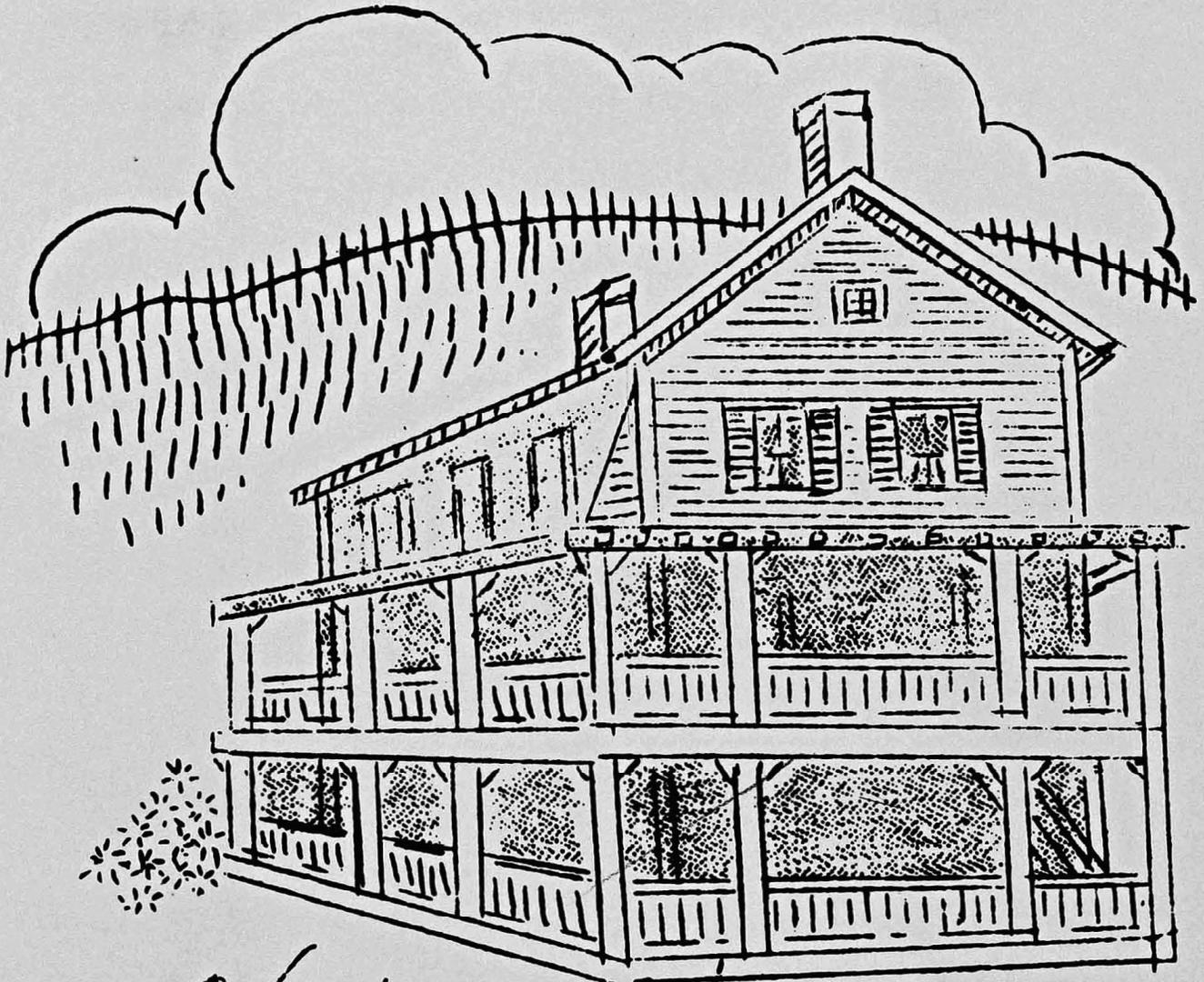


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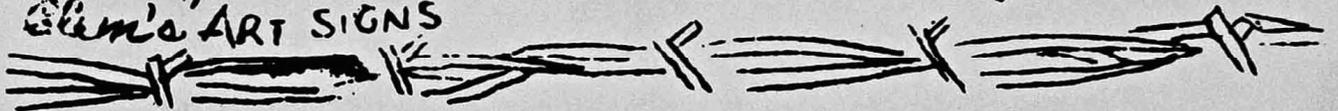
Sept. 1967

Truman



Historical Society

"Glen's" ART SIGNS



THE
JOHN THURMAN HISTORICAL SOCIETY, INC.
QUARTERLY

SEPTEMBER 1967

NO. III VOL. IV

ABOUT OUR COVER

We are curious to know how many of our readers will recognize the location of the house pictured on our cover this time. It is an old landmark in the Town of Thurman and is presently known as Mountain High Lodge. Among former owners were Rufus Baker, Charles Baker and James MacDonald. When this writer was small, Mr. and Mrs. MacDonald, their two daughters, Gladys and Gertrude, and their sons, Clyde and Horace operated a "boarding house" here. The business was later purchased by Mrs. Deane who conducted the business for several years before selling to the present owner.

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A NOTE OF APPRECIATION

We gratefully acknowledge Selections submitted by Mrs. Armine Gurney, Mrs. Mildred Sanborn and daughter Joyce; also thanks to Mrs. Myra Magee and others who helped in any way with the publication this time.

It is our hope that each Quarterly will contain one article from Glens Falls, Warrensburg and Thurman. Each one must have some recollections of their earlier days which would be very interesting to the rest of us. So why don't you stir up your memory, sit down with pen in hand and jot off a page which we can use?

With your help this can be made into one of the most interesting publications of its kind! We are constantly doing research, but there are articles which only YOU can write. Can we count on you for at least 1 article this year?

You may send your selection or article to Miss Mabel Tucker, 88 river Street, Warrensburg, N. Y. or to any member of the Library & Publications Committee. Thank you.

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NOTES FROM 1861 GAZETEER OF NEW YORK STATE

"Among the early settlers of Thurman were: Thurston Kenyon, William Johnson, William Kenyon, Dyer Burdick, Elisha Pendell, Olive Brooks, Richardson Moore, Benajah Wells, Amos Bowen, Abial Frost and John King.

The first marriage recorded for the Town was of Duncan McEwan to a Miss Cameron. The first death recorded was that of Zebediah Kenyon."

The first officers of the Town of Thurman according to another source were: Supervisor, Hiram P. Williams; Town Clerk, David A. Greene; Assessors, William Johnson, Daniel Bowen; Commissioners of Highways, Lorenzo Pasco, Charles S. Drull; Justices of the Peace, Ichabod Aldrich, John Loveland; Inspectors of Elections, A. Burdick, Aaron Hall, George Russell; Collector, John V. Kenyon; Overseers of the Poor, John Wilsey, James Coyle; Constables, Alanson S. Ovitt, Jacob L. Daggett, Daniel Wilcox, John B. Kenyon and John K. Thistle.

In 1830 the old Town of Athol used to have 3 days of election and polled some less than 200 votes. ---Selected

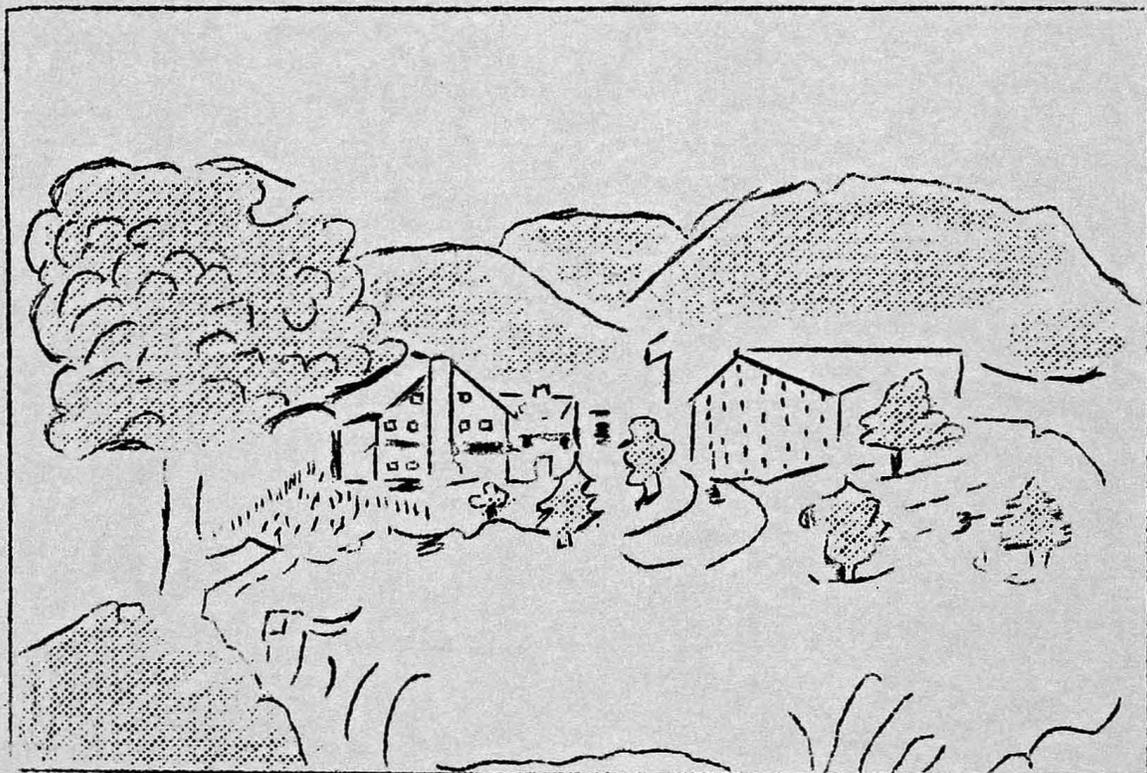
A charming little booklet, bound in birchbark and laced with black yarn, was recently lent to the Quarterly committee by Mrs. Mabel VanBergen. The contents are "Hilltop" poems by Arthur Prescott Sanborn and many of them are illustrated by his daughter, Joyce, with dainty sketches done in crayons. The collection was presented by Mrs. Sanborn and Joyce to their friends, Helen and Scott B. Smith, many years ago.

The title poem, "Hilltop", a brief verse, provides the background for the other poems, some of which have appeared in earlier numbers of the J.T.H.S. Quarterly.

HILLTOP

"There's a cozy little homestead
High among the rugged hills,
In the fastness of the forest
Close beside the laughing rills,
Where there's peace and sweet contentment
Far removed from human strife,
And the years flow gently by us,
As we live this happy life."

Selected by Mrs. Armine Gurney



WHO WAS SPENCER K. WARD?

Can any of our readers shed a light on the real identity of this "Old Timer"? He has contributed so much to our knowledge and appreciation of life as it was in Warrensburgh a hundred years ago that it would be a great satisfaction to know to whom we are indebted for the vivid descriptions tucked away in the columns of the older volumes of The Warrensburg News.

SOME CLUES

1. He spent his boyhood and early manhood in Warrensburg.
2. He lived within "a stone's throw" of the old Academy, having moved to Warrensburg with his family at the age of six.
3. He attended the Academy as a primary pupil and continued on through the secondary department.
4. His childhood friends were sons of tannery workers.
5. In the early 1870's he participated in the Town's debating society and acted as recording secretary for their meetings.
6. Upon completion of his education he became a business man in New York City and as a sideline wrote occasionally as "Our New York Correspondent" for the Warrensburg News.
7. In the late 1890's and early 1900's he used the pen name of John Ward to conceal his identity from his friends.
8. In the 1920's he revised his pen name to Spencer K. Ward.
9. His earlier writings were travelogues about the Philippines, Florida and California, but the later ones were reminiscences about Warrensburgh as it was during the 1860's.
10. Whether he ever returned to Warrensburg during the years there is no clue but he kept in touch with the Town's progress through reading the Warrensburg News and corresponding with friends.

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From a series of articles about the Warrensburg Academy written in 1921 for the Warrensburg News by Spencer K. Ward, pen name of a former resident who attended the Academy in Civil War days:

"C. S. Merrill became the principal of the Warrensburg Academy in September, 1868. Like many of his predecessors he was a young man who had just completed his college course and taught school until he should later decide upon a profession. He was a young man of strong and clear intellect and was animated with a high conception of duty. These qualities coupled with the uprightness of his character, exercised a wholesome influence upon the atmosphere of the school. His cheerful manner and pleasing personality won him many friends during his one year's stay in Warrensburgh. The year that he taught the school was a year of progress marked by high standards.

Some of the young men who at an earlier period had responded to their country's call to put down the rebellion now returned to complete their education. Among them were John Wall and Joseph Pelletier, Thomas McGann and George Fitzsimons; Carleton Bennett and

David Dodge were among the new boys who became students of the Academy at this time.

Thurman sent Charles P. Coyle, Allen Parker and John C. Bowen, Those boys all achieved success in their chosen professions in after life, Charley Coyle in the legal profession; Allen Parker and John Bowen in the field of medicine. In looking back to the old Academy I recall that no town outside of Warrensburgh sent so many boys to the Academy to acquire an education as did Thurman. The Thurman boys were all generous, manly fellows with whom it was a pleasure to associate. They were all good students and they all made good.

Frank Eldridge, whose early life was passed in Thurman, came to Warrensburgh to live after the close of the Civil War. He was a bright and studious boy of unassuming manner and good business judgment. He became an expert telegrapher and afterwards achieved success and distinction in the railroad world in the middle West. William D. Aldrich and Gilbert attained success in the medical profession as did Fred Aldrich who attended the school at an earlier period. Lewis C. Aldrich practiced law in Warrensburgh until he was called home. Jacob E. Johnson was a successful business man in Warrensburgh. Allen Parker and John Bowen are today practicing physicians in New York City. Charles Coyle was a genial whole-souled boy and exceedingly popular with the school. He is now practicing attorney in Glens Falls.

I take off my hat to Thurman. If the boys who remained at home and who are now conducting the civic and business affairs of that town are like the boys she sent to the "Old Academy" she is indeed fortunate

--Contributed by Mrs. A. Gurney

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A "KINSHIP KORNER"

Many inquiries have been made recently from persons living in different areas concerning their relatives who were early settlers in the localities of Thurman and Warrensburg. We thought it might be a good idea to have a little corner in our Quarterly set aside to list these names. Readers who might have knowledge about names on the list could contact the Publication Committee and the information would then be passed to the inquirer. What is your response to this idea?

"DIGGING GOLD AT LAKE GEORGE"

The following article was found in a copy of the Warrensburg News dated June 1, 1893: "Quite a large force of men is at work at Calf's Pen, on the shore of Lake George, in excavating for gold and platinum. A small separator has been erected at the place, and operations are steadily though quietly conducted. Messrs. Wesson and Yale, of Connecticut, the latter being of Yale lock fame, are said to be the instigators of the work."

ATTENTION!

Plan to attend our November 10th meeting. We are anticipating a real treat at this time. Mr. Lawrence Olders of Middle Grove will be here to sing Lumberjack Songs. He has appeared in northeast colleges and is known as "The Last of the Adirondack Minstrels".

EXCERPT FROM AN OLD WARRENSBURG NEWS

In the fall of 1893, Mr. D. M. Haley of Boston, found an extensive deposit of reddish mineral paint near 'Crain' Mt. in the Town of Thurman. The Glen Mining Co. was formed to develop the mine and operations opened in the spring of 1894. About five acres were cleared and a building 40' x 60' erected, and equipped with the latest machinery for manufacture of dry and oil colors. Power was supplied by a New Impulse or Hurdy Gurdy Water motor from a piped stream which fell 700 ft. from the lake near the summit, furnishing 50 H.P. The deposit extended along the entire north side of 'Crain' and was found to be over 70 feet deep.

The paint was found to be composed largely of aluminum combined with iron oxides. The iron being fully oxidized by the natural elements before mining cannot undergo further changes while the aluminum is entirely non-corrosive, and therefore, is enduring. This pigment is of the same vein as the Johnsbury Brown, used on many buildings in and around Johnsbury, N. Y.

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ROAD TO THE PAINT BEDS

In the telling of the good old days in Thurman inevitably there is mention of the time when paint dug from the ground was common on houses and barns in Johnsbury and Thurman.

Today, as everyone knows, paint comes from cans and a store but where there is smoke there must have been fire once, and in the summer of 1967 several members of JTHS and others set out to see for themselves.

Directions were explicit to the point of locating the paint in old beds between Crane and Huckleberry Mountains, remote, aloof and far from the maddening world.

The trail began in S. Johnsbury, in a pasture where there is an old log cabin. We passed several ruined shacks, and followed an old woods' road into the scrub and upwards towards the pass between the hills. For a mile or more we drove in a jeep till a small swamp made the road impassable. Leaving the jeep we started on foot and as we did, something 'let go' with a snarl and could be heard departing. We forded a stream and on the other side found the former main road to the paint beds, overgrown, but still recognizable as a road. This we followed on a slow upward grade for over two miles. In places there was old corduroy. The bridges were washed away. Deep streams gouged their banks creating gorges. Sometimes the road clung to very steep banks reinforced with stones. Finally, it was hard to find the road at all.

A really big and fresh sign of bear let us know we were not alone. There was a funny smell.

Ahead the north side of Crane was recognized and steep inner cliffs on Huckleberry Mt. The leader bent down to sample the earth and brought up yellowish sticky clay. We were near. We might have gone too far but straining through the brush we saw old gnarled apple trees. We turned aside and looked again and soon found dug channels and ditches deeper than we were. These seemed to terminate in a square flattish depression. The soil in the middle when kicked into was quite a bright brickish red, and very adhesive. It made balls of mud. A Sortie 'turned up' a pool in a pit. Piles of shaped rocks marked a chimney. A flat slab was an old doorstep and a finely shaped fireplace still intact told us this was once a home. We had found the paint beds.

This is truly a place for reflections. In mind's eye we could visualize the little settlement. There were processing sheds. A

pipd stream off Crane with a drop of 700 ft. ran a small impulse turbine. The dried paint pigment was transported in barrels by wagons with teams of horses. Beside the drivers rode their little boys and girls. The declivity echoed to cries of 'gee and haw'. There was a house and an orchard. Lemon lillies grew in the front yard.

In the hearts of many in Thurman, the road to the paint beds is a fond memory of childhood, and even today it still is, a wild and beautiful trail in the woods.

--Mrs. Ruth Rolleston

"BUSINESS PLACES IN WARRENSBURG IN 1866"

LOWER BOROUGH

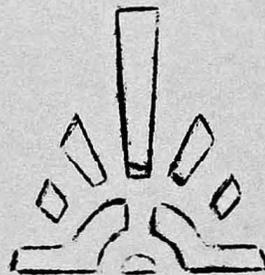
L. C. Ackley-store at Mill bridge
G. & S.T. Richards-store
B. P. Burhans & Son-store
James Fuller-store
Henry Herrick-store
James Fuller-picture gallery
Warren Potter-livery
P. Ryan-Boots & Shoes
John Hockaday-Harness
Austin Eldridge-meat market
John Mixter-blacksmith
Cole & Hayes-blacksmiths
Duncan Griffin-hotel

BETWEEN TWO BOROUGHS

Josiah Crandall-boots & shoes
O. Lewis-wagons & sleighs
Thomas Cunningham-attorney
John McKnight-attorney & justice
J. C. Heath-Justice
Dr. Howard-physician
Dr. McNutt-physician
Dr. Charette-physician
Abial Burdick-clothing works

UPPER BOROUGH

Telegraph office at B.P. Burhans
& Son
Kenyon, Pasco & Co.-store
T.P. Qua-store
Miles Thomas-store
Woodward & Emerson-store
Stephen Griffin, 2cd.-store
O. F. Hammond,-drugs & groceries
M.N. Dickinson-hardware
Lay & Emerson-tin
A. T. Pasko-harness
H. L. White-cabinet maker
Miss Noxon-milliner
Mrs. Sutton-milliner
Moses Sutton-sash & blinds
Willis & Glynn-blacksmiths
William Davis-groceries
Seth Russell-livery
H. Barber-hoops
Lewis Person-hotel & sheriff's
office
T. C. Sentenne-tailor & clothing



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Alice Parker
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