IN 1889, EARLY IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE ADIRONDACK CAMP, Buffalo architect William S. Wicks first published his popular book, Log Cabins, How to Build and Furnish Them. Since Wicks' flourishing practice was principally in urban architecture, it is this book — in ten revised editions over 40 years — that made him an important designer and popularizer of the Adirondack rustic style.

William Sidney Wicks was born in Barneveld, NY, July 29, 1853. He studied under Charles Babcock at Cornell University in 1872, and at MIT with William Robert Ware, who had Ecole des Beaux Arts training; Wicks graduated from MIT in 1876. For a year he was employed in the office of Peabody and Stearns, one of the best known architectural offices in Boston. Wicks then returned to New York State to join the Utica office of Frederick H. Gouge, the leading architect of that city. Here he met Edward Green, and the two went to Ithaca to work for William H. Miller. In 1880 Green and Wicks formed a partnership in Auburn and started in business for themselves. About 1888 they moved to 110 Franklin Street, Buffalo, where they became one of the leading firms in architecture outside of New York City. The next year Wicks was elected a fellow of the American Institute

continued on page 6

CHANGING OF THE GUARD
see pages 2 & 3
AARCH Elects New President, Treasurer and Board Members

After eight years of leading AARCH to become the recognized and respected historic preservation organization of the Adirondack Park, AARCH’s founder and president Howard Kirschenbaum has stepped down to take on a new challenge in academia. Although no longer at the helm, Kirschenbaum will continue to play an active role on AARCH’s board of directors. Bill Johnston, a founding and continuously serving board member of AARCH and a long-time Adirondack historic preservation leader, has taken over as president of the board. For more details on this transition, see the following columns.

Barbara Parnass, also a founding board member of AARCH and a preservation leader in Saranac Lake, has become the new treasurer. She assumes the position vacated by Reid Larson, executive director of the Adirondack Center Museum in Elizabethtown. Larson will become a member of AARCH’s Advisory Council. Ronald Ofner of the Penfield Homestead Museum has also left the board and joined the Advisory Council.

At the annual meeting at the Paine and Irwin family’s Flat Rock Camp in Willsboro on July 12, three new members were also elected to the board. Jerold Pepper replaced Bart Roselli, representing the Adirondack Museum. Virginia Abbe, Lake George, is also a new member, along with Arnold Markowitz, Keene Valley, who convened the meeting, at the 1987 Preservation League conference, at which the idea of a regional not-for-profit for the Adirondacks was first discussed.

From the Past

On September 2, I began a new, full-time position as “Frontier Professor of School, Family and Community Relations” in the Warner Graduate School of Education and Human Development at the University of Rochester. I had not been looking for a university or other position, as I’ve been content with my professional independence – writing, consulting, teaching a graduate course at SUNY Brockport each year, and pursuing my various Adirondack interests. But this was an opportunity I could not ignore - a senior level appointment at a major university, twenty minutes from home, with important and challenging work in my field, and summers off. It’s a job description I might have written in a moment of wishful thinking.

Sadly, the new position will not allow me to continue my Adirondack involvements at the same level as before. Thus, at our October Board meeting, I stepped down as president of AARCH and passed the baton to William Johnston, whom the Board elected as the new president. I will continue to be an active member of AARCH’s board of directors and do what I can to support the organization’s leaders, members, activities and mission.

In many ways this is the perfect time for such a transition. AARCH has a large, stable, active and supportive membership. We have an excellent, involved board of directors. We have an outstanding executive director and staff. And in Bill Johnston we have a president eminently qualified and experienced in historic preservation. In Bill’s more than 20 years as its planner, Essex County has led northern New York State in historic preservation activities. As a board member of the Preservation League of New York State, he has made contributions to and gained valuable experience in statewide historic preservation. This spring, Bill was recognized by the League as a Government Champion of Historic Preservation. And as a founding board member of AARCH, Bill has been intimately involved in furthering the agenda of historic preservation throughout the Adirondack Park. These and many other credentials make Bill Johnston the ideal person to guide AARCH through the next period in its development.

Finally, in stepping down as AARCH’s president, I think it is appropriate for me to ask you, AARCH’s members, for a retirement gift. In fact, in this season of giving, I’ll ask for two gifts. The first is for you to continue your AARCH membership and enlist a friend. If I have any regret at this point, it is that I did not get to see AARCH achieve 1000 members, which has been a long-term goal of mine. With 800 members now, we do not have far to go. So, please, continue to renew your own membership when the time comes, and get one friend or neighbor who cares about preserving the fine old places and resources of the Adirondacks to join you as an AARCH member. Maybe even give them an AARCH membership for Christmas or Hanukkah!

My second request is that you continue to give Bill Johnston, Steve Engelhart and AARCH in general all the support you have given me over the past eight years. Your suggestions, volunteer activities, participation in AARCH programs, sale of raffle tickets, advocacy for Santanoni, financial support and good will have enabled AARCH to become a real force for historic preservation in the Adirondacks. That support is needed now as much as ever.

It has been an honor to work with all of you over the years. I thank you for that privilege and look forward to many more years of even greater accomplishments together.

HOWIE KIRSCHENBAUM

AARCH 2
FALL 1997
From the President

The opportunity to serve as AARCH's new and second president is an exciting challenge. Howard Kirschenbaum's leadership, work and commitment in bringing AARCH into existence, and building it into a thriving, professionally-staffed organization as its first president, is an outstanding legacy on which to continue AARCH's development.

One of the reasons for AARCH's establishment in 1990 was the need to act decisively in order to save the Great Camp Santanoni, which was suffering slow-motion destruction through decay and neglect. With New York State's recognition of the problem and commitment to the Great Camp's preservation, AARCH achieved an important goal in its early program. Earlier this year another milestone was reached when New York State and AARCH signed a Memorandum of Understanding which empowers AARCH to create a Friends of Camp Santanoni organization to provide leadership in continuing efforts to preserve and interpret the camp. In the coming year AARCH will officially launch the Friends of Camp Santanoni through a membership campaign and initiation of its responsibilities contained in the MOU. It is interesting to note that the Pruyn family built Camp Santanoni to enable them to experience being in and enjoying the Adirondack forest. From a survey done in the early 1990s, we know that 98 percent of the people visiting Camp Santanoni felt that the historic and architectural resources of the camp enhanced their visit to the Forest Preserve.

In addition, AARCH will continue to assist other existing or emergent, independent friends organizations which have been locally established to preserve fire towers on Mt. Arab and Poke-O-Moonshine and to restore the Jay Covered Bridge. The coming year will also include continuation of AARCH's highly popular tour program and schedule of public presentations.

AARCH owes its existence and success in no small part to its growing and generous membership. AARCH's members are a resource base for advocacy efforts, membership development, fund raising, technical expertise and in many other ways achievement of its organizational goals. With your continuing and growing support, I hope that my tenure as AARCH's president can be as productive and rewarding as Howie's.

BILL JOHNSTON

First Annual AARCH Raffle a Big Success!

On October 14, winning tickets were drawn for the first annual AARCH Raffle. The winners and their prizes were:

MARIA SCHNITZLER:
A week at a lakeside cabin at Camp Uncas

TEE WILLIS:
A spring weekend at White Pine Camp

JOYCE DANIELS:
A weekend at Greystone Mansion in Essex

BOB LUTZ:
A weekend at Silver Bay on Lake George

JESS VANDERHORST:
Dinner for two at La Veranda in Lake Placid

POLA YOLLES:
A season pass for two for all AARCH tours

GERALD CRAMMOND:
A day with an Adirondack guide

COLLETTE ANTOINE:
Dinner for two at Potter's, Blue Mountain Lake

VICKIE LANYON:
Lunch & tour for two at a new Adirondack Great Camp

ED & JOAN SMITH:
A half day of architectural/preservation services

The raffle was a big success for AARCH, by raising more than $7,500 for the organization and drawing attention to our important work. Many thanks to all those who donated prizes, including: the Silver Bay Association, Potter's Wilderness Resort, La Veranda Restaurant, Jeffrey Sellon, White Pine Camp, John Friauf, Jr., David Hislop and Howie Kirschenbaum. Thanks also to all those members who supported this effort by buying and selling tickets. This was such a big success that we plan on doing it again in 1998.
Eight Earn Second Annual AARCH Awards

Winners of the 1997 Adirondack Architectural Heritage Awards were selected by a committee consisting of Steven Engelhart, Mary Hotaling, Barbara Farnass and Carl Stearns, from nominations by members and friends. Our second annual awards were presented at AARCH's Annual Meeting at Flat Rock, Willsboro, on July 12, 1997. The eight individuals and organizations honored this year are:

1. BARBARA Mc MARTIN.
Barbara McMartin is one of the best known writers in the region. All of her work, which includes the eleven-volume Discover the Adirondacks series, Fifty Hikes in the Adirondacks and The Great Forest of the Adirondacks, is steeped in her tremendous enthusiasm for the natural and cultural history of the Park. For fifteen years she researched the importance of the Adirondack tanning industry and located the remains of dozens of important tannery sites. Her 1992 book on this topic, Hides, Hemlocks and Adirondack History, not only made a huge contribution to the public's understanding and appreciation of the industry, but it also made a convincing case for preserving the most important and endangered remaining tannery sites.

2. REGINALD CLARK.
Historic theatres like the Palace Theatre in Lake Placid are slowly disappearing from the American landscape. Not only is the Palace Theatre alive and well, but it is in a fine state of preservation. The Theatre Historical Society of America has noted: "It is very unusual to come across a theatre of this vintage with so much of its decorative character still intact. Even the multiplexing operation, a generally bad omen for preservation, has been done here with considerable sensitivity." Equally, if not more, remarkable is that the theatre's organ has survived. It is one of only about 100 organs which remain from the roughly 7,000 that were built in the United States during the silent film era. That the Palace exists in this state today is largely due to the passion and sensitivity of its owner, Reginald Clark.

3. RICHARD FREEBURG.
Dick Freeburg has done a marvelous job in restoring a simple, handsome, and historically important farm house in Gabriels, Franklin County. Purchased in 1905 by the Sisters of Mercy, the farm provided fresh food for tuberculosis patients at Sanatorium Gabriels, which the Sisters operated nearby. When the Freeburgs purchased the house in 1991, it was in a sad state of disrepair. Dick is a builder by trade and has had a long interest in restoration and local history. Over a two-year period, structural work was done, the roofs were replaced, porches restored and the exterior was repaired and painted. Inside, the floors and woodwork were refinished. As much as possible, this was all done in keeping with the home's original appearance.

4. DANIEL HodLIN.
Northville is a lovely, historic village on Sacandaga Lake. At the village's main intersection stands the handsome Willard Brothers Block. Since it was built in 1914, it has always been a "5 & 10" store. The Hodlins, lifelong residents of Northville, purchased the building in 1992 and were motivated to restore it both for nostalgic reasons and because of their strong sense of civic pride and responsibility. The project included brick, woodwork, glass and sign repair and a complete exterior paint job. It now shines on Main Street and has set a very important preservation example for the community.
summer estate owned by the Sibley and Wilson families. Situated on Lake Champlain, it includes a boathouse, docks and beach, a gate house and the main building, built in 1925. Acquired in 1963 by Plattsburgh State Teachers' College, it is now managed for college and public functions by College Auxiliary Services, Inc. CAS has done an exceptional job over the last ten years in restoring the buildings and landscapes in a way which respects their historic and architectural integrity and makes it possible to operate a first-class conference center there.

7. SAGAMORE INSTITUTE OF THE ADIRONDACKS, INC.
Sagamore was built beginning in 1897 by William West Durant and was owned for decades (1901-1955) by the Alfred Vanderbilt/Margaret Emerson family, during which time it was greatly expanded. Given its size, its number of buildings, its rustic architecture, lakeside setting, and extensive farm and caretaking complex, it is truly one of the prototypical Adirondack Great Camps. This year is both the 100th anniversary of the construction of Sagamore and the 20th anniversary of its ownership by the Sagamore Institute of the Adirondacks. For a generation, Sagamore Institute has set a high standard for the restoration of Sagamore's 27 buildings. Especially noteworthy has been the complete restoration of the caretaking complex. Through its daily tours, Great Camp tours and other public programs, Sagamore has also raised the public's consciousness about the importance of Adirondack rustic architecture and design.

8. WIAWAKA HOLIDAY HOUSE, INC.
Wiwaka Holiday House was established in 1903 by Miss Mary Wiltsie Fuller and others who saw the need to provide affordable vacations for women working in the textile factories of Troy. She persuaded her philanthropist friends, Spencer and Katrina Trask, to acquire and donate to the fledgling organization a vacant Lake George estate named Crosbyside for this purpose. Since then Wiwaka Holiday House, Inc., has continued to fulfill its original mission, has opened its doors to the general public and has done a remarkable job of preserving the buildings, landscape, institution and special ambiance of this place.

5. ESSEX COMMUNITY HERITAGE ORGANIZATION.
Better known as ECHO, the Essex Community Heritage Organization was founded more than 25 years ago to preserve the very special architecture and ambiance of the village of Essex, all of which is listed on the National Register of Historic Places. Through publications, surveys, education and training, advocacy, planning, technical assistance, censuses, and building ownership and restoration, ECHO has succeeded in raising the level of awareness in the community about local history, architecture and preservation, has helped to make architecture and preservation the center of the community's economic revitalization, and has created a model for other preservation organizations, including AARCH.

6. COLLEGE AUXILIARY SERVICES.
What is now known as the Valcour Conference Center was originally a
of Architects, and first published his book on log cabins.

Green and Wicks' most important urban commission were the 1905 Albright Art Gallery; the Center of Progress and Horticulture Buildings (1907), the main buildings at the New York State Fairgrounds in Syracuse; Museum of Art, Toledo, Ohio (H. W. Watcher, Associated Architect); Agriculture Building at Cornell University; Ontario Power Plant, Niagara Falls, NY; and many public, commercial and residential buildings in Buffalo.

Wicks was the first professional architect known to design log camps in the Adirondacks, beginning in 1888. In his log cabin designs, he was influenced by the Adirondack regional tradition and local building practices of the West Canada area, frequented by Adirondack guides and their patrons. Wesley Haynes has described Wicks using academic Beaux Arts technique to study and sketch the rough log structures of his native upstate New York. While Wicks designed camps that were more elaborate than the vernacular structures he studied, his were still conservative cottages that blended with their environment.

By 1892, if not earlier, Wicks had joined the Adirondack League Club near Old Forge, where he greatly enjoyed the outdoor life, a strong contrast to the stresses of his urban career. Most of his Adirondack work was built at the club, where he designed both club buildings and private camps. One of his earliest extant rustic designs is a two-story log lodge with a porch facing Honesdaga Lake, built for the Barse family in 1891.

The next year's output included the L. B. Jones Camp and Camp Oriole for the Snyder family. Camp Oriole (which burned in 1980) uniquely suited its open location on Flat Rock Point, Honesdaga Lake. Also built in 1892 was Camp Rabbit Wild, Wicks' own cottage on Sunset Bay, Honesdaga Lake. Though Rabbit Wild is gone, the Lasher Camp on Honesdaga is similar to it. Mountain Lodge, a monumental, two-and-a-half story clapboard structure with a central candle stubb roof, used in common by club members, was built on Little Moose Lake in 1893. Wicks successfully minimized its large scale by angling the two flanking wings toward the lake. It later burned. Nearby was a guideboat house and a guides' house behind Mountain Lodge which had an extended two-story open veranda in the center. Other Wicks designs in 1893 were Parkhurst Camp, and Camp Ingleside for the Lowe family.

In 1902 Wicks designed enlargements to Forest Lodge on Honesdaga Lake, and built the Griffith Camp. Five hunting camps were also his work: Jones Lake and Otter Lake cabins; Coons Brook Hatchery, also a camp; Swanson Dam Camp and Wicks Camp. Designed in a distinctly rustic style and built around 1904, the Martha T. Williams camp still stands on Little Moose Lake. The two-story lodge features a second story balcony with cut-out arrowlike designs in the flatboard railings which extend around the sides of the buildings. The 1908 Taylor Camp is a two-story log lodge with a hip roof extending down to the porch, facing Honesdaga Lake, and a large fireplace at one end. The Talmadge Camp on Fourth Lake is similar.

Elsewhere in the region Wicks built a large lodge for Robert Wilson at Wilmurt Lake; a small, dark-stained log cabin on Lewey Lake with an outside log-shed roof, with a fireplace chimney end; and a log cabin camp on Seventh Lake on the Fulton Chain. Old-timers remember a palisade log lodge on Blue Mountain Lake, possibly built for the Kline family.

Wicks-designed log homes in other areas include an elaborate log tower home in Erie, Pa., and three-story log Swiss chalets in the Georgian Bay region of Canada. Although most of the camps Wicks designed on the Adirondack League Club burned or were torn down, those in other areas still stand as a testament to Wicks' design ingenuity. William Wicks designed his own Tudor style mansion in Buffalo. He spent summers at his childhood home, historic Rubble Manor (now known as Mappa Hall), in Barneveld with his wife Emma E. Griffith and his two daughters Ruth and Grace. The Green and Wicks partnership dissolved in 1917, and W.S. Wicks died in Barneveld May 30, 1919.

By publishing his log cabin designs, William Wicks conveyed his own love of camp life, and made an early and sustained contribution to the development of the rustic camp style in American architecture.

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The author is an Adirondack historian living in Barneveld, NY.

Principal sources:
Obituary of William S. Wicks. Files of the Unitarian Church of Barneveld, NY, 1919.
Wicks, William S. Log Cabins and Cottages, How to Build and Furnish Them (Forest and Stream, Inc., 1929). Tenth edition, used with permission of the Wicks family which retains copyright.
Essex & Warren Counties: Members of the Schenectady Episcopal churches planned to spend the weekend of September 26 helping to paint and repair six small, rural Adirondack mission churches: St. Paul's in Brant Lake; Church of the Good Shepherd, Chestertown; St. Barnabas Church, Newcomb; St. Christopher's, North Creek; Christ Church, Pottersville; and St. Andrew's, Schroon Lake. All but St. Barnabas were built in the 19th century. Confirmed members of these missions average less than 22, and the average budget is less than $15,000.

Jay: The December 1997 issue of Adirondack Life features an article by Paul Malo, a member of AARCH's Advisory Board. "Getting to the heart of native architecture: A Home to Call Our Own" explores the vernacular architecture characteristic of Adirondack houses.

Keeseville: The warm and friendly voice you hear when you call the AARCH office is our new Administrative Assistant, Bonnie DeGolyer. Bonnie joined AARCH in April and has been a wonderful asset ever since, bringing to the organization her experience in financial and office management. She is a native of Johnstown and currently lives in Port Kent with her husband, Jim. Her interests and hobbies include hiking, canoeing, calligraphy and stained glass work.

1998 AARCH Awards
AARCH is now actively seeking nominations for our 1998 awards. The deadline is February 15. Call Steven Engelhart at 518-334-9328 or mail to 1759 Main Street, Keeseville, NY 12944. These awards are supported, in part, by Finch-Pruyn & Company of Glens Falls and by the New York State Council on the Arts, Architecture, Planning and Design Program, a State Agency.

About Adirondack Architectural Heritage
Adirondack Architectural Heritage is the regional, non-profit, historic preservation organization for the Adirondack Park. Our educational mission is to promote better public understanding, appreciation and stewardship of the built environment of the Adirondack Park. We fulfill this mission in a variety of ways, including by sponsoring tours and workshops, by giving public slide presentations, by offering technical assistance and by supporting local governments, organizations and individuals in their historic preservation activities. AARCH is a membership organization with over 800 members. AARCH members receive a biannual Newsletter, get discounts on AARCH-sponsored events and publications and may attend our annual meeting.

Join AARCH
I want to help preserve the Adirondack Park's historical and architectural legacy. Enclosed is my tax-deductible membership contribution.

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Contributions are tax-deductible. Please make checks payable to "Adirondack Architectural Heritage" and mail to: AARCH, 1759 Main Street, Keeseville, NY 12944.
Discover... Northbrook Lodge

“No organized activities, thank goodness, but plenty to do for those inclined,” reads the brochure for Northbrook Lodge. This small resort, with accommodations for 30 guests, occupies 10 acres at the end of a wooded peninsula with ¾ of a mile of private shoreline on Osgood Lake in Franklin County.

Northbrook was built between 1920 and 1930, reportedly at a total cost of $500,000, as a private camp for Dr. Wilfrid McDougald. By local tradition, design and construction were by master builder Benjamin Muncil, builder of nearby White Pine Camp and Topridge. The eight principal camp buildings share a common style, the one-story cedar-shingled bungalow characteristic of Muncil. Their broad, low-pitched roofs are distinctive, with vergeboards whose inner curves suggest that the deep eaves are drooping toward the ground. These mushroom-like bungalows are arranged in a rough circle like a giant fairy ring, each one looking out on Osgood Lake.

A medical doctor, McDougald was a Liberal member of the Canadian Parliament. He was also rumored to be a rum-runner who sent liquor back from Canada in milk containers returned to his Franklin County farm. Tending to confirm the rumors is Northbrook’s locked cellar with 90 individual compartments for wine bottles and several shelves for liquor. McDougald’s deep involvement in the Beauparlant power scandal, which drove him from office, is documented in Canadian political histories.

Guests are housed in McDougald’s camp buildings (each room with a private bath), including the Cottage, the former tennis house, a huge room with fireplace and screened porch; Marcy, originally the owner’s bedroom cottage, with four guest rooms; two-room Gabriels; McDougald’s “Granny’s house;” the Main building, a second, larger family cabin, with five guest bedrooms; and four-bedroom Whiteface, always a guest cottage. Breakfast and dinner are served in McDougald’s dining room and library/living room. The lounge upstairs in the boat house is a great place to relax with drinks, or to read on the small screened porch over the water.

The Schwartau family, which has owned Northbrook Lodge since 1952, operates it on the modified American plan. The resort is open June through September, and may be reached at (518)327-3379, or write to Northbrook Lodge, Paul Smiths, NY 12970.

MBH

Northbrook Lodge, Paul Smiths