

T H E Q U A R T E R L Y

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Editor - Atwood Manley, Canton, N. Y.

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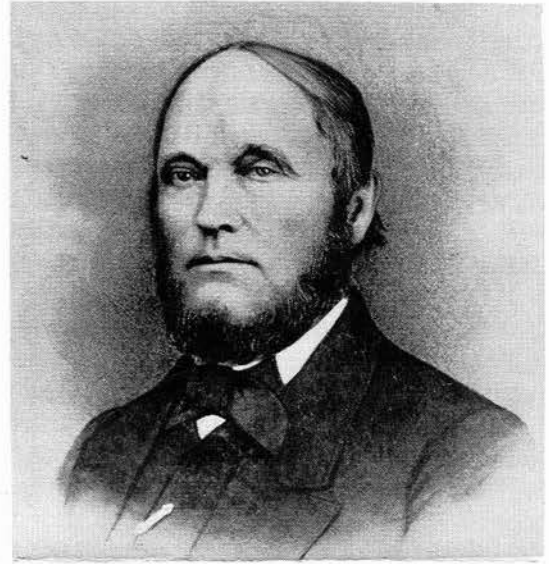
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Canton, N. Y.

July 1957



ORIGINAL PARTRIDGE HOME, DEPESEYTER



BENJAMIN FRANKLIN PARTRIDGE



SGT. L. LEE PARTRIDGE



AS MODERNIZED YEARS LATER

DE PEYSTER'S LAST SETTLEMENT

By George H. Partridge

In the northwest portion of the town of De Peyster, and extending four miles into the town of Macomb, lies a narrow, peninsula shaped strip of land, bounded on three sides by Fish Creek and on one side by the Macomb town line. Fish Creek rises in Hickory Lake, flows east for six or seven miles, turns north and crosses the state highway at the Morris farm and then continues west to Pope's Mills where it flows into Black Lake. It is approximately fourteen miles long. The land adjoining the creek is swampy and, because of a natural dam at Pope's Mills, it becomes flooded in the spring and very little of it can be cultivated. On top of the natural dam Timothy Pope in 1818 erected an additional barrier so that he would have a longer period each year to operate his grist mill and saw mill. This created a veritable lake out of the land adjoining the creek. The farmers owning such land, believing that Pope's dam was responsible for making it uncultivable, brought suit against him and forced him to remove his section of the dam. Although it helped some it did not lower the water sufficiently to make it possible to till the land and plant cereal crops. The natural dam of solid rock blocking the flow of the creek is responsible and it would cost many thousands of dollars to blast a channel to lower the level of the creek to the point where the flooded land could be restored to useful productivity.

At the time the town of De Peyster was set off from the town of Dekalb in 1825 the section described above was inaccessible from the rest of the town because there was no bridge across Fish Creek. In the spring of that year my grandfather, Benjamin F. Partridge came with his brother-in-law, Captain John Finch, from Keene Valley, Essex County, New York, for the purpose of exploring this tract of land with a view of making a permanent settlement. He was then twenty-two years old and unmarried. He entered into a contract with Judge Stillwell, agent for Samuel Ogden owner of the land in question, to build a bridge across the creek for which he and Captain Finch received one hundred dollars. He applied his share of the proceeds towards the purchase of sixty-six acres of land bordering on the creek for which he agreed to pay four dollars an acre. He then returned to Keene Valley where, in June 1826, he married Mary H. Wheeler, bringing his bride and his parents back with him to his newly acquired property.

Benjamin Franklin Partridge was born September 17, 1803 in Chesterfield, New Hampshire, the son of Amos and Sally (Harvey) Partridge. His father (1758--1844) was born in Mendon, Mass., and was fifth in line from John Partridge, the immigrant who came from England in 1650 and, with his brother William, was one of the founders of the town of Medfield, Mass. (See Tilden's History of Medfield). Amos Partridge served in the American Revolution from Athol, Mass., and Chesterfield, N. H. He was in the battles of Ticonderoga and Saratoga. (See Mass. Soldiers and Sailors of the Revolution and Hammond's Revolutionary Rolls). When his son, Benjamin, was three years old he moved with his family to Peacham, Vermont, and three years later to Keene Valley, New York, where he resided until the removal to De Peyster. He is buried in Purmort cemetery, De Peyster.

The abutments of the bridge which my grandfather built across Fish Creek are still to be seen a few rods south of the present state highway bridge. I used to fish for bullheads from these rocks and in duck-hunting season kept my boat anchored at this point. It was my custom at this time of year to rise early, walk the two miles to the boat and paddle up the creek so as to reach the feeding grounds at sunrise. On one such occasion I was accompanied by two boys from Ogdensburg whom I had invited to spend a few days at the farm. This trip nearly ended in a tragedy. To the larger of the boys I assigned the task of paddling while the other was stationed in the bow for the purpose of clearing the channel of wild rice and serving as lookout. I sat in the only comfortable seat in the boat with gun in hand ready for action at the first

sight of a duck. As we were rounding a bend in the creek we each at about the same time caught sight of a fox sitting on his haunches beside a stump facing the rising sun. He was, no doubt, not only enjoying the warm rays of the sun on this frosty morning but also engaged in contemplation of the delicious breakfast of tender duckling he expected to enjoy. For this reason he did not at first see us. I motioned to the boy in the stern to maneuver the boat so I could get a better shot. In our excitement the boat lurched, the gun went off and the shot whizzed by the boy in the bow close enough he said to feel the breeze from the birdshot. Brer fox beat it for the woods and we returned home a disappointed and a chastened crew.

My grandfather built the first house in this section of the town on land which he later sold to Richard Fieldson. In 1832 or 1833 he moved up the road about two miles, first buying lots on the south side of the road but in the latter year locating on land on the opposite side where he purchased approximately 200 acres. He first constructed a log house on a rise of ground a few rods west of the present residence. The old well, now filled with stones, is still to be seen. To him and my grandmother in this house were born seven of their ten children consisting of nine boys and one girl. The daughter and two sons died in infancy. Seven of the nine sons lived to maturity. My father, Luther Lee Partridge, was born February 20, 1838 and died February 21, 1881. He served in the Civil War as First Sergeant to Captain, later General Newton Martin Curtis, in the Sixteenth New York State Volunteer Infantry which was recruited mostly from residents of the towns of De Peyster and Oswegatchie. He was wounded at the battle of Salem Church after two years of service. He applied for re-enlistment as an officer in the Invalid Corps but his application was rejected because of his physical condition. He contracted diabetes and died at the age of forty-three.

I knew General Curtis well and saw something of him in New York during his term as Congressman from the North Country. He was a member of the Loyal Legion whose offices were in the same building as mine. Meeting him one day in the elevator he invited me to dine with him that evening at his club. It was a memorable occasion for me for during the evening he regaled me with incidents of the Civil War and in particular with some which concerned my father. He told me of one which occurred in the early days of the war when his company and regiment were stationed at Alexandria as part of the Army of the Potomac. My father, he said, had been assigned the task of guarding the line at one point in the outskirts of the city with instructions to challenge any person who approached and to shoot, if necessary, such person if he did not heed the order to halt. On one morning when my father was on duty a figure came towards him during a dense fog. It failed to heed my father's challenge but continued to approach until as it came so close to him he saw that it was a woman with a shawl draped over her head. She had a basket on her arm and was coming to the city to do her marketing. Your father, the General continued, displayed excellent judgment and restraint. He had all the attributes of an exemplary soldier.

At the battle of Salem Church, in which my father was wounded, an incident occurred which saved his captain's life. Captain Curtis had been promoted to colonel and his position as chief officer of Company G had been taken by Captain Bain who also had been wounded in this battle. My father, seeing him fall, with the help of another soldier formed a basket with their arms and were carrying the Captain to the rear. Each had one arm around Captain Bain's neck when my father was hit by a bullet in the upper arm which otherwise would have penetrated the Captain's neck and doubtless killed him. The bone in my father's upper arm was shattered. He was hospitalized and sent home much to his regret. He had suffered from dysentery and it is my belief that this and the effects of his wound were the cause of his early death.

In the two miles of road from the Fish Creek bridge to the Macomb town line there were at the time of my birth seventeen farms, the owners of which, starting at the bridge were as follows: William Fieldson, Richard Fieldson, George Ashworth, Harvey Hardy, Edwin Bristol and his son, Mansfield, John H. Forbes, Nathan Ward, Jacob Coffin, George Swain, Smith Fishbeck, Christopher Nelson, Nathan F. Swain and his son, Nathan F., Jr., Jacob Walrath and his son, Lafayette, Benjamin F. Partridge and his son, Luther Lee, Mahlon Lovewell, Henry Jillson and his father, Otis, and Philip Lawyer. Richard Fieldson and George Ashworth were recent immigrants from England. Harvey Hardy's father, Moses Hardy, came from Fryeburg, Maine. He married Sarah Partridge, my grandfather's sister. Edwin Bristol was a son of Mansfield Bristol whose family came from Vermont and were among De Peyster's first settlers. Edwin married Mary Partridge, my grandfather's niece. She was a daughter of Amos Partridge, Jr. whose daughter, Annette, married Josiah Thornton who lived in another part of the town of De Peyster. Nathan Ward's wife was also my grandfather's niece, her mother being Arathusa Partridge. She married Adam Fishbeck and lived in the town of Macomb. My grandfather's youngest brother, Rufus Harvey Partridge, lived in the neighborhood for a time. He married Betsey, daughter of Moses King and died in 1844. Julius A Coffin, a nephew of Jacob Coffin, married Jane Partridge, daughter of Amos, Jr. The Coffins came from Herkimer County. The Walraths and Lawyers were of Mohawk Dutch ancestry as were also the Snyders who lived just over the town line in Macomb. Otis Jillson came from Booneville, New York. Mahlon Lovewell came from Canton and his wife's father, Jefferson Balcom, came from Washington County, New York.

Such was the group which comprised the original settlers of this part of the town of De Peyster. My grandfather, being the first settler and having induced several of his relatives to take residence in the community was naturally accepted as leader in the neighborhood. After attending the school at Keene Valley he taught in neighboring schools and thus acquired a fairly good education. He was early selected as justice of the peace which office he held for many years. During part of this period he kept a record of cases which came before him many of which would seem trivial to us today. If a cow got through a fence into a neighbor's cornfield the latter would frequently bring suit for damages to his crop. Damages were seldom assessed at more than ten dollars and costs, the latter usually being set at fifty cents. The record book in which he recorded his verdicts I gave to the Town Historian for preservation among the town archives. In this book grandfather also kept a record of sales and purchases. Farmers who complain today of prices received for what they produce should study these figures, bearing in mind that their forbears were then paying for their farms and at the same time rearing large families.

In 1852 grandfather succeeded in establishing a post office in his residence under the name of Edenton. He was postmaster for thirty years and was succeeded in this office by his nephew, Harvey Hardy. He in turn was succeeded by Mrs. Mahlon Lovewell who was postmistress until the postoffice was abolished about 1910. Grandfather was supervisor of De Peyster in 1860 and 1861. He was a typical country squire and was generally referred to by the older residents as Squire Partridge. This was often vulgarized to become Square Partridge. One day a man drove in and inquired of my brother where he could find the Square to which my brother replied "in the workshop I imagine".

It was the custom in those days for sons to remain under their father's jurisdiction until they were twenty-one. My oldest uncle, the late Orlando F. Partridge, once told that the day he became of age he left the farm to go on his own. He went to Ogdensburg, secured a position in a law office, studied law under Daniel Magone, graduated from Albany Law School and later became a partner of Mr. Magone. At one time he was land agent for George Parish during which time he resided in Parishville. He later became Deputy Collector of the Port of Ogdensburg which position he held for

many years. The second son, Edwin Henry Partridge, and the fourth, James Harvey Partridge, bought farms in Macomb. Their families later moved to Minnesota. My uncle Edwin served for the entire four years of the Civil War as a member of the Sixtieth New York State Volunteer Infantry. He was in both battles of Bull Run, the battle of Gettysburg and with General Sherman in his march from Atlanta to the Sea. He came through unscathed and lived to a ripe old age. The third son, Amos S., settled in St. Louis where he became a builder of street railway cars. Artemas W., fifth of my grandfather's sons, went to California during the gold rush and died there at an early age. My father was the sixth son. The youngest, Benjamin Francis, located in Fergus Falls, Minn., where he engaged in the manufacture of agricultural machinery. My father and mother were married on Christmas day, 1866. They had three children of whom I am the youngest. My sister married Abram G. Senior, a lawyer, and lived in Utica, N. Y. My brother graduated from the Theological Department of St. Lawrence University and at the time of his death in 1907 was pastor of the Universalist Church in Webster, N. Y. He married Edith G. Corp. In 1912 I married May Keene Abbott, widow of Wright V. Abbott and daughter of Col. Hiram B. Keene of Antwerp and Gouveneur. She had two children by her first marriage. I graduated from St. Lawrence University in 1896 going immediately to New York where for more than fifty years I have been engaged in the technical advertising and publishing business.

The house now standing on the Partridge homestead was built by my grandfather in 1853. The builder's name was Atwood and I will vouch for the statement that he was a master builder. The lumber with which the house was built was cut from virgin timber on the farm. The heavy timbers are of oak and elm and are as sound today as they were when cut more than a century ago. The siding, roofboards and clapboards were of knotless pine and I regretted having to remove them when I remodelled the house in 1929. After his marriage my father made some alterations to the east wing adding a second story to provide room for his growing family. I raised the roof on the west wing and altered the east wing to match it, put on a slate roof, installed bathrooms and toilets and sunk a deep well to get sufficient water which I softened by the installation of a water-softening plant. It was with great regret that I found it necessary to sell this property twelve years ago because of advancing age and responsibilities connected with my business in New York.

In the building of this house my grandfather met with considerable competition from his neighbor, Otis Jillson. After the house was completed Mr. Jillson decided to go him one better by adding a porch with wood columns in the colonial style. Otis Jillson was one of the most substantial men in the neighborhood and loved to argue with grandfather on any subject which might come up for discussion. It was said that he changed his religion with the change of seasons. Everts History of St. Lawrence County published in 1876 gives sketches of both him and my grandfather in which Mr. Jillson was reported to "belong to that school or sect which have for their watchword or rule of action the general diffusion of knowledge and the spiritual and temporal advancement of mankind". I cannot conceive of anyone who could take exception to that rule of conduct and I doubt if the subject was ever debated pro and con.

On the other side of grandfather's farm was that of Nathan F. Swain, Sr., affectionately known in the neighborhood as Uncle Nate. He was a member of the debating team and was never better than when he was in his cups. Upon his return from Heuvelton he would no sooner have stabled his horse than he would march up to our house and engage in discussions on every subject from politics to religion. Grandfather was quite deaf but Uncle Nate needed no assistance from ear-phones to make grandfather understand him. There was a book published about that time called "Millennium Dawn". This offered many texts for discussion, Uncle Nate taking a liberal view of human conduct while grandfather was prone to hew close to the line

as laid down by the Westminster Creed. Jefferson Balcom frequently got into the argument but he was no match for Uncle Nate who always insisted on having the last word.

The most popular man in the neighborhood was Mahlon Lovewell. He was fat and jolly and always kept a bottle in the grain bin. He had a heart of gold and a line of profanity that, using Wilson's words, would make your hair curl. His barnyard almost directly opposite our house. His was the only family in the neighborhood to use daylight saving time in summer which had not then become in general use throughout the country. Consequently he was up an hour earlier than his neighbors who were awakened by his repeated consignment to everlasting damnation of certain recalcitrant cows. He sang bass in the choir which was led by my mother and frequently practiced at our house for religious services held at intervals at the school house. Regular Sunday School classes were held there of which Mrs. Lovewell was Superintendent. Once or twice a year pupils were asked to commit a suitable piece to memory and to be ready to recite if called on. One occasion, which I remember, offered an opportunity for some innocent fun. Somewhere I had read a comic version of Mary's Little Lamb and, in a remote corner of the schoolhouse I taught it to one of the small boys in the class. The first verse ran like this:

Mary had a little lamb
Its snow was white as fleece
And everywhere that Mary went
The lamb would go apiece.

There were other verses but the proceedings were interrupted by Mrs. Lovewell after the first verse. She yanked the boy from the rostrum and glanced with suspicious eye towards the corner from which he emerged.

Many incidents of my boyhood are fresh in my memory. I recall the Presidential campaign of 1888 when Harrison and Morton were the Republican candidates. I was fifteen years old at the time but, being a dyed-in-the-wool Republican I took an active part in that campaign. I arranged a meeting at the schoolhouse to which I invited Dan S. Giffin and George W. Hurlbut of Heuvelton as the speakers, I presided and introduced them. A male quartette from De Peyster, consisting of Nias Thornton and the Rickett brothers and one other whose name I have forgotten came over to help stir up enthusiasm. After the meeting a flag was raised on a newly erected flagpole which had been cut in Philip Lawyer's tamarack swamp. I painted this pole red, white and blue but unfortunately painted the base of the pole solid blue and the rest in alternate stripes of red and white exactly like a barber's pole. I never heard the last of this.

I remember the winter dances at Millard Knox's cheese factory where I learned the Virginia Reel and the old square dances. John Swain and his brother Nathan, Jr., were the fiddlers. I was not allowed to go to hotel dances or those held at hop picking time. Then there were the spelling bees at ours and the Whalen schoolhouse; the sugaring off parties; the box socials at which you unwittingly bid for the girl you did not want; the corn husking; the skating and toboggan parties; the children's birthday celebrations with the good eats and baseball and other games at noon recess. I organized a baseball club of which I was captain and pitcher. We called our team The Terrors and I thought Mahlon Lovewell would choke with laughter when I told him the name we had selected. The only trouble was that after we had filled all the positions on the team there were no boys left to form a team to oppose us.

The school which I attended was, on the whole, an excellent one. Two of the teachers who, in my opinion, were outstanding were the Misses Laurette Hulett and Ione Jillson. They had tack and discipline and the ability to convey to their pupils the desire for learning. Although school was a serious matter it was not altogether void of fun and pleasure. Many amusing incidents occurred in and out of classes.

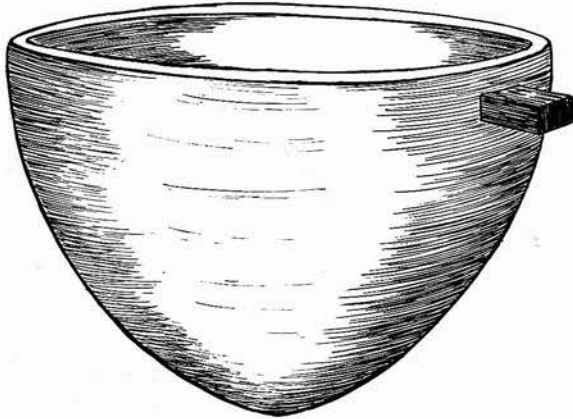
One which I have not forgotten happened in my grammar class. We were studying the proper construction of sentences. The one given us to reconstruct correctly was: "I saw a bust statue of Sir Walter Scott entering the vestibule". After several vain attempts one boy raised his hand to indicate that he had the correct answer. It was this: "Entering the vestibule I saw a statue of Sir Walter Scott bust". In an examination in geography one of the questions was, "Name the four principal capes on the coast of Africa". One boys answer was Cape Farewell and several others too numerous to mention. Greenland was as close as he could get to the correct answer.

We had school plays and school entertainments in which some adults participated. The best comedian in the neighborhood was Frank Fishbeck. He was a veritable clown. In the late 1880s we were fortunate in having as frequent visitors in the neighborhood George Schaefer and his sister, Minnie, from Montreal. They were relatives of the Snyder family. Minnie was then about sixteen and a raving beauty. She had a waist like a wasp for it was during the period when women vied with one another to see who could lace herself the tightest. I immediately fell in love with her. She ignored me completely. However, during one of her mid-winter visits she permitted me to drive her to Ogdensburg in the family cutter. It was a glorious day and, snuggled under the buffalo robe as close to her as I dared to get, my thoughts were on anything but the landscape. If the emotions of my male forbears during the days of "bundling" were anything like mine on that sentimental journey I can well understand why, in those days, couples married so young. George Schaefer was an accomplished pianist. We had one of the few pianos in the community and George and his sister spent much time at our house. The recitals which he gave were largely attended. It was this introduction to classical music which led my sister to study voice cultivation later in Boston and Chicago. George opened a studio in Chicago about the turn of the century where he became a noted teacher of piano. In addition to his musical talent he also had considerable histrionic ability. He managed some of our more ambitious productions at the schoolhouse which were well attended.

Such was the last settlement in the town of De Peyster after its separation from the town of Dekalb. In spite of the fact that I was born there I have often marvelled what induced my grandfather to leave his home in Keene Valley and settle in a territory so lacking in the beauty and grandeur of the Adirondack region he came from. Perhaps he was tired of climbing hills. He had the spirit of the pioneer, whose inward urge was to carve out a place in the sun for himself and his children. Stewart Holbrook in his "Yankee Exodus" asks the question "Why did they go, these Yankees who deserted the hills of Vermont and other strongholds of a people who are said, at least by other Americans to be flinty of character, chary of emotion, careful of money and shrewd as can be?" Perhaps, said he, it was because they had a desire to see what was on the other side of the mountain.

At any rate I believe it can be said that the community which my grandfather helped to establish on the other side of his mountains was a happy and friendly one. It was the scene of no great achievements but, on the other hand, neither was it a place of discord and dissention. Each was his neighbor's brother in the true Mosaic sense, ever ready to lend a helping hand in time of need. I am thankful that I was born in such an environment among people of sturdy character who were not afraid of work and who, like their compatriots throughout the nation, were the real builders of America.

POTASH INDUSTRY IN NORTHERN NEW YORK



A POTASH KETTLE

The story of potash, interesting in itself, will bear recital and amplification because the product meant so much to this section in pioneer days. Of actual money there was next to none in circulation except during the period of the War of 1812 and for a time immediately subsequent, when the pay of the soldiers stationed at Fort Covington and Malone found its way into local distribution, and the little that the inhabitants found it possible to scrape together in the course of a year had all to be applied in the payment of taxes or for the purchase of such supplies as could be procured only from outside of the country. Though in some cases distilleries paid cash for grain, the manufacture and the sale of potash was about the sole means whereby it could be had, other commodities being dis-

posable only in exchange for such merchandise as comprised the primitive and scanty stocks of the few local tradesmen.

The manufacture of potash was our first industry. The name is derived from ashes, from which alone it was formerly produced, and from pot, in which lye was boiled to dryness. Black salts is a synonym. In earliest operations each settler was himself the manufacturer through all the stages—ashes and leaching them, boiling down the lye, and hauling the product to market. The labor must have been prodigious, as thirty cords of wood are required for the making of a ton of ashes, which yields only about a sixth of a ton of potash. Asheries sprang up later and came to handle the business generally, though individuals continued in many cases to do the primary work themselves—usually leasing a pot from an ashery at the rental price of one dollar per month. The asheries received the ashes through individual delivery at their doors, or gathered their supply with their own teams. Ashes produced in the home commanded considerably better price (usually twelve cents a bushel) than the field product, with which a good deal of dirt was commonly mixed, and which sold at from five to eight cents a bushel. In not exceptional cases the asheries bought the potash from individual makers, and converted it into pearl ash.

Elm and ash give the largest yield of ashes, and an operator who cleared a heavily elm-timbered tract in Bangor used to say that he found a five dollar bill at the roots of every tree.

Business of producing vegetable potash as a commercial proposition has practically disappeared, owing to the facts that the labor cost would be prohibitive even if timber had not been too valuable to burn, and also to mineral potash having come into general use through the discovery in 1807 of a practical process of separating it from salt deposits in Germany. The vegetable potash is, I believe, still produced in some of the wilder parts of Canada and in Russia, and in Michigan and Wisconsin from the refuse of sugar cane and beet sugar refineries, but only in small quantities. The extreme price for it when its production in this country was extensive was one hundred dollars per ton, except that during the embargo preceding the War of 1812 it reached three times that figure. As the usual price was sixty to eighty dollars per ton, and one hundred dollars gave a good profit, it is easily understood how great an incentive to activity and ante-war values must have been to the makers and smugglers.

Pearlash is only potash petrified by heating. Potash is used principally in chemical preparations as a fertilizer. It enters largely into the manufacture of soap and explosives, and to some extent into certain kinds of matches. Diligent and energetic exploration is at present being prosecuted in the alkaliwastes of Utah, Nevada and California for the discovery of deposits which would make us independent of Germany, and very recently blast furnaces and manufacturers of cement have held out a hope that they may be able to supply potash in commercial quantities as a by-product of their business.

Note: The sketch of the potash kettle was drawn by Miss Lilian Todd, a descendant of the Orr family of De Peyster from which it came to her.

ANOTHER FAMOUS HISTORICAL SITE MAY GO

There seems to be some ground for the report that the former home of Governor Silas Wright, Jr., may come on the market. This historic residence, once the home of New York's famous Governor, is located on the Main Street in Canton, just east of the business section. It faces the beautiful public park, given by Wright and his associate, Joseph Barnes, to the Presbyterian Society for the express purpose of use as a public park. The Silas Wright home is little changed from its original design. Porches have been added, and the second floor of the west wing made into several bedrooms. The first floor, however, is practically as built, including the huge old-fashioned fireplace with its built-in heating ovens in the dining room. This is the home Wright occupied at the time of his death in 1847. Public sentiment seems to favor having the house preserved, although the site is desirably located for conversion into part of Canton's business district. The possibility of its being sold does not seem to have progressed beyond the realm of speculation at present, but it is known that the First Universalist Society of Canton, the owner, has had the matter under consideration.

CANTON CHURCH SOCIETY OBSERVES ITS 150th

The recent Sesquicentennial of the First Presbyterian Society of Canton, held May 18-19, was recorded in an historical pamphlet published in connection with the celebration. Of the special points of interest in the program was the pageant presented in the village park immediately in front of the Church on Saturday afternoon, May 18, and the banquet held that evening. A public church service held Sunday afternoon, May 19, was largely attended. This Society was established in 1807, a Congregational missionary, Amos Pettengill, being the guiding spirit. Thus it became the first organized religious body in the town of Canton. Copies of the History can be obtained from Rev. Jack Wells, Pastor, Canton, N. Y., at a price of \$1.00 per copy.

THE MASSENA RIVER TOUR

Although The Quarterly lacks confirming information it is assumed that plans for holding the Second Annual Historical Tour of the St. Lawrence River Development will set forth from Massena on August 17th, as previously announced. As there will be no issue of The Quarterly prior to then the members of the County Historical Society should watch for notices in the press and special postal card notices to be issued in regard to the tour. Great progress has been made in the development the past year, and already there is much interest expressed that the Society repeat its summer tour of the area this year.

The Secretary Says

MEDICAL EXHIBIT OPENS

A medical exhibit commemorating the 150th anniversary of the St. Lawrence County Medical Society, which will occur October 14, 1957, is touring the county this summer. The Historical Association is sponsoring the exhibit, which will be displayed in ten communities of the county in coming weeks.

Interesting exhibits loaned to the Association for the travelling museum so far include a medical bag which once contained pills, potions, and prescriptions given by Dr. Lucia E. Heaton of Canton, saddle bags made from the skin of the horse of Dr. Gordon Spencer, who practised in Champion, Jefferson county, from 1816 to 1857, a surgeon's uniform, worn during the War of 1812 by Dr. Francis Parker of Parishville, and an earphone, as well as a collection of two large boxes of medical books loaned by the Benton family of Ogdensburg.

Those who have made loans to the exhibit include the Ellsworth Museum of St. Lawrence University, Canton, the St. Lawrence County Historian, Mrs. Nina W. Smithers of DePeyster, the Jefferson County Historical Society, the Parishville town historian, Miss Doris Rowland, as well as the Benton Family, previously mentioned, and many others.

Contributions are still welcomed. Please inform the secretary at Box 245, Canton, and he will make arrangements to have the item delivered to the location of the exhibit at the time.

The secretary at this time would like to give special thanks for her help in arranging this exhibit to Mrs. Phyllis F. Clark, librarian at Canton Free Library, where the exhibit was first displayed.

The schedule for the exhibit is: Canton, June 1-15; Waddington, June 16-30; Star Lake, July 1-15; Ogdensburg, July 16-31; Norfolk, August 1-10; Lawrenceville, August 11-20; Hammond, August 21-31; Massena, September 1-15; Gouverneur, September 16-30; and Potsdam, October 1-15.

Malcolm A. Booth, Secy.

RUSSELL'S FORTHCOMING SESQUICENTENNIAL

Russell is celebrating its 150th birthday on August 3 and 4.

The following program has been arranged:

Saturday, August 3-- 9:30 a.m.-- Parade, led by the Knox Memorial Central High Bank; 12:00 noon-- Luncheon served in school cafeteria; 1:30 p.m.-- Program in school auditorium; 6:30 p.m.-- Banquet at school cafeteria; 9:30 p.m.-- Dance, sponsored by the Russell Volunteer Fire Company in the school gymnasium.

An exhibit of antiques and pictures will be on display at the school building both days. A booklet containing the early history of the town will be on sale. Anyone unable to attend, and wishing a booklet, may order same from Mrs. Dorothy Manning, Russell, New York. Price of Booklet is \$1.00.

Sunday, August 4-- Each one is invited to attend the church of his choice. Do plan to attend. All your old friends will be there. Reservations for the banquet should be in by July 23. Tickets for the banquet are \$1.50. Send reservation requests to: Foster L. Moore, Russell, N. Y.

FROM THE COUNTY'S CRACKER BARREL

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

BRASHER: (Mrs. Joseph O'Brien) attended the Spring Workshop meeting at home of Mrs. Ralph Wing of Norfolk. CANTON: (Mrs. Karl M. Mayhew Jr.) spun for the Canton Presbyterian Church's 150th Anniversary Celebration as well as the Adirondack District Jamboree of the Yorker Clubs held in Lisbon. Continuing work on Post Office History and the Town Historical Calendar. RENSSELAER FALLS: (Mrs. Nina Wilson) has material in hand for writing up the OLD ROAD. CLARE: (Mrs. Leslie Colton). CLIFTON: (Mrs. George Reynolds). COLTON: (Mrs. Judson Miller). DEKALB: (Miss Mabel Sheldon) Trying to get the veterans' records. DEPEYSTER: (Mrs. Emery Smithers) working on the story of DePeyster Post Office which is one hundred thirty years old this year. EDWARDS: (Miss Leah Noble) "I accompanied 23 Yorkers to Lake Place State Convention and had a beautiful day up Whiteface. Now I am getting something tangible for my display of lighting in our Hepburn Library. FINE: (Mrs. Alma Marsh) working on four remaining soldiers records. Did research on lumbering. Filing back newspaper items in scrapbooks; Attended workshop meeting in Gouverneur May 11. FOWLER: (Mrs. Helen Cunningham) Working on plans for Fowler's Sesquicentennial being held June 28, 29 and 30. GOUVERNEUR: (Miss Helena Johnston) GOUVERNEUR VILLAGE. (Mr. Julius Bartlett). Fine article on lumbering. Will be used in the composite article on lumbering as soon as more of the historians submit their articles on this subject. (Ed.) HAMMOND: (Mr. Harold Hibbs) For the lumbering article copied the series of articles written by Alexander Allen appearing in the Hammond Advertiser 1905-1910. "I am now in the process of making a new map for Pleasant Valley Cemetery". HERMON: (Mrs. Kellog Morgan). "I have completed and turned in at the County Historian's office all my service records except those of the ones still in service. I am now working on the Historical Map of the town." HOPKINTON: (Mrs. Dorothy Squire) "I have been busy for the past three months cataloging the huge old Hopkinton-Fort Jackson Cemetery, which contains over three thousand burials. I'm making three books of the Cemetery Records: one for Mrs. Smithers, another for our town's Cemetery Association and one for my use." LAWRENCE: (Mrs. Gordon Cole) LISBON: (Mr. E. Earle Jones) Spoke at the Adirondack Yorker Jamboree. LOUISVILLE: (Mrs. Lorraine Bandy) Has been working with Uhl-Hall-Rich on Louisville Landing Cemetery Project since April; has completed a few more military records; accomplished some work in research; clipped current papers; taken a few landmark pictures; and lumbering article is in note form as interviews with the oldest settlers are not completed. MACOMB: (Mrs. India Murton) "Beside the usual, I have been working in the 4th and last cemetery and found this unusual on the stones marking the graves of 7 children of one family: Mary Ann died October 7, 1859 age 15 yrs. 5 mos; Mary Ann 2d died January 6, 1860 age 3 mo. 16 da. (A fine lumber article is in the hands of the ed.) MADRID: (Mrs. Arthur Thompson) Has one new soldier record, and three others completed. Working on Congregational church history additions to town. Also on "History of Chipman Community". Sent in brief accounts of lumbering in early times. MASSENA: (Mrs. Ella Lahey) Attended the workshop meeting at Mrs. Wing's in Norfolk. MORRISTOWN: (Mrs. Ernest Planty) "Completed on church history, took pictures of all the old schools, has most of the material for the town historical calendar and wrote two stories on lumbering and log cutting. NORFOLK: (Mrs. Ralph Wing--unofficial historian) Making records of cemeteries and mapping them. The town road men have done a good job cleaning up two badly neglected old grave yards. OSWEGATCHIE: (Mrs. Monna Mayhe) HEUVELTON VILLAGE: (Mrs. Ida Downing) PARISHVILLE: (Miss Doris Rowland) Plans to start cemetery work and has several sources lined up for information and pictures of early lumbering industry. PIERCEFIELD: (Mrs. PIERPONT: (Mr. Millard Hundley) Has completed the record of another cemetery, one more to go. Placed flags on the graves of the two

unknown 1812 soldiers in the Shanty Hill section. PITCAIRN: (no historian) POTSDAM: (Mr. Charles Lahey) ROSSIE: (Mrs. Virgie Simons) "I am doing extensive research on blacksmithing beginning in early years of the town." RUSSELL: (Mrs. Dorothy Manning) "I am getting my booklet prepared for publication for the Sesquicentennial of Russell on August 3 and 4." STOCKHOLM: (Mr. Lindon E. Riggs) Mapped and catalogued Winthrop Cemetery. WADDINGTON: (Mrs. Ethel Olds) Attended the workshop meeting in Pierrepont with Mr. Millard Hundley as host.

FROM THE YORKER CRACKER BARREL

CANTON: FOOTE'S FOLLOWERS: ended the year with a covered dish banquet with Mrs. Nina Smithers, County Historian, Mrs. Everett, former Howard Yorker sponsor who was instrumental in starting the club, Mrs. Richard Lanshe, present sponsor of two of the three groups, Mr. Hugh Williams, supervising principal, Mrs. Charles Neadom, sponsor and Mrs. Karl M. Mayhew Jr., Town and Village Historian of Canton at the head table. Barbara Dommeyer and Janet Butterfield presented corsages to the ladies and a dance number by Dee Ann Hedlund, the group was divided for historical cherades. A bus load of Canton Yorkers attended the Adirondack District Jamboree in Lisbon in April where Roger Cota was elected president. Canton Yorkers attending State Convention at Lake Placid were delighted to have their fourth "Who's Who Among Yorkers"- Beverly Reddick. Organized five years ago and winning the first award in 1954 was Gail Williams, in 1955 Janet Butterfield, in 1956-Barbara Dommeyer. At the District Jamboree. MASSENA Yorker, Judy Royer, was elected secretary of the Adirondack District. The EDWARDS Yorkers continue to assist their sponsor, Miss Leah Noble, town historian with her work and Sherrill Barraford was elected Treasurer of the Adirondack District. No word from our inactive chapters in HEUVELTON and GOUVERNEUR. LISBON Yorkers have Joyce Jones as Vice President of Adirondack District. The Jamboree was most successful. Kathleen Houlihan was elected delegate for the Adirondack District to State Convention where Joyce McNally received a "Who's Who Among Yorkers" and the four Clubs of Lisbon-Liston, Lisbon Centre, St. Lawrence and Seaway won a Chapter Achievement Award--It's always a delight to honor a Yorker chapter long on our rolls. Such is the group we name first today, for they entered Yorker work in the fall of 1943, when Yorkers were just one year old. They work in a small school and today, though they have four clubs, their membership still numbers only 47. Yet, through the years they have hosted three jamborees-mark it, three-of their district. They have had two "Who's Who" winners from this small school and one statewide council member. To the Lisbon Yorkers, sponsored by Miss Rachel Dandy, goes the first achievement trophy today, so reads the citation in the May-June "The Yorker".

St. Lawrence County Historical Association
P. O. Box 251
CANTON, N. Y.

