

# The Quarterly

OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE ST. LAWRENCE COUNTY HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION



DEDICATION AT POPE'S MILLS

October 1961

# The Quarterly

Official Publication of The St. Lawrence County Historical Assn.

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COVER--Marion Pope, right, a lineal descendant of the family after whom the hamlet of Pope's Mills is named, unveils a state historical marker dedicated to Timothy Pope, during ceremonies there Saturday morning, August 26. The marker is constructed from a millstone from one of Pope's mills. Lifting the drape at the rear of the stone is Harry Sharpe, Town of Macomb supervisor, who acted as master of ceremonies. As the photograph indicates, the metal plate was only temporarily attached at the time of the ceremonies, as alterations were necessary before it could be permanently affixed. (Photo Courtesy Gouverneur Tribune-Press)

# Collector's Item

(Condensed from the *Canton St. Lawrence Plaindealer* of August 23rd and 30th)

The picture in colors of two Indians which is to decorate the Frederick Remington centennial commemorative 4-cent stamp to be issued on October 4 has been identified as a portion of an oil painting which Remington did in 1909, the year he died at 48 years on the day after Christmas. It is entitled "The Smoke Signal". The painting is now a feature exhibit of the Amon Carter Museum of Western Art, in Fort Worth, Texas. It pictures two Indians, with a blanket and a pile of burnish brush, sending smoke signals across the hills. The painting will be reproduced in full colors, blue, red and yellow. Only the two Indians will be taken out of Remington's complete painting which also pictures their horses and a third Indian sitting bareback on his horse.

Strangely, this never was one of Remington's own preferred paintings and does not appear in the new book "Frederick Remington's Own West" which is a compilation of his writings and many of his paintings which had his own preference. The frontespiece, in color, of the Remington book is the Western picture which he preferred to all others: "Downing the Nigh Leader". That painting pictures an attack by Indians on a stage coach drawn by three teams of two. An Indian has just shot with an arrow the "nigh lead" horse.

Remington's writings of the West won the unstinted praise of "Teddy" Roosevelt. It is a matter of record that the former President wrote to him: "You come closer to the real thing with the pen than any other man in the Western business, and I include Hough, Grinnell and Owen Wister. Somehow you get closer not only to the plainsman and the soldier, but to the half-breed and the Indian in the same way Kipling does to the British Tommy".

It was at Yale that Remington first knew Teddy Roosevelt, the two having much in common because Remington's two years at Yale were remarkable only because he played football on the famous Yale team captained by Walter Camp and because he was the school heavyweight boxing champion. After two years at Yale, however, he returned home to Canton and in 1880, headed west, at the age of 19, seeking adventure and, perchance, a quick fortune.

The Post Office Department announces that it will have a first printing of 100 million stamps in sheets of 50.

Collectors desiring first day cancellations of the Remington stamp must send addressed envelopes, together with remittance to cover the cost of the stamps to the Postmaster, Washington 13, D.C.

Each envelope must be marked, in pencil in the upper right corner indicating the number of stamps to be affixed (singles, pairs, or blocks of four).

An enclosure of medium weight should be placed in each envelope and the flap either turned in or sealed. The outside envelope mailed to the Postmaster in Washington should be clearly marked "First Day Covers Remington Stamp."

Collectors are cautioned that orders for first day covers must not include requests for uncanceled stamps.

Remington first day cover requests must be postmarked before midnight September 29, and requests postmarked after that date will be returned unserved.



In June the Post Office Department announced that it would issue a commemorative stamp on the Remington birthday, October 4. Efforts were made at that time to obtain the first-day-of-issue sale for Canton but the Postmaster General never answered, directly, the letters.

Franklin Bruns, jr, chief of the department's philatelic bureau, handled the Canton correspondence for the department.

"Canton's request was given serious consideration, but Mr. Remington lived in so many places, among them Richfield, Conn., which all want the privilege of day-of-issue sale", Bruns explained in finally rejecting the Canton requests.

Actually, Remington lived in Richfield only the last eight months of his life. He was born and was buried in Canton where he did much of his painting.

The Grasse River Historical Society and its president, Edward J. Blankman, carried its case for tribute to Canton to Washington and had the whole-hearted support of U.S. Senators Keating and Javitz, as well as Congressman Clarence Kilburn. Members of the Society, ardent local historian G. Atwood Manley and philatelist Dr. Rutherford Delmage, of the St. Lawrence English Department, did much to try and convince the Post Office Department, in letters to the Postmaster General and to Mr. Bruns, to allow Canton a role in the national commemoration of the skill of a village son. The Postmaster General did not answer a single letter; Bruns ruled, finally that Canton's significance was purely local and not national as required.

Canton's many suggestions, however, dating back to last April, were responsible for the excellence of the commemorative stamp as finally decided. It was the combined effort of Mr. Manley, Dr. Blankman and Dr. Delmage which brought the decision to dig into Remington's rich portfolio for a segment of his sketches which confirms the rich quality of his paintings, particularly of a native life which he shared and which, except for his recorded portraits, has completely vanished.



MOSES CORRIECE AT 94

# Moses Corriece . . .

## RIVER GUIDE

By DORIS PLANTY

He practically lived on the St. Lawrence River all his life. He knew every nook and landmark along the St. Lawrence in this section. He came down the river on a raft of logs at seven years of age. He took president McKinley fishing. He caught large sturgeon. He was one of the North's great guides.

Moses J. Corriece was born at St. Joseph's, Quebec, March 13, 1844, son of Moses and Angeline Turcotta Corriece. Their home was on the Ottawa River.

Rafting on the St. Lawrence river between 1800-1900 was an exciting and dangerous business. There was great demand for hugh timbers for wooden ships, and thousands were cut along the Great Lakes and the river. Experts with a broadaxe in those days lined the trees, scored them, and hewed them square and smooth.

It was really a task to assemble a raft -- with great care -- a layer of white pine logs which would float well, were attached to "floaters" and heavy timbers were lashed with strips of scrub birch. These had to be built up in layers of logs to form sections, then attached together; this, when completed would cover a large area, an acre of space. On these rafts a bunk house and kitchen were built to take care of the large crew, who worked on the floating timbers to Montreal. The first few times the trip was made the raft was allowed to drift with the current, steered by long sweeps, -- a long, slow, laborious voyage. But later came the steam tugs with wood burning boilers to tow the great masses of logs.

When rapids or narrow places were reached, the raft was taken apart in sections and allowed to go through to be re-assembled and continue on down the river.

On one of these rafts, Moses Corriece came down the St. Lawrence River from Kingston, Ontario, with his father and mother. The mother was the cook, in the crude kitchen. The raft was made to float and carried a good number of logs, for a company in Montreal. After making this trip -- Moses was only seven years of age -- when they reached Montreal and delivered the logs his parents bought a rowboat, and the trio rowed all the way back up the river to Ogdensburg.

In those days Ogdensburg was called "The Cake". It was then a small lamp-lighted village, and Ford street a dirt thoroughfare. The bridge over the Oswegatchie river was constructed of logs and planks.

The Corriece family settled in Ogdensburg, the parents to reside there forty-seven years. They made many trips to Morristown -- many Indians lived on the shore of the river and where the village is now.

They came to DeLack's farm on which the Indian owner had cleared acres enough to make a living. Here

the Corriece spent their summers on the river shore in a crude shack, and much of their living was fish and game. Some summers they lived at DeLack's point, with its beautiful view looking down river toward Morristown. In other years they found another location, but always within the three miles above Morristown.

In one of these places, they were getting supper late in the evening when the mother saw a great number of canoes of Indians coming up the river with torches flaming. They came so swiftly that she was frightened -- and she put Moses under a stump and covered him with leaves. The parents then fled into the woods. But the Indians -- actually a tribe -- glided on by, unnoticed. These were probably Mohawk Indians who were settled along the river.

It was at this time the Corriece decided to go back to Ogdensburg, for the family was growing; there were four brothers and two sisters, and they lived in Ogdensburg.

Mr. DeLack was one of the first settlers here in Morristown. His farm today is the new Jacques Cartier State Park.

Young Moses grew up in Ogdensburg and got what education he had from "The Brothers" religious missionaries. He worked at the Klondike lumber yard, beginning there when he was very young. Meanwhile he learned to be a St. Lawrence River Guide from his father, and started to take parties out on Sundays. He was eighteen years old when he had his first paid guide party.

In winter time he would go to Ottawa, Ontario, to Clarence street where agents hired men for lumber camps. They would go by train, then by horses and sleigh, many miles into camp for winter. There they cut timber with a broadaxe. Moses was known for his ability with the broadaxe in this timberland.

He would spend all winter in the lumber camp. The bunk house was lighted with several "bitches" -- a string drawn through a large button, the end near the button is lighted, the other end in a can or saucer of tallow. Food was mostly game meat and cornbread. There was always a handy man in camp, and evenings were spent in trying to tell the biggest lie. Moses was known as the biggest story teller of them all.

One of the stories was:

A man took a chalk line, put a big homemade hook on it with two pounds of beef and threw it out in the river two miles. This was a Sunday afternoon -- they saw a big splash, the line tightened and everyone was excited. All hands joined together to pull and pull the line for some time, and when they almost had it in "it got away".

So the next Sunday the man took a quarter-inch rope

and a big iron hook, put five pounds of beef on it and threw it out three miles. Then the big splash, and he had it! They all asked what he got, a big fish? No, he said, it was a moose! and so on with the big tales.

Oxen were used to haul timber out of the woods; these later were replaced by horses. Moses spent several winters in the "big woods" leaving Ogdensburg in October and returning in April, looking forward to the summer as river guide.

At the age of twenty-seven he married Marion Charboneau from Ottawa, a first cousin of Dr. Charboneau of Ogdensburg. After their marriage they came to Morristown to make their home. They lived in a house owned by Kerns and Marshall, lumber dealers, on a flat rock overlooking the river on Chapman Street. Later the family of Louis Cree lived there -- it was behind the house now owned by Harold and Winifred White. Summers were always spent along the river.

Moses knew the St. Lawrence from Montreal to the Great Lakes, on both sides of the river, and he knew every good fishing spot in the river in all this distance. He met many interesting people who came to the river for a good day's catch of fish.

Mr. Chapman was a government land agent here at that time and Mr. Corriece sold him many fish, both summer and winter for he fished through the ice for fish in winter.

Fourteen children were born to the Corriece, including three sets of twins, but not all of these lived. Mrs. Corriece became ill, was taken to a doctor in Ottawa who found she did not have long to live. After her death Moses took his children each summer to DeLack's point where they lived in a tent and he brought up his family. They also liked the river. All this time he was the river guide most widely sought.

It was about this time that President McKinley came to Ogdensburg in the interest of the railroad, and while he was here, he spent one day fishing on the St. Lawrence river. Moses Corriece, the river guide, was employed by Thomas Spratt and John VanKennen to take the President out. So when the day dawned a lovely morning the President and his bodyguards came to the dock where Mr. Corriece was waiting, and they ask the President if he wanted the guards to go, and he replied no. So they started off and they went below Ogdensburg about where the new International Bridge has been built. At Chimney Island the day's catch was taken. The President went upon the island and had a rest, as it was very early when they started out. This was truly a red letter day in his life, and he related this to many as the years passed by.

Moses was noted for his sturgeon fishing and near Morristown he caught the largest known to have been landed in this region of the St. Lawrence river. It was seven feet, three inches long; girdle, three feet, six inches; weight 250 1/2 lbs.

Mr. Corriece made a wooden box, packed the fish in ice, rented a horse and milk wagon from Frank Dunn, the nearest farmer, to take it to the railroad station and shipped it to the Bigelow Fish company in New York city. Sixty-three pounds of spawn were shipped in wooden lard tubs, from the J.V. Crawford store in Morristown. This was also packed in ice, which was easy to get from the many ice houses filled with ice in those days. Several big sturgeon have been taken from the clear water since but I doubt if there has ever been a larger sturgeon caught. The writer remembers very well the day when Moses Corriece took this fish by my home in the wooden box.

In all his years as a river guide, he always rowed a boat the many miles up and down the river. People wrote many months ahead to reserve a date for him to guide their fishing parties. One woman from New York city came every year to go frog fishing. Moses took her to Red Mills, where there were fields of cat tails. She would put red flannel in her hook and catch many. This was such fun for her, she would ship them back to New York.

Moses was truly an outdoor man and loved the seasons. He always admired the sail boats so plentiful on the river at that time, but the nearest he came to them was to put a sail on his rowboat and glide along while he fished. In



A CORRIECE CATCH

winter he fished through the ice and would sell the fish.

His brother Joseph also lived with his family along the river and these two men, guided for many many years, and belonged to the pioneer days. They were noted as the best weather prophets.

Moses Corriece's oldest son was a guide in upper Canada. His second son Alexander was employed in the house of Commons in Ottawa for forty-seven years and retired from there. The rest all married and lived in this section of St. Lawrence county.

During his lifetime Moses was credited with saving thirty-nine lives from drowning. He recovered forty-nine drowned persons, whom he pulled ashore. He felt he had done all this in good turn, but in these days there was never any citations or medals given for such heroic deeds.

Very active at his advanced age, Moses still lived in a camp on the river shore.

On his ninety-fourth birthday, a family party was held, and as many of the children came as could. It was at this party that he still related some of the things of the past. He was taken ill on the 22nd day of May and was taken to Ogdensburg to the home of his son, Henry Corriece, where he died the next day. Thus ended the life of a river guide whom many prominent people can remember, and often speak of to this day.

As he loved the river so much this poem reflects his thoughts of it.

(Continued on Page 6)

(Continued from Page 5)

## TO THE ST. LAWRENCE

Majestic river; grandly flow  
Through scenes as fair as earth can show;  
From Lake to ocean roll along,  
Hymning thy waters, primal song,  
where forests tower in grandeur high  
and value of beauty meet the eye,  
As when in savage solitude  
You mirrored the primeval wood,  
Ere Gallic foot had pressed thy shore,  
Or white man listened to thy roar.

On sweeps thy broad expansive flood  
Where emerald gems thy bosom stud-  
The Thousand Islands as they rest  
Like bright abodes for spirit blest.  
Again adown the rapids leap  
Thy troubled waters, wild and deep,  
Until at last they smoothly run  
And sparkle, neath the smiling sun,  
With current, strong and deep and wide  
That hastes to swell old ocean's tide.

Fair cities rise wher'er you flow,  
Through verdant vales or wastes of snow  
And rivers rush with speed along  
To join their murmurs to thy song,  
Until the swelling anthem rings  
Deep-voiced unto the King of Kings.

Upon thy mighty bosom ride  
A thousand ships in strength and pride-  
White sails like fleet of graceful swans,  
And steamboats swift as startled fawns,  
Bearing their freights of life and joy,  
Or wealth that thriving States employ.  
Strange, bustling scene, which late but knew,  
The keel of Indian bark canoe,  
And silence all supreme did reign  
O'er nature's virgin domain.

Grand, tireless stream; would life like thee  
As noble, deep and strong could be'  
As full of beauty and of good  
As is thy constant, ceaseless flood;  
With falls as few that madly rave,  
Rise bright as does St. Lawrence's wave,  
And flow into eternity  
As you, fair river, seek the sea.

Felchville, Vt., Feb. 1868.

## notice!

### ANNUAL MEETING

The annual meeting of the St. Lawrence County Historical association will be held on Saturday, October 21, 1961 starting with lunch at 12 o'clock at the Masonic Hall, Canton.

Town historians will please bring articles on the Civil War.

Please send this reservation for lunch to Mrs. Mildred Jenkins, secretary, Potsdam, N.Y., R.D. 2.

Please reserve \_\_\_\_\_ places for lunch at Masonic Temple, Canton on Saturday, October 21, 1961 at 12 o'clock noon.

Signed \_\_\_\_\_

# County Fare

Various berries responded to the newly cleared lands of our County in the early 1800's. Native red raspberry, black-cap, long blackberry and elderberry bushes grew well in each cleared spot. Wild strawberries and huckleberries quickly took hold in abandoned pastures along with wild grapes. Since each of these fruits took too much sugar to be palatable in a land where sugar was not yet plentiful, they began to be used only when all else failed. Wild plum trees were cultivated and the pioneers tried many ways to use the pin, black and choke cherry trees.

In the spring between the time the cellar became emptied of vegetables and fruits and the first green things appeared was sometimes referred to as the "six-weeks want". The pioneers felt a great need for a varying of their cornmeal and meat and dried vegetable diet. During the famous Cold Year of 1816 they found that even wild onions or leeks were edible, as well as nettles, cowslips and milkweed. Groundnuts were nutritious. Later they added dandelion and pussley which had been brought from Europe and carefully nurtured.

You will recall how our ancestors looked for better ways of preserving and conserving foods. The long cold winters made it necessary to salt, corn, pickle, smoke, dry hang, freeze, or buy foods to keep them usable all year long. If any of the potato crop was not needed for immediate family use, it was sold to the starch factories which so many towns in St. Lawrence County had in the nineteenth century.

Kidney beans and corn succotash varied the way they must use dried vegetables. Apples were dried by hanging in slices strung on strings, or placed on racks, near the fire then stored away in bags. When applesauce or pie was desired the slices were soaked, maple sugar added and cooked.

Cider, vinegar, wine, beer, cheese, butter and apple butter cooked in copper kettles outdoors, pumpkins, turnips, carrots, cabbages, pickles in crocks, curing hams, nuts, jelly and catchup, onions, along with the potatoes were stocked in the outdoor food keeping room known as the cellar. Apples and pears gave off their aroma too in this cool, dark place with a packed dirt floor, an aroma of combined scents never to be forgotten.

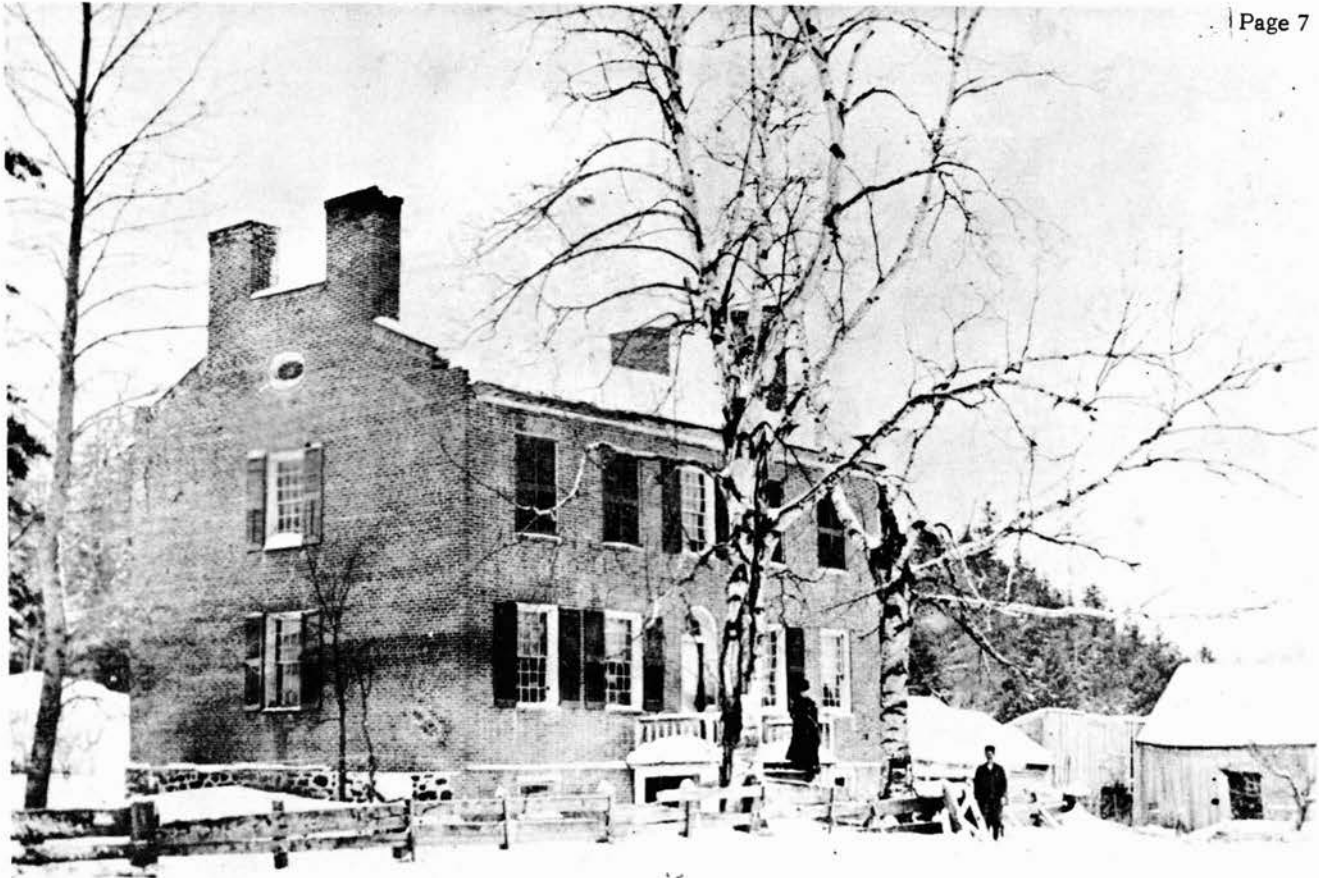
A need for crops with a short growing season led the early settlers to plant potatoes and cabbage. Besides, their staple food quality, their keeping characteristics were most helpful. The first Pilgrims who brought cabbage seeds with them only knew how to use cabbage by boiling, (for hours!) and it took the Dutch to teach us how to make sauerkraut and cole slaw. Since our County pioneers were a mixture of New England families and Dutch they early learned to vary their diet by cooking cabbage a better way (only boiling seven minutes for true flavor) and by making various slaws. Quantities of cream on hand to make a creamy sauce, and always lots of cider vinegar to add piquancy, even varied the slaws. By adding cucumber, onion, or other crisp vegetables even more variety could be made.

Boiled dinner was a typical way of using the local crops nutritiously and economically. For the complete meal take a piece of corned beef, or fresh pork, or even smoked shoulder. Cook until tender, removing excess fat if it is very greasy. Cut a cabbage nearly through, into quarters; leave carrots whole; cut rutabagas into slices (or a small turnip into 2" chunks). Put potatoes in last so they won't cook too much, only until tender. The pot likker makes wonderful gravy. Cook beets separately and pile on a plate with the rest at last minute.

Second Day: cut the left over vegetables in cubes and add to the pot likker for a nutritious soup.

Third Day: Grind meat, and vegetables and beets for "red flannel hash".

Vegetables varied but these could be used in combination with onions, parsnips, white turnips, or in any available combination.



(From an old print in the County Historian's Collection. Residence has been altered since photograph was taken.)

# The George Allan Home at Edwards

By LEAH M. NOBLE

The years have been kind to the stately three-story brick mansion built in 1819 for George Allan and his bride, Sally Chapin, which overlooks the village of Edwards -- an island in the Oswegatchie river.

Mr. Allan participated significantly in the history of this region, for as the agent for the great landholder Alexander Macomb who once owned an enormous area of northern New York, he assisted in its settlement.

Because of the size of the tract, Macomb found it necessary to employ various land agents to maneuver the sale of land. In this section there were Daniel McCormick and Pitcairn, who, in turn employed George Allan, a Vermonter, to be the land agent for the Town of Edwards.

The Russell Turnpike, a military road, had been built through Edwards to transport soldiers and war supplies across northern New York to Lake Ontario, during the War of 1812. From 1812 to 1819 there was a steady migration of settlers along this highway into Edwards or rather Shead's Mills, as it was called at that time.

Through the century and a half of its existence, the Allan House has been treated very kindly by its occupants for it is, today, in a very good state of preservation. About 60 years ago the top story, a porch and the four chimneys were removed. The eight fireplaces have also been blocked in.

A fan shaped window appears over the front doorway, opening upon the spacious hallway which runs from front

to back terminating in a pantry-like room. At the left and right of the hallway are four beautifully lighted large rooms, each with a fireplace and fireplace cupboard. It is presumed Allan's office was the large room at the left of the hallway.

All the rooms have a three foot chair rail, and in the hallways are wooden pegs to accommodate clothing of the family or guests.

An open stairway leads to the second floor, where there are four rooms identical to those on the first floor with the same ten-foot ceilings. Underneath the home is a large basement done off into rooms; a kitchen, with a Dutch oven, and other rooms perhaps for storage or servants' quarters.

It is not known how long the Allans occupied this dwelling, but Mr. Allan died in 1868, at the age of 85. His wife preceded him in death in 1841, at the age of 40. Apparently George Allan outlived his small family.

A prominent Dr. Murray, his wife, and two daughters owned the building for about forty years. Dr. Murray's office, where he practiced eclectic medicine, was at the right of the stairway, on the first floor.

At the present time, Mr. and Mrs. Floyd Brayton, whose parents previously owned it, are the owners and occupants of the lovely old home.

How fascinating and revealing it would be if inanimate buildings could talk and tell about the people who lived, played and died between their four walls.

# GRANDPA'S

## LIME KILNS

By DORIS HADLOCK

I remember the limestone quarries that dotted the pastures around Bigelow. We children used to worry for fear blind Mag, Grandpa's white mare, would fall into one of them. The quarries were deep scars in the earth, some covering an acre.

In winter there was water which froze into the clearest ice I've ever seen, and on this a child could lie and see clearly down to the bottom. The rhythmic sound of the sledge hammers on the drills as they bit into the limestone was an accompaniment to all our play. One man held the drill while two wielded the heavy hammers in turn. These men usually had fingers well bandaged with "stickin' salve" because they were skinned from handling the fresh broken limestone. The drill made a hole just right to take the sticks of dynamite.

Sometimes we found a hole that had not been used. This was perfect for a well when playing dolls on the flat rocks. When we heard a workman shout "Fire!" we ran as fast as we could to the nearest tree and stayed behind it until we heard the blast and the thud of stone falling. Grandpa was strict about this and the procedure was the same even if we were playing dolls in our own yard.

The broken stone from the quarries was drawn by teams and wagons to the kilns. These were built against a side hill so it would be easy to make a road to the top of the kiln and dump the stone directly in. They were constructed of stone in a square shape about twenty-five feet high. There was an arched opening at one side for pushing in the four-foot wood that burned the limestone and another arched opening at the front for removing the lime.

The time I remember best was soon after 1900 and the kiln I knew best was in Bigelow. Over the opening to the firebox was a shed which sheltered the fireman and his friends who sat around on crude benches and helped him while away the evening hours. The roaring fire was pleasant on autumn evenings. Sometimes there were singing and stories, or perhaps card playing, but the ladies of the hamlet kept an eagle eye out to keep the men from that.

Over the arch from which the lime was taken was another larger shed in which to store the hundreds of bushels of lime waiting to be taken to the railroad for shipping. Alvey O'Brien was the man who took out the lime and he'd be as white as a miller with the powder of it. Between the kiln and the road was a beautiful clear spring

running into a sunken barrel, kept clean with lime, the overflow of which ran into a watering trough, the only one for miles in every direction. This oasis was looked forward to by horses and drivers alike.

The school children of District No. 9, up the hill a little way, vied for the privilege of going two by two to the spring for a pail of water for the school room. The walk to the spring was pleasant but made exciting to us little girls by fear of the "wood piles". It was not the woodpiles themselves of which we were afraid, but the dread of hinted at, scary things that might jump out from behind them and grab us. These woodpiles were of the four-foot wood burned in the kilns and for this Grandpa used about a thousand cords a year, all neatly piled beside the road between the kiln and the school house. The cutting of this wood kept Grandpa's workmen busy in the winter when the quarries and kiln were deep in snow.

The path up lime kiln hill wound up to the road at the top of the kiln and on along a high ledge of rock between quarries to the Scotch Settlement road. The hill itself was steep and it was thrilling to go down on our skip jacks. These were made of a short piece of 4 X 4 or a stick of 16" stove wood fastened upright on a barrel stave with a short piece of board nailed across the top on which we sat. Down we flew with legs flying! Of course, the less daring went down on sleds, some home made and some "boughten" ones, but everyone slid down hill during noon hour at school even though the path joined the road and occasionally some one tangled with a team and bobsled. Often we hitched our sleds to the back of a bobsled passing and got a free ride up the hill to the school house and back to lessons.

The tumbling lime kilns of our countryside are becoming hard to find. They have many times been bypassed by new high speed highways. In the spring of the year some are noticable with their white or light gray rock bulk against some hillside. Charles Williams and Manley Johnson's kiln stands still straight and whole, but hidden from complete view by golden rod and asters in the fall of the year, grape vines with tangy wild fruit growing nearby and grass and weeds choking the once busy ovens. As I drive by I can only imagine the roaring fires, the scary woodpiles, the singing and industry of the men at work while their women folks waited in the red-painted company houses up the road a piece. It is a part of our vanishing landscape.





The old Richville lime kiln at Bigelow. (From an old photograph loaned by Mrs. John Hardy, Gouverneur)

# Canton's

St. Lawrence  Plaindealer  
Commercial Advertiser

is 106

By RALPH HEINZEN, Editor

The St. Lawrence Plaindealer had a birthday in September -- it entered its 106th year with the September 6 edition, having gone through more than a century of victories and vicissitudes, including two disastrous fires, any number of panics and recessions and four whopping wars, plus a number of minor embroilments.

Old as it is, it is a matter of historical record that The Plaindealer was preceded by eleven newspapers in Canton, some of whose life spans were measured in weeks or days. Canton was barely a quarter of a century old when its first newspaper moved into town from Ogdensburg, Jonathan Wallace's "St. Lawrence Republican", in 1827.

The first newspaper actually started here was C.C. Bill's Whig weekly, born in July 1832, which he called the "Northern Telegraph". Bill sold out to Orlando Squires who began publication of the "Northern Telegraph" from the same office as a Democratic sheet called the "Canton Democrat". Both were short-lived.

A new newspaper called "The Luminary of the North" was first issued in July, 1834, but its light was soon extinguished. "The St. Lawrence Democrat", a Whig paper owned by several persons and published by Edgar A. Barber, was started in September, 1840, and lived until April, 1842.

The Barber press was next used by Charles Boynton for the publication of another new paper, the "Northern Cabinet and Literary Repository" which first saw the light on January 2, 1843, but the burden of that cumbersome name led to its early collapse.

It is an interesting commentary that at that time there was also a daily newspaper in Canton, Ohio, called "The Respository", so that there were actually two Canton "Respository" newspapers published with that strange name at the same time.

A newspaper called "The True Democrat" was started on May 28, 1850, at Madrid by a Mr. Wilson. In less than a year its ownership passed to O.L. Ray who changed its name a year later to the "Columbian Independent" and after another year moved it to Canton and changed its name again to "Canton Independent". It did not long survive the changes.

The "Canton Weekly Citizen" was a small folio which made a weekly appearance for one month, beginning on January 1, 1852, and then silently folded up.

It was more than four years later that the St. Lawrence Plaindealer was started as a Republican campaign paper late in July, 1856, by William P. Goodrich, with Seth Pierre Remington as a junior partner. The material of the "St. Lawrence Democrat" was used and the Plaindealer was printed on an exceedingly ancient hand press.

After the close of that campaign, a wholly new printing plant was purchased and the weekly was established as a permanent enterprise. A few months later, Mr. Goodrich sold out his interests to his young partner who,

on October 5, 1861, gave birth to a son, whom he named Frederick Remington, in a white house which stood then, and still stands on Court Street, in Canton.

When young Seth Remington was chosen by Goodrich as his junior partner, he was serving as Canton's tenth postmaster, having taken over from Amasa O. Brown in 1855. One of Remington's predecessors as postmaster had been Silas Wright who began a great public career as Canton postmaster from 1821 to 1827.

It was on November 27, 1861, that Seth Remington sold The Plaindealer to J. Van Slyke and left his wife, Clara Sackrider Remington, and infant son to go to New York City to enlist in the Eleventh New York Cavalry -- "Scott's 900" -- and served until March 11, 1865, when he was discharged with the rank of brevet colonel. With his regiment he saw service from the St. Lawrence River to the Gulf of Mexico. Upon his return to Canton, Colonel Remington bought the weekly back from Van Slyke.

On August 14, 1869, and again less than a year later, on August 4, 1870, The Plaindealer plant was entirely destroyed by fire. After each fire, Colonel Remington continued to publish The Plaindealer regularly, on small sheets at first but restored to its full size within a few weeks when he was able to install new type and material and a new press.

In 1873 Remington sold The Plaindealer and its plant to Gilbert Manley who, in turn, passed it on to his son, Williston Manley, who had been his associate editor. Williston passed the weekly along to his son, G. Atwood Manley, who sold the property to Mason Rossiter Smith.

Smith effected the consolidation of The Plaindealer with the "Commercial Advertiser" in 1950. The "Commercial Advertiser" had been started as a weekly Democratic newspaper at Norwood on November 3, 1873, by Hall and Tracey who moved the paper and their plant to Canton in May, 1877.

Subsequently Tracey bought his partner's interest and edited the paper as one of the leading exponents of Democratic doctrine in the North Country. He took in the late John Finnegan as a partner upon the latter's graduation from St. Lawrence in 1891.

It was in 1896 after Tracey's death that Finnegan bought the "Advertiser" and continued to operate it until his death. A month later, on November 1, 1958, Mason Smith bought the "Advertiser" and discontinued its publication. Smith published The Plaindealer at the same time that he published the "Tribune Press" in Gouverneur until 1959 when he disposed of his Canton property to John Barberson, an advertising executive from Detroit.

Barberson published The Plaindealer for little more than a year until May, 1960, when it was acquired by Joyce Evangeline Heinzen -- the eighth publisher in more than a century of The Plaindealer as a newspaper institution of the North Country.



WADDINGTON'S

## TOWN HALL

By ETHEL C. OLDS

Of the stone buildings in Waddington perhaps the most unusual is the Town Hall. It is not so old as the stone dwellings that are numerous in the village and town of Waddington but its massive stone steps and heavy walls give an appearance of antiquity.

The town board of Waddington met in various places of the village for a few years after 1859 when Waddington and Madrid were set up as separate townships. The first meeting, in 1860, was held by direction of the board of Supervisors in a hotel in Waddington. By 1884 the town hall was in process of construction. The Commissioners were J.W. McDowell and R. Aitchison whose names appear carved over the recessed entrance.

The contractor was Isaac Johnson, a colored man from Winchester, Ontario, a former slave who had learned his trade as stone mason in Bardstown, Kentucky. He was one of the best in the region and held the respect and esteem of his neighbors and associates during his years of residence in Waddington.

There are those who contend that much stone for the building was brought from a quarry at Alma, near Winchester in Ontario. There are others who doubt this statement since the same dolomite rock which was quarried in Canada, was available locally. It may be that since Mr. Johnson had come from Winchester to Waddington and knew of high grade stone cutters, that some of the keystones and cut stone, was brought from across the river.

In the design, Isaac Johnson was aided by William C. Akin of Ogdensburg. The plan called for a building 45 by 90 ft. with an auditorium 20 ft. high and a tower 60 ft. high. The basement was to be 9 ft. high. The estimates called for 180 cords of stone. The cost of the building was estimated at \$10,000. Later records give \$15,500 as the actual final figure. No doubt first estimates could balloon in 1884 as they do now.

The broad front steps of stone, previously mentioned, lead to a recessed landing from which wide double doors open to the auditorium. A door at the left opens to a room in the tower. This is used for storage and for sale of tickets.

The recessed landing is roofed over to form an outside gallery.

At the right of the stone floored landing is another en-

HOW

# Childwold

GOT ITS NAME

By BEULAH DOROTHY - Piercefield

Addison Child, a stately Bostonian, at about the age of fifty-five, came to Potsdam in the early spring of 1878 and mailed a small handbill to all the postmasters in St. Lawrence County, giving notice that he owned a large tract of land near Massawepie Lake in St. Lawrence County, and that he would sell small portions of this tract to purchasers for farms at the low price of from one to three dollars per acre. He could be found in the future, he said, on the lands mentioned.

Many people thought that "the old man", as he was referred to, was insane to start such a wild scheme, since this tract of land was nearly all wilderness with scarcely any roads leading to it. The bills were sent to the various postmasters and he asked that they be conspicuously posted. This act was the birth of Childwold, located about two miles northwest of Massawepie Lake. Mr. Child, when asked what the name of his hamlet would be, replied, "'Child' for my name and 'wold', which means high rolling land", therefore Childwold was named.

In 1884, April 1, the first postoffice was established as Childwood and its name was changed to Childwold in 1884, April 22, at the request of Mr. Child, who was also the postmaster.

As soon as logs could be cut, Mr. Child built for himself a log house in the center of the new settlement. The house since has been remodeled and is occupied by the Bancroft family, whose father purchased it from Mr. Child's estate in 1899.

For the next ten years he kept busy looking after his tenants and the development of his hamlet. Among other things, he built a thunder-shower sawmill on the outlet of Jock Pond, to aid in building houses and coverings for the inhabitants who had read his posted handbills and migrated to Childwold. Most of these people came from the towns of Colton and Pierrepont and some from the state of Vermont.

Even though there were no modern or even good gravel roads leading into this little town, it flourished under the guiding hand of Mr. Child. The land was cleared and prosperous farms appeared. Then the problem arose of what to do with the excess farm produce. Mr. Child at once came up with the answer. In 1889 he erected a great hotel on the shores of beautiful Massawepie Lake. As his other projects had flourished and paid off, so did his big hotel, which accommodated more than 300 guests plus a dozen or more guest cottages on the lake shore. Many leading personalities visited this beautiful spot, including some of our own United States presidents and British royalty.

The resort eventually fell into decay and has been recently taken over and restored for use as a Boy Scout camp.

For nine years, Mr. Child lived to realize his dreams of a great hotel and a prosperous farming and lumbering community. Then in 1897 he died in his home in Childwold and his body was sent back to Boston, Mass., for burial. Although he was married and had one child, his wife never came to Childwold and it was assumed she died before he settled here.

So ends the story of a man, who in late life lived to see his dreams fulfilled; and now his memory lives on, in the inhabitants of Childwold village.

trance to the auditorium. Here also is a narrow stairway which leads to the outside gallery. A curious feature of this gallery is that it was planned to be a passage way to the second floor room of the tower. For years this passage way has been closed.

The hall was completed in 1884 and has been used since then as opera house, dance hall, basketball court, dining hall, roller skating rink, political forum, polling place, Court of Justice. It has also been used for religious services, graduation exercises, church bazaars, auctions, rummage sales, bingo games, ice cream socials; in fact, all kinds of group meetings.

Recently the basement has been made over to provide attractive town and village offices, as well as an assembly room for the American Legion, a commodious storage vault, air conditioned and provided with files and shelving. The whole building has been completely rewired and new light fixtures and new heating plant installed. New facilities and fresh paint have done much to modernize the old landmark.

The building is unusual when compared with modern one story structures but it is striking in the impression of permanence it gives.

The 77 years it has been standing more than cover the life time of most of those who are using it today.

WHAT ABOUT THE

## Museum

By BERT J. ROGERS, President

From time to time, some of the members have asked me about setting up a county historical museum. Such a museum is badly needed in this county without a question. Some of the other counties have them. We have been to see the one at Elizabethtown. It is a lavish affair with a great deal of endowed wealth back of it. Another good example is the Upper Canada Village, built by the Province of Ontario.

When the Silas Wright house was sold in June, the Universalist Society of Canton gave us the first chance to buy it. There was a great deal of interest on the part of some people, so I called a meeting of the officers and trustees of the Historical Association on June 10. They were interested, and directed me to appoint a fact-finding committee, which I did, as follows:

Chairman, C.B. Olds, Waddington; Lawrence Bovard and Arthur S. O'Neil, both of Ogdensburg; Mason Smith, Gouverneur; Everett Howard and Atwood Manley, Canton; Mrs. William Chapman, Potsdam; and Miles Green, Massena.

Here are some of the facts that the committee found: The Historical Association itself does not have any funds, and has income from dues, barely enough to cover expenses. The State could not do anything to help buy or maintain a museum. The Board of Supervisors was contacted, and, while they are interested, it didn't seem fair to ask the county to take over the purchase price and permanent upkeep of a building of this sort. The only alternative was to stage a finance campaign to cover \$25,000 for the purchase price, about \$10,000 for immediate repairs, plus an indefinite amount for upkeep and maintenance. The fact finding committee decided that it wasn't wise to undertake such a fund raising job at this time, and voted unanimously against it. Newspaper reports of the meeting were distorted. Nobody said anything about having the County Museum in Ogdensburg, or Massena or Gouverneur. The committee was in complete agreement. They would all like to have a county museum, but, for the present the funds are not in sight. The Silas Wright House was sold soon after this to a private individual.

As interest builds up in a County Historical Museum, and, as the Historical Association gets stronger, it should be possible to accumulate a fund for this purpose. This will take foresight and planning. A few trust funds would help out. The new president may wish to appoint a standing committee for this purpose.



DR. FRANCIS PARKER

## Doctor on Horseback

By DORIS D. ROWLAND  
(Parishville Historian)

Into the wilderness which is now the St. Lawrence Valley a century ago, came David and George Parish, members of a family of wealthy international bankers. They had bought from J.D. LeRay Chaumont, a large tract of land which included what is now the Town of Parishville.

Many romantic stories, both truth and fiction, are told of David Parish and the beautiful Amerigo Vespucci, but the first families to settle in the Town of Parishville came from Vermont in 1809.

Francis Parker, Parishville's first physician, was born in Vermont in July 1790, married in Granville, Vermont in October 1815. He began life with very little of this world's goods -- the will of his father, Matthew Parker, himself a veteran of the War of the Revolution, was dated at Middlebury, Vermont, 1799. The document leaves to Francis three sheep, one old scythe, a cowbell, a pair of sheets to be paid for out of a note, one teakettle, and nine and a quarter acres of land.

His formal education was limited. He studied with Dr. Ford of Cornwall, Vermont and received a diploma from the State Medical Society of Vermont in 1815.

Dr Parker first migrated from Vermont to Peru, New York, there to teach school while awaiting permission to practice medicine. According to a letter to his wife-to-be: "The children make such a plagued noise, I take no comfort with them. There are forty of them, the noisiest little scamps you ever saw".

During this time he served as surgeon in the War of 1812. Of his medical career he wrote, "I have now been practicing three weeks, medicine and surgery. I find business increasing very fast, I may be deceived, but I shouldn't think I had any great offer, if I should have five hundred dollars offered for my prospect for the year to come. Dr. Goodrich says that I am a quack, but if I have my health, I will show him before the year is out, how true his observation is."

To Peru he brought his bride Sally and there two children

were born. In true pioneer spirit, he migrated a second time from Peru to Parishville in July 1819. Here, three more children were born to him and Sally, two of their sons later to become physicians. Dr. Martin Parker continued the practice of medicine in Parishville. Dr. Francis Parker served as president of the St. Lawrence Medical Society in 1840. His son, Dr. Martin, served in the same capacity, in 1864 to 1865.

We find a receipt to Mrs. Sally Parker, her heirs and assigns forever, seat No. 60 in the first Congregational Society of Parishville. This is dated April 19, 1859, and signed by G.A. Flower, D.H. Pease. Records show that the doctor donated land for the church.

Dr. Parker died in 1858, Mrs. Parker in 1871. Together with four of their five children and several grandchildren they are buried in the family plot in Hillcrest cemetery.

Now we see our modern physician drive by in his high-powered car, knowing that he has at his command all the facilities of a modern hospital and we seem to hear an echo of the cloppity-clop of hooves, as a horse carries another earlier doctor through trackless forest to visit the sick.

# Massena's Old Mills

By MILES GREEN

Good water with a drop in it, and good men with brains have left their mark on the community of Massena.

The group of old mills built adjacent to and on the Grasse River, below a dam crossing the stream has from time to time had the attention of the Massena Historical Association. The general location was across Water street from the present site of Taylor's Garage.

Massena once boasted of several industries, which were congregated on the south bank of the Grasse River below the old dam which still stands as originally built.

It was constructed in 1803 with a flume which allowed the water to flow through the mills, turning the water wheels and thereby developing power. The dam and walls of the flume were built of stone taken from the river bed which is virtually a stone quarry in this section of the river.

The ownership of this site has changed hands several times through the years, but with exception of repairs, the dam and flume remain substantially the same as when first built.

The first mill erected in this vicinity was a sawmill, an open wooden structure, located at the dam. To understand its operation we must start up the river at a point which is now George Street, for it was from here that the huge logs were floated down the river toward the mill.

Stone piers inclosed in cribbing were built in the river and between the piers a "boom" of heavy wooden timbers chained together. The piers can still be seen in the river when the water is low.

Coming down stream we come to the bridge. The first span was built of wood in 1807 at approximately the same location as the present one -- in fact, the name of street crossing the bridge was Bridge street, now Main street. The river then was known as the Black instead of the Grasse.

Next to the bridge on the south bank was a blacksmith and wheelwright shop, run by Horatio Clark who later sold to Triffley Hubert and George Greene. In 1898 Hubert sold his property, and the St. Lawrence Inn was erected. It burned down in 1922.

Continuing down the river, we come to the previously mentioned sawmill, the second located in Massena, an earlier operation having been previously established as

Haskell's Mill. It was located further down the river at the site of another dam, just above the present Alcoa railroad bridge.

This second mill was built by Calvin Hubbard and Stephen Reed on Horatio Clark's property. Later Mike Flarety purchased some of the holdings of Hubbard and Reed and the concern became known as the Milling Company. The original sawmill was destroyed but was rebuilt in 1832 and lasted until 1850 when it was again destroyed and rebuilt.

Timber and sawed lumber was piled all around this vicinity while the sawmill was operating, the sawed lumber being stacked in triangular fashion to dry. Most of the main section of the village of Massena was at that time taken up by the piling of this lumber.

Across the road from the mill a building was erected, known as the Mill House. Here the men were paid and business transacted. This building still stands and is owned and used by Mr. Clopman.

Reed must have had hard luck, because by a sheriff's sale, he sold his interest in the sawmill and grist mill to James McDowell, who came here from Montreal. McDowell also held interests in other mills downstream. The sawmill was operated until about 1897 when the last log was floated down the river.

Next down the river was erected a shingle and clapboard mill. This was erected in 1831 for U.H. Orvis and was built of stone from the river. The building still stands and is used as a warehouse by its owner, Slavin & Shulkin. This mill was built by James Danforth, a millwright and furniture maker by trade, who came here from Vermont for the sole purpose of building this mill. After the mill was completed he remained to erect a shop at Danforth Place where he built furniture and did millwright work. Mrs. Mary M. White has a set of six chairs which he made -- one of these bears his name on the bottom.

Since Mr. Danforth could also build an excellent casket, he went into the undertaking business. At about 1832 he took on his nephew, W.H. Cubley as an apprentice. Mr. Cubley later took his son in with him, but they later sold to a man by the name of Ball who ran the business for about five years. In 1902 W.H. Cubley and James Phillips bought out Mr. Ball, and eventually, Mr. Phillips took over the business and ran it until his death when the present James Phillips took it over.

Next going down the river we come to the grist mill. The first, a small one with a single run of stone, was built by Hubbard and Reed in 1808. It was purchased in 1810 by James McDowell, and he in turn, transferred this property to U.H. Orvis in 1828 and in 1830 built a stone mill with three runs of rock stone. This later became a woolen mill, operated by the Black River Cotton and Woolen Mfg. Co. In 1848 Mr. Orvis built another grist mill with four runs of stone.

I am unable to tell you which one of these three grist mills is the one built at the site of the present Taylor grist mill. But it burned down February 20, 1920 and was rebuilt by the Taylor Brothers soon after. Across the road from the grist mill was the Miller's house which stood on the site of the Taylor garage.

A starch factory was erected in 1832. This was a large stone structure and was later turned into a woodworking factory operated by H.W. Clark who later sold out to W.G. Hawes.

A tannery was built in 1855 and was owned and operated by Harvey Hyde whose daughter's husband, Charles Cryderman, still resides on the original mill property. This mill had an extremely large water wheel with large buckets. Cow hides and calfskins were processed here at the site of the present Pratt apartments.

Henry Clark also built a wooden building which was a machine shop. This building is now part of Hawes Lumber Co.

There also was a cement or mortar mill in this vicinity, located near the lumber mill. Joseph Clark had in-

(Continued on Page 15)

# Cracker Barrel

(Including the names of all Town and Village Historians together with a continuing report of their activities.)  
**BRASHER:** (Mrs. Joseph O'Brien). I am looking up material on the town in 1912; also trying to find Civil War information. Enjoyed a nice visit from Mrs. Smithers (county historian). **CANTON:** (Edward Heim). This historian attended the workshop held by the NYS Historical Association on the campus of the State university College of Education at Potsdam, continues with cemetery work and completed the Silas Wright Cemetery in the village of Canton, continues clipping and pasting of current history, worked with the Stamp club and the Grasse River Historical association on the Remington Memorial celebration. **RENSELAER FALLS:** (Mrs. Nina Wilson). **CLARE:** (Mrs. Fern Colton). **CLIFTON:** (Mrs. George Reynolds). **COLTON:** (Mrs. Lorena Reed). **DEKALB:** (F.F.E. Walrath). **DEPEYSTER:** (Mrs. Emery Smithers). The historian sponsored a reunion of teachers and pupils of Mud Lake and East road schools at a luncheon meeting on July 1st. This is a fourth in the series of get-togethers. **EDWARDS:** (Miss Leah Noble). I am enjoying my retirement (from school teaching) and have started to reorganize the mountain high amount of historical items and clippings. **FINE:** (Mrs. Rowland Brownell). I am continuing my work on the Civil War project. I have also written a family history of one of the oldest families. **FOWLER:** (Mrs. Robert Yerdon). **GOUVERNEUR-TOWN:** (Harold Storie). It takes up much of my time looking up the old families for people who are looking up their family tree. **GOUVERNEUR-VILLAGE:** (J.R. Bartlett). is looking into the age, origin of the names and other features of our Gouverneur streets. **HAMMOND:** (Mrs. Edward Biondi). Big news was our "OUR TOWN IN 1861" day on Aug. 5. Rossie combined with us in an open house on Annual Field Day. Over 200 persons signed our guest log with nearly half of them registering as having a Civil War ancestor. Most all shopkeepers as well as library used displays and helped out by putting items in windows for us. Our Historian's Center bulged with borrowed mementoes. Nearly completed cemetery census and abandoned roads project from past projects. Acted as a guide to a group of tourists searching for picturesque stone houses and doorways. Now planning "medicine show" with herbs, jars, bottles, books, instruments, etc. of the past. Enjoying every interview, contact and minute of being town historian! **HERMON:** (Mrs. Rebecca Brunet). I have started reports on four new servicemen and will complete the story of Marshville when snapshots are received. **HOPKINTON:** (Mrs. Vaughn Day). A warm welcome to a new historian and especially welcome is 'I am trying to add some to Dorothy's (Mrs. Dorothy Squire) record on Abandoned Roads. Also I have access to a stack of old "Courier & Freeman" papers (Potsdam) and I plan to check them for items of Hopkinton. **LAWRENCE:** (Mrs. Gordon Cole). is mostly answering inquiries of people in other states regarding their ancestors who lived in our town. **LISBON:** (Lee Martin). **LOUISVILLE:** (Mrs. Lorraine Bandy). "Louisville's Old Fashioned Day" display in the Massena shopping center was very well received. During October I will be speaking to the fourth grades in the elementary schools on "Local History". Have enjoyed the past year immensely, now have our Civil War Honor Roll in our Local Town Hall, on display. It has created a lot of interest. **MACOMB:** (Willis Kittle) is a new historian to whom we extend the warmest welcome, too and congratulations on starting right off with much work for Macomb's honoring the POPE FAMILY and marker; located an Abandoned Road, made up the Civil War Records of Soldiers, and presently trying to trace Stark family. **MADRID:** (Mrs. Arthur Thompson) finds increasingly more young men going into service. The death of E.B. Watson at 93 for many years a well-known merchant is reported as well as more stir about on-coming politi-

cal election than in many years. **MASSENA:** (Anthony Romeo) in cooperation with Mrs. Bandy, Louisville Historian had a successful display of artifacts on the occasion of the OLD FASHIONED DAY held in Massena's Shopping Center. So great was the event that plans are now underway to make it a yearly affair. **MORRISTOWN:** (Mrs. Doris Planty). is taking pictures of landscape and homes that is being changed by the new By-pass around Morristown village. Doing research of Alfred I. Hooker, Capt. from Morristown in Civil War who gave his life during war. Alfred I. Hooker Post, Grand Army of Republic was named after him. Held Civil War exhibit in town clerk's office for 12 days---many interesting articles were found in our town. Worked in Historical booth at Gouverneur fair. Have attended all the tours of the St. Lawrence county Historical association for the season of 1961. **NORFOLK:** (Mrs. Ralph Wing) is trying to get Civil War Soldiers' records--making slow progress! **OSWEGATCHIE:** (Mrs. Orma Smithers) has our heartfelt sympathies on the death of her husband on Sept. 1. She hopes to continue the projects reported previously. **HEUVELTON VILLAGE:** (Mrs. Ida Downing). **PARISHVILLE:** (Miss Doris Rowland). This has been a busy quarter for me. I helped the Parishville Historical Association with Civil War Exhibit, entertained thirty members and guests of our association at my home, evening of August 29; attended two days of New York State Historical Association Workshop at Potsdam, all this in addition to routine work. **PIERCEFIELD:** (Mrs. Beulah Dorothy). **PIERREPONT:** (Frank E. Olmstead) is working on Civil War lists and scrapbook. **PITCAIRN:** is the only town without an historian. **POTSDAM:** (Dr. Charles Lahey) cooperated with NYS Historical Association staff to make their workshop at the State University College of Education at Potsdam so successful. His new idea of teaching social studies was demonstrated live with students and teachers (Robert Anthony assisted Dr. Lahey) showing the new technique. **ROSSIE:** (Mrs. Virgie Simons) I assisted the Hammond historian with an exhibit in Hammond August 5. This featured the Civil War and there were also articles of general interest. Over 200 attended. **RUSSELL:** (Mrs. Jeanette D. Barnes) I am still busy on the cemeteries in the town. I have about four more to do. **STOCKHOLM:** (Lindon Riggs). **WADDINGTON:** (Mrs. C.B. Olds). Report came from her husband this time as Mrs. Olds was resting in the Ogdensburg hospital getting a much needed rest from too much activity and a mild stroke, but the doctor is optimistic. Mr. Olds reports that two historic markers have recently been installed on the water front. One concerns the Island house and the other the dam and power canal. We have also set up in cement on the water front an old propeller from a river boat which burned in 1909.

## Yorker Cracker Barrel

**CANTON:** Three Yorker Groups will function this year. Two in the Junior High school with Mrs. Mary Pierce Ducet and Mrs. Carl Ayers as sponsors, and one in the high school with Lt. Col. Carl Knauerhase as sponsor. Organization meetings have been held during the month of September as well as discussions of projects. Mrs. Ayers' group has elected officers and chosen Frederic Remington as their project. **GOUVERNEUR:** The Marble Village Yorker Chapter sent no report to date. **LISBON:** Yorkers organized Sept. 18 with 25 eighth graders present. Officers as follows: president, Carol Thompson; vice president, Billy Dennis; secretary, Diane Mills; treasurer, Frank Martin; historian, Marlene Perkins; reporter, Gerald Warren. Janice Higgins has already started building a matching game of the explorers and settlers of our country. The seventh grades hope to organize next week. We hope there will be a chapter in high school. -Rachel Dandy, Sponsor. **MADRID-WADDINGTON:** sent in no report for the Grasse River Chapter. **MASSENA:** The Andre Massena Chapter has a new sponsor, Miss Barbara Calipari. Organization meeting with 132 interested; 90 paid dues to date. Next meeting, Sept. 28, vote on officers.

## Associations

**CANTON:** The Grasse River Historical Association and the St. Lawrence County Historical Association has been busy with the Stamp Club to make the Remington Memorial Event a suitable tribute to the Anniversary of the birth of the great American artist, Frederic Remington, a luncheon, tour, speech and exhibit are planned. **EDWARDS:** Now that Miss Leah Noble, the town historian, has retired from teaching school the local history center will really be organized. **GOVERNEUR:** Plans to hold its first annual meeting on Wednesday, October 4 in the evening. **PARISHVILLE:** This historical association held a very successful Civil War Exhibit supper and program on August 16 with over 250 visitors registered. August 28 members of the association and guests met at the home of Doris Rowland, town historian. Following the business meeting many interesting antiques were exhibited and refreshments served. During September a detailed financial and events of our association since 1959 is being prepared for mailing to all members. On September 16 over 50 Girl Scouts from the county visited our museum. We entered a float in the Firemen's Field Day and won first prize.-H. Bassett.

### LOCAL HISTORICAL MUSEUMS

The Potsdam Public Museum was host to the members of the New York State Historical Association Local History Workshop which met in Potsdam Friday, Saturday and Sunday morning, September 8, 9 and 10. Nearly one hundred persons attended. All the Museum Board Members and four friends of the Museum were on hand at various locations in the Museum to answer questions.

The Civil War Articles by Helen Keller, Curator and Dee Little are completed in the Courier & Freeman and will be available for a small fee in a brochure later this fall.-Mrs. Marguerite Gurley Chapman.

### DEDICATION AT POPE'S MILLS

About 200 persons turned out Saturday morning, August 26, despite rainy weather to witness the unveiling of an historical marker at Pope Mills and participate in "Macomb Day".

The event was carried out under cloudy skies and intermittent showers, but the weather didn't diminish the enthusiasm of town officials and historians who continued planning the event that was conceived some time ago by the late Macomb Historian India Murton.

Mrs. Murton was historian from 1956 until her death last May 23. She had planned the activities with the town board of Macomb, which financed the project.

Marion Pope, 82, DePeyster, a lineal descendant of the family after which the hamlet was named, unveiled the marker dedicated to Timothy Pope, early settler and proprietor of the once-thriving mills.

The marker, constructed from an old millstone from one of those mills, was inscribed with the following dedication: "Millstone from mills operated by Timothy Pope and his descendants, 1816-1927. India S. Murton, historian, Town of Macomb, 1956-1961."

Harry Sharpe, Macomb town supervisor, was master of ceremonies and introduced town and county officials who participated in the ceremonies.

C.B. Olds, Waddington, a native of Macomb, was principal speaker, and County Historian Nina Smithers, paid tribute to the late Mrs. Murton for her foresight and planning on the project. Willis Kittle, present Macomb historian, did much of the planning and preparation for the event after her death.

Rev. Winifred Mason, pastor of the Macomb Methodist church, gave the invocation, and Rev. James J. Keysor, Macomb Wesleyan pastor, gave the benediction.

Following the ceremonies, about 130 enjoyed a luncheon at the Macomb Grange where many early farm tools, pictures and other items of historical interest were on display.

By MILDRED JENKINS

What started out as an "idea for a chat meeting" for historically-minded people in Norwood became a Civil War Centennial gathering August 30, with 39 persons present.

As a result, Norwood may soon have its own local historical society.

With Mrs. Carroll L. Chase as chairman, each person present discussed his or her own connections with the Civil War.

Many interesting articles were on display, including old pictures, guns, cartridge holder and belt, candle mold with candles, maps, books, diaries, swords, a fife, a handmade tablecloth embroidered in white. The table in front of the room was draped with a flag made by the women of the Congregational Church in Raymondville, and bears 33 stars.

The group also discussed placing a plaque in the new municipal hall memorializing veterans of World War I and II, marking of sites of the first school, church, etc., and care of cemeteries. The Norwood Library is an appropriate place to store historical articles, and it is hoped that many such articles may be contributed. In 1971, Norwood will hold a Centennial of the incorporation of the village.

Among those present were: Mrs. Nina Smithers, St. Lawrence county historian, Bert J. Rogers, president of the St. Lawrence County Historical Association, Mrs. Edward G. McCarthy, Potsdam, departmental historian of the State Women's Relief Corps.; Richard Dunne, curriculum coordinator of Potsdam and Norwood Cooperative Board, and Lyndon Riggs, historian for the Town of Stockholm.

### THE REMINGTON TOUR

Under auspices of the Grasse River Historical Assn., members of the county historical society spent a whole day in studying the life and works of Frederic Remington Saturday, September 30.

The tour began at 10:00 a.m. at the Remington Art Memorial in Ogdensburg, where members were admitted free, courtesy of the trustees. Moving to Canton for lunch, they were served at the Masonic Temple there at noon. In the Josephine Page room of the Benton Library at 2:00 p.m. members witnessed the presentation of newly discovered Remington art to the library.

With Grasse River president Edwin Blankman presiding, a philatelic exhibit was also placed on view, and a presentation made of the Remington Centennial Booklet.

Important Canton sites in Remington's life were visited during the afternoon at a tour beginning at 3:30 p.m.

G. Atwood Manley was general chairman for the event, assisted by Frank R. Crary, Dr. R.E. Delmage, Howard Guyette, William Guyette, Edward F. Heim, Herbert Judd, Mrs. Mary Manning, Andrew K. Peters, Mrs. Doris Planty, Bert J. Rogers, Mrs. Nina Smithers and Mrs. Kathleen Taggart.

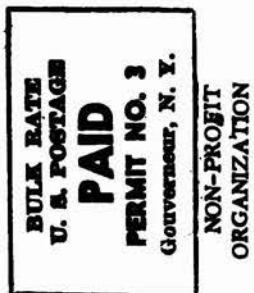
### MASSENA'S OLD MILLS

(Continued from Page 13)

terest in this mill and the mortar from it was used in the construction of most of the stone buildings built in those days. The shingle mill, tannery, Phillips house, and the Clark house which was located where Newberry's now stands, were some of the stone buildings in which mortar from the local mill was used.

In the foregoing account, it should be remembered that some of the dates are questionable. Different sources of information disagree on some dates; for instance, one source says the sawmill and dam were built in 1803, another source says 1810. Perhaps the apparent disagreement could be the time interval between start and finish.

Massena has always been fortunate in having the availability of water power.



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