

The Quarterly

OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE ST. LAWRENCE COUNTY HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION



Major General Newton Martin Curtis

April 1961

The Quarterly

Official Publication of The St. Lawrence County Historical Assn.

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COVER--This studio portrait of Major General Newton Martin Curtis comes from the St. Lawrence County Historian's collection in the county building, Canton. The original mount carries the following legend: General Newton Martin Curtis, souvenir St. Lawrence County Society, New York December 9, 1911. Negative by James Dow, Ogdensburg. Photo compliments of the Marceau Studio, New York City.

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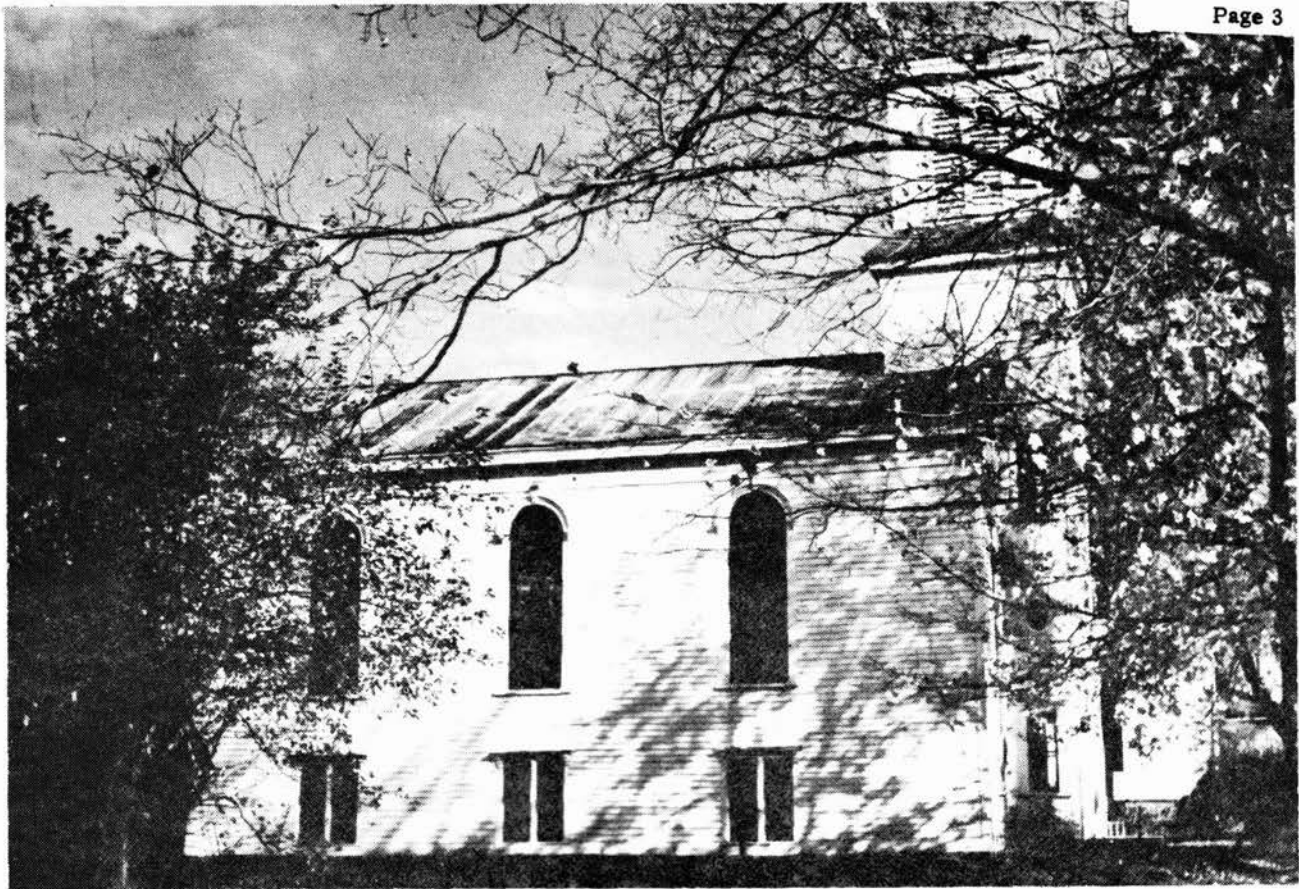
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The Civil War Comes to DePeyster

BY MRS. NINA W. SMITHERS
St. Lawrence County Historian

"The South has inaugurated a great war, one that will test the resources of the country as never before."

These were the words of Newton Martin Curtis as he stood before the citizens of DePeyster, meeting in what was the first war rally held in St. Lawrence county. The gathering was held in DePeyster Methodist Church; the same building is in use today.

Presiding over that momentous meeting was Captain Benjamin Eastman, an East road farmer, who was considered one of the best informed men of the town.

Several people from DePeyster had been in Ogdensburg when the news of the firing upon Fort Sumter had reached that city by telegraph. Great excitement prevailed in the crowd of people who gathered on the corner of Ford and Isabella streets when Henry R. James, editor of the Ogdensburg Journal, read the dispatch. Hurriedly plans were made for a meeting that evening in DePeyster, with Mr. James as the speaker.

After a prayer by the Rev. Horace M. Danforth, pastor of the church, Mr. James was introduced. He told the group of the surrender of Fort Sumter; that Ogdensburg would organize a company for six month's service; that twelve or fourteen men would be recruited from DePeyster and that it was doubtful if more than one company would be required. Among those present was Newton Martin Curtis whose views were not in accord with those of the speaker and were expressed in the above quote. Since the response was slow in coming from those present, Mr. Curtis moved for adjournment, the group to re-assemble in Mason Tavern which was located nearby. At this point, fifteen men volunteered among them the Reverend Danforth, who later became a Captain in the 6th New York Heavy Artillery.

Other meetings followed and talk of war was heard on every hand. Daniel Magone and James C. Spenser, two young lawyers from Ogdensburg, addressed the gatherings. By April 26 plans were perfected. A meeting was held, this time in the Town House, located at the rear of the town park. Again Benjamin Eastman presided and the following officers were elected; Captain, Newton Martin Curtis; 1st Lieut., John Snyder; 2nd Lieut., William L. Best. There was full complement of non-commissioned officers, a musician and 64 privates, many of whom may have come from the surrounding towns of Oswegatchie, DeKalb and Macomb.

On May 2, 1861 the volunteers were on their way to Albany for further induction. An old Ogdensburg newspaper fully described the event as follows: "As the first ray of the rising sun gilded the horizon from almost every dwelling in town could be seen fathers and mothers, friends old and young, wending their way to the place of departure to wave a long and perhaps a last farewell to the brave champions of freedom.

"At 7 a.m. the crowd assembled at the Town House where prayer was offered by Rev. Dr. Francisco. Miss Tuttle, a resident of the village, presented the company with a purse of four hundred dollars, in behalf of the women of DePeyster. Capt. N.M. Curtis made a brief acceptance speech. The company of men then marched to waiting wagons at the roadside and started for Ogdensburg. In passing through Heuvelton they were greeted by waving flags and handkerchiefs and the huzzas of the crowd which had assembled to cheer the hearts of these brave young men who were to join others in the prosecution of the war."

In Ogdensburg the group was presented with gingham caps which they wore until they were presented with clothing by the state. As they passed the Judson bank, Captain Curtis was presented with blank checks by the Hon. David

(Continued on Page 10)

Controversial Figure

By ELIZABETH BAXTER
Watertown Times Ogdensburg Bureau

The statue of Civil War Gen. Newton Martin Curtis at the Ogdensburg post office lawn facing the Crescent in the St. Lawrence county city was unveiled and dedicated in a rainstorm.

A gathering storm of protests attends its possible removal to a new site.

The Ogdensburg common council has included \$2,000 in its 1961 budget for re-location of the monument to make way for a driveway and more parking space for the post office at the request of Ogdensburg Postmaster Frank LaVigne.

The statue, erected by the state of New York in 1913, cost \$6,000.

The unveiling took place on the afternoon of Oct. 2, 1913 in a downpour, with the general's four daughters, the late Mrs. George (E. Phebe) Vilas and the Misses Mary W. Florence R. and Eliza C. Curtis, participating in the ceremony. Mrs. Vilas, the eldest, pulled the cords which held American flags covering the monument. One hundred and fifty Union veterans saluted and members of the Ogdensburg, Watertown and Malone military companies presented arms.

The statue, gift of the New York Monuments Commission, was the work of sculptor Roland Hinton Perry, New York City.

Gen. Horatio C. King, Brooklyn, member of the commission, spoke. The first part of the ceremony, lasting two hours, had been conducted at the old Ogdensburg Opera House following a parade of the members of the Society of the Army of the Potomac, in annual session in Ogdensburg. The principal speaker was Cpl. James Tanner Washington, D.C., who had lost both legs in battle in the war. Rev. A.M. Wight had the invocation and Most Rev. Henry Gabriels, bishop of the Roman Catholic diocese of Ogdensburg, the benediction. Maj. William H. Daniels, commander of the St. Lawrence county G.A.R. organization presided.

General Curtis, who died on Jan. 8, 1910 in New York City at the age of 74, had been a president of the Society of the Army of the Potomac.

Works by Roland Hinton Perry, 1870-1941, include the New York memorial at Andersonville, Ga., a group at Lookout Mountain, Tenn., the statue of Gen. George S. Greene at Gettysburg, Pa., and the equestrian statue of Gen. John B. Castleman in Louisville, Ky.

On July 21 and 22, 1913, Maj. A.J. Zabriskie, engineer and secretary of the New York State Monuments Commission, visited Ogdensburg and, with a committee of three local men, Major Daniels, district collector of customs, Mayor Charles D. Hoard and John C. Howard, selected the site, one of four studied.

On Sept. 5, an Ogdensburg newspaper reported:

"Major Daniels this morning received official permission from the secretary of the treasury to place the Gen. N.M. Curtis monument on the west front of the United States customhouse property. . . .

"It is probable that the committee will decide to close the carriage drive that now bisects the lawn on the Crescent side of the customhouse and concert the entire space into greensward with the monument as the centerpiece."

(The district customhouse then was located in the present postoffice building.)

Ground was broken on September 11 by the firm of McRoberts and Doyle, contractors, with members of the Ransom post, G.A.R., participating and Major Daniels, post commander, presiding. The pedestal was supplied by Crooks and McLean, Gouverneur marble firm.

Major Daniels was chairman of arrangements for the unveiling of the monument, funds for which were raised



by public subscription.

The statue and bronze tablets for the base arrived in Ogdensburg by train on Sept. 24. From Sept. 26 until Oct. 3, Clinton Beckwith, member of the New York State Monuments Commission, was in the city supervising the installation. A bronze tablet five feet by two and one-half feet related the general's military career. The statue was placed on the pedestal on Sept. 27 and the installation was completed on Sept. 29 under the direction of Major Zabriskie.

Manufacturing plants, business establishments and schools were closed on the afternoon of Oct. 2 for the dedication of the statue.

Newton Martin Curtis, a native of DePeyster, volunteered "to preserve the Union" on the day that President Abraham Lincoln called for 75,000 men "to recover the property of the United States, forcibly seized, and to enforce the laws."

On May 2, 1861, Curtis' company of DePeyster, and Macomb men, many of them farmers, left from the DePeyster town house at 7 a.m. in farm wagons for the old village of Ogdensburgh to depart for the seat of war. Miss Helen Tuttle gave the company which had elected Curtis captain, \$400 from the women of DePeyster. In passing through the village of Heuvelton, they were greeted

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Last Mail From Rossie

By VIRGIE B. SIMONS
Rossie Town Historian

After 146 years, Rossie's post office has been closed by government decree. At the close of business Dec. 31, 1960 Miss Lula Gardner retired as postmaster and on Jan. 3, Mrs. Thelma Petrie began the operation of a rural station at the same location. Serving 30 boxes, Mrs. Petrie's postal stamp reads "Hammond, N.Y., Rossie Rural Station."

An estimated \$2,506 will be saved the first year of operation of the rural station due to the change.

In the beginning, the postmaster received very little money, there was a small amount of mail and it was brought in on foot or horseback. Postage was expensive and letters could be sent either prepaid or collect on



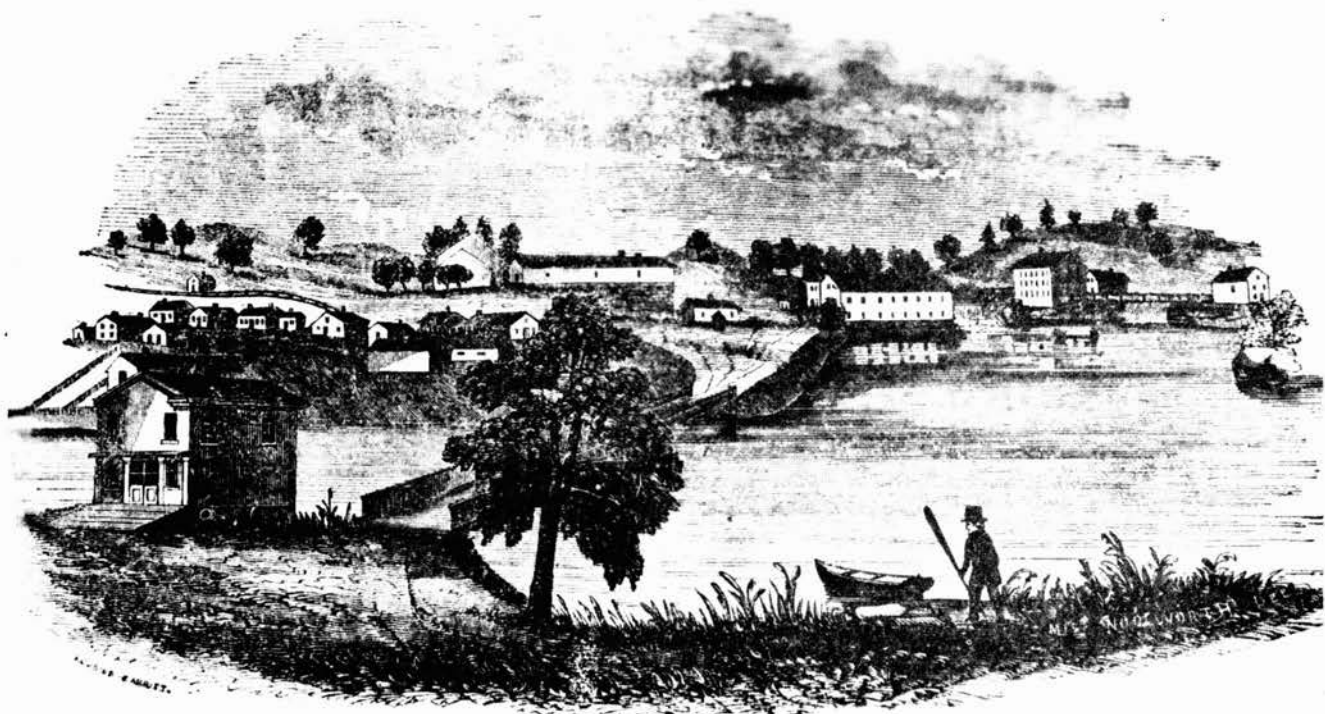
MISS LULA GARDNER sorts the last mail in Rossie Post Office December 31, 1960, while Rural Carrier Robert F. Lee, who has carried the mail since March 1, 1917, looks on.

delivery. The recipient of a letter was notified by word of mouth by neighbors and not infrequently found it embarrassing when he couldn't furnish the amount demanded for unpaid postage.

It is a far cry from the old stagecoach lumbering along the Boston-Albany turnpike bearing a rare letter from the homefolks addressed to the venturesome young people pioneering in our north country, to the modern air mail letter which flashes to its destination today.

Distance once played an important role in the cost of sending mail. For a distance of 30 miles 6¢, for 150 miles 12 1/2¢ and for 450 miles 25¢. If two sheets of paper were used, the amount of postage was doubled.

The Rossie post office, one of the first in northern New York, was established through the efforts of David



Rossie Iron Works. Rossie, St. Lawrence Co., N. Y.

OLD ROSSIE as it appears in Hough's History of St. Lawrence and Franklin counties. At left is store and post office operated by William A. Paul. Buildings

in top background, left to right, are iron furnace, land office, first house, foundry and machine shop, grist mill and saw mill.



HOME of Postmaster Francis Jourdain, 1814. This was the first house built in Rossie village. Put up originally as a two-room shanty by D.W. Church and his party who discovered the waterfall at Rossie for David Parish in 1810, it was later enlarged and used as a boarding house for miners. Stillman Fuller, postmaster in 1827 lived here. He ran the furnace for three years.

Parish Nov. 20, 1814. Francis Jourdain was the first postmaster. From then until 1824 the office served what was known as Rossie Iron Works.

The reason for this was that iron had been discovered near Spragueville in 1812 and in 1813 Mr. Parish started building a furnace to smelt the iron ore. The ore was drawn from mine to forge over the Ogdensburg turnpike and the Oswegatchie Trail or Old State road which was surveyed in 1804 from Ogdensburg to Long Falls (now Carthage). Rossie at the time the post office was established consisted of a few houses, a store, the Rossie hotel built in 1811 and the iron industry. Mr. Jourdain saw the first blast of the furnace in 1815 and knew William Bembo, who was in charge.

Roswell Ryon was appointed to succeed Mr. Jourdain May 6, 1816. He was probably on hand to see in person President James Monroe when he visited the iron works in 1817. He was on an inspection trip to ascertain the resources of the country, especially along the Canadian border. Mr. Ryon held several town offices including town clerk, commissioner of common schools, pound master, commissioner of highways, justice of the peace, inspector of election and assessor. Several of these offices were held simultaneously. He saw the first Scottish settlers trek past his door in 1818 on their way to new homes and he attended to their wants for Mr. Parish when they were quartered overnight in the Parish farm barn where many valuable race horses were stabled.

Luther S. Conklin became the new postmaster May 4, 1820. He was a Parish land agent for Rossie, inspector of election, assessor, and was appointed the first clerk when the town was organized in 1813. He watched the completion of the large Parish grist mill and an item by him in the Parish records reads, "Two mill stones were purchased for the Rossie Grist mill from Orion Willcox at a cost of fourteen dollars. Four dollars was paid to A. Nutting for facing the stones, five cents was paid for red chalk for marking the feed bags and eighteen cents for lead to put into the eye of one of the stones."

Next, on December 7, 1824 came James Gore who was proprietor of the Rossie hotel. He had a great deal of correspondence with the Parishes regarding the iron works. He reported any irregularities or mistakes made by the managers. Word of the death of David Parish in Europe was received by Mr. Gore in 1826.

Stillman Fuller was appointed November 27, 1827. He had been manager of the Rossie iron works, assessor and commissioner of schools. While he was post master the setting off of the town of Hammond became final on

May 1, 1828. George Parish received a deed to all of the property of his deceased brother David in 1827.

Thaddeus D. Parks received his appointment July 6, 1829. There must have been a slump in his business receipts when Richard Burr, manager of the iron works, returned to New Jersey and the furnace was idle for ten years. He greeted passengers on the new boat Paul Pry which was the first boat on Black Lake. It was built in 1830.

The seventh appointee was Asa Baker March 12, 1832. He was appointed overseer of highways the same year, serving two years when he was replaced by Richard Ranney March 8, 1834. His town office appointments were overseer of highways, fence viewer, collector, constable, overseer of the poor and commissioner of common schools. He was pleased over the discovery of lead and the issuing of contracts to work the mines (Victoria and Coal Hill) in 1835. The steamer Rossie began to operate on Indian River and Black Lake carrying pig iron, lead and passengers in the summer of 1837. Mail was carried back and forth on this boat for the three years that it operated. It was too small to be profitable. Mr. Ranney's ailments if any were treated by two doctors, Dr. Slade, who left Rossie in 1836, and Dr. Mason G. Sherman of Ogdensburg, who replaced him.

John H. Williams was appointed December 4, 1837. Little is known of him and after two years Zacheus Gates, a colorful character took over the post office on June 29, 1839. He, with his brother Africa Gates, purchased the Rossie hotel from George Parish in 1841. It was he who received word of the death of Mr. Parish while preparing for an extensive journey into Asia. Mr. Gates licked the first stamps for letters when our government followed the lead of Great Britain and began the use of adhesive postage stamps. In 1841 the second George Parish who was a nephew of David and the first George purchased and received a deed to all of the unsold lands of his uncle which amounted to 1,700 acres. This deed also covered all personal property, machinery, mines, and minerals.

Mr. Gates knew personally the glamorous Madame Vespucci who arrived at the home of George Parish in Ogdensburg in 1842. Her amorous affair with Mr. Parish was known to all and she doubtless was a guest at the Rossie hotel when she was staying at the Parish cottage here. Mr. Gates watched with anticipation the building of the stone machine shop and foundry in 1848-49 on the bank of the Indian river and saw the first vehicle pass over the new plank road extending from Ogdensburg to Antwerp (7 miles of it in Rossie) and opened to the public in 1850. It brought more business to him.

James Brodie, whose appointment was made July 8, 1852, attended the first mass in the new St. Patricks church. It was completed in 1852 at a cost of two thousand dollars and the first pastor was the Rev. Michael Clark. Mr. Brodie sold the first stamped envelopes and three years later the registry system was introduced.

William A. Paul who took his oath of office Sept. 6, 1856, attended the first service in the new Presbyterian church which was completed in 1856. Previously Presbyterians had been worshipping in Oxbow since 1820. The first Rossie pastor was the Rev. James Sanford. Invitations to the first Burns festival in Rossie and probably in the north country was cancelled by Mr. Paul at the post office. The festival was held at the Rossie hotel and was sponsored by Jack Laidlaw, the proprietor. Mr. Paul moved to Gouverneur when the office was given to George Backus January 3, 1861. He was a merchant in the stone store which later burned. He sorted mail going to and from service men in the Civil war. One hundred eight men went from Rossie and this number was said to be as many volunteers as any town for the total population.

William W. Leonard got the job away from Mr. Backus May 14, 1863. The farmer had purchased the Paul store. The Civil war closed during his administration and Charles Lum Parish agent and town clerk completed a list of all men in the service.

George Backus was re-appointed October 20, 1866 and was replaced again in less than three months by William



JAMES MULLIN in his store. The post office boxes were at the right and are not shown in this picture

taken about 1925. note the dance advertising for Pleasant Lake pavilion.

W. Leonard on December 6, 1866. Mr. Leonard must have been disturbed by the permanent closing of the iron furnace and the consequent unemployment in 1867.

George Backus received his third and last appointment May 9, 1870. James McAllister built a wheelwright and cooper shop the same year, the first cheese factory was built by James Cosgrove in 1875. George McLear became the owner of the Rossie hotel in 1875 and the lead mines were closed for good in 1876. In 1878 Mr. Moyer's stage driver was bringing the mail three times a week on his way from Hammond to Keen's Station. Later in 1878 Mr. Backus greeted William Dodds when he stopped at the Rossie post office on his first daily trip with mail between Gouverneur and Hammond. Mr. Dodds left Hammond after the arrival of trains from the north and south in order to accommodate passengers going to Gouverneur.

Trials of the early stage drivers were demonstrated in a clipping from a Gouverneur paper dated January 2, 1879, "The proprietor of the stage route from Gouverneur to Hammond with a double team and the mail a week ago last Tuesday morning and with much tribulation reached Oxbow the same night. William Dodds took the mail bags on horseback and venturing out on Wednesday got to Somerville where he stayed overnight. Thursday he reached Gouverneur with the only mail which had been received there for several days. The plank road closed in 1880 and was turned over to the town. The grand opening of the new Jack Laidlaw hotel was held in November 1882. In 1883 Mr. Backus installed a telephone in his store. This created a great deal of excitement and everybody wanted to talk as it was the first and only telephone in town.

Miss Rose A. Gillen, a former school teacher, received her first commission, from Grover Cleveland September 8, 1885. In 1887 the post office was buzzing with news that James Hunter had purchased the first horse drawn mow-

ing machine in town. In 1888 Miss Gillen had but to open her front door to hear General Newton Martin Curtis of Ogdensburg speaking at a political rally on the village green. Miss Gillen was a friend of the Laidlaws so she called on them when Grover Cleveland was a dinner guest there in August 24, 1888. He was accompanied by David Lamont also of Washington, D.C. The Burns festivals now held at the Laidlaw House reached the height of their popularity in the 1880's.

Charles W. Ormiston became post master June 28, 1889. He was a merchant and blacksmith. He watched the addition of a new dance hall on the Rossie hotel across the street. It was said to be the largest dance hall in St. Lawrence county at the time.

Rose A. Gillen Phalen (Mrs. James Phalen) received her second appointment August 21, 1893 and was re-appointed November 8, 1895.

Charles W. Ormiston again took over November 9, 1897 and held the office until George Raven was appointed March 9, 1905. He ran the office in the Leonard store. He looked out of his back window facing the river to see the steamer Oswegatchie carrying freight and passengers leaving for Heuvelton by way of the Indian river, Black Lake and the Oswegatchie river. It was built in Rossie at the Leonard sawmill in 1906 and sank in a storm on Black Lake in 1908. There was great talk in town when Dr. T.A.E. Young drove home the first car, a steamer.

Mrs. Rose A. Phalen received her fifth and last appointment May 24, 1909. She retired because of the age requirement and Miss Lula A. Gardner became acting postmaster February 1, 1940. Mrs. Frances Gardner was appointed November 23, 1940 and resigned in 1943. Miss Lula Gardner again became acting post master, receiving her permanent commission March 1, 1944. She was the nineteenth person to hold the office and hers was the twenty-seventh and last appointment as post master of Rossie P.O. (Continued on Page 10)

EDITOR'S NOTE - In 1901, Omar P. Stearns, well-known throughout the North Country as a shoe and rubbers salesman, published a book of poems at Winthrop. Old-time general storekeepers still remember the tall, good-looking salesman with the luxuriant side-whiskers and the spanking team of mares. Several of Stearns' poems contain tributes to the travelling salesman or "C.T." In one long poem, the poet lists all the hotels and hotelkeepers in the North Country which were frequented by travelling men.

Tracks from the Trips of a Traveling Man by O. P. Stearns

It makes me think of times we had when staying at hotels.

VanBuren and Dan Peck, both kept at Gouverneur,
I think they called VanBuren, James, and he burned out I'm sure;
Geo. Bridge, he kept the "Kirby" way down in Watertown,
Dick Bridge was then in Canton, and the "American" held down.

The Getmans at Lafargeville, and Theresa also kept,
Mrs. Hatch was in the Elmhirst at Carthage, where we slept,
John Willson kept at Louisville, 'Nick Bush 'way up in Fine,
Lake and Blood were then at Harrisville, at Hermon was "Rache" Cline.

Doctor Dunton was at Winthrop, then C.C. Covey came,
at Russell was a man I'm sure they called Bill Burlingame,
The "Albion" at Potsdam was kept by Charley Holmes,
The Wood boys were at Brushton, then Ase Barnett, he comes.

At Hogansburg, the Beros kept, Oliver, John, then Simon came,
DeKalb Junction had the Burnhams, then the Hurleys did the same,
Dunc. Cameron at Fort Covington, Sam. Danforth at Massena,
"At" Dustin kept at Thomasville, Hugh Geehan at Helena.

Will Williams, was at Colton, then Dan McDonald kept,
Shattuck, was at Parishville, Myron Hastings then we met,
Bill Lindsay at South Colton, Jack Laidlaw at Rossie,
Fet. Franklin, was at Hammond, then Worthen, we did see.

Ed Perry was at Popes Mills, and "Hank" across the lake,
Deb. Nichols was at Lisbon, then North Lawrence kept awake,
The "Seymour House" at Ogdensburg had Wm. Tallman at its head,
At the "Windsor House" in that same place, Tim Crowley furnished bread.

Pete McCormick, then Sam Erwin, kept at Rensselaer Falls,
At Madrid Ira Bicknell, then 'twas kept by Harry McCall,
Sid. Phelps he kept the "Whitney House" in Norwood at that time,
Charley Shaw, then David Noble, were at Edwards, Off the Line.

Henry Mason, then one Raven, at DePeyster kept hotel,
Henry Miller over at Croghan, with his "Frow" did very well,
Bill Plimpton at Depauville, Jim Hubbard at Clayton stayed,
Deb. Chamberlain and Ira Taylor, both at Waddington gave aid.



ST. LAWRENCE COUNTY'S "Boys in Blue" trained here for the Civil War a century ago. This building is all that remains of Ogdensburg's historic Camp Wheeler.

Vestiges of Camp Wheeler Still Remain

By REV. J. KARLTON DEWEY
Pastor, St. John The Baptist Church, Madrid

Next time you drive the new Ogdensburg arterial highway and climb the over-pass which spans the Rutland Railroad, take a quick glance to the West. You will notice, at no great distance, a weather-beaten, dilapidated building of fair size. This landmark takes us back to the Civil War; it is the only remaining vestige of Camp Wheeler, 1861 to 1864.

Only 100 years ago, this area now filled with brush was teeming with men - marching, drilling and maneuvering. Within a half mile of the new Ogdensburg-Prescott bridge, three regiments trained, and from here about three

thousand men marched off to some of the bloodiest fighting of the war; Gettysburg, Look-Out Mountain and Cold Harbor.

This very month, the centennial of the fall of Ft. Sumter will be noted. Since we like to start our wars on Sunday, it happened Sunday, April 14, 1861. Had you lived in Ogdensburg at that time, the first news of the event would not have reached you until nearly twenty-four hours after it happened, but you would have lived through a most exciting Monday. The telegraph (the only one in the North) brought the news early in the day. As soon as you had heard it, you would have probably rushed down-town to form part of the crowd which collected in front of the St. Lawrence Republican. From time to time, the editor appeared on the steps to read the latest dispatches.

Wednesday night you would have likely attended a mass meeting and perhaps signed up in the "St. Lawrence Regiment" for a period of three months. Your enthusiasm might have cooled slightly, however, when a few days later, Governor Morgan's order came through. He called for volunteers for a State Militia - with a three-year enlistment!

At any rate, early in May you would have been proud of our North Country, because we had recruited two honest-to-goodness companies and in the Albany rendezvous - Co. A of the 16th, and Co. K of the 18th. But as Mr. Ogdensburg of 1861, you would have had your Pearl Harbor day July 22. On that date the telegraph and the Republican's editor told you that we had just suffered a stunning defeat at Bull Run. You would have spent an anxious week until our good old solicitous Congressman Sherman assured all the folks back home that not one of our boys was hurt. General Curtis and his 16th had been on the sidelines and had not directly participated in the engagement.

Bull Run opened the eyes of all; from Lincoln down in Washington all the way North to the man in Ogdensburg. This was a real scrap; we needed soldiers and more soldiers - Lincoln asking New York State for 25,000 men as a starter. Governor Morgan in Albany ordered a regiment to be formed at Ogdensburg and commissioned William B. Hayward, a "retread", former army officer - but now a New York businessman, to go North and head up the body.

All fine so far; commissions, orders signed and delivered, but still no army or a place to put one. Thus the old dilapidated building I mentioned at the outset.

The Northern Railroad had reached Ogdensburg from Rouses Point in 1850. About a mile east of the village of Ogdensburg, the company had set up shops for the manufacture and repair of their rolling stock. There was even a foundry, and I make a point of this because Donald Nelson of Lisbon tells me that his great-grandfather furnished charcoal for it from his ash and willow standings. Some seven or eight buildings in all were erected, and one of this group was our old, weather-beaten friend. In addition, several houses were put up towards Ford Street (now Proctor Avenue) as living quarters for the employees. This little hamlet was named "New Boston", no doubt to suggest the other terminus of the line.

Like many railroads of the day, the Northern soon found itself in financial difficulties. Between 1854 and 1856, the line re-organized and for some reason the shops were abandoned - perhaps for more permanent buildings at the foot of Patterson Street in Ogdensburg.

And what of this fairly good set of railroad shops? In 1861 Congressman William A. Wheeler thought the government could use them. Through the 50's he was a rising young banker of Malone, and had been made trustee for holders of Northern Railroad stock. He became president of the line shortly and as such pulled a neat piece of magic by getting a bridge built over Lake Champlain so that his trains could roll uninterrupted all the way down to Boston. This was no mean achievement, because the metropolitan interests were shouting very loudly, "What's going to happen to New York City?", just as they did for fifty years before the Seaway finally was achieved. Meanwhile, on the side Mr. Wheeler

(Continued on page 12)

DE PEYSTER

(Continued from Page 3)

Judson, with the privilege of using the funds of the bank in case of emergency.

The DePeyster company was noted for its tall men a dozen or more being over six feet in height. Captain Curtis was six feet, six inches.

One hundred and seventeen names appear on the list of those who served from DePeyster over the four year period of the war. This record was prepared by the Town Clerk and such rolls should be found in the town offices of the county.

An Invitation to DePeyster

A program commemorating the beginning of the Civil War will be held at the Methodist Church in DePeyster on April 16 at 2 p.m.

The speaker will be Assemblyman Edwyn Mason, a native son now residing at Hobart, New York.

There will be an exhibit of mementos of the Civil War and also on display will be a Civil War Honor Roll prepared by Miss Lillian Todd of Gouverneur.

The Rev. Lloyd Tanner, pastor of the church will welcome all who attend the regular morning service of the church which is held at 11:30 a.m. A covered dish dinner will follow the service. Bring food and table service. The ladies will serve hot coffee.

All interested persons are invited to attend and and also to bring an article for the exhibit.

Keeping Accounts In the 1880s

By MRS. INDIA MURTON
Macomb Town Historian

In sorting papers from the Town Clerk's office in Macomb, I have come across some interesting facts and figures of the by-gone-years.

In the lists of eligible jurors and voters, a younger person might wonder that the names were all of males, but in those days women had not yet received the right to vote. In records of school meetings, no ladies' names were mentioned, as their presence was not welcome at meetings of any sort - but do not think but what 'Mother' was interested in her children's education! Often as not, it was by her insistence and planning, that children were able to get what learning they had or were able to go to higher education.

In the tax-lists of the district schools, several taxpayers were taxed for as little as 25 and 30 cents, many for \$2 or \$3. The highly taxed ones were in the \$20 bracket, and it was a real large landholder that rated a \$30 tax.

Many copies of old land leases show that some tenants mortgaged their cows or a yoke of oxen to secure the rent of the farm - rent being about \$100 to \$150 a year. In some cases the crops and output from the farm were mortgaged to secure the rent. In one case, the tenant was bound to supply 2,000 rails (remember the old rail fences?), rails that in later years, when wire fencing came into use, were sawed into stove wood, making a splendid fire and much dirt for the women folks to clean up.

In the chattel mortgages, almost anything seems to have been covered to secure a loan. For instance, for a \$5 loan, the borrower mortgaged three grass calves; another for

\$20, the kitchen stove, fire-wood and lumber piled in back of the house, that his wife rented from Charles Sitts of Brasie Corners.

Another mortgaged to Gates Curtis, author of "Our Country and Its People", a history of St. Lawrence County, who was also an inventor and maker of a certain kind of plow, all the corn and potatoes in his fields for a \$20 loan - perhaps to pay for a plow.

Another mortgage covered "one bay horse with a short tail and a crooked fore front leg". Erastus Y. mortgaged his rights to two acres of corn that he had planted on shares on the farm of Richard Woodward.

This is a list of a few of the things named in different papers: a quantity of ashes, 3 runt calves, 1 buffalo robe, 1 pair ice tongs, 1 spotted heifer, 1 red cow with white on her belly, 1 pair steers or working cattle, 1 cow, mouse color-with white legs, 1 red and white mauley cow, 1 dung fork, 1 grizzly cow, 1 patch of corn, 1 potash kettle.

There were many papers and mortgages to substantiate this story of a Mr. R. About the year 1875, in order to buy or start a store at Pope Mills, he mortgaged his team of horses and wagon, for a loan of \$250. In 1880 he borrowed \$1,000 to pay the first loan and other debts, and mortgaged the contents of the store and "a peddler's cart stored in the rear of the store, and its contents of groceries, dry-goods, and Yankee Notions." He repeatedly borrowed money to buy goods, and at the same time accepted mortgages from his customers to cover the price of the goods sold to them. Possibly one offset the other. An itemized list of the contents of the store included these things: 1 doz. Ladies Hoods, 4 1/2 doz. woolen fur hats, part of a bale of cotton, 1 doz. goblets, 1 barrel lamp chimneys, 2 doz. thumb latches, 6 doz. picture nails, 6 lbs. salerates, 9 bottles butter coloring, 1 gross lamp wicks, 1 satchel, 20 lbs. rosen, 21 lbs. coffee, 10 lbs. glue, 100 butter tubs, 9 lbs. plug tabaco, 11 slates, 2 boxes waterproof collars and cuffs, 9 Nubias - a light weight head and shoulder wrap worn by women, 2 pieces Wiggings - canvas-like fabric used by dressmakers.

(Note-I had to look up to find out what these last two items were and how they were used.)

It was about this time that a petition was circulated in Macomb, to build a parsonage - Archie Downing has the original copy. Many people made their donations with promises of work or lumber, and those signing for money, were given three years to make the payments, one-third at a time. The amounts ranged from \$1 to \$15. Very few paid at the time of signing, and the petition was marked "paid" when any first payments were made - 33 cents - but few were marked for their second or third payments. If they did pay, perhaps the committee forgot to give them credit!

I imagine some of those hardy pioneers would be surprised if they could see how readily some of their descendants hand over payments now amounting to hundreds of dollars.

ROSSIE POST OFFICE

(Continued from Page 7)

Mr. Robert F. Lee has been the only R.D. carrier (Rossie R.D. 1) out of this office, commencing his duties March 1, 1917. He began with thirty miles traveled mostly in Macomb. Twelve miles were added a few years ago when the South Hammond post office closed and on January 3, 1961 he took over delivery of mail on the Hammond star route. He now travels fifty-two miles perday.

Carl Fuller brings mail from Gouverneur to Morris-town once a day and stops in Rossie each way.

The old custom of using the post office as a meeting place has long since ceased. Most of the big happenings of the day were discussed at such gatherings every week-day evening and political arguments were numerous.

The post office was a mark of distinction which the townsfolk enjoyed proudly. Cross roads past offices in the country are closing every year and there are those who are moved by sentimental sorrow that a unique fragment of horse and buggy America is disappearing.



The General's parents

by cannon salutes, flag-waving and cheers. In Ogdensburg, the men were given checked gingham caps by Attorney James C. Spencer. They wore the caps until uniforms were issued to them. Led by bands, they marched to the Northern railroad depot. In Albany they became Company G of the 16th New York Volunteer Infantry. Later, Curtis was promoted to colonel of the 142nd regiment of New York volunteers and to brevet brigadier-general of the United States volunteers. He commanded brigades of the Tenth, Eighteenth and Twenty-fourth Corps.

During the battle of Fort Fisher, N.C., which fell to Union land and naval forces on Jan. 15, 1865 Curtis' brigade led the assault. Curtis was appointed brigadier-general on the field, his appointment being written on a sheet of foolscap by Secretary of War Simon Cameron for "gallant services in the capture of Fort Fisher," was promoted to major-general by brevet and given the Medal of Honor.

He was the first man to pass through the stockade of Fort Fisher, led the assaults on the traverses and suffered four wounds.

Thirty-four years later, speaking of the battle in address on Feb. 1, 1899 to the Massachusetts commandery, Military Order of the Loyal Legion of the United States, in Boston General Curtis related:

"We gained possession of the seventh traverse at 4:45 p.m. . . . and shortly after 5:15 p.m. . . . when the sun was just disappearing . . . while the volunteers were assembling, I went further into the fort and had ascended a magazine or sand dune for the purpose of looking into the angle of the bastion I intended to attack, when I was struck and disabled by two fragments of a shell, one destroying the left eye and the other carrying away a portion of the bone at the base of the brain."

He called Fort Fisher "the largest and best equipped fortification constructed by the Confederates." The battle for the fort, he told his Boston audience, was "a hand-to-hand contest with swords and bayonets, in which the Yankees won."

On March 11, 1865, General Curtis, recovering from his wounds, arrived in the village of Ogdensburg by train and was given a hero's reception.

After the surrender at Appomattox, General Curtis was appointed chief of staff of the department of Virginia and later was commander of southwestern Virginia. He was mustered out on Jan. 15, 1866.

General Curtis was a New York State assemblyman from 1884 through 1890. In 1891 he was elected to the 52nd Congress to fill a vacancy and was reelected to the 53rd and 54th Congresses, serving from Nov. 3, 1891 to March 3, 1897. He was elected to those offices as a Republican but when he volunteered in 1861 he was a Democrat. In 1906 he wrote "From Bull Run to Chancellorsville, the Story of the Sixteenth New York Infantry, together with Personal Reminiscences."

General Curtis was a son of Jonathan Curtis, who served in the War of 1812 and was captured by the British at the battle of French Mills. A native of Raynham, Mass., Jonathan Curtis and his wife, Phebe Rising Curtis, settled at DePeyster in 1822. He was a descendant of William Curtis, who was born in England in 1595 and, with his wife and children, came to this country on the ship "Mary Lion," which landed at Boston in October, 1632. William Curtis' wife was Sarah Elliot, sister of Rev. John Elliot, who arrived at Boston in 1631 and became known as "the apostle of the North American Indians".

A cannon made by a brother of General Curtis fired the news to DePeyster of Union victories and defeats during the Civil War.

A grand-niece of the general, Miss Minnie C. Merriman, United Helpers' Home, Ogdensburg, said her grandfather, Gates Curtis, farmer, inventor and St. Lawrence historian, "cast a little bronze cannon and kept it out on a hill near the Curtis home at DePeyster." "General Curtis would send a telegram to him when a DePeyster man was wounded or killed and my grandfather would fire the cannon," she said. "The people for miles around would hear the cannon and come to hear the news."

Miss Merriman, daughter of the late Mr. and Mrs. Charles A. Merriman, remembers the general well. "I think," she said, "that I knew Uncle Martin almost better than I knew my grandfather."

She recalled that General Curtis, a very tall gentleman, six feet and six inches in height, upon returning home used to rap on the transom instead of the door. The general's wife was the former Emeline Clark of Springfield, Ill. Miss Merriman also recalled attending the dedication of the statue, "when cousin Phebe unveiled it."

General King during the Ogdensburg "Curtis week" observance in 1913 said that in the days before the Civil War, Lincoln and Curtis met, and Lincoln, who was proud of his own height, six feet and four inches, and rarely was called upon to face anyone to whom he had to look up, asked Curtis: "Mr. Curtis, how do you know when your feet are cold?"

Miss Merriman doesn't like the idea of moving the statue. "I feel it would be too bad to move," she said. "I think they have kind of gone crazy about parking places in Ogdensburg."

USE THIS GIFT COUPON

Mr. David Cleland, Treasurer,
St. Lawrence County Historical Association
Canton, N. Y.

Dear Mr. Cleland:

Enclosed find \$2.00 in cash, check or money order for gift membership to

NAME

STREET and NUMBER
or RURAL ROUTE

POST OFFICE

was trying his hand at politics, and doing not at all badly. In fact, his rise to recognition, even national notice, can be described only in the most glowing superlatives. Starting humbly as town official and thence ever rising through local positions, he reached the State senate by 1857 and the Congress as representative only three years later, in 1860. Subsequently, though this isn't part of our story, he made it with Rutherford B. Hayes in 1876 to the second spot on the totem pole as Vice-President of United States.

But back in 1861, when he was in Congress, the government needed a northern campsite quickly, and Wheeler had one to offer. The federal government leased the buildings of the Northern Railroad and the new camp was named after the congressman. With this personal interest in the installation, he subsequently made several visits, presented a regimental flag and gave free transportation over his lines to Camp Wheeler soldiers.

Camp Wheeler was roughly triangular in shape; bounded by the railroad tracks, Proctor Avenue and the Lisbon town line. The new arterial highway would lie approximately along its eastern boundary. Since some one thousand men were involved, however, the training area must have spread out into the adjoining countryside. According to Mrs. Annie Daniels in her *Reminiscences of Ogdensburg*, the buildings had ample room for a full regiment of one thousand ten men. The center building (this might well be the one mentioned earlier) contained the kitchen and dining rooms, the former with three cauldrons, a large stove and a patent baker. A large force of cooks was required. The dining room, its tables set with tin cups and plates, could accommodate five hundred men at one sitting. The second floor contained another dining room (probably for the officers), the space also being used as an officers' drillroom. Chaplain Richard Eddy used it for services, but later moved to a shed behind the guardhouse, perhaps hoping for some salutary influence on its malcontents.

Another building mentioned by Reverend Eddy is the hospital where he and the surgeon, Dr. Chambers, shared quarters. Men in the ranks apparently didn't fare as well. Mrs. Daniels notes that "sleeping quarters were arranged in berths, four tiers high and furnished with straw". I believe the names given to the streets are interesting enough to deserve mention. There were Curtis, honoring the General, Hayward in honor of the head of the 60th regiment, and Warren, possibly named after the street in New York where Hayward was employed.

What was life like at camp? Chaplain Eddy says they were all busy: Reveille and roll call at sunrise, breakfast at 7:00, squad drills 8:00 to 10:00, non-coms' drill 11:00 to 12:00, dinner at 1:00, company drill at 2:00, dress parade at 4:00, and supper at 6:00, final roll call and taps at 9:00. Most of the day was spent in drill for officers as well as enlisted men, for this was a true citizens' army. Officers were elected by the men, and generally knew no more about military tactics than the others.

On the lighter side of life: There were fun and pageantry, dress parades, bands, presentations and speeches. The Hon. William Wheeler and Judge John Fine presented flags and made long flowery speeches in some of the best oratory of the day. Then there were picnics - World War 11 soldiers never had it so good. Friends would drive in from Canton or Russell with everything necessary for an outing in their carriages. Various ladies' groups overloaded the men with knitted socks and blankets.

Bob Newhart has a skit on gripers in the Revolutionary War. Camp Wheeler had them, too. Chaplain Eddy speaks about the dissatisfaction among some of the men over the food. They had their revenge; the chaplain reports that on the last night in camp, "they perpetrated foul outrages and folly on the property of the contractors". (These would be Schyler F. Judd and J.B. Armstrong who supplied the table). The matter of AWOLs must have added to the conversation; the 60th was at camp less than ten days when two stalwart volunteers decided that since there were 24,999 others in this affair, they were not going to be needed, after all.

As for the regiments trained at Camp Wheeler, the first was the 60th, comprising men from Ogdensburg, Lisbon, Canton, Stockholm, Malone, Norfolk, Massena and other

localities. Capt. Hugh Smith, later instrumental in establishing of the St. John the Baptist church in Madrid, was one of the first to arrive with a company. On the same day, Robert Nelson of Lisbon arrived at camp to find things rather disorganized: For example, vises and other equipment used by the railroad were still in place.

The first company of the 60th arrived at camp on September 9, and other companies arrived daily through September 24. Colonel Hayward came north and took command on October 29, but he was resented as an outsider until at length he was forced to resign early in 1862. With about five thousand well-wishers on hand to see the boys off, the 60th left Camp Wheeler November 1, for Washington via Rouses Point, Lake Champlain and Whitehall, since at the time there were no direct rail connections south to New York.

They were assigned to guard duty on the Washington-Baltimore Railroad, and with no victories to win, their enthusiasm wore off. It was six months before the 60th actually got into battle, - all their casualties resulting from men not being nimble enough to leap out of the way of the way of locomotives. But before it was all over, the 60th had made up for its slow start by engaging in some bitter fighting at Chancellorsville, Gettysburg and Look-Out Mountain (where according to Robert Nelson, the hillside was slippery with blood).

The 60th was mustered out of service after its three year hitch just before Christmas in 1863, arrived back home in Ogdensburg on January 6, having had a train wreck near Antwerp. Of the nine hundred eighty men who left Ogdensburg three years before, only about three hundred marched up Ford Street that day! But all three hundred took a furlough and re-enlisted as the 60th Veteran Volunteers. This time they were with Sherman on his march to Savanna and they participated in the capture of Columbia, N.C.

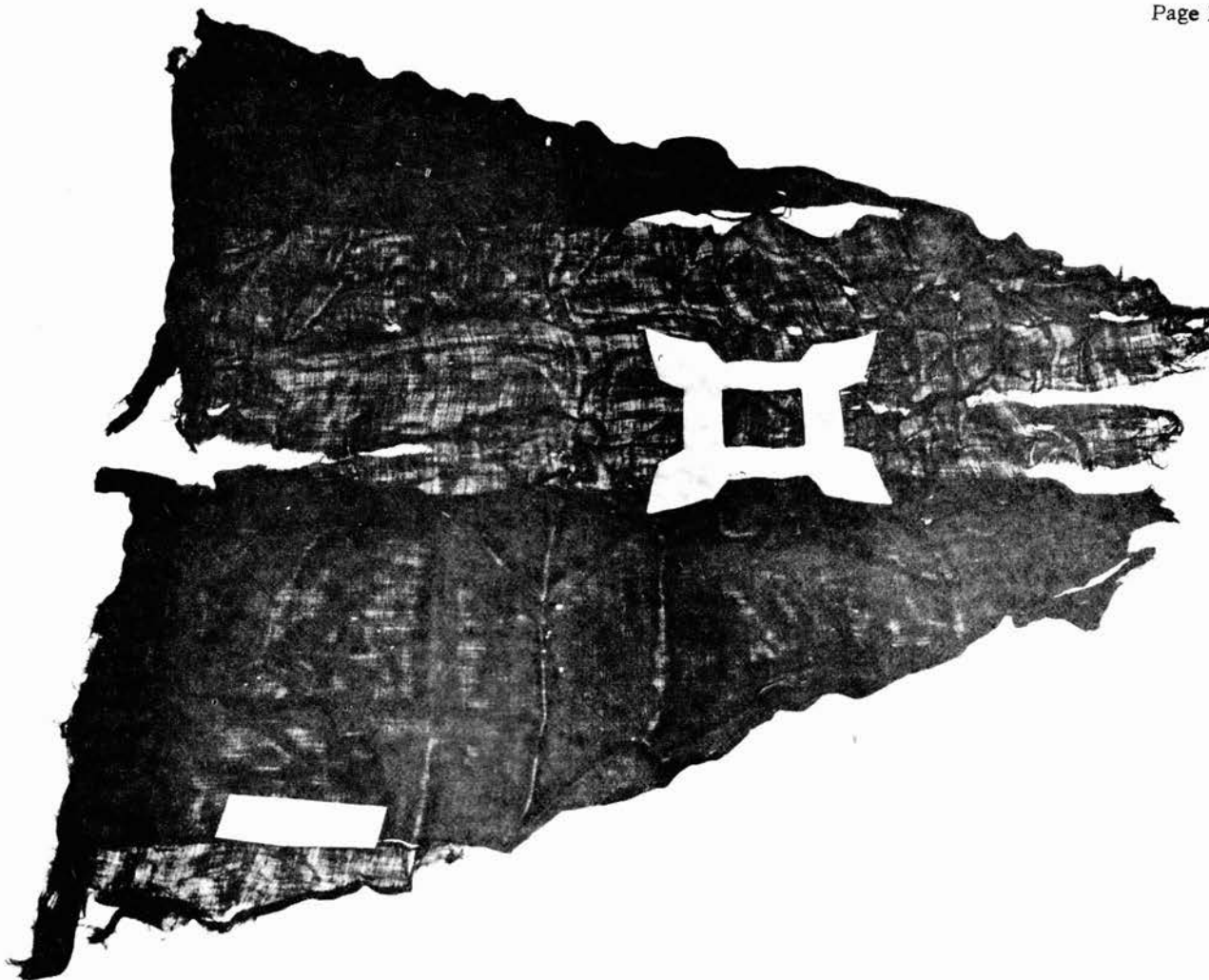
In 1862 President Lincoln called for more volunteers -- 300,000 strong, and in July the appeal went out for another regiment to rendezvous at Ogdensburg. This outfit was made up almost exclusively of men from Ogdensburg. The camp at this time, according to Mrs. Daniels, was extensively improved. The regiment went together rapidly, and its stay at Camp Wheeler was short. The 106th left Ogdensburg on August 20. It was poorly equipped in terms of training, and it saw some rough going, especially at Cold Harbor, where it lost 126 men in this one engagement. The 106th also engaged Jubal Early at Monocacy and help turn back his "Battle of the Bulge" thrust at the back door of Washington.

Regiments by now were forming at production line speed, the 106th was scarcely out of Ogdensburg, when the 142nd was formed. This was county-wide in representation. After only 35 days of training, the 142nd left camp on October 6, 1862. Its departure brought crowds of five to six thousand people to Ogdensburg; some arrived at the village before daybreak. Although first headed up by Colonel Judd, the next year our own General Curtis took command of the outfit.

The days spent at Camp Wheeler by the 106th seem to have been its heyday. No more bodies of troops were formed at Ogdensburg. Perhaps the cream had been skimmed off; in thirteen months, three regiments - about three thousand men - had been taken from St. Lawrence and Franklin Counties. From the census figure of 1860, it would seem that about twenty-five per cent of all males between 18 and 45 had been taken into service. But men still volunteered in the county; recruiting continued throughout the entire war, although the men rendezvoused down state.

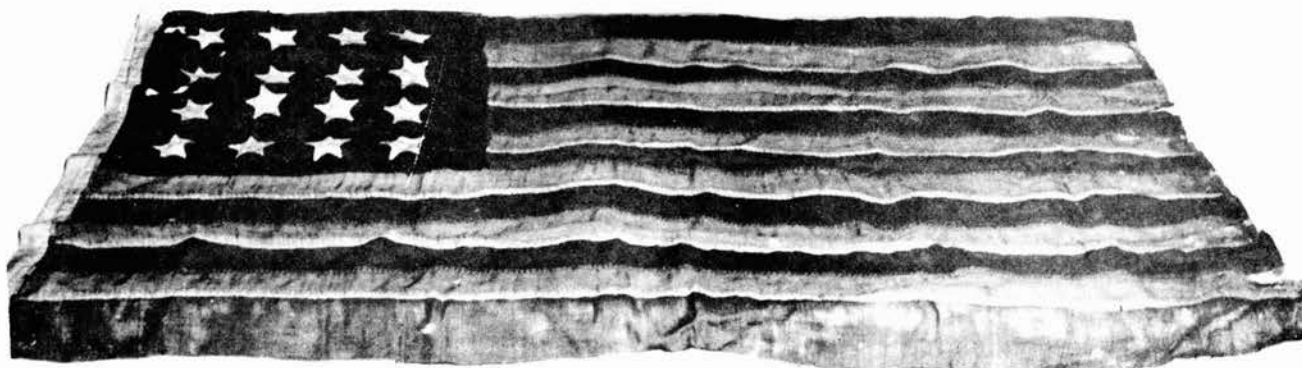
Only additional mention of Camp Wheeler relates to the return of the 60th Veteran Volunteers to service; they gathered at Camp Wheeler and marched from there to the railroad station in February of 1864.

One might have expected some further use of the facilities. In the fall of 1864, there were a series of border scares, and invasion from Canada seemed imminent. The people of Ogdensburg demanded protection, a company of regulars from Massachusetts was sent from Massachusetts to be quartered in the Parish Stone store, now



WHEN GENERAL CURTIS stormed Fort Fisher, this flag flew from the staff of the Navy "gig" in which he went ashore that memorable day in January, 1865. Battle-torn and falling apart now, it is sewn from dark

blue wool, the emblem in white felt. The vertical measurement is about 4 ft. horizontal, about 4'6". This is now in the permanent museum collection in the County Historian's office at Canton.



THE UNION FLAG had only 16 stars, representing the 16 northern states. This one carried by General Curtis is of wool, handsewn and measures about 3 ft. high by 4'6" long.

Preserved after the war, it was placed over General Curtis' casket during his funeral services. The flag is part of the County Historian's permanent collection.

the U.S. Customs building. Mrs. Daniels also mentions that two detachments of cavalry from Vermont and Massachusetts were quartered in Ogdensburg, but there is no mention of Camp Wheeler's being used.

Camp Wheeler's day came and went, and now it is practically forgotten. There is only a vestige left, the old weathered building, a last tangible connection back through 100 years to the brave young men who left there to suffer and even to die with the reckless heroism of youth thus expressed:

Stand with your glasses steady,
'Tis all we have to prize,

A toast to the dead already,
And hurrah for the last man who dies . . .

Sources: Reminiscences of Ogdensburg 1749-1907; Ogdensburg during the Civil War - Mrs. Annie Daniels; History of the Sixtieth Regiment - New York State Volunteers by Richard Eddy, Chaplain; The Land They Fought For - Clifford Dowdey; Donald Nelson, Lisbon, New York

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 Helm). During the first quarter of 1961 there has been little field work. The 1960 annual report was read to the Members of the Town Board, and a copy was filed with each member. A copy was also sent to Dr. Corey at Albany with a copy of my complete report on the Sllas Wright Cemetery and the Old St. Mary's Cemetery on the Judson Street road. Considerable time and effort was spent on the work of planning and organizing the new "Grasse River Historical Association" to cover all communities along the Grasse River. This is now a going concern with officers and a junior department. Newspapers clipped each week, the clippings filed and pasted ready to set up in scrap books. A number of valuable historical items have been accepted, and the Canton Town Board is giving some consideration to my request for space in the Town Hall for office and museum. We are working with Mrs. Smithers, the County Historian, the local Civil War Round Table Group, the new Grasse River Historical Association and the local Veterans Association, planning a suitable display of Civil War relics, records and memorabilia for public display in the spring. RENSSLAER FALLS: (Mrs. Nina Wilson). CLARE: (Mrs. Fern Colton). CLIFTON: (Mrs. George Reynolds). Is still collecting road and ghost town material, has had several letters of inquiry to answer about local history. Not much Civil War material in Clifton, which was not even a town at the time, only a wilderness but have several interested parties in town. Hope to do some typical Northern New York paintings this spring. COLTON: (Mrs. Lorena Reed). DEKALB: (Mr. F.F.E. Walrath). has been busy answering letters and searching genealogical records for people who have made inquiry. DEPEYSTER: (Mrs. Nina Smithers). Preparing for the event of April 16, 1961 in commemoration of Civil War. All interested people are invited to join with us for program at 2:00 p.m. preceded by a covered dish dinner. EDWARDS: (Miss Leah Noble). I'm collecting articles and books and pamphlets relative to the Civil War to put on display in the Hepburn Library, also writing up the church histories. FINE: (Mrs. Rowland Brownell). I am busy looking up material for our Civil War project. I also have compiled a short history of the railroad into Wanakena built by the Rich Lumber Co. I have been given some very beautiful winter scenes of the country around Wanakena. FOWLER: (Mrs. Robert Yerdon). GOUVERNEUR: (Harold Storie) As the only remaining member of the crew of the last steamboat to operate on Black Lake, I have been building a model of the Oswegatchie which sank in 1908. HAMMOND: (We welcome Mrs. Edward Biondi as a new historian and thank her for her fine response). Mrs. Biondi entitled her card Hammond Highspots and starts off with cemetery census, also is typing readable copies of valuable and fragile old Town records found recently, is setting up detailed filing of old records, interviewing and writing articles, working on abandoned roads and picture map of town, enlisting interest of townfolk in what she is doing, and wonder of wonders! absorbing gifts of maps, money and a place to work and display museum-type items in town. This last is going to be her big project for the next few months, and she has asked Virgie Simons to work on it with her, as their two towns are so closely allied. HERMON: (Mrs. Rebecca Brunet is also a new historian, and to her a warm welcome and a hearty thank you for her fine response.) She is doing research on Fordham genealogy by request of Mrs. William A. St. John of Jamesville, Wis.; has finished three service reports and contacted all men on file who are making a career of the service and added information to date...also working on the ghost town of Marshville. HOPKINTON: We're awaiting word of a new appointment. LAWRENCE: (Mrs. Gordon Cole). "I have been working on the abandoned roads project and also gathering information the Ebenezer

Pease and Abigail Pease families for an inquiring descendant living in Colorado who is writing a book on the Hakens family." LISBON: (Lee Martin) Attended the annual Association of Towns meeting held in Buffalo in February; took the historical tour of the Buffalo churches which was interesting especially from an architectural point of view; wrote an account of the annual meeting which was published in the Ogdensburg Journal. LOUISVILLE: (Mrs. Lorraine Bandy). "Working on a Civil War assembly which will be put on May 12 at the Louisville elementary school by the 6th grades. They are writing their own script, a 3-act play. Along with this we are doing bulletin boards-Civil War shoe displays and button collection. The public is invited to attend the Assembly at 1:00 p.m. Sunday, May 14-Mother's Day -- the local firemen hold their annual turkey dinner at the school, open to the public. The stage setting and displays will be left for the public to view that day, so hope the St. Lawrence County Historical Association will come again this year. The teachers and children are all so wonderful and helpful to me that it really is a joy to do it this year." MACOMB: (Mrs. India Murton). I have rearranged some prints in the file, sorted many old papers and wrote an article about the contents of them, doing some research on Civil War Days, have one good story and notes for another. MADRID: (Mrs. Arthur Thompson). Much agitation in Madrid over the treacherous dry bridge which lately took a life. Presently working on a neighborhood history (Chipman). More Madrid boys are going into service, and their record cards started. MASSENA: (Anthony Romeo). During the past year we have concentrated our efforts in creating a greater interest in the history of our town. In this manner we have received many contributions for a museum which we hope to establish in the near future. A bi-weekly column in our local paper has been very successful in furthering our efforts. MORRISTOWN: (Mrs. Doris Planty). Have completed the history of the First Presbyterian church of Morristown. This is the eighth church history completed in town. Have done four more stone house histories, clipping daily news items for town scrap book, planning a Civil War exhibit for the summer. NORFOLK: (Mrs. Ralph Wing). Working on soldiers of Civil War records. OSWEGATCHIE: (Mrs. Orma Smithers, new historian to whom a warm welcome into the Historian's Fraternity is extended and we are most grateful for her first report.) I have been making contacts with some of the older residents of our town and getting interesting and valuable data which I hope to use. I am also compiling the names of those who were in the military service of the Civil War in Oswegatchie and am making plans for an exhibit and program commemorating same during the year. Our County Historian, Mrs. Smithers, has steered me on my way, helping me with scrap books, etc. HEUVELTON VILLAGE: (Mrs. Ida Downing). PARISHVILLE: (Miss Doris Rowland). I have spent these winter days catching up with scrapbooks arranging, pasting, etc. working on a map, completing service records, typing cemetery records, reading some historical material--some of my own and some borrowed. PIERCEFIELD: (Mrs. Beulah Dorothy). Is doing her annual report and working on map. PIERREPONT: (Frank Olmstead) is ill, and we wish him a speedy recovery. PITCAIRN: Has no historian. POTSDAM: (Dr. Charles Lahey) has Civil War, War of 1812 in North Country and History of Town for use in schools, etc. projects under way. ROSSIE: (Mrs. Virgie Simons). Civil War research continues. RUSSELL: (Mrs. Jeanette D. Barnes). STOCKHOLM: (Lindon E. Riggs). According to town clerk's records, we had 404 enlistments in all branches of the Civil War, with two outstanding captains, Capt. Orange Newton and Capt. Gibson. WADDINGTON: (Mrs. C.B. Olds). I am completing a series of scrapbooks of clippings of the St. Lawrence Power Project, 1954 to 1959. The clippings are from newspapers of northern New York, arranged chronologically.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The readership of THE QUARTERLY must literally be fantastic -- if replies to questions posed in the January edition offer any criterion.

To the Editor's request for back copies, we received a complete file of all those we lacked -- within three days after the January edition was in the mails. Actually, we received more than were needed, and the "extras" have been turned over to Mrs. Smithers in the County Historian's office.

We asked also for comments on the "new look" -- and we've had at least two dozen written replies in addition to as many more telephone calls and face-to-face observations, all of them uniformly favorable. Not all like the new type because it's smaller and not as easy to read -- but all approve the quantity of copy which this style makes possible.

But the latter makes it necessary to issue this call:

Help Wanted, and Quickly!

Former Editor G. Atwood Manley has offered splendid suggestions for articles and sources for the same, some of which (like Father Dewey's story herewith) have already appeared. Mrs. Smithers has handed over considerable copy which had been previously stockpiled, and SLU Librarian Andrew Peters has been constantly watching his files for interesting stories, making copies and sending them on. We've used them all.

Right now, however, we're just about down to the bottom of the barrel on articles already written -- only one or two are in form ready for the printer, and several very interesting pieces now in stages of composition may take some time to complete.

We have written for other stories to all Town Historians whose communities have not been represented previously in THE QUARTERLY. We now appeal again to these, as well as to all other Town Historians for more copy. The next issue appears in July -- but the months pass very quickly and we'd like to have plenty of time for editing.

So if you've got a good yarn -- on any subject of historical interest -- please send it in within the next few weeks.

The St. Lawrence County National Bank took our first and only ad on the back cover of the January edition and has taken the same space in this issue. President Walter M. Wilmshurst, in the spirit of THE QUARTERLY, this month and hereafter will use the space to display some of the invaluable documents and St. Lawrence County memorabilia.

Perhaps you know of other potent advertisers who would also like to use space in THE QUARTERLY -- to reach this splendid select audience, the cost is only \$25 per page!

Yorker Cracker Barrel

CANTON: Foote's Followers - Miss Pierce's group has been doing research and giving reports on the history of old buildings--usually family homes. Mrs. Neadom's groups are making plans to attend the state convention to be held in Lake Placid in May. The town of St. Lawrence County project has been turned in by the members, but a printing is not likely as the League of Women Voters had a similar project with the printed booklet released on March 28. The students project may be mimeographed. GOUVERNEUR: The Marble Village Yorker Chapter held a food sale March 4. A group of Yorkers visited the Tribune-Press. Groups are finishing projects according to Mrs. Georgianna Wranish, sponsor. LISBON: Two Yorker Groups (8th grade) are working on a play about Stephen Foster. Representatives from all four chapters

attended a meeting of executive council of Adirondack District, February 18. Some of the Yorkers are planning on attending district jamboree in April and some hope to attend state convention at Lake Placid in May. We would like to visit Ft. Wellington, but time is getting short. The O'Neill Cemetery has been cleaned out and it would be good to get our map of that cemetery this spring--Rachel Dandy, sponsor. MADRID-WADDINGTON sent in no report for the Grasse River Chapter. Nor has word been received about the activities of the Andre Massena chapter at MASSENA.

LOCAL HISTORICAL

Associations

CANTON went a step beyond a truly local organization and formed the Grasse River Historical Association to include the areas along the Grasse River. Professor E. J. Blankman is president, Phillip McMasters, vice president and Howard Guyette, secretary-treasurer. On the board of directors are Bert J. Rogers, Mrs. Nina Smithers, Atwood Manley, Andrew K. Peters, Edson Martin, jr., Frank Cray and Edward Helm. At the organizational meeting in December held in the Josephine Paige room of the Benton Library, the incentive for forming an association came from a bequest which directed that items be left to a Canton Historical association. These are on loan to the County History Center until a museum is a reality. Officers were elected Jan. 13. The constitution meeting was also held at the library on February 10 and a junior section with honorary membership with special membership cards was included.

The Executive committee met on March 2 at the office of the town supervisor, Harley Bennett to prepare for the March 10 meeting at the Paige Room of the Benton Library. The next meeting will be held at the Library on April 14 at 7:30 p.m. with the main discussion centering on the Civil War celebration in conjunction with the Civil War Round Table Group.

GOUVERNEUR'S Historical Association holds its meetings every other month--December, February and April. We have made several calls on Mrs. Down, owner of the Gouverneur Morris Mansion with the thought of preserving it for a museum--H.A. Storie.

THE PARISHVILLE Historical Association has had no meetings or activities during the winter months as many officers and members are away. However, we will soon resume meetings and make our plans for the spring and summer.

POTSDAM--Mrs. Marguerite Chapman reports that the Potsdam Public Museum has had a definite 'face lifting' this winter. Both large cases which contain most of the Burnap collection of 18th Century English pottery, have been painted inside with a lovely shade of blue which greatly enhances the beauty of the pottery. Besides this, the cases have been lighted with indirect fluorescent lights. Another case containing the famous monkey band was painted the same blue.

Mrs. Lloyd Keller, curator, and Mrs. George Little are preparing Civil War articles on the part Potsdam played in the Civil War. They are doing research on material in the museum, most of which has never been published before, and using other material obtained in various places. This will be published in the Potsdam Courier-Freeman. They are asking for photographs of members of the 16th Regiment, the 92nd and the Cocoran Zouaves, and any war souvenirs for display in the Civil War exhibit which will be shown at the museum during the Centennial years. Persons having material to give or loan may call Mrs. Keller or Mrs. Little or go to the Museum during Museum hours.

Come in and see the many attractive exhibits at the Museum and watch for the date of the Civil War Exhibit. The Museum hours are: Monday, 7-9; Tuesday, 2-4; Thursday, 9:30-11:30, and 1-3.

The People

Of the STATE of NEW-YORK,
By the Grace of GOD, Free and Independent:

TO ALL to whom these Presents shall come, Greeting: KNOW YE, That WE HAVE Given, Granted and Confirmed, and by these Presents, DO Give, Grant and Confirm, unto Alexander Macomb All that certain Tract or Parcel of Land situate lying and being in the County of Montgomery on the South East side of the River St. Lawrence and distinguished on a Map filed in the Secretary's Office by Lat. Number Fifty eight in the Township of Madrid Beginning at the most Southly corner of Lat. Number fifty nine and running thence South Sixty two Degrees West Eighty Chains three South twenty eight Degrees West Eighty Chains three South Sixty two Degrees East Eighty Chains and then South twenty eight Degrees East Eighty Chains to the place of Beginning containing Six hundred and forty Acres

TOGETHER with all and singular the Rights, Hereditaments and Appurtenances to the same belonging, or in any Wise appertaining; EXCEPTING and RESERVING to ourselves, all Gold and Silver Mines, and five Acres of every Hundred Acres of the said Tract of Land for Highways. TO HAVE AND TO HOLD the above described and granted Premises unto the said

Alexander Macomb his Heirs and Assigns, as a good and indefeasible Estate of Inheritance, for ever. ON CONDITION NEVERTHELESS, That within the Term of seven Years, to be computed from the first Day of January next ensuing the Date hereof, there shall be one actual Settlement made on the said Tract of Land hereby granted Twenty six hundred and forty Acres thereof otherwise these our Letters Patent, and the Estate hereby granted, shall cease, determine and become void. IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, We have caused these our Letters to be made patent, and the Great Seal of our said State to be hereunto affixed. WITNESS our Trusty and Well-beloved GEORGE CLINTON, Esquire, Governor of our said State, General and Commander in Chief of all the Militia, and Admiral of the Navy of the same, at our City of New-York, this Twentieth Day of December in the Year of our LORD One Thousand Seven Hundred and Eighty Seven and in the Twelfth Year of our INDEPENDENCE.

Approved of by the Commissioners of the Land Office, and passed the Secretary's Office, this twentieth Day of December 1787
Lewis J. Scott Secretary
Geo. Clinton

Madrid was one of four towns formed by the act incorporating the county on March 3, 1802 and at first embraced also the towns of Waddington and Potsdam. The original town of Madrid was comprised of 95 mile square lots. The present town consists of mile square lots numbers 46 to 95 inclusive. Mile square lot 58, above, being located about two miles northwest of the village of Madrid.
The village of Madrid is located in mile square lots 79 and 80 and was originally officially known as Columbia Village. The first mill was erected at this location in 1803 by Seth Roberts and from him was often called Roberts' Mills and also called Grasse River Falls.
Meetings were first held in the mill in 1803 and the first school was taught in the town of Madrid by Dorothy Fields.
In 1852 Madrid was a very thriving community. It is interesting to note that at the date of the above instrument the county was named Montgomery, then changed to Clinton County, a year later changed to St. Lawrence County.

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