

A Century Ago

Highlights from 1911 in the Old Forge – Fulton Chain Region

Compiled in 2011 by Town of Webb Historian Peg Masters
(Note: Event dates from newspaper publication dates)

Date	Event
Jan. 18 th	The annual Brown Tract Guides Meeting was held at The Wood in Inlet last night. Six sleigh loads of guest came up from Old Forge. Officers elected for the new year were: President A. G. Delmarsh; VP Fred Burke, Secretary A. W. Church. Executive Committee members were: George Goodsell, David Charbonneau, Early Covey, D. R. Ainsworth, C. B. Kirsch, J. Olay, and John E. Ball.
Feb. 7 th	F. E. Tiffany, real estate agent of Inlet, consummated the sale of Rocky Point Inn at the head of Fourth Lake. D. H. Burrell of Little Falls was the seller. A. G. Delmarsh, manager of Cedar Island Camp, was the purchaser.
March 2 nd	Dr. Alexander Crosby died at his home on Dayan Street in Lowville, NY. He was the son of Hopkins and Mary Porter Crosby and was born in Martinsburg on October 18, 1836. He began his medical practice in 1862 and was elected to the State Assembly in 1875 where he served for several years. On Feb. 23, 1864, he was married to Addie M. Macoy of Martinsburg. She died March 16, 1907. Dr. Crosby married again on November 24, 1908 to Grace Rugg of Lowville, who survives.
Mar. 24 th	Judge Warren Higley died at his home at 66 W. 40 th St., NYC yesterday at the age of 78. Higley, a graduate of Hamilton College, was admitted to the Ohio bar in 1874 and elected a judge in Cincinnati in 1881. He later moved his law practice to NYC. Higley was an avid conservationist, a former President of the Adirondack League Club, a founder of the American Forestry Association which helped to establish Arbor Day nationwide, and of friend of all the leaders of the environmental movement of his time including Bernard E. Fernow, Theodore Roosevelt, and Gilford Pinchot.
April 6 th	The Adams Hose Company elected the following officers for the ensuing year: President W. P. Winterbotham, VP Arthur Miller, Secretary H. L. Donnelly, Treasurer Ferris Williams, Foreman Edward Harwood, First Ass't Foreman Frederick Russell, Second Ass't Foreman Peter Rivett, Trustees – P. L. Lynch and William Glenn.
April 13 th	James A. Galvin died at his residence in Carthage this past Saturday from an illness of 3 months. Galvin was a former assistant supervisor of the Black River Canal under Samuel F. Garmon. He was connected with the building of dams on the Fulton Chain from 1883-1890. During that time, he acquired 6,500 acres along the 4 th , 5 th , 6 th , 7 th and Limekiln Lakes and engaged in a real estate business to dispose of the tract for the development of summer cottage and hotel sites.
April 27 th	Tom Clancy was killed last Friday in the mill at McKeever by being drawn into a machine called the hog, which cuts up the waste for burning. No trace of relatives has been found although he was supposed to have a wife and two married children in the Buffalo area. ¹

¹ Thomas Clancy worked as a bookkeeper for T. B. Basselin and lived in Croghan, Lewis Co. in 1905. He was 51 yrs. of age according to the NYS Census. According to his obituary notice, he was a former car tracer for the Fall Brook Railroad and had worked for J. B. Todd's lumber company in 1910.

May 3 rd	Crystal Springs Camp on Fourth Lake owned by Mr. and Mrs. Gus Syphert was burned to the ground yesterday. Prompt assistance by nearby camp owners prevent the flames from spreading to other properties. The camp was value about \$4,000.
May 10 th	While forest fires raged in the Adirondacks and the Catskills, a bill providing \$50,000 to hire forest fighters and patrolmen is being held up by the Senate finance committee. The recommendations of Forest Commission Thomas M. Osborne have been stymied because he is “a foe of Tammany and Charles F. Murphy.”
May 15 th	Supervisor E. B. Pullman and other Herkimer Board members met in Old Forge May 15 th to tour the Joy Tract area as a possible site for a county tuberculosis sanatorium. Dr. R. S. Lindsay was the keynote speaker at a dinner that followed at the Forge House with the following in attendance: G. G. Hoffman, Prof. Claffee, W. J. Thistlethwaite, E. L. Marks, J. W. Barber, D. Strobel, D. Cannon, M. Callahan, J. P. Canfield, W. I. Taber, and W. Winterbotham.
June 1 st	The funeral for Civil War veteran Hon. H. Dwight Grant was held in Boonville this past week. Mr. Grant was born in Boonville in 1833 and enlisted in Company I, 117 th Regiment of New York Volunteers in August of 1862. After the war, Grant served as a supervisor and member of the NYS Assembly. He was a master boatbuilder and built the first steamboat, Hunter, to operate on the Fulton Chain. For 23 years, Mr. Grant had charge of the Lewis Lawrence camp on Fourth Lake. He was survived by his wife and two sons, Floyd of Schenectady and Lewis of Boonville.
June	The boarding house owned by Patrick Moynehan called the “Carry Inn” at Raquette Lake burned to the ground. The source of the fire is unknown.
June	In June 1911, workmen completed major kitchen renovations, repainted interior and exterior walls of the Forge House and added a piazza on the west side of the building. The Forge House was purchased from the Old Forge Company by William Thistlethwaite of Utica and Daniel Strobel of Herkimer for a reported \$32,000 in November of 1910. The property includes 1,300 of building lots and woodlands. Lawrence Charbonneau, the former manager was replaced by popular former proprietors, Alexander and Nellie Briggs.
June 25 th	Gov. John A. Dix motored to his summer camp at McKeever where he plans to stay for the weekend.
July	Rev. “Henry” Thamelng became the first resident priest of Raquette Lake, replacing the services of Rev. John Fitzgerald of Old Forge. Masses were held at Long Point during the summer and at various homes or in the Raquette Lake Hotel Lobby. The Franciscan Fathers of the Order of Minor Conventual were invited to administer as well to St. Paul’s in Blue Mountain, Holy Rosary in Big Moose, St. Anthony’s in Inlet, and at the two stations in Carter and Brandreth.
July 6 th	The Fulton Chain Navigation Co. presented William Christie and his bride an extension table and two chairs for a wedding present. The happy couple will make their home at Ben Sperry’s cottage on Park Ave. Frank Johnson’s camp at Moulin burned to the ground on July 4 th .
July 11 th	George H. Stoddard, an Adirondack guide at the Bisby Lakes, died at the home of his mother in Boonville. He was born in 1866.
July 20 th	Rev. Samuel Niccolls of St. Louis has arrived with his family to spend the summer at his Camp Pinehurst on First Lake. Mrs. Fred Becker of Fourth Lake was in Old Forge, called by the death from

	<p>tuberculosis of Miss Jennie Finch. Miss Finch came here last year from Altamont for the benefit of her health.</p> <p>Arloine Burdick, age 16, died after an acute attack of indigestion several days ago. She was working as a clerk at the wigwam of Mr. DeGraff during the summer.</p> <p>Dentist Dr. Thomas McGraith has opened a practice in the Covey Bldg. on Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesdays.</p>
Aug.	Sealed bids were opened in Inlet Dec. 10, 1910 for building a road from the Sixth Lake Dam to Limekiln Lake. The contract called for the road to be completed by August of 1911.
Aug. 12 th	Beatrice B. Burdick, the daughter of Blanche and Vernon Burdick, was born in Old Forge on August 12, 1911. (She married Alvoris L. Foisy in Tupper Lake in 1932 and died at her home in Thendara at the age of 75 on July 1, 1987.)
Aug. 16 th	Sebastian Codest, a laborer on the Raquette Lake division of the New York Central, was struck by a light engine while he was operating a hand cart on the tracks 2 ½ miles from Clearwater. A co-worker, Vincenzo Mancino, accompanied the severely injured man on the train to St. Luke's hospital in Utica where his right leg was amputated. His recovery was in grave doubt. Codest had no known relatives in this country and may have family in Italy.
Sept.	Annual wages for teachers in the Town of Webb for 1911: A. T. Claffee - \$120; Nellie Arfling - \$70; Julia McCarthy, Edith Hamm, Mabel E. Byrson, Ada De La Fleur - \$64; Clara A. Traynor, Elizabeth Farley, Jennie Kennedy, Margaret Helmer, Maud Boyle - \$60; Bess L. Blount, Frances Sheard, Lulu E. Bowker - \$52; Miss Washburn – Supply teacher - \$32.
Sept. 14 th	<p>The walls are up and the roof is being put on the new fire station on Crosby Blvd. The first story is of concrete block and will be used for apparatus. The second story is of red-brick.</p> <p>Verne Erwin will replace J. C. Woodruff on Sept. 15th as the dam tender for Old Forge and Sixth Lake. Woodruff, a Republican, will vacate the dam house which is owned by the State.</p>
Sept. 15 th	The wedding of Charles Oscar Martin of Big Moose and Alice Foote took place in Greig at the home of her mother, Mrs. Dewitt Foote. Mr. Martin is to be congratulated on the capture of one of Greig's finest young ladies.
Oct. 9 th	Ernest Salisbury, a 22 year old Brown Tract lumberman from Fulton Chain, was severely wounded in the abdomen while hunting near the Hellgate Ponds yesterday. After being shot by an unknown assailant, Salisbury fired off his gun for assistance. Receiving no aid, he was forced to walk and crawl 3 miles back to Fulton Chain where he was taken by Dr. Nelson on the night train to a Utica hospital. The surgeons say his recovery is impossible.
Oct. 11 th	Mary Lord Harrison, widow of President Benjamin Harrison, sells her property on Second Lake.
Nov. 4 th	Alfred G. Vanderbilt's private car "Wayfarer" was brought to Raquette Lake from Utica on the Adirondack Division of the New York Central's train No. 55 as far as Clearwater, then by private train the remainder of the way.
Nov. 8 th	Gov. John A. Dix walked from his camp in McKeever to the station on the evening of Nov. 7 th to learn over the long-distance telephone that the Republicans had gained control of the Assembly. Dix, a Democrat, had no comment to make to reporters.

Nov. 11 th	A large wooden bridge was built over the Moose River at McKeever this fall that connects with the new State highway from McKeever to Fulton Chain. Large stones on the Moose River road from Boonville were removed, greatly improving the road for teams and automobiles to McKeever.
Nov. 20 th	James Brown was arrested as he stepped off the train in Utica, charged with entering the school building at Bald Mountain and lighting a fire in the stove using some of the school property as fuel. He was taken back to Fulton Chain for arraignment by a deputy sheriff.
Dec. 1 st	Walter Gass, son of Mr. and Mrs. Wilson Gass of Mexico, NY died at Old Forge last week of tuberculosis.
Dec. 2 nd	It is reported that electric lights will be installed in the high school. This will make it possible to hold evening meetings in the building. A debating and literary society will be organized. Electric lights, new carpet, and a new ceiling are being installed at the Presbyterian church on Crosby Blvd.
Dec. 29 th	Callahan & Sperry, who have the NY Central Railroad contract for ice cutting again this winter, have about 60 men and five women employed. The payroll generates about \$6,000-\$10,000 annually and 1,200 tons is produced daily. The Christmas service at the Presbyterian Church included singing by the primary school children, stories by Miss Ethel Codling, and an illustrated sermon Jesus of Nazareth with 30 pictures from the work of English painter William Hole. Sleighing and skating have been enjoyed this past week. A dance will be held New Years Eve at the Masonic Hall with music provided by Brown's orchestra.