

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

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The Old Woodcock Mill at Edwards

THE AX AND THE TREE

By Leah M. Noble, Town Historian of Edwards

Another summer has passed and everywhere, in the North country, we can enjoy the beauty of the trees which adorn the mountains and the countryside. One can not look upon the radiant foliage and beautifully garbed hillsides without re-tracing in one's memory the hardships and the labors which the early settler experienced in wielding his ax, in conquering the dense wilderness which was to become his home.

At first we are inclined to censor these settlers for the reckless and wanton cutting and wasting of the virgin timber of the forests. But to get rid of this barrier, which stood in the way of clearing the land, was the settler's major undertaking. Not only did he carve out his home and farm land from this forest-clad domain, but he also used the stumps to build his few fences. When the settler began to search for another source of income he turned to the sale of potash or black salts which were made from burning the surplus trees. For a time the sale of these ashes provided a lucrative trade with Canada and England. Cargoes of black salts were hauled as far as Utica by oxcart. Quantities of oak, maple, cherry,

hemlock, and pine were at the settler's disposal. From them he built his home and furniture and obtained his fuel.



Milo Woodcock, left, his brother, Will, right, and driver Bert Benson.

As the years rolled along more and more settlers were attracted to these parts to establish their homes and fortunes. Roads, crude but adequate, were constructed which greatly assisted in the influx of newcomers. With the arrival of these strangers a greater demand for building materials arose. Building has become the order of the day. Lucky was the man who had inherited a stream which furnished water power to operate an efficient sawmill, efficient, at least, for the needs of the times. However, the sound of the ax was never completely silenced by the hum of the saw. The vertical saw, once set, roared laboriously along while the sawyer smoked his pipe and waited patiently until the giant blade had eaten its way through the log.

Each locality in the Northland has its list of names, which might institute a saga of lumbering in the north woods. In Edwards, such names would include the Clarks, Squires, Maybees, Fairbanks, Rushtons and Woodcocks. Foremost in the lumbering industry were the Woodcock brothers, Milo and William, whose father, Jason Woodcock, was a farmer in Canton or Jerusalem Corners prior to the Civil War. He was the father of two sons and two daughters. For a time the two boys worked on their father's farm but soon they left home to find work in other places. William, at twenty-one, worked in the Wainwright meat market at \$15 a month. Milo became a meat cutter. Later the two were partners in the meat and livery business in Edwards.

Before the turn of the century, they branched out into the lumber business. The Woodcock Brothers Lumber Company was organized in 1886 and continued to operate until dissolved in 1916, at which time Milo took over a tract of land in Canada. At this time the elder son of William, Glenn Woodcock, assisted his father on the farm and in the feed mill until 1921. The first lumbering job, the men had was on a tract of land back of Talcville at which time they had a contract to supply four foot fuel wood for the Anthony Talc Mines. Eight years later, 1894, the Woodcock brothers built their sawmill, which is now occupied by the Lumley Feed Co. The annual output at one time from this mill was a million feet of flooring and veneer marketed in New York City.

In 1897-8 the men entered on their biggest venture, located at Skate Creek. The logs cut here were floated down the Oswegatchie to the sawmill in Edwards. Several parties used the river for these log drives so a sorting boom was erected a couple of miles above the village of Edwards. Each man's logs were marked with an identifying symbol, such as double naught for Woodcock brothers' logs. Pockets were made for each dealer's logs until the time to release them to go to their respective mills. This sorting of the logs and pulp wood was a very hazardous job but was skilfully done by several able log drivers, or lumber jacks. Nelson Muir and Jim Humes worked at this job for years. Occasionally the logs became unruly causing a log jam and then the log drivers with peavey in hand endeavored to straighten out the tangled mass in an orderly way.

A smaller but profitable business was carried on in Stammerville. On Stammerville Creek, John Maybee, later of Canton, also did considerable cutting. The Stammer brothers ran a sawmill in this section for years.

Other companies have lumbered in these parts but for shorter duration and at present sawing is being done by Alfred Webb, Mr. Rothenburg, and Mr. Ball, who came here recently from the Middle West.

HAVE YOU AN "EBEN HOLDEN" FIRST?

There are probably not many Northern New Yorkers who prowl and browse through their own libraries, or those of their friends and neighbors on the search for first edition copies. But there are some. Those who do have an eye for discovery. They look for "firsts" which rank "fustest" among the "mustest." One of the prizes we up here in the North Country might best prowl for is the rare type of "first" of Irving Bacheller's "Eben Holden." It is easy to recognize once you get your hands on it.

The clue is to be found on Page 400, in the thirteenth line. When the presses at Norwood, Mass., started running off the initial printing and the first of those copies began hitting the dealer stands there was an error in line thirteen, that an error was in the spelling according to Bacheller's manuscript.

In all but these first copies that line reads as follows: "go tew fur not 'n these parts--men are tew"

Note the spelling of "t-e-w", the second work of the line.

That's the way you will almost surely find it in your copy of "Eben Holden."

But if you happen to be one of the lucky ones the spelling of the second word, would be according to Webster: "too". The typesetter apparently preferred Webster's version to Bacheller's, but Bacheller spotted the error. The presses were stopped, the correction was made, and from that point on the spelling appears as "t-e-w".

Of course, those "firsts" with the error also bear only a single line copy-right inscription on the back of the title page. "Copyright 1900. Lothrop Publishing Company." The first printing went to press July 2, 1900.

If your interest is mercenary, you can obtain a few dollars more for a first with error than the regular printings. How much? That depends entirely upon the appetite of the buyer and the amount of cash in his wallet. Maybe up to \$10.

TIME DOESN'T MATTER

Many years ago we had a professional burcher who used to furnish his service at pig killing time. Lige Hoskins had a few pigs he wanted butchered and made the necessary preparations. The butcher came back a few days later and said, "I was coming the first of October to butcher your hogs, but find I will be unable to come before the fifteenth. I hope that is all right with you.

Lige pondered a moment and shrugged his shoulders, "Nope, it don't matter a mite, what's time ter a hog?"

From Vermont Historical Society's "News and Notes".

EARLY SCHOOL LIFE IN DEKALB JUNCTION

By Mabel Sheldon, DeKalb Historian

With so much agitation throughout this Northern area relative to Centralized Schools and the exorbitant cost of maintaining them and the salaries paid to teachers, I think an article on the first school established in DeKalb Junction might be of interest.

The first school house was located at the end of School Street and faced the Main Street. It was established in the early 1860's as this village was forming and was discontinued with the opening of a new school building, the one on the hill that is still in use.

After the building was no longer used for a School it was purchased by George E. Gibbons who moved it around to be in line with the other residences on the street, facing on School Street. He remodeled it for a residence for his sister, the late Mrs. Thomas (Helen) Fields. It is now the home of Mr. and Mrs. Arthur Turnbull and family.

School Street was so named because of the School. This has been a source of wonderment to later residents since the School is now so far from it.

In 1926 a lady who had attended this school and had been the second teacher of the Primary Department of the present school was asked to tell some facts pertaining to the school of her day. She was the late Mrs. Forrest D. Sayer, nee Addie F. Smith, and was my aunt.

The article which she prepared follows:

"The general school system prevalent in small villages when I attended school was much different than the system of today. Regular attendance was not compulsory and as most boys worked during the spring and summer months, attending school only in the fall and winter, usually a man was hired to teach during the winter term, with a woman teacher for the summer term. Select schools were also held during the time now given to summer vacation. This was independent of the School District. A teacher would secure a certain number of pupils and the price they paid for the term was \$2.50 each.

"Books were not so easily obtained as now, and one set of books usually served a family as each pupil rarely owned an individual set. These books were not furnished by the District but were purchased by the parents. We used slates until the last few years of my school work. Tablets were a great novelty when we had them, and were used very carefully. The classes were not graded as now. If some pupils possessed the ability to advance more rapidly than others in the same class, the teacher did not hold them back to the regular lessons assigned to the class, but allowed them to study more advanced lessons, and pupils who desired to do so, studied subjects now covered in the first part of high school work, and the study of reading, writing, spelling, arithmetic and geography was continued nearly to the end of school work. (Spelldowns were a regular Friday afternoon event.) These subjects were not dropped at the early age they now are.

"My arithmetic was a graded book, and from it primary and intermediate classes studied. The later book I used was also used in more than one grade. The same applied to English. Our geography lessons included what are now studies as separate subjects. Physical and economic geography, as well as what is now covered in preliminary geography. The subjects I studied were Reading, Writing, Spelling, Arithmetic, English, Geography, History, Civil Government, Algebra, Botany, Physiology, Bookkeeping and General Science.

"The school I attended was in a building at the lower end of School Street that was later remodeled as a house and is now occupied by T. E. Gibbons. It was due to that school house that this street was called School Street. Its use as a school building ended when the present school house was built. At times there were as many as 90 pupils attending that school with only one teacher in charge, and good order was maintained, although there had to be old fashioned whippings administered frequently, along with other forms of punishments. At mid-morning and mid-afternoon each day a water pail was passed, each pupil having a drink of water, using a common dipper. To pass the water was a privilege for which the pupils vied. It was considered an honor.

"I finished my school work in the new school house, I wanted to prepare for teaching and availed myself of every opportunity. My later teachers let me study from Teacher's Edition of books not used by pupils, so that by home study, supervised by my teachers, I was able to pass the State Examination which granted a Teacher's License. (While in the old school when she was not 15, as there was a large attendance, the District Superintendent granted her a permit to hear classes, to assist the teacher).

"I secured my license when I was 16 years of age and for my first rural teaching I received \$4.00 a week, the regular salary at that time, and I paid \$1.50 a week for board. In one district I boarded around with the different families. Later, when I taught in this school building I received \$7.00 per week.

"The books I studied were: "Barne's National Reader," "Thompson's Complete Graded Arithmetic" and "Mac Vicar's Graded Arithmetic," "Elementary Lessons in English," "Teacher's Edition(English) Lang Series," "Northam's Civil Government," "Barne's History and The Normal History of U. S.," "Wentworth's Algebra" and "Robinson's Algebra," "Rand and McNally's Geography," All of these books I still have.

"I used my teacher's books for Botany Physiology and General Science."

I feel that teachers of Mrs. Sayer's day were more dedicated to the profession than the majority of later years. They were people who took up teaching because they had a great appreciation of the value of education and desired to impart it to the youth of their day. They were not drawn to it because of lucrative pay and that teaching was a means of good money.

Those early teachers gladly worked with pupils who, either desired to advance more rapidly, or who could not understand the work and needed extra help, during their evenings, without extra remuneration for tutoring. How many of the teachers of today would give three evenings a week to such pupils? The earlier schools were given to study for learning the prescribed subjects considered essential for a good basic education, without such entertainment, as moving pictures and such a variety of sports as now form a part of school life.

FOLKLORE FROM MACOMB

Contributed by Mrs. India Murton, Historian

THE COW BELL:

"Brasie Corners, August 3, 1889 - Last evening about sunset your correspondent saw a fire in the northwest. It proved to be the barns, or barns, of Elcona Partridge at Old's Mills, near Pope Mills, in Macomb. It was started by the burning of a wasp nest."

So the news report read. On a quiet Sunday the Partridge's young son decided it was a good time to rid the place of those old wasps - but with fatal results. The story goes that at the height of the conflagration the son ran from the barn yelling, "Look Pa, I saved the cow bell."

From that time on there has been an old Macomb saying in times of great loss and small gain, "Well, he saved the cow bell anyway."

A HAUNTED CHURCH:

The former church at Pope Mills, in the town of Macomb, was built in 1872 and stood some distance from the village. The early settlers thought that the village would grow to the church and it would become the center of things. This never happened.

A carpenter by the name of Soper built it. From the very first a rumor had it that the church was haunted, at least that was the way the young fry heard the story. Perhaps that was a means employed by their parents to keep them away from "The Mills" evenings.

Birch Creek isn't far back from where the church stood. The foxes had a habit of gathering there at night and their barking filled the air with a weird din. What with the wind whistling through the steeple, and the shadows cast by the trees, that fox chorus was enough to send the chills along juvenile spines. So the story persisted.

Pearly Bogardus, who now lives in Depeyster, tells how as a lad he started for his grandfather's after dark, and as he approached the church the fox chorus and other sounds got the better of him, and he took off on the run to get out of there fast. He met the Murton boys who tried to persuade him it was all bogey, but it wasn't until they reached a neighbor's house where the man set at rest his fears. The church was finally moved to Heuvelton, and is still in use. We are not sure if the foxes followed it, or whether it is haunted. We think not.

GOOD WATER IN BLACK LAKE:

Mrs. Oldlady near the south shore of the lake felt the urgent need of some hard "licker" for the good of her health. My grandfather Alic was rowing over to Edwardsville that afternoon, so she commissioned him to get her some "medecine." Now as anyone knows, its quite a row across the lake, even at the Narrows. So, Grandpa Alic found that he needed some of the "medecine" in order to give him a heftier pull on the oars. Then, just to fool old Mrs. Oldlady, he replenished the sagging watertable in the bottle by dipping it into the lake. This was repeated several times on the way back across the Narrows. Upon his arrival he delivered the bottle to Mrs. Oldlady who wasted no time in taking a good long dose of the "medecine."

"Well, Alic," she said, "between you and Mr. Inn Keeper, you've this pretty well watered."

NOTICE: Lost on the Black Lake tour a one quart thermos bottle; brown in color-- owner, Mrs. Louise Howard.

PIERREPONT MORMONISM NO MYTH

Mormonism of the Joseph Smith brand was once preached, and possibly practiced, in staid old St. Lawrence County. This assertion is more than a figment of the imagination. The first that the writer ever heard about any Mormon invasion in these parts was two or three years ago. There seemed to be sufficient evidence to give credence to the story, but it has been next to impossible to pin the matter down with substantial documentation. Quite true, the folks in the Howardville Neighborhood in the northwest corner of the Town of Pierrepont are positive that Mormons once lived there and preached their gospel.

Forest Howard, a descendant of an early settler, points with certainty to old foundations now overgrown with sod which his father told him were the remains of former Mormon farm buildings. Forest is 77 years of age. His grandfather, Orrin Howard, was the first of the Howards to clear land and build a home on that sidehill. That was over one hundred years ago.

But Forest Howard has no recollection of ever hearing what the names of these Mormons were, from whence they came or whither they went. So, until something more tangible in the way of historical fact could be discovered, the Mormon Settlement of Pierrepont relegated itself into the fantasy of fiction and the whimsy of folklore, nothing much more than an interesting myth.

The first inkling that there ever had been such a Settlement came to the writer's attention as a result of an inquiry over the possibility of catching trout in the little brook which babbles down Howardville Hill. Mrs. Drusilla Grant, to whom the question was directed, admitted that an occasional trout had been caught there, and then added that the best spot would be "The Old Mormon Hole" where, she stated, the Mormons once baptized their converts come winter or summer. Mrs. Grant was so positive over the existence of this old dunking spot and its Mormonism tradition that the writer began making inquiries. He visited the Forest Howards and had the old foundation ruins pointed out to him. He talked with Frank J. Crary, whose ancestors settled up the "pike" a bit from Northrups Corners where the Howardville road intersects the pike.

Mrs. Smithers, County Historian, took up the quest. But she, too, was unable to discover any record or documentary evidence. The St. Lawrence County Clerk's Office produced the original land map, of Hezekiah Pierrepont. Also there is a map made in 1856 by the late General E. A. Merritt. On it were the names of parties owning property and living on what is now the Howardville section. Any evidence as to their religious leanings is entirely lacking. In the neighborhood in question the map furnished such names as P. S. Law, E. Crandall, Sally Wellington at about the present site of the Forest Howard home, George Major, E. & J. Crandal, Merritt Howard, F. Northrup, Orrin Howard, Enoch Crandall, Ezer Crandall and S. P. Bacheller, probably an ancestor of Irving Bacheller's.

The profusion of Crandalls and Crandall places resulted in a letter to Courtland Crandall of St. Cloud, Fla., the outstanding genealogical authority of all Crandalls in America and son of a former resident of The Hill. In fact, Courtland furnished the statement that Howardville was previously called Crandallville. Johathan Crandall, who came first from Vermont of all the family, was a direct descendant of Elder John Crandall of Rhode Island. The Elder was a contemporary of Roger Williams. Court Crandall added that when Grandpa Crandall stood on his back porch at the crest of the Hill and rang the old brass handmade dinner bell there were thirteen Crandall families within hearing.

When the bell rang all knew the hour was at hand to repair from labor to refreshment. Alas, however, Courtland could furnish no clue or other information about the Mormons of Pierrepont.

So the matter stood until this summer. Then, one day, Frank Crary now of Canton and a former Supervisor of Pierrepont, handed over a small bound volume, "The A. M. Crary Memoirs and Memoranda" published in 1915 at Herrington, Kansas. A. M. Crary was in his eightieth year when he compiled this little book.

Nearly one-half of the little book deals with A. M. Crary's reminiscences of early life in Pierrepont prior to the Civil War. One of its chapters, only three pages in length, is entitled "Elder Childs and Brother Johnny." Without further illucidation as to the identity of the "Elder" and "The Brother", A. M. Crary presents the following:

"It was along about this time that our section of the country was infested by a couple of Mormon Elders coming into our neighborhood in the early part of the winter, and trusting to the credulity of the good people of the place, and anxious to obtain a winter's support, began preaching a brand new doctrine, and a new, so-called 'religious faith.'"

"They reported themselves from (I know not where it might have been, from Babylon for ought I know). They said they were commissioned from 'On High', and had been ordered there by Joseph Smith himself, and were sent to preach the 'new gospel' to all people, from Nauvoo, Ill., even unto the uttermost parts of the earth.

"They also claimed that the said Joseph Smith had received a vision of this new religious faith, and that from that vision and other revelations, he had produced the Book of Mormons, and had founded the new church they had the honor to represent.

"In their meetings they would talk at times in what they termed 'the unknown tongue; which was sure enough an unknown tongue, for no one on earth could understand a single word they said, and I doubt very much if they knew themselves what they said.

"Well they succeeded at length in getting quite a few converts to their faith, but as soon as they brought to light their Polygamus doctrine and practices, their converts dwindled to two or three, and in the early springtime all parties concerned took their departure for Nauvoo. And it was learned afterwards that those who went with them deserted their so called 'Church of God' and departed for parts unknown."

Thus, Brother Crary gives factual credence to the Mormon tradition of Pierrepont. Also, as will be noted, he cleared the record of his former neighbors whom he may have considered to have strayed from the straight and narrow path of old-line orthodoxy and to have subscribed to the preachings of Elder Childs and Brother Johnny - whoever they may have been. In the concluding paragraph to this enlightening chapter, he completely applies the whitewash to "The New Mormon Church" by stating it has no connection with the "old time Mormon faith." "In fact I am fully advised by one of their Elders, a relative of mine by marriage, that such is actually the case." So, our good friend, A. M. Crary, in 1915, the eightieth year of his life, looked toward the approaching horizon in the West with a clear conscience, both as to his reference to that former Pierrepont colony and as to his former fellow neighbors.

Time will eventually erase even the old stone foundations of those Mormon homes, field stones are gradually filling in the Old Mormon Hole where Elder Childs and Brother Johnny probably dunked their converts. Like the ghost of those who went west with these Mormon Elders even these traditions may soon be "departed for parts unknown."

By (G. A. M.)

FROM THE COUNTY'S CRACKER BARRELS

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

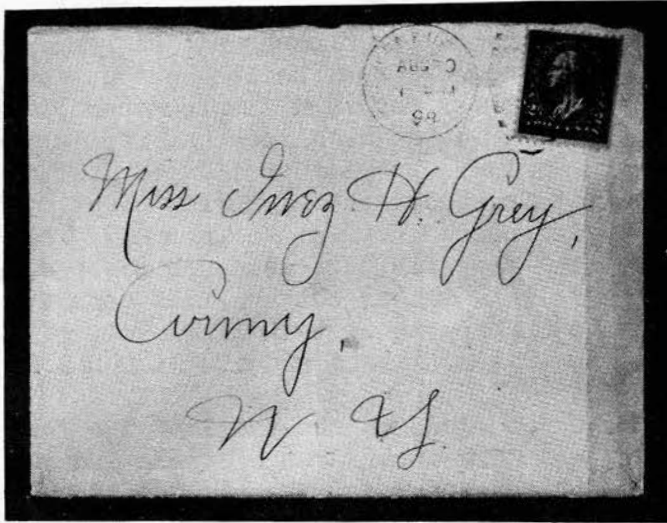
BRASHER: (Mrs. Joseph O'Brien) Indicates attendance at Fall Workshop. CANTON: (Mrs. Karl M. Mayhew, Jr.) Indicates attendance at Fall Workshop. Working on Town Calendar 1805-1957 local history and on the first electric lights. Contributed by Mrs. Charles H. Rogers to the Historian's archives: The Simmons scrapbook with script of Simmons & Betts payment in goods; photograph of Dr. & Mrs. J. M. Payson's and account of their 60th Wedding Anniversary; -old St. Lawrence Court House; a side view, of Rushton Boat shop; picture of the first union school (John Leslie Russell home); account of school customs; picture of J. B. Livingston's orchestra. RENSSELAER FALLS: (Mrs. Nina Wilson) Indicates attendance at Fall Workshop. CLARE: (Mrs. Leslie Colton) Indicates attendance at Fall Workshop. Beginning research on the lumbering history of her town.) CLIFTON: (Mrs. George Reynolds) Residents of Cranberry Lake have been watching the rebuilding of the dam at the foot of the lake. In the process of lowering the lake level, parts of the original dam built in 1865 could be seen beneath the water. The lake is the lowest it has been since the last dam was built. COLTON: (Mrs. Judson Miller) Cemetery Records nearly completed. Some Service Records nearly ready to turn in. DEKALB: (Miss Mabel Sheldon). DEPEYSTER: (Mrs. Emery Smithers) Reports a fine trip of her Junior Historians to the American side of the Seaway as well as the Canadian tour of the Seaway. EDWARDS: (Miss Leah Noble). Reports her Yorkers have not elected as yet. FINE: (Mrs. Alma Marsh). Finished her lumber article. FOWLER: (Mrs. Helen Cunningham). Members of the Sesquicentennial committees and interested persons held a covered dish dinner at the Town Hall September 18th. The purpose was to keep alive the spirit of friendliness engendered by the celebration. Dancing followed the dinner. GOUVERNEUR: (Miss Helena Johnston). GOUVERNEUR VILLAGE: (Julius Bartlett) Indicates attendance at Fall Workshop. Surplus funds from Gouverneur's 1955 sesquicentennial formed the nucleus of having a two-dial General Time Company (successor to the Seth Thomas company) clock installed in the semi-circle at the west end of the village Park on Main Street. The clock has an automatic reset and control. The sesquicentennial funds were supplemented by contributions from local people and the D. A. Collins Bridge Company. HAMMOND: "I have been unable to do much since June due to sickness and death in the family. Mr. Harold Hibbs attended the Fall Workshop. HERMON: (Mrs. Kellog Morgan). Indicates attendance at Fall Workshop. Has completed story on lumbering. "I have kept up my scrapbook and completed a few more Service Records." HOPKINTON: (Mrs. Dorothy Squire). Wrote up amusingly her experiences cataloguing the Hopkinton-Fort Jackson cemetery. The article has been sent to North Country Life. LAWRENCE: (Mrs. Gordon Cole). Indicates attendance at Fall Workshop. Is cataloguing a cemetery. LISBON: (E. Earle Jones). LOUISVILLE: (Mrs. Lorraine Bandy). Indicates attendance at Fall Workshop. Worked on her Town calendar. "St. Lawrence Riber Road cemeteries are being moved and am taking pictures of their removal from the old to the new site. The new site is directly in back of our home. Four cemeteries have already been reestablished, three at this site and one at Waddington." MACOMB: (Mrs. India Murton). Indicates attendance at Fall Workshop. "I have been writing some articles besides working on my calendar and doing the many things that are now required of us Historians and which I enjoy doing." MADRID: (Mrs. Margaret Thompson). Indicates attendance at Fall Workshop. The old Madrid saw mill has been removed and a nice parking lot made there. Also on the other side of the river a coffer dam has been made to insure higher water. Three new houses have been built in summer of 1957. MASSENA: (Mrs. Ella Lahey). Indicates attendance at Fall Workshop. Is doing research on lumbering and is collecting and recording folklore of the town, Showed slides on "Vanishing Landscapes" at Fall Workshop MORRISTOWN: (Mrs. Ernest Planty).

"I have finished four church histories, prepared Calendar of historical events in Morristown, have attended five tours, and the Fall Historians' Workshop, wrote another story on lumber yards and sawmills as well as logging." NORFOLK: Although Mrs. Ralph Wing is not officially appointed as Town Historian, we list her here for her fine historical work in the town—finished recording stones in last cemetery, collecting pictures of oldest houses in town also churches, schools and other public buildings. OSWEGATCHIE: (Mrs. Monna Mayne). HEUVELTON VILLAGE: (Mrs. Ida Downing). PARISHVILLE: (Miss Doris Rowland). Indicates attendance at Fall Workshop. PIERCEFIELD: (Mrs. Beulah Dorothy). Indicates attendance at Fall Workshop. "I have been spending all my spare time getting my war records brought up to date. At present I am helping the school children collect material for a pioneer exhibit they are holding at the school. PIERREPONT. (Mr. Millard Hundley). Indicates attendance at Fall Workshop. Continues working on cemetery records. PITCAIRN: (no historian). POTSDAM: (Charles Lahey). Indicates attendance at Fall Workshop. Did a magnificent job of presenting the story of David Parish and his effect on this North Country. -1808 to 1825. Mr. Lahey has done research on Mr. Parish for the past six years and hopes to receive his Doctors degree from Syracuse University when his Parish Paper is typed. ROSSIE: (Mrs. Virgie Simons) Indicates attendance at Fall Workshop. Is working on the Town Calendar, 1807-1957. RUSSELL: (Mrs. Dorothy Manning). STOCKHOLD: (Lindon E. Riggs) Indicates attendance at Fall Workshop. "I have completed the cataloging of the eleven cemeteries of Stockholm. A short history of Buckton and its cemetery was sent to The Quarterly. WADDINGTON: (Mrs. Ethel Olds). Indicates attendance at Fall Workshop. Seven houses are being raised on their foundations six feet at the east end of St. Lawrence Avenue. Families live in their homes, enter on ramps. Water and sewage pipes extended as house is raised. Hot water tank rose with house.

FROM THE YORKER CRACKER BARREL

CANTON: FOOTE'S FOLLOWERS will have central officers for the three groups again this year. Election has not been held to date. Mrs. Richard Lanshe's Friday group officers are Beverly Reddick, president; Peggy Gray, vice-president; Kay Finley, recording secretary; Kay Dewey, corresponding secretary; and Lauren Stiles, treasurer. The Thursday group, Mrs. Richard Lanshe advisor, has Cindy O'Brien as president; Pat Brown, vice-president; Bonnie Murdock, recording secretary; Joan Amo, corresponding secretary; and Darlene Hammond, treasurer. Mrs. Charles Neadom is advisor for the Tuesday group with Harriet Jakobson president; Susan Mooney, vice-president; Linda Paddock, secretary, also Jimmy McDougal and Garry Hammond as treasurer. This group has a map of historical places in New York state with a buzzer system that lights up the location as the buzzer is pressed. Short paragraphs are being written up about these places. This group has also divided into smaller groups to give accounts of historical places they have visited in New York State. The Thursday group has a project sheet on which their names are written, projects they plan to do and what materials they will need. The Friday group plan to make model maps of the Seaway, the Erie Canal and the Thruway. EDWARDS: Yorkers have not organized to date nor have GOUVERNEUR, HEUVELTON or MASSENA. The LISBON CHAPTERS have elected officers: SEAWAY president is Wendell Robinson; vice-president, Robert Thompson; secretary, Diana McFadden; and treasurer, Sandra Mobbs. Sandra Bice is president of ST. LAWRENCE Chapter with Carol LaBarge, vice-president; Jerry Rhines, secretary; and Faith Backus, treasurer. LISBON CHAPTER: President, Leon Yeitz; vice-president, Barbara Baker; secretary, Maxine Bice; and treasurer, Cheryl Moore; reporter, Steven Griffith LISBON CENTRE, Mary White, president; Joyce Jones, vice-president; Roger Robinson, secretary; and Mary Lou Bixby, treasurer; Sara Baxter, reporter.

THE COUNTY'S "ARMY" POST OFFICE



It would be interesting to learn how many, if many, post offices in United States had the official name of "Army." There was once at least one which did as the above picture authenticates, although the town cancellation was struck in 1898 at Gouverneur, N. Y. and back-stamped at Popes Mills. The history of Army, N. Y., is this: The Barnes Post, Grand Army of the Republic, at Gouverneur, built themselves a club house over at Mineral Point on Black Lake. Here, at their request, an official post office named "Army" was operated for three months for two summers, 1898-99 with Edwin Gray as postmaster. Mail reached Army, N. Y., by stage and then by boat. It went

from Hammond by stage to "The Cedars" on Black Lake, and thence down the lake by boat to Mineral Point. The postal route continued by boat down the lake and up Fish Creek to the hamlet of Popes Mills. The above interesting cover is the property of Mrs. F. Erwin Cox, Bethlehem, Pennsylvania. Does any person possess a similar cover, but with the cancellation "Army, N. Y." Such a cover might be worth hunting to find.

TOWN HISTORIANS ON THE MOVE

In the field of historical interest things seem to be picking up at St. Lawrence County. This was evident on September 28th when twenty-three Town Historians were present at the annual fall Town Historian's Association meeting held in the Supervisor's Room at the County Court House, Canton. This was a record attendance, nearly a 75 per cent attendance. In fact, it was better than that when one considers that there are several towns having no Town Historian.

Then, too, the program was especially worthwhile. The slides shown on "Vanishing Scenes" by Mrs. Ella Lahey, Massena, was evidence of valued work being done to permanently preserve in a photographic manner places which will all too soon be referred to as former interesting historical places and sites.

Then there was that afternoon program, also so ably arranged by County Historian, Nina Smithers. When one stops to look back, it is to better appreciate how the whole picture has changed since she took office. St. Lawrence County has come a long ways in developing interest in county history, in bringing valuable records and information together, in holding many historical tours and meetings, and in making a start at compiling an archives.

At the September meeting another milestone was achieved. Professor Charles Lahey, of Potsdam State Teachers College, Department of History, gave "The Occasional" address, an informal talk about the work in which he has been engaged on an extra-curricular basis for the past six years. This has not been entirely a labor of love for Professor Lahey has been working on his doctorate. In preparing his thesis he has elected to undertake a valued bit of North Country research. His subject is the Parish family and its association with St. Lawrence County. Up to the present no person has ever attempted a comprehensive, thorough, all-inclusive

historical documentation of the Parishes as pertaining to St. Lawrence County history. Walter Guest Kellogg gave us the novel, Parish's Fancy. It is an historical novel.

St. Lawrence University has brought together a considerable collection of Parish papers, documents and data. Professor Lahey told the Town Historians something of the labor and the methods which have gone into his study and research. He really has only just made a start. In the time allowed from his routine teaching duties, he has read literally thousands of old letters, between four and five hundred Parish land contracts, and to date he has covered only the David Parish part of the Parish saga so far as relates to this North Country. It is the period of 1808 to 1825. The surface has been barely scratched. Beyond this stretches the regime of George Parish, the brother of David, and then, later, of George Parish, the nephew. These additional periods extend on to 1880. There is a vast field of research to be done. Many discoveries are bound to be made of material. Some has but recently come to light. This search may take Professor Lahey to Europe, to Scotland, to Hamburg, to Bohemia where the barons Parish in turn ruled over Senftenberg and its 14,000 acres.

Professor Lahey will probably find himself not alone on the trail of the Parish story. It is a curious thing, a full century and more after some of these individuals were living hereabouts, the work starts to compile something authentic and of a literary nature. That is the way of historical study apparently.

It was refreshing to know that original research is in progress on so important a North Country subject, and that there is assurance that in time Professor Lahey will undoubtedly come to us with one or more published volumes on the Parishes. How interesting that such a contribution to North Country history is definitely in progress and in competent hands.

Also, at that Town Historians afternoon program Mr. and Mrs. Carl Olds reported their attendance at the Workshop Institute held on the campus of Hamilton College in the late summer. The object of the institute, part of the State Historical Society's activities, was the ways and means of presenting local history, through conducting local historical tours and by writing. There has been some talk and consideration given since this meeting to the possibility of having one of these workshops held in this area. There was also discussion of holding our own workshop in connection with writing local history. Something may come of this.

Not to be overlooked were the many scrapbooks, photographs, and other evidence shown by individual town historians present. Progress in recording the past, locally, is being shown.

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