

# *A Place Called Warren County*

# Natural Bounty and Beauty



View of Rockwell Falls. Postcard from the Collection of the Warren County Historical Society.

*“Lake George is, without comparison, the most beautiful water I ever saw...its water limpid as crystal and the mountain sides covered with rich groves of thuja [cedar], silver fir, white pine, aspen and paper birch down to the water edge...”* – Thomas Jefferson, 1791



## A Work in Progress

Warren County's landscape is a work of art more than a billion years in the making. Our oldest rocks date back 1.3 billion years, when this land lay beneath an ancient sea. About 20 million years ago, this region began to rise, forming the Adirondack Mountains, which continue to rise about a foot each century. During the last ice age, massive ice sheets sculpted this land.

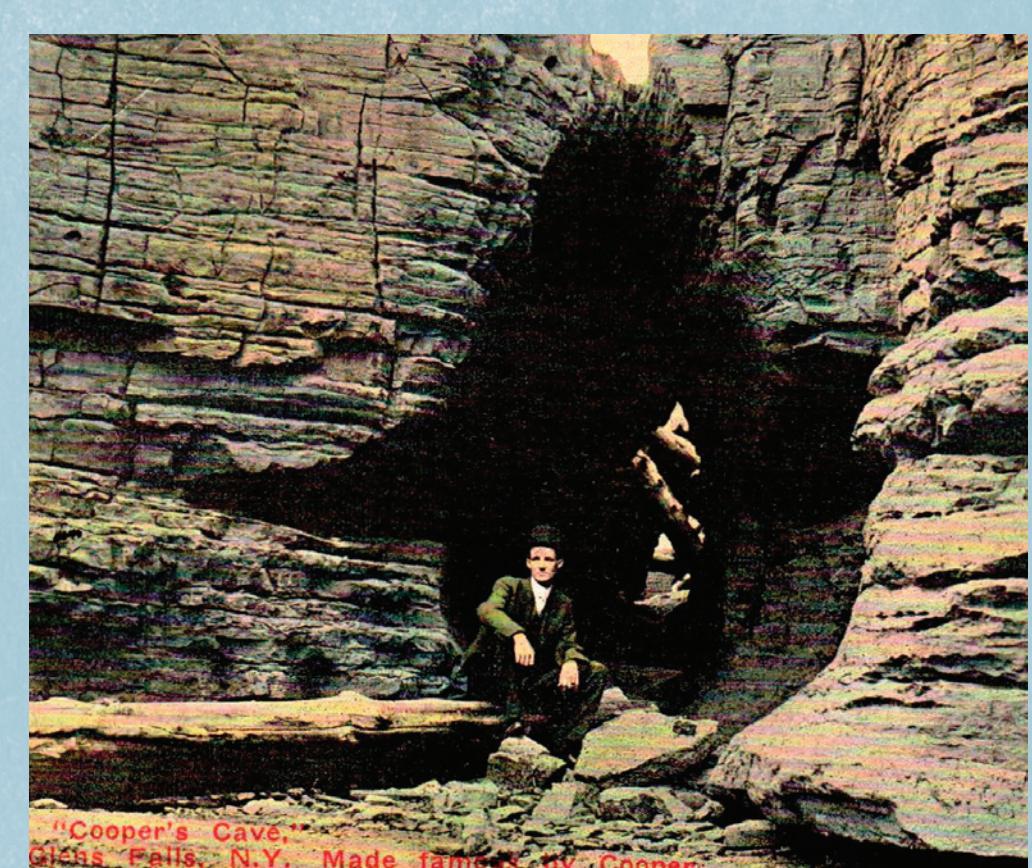
## Have You Seen?



### Barton Garnet Mine

#### North Creek

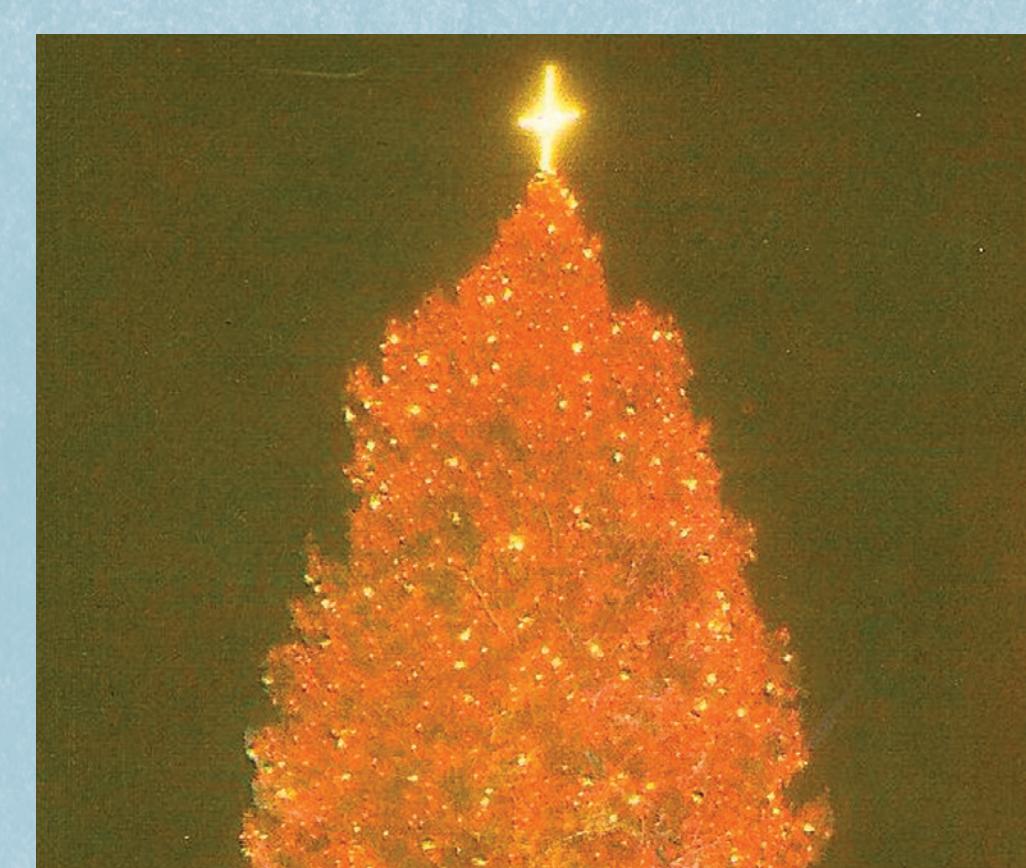
Barton Mines opened in 1878, after miners discovered one of the world's richest deposits of garnet near the summit of Gore Mountain. Though the Gore Mountain mine closed in 1982, Barton still mines garnet at nearby Ruby Mountain.



### Cooper's Cave

#### South Glens Falls

Cooper's Cave inspired the fictional hiding place of Hawkeye and his companions in James Fenimore Cooper's novel, *The Last of the Mohicans*. Today, the cave lies beneath the Cooper's Cave Bridge.



### Magnificent Trees

#### County-wide

Beautiful trees surround you in Warren County. Two became National Christmas trees at the White House in 1964, a white spruce from Chester (photo), and in 1969, a Norway spruce from Crandall Park in Glens Falls.

## Place and People Entwined

Here in Warren County, our history is shaped by this place we call “home.” We, in turn, have shaped our home place. This land has defined our settlements, our livelihoods, and our culture. Our lakes, rivers, forests, and mountains have inspired generations of artists and writers, outdoor adventurers and seekers of solitude, entrepreneurs and community members. We belong to Warren County's hills, valleys, soils, and flowing waters, just as they belong to us.

## This Land's Natural Character

Together, our iconic rivers, lakes, mountains, and forests create the natural character of Warren County. Complex communities of plants and wildlife thrive here.



### Rivers

Waterways, the lifeblood of this landscape, course through Warren County. Many empty into the Hudson River, which starts at Lake Tear of the Clouds high on Mount Marcy and flows south to New York City. The rest empty into Lake George, which flows north into Lake Champlain. Rivers were this region's first highways, carrying people and goods to and from our region.



### Lakes

Called the “Queen of American Lakes,” Lake George stretches 32 miles long and is three miles wide at its broadest point. More than 200 islands dot its spring-fed waters. Warren County holds more than 25 other beautiful and productive lakes, from Schroon Lake on our northern boundary to Lake Luzerne in the south.



### Mountains

At 3,566 feet, Gore Mountain is our county's highest peak—just one of hundreds of peaks within this undulating landscape. Some are crisscrossed with trails and roads. Others are wild, including the many peaks within the Siamese Ponds Wilderness in Johnsburg. Explore them, and you'll have a sense of what this rugged landscape looked like to the first settlers.



### Forests

After the last glaciers receded from Warren County, plants slowly began to colonize the scoured landscape. As soils slowly accumulated, trees took root. With time, magnificent forests of more than 30 native tree species, including Eastern hemlock (photo), blanketed this region. Hemlock bark was essential to the tanning industry in Warren County.