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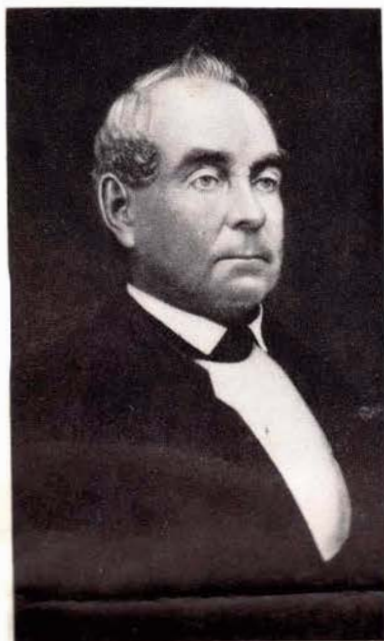
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Silas Wright, Jr.

"MAN OF THE MILLIONS"

Tributes Paid Great North Country Statesman

The State, the Historical Association, and the North Country paid a fitting tribute to a great statesman, Silas Wright, on the anniversary of his birthday, May 24th. The unveiling of a new Silas Wright historic marker in front of the Governor's house on East Main Street in Canton was by Mrs. Virgie B. Simons, chairman of the Historic Sites committee of our Association. This climaxed day-long activities connected with the event. The program began with a tour of historic sites especially associated with Governor Wright. The tour included the Grasse River, where Wright took President Martin VanBuren fishing when he visited Canton and the campus of the New York State University Agricultural and Technical Institute. Wright worked on a speech advocating agricultural education for a meeting of the New York State Agricultural Society the night before he died on Aug. 27, 1847. The tour was followed by a luncheon at the Tick-Tock restaurant attended by fifty-two. A pageant in the village park depicting scenes from the life of Governor and Mrs. Wright began the afternoon festivities.

Following were speeches in the Presbyterian Church by Bligh A. Dodds of Gouverneur, Collector of Customs for the Port of Ogdensburg, who spoke on "Silas Wright in Washington," and Senator Robert C. McEwen of Ogdensburg, who spoke on "Silas Wright in Albany". Then came the unveiling ceremony. There was a tour of the Silas Wright home, now owned by The Universalists, and a silver tea was held in the Josephine Paige room of Benton library. An oil portrait of Wright, the property of the County, a poster listing the offices he held were in the window of the Canton Light and Power Company.

An exhibit of letters, furniture, documents and other Wright memorabilia had been arranged in the Paige Room. Included were five letters from Wright to Judge John Fine, St. Lawrence county judge. In one of the letters, Wright tells Judge Fine that his letter concerning the prisoners taken in the Battle of the Windmill at Prescott, Ont., during the Patriot's War, had been turned over confidentially to President VanBuren.

Another and the more important of the letters, dated May 23, 1844, instructs Judge Fine, a delegate to the coming Democratic convention in Baltimore that Wright's name is not to be considered for the presidency under any circumstances. At the convention, Wright was offered the vice-presidential nomination as the running mate of James Knox Polk of Tennessee. Wright declined the nomination, which was given to George M. Dallas of Pennsylvania, who was elected.

The New York delegation, as Wright desired, supported former President VanBuren for renomination at the convention, but VanBuren, although he had the pledged support of a majority of the delegates, could not obtain the two-thirds required, resulting

in Polk's dark-horse victory.

A complete set of the United States Customs stamps bearing Wright's portrait was displayed. Wright, a leader in the effort to secure postage stamps during his years in the United States Senate (1833-1844), was one of only three persons whose portrait is on a complete set of stamps. The other two are George Washington and Benjamin Franklin.

Mrs. Betty Jane Best Smith of Old DeKalb made a birthday cake for the silver tea, as the celebration was held on Wright's 163rd birthday.

The program, an excellent one, was arranged by a committee consisting of Mrs. Bette L. Mayhew, Canton town historian, chairman; Mrs. Nina W. Smithers, DePeyster, County Historian; and Malcolm A. Booth, Hammond, secretary of the Association.

SILAS WRIGHT IN WASHINGTON

Address By Bligh A. Dodds

(This is the only manuscript of the two speeches delivered on Silas Wright Day which is available, Senator McEwen having no prepared paper.)

I am honored and complimented to have the privilege of talking to you this afternoon on the subject of so fascinating and distinguished an American as Silas Wright whom we are honoring here today. Little did I realize the extent of his achievements nor the influence that he wielded in the moulding of our America in the quarter century between 1823 and 1847. It was through that stirring period that he brought to himself and to his home town and county a multitude of national honors. Beginning with his services in many important local offices such as Surrogate, Justice of the Peace, Commissioner of Deeds, Postmaster, Inspector of Highways and Public Schools and Town Clerk, he moved next to the State Senate, then as Representative to Congress. This was soon followed by his election to State Comptroller and finally to the United States Senate.

Although his life was not spent in a sphere requiring the display of military capacity or physical daring, it was spent in the service of his country in a way that required talent of the highest order and far more of those nobler qualities which exalt and dignify the human character -- moral courage and integrity. The evidence is clear that he never once sought any public office, nor is there any evidence to show that he ever used the influence of his powerful friends to secure any office at any time. With each new job he gained more and more the confidence of the people. It is not surprising that when a company of militia was raised in 1821 he was made its Captain, that he was raised to the rank of Major in the same year, to the rank of Colonel four years later and to Brigadier General in 1827, a position which he relinquished one year afterwards. But the narrow limits of any town or county were scarcely calculated to provide a satisfactory outlet for the eminent qualities of Silas Wright and his friends desired to see them tested in a broader field.

Regarding his political party affiliation, there are many conflicting references in the several biographies, yet from authoritative sources, including the Watertown Times, it has been well established that from the time his name was first presented in the fall of 1823 as the candidate for State Senator of the 4th District, until he became Governor in 1844, he was a Democrat all the way. He was a hard-headed, honest, practical machine politician. Mr. Wright joined the Bucktails, a factional group of Jeffersonian Democrats led by Martin VanBuren. They were opposed to DeWitt Clinton and his policies toward canals and banks. They became identified with the Albany Regency, a small group of able men who guided New York State politics for a decade in the 1820's and 30's. The Bucktails believed in what they called "Democracy." They had the support of the small farmers and frontiersmen whose instincts they trusted and whose interests they were willing to forward. To these policies Wright was fully committed, but he always insisted that he must remain independent of specific pledges and promises as a legislator and that if elected to

public office he must choose the side he would take on any particular issue on the basis of his personal judgment and not on the basis of any commitments. He was a firm believer in the democratic process. Yet he regarded democracy at its best when leadership was firmly established in a small coterie of men elected to public office who were close friends and who were dedicated to the principles of freedom. He relied upon the many to elect and the few to govern. As a party man he believed in the spoils system. What is more natural he insisted that a man should know who his friends are, what they are capable of doing, and that he should place them in public office. The spoils system, however, in his judgment should not include appointment of judges. The judiciary he believed should be elected.

To digress for a moment from his political experiences, I will dwell briefly on his early activities both before and after arrival at Canton. He attended Middlebury College, got his training in law at Sandy Hill in Washington County and was admitted to the bar in January 1819. In the summer of that year he came to Canton following an urge to tour on horseback the New York frontier. Canton was then about 1500. First and most lasting among his new acquaintances was Captain Medad Moody, inn-keeper, an old friend of his father. The Moodys made him welcome and urged him to settle in their community. The nearest lawyer was ten miles away. Captain Moody even offered to build him a house if he would stay. Although there is no evidence to prove it, Clarissa, Moody's 15 year old daughter, was probably the most important of all the factors involved in the decision. There was some conflict in the young lawyer's mind. For a while he considered Ogdensburg, then the County seat, but the combination of forces at Canton was stronger. Moody did build him a house - a two-room affair - one for sleeping and one for his office - and after a short visit with his parents in Weybridge, Vt. where he acquired some bedding from his mother and \$200 from his father, he returned to Canton to start on a career that was to lead him to the heights in the state and nation and earn for him a monumental record of achievement in behalf of his countrymen - a record to endure through the endless passage of the years.

Throughout his career as a lawyer, he held firm to one principle, that justice must be done in the courts and that even if it should be necessary to expose the character of the client whom he was defending in order to obtain a just verdict, he would do it. That he acted upon his conviction is shown in a civil case when he exposed the scoundrelly characters of the opponents. Wright's own client, the defendant, won. On the way out of the court room the client said to Wright, "I didn't hire you to rake my character and I don't thank you for doing it." Wright's reply was characteristic of him, "You hired me to defend you and win," he said "and if I had palliated your side in the least you would have lost and let me add, I hope you will so improve your conduct that you will never again be subjected to the same embarrassment." It is not recorded whether the client took the advice but it illustrates Silas Wright's character.

To speak of his record in State service would be to invade the assignment of my good friend Senator McEwen so I will proceed to relate the experiences and achievements of Mr. Wright in the Congress of the United States into which he entered in 1827. The great ability with which he had filled the office of State Senator had led to his nomination in 1826 as one of the representatives in Congress from the then double district composed of the counties of Jefferson, Lewis, Oswego, and St. Lawrence. It is interesting to note that with the exception of Franklin these same counties comprise the present 34th Congressional District, now ably represented by Clarence E. Kilburn of Malone.

Mr. Wright's term of office in that 20th Congress commenced March 4, 1827. When Silas Wright took his seat in December of that year, it was inevitable that some kind of tariff bill would be considered. John Quincy Adams was President and Wilas Wright's staunch friend Martin VanBuren was in the United States Senate. The movement leading to the tariff of 1828 began largely in agricultural areas. Foreign markets, which had been so important to American prosperity, disappeared after the panic and depression of 1819. In 1824 a new tariff bill was passed which raised the duties on a variety of imported articles. Still many manufacturers and

agricultural producers were not satisfied and demanded further protection. Although he was a freshman Congressman, Wright was given a place on the Committee on Manufactures, to which was entrusted the task of drawing up the new schedules. Rollin C. Mallary of Vermont was the chairman of the committee, which included also James S. Stevenson of Pennsylvania, Lewis Condit of New Jersey, Thomas P. Moore of Kentucky, William Stanberry of Ohio, and William D. Martin of South Carolina.

After a few meetings of the committee, Chairman Mallary arose in the House, on December 31, 1827, and asked for the unprecedented right to "send for persons and papers," that is, to subpoena witnesses and hold hearings before drafting the bill. A lively debate followed, with the main defense of the resolution falling on Wright, as the leader of the committee majority which favored it. After much discussion, the necessary powers were voted; summonses were mailed to manufacturers of woolens, iron, hemp, flax, glass, cotton goods, and rum, and the committee proceeded to take evidence. Twenty-eight witnesses were questioned. Stenographers were not then employed by committees, and the evidence was taken down by Wright, with his own hand. He drew up the report, presented by the chairman, and the bill which accompanied it.

The bill conformed, to a great extent, to the New York platform. During the debate, Wright gave his views in a speech which no one answered. The bill passed the House in spite of the opposition of the South and 23 of the 39 New England Representatives. In the Senate, increases were made in the woolens duties to make it more acceptable to New England, and the House accepted the change. There was little opposition to the "Tariff of Abominations" outside the South, and the following December a resolution for its repeal was rejected in the House of Representatives. Aside from the tariff, little occurred during the first session of the Twentieth Congress that was of importance. Wright carried on the crusade against public aid in the construction of canals, but was a firm supporter of federal development of harbor facilities. In 1828 Wright was re-elected by a handsome majority. Owing to mistakes in the returns, a certificate of election was issued to George Fisher, who took his seat in the House. The committee to which the dispute was referred reported in favor of Wright who did not take his seat but immediately resigned to become comptroller of New York. In January 1833 he resigned the comptrollership to fill the vacancy caused by the resignation of United States Senator William L. Marcy, who had been elected governor. He was re-elected in 1837 and 1843 and resigned in 1844 to enter the contest for the governorship of New York.

Only thirty-seven years old when he took his seat, he was the youngest man in the Senate, but his importance as the unofficial representative of the new Vice-President was considerable. He was appointed successively to the committees on agriculture, commerce, finance, and post offices and post roads, and came to hold a high rank "for solid judgment and unselfish service." He voted for the "Force Bill" and the compromise tariff of 1833. VanBuren consulted him before answering Jackson with regard to the removal of federal deposits from the Bank of the United States, and entrusted him with the presentation of resolutions favoring removal.

Following VanBuren's election to the Presidency in 1835 Wright became chairman of the Senate finance committee. He opposed all measures for rechartering the Bank of the United States. He urged the complete divorce of federal finance from the banks and stricter regulation of banking by the states. He introduced a bill for the establishment of an independent treasury system and continued to fight for it until the bill was passed in 1840. During his career in Congress, his ideas on the tariff underwent a gradual modification. In 1828 he was a frank protectionist. In 1833 he supported the compromise tariff, but in that case he was thinking in terms of conciliating the South rather than of free trade. By 1842 he had rejected the principle of protection. Speaking in the Senate in August of that year he came out clearly for a revenue tariff, with "not a cent of duty for protection itself." Seeing no chance that any other revenue bill would be passed, he reluctantly voted for the high-tariff act of 1842. In giving his reasons for his vote, he recalled that he had taken a leading part in the enactment of the tariff of 1828, and characterized his action as a great error, made through lack of understanding of the subject.

The statesmen among whom Silas Wright took a place in the Senate during that colorful period and against and with whom he was obliged to compete for the brilliant honors which he acquired in his Senatorial career included many of the greatest leaders of that day. There were the gallant and captivating Clay, renowned for the magic bursts of his thrilling eloquence; Calhoun, the fearless champion of the sovereignty of the states, with his perfect diction and analytical mind; Webster, calm, profound, argumentative, powerful in stature and gigantic in mind; Clayton Preston and many others with Silas Wright occupying equal and many times superior stature in a Senate composed of the best talent of the land.

Probably no man in the political history of Northern New York until the time of Bert Snell exerted as much influence as Silas Wright. This farmer-lawyer, politician and statesman, who made Canton his home, was the confidant of Andrew Jackson and Martin VanBuren. In fact he became the spokesman for both Jackson and VanBuren on nearly all financial issues. Wright remained in the Senate until 1844, being reelected in 1837 and 1843. Had he lived long enough, he probably would have been a serious contender for the Democratic presidential nomination in 1848.

Referred to as the "Cato of the Senate," he was the same upon the floor of the Senate when he was looked upon as the representative of the President that he had been while administering justice and reconciling differences between his fellow citizens in the quiet Canton of that day. He refused appointment as secretary of the Treasury and turned down a Democratic Vice-Presidential nomination in 1844. Silas Wright was the politician of the plain people. Between sessions of the United States Senate, he returned to his home to plow, as did those who lived with him and near him. He was the Andrew Jackson of the East. There is no doubt Silas Wright committed political suicide when he accepted the gubernatorial nomination for New York State. By 1844, the Democratic party was beset with the internal dissensions of divergent factions. VanBuren was slipping in popularity. Wright, perhaps out of personal loyalty to the Little Magician from Kinderhook, declined a Vice-Presidential nomination and a ride behind the black horse Polk. Because the Whigs stood a good chance of carrying New York State in the 1844 election Wright out of party loyalty consented to resign his Senate seat and run for Governor. Without a doubt Wright was probably the only Democrat who could have carried the State for Polk. Polk had been nominated because he was acceptable to the southern slave holders and he needed political backing in the North. In New York State the party now turned to Silas Wright whom they persuaded to give up his seat in the U. S. Senate to run for Governor in order to swing the state to Polk.

After two years as Governor, he failed in his bid for reelection in 1846 and the results shocked the state and nation as the Whigs emerged victorious. Wright had carried St. Lawrence and Jefferson Counties but lost the rest of the North country counties by the deflection of the conservatives or "Hunker" Democrats. This party within the Democratic party continued after the election but it was only a short time later in August 1847 that Wright died from a heart attack at his home in Canton. Most of Governor Wright's followers later joined forces with the new Republican party formed in 1854. When he died, John Greenleaf Whittier, the poet champion of antislavery and abolition, wrote a poem called, "The Lost Statesman," in which this line occurs, "Man of the millions thou art lost too soon."

His chief claim to fame and to grateful remembrance by his fellowmen was his complete devotion to the public service. In the very last speech he wrote but did not deliver because death overtook him, he made clear that he was opposed to every form of exploitation of the American people, whether it be financial, commercial or political. He stood for equality of treatment in all walks of life and in all aspects of the American economy. This was his great service to the cause of democracy in America. Silas Wright refused many of the highest places in Government. He declined a seat on the Supreme Court. He declined the nomination for Vice President under Polk. He declined the appointment as Secretary of the Treasury which he himself had conceived in his bill to make the Treasury a separate Government agency and he declined a foreign mission among others.

Silas Wright had a high sense of morals and moral value. He would not accept the Vice-Presidential nomination, it is reported, because of certain views that he possessed. Thomas Hart Benton said that Silas Wright spent more time in declining offices than most men would in seeking to secure them. It was said by Benton, that those he did accept were thrust upon him. According to Benton, Silas Wright was born great and above office and only took it to satisfy an urgent public demand. The record of Silas Wright's life offers ample proof that pomp and glory of the place had little charm for his humble nature; that power and prestige appealed to him only as a means of doing good. And so, like Diogenes of old, searching for an honest man, we find not only an honest man, but a much rarer human - a statesman who did not want to be President of the United States.

The Secretary Says. . .

by Malcolm A. Booth, Secretary

A travelling exhibit of items relating to early education in St. Lawrence County is now touring the county under the auspices of the St. Lawrence County Historical Association. The exhibit, modelled after last year's medical exhibit, commemorates the 100th anniversary of the St. Lawrence County Teachers' Association, founded in October, 1858, and also the 150th anniversaries of the first schools in the towns of Gouverneur, Lisbon, and Louisville, and the village of Heuvelton, all started in 1808.

The tentative schedule for the exhibit is Gouverneur, May 31 to June 14; Louisville, June 14-30; Hammond, July 1-15; Potsdam, July 16-31; Lisbon, Aug. 1-15; Winthrop, Aug. 16-31; Heuvelton, Sept. 1-15; Wanakena, Sept. 16-30; and Canton, Oct. 1-15.

The chairman of the committee which organized the exhibit is Malcolm A. Booth of Hammond, secretary of the Association, and the vice-chairman is Mrs. Nina W. Smithers of DePeyster, County Historian. Harold A. Storie handled arrangements for the exhibit in Gouverneur, while Mrs. Lorraine Bandy handled its arrangements in Louisville. The exhibit was first set up May 31 in the front window of the Hollis and Monterville store on East Main Street in Gouverneur by Mr. Booth, Julius R. Bartlett, and Eugene Hatch.

Probably the largest and most noticeable item in the exhibit is the pendulum constructed by Dr. Henry Priest of St. Lawrence University, Canton, for demonstrations in his science classes, which was loaned by the University. Other articles in the exhibit include two 16-page pamphlets on the "History of Animals," one dated 1828 and the other 1832, a blank reward of merit, valued at 300 cents or three dollars, a photostat of a writing book used in 1819 and 1820 by Stephen Newton of Champion, two good-conduct notes won by Miss Harriet M. Barrett in 1829, a four-page newspaper announcing the senior class concert at St. Lawrence University on June 30, 1880, and school clerk's record books for the towns of Hammond and Macomb.

DAN SANTIMAW'S FAMOUS LEAP

Dan Santimaw's famous leap across the St. Regis chasm at Parishville remains as one of the great feats of all time in that locality. This occurred on October 31, 1868. Twenty-year-old Dan was being pursued by Constable Solon Tucker, following a Hallo'een prank. Unbeknownst to Dan the old foot bridge had been destroyed. Old Sol knew this and felt sure he had his man.

Dressed, so the story goes, in heavy woollens, including a winter overcoat and heavy boots, Dan arrived at the chasm. Never pausing he took to the air in a mighty jump, and landed on the opposite side of the gorge. It was reputedly a 26 foot leap, which is saying quite a lot. Anyway, when Constable Sol hove in sight, yelling "Now I got ya young feller," he saw young Santimaw in mid-air.

Dan barely made the other side, just managing to get his foothold on a small ledge and grab a bush. Sol Tucker watched him climb up the rocks to the top; took a long look at the distance; and then hollered: "That's too much fer me, Dan. Com' on up to the hotel. The treats are on me."

So far as the writer knows no other person has ever attempted to duplicate Dan Santimaw's Hallo'een leap of '68.

(Editor's Note: The Olympic Broad Jump Record is 26ft. 5 3/4in. held by Jesse Owens, U.S.A. The National Collegiate record, held by Greg Bell, Indiana, is 26ft. 7in. So Dan Santimaw's jump was obviously a mighty one, especially garbed as he was.)

ANNOUNCING...TWO SUMMER MEETINGS...

The Historical Association's excursion to The Adirondack Museum at Blue Mountain Lake will be on Thursday, July 10. Members will travel by private auto. Arrangements have been made with three hotels in Blue Mountain Lake to serve luncheon: Potters', The Hedges and Hemlock Hall. Members of the Association will receive a special welcome at any of these hotels. Picnic facilities at the state park at Lake Durant are also available. The Museum will be open to the Association during the afternoon, and the Director, Dr. Robert B. Inverarity will address the group at 2:00 p.m.

The second event of the 1958 season will be a picnic meeting at Parishville on August 14. Miss Doris Rowland, town historian of Parishville, is in charge of arrangements; desert and coffee will be provided by local civic organizations. Dr. Charles Lahey, author of a recent study on the Parish family in Northern New York, will describe the beginnings of industry and commerce in this community. There will be a tour of historic homes and sites. Members of the Association are invited to bring guests to both of these meetings.

This will be the only direct notification to Association Members, so please make careful note of the date, the place. Further announcements will appear in the daily press.

THE FORBIDDEN SPORT

By Doris Planty, Morristown Historian

Three miles west of Morristown, in the American waters of the St. Lawrence, is Old Man's Island, an island with a past. How or when it got its name is neither important nor known. It is one of the first of the Thousand Islands up-river from Ogdensburg. Large freighters ply the main channel which passes between this island and Brockville, on the Canadian side. Its shoals have been noted for their good bass fishing for generations. Old Man's Island lays claim to a place in the folklore and history of the North Country.

In May 1886 an imposing hotel with many gables, towers and a broad veranda around it was built on the island, Messrs. Ryan and Turner being the owners, proprietors, and what was equally significant holders of the liquor franchise granted the place. From far up and down the river Old Man's Island with its grandiose hotel was plainly visible. For years a man by the name of Brockway, said to have made Brockway's famous salve, was caretaker. The hotel became popular on both sides of the river by tourists and others as well, its large dock providing ample mooring and anchorage for motor boats, steam boats and sailing craft.

The big day of the whole season came on May 24th, the Queen's Birthday, observed by all Canadians. Americans joined with their Dominion friends in the celebration, for which the hotel acquired no little notoriety. As the big day approached, the principal celebrants on both sides began laying their plans, quietly passing out challenges and preening their birds. Long before dawn on the 24th the rumbler of horses and buggies could be heard. The Americans made the fine old Bardsley place

their principal point of embarkation. Tying their horse in the barns and all about the yard, they would unload their crates of fighting cocks, load themselves and their birds into boats and cross to Old Man's Island where the Canadian crowd was arriving. From dawn until long after dark there was plenty of high-jinx in progress. The cock pits did a flourishing business all day. Much money changed hands. Liquor flowed plentifully. Festivities would continue until the early hours of the next dawn before cocks, crates and the crowd were boated back to the mainland and quiet was restored. Bardleys and also Addie Flinn in her little store on the American shore were waiting with breakfasts and did quite a business.

Then, along about 1912, a dense three-days fog completely blanketed the river. When it lifted those on the mainland rubbed their eyes in wonderment. The Ryan-Turner hotel was no more. It had burned to the ground, mysteriously some believed. It was never rebuilt, and Old Man's Island lost much of the reputation and flavor it once held for those free-wheeling May 24th celebrations. A camper now occasionally pitches his tent on the island, picnickers land there. Beneath the brush and small trees can still be found remnants of the hotel foundation. The Bardsley place, built about 1800, is now owned by the Reginald Coppernalds who have their group of tourist and camper cottages nearby. Only a few recall those "good old days" and some who do do not say much about it.

OLD COOPER SHOP

Anna Matthews Cole, Lawrence Town Historian

In the village of Nicholville, at the former Edwin Sanford place, Main Street, now owned by Mrs. Gordon Cole, there is a small building used as a garage, which, from it's outward appearance certainly would not attract anyone's attention. However, on entering the door, one is struck by the unusual structure of its walls which are finished in four-inch pine strips of various lengths and one-inch in thickness. These one-inch thick pine strips are laid one upon another, lining the walls, in a solid wall construction to the gables of the building and are nailed together with old style cut nails. The amount of time and energy consumed in constructing the interior of this one room building with one inch pine strips is unimaginable in this age.

This building was formerly an old cooper shop built by Hiram Wood and his son, Ethan Allen Wood, probably around 1874. It seems that in the early 1870's Harvey Day, who was a pioneer mill-man at Day's Mills, three miles south of Nicholville, had an order from a customer for clear pine inch boards. When this lumber was sawed there was left, as lumbermen would term it a residue of sap boards which the customer did not want. Consequently, Mr. Day cut this inch sap pine into four-inch boards, a large quantity of which was bought by Mr. Wood and his son at a price of one cent each for the purpose of finishing the walls of the cooper shop they were building.

In this shop, cedar sap buckets and sap holders, sugar buckets, wooden cisterns, sash and doors were built and general wood working repairs were made. The shop was built just west of the house to which Hiram Wood and his wife, Sarah, moved from Water Street in April 1874. Later this house belonged to Mrs. F.X. Murray (Loui Trussell Murray) and later still to her sister, Mrs. Rove V. Newell. After Hiram Wood's death in 1882, his son, Ethan Allen Wood, a carpenter by trade, used the shop as a carpenter shop during his lifetime. It conveniently stood just across the road from his farm home now owned by Kenneth Cole.

After Ethan Allen Wood's death, his farm, including the shop was purchased by Norman and Velma Sanford McKimm in 1918. When the McKimm's came to sell this place and move to Mrs. McKimm's former home, the Edwin and Adelpia Pratt Sanford homestead further down the street, Mr. McKimm moved the old shop down to the Sanford place for a garage. This old building provokes much interest on account of the minute and painstaking construction of its interior. The old Sanford place on which the cooper shop now stands is the former home of the late Dr. Frank Sanford of Morley and Canton. There were teachers, lawyers, a doctor, a druggist and a nurse in this family.

EXTRACTS FROM DIARY OF CHARLOTTE SETON OGDEN
(Mrs. Gouverneur Ogden, of Ellerslie), Waddington, N.Y.

- 1818 - JULY 2, The party from New York took leave this day at noon. They go in wagons to Ogdensburg and thence per steamer via Sackett's Harbor to the City... JULY 7, The Church bell arrived. It was hung across a rail and was rung by the sexton. It had a silver sound. The people in procession escorted it to the belfrey in the rain. It was lodged in the vestry room... JULY 20, Mr. Antrobus, British Secretary of Legation, Messrs. R. Bayard and Ray and two Le Roys were at the Island for about a week... AUG. 22 (Saturday) St. Paul's church was consecrated by Bishop Hobart; present of the clergy Messrs. Baldwin and Weagant and of the laity about 500... AUG 23, A confirmation held and 7 persons confirmed, viz., Judge Atwater, Mrs. R. Atwater, Miss Catherine Atwater, Miss S. Ogden, Mrs. J. Short, Mr. Squires and Wm. H. Vining... NOV. 20, The vestry held their meeting at our house and drank a bottle of gin and a bottle of wine.
- 1819 - Col. Gouverneur Ogden went to Potsdam to review his regiment... NOV. 9, The darkest day known for years. We burned candles from 10 o'clock in the morning till bed time. Could not see to read or sew.
- 1820 - JAN. 6 (The date on which they moved into Ellerslie) I fly on the wings of joy to Ellerslie. (Apparently they had previously stayed at the Elms.)
- 1821 - MAY 2, W. H. Vining gained his election by a majority of 25 over Mr. Winslow in consequence of which great illuminations took place. The Island very brilliant. Bucktail might have been smoked out of the village by the burning of tar barrels and bonfires, firing of cannon &c. Ellerslie did its best. After illuminating outside and in, opened all its doors to receive the villagers who came to pay their respects to the elected. Fired 6 cannon under the dining room window, the first one of which knocked two candle-sticks on top of my head. I was quietly standing by the pantry window cracking sugar for their hot punch (loaf sugar evidently) from which place I went into the drawing room where I seated myself at the piano and remained there until 10 o'clock for their amusement, half an hour after which they all tumbled downstairs and made the best of their way to the Island. Here in giving them a handsome salute a canon (being so full of joy) burst and discharged its contents consisting of some stones and pebbles through one of the Island windows and broke several panes of glass but no lives were lost, the canonade being only blown on one side... JULY 5, Sent 27 horses to Montreal for the West India market... JULY 24, The Attorney General of Canada paid a visit at the Island... SEPT. 26, Col. Ogden went to Postdam to review his regiment... NOV. 7, G. Ogden walked to Grasse Riber to stay 5 days, roads too bad to ride... DEC. 11, Tea fight at Ellerslie (Villagers).
- 1822 - JAN. 12, Washington Ford arrived at Ellerslie, danced till 12 o'clock and departed for Ogdensburg at half past one on Sunday morning, a fine frolic... JAN. 26, My dear Harriet left Ellerslie for New York in company with Miss S. Ogden, J.E. Ogden. Judge Ogden joins them at Ogdensburg. Our sleigh gone out with them as far as Utica... MARCH 6, G. Ogden stayed at home for a wonder. (This is Gouverneur, her husband, to whom she always refers as G. Ogden)... MARCH 17, G. Ogden returned from Potsdam on foot. His horse ran away... MARCH 17, G. Ogden returned from Potsdam on foot. His horse ran away... MARCH 29, G. Ogden walked home from Ogdensburg, roads being very bad. Left his horse there... APRIL 12, Father (who can this be?) shot me a blackbird, William a partridge and Mary made me a custard and puff for my dinner. The Doctor (Dr. Campfield) has gone after pigeons, ducks and wild geese. A wild goose chase. (N.B. This was in April; no game laws as yet)... APRIL 14, All the ice cleared out of the little river; tremendous high wind, strong fears entertained that part of the new dam may be carried away. Villagers all set to work to throw stone in. Roads so bad mail did not get in... APRIL 16, Sold the Murray farm to Mr. Waddell; heigh ho... MAY 7, William and Doctor C. shot 9 pigeons in the meadow... MAY 10, Sent 17 head of cattle to Montreal on a raft... JULY 20, G. Ogden arrived from New York after an absence of 3 weeks, brought with him Emma Seton and Master Waddington Ogden. Delighted to see

them...AUG. 1, All the Islanders to spend the day at Ellerslie. Moved the barn through the wheatfield by 24 yoke of oxen into the meadow...SEPT. 3, Gouverneur Ogden left New York on Saturday afternoon at 5 o'clock and arrived at Ellerslie on Tuesday night at 12 o'clock. This is the shortest space of time ever taken to perform the same journey. (N.B. As this was a journey of nearly 400 miles it could not have been made on horseback with one horse in 4 days and 7 hours. Presumably he went from New York to Albany by the S.S. Clermont and rode from there home).

1823 - JAN 15, G. Ogden left this for Albany in his own sleigh in company with his second daughter Mary Seton Ogden...JAN 26, G. Ogden returned from Albany with his two daughters Harriet and Mary.

1824 - MAY 6, Two men from the Irish Settlement to work. (This establishes that the Irish had come in sufficient numbers to have an Irish Settlement by 1824.) MAY 30, No church. On Friday Rev. Mr. Balker, a Catholic priest, preached in St. Pauls. In the evening he married Mr. Lawrence Charlton to Miss M. Hogg... JULY 11, Sunday. Heard Mr. Searle preach. In the evening all the singers met at Ellerslie. Sat down 20 at the singing table, 9 remaining seated around the room. (Presumably the church choir, meeting at Ellerslie because there was a piano there. The Island also had a piano.)...SEPT. 6, Genessee flour arrived. (Was there no flour mill in Waddington yet? Apparently not, for see entry of June 23, 1825, to the effect that wheat was being shipped to Montreal)...SEPT. 27, My dear brother and sister departed from Ellerslie this day for New York via Montreal. Serena Seton and Mary Hoffman together with Harriet and Mary Ogden accompanied them over the ferry, escorted by William Ogden and stayed all night in Canada at the stage house. They returned this morning in health and safety, the rest of the party having gone on. (N.B. Where was this ferry? There was an old brick house on the back of the Island called the Ferry House)...OCT. 10, Carney and Brewer arrived from New York to take farms...OCT. 22, A barrel of wine and one of brandy arrived from Ogdensburg, bought at Utica. (N.B. What is the date of Fred Martin's plate showing two distilleries in the village?) OCT. 30, Miss Seton's birthday. Islanders all spent the evening here. Kept it up till 12 o'clock. Had a grand husking bee...NOV. 9, Rained all day. Put up the clothes line in the garret. Pickled onions, turned a pair of sheets, finished a waistcoat, made a batch of bread, and went quietly to bed...NOV. 16, Went to the village to pay my respects to Mrs. Richards, her sister and mother, who arrived on Sunday from Connecticut...DEC. 24, At night the church was superbly illuminated, 42 candles in each window...DEC. 25, Christmas Day. All went to church but Mary Seton who had a bad cold. Sat up in the gallery with the fluters. Sang "Devizes", "Ashley" and "Denmark". (There being no mention of Christmas gifts it would seem the custom did not exist.)...DEC. 31, A party of 30 assembled here this night to dance the old year out and the new year in. Surprised them by a handsome transparency of Happy New Year in front of the window, designed and executed by Dr. Campfield. Supper at 12 and dispersed at 1. Returned to bed at 2 o'clock. The evening passed off delightfully.

1825 - JAN 19, Mary Le Conte came as a waitress. The girls began dancing lessons. JAN. 20, A dancing party at Judge Richards, all attended but Miss Seton who was sick...FEB. 4, Martha Finlay came as cook at \$5 a month...MARCH 17, Windows all open. Very warm. Island house opened once more and the family assembled together. (Note: The David Ogden family were at first accustomed to occupy the Island only in summer, going to New York or New Orleans for the winter.)...MARCH 19, Mr. Dewey's child died this morning. (What Mr. Dewey can this be? Did Seth J. Dewey's father live in Waddington?)...APRIL 10, First boat ascended the river. (She means for that season.)...APRIL 25, Five Irishmen with Lawrence Charlton came to work today in the garden. Thomas and Jack (John) Purvis also... JUNE 23, An empty boat came through the locks and landed at the mills to take wheat to Montreal market. Wrote the girls by the above boat going to Montreal this night...JULY 3, Sunday, Mr. Beardsley preached in St. Pauls. We all went

to hear him. During the intermission the Islanders and myself went to the Bower which had been erected for them to dine under on the 4th and there partook of cold apple pie which we got from Phillips. (Note: Evidently the custom was when there was a clergyman available, to have morning and evening prayer with an intermission for lunch, and probably two sermons. Much of the time there was no clergyman and there are many entries to the effect that G. Ogden read prayers in church) Note: Mrs. Gouverneur Ogden was a Seton of the same Scotch family that bore the Mary Seton who was one of Mary Stuart's "Four Maries",

"Last night the Queen had four Maries,
Tonight there are but three.
There was Mary Beaton and Mary Seton
And Mary Carmichael and me."

Gouverneur Ogden himself had proved inefficient in business and somewhat dissipated and his brothers relegated him to Waddington to keep him out of mischief. As the diary shows, there was much coming and going and many visitors, but a great deal of the time Mrs. Ogden had no society except exchanging visits with the Islanders. She was lonely and from the time she went to Waddington to the burning of Ellerslie she never left the place, a fact which (according to Mrs. Gertrude C. Smith) greatly embittered one of her sons. David A. Ogden returned from the cotton business in New York and New Orleans coming to the Island to live, but continued to be a member of his firm. The firm failed and his responsibility for its debts ruined him. He died, and his brothers liquidated his debts by purchasing his real estate holdings and created a fund for his widow. In this way his much younger brother Isaac bought the Island. The widow of David was given the cottage to live in. She was a termagant and continually berated her brothers-in-law for removing her from the Island. Becoming lame she walked with a staff with which she would strike at anyone who came within range. (Recollected by Mrs. Gertrude C. Smith. Grandma Dodds has often told me of old Lady Ogden's rages). When Ludlow Ogden went south to join the Confederate Army, he was engaged to be married to Louise Dewey. (Mrs. Smith).

OLD SCHOOL RECORDS

Records copied from the District Clerks' book dating back to 1841 of Dist. No. 4 of the Town of Norfolk and known for years as the Stone School House District, located three miles East of Norfolk on the Norfolk-Plum Brook road portray interesting information of district school conditions of the time. The first school house, probably built about 1830, was of stone, and was replaced in 1867 by a brick building. After the district became a part of the Norwood-Norfolk Central School system, this school was closed in 1950. Later it was sold and is now the home of Ralph Daggett and family.

"Oct. 10, 1841: - At the annual meeting of free holders and inhabitants of School Dist. No. 4 of the town of Norfolk held pursuant to adjournment at the school house on Oct. 12 1840, the meeting being legally opened, Giles Wing was chosen Moderator, James Rodgers Dist. Clerk, Adonirum Lockwood, Parry Bixby and Thomas Kingsbury trustees and Hiram Rich collector for the ensuing year.

"Resolved unanimously that a tax of one dollar be raised to pay for lease of land for the school house.

"Resolved that we have three months of school the ensuing winter taught by a man.

"Resolved that we get one-half cord of wood for each scholar, and that every man that sends children to school get his own wood.

"Meeting adjourned to second Monday next October at 6 P.M."

"Oct. 12, 1842: - Resolved by majority vote that two-thirds of the Public Money be applied for winter school and one-third for summer school.

"Resolved by majority vote that we have one-fourth cord of wood per scholar, that the wood be cut, drawn, corded and measured on or before the first of January,

if not, the remainder is to be gotten by Samuel Clark for 20 cts. per cord in the month of January, and delinquents pay for same. The wood to be 2ft. long, hard wood.

"Resolved unanimously that P. C. Bixby be exonerated from all offices in the District for three years, provided he procures a good and sufficient case for the books in the library free to the District within three months from the date hereof."

"Oct. 6, 1844: - Trustees reported school to have been in session for 7 months. Amount of money received from Common Monies of Common Schools during the year is \$44.38, the sum applied on teachers wages; the amount paid for teachers wages over and above the Public Money was \$6.31. Money received by trustees for library \$5.46, from sale of book 12 1/2 cts. Library money received from Comm. of Common Schools \$8.26 and that amount has been applied to the purchase of books.

"Number of volumes belonging to the District 64.

"Number of children taught were 54 in winter and 45 in the summer terms."

"Trustees report for 1859. Had 3 months and 6 days of school for which we paid \$65 last winter, and 4 months of summer school costing \$24. Voted to have 15 cords of good hard wood, 2 1/2 ft. long to be let to the lowest bidder. Ira Griffin is to get the wood for 50 cts. a cord. Total expenses \$98.05. Receipts School money \$81.78, Library money \$2.85, from previous trustee \$3.35, from Collector \$6.00, bill to be collected \$4.12, total \$98.10. Balance 5 cts."

A CROOKED ROAD

In the days before there was a road between The Narrows (now Edwardsville) and Pope Mills, two men were enjoying liquid refreshment in a Tavern. They made a bet with each other: - that Mr. A. could drive or ride his horse around the lower end of Black Lake and up the Macomb side reaching Pope Mills before Mr. B. could row a boat across the Lake and walk to Pope Mills. After many cups of cheer, the contestants started out and to this day anyone traveling this road, Highway 58, knows without doubt that he is following the original path laid out by Mr. B. at that time, and we never did find out who won the bet.

The excerpts from the diary of Charlotte Seton Ogden were provided by Mrs. Ethel C. Olds, Waddington Town Historian. Acknowledgement is made to Malcolm Booth for the account of the Silas Wright Day at Canton, Miss Doris Rowland, Town Historian, Parishville, furnished the folklore item about Dan Santimaw's famous leap.

St. Lawrence County Historical Association

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