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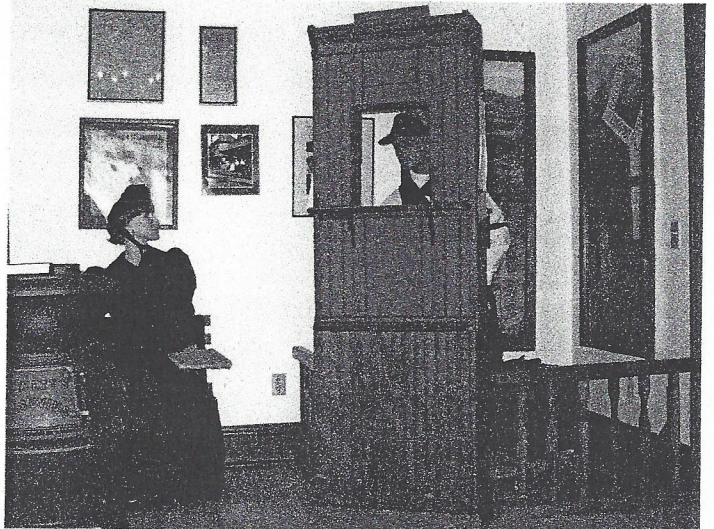
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From the Director's Desk

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

All Aboard—Up the Tracks

The planning process for the feature exhibit in the Goodsell Museum had input from many sources and resulted in an interesting, informative, interactive collection of artifacts, photographs, maps, and ephemera of the railroads in the Town of Webb and neighboring communities. When you visit the exhibit, you will have an opportunity to learn about signal lights; Morse code; station, siding, and passing locations; architectural style of buildings; early uses of railroads and more.



The Museum Committee made arrangements with Adirondack Museum in Blue Mountain Lake to display items from their vast collection of Adirondack railroad memorabilia for the duration of the exhibit through October 2008. Once the word got out about the subject of this exhibit, many other people offered items on loan including Association members and friends from many places including Pennsylvania, Otter Lake, Woodgate, Baldwinsville, Sherrill, Boonville, Thendara, and Old Forge.

All Aboard-Up the Tracks will continue thorough October of 2008. We hope you will have an opportunity to stop at the Goodsell Museum and see the exhibit.

Benefit Auction—Saturday, July 12, 2008

June DeLair, auctioneer from Constableville Auction Hall will conduct the bidding of our Benefit Auction. We hope our new date of Saturday, July 12 will allow many more people to attend. The preview of items will open at 1 PM and bidding will start at 2 PM. Items will be selected at random. Visit www.constablevilleauction.com for more information and pictures in the future.

This event will again take place under a large tent on the Goodsell Museum property. We suggest you bring a chair to sit on during the auction. Many items have already been donated but additional items are welcome. We have brass bed frames, chairs, maps, jewelry, a Rhodes Bantam 13' sailboat and trailer and more.

We encourage our members and the community to come out and support this fundraiser and 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 will be available for purchase on-site and we will have a 50-50 drawing.

2008 Coming Events

May 23, 24, 25—*Sale*—held in conjunction with the town-wide Garage Sale in the Goodsell Barn, Friday, Saturday, and Sunday 9 AM-5 PM. Donations of table size items needed. Fundraiser to help contribute to the Fuel Fund.

July 10—*Slide Show and Talk*—"The Trip to Blue Mountain Lake" 7:00 PM. Frank Carey, Twitchell Lake author and post card collector will present a slide show at the Old Forge Library sponsored by the Historical Association. Admission \$3 to be shared with the Library. See pg. 5 for more info.

July 12—*Benefit Auction* Preview 1 PM Bidding starts promptly at 2 PM. Antiques, vintage, Adirondack, new and nearly new items—**something for everyone**. Please support the Historical Association. Donations of items are still needed. Come bid on something too!

July 15—*Garden Tea and Flower Show* to be held at the White House Inn Bed and Breakfast 11 AM—3 PM. Tickets \$6 for the Tea. Entries \$10, prizes awarded, theme 'baskets' (no metal baskets please).

July 11, 18, 25 & August 1—*Walking Tour* 1 1/2 hour 9:30 AM begins and ends at the Moose River House B & B with Town Historian, Peg Masters. Tour centers around historic Thendara (Fulton Chain) and related buildings and events.

August 7—*Slide Show and Talk*—Author Michael Kudish will present a slide program titled "A Tour of the Railroads of the greater Old Forge Area" held at 7 PM at the Old Forge Library and sponsored by the Historical Association. Admission \$3 to be shared with the library. See page 5 for more information.

August 8, 15, 22—*Walking Tour* 1 1/2 hour 9:30 AM led by Town Historian, Peg Masters, will begin and end by carpooling from the Goodsell Museum. Tour topics include Sears and Aladdin catalogue homes, tax records, searches and more. Donations appreciated

August 14—*Seasons 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 this page for more information.

September 10—*Victorian Party on the Porch*—Benefit to be held at Covewood Lodge, Big Moose 3—6 PM. Tickets \$25. Refreshments will be served and entertainment provided.

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SALE SALE SALE

The Town of Webb Historical Association will participate in the town-wide garage sale on Friday, Saturday and Sunday, May 23, 24 and 25. Tables of donated items will be placed in front of the Goodsell Barn on the Gilbert Street side of the museum property. We invite you to visit and purchase a 'treasure' between the hours of 9AM-5PM.

Donations of good, usable, clean, table top sized items will be accepted up to Thursday, May 22. Help us raise some extra money for the Fuel Fund of the Town of Webb Historical Association.

ILVEOLDFORGE.COM
Where To See What's Open' On

Seasons to Remember Gala

Participants seemed to be very pleasantly anxious, waiting for the next photo to be shown on the 'big screen' at the Strand Theatre last August during our inaugural event "A Season to Remember". The fundraiser was a huge success thanks to the efforts of co-chairs 'Doc' and Judy Foley.

For 2008, you are again invited to share photos of your memorable Town of Webb moments, special occasions, family events, graduations, and fun times during all seasons of 2008. Photos for the premier showing will be selected from submitted entries. Deadline for digital submissions in jpeg format sent to director@webbhistory.org is August 1, 2008 (limit 5 per person).

On August 14th, the fundraiser formal gala will begin at 6 PM under the tent at Hemmer Cottage with cocktails and appetizers donated by area businesses and restaurants. 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.

Admission \$45 each by reservation. Call for details 315-369-3838.

The Earlier Lives of the Steamers Mohegan, Old Forge, Nehasane and Uncas

by Charles E. Herr

On one wall of the Goodsell Museum in Old Forge are pictures of the early Fulton Chain steamers with romantic names. When these steamers received new names in April 1901 and were repainted and renovated, their earlier history quite often remained hidden as the new century progressed.

The first steamer launched on the Fulton Chain was **The Hunter**, built for Jonathan Meeker by his sister Jane's husband, H. Dwight Grant, in the celebrated Grant's boatshop in Boonville. The boat was taken by stage and skids via the notorious John Brown's Tract Road stage line of Phelps and Ward in March, 1883 to Jones Camp, later called Minnehaha, and left there until sufficient snow melted to enable it to be moved via the Moose River where, according to Joseph Grady, it was skidded over the Old Forge dam, its engine installed and launched that year in Old Forge Pond, as the first steamer on the Fulton Chain of Lakes.

In May, 1888, Meeker's friend and famous Adirondack guide, E. L. "Capt. Jack" Sheppard launched the **Fulton**, the first steamer locally built on the Fulton Chain, built by Theodore Seeber and assisted by Riley Parsons, who previously worked in Grant's shop and moved to the Fulton Chain to start a boatshop in part of the Crosby & Garmon sawmill by the dam. Larger than Meeker's **Hunter**, it soon took over most of the freight and passenger business. Later, Meeker would pilot the **Fulton** for Sheppard. In 1892, Jack Sheppard sold the **Fulton** with a new boat being constructed. Eventually, David Pierce obtained it and operated it for several years. Sheppard moved to Portland, Oregon.

The **Zip** first saw service on the Fulton Chain in July, 1894 and was owned by Will Sperry and John Sprague. According to an article, it was previously owned by a William Walker. A later article spoke of its service on Sylvan Beach for "several years" before its operation on the Fulton Chain, perhaps while owned by Walker. It was noted for its speed. John Sprague was usually its captain.

Captain Vernon Sweet and his father George Sweet were famous captains on the St. Lawrence River. In May 1894, Vernon received a contract to build a large steamer for use on the Fulton Chain. The **C.L. Stowell**, often called just **Stowell**, was built elsewhere, perhaps in Carthage, and transported to the Fulton Chain and launched in August 1894. George's son Vernon, who had heart trouble, drowned in July 1895 while sleeping on the boat. George took over as captain. The steamer's first full season was 1895. The **Stowell** would run into the **Zip** in 1898, sinking the **Zip** which was later raised. The **Fulton**, **C.L. Stowell**, and **Zip** competed with each other for price, speed and service often to the detriment of the people they served.

In the spring of 1896, the Crosby Transportation Company formed and consisted of most of the people concerned with the Old Forge Company, a group that owned the Forge House and built a two mile railroad from Fulton Chain (now Thendara) to the Forge House Dock. The Crosby Transportation Company soon owned or leased for the **Fulton**, **Zip** and **C. L. Stowell**. They now controlled prices and services for the public steamers. Then a new partnership planned to build another boat. Fred Hess, who had the popular Hess Inn at the head of Fourth Lake (now Inlet), had a boat constructed by the Burton Brothers of Rome. The Crosby Transportation Company refused to let opposition boats land at its Old Forge Dock.

This new boat was the **W. S. Webb** and in its first year, 1897, the Crosby Transportation Company refused to let it dock. The boat would land near the Old Forge Dam and boards were set up to restrict its shore access. Then the Company got an injunction. The injunction went away as the Company signed a lease to use the **W.S. Webb** and then tied it to its dock for the rest of the season. The monopoly was secured. The Company ran the steamer during 1898 and in June 1899 bought it from the Burton Brothers. In the summer of 1900, the **W. S. Webb** was repainted and renamed **J. L. Connell** after a Scranton, Pa. merchant who stayed at the Forge House that summer.

When the Old Forge Company, the Fulton Chain Railroad and the Crosby Transportation Company failed in 1900 and 1901 to prevent the Raquette Lake Railway from being built, taking away their transportation monopoly, the Crosby Transportation Company sold the **Fulton**, **Zip**, **C.L. Stowell** and **J.L. Connell** to the newly formed Fulton Navigation Company, who had the new (1900) **Clearwater**. Dr. Webb renamed these four steamers **Mohegan**, **Old Forge**, **Nehasane** and **Uncas**, respectively.

Memorials

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 as of April 15, 2008

In memory of Laurel Johnston, Larry Payne: Philip J. Hardy; in memory of Madeline Case: Joan & Bill Davis, in memory of Kit Ehrensbeck: Fred and Judy Ehrensbeck, in memory of Wanda Martin: Jennifer Evans, in memory of George Gross, Dot and Ken Rivette: Virginia R. Gross, in memory of Ron Crofut: John and Margaret Hopsicker, in memory of Kenneth W. Lux: Donald and Gloria Lux, in memory of The Farmer, Burdick and Lindsay families of early Old Forge: David & Paula Weal, in memory of Claire P. Wilcox: Fred T. Wilcox III, in memory of Helen Michael: Theresa Winslow, in memory of Lisa Kott: Art Kott, in memory of Charles E. Wilcox: Charles J. Wilcox, in memory of Bette W. Palmer: Robert U. Palmer, in memory of Robert T. Searing Jr., and Jon F. Searing: Carol W. Searing, in memory of Marie VanderVeer: Edgar VanderVeer, in memory of Jacob and Shirley Berkowitz: Omer and Rosemary Hudon, in memory of Jamie McDonough: Clarence and Marianne McDonough, in memory of Ray and Julie Placious: Joseph and Natalie Placious, in memory of Austin Down: Bill and Nancy Down, in memory of Frances Hafner: Marilyn Hafner, in memory of Robert Kennerknecht, Sr. and Jay Swierczek: Jean and Robert Carman, in memory of Sue Dorschild: Sherman and Deborah Brake, in memory of Dorothy Manore: Albert and Izzie Worthen, in memory of Robert Kennerknecht Sr.: Bruce and Anne Wais.

Visit our website

www.webbhistory.org

For more information on our events,
auction items, gift shop items,
previous newsletters and more

Goodsell Memorial Home Museum

2993 Main Street—Old Forge

OPEN: Tuesday—Saturday

10 AM– 3PM or by Appointment

315-369-3838

Garden Tea and Flower Show

All parties involved with the first time Garden Tea event in 2007 agreed during the follow up meeting that “we should do it again!” Committee members were pleased with the many floral arrangements that were placed throughout the White House Inn Bed and Breakfast in Old Forge and delicious homemade desserts and beverages were enjoyed by visitors that day in spite of the deluge of rain later that afternoon and conflicts with other events happening in the area.

The date for this year’s Tea is Tuesday, July 15. Many native flowers are at their peak at that time of year and specimens will be used to fill Flower Show basket containers. Everyone is invited to purchase a ticket to the Garden Tea and Flower Show for \$6 at the Goodsell Museum or at the door the day of the event. Reservations are suggested. The location will again be at the lovely White House Inn Bed and Breakfast, 2945 State Route 28 in Old Forge thanks to Inn owner Margaret Haynes. Visitors are welcome to stop by anytime during the hours of 11 AM – 3 PM. They will be visually treated to the various baskets filled with live flowers, enjoy homemade refreshments and beverages, tour the B & B, and vote for their favorite arrangement. Selected arrangements will be available in a silent auction. A program on Floral Design or related subject may be added and will be announced later. All proceeds will benefit the Town of Webb Historical Association.

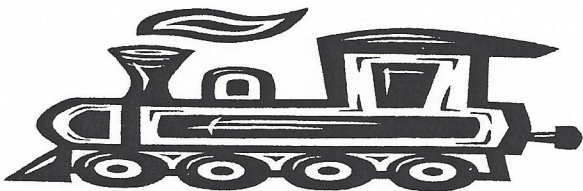
Entry fee for the Flower Show is \$10 per arrangement. Competitors may choose to donate their arrangement to be offered in the silent auction the winner of which will be announced at 3 PM. Containers this year will be limited to baskets (wicker or flat reed, any woven basket – no metal please). Applications are available at the Goodsell Museum or one will be mailed to you. Please call 315-369-3838 or email director@webbhistory.org for more information or applications.

Programs

The Trip to Blue Mountain

A slide show by Twitchell Lake author and post card collector Frank Carey, will be presented on July 10, 2008 at 7 PM at the Old Forge Library sponsored by the Town of Webb Historical Association. The program will draw upon Carey's extensive collection of antique Adirondack post cards. The early years of stage coaches from North Creek through the combination of train into Raquette Lake, steamboat across Raquette Lake to the Marian River carry, and then on another train before changing to yet another steamboat for the remainder of the trip will be covered in the power point presentation and discussion.

An admission of \$3 will be collected and shared with the Old Forge Library.



A Tour of the Railroads of the Greater Old Forge Area

Michael Kudish, PH.D., Professor Emeritus, Paul Smith's College Division of Forestry, will present a program "A Tour of the Railroads of the greater Old Forge Area". Author of the book *Where Did the Tracks Go in the Central Adirondacks*, Kudish will use a series of track diagrams maps and show the locations of stations, sidings, railroad facilities, industries, hotels, etc. The discussion will cover the Mohawk and Malone and its branches from Nelson Lake through Clearwater. Dr. Kudish welcomes input from the audience and will be available to sell and sign copies of his books.

The program will be held on August 7, 2008, at 7 PM at the Old Forge Library due to space limitations at the Goodsell Museum. An admission of \$3 will be collected and shared with the Old Forge Library.

2008 Historic Walking Tours by Peg Masters, Town of Webb Historian

Tour #1—Historic Thendara

The public and members are invited to gather at the Moose River House Bed and Breakfast on Birch Street in Thendara on Friday mornings July 11, 18, 25, and August 1st. The 1 1/2 hour walking will begin at 9:30AM, please plan on arriving at least 10 minutes early for instructions. The group will return to the B&B at approximately 11AM. Reservations suggested.

Sample stories on the tour will include:

- *Brown's Tract Purchase—Brown's Tract Road, Herreshoff's Iron Mine, the Arnold Family's first hostelry in the region
- *Lyman R. Lyon's Purchase, the deCamp Family
- *Changes with the completion of Dr. Webb's railroad in 1892
- *Logging & sawmills in Fulton Chain (Thendara)
- *The Joy Tract—McCauley Mt., Nick's Lake, Thendara Golf Club histories
- *Historic Architecture remaining in Thendara

Tour #2—Mail Order Houses in the Hamlet of Old Forge

The public and members are invited to gather at the Goodsell Museum, 2993 State Route 28 in Old Forge on Friday mornings August 8, 15, and 22. The 1 1/2 hour auto/walking tour will begin at 9:30AM, please plan on arriving at least 10 minutes early for instructions. The group will return to the Goodsell Museum at approximately 11AM. Reservations suggested.

Sample stories on the tour will include:

- *Guide to researching historic structures—20 minute discussion on using tax records, abstracts, vintage maps, and records, photographs, and postcards from Historical archives.
- *History of the Houses by Mail Catalog Companies such as The Aladdin Company of Bay City, Michigan & The Sears Roebuck Modern Home Division.
- *Shipment of 'kit' homes by rail—Thendara Deis Mill connection to the "mail-order" house plans.
- *Site visit to the Garmon and Fern Avenue Sears Roebuck neighborhood.

Tours will be held rain or shine
Donations Welcome

Annual Meeting—May 20, 2008— 7 PM

We hope you can join us for our Annual Meeting. New Trustees will be nominated and elected to fill vacant positions and committee reports given. Immediately following the Annual Meeting, a short monthly meeting will take place and election of officers will be held. Refreshments will be provided.

**Congratulations
Okara Lakes Association
on your 50th Anniversary
August 9, 2008
www.okaralakes.com**

Preservation Reference Books Received

Town of Webb treasured objects and artifacts held by the Town of Webb Historical Association will be preserved for future generations with help from the *IMLS Connecting to Collections Bookshelf*, a core set of conservation books, DVD's, and online resources donated by the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS). We were among the first to receive this essential set of resources based on an application describing the needs and plans for care of our collections.

Historic Reproduction Map Available Circa 1904

**Township #8, John Brown's Tract, Fulton Chain
by Artemus Church**

**Large size (approx. 43" x 29") \$50 plus tax
Reduced size (approx. 15" x 21") \$25 plus tax
Shipping available—call 315-369-3838**

Estate Planning

When making investment plans for your family's future, you have an opportunity to pick and choose your legacy. We would be grateful for any remembrance you may include for the Town of Webb Historical Association through one's will, retirement account, trust or other bequest.

Photographs and Ephemera from any Era Wanted

Part of our work here is to document the history of the Town of Webb. We clip newspaper articles weekly and file them by topic and add books to our research library as new reference books are printed (and accept previously printed research materials). Postcards and photographs that often document local landmarks and people are also highly valued items we collect.

As time goes by, photos and postcards from ten years ago will be valuable from a historical perspective. If you are downsizing or spring cleaning, please consider donating items to the Goodsell Museum instead of tossing them out. In addition, monetary donations specified for our Acquisition Fund will help us purchase books and other items for our research material.

TOWHA Receives \$15,000 for Energy Conservation Projects

The Trustees of the Town of Webb Historical Association received word in April from James L. Seward, State Senator, announcing that a legislative initiative in the amount of \$15,000 was included in the 2008-2009 state budget for energy conservation projects for improvements in the Goodsell Museum and Hemmer Cottage. After contracts are signed, the process will begin to secure the money. The Buildings and Grounds Committee will work closely with contractors that will do the work. The money will be used to add an outdoor motion detection light, replace the hot water tank with point of use hot water units, and replace the furnace at Hemmer Cottage; and replace exit signs with LED lighted signs and add much needed insulation in the attic of the Goodsell Museum.

Membership Reminder

Our membership runs January –December. Renewals were sent in January. Reminders will be sent in June. If you haven't renewed your membership yet, please consider renewing your support soon and help us save on mailing costs. Call 315-369-3838 to check your membership status. Thank You.