

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

Published by the St. Lawrence County Historical Association

Editor - Atwood Manley, Canton, N. Y.

Associate Editors - Nina Smithers and Bette L. Mayhew

Vol. V. Number 2

Canton, N. Y.

April 1960



Only remaining house at Clark's Crossing, on the Potsdam-Norwood Road, on site of what is claimed to be one of the first, if not the first, co-operative communities in the United States.

Photo by John L. Warner, 44 Johnson Ave., Binghamton, N.Y.

"THE UNION" SETTLEMENT

By V. Merritt Ingram, Jr., Potsdam, N. Y.

On November 28, 1804, a Mr. William Bullard, of Vermont, and a group of associates took title to a tract of land containing 2,467 acres about three miles North of the Village of Potsdam. Sources disagree as to the amount paid for this land, some saying \$8,300 and others saying \$8,656. These men and their families began an experiment in communistic living.

The members of this colony were: William Bullard, John Burroughs, Manasseh Smith, Nathan Howe, Ammi Currier, Thomas H. Currier, William Currier, Isaac Ellis, Alba Durkee, John MacAllaster and their families.

In April or May, 1807, "The Union" was formally organized.

Members at this time included the original ten families and some by the name of Smith, who came from Tunbridge, Vermont, in the year 1806. They were relatives of Joseph Smith, founder of Mormonism. John Smith left the colony (The Union) in 1809 and later became the high priest of the Mormon settlement at Salt Lake City, Utah Territory, in 1853.

By this time there was a Union store, a Union schoolhouse, a Union blacksmith shop and a Union church.

The Union prospered fairly well. Bullard was appointed agent and manager and Burroughs became clerk. All problems were settled by majority vote. Families lived separately, but property was common. A settlement was made each January, sharing according to the amount of labor invested during the preceding year. Tools and property remained under common ownership, but the crops were divided. No control was exercised over political beliefs.

Bullard was known as "the King of the Union". He was a shoemaker by trade, and continued this occupation part time after he became the head of the Union. He lived in a log cabin which served as the palace, a shoeshop and school, which he taught.

In 1810 the Union dissolved by mutual agreement. Bullard granted individual titles to the land. Most either remained on the land or sold it and moved West. One story is that the more energetic women objected that their more indolent sisters were receiving the benefits of the common ownership policy.

Long after the Union was dissolved, the former members remained a class by themselves. The majority was inclined towards Unitarianism, but there were differences of opinion that led to many hot theological discussions. Some remnants of this Unitarian feeling still remain in the Potsdam area.

Union property eventually covered about five square miles, stretching Northward on the left of the Potsdam-Norwood Road from the present Unionville.

Many signs still remain of the Union. The names of Union Road, Union Falls and Unionville have the Union as an origin. The Union Schoolhouse is still being used. A short trek through grassy fields will take you to the Union graveyard. There you may find the graves of John Burroughs, Manasseh Smith and Ammi Currier. Among the mossy grave stones you may find the final homes of the Shaws, the Morgans and the McGills who joined in 1808, and the Washburns who were there all along, but never officially joined the Union.

The Union, no matter how small and short lived it was, played a notable part in the history of the Potsdam area and provided one of the few examples of communal living that the New World has ever known.

Bibliography: My sources of information were: "A History of the North Country" (3 Volumes) by Harry F. Landon, Historical Publishing Co., 1932; "A History of St. Lawrence and Franklin Counties," by Franklin B. Hough, Little and Co., 1853; "A Memorial Record of St. Lawrence County" by Gates Curtis, 1894; "A History of St. Lawrence County" by L. H. Everts, 1878; An Address given by Dr. H. C. Leete, June 1, 1928.

TENTATIVE SUMMER PROGRAM, COUNTY HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION

April 23	Board of Trustees' Meeting.....	Waddington
May 8	Sesqui-Centennial.....	Louisville
May 14	Workshop on Writing.....	Canton
?	Tour, Luncheon, and Speech (Dr. Harold Dean Cater).....	Morristown
?	Picnic and Speech.....	Cooper's Falls
July 30	Sesqui-Centennial.....	Norfolk
August 27	Tour, Luncheon, and Speech.....	Russell Turnpike

THE RIPLEY PAPERS AND MATILDAVILLE

By Atwood Manley

From January 1, 1956 to January 1, 1960, the four years covering the life-span to date of THE QUARTERLY, there have appeared on its pages a series of articles dealing with some of the history of land titles in St. Lawrence County and the drama which grew out of those matters. These articles were: "The Island House of the Ogdens," "The Ten Towns," "Parishville - A North Country Experiment in Hot house Settlement" (two installments), "The Little Known Alexander Macomb," and most recently "The Racquette River - And One of America's First Fifth Columnists." These articles provide a little, only a little, however, of the background of our North Country beginnings. They relate both directly and indirectly to what the author of this article choses to call "The Great Gamble." Those original land deals involved more than four and one quarter millions of acres of "unappropriated waste lands". These transactions obviously were a gamble, a wide open speculation, which today would be called the use of venture or risk money. Such were the purchases made by Macomb, Constable, McCormick, the Ogdens, the Morrises, Clarksons, Harisons, and others who in turn sold to other speculators. The list of these latter buyers is almost endlessly long. It includes very many of the elite of New York City's 1790-1850 "Four Hundred." Prominent among the early speculators in St. Lawrence County history were the Parishes, those daring, venturesome, money-minded Continental bankers who through their extensive family holdings in Bohemia have become known to us as The Barons of Senftenberg. History has given us David Parish, his brother George, and then their nephew, the other George Parish, the three members of this notable family who in turn lived in Ogdensburg while handling their family holdings in St. Lawrence County. David Parish in one deal bought 75,000 acres from Gouverneur Morris at \$1.50 per acre and in five months was selling it in blocks at \$5.00 per acre.

The Parishes, of North Country fame, became our first great industrialists, the most daring first developers of our natural resources, risking their wealth to settle and to open up much of this area, setting up their large mercantile establishment, building three of the first schooners to ply the St. Lawrence River trade, opening iron mines and erecting huge stone iron mills and forges at Rossie, establishing their sheep farm and hop fields at Parishville, and undertaking countless other pioneering adventures. Withal, however, the Parishes were hard-headed business men, shrewd and sharp in their dealings as was the common practice of the times. Concerning one of their land transactions - for land was their initial, largest and chief interest - there is now available some recently discovered source material about which nothing has been previously written.

It was only by a miracle, literally so, that the Owen D. Young Library at St. Lawrence University now possesses two large green bound letter files containing "The Ripley Papers." In themselves these papers consist of badly water-stained, brittle, soiled, but still legible letters, indentures, documents, contracts and other miscellany - over seven hundred items in all. They beckon the researcher. Two years ago the author was asked to study these papers, and since then has devoted considerable time to the task. By themselves this cache is of no great moment, historically. It is only when they become part of "The Great Gamble," and are properly correlated with the Parishes and the rest of the land title drama, that their value takes form and lends perspective. In this respect they become a definite contribution to the sum total of our historical knowledge.

It remained for the Hurricane Diane, in 1955, to deliver into our hands this trunkfull of papers. From somewhere, only God now knows apparently where, that old, topless, sharkskin trunk was picked out of its hiding place somewhere on the

upper reaches of the Farmington River, a tributary of the Connecticut, and swept madly down on the crest of that flood toward Long Island Sound. Fortunately, the old trunk with its cargo lodged among the tree tops at the foot of the hill on which the Henry Szydlo home perches near Collinsville, Conn. These people salvaged both trunk and papers when the Farmington returned to its banks. Luckily Henry Szydlo has a penchant for antiques, for history, for old postage stamps and stampless covers.

These papers, when dried and cleaned, showed no serious damage from their watery cruise. The ink was neither washed out nor seriously diluted. Luckily rag paper is somewhat water-resistant. In reading over this "Find" Mr. Szydlo soon realized that there on his attic floor lay something more than a mere batch of old papers. Here was something possessed of an historical past. These were the papers of one Christopher Ripley, whoever he may have been, and some of Ripley's kinfolk. They covered a period from 1804 into the 1850's and 1860's. Very many of them obviously had to do with a town called Matildaville (or Matildavale as originally named), in St. Lawrence County, New York State. They concerned a huge land transaction between Ripley and one George Parish. Thanks to the thoughtfulness of our County Historian, Nina Smithers, the papers ultimately came into the possession of St. Lawrence University. To them have since been added others, by purchase and by gift, some given by the great great granddaughter of Christopher Ripley, Mrs. Sally Madill Gray of Montclair, N.J., daughter of the late Dr. and Mrs. Grant C. Madill of Ogdensburg, N.Y. These papers not only convey to us biographical information about Christopher Ripley but are of more intrinsic worth because of the detailed, play-by-play record of this land deal.

Space here denies even a respectable biographical sketch of Christopher Ripley. Suffice it is to say that he came of a most estimable family, being a direct descendent of the noted Governor Bradford of Mayflower and Massachusetts Pilgrim fame. Christopher Ripley was apparently well educated in keeping with family position. He was born in "The Mansion" at Wyndham, Conn., in 1781. He was withal a gallant, a venturesome and a rather headstrong chevalier. Otherwise he would never have become so deeply involved in mid-life with the two George Parishes, and the gentleman, Rosseel. But for his rather Macawber optimisms, his endless quest and hopeful expectancy of finding something new and profitable just around the next corner, the always eager chase after the illusive pot of gold at the end of the rainbow, but for these personal traits he would never have come to St. Lawrence County in the first place. He had already put a colorful life behind him, before his arrival there.

Alas, alas, fortune denied Ripley the satisfactions he sought with such boundless enthusiasms. Fate turned the cards cruelly against him. When he died, in 1851, in Ogdensburg he had nothing left in the way of worldly possessions, in the form of specie, or realty, or other material assets, nothing except his papers, and his beloved and devoted wife, and their three fine children. No man could have bestowed a more worthy, more enduring or more cherished heritage than these. Julia Caulkins Ripley is still referred to by her great great grandchildren as "a wonderful woman." The son became a military man of high rank and an historian of merit, Major-General Roswell Sabin Ripley, U.S.A. The two daughters were: Lucia, who married the noted St. Lawrence County Judge, Amaziah Bailey James; and Laura, who married Charles Shepard, long prominent in St. Lawrence River transportation. The two granddaughters of Judge Amaziah B. and Lucia James were: Sally James Farnham, the great American sculptress; and Lucia James Madill, wife of our late great North Country surgeon and civic leader.

What then is the story of Christopher Ripley and his association with the Parishes and Matildaville, or Matildavale as first named on the original land maps?

In 1828 Christopher Ripley arrived in Ogdensburg, with portmanteau, baggage and family. In company with a relative, Thomas Denny, he set up business in the mercantile trade on North Water Street under the firm name of C. Ripley & Co. The building is still standing, one lot removed from today's U.S. Custom House, which was originally the business mart and offices of Parish & Company. Three years later Ripley withdrew from this partnership, signing over his entire equity therein to Denny; and accepted a position with the large and prosperous commission brokerage house of Molson Davies & Co., in Montreal. This was the type of business in which he was first schooled. Mrs. Ripley and children remained in Ogdensburg. This business association took Ripley to Ohio to purchase "wheat, flour, beef, Pork and other provisions." He had previously resided and been engaged in business at Worthington, near Columbus, Ohio. It was there he met and married the lovely Julia Caulkins. Joel Buttles, a wealthy Columbus merchant-financier, had become his good friend.

The year 1836 found Christopher Ripley in New York City, no longer with Molson Davies & Co., but casting hopefully about for new and lucrative business contacts, still ever-confident and optimistic; securing residence in the city and preparing to move his family there from Ogdensburg. Then, unexpectedly, opportunity knocked at his door. From that moment on Christopher Ripley's every waking hour seemed to have been focused solely on this new, tempting venture - the purchase of Matildaville in St. Lawrence County and what followed. By some undisclosed means Ripley and one Palmer Cleveland, of Rochester, N.Y., had learned of a certain purchase contract held by one Ezra Sanbourn which was in default to the Parishes. This contract covered 28,765 "unproductive" wilderness Matildaville acres. George Parish, as the Executor of his late uncle, David Parish's estate, was on the point of repossessing this property. From this point on Ripley became the principal in the ensuing drama.

For a clearer understanding of the nature and extent of this realty venture on Ripley's part one should first become acquainted with Matildaville, its location, its natural resources, and other factors of relative importance. As of today's county map, outlined Matildaville lies in the present northerly part of the Town of Colton. By the original map devised by Macomb, Constable, McCormick et al, Tracts Two and Three of Macomb's Great Purchase were located in St. Lawrence County and were divided into thirty-three Towns. They were exclusive of the Ten Towns and the Town of Massena. The County so mapped and as originally named is shown on the next page.

As of today one can best recognize the area comprising "Matildaville" as a 6 x 8 miles rectangle having at its approximate center the hamlet of South Colton (Three Falls), the village of Colton (High Falls) lying at the northwesterly extreme corner, the St. Lawrence University "Sno Bowl" at its southeasterly corner.

One thing is certain, Christopher Ripley was an altogether too trusting a person. He was honest, thoroughly so, and forthright. He assumed that others were likewise. In company with this newly made friend, Palmer Cleveland, and backed financially by Joel Buttles of Ohio, Ripley proceeded. There is preserved the exchange of correspondence between George Parish, through his agent, Rosseel, in Ogdensburg, and Ripley in New York. Ripley et al were prepared to take over the Sanbourn contract. Ripley felt confident that at last his pot of gold was almost in hand. Palmer Cleveland insisted that he had a buyer for the entire Matildaville property ready and waiting, at a handsome profit.

The Parishes had already sold off 1355 acres of Matildaville in small parcels, apparently to pioneer settlers. The Town was still largely an unbroken wilderness.

ST. LAWRENCE COUNTY AS CHARTED
BY MACOMB, CONSTABLE AND
McCORMICK



Even today, this area does not lend itself to agricultural development and is very largely forest or so-called "marginal" land, not conducive to settlement. It is said on excellent authority that even the Parishes considered Matildaville as the least desirable of all their land holdings. Why then, one wonders, was Christopher Ripley so overwhelmingly possessed to acquire it. The answer is given in an analysis of these old papers. He was convinced he and his two associates could realize a quick profit. There is no evidence that he was misled or misguided by George Parish (the first) nor the agent, Rosseel. Ripley seems to have initiated the negotiations with them from New York, and against the intuitive warning of his wife, Julia, as the accompanying letter from her so emphatically states:

Ogdensburgh Aug 7th 1836.

My Dear C R --

I wrote you a crazy letter on the 5th while suffering with the nervous headache- have since received one by mail dated July 31. have been twice down town to learn if any-thing had been said by Mr Bush to Mr Parish Also sent Roswell to Mr J.. last evening. He said he had called several times at his office but had not seen him thus I am not able to give you any information yet on that subject. You ask me if I should like to live at M what next? I am not prepared to answer this but I am thinking I shall look out a hermitage somewhere before a great while unless I can be in a better condition to enjoy society. Soon the harvest will be past and the summer ended and we as far as money is concerned not saved.

Think of making an exploring excursion this week if I can get suitable company Mr N - would know no more about minerals than an oran outang. Every day convinces me that you ought to have examined this land a month ago yourself. Mr. J. says he would give his attention to it if he could leave his office. His brother has left him and gone to Buffalo.--If I should go I will write immediately on my return.

Those of our friends who said they thought it a great bargain on your part have not the ability or inclination to engage in any speculation of the kind.

Have recd my viel and letter by Mr Hurlbut---in great haste as the steam boat soon goes

Thine Julia

Ripley and Palmer Cleveland, both in New York City, prevailed upon Joel Buttles in Ohio to finance this venture. Palmer Cleveland, as the correspondence disclosed later, believed he had a buyer of the entire property in The North American Mining Company, by whom he was employed. Messrs Ripley, Cleveland and Buttles joined in this partnership and later entered into a written, signed agreement thereto. By its terms Buttles was to provide the necessary down payment to meet the Parish terms, under the form of purchase contract; Palmer Cleveland was to attend to the sale of the property; Christopher Ripley was to buy Matildaville in person under this partnership agreement - in his own name. He was to manage the property, receive a commission on the net proceeds of the contemplated resale, and then the remaining net profit should be split equally among these three. The purchase price was 87½ cents per acre. Ripley's commission was to be 37½ cents per acre. This brought the price to \$1.25 per acre, over and above which would come the net profit to be split three ways. To all events and purposes, Ripley, Cleveland and Buttles had tied this land deal up in a neat little package. However, they failed to take into consideration the unforeseeables.

Under the contract terms it was stipulated that Riply must: First, make a down payment of \$5,000 (advanced by Buttles) on the total purchase price of \$25,170 (or the 87½ cents per acre for the 28,765 acres involved); Second, the unpaid balance of \$20,170 was to be retired in five equal annual installments, plus interest at 7 per centum per annum on all unpaid balances; Third, failure to meet any of the above annual payments, either on principal or interest, or both, would vacate the contract, constitute its forfeiture, and permit Parish & Company to repossess the property. The following letter becomes an important part of the whole matter:

Ogdensburgh 22d Aug 1836

Christopher Ripley Esqr at NYC

Dear Sir

Your favor of the 13 Instant has been received, giving an account of your

proceedings, thus far, in relation to Matildaville which, I think, will greatly tend to the furtherance of your views.

In the event of a Sale of that Township, the sum stipulated to be paid at the Ensealing of the Contract, being paid, a Deed will be forthwith sent to NYC to be interchanged for a Bond for the Annual Installments with a Mortgage on Matildaville.

Messrs Chs. A & Ed Heckscher No 40 Broad.Street - are my Bankers to whom the aforementioned payment may be made for my account

In case your present efforts should result in no final disposition of Matildaville, on or before the 1st September, then it may perhaps be mutually advantageous to adopt a further extension of the time within which to effect a Sale of that Township - But it is primature to settle on a point so contingent.

While on this subject, allow me to bring under your consideration another small Tract of land - also in the same neighborhood - being the N. West quarter of the Township of Riversdale. alias No 12 in great Lot No 2. of Macombs purchase Conts 7971 acres - This Land I am induced to offer to you at Seventy five cents per acre on Similar conditions as those of the Sale of Matildaville Riversdale also belongs to the Region of Mines Water privileges and abounding with timber suitable for the Smelter. In case you desire a Contract for this small Tract inform me & it shall be furnished.

Accept my thanks for your promise to keep me advised of the progress of your operation on Matildaville

Yours very truly
 ppen George Parish
 Joseph Rosseel

There seems to be no question but the purchase contract was "Ensealed". There is ample evidence in later papers that for some undisclosed reason the Deed was not delivered, possibly for lack of any "interchange" for Bond and Mortgage. However, we do have a contract by which Ripley agreed to increase his land holdings by buying that northwesterly quarter of Riversdale - in addition to and on like terms to Matildaville. The lack of a Deed to Matildaville became Christopher Ripley's chief nemesis. It was here, in failing to first procure the deed, he showed a flagrant lack of business acumen and foresight. The papers fail to indicate why Parish and Company never lived up to the agreement as per Rosseel's letter to deliver said deed. Ripley's very future hinged on this failure.

What followed became the great tragedy of Ripley's life. He was to lose all. First, and totally unforeseen, came a great national stringency of money, a depression and business panic. Money became scarce and land unwanted. Palmer Cleveland was unable to produce a buyer, as he had hoped. The Matildaville transaction was closed in August 1836. By 1838, two years later, Palmer Cleveland was withdrawing from the partnership, selling his one-third interest in Matildaville to Joel Buttles for \$2,500. Christopher Ripley's name, and only his, was on the contract with Parish. By might and main Ripley endeavored to meet the terms of the contract, to pay the annual installments and the interest. To do so he entered upon an ever-expanding and visionary program of development. Of courage and initiative he was not lacking. His program in time reached out in many directions. For a time in New York he had tried his talents at publicity and promotional schemes. With Matildaville now his sole responsibility he concentrated on that with enthusiasm and employed his talents. Not once did he seem to question but that this was a Paradise of Possibility, a Garden of Eden, just waiting to be cultivated.

For a time the lack of deed seemed to be circumvented, at least by a straw. An agreement was effected between him and Rosseel acting on behalf of Parish,

whereby Ripley could sell off small parcels or lots, of from 25 to 100 acres, to settlers and when and if he obtained sufficient payments thereon to meet the stipulated Parish selling price, Parish would then issue a deed direct to the new, small owner. Obviously Parish stood to lose nothing and gain all by such an arrangement, which in effect reduced Ripley to no more than a real estate agent. His gamble was to sell off enough small sections eventually to retire the entire indebtedness to Parish, and then obtain for himself the deed for the unsold remainder of which he would become the sole owner - he and his remaining partner, Joel Buttles. Naturally, it did not work out this way. But Christopher Ripley had become obsessed. Matildaville became his fetish. He dreamed large and grandiose dreams. These illusions portrayed industries rising at its numerous water power sites, roads being laid out. He sought to sell to large speculators in New York, and poor, struggling settlers who drifted into the area. The soil, he claimed, was rich loam "20 feet straight down," for how otherwise could the roots of those giant pines grow. To open the town to development he hatched original and utopian ideas. Immigrants were crossing the Atlantic by the thousands, the Town of Edwards to the east of Matildaville had but recently been settled by a group of Scots. Let Edwards be a Scotland, he would convert Matildaville into "New Germany". This plan, he wrote, became "my hobby". He prepared broadsides extolling the virtues and resources of his beloved Matildaville, which his papers state he distributed widely, even in Germany. By correspondence he made plans to pay the fare of incoming German immigrant purchasers from New York to Matildaville. "This Land has a warm rich, productive soil," "the timber of large and lofty growth," "Many of the settlers" were making "Black Salts of Pearl Ash." Matildaville, "otherwise New Germany, where health, prosperity and happiness are obtainable." Thus did he permit his extravagant enthusiasms to engulf his every thought.

In the midst of his growing dilemma occurred the sudden death of George Parish while on an extended trip to Europe. Joseph Rosseel, the agent, became the Executor of Parish's American estate. Rosseel and Ripley apparently had little or nothing in common, personally or from a business point of view. It may have been a clash of personalities. It may have been a feeling of distrust or dislike on Ripley's part. Their business relations suffered and deteriorated rapidly. The younger George Parish came from Europe to assume charge in Ogdensburg. His affair with Amerigo Vespucci was yet in the offing.

Ripley had plunged financially not once, nor twice, but thrice. First there was the Matildaville land, next the Riversdale quarter section, finally, in association with an Ogdensburg banker, Baron J. Doty, Christopher Ripley purchased saw mill properties and sites on "the dam" at Waddington of George Reddington, land agent for the Ogdens. For over a year letters passed between Ripley and Reddington. Ripley sought to interest Reddington in the purchase of Matildaville, in part or in total, sought to have him visit the area and appraise its potential for his own satisfaction; invited him to take over the management and sale of the property - all to no effect. Two other possibilities came from Ripley's inventive mind. If not a "New Germany" why not a "French Colony". There is the correspondence with Quebec parties to enlist the attention of prospective French Canadian buyers to form such a settlement.

Not the least of Ripley's dreams was that of a route of transportation between his Utopia, Matildaville, and the Mohawk Valley and the great metropolitan markets to the south. There is the exchange of correspondence with Col. Jeremiah Drake, of Salisbury Centre, N.Y., and with others anent the building of a railroad to Piseco, Racket Lake, Tupper Lake and Matildaville, with any necessary connecting canals. There was scarcely a proposition to advance the sale of this land that escaped Ripley's mind.

(Continued on Page 12)

MEMORANDA RELATING TO THE PARISH FAMILY TREE

Both in our North Country history and fiction no family has probably attracted more interest and attention than the Parishes, those three bachelors who in turn resided in the large brick mansion David Parish constructed at the corner of Washington and State Streets in the City of Ogdensburg over one hundred and fifty years ago.

Possibly the diagram of the Parish family line on the opposite page will afford many a more intimate and clearer knowledge of the relationship of the three Ogdensburg Parish gentlemen, David Parish, his brother, George Parish, and their nephew, George Parish, who was the son of Richard.

Frequent reference is made in print to the Parishes as the Barons of Senftenberg, Bohemia (otherwise known as Czechoslovakia). It should be understood that not all of the members of this family have borne that title. In fact, neither David Parish nor his borhter, George, were Barons of Senftenberg.

The owners of that 14,000 acred crowned estate of Senftenberg in Bohemia have been as follows:

1. John Parish, original purchaser (rec. Aug. 12, 1815) named Baron of Senftenberg March 19, 1817. Died 1858.
2. George Baron Parish von Senftenberg, owner 1858-1881.
3. Oscar Baron Parish von Senftenberg, 1881-1925.
4. Charles Baron Parish von Senftenberg, 1925-_____.

Baron Charles Parish, his wife, and their six children fled their barony during World War II when the Communists conviscated their estate. The family has since been in residence near Toronto, Canada, at Beamsville, Ontario.

It was David Parish who began making the first purchases of St. Lawrence County land about 1806. He returned to Europe in 1816 and was succeeded at Ogdensburg by his brother, George Parish. David Parish died in 1826. Three of his brothers, Baron John Parish, Richard Parish and George Parish became partners in these American holdings, George remaining in Ogdensburg until 1833, when he returned to Europe. Richard Parish eventually purchased from Baron John and George Parish their interest (recorded Dec. 6, 1841) for a price reputed to have been \$299,000. This he sold to his own son, George Parish, who came to Ogdensburg and resided there until 1858 when he returned to Bohemia to succeed his late uncle as Baron von Senftenberg. The Barony passed in due time to his grandson, Oscar, son of Edmund; and from him to the present Charles Parish of Canada

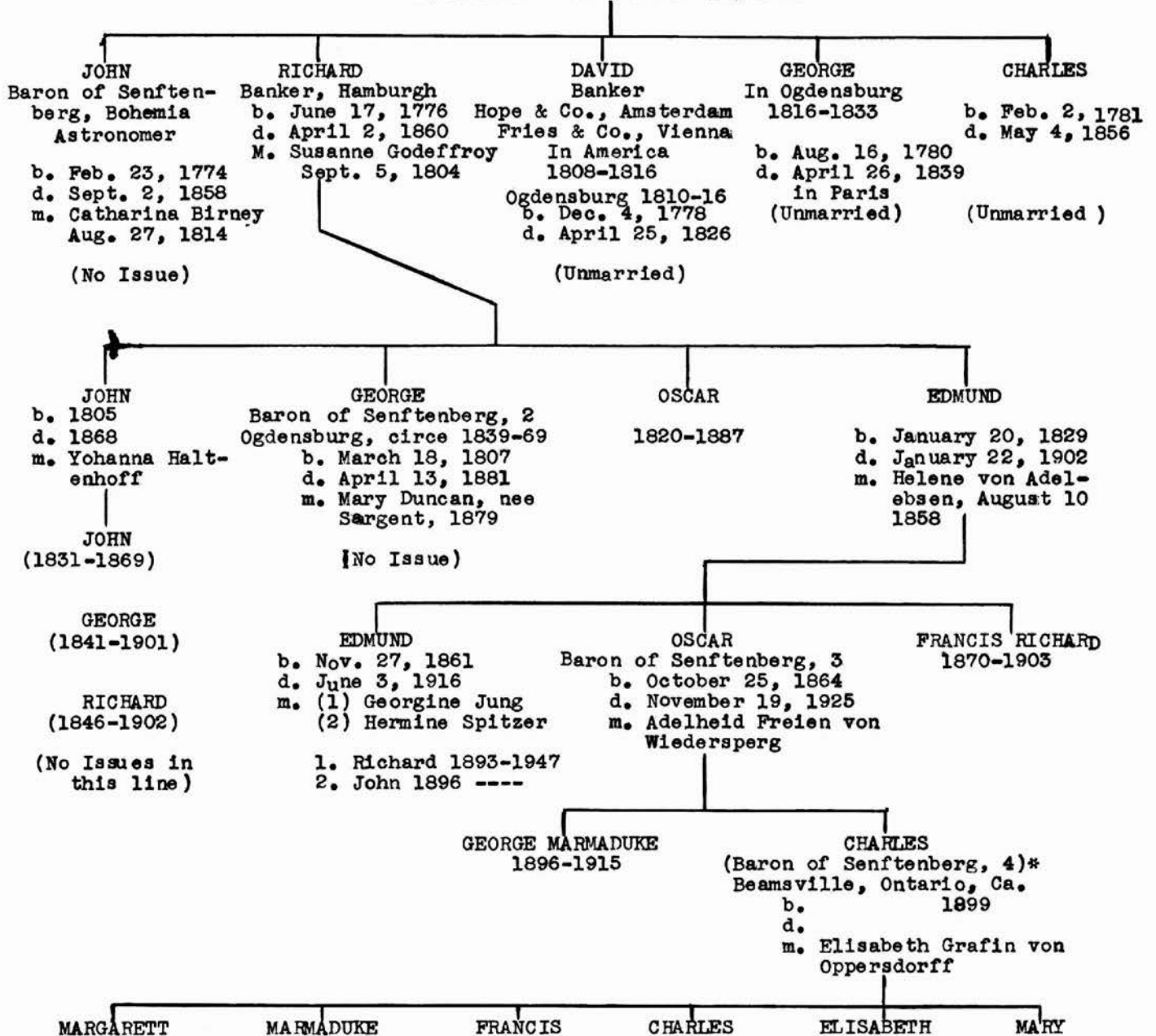
It is to be noted that Joseph Rosseel, native of Ghent, became the Parish agent in Ogdensburg; with power of attorney apparently during the absence of George, brother of David; and then became the Executor of George's estate in America.

THE PARISH FAMILY TREE

JOHN PARISH

Of Scotch-English Descent
Continental Banker and Merchant of Hamburg, Germany

b. North Leilh, March 16, 1742
d. Bath, February 4, 1829
m. Henriette Tod, March 14, 1768



*Who furnished the author with this outline and data on Dec. 3, 1957.

Continued

In the end he became embittered and impoverished. There was the litigation he began against Rosseel, also his attempt to go over the head of both Rosseel and the younger George Parish, by his impassioned letters to old Richard Parish in Europe. It was all to no avail. Parish declared the contract forfeited, and with the deed still in his possession repossessed the land. In the evening of his life Ripley is found desperately seeking some means of supporting his family, beset by a broken and weakened heart. There is his trip to Rochester contrary to his physician's advice. Then death in 1851. Whether Parish ever made a settlement with Joel Buttles we do not know. That Christopher Ripley was treated like a thorn in Parish's and Rosseel's sides becomes self-evident. The Parishes, who poured three-quarters of a million dollars into their ambitious St. Lawrence County properties, probably did not make a financial killing. As one completes the study of these papers the inevitable question arises, why did Parish and Rosseel refuse to deliver the deed of Matildaville to Ripley? They took and kept his money. They abetted him and encouraged him at the start. In the end they treated him harshly. They never surrendered the deed and thus tied Ripley's hands tight, in business shackles.

ANOTHER LETTER ANENT THE PATRIOT REBELLION OF THE BATTLE OF THE WINDMILL

Occasional helpful source material items referring to the famous battle of the Windmill, below Prescott, in the Patriots Rebellion - so-called - continue to come out of hiding. THE QUARTERLY has eagerly accepted and published a few of these. The following now comes from Robert F. Hale of Malone, N.Y., and is made available through Mr. Andrew K. Peters, our Society's former President, Librarian of the Owen D. Young Library at St. Lawrence University. Grateful acknowledgment is thus made to both Mr. Hale and Mr. Peters.

Mr. Hale is another one of those inveterate philatelists. He wrote Mr. Peters in part as follows:

"Earlier this week (February 12) a nice lot of early northern New York covers came to me from a dealer who keeps his eye out for this material for me. Included in the lot is a folded letter, postmarked at Ogdensburgh Nov. 14 (1838) which is of more than usual interest, being an eye witness account of the battle of the Wind Mill Point as seen by Hiram Denio and with comments regarding various leaders of the patriot "army" which was engaged there."

The transcript of this letter is as follows:

On board steam boat U.S. (United States)
Ogdensburgh, Tuesday noon.

My dear wife:

Thinking you might feel some anxiety about me, if without information, I write to mention that I have just come aboard this boat to proceed to Sackett's Harbour. It will take an hour or more to heat up which affords me an opportunity to write you this letter and dispatch it to the post office.

When I wrote you yesterday afternoon there were some 2 or 3 hundred Patriots at Wind Mill Point on the Canada side about 1½ miles below Prescott, (Ontario). During the evening several schooner loads in addition were sent over and after that the Patriot force in Canada was variously estimated at from 3 to 600 men. At about nine o'clock last evening Col. Watts of the U.S. army arrived here from S. Harbour (Sackett's Harbour) with several hundred troops in the steam boat Tellegraph, and after that the communication across the river ceased. No hostilities took place

during the night, but this morning I was called up soon after light to witness the engagement, which had just commenced. The British had two armed steam boats plying in the river opposite the Patriot headquarters, and they continued through out the whole action to run up and down, firing their artillery at the Patriots and throwing bomb shells on shore, and the Patriots, who had a battery of two pieces of artillery on shore, were returning the fire with great spirit but I could not ascertain the effect on either side. At the same time the forces on land engaged with small arms. From where I stood (not having any spy glass) I could see the masses of men advance and retreat indistinctly, but I could see with perfect unhindrance the flashing of their guns and the smoke. At one time the British line seemed to be broken and they retreated several rods towards Prescott but formed again and the action was kept up with various success for about an hour when the firing was further back from the river and finally ceased with the exception of a few discharges from a stone wind mill near the water into which it is believed a party of the Patriots have thrown themselves. It is evident that the Patriots have been beaten, but whether the garrison have retreated into the country or been taken is not yet known. The party yet remains in the wind mill, but there is no escape from the British.

A person, not in the engagement, has come over this morning and says that the orders of the British are to give no quarter, but to slay every man found in arms. The probability, I think, is that the poor fellows are, or will be, principally cut to pieces. The party in the wind mill are said to be under the command of a son of sailing master Vaughan of the U.S. navy - and his father is now in command of this boat!

All the principal leaders in this wicked enterprise are still on this side - not having been in the action at all. They are first, Major General Birge, formerly of Cazenovia, who was so unaccountably taken sick yesterday on board the steamboat. It is admitted on all hands that his illness was only the subterfuge of cowardice. Next, Gen'l. Estes of French Creek, Jefferson County.- a man for whom I have done busines.- Next, Bill Johnson. After Birge gave out, and some time last evening, this notorious individual was chosen commander in chief by the Patriot forces at Wind Mill Point and was engaged during the whole evening in forwarding troops over the river and promising that, when they were all over, he would cross and assume the command - but somehow or other he never got over. Lastly, O.B. Pierce who had the actual command of this boat when she was in the Patriot service yesterday. Why he did not go over I don't know, for he showed a good deal of courage yesterday; but his companions say he was very much intoxicated and it is probably that his courage evaporated with the effects of the liquor he had drunk. I reproached him this morning for not going over and he intimated that he intended to go yet. Now the leaders and those who got up the expedition have suffered the poor deluded men to fight it out themselves. The actual command is said to have been assumed by a Pole of the name of Shultz. (Von Schoultz, a Polish officer in exile).

My boat is now in the hands of the government of the United States and I am indebted to the kindness of Col. Watts, with whom I have had an interview this morning, for the privilege of going in her to the Harbour (Sackett's). - I am called to dinner and cannot write any more now. I will write you from the harbour to assure you of my safe arrival, and convey other information of the poor Patriots which I shall have gotten.

Very respectfully yrs.

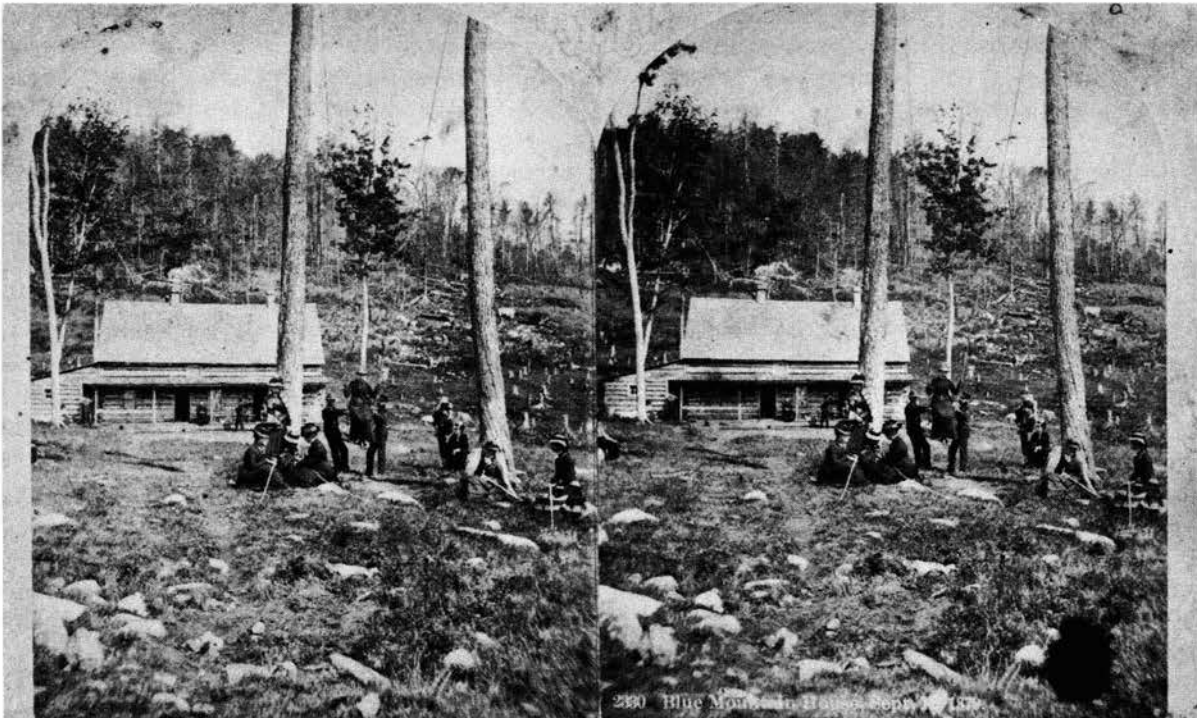
H.D.
(Hiram Denio).

November 14, 1838.

Letter addressed to:-

Mrs. H. Denio, Utica, N.Y. and postmarked at Ogdensburgh Nov. 14.

Hough's History of St. Lawrence and Franklin counties, pps. 660-670 gives a quite lengthy and detailed account of the Wind Mill Point affair and following episodes of the so-called Patriots war for the independence of Canada. He states that Hiram Denio was appointed to negotiate for the return of the steam boat United States to the government of the U.S., a commission which Denio performed successfully. This was probably the interview mentioned by Denio with Col. Watts in the closing paragraph of his letter.



ELLA LAHEY MAKES A FIND

It has remained for one of the County Historical Society's most loyal and able workers, Mrs. Ella Lahey of Massena, to produce what may be one of the most interesting "finds" of the current year. It is the stereoptican photograph shown above. Although not discernible there is a printed by-line at the bottom of the right hand of these identical views which reads:

"2330 Blue Mountain House, Sept. 10, 1879"

This item was shown to Dr. Inverarity, Director of the Adirondack Museum while on a business trip to Canton on March 16th.

"You might know! You might know! This is just the way it so often happens. Here we have thought up at the Adirondack Museum we had found all existing old photographs of the original old log Blue Mountain House, on the site of which our Museum has been built. And, now, down here in Canton I am handed a photograph I have never before seen, and which goes back farther than any we have at the Museum. What do you know! What won't turn up next!"

AN OLD LETTER TELLS ABOUT FIRST SETTLERS IN HEUVELTON

The following is a copy of a letter written June 1, 1901, by Mrs. Louise S. Rounds of Chicago, Ill., to Dan S. Giffin, a Heuvelton attorney. The original is in the possession of Courtland Smithers of Heuvelton.

Rev. Jairus Remington

The Rev. Jairus Remington who had been pastor of the Presbyterian church at Templeton and also Poultney, Vermont, moved to Heuvelton, New York, November 1806. His only daughter, Eliza, then eight years of age rode on horse back the entire journey. There were then three houses, all built of logs, where the village of Heuvelton now stands and one of them being vacant, Rev. Remington moved in to it. In place of glass in the windows, oiled paper was used the first winter of his occupancy. Meat was obtained from the Indians who were friendly and numerous.

Mr. Remington took up three thousand acres of land, running one mile on the river, including all water privileges. Judge Ford of the little hamlet of Ogdensburg was the land agent. The building of mills, shops and carding works next occupied the attention of Mr. Remington. As soon as lumber could be sawed he built a large house on the site, where many years later a brick house was built by John Pickens. This house was used by the travelling public and was called a tavern and it also became a boarding house for the twenty men or more who were engaged in clearing the land. To this house some of the wounded at the battle of Ogdensburg (War of 1812) were brought and received such care as the primitive conditions of civilization would permit. Major Sargent after the war closed became one of Mr. Remington's hired men and was engaged as a mill wright.

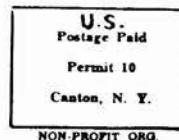
Lumber was the chief export for several years, divided into pine, curly and pin maple, also cherry the latter being used largely for household furniture. The nearest market for this lumber was Montreal, which was reached by rafts down the river St. Lawrence. Trees of this primeval forest were in many instances very large and it was not unusual for pine logs to measure four feet in diameter and some even more. Mr. Remington soon had a large number of acres cleared and began the raising of horses and cattle and so prosperous had he become that he soon had all this large tract of land paid for except the last payment of a few hundred dollars, which he could easily have met by selling some of his stock. But thinking the use of the cattle to be wiser just then, than the finishing up of his contract, he permitted the contract to expire with only this small amount of payment overdue. - and unfortunately became so absorbed in business matters on the place that he failed to get the contract renewed.

About that time a Mr. Van den Heuvel came from Holland and settled in St. Lawrence County. In a short time he bought of Mr. Ford a tract of land of eighteen thousand acres which included the three thousand acres owned by Mr. Remington. In giving the deed to Mr. Van den Heuvel, Judge Ford acknowledged the "Equitable claim of Jairus Remington" and it so stands on the records. Mr. Remington entered the matter in the court of chancery but soon after Mr. Remington died and the matter was dropped.

Soon after Mr. Remington's death his wife moved into a house on the DeKalb Road which she built near Mt. Alone (Lona) and known as the "Rough Cast" house-plastered on the outside. Soon after her only son Hiram died, then she removed to Wrentham, Mass., where a little later she married David Fisher a banker with whom she lived eight years. Mrs. Fisher lived to be 87 years old, died about 1857 in Massachusetts. Her maiden name was Lois Shepard, daughter of Benjamin Shepard,

St. Lawrence County Historical Association

P. O. Box 251
CANTON, NEW YORK



Wrentham, Mass. Mr. Shepard owned the first cotton factory in America and he was also a commissary under Washington, supplying him with provisions for the army.

This Benjamin Shepard had three sons, George, Silas, and Benjamin; his daughters were Mrs. Deuce, Mrs. Rev. Fisk, whose husband was pastor of Wrentham Presbyterian church for 53 years; Mrs. Nelson (whose husband) from descended several important mercantile firms in New York City and Mrs. Jairus Remington.

Mrs. Remington had an uncle who was taken prisoner by the Indians in Vermont and brought to Ogdensburgh when it was an Indian village and without a single white inhabitant. He was treated kindly and after eight years was restored to his family. Eliza Remington, daughter of Jairus and Lois Shepard Remington, at the age of 14 years was sent to Mass. to be educated. Prior to that, as there were no schools nearer, she spent a few years with the family of Judge Cady of Johnstown, N.Y. where she had the advantages of a school. After she removed to Mass. and while attending an academy at Taunton, she met Nehemiah Jones of Raynham, Mass. who was attending the same academy. A friendship was formed which resulted in their marriage in Heuvelton in 1819. Eight children were born who grew to manhood and womanhood. Their names were: Ann, Susan, Sarah, William, Harriet, Emily, Louise and Mary. All were married and all but one, Mary, removed to different places. Of these children, only four are living at this writing - Sarah Gary, Worcester, Mass; Harriet Fisk DeLarme, Clifton Springs, N.Y.; Louise Shaw Rounds, Chicago; Mary J. Wilson. The only son William became a Methodist minister and died in Syracuse at the age of 64 years. Mrs. Eliza Remington Jones died at the home of her daughter, Mrs. Harrie F. DeLarme (whose husband was also a Methodist minister), in the year 1867 aged 69 years.

Nehemiah Jones was descended on his mother's side from John Alden of Mayflower fame. He was educated in Tauton, Mass. and came to Heuvelton in 1818 where in 1819 he married Eliza Remington. He became bookkeeper in the business of Mr. Remington and salesman of the lumber in Montreal, often returning by stage with the gold in his overcoat pocket without any fear of being robbed.

It was said of Nehemiah Jones that he was the most capable man in St. Lawrence county to do public business. After Mr. Remington's death, Mr. Jones took up land on the bank of the Oswegatchie river and in the course of a few years had a fine farm on which he lived over forty years. He died in Dresden, Canada, at the age of 80 after many years of sorrow and sin, in the peace of God and in a good hope of eternal life.