

Town of Preble Building Permits Fall 2015 Report

Date	Property Owner	Notes
4/27/2015	Don Fisher	24' x 26' Garage Little York Lake Rd.
4/27/2015	Christopher White	30' x 40' Garage E. Homer Baltimore Rd.
5/18/2015	Matt Loomis	Deck E. Homer Baltimore Rd.
5/20/2015	Dorothy Dyer	Demo Song Lake Rd
6/1/2015	Amy Bertini	Deck Little York Lake Rd.
6/23/2015	Chapman, Riggs & Burns LLC	Remodel Rt. 281
7/6/2015	Laura Swayze	Pool Song Mtn. Rd.
7/13/2015	Michael Hughes	Solar Little York Lake Rd.
7/20/15	Matthew McCall	Add on 12'x32' Garage Rt. 11
8/3/2015	Bob Lewis	8'x10' Deck, 8'x10' Mudroom Rt.11
8/17/2015	Mary belle Homes	New 2015 Home Marybelle Rd.
8/17/2015	ATT	Reinforce Tower, Remove mounts and Antenna Preble Rd.
9/13/2015	Peter Werner	12' x 16' Shed and Stove Green Lake Rd.
9/28/2015	Eric Shirley	24'x40' Pole Barn Song Lake Rd
10/5/2015	Kevin Stack	8'x28', 12'x14' Deck Pirate's Cove

Code Enforcement Officer Rick Fritz holds office hours in the Preble Town Hall each Monday afternoon from 2:00 P.M. to 4:00 P.M., and can be reached other times at telephone number 607-591-9898.



Preble Today

Volume 6, Number 2 For the People of Preble Fall, 2015

Remembering Bill Griffen

Bonnie Raitt has a song that reminds us all that, "True love is hard to find." Long time Preble residents Bill and Judy Griffen were among the lucky ones who did find true love, in each other. Having met back in 1963, they married in 1965 and settled down on Song Lake. Bill and Judy shared 42 memorable years together in their beloved lake side home where they raised their daughter Amy and Bill's two children from a previous marriage, Mark and Kimberly.

For over 50 years Bill worked as a full time professor at SUNY Cortland, touching the hearts and minds of over 11,000 students. He viewed himself as an educator first, but other passions included baseball, drumming and photography. A social activist for half a century, he championed the rights of those in need and protested non-violently against a range of issues. In his own words he, "...made an attempt to try to minimize those things that threaten life, whether it's war-like behavior or disregard for the environment."

Bill passed away in 2007 when he lost an 11 year battle against cancer. When first asked about Bill's life, Judy directs folks to a website, www.AmericansWhoTellTheTruth.org. The site was set up by an ambitious and talented Maine painter, Robert Shetterly. Since 2002 he has painted 215 representations of Americans whom he



considers to be models of courageous citizenship. A stunning portrait of Bill's handsome, smiling face is there on the page with a multitude of other movers and shakers, past and present. He is flanked by the likes of Helen Keller, Abraham Lincoln, Muhammad Ali, Susan B. Anthony and Chief Oren Lyons, to name a few. Bill's accompanying biography includes his many accomplishments and tells of a life filled with deep commitment to the creation of a more just and sustainable world.

On a recent Fall morning, as the calm lake surface sparkled outside the bank of windows in Judy's lovely home, she related the enthralling

story of the life she'd shared with Bill. The profound depth of her pride in and devotion to her husband became clearly evident as she spoke of him.

Bill's remarkable life began in 1928 in Merrick Long Island. From an early age Bill developed a love for both Jazz music and sports, especially baseball and wrestling. He became a gifted drummer and athlete. Within the realms of music performance and sports, Bill developed an attitude of acceptance for people of color, from all different backgrounds.

In 1950 Bill earned a Bachelor's Degree in Physical Education and Health from Cortland College. After serving two years in the Army he

Town of Preble
P.O. Box 234
Preble, NY 13141

**Preble Fire Dept.
Upcoming Events
Pancake Breakfast
November 22 - 7:30 to 11a.m.
January 24 - 7:30 to 11a.m.
February 28 - 7:30 to 11a.m.
Chicken Barbecue
March 6, 2016**



Preble Today

Offices at Town Hall
Preble Road, Preble, New York 13141
Town Hall (607) 749-3199

Town Supervisor: - James Doring
Email jdoring@twcny.rr.com

Deputy Supervisor: Peter Knapp - 607-749-2336
Town Council: Al Socha - 315-810-4049
Linda Riehlman - 607-749-3790
Dave Morse- 607-749-2856

Town Clerk and Tax Collector:
Jane Davenport - Phone 607-749-3199
Email prebletownclerk@centralny.twcbe.com

Deputy Town Clerk: Elizabeth Pittman

Town Justice: Donna Doody - Phone 607-749-2377
Justice Clerk: Haily Doody

Highway Supt.: Jeff Griswold - Phone 607-749-2710
Deputy Highway: Dale Moshier

Building Inspector and Code enforcement Officer:
W. Rick Fritz - Phone: 607-591-9898

Dog Control: Paul Burhans, Phone: 607-749-2734
Lindsay Anderson

Assessor: Bill Bearup: 607-423-2558

Town Attorney: Donald Armstrong

Bookkeeper: Gina Nourse

County Legislator: Don Boyden
Phone: 607-749-8709

Planning Board: James Harris, Chairman
Barbara Albro
Tim Coyne
Maureen Knapp
Jim Seaman
Don Armstrong, Attorney
Deborah Putman, Secretary

Planning Board regular scheduled meeting:
4th Wednesday of each month at 7 pm

Zoning Board of Appeals: Daniel O'Shea, Chairman
Jay Currie
Robert Lieber
Nancy Dalley
Amy Bertini
Don Armstrong, Attorney
Deborah Putman, Secretary

Zoning Board of Appeals regular scheduled meeting:
1st Thursday of each month at 7:30 pm

Board of Assessment & Review:
Mike Compton
William Underwood
Charles Dalley
Bob Allen

Recreation Chairman: Josh Mowers
Phone 845-476-0738

Historian: Anne Henderson, Phone 607-749-2044

Population: 1,393 (2010 Census)
Registered Voters: 910

Town of Preble website: www.preble-ny.org
Cortland County website: www.cortland-co.org

Preble Today is a publication of the Preble Town Board.
Preble community members, friends and families are invited
to submit materials and ideas for future newsletters to:
Deborah Putman at deborahputman@earthlink.net
or call 315-729-1422

Message From the Supervisor.....

Happy autumn everyone. As we approach Thanksgiving, we are thankful for what we have and we look back over the past year to evaluate what we accomplished. At the town level, much is being accomplished. Being a very small town, we are all part time or volunteers. The only full time people are the three highway guys.

Over the past year we have been working on the new highway garage. The architectural and engineering work has now been completed. The next step will be to invite contractors to bid on the work and to arrange financing. Although we have been saving diligently for many years, there is still not enough funds available to build without borrowing.

We have also been focusing time and energy on our park and recreation department. The park has been busy over the summer with family reunions, concerts, youth programs, softball, volleyball, a car show and a family benefit. In the spring, we hope to see the Homer High School baseball team using the ball field. Our new recreation chairman is Josh Mowers. He can assist anyone who wishes to use the park. Arrangements can also be made using the Preble website on a first come, first serve basis after January first. Our web based park calendar is easy to use and totally transparent. We encourage all Preble residents to use the park as needed and desired.

The Preble Town Board recently approved the 2016 budget of \$750,195 for 2016. The town tax rate will be \$1.2394 per thousand dollars of assessed valuation. That is up from the 2015 rate of \$1.2150. Real property in the Town of Preble is assessed at \$87,486,517. That is up by \$241,628 from last year.

The Preble Town Board is continuously striving for greater transparency in everything that is done. The Preble website is used to post announcements, information and meeting minutes. We are even posting the audio to the Town, Zoning and Planning Board meetings now. All residents are encouraged to attend the Town Board meetings held on the second Monday of every month. At the end of every meeting there is time reserved for questions and comments. The Town Board will always do its best to address your concerns.

I would also like to acknowledge the work that Deb Brock did on our Town Board. She initiated several projects during her tenure along with being a strong voice at the board table. We wish Deb and her husband Ken the very best with their move to Ohio.

Throughout the winter months, please consider visiting the Preble Fire Station for a Sunday morning hot pancake breakfast to help support the local fire department. Please enjoy the snowmobiling, skiing and all the winter activities the area has to offer, and drive safely.

At Your Service,

Jim Doring
Supervisor

Editor's Note - Fall 2015 Election Results were not available when Preble Today went to press.



Jim Doring
Town Supervisor

says he loved Sunday evenings, which was when he'd excitedly plan the upcoming week's lessons. Current events were always firmly embedded in the structure of the lessons and teaching his students to think imaginatively and critically was paramount to Bill. In 1999, he received the Distinguished Alumnus Award from Cortland College and is regarded by many as being one of the great educators of our time. Bill was also nominated by his colleagues for the Distinguished Service Professorship Award. In his nomination packet a high ranking member of the NYS Education Department said about Bill (who was his former 7th grade teacher), "He has made of his life a compelling example of the cumulative power and impact of effective teaching, thoughtful scholarship and inspirational community service." Bill's commitment to teaching full time continued up until six months before he died in 2007.

Judy believes that regardless of what people thought of Bill's politics or actions, it was very hard to dislike him due to his positive, friendly

personality. One of his colleagues observed of Bill that," Dr. Griffen has evidenced the rarest of traits: The ability to advance issues of concern in a civil way appropriate to an educator and to win the respect even of those with whom he differs."

A large print of Shetterly's tribute to Bill hangs in a position of honor in Judy's house. In it, Bill's exuberant expression conveys his good natured, compassionate demeanor. In 2001, Bill said, "Simply, I feel bad when others are treated badly, treated in ways that I would find troubling, or more strongly, dehumanizing. That would include Blacks in South Africa or Tennessee, bombed-out Vietnamese, street people in Syracuse, about-to-be-radiated farmers in Cortland County, or young people in the military being socialized to institutional violence as a means for solving human problems."

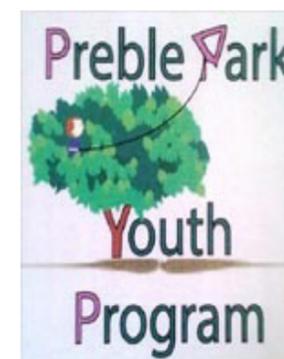
As he neared the end of his life Bill continued teaching and helping others for as long as his illness allowed. Working with the American Cancer Society, he spoke about prostate can-

cer and provided support for other men afflicted with this disease. Bill had told Judy to let him know when she decided it was time for him to stop teaching, and she did. In Bill's Candidacy Letter for the Distinguished Alumnus Award he wrote, "All of my achievements were grounded in a loving, caring and supportive family. I recognize the crucial role the partnership with my wife...has played in sustaining my work as she joined me over the years in risk taking situations. Judy Griffen has compassionately and intelligently been there for me and others in struggles for a better world."

The document supporting Bill's promotion to the rank of Distinguished Service Professor includes this reference to Bill, "He was recognized widely as a willing, active and dependably controversial citizen of the college community, always loyal to the purposes and values of a university." The town of Preble can be proud to have had such a courageous citizen living in our midst.

by Deb Putman

Reflections on the Preble Park Youth Program, 2015



The theme for this summer's PPYP was "Play, Learn and Grow Together". Over 45 participants and 12 volunteers did just that, with the busy schedule resulting in many new and exciting memories for all. Youths spent every Tuesday through Thursday together at the Preble Park, enjoying a variety of crafts and games. There was plenty of opportunity for playing with friends, and at the end of each day together a hot meal was enjoyed by all. On Friday field trips youths explored the M.O.S.T. and Wonderworks, golfed and went swimming at Green Lakes State Park. They also enjoyed ice cream, roller skated and watched a Syracuse Chiefs baseball game. Two Friday Family Movie Night events were also held at the park.

It was great to see strong bonds develop between youths and PPYP staff. By August 20th, when the Family Barbecue was held, the group had become like a family; expressing concern when someone was absent and always welcoming back their friend upon their return. The PPYP volunteers were worth their weight in gold, as together they logged in more than 600 hours.

Volunteers included many parents who made sure their child was in attendance, then stayed to participate in activities, or to be a chaperone on field trips. Several compassionate and caring community members volunteered their time to enrich the lives of all those involved, every week, either at the park or on the weekly field trips. These volunteers cannot be given enough praise. Thanks also go out to community businesses that donated towards special events.

As summer came to an end, youths started discussing next year's field trips. They asked "Can we go to Corning Glass?", "Can Mr. Mike build something with us again?" and "Mr. Rick was fun at swimming. Can we go again?" Planning for next year's program will continue and the Preble Park Youth Program is looking forward to seeing your youth next summer. Look for more details about next years' PPYP program in the Spring Edition of Preble Today.

Please feel free to contact Mrs. Renee Compton for more information at Prebleparkyouthprogram@gmail.com

A Message from the Highway Superintendent:

As this is being written, fall related work is being completed and trucks are getting readied for winter. One thousand tons of a sand mixture, (85% sand, 15% salt and 6 gallons of liquid per ton) is stockpiled in the building on Rt. 281. This summer a highway truck burned, due to an oil line that ruptured and sprayed oil on the exhaust. The truck was fully insured, but cannot be replaced until late winter. Thanks to the Town of Tully for loaning the Town of Preble a spare truck for the winter. The surrounding towns always work together with us to deliver the biggest bang for your tax dollar!

The budget process is just being finalized. The increase has been held to .73%.

In order to stabilize the budget we are starting to use 'life cycle costing' on equipment. This involves taking into account the original cost, anticipated maintenance expenses and the value when sold. The goal is to rotate the equipment inventory at the lowest cost to the Town.

Bidding will begin soon on the Highway Garage Project. Hopefully the building will start in the spring.

Please keep in mind that there is no parking on Town Roads from November 1 to April 1. As always, feel free to contact me with any questions or concerns at the Highway Garage, 607-749-2710.

Have a safe winter.

Preble Garden Club News

Preble Garden Club meetings run from April through December. Meetings take place on the second Tuesday of each month, at 7 p.m. The club members have had a very exciting year to date. The season began with an educational presentation on making maple syrup, made by Cristy and Nate Williams of Dutch Hill Maple.

Niles Brown of the New York State Bluebird Society talked about both bluebirds and eagles. Bill Anderson, of Anderson's Farm Market, joined the group at one meeting for a wonderful talk about apples. A plant exchange was held, and there were two field trips taken: to Strawberry Fields Hydroponic Farm in Skaneateles, and to Saunderson's in Seneca Falls. A picnic was had in Preble Park, where the garden photo entries for the Backyard Photo Contest were displayed and voted upon.

Winners were: 1st Place- Esther Hoose, 2nd Place- Ellen Diliello and 3rd Place- Nancy Dalley. October's meeting featured the making of a Fall craft with canning jars and the Harvest Dinner was held earlier this month. December will be very busy as a cookie exchange and a White Elephant Gift Exchange are planned. Members will also be making Kissing Balls. After December, meetings will resume in April 2016. New members are always welcome at any time. Please feel free to contact Club President Esther Hoose at 749-3382 for more information.

Friends and Fun At 2015 C-OFOKLA Water Festival

Close to one hundred people turned out on a cool and dreary summer day to celebrate the 8th Annual Water Festival, held at the Dwyer Park Pavilion. A good time was had by all. Hot dogs were snapped up as quickly as they came off the grill, and nearly all of the "dishes to pass" were cleaned out by the end of the afternoon. Fresh coffee and donated donut holes (from the local Dunkin' Donuts) were enjoyed along with other baked treats, as people tapped their toes to Colleen Kattau and Dos XX. A variety of information and presentations were available from numerous organizations. Aside from the Cortland-Onondaga Federation of Kettle Lakes Association (C-OFOKLA), other organizations represented were Solarize Central New York, Lake Bottom Blankets, Project Watershed, and NYSFOLA. There was information on each of the local kettle lakes, brand-

ed merchandise from Tully Lake, and a presentation on Little York's, "Melee with the Milfoil".

Tom Hughes ran a Bluebird Box building activity, provided by the State Parks Dept. in cooperation with the NYS Bluebird Society. More than a dozen kids got into the act and went home with a completed bluebird box. After the event, one parent said, "My daughter had a great time building the birdhouse. That was a hit for sure!"

Water Festival attendees selected the winner of the first annual End of Summer photo contest. There were 31 entries from 14 people. Evelyn Petite, of Tully Lake noted that, "It is so difficult to pick one, they're all so good!". Congratulations to Jim Anderson for winning with his entry titled "The Morning Sun". You can see all of the entries at www.C-OFOKLA.org.

All-in-all, the day was a great suc-

cess. Several first time visitors noted that they will definitely put it on their calendars for next year. We extend our thanks to our watershed partner, Central New York Land Trust, and corporate partners AXI Digital, CH2M, and Pall Corporation for making this event possible.



pursued a teaching certificate that allowed him to teach core subjects. His teaching career started in Marathon, instructing 7th graders in English and Social Studies from 1953 to 1955. He strayed from teaching in the mid-fifties while following his dream of becoming a professional drummer. After an unexpected invitation to do so, Bill joined the SUNY Cortland faculty in 1955. Courses he taught involved Foundations of Education and Philosophy of Education. Throughout his long tenure he always made connections between education and societal needs. Bill continued his studies and earned both a Master's degree (1957) and a Doctorate (1967) from Cornell University.

In 1961, he developed a friendship with a white graduate student named William Moore. Moore was a devoted activist who was a member of the Congress for Racial Equality (CORE). In one of their many conversations Bill was asked by Moore, "So what do you do?" He replied that he taught. William Moore repeated the question and Bill realized that he was being asked what actions did he take to effect the societal change he desired. Two years later Moore was gunned down in Alabama during a peaceful one man crusade to end racism. This was a life changing event that spurred Bill into action and decades of social activism. He also ended every class he taught from that point on with a tribute to William Moore.

Bill took part in the 1963 March on Washington where he witnessed Martin Luther King's historic, "I Have a Dream" speech. In the fall of that same year, while working on his Doctorate at Cornell, he was introduced to Judy. It was a few days after President

Kennedy was killed, and Bill's band was taking a break during their gig at a restaurant in Norwich where Judy was dining with her mom. Their courtship began that night and continued throughout the next two years.

In the summer of 1964, Bill went to Fayette County, Tennessee with several Cortland and Cornell faculty members and students to work on registering Black voters. It was a memorable, rewarding, but also dangerous experience and the car he drove down and back in had the bullet holes to prove it. Judy returned with him in the summer of 1965 to run literacy freedom schools for the children of sharecroppers. She speaks reverently of the many positive interactions with the families, especially the children who eagerly accepted the attention and affection from these mostly white, northern strangers.

Fayette County, Tennessee had the distinction of being the fourth poorest county in the country. Bill and Judy continued the relationship with the residents of Fayette County by forming a grass-roots organization involving churches in Preble and Cortland. Collections of a wide assortment of donated material goods, including sewing machines, were delivered repeatedly in Bill's station wagon. On many occasions they hosted Black leaders from Fayette Co. to speak at local churches around the Preble and Cortland area.

In the late summer of 1965 Bill and

Judy married and established their home on Song Lake. Soon after, Bill co-founded Cortland Citizens for Peace and tirelessly worked against the Vietnam War. He was very active in the Syracuse Peace Council. In 1968, and again in 1990 he ran for Congress, mostly to create a platform where he could widely address a variety of injustices. In his words, "My life became increasingly defined by wanting to advocate for people that needed help."

Bill turned to civil disobedience only after exhausting all other avenues for change. A 2004 column in a SUNY Cortland publication applauds Bill for his 50 years of teaching, along with championing the rights of the defenseless in non-violent protests and social activism. He is quoted by the Public Relations Director of the college as saying, "I would speak out, I would write letters. If still things weren't changed I did commit dozens of acts of civil disobedience in trying to challenge immoral laws." He was consequently arrested approximately 40 times for various actions, by Judy's account. Once in 1982 at a protest at the Seneca Army Depot he shared a cell with Dr. Benjamin Spock. Over the ensuing years Bill continued to make his voice heard via hundreds of speeches, writings, and even an appearance on the Phil Donahue Show. He took stands on many issues such as the Iraq War, the proposed low level nuclear waste dump in the town of Taylor, and other proposals with a direct impact on the Preble area. One former SUNY Cortland President stated, "In my view it takes courage to face the risks that civil disobedience entails and for that Dr. Griffen had and has my admiration."

For half a century, while taking full advantage of his cherished First Amendment right to free speech, Bill continued to teach full time, inspiring over two generations of students. Judy

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A Message from Pastor Tim Mowers

Calvary Baptist Church is very excited to be in our new building! The new building was dedicated on June 13 and 14th with people from across the state and as far away as Virginia coming to rejoice with us over what God accomplished. Former pastor, Merle Brown and his wife Bonnie, were able to return to be part of the celebration along with other former members. Also in attendance were those on the construction team along with some who had volunteered from fellowshipping churches across the state. We enjoyed working with Mr. Rick Fritz, the Preble building inspector, and are thankful for his input and insight in the process of getting into our building. It is clear to us to see how God has worked through this whole project and we are looking forward to how God will allow us to use this building to more effectively reach out to you, our community, serve our congregation and to honor Him.

As this "Preble Today" is getting ready to go to print, we are anticipating our first concert. The Skyline Boys performed on October 16th in a free concert. Those attending were asked to bring a nonperishable food item to go to the food pantry at Bible Baptist Church in Cortland. We hope to have more concerts in the future.

At present, we are finishing the downstairs, which will be our Fellowship Hall and our Teen Ministry center. Our goal is to have our annual Harvest Dinner in the completed Fellowship Hall in early November.

A couple of events that are coming up include an Intergenerational Ministry Seminar by Mel Walker, Vice President at Summit University of Clarks Summit, PA. The seminar is scheduled for January 23rd, 2016. Mel is a well-known author and President of Vision for Youth. We are also hosting an area wide youth rally on February 27, with Dr. Jim Lytle speaking. Dr. Lytle served as a Missionary in South Africa and was the President of Baptist Bible College of Natal in South Africa and is currently the President of Summit University in Clarks Summit. Both Mel and Jim will speak in the morning worship services the following Sundays after their Saturday ministries. We are also looking forward to hosting the Annual Bible Conference of the Northeast Fellowship of Baptist Churches next October. This conference is open to churches across the Northeast and is a great opportunity for our church and our community as well as neighboring communities.

If you have not had the opportunity to enjoy a service in our new building, please make a plan to come soon and see what Calvary Baptist Church is all about. As our church motto suggests, our goal is "Offering Hope Through Calvary." We are here to make an impact in our community, if there is a way we can help you, please do not hesitate to contact us. Check out our website at www.calvarybcpreble.org or like us on facebook; [facebook.com/calvarybcpreble](https://www.facebook.com/calvarybcpreble).

Recreation News

The Preble Park was the place to be this summer as many families took advantage of the easy-to-use online reservation form to ensure that they had a great location for their event. There was hardly an open weekend, as birthday parties, family reunions, and town-wide events filled the summer calendar!

The summer opened up with an amazing concert by the Old Timer's Band, a brass group made up of individuals from around the area. Those who were in attendance were treated to quality music, spanning a variety of genres. The Preble Park Youth Program also resumed, hosting even more kids than last year. In the second year of what looks

to be an ongoing program, Renee Compton and her staff provided many different activities, crafts and field trips. Through the program, children were reminded of what it means to build quality friendships that will last for years to come. The softball diamond was once again in use as Calvary Baptist Church played their home games at the park. The games provided a fun, family environment while enjoying a softball game.

As the summer drew to a close, two more big events drew yet even more people into the park. Cars lined the field outside the pavilion for the Preble Park's first Cruise-In. Cars representing many decades were put

on display. Along with the opportunity to see some great cars, the grills were fired up, making it a great family picnic outing as well.

"Celebrating the Life of Terri Morgan", a benefit, closed out the summer events. As families filled the park, they were entertained by local bands and bounce houses, while enjoying great food.

Don't miss your opportunity next summer to take advantage of this great location to host your special event. For more information contact Recreation Committee Chairman Josh Mowers, email j_mow@frontier.com or call 845-476-0738.

The Preble Hotel

by Ann Henderson

The Preble Hotel is the oldest continually operated business in Preble. Mathias Van Hoesen built the first one back in 1830. It was a small building set back from the road. As Van Hoesen had studied law and was considered to have good judgement, people often sought him out for his services. He became a very prosperous man. In 1832, the Postal Service moved from Baltimore to the bar room of the Preble Hotel and Mathias became the Postmaster. Later that same year the former Baltimore Postmaster, Jabez Phelps, took over those duties.

On September 14, 1840 the hotel burned. Andrew Spencer was the proprietor at that time and a two story structure was soon rebuilt closer to the road.

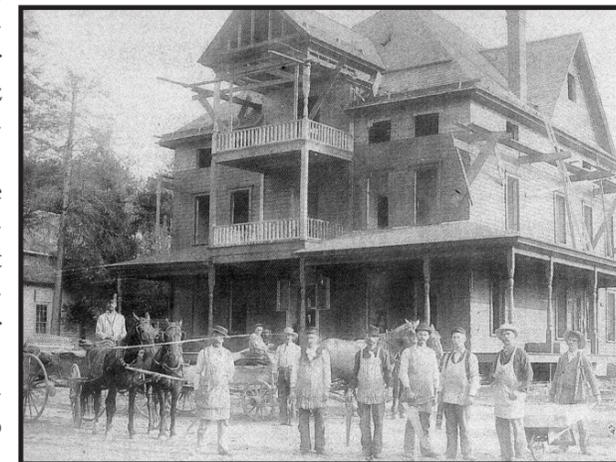
On June 11, 1894, nine carpenters from Solvay came to build a third floor ballroom.

A grand opening was held on September 14th, 1894. A large crowd attended and the average bill that evening was \$ 1.50. Select parties and dancing became a favorite for the traveling public. Good accommodations for their horses were also provided. Clark Erchanback was the owner in 1895 and had a well established reputation in the area.

Other early owners were Anson Kenyon, Lewis Wilcox, John Bouten, George Hefferan and Robert Conine.

Mr. Conine did much repair on the building in 1852. Daniel Van Auken was there until 1878. John Klock ran it in 1880.

In 1915, a Cortland County paper described the hotel at that time. It was ranked as one of the leading establishments of its kind in the county. The article told of electric lights, modern heating, splendid furnishings, and very capable management. The re-



porter wrote "Few towns the size of Preble are able to boast of anything the equal of the Preble Hotel". Besides doing a large commercial business, it was a favorite stopping place for motorists on Sundays. The trade was large and averaged over one hundred dinners on those days. A livery and feed stables were conducted in connection with the hotel. Dan Curtin, a Preble native, succeeded Frank Cox in August of 1915. He had a pleasing personality and good business sense

that increased the popularity of the hotel. It rented out twenty heated and well furnished rooms to the general public.

Others who owned or managed the hotel over the years were Dasher (Francis) Cox, Tom Riley, Ray Leander, Slim Cavanaugh, Morris Swartz, Walt Neuman, Herkimer and Hazel Spencer, Pete and Helena Sweetland, Harry and Jane Davenport, James Neal and present owner Edgar Fish. A Mr. Bucko and Doug Parrish also managed the business at one time.

In June of 1962, thirteen fire companies responded to a fire in the hotel. Fire hoses stretched to the river near the former home of Elmo and Dorothy Rofe.

The hotel hosts a frog pull, which was started by the Preble Fire Dept. in 1969. This event brings many people "into the heart of downtown

Preble." One year it was even mentioned on the "Today" show in New York City.

Even though the hotel has been renovated through the years, the basic structure of this century plus building remains the same. Today, in 2015, this early establishment continues to serve the local townspeople and the general public with lodging, liquid spirits and excellent meals.

Preble Fire Department News

The continued support of the Community and neighbors from surrounding areas is greatly appreciated by Preble Fire Department members. The Fire Department encourages new people to join. Meetings are held on the first Monday of each month at 8p.m. NYS law requires smoke alarms and Co2 Detectors in all homes. Please take the time to test these regularly and replace batteries every six months. If you need a Reflective Fire Number sign for your address, or have any other questions, comments or concerns please contact the department at Preblefiredepartment@yahoo.com or call 607-7494237