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Town of Virgil News

VOLUME IV ISSUE III

WINTER 2019

The Virgil Website Has a New Look

By: Alane Van Donsel

I hope you are all enjoying the Town of Virgil's website. There is so much information on there. The website recently received an overhaul. Go Daddy is our host. The five year contract with Go Daddy was ending. We originally renewed the old website, but I later found out that the old website was obsolete and no longer would be supported. The sales person I spoke to said we could get a new website. It would be

more modern and mobile friendly and less expensive. I was excited. The only catch, the entire website will need to be rebuilt and all of the content moved and all of this needed to be done within three weeks, during tax time. I am happy to say I was able to get it done. The new website is wonderful. You can pay taxes, water & Sewer bills and Town Clerk fees online. Information is being added daily. Please

let me know if there is anything else you would like to see on the website. Visit www.Virgilny.org and check out the new look.



Town and County Tax Collecting in Full Swing

You may have heard it been said, "there are only two guarantee's in life, death and taxes." That's kind of a sad thought, but it's true, especially here in New York State. The Virgil Town Clerk and Tax Collectors' office has been busy collecting the Town and County Taxes for the good tax payers of Virgil. A few years ago the County voted to break up the tax payments in installments to make it easier for some folks to pay over time. This notion didn't come with out opposition, some Tax Collectors were not happy, because of the additional work entailed. Instead of tax collecting

ending on January 31st, tax collecting would be extended until June 1st. I personally feel it is a tremendous help to some folks and I have taken part in the partial payment option myself. Every year the good folks at the Real Property tax office collect the data on how many tax payers are taking part in the partial payment option. One can only speculate that they are collecting this data to see how popular the program is and to see if it is worth continuing in the future. If I ever hear of word that they plan on discontinuing the program, I will let you know. I hope

it does continue. Please note that in order to take part in the payment option 50% of the taxes due need to be paid by Jan. 31st. We will be collecting taxes here at the Town Clerk's Office until June 1st. After that date we will turn all unpaid taxes over to the County Treasurer. At that point more interest and penalties are added and the names do go in the paper. It takes three years of unpaid taxes for property to be auctioned by the County. Please let us know if you have any questions on taxes.



A Tribute to Community Member: Margret "Peg" Stamp



Long time Virgil resident Margret Stamp passed away on Friday February 1, 2019 at Hilldebrant Hospice Care Facility, in Rochester NY, at

the age of 86. Many of you might remember Peg, as she was endearingly called, as a very involved community member. Peg served as the deputy Town Clerk for many years under the command of Bonnie Hand. Peg also volunteered for many community organizations, such as the Virgil Historical Society, the Virgil Food Bank and she was a member of the Virgil United Methodist Church.

Peg was predeceased by her husband, Malcolm Stamp. Both Peg and Malcom lived at Greek Peak and both were avid skiers. They were very involved with Greek Peak. Peg was also a ski instructor for the Monroe County Parks Department. She was a member of the Rochester Ski Club and an official for the 1980 Winter Olympic Games held in Lake Placid, NY. You may also recognize Peg from working as an elections inspector in the Town of Virgil for many years. Peg retired from Muxworthy's Ski Haus and GM Precast. She is survived by her sons Kirk and Amy Stamp and Eric and Amy Stamp and her grandson Rory Chessia Stamp. She also left behind her beloved puppy Chole. There will be a memorial service held for Peg on March 30th, 2019 at 11:00

AM at Perkins Funeral Home, 55 W. Main Street, Dryden, NY 13053. www.perkinsfuneralhome.com The family has requested that in lieu of flowers, donations can be made to the Virgil United Methodist Food Pantry, 1194 Church Street, Virgil NY.



Malcom & Peg Stamp and sons, 1967



“A committee has been formed of resident volunteers to look into what the building could possibly be used for in the future.”

Virgil School Will Close After the 2018-2019 School Year: Now What?

As I'm sure many of you know that Virgil Elementary School building will shut its doors after June 2019. The School District will keep the building for a year, but then what? This is exactly the question that a dedicated group of Virgil volunteers has been looking into.

A committee has been formed of resident volunteers to look into

what the building could possibly be used for in the future. There have been many different ideas presented from senior housing to a make it space.

The school district has a few options in disposing the building. One is to shutter it, but then they will need to maintain it which costs approximately \$55,000.00 a year. Two

is to auction off to the highest bidder. Three is to give or sell it to another government entity at a very reasonable price. This is where the Town and the committee come into play, to see if it is feasible for the Town to take over the building.

If you would like more information contact the Virgil Town Clerk.



The Virgil Historical Society will Host Noted Local Quilter

The Virgil Historical Society will host noted local quilter Barbara Ackley at their quarterly meeting on Thursday, March 21, 7pm at the Virgil Town Hall. She will make a presentation called “Quilting: Past and Present.” The presentation is free and open to all who are interested.



Vacation Bible School 2019: July 8-12, 2019

PLACE: VIRGIL UNITED METHODIST CHURCH TIME: 9 A.M. – NOON DAILY
AGES: PRE-PRE-K TO STUDENTS WHO HAVE JUST FINISHED 8TH GRADE

Heading into its 19th year in Virgil, the focus of this year's Vacation Bible School will be to remind students that they were made on purpose for a purpose and that they matter; each and every one of them. With an action-packed opening and closing, games, snacks, crafts, and much more, they will have an opportunity to build relationships that will last a lifetime. Knowing that they have a special purpose will give them a solid foundation to head into any and all new situations with confidence. Since so many of our graduating 6th graders want to come back, a class for 7th and 8th graders have been added for the first time this year. All are welcome to the concert and open house at 7:00 p.m. Thursday, July 11th to celebrate all that we have learned. Watch for the red and white sandwich board sign at the four corners for registration, as we get closer to the date. If you would like to volunteer, book your week off from work and contact Gayle Kryger 607.543.0833. Looking forward to an EPIC and memorable kick-off to our summer!

Snow

conditions can
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difference in a
track's
appearance –
wet snow
captures a print
better than
powdery snow.

Look for Wildlife Tracks this Winter

Now is a great time to search for winter tracks or other animal signs visible in the snow. It can be fun to be a detective and figure out what animals have been walking through your yard or across a trail. Here are a few tips to get you started:

- Snow conditions can make a difference in a track's appearance – wet snow captures a print better than powdery snow.
- Members in the dog family (coyote, fox, or dogs) will usually leave claw prints above the toes, while the cat family (bobcat or housecat) will not. You should see four toes on both front and back feet for both families.
- Rodents, such as squirrels, chipmunks, mice, muskrats, and voles, usually have four toes on the front feet and five on the back. Claws may or may not be seen.
- Bring a notebook, camera, or field guide with you.
- Sometimes an animal's droppings, or scat, can help you identify it - a rabbit's scat looks like small balls of sawdust.



Name These Tracks

My husband and I recently took our dog for a walk in the woods and we found these tracks. I thought they are just so perfect that I took a picture of them. Can you name the animal that these tracks belong to?

I can honestly say that looking for tracks in the winter is fun. We are so blessed with so many different species of animals here in Virgil. It was fun finding this article from the DEC after taking this picture. Alane Van Donsel

A LEGEND OF THE OLD TIOUGHNIOGA

Submitted By: Val Ross

A LEGEND OF THE OLD TIOUGHNIOGA
(Newspaper clipping, 1927, written by the Virgil Town Historian)

While looking over some old copies of the "Cortland County Express" on Tuesday we came across the following marriage notice: "In Virgil, NY, Jan. 24, 1850, by Rev. N. Mosher, Joel Stanton and Miss Mary Parker, all of the above place."

This notice awakened a train of memories of stories and events that occurred before our birth, but while our parents, Mr. and Mrs. Charles Parker, lived some two and a half miles below Blodgett Mills on the west side of the river. Then, as today, there was no way of crossing the Tioughnioga River at that particular point except by boat, there being no bridges from Blodgett Mills to Messen-gerville.

On the west side of the river there was the Parker settlement, two brothers, Calvin and William Parker, who were natives of Coventry, Rhode Island, and who there had married two sisters, Mary and Eliza Clark. Calvin Parker was our grandfather, and when his son, Charles married Huldah Haynes, (sister of N. H. Haynes, for a number of year sheriff and deputy sheriff of Cortland County) the third house was built, and was their home.

William Parker had quite a large family, and his daughter, Mary, was married to Joel Stanton from across the river where he had lived with his mother, who had been left a widow by the tragic death of her husband who had been accidentally poisoned. Joel, from all account we heard in our childhood, was a fine, bonnie lad-die, well liked by everybody; and after his marriage he made his home on the west side of the river, often poling his boat across to visit his mother on the other side.

On Dec 24, a year after his marriage, he crossed the river in his boat accompanied by his father-in-law, William Parker, and his brother-in-law, Henry Dermander, we believe. It was bitter cold, and ice was running in the river, and on the return trip, when about half way across, the boat capsized. Mr. Parker and Mr. Dermander escaped by clinging to the boat until someone came to their assistance, but Joel Stanton's body had disappeared, and, although search was continually made, and every known means of raising the body from the water was tried, it could not be found, and of course the case was talked of far and near, but especially along the river where the accident occurred.



"Pictured the Frozen Tioughnioga, from a youtube video posted by John Calvin in 2018"

Two weeks after the accident our mother awakened our father in the night, crying, "Charles, wake up! Go and get the neighbors and bring Joel Stanton's body home." Thinking she had brooded so long on the subject that she was having a nightmare over it, he tried to soothe her, reminding her of their long and fruitless search, but she told him the body was just two miles down the river, caught in an eel rack, that Joel had just come and stood by her bed and told her so. Fearing for her reason, Father roused the Parker settlement, sent some of the women to stay with Mother, and with their tin lanterns with candles inside, the procession marched down the river to the designated spot, where they found Joel Stanton's body caught fast in an eel rack, and sorrowfully bore it home.



By: Rhonda Wade

As I attended the very first meeting in the fall of 2018 as a "never ever", the name that veteran volunteers call us first timers, I didn't know what to expect. What I found was a family of fellow skiers who love this amazing outdoor sport and who want any and all people, regardless of ability, to taste and see for themselves, what drives our desire to bundle up and put slippery boards on the bottom of our feet.

I found a community of retired engineers to active special needs schoolteachers and almost every vocation in between, even students 16 years of age and up are encouraged to volunteer.

As I write this article, I just finished a morning of skiing with a 40-year-old blind man who had never skied in his life before.

With three other volunteers, I cried as I watched him go down the magic carpet on his very own for the very first time. Not only did they teach him how to ski, they taught me how to teach him how to ski. This morning was by far the most rewarding I have ever experienced as a Virgil resident and I have lived here for 18 years!

With structure and determination, per Kristy Gault, the Volunteer President, "the focus of our organization is to be inclusive." Per Merriam-Webster, this means "all embracing, broad in orientation or scope" and that is exactly how to describe the desire of each volunteer for all participants; that no one who wants to experience the freedom of skiing, is left behind.

This past weekend, some participants and coaches even trained to compete in the Winter Games held February 22-23 in Swain NY.



If I can do this, I can do anything!"

The last day of this year's program is Sunday, March 17th and I encourage all residents, whether planning to be a participant or a volunteer, to visit the Adaptive Ski Center at Greek Peak to see this amazing program in action. Come from 9 a.m to 3 p.m. on any of the remaining Saturdays and Sundays.

Our mission is simple: To provide snow sports experiences and skill development for people with disabilities utilizing the safest and most effective adaptive equipment and qualified/trained volunteer staff in a fun, supportive, and positive learning atmosphere.

For more information, go to www.gpadaptive.org





Town of Virgil

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**We're here to serve you. Visit
our website at:**

www.Virgilny.org



VISA



Virgil Town Supervisor: John Kaminski

Deputy Supervisor: Jereme Stiles

Town Council Members: Eric Snow

Gary Pelton

Matt Denniston

The Town Board meets on the 2nd Thursday of each month. Meetings start at 6:30 P.M.

- Town Clerk/Collector: Alane Van Donsel
- Deputy Clerk Makenzie Morgan
- Town's Bookkeeper: Gina Nourse
- Town Justice: R. Scott Elston
- Highway Superintendent: Britt Morse
- Deputy Highway Supervisor: Dan Courtney
- Animal Control Officer: Lindsay Kemp
- Town Assessor: Brian Fitts
- Town Attorney: Patrick M. Snyder, Esq.
- Code Enforcement: Kevin McMahan
- County Legislator: Sandy Price
- Town Historian: Marsha Powell

What is a Name?

By: Marsha Powell

Many of us travel along Page Green Road on our way to and from Cortland. Some have said they thought the name may have come from some park long abandoned, or yet a fictional character.

As it turns out, Page Green was a well-known resident of Virgil. Born in Onondaga in 1806, he moved to Virgil with his family in 1811. His father was a Universalist clergyman. He worked at various jobs while growing up. After marrying Tirzah Merrill at age 21, he farmed 70 acres until he reached the age of 30.

Page Green only attended country schools for his education. He became a self-educated lawyer. He began trying cases in justice's courts. He gave up farming completely and toiled full-time in the legal profession. It is said he handled 2,000 cases in his 30 years as a town magistrate. A quote often written about him reads: "It was said of Page Green that he was true to his clients, indefatigable in his ef-

forts and deemed no hardship too severe if thereby he advanced the interests of those who retained him". His friends called him a lawyer, attorney or counselor, but to others who had to stand before him in court, he was called a "pettifogger". Pettifogger is a term given to a disreputable lawyer or magistrate.

Two versions of a divorce case show his sense of humor as it can be applied to the law. The first version is that a group of young people were taking singing lessons. Upon completion of the lesson, a young couple was persuaded to participate in a mock wedding. Elder Crumb, a minister, performed the ceremony. A few days later rumor surfaced that an actual marriage had taken place. Neither the bride nor groom wanted to be married, so they consulted Mr. Green. For a sum of \$5, he solved their problem by stating: "What God and the old minister has joined together, I, Page Green, set asunder".

The second version varies by stating an incident occurred outside the courtroom. A couple wishing divorce stood before Mr. Green. He stated "That which the Almighty and the parson joined together, I, Page Green, put asunder".

With either version, the couple went their separate ways and "lived happily ever after".

It is said that Page Green only ever suffered one illness, which was both his first and his last. While arguing a case in court in Cortland, he became ill with Typhoid Fever. A week later he died at age 63.

