

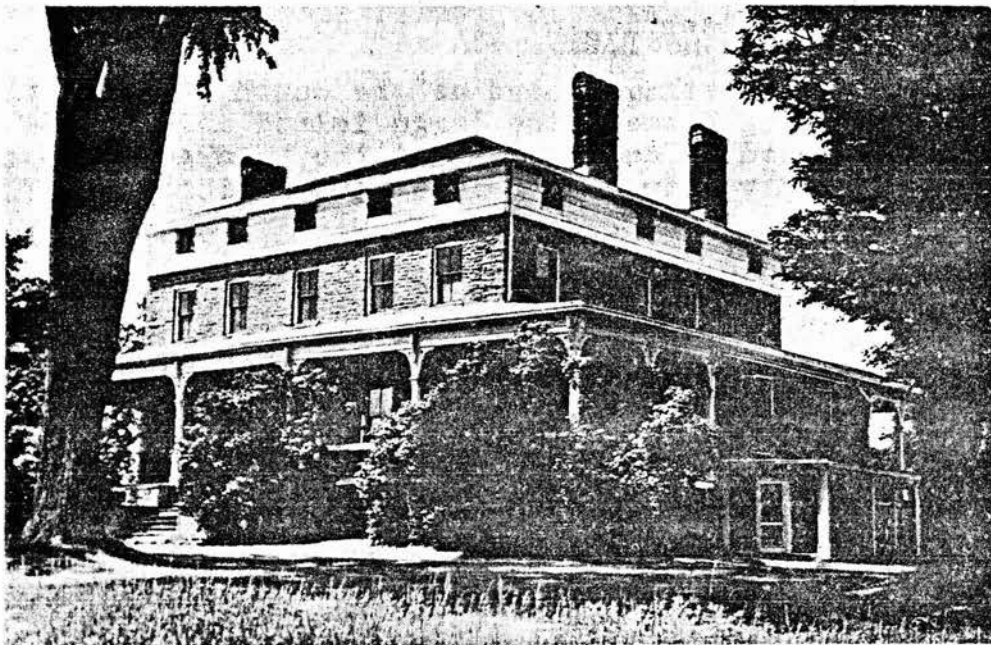
THE QUARTERLY

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"THE ISLAND HOUSE" BUILT BY THE OGDENS

FROM THE EDITOR'S CHAIR

Now that the St. Lawrence River Project has moved into high gear, authoritative information has become available in regard to what is in store. This applies to matters of historical interest as well as of public and personal concern.

In the thirty-mile stretch of the St. Lawrence River from Ogdensburg to Massena Point two places of outstanding historical interest on the New York side of the River gain great significance. Both will be completely obliterated by the channeling and rechanneling of sections of the River. One is Chimney Island, the 1760 site of Fort Levis, where the French under de Pouchet made their last stand against Lord Amherst and his British troops on this side of the border.

The other is "The Island House," as it was known in the days of the Ogden family, at Waddington. Since 1880 this house has been known as The Crapser Place. As a matter of historical record The Quarterly devotes much of this issue to The Island House. Even so, this is an inadequate and incomplete record of what might well be termed the Ogden Saga of Northern New York. Possibly the article included here will be followed later in pamphlet or book form with a more complete record. It certainly should be a matter of historical record for the locale.

1948-49: Senator Paul Graves delivered a paper on "The Trip of President James Monroe Through This County in 1817" at the annual meeting, October 23. Mr. Victor Tooley presented a paper on "The History of the Town of Norfolk." On April 30 the Association held its first meeting outside the County Seat, at Ogdensburg, where an historical exhibit had been prepared in the Public Library. Dr. William E. Sawyer of Clarkson College read a paper, "The Influence of David Parish on the Development of This Area." On September 17 Four-County Historical Conference was held at Watertown by the associations of Jefferson, Lewis, Oswego and St. Lawrence Counties.

1949-50: At the annual meeting, October 29, Mrs. Nina Daniels read the paper, "Neighbors in the Northland," prepared and presented at the Four-County Conference in Watertown. President Olds spoke on "Indians of the North Country." The Freedom Train visited this county. Mrs. Nina Smithers had been appointed County Historian. This year, the summer of 1950, ushered in the custom of occasionally holding historical tours in connection with association meetings. The first tour recorded was at the Massena meeting, April 22. At this time two papers were read: "A History of Massena" by Orrin Wheeler; "Holton D. Robinson, Bridge Builder" by Mrs. Thomas S. Bushnell. Senator Graves was the principal speaker at the Gouverneur meeting, July 1, when the matter of historical markers was considered. On August 5 the Association was generously represented at a pilgrimage to Constable Hall with members of the Oswego and Jefferson County Associations. Mrs. Cornwall was the speaker. The Association received a valuable collection of old Parish papers from Mrs. Rosabel Meashaw.

1950-51: Annual meeting, October 7: Mrs. Nina Smithers reported on her first year as County Historian. Mr. Andrew Peters spoke on "An Amateur Historian." April 14: At Potsdam, Mrs. Marguerite Chapman presented a paper on "History of Potsdam." July 14: Memorable Rossie meeting, with tour and banquet. Papers presented: "Rossie and the Parish Family" and "The Burns Festival", both written by Mrs. Virgie Simons. August 18: Four-County meeting with tour: Rossie to Ogdensburg, to Waddington, to Canton where the meeting was held on the St. Lawrence campus. Paper, "The Eight Forts of the Upper St. Lawrence" by W. Allan Newell. April 1923, Canton held sesquicentennial celebration as did Lisbon later in the summer. The Association apparently did not participate officially in these celebrations, the forerunners of other sesquicentennials to follow in the next few years throughout the county.

1951-52: 1952, the Sesquicentennial of founding of St. Lawrence County. Celebrations and observances were held at Lisbon, Gouverneur, Massena, Canton, Ogdensburg, and Hopkinton. May 3: Lisbon, Tour, luncheon, historical exhibit. Three talks: "Lisbon and the County," Carl Burns; "The St. Lawrence Valley," Homer Rolf; "Chimney Island," Lee M. Martin. Canton, May 6-10: This program was conducted entirely locally, and included fitting observance by the County Board of Supervisors. Gouverneur, May 19-25: This, too, centered around the community's own program. Hopkinton, June 7: Sesquicentennial of town's settlement. This included an historical tour, an exhibit, and banquet. Dr. Corey, State Historian; Watson B. Berry, Historian; Dr. Arthur W. Peach, Director of the Vermont Historical Society, were the principal speakers. Massena, June 22-28: The Association's

"THE ISLAND HOUSE" OF THE OGDENS

By Ethel C. Olds

By the time this issue of The Quarterly reaches its readers the initial stages of the River Project in the immediate vicinity of Waddington and Crapser Island will be in progress.

Little River, sometimes known as the South Channel, the existing waterway lying between the large island and the New York shore, will be closed by coffer dams at the head and foot of the island. When the River Project reaches completion much of the original island will be submerged or rebuilt.

The present South Channel will be pumped dry during operations and excavated to a greater width and depth. When completed, shipping will be directed through this new channel. The whole operation, on a larger scale, will then be performed on the north side of the island to prepare the future main channel.

When the River Project reaches completion the water level in this section of the St. Lawrence River will be raised twenty feet. The original island will be submerged for the most part or rebuilt by dredging and excavating. The present site of the historic Island House will lie seventy-five feet within the new channel.

Today the initial clearing of trees and brush is in progress on the island. By fall, probably, the square stone mansion which has stood upon the island for 150 years will be demolished.

When the Island House is destroyed the North Country will lose one of its most important and interesting historical structures. Preservation is impossible: the construction of the mansion would not lend itself to being moved, and if preserved, restoration would involve very considerable funds.

The Island House is linked to some of the most vital figures who have played roles in the history of Northern New York. It is itself history. Its square form has been woven and interwoven into the folklore of the people who have looked across the Little River to the island. Like Constable Hall in Lewis County it has been through the years a symbol of those who ventured fortunes and the lives of their families in the vast wilderness north of the Mohawk.

The birth of the Island House was rooted in events which occurred years before its actual construction. On June 6, 1796 four men, inhabitants of New York City and northern New Jersey, purchased a ten-mile square listed as Madrid on the existing state maps. Madrid, bordering on the St. Lawrence River, was one of the Ten Towns first erected by legislative act in The Wilderness. The price was \$60,000.

Abraham Ogden, a New Jersey Tory, together with his sons, David A. Ogden and Thomas Ludlow Ogden, and a nephew, Josiah Ogden Hoffman, were the purchasers. By 1803 the two sons became sole owners. They then took as their third partner Joshua Waddington, their brother-in-law, a Tory brewer of New York.

These proprietors moved among New York City's leaders. They had attended King's College, now Columbia. They were prominent lawyers, associated with Alexander Hamilton who returned to legal practice following his term as Secretary of the Treasury in Washington's cabinet.

With Hamilton's death in the famous duel with Aaron Burr, the events leading to the birth of the Island House gathered momentum. David Ogden, so prominent in New York circles, became a frequent visitor to the northern lands he owned. As agent for his family's vast holdings he became more than an absentee owner interested only in speculation. Some charm of the untenanted land must have captured his imagination. In 1804 a wing dam was erected in the south channel of the St. Lawrence. Grist and saw mills were built and a new settlement crept into being on the south river bank. The Ogdens named this little community Hamilton as a tribute to the brothers' late partner.

In 1808 or 1809 David Ogden issued orders to have land cleared on the island. Here he planned to erect a mansion for his home. A causeway built above the power dam provided access to the island. In 1811 Ogden became sole owner of the island, mills and water rights, as well as of the village.

How the mansion was constructed remains a matter of conjecture. Evidence exists indicating that stone for the two-foot walls came from a riverside quarry nearby. Mortar, too, was mixed from the limestone deposits on the land.

Actual construction was supposed to have begun in 1811. Possibly the War of 1812 caused temporary interruption. Tradition says that Judge Ogden met incoming vessels at Montreal to obtain skilled craftsmen coming to the New World from Scotland, England, and Ireland. Labor costs for the Island House were \$100 a day, the story goes, in a time when a first-rate carpenter received \$1.00 a day.

No one knows for sure how the Island House was furnished. It stands to reason, however, that a cultured gentleman of means like David Ogden brought to his wilderness home the pieces of the fine cabinet makers of New York. In those days much Chippendale, Hepplewhite and Sheraton furniture was imported from England by well-to-do people. The high-ceilinged rooms with their fine fireplaces and door lintels must have housed the best in furnishings. In Waddington homes today are found occasionally fine antique pieces that tradition says came from the Island House.

Transporting fine furniture in those days was a task of gigantic proportions. If brought from overseas it came first to Montreal and then was rehipped up the St. Lawrence in smaller vessels. If it came overland from New York it jolted over rough roads through the forests on carts drawn by oxen.

In 1816 the Island House was supposed to have been completed. It rose 54 feet square, of the grey-yellow native stone, three stories in the air. At the basement windows were iron bars. Four great chimneys added to the height of the building for inside the house twelve fireplaces provided heat.

David Ogden's family came through the forests, over the rough roads to a home which provided a marked contrast with the pioneer-like surroundings. Here Rebecca Edwards Ogden, his wife, a woman of southern upbringing, and his children lived during the warm months of the year.

The family's meals were prepared in the kitchens in the basement. Here also the household servants had their quarters. On the main floor of the house, some six or eight feet above ground, were the large center hall and its well-hole stairway. The four rooms on either side of the hall were spacious with wide marble fireplaces and twelve foot ceilings. The woodwork and old moldings marked the skill of those imported carpenters and witnessed to the formal style of life to which the Ogdens adhered. Under the spacious gallery which opened halfway up the stairs at the rear was the bule's pantry. Here the food prepared below was carried and from here it was served in the family dining room.

At the north end of the house underground were five great arched chambers. What they were used for in the early nineteenth century no one knows.

Up the large stairway from the entrance hall on the second floor was another center hall. From this led large bedrooms, each with a fireplace. Still more rooms were found on the third floor.

The Island House became known for its hospitality. These members of the New York aristocracy entertained lavishly for visitors. They entertained the great and near-great of that era who chanced to wander into the northern lands. Washington Irving is supposed to have been their guest. Ramee, the European architect who spent several months with the Parrish family in Ogdensburg, is said to have been a visitor and to have laid out plans for landscaping the grounds of the Island House. President Monroe, who visited Waddington July 31, 1817 was probably a guest on the island. The Ogdens entertained other leading families of the North Country: the Fords, Clarksons, Harisons, Morrises and Van Rensselaers.

The Ogden family grew to include eleven children. When at the Island House the Ogden boys attended school in the village across the causeway. The girls received instruction at home.

David Ogden, with his brother, became one of the patrons of the early settlers. He gave every assistance to those people who sought to establish themselves in the newly settled country. In 1814 he became a member of the Assembly and then went to Congress as a Representative from 1817 to 1821. He became a county judge in 1811 and served in that capacity for many years.

After Ogden's death in 1829 changes occurred in the Island House itself and in the lives of its inhabitants. Soon thereafter Mrs. Ogden, because of financial difficulties was forced to give up

residence on the island. With her family and servants she moved to the mainland.

A new family moved into the Island House. Isaac Ogden was a brother of David. He married his cousin, Sarah Ogden Meredith of Philadelphia, the year before his brother's death.

Perhaps it was at this time that the two wings to the east and west of the house were added. At this time also a large veranda was built. The east wing was divided to make two rooms. In the door of the east wing opening onto the veranda is still found the enormous lock and key which were the original hardware.

Life in the Island House maintained its reputation for hospitality. All visiting clergymen were invited to stay in the "Bishop's Room" as the northeast bedroom was called. The mistress of the house moved about her duties accompanied by a maid who carried a small basket of keys which opened all the household cupboards. The Isaac Ogdens helped the inhabitants of Waddington as had their predecessors. (The name of the village had been changed in 1820 to honor David's Ogden's brother-in-law, one of the landholders with Ogden.) Mrs. Ogden's daughters were educated at home and the daughters of farmers and tenants were included in the lessons.

With the death of Isaac Ogden and his wife the Island House left the hands of the Ogden family. Before the death of Mrs. Ogden land on the island had been sold to make several farms. The house itself and 156 acres remained in the Ogden name until 1880. Of the Ogden children only two survived their parents and both moved to other parts of the country. The house was vacant until purchased by Ebenezer S. Crapser, a business man of Brasner who served as a supervisor from the town of Stockholm for many years.

Although the Ogdens were gone from the North Country the Island House remained. Gradually it assumed a special place in the stories of Waddington residents even though it remained the summer home for the Crapser family. In time it became enhanced with an aura of folklore, those legends which so easily accrue to a place which has dominated the history of a community.

The house on Ogden Island even had a ghost, so the children of Ebenezer Crapser were led to believe. It was an active one, Miss Eunice Crapser relates, wailing on windy September nights. But that ghost never appeared although if any of the children had dared to sleep in the northeast rooms they were sure that it would.

The romantic tales of the Island House are legion. In the family cemetery is the grave of the 29-year-old son of Isaac Ogden who fell in the Civil War in Tennessee. The legend persists that he was visiting in the South when war was declared and enlisted on the Confederate side with his southern cousins. On his grave is the inscription from his last letter to his mother: "I can not in the hour of peril turn my back upon friends of so many years." Near him in the family plot lies his sister, Gertrude, who married Walford Briggs in the Island House and died a year later to the day. According to the old tale her untimely death was foretold when a bird flew in the open window of the library as she sat at the wedding feast.

Lost even deeper in legend and the past is the true purpose of the curious arched chambers which extend underground from the north wall of the old mansion. Five in number, they are level with the basement of the old mansion. Yet no doorway connected the mysterious chambers to the main building when the Crapser family bought the property. The only entrance was to crawl down a ladderlike flight of steps from the east end of the veranda.

All sorts of conjecture have been made as to the original purpose of these rooms. One of the most practical is that they provided storage place for crops harvested on the Island. Others have claimed that they served as a kind of dungeon for family slaves who had committed misdemeanors. Still another legend maintains that here were hidden slaves in the great underground railroad of pre-Civil War days. Others claim that they were for protection from the British or Indians in the early days. Still another tale has it that the caverns were used in a smuggling operation. At one time pieces of Mexican silver were found during renovations and from this came the tale that here had operated once a great counterfeiting business.

The waters of the St. Lawrence will soon swirl over the walls of the Island House. Within a few years its very solid substance will become as mysterious and fraught with romance as are the tales which have grown out of its long life. Within another generation the Island House will itself be a legend and few paragraphs of written record. Yet during its time the house has played a vital, dramatic part in the story of Northern New York. Indirectly its own story has been linked with the greater history of the establishment of the whole nation. For the men who had the courage and the gambling instinct to buy the great tracts of wilderness which were once this whole North Country were part and parcel of the coterie of men who evolved the foundation upon which the entire country grew. Among them were the great merchant princes of New York and the leading politicians and statesmen of the new country. Some attained lasting fame in the annals of the country. Others, like David Ogden, left their imprint upon a community or locale which they envisioned, fostered and nourished during its early days.

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THE MASSENA MEETING - JULY 28

Postal card notices about the forthcoming Massena meeting and Seaway tour (July 28th) are going into the mail before this issue will reach its readers. Members intending to be present should send in return reservation cards promptly. Indications already point to one of the Association's largest gatherings, as there is much widespread interest in the St. Lawrence Project. It will be optional as to including both the luncheon and tour, but it is vitally important that whatever your decision your reservation be filed with Mrs. Ella Lahey, 23 Phillips Street, Massena on or before July 25. The luncheon hour is set for 11:30 as this part of the program must be completed before the busses leave for the tour of the river scenes at 1:00. We must know how many will attend the luncheon, and how many will take the tour. The tour must be only on the busses, each bus to have an announcer. The luncheon will be at the new Highland Hotel, from which point the tour will start. So, again, get in your reservations early. We shall be committed to carry through, rain or shine.

FROM THE COUNTY CRACKER BARREL

(Including the names of all Town Historians together with a continuing report on their activities.)

BRASHER (Mrs. Joseph O'Brien). "At the present time I am gathering information on the history of St. Joseph's Academy, Brasher. This building was used as a school for about 75 years and was one of the oldest buildings in use in Brasher." CANTON (Mrs. Karl M. Mayhew, Jr.). Not only the wool wheel parts were made by Mr. Crary but also the missing flax wheel parts. Mr. Frank Crary spent over 136 hours on this project. Work on the Flax Project continued with instruction at Cooperstown at the Seminars on American Culture. In connection with the Centennial Celebration of the founding of St. Lawrence University the historian made scrapbooks covering the five periods of the history of Kappa Kappa Gamma Fraternity from 1875-1956. RENSSELAER FALLS (Mrs. Nina Wilson). Was hostess for the Spring Workshop Meeting of the Historians in her area. Mrs. Irma Bill, who made the plans for the new library in this village, was present and conducted the historians through the new building. CLARE (Mrs. Leslie Colton). CLIFTON (Mrs. George Reynolds). Was the hostess for her area meeting and arranged for interviews with early residents of her town which were tape-recorded. COLTON (Mrs. Judson Miller). DEKALB (Miss Mabel Sheldon). Published an article on the early history of the town in the Gouverneur TRIBUNE PRESS. August 4th and 5th the town will celebrate its 150th sesquicentennial. DEPEYSTER (Mrs. Emery Smitners). June 30th teachers and pupils of District No. 1 were invited to return to their schoolhouse whose bell has rung for 130 years (1825-1955). The invitations had an original drawing of the school and those returning were asked to bring old school pictures and programs and other interesting memorabilia. The events of the day are to be tape-recorded, even the ringing of the school bell. EDWARDS (Miss Leah Noble). "I am working on the History of South Edwards School." FINE (Mrs. Bart Ritz). We are sorry to hear of the illness of Mrs. Ritz. FOWLER (Mrs. Helen Cunningham). "FOWLER'S SCHOOLS OF YESTERYEAR" is now completed with photographs of the original school buildings. These have been abandoned to make way for the new centralized system. GOVERNEUR (Miss Helena Johnston). GOVERNEUR VILLAGE (Julius Bartlett). HAMMOND (Mrs. Lottie Simons). HERMON (Mrs. John Hance). HOPKINTON (Mrs. Dorothy Squire). "I'm working on a date booklet for the town. It's to be a calendar of important events that have happened from the time the town was founded up to the present." LAWRENCE (Mrs. Gordon Cole). "I have been helping Attorney Warren Daniels find evidence which will establish the ownership of Lawrenceville Academy. The VFW has moved into the building and wishes to buy it if a definite ownership can be made. The Ladies Auxiliary and the Boy Scouts are also using the building for headquarters." LISBON (E. Earl Jones). Has purchased a showcase with shelves for the display of historical objects in the Hepburn Library and will form the nucleus for an historical center. In cooperation with the Lisbon Town Board is preparing a folder with a map of the town, a bit of its history, its facilities such as churches, schools and organizations. LOUISVILLE (Mrs. Loraine Bandy). "At present I am mapping the Protestant cemetery in Louisville. When this is completed I will start on the Catholic cemetery, then go on to the Methodist or community cemetery in Chase Mills. I have been doing genealogy work for people in Iowa, Minnesota and Mohawk, N.Y."

MACOMB (Mrs. India Murton). "While doing cemetery work found this interesting inscription 'Here lies the remains of Robert Forsyth, age 47 years, of Charlotte his wife, age 46 years, Jane, their daughter, age 18 years, Mary J., their granddaughter, age 4 years who perished by the burning of his house in Macomb on the night of the 16 of Jan'y, 1865 together with John Johnson and Pleasant, his wife, parents of Mrs. Forsyth, leaving no one and nothing to explain the mystery of the burning or death.'" MADRID (Mrs. Arthur Thompson). The War Service Records are 100% up to date. The historian makes a card for the service person as soon as he or she enlists or is drafted. The historian then interviews the mother and continues to check with her from time to time to keep the War Record card up to date. MASSENA (Mrs. Ella Leahy). Over 900 letters have come to the historian after the TV program of the St. Lawrence Seaway on "WIDE WIDE WORLD." MORRISTOWN (Malcolm Booth). NORFOLK (No historian). OSWEGATCHIE (Mrs. Monna Mayne). HEUVELTON VILLAGE (Mrs. Ida Downing). PARISHVILLE (Miss Doris Rowland). Amber Lodge No. 395 F. & A.M. is observing the 100th Anniversary of its founding. The event was marked by a banquet on May 28th at which about 400 persons were served. David Peary, W.M. and great-great-grandson of Captain Leavitt Hatch, the first W.M. presided. Pamphlets, containing photographs and a brief history of the Lodge were presented to the guests. "I have the military records nearly up-to-date as far as I know." PIERCEFIELD (Mrs. Beulah Dorothy). Due to having preserved some old school registers I was able to furnish some dates which gave two different women proof of their age resulting in one's obtaining old social security and the other a birth certificate. PIERREPONT (Millard Hundley). "The help which Mrs. Smithers gave me on cemetery work got me started very nicely." PITCAIRN (No historian). POTSDAM (No historian). ROSSIE (Mrs. Virgie Simons). "I am spending all available time on writing a history of the Rossie Presbyterian church. In early fall we hope to have an Old Home Sunday and give each person attending a mimeographed copy of the history." RUSSELL (Mrs. Dorothy Maning). STOCKHOLM (Lindon Riggs). WADDINGTON (Mrs. Ethel Olds).

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FROM THE YORKER CRACKER BARREL

CANTON: Foote's Followers. Mrs. Howard's Section: - Publicized and contributed for the U.N.I.C.E.F. Halloween Drive. Compiling a book of North Country folklore, a scrapbook on our school and its history. Advanced sales of "Canton, The Town Friendliness Built" and decorated a store window in a Christmas theme: "Let's have an Old-Fashioned Christmas!" Are making a series of maps of New York to show its history from the Glacial Period to the present. Mrs. Howard, sponsor of the Yorker Club, retired from teaching this June when the Howards adopted a baby, Martha Elaine. Mr. Otis' Section: Working on a complete and detailed model of Fort Ticonderoga made entirely from balsa wood and set on a wooden base. Working on various kinds of maps of N.Y.S.: salt and flour relief maps, outline maps of cities and one of the transportation facilities. In the making is a scrapbook of sketches drawn by club members fully picturing the State's history. Lastly various members are writing to the Chambers of Commerce in many of the State's communities to gather interesting information about them for scrapbooks. Also

Barbara Dommeyer, 16, Grade 10, four years a Yorker, corresponding secretary of her club two years, recording secretary last year, president this year, elected Adirondack District representative at Massena jamboree, author of much of Canton's prize-winning book in 1955, hard worker on its prize-winning exhibit last year, greatly interested in folklore, St. Lawrence County land titles, a power house in planning annual Yorker banquet was one of 18 winning the WHO'S WHO AMONG WORKERS award at the Albany Statewide Convention, as well as being elected State Historian. Mr. Casada's Section: Presently are working on a detailed pictorial map series denoting the entire history of St. Lawrence County, are modeling the old mill near Coakley's lumberyard, making up-to-date reports on the progress of the Seaway, mapping the village of Canton, constructing a salt and flour map of N.Y.S. and also volunteered for work on the U.N.I.C.E.F. Halloween Drive. GOUVERNEUR has two Yorker chapters, Marble Hill and Marble City. Margaret Walrath, 14, Grade 8 is that most desirable type of Yorker, so enthusiastic about her club that this year, though her school was on half-day session, she persuaded her principal to allow a group of devoted Yorkers to return one evening a week to form a club. Reporter at the Adirondack jamboree last year, and Syracuse convention. Club president for both years, Marnie contributed most to Gouverneur's Sylvia Lake booklet being published. "An 'A' student", so read the sponsor, Miss Dorothy Coates' citation in The Yorker magazine in which Marnie was listed as one of the 18 Yorkers to receive WHO'S WHO AMONG YORKERS at the recent Albany Convention. MASSENA. The two sections of the Andre Massena Chapter of the Yorker Clubs have had a flourishing year with Lawrence Hiter, Junior High teacher and native of Massena, director, assisted by Miss Betty Ashley. Highlighting a year of good sound programs the clubs were hosts to the Chapters of the Northern district in April at which each group displayed individual projects, dramatized skits, and elected officers for the coming year.

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NOTES ON RIVER OBSERVATIONS

To express my appreciation for your use of my likeness in your second issue of The Quarterly, I am sending my notes of a trip Ethel and I took to Canada on April 27, 1956. We crossed at Ogdensburg, and, with stops along the way, continued down the river as far as Cornwall and back.

The most thrilling sight was at the new village of Iroquois where we saw great machines in the process of moving houses. One machine was being backed under a house which had been raised up for the purpose, another machine was already loaded and ready to go, and a third had a large upright house with wing about to be lowered onto a foundation with cellar. This was a large stucco structure and there wasn't a crack in it.

As we viewed the turbulent waters of the Long Sault Rapids, we wondered what the area would look like when it has been de-watered. Better get a look at these famous rapids before they are gone forever.

The people of the thriving village of Cornwall, 17,000 population, are optimistic and are preparing for a still greater future. The famous Cornwallis Hotel is being completely revamped and modernized. It should be one of the very finest hostelrys outside of the large Canadian and American cities.

We saw a great many large ships on the river. What will the traffic be when the project has been completed? We may conclude that the Great Lakes-St. Lawrence Seaway will be (if not already) carrying the greatest tonnage of any inland waterway in the world.

- C. B. Olds

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EIGHT YEARS -- HISTORICALLY SPEAKING

(Continued from the last issue)

In reading over the minutes of our County Historical Association from 1947 to the present one is impressed with the fact that the Association as such has benefitted no end in an historical program for which no one person, or no one organization can very well lay claim for entire credit. This Association, like the office of County Historian and its allied Town Historian organization, has shared in the accomplishments, often which can most properly be credited to local groups of interested volunteers or to local historical associations, such as at Massena and Potsdam. Assuredly there has been a tremendous building up of interest in the history of this whole county and in fitting observances for notable historical anniversaries. In these many programs the County Historical Association invariably shared, and in many has lent a hand or even assumed full responsibility. But honor should be given where honor is most due, to the workers. Almost without exception the load has fallen on local people. They have made these many observances the splendid successes they have been.

Therefore, in presenting the following outline of that in which the County Association has participated, emphasis is placed wholly on portraying the panoramic report, rather than indulging in detail and in personal references. This over-all report brings out the great up-surge of public interest in the historical past of St. Lawrence County.

As a matter of record, as well as to bring out the essential highlights of the panorama of eight years the following year-by-year outline is offered. To be sure there are a multitude of interesting things which are omitted, some day to be assembled in a more adequate manner.

1947-48: Following the organization meeting of October 17, three other meetings were held during the fiscal year. Dr. Albert B. Corey, State Historian, addressed the meeting on November 22. The other meetings consisted of informal discussions and reports.

participation was on the 26th, Massena Day. Following luncheon President Olds, County Historian, Nina Smithers, Town Historian Ella Lahey spoke. Ogdensburg, June 12: Association sponsored a program in which an original skit of the first meeting of the Board of Supervisors was presented by The Cathedral Players. The skit was written by Mr. Olds. The Speaker of the day was Dr. Milton W. Hamilton, Senior, Historian of the State Department.

1952-53: October 4, annual meeting, Canton. April 25, Canton, with talk on "Development of St. Lawrence County as Seen from Maps" by Atwood Manley. Movie of the 1952 Massena celebration. June 28, Massena: Association guests at an Open House by the Aluminum Company of America, a conducted tour of ALCOA's plant.

1953-54: October 17, Annual Fall Meeting. Paper, "A New Perspective on Local and County History," by Prof. Charles Lahey, Potsdam. June 12, Depeyster: Conducted tour, noon luncheon with program following. Talk by President C. B. Olds on "Rafting on the St. Lawrence." Three papers prepared by Mrs. Nina Smithers and presented as follows: "A Brief History of the Town" read by Elsie Morris; "The Story of the Village Park," by Ruth Fishbeck; "Depeyster and the Civil War Days," by Mrs. Perry Sterling. July 26, Gouverneur: Tour and dedication of State Historical Marker on site of first Talc Mill in the United States, Bligh A. Dodds, presiding. Address by Robert McCarthy, President of the International Talc Co. Luncheon followed by program. Papers: "History of Zinc Mining," Severn P. Brown, Geologist of St. Joseph Lead Co.; "History of Talc Mines," Frederick G. Kuehl; "History of Steamboats on Black Lake," Harold Storie.

1954-55: Annual October meeting, Canton. Three meetings: Canton, Gouverneur, Hermon. At the Canton meeting talks on Land Titles by Maurice Gardner, Searcher of the County Clerk's Office, and County Map Making by the late E. G. Blankman, by Professor Edward Blankman. Gouverneur Sesquicentennial Celebration: dedication of a State Marker at Fowler; luncheon followed by historical tour. Hermon Sesquicentennial Celebration: program, present as guests.

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AS THE YEAR ROLLS ALONG

Since the last issue (April Number) of The Quarterly, two interesting meetings of the Association have been held. The first, at Canton on May 6, was held in the new Atwood Hall on the St. Lawrence University campus. The second, on June 16, was in Potsdam with the noon luncheon at the Arlington and talk by Marguerite G. Chapman on the Potsdam Museum followed by a visit to the Museum. In round numbers each of these meetings was enjoyed by about fifty members.

Lack of space prevents even a decent partial report on these meetings. Andrew K. Peters spoke on the founding of the University in his usual witty and interesting manner, frequently drawing upon source material he has collected. Mrs. Chapman told of the founding and development of Potsdam's unusual library and its famous Burnap Collection.