



Warrensburgh Historical Society Quarterly

VOLUME 26 ISSUE 4

WINTER 2022

Did you Know?

From Sandi Parisi—Town Historian

In 1922 the first Radio installed in Warrensburg, was in the home of Walter H. Pasco. We can only assume he allowed his friends to come and listen. But the second radio in town was installed at the Agricultural Hotel, now Ashes. It was set up just in time for the World Series that year by Maurice Ashe. A number of baseball fans gathered there to hear the reports of the game.

In the **1922 World Series**, the **New York Giants** defeated the **New York Yankees** in five games (four games to none with one tie; after that game the World Series went to a best-of-seven format permanently). By now, the term "World Series" was being used frequently, as opposed to "World's Series". As with the **1921 World Series**, every game was played at the **Polo Grounds** because it housed both teams, with the home team alternating; it was also the Yankees' final season at the Polo Grounds, as they would move into the then-under construction **Yankee Sta-**

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Fairyland Theatre

by Mark Brown

FAIRYLAND THEATRE- 1946-1947

by Mark K. Brown

My uncle Jerry La Rocque and his partner George W. Dickinson bought and began operating the Fairyland Theatre in Warrensburg in 1910. A new building was constructed in 1916 and Jerry and his partners George W. Dickinson and Henry Bertrand leased this building from D.E. Pasco & Sons. Jerry continued to be involved in the theatre until it was sold in late 1947 to Phillip Baroudi.



Fairyland Theatre in Warrensburg, N.Y.

Used with permission from <http://cinematreasures.org/members/texas2step/photos>

I recently came across a ledger from the Fairland theatre for the period between September 1946 and July 1947 neatly kept probably by his wife Blanche. The ledger listed ticket prices as \$.42 for adults and \$.21 for children. They were open 7 days a week. They had three

Fairyland—continued on page 5

Warrensburgh Historical Society 2021 in Review

by Paul Gilchrist

It's customary for an organization to do a year-end review, so here's a brief summary for our Society. Even though there was no Sticky Wicket, Graveyard Walks, or raffle, and the Museum was not open last winter, the Society actually accomplished quite a lot this past year, particularly in organizational aspects. The Society finished the year stronger than it started.

We lost two presidents, one in the spring and one in the summer, and for awhile last spring our board had decreased to six members. The passing of Steve Parisi a year ago left the museum without a director. So increasing board membership and finding a new president and museum director became major priorities.

The solution partly lay in the fact that the Thurman Historical Society was disbanded and arrangements were made for us to take over their materials, artifacts, and their finances. But we insisted that Thurman also provide us with some board members. The Martin family supplied a grandfather and grandson combo, Gary and Miles - our first junior board member. You'll recall that Warrensburg and Thurman separated politically in 1813, but now we're back together again, at least historically.

We were able to open the museum with reduced hours in mid-May and we kept publishing the Quarterly. Laura Moore

In Review - continued on page 3

SOCIETY SPOT

BOARD MEMBERS

PRESIDENT: Gary Bivona
VICE PRESIDENT: Paul Gilchrist
TREASURER: Yvonne West
SECRETARY: Manu Davidson
 Dot Langworthy Mark Brown
 Dave Nabozny Carol Keane
 Gary Martin Miles Martin
 Shelby Burkhardt Evelyn Wood
 Harold McKinney
MUSEUM DIRECTOR: Laura Moore
TOWN HISTORIAN: Sandi Parisi

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

The Society Board has been busy the last three months developing a budget and outlining activities and fundraisers to enable us to carry out our objectives in support of preserving and promoting Warrensburg's and Thurman's rich history. Our Board now consists of 13 members who possess a strong sense of the area's history and a commitment to preserve and promote it.

We are also in the beginning stages of our Planning Sessions. The process will guide us in establishing both the Society's and Museum's goals for the next 12-24 months. We will share with you the results of these sessions in the next Quarterly.

Upon receiving a suggestion from Rosemary Maher, the Board commissioned a beautiful plaque to honor Steve Parisi which will be located in a prominent location in the Museum as directed by Laura Moore.

Our Board looks forward to 2022 with enthusiasm and commitment.

Gary Bivona
 President

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We welcome comments, corrections, articles, pictures, letters, and reminiscences. Email to above or mail to
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 Warrensburg, NY 12885

Please Update Your Email

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

CURRENT MEMBERSHIP

285

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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Warrensburgh Historical Society

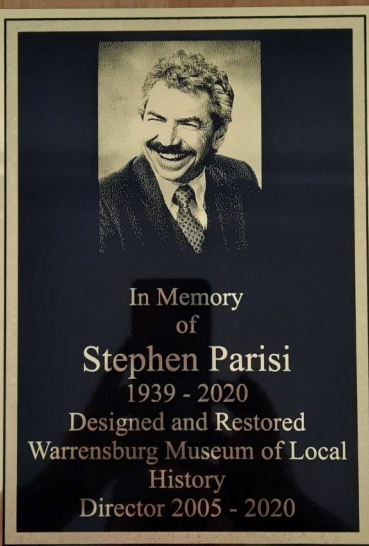
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NOTICE

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

Rosemary Maher with the plaque honoring Stephen Parisi. Rosemary suggested the plaque and the wording on the plaque to the Historical Society. The plaque will hang in the museum.



In Review - continued from page 1

was hired this summer as the new Museum Director. This fall we were fortunate to inaugurate a new president as Gary Bivona returned to the board after several years' absence, and we also gained several more new board members, including another from Thurman, Evelyn Wood, which brought our board up to full strength. This bodes well for the coming year. For years we've had a relationship with our local Glens Falls National Bank management in the person of Dennis Martinez and then Candice Healy. That tradition continues now with Yvonne West joining the board this fall. We promptly elected her treasurer.

Thanks to Laura Moore, the Society kept its booth at the World's Largest Garage Sale, and she led the Society's participation at the museum for Beautification's Christmas in Warrensburgh celebration. Laura also made arrangements for our traditional Holiday Dinner at Lizzie Keays.

The Society continues its efforts to be involved in historical preservation projects, a major one being the Tannery Park project directly across the river from the former Grist Mill Restaurant. The property was one of several intended to become riverside parks for which Warrensburgh Beautification sought grant funding three decades ago. Funding helped the Town establish the Historic Mills District Park (Farmers Market), Veterans Park (Freddie Flynn), and Paper Mill Park. Tannery Park will require additional funding. The team working on trail design and cost estimates includes individuals from the Society, Beautification, and Warren County Soil and Water Conservation. Beautification members have been researching grants and conducting fundraising events to fund nature signs and benches. WHS will also contribute for these items. This group has been reporting to the Town regarding trail plans and cost estimates. Town Historian Sandi Parisi has been working for several years on creating self-guided tours for the Heritage Trail project.

The Society is also engaged in the early stages of some other projects involving preservation of historic sites. We're hoping to restore the 19th century mounting

block at the corner of George Henry's Restaurant; it's a little-recognized iconic gem of Warrensburgh's history. It's too early to say much about these projects just yet, but donations we've received can be applied to them. With our recent "absorption" of the Thurman Historical Society and our new board members from Thurman, we expect some of our preservation efforts will happen in that land across the Hudson River. Keep tuned to our Facebook and Quarterlies over coming months.

Many communities all over the country recognize the importance to their identity and their economy of preserving their history. Wherever this recognition prevails in the mindset of the citizens, historical preservation and economic development become symbiotic. History is seen as a resource in places that learn to appreciate it. Our Historical Society and Warrensburgh Beautification continue to focus largely on promoting such appreciation and respect for the history and beauty of our town nestled among its mountains, forests, rivers, and lakes.

To make our membership process less cumbersome, we are working with Past Perfect (our museum program) to add membership. It will streamline the process, print letters and labels.

**TWO GOOD GAMES
ON FOR SATURDAY**

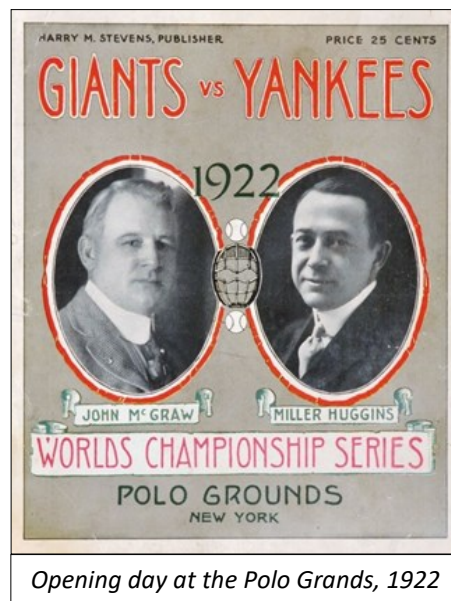
**J. M. W.'s MEET MAPLEWOODS IN
WARRENSBURG, WHILE BOOK-
WORMS PLAY GREENWICH**

What promises to be a very close and exciting game of baseball is the contest which will be played in Warrensburgh tomorrow afternoon when the J. M. W.'s of this place meet their old time adversaries, the Maplewoods of the northern village. These pines clashed several times last year with the result that honors were about evenly divided. Manager Mallon confidently expects to hand the Warrensburgh boys some beating. The battery will probably be "Pin" Lee and "Parry" Murray. The team will be accompanied by a number of supporters.

Did You Know - continued from page 1

dium for the 1923 season, which ended in them **winning the rematch**.

The Giants pitched around **Babe Ruth** and scored just enough runs to win each of the games outside the controversial Game 2 tie. That game was called on account of darkness, but many thought there was sufficient light to have played some more innings (the sun was still in the sky), and there were some suspicions that one or both teams might have "allowed" the tie to happen to increase the overall gate receipts. **Commissioner Landis** was among those who was dissatisfied with the result. One story is that Landis asked Umpire Hildebrand, "Why the Sam Hill did you call the game?" The umpire answered, "There was a temporary haze on the field." The game decision was in the hands of the umpires, but the Commissioner's Office controlled the gate receipts. Landis ordered the money, more than \$120,000, turned over to **World War I** charities, thus nullifying any impropriety. The tied game would turn out to be the third (and final) tied game in the history of the World Series. The other two tied games occurred in **1907** and **1912**. No ties are possible under later rules, which allow for suspension of a tied game and resumption of it at a later date, as with **Game 5 of the 2008 World Series**



Opening day at the Polo Grands, 1922

The NY Telephone Co. refused to supply wire service to WJZ radio in order for them to broadcast the game. If not for the Western Union Co. allowing the use of their wire service, the game may never have made it on air.

Warrensburgh Historical Society Welcomes New Board Members



Gary Bivona
President

I am 74 years old and have been married for 51 years to Charleen who grew up in Buffalo, NY. We have 2 adult children and 5 grandkids.

We moved to the area full time in 2009 after a career of small business ownership in distribution and manufacturing.

I have served on five boards (including (previously on the Historical Society) both nonprofit and for profit. I was a Big Brother to a local student for 8 years and thoroughly enjoyed it. My wife and I have been involved with North Country Ministries for 11 years as well as the Warrensburgh Museum of Local History.

I look forward to my tenure with the Historical Society.



Manu Davidson
Secretary

Manu Leila Davidson, Esq. is a partner of the law firm of Braverman Greenspun, P.C. in New York, New York where her practice focuses on real estate and commercial disputes

and the representation of individuals and board of cooperatives, condominiums, and homeowners' associations in a variety of matters. She grew up in Lake George and is alumna of Lake George High School. She returned to the area several years ago, and in her free time, she works on restoring her historic home in Warrensburgh, where she lives full-time. She looks forward to working with the Warrensburgh Historical Society to maintain Warrensburgh's rich history.

Gary Martin

A Thurman resident and a graduate of Warrensburgh Central School, Gary came on board shortly after the Thurman and Warrensburgh Historical Societies merged. We are so pleased to welcome Gary to the Board.



Carol Keane

Carol Keane, originally from Long Island, retired from a sales position with a computer graphics company in 2011.

Growing up she and her family spend summers vacationing in the Adirondacks. It is during this time that she fell in love with the mountains, lakes and hiking opportunities.

She became a fulltime resident in Warrensburgh in 2019. She enjoys gardening and antiquing. She joined the Historical Society in the Fall 2021.



Harold McKinney

Wife: Beth L. McKinney

Children: Keith, Dawn, Barry, Doug and Darren.

I have 9 grandchildren and 3 great grandchildren.

I was employed for 39.5 years at 7 different correctional facilities.

Retired in 2008 from Mt. McGregor, finishing my career with 8.5 years as Superintendent.

Shortly after my retirement, I enrolled with the Retired Seniors Volunteer Program. I continue to enjoy volunteering at several not-for-profit organizations, for approx. 20-30 hours weekly.

My enjoyment of sports included officiating basketball for 44 seasons, playing golf, as well as walking almost daily with Beth and our certified Therapy Dog, Ruby. I try to visit my children and their families as often as possible.

I have served on several Boards of Directors, including my current Glens Falls Senior Center officer's position.

Although we currently live in Moreau, I grew up in Warrensburgh and believe I can be an asset to "The Society." I look forward to meeting everyone at the Museum.

Miles Martin

Miles is the grandson of Gary Martin. Miles is the first ever student member of the Board. We are so excited to open this new door and can't wait to see what new opportunities and insights that Miles is going to bring to the table.



Shelby Burkhardt

New Director at the Richards Library

From Warrensburgh Studied Psychology and Art & Art History at St. Lawrence University

enjoys: reading, yoga, nature, animals, learning, traveling, cooking, making and viewing art, music, writing, positive self-care.



Evelyn Wood

Evelyn Wood is a lifelong resident of the town of Thurman.

She formerly held positions as the Town Supervisor as well as having served as the town's Cemetery Superintendent.

Evelyn enjoys genealogy and currently manages Windy Ridge Farm LLC in Thurman.



Yvonne West
Treasurer

I grew up in Trelawny, Jamaica a small community nestled between two major tourist towns, Montego Bay and Ocho Rios. I moved to the quaint town of Warrensburgh in 2010 after I met

my husband. I am the working mother of two adventurous boys, Entrepreneur and wife to a busy Auto body technician, Dennis West. My husband and I operate a small business, Your Auto image, LLC and I am a real estate investor with JJ Brothers Real Property Management. I also work at Glens Falls National bank. I started my career as a teller at Glens Falls National Bank in 2014 and have had a fulfilling career that landed me the position of Assistant Manager at the Warrensburgh Branch. I quickly became more involved with the local community where I found myself volunteering for the Warrensburgh Historical Society, which I thoroughly enjoy. I am happy that I was given the opportunity to lend my knowledge and skills to this diverse group.

Fairyland—continued from page 1

different feature presentations each week and during mid-week two additional lesser known movies. In 1916 William Hadden was the chief movie operator, Hap Osborne his assistant, Guistina Austin the pianist, Joseph Aiken played drums and Blanche LaRocque ran the box office. In the 1946-47 ledger the names that showed up as being paid for working at the theatre were Frank, Walter, Jr., Philip, Leon, Paul and Howard (only first names listed). Maybe someone knows who these individuals were?

Ticket sales from September 1946 to July 1947 ranged from 46 to 484 tickets daily. The theatre had to pay to obtain a movie to be shown at the theatre. It cost from \$12.50 to \$197.58. The most expensive movie shown during this time was *The Yearling* (\$197.58), a Civil War movie starring Jane Wyman and Gregory Peck. The second most costly was the Christmas classic *Miracle on 34th Street* (\$182.29) with Edmund Gwenn. This was followed by the musical *The Jolson Story* (\$169.47). Cartoons such as Mickey Mouse, shorts, science info, this is America and News only cost the theatre \$3.00 but these were not considered movies.

We know what the most expensive movies to obtain were but what were the most popular based on ticket sales. For a feature movie (shown three consecutive days) it was *The Yearling* in which Gregory Peck won a Golden Globe Award. The second most popular movie shown was the Christmas classic *Miracle on 34th Street*. This was followed by *Canyon Passage*. This western romance movie featured Dana Andrews, Brian Donlevy and Susan Haywood. Next was *The Jolson Story*. This show business movie was about Asa Yoelson who called himself Al Jolson and was portrayed by Scotty Beckett. Rounding out the top five was *California*. This western romance took place during the California gold rush and featured Ray Millard, Barbara Stanwyck and Barry Fitzgerald.

The top two movies for mid-week (two consecutive days) were *Margie* a comedy featuring Jeanne Crain and Ann Topo. The second was *Living in a Big Way* an American musical comedy with Gene Kelly, Marie McDonald and Charles Winniger.

Now you know what were the most popular movies watched at the Fairyland Theatre from September 1946 to July 1947. I was not born yet but I have to admit I have seen most of these classics over the years.



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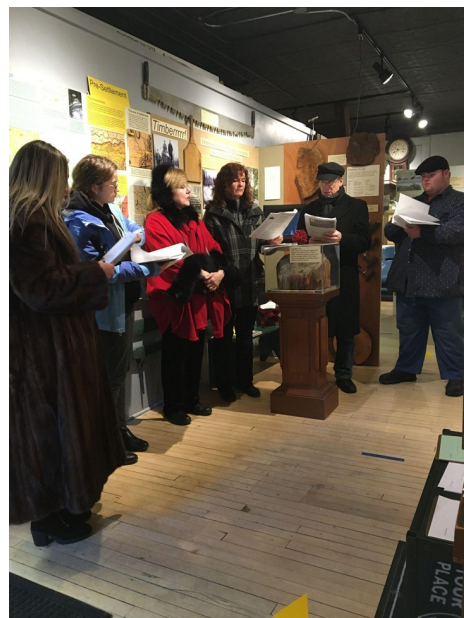
Discover Warrensburg!

By Laura Moore

The Museum of Local History participated in the Town's Christmas in Warrensburgh event December 4th and 5th 2021. The whole town had a variety of events going on all of which were holiday related, it was a wonderful light snow fall day. Our local High School Master Singers group under the direction of Jim Corriveau traveled the streets as the winter carolers. They stopped at the museum and shared *Silent Night*, *Jingle Bells* and other holiday tunes. The Warrensburgh Museum also had on display of past years annual Christmas ornaments, we had two local Authors Darrell Laurant -"Inspiration Street" and Glenn Pearsall-"Echos in these Mountains", and the Holiday Postal Cancellation many reasons for visitors to enjoy our town in the winter.



The museum welcomed 40 visitors during the Christmas in Warrensburgh weekend and our volunteers logged in 28 hours. Thank you to everyone for making it such a success.



High School Master Singers group under the direction of Jim Corriveau



Tigger greets guests at the museum



An old fashioned Christmas tree

Holiday Dinner Vignettes



John & Diane Gable, Dot Langworthy



Paul Gilchrist



Mark Brown & Dot Langworthy



Sandi Parisi



Paul Gilchrist & Kaie Dunn



Gary Bivona

When Two Stories Overlap

by Sharon Stone

Our world is such a vast place with stories and histories being told and created every moment of every day. With such vastness, it is quite astounding when two stories not only overlap but the people involved in those stories find themselves in just the right moment and circumstances allowing them to discover and discuss the overlap.

Once such moment recently occurred for me. I had stopped by Sandi Parisi's home to go over the edits to the most recent quarterly. I noticed that Sandi had a fairly large book on her coffee table with the well know names of Currier and Ives on the cover. I asked her about it and she recounted the story of the book to me which you can read in the October 2021 Quarterly. Her story prompted me to tell her that I had a personal connection to the Currier side of Currier and Ives.

I grew up in the town of Danby, VT. If you

are from that area, the Currier name is quite well known. Growing up, I listened to stories about how the Curriers were driving through a snow storm when their car broke down and they were so overwhelmed with the kindness shown to them on that day that they purchased land and built a house on the side of the mountain. I heard about how they built and gifted the elementary to the town which was named Currier Elementary in their honor. I was amazed by the story of how Mr. and Mrs. Currier were lost in the Bermuda Triangle. Most of all, I anticipated turning 14 and going to work for the Smokey House Project which was funded by the Currier's.

We all know how stories grow bigger each time they are told. Each person adds their own embellishments and emotions until no one really seems to know the actual factual truth. It isn't until an event happens that triggers your desire to know more. That moment happened for

me when Sandi and I discussed Currier and Ives.

So began my journey to discover the answers to the following Questions. Did the Currier's car really break down in Danby? Were they actually lost in the Bermuda Triangle? And, did they in fact leave all of their money to the children in the Danby Township?. I am happy to tell you that one of those questions is absolutely true, one partially true and one not true at all. In 1954, the Curriers happened to see a photo of a farmhouse located in Danby Four Corners. They were entranced with its beauty and purchased the house and several tracts of land in 1958. No, their car did not break down in Danby although, the actual reason they ended up in Danby is just as charming a story.

In 1964 the Curriers gifted the local School Board with \$80,000 to be used to explore the possibility of building a new comprehensive elementary school and an

Currier—continued on page 7

Currier—continued from page 6



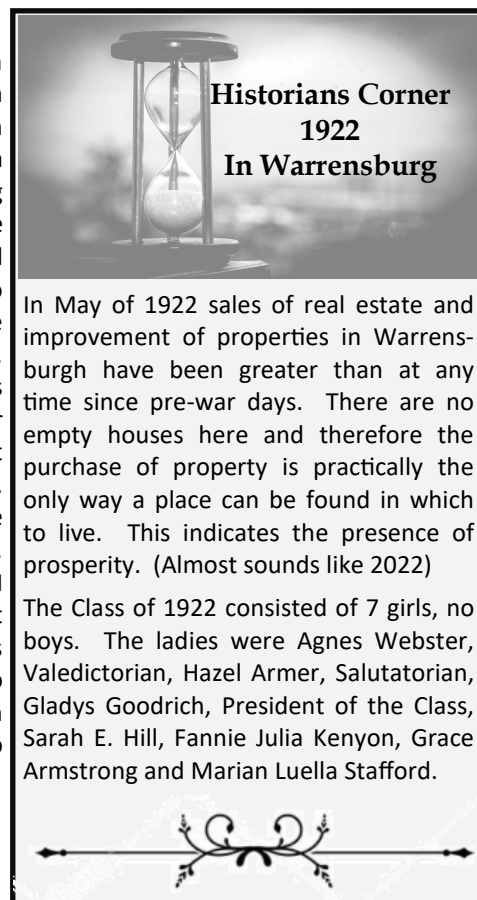
Stephen and Audrey Currier

additional \$117,000 was donated at a later date. The school opened in 1966 with roughly 200 students enrolled and so, it seems that while the Curriers did not pay for the entire school they were the impetus that started the ball rolling. Sadly, in 1967 the Curriers plane was lost yes, over the Bermuda Triangle. They had been gone for eight years before I worked at Smokey House Project. In my young mind it seemed like a cool way to go for such a cool couple. I would like to have

met them.

Side note: One day while I was working in the rose gardens of the Currier estate, a woman appeared before me standing on the stone wall. When I turned to get a good look at her, she disappeared. Shaking my head I went round to the front of the house to let my friend know only to find her shaking her head about a woman who looked out of the window at her. No one she said was supposed to be in the house. Upon comparing notes, we realized it was the same woman. Brown hair, shoulder length, flipped up on the ends, white shirt brown cardigan and a dark brown skirt. You guessed it, Mrs. Currier making sure the home she adored was being cared for. She gave me two stories to tell, I wish that I could have known her. Imagine the impact she would have had in person on the lives of the children she was trying so hard to create a future for. I shared this story with Sandi which to my delight prompted her to tell me her own ghost story.

But that, is her story to tell.



MYSTERY PHOTO— *from last issue*

Looking south along Main Street from approximately in front on the Baptist Church. On the left edge of the photo, one can just see the front of the King house with its round pillars (it burned in 1976). On the right side of the street, just past a ladder, one can see a white fence in front of a small building that was a law office, then a dental office. It was moved to the corner of Library and Milton Avenue. Elm trees formed a virtual tunnel for Main Street in the early 20th century - all gone by the 1960s These were tough ones. Kaie Dunn called with the correct answer for the Main Street photo. Ben Gurney guessed Main Street, but looking north from Richards Avenue with The Pillars on the left edge of the photo. Others guessed Hudson Street and Elm Street. No one identified Viele Pond, guessing Echo Lake or Pack Forest Lake. Those responding were Jack Toney, Kaie Dunn, Ben Gurney from Arizona, and Ennis Geraghty from Montana. We appreciate those who are willing to risk venturing a guess and we especially appreciate participants from far away.

Note: Harold McKinney belatedly guessed the Mystery Photo of the elm tree 5½ miles up Alden Avenue from the previous issue. He was born a short distance beyond the tree.



Viele Pond high atop Harrington Hill. If you can enlarge it or have a good magnifying glass, maybe you can see the beaver lodge a few hundred feet down the right side of the pond and another on the far shore beyond it.

Warrensburgh Historical Society
P.O. Box 441
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.

