

# Warrensburgh Historical Society Quarterly

Volume 22 Issue 4

Winter 2017

## Antique Soup

by Caron Akeley

(Registration Marks on Old English China)

When one finds an old treasure lurking on the far back shelf of the pantry, or comes across a similar treasure in a garage sale or flea market, you think to yourself, "It's old, but how old is it?" When this treasure happens to be a dinner plate, saucer, bowl, etc. made in England in the 19<sup>th</sup> Century, solving the mystery of date of manufacture is no problem at all.

Between the years 1842 and 1883, all china, glass, metal and wood products made in England had to be registered with the British Patent Office. On earthenware china, the mark took the form of a diamond with a circle on top imprinted or impressed on the back of

*Akeley (continued on page 3)*

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## Early Settlers of

### Warrensburg: Marquis Brown

By Mark K. Brown

George Brown, son of Elisha Brown, (a soldier in the war of 1812), moved from Crown Point, New York, to Warrensburg around 1829, and in 1831 married Olive Lucas. Marquis was number five of their eight children, and was born on October 17, 1846. He was named Marquis Lafayette Brown. The same thing happened in many American families when Lafayette



*Marquis and Jennie Brown*

was much revered after the American Revolution. Marquis grew up in Warrensburg, and on September 29, 1872, married Mary Jane (Jennie) M. Langworthy. They were married by the Reverend Henry Davis on the farm owned by Delbert Burdick on

*Brown (continued on page 6)*

## Historian's Corner

By Sandi Parisi

Did you know that we had at least two inventors from Warrensburg?

### INVENTOR 1

An article in the Warrensburg News dated December 14, 1933 read: "Local Man an Inventor" Harry Cunningham Secures Patent on a "Birthday Cake Plate." It is one of the most unique inventions on which a patent has been sought according to a dispatch from Washington, D.C.

Mr. Cunningham modestly claims the origination of only one new idea, but several inches of space were required in the patent gazette in describing it. Basically it was a glass cake plate, large enough to hold a cake in the center, and surrounded by many holes which held birthday candles.

In a later issue of the Warrensburg News dated March 1, 1934, I found an advertisement which read: "I have a patent on a birthday cake plate worth thousands of dollars. I want a partner with \$700 to take out patents in foreign countries." Harry Cunningham, Warrensburg.

That piqued my interest, as I have a birthday cake plate that has been in my family since before I was born. I did some research on the internet and found that this patent was filed March 25, 1933 in the United State

*Parisi (continued on page 7)*

**President's  
Column**

A summary of the Society's activities since the last Quarterly includes the following.

Our Holiday Dinner was held at the Merrill Magee Inn on December 7. It was very well attended with more than three dozen people enjoying good food, and excellent service.

Regarding our plans for an historical park at our Tannery property across the river from the Grist Mill Restaurant, we decided that since, ultimately, our goal was to turn the property over to the Town as an historical and recreational park, we might as well do it sooner rather than later, so we wouldn't have to keep paying taxes on it. The parcel was transferred to the Town in January. We look forward to working on the project with the help of individuals from DEC, Soil & Water Conservation, and the Town.

We are currently conducting our 4th grade enrichment program again, which started February 8. There are two photos on page 5 showing the students doing lab experiments in the segment on glacial landforms found in Warrensburg. Another photo shows them creating models of a landscape of glacial landforms instructed by Bonnie Jenks, while another shows them learning about stream erosion using a demonstration table under the supervision of Dean Moore from Warren County Soil & Water Conservation Service.

Our 4th grade enrichment program started 3 years ago, and we've seen the concept dramatically expand. Over the next two years, programs were undertaken in the 5th and 6th grades. Now the elementary school is conducting an enrichment program for 45 kids in grades 1-6 called "In-The Zone," which runs for two hours after school during the whole school year. We like to think our Society has been the inspiration for all of this.

Two sessions on historical architecture will be conducted by Adirondack  
*President (continued on page 3)*

## Society Page

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Paul Gilchrist – President  
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Donne-Lynn Winslow  
Sandi Parisi – Town Historian  
Steve Parisi – Museum Director

### Board Meetings

The Board of Directors meets at the museum at 6:30 pm on the FIRST Wednesday of each month. Call Paul to confirm at 518-623-3162

### 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.

### 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 to:

**Warrensburgh Historical Society**  
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Warrensburg, N.Y. 12885

### Contributors to this Issue:

Sandi Parisi, Mark Brown,  
Abbie Hastings, Steve Parisi,  
Caron Akeley

### MEMBERSHIP

Current: 225

### Upcoming Events

Sticky Wicket Picnic and  
Croquet Tournament  
Sunday August 5th at  
11:00 am at the Warren  
County Fish Hatchery

### IN MEMORIAM

William Maher  
Abbie Hastings

Thank you to all who have sent  
in donations in their memory.

### Please Update Your Email

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

### Warrensburgh Historical Society

**Website:** www.whs12885.org

**Email:** whs7396@yahoo.com

### Membership Rates

Students	\$5.00	Contributing	\$55.00
Individual	\$15.00	Business	\$50.00
Family	\$25.00	Institutional	\$100.00
Senior (62+)	\$10.00	Life (Individual only)	\$300.00
Senior Family	\$18.00		

**We welcome and encourage corrections,  
comments, and additional information as  
well as articles from our readers**

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## 1. The Beginning

By Abbie Davis Hastings

Let's begin by going back to the year 1914, in a house on Coffin Street in Glens Falls. It was there a baby girl was born prematurely to Mr. and Mrs. Robert E. Davis on July 30th.

The doctor said, "Lay it aside, it won't amount to anything." But the baby's aunt was there and took the baby, bathed and oiled her, and wrapped her in cotton batting. They fed her with a medicine dropper and carried her on a pillow. So with all the tender loving care of Aunt Abbie and a nurse and of course the mother, she lived and grew. Yes, you guessed it, she grew up to be your grandmother.

She told how Great-grandmother's wedding band would slip over her hand like a bracelet.

The family lived in Glens Falls for a while after that, and a year and a half later another baby girl was born. They named her Elda. Then I had two sisters, one three years older, her name was Hattie Belle. We were then a family of five.

Sometime within the next year of two, we moved to East Corinth, where in 1918, on August 1st, my brother Robert Frederic was born. When dad asked the doctor how much he owed him, the doctor asked dad if he had any pigs, and he took a pig for his pay. Some difference than what people pay today, huh!



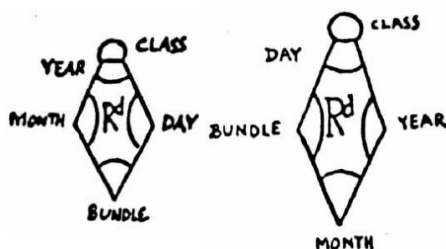
*Excerpt from "A Grandmother's Memories" by the late Abbie Davis Hastings. The entire collection is on display in the museum for those interested in reading the rest of her story. Abbie passed away last year at 103.*

*Akeley (continued from page 1)*

the piece. From 1842 to 1867 the letters and numerals on the registration changed somewhat. This becomes apparent when looking at the accompanying sketch.

1883 was the beginning of the use of another registration mark. This consisted of the letters "Rd" followed by numerals in a horizontal line. After 1891, the word "England" is found on the bottom of chinaware and the phrase "Made in England" appears after 1900.

In the Circle above the diamond the "class" of goods, in this case being earthenware china, is always marked with the Roman Numeral IV; metal I, wood II, and glass III were also marked. Armed with this valuable information, one can not only find the year your treasure was manufactured, but also the exact month and day.



Year letters 1868-83:

X 1868	U 1874	J 1880
H 1869	S 1875	E 1881
C 1870	V 1876	L 1882
A 1871	P 1877	K 1883
I 1872	D 1878	
F 1873	Y 1879	

Month letters 1868-83:

C January	E May	D September
G February	M June	E October
W March	I July	K November
H April	R August	A December

Note: in 1878, from 1st to 6th March, the registration letters were G for the month and W for the year.

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Note: in 1878, from 1st to 6th March, the registration letters were G for the month and W for the year.

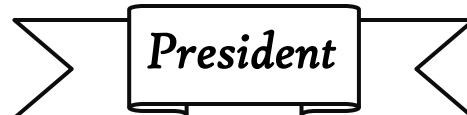
*President (continued from page 2)*

Architectural Heritage in Keeseville (AARCH). Donne Lynn Winslow will conduct a third session in which the students will build structures using what they've previously learned.

At our Annual Meeting on March 1st, we welcomed Candice Healy and Rosemary Maher to the board of directors, while Bob Bradley, John Franchini, and Donne Lynne were re-elected for another 3-year term.

There's a lot of new lighting at the museum, thanks to a \$1,000 matching grant from the Glens Falls Foundation and to those who donated more than enough for the match. Please see the story on page 7.

We welcome Serena Ruzbacki as our new co-editor of the Quarterly. She will work part time with Sharon Stone, who has now taken on the laborious tasks of bookkeeping and keeping track of membership, along with her other secretarial responsibilities.



## Notes From the Museum

Tools and Toys for Winter was the subject of our last exhibit, instigated by Delbert Chambers and his collection of ice fishing tip-ups. The variety of approaches to this singular task - that of alerting the fisherman to a catch on the line - is amazing, and it made for a very interesting display.

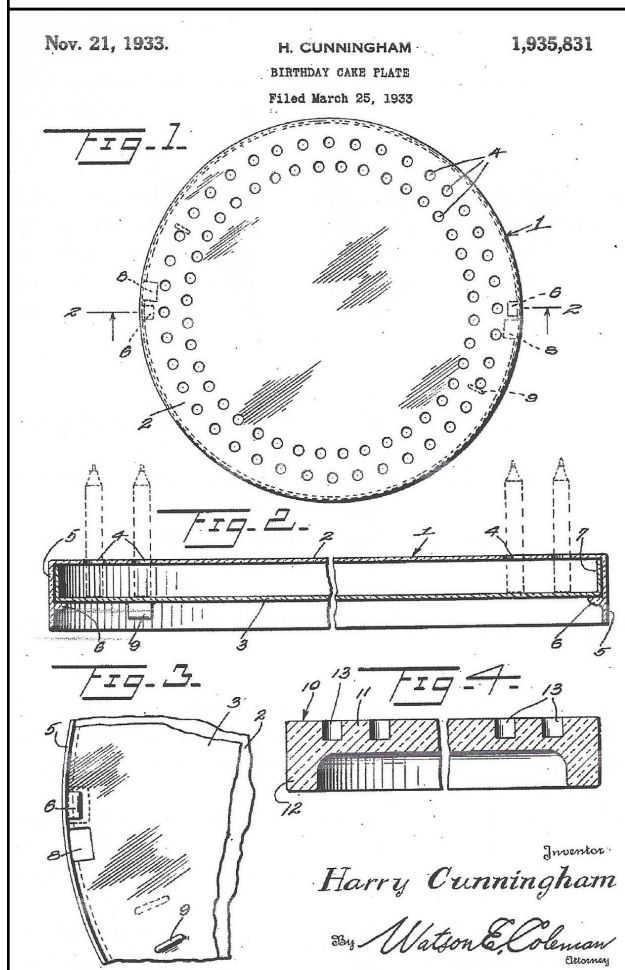
Other fishing and trapping gear was offered by Mark Brown. A variety of sleds and sliding devices was offered by Marie Ross, Sarah Farrar, Sarah Gebbie-Measeck, Elaine Cowin, Sue Miller and Yvonne Miller. Marie brought in a precursor to the snowboard and Sue and Yvonne two versions of the skip-jack (only known to Google as a "jack-jumper").

Our next special exhibit, Curiosities in the Collection, will have a few surprises, some of which have never before been shown. Watch for the opening reception sometime in early July.





Warrensburg basketball alumni, and alumnae revived their athletic skills and glory in games played at the high school on Saturday, February 3rd. Cheerleader alumnae were also introduced. A reception party was held at Echo Lake Lodge after the games. The event was a fundraiser for the Warrensburg Alumni Association.



Patent Image From "Historian's Corner" on pages 1, & 7.



A guided tour of the museum by members of the Cub Scouts' Wolf Den (2nd graders). Steve Parisi Photos



Mr. Burns' environmental science class visits 'Discover Warrensburg' for research on their 'Then and Now' project.

### About Bob Knowles

I first met Bob Knowles when he was the president of Hickory Ski Center and living in Scotia. When he retired from teaching history, he and his wife Peggy bought a house and moved to Warrensburg. Even better, they both got actively involved in local activities, Peggy with Warrensburgh Beautification, Bob with the Warrensburgh Historical Society (although each shared the other's passions).

Both became members of the Historical Society's board of directors, and Bob signed up as a museum greeter, not just once or twice a month, but EVERY Wednesday, from noon to two PM. That's 51 weeks every year (allowing one week for Bob and Peggy to go

camping). We had some interesting chats when things got "slow." Then when he'd leave the museum he'd drive his "route," delivering museum brochures, or "rack cards," and past Quarterlies to a dozen or more locations around town. The whole time dealing with some ordinarily debilitating infirmities.

Now well into his 80s, Bob can't do it anymore and, surrounded by loving and grateful family members, he says the hardest part is boredom. Well Bob, I can only say, "Thank You and Godspeed, you are sorely missed."

-Steve Parisi





Barbara Whitford photo

*The oldest alumnus to actually play that evening was David Harpp '55, professor at McGill University, (white t-shirt, blue shorts). See our Facebook page for more information.*



Barbara Whitford photo



Paul Gilchrist photo

*Fourth graders learn about stream erosion using the simulation table guided by Dean Moore, and Meran Alexander from the Warren County Soil and Water Conservation Service. This is one of the sessions of the Warrensburgh Historical Society's after-school Enrichment Program, now in its fourth year, and supported again by a \$500 Stewart's Holiday Match Grant. (See images above, and below).*

*Warrensburgh 4th graders perform a lab experiment to simulate the creation of landform features called kettle lakes, formed when huge blocks of glacial ice detached from the glacier eventually melt, leaving a hole that fills with water.*



Paul Gilchrist photo

*Bonnie Jenks instructs fourth graders as they start making models of glacially-created landforms during the Historical Society's after-school Enrichment Program.*



Barbara Whitford photo



## Weights and Measurements 1918

By Mark K. Brown

I was looking at a booklet sent out to my grandfather, (Ralph Brown), in 1918 by Griffin Lumber Company located in Hudson Falls, New York. This booklets had information on products they sold from bevel siding to sawdust to wagon poles to tubs, and tanks to water your horses or cows. I thought I knew a lot about weights and measurements until I read page 1. Following is a few of the unusual, especially to me.

Troy Weights:

24 grams = 1 pennyweight

20 pennyweight = 1 ounce

3.2 grains = 1 carat, diamond weight

By this system gold, silver and jewels are weighed. The good news is that the ounce, and pounds in this is the same as in apothecaries weight.

Apothecaries: (system used by persons who prepare and sell drugs or compounds for medical purposes)

20 grains = 1 scruple

3 scruples = 1 drachm

8 drachms = 1 ounce

12 ounces = 1 pound

Avoirdupois: (system of weights based on a pound = 16 ounces)

16 drachms = 1 ounce

16 ounces = 1 pound

25 pounds = 1 quarter

Now to make it more confusing as explained in the booklet:

5,760 grains apothecaries or troy weight = 1 pound or 7,000 grains avoirdupois weight = 1 pound, therefore 144 pounds of avoirdupois equals 175 pounds apothecaries or troy.

How about some more important measurements mentioned:

\*1 gallon salt water weighs 8.55 pound, and 1 gallon of proof spirits weighs 7.68 pounds

\*A beer gallon is 232 cubic inches and 36 beer gallons = 1 barrel

When you deal with iron, lead and other metals:

14 pounds = 1 stone

21 ½ stones = 1 pig

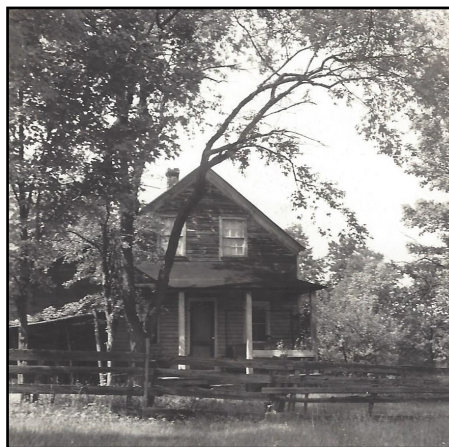
8 pigs = 1 fother

And of course do not forget that 196 pounds of flour equals 1 barrel, and 100 pounds of fish equals 1 quintal.

Next time you go to local hardware store ask for 8 pigs, or 1 fother of lead which you are going to use in a home project or when you go to your pharmacy ask for 3 scruples or 1 drachm of your needed medication. Thank you Griffin Lumber Company for the information.

### *Brown (continued from page 1)*

Pucker Street. Shortly after Marquis, and Jennie were married they bought a farm on Pucker Street owned by Elisha Morehouse. The first winter they lived with the Bidwells, (relatives near their property), and were very busy getting in logs and building their home. They had a team of oxen which they used for hauling logs, farming and taking joy rides. Jennie was anxious to get moved into the new place before the birth of their first child, Belle.



*From Early 1900's*

The following statement was found in a family letter written by Jennie in regards to their stay at the Bidwells. Jennie could not stand the music at the Bidwells. "They could never get up and get anything done in the morning because they had been up all night singing and playing the fiddle."

They moved into the partially built home and Belle was born of October 6, 1873. Marquis was a farmer, active in the Farm Bureau and a staunch democrat in politics. Jennie was also active in

the Farm Bureau and Warren County Home Bureau where she was a charter member, and officer in the organization. They had six children who grew up on Pucker Street.

Gilbert and Eva Weaver at the 50th wedding anniversary of Marguis and Jennie on September 29, 1922 wrote the following:

"This family was raised in the good old fashion way - no movies, no jazz dances, or automobiles for entertainment. On winter evenings they kept busy paring and stringing apples, shelling corn for a grist, or knitting socks. For entertainment there were exhibitions at the school house, neighborhood sings and in the winter coasting, (sledding), in which all the children of the neighborhood joined. On Sunday the horse which had taken the place of the oxen was hitched to the lumber wagon, and the family went to the school house for Sunday school."

Marquis died October 29, 1930. Jennie died September 4, 1941. Jennie's obituary stated the following: "She was a woman devoted to her home, family and loved by a wide circle of friends."

Marquis and Jennie are buried in the Warrensburg Cemetery.

Eighteen years after Marquis died, in 1948 my father and mother, Arthur and Vera Brown, named me after my great grandfather but spelled it Mark.

The original farmhouse on Pucker Street, (the street sign also says Rock Avenue), still remains in the family, and is being renovated. On a quiet evening on the porch of the farmhouse you may still hear a fiddle in the background from the old Bidwell place, or maybe it's just rock and roll music from Forest Lake Camp on Route 9.



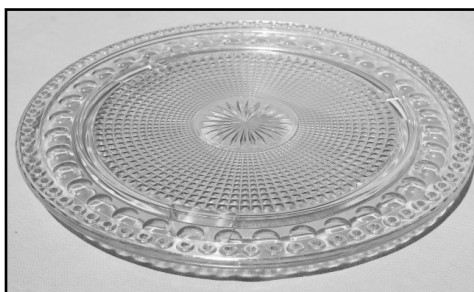
*Grandfather Marquis Working with His Horse Price*

*Parisi (continued from page 1)*

Patent Office. The description reads as follows: "The primary object of the invention is to provide a place having means for the support of candles."

The Patent included a drawing of the plate, (see page 4), which I have included. I have also included a photo of my plate, (image below), which only has one ring of holes, but is basically the same idea, and probably made about the same time.

I believe it came from my grandmother's family home, which was in Ridgely Park, NJ. We used it for all Birthday cakes, from one year-olds to 92 years of age.



## INVENTOR 2

An article in the Warrensburgh News by Penny and Eulah DeMatties is about a man that invented "Barker Heads." Mr. Walter Letts lived in Warrensburgh for sixteen years at 25 King Street. He was born June 12, 1884 in or near Cortland, NY. Prior to moving to Warrensburgh, he moved many times and had several careers. Before leaving Cortland he operated a sawmill and manufactured wooden boxes. He then left to start a new business of making storage batteries in Utica. After several years he sold that business and moved to Northville, New York, where he invented the necessary machine to manufacture ("Letts Burnerettes"), a form of fireplace fuel.

He sold the Northville business at retirement age, but brought one machine with him to Warrensburgh. Here he invented three different barker heads for use in sawmills to strip the bark from logs before they are sawed into lumber. Each debarker was an improvement over the previous one

and sold readily on the eastern seaboard.

He was honored with an appointment by Governor Thomas E. Dewey of the New York State Forest Practice Board.

He and his wife, the former Grace Bingham, celebrated their 66<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary early in 1968 before she died that summer.

The first Letts' 3-link debarker head was installed at Robert J. Sweet's Mill here in 1957. In 1960, the new Letts' '61 Disc Debarker Head was installed, and in 1962 the newest designed Letts' '63 Disc Head was put into operation.

In 1964, a newly designed Letts' Breaker Sheer Debarker Head was installed, the performance of which was far beyond expectations, consuming less power, and leaving logs smooth without removing wood. This head was less expensive to build, renew or rebuild.

### Special Thanks

To Elaine Cowin for keeping everyone up to date on "This day in History, Warrensburgh, NY". Check out Elaine's posts on the museum's Facebook page.

To our Greeters, and volunteers who staff the museum, and help with exhibits.

### **From the Museum Director's Desk: Search the Collection!**

Now you can find photos of your ancestors and friends that are in the museum's collection. Simply find the person's name on our Touch-Screen computer, (just inside the museum entrance), click on it and any photos in which your quest is identified will appear. Each photo can be enlarged and moved right on the screen to get a better view.

Even better, if you would like to order a printed copy for a small fee ask one of the Greeters for assistance. Prints

can be made in either size, 5" x 7" or 8" x 10". Most photos can be enhanced a bit before printing.

The program was developed for the Historical Society by WCS grad, and now SUNY Polytech grad, Jesse Schuettinger, who is now working on adding "Places" to the search options.

On a cautionary note, this service is still in its infancy. Staff volunteers are still updating or reformatting the computer data. In addition, we need to add many more photos to our collection. While we have numerous photos of school classes and families in the first half of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, we have few from the latter half and the 21<sup>st</sup> century.

You can be of great assistance by lending (or giving!) us photos of your family members or school class members. We will do a high resolution scan and enter the data into our main computer. Everyone must be identified. (If you prefer to scan photos yourself and e-mail them to us be sure they are at a minimum of 300 dpi, and everyone is clearly identified.)

Please visit the museum and try out this new offering. It can be addictive!

### **The Lighting Grant**

As many of you know, we applied for, and received, a grant from the Glens Falls Foundation for new track lighting for the Community Services Room and several ceiling lights for the upstairs office and workroom. The grant request covered the materials. The Town of Warrensburgh generously agreed to do the installation.

The Foundation actually made it a Challenge grant, forcing us to match their \$1,000 award. As in the past, the Warrensburgh Historical Society has no problem with such challenges. Within two months we had more than doubled the challenge, raising a total of \$2,557.00. Needless to say, we are able to expand the scope of the lighting installation and still have money left over for another small project. Any suggestions?

Warrensburgh Historical Society  
P.O. Box 441  
Warrensburg, NY 12885

## Member Address



### MYSTERY PHOTO

Can you identify the above photo as to the name and location of the establishment? For extra credit, can you identify the make and year of the automobile. If so, contact Paul by phone: 518-623-3162, or online at [prg12824@yahoo.com](mailto:prg12824@yahoo.com)

No one could identify the mystery photo in the last Quarterly. The location was where Baker's Crossing and Brunetto's Restaurant and Cottages are now. One can just make out the bed of the trolley track behind Joe's Restaurant.