



# Warrensburgh Historical Society Quarterly

Volume 20 Issue 3

Fall 2015

## Getting Clipped in Warrensburgh

By John T. Hastings

Some of us have this done to us once in a while, others have it done every few weeks, while others may seldom have it done. But in the end we all end up going to the tonsorial parlor one time or another to get clipped. The hair on our scalp or face needs to be trimmed, shaved or cut at some point, so a trip to the barber is in order.

Over the years there have been many barbers who have kept the men and women of Warrensburgh well groomed. The following list, although not complete, gives a sampling of some of the barbers who have graced this village during the last 125 years. Although each of these are quite different, they all



*Trilby Cottage (Museum Collection)*

In this issue:	Page
<i>Clipped</i> _____	<i>1</i>
<i>Society Page</i> _____	<i>2</i>
<i>Remarkable Deer</i> _____	<i>6</i>
<i>Sticky Wicket 2015</i> _____	<i>7</i>
<i>Mystery Photo</i> _____	<i>8</i>

have a few things in common: 1. They all like to talk; especially stories with varying degrees of embellishment. 2. They all have to be able to stand for long periods of time. 3. They all like to hunt and/or fish. (To get material for number 1!)

**Hodge “Hod” H. Hill** started his barber shop in Warrensburgh in 1888. Hod was born on May 3, 1853 in Vermont and married Minnie Du-

ell. His father was Mark Hill and his mother was Martha Colvin. In 1892 his shop was located in the Hammond Block, and later in the Hunt, Aldrich (1904) and Music Block (1913). Around 1893 Hod employed **Ernest “Kid” Manzer** as an apprentice, who eventually became his partner. This partnership continued until 1918, when Hod retired and Kid Manzer became the sole proprietor.

**Trilby Cottage** - After the Adiron-

*(Continued on page 3)*

## President's Column

The Society has had a very busy summer.

A well-attended awards ceremony was held at the Museum on June 7 for the 4th graders who participated in the Society's History Enrichment Program at the Elementary School from February - May.

Our Education Committee, chaired by Rosemary Maher, conducted the Enrichment Program, and also conducted a well-attended Summer Youth Program at the Museum. Society members who participated in both of these programs were Donne Lynn Winslow, Elaine Cowin, Mark Brown, Steve Parisi, and Paul Gilchrist.

Sandi Parisi, Teresa Whalen, and Terry Jamison have been creating a series of six Heritage Trail brochures, along with a website, to guide visitors and locals to our many historic sites and sights, both within and outside the hamlet. The first brochure was finished and the first tours were conducted in July, guided by past-president and architectural expert Delbert Chambers. Sandi reports that the second brochure is nearing completion. The Heritage Trail project is supported by occupancy tax grants from Warrensburgh and Thurman and a "Healthy Places to Live" grant from Glens Falls Hospital.

The Society has been present at the HHHN Community Day, the GFNB Community Day, and a couple of the Farmers Market events, to sell kayak raffle tickets and pass out information.

The 19th annual Sticky Wicket Croquet Games and Picnic on August 9th was a great success with perfect weather once again. Brian Engle outdid himself with the BBQ chicken. We greatly appreciate all the donations from local businesses. Check

*(Continued on page 8)*

## Quarterly Editor

John T. Hastings

jthastings@roadrunner.com

or 518-798-0248

We welcome comments, corrections, articles, pictures, letters, and reminiscences. Send to:

Quarterly Editor  
Warrensburgh Historical Society  
PO Box 441  
Warrensburgh, NY 12885

## Board of Directors

Paul Gilchrist: President, Donne-Lynn Winslow: Vice-President, Gary Bivona: Treasurer, Wendy Peluso: Secretary, Bob Bradley, Mark Brown, Elaine Cowin, John Franchini, Bob Knowles, Peggy Knowles, Joan West,  
Sandi Parisi - Town Historian  
Steve Parisi - Museum Director

### \*Note Change\*

The Board of Directors meets at the Senior Center (May-October) or at Richards Library (November - April) at 7:00 pm on the **FIRST Wednesday** of each month. Call Paul to confirm at 623-3162.

*Warrensburgh Historical Society Quarterly  
Copyright 2015. All rights reserved.*

**CURRENT MEMBERSHIP:**  
**245**

## Warrensburgh Historical Society

**Website:** [www.whs12885.org](http://www.whs12885.org)

**Email:** [whs7396@yahoo.com](mailto:whs7396@yahoo.com)

## Welcome New Members: **Naomi Bedell**

**Bill & Cathy O'Sick**

**Lotus Analytics**

**Miller Art and Frame**

**Lawrence Havens**

**Violet and Dave Spatz**

## Calendar of Events

**October 16 & 23: Graveyard Walks (\$8 & \$13)**

**October 25 : Dinner with the Dead @ Lizzie Keay's**

For more events and details go to: [www.whs12885.org](http://www.whs12885.org).

## Membership Information

Students \$5.00 Individual \$15.00 Family \$25.00 Senior (62+) \$10.00 Senior Family \$18 Contributing \$55.00 Business \$50.00 Life (Individual only) \$300 (membership is on a calendar year basis)

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 to: **Warrensburgh Historical Society, P.O. Box 441, Warrensburgh, N.Y. 12885**

## 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. **We welcome and encourage corrections, comments, and additional information.**

(Continued from page 1) Clipped

dack Hotel burned in 1896 a small shop was built by H. H. Hill and H. T. Goodman on the corner of Main Street and Adirondack Avenue. It was a clothing store and barber shop, with barbers Hod Hill and Kid Manzer. Shortly after it was



built an unknown friend came across the Trilby Cottage sign and nailed it on the front of the building and hence the name. (*Trilby, or the Imp of Argyll*, essentially a fairy tale, was written in 1822 by Charles Nodier). Hill later sold the shop to Manzer around 1901, but returned as a partner in 1903. A photo taken at the time with numerous patrons lined up in front remains an historic curiosity at the museum.

**Ernest "Kid" C. Manzer** was born in 1872 and died in 1958. His father was J. M. Manzer of Montgomery, Vermont. His first marriage was to Eva Knickerbocker in 1898 in a "double wedding" with Myron Shaw and Eva Somerville, the other couple. Each served as best man and maid of honor for the other ceremony. Both were married in bicycle attire with plans to bike to Ft. Edward to catch the train north for their honeymoon! "Kid" was an active hunter and fisherman, and a member of the Bear Waller Hunting Club. He also was a member of Hackensack Hose Company No. 1

and went into business with L. T. West forming the Echo Lake Poultry Farm. He would also marry "L.T.'s" daughter Mabel (1881-1935).

**Lewisville/River Street area;** Several barbers were located in this area over the years. The following are brief accounts of what is known of these barber shops.

#### 1. Marshall Stone's Barber

**shop** was located on River Street in Lewisville from around 1909 until 1916. His father was Frank Stone and his son-in-law was Earl Combs. Arthur Calkins and Robert Lillibridge are known to have worked here.

#### 2. Irving Arbuckle (b. abt.

1876) had worked for Herbert Woods before purchasing the "Lucy Harris" place on River Street and opening his own barber shop in 1924. He continued the business until at least 1948. Irving had a wife Emma and adopted son Henry.

#### 3. George Farrar

owned a barber shop on River Street in 1898, which he sold to Francis Saville. Fred Youngs and Napoleon Doney are known to have worked there. The shop was located in the "Lemuel Hayes" building.

#### 4. Gorden LaValley (1909-1938)

ran a barber shop in the Basil Brainard building on River Street in the early 1930s. Harold Plumley was the barber for the first two years. Gordon was married to Blanch Colvin in 1928 and was originally from Mooers Forks.

## Triumphal Reception

Friends of "Kid" Manzer Will Make Memorable His Return to Town.

Similar to the triumphal procession of Napoleon as he drove his captives back to France will be the reception tendered Ernest Manzer tomorrow evening upon his return from Harrisburgh, where yesterday he shot a bear weighing 356 pounds. "Coz" Harrington and "Doc" Wilkinson will act as Lord High Marshals of the imposing parade in honor of the "Kid's" return. They will both be mounted on shining jet black pairs of Tom McGann's Walkover shoes. Following them and also forming the main part of the gorgeous pageant will be the herald and trumpeter, "Hod" Hill, who will blow golden notes from a tin lined horn, and otherwise make bores in the atmosphere. The first and only stop will be made in front of Manzer & Hill's barber shop, where a tackle apparatus has been swung to the breeze from the second story of the Aldrich-McGann block, made especially for raising heavy weights for it is doubtful which will weigh more "Kid" or the bear, but it is proposed to draw them up together until they look like winged seraphs floating around. Meanwhile the barber shop quartette will sing, "We should 'bear' the burdens of life."

*Warrensburgh News, October 10, 1907*



(Continued from Page 3) Clipped



**Bennett's Barber Shop** was located on Lower Main Street in the Swan House, opposite the Warren Inn (now George Henry's). It was operated by Clarence "Juicy" Bennett (1898-1951) and in operation as early as 1927. He sold the business to Ernest Manzer in 1929 and moved to Lake George, but returned at some point before 1934 to run the business until his death in 1951. He married Edna Graves in 1927 and they had two sons, John and Thomas.

**Mitchel "Mitch" Edward Abood** (1895 - 1978) first opened a barber shop in North Creek around 1926. Sometime in the 1940s he moved to Warrensburgh and operated a barber-shop on the corner of lower Hudson and Main Street, in what is known as the Woodward Block. Later, he conducted business at his home on Hudson Street, an "enhanced" mobile home which even included a sunken living room. He was an active bowler, golfer, and hunter. From 1958-59 he operated a diner behind the bandstand. His band, the "Rusty Rubes," played throughout the area. Mitch's nickname was "Bear Meat." He had a son Mitchel Jr by his first wife. In 1931 he married Eva Westcott.

**Joseph DeMatties** - "Joe the Barber" operated a barber shop in Warrensburgh from 1940 until he retired at age 91 in 2000. He was born

Guisseppi Frank DeMatties in 1909 in Rome, N.Y., the son of Italian immigrants. He apprenticed in the barber trade at age 13 and was licensed at 15. Joe joined the U.S. Navy in 1928 and served as head barber with the rank of Seaman First Class aboard the USS Detroit. Back to civilian life, Joe found work at Andy Campanaro's shop in Chester-town. He married Eulah Harvey from that town in 1933. They had seven children, sons: Joseph, Ernest, Irving, Albert (died an infant), and Murray, and daughters: Allison and Darlynn. Margaret ("Penny") was adopted later. His O.K. Barber Shop, was first located at 29 Horicon Avenue. During WW II Joe also cut hair at the mines in Tahawus. In 1943 he was at 52 Main Street in the former Sam's Store location. After the war he opened his barber shop at 43 Main Street and then finally at 107 Main Street. Joe was barber to long-time village mayor, Bob Blais and in 1989, in honor of his 80th birthday, the Village of Lake George declared a Joe DeMatties Day. A proclamation describes him as a "devoted friend, barber extraordinaire, good friend and good citizen." Eulah died in 2001, Joe in 2004. The family created a scholarship fund and in 2005 a plaque was placed in Cal Engle Park.



(Continued on page 5)

**A SCHEMER OUTWITTED.**

He Who Laughs Last, Laughs Best

A barber enjoys the experience.

"It's a long road that has no turn" is an old and true saying, says **Ed Shaw**, the up street tonsorial artist. Last spring Mr. Shaw was the owner of a mustang which struck the fancy of James Goodman of Thurman. Mr. Goodman at once commenced negotiations for a trade, he being the possessor of a less valuable animal. After considerable bantering an exchange was effected, Goodman agreeing to pay a difference of fifty dollars, but being short of ready cash offered a chattel mortgage\* for the amount on the mustang and two cows, which was accepted. Through a legal technicality the mortgage was not recorded in the town clerk's office at Thurman for several days and in the meantime another mortgage had been filed which made Shaw's claim practically worthless. Here the matter rested until last week when Shaw enlisted the services of a friend who offered to purchase the animal of Goodman if he would release the first mortgage which he unsuspectingly consented to do in order to effect a sale. He then drove to this place to close the bargain when Shaw foreclosed his mortgage and regained possession of the animal. (March 13, 1890 Warrensburgh News)

\*With a chattel mortgage, the lender holds a lien against the movable property (chattel) until the loan has been satisfied, at which point the borrower resumes full control of the chattel.

March 13, 1890 Warrensburgh News

(Continued from page 4) Clipped

**Don Egan** started his barber shop in the late 1950s on lower Main Street (where the new health center is now located). Bob Lloyd worked with him for awhile before starting his own barber shop, The Country Gentlemen. In the early 1960s, Karl Roberts joined him and continued until Don retired. Karl continued on his own and still “clips” people in his shop in the former location of the Orton and McCloskey Funeral Home.

Other barbers known to operate in Warrensburgh include the following;

**Andrew Hazelton** was located in the Warren House in 1891.

**Edward Center** bought the barber shop of Terrance A. Conway in 1911 which was located downtown. Arthur Calkins bought, and then later resold his half interest in the shop back to Center. George Bushy and George Renaud worked there. He moved to Vermont in 1914.



*Egan's Barber Shop and Village Pizzeria on lower Main Street shortly after the fire. Engle's Department Store in the background. Date Unknown*

**Charles W. Granger** had a barber shop in various locations in downtown during the 1890s.

Some of these locations included the Hockaday building, Wayside Inn, Crandall Block, Ryan building (across from Grand Army house) and a site near Mixer's. Daniel Lynch was an assistant in 1897.

**F. J. Benjamin** was in business in 1896.

**Rufus Dudley Baker** (1858-1943) bought Ira Cole's store in 1895 and moved to Warrensburgh from North Creek to start his barber shop. In 1902 he and **Fred Patnode**, who both had shops downtown, formed a partnership and opened in a building near the Crandall block. Two years later the partnership was dissolved and Patnode became the sole proprietor. Dudley left the business and went into farming. Eugene Combs was an assistant with Patnode.

**E. A. Tripp's** Barber shop was located in the Baker block opposite the Warren House and in operation from 1913 until 1917. Joseph Sanzone was an assistant. Advertising promoted “Ladies shampooing and face massage at home.” A 1917 ad noted the business was for sale or rent since the owner was going to war.

**Ed Shaw** was cutting hair in 1890.

**Frederick Wheeler** was a barber who worked at various places in Warrensburgh, Music Hall barns and Swan Block, and around the area, Hague and Bolton, during the 1920s and 1930s.

**Gene's Parlor** was in operation in 1926. It was run by Roger S. Hamilton and located opposite the Grand Army Hotel. It advertised for “Ladies Hair Cutting, Scalp Treatment and Facial Massage.”

### Remarkable Freak Deer

E. C. Manzer is Now the Mighty Hunter for His Trophy is a "White Deer"

E. C. Manzer, of this village feels like a two-year old. At least this is his mental condition since he and Ray Rooney returned Sunday night from Halsey Fuller's camp on Deer Creek in West Stony Creek. Mr. Manzer is now the mighty hunter for this locality since it does not often fall to the lot of a sportsman to capture what is called a "White deer."

The denizen of the forest shot by him Saturday morning is a remarkable specimen of its kind. The animal had a white coat spotted with brown and black with a fine set of horns. Its legs were short and stocky, the nose shaped much like a sheep's, and the neck was abnormally thick. The buck weighed 225 pounds and was photographed by A. L. Mix.

This deer has been seen several times in the Harrisburgh country for the past three years and early in the season was shot at by Halsey Fuller, the guide. The evidence of his marksmanship was found in a bullet hole in the animals ear.

When Mr. Manzer started out from camp with the party of hunters Saturday morning he complained about a slight touch of rheumatism in his lower joints, but forgot all about the matter after he had brought down his trophy, which he mistook for a cow at first sight.

Mr. Manzer will have the head mounted and the hide tanned.

A small buck of the Albino species was killed early in the season in the Fulton Chain region.

*Warrensburgh News November 8, 1906*



**Editor's Note;** This deer is actually a "piebald" deer. Contrary to popular belief, a piebald deer is not a cross between a normal whitetail deer and an albino. The origin of the word "piebald" comes

from "pie" meaning "mixed up", and "bald" meaning "having a white spot."

Piebalds have various amounts of white and brown patches similar to a pinto pony. Some ranging from a very slight amount of white hair to almost an all white coat.

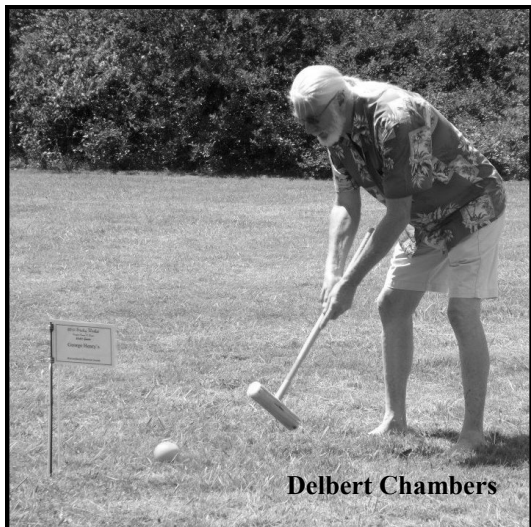
Unlike the albino deer, which has pink eyes, a pink nose, and pinkish hooves, piebald deer have normal brown eyes and nose with black hooves like a normal white-tail. Their coloration is due to a rare inherited genetic variation (defect) that affects less than one percent of the white-tailed deer population.

Many Piebalds usually display one, a combination of, or even all of the following conditions:

- bowing of the nose (often called Roman nose)
- short legs
- arching spine (scoliosis)
- short lower mandible
- internal organ deformities

Though rare, piebald deer are more common than the white, albino, or the extremely rare melanistic deer.





**Delbert Chambers**



## **2015 Sticky Wicket**



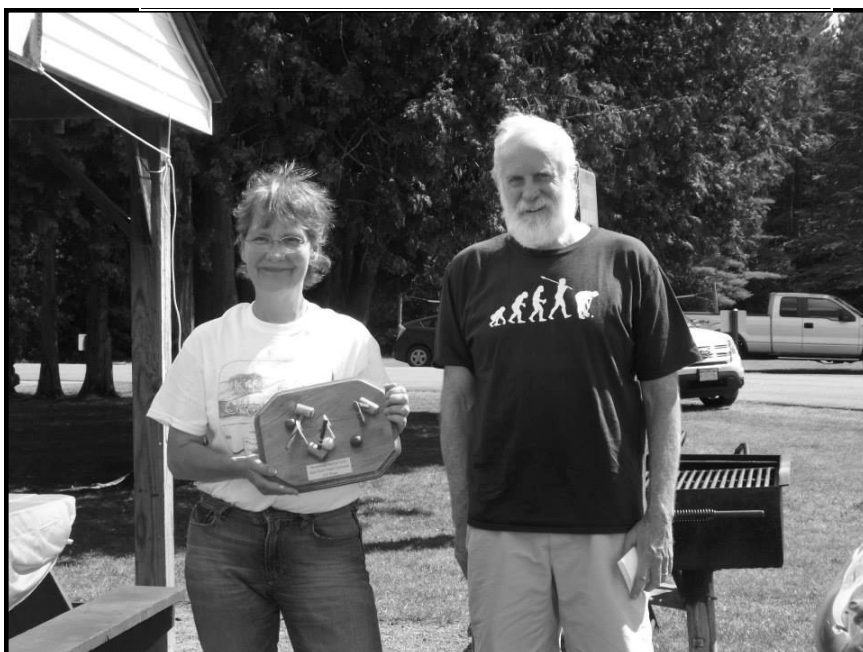
**Paul Gilchrist**



**The Winner: Joanne Morrison with  
Croquetmaster Brendan Hanley**



**Teresa Whalen**



# Mystery Photo



Can you identify the above photo as to where it is located and who currently or formerly owned this farm? If so, contact John at 798-0248 or at [jthastings@roadrunner.com](mailto:jthastings@roadrunner.com). The photo in the last Quarterly was that of the Weary River Coffee House. The **Weary River Coffee House** located at 10 Main Street was owned and operated prior to 1936 by Mr. and Mrs. John McGinnis. From 1936 to 1942 Alice and Ray Mumford operated the business as Weary River Restaurant and Bar. In 1946 Francis Saville purchased the property and it was known as Weary River Antiques and Gifts.

*(Continued from page 2) President's Column*

them out on our Facebook. The winner of the Tournament was Joanne Morrison. Brendan Hanley officiated as Croquetmaster. Peggy Knowles chairs our Sticky Wicket committee. Good job.

The Society has acquired the services of Sharon Stone (no, not the actress), who is now performing superb secretarial work for us approximately one day a week. She is the Minerva Central School librarian. Look for big improvements already in our website and Facebook (*whs12885*).

Preparations for our Graveyard Walks are well underway, led by Donne Lynn and Sandi. Watch for more information in the near future.

We want members to keep in mind the Society has established an endowment fund with Vanguard. Donations of any amount, including bequests, may be directed for deposit into the endowment where they can return earnings for the Society. This will help ensure that the Society's work to preserve the history of Warrensburgh will continue indefinitely.

*Until next time, keep looking backwards.*

*Paul Gilchrist*

**WIN TWO  
OLD TOWN KAYAKS  
ANNUAL SOCIETY RAFFLE  
TICKETS:  
\$3.00 EACH OR  
2 FOR \$5.00  
TICKETS AVAILABLE AT  
THE MUSEUM, WHERE  
THE KAYAKS CAN BE  
SEEN.  
DRAWING IS  
OCTOBER 4TH  
AT THE  
WORLD'S LARGEST  
GARAGE SALE**

Two kayaks are shown in the advertisement. One is a white kayak with a black seat and a black paddle. The other is a darker kayak, possibly black or dark grey, also with a black seat and a black paddle. They are positioned diagonally, with the white one in front and the darker one behind it.