



Warwick Roots

The Newsletter of the Historical Society of the Town of Warwick
Margaret Rampe-Park, Editor

PO Box 353, Warwick, NY 10990 (845) 986-3236 www.warwickhistoricalsociety.org Vol. 24 No. 2 November 2004

Planning For Our *Second Century*

As the Society approaches its 100th birthday in 2006 our officers and trustees have recognized we need to reinvent our organization if we are to continue our primary mission of preserving the history of our community, and educating our citizens and visitors about this heritage. In recognition of the enormous changes that we have witnessed in Warwick and the development of new approaches to historical preservation, we have undertaken the creation of a long range strategic plan to serve as a road map to direct programs and activities over the coming years. We have identified a need for change if we are to be responsive to the interests and needs of a larger, more diverse society than Warwick of the past century. In addition, regulations for historical societies are changing on both the Federal and the State levels which present real challenges for our survival as a nonprofit educational organization.



Our Future Visits

Over 450 fourth grade students visited the museums in October, with the help of 30 volunteer docents, teachers, and parents!

We must grow and evolve . . .

with the community we serve.

With the support of a grant from the Upstate History Alliance, a planning process was begun in October. The goal of this effort is to complete a strategic plan that will identify important issues that the Society must address, and the actions that need to be taken to resolve them within the framework of our mission statement. It is anticipated that the final plan will be adopted by the Society in early 2005.

The Society is proud of what has been accomplished over its nearly one hundred years of existence. We often take for granted our lovely museum buildings that house a remarkable collection of documents and artifacts. What we have today is the result of a generous community, some very special philanthropists, and the work of untold numbers of dedicated members and citizens. All of what has been done and continues is the work of an entirely volunteer organization. We own seven buildings; there are only a few historical societies in New York State that maintain that many structures. That itself is truly remarkable. The strategic plan is a part of a larger ongoing effort to assure that the success and accomplishments of the twentieth century survive and flourish in the twenty first.

--- Tom Frangos, Planning Coordinator

Our *Draft* Mission Statement

The mission of the Society is to celebrate and preserve the history of the Town of Warwick and its people and assure that this legacy is passed on to future generations.

We believe that an understanding and appreciation of our historic heritage is essential to maintaining a unique and meaningful identity as a community.

Towards this end we will: educate and engage the public through a variety of programs; maintain our museum buildings, properties, and collections; re-research and publish historic records; and identify and encourage preservation of significant places and structures throughout the Town.

Connect!

Visit us on the web at www.warwickhistoricalsociety.org for calendar information, photo gallery of our buildings, an online form for research questions, contacts, and more! You can also email us at: info@warwickhistoricalsociety.org

Give the Gift of Our History!

Support the Preservation of our Heritage and Invite Others to get Involved !!

The Perfect Stocking Stuffer--Historical Society Memberships !

2004 Officers

President

Henry L. Nielsen, Jr.

First Vice President

Donald Lomax

Second Vice President

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Society Historian

Florence Tate

Archivist

Sue Gardner

In Memoriam

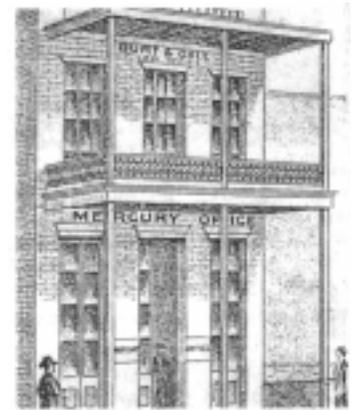
John Wheeler Sanford, Jr.

History In Warwick

Warwick In History

Bellvale's Gold Rush Hero

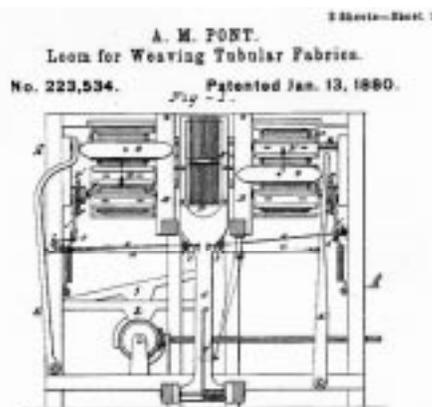
In 1849 America was rushing west to the gold fields, and Warwick was no exception. Bellvale's James Monroe Burt (1816-1884), son of Benjamin Burt and Elizabeth Ketchum, had already done some traveling in the west and he set out for a primitive mining camp on the banks of the Feather River in Butte County, California. Arriving in October, he first tried his hand at panning, and named the tent town of Ophir (now known as the city of Oroville). His sharp eyes soon saw a greater opportunity for wealth than the chancy business of prospecting, however, in supplying the material needs of the crowds of 49ers and settlers that were arriving daily. He set up shop at Long's Bar by November, and continued expanding. He was elected Butte's first county attorney in 1850 and in addition to his mercantile enterprise, he set up in private practice. On November 4, 1884, an impressive funeral was held at the courthouse in Oroville. The brick building he erected still stands on Bird Street.



J.M. Burt's building est.1856, as it appeared in 1877.

Addie's Loom: "Mill Girl" Makes Good

Adeline M. Farley (1856-1936) was not born in Warwick and lived only part of her life here, but we lay claim to her because it was while she was in Warwick that this female Horatio Alger found her feet. Born in or near the textile mill town of Hillsborough, NH, Addie was working



by the age of 14 in the Manchester Mill there along with her brothers and sisters. Sometime before 1880 she ended up in Warwick, weaving at the Fabric Fire Hose Company on Factory Street, in the buildings later used by the Warwick Knife Company. She states she is married on the census, with the last name of "Pont". The manager of the mill James Gillespie and his family shared their home with her and her young daughter. How and why she came to Warwick remains a mystery, but her tenacity and intelligence are clear: while working for the Hose Company in 1878 she patented improvements to a loom for weaving tubular fire hose (Patent No. 223,534 can be searched at www.uspto.gov). The development of a light, seamless, and strong fire hose

was a major improvement in fire fighting history, and an extensive search of related patents shows no other woman with a patent in this area. Addie sold her patent rights for a sizeable nest egg, and married Frederick L. Pierce, editor for the "Fireman's Herald" of NYC, on November 29, 1883, at Warwick. Their marriage notice in the Dec. 6, 1883 Warwick Advertiser congratulates her as a self-made woman, having started as a 'factory girl'. The couple relocated to Kearny, NJ and later retired to Tavares, Florida, harbingers of the migratory species known today as 'snow birds'—truly a story of victory in the face of adversity!

More information about these topics can be found in the "Gold Rush" folder of the Wisner Library's local history file, and by contacting Sue Gardner at the library.

Young Historians

Involving our Youth in Preserving History

History Club Starts Second Year

By Brian Nelson

History Club Advisor, Warwick High School

The Warwick Valley High School History Club is looking forward to a second year of working with the Warwick Historical Society. As a new school year has begun the History Club had its first meeting of the year and a full agenda was put before its membership --which has grown to over 40 students!

First on the agenda is the planning of a field trip to a historic site within the area. Student enthusiasm to find out more about our state and local region has already led to trips to local treasures such as Baird's Tavern and the Old Baptist Meeting House. Students will continue to assist Society members in keeping those buildings and others in the community operating for all of the community to enjoy. Club members are also excited about the opportunities to work with younger children on the "traveling trunk project" for 4th graders.

History Club students are looking forward to presentations by two esteemed member of the Historical Society. In the fall, Michael Bertolini will discuss *Teenage Life in 18th Century Warwick* and, in the spring, Dr. Richard Hull will discuss *Teenage Life in South Africa Today* upon his return from South Africa. Other student projects include assisting with The Harvest to Holly Walking Tour in November, doing extensive research about Warwick ancestors for the Washington's Day Picnic in the spring, and helping to make audio tapes and written oral histories of some senior citizens in Warwick. The History Club is looking forward to another active year.



Young Historian Spotlight

Katie Logothetis: Shingle House Docent

For the past two summers I have worked at the Shingle House as a docent. I mostly worked demonstrating the art of spinning with my mother, Susan Logothetis. Visitors were fascinated by our use of two of the Society's antique spinning wheels.

By participating as a docent I learned a lot about Warwick history and the time periods displayed at the houses. I met many people who are as interested in history as I am. Working at as a docent was a great experience and I plan to do it next summer as well!!

Assessing the Collection

By: Sarah Fisher

High School History Club Member

The Warwick Historical Society has accumulated thousands of items, throughout its seven buildings, during its existence. Many didn't even know of all the amazing artifacts because of the large number and lack of an organizational system. Recently, they have installed a computer program which keeps a few pictures of each item, as well as a brief description. Doing the cataloging is a very time-consuming process but will be well worth the effort once the "collections assessment", as it is called, is completed.

Beginning last year, students from the History Club would go to Baird's Tavern once or twice a week and work on the assessment. These students learned how to classify each item by what it was or what it was made of. They learned an amazing amount of valuable information about the artifacts and even some history of their town. The students also took pictures of each item in Baird's Tavern using a digital camera. In the few months that the volunteers worked, they were able to catalog almost three full floors! The collections assessment will continue into this year as well as into the other buildings. It is very exciting to think about what this compilation of data will include when it is finished.

New Student

Membership Level

The Society has established a new **\$10.00 'Student Membership' category** so that kids and teens can be active in the Society at a price affordable to them. See our membership form in this issue

Join Us Today!!

One Step At A Time

News & Notes of Society Happenings

Under The Tent Party A Success!

The Society's *Under the Tent Party* held on August 28 once again presented the Warwick community a fun and festive event. This year we were again blessed with no rainfall so that the **300 patrons** truly enjoyed delicious food and drink provided by local restaurateurs, merchants and society members. **Music by The Touch of Brass** and the excitement of an auction conducted by area **auctioneer William Jenack** created an exciting event. A grand total of **\$23,500 was raised** and will be used in our education and preservation programs. Monies raised from this ever popular event have steadily increased over the last five years. The party is yet another demonstration of Warwick's commitment and support to the Society. **Many thanks** to our tent pole sponsors, food providers, auction donors and the volunteers whose countless hours of work combined to make the party a success.

We hope to see you all again next summer!

“In The Good Old Summertime” Exhibit Helps Preserve Costume Collection

The **annual summer exhibit** this year featured cleaned and restored summer costumes from the Society's collection. The opening reception and an \$1,800 grant from Orange and Rockland **raised \$3,781 towards purchase of acid free storage containers** for our wonderful collection and further restoration efforts. The professionalism and beauty of the exhibit was admired by all. **A round of applause to the exhibit committee!**

Wine And Cheese Kicks Off Fundraising Season

Chaired by Karen Emmerich, this past June's Wine and Cheese Party **raised over \$13,000** toward the Society's operating expenses and preservation programs!!

Thanks Karen and Committee!!

Ketchum House Renovations

What's up at the **Ketchum House**? Many in our community have noticed the **renovations and the addition** going up at our Ketchum House museum. **Thanks** to the wonderful generosity of **Michael Bertolini and Jerry Duane**, the house has been improved to provide a better museum and residence for the society's future.

Some Historical Gift Ideas

*Just in time for the Holidays !!
For those hard to buy for individuals!!*

The newly updated history of the Warwick Reformed Church is now available in the Church Office for \$25.00 It includes a reprint of the entire “Record of a Century” plus material covering the second hundred years of the church. Call the church office at: (845)-986-4517.

The Florida Historical Society's history of the Village of Florida and surrounding area of town is still available for \$35.00 Contact the Florida Historical Society at: PO Box 97/ Florida, NY 10921 or call Gary Randall at (845)651-7466.

The New Milford Society has launched a fundraiser for funds to complete the interior of their new museum. Anita Panas and friends are creating detailed wooden ‘cut-outs’ of New Milford historical buildings, available at the New Miford Deli, or call Anita at: (845)-988-0181

Gifts & Grants Received

<i>New York State Senator Thomas Morahan</i>	<i>Warwick Savings Foundation</i> \$10,000 for repair to Baird's Tavern	<i>Orange & Rockland Community Investment Program</i> \$1,800 for conservation of clothing collection
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Thank you !!

To all of our museum docents and other volunteers for a successful summer season !!

We could not do it without you !!

Repairs To Baird's Tavern To Be Completed In 2005

During a routine inspection of the Baird's Tavern in the summer of 2003, it was discovered that some of the mortar between the stonework had deteriorated. The Society decided that a major re-pointing project should be undertaken to replace all the mortar in the four walls. Because of the cost estimate (\$80,000) of this very labor intensive project a four-year completion schedule was established. However when work on the first phase was started it was found that mortar damage was more severe than originally thought and the project was accelerated to two years. Half the project was completed during the summer of 2004 with completion scheduled in 2005.

Existing mortar in every joint is being replaced with a limestone-based mortar. The choice of limestone serves two purposes. Limestone mortar "breathes" and minimizes the build up of moisture behind the walls, and it is authentic as to what was used during the original construction. Round Tower Masonry did the first half of the replacement work under contract.

Although this is a costly project, it was deemed essential to the preservation of our signature Society museum. Through the generosity of the Warwick Savings Foundation, we have received grants totaling \$20,000. Through the efforts of State Senator Thomas Morahan we are expecting a grant of \$10,000 to additionally help defray costs. This project is illustrative of the current costs of maintaining our properties—work that cannot be accomplished without the continued generosity of our members and the Warwick community, for which we are grateful.



Baird's Tavern begins to get a much needed facelift--thanks to the support of many!!

Holiday Wish List

Cash donations are always needed, but sometimes our members would rather help by giving volunteer time or services.... *can you help with one of these?*

We are in need of:

- Someone to wax and polish pew rails in the Meeting House (contact Michael Bertolini (986-5954).
- Someone to give services or underwrite the expenses to refresh the wall coverings and fixtures in the three 1810 House museum rooms (contact Michael Bertolini)
- Someone to replace the sill on a side widow of the Shingle House annex (contact Harold Wilson or Raey Webster, or leave a message on our machine)
- Someone to replace the Shingle House kitchen door with one appropriate to the period of the house.
- Someone to repair, scrape and repaint the back porch deck of the Shingle House (contact Harold Wilson or Raey Webster, or leave a message on our machine).
- A few more docents (museum tour guides) for our summer open days—you pick the days! (leave a message on our answering machine)
- Someone to help check the grounds of Lewis Park and our buildings prior to an event and pick up any trash, sticks, etc.
- Someone who likes to garden to help maintain our flower and landscape beds (leave a message on our answering machine).
- A volunteer or two to help with the promotional materials for the Wine and Cheese fundraiser next June (Call Karen Emmerich 986-0151 or email khe@warwick.net.)
- Someone to help with researching house histories when queries come in. (contact Sue Gardner 987-8917 or email sgardner@rcls.org).
- Someone to help fill orders and distribute our publications and other fundraising items for sale (contact Sue Gardner).

We can't do it without you! Help us carry our community's heritage forward into the future!

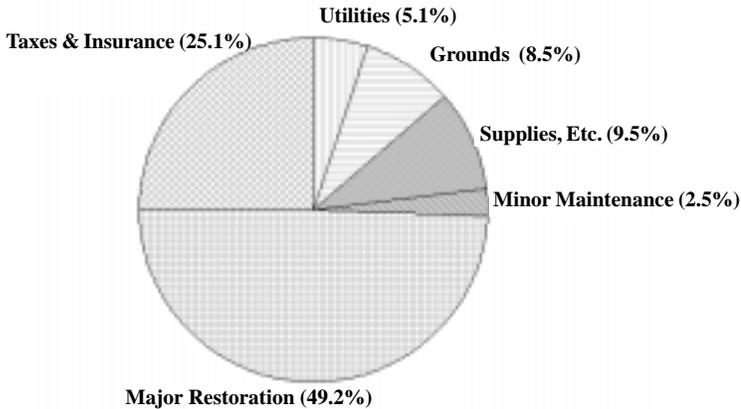
Budget Outlook

The good news is that with your help the Society has managed to pay its bills so far this year! Unfortunately, there's a long way to go.

We will be especially hard hit this winter by the rising cost of keeping minimal heat in Baird's Tavern and the 1810 House in order to protect the collection from damage.

Here's where your donation dollars go:

Budget Expenditures May 2004 - April 2005



Gift Membership Form
Historical Society
of the Town of Warwick
If this is a gift, please give us YOUR name
and address on the reverse
Date: ___/___/___

() I am giving a Gift Membership to:

Name: _____

Street: _____

Town/City/Zip: _____

Annual Dues:(fiscal year May 1-April 31)

New! Student..... \$10.00
Individual.....\$25.00
Family.....\$30.00
Associate(business)..... \$40.00
Friend.....\$100.00
Sustaining.....\$200.00
Patron.....\$500.00
Benefactor (lifetime)....\$1,000.00

Payable To:
Historical Society of the Town of Warwick
P.O. Box 353
Warwick, New York 10990



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Post Office Box 353
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