

The Quarterly

Official Publication of The St. Lawrence County Historical Assn.

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COVER—Issue No. 2 of Volume 3 of the St. Lawrence Republican and General Advertiser, dated at "Ogdensburg, (N.Y.) January 8, 1833" can be seen in the Ogdensburg Public Library. Librarian Marian C. Brickey, through whose courtesy the cover photograph was made, advises that the Library has files on the Republican for 1833-39, 1841-47, 1849-52 and 1853-1916. The January 1, 1833 edition (Volume 3, No. 1) is so faint however, that it could not successfully be photographed.

THE QUARTERLY is indebted to St. Lawrence University Librarian Andrew K. Peters for the photograph of Preston King which appears against the background of the newspaper. This was loaned to the University by Miss Doris Rowland, Parishville.

Preston King - - County Editor

BY ERNEST PAUL MULLER

EDITORS NOTE: "Preston King (1806-1865) born in Ogdensburgh, New York remained throughout his political career an authentic spokesman of the northern agrarian society. Graduating from Union College, he practiced law in Ogdensburgh, joined Silas Wright in the young Jacksonian Democracy and established the St. Lawrence Republican (1831), the leading Democratic paper in northern New York."

In 1856 King was to be one of the founders of the Republican Party and he served as a United States Senator from 1857 to 1863. "Perhaps his lasting achievements were forwarding the cause of freedom and being one of the primary organizers of the Republican Party."

We are grateful to Mr. Muller for his generous permission to print the passages below which have been taken from Chapter 11, "County Editor," of his thesis, entitled, Preston King - A Political Biography, written at Columbia University in 1957.

Ogdensburgh in the summer of 1828 was no longer the frontier village of a decade or two before. The whole North Country had changed and with it the village. The streets, once named after Judge Ford's daughters now bore more prosaic names and were lined by new homes and business buildings. At the edge of town as the forest thinned, the patches of cleared farm land became larger and more frequent.

Transportation facilities were still bad, however, and the spring freshets made it difficult to go even to nearby Canton. The outside world was virtually inaccessible, but there was talk of improvement. The turnpike and canal fever swept across the northern region as it has through the rest of the state. The Oswego lateral, connecting Lake Ontario with the Erie Canal, had just been finished and a new water route to Ogdensburgh, from the South via canal boat and lake steamer was at last available. When the way was ice-free it provided the first comfortable and reliable route into the county and an increase in goods and settlers was quickly noticed. Several years earlier the Legislature had passed the "great canal law" which ordered the survey of seventeen contemplated canals. One of these, the Black River project, aroused high hopes in Ogdensburgh that the advantages afforded the western counties by the Erie Canal would soon be given to those in the north.

It was a prosperous and expanding community to which King returned, upon graduating from Union College. But of the many opportunities it offered, only one suited him. Not far from the house where King lived with his mother and members of her family was the busy office of the prosperous law firm of Hasbrouck and Fine. Here King began reading law...

For almost two years Preston King worked in this office where he was brought into as constant contact with politics as with the law. It was a period of exciting developments. The earlier issues had disappeared and the New York Bucktails were being transformed into the Jacksonian Democracy. With national parties as yet only loose confederations of state and local organizations, most of the life and issues rested at the grass-roots level. St. Lawrence County, the old Federalist stronghold, presented a task of considerable dimensions if success for the new movement was to be achieved in that area. The anti-Masonic frenzy, kindled by the mysterious disappearance of William Morgan, had spread northeastward from Buffalo and Rochester, revitalizing the conservatives and increasing their activity. To counterbalance this the Democrats began building an organization and as a result Silas Wright was a frequent visitor in Ogdensburgh. King became more interested in his plans than in copying wills and tracing property titles.

Local tradition relates that King lost his interest in the law almost at once, but, on the advice of Hasbrouck, Fine, and Silas Wright, continued his study because law was the best road to politics and would give him a living. Nevertheless, he soon began taking on small jobs for both the village of Ogdensburgh and the township of Oswegatchie, receiving, late in 1828, his first five dollars from the township for his services. In March, 1830, as a result of his political usefulness, the village meeting elected him one of four trustees of Ogdensburgh. He was twenty-three.

That same year King finished reading law and was admitted to the bar of St. Lawrence County. The record of these years is sparse, but he seems to have set himself up in one of the offices in his own buildings on Ford Street, where it soon became evident that Preston King had not much taste for legal work and would not press too hard upon his competitors. Nevertheless, fees came in, and, combined with the rents derived from his properties, provided him and his mother with a comfortable income. It was not long before he found the opportunity to turn from Blackstone and conflicts-in deeds to the more fascinating study of public policy and political strategems.

Though not yet twenty-four, he already had the corpulence for which he was later to be famous - and with it the jolly friendliness which attracted people and made enduring his strong streak of political stubbornness.

The Jacksonian party in St. Lawrence was a new enthusiastic organization and appealed to the young. It offered them the opportunity to create their own party and not subordinate themselves to the ways of the older men who dominated the long-established conservative organizations. Wright and Fine had been in their twenties when they started building Regency strength in Federalist St. Lawrence. Soon they had young men reading law under them and these were recruited into the ranks. Preston King was only one of them. John Leslie Russell, later Silas Wright's lieutenant in Canton and Ransom Hooker Gillet, afterwards the biographer of Wright and friend of Polk, were two more of these young men. Gillet, Russell and King became close friends during these years and worked together as a sort of lower echelon, the junior junto in the North Country, potential crown princes to their mentors. It may well be that King's frequent meetings with Russell and Gillet in Wright's office in Canton gave rise to the mistaken tradition that King studied law with Wright. The tradition, however, may warrant the conclusion that he was in Canton more often than in his own office attending to his own duties.

In the fall of 1830 a situation developed which gave Preston King a chance to become more significant an influence in party affairs. The VanBuren Democracy possessed only one newspaper in the whole territory between Watertown and Plattsburgh. It was essential, if the party was to grow in power in the region, that this reliable organ, which alone could answer the pro-Adams Gazette at Ogdensburgh and the anti-Masonic Herald of Potsdam, be kept going. Yet the St. Lawrence Republican was in danger of being lost since its editor, William W. Wyman, was determined to sell and quickly.

Silas Wright, then in Albany as State Comptroller, was asked to find a new editor. He soon wrote that no one was willing to go so far north and buy at Wyman's price. At this point Preston King entered. Within two weeks after Wright's letter reported failure, King emerged as the "editor and publisher" of the St. Lawrence Republican which he then moved from Canton to Ogdensburgh. To strengthen the paper, King also bought out the Ogdensburgh Gazette, thus eliminating one of the anti-Jackson papers. The new editor was in a good position, for with both state and federal governments in Democratic control, the public printing was assured him. Post office notices,

Washington Dec 3^o 1839

Dear Cousin

Enclosed I send you
letter rec^d from the Clerks of
Jice at Canton stating that
your paper was rec^d & filed
in the office,

I reached here this Evening
safely and all well, —

I send my love to all your
folks and shall be glad
to hear from you, whenever
it may be convenient,

Yours truly,

W. N. Galloway

Preston King

SPECIMEN OF KING'S HANDWRITING
(actual size)

This was loaned to THE QUARTERLY
by St. Lawrence County Historian Nina
Smithers, from the county museum
collection.

Custom House advertisements as well as town, county and state business came to the paper while the printing office received lucrative public printing jobs to swell the income which supported the paper. In this fashion the St. Lawrence Republican of Ogdensburg had begun its long and important career as the leading Democratic paper of northern New York State.

On January 4, 1831, the first issue of the St. Lawrence Republican and Advertiser appeared. Typical of the weeklies which were then mushrooming throughout the United States, it had four pages. The two outer pages were covered with advertisements of dry goods, ship sailings, medicinal nostrums, and Canadian taverns. Inside were the editorial columns, reprints of news and editorial items copied from other papers and bits of "literary matter," usually from books such as a Kempis and the spurious "Ossian," which rested on King's bookshelves....

Early in the Autumn of 1831, the Republican began printing items from the Richmond Enquirer and the Hartford Times proposing Martin VanBuren for the Vice-Presidency. It was the first North Country paper to support the New Yorker, even before the Senate's rejection of the wily "red fox" as Minister to England, when in the words of Thomas Hart Benton, the Senate had "broken a Minis-

ter and elected a Vice-President". It is obvious that King, far removed upon the distant St. Lawrence, must have had some guidance, for he could not have divined the subtle and half-hidden way the political winds were blowing Washington and Albany. But how much of this policy and timing originated with him and how much of it was suggested by others will probably never be known since any letters upon the subject have long been lost.

(continued on page 15)

A Thumbnail Sketch

PRESTON KING, a Representative and a Senator from New York; born in Ogdensburg, N.Y., October 14, 1806; pursued classical studies, and was graduated from Union College in 1827; studied law, was admitted to the bar, and commenced practice in St. Lawrence County, N.Y.; established the St. Lawrence Republican in 1830; postmaster of Ogdensburg 1831-1834; member of the State assembly 1835-1838; elected as a Democrat to the Twenty-eighth and Twenty-ninth Congresses (March 4, 1843-March 3, 1847); elected to the Thirty-first and Thirty-second Congresses (March 4, 1849-March 3, 1853); elected as a Republican to the United States Senate, and served from March 4, 1857, to March 3, 1863; resumed the practice of law; delegate to the Republican National Convention at Baltimore in 1864; presidential elector on the Republican ticket of Lincoln and Johnson in 1864; appointed collector of the port of New York August 15, 1865; drowned from a ferry-boat in New York Harbor, N.Y., November 12, 1865; interment in the City Cemetery, Ogdensburg, N.Y.



(From an old print)

Centennial of Colton's Early Baptist Church

By LORENA REED

Colton's thriving Baptist Church was located on Route 56 just south of the present Wesleyan Methodist Church. Its history shows the organization on February 25, its completion in July and its dedication in August, all in the same year of 1860. The structure was 40 feet by 48 feet with 21 foot posts. It was patterned after the average New England Protestant Church with a 60 foot tower. Being of wood it cost \$1,537.82 of which \$1300 was raised by subscription. Ed. Fitchell laid out the frame and George Stewart, father of Miss Ada Stewart formerly of Canton, was foreman of the builders. J.H. Dorothy, Abel Turney and J. Reynolds, Jr., were the first trustees. They had 15 members and I.N. Hobart was the first pastor. In twenty years, however, the population of the village had so changed that services were discontinued and before the construction of Zion Episcopal Church in

1881, the Episcopal Society held service there under the leadership of Mr. Gilbertson of Potsdam, lay reader, later a minister.

During the years of idleness, the property deteriorated and the movable fixtures were sold. Mrs. Ida Bicknell of Canton, who has passed her ninetieth birthday recalls that a windstorm blew off the first part of the tower. Ed. Willis, who lived at that time in the house now owned by Mr. and Mrs. Robert O'Gorman, bought the church and tore off an additional 30 feet of tower. The building was later sold to Henry Douglas of Canton, in January of 1909. He tore the building down and Arthur Shipman and Rollin Severance drew the timbers to Crary Mills to the John Sartwell Place where Mr. Douglas constructed a large dairy barn. The old church wall still stands and the lot has been owned by Allie Butterfield, Judson Butterfield, Floyd Enslow and at the present time by Mrs. Harry Ford.

Many public gatherings were held in the building after the church services were discontinued. Frank Cushion taught dancing school there and the Colton Cornet Band of which this community is so unquestionably proud, held its rehearsals there. Mr. Leon Leonard of Pierrepont, who is 87 years old recalls that the band was a feature attraction for summer concerts in the town. They also played at the annual Catholic picnics which were held in the Lyman Grove across from the Round Top, Decoration Day parades and at the Republican and Democrat rallies. Mr. Leonard spoke with great pride as to the success of this band and the participation of the individuals who follow in its career.

Phiney Hepburn, manager; Charlie Hepburn, Henry Olmstead and Frank Cushion, leaders; Nancy Bruce, majorette; Jean James, alto; George Bruce, drum; Leon Leonard, baritone, cornet, alto; Darwin Hepburn, cornet; George Isham, drum; Ernest Leonard, tenor; Judson Randall, B# cornet; Mood Enslow, base horn; Edgar Starks, B# cornet; Isaac Elliott, tenor; Sumner Cook, alto; Eldon Bullis, alto; Warren Leonard, drum; Robert Brown, clarinet, baritone.

Leon Leonard, Alphon (Skip) Randall and Sumner Cook are the surviving members of this famous band.



Spragueville Had a Busy, Prosperous Past

BY LAURA GILLET

(Reprinted from the Gouverneur Tribune-Press of December 29, 1960)

By LAURA GILLET

Spragueville is another of those small communities which has helped to pour good material into the building of larger communities. It is situated about seven miles from Gouverneur and five miles from Antwerp on a crossroad two and one half miles from Route 11. Nature provided its setting in the valley surrounded by rising hills, wooded and arrayed in the green of summer and beautiful in winter scenes of pure white snow and sparkling ice.

After the setting was made by God and nature, man came forward to build roads, railroads, houses, walks and gardens. Springs are abundant throughout the town and a spring brook runs through the town to furnish water—a pleasant sight to tourists and residents alike. Only one sad spot remains—the little cemetery on the hill where so many of our relatives and loved ones are buried.

One Church Left

Perhaps the greatest and oldest building left now of most interest to all who have lived here, is the Methodist church. It was built about 138 years ago when Andrew Jackson was president, only 28 years after Barbara Heck pioneered in Methodism in the North Country and at the time the first missionary was sent by the Methodists to Liberia. We should be thankful today that our pioneer settlers were loyal, ambitious and religious men and women who left us this place of worship.

Descendants of these early settlers still attend church here today. Some of their names remain in history, such as James Clark, Bardine Clark, Edgar Howe, Amasa C. Woodward, Isaac Sprague, and Elyah Steele. The women, too, did much for the church. Among them were Almira Fenner, Rebecca Sprague, Zerna Williams (the mother of the late Hanna Tuttle), Sophronia Sprague, Lucy Dowd and Fanny Vebber. Many more names should be added to these lists, but space will not allow it. One family even mortgaged its farm to aid in building the church.

Name Changed

Spragueville has changed its name at various times. It was organized as Sprague's Corners with its post office, Shingle Creek. (A post office by the same name having been moved down from two miles above.) But some people felt the name was humiliating and by proper means obtained from the legislature the right to change the name to Keenesville, after Col. Hiram Keene who had done so much for the community by influencing the railroad company to build near here. Col. Keene gave much land to build on and also built the depot called Keenes Station. He himself acted as station agent for 11 years. He died in 1902. Later, Robert Gilchrist served there for 37 years. This depot was torn down in 1951.

The name Keenesville was so similar to Keeseville in Essex county that mail and packages were miscarried, and in a short time the post office department asked to have the name changed. Thus, later the name Spragueville was chosen.

Iron Mines Worked

Several iron mines were discovered near here. About the same time the railroad was built, Col. Keene was plowing and found the first iron ore. Soon after, the Clark, Pike, Kearney and Caledonia mines were put into operations, stimulating the growth and progress of Spragueville and the surrounding area. But in 1909 these mines were closed because richer ore had been found near Lake Superior.

Our hamlet contained two churches at one time and each had its own parsonage. The Baptist church on top of the hill where the community center is now located and the Methodist below the hill were both active.

Three hotels were built near the railroad. The first was built about 90 years ago with my grandparents, Mr. and Mrs. Eli Lawton as operators. Later, while Robert Webb was proprietor, it burned. It was rebuilt and for several years Mr. and Mrs. Eugene Simonet and others operated the establishment. Still later, a third was built which had several proprietors, namely Eugene Kentfield, Louis Soluri and Henry Fleming. That, too, burned in 1915.

Many Business Places

A community needs industry to make it prosperous, and in the past we had a large Borden plant near the railroad tracks. A cheese factory across from the present Howard Whittaker home was operated by Jay Hodgkin, father of Blanche Hodgkin of Gouverneur, for many years. Later it was operated by John Berry and Charles Simons for a long period of time. John H. Berry also ran another cheese factory a mile away at Steeles Corners. There were two blacksmith shops where horses were shod and all repairs on farm machinery were made; a hotel and livery stable, harness shop, milliner shop, dressmakers, lumber and grain mills, a five and ten cent store, four stores of general merchandise, and home doctor with residence here. Some of the physicians were Dr. Allen, Dr. Roscoe Taylor, Dr. Rutherford, Dr. Rand, and Dr. Ira Fuller.

I can quote some prices taken from the stores in 1886 as taken from my grandfather's account book: flour, \$1.25 a sack; shoes, \$1.25 a pair; nails, four cents a pound; half bushel pop corn, 50 cents; boots, \$2.50; eggs, 20 cents a dozen; potatoes, \$1 a bushel; wood, \$1.25 a cord; hay, \$11 a ton; oats 25 cents a bushel; gravel \$1 per wagon load; beans 38 cents a peck; meal, 25 cents at hotel; lodging and three meals, \$1.

School had 70 Pupils

A school here then had two rooms with total attendance of 60 to 75 pupils and eight grades. Many brilliant students left here then, well prepared for high school entrance in Gouverneur and many went to colleges and later to worthwhile jobs far away. But they enjoyed returning to their old hometown even if it had grown smaller and less famous.

Some of the organizations and societies which enjoyed meetings and performed many worthwhile deeds then were the Forresters, Maccabees, Independent orders of Good Templers of the Methodist church, Church Mission Society of Baptist church, Progress Literary club, Ladies Aid Society, W.S.C.S., Youth Fellowship and Methodist Men.

Medicine shows and small circuses were held in Spragueville. Socials, old home days, street parades, and many good ball games and dances, also were enjoyed. At one time the Keene Cornet Band was famous in the North Country and had a band stand on Main street near the center of town. School picnics were enjoyed by many, often held in Will Clark's sugar bush, now the property of Wilber Fuller.

A branch railroad track ran from the present track starting in back of what is now the Ryder property, under the hill running across the fields and crossing the road near Howard Whittaker's place, entering the gravel bed, then crossing another road onto the place

now owned by Glenn Gillett. There a loop was made to turn around and carry loads of gravel back to the main track. This track was built very fast because a gang of Indians and a crew of Englishmen were brought in to work on it and each crew tried to outdo the other. Thus much speed was attained.

Horses Abundant

In those days, horses deserved much care. A row of horse sheds was available beside the church where many a weary horse rested while the owner contracted his business or visited friends. A bag of oats in the carriage was usually spread out in the manger for the horse to munch on and a water vat with spring water flowing freely was available in front of the Berry factory, another at the present Wilber Fuller farm and one above Steeles Corners on a hill across from the present Glenn Gillett farm property. These vats were welcome to people as well as horses to quench their thirst in the slow travel methods of that day.

Horses were used in sports as well as for labor and travel. A racing track was located nearby and ice racing was pursued as well as many races on the roads and horseback riding.

Nearby Hamlets Prosper

Spragueville had several nearby hamlets. Somerville, two miles west, was a very interprising town with a post office, hotel and stores. When the mines were running and about 800 men were employed, both towns grew. There was quite a settlement at Steeles Corners one mile east, which included a church, post office, factory, hotel and another inn where Maurice Bigarel now lives, and many dwellings. On about two miles was a little town called "The Creek", near where Carrol Day now lives, which contained a cheese factory, church, saw mill and dwellings.

Note—I am compiling an historical review of Spragueville for the county historian and local purposes and would appreciate any facts of the long ago that anyone could submit to me. Also I would like pictures of old houses of the past that are now gone. If you can aid me, it would be of great historical value for future generations. Too much past history in all localities is lost that would be appreciated today and in the future.

How Do You Like the "New Look?"

Maybe you're wondering about the "new look" of this first issue of The Quarterly under the new editor.

It's an attempt to accomplish two purposes: 1) To lend more of the appearance of a printed magazine, with format similar to American Heritage; and 2) as, from the first issue, to produce an interesting publication at the lowest possible cost.

You'll remember that previous issues had the appearance of typewritten copy — which they were. The articles were typed, the illustrations pasted in, and the whole photographed. Essentially, we've done the same thing this time, except that the typing has been done on a machine called a Justo-Writer, which condenses more characters in less space, looks more like printers' type and the lines are "justified", i.e. the margins are even on both sides. We have also added some old-fashioned handset type.

All of this has enabled us to print nearly twice the amount of copy in the same space; and our overall costs are just about the same as before.

Your comments and criticisms of the new design will be appreciated.

Cracker Barrel

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

BRASHER: (Mrs. Joseph O'Brien). CANTON: (Edward Heim). This historian has been busy during this quarter attending Work Shops with other Town Historians, the County Historian and the State Historian. All meetings were interesting and informative. Scouts were helped with "The Houses of Canton". The meeting of workers interested in Yorker Clubs for the schools of the County was most informative. With the help of G. Atwood Manley information was given to a group of senior students from the radio workshop at St. Lawrence University for their planned broadcast of the "History of the Town and Village of Canton". More work has been done on Canton cemeteries, and during the winter months, maps and stories will complete the project. The field trip over the Old Military Turnpike now known as the Russell Turnpike was most interesting as was the report read at the meeting at the Russell high school on the history of the building of this road in 1812. RENSSELEAR FALLS: (Mrs. Nina Wilson) reports writing a short history of all buildings with past and present owners, and what became of buildings not now standing. CLARE: (Mrs. Fern Colton). CLIFTON: (Mrs. George Reynolds). COLTON: (Mrs. Lorena Reed). DEKALB: (F.F.E. Walrath). DEPEYSTER: (Mrs. Emery Smithers) "Continuing work on "Abandoned Roads and Ghost Communities, gathering more materials and getting more interviews. Located some old school records for future use." EDWARDS: (Miss Leah Noble). "I've been having a writing spree--"French in Northern New York", "The Dutch in American and Northern New York", "Bringing the Mail to Edwards". Now I'm working on our churches." FINE: (Mrs. Rowland Brownell). "I have finished two articles on Ghost Towns, and now I'm working on the project of Abandoned Roads. I have also done quite a bit of research for at least three different families who are trying to trace their family tree. FOWLER: (Mrs. Robert Yerdon). GOUVERNEUR: (Harold Storie). See new section on local Historical Association and Museums. HAMMOND: (Harold Hibbs). Has been spending all his spare time in assembling notes on the history of Hammond. "I'm enjoying the climate here in Arizona." HERMON: (Mrs. Kellogg Morgan). The card was returned but had nary a note on it??? HOPKINTON: (Mrs. Dorothy Squires). LAWRENCE: (Mrs. Gordon Cole). Has been working on scrapbook, completing servicemen's records and starting new record cards for servicemen recently enlisted. LISBON: (Lee Martin). LOUISVILLE: (Mrs. Lorraine Bandy). Finished a very successful, satisfying and happy year in December as Louisville Town Historian. It was gratifying to know my efforts were really appreciated by all whom I had the pleasure to serve. MACOMB: (Mrs. India Murton). Made out her reports and mailed them in to the town and county and is rearranging some of her files for a more orderly system. MADRID: (Mrs. Arthur Thompson). The new Madrid-Waddington road is about half done. The new school is started. I am working on folklore anecdotes for Chipman. MASSENA: (Anthony Romeo). MORRISTOWN: (Mrs. Doris Planty). Summary of year's work - "I was hostess to St. Lawrence County Historical Assn. on Stone House Day, completed the history of five stone houses, attended eight meetings, had 48 interviews, attended New York State and Civil War local workshop at Oswego. Did the history of four abandoned roads and one Ghost Town--Moristown Center". The card was written from Eustis, Fla. NORFOLK: (Mrs. Ralph Wing). OSWEGATCHIE: (Mrs. Mona Mayne). HEUVELTON VILLAGE: (Mrs. Ida Downing). PARISHVILLE: (Miss Doris

Rowland). Found among some papers I was sorting in our Museum "Conveyance of Pauper Child, George Wilson, to George Andrews, Sept. 6, 1887. Filed Sept. 1, 1887 8:40 A.M. L.A. Hart, Town Clerk, 3 yrs of age, as a laborer until the age of 21." I had the pleasure of meeting Mrs. Kesler, State DAR official from whom we all heard information on genealogical records. Do routine work on servicemen's records, in the museum and our project for the year--Abandoned roads and Ghost Towns. PIERCEFIELD: (Mrs. Beulah Dorothy). PIERREPONT: (Frank E. Olmstead). Pasting news items in scrapbook and has written his 1960 historian's report. PITCAIRN is the only town without an historian. POTSDAM: (Dr. Charles Lahey). ROSSIE: (Mrs. Virgie Simons). Starting research on Civil War. RUSSELL: (Mrs. Jeanette D. Barnes). Has finished compiling the third cemetery in her town and has three more to do when warm weather comes again. "I have started research work on the abandoned Clifton mine and will soon write my story about the mine. I have been busy answering letters and furnishing needed information that has been requested. STOCKHOLM: (Lindon Riggs) is preparing material for next year's project, "The Civil War". WADDINGTON: (Mrs. C.B. Olds). Improvements in Waddington during 1960 include a new fire station, new town barn, new street signs in village and new facilities at Waddington beach consisting of drilled well, dressing rooms and picnic area. A new twelve lane bowling alley was officially opened on December 17.

Yorker Cracker Barrel

CANTON: Foote's Followers had three combined seventh and eighth grade Yorker groups with fifty-three members of these grades plus two high school members, Ronald O'Neil and Keith Todd. Mrs. Charles Neadom has two groups which meet on alternate Mondays and Miss Mary Pierce's group meets on Friday. Mrs. Neadom's groups are working on the townships of the County, and if the work done warrants it, a booklet will be made from it. Miss Pierce's girls made rag dolls as community service project while the boys worked on a Block House. After vacation Miss Pierce's group is scheduled to interview older relatives of the respective families and visit Mrs. Smithers, in the county history center in the new wing of the courthouse. GOUVERNEUR: The Marble Village Yorker Chapter held its organizational meeting on September 22 under the sponsorship of Mrs. Georgianna Wranesh. Officers elected were president, Mary Storrin; vice president, Janet Peck; secretary, Estelle Berquist; treasurer, Margaret Robillard and historian, Brenda Stevens. Roger Favrou, a new co-sponsor is helping Mrs. Wranesh. Project committees have been selected and work has begun for the spring district meeting. The chapter project is a cookbook of old recipes. -- from reporter Carole Kio. LISBON'S CLUBS visited the Binion home on the River Road (St. Lawrence river) this fall. It was built 100 years ago of brick made down by the river and is full of articles used there during the period. Richard Pinover, citizenship education teacher in the high school spoke to the Lisbon chapter on antiques and a tape recording was made. One group enjoyed a tape recording on folklore made by a former Lisbon Yorker group. Lisbon chapter: president, Diane Dubruie; vice president, Connie Winters; secretary, Valerie Pickard; treasurer, Carolyn Jock; reporter, Margaret Robinson. Grant C. Madill Chapter: president, David Reynolds; vice president, Linda Winters;

secretary, Marilyn Thompson; treasurer, Joe LaRue and reporter, Billy Dennis; St. Law. Chapter; president, Andrew Charlebois; vice president, Gregory Falordeau; secretary, Joyce Fields; treasurer, Rita Aldrich; reporter Louise Jordan; Seaway Chapter; president, Sylvia Abbrid; vice president, Dorothy Jock; secretary, Sylvia Burdick; treasurer, Dorothy Creighton; reporter, Ronny Moore; sponsor, Rachel Dandy. -- from Miss Rachel Dandy, Lisbon Yorker Sponsor. MADRID-WADDINGTON sent in no report for the Grasse River Chapter. MASSENA. The Andre Massena Chapter had 34 members visit Rossie where they were given a tour of the community. The tour included a visit to the lead mines and mills and other points of interest. The folk lore of the town was also given to the group. -- reported by Elwood Simons, group sponsor.

LOCAL HISTORICAL

Associations

CANTON is considering organizing a local historical association. (No meeting for organizing as yet) EDWARDS has a local history center under the direction of town historian, Miss Leah Noble. GOUVERNEUR has formed a local history association which was started this last summer. We have 85 members at present. Our goal is a local museum--reported by Harold A. Storie, president. PARISHVILLE Historical Association was formed on April 27, 1959 after a number of the older citizens of Parishville expressed a desire to hold a sesquicentennial celebration of the founding of the town, and through an association seemed the most feasible way of planning this event.

At this meeting in April the following officers were elected; president, Mrs. Elsie Bresee, first vice president, Malcolm Wilcox; 2nd vice president, Mrs. Hilda Bassett; secretary, Mrs. Bessie Duffy; treasurer, Mrs. Lena Helmer. The following five directors were also elected; Rosabelle Meashaw, William Crawford, Ethel Corbin, Roy Waite and Mary Katner.

The sesquicentennial celebration was held on July 11, 1959, and a very successful one it was, with many former inhabitants coming back for the event. There was a large exhibit in the Town Hall, conducted tours to places of Historical interest, a movie on the Raquette River power development, exhibits in the churches and the Masonic Temple, and a program in the evening. Dinner and supper were served to the guests.

After this event, interest was again displayed in establishing a Museum in the town where articles, pictures, etc., connected with the early settlers and their work might be preserved. The town board was contacted and they gave us permission to use the balcony of the Town Hall for a temporary museum. Many articles have been donated and loaned with many more promised when room is available.

In February 1960, we had a Washington and Lincoln exhibit and on August 19, an antique toy and doll exhibit was held in the Town Hall followed by a fancy work sale and cafeteria supper. Our great hope is to be able sometime in the future to purchase a building for a permanent museum which will be adequate to hold our things.

The Association is also working on a booklet containing all available information concerning our town and which we hope to have ready in 1961.

Present officers are as follows; president, Elsie Bresee; first vice president, Dalton Gushea; 2nd vice president, Mary Katner; secretary, Hilda Bassett; treasurer, Bessie Duffy; directors; Ethel Corbin, Mary Katner, Iva Bloss, Floyd Fenner, Malcolm Wilcox, and Guy Planty. MASSENA has the oldest local historical association in the county. POTSDAM has no local history society but a very fine museum.

Every Community Needs and Wants a Museum •• Here's How Potsdam Got Hers

By MRS. MARGUERITE G. CHAPMAN

The Year 1960 marked the completion of 20 years of service of the Potsdam Public Museum to the village of Potsdam and vicinity.

It all began back in 1938, when Mr. and Mrs. Frank Burnap of Kansas City, Mo. addressed a letter to Attorney Frank L. Cubley, offering to give part of their large and valuable collection of 18th century pottery to the village. The village happily accepted, and for lack of museum facilities of its own, arranged temporarily to display the pottery in the museum at Potsdam Normal School.

Mrs. Burnap was the granddaughter of John Call, who in 1823 built the first Potsdam residence of Potsdam sandstone -- this is now the Elks Club at No. 10 Elm Street.

In the spring of 1940, the village board headed by Mayor Elmer J. Murphy approached the board of Potsdam Public Library with the suggestion that a portion of the stack room in the Civic Center might be converted into a village museum. Soon thereafter, two members of the library board, Mrs. Marjorie Sisson White and the writer met with the village board and completed plans for the conversion.

On August 2, 1940, members of the two boards packed the pottery and had the display cases moved to their present location in the museum. There were no other cases in fact, nothing much to display. The village fathers had acquired the grandfather clock and portraits from the Raymond estate as well as a piano made in Potsdam in 1841, and these were put on display. J.R. Weston, Inc. and the Lenny Drug store contributed show cases they were not using, a roll-top desk was loaned and, gradually between gifts and purchases, the Museum acquired its present furniture.

Representatives from the village and library boards with the help of the "Manual for Small Museums" drew up the constitution for the present Museum Association. Since the museum was housed in the library building, it was decided that the museum board should include two members of the library board, one member of the village board to be appointed at the first meeting after village election and six members from the village--two to be elected each year for a term of three years. Business of the museum is conducted by this nine-member board which meets after the annual meeting of the museum to elect officers and conduct other business. Special meetings are called as required.

Membership in the Museum Association is open to all residents of Potsdam and vicinity and one needs only to sign the membership book and acknowledge interest in the museum. There are no dues, since the museum is a village project, supported by appropriations from the village.

Frank Burnap has made five separate gifts, the first being the large collection of 18th century pottery. Almost every known potter in England is represented as well as Staffordshire potters. His second gift included four luster tea sets, nine pieces of the famous Monkey Band and other choice items. Included in the third were blue and white Worcester pieces dated 1760-70, two Rockingham jugs and some Wedgwood.

The fourth included glass flasks made in Nailsea and Bristol, England and now beautifully displayed in the Lockwood china case. The last gift consisted of three chargers (plates on which meat was served) of Lambergh Delft dated 1750. Through the generosity of friends the museum has recently acquired a valuable collection of Sandwich glass, Bacacaret, various types of art glass including Tiffany's Faville, Carder's Aurene which he produced in the Steuben Glass Works at Corning; also peach blow, amberina, satin glass and many others. Mrs. Stella Sackett Rogers has given a great many pieces of glass belonging to her late sisters, Miss Delia Sackett, former curator of the museum and Mrs. Bernice Sackett VanHousen as well as Mrs. Rogers' own adorable collection of bisque figurines of children.

During the years, hundreds of valuable gifts have been made and the museum now has on display almost every kind of farm implement and household article used in the 18th century as well as furniture, dresses, hats, fans, laces, books, newspapers, pictures, old deeds, the first milk bottle invented by Dr. Thatcher, a valuable collection of articles belonging to the Knowles family, silver and dishes given by the late Rev. Mr. Steele, blue glass from the collection of the late Bernice VanHousen and glass hats collected by the late Delia M. Sackett.

Each year the trustees plan some improvement. The museum has a Bell and Howell projector and large screen. Storage space has been greatly increased with additional shelves. This year the two cases displaying the Burnap collection have been illuminated with fluorescent lights and the interiors of the cases painted soft blue, to enhance the beauty of pottery.

Two brochures have been published by the museum; one by Elizabeth Baumgartner, a former curator of the museum, on the first collection of the Burnap pottery; another, "The Early History of Potsdam" by the writer, president of the Museum Association. Both are available at the museum. Another brochure by Mrs. Chapman, "The Clarkson Family of Potsdam", may be purchased at the museum or at Weston's Bookstore.

Mrs. Lloyd Keller, curator, and Mrs. Chapman have represented the museum in work with the Campus School, Potsdam Central School and schools from Norwood-Norfolk, Colton, Parishville and rural areas, Yorker Clubs, Girl and Boy Scouts in conducting tours of the museum with special emphasis on pioneer and Indian life.

The museum has been served by four curators: Doris Rowland, Parishville, Elizabeth Baumgartner, Delia Sackett and the present curator, Mrs. Keller. The present board of trustees includes Mrs. Chapman and Mrs. Lynn Wagner of the library board, Gerald R. Bradshaw of the village board, John VanNess, Mayor, (member ex-officio), and Miss Anna Fairbairn, Miss Nelle Brumelle, Mrs. Robert J. Reynolds, Mrs. Bertrand H. Snell, Mrs. Rufus L. Sisson, and Frederick Johnson. Mrs. Chapman is president of the Museum Association, with Mrs. Rufus L. Sisson as secretary. The museum is open on Mondays 7-9; on Tuesdays, 2-4; and on Thursdays, 9:30-11:30 and 1:00-3:00.

Special Notice

One third of the people on our mailing list are still receiving THE QUARTERLY, although they have not paid their annual dues. Unless dues are paid promptly hereafter, no more copies will be mailed to those in arrears. Please check your membership cards.

WANTED FOR THE EDITOR'S FILE

One copy each of the Quarterly for January and July, 1956. Please mail to Mason Rossiter Smith, Gouverneur, New York.

Minutes of Trustees' Meeting

By Mrs. Mildred Jenkins

A meeting of the trustees and officers of the St. Lawrence County Historical Association was held at 2:00 p.m. Saturday, November 19, 1960, at the St. Lawrence University library, Canton, with Bert J. Rogers, president of the Association, presiding.

This meeting is always held shortly after the annual meeting. The annual meeting, this year, was held at the Masonic Temple, Canton, on Saturday, October 29th.

Mr. Rogers read a letter of resignation received from G. Atwood Manley, who has been editor of the The Quarterly since its inception. With the greatest reluctance and regret, the trustees accepted Mr. Manley's resignation. The Association has appreciated all that he has done for the Association.

Mr. Rogers welcomed Mason Rossiter Smith, editor of the Gouverneur Tribune-Press, who has agreed to be the new editor of The Quarterly.

Committees appointed by the board were as follows:

Program: Mrs. Doris Planty, chairman; Mrs. Nina Smithers, Mrs. Ella Lahey, Mrs. Ethel Olds, Miss Doris Gates, and Miss Rachel Dandy. The County program, for this year, will center around the Civil War.

Museum (same as last year): Frank Crary, chairman; Marion Brickey, Mrs. Lahey, Mrs. Marguerite G. Chapman, Mrs. Smithers, and Harold A. Storie. Mrs. Elsie Bresee and Mrs. Fred Ramsdell are new members.

Membership committee replaced by Fair committee, with all members helping to get new members.

Fair: Harold Storie, Gouverneur, chairman; Mrs. India Murton, Morristown and Mrs. Martin Kelly, Gouverneur, R.D. Mr. Storie will name additional members.

Boy Scouts: Charles Bartlett, county Scout executive.

Historic Sites: Lawrence Bovard, chairman; Virgie Simons, Carlton Olds, Verner Ingram, Robert McEwen, Floyd Walrath, Ralph Stearns, and Millard Hundley.

Nominating: Ed Heim, Mrs. Smithers, and Carlton Olds.

Mr. Smith is to be notified of change of addresses of members for mailing The Quarterly, which is to be printed in Gouverneur and mailed there. David Cleland, Mr. Rogers and Mr. Heim will go over the membership list and complete it. Anyone who gives the Association \$5.00 should be recognized.

Copies of the back numbers of The Quarterly are at the Historical Center, in charge of Mrs. Smithers.

Mrs. Marguerite Chapman asked to be relieved as chairman of the Yorker Club. This committee will be announced later.

Coffee and tea were served by Mr. Peters.

After discussing possible changes in The Quarterly with the new editor, the board named the following committee to assist Mr. Smith: Mr. Manley, Andrew K. Peters, Mrs. George Little and Mrs. Ethel Olds. Mr. Smith will write to the Town Historians who have not sent in material to The Quarterly, urging them to contribute stories.

People Present

Present at this meeting were Lawrence Bovard, Ogdensburg; Harold Storie, Mason Smith, Gouverneur; Mr. and Mrs. C.B. Olds, Waddington; M.L. Hundley, Pierrepont; F.L. Johnson, Mrs. Marguerite Chapman, Potsdam; Nina W. Smithers, DePeyster; Mrs. Mildred Jenkins, R. 2, Potsdam; David J. Cleland, Edwards; Bert J. Rogers, Edward Heim, Andrew K. Peters, Canton.

A Woman's View of Northern New York in 1854

An account of her experiences as a book-agent, written by a Miss Mendell, apparently from Ellisburgh Manor, in "letters" published in New York in 1854 under the title *Notes of Travel and Life by Two Young Ladies, Misses Mendell and Hosmer*. A copy of this book was recently discovered by Ross B. Lowe, Watertown book dealer.

I am on a beautiful boat called the "Bay State", and we are rapidly passing down the St. Lawrence River among its Thousand Islands, some of them scarcely large enough to build a house on. The scenery is fine; and as the rain pours down in torrents, the water seems to dance and leap to the big drops that fall in it like pebbles. We have but very few passengers on board, and among them no lady has yet made her appearance; so, of course, I receive all the attention from socially-inclined gentlemen. The captain has presented himself several times to chat; but, as he proved to be almost too common, besides an inveterate chewer of tobacco, and in my estimation of character, with no redeeming quality, I with my usual independence, have attacked him on the use of that; and he playfully tries to defend himself, and says it is a necessary preservation for the teeth. Humph! just as if well-used nature would not take care of itself. He seems pleased to be persecuted for tobacco's sake. If an error is only fashionable, one is safe in making an attack without fear of offence or hope of reform.

I landed and spent several hours at Ogdensburgh, but it rained all the time, and the city having suffered from an extensive fire the night before; and nothing of it seemed better than a washing day in a disorderly household. From there I took a private conveyance to a small village in the woods, by the name of Canton Falls, which promises, from its water privileges, to become a place of importance. It is located on both sides of a mad, dashing river, in which there is a fall that answers for extensive manufacturing purposes. I was invited there by a gentleman to whom I was introduced when at Cape Vincent. I spent the Sabbath at the Falls, and enjoyed the wildness of the scene. The variegated tints of the autumn foliage, the deep-tones melody of the falling waters, and the quiet solemnity of the surrounding forest, inspired a feeling of reverence and devotion within me, and I exclaimed involuntarily--how good, how great is God!

By the kindness of my friend, I was conveyed to this place. In my labors here among the people, I accidentally met with an intimate schoolmate, whom I had not seen for several years. I had quite lost sight of her in her migratory pilgrimage with her husband, a travelling minister of the M.E. church. The fates have driven us into different paths. She a reverend's wife, and I a book agent! I expect my path is yet to have another turn, and lead me to a whitewashed cottage. But it is so pleasant to expect, when one is in good humor, that one don't care about the change.

I have been very successful this far. If I were to tell you all that is said to me, and how I am looked upon, I should not be able to finish my letter, and I fear you would weary in reading it. I enter blacksmith's shops and coopers', and all the mechanics' shops, and I am received as kindly and courteously as if my business was not an unusual one for woman. They almost universally take books, and I oftener find the true man among the laborers, than among the moneyed or professional--truer to the right--to the justice of an act.

I met with a woman here, who was compelled to acknowledge against her will, that my work was a laudable one for a woman, and she subscribed for a book which she very much desired; but, after reflection, she

decided it was wrong to patronize me, and sent me a message, asking me to have her subscription erased. Conscientious woman! Another greatly desired to patronize me, yet she did not want any books. I told her I sold to those who wanted. She reiterated she did not want any; no, not at all, but wished to encourage me! She, however, soon found one, in her indifference, that she would take at such a price, which was far below what I gave for it. I told her I had but one price; but after trying to beat me down in the price, and, finding me immovable, she was so intent on having it, that she subscribed. Benevolent woman!

I am in Canton, the county town of St. Lawrence county--a fresh thriving place, with mills, factories, and foundries. The county is a rich agricultural one. The exciting topics of the day are railroads and the election. One would decide from what they hear of the election, that this one must prove the most important crisis of the kind in the history of our country; as if the fate of the nation depended upon it. The Whigs are confident if Scott is elected, we are safe--if Pierce, all is lost. The Democrats reverse this, and look to Pierce as the saviour. I don't wonder that woman has become desirous of entering the political arena, it involves consequences of so much moment, and produces such exhilarating anxiety;--which we are always so fond of--yet so few lose sleep or appetite with fears of the result. It seems to be a pleasant play affair. The partisans make me think of when we children played "Bear", and cried, "the Bears are coming." How we ran and screamed! and those of us that were endowed with the most wonder, would quite cry with the belief that the bears were coming. Delicious fright! Who don't enjoy it?

They talk of railroads with a livelier interest, - as if they are quite in earnest; and one might readily suppose that every man was a railroad agent, and every village was to have a railroad, and become a city--and each man flatters himself that he will become rich. If they were not men, I would suppose them a little too sanguine!

I am boarding in a private family, as I always desire to do. Calling here on my business, I met the daughter who was the wife of a clergyman who visits at my home, besides both families were of the same faith; but, what drew me still nearer to them, I found they were somewhat reformed in diet; I welcomed a change, as I am fed on knick-knacks as much as a school m'am. The permission to board during my sojourn here was granted at the rate of two dollars per week. They are very wealthy, and have a large farm near the town, on which they have always resided till within a few years. They are now here and live in much style. The first introduction I shall give you to my hostess, is to say, her whole being is absorbed in pure selfishness, and her entire appearance is marked by this ruling propensity. Her sharp gray eyes are continually on the lookout that nothing is wasted; she walks with a carefulness, as if her shoes must last a stated time; her table is scantily furnished, which makes one feel so hungry. I shall be glad when I leave, for I know here is no danger of becoming sick from over-eating. I reason with myself--but then it so charming to see nothing left on the table; not because one wants "to kiss the cook"; one can't tell why, it is only an ugly nature that comes over one, when stinted. Her husband seems once to have possessed more generosity, but she has baptized him into her spirit until they are well matched. At first I was much amused, but it has become oppressive and annoying; and I do not feel that I can breathe freely. A selfish soul is truly a paradise lost.

Sunday Evening. When I awoke this morning, the earth was covered with snow; besides, we have had a long drizzling rain. I felt a little disheartened, when I know I

have to travel all this ground over again to distribute my books. I went to church this morning with the family; the whole services were dull; the singing was loud, and not a word audibly pronounced; the prayer was long and wordy, and ran into a labyrinth of expression, which I wonder if the congregation understood, or God either; or if it had any meaning. At the commencement of the sermon, the air was warm and suffocating, and I lost all sense of appreciating the good man's discourse. I observed his elderly hearers nodding, and the younger portion were trying to keep themselves awake and entertained by observing the latest fashions of bonnets and cloaks, at the expense of the sermon, and a loss of good, no doubt, for want of air. What a misfortune that people do not understand the necessity of having pure air!

Today I met with one of the leading, wealthy ladies of the town. She liked the idea of women having more employments, but she was afraid I was "a woman of rights", as she could not see how I could do thus, unless I was; if so, she would not patronize me any how; for women ought to be governed--it was their nature to be ruled, and men's to govern. Holy Writ commanded it, -- enough, -- I submitted.

I went to a public-house, where the mistress desired my cooking book. She sat for a few moments, and gazed at me with a fiendlike eye -- which made me shrink with fear -- and then asked me a variety of questions, in a tone that was akin to thunder, which I answered as audibly as I could, for it seemed to me my voice had fainted. She next inquired where I boarded. I told her. She threw down the book, and in a tone that startled me, exclaimed, -- "Well, if you had come here to board, I would have taken one of your books."

When I returned to my boarding house, I indulged in some criticisms on the two prominent characters I met, but my hostess quickly hushed me, saying "we all have our faults." Charitable woman! She was as sparing of her censure as of her bread and butter.



Erastus Hall House -- probably oldest house in Raymondville

Both returned to their respective homes in New England in the Fall and came back in the Spring with their families one hundred years ago.

Others became interested in the new settlement, among them was Major Bohan Shepherd, from St. Albans, Vt. who sent a group of men to build a dam and sawmill on Trout Brook near Raymondville in 1810. However the Hall and Judson families were the only ones to remain over the Winter of 1810-11.

Two years later a dam, a grist mill, and a saw mill were built about three miles below Raymondville at what became known as Hutchins Falls, by Jonathan Culver. These mills supplied the pioneers with their greatest necessities, lumber for building and ground grain for food.

With families coming from New England, Central New York, Canada and Ireland the population increased especially in the 1820s. By 1825 a period of only 15 years after the coming of the Hall and Judson families the population was 565 and by 1830 it had doubled according to census figures.

At Raymondville, Benjamin Raymond, a surveyor and land agent played a prominent part in the early days. The settlement was originally called Rackerton but was changed to Raymondville in his honor. Besides the Hall family who took a very active part in the development industrially as well as pioneering on the land, can be named the Joseph Clark family who conducted several manufacturing projects. It is said Mr. and Mrs. Clark came from New Hampshire with six children in the Winter time on a bob sled drawn by oxen.

The Coats family at Raymondville ran an important industry, a large brickyard, which made a high grade product, that had ready sale and was used for miles around for building purposes.

At Norfolk the Atwaters were an outstanding family in the development of the town. In 1816, Russell Atwater who was interested in a large tract of land in the central part of St. Lawrence County and lived at what became the town of Russell, came to Norfolk and built a large three story grist mill, located across the river from where the paper mill now stands. A few years later the family moved to Norfolk making their home on a site of the river, on a hill back of the town hall, now known as the Dr. Wheeler farm. The house is undoubtedly the oldest one in town, though there have been additions made to it.

Russell Atwater and his son Phineas were prominent and influential citizens of the town for many years. A brother, Dr. William Atwater, came to Norfolk from Russell, on June 20, 1820. He married Delia Wetmore.



Old Raymondville hotel, built in 1841 -- said to have been underground station for slaves on way to Canada

Norfolk Was a Wilderness in 1809

By MRS. MAUDE WING

(Reprinted from the Massena Observer for Sept. 29, 1960)

Way back in 1809-10 there were no roads in what is now Norfolk, only a trail from Potsdam to a place that later became Raymondville, so when in 1809, Erastus Hall from Tyringham, Mass. came it was a real wilderness. He bought a tract of land, did some clearing and had a frame house built.

The same year Eben Judson from Williston, Vt. came and took up land in the same vicinity and made a clearing.



Atwater Hotel at East Norfolk, built in Civil War days. An upper veranda has since been added.

Hiram Atwater house
Main Street, East
Norfolk, built in 1828



Hiram Atwater and his descendants were for many years prominent and active citizens of the town. He came from Williston, Vt. and was a cousin to Russell.

Hiram Atwater was born Jan. 1, 1802, and came to Norfolk in 1828 to teach school. His wife was Hannah Miner of Williston, Vt. Their home was built in 1828, the low one and a half story house with two bay windows on the west side of Main st. at East Norfolk. Children born to them were Henry, Edwin and Lucius. This family of Atwaters owned and operated saw and shingle mills, a tannery, a creamery, the brick hotel known as the Atwater Hotel, a mercantile business, as well as dealing in real estate.

During the early settlement days most of the people located in or near Raymondville, at Norfolk and at East Norfolk, familiarly known as Slab City, gradually spreading farther away as roads were made.

In 1811, the first road was made from Raymondville toward Massena. On it lived the Halls, Farnsworths, the Ames, Baxters, Palmers, Heywoods, and Lawsons.

On the west side of the river from Norfolk toward Raymondville were the Helms, Whitcombs, Stowes and Blanchards.

On the west side of the river from Norfolk toward Yaleville were the Wetmores, Shepherds, Farewells and the Bartletts.

On the east side of the river from east Norfolk toward Potsdam were the Adams, Raymonds and Winslows.

In the northeastern part of the town were the Gladings and Farnsworths.

In the southwestern part of the town were the Hales, Bradleys, Kingsleys, Elms and Martin Barney.

Along what is now the Plumbrook road were the Robinsons, Gibbs, Castles, Blanchards, Jones, Durkees, Rodgers, Bixbys, Vernals, Wings, Lawrences, Bradish and Riches.

It seems safe to say that all of the above families lo-

cated in the town within 25 years after the arrival of the Halls and Judsons. Undoubtedly there were others of whom there are no records.

In 1838, Mr. and Mrs. Julius Grant Sr. came to Norfolk from Canada. He was born in 1785, in Massachusetts. Their family consisted of six sons and two daughters, some were born in Canada. The first land owned by the Grants was a fifteen acre plot near where the Grantville School House now stands. At one time six large families of Grants lived within about a mile radius and the neighborhood was known as Grant Settlement.

There are descendants of five pioneer families living in Norfolk on portions of the same land as was sold to the first owners in the early 1800's.

Land granted to Ephriam Raymond and his wife, Cornelia Haskell, of Madrid in 1815 and located across the road from the Norwood-Norfolk High school has been in the Raymond family continuously for 145 years. Etta Raymond Smith, a great granddaughter has her home on this land.

About 1823, several families settled in the Southwestern part of the town, near the Stockholm line. All of them and their descendants have long been gone except one family, the Kingsleys. Two places are owned and occupied by great-grandsons of Sylvester Kingsley, the original first owner.

Members of the Bixby family have occupied that homestead for 130 years. Parry Bixby born in Underhill, Vt. in 1802, came to Madrid in 1811. After his marriage in 1830, he brought his wife and parents to Norfolk to live on the 25-acre farm he had purchased. Doris Bixby Maurer and her daughters, Marsha and Maryland, are the fifth and sixth generations to reside there.

The Grants are other pioneer families, four generations of the Julius Grant family have lived where Samuel Grant and family now reside. On the Lester Grant farm have been five generations of the Andrew Grant family.

Early School Life in DeKalb Junction

BY MABEL SHELDON

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

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

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

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

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

The article which she prepared follows:

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

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

My arithmetic was a graded book, and from it primary and intermediate classes studied. The later book I used was also used in more than one grade. The same applied to English. Our geography lessons included what are now studied as separate subjects. Physical and economic geography, as well as what is now covered in preliminary geography. The subjects I studied were reading, writing, spelling, arithmetic, English, geography, history, civil government, algebra, botany, physiology, bookkeeping and general science.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

(continued from Page 5)

King had already developed the cautious practice of destroying his political correspondence upon reading. Silas Wright's bitter embarrassment when an old letter containing a long and candid discussion of politics and politicians inadvertently appeared in Weed's Evening Journal, probably convinced the ambitious young politician that old files of political letters were dangerous.

As editor of the leading Democratic weekly in the region, his political activities and influence increased. In September of 1831 he had become a member of the five-man Democratic-Republican Town Committee. Later, in March of the next year, he was elected to the County Board of Supervisors from the Oswegatchie Township. This was another step up the political ladder. As a member of the Board he was part of the most powerful political body within the county for in New York the Supervisors, elected to represent the various towns, acted as the executive body with considerable patronage power within the county....

Though short, the period of editorship of the St. Lawrence Republican saw the development of attitudes and ideas which in the years ahead would characterize Preston King. This can be seen in the editorials which have survived and the articles which he chose to reprint. As a member of the most thoroughly organized party in the state, he reflected its fundamental principle, not always observed by the organization, that the party is actually made up of the citizenry and must be its honest voice. He began to condemn those who for their own benefit attempted to "barter the votes" of the people and "put them in leading strings." It is true that the editorial comments were designed with political ends in view, but there is something strikingly genuine in his statement concerning an approaching meeting; "it is right and fit that the voice of every man and every town should be heard in the republican county convention." The same spirit reappears later in his private letters to political friends where he constantly speaks of his dependence upon the people and their ability to see right. For thirty-five years King was to maintain this faith in the people

and at no time did he surrender to ideas of proscription or a reliance upon a minority of "the rich and the well-born" as able to lead and govern a democratic people. The idea that the responsibility to lead falls upon a single class was repugnant to him. Equally distasteful to him was the idea that Masons, or Catholics, or foreigners, or working men were dangerous and must be kept out of office and away from the polls. If necessary King was willing to wait while the opinion of the people swung around to his position, but as he rarely showed doubt in the correctness of his own policies, he also rarely doubted but that eventually public opinion would also discover this correctness....

Fundamentally, there was a deep-rooted conservatism in King's agrarian outlook. It embodied the Jeffersonian suspicion of commercial, speculative, and banking activities that runs like a silver thread through the whole history of American agrarianism from the Shaysites to the Populists. In later years when King became an outspoken Radical this attitude would be seen more clearly.

The last issues of the paper to appear under King's name showed deep concern with a new question. On the tenth of December, Jackson had issued his Nullification Proclamation. About a week later the news reached Ogdensburg and the Republican came to Jackson's support at once. The New Year issue revived the famous toast of 1830 in bold type--"The Union--it must be preserved!" (sic). The editorial declared that it was desirable to remove the inequalities of the 1828 tariff in order to give justice to the oppressed, but that nullification as a principle and as a means of correcting grievances must be resisted. Again, as in 1812, King was face to face with what he regarded as disloyalty. On the earlier occasion he was too young to understand it, though it appears to have stimulated his anti-Federalist feelings. This time he understood it and the vigorous proclamation of the "Old Hero" struck a deep chord in the young man.

With the sound of South Carolina's anger in his ears, he laid down the editor's pen. It was a sound that was to follow him through all of his life. In later years he must have remembered the last story that he printed in the Republican and the position he had espoused.

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