved Adirondack estate NE-HA-SA-NE for the last time. He and Lila remained there for four weeks hoping he would recover his failing health. A railroader to the end, he died at his home in Shelburne, Vermont in late October after returning from a Pullman Car Co. annual meeting in Chicago. At the foot of his grave in Woodlawn Cemetery in New York City where he is buried alongside his parents and brothers is a boulder from NE-HA-SA-NE, his much-loved home in the Adirondacks. Part of the nearly 40,000 acre private estate remains today in the hands of his descendents.

NE-HA-SA-NE boulder at the foot of Dr. Webb's grave



## Central Adirondack Postcard Show

The premier Central Adirondack Postcard Show was sponsored by the Town of Webb Historical Association on August 5, 2000. Peg Masters, Director at that time, and trustees organized the event as a fundraiser. The show, held at the Park Avenue Municipal Building in Old Forge, was also an opportunity to get people interested in collecting postcards. As the years passed, slide shows and guest exhibitors added another dimension to the event. The committee added ephemera (paper), bottle collections and small table top antiques to increase attendance and interest. The 8th Annual Show was held on August 4th in 2007 at the Fire Hall in Old Forge.

Committee discussion following the show resulted in a decision to put volunteer energy into other fundraisers and at least temporarily discontinue holding the Central Adirondack Postcards, Collectibles and Bottles Show and Sale.

### With Growth Comes Additional Responsibilities

As this organization moved from having the Goodsell Museum open 3 days a week in 2002 to 5 days a week in 2004, part time staff had to be added. Our Bookkeeper, Sharon Evans of Big Moose Station, now stops in weekly efficiently taking care of bills, tax reports, payroll, etc. As volunteers no longer came forward to help with lawn maintenance, snow removal and odd jobs around the properties, a Facilities Manager, John DeVoldre of Old Forge, was contracted to care for the Goodsell and Hemmer properties and is doing a great job.

Part time Administrative staff has gone through several changes too. In June, Betty Rannels left the position of Assistant to seek more fulltime employment. At that time Charlie Herr, a seasonal resident from the Inlet area, temporarily filled the position bringing his expertise in developing computer efficiency and knowledge of the history of this area. In mid-October, Kate Lewis of Eagle Bay was hired to fill the vacancy when Charlie and his wife Marsha returned to Baltimore. Kate will add her talents and has become the newest member of the team.

## Estate Planning

The Town of Webb Historical Association set up an investment fund with the Community Foundation of Herkimer and Oneida Counties, Inc. in 2005 to help make certain that funds are available for the operation of the Goodsell Museum and Historical Association for future generations. Perhaps you, too, are making investment plans for your family's future. We would be grateful for any remembrance you may include for the Town of Webb Historical Association and will welcome any questions you or your attorney may have in this regard.

### Museum Attendance Record Reached

A record number of people visited the Goodsell Museum this summer of 2007. Over 1300 people in July and August alone had the opportunity to see "Fire—100 Years of Answering the Call", an exhibit honoring the Old Forge Volunteer Fire Department and neighboring fire companies as well as other displays throughout the museum.

## MEMBERSHIPS

Memberships make up a percentage of our operating budget each year. As our members age or move out of the area, they may choose to drop their annual membership support. As a result, the Membership Committee continually works to add new individual, household, and business members. As the Holiday Season approaches, may we suggest a gift membership for a special person, family, or business. Our staff would be happy to complete the paperwork necessary. Just give the office a call at 315-369-3838.

## VOLUNTEERS

Volunteers are an important part of the success of every organization. We would like to thank everyone who helped at our fundraisers and programs, served on committees or worked in the museum.

If you love history, have some time to spare, and would like to help, please give us a call or stop in to discuss volunteering with the staff at the Goodsell Museum.

**Calendar of Events**

**November 23, 2007**—"All Aboard—Up the Tracks" exhibit opens and runs daily Tues.-Sat. 10am-3pm through October 31, 2008

**December 2, 2007**—Open House at The Goodsell Museum, 1-3PM, refreshments, door prizes, 50/50 raffle

**Benefit Auction** - Date and Time to be announced

**July 10, 2008** —*Slide Show and Talk*—"The Trip to Blue Mountain Lake" 7:00 PM. Twitchell Lake author and postcard collector Frank Carey, will present a program covering stage coach, train, and steamer travel at the Old Forge Library sponsored by the Historical Association.

**Flower Arranging Contest and Garden Tea** to be held at the White House Inn Bed and Breakfast - 2008 Date in July and Time to be announced

**August 14, 2008** — *A Season to Remember*—fundraiser begins under the tent at Hemmer Cottage and moves to the Strand Theatre. More details will be announced..

**September**—*Victorian Party on the Porch*—Benefit will be held at Covewood in Big Moose. 2008 Date in September and Time to be announced.

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The Ways and Means Committee is working hard on the schedule for fundraisers for the coming year. The Spring/Summer newsletter will contain more details about programs, walking tours, and other events.

**Grant received from the A. Richard Cohen Family Fund**

Cheryl Gerrish, President of the Town of Webb Historical Association, is pleased to announce that a grant for general support in the amount of \$5000 has been received from the A. Richard Cohen Family Fund, a donor-advised fund of the Community Foundation of Herkimer & Oneida Counties, Inc.

**Ice House and Barn Renovation Update**

Renovation work on the Ice House and Barn on the Goodsell property is nearly finished. The Historical Association is grateful to the many people and businesses who made this work possible. From Reed Proper, Marie Adams and Ed Girtler who worked on the grant application to the New York State Barns Preservation and Restoration Program, to Dawn and Greg Timm who opened their home for a fundraiser, to the Class of 1956 for their donations and other individuals who donated money for the grant match. Thanks also go to Jack Foley for the use of his storage buildings to temporarily house some of the items from the barn and the many area businesses who donated items for the silent auction.

Donations are still needed. Please consider an end of the year tax deductible gift to help us meet our grant match. Simply note "Ice House and Barn Match" on your contribution and the staff will take care of the rest of the paperwork. Thank you!

**Donation of Items**

Since January, the Historical Association has received over 280 items that have been accessioned (paperwork completed documenting the name of the donor, size, condition, value, relationship, etc.) with several waiting on the shelves to be started. Items such as a Victorian lamp, pack basket, 1895 Encyclopedia Britannica set, a folding sawing machine and many postcards, photographs, and books have provided additional research material and items to use in exhibits.

We are grateful for these donation and thank all the donors for trusting this organization to care for the artifacts, ephemera, books and photographs so we may continue to record the history of the Town of Webb and document our heritage.

**Gift Shop Items—call for information**

Reproduction of a Circa 1904 historic map - of Township No. 8, John Brown's Tract, Fulton Chain made by Artemus Church

Large size (approx. 43" x 29") \$54 including tax

Reduced size (approx 15" x 21") \$27 including tax

**Local Landmarks Collector Ornaments**

**\$10.80 each including tax**

2007—Original Old Forge Fire Department (red)

2006—Bald Mountain Tower (green)

2005—Town of Webb School (white)

2004—Strand Theatre **SOLD OUT**

**Shipping extra**

**Reminder—Open House**  
**Sunday, December 2, 2007 1-3 PM**

Visit our website [www.webbhistory.org](http://www.webbhistory.org) for more information  
previous newsletters, collector ornaments, upcoming events

**Memorials and In Honor**

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 and to honor person or couple. The names below reflect donations from May, 2007 (in Memory of) By;

(Dorothea Una Deis) Robert & Terry Lehnen, Linda Cohen; (C. Doris Damuth) Margo & Jack Boylan, Sandra Collard, Mary Ellen Denio, Shirley Lindsay, Ash & Lynda Kellogg, Al & Izzie Worthen; Ted & Sue Russell; (Tracy Sears) Linda Cohen; (Evelyn Balcom Carroll) Lois Murphy; (Evelyn Russell) Peg Spain Murtagh ; (Wanda Martin) William & Ann Scheffler; (Jack Chaffee and John Chaffee) Eileen Chaffee-Horton; (Duane LaFleche) Douglas & Peg Masters; (Lynne S. Towne) Mr. & Mrs. Joseph Bartell, Mr. & Mrs. Allen G. Casey, Mr. & Mrs. Thomas McCabe, Jr., Mr. & Mrs. John Milne, Donna Koperski, Mr. & Mrs. Donald Hilliard, Local B90 Ticket Takers Ushers Organization.

Bob and Lois Lowenberg in honor of Ken and Janet Russell's 50<sup>th</sup> Wedding Anniversary

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U S POSTAGE  
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Old Forge, NY 13420  
Permit No. 0001

