



OFFICERS

President
George Oswald
Vice President
Cheryl Gerrish
Secretary
Laura Cooper
Treasurer
Linda Cohen

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Tom Down
Susan Freese
Edmund Girtler
Robert Lowenberg
Lance Maly
Jon Martin
Sarah Morin
George Villiere
Dave Wallace
Mark Webster

DIRECTOR

Gail Murray

ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT

Kate Lewis

FACILITIES MANAGER

John DeVoldre

From the Director's Desk

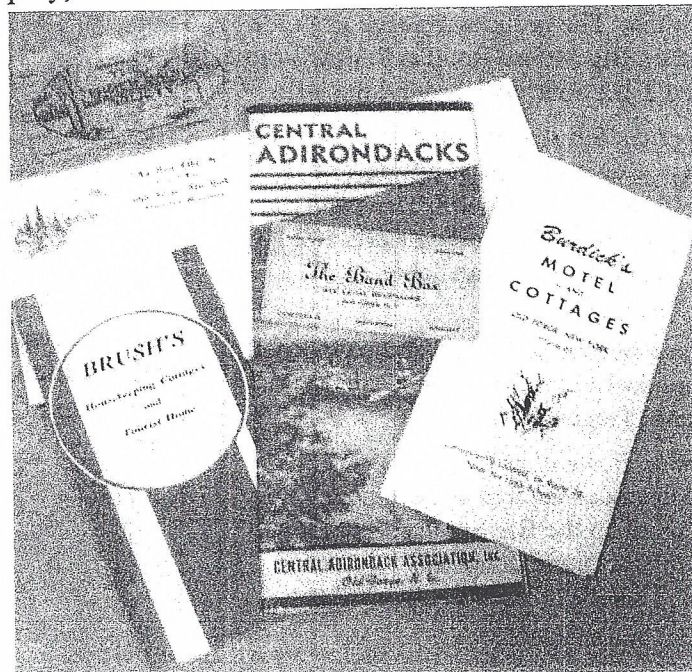
TOWN OF WEBB HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION
PO BOX 513, OLD FORGE, NY 13420
PHONE: 315 369-3838

Adding Information to our Business Files

An invitation was extended to Town of Webb business owners both current and past, to visit the Goodsell Museum and inspect information in our business files on February 8, 2010. Trustees provided refreshments for visitors and led tours through the six rooms of exhibits.

Many photographs, postcards and ephemera (paper brochures, menus, business cards, letterhead, invoices, envelopes, etc.) were donated. Some items were scanned into the computer and originals returned to the owner.

We still have gaps to fill in our files and welcome additional information about the Town of Webb businesses from the past and present any time. We hope you will help us gather information that will benefit future generations. If you have something to share, please stop by, call 315-369-3838 or email director@webbhistory.org.



ANNUAL MEETING MAY 18, 2010

Town of Webb Historical Association members and the public are invited to attend our Annual Meeting to be held at the Goodsell Museum. The meeting will begin at 7 PM. Agenda will include Standing Committee reports, election of new trustees for a 3-year term and other business.

Refreshments will be served following the meeting.

2010 Coming Events

May 8—*Turn Coins and Jewelry into Cash* Reservations suggested between 10AM-3PM. A percentage of the proceeds to benefit the museum.

May 28 & 29—*Memorial Day Sale* Donations are needed. Let us sell your unwanted items to benefit the Fuel Fund of the Goodsell Museum. Pick-up is available, call 315-369-3838 for more information.

May 30—*Sunday Open House* 1-4 PM. Refreshments will be available, tour our exhibits.

June 10—Encore fundraiser *Historic Tour of the Little Moose Campus at the Adirondack League Club*, 5:30-7:30 PM. \$90 TOWHA members/ \$100 non-members. Pre-paid reservations required.

July 8—*Walking Tour of Moss Lake* Pre-registration is required, space is limited. The group will leave from the Moss Lake trail-head on Big Moose Road at 9:30AM rain or shine for a narrated 2 1/2 hour walk around the lake.

July 10—*Benefit Auction* 8th Annual fundraiser held on the Goodsell property. Registration and preview of donated antiques, collectibles, new, nearly new, and Adirondack items begins at 1PM. Bidding starts at 2 PM. Bring a chair—refreshments will be available. Something for everyone.

August 2—*Victorian Party on the Porch* at the Goodsell Museum, 4-7PM. Fundraiser—refreshments, silent auction, entertainment. Tickets \$15.

August 12—*Seasons to Remember* Cocktail party including refreshments under the tent at Hemmer Cottage followed by a slide show on the Big Screen at the Strand Theatre. Come see if your photo entry was selected—You Can Be A Star! Tickets \$40 TOWHA members/ \$45 non-members.

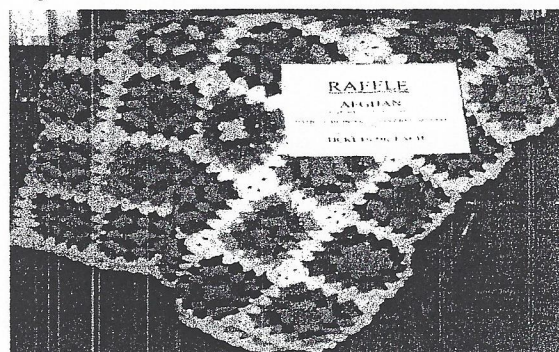
Oral Histories

A few volunteers are working together on an Oral History Project to document the life and times of people who have lived or worked in the Town of Webb. They have met to develop guidelines and strategies for collecting oral histories from community members willing to tell a story and have identified a list of potential people to interview.

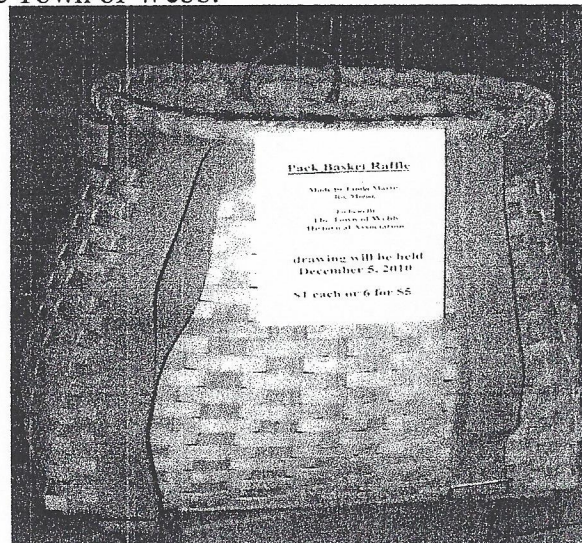
We would like to hear from you if you want to help interview or if you have a story to tell. Please call the Historical Association at 315-369-3838 for more information.

Raffles

The day-to-day operation of the Goodsell Museum is funded by many sources. We are grateful for the donation of two items to raffle and provide additional income: an afghan and pack-basket, each handcrafted by two local friends of the museum. The 56" x 51" afghan below was crocheted by Therese Capone. Tickets are 50 cents each. The winner will be selected at our booth at the Holiday Bazaar, to be held in November at the Arts Center in Old Forge.



The 16" tall x 15" wide pack-basket below was made by Linda Martin of Big Moose. Tickets are \$1 each or six for \$5. The winner of the pack-basket will be selected at our Open House on December 5, 2010, which is the official opening of our next feature exhibit – topic is commerce on the waters in the Town of Webb.



Tickets may be purchased during your next visit to the Goodsell Museum or through the mail. Please send your check and provide a self-addressed stamped envelope if you want the raffle stub for your records.

Energy Conservation Project

The Historical Association is pleased to report the receipt of a check for \$15,000 in February, 2010, payment of grant money. Early in 2009, word was received that Legislative Initiative monies set aside for our Energy Conservation Projects at the Goodsell Museum and Hemmer Cottage would not be available due to the governor's deficit reduction plan. Fortunately, that situation improved, our projects were completed, final reports were submitted to the State and we are now able to replace the money we used from our savings to make those much needed improvements to our buildings.

Thanks go to Senator James Seward for his help in securing the funding and all our members and friends that made contributions for the energy conservation project.

Pearsall Adirondack Foundation Grant

The Town of Webb Historical Association was fortunate to receive a grant from the Glenn and Carol Pearsall Adirondack Foundation that has been used to purchase a power point projector with remote control. The staff and others will use the new piece of equipment at outreach presentations, events, annual meetings, etc.

The Glenn and Carol Pearsall Adirondack Foundation is dedicated to improving the quality of life for year-round residents of the Adirondack Park. Visit their website at www.pearsallfoundation.org for more information about the organization.

GOODSELL MUSEUM

2993 State Route 28 —Old Forge

OPEN: Tuesday—Saturday

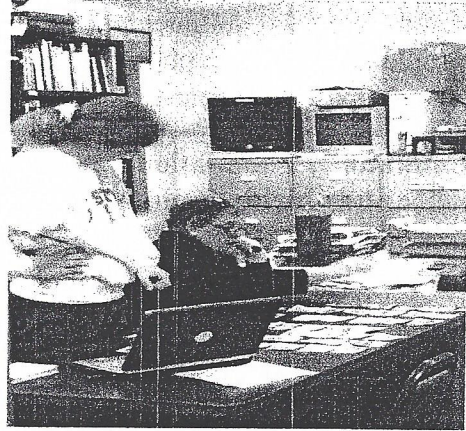
10 AM– 3PM or by Appointment

315-369-3838

Located on the
Central Adirondack Trail Scenic Byway

New Book Release

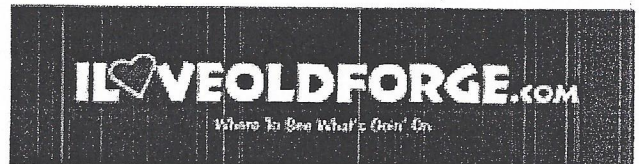
Peg Masters (left), Town of Webb Historian and Linda Cohen (right), TOWHA Trustee, are busy working on another book to be released later this year. The title is "Old Forge and the Fulton Chain of Lakes". The book will include over 225 photos taken from the Town of Webb Historical Association collection and a few other sources. The publisher will be Arcadia Books.



VOLUNTEERS

The Historical Association wishes to thank our many volunteers. Thanks for identifying and sorting photos, organizing files, shelving research books, copying newspaper clippings, mounting exhibits, moving displays, painting the porch, making signs, working at fundraisers, assisting with projects, and much more!

We are very grateful for your help.



Town of Webb Historical Association memberships are yearly, January—December. Your membership renewal is welcome anytime throughout the year.

Wish List

The Town of Webb Historical Association is in need of the following items or volunteers. If you can help, please call 315-369-3838.

- Battery operated hand drill—new or used.
- Sturdy metal shelving.
- Volunteers to take photos of current businesses, people and events throughout the Town of Webb.
- Two large collections of photographs have been received. We need volunteers to help identify people and places in photographs taken during the past 2-20 years.

Community Foundation of Herkimer and Oneida Counties Inc.

Our mission in part states that we collect the history of the Town of Webb, and that is a very important part of the work we do at the Town of Webb Historical Association. Our small staff and limited volunteers interested in helping us with the accessioning process is behind on their work documenting, describing, measuring, preserving, and storing some collections given to our organization in the past.

We are happy to announce that the Community Foundation of Herkimer and Oneida Counties, Inc. has awarded the Historical Association a grant to hire an intern to work part-time on this accession project during 2010. With this generous grant, we will be able to catch-up on the work necessary to make the donations of photos, postcards, artifacts and ephemera available to the public through displays, exhibits, and research.

First Friday Art Walks

Look for interesting things happening at the Goodsell Museum on the first Friday of each month June-October! We will be open extended hours 5-8PM with special offerings. Several area businesses and organizations will also be promoting art and will also be open during those evening hours with refreshments, artist showings and more. Details to follow as plans develop.

"A Story of Love for the Woods and Water" Brown's Tract Guides' Association

The feature exhibit at the Goodsell Museum has many interesting stories of the history of the Brown's Tract Guides' Association 1898-1920. Many of Webb's founding fathers and others from nearby towns were involved with the Brown's Tract Guides. The exhibit includes information about the following men: Ainsworth, Ball, Barrett, Burdick, Burke, Charbonneau, Church, Christy, Commerford, Covey, Crego, Delmarsh, Goodsell Grant, Martin, Parsons, Rivette, Sperry, Weedmark, Wells and Wood to name a few. Displays contain maps and photos, firearms, knives and traps, fishing rods, creels, and lures, badges and association cards, pack baskets and a guide-boat.



The exhibit also tells of the 'Army of Liberation', a group of men who helped reintroduce beaver to this area. This sign above is located across from the information center in Old Forge. The beaver were held at the fish hatchery now known as the American Legion Building. This exhibit will be on display through October 31, 2010.

TURN YOUR JEWELRY AND COINS INTO CASH

Vince T. of Upstate Numismatic Services will be at the Goodsell Museum on Saturday, May 8, 2010 to meet with anyone wishing to sell their coins and jewelry. Appointments between 10AM—3 PM are encouraged. A percentage of the proceeds will be donated to the museum.

Legendary Adirondack Guide Phil Christy

by Peg Masters, Town of Webb Historian



Among the Brown's Tract guides featured in the Town of Webb Historical Association's "*Woods and Waters*" exhibit is Philip Christy whose wit, ability to spin tall tales, and undisputed woodsman's skills provided him with a career that spanned more than seven decades. Around the age of six, his family moved from Montreal to the Adirondacks where his father, Philip Christy Sr., found work as a lumberman, guide and carpenter. According to stories later related by Phil, by the age of 14 he claimed to know almost every square inch of the Adirondacks. Determining what is fact from fiction is part of the intrigue and mystique in researching Phil's life.

Census records list Phil's birth year as March of 1855 or 1856. He was 92 years old according to his obituary in September of 1947 and 1854 is the birth year on his gravestone. Phil's marriage to Bridget Rivett occurred on her 15th birthday in June of 1878. Until they moved to Old Forge in 1893, they lived in Moose River Settlement, the tannery town in Lewis County on the Brown's Tract road to Boonville and Port Leyden. Phil worked as a day

laborer and participated in many log drives down the river. According to Bridget in the 1900 Census, she had given birth to six children and the five surviving at the time included: Julia (1879 and married to George Villiere), Anna (1881), Lelia (1884), William (1887), and John (1891). Another son Donald was born in 1901 at Old Forge. A deed was filed in Herkimer County in Bridget's name in 1897 for a lot on Main Street where Phil built the family homestead that survives today and is owned by his great-grandson, Roland Christy Jr.

Although Phil was a stage coach driver in the 1890s at Old Forge and earned money as a carpenter and an ice cutter, guiding was his passion. Christy and fellow guides Nelson Chandler, Frank Hall, and Nick Western, established "Mosquito Camp" in the Moose River Plains about 20 miles from Old Forge. A second camp was later built near Natural Dam and called "Cozy Parlor." For many years Phil worked at the Adirondack League Club. He had an uncanny sense of direction in the woods and never used a compass. Phil joined the Brown's Tract Guides' Association and served as a Vice President for a time. During his career, Phil claimed he worked for five US Presidents as well as more than 4,000 hunters and 3,000 fishermen. He had been instrumental in bagging more than 2,100 deer and numerous black bear and panthers.

One of the intriguing stories Phil told occurred in 1892, the year Dr. Webb's railroad was completed. Phil was hired by a man to take him up the Fulton Chain, then to the St. Lawrence River where two Indians paddled his client over to Canada. The trip in Phil's guideboat took four days and he was paid \$50. Upon his return, a sheriff interrogated Phil about his client who was wanted for the murder of two railroad workers. Another story involved an encounter with a bear. Phil thrust a bush into the bear's outstretched paws whose instinct was to embrace the obstacle. While it was distracted, Phil snuck around the bear and dispatched him with an axe. Well into his 80s, he'd doff his traditional guide's hat, always tilted at an angle, and head into the woods for a week of beaver hunting or fishing. "Phil had lots of great stories and some were probably true," chuckled his grandson Leo Villiere in a recent interview. "He had a great life." The Brown's Tract Guides exhibit is on display at the Historical through October of 2010.

Historic Tour of the Little Moose Campus at the Adirondack League Club

On Thursday, June 10, 2010, The Adirondack League Club will open its gates once more for a fundraiser cocktail-reception and guided tour of the historic Little Moose campus in Old Forge. Because of the overwhelming success of last year's reception and the generosity of the Club, the event will be repeated this year to benefit the Goodsell Museum. The reception will take place from 5-7:30 PM at Little Moose Lodge which was designed by architect Augustus D. Shepard. The lodge, overlooking the totally private Little Moose Lake, was built in 1914 and features large stone fireplaces, open and covered decks, and log beams in the characteristic Shepard style.

All monies raised will benefit the Goodsell Museum, owned by the Town of Webb Historical Association, and built by George Goodsell. George worked steadily as the principal building contractor for Adirondack League Club member and architect Augustus D. Shepard. The exclusive sportsmen's club was formed in 1890 and remains one of the largest private preserves in the Adirondacks today.

The tour at Little Moose will include the following historic properties: Club Cottages (1906), ALC Wooden Tennis Courts (1908), Little Moose Boat House (1912), Mountain Lodge, now the 'Summer House' (1914), and the Doctor's residence and office (1925).

Tickets are limited and must be purchased in advance for this last chance event. They are available for \$100 per person for non-members and \$90 for members of the Town of Webb Historical Association. Call 315-369-3838 today and reserve your place today.

NON-PROFIT ORG.
U S POSTAGE
PAID
Old Forge, NY 13420
Permit No. 0001

