

# Local Livelihoods At Work in Warren County



Photo of the black marble quarry on the Hudson River, Glens Falls, 1884, by Seneca Ray Stoddard. Marble from this quarry was New York State's contribution to the Washington Monument in Washington DC.

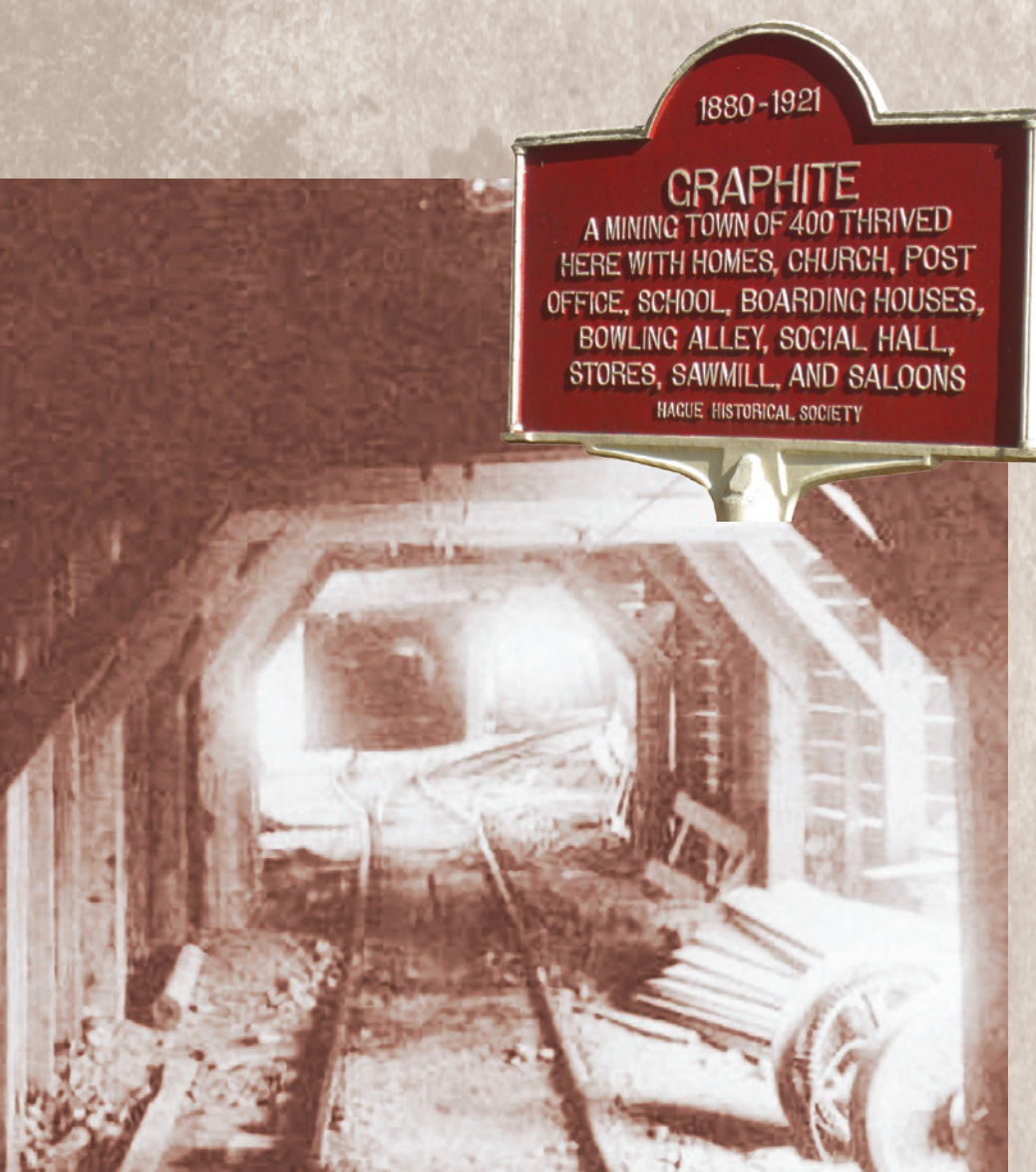


Photo from Clara Richards' photo album 1884-1887. Courtesy of John Hastings.

## Home Economics

Self-sufficiency was a matter of survival for early settlers. These pioneers cut trees to build and heat their homes and grew crops in the clearings. They cultivated flax to produce linen and raised sheep for wool and meat. They adopted the age-old indigenous practice of tapping the sweet sap of maple trees and boiling it to make syrup.

## See For Yourself



### Graphite Site Hague

When graphite was discovered in Hague, a small community—called Graphite—grew up around the mine. A roadside marker marks the remains of the hamlet, once home to 400 people. When mining ended in 1921, the hamlet disbanded.



### Finch Paper Company

Glens Falls  
Finch-Pruyn (now Finch Paper, LLC) first manufactured canal boats, mined black marble, and milled lumber. Paper making began in 1905 and continues today. Imperial Wallpaper, located nearby in the mid-1900s, used Finch-Pruyn paper to make its products. Today, Finch employs about 700 people.

## Abundance and Ingenuity

Any story about the work and industry of Warren County begins with the land. Our region's waterways have powered mills, produced electricity, moved logs and people, and nurtured life. Local forests have supplied countless trees for local lumbering, papermaking, and leather tanning. The bedrock beneath these forests has yielded the raw materials for construction and manufacturing. The land's beauty has drawn generations of visitors and fueled an enduring tourism industry.

## Mining

Warren County mines have yielded garnet, graphite, sandstone, shale, limestone, and black marble. The Barton Garnet Mine still produces abrasives for sandpaper and glass grinding. The 125-year-old Glens Falls Portland Cement Company, now Lehigh Northeast Cement, is the oldest continuously operating gray cement plant in North America.



While limestone has been quarried in Warren County, the cement plant now uses limestone from Moreau in neighboring Saratoga County to produce 500,000 tons of cement annually.

## Forest Products

From the early 1800s until the last log drive in the early 1950s, millions of logs were cut in Warren County's forests and floated down the Schroon and Hudson rivers to mills in Glens Falls. Hemlock trees were cut for their tannin-rich bark, used to tan hides (shown right). Each hide required 12 times its weight in bark. Warren County's largest tannery was built in South Horicon in the 1840s.



## Textiles and Clothing

Textile manufacturing in Warren County began in the home, where women spun flax and wool to make cloth. In 1855, Queensbury alone tallied 16,472 sheep, whose wool was processed at the Curtis woolen mill in the hamlet of Oneida Corners. By the late 1800s, clothing factories in our county produced shirts, trousers, coats, dresses, blankets, and more, which were sold around the country.



The Warrensburgh Woolen Company and Pants Factory produced wool clothing from 1899-1950. By 1905, ninety workers were producing 100,000 pairs of pants annually.



### Thurman Homestead Site

Johnsburg  
In the late 1700s, John Thurman bushwacked a road through the wilds from Lake George to what would become the town of Johnsburg. He established a thriving community along Mill Creek and built his home on Elm Hill.



### Warrensburg Mills Historic District

Warrensburg  
Along the banks of the Schroon River, this designated National Historic District honors Warrensburg's past, preserving more than 50 buildings, including the Emerson Sawmill (c. 1820), grist mill (1824), and shirt factory (1878).