



Warrensburgh Historical Society Quarterly

VOLUME 27 ISSUE 1

SPRING 2022

**WARRENSBURG TOWN BOARD
ADOPTS ANNUAL
"FLOYD BENNETT DAY" AS MAY 9TH!**



Floyd Bennett

**FLOYD
BENNETT
THE
UNTOLD
TRUE
STORY**

*WRITTEN IN
THE FALL OF
1998*

by Jean
Hadden

Countless heroic tales of drama and adventure have been told and retold over the years about our illustrious local hero, Floyd Bennett, who stirred the hearts of the nation before his untimely death seventy years ago. Although he well deserves the honor and praise he has received, he was not at all like the swashbuckling character historians make him out to be.

Bennett—continued on page 4

In this Issue

Floyd Bennett.....	1,4,5
Science Students.....	1
Society Spot.....	2
President's Column.....	2
Warrensburgh Heritage.....	3
Mounting Blocks.....	5
Always Yours.....	6
Income Tax Preservation Program.....	6,7
Mystery Photos From Last Issue.....	7
Mystery Photos.....	8

**ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCE
STUDENTS APPRECIATE OUR
HISTORICAL ENVIRONMENT**

By Paul Gilchrist

There was an excellent article by Thom Randall in the April 16 issue of the Sun Community News about efforts to create a public historical park on property along the Schroon River behind the fire house and elementary school. The 1,200 foot parcel was given to the Town by the Warrensburgh Historical Society five years ago for that purpose. The Society, Warrensburgh Beautification, and Warren County Soil & Water Conservation have been developing plans and cost estimates for the Town and hope to have a "heritage trail" along an old track that runs from Electric Avenue to the end of Burhans Lane behind the old school bus garage. A considerable amount of work has been undertaken at various times over the past several years, primarily to plan the initial trail including vantage points from which to view the historical mill and factory sites below and across the river that were powered by the dam that was functional there into the 1960s. Among the numerous people who participated in these labors, we would like to recognize here that students from Warrensburgh Central School and their environmental science teacher, John Burns, worked for hours to cut brush and clear a spot for an overlook along the trail. Before starting work, the students are taught for a few minutes about industrial history along the Schroon River so they will have a good understanding of the purpose of the work they will be do-

ing. This volunteer work was done in 2016 and 2017 in connection with Earth Day and Arbor Day. We hope that before long they and hundreds of others will be walking the trail to learn about and appreciate the history of industry along this stretch of the Schroon River as Warrensburgh progressed into the Industrial Revolution.



Bob Bradley and science teacher John Burns led five Jr./Sr. high school students in working to clear brush on the Warrensburgh Historical Society's Tannery property along the Schroon River in celebration of Earth Day and Arbor Day in late 2016.



Junior high environmental science students and teacher John Burns clear brush for an overlook along the trail of an historical educational park planned for the Society's Tannery property in 2017.

SOCIETY SPOT

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BOARD MEETINGS

The Board of Directors will meet in the Town Historian's Office at 6:30pm on the FIRST Wednesday of each month in the Shirt Factory Building at 89 River Street.

PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

First and foremost, the Board would like to thank Carol Keane for her time on the Board, and wish her all the best. We would also like to welcome our newest Board member Myra Volpeus. Myra joined the Board effective May 4, 2022. She is the newly appointed Town of Thurman Historian, we look forward to working with Myra and are excited about what she can bring to the table from Thurman.

On Saturday March 19, the Board embarked on Planning Process for the purpose of establishing long and short term goals for the Society. The goals will guide us in achieving the mission of preserving our local history. Thank you to Richard's Library for providing the space for our work.

The Preservation, Museum, Finance, Membership and Social Media Committees met and discussed priorities for each group. Twenty-seven goals were generated during the session, these goals will be at the front and center of all future planning for the Historical Society. Thank you to all of the Board members for their hard work.

Part of our monthly board meetings will

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Please Update Your Email

If your email has changed, please update the Society at:
 whs7396@yahoo.com

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be used to review each of the goals and the progress made in completing them. Once achieved, these goals will have long lasting measurable effects on preserving sites in Thurman and Warrensburg. Our committees, working together will give us the ability to accomplish our goals and will have a positive effect on our community.

This work has already generated new ideas for events and fundraisers, added new energy to our Social Media accounts and identified Preservation projects. We are thrilled to once again be moving forward with our work.

Please check the upcoming events section on page 3 and mark your calendars for those events you wish to participate in. More specific details will be posted in the next Quarterly as well as on our website, Social Media channels and, local publications.

Please consider asking friends and family to become members of the Historical Society and help us with the work of preserving our history.

Thank you, Gary Bivona, WHS President

Renew Your Membership Online

<https://bit.ly/3LVWGBM>

MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION

If you would like to join and receive the Quarterly by mail, please send a check for the amount of the membership classification, with name, address, and phone number, and if a graduate year of graduation

Warrensburgh Historical Society P.O. Box 441,
 Warrensburg, N.Y. 12885

MEMBERSHIP RATES

Students	\$5.00	Contributing	\$60.00
Individual	\$15.00	Business	\$55.00
Family	\$25.00	Institutional	\$100.00
Sr. (62+)	\$12.00	Life (Individual only)	\$350.00
Sr. Family	\$20.00		

Become a Contributor

A friendly call to writers, photographers and local history admirers alike:

Send us copies of Warrensburg artifacts, photographs and writings of Yesteryear.

Warrensburgh Historical Society


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NOTICE

The recording of history is an interpretive, and ever changing study. Therefore, the Warrensburgh Historical Society, or its Board of Directors, or members shall not be held liable for the accuracy, or authenticity of the material herein.

IN MEMORIUM

 The Society mourns the passing of Dennis Martinez, 67. Dennis was a long-time board member and vice-president of our Society. He enjoyed acting in our annual Graveyard Walks and was instrumental in the success of our annual kayak raffles. Dennis was a regional manager and vice-president of Glens Falls National Bank, where we often held our board meetings.

PATHWAY PROMOTING WARRENSBURG'S HERITAGE ADVANCES

By Thom Randall

As published in The Sun April 15, 2022

A trail along the northeast side of Schroon River in the Hamlet of Warrensburg has been envisioned for more than a decade and now the town government and community activists are working together to make it a reality.

The Warrensburg Historical Society and Warrensburgh Beautification Inc. have jointly drafted plans and prepared cost estimates for the construction work, and Teresa Whalen of the latter entity gave a presentation to the town board on the progress at their March meeting.

Whalen said April 10 that the trail development could be accomplished this summer.

"People walking through Tannery Park along the Heritage Trail will enjoy views of not only Hickory Hill, but our town's historic industrial district which included a grist mill, tanneries, a sawmill, and the shirt factory," Whalen said.

The historic shirt factory's main three-story building and a nearby structure where the shirts were packaged are still standing, but there are only remnants of the tannery, grist mill, and sawmill. The main shirt factory building was restored years ago, transformed into the River Street Marketplace, which hosts a restaurant, a variety of small enterprises, and offices.

The trail starts adjacent to where a historic, nationally renowned electric power plant once stood.

Beginning in 1893 and continuing into the early 1900s, the plant's water-driven dynamo at the nearby dam on the Schroon River powered electric lights in the homes within the Warrensburg hamlet during evenings only, except on Tuesdays, when the electricity was supplied to customers so they could iron their clothes, Warrensburg Historian Sandi Parisi said this week. Also, the electric enterprise leased "electric lamps" to customers for \$5 per lamp per year, she said.

Historical documents cite that the power plant was "one of the most thoroughly

equipped electric power plants in New York State," she said. Other sources have said the plant was one of the very first in the U.S. to supply electricity to homes.

The Heritage Trail is to extend 650 feet from the end of Electric Avenue — named for the power plant — to the end of Burhans Avenue, behind the Warrensburg Elementary School. The trail, to be 5 feet wide and constructed with crushed gravel, is to be located in an improved sloped riverside parcel which is to include lookouts, benches, and signs explaining the town's history.

The Warren County Soil & Water Conservation District agency assisted the historical society and Warrensburgh Beautification with preparing project plans and cost estimates, which were presented to the town board in February.

At the March meeting of the Warrensburg Town Board, Whalen asked the board to schedule a meeting between these organizations and the town's infrastructure supervisors. The meeting is to determine tasks to be accomplished, and set work schedules.

Already, Soil Water agency personnel have made initial attempts to cut brush along the trail's route — with a machete and other implements. Agency director Jim Lieberum has worked with Queensbury Planner George Hilton to prepare maps of the Tannery Park and Trail.

In 2017, a group of local high school students helped plot the trail's route by tying ribbons to trees along its proposed path, as well as clearing brush.

In 2012, the historical society received the acreage along the river as a gift from the developer and longtime Adirondack Scenic executive Dick Emerson after his plans to build condominiums on the plot were stymied by the Adirondack Park Agency.

A few years ago, the society gave the plot to the town — although they intended to develop a park and trail on the land — due to concerns over potential liability. Originally, the land was owned by Niagara Mohawk Power Co., but in 1978 the firm gave it to the historical society which let it be acquired by Warren County when the society went dormant. In 1998, the county sold the land to Emerson for \$31,500 — meanwhile, the historical society was resurrected.

On April 10, Sandi Parisi said she was pleased that the land would finally be developed and preserved as public land for posterity with the purpose of providing an opportunity for people to experience Warrensburg's rich history.

"I'm absolutely thrilled with the Tannery Park and Heritage Trail moving forward," Parisi said, noting that she and her late husband Steve Parisi — longtime director of the town's Museum of Local History — supported the park and trail concept since it was first conceived.



Looking across the river from the Grist Mill parking lot, spring 2017 at students and their teacher who cleared an overlook spot.



Overlook before vegetation growth has been cleared. Ultimately, a sign will point out to viewers the sites of mills and factories that once flourished here.

UPCOMING EVENTS 2022

Author Event.....	Jul 9
<i>Deidre Sinott, Author of the The Third Mrs. Galway</i>	
4th Grade Museum Visit.....	Jun 16
Golf Tournament.....	Aug. 28
Sticky Wicket.....	Aug. 28
ACC Walking Tour.....	Sep. 10
Jim Allen Famous Chicken BBQ.....	Sep. 23

Bennett—continued from page 1

Floyd was a scant five feet, eight inches tall with a slight build. In 1953 columnist Agnes Gilligan wrote about him, "He never talked much and seemed interested in nothing but motors and automobile engines. People who tried to strike up a conversation with him could get him to comment on nothing but the weather. Sometimes he refused to talk about that." The poverty, hardship and neglect he suffered as a child must surely have shaped his lifelong personality.

Floyd was born October 25, 1890, on Truesdale Hill, at the home of his grandparents, John W. and Alzina Marie Baker Patrick. He was the third child of Hannah 'Henrietta' Harrington Patrick who married Wallace Bennett, 38, on January 3, 1888. Her oldest child, born in 1876, was Ben T. Patrick who, although he only had one arm, went on to become a well-respected house painter in Warrensburgh. Next came LeRoy Bennett, born December 17, 1888, who grew up and went to school with his younger brother. Floyd and "Roy" along with 34 others, were listed in 1899 as being pupils of Miss Frances May Mickey in School District No.1, Caldwell (Lake George).

The two younger children were Effie Mae Bennett, born sometime between 1893 and 1895, and Herman (also called Harmom) Bennett, born around 1896. Henrietta and Wallace were well known for their stormy relationship. Legend has it that when they started arguing at their home on Truesdale hill, they could be heard across the valley over on Harrington Hill.

The family was finally forced to split up because of "adverse conditions" and Henrietta, 43, and four children, on February 16, 1901 were admitted to the Warren County Home, known locally at that time as Poor House". County Home records say that Effie Mae should be "placed in an institution as soon as possible". "Wall" Bennett was admitted to the County Home on April 23, 1901 with a broken leg.

In 1905 LeRoy is listed as a laborer on the farm of James and Jane Colvin on Harrington Hill. That same year Floyd is listed as living on Harrington Hill with his uncle and aunt, (James) Warren and Mary Elizabeth

Bennett Stanton. A photograph of this rustic old house has been reproduced on scores of souvenir postcards over the years.

When Floyd became a teenager, he grew tired of living upon the side of the mountain and he convinced his uncle and aunt to move to town. They lived for many years in Warrenburgh at 6 Fourth Avenue, in the house where Sheriff Baker and his daughter Mrs. Ashsah Richardson later resided.

In 1907 Floyd left home to work in a lumber camp to earn money for studying at an automobile engineering school. He completed a six month course in mechanics in just two months and went to work at the People's Garage at Ticonderoga and later Dick Bolton's garage at Hague. He had an auto repair and taxi business at Plattsburgh.

When he was in Ticonderoga he met Cora Orkins and they were married in Virginia on February 9, 1917. Floyd was her second husband. He enlisted in the Navy on December 15, 1917 in Burlington, Vermont and was placed in the new Naval Aviation Wing.

Herman Bennett was one of the children that went to the County Home in 1901. He was placed up for adoption by the Children's Aid Society of New York and was unofficially adopted by E.D. Foree, Attorney, of Rockwell, Texas. Herman died April 4, 1918 of pneumonia while in training at Fort Sill.

Floyd received aviation training at Bay Shore, Long Island and at Pensacola, Florida. In 1920 he was assigned catapult testing aboard the USS Richmond, the Navy's first aircraft carrier.

Floyd's aunt, Mary Stanton had been ill for a long time with a host of illnesses. She died at her home on Fourth Avenue on February 21, 1921 and the funeral was held at the Warrensburgh Baptist Church. About the same time as the funeral was going on, her brother, Wallace Bennett, 61, dropped dead at Norfolk, Virginia, where he was employed delivering telegrams. He was known as 'the oldest messenger boy in America". Neither brother nor sister knew that the other had died. As soon as Mary was decently buried, her husband, Warren Stanton lost no time in

packing his belongings and moving back up to the old homestead on Harrington Hill.

On December 14, 1922 Effie Mae Bennett married Frank Russell of Lake George. In 1932 she was listed as living in Johnsburgh. LeRoy Bennett served overseas with the U.S. Army during World War I. He married Letha Decker and they resided in Hague. Their six children are Jean Bennett, Lucille Macomber, Lura Hunter, Betty Lou Hardy, Joyce Denno, and LeRoy Bennett Jr. He died in 1966.

In 1925 Floyd accompanied Admiral Richard Evelyn Byrd to Greenland where he acted as his mechanic and pilot. Byrd was himself a fully qualified aviator, but he had sustained leg injuries playing sports while at the Naval Academy. On May 9, 1926 they flew over the North Pole in a three-motored plane known as the Josephine Ford. Floyd remained at the controls for fifteen and a half hours while Byrd navigated the ship. It was the first time that men had ever actually flown over the top of the world. There is controversy today about whether they actually made it over the pole or not but we have no reason to believe they didn't. Congress awarded Floyd the Congressional Medal of Honor and on February 25, 1927 it was personally given to him by President Calvin Coolidge. He was also honored by the National Geographic Society.

On July 16, 1926 Floyd returned home to Warrensburgh as a hero. These were his short-lived days of glory. Festive ceremonies were given in his honor which included a banquet at the Adirondack Hotel (Colonial Arms) followed by another one in Lake George. A parade was organized and he was driven in a convertible, wearing his dazzling white uniform, with his mother at his side. People sat on High Rock, across from the Judd Bridge and cheered as their hero passed on the road below. Poor boy Floyd Bennett had indeed come a long way.

Floyd was advanced to Warrant Machinist in the Navy. He intended to fly Byrd's plane, America, across the Atlantic in 1927. The plane crashed during a trial flight and he received injuries that confined him to a hospital bed for months.

Bennett—continued on page 5

Bennett—from page 4

He was far from well when he started making plans to accompany Byrd on an expedition to the South Pole.

He held the country spellbound as he rushed from his Detroit hospital bed to the aid of German-Irish fliers that were stranded after they were forced to land on Lonely Greenly Island in the North Atlantic near Labrador. He was accompanied by flyer Brent Balchen. Landing on Lake St. Agnes, he was too ill to continue and was sent to a Quebec hospital in another plane.

It was discovered that he had double pneumonia and it was felt by doctors that an antibody serum prepared by the Rockefeller Foundation might save him. Col. Charles A. Lindbergh managed to get the serum and flew over Lake George on his way from New York to the Plains of Abraham at Quebec's door, in three hours and forty five minutes. When he arrived with the life-saving medicine it was discovered that Floyd was dying of 'type 3' pneumonia which was a type not covered by the serum brought so far by Lindbergh. Admiral Byrd was at Floyd's bedside when he died on April 25, 1928, and walked behind his coffin as it was drawn on a gun carriage through the streets of Quebec on the way to the station. Floyd was thirty-seven years old.

Floyd Bennett, the poor boy from Warrensburgh who had come so far, was buried in Arlington National Cemetery with full honors. The nation wept!

Henrietta Bennett attempted to attend Floyd's funeral in Arlington, Virginia, but was too ill to leave the train with Cora when they reached Washington. When she reached Union Station in Albany, on her way home, she was met by her faithful son, Ben T. Patrick and was provided with an escort of motorcycle police that returned her to her home in the Virgin Hollow section (now Sewell Street) of Lake George.

Henrietta continued to live in Lake George until her stomach cancer would allow her to live alone no longer. She moved into Ben's comfortable home at 13 Mountain Avenue in Warrensburgh. On Memorial Day, 1931 she managed to unveil the tablet on the Floyd Bennett memorial flag

pole base in the new park in his honor. Paul Gurney designed the bandstand. Henrietta died October 24, 1931. The next day would have been Floyd's 41st birthday. Ben died in 1956 and is buried beside his mother on the new side of the Warrensburgh Cemetery, faithful in death as he was faithful in life.

The childhood home of Floyd Bennett was believed to have been built before 1835 and a hundred years later it was owned by Gene Mosher. He exchanged it for a piece of property in Hamilton County with a Mrs. Pasco from Hudson Falls. She hadn't moved in yet when, on March 18, 1935, Caretaker Robert Fuller filled the woodstove and went out to work in the barn. When he came back he discovered the roof to be on fire. He was unable to save Mrs. Pasco's furniture. By 11:30 a.m., the best known landmark in Warren County was gone forever.

Flyers were not considered to be good insurance risks so, after Floyd's death, Cora was left nearly destitute. She moved to Brooklyn where she got a job selling, of all things, insurance. She married Arthur Hoffman, a music publisher's agent and wrote a book about Floyd's life. To promote it she took flying lessons. In 1942 she was on hand when the destroyer Bennett was launched in Boston.

She died March 1, 1962 and is buried in Nassau Knolls Cemetery, in Port Washington, Long Island. She would be pleased to know, I'm sure, that now, seventy years after Floyd Bennett's death, plans have been made to name an airport in Glens Falls after him. He is truly gone on yet another great adventure, and will not be forgotten.



Floyd Bennett, right, receives medal from President Coolidge. Richard Byrd is to the left of Coolidge.

THIS IS WHY THE STORIES

Always yours, Gary Martin



Gary Martin and his grandson Miles

It seems like about ten days ago, the power was out as a late spring snow made it known to all in its path just who was in charge. Yesterday and some today, the black flies were coming out and they act hungry and a little angry at the snow that came. If you are out and about, beware of the ticks. There seems to be a lot of them. If there is anything good to say about them, I am at a loss for words. I am not a hateful man but I do hate those little bastards.



*Emily Reynolds Martin
Gary's Mom*

Mom's house will sell this spring, the bank appraiser was out and left a hit list of things the bank needs in order to loan money. The front steps leading up to the porch needed handrails, so I made them up in the shop out of black iron. After

taking several measurements down at Mom's we cut the pipe and I welded them up. Being so far away for custom work if adjustments are needed is a pain.

The road at the junction of Cameron Rd and Stony Creed Rd is still out, the culvert had washed out earlier, forcing me to drive through Stony Creek Center which is way out of my way. I feel bad for folks down that way for having to drive way to hell and gone to get to Warrensburg. The cost of gasoline is high, placing unneeded hardships on all of us. It seems of little concern to those who are elected to office. I have promised myself and you

This is Why—continued on page 6

This is Why—continued from page

not to get into any kind of discussion concerning politics, but

The porch handrails fit like a glove; a real relief not to have to cut them apart and start over. This is the house my Grandfather Reynolds built for Gramma in the early twenties. The Reynolds family has lived on this farm since around 1907 or 8. Mom was born in the old house where my cousin Rusty now lives. Walking up across the road to the old shed that over its life has been used for many things is now full of stuff that will need either throwing out or salvaging. I was swept by emotions that had me choking up. Whole lives have been lived here.



Rexford Reynolds
Gary's Gramp

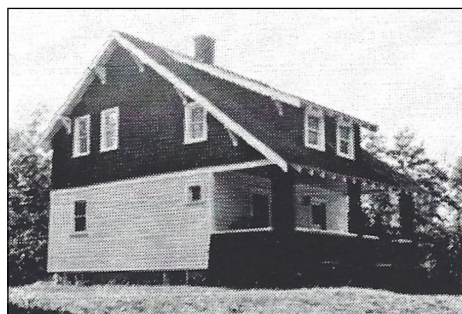
Many drive by who are unaware of the history of my family and the family that lived here before them. I can to this day smell my grandparents' home, Granger pipe tobacco from Gramp's pipe in the front room. I can clearly

see in my mind Gramp sitting in the front room waiting for Gramma to call him to dinner. Gramma's kitchen, smelling of her canning and supper being cooked as only she could. I don't ever remember her measuring anything. The table set and the food in place, she would say "Dad, dinner is on." Sometimes when I was there she would say to me, "Get washed up and tell your grandfather dinner." It seems strange now, but that's how things were done. Each a partner in a marriage that lasted almost fifty years, relying on the strength and skill of the other to survive the hardships they faced together in their lives.

The ride back home seemed short as I drifted back to then and all the time passing since I last heard the voices of my grandparents, silent for a long time, but

clear as a bell in my memory. Getting home, I went back up into my own woods, home to us for nearly fifty years thinking of Miles and Maris who have always known this place. Will they, like me, look back and remember all the times they spent with Win and me? I would like very much for them, no matter where life takes them, to always be able to come home. But this is not for me to say.

Traveling the woods roads, many of the trees have become old friends, silently bearing witness as we worked here making this a home. The house down on the river has seen an end of an era and a new chapter begins for a family who will take care of it and make it their own, as it should be. The best I can do is with a clear mind, remember back to when and not let the lives of those that lived and died there be forgotten.



Reynolds Family Home: Stony Creek, NY



Emily Reynolds
Gary's Gramma

- **BREAKING NEWS** -

Historical Society Quarterlies
Available Online

Yes, all of our Quarterlies can be found
online through the WHS website at
www.whs12885.org

Architecture, people, places, events
and yes, gasp, even a few scandals.

You don't want to miss it.

SIGNIFICANT INCOME TAX CREDITS FOR HISTORIC PRESERVATION

by Paul Gilchrist

Historical buildings are very important components of a community's character. Whether residential or commercial, they radiate a visual prologue of the stages of a town's development to its contemporary form and appearance. The populations of a growing number of communities have evolved to a greater appreciation of the history of their place and consider it a resource to be preserved because of its value economically, culturally, and psychologically/emotionally. To let it be lost by neglect or, worse yet, to actively destroy it is regarded by many as unconscionable, even almost depraved. Fortunately, such appreciation has reached a level of public consciousness that has resulted now in governments offering tax incentives for owners of historical residential or commercial properties to invest in preserving their properties. There is also growing awareness of the full expense of tearing down buildings as opposed to making internal improvements without drastic external changes, i.e., preserving external appearance. In the last week of April, a big step was taken in Warrensburg to notify owners of historic properties about how to avail themselves of the tax advantages being offered.

Warrensburg has many historic houses and other buildings. Our town's Historic District was placed on the State and National Register of Historic Places over 20 years ago and is the largest such district in the Adirondack Park. Warrensburgh Beautification, Inc. was instrumental in accomplishing this registration. WHS and Beautification partnered with Adirondack Architectural Heritage (AARCH) on April 28, 2022 to present a program titled NYS Historic Homeownership Rehabilitation Tax Credit Workshop at Richards Library and also as a webinar. Frances Stern from the State Office of Historic Preservation described how owners can get a deduction of 20% of qualified rehab expenses off their state income tax. For rehab of historic commercial properties, state and federal income tax credits can be as much

Income Tax—continued on page 7

Income Tax- continued from page 6

as 50% of expenses. Application forms and assistance are available.

The webinar on Zoom was facilitated by Erin Tobin, executive director of AARCH, with introduction by Beautification's Teresa Whalen. Shelby Burkhardt, director

of the library, hosted the event at the library's community room. The photograph at right shows that the in-person attendance was only half-a-dozen, but it's noteworthy and exciting that the online attendance was spectacular, with more than 50 people tuning in from as far away as Rochester and Shelter Island (eastern

end of Long Island) and also including a number of owners of iconic local historic properties. We will soon have a recording of the event available. We anticipate online media methods, such as a webinar, can expand the reach of our future programs.



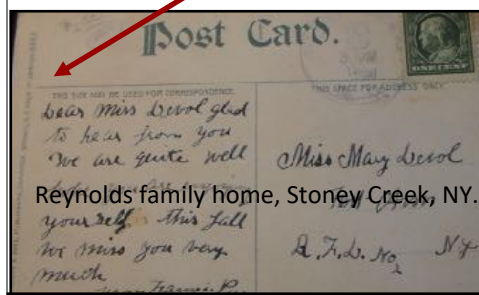
Mystery Photo Answers from last Quarterly

The photo on the left is the Woodward Block stone building at the intersection with Hudson Street. The photo on the right is Woodward Avenue looking west. Kaie Dunn correctly identified the upper photo. Ben Gurney correctly identified both photos. Sandi Merrithew, Betsy Remington, and Robin Hansen also gave it a good try. We appreciate all responses, whether correct or not. In the post card photo of Woodward Avenue, note the Three Sisters mountains in the distance. The five houses in the photo are still there. You can check them out by driving there or by Googling Warrensburg NY, click the Google map on the right hand side of the page, enlarge it, find Woodward Avenue (off Hudson Street just south of Ashe's Hotel) and click on street view. The three or four buildings off the far end of the street are at the old Fairgrounds where there was also a half-mile race track. These were accessed not from Woodward Avenue, which was a dead end, but via the unpaved entrance road to the Fairgrounds just north of Ashe's (now Lake Avenue). Ashe's at that time was the Agricultural Hotel. From the street view, if you stop in front of the first house (yellow in the photo, but now greenish in the street view), turn 90° and look down the driveway, the little white shack is the only remaining building that had been at the old Fairgrounds, later named Ashland Park (see enclosed photo). It was a vending booth for snacks, as we were informed by a school bus driver several years ago as we drove a group of environmental science students around to look at glacial landforms during our after school Enrichment Program. It no doubt was close to the old race track grandstand and was moved to its current location. The age of the Woodward Avenue post card can be estimated by examining the address side of it (below). The 1¢ stamp tells you it is before Jan 1 1952. The address side is divided by a vertical line. The postal service started allowing a divided address side in 1907. The address side also says the card was made in Germany (upper left of the photo). Many early postcards were made in Germany and were of very good quality, but the Great War shut down that source, so if the postcard says it was made in Germany, it was before 1915. Therefore, the date of this postcard is from 1907 to 1914. The cancellation date is not clear, but vaguely looks like it might be 1910.



The small white building at the end of the driveway is the only remaining structure of the old Fairgrounds.

Made in Germany



UPDATE YOUR EMAIL

Please take a moment to email us at whs7396@yahoo.com to ensure that we have your correct email address.

Warrensburgh Historical Society
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Warrensburg, NY 12885

Member Address



MYSTERY PHOTOS

If you can identify these photos
and their locations, please email
Paul at prg12885@aol.com or
leave a voicemail at
518-623-3162.

