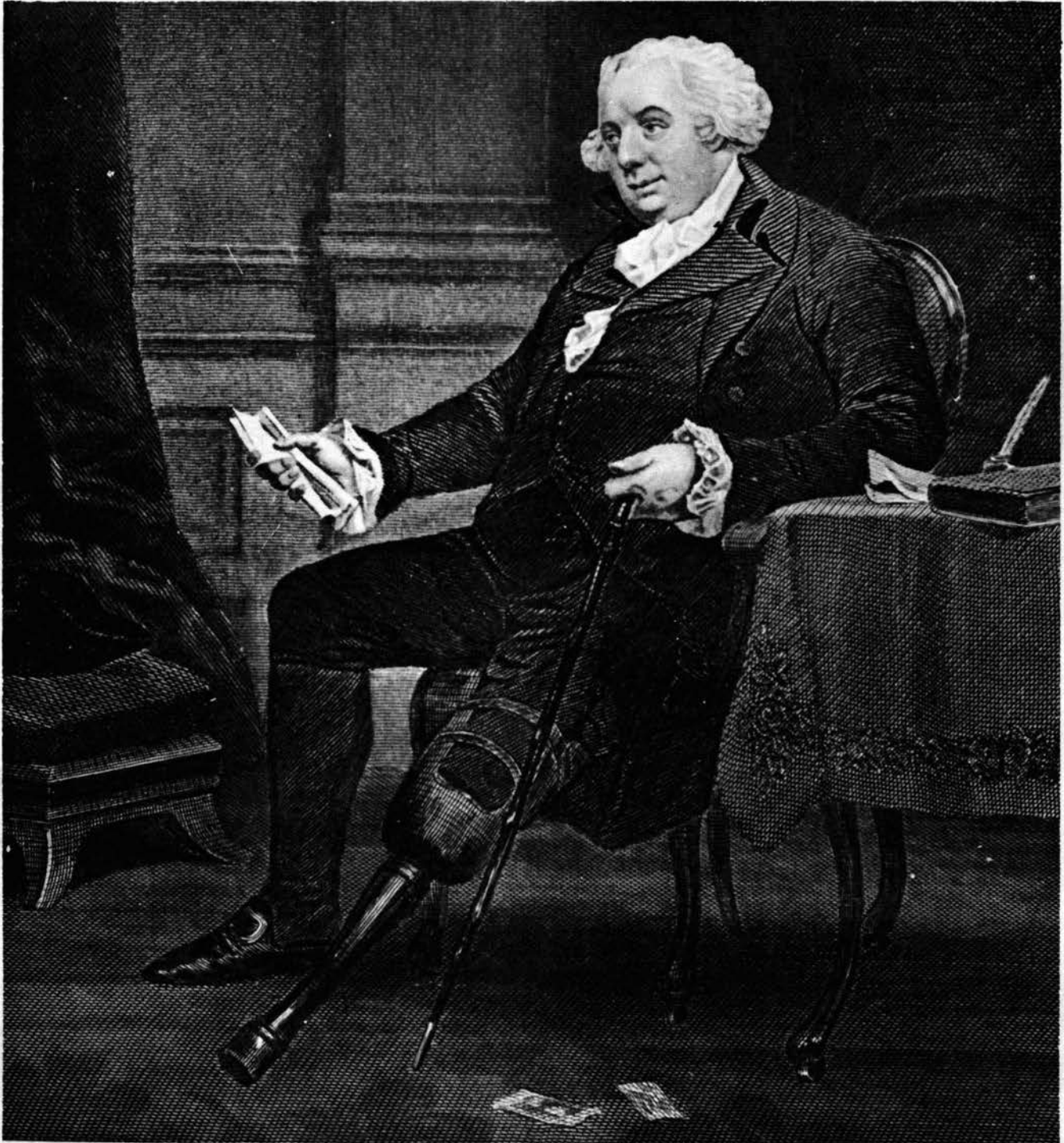


# The Quarterly

OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE ST. LAWRENCE COUNTY HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION



GOUVERNEUR MORRIS

April 1963

# The Quarterly

Official Publication of The St. Lawrence County Historical Assn.

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CONTENTS APRIL 1963 VOL. 8 NO. 2

	Page
MR. GOUVERNEUR MORRIS	
<i>By Joan Gerlach</i>	3
CRANBERRY HOTELS	
<i>By Clara McKenny</i>	5
THE ORDEAL OF SIR JOHN JOHNSTON	
<i>By Eugenc Hatch</i>	6
SPRING HOUSECLEANING	
<i>By Katie Perry</i>	9
THE RAILROAD COMES TO HEUVELTON	
<i>By Nina W. Smithers</i>	10
MRS. DANIELS OF PARISHVILLE	
<i>By Warren O. Daniels</i>	12
THE SCULLIN MANSION	
<i>By Madeleine M. Gray</i>	13
GRAND COLLECTION OF LIVING ANIMALS	
<i>Oldtime Circus Advertising</i>	15
NORTH STOCKHOLM METHODIST CHURCH	
<i>By Mildred Jenkins</i>	17
COUNTY HISTORICAL ACTIVITIES	
<i>Edited by Bette Mayhew</i>	18

COVER--This photographic reproduction of a steel engraving is published this quarter through the courtesy of the New York Historical Society, who also kindly provided the photograph of the wooden leg which accompanies the Morris biographical article beginning on page three. The engraving-- and the leg--are presently on display in the Society's museum in New York city.

## The President's Report

At the February meeting of the Promotion Committee, it was agreed that this space, formerly occupied by the renewal coupon, could be used to better advantage for recording names of donors of historical items, a description of each gift, etc., and for other information of general interest.

Many members have been most generous with historical gifts, and it is surely time that proper recognition be given. If you have any articles of historical significance and want to be sure they will be properly preserved, send them to your local town historical museum or to the County Museum at Canton. Your generosity will be appreciated, recorded and acknowledged. Make us prove it!

As you read this, please take a look at the date on your address as printed on the back page of this issue -- if the date has passed, send in your assessment to Treasurer David Cleland at Canton.

Plans for summer trips are well advanced, and Mrs. Doris Planty promises interesting excursions. . . more about this later. Meanwhile our Association is in fine, healthy condition -- thanks to you and other good friends -- so please submit articles for the Quarterly, and let each of us continue to do all possible to encourage wider appreciation of our wonderful local history!



# Mr. Gouverneur Morris

By JOAN M. GERLACH

Throughout our American History, there have been many statesmen, both the Great and the near Great, whose lives are interesting to us today. One of the latter, was a man who counted as friends, Washington, Hamilton, Jay and many others, and whose whole adult life was devoted, as their's were, to furthering the cause of our fledgling country -- this man was Gouverneur Morris of New York.

Gouverneur Morris was born into an illustrious family in the year 1752. He was born at 1:30 a.m. on January 31st, in the family manor house at Morrisania, New York. He came from third generation Americans on both sides of his family. His great grandfather, Morris, came from England, after serving in Cromwell's army, and took up a land grant outside Haerlem, when the colony was still under Dutch rule. His grandfather, and father, both took an active part in colonial affairs, and served in the provincial legislature. On his mother's side, he came from an old Huguenot family with the name of Gouverneur, who settled in New York after the revocation of the Edict of Nantes in 1685 drove them from their native France.

Gouverneur was the 7th child of his father, but his mother's first, so he grew up with step-brothers many years his senior. He inherited the love for, and pride in, public service, from his father's family, but also in liberal quantities, the charm, sense of humor, and somewhat cynical philisophical detachment that is uniquely French. He had none of the somberness prevalent among many of his contemporaries. He was always gay and at peace with himself, and unlike some of his friends, who believed in the Calvinistic approach to life and religion, he was always able to accept things as they were, and was fond of stating, "What will be, will be."

New York at this time, had an aristocratic colonial government. The power lay in the hands of a few old and wealthy families of Dutch and English origin. They lived on huge manorial estates and had unquestioned political power. Such a family, then were the Morrises of Morrisania.

Young Morris was sent at an early age to the Huguenot Academy in New Rochelle. There he perfected the French which was to be so useful to him in his later political life.

He next attended Kings College (now Columbia) and graduated at 16. This was the year when the British Redcoats marched into Boston to enforce the Townsend Act, and a Pennsylvania country gentleman wrote his "Letters of a Pennsylvania Farmer" pointing out the essential difference in taxation for the regulation of trade, and taxation as a means of revenue.

In spite of these, and other events, which foreshadowed the War of Independance, it seems that the young aristocrats graduating from college were not thinking too much about the separation from the Mother Country which before long was to involve them all.

In fact, our hero, gave a commencement address entitled "Wit and Beauty" and two years later, upon receiving his Master's Degree, wrote on the subject of "Love". Some of his associates of later years, may perhaps have thought that these subjects continued to occupy his thoughts, to the detriment of more serious subjects. It must be admitted that he was always ready for a gay time, and in spite of his work in the law office of William Smith (Historian, and Chief Justice of the province of New Jersey) he found plenty time for the lighter things of life. He was licensed to practice as an attorney in 1771 at the age of 19.

Morris had his first taste of politics soon after becoming an attorney. The colony of New York was still in debt from the French and Indian war, so a bill was proposed in the Assembly, to raise money through issuing interest bearing bills of credit. The majority of the people were in favor of this, but young Morris, at the tender age of 19, made impassioned speeches against the plan. He told the people

(Continued on Page Four)



This article was prepared by Mrs. Gerlach as a term paper for a U.S. History class at Casper Junior College, Casper, Wyoming. In the course of her research, the author consulted Nelson B. Winters, secretary of the Gouverneur Chamber of Commerce, who has thoughtfully turned over his copy of the resulting article to the Quarterly, with Mrs. Gerlach's permission.

**MORRIS** (Continued from Page Three)

in no uncertain terms, that they were only putting off the day of reckoning, and he showed the bad effect on farmers, tradesmen, etc., of artificial credit. He early displayed sound financial judgment, and was an excellent orator.

In 1774 men in every state were debating the wisdom of separation from England. The state of New York remained throughout the war largely loyalist. Gouverneur Morris at 22, like many of his contemporaries, was uncertain of his feelings. He was a member of the ruling class, and he had a great fear of "Mob rule". (The Son's of Liberty at this time were regarded by many with profound dislike and contempt.) He, along with many New Yorkers, still hoped for reconciliation. He said:

"I see, and I see it with fear and trembling, that if the dispute with Britain continues, we shall be under the worst of all possible dominions; we shall be under the dominion of a riotous mob. It is the interest of all men therefore, to seek for re-union with the parent state."

Morris was under the additional strain of having his own family split in their loyalties. His mother always remained a loyalist, and his brother, Staats Long Morris, became a Major-General in the British army and married the Duchess of Gordon. (Later in the war Morris was under some suspicion for writing his Mother, whose house was behind the British lines in New York, and when she was very ill, he was refused permission to visit her.

Once Morris decided where his loyalties lay he wasted no time in becoming the leader of the patriot party in New York, although he never forgot his fear of the "riotous mob".

Voltaire once said, "History is filled with the sound of silken slippers going downstairs, and wooden shoes coming up." Gouverneur Morris wrote a letter in 1775 in which he said the following:

"The mob begin to think and reason -- poor reptiles, it is with them a vernal morning, they are struggling to cast off their winter's slough. They bask in the sunshine, and ere long they will bite, depend upon it."

In later life he was perhaps to regret his choice of words in calling the people "poor reptiles" as he was much criticized for it. I think, though, that Morris could see clearly the end of an era, the end, in a way, of families such as his own. These old families, in spite of their interest in, and work for, the common man, always held themselves aloof, and continued to live in the old European manner. This was the beginning of the end of "Aristocracy" in America.

The last New York colonial legislature adjourned under the royal governor in April of 1775. The following month the First Provincial Congress of New York met with 80 delegates to assume the responsibility of governing the colony. Morris was the representative from Westchester county, and helped draft the Constitution for New York, speaking out strongly for both religious freedom and abolition. He was, even at this early date, able to see things on a national basis, and not just work for the interest of his own state. He was elected to the Committee of Safety for New York and in that capacity visited the Northern army, engaged at that time in trying to keep Burgoyne away from Albany. He sent clear and concise reports back to the state Assembly, and both Jay and he went to Philadelphia to try to speak in General Schuyler's defence but arrived just 24 hours after Horatio Gates had been given the command. In spite of his distrust of Gates and his sympathetic feelings for Schuyler, he would not let personal feelings interfere and felt that his duty to his country made it necessary for him to help the new commander as much as possible. He did, however, write a letter to Schuyler, begging him not to become bitter and to continue to do his best for the cause dearest to both their hearts. Schuyler, actually, did behave very well, even offering to assist his successor in any way possible. (McClellan behaved very differently in the Civil War it seems.)

Morris at 25 was elected to the Continental Congress, and after signing the Articles of Confederation for New York, left for Yorktown. In January of 1778 he was put on a committee to report on Washington's army at Valley Forge. He wrote that:

"The skeleton of an army presents itself to our eyes, in a naked, starving, condition, out of Health and out of spirits."

Morris and Washington took an instant liking to each other, and remained friends all their lives, exchanging many letters through the years. This was a time when several members of the Congress were scheming against Washington, and he must have seen in Morris some one whom he could trust. It is a fact that from this time on Morris never ceased to work for the interests of Washington and became his most ardent and able defender in the Congress. (He later was to write the letter begging Washington to run again for President, but the letter was probably never read by him as he died a few days after it was written.)

Morris quickly became a useful member of Congress, drafting many important documents, including the letter of instruction to Benjamin Franklin on his being appointed Minister to France. He was on the very important committee which received and answered all dispatches from our ministers abroad and helped write the report which finally became the basis for our treaty of peace with Great Britain.

In 1779, largely because the politicians of his state considered that he thought too much of the nation as a whole, and not enough of New York, he was defeated for re-election.

We rather like to think of our early statesmen as being of blameless character, living very simple lives, and devoting themselves wholeheartedly to the interests of the country. This of course, was no more true then than it is today. Gouverneur Morris was a good example of a man, who in spite of his devotion to public life, never gave up the joys of society. It would appear that Mr. Morris was always a very popular "man about town" in the city of Philadelphia, and one of his escapades cost him the loss of his leg. Mr. Theodore Roosevelt in his book says only that Morris' horses took fright and overturned the carriage causing the injury. In the book by Howard Swiggett, the incident takes on a more "interesting" angle. It seems that Morris, having to leave a female acquaintance in a hurry (her husband having arrived home), raced his horses through the streets causing the accident. The lady was a Mrs. Eliza Plater, and she evidently made a lasting impression on him, because he records in his diary 10 years later, written while in London, that he has been shocked by the news of her death:

"Poor Eliza, My lovely friend; thou art then at Peace, and I shall behold thee no more. Never - never - never".

While in private life Morris wrote a series of articles on finance, under the signature "An American", these articles so impressed Robert Morris (no relation) who had just been appointed Superintendent of Finances (1781) that he offered Gouverneur the position of his assistant. He served in this capacity for four years, and during this time devised a system of coinage which was the basis of our present system. At this time the monetary system was very complicated, being different from state to state. The Spanish dollar was the most widely used coin, therefore Morris took this and built a system around it. His original table was as follows:

One crown - ten dollars or 10,000 units  
 One dollar - ten bills or 1,000 units  
 One bill - ten pence or 100 units  
 One penny - ten quarters or 10 units  
 One quarter - 1 unit

This plan was simplified later by Hamilton and Jefferson, but Morris' use of the decimal point, and the word "cent" to denote the smallest coin was incorporated into the final plan. Morris could with truth be called the founder of the national coinage.

In 1787 Morris was elected to the Continental Congress from the state of Pennsylvania, and took an active part in the framing of the Constitution. He stood for a strong centralized government and at this time made a statement which must have shocked many of his listeners. It was as follows:

"It would matter nothing to America if all the charters  
 (Continued on Page Fourteen)

# CRANBERRY HOTELS

Reached from N. Y. C. & H. R. R. R. to Wanakena, N. Y.  
Thence by Steamer to Cranberry Lake Inn

Excellent Trout Fishing and Deer Hunting  
Cuisine and Service Excellent

**RATES:**

— — —  
\$2 00 PER DAY  
\$10 50 TO \$12 00  
PER WEEK



BOATING  
BATHING  
LAWN TENNIS  
CROQUET, ETC.

## CRANBERRY LAKE INN

IN THE

Heart of the Adirondacks

Address, Manager

Stage from Newton Falls to Cranberry Lake

CRANBERRY LAKE, N. Y.

Above is the card of Cranberry Lake Inn, which with its 25 bedrooms, bar, large dining room and kitchen, was located in the village on the east shore of the lake. Only three minutes walk from the Grasse River railroad, it commanded an inspiring and satisfying view of both Cranberry and Silver Lakes. It was long a favorite summer home for summer visitors, hunters and fishermen.

Sometime before his election to the Presidency,

the late Theodore Roosevelt was reported to have camped near the site.

Owned originally by Riley Bishop, the hotel was sold just at the turn of the century to Edward Aldrich, who later sold it to the Emporium Lumber company. The building burned in 1926, an 18-year-old employee of the lumber company reportedly having lost his life in the fire.

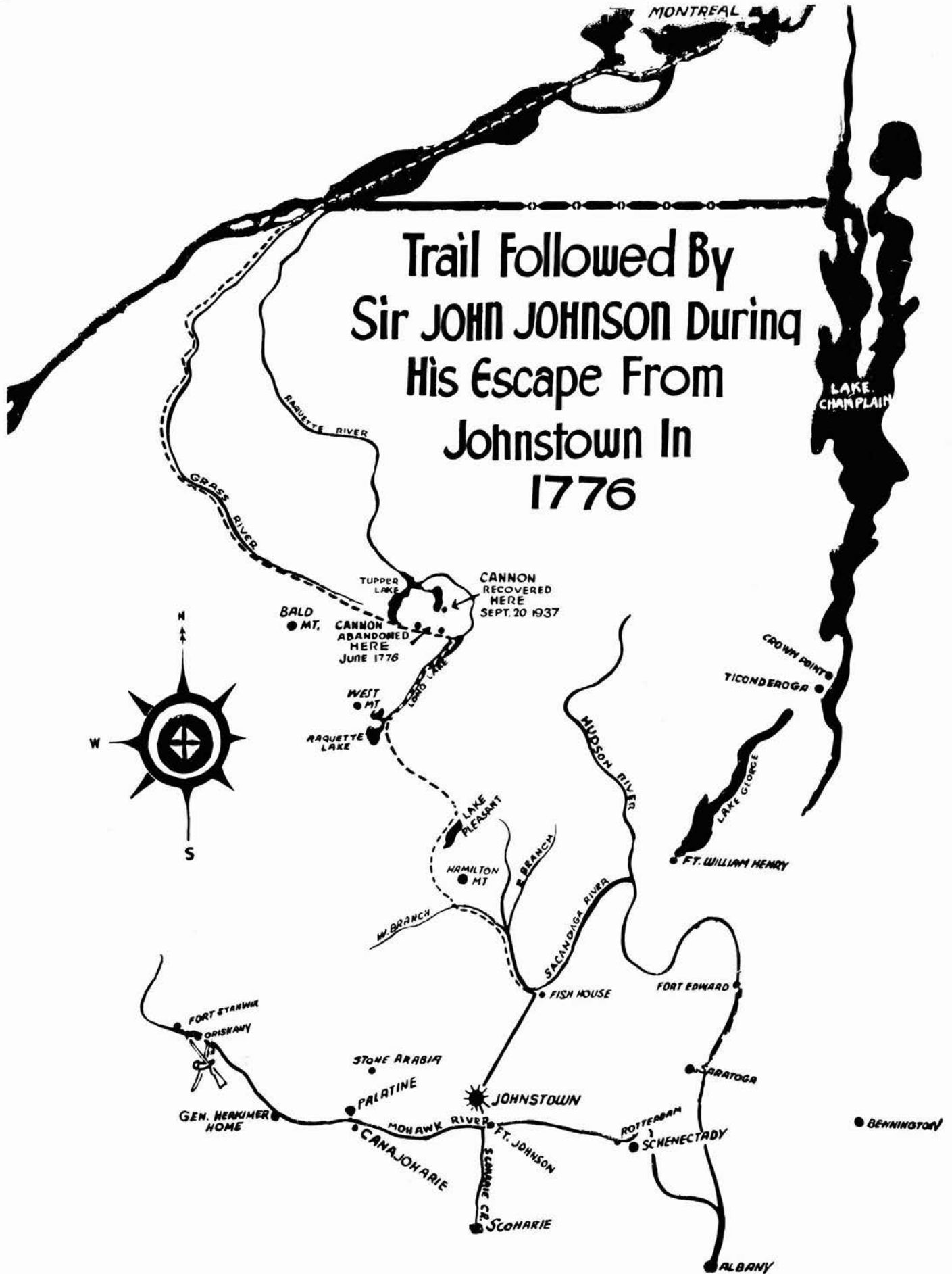


The post card photograph above shows Windsor House, located at the foot of Cranberry Lake. A modern hotel, open throughout the year, it was operated by its proprietor, M.J. Brainard, a practical hotel man, who knew how to provide for the comfort and convenience of his guests. For many years and long before other points on the lake were provided with cottages or camps, the settlement at the foot of the lake was the home of sportsmen.

When Calvin and his party explored Cranberry country they found a royal hospitality there. Trappers and hunters gave them valuable information. The Windsor entertained many sportsmen each year and its tables were provided with fish and game in season.

The outlook at the Windsor was charming, the mountains stretching miles away to the south. The hotel was also operated by Vincent Phillips.

By CLARA McKENNY Clifton-Fine Historian



# The Ordeal of Sir John Johnston

(Pictures accompanying this article were published in STAFF, Bank of Montreal publication, for October, 1962)

By EUGENE HATCH

In late May and early June of the year 1775 there might be seen a band of men, wan and gaunt, traveling like harried ghosts, along one of the tributary rivers of the St. Lawrence through the bounds of what later was our county. They were trying desperately to reach the great river and safety. Their leader was Sir John Johnson, the son and successor of the renowned Sir William Johnson of Johnson Hall.

A great deal has been written about the remarkable Sir William Johnson. Born in 1715 in Dublin, Ireland, he was the first of that splendid breed of Irish, like the later Alexander MacComb, McCormick and William Constable, keen and alert for the opportunities the new country offered and who may be said to have discovered the North Country and opened it to development. Sir William came over as agent for the Mohawk valley lands of his uncle, Sir Peter Warren. Shrewdly, he saw that he must know how to deal with the neighboring Mohawk Indians and no one has mastered better the art of getting along with these "Romans of the East". His reputation for fair dealing was known throughout the Six Nations. His word was listened to with respect, he even had their affection. He could on occasion appear in Indian costume and after his tribal marriage to the Indian girl, Molly Brant, the Indians considered him to be one of themselves. His influence with the tribes made him the British choice for Commissioner of Indian Affairs.

In the last French and Indian War (1754-63) Sir William was in command of 6000 troops for an expedition against the French who were active around Lake Champlain. Near Fort Edward the French and English met and after a serious initial repulse, Sir William's force held its ground and the French were driven back. As a reward for this victory, his grateful king knighted him, awarded him \$25,000 and gave him title to 100,000 acres of land.

Following the war, Pontiac's conspiracy broke out. Sir William with masterly diplomacy kept the Iroquois on the British side. In a successful campaign against Pontiac, Sir John, his son by a first marriage, took an active part as head of a body of militia.

Sir William about 1760 started building Johnson Hall, near Johnstown, a chastely proportioned home in the Georgian style, fitting for the greatest land holder in the American colonies next to William Penn.

In 1774 he had not declared himself for either side in the coming struggle between the colonists and England. That year a great council of the Six Nations was called at the Hall. During the council he died suddenly among his Indian friends.

Sir John Johnson was now the successor to his father's title and lands with a sway over the Indians in New York and into the Ohio country. With characteristic energy, he built two stone block houses flanking the Hall, then declared himself for the king. Early in the revolution, it was realized that he and his Indian allies were a serious thrust against the keystone of the colonial arch and Gen. Schuyler with 3000 troops marched against him. There was nothing for the baronet to do but sign a parole. He agreed to be peaceable and to surrender all his arms and war stores. Six chiefs of the Scotch highland clan of MacDonald were taken with the arms to Albany as hostages.



Sir John Johnson — from a portrait by Abbott, 1793.

About 600 of these clansmen had been settled by Sir William near the Hall.

Early in May 1776, Gen. Schuyler heard that Sir John had been holding conferences with the Indians and urging them to fight against the colonists. A force under Col. Drayton was sent to arrest the troublesome baronet and take him to Albany. Sir John learned of this movement and hurriedly made plans to escape to Canada.

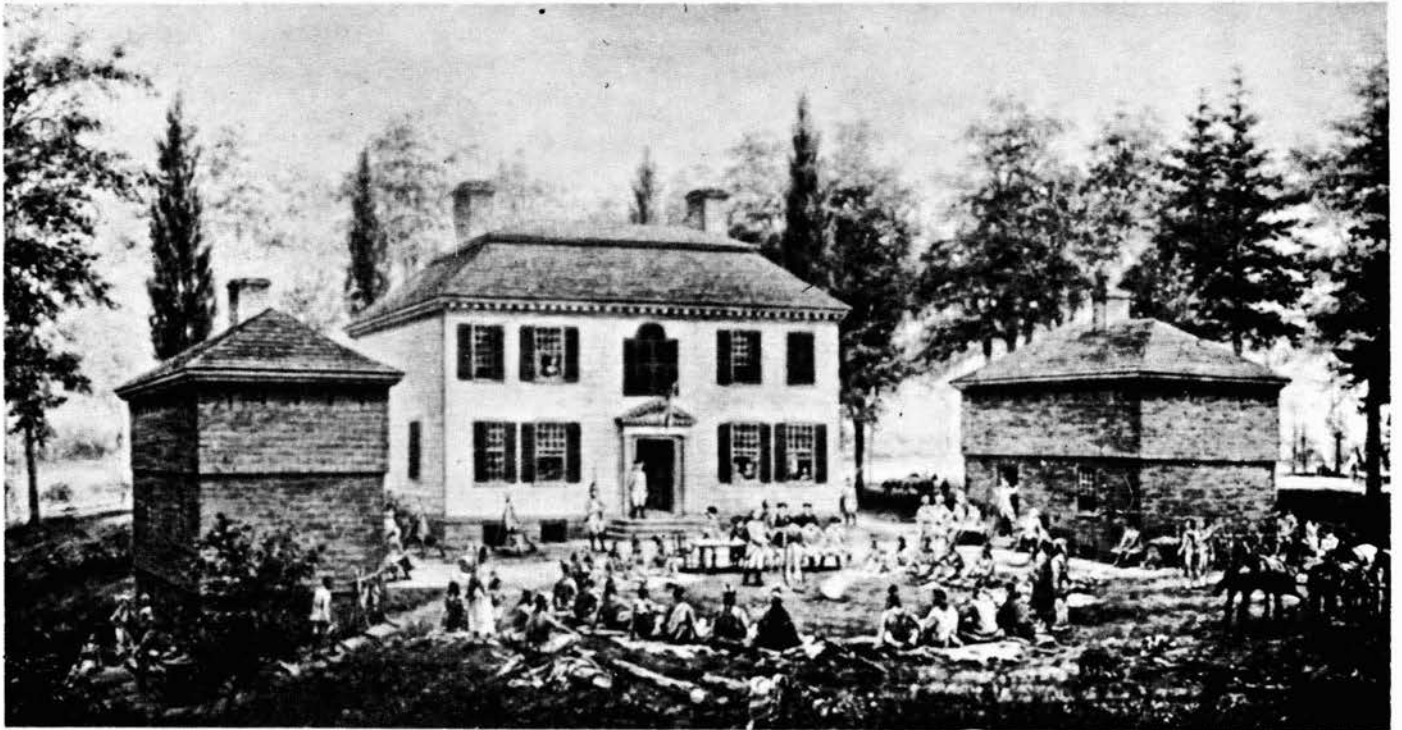
Which way should he take? It was known that the patriots held Fort Ticonderoga so the Lake Champlain route was cut off. The usual way by Fort Oswego was now closed. One way only was left; that was through the northern wilderness. The country now our St. Lawrence county was unexplored. It was claimed by the Mohawks and Oneidas as a hunting ground. On old maps it is designated variously as Iroquoisia, deer hunting grounds of the Iroquois, or "Coughsagage, beaver hunting country of the Six Nations." A map as late as 1798 shows no river courses, and there is a map now in Johnson Hall published in London in 1758 that has spread over the lower part of the now Saint Lawrence County, this ominous statement. "This country by reason of mountains, swamps and drowned lands is impassible and uninhabited". It was through this wilderness that Sir John now proposed to travel on foot to Canada.

Arriving at Johnson Hall, Col. Drayton found only Lady Johnson. She was the daughter of John Watts, one of the king's colonial counselors, and was a woman of spirit. When she was questioned as to Sir John's whereabouts, she replied that her husband was on his way to Niagara. She asserted that his enemies would soon hear where he was. She was taken to Fishkill as a hostage for her husband, and shown all courtesy on the journey.

Meanwhile, the baronet with 250 Highlanders and other of his retainers, was pushing northward, guided by two Mohawks. They had hurriedly gotten together rations for ten days, and Sir John had arranged to have the family plate hid and buried.

Their route led them to Racket Lake, to Long Lake thence to Tupper Lake. At this point historians disagree. Some believe the party followed the Racket River valley, among them Frank Risteen, a close student and an interesting writer of Sir John's life. In fact, there is a historical marker near Racket Lake that states that the Racket valley route was followed but Dr. Hamilton, senior historian of the University of the State of New York has stated that this marker is without documentation. The late J. Yates Van-Antwerp of Johnstown after painstaking study became convinced that the Johnson party followed the Grasse River valley. He is said to have traveled over this route on foot, and to have talked with old settlers and guides. Unfor-

(Continued on Page Eight)



An Indian Council at Johnson Hall.

(Continued from Page Seven)

Unfortunately, any documents Mr. VanAllen may have had are not now available. Also the cannon he found at Tupper Lake and placed at the block house by the Hall have not been authenticated as belonging to Sir John, as it is known that some Johnson cannons were taken by Gen. Schuyler at the time the baronet signed his parole.

At the head of Tupper Lake the two river basins are about equally distant. The Racket, in its upper reaches, is swift and its valley is rugged. The Grass is a fairly placid stream and its terrain less rough. Both streams enter the St. Lawrence only a few miles apart at St. Regis.

Halfway the rations of Sir John's men gave out and they were to walk for nine more days, living precariously on new beech leaves, the odorous wild leak and a meager supply of small game. The journey proved too much for even some of the hardy Highlanders. Some turned back, others began to straggle. They were all doubtless plagued by the swarms of black flies, which often abound in the marshy regions of the north country in the spring.

One day in early June, Sir John with 170 half-starved men came to St. Regis. There they were welcomed and treated with friendly hospitality by the St. Regis Indian tribe. The stragglers, it is believed, were found and brought in by the Indians. There exists a letter written by Sir John to Daniel Claes at Johnstown. In it, he describes his perilous journey and safe arrival at St. Regis, but makes no mention of the name of the river he followed. Remember the rivers of the St. Lawrence region had not yet been named by the English.

Gen. Schuyler had made a mistake in not apprehending Sir John Johnson, how great was later to appear. The baronet, on his arrival at Montreal, promptly began to organize two battalions known as the Royal Greens. These troops joined Gen. St. Leger in his invasion from Oswego. After his defeat at Oriskany in August 6, 1777 and withdrawal, Sir John and the dreaded Royal Greens remained in the valley and started a "scorched earth" policy. They began to raid and burn isolated patriot homesteads, then whole villages. Crops were destroyed, cattle driven away, and patriot farmers, who could not escape, were shot down.

There were shocking atrocities by some Tories and Indians. Some lands of the loyalists with the Greens had been seized and they were eager for revenge. To the retainers

of the MacDonald clan, these raids must have seemed like the forays of feuding clansmen in their native Scotland. Even then, the eastern Mohawk valley with its tributary, the Schoharie was the granary of New York colony. It is estimated that along with heavy crop and cattle losses, 150,000 bushels of grain had been destroyed by the war's end.

Sir John retrieved his buried silver, and it was carried it is said by forty soldiers to Canada in 1780. Lady Johnson had escaped to New York and he had joined her there. His journeys to and from Canada ceased and late in 1780 he left America, never to return. Next year the loyalist cause was lost by the surrender of Gen. Cornwallis.

In spite of several hundred of their homes being burned by Sir John and his allies, the patriots spared Johnson Hall. This stately home has been purchased and restored by our State Historical Society to its original glory. Viewing it, one recalls the great days when the powerful chiefs of the Iroquois Nations met in the spacious park beside it, to council with their white brother, Sir William Johnson, before the troublous times of his son.

#### REFERENCE WORK

The *Adirondack Bibliography*, with its four yearly supplements, reportedly provides the most complete key ever published to the innumerable books, pamphlets and periodical articles about the Adirondacks and the Champlain Valley. Nowhere else can you find listed material on every aspect of the history of upper New York State. Highly recommended by experts, it is currently listed in Winchell's *Guide to Reference Books*. Prepaid orders (\$10.00) for the main volume covering 7539 well-indexed entries will bring you the supplements free, a saving of \$2.00. Checks should be made out to Dorothy A. Plum. The 1960 supplement is just out, price 50c. Send your order to: Miss Dorothy A. Plum  
Vassar College  
Poughkeepsie, N. Y.

INDEX TO COME--In case you are planning to bind your copies of the Quarterly, you'll be interested to know that Andrew K. Peters, St. Lawrence University librarian, has very kindly consented to make up an index. This will probably appear for the first time as a part of a forthcoming issue of this magazine.





THEY WERE SITTING IN THE PARLOR, resting in the Perry Homestead that spring day back in 1901, when someone took this photograph. It survives today in an old glass plate negative, used before the advent of present day celluloid camera film. Left to right: Harvey Perry, Richard Perry, Emily (Lyon) Perry, unidentified young lady. Seated on the floor at right and a bit blurred in this time exposure, is Perry F. Hadlock, playing his Uncle Harve's

"squeezebox." The house is one on the site of the present Ogle Hollister farmhouse on the River Road, Oak Point. Katie Perry (then Katie Palmer), author of the accompanying article, kept house for Harve Perry after his parents' death. The old glass plate negative was found in an attic by Mrs. Mary Hadlock Biondi, who supplied the article herewith.

## Spring Housecleaning

By KATIE PERRY

Breakfast finished one sunny May morning, Mary Hawkins announced, "We are going to clean the settin' room today." "We?" said John. "Yes, we."

The executive mind went to work. The twelve-year-old daughter Jennie was sent to fetch a neighbor, Grace Wood, to help, and John and the hired man took the heating stove down. This was a task in itself. Pipes whose interiors were crusted with soot were removed in eighteen inch sections, taken outside, freed of the winter's load by pounding, then stored in a dry place. The stove was put in a dry place likewise, where it would not rust.

Then the heavy sofa was carried to the front porch. The women removed the lighter furniture. All who could find screwdrivers were busy removing the tacks from the striped carpet. This was made of heavy yarn woven with a cotton warp instead of using rags. The tacks were removed, the carpet lifted and thrown over a rope stretched between two trees. It was pounded with whips until all the

dust was removed and then left in the sun and wind.

Mary and Grace removed the straw which was placed under the carpet adding to the warmth and wear, resiliency and silence. Next the ceiling must be covered, not with the lime whitewash which had been used but the new "stuff" calling whiting. It did not burn and spatters on walls or floor could be easily cleaned. The papered sidewalls were carefully wiped with a clean cloth. The white muslin drapes were taken down and washed carefully, starched lightly and dried in the sunny yard.

The woodwork and windows were washed with the new strong yellow soap called Lenox, then the floor was scrubbed. Mary Hawkins glanced at the kitchen clock, "Well, I declare, it's almost four!"

The carpet was brought into the house, the curtains taken in and folded.

Then the daily routine tasks were begun, the milking done, then supper. Another hearty meal of potatoes, meat

(Continued on Page Eighteen)



# The Railroad Comes to Heuvelton

By NINA SMITHERS

The founders of Heuvelton, some sixty years previous to the coming of the railroad, would have stood in awe as they saw the approach of that first train from the south on that warm September day of 1862. It came chugging along, its wood-burning engine hauling several cars. History has left no record of the day, but the folklore of the time relates that free rides were given to all persons who came on board. The bell on the engine rang long and joyously, the laws of 1850 having decreed that all locomotive be so equipped. We can well imagine that most of the 350 persons of the village were present to greet its arrival.

It was a great day for the village. For years there had been a dream of a railroad which would connect Ogdensburg and DeKalb on the main line. The changes it wrought in the lives of the people warrants the telling of its story. A local railroad belongs to the people in a way that the big lines never do.

## Major job of grading in Heuvelton

In August, 1862, a major job of grading had been completed. To get the gravel a temporary track was laid the length of Justina street, the gravel being procured from the lot where the cemetery vault now stands.

Mr. Giffin, a prominent citizen of the village gave the railroad rights in a 99 year lease to a site which is now the location of the McCadam Cheese company, Inc., for the erection of the depot. This was built in the usual style of that day and painted the usual drab color.

Let's take a look at the village. Heuvelton was a live country town on the Oswegatchie river, its location having been determined by two factors. One was the excellent water power available and secondly the "State Road", financed by the state of New York and connecting Ogdensburg with Long Falls, now known as Carthage, had passed through

the area. It was the first surveyed road.

No doubt the Pickens family were the most important people in business in Heuvelton. They had built in 1858 the present stone block now owned by the Ducett family. The business directory of 1862 lists them as dealing in butter and produce, hardware, books and stationery, general merchandise, ready made clothing, wines and liquors as well as operating a public hall. They also operated a saw mill, planing mill, shingle and lath mill and a grist mill. Miss Bell Pickens was a music teacher. John Pickens came to Heuvelton in the employ of Van Heuvel.

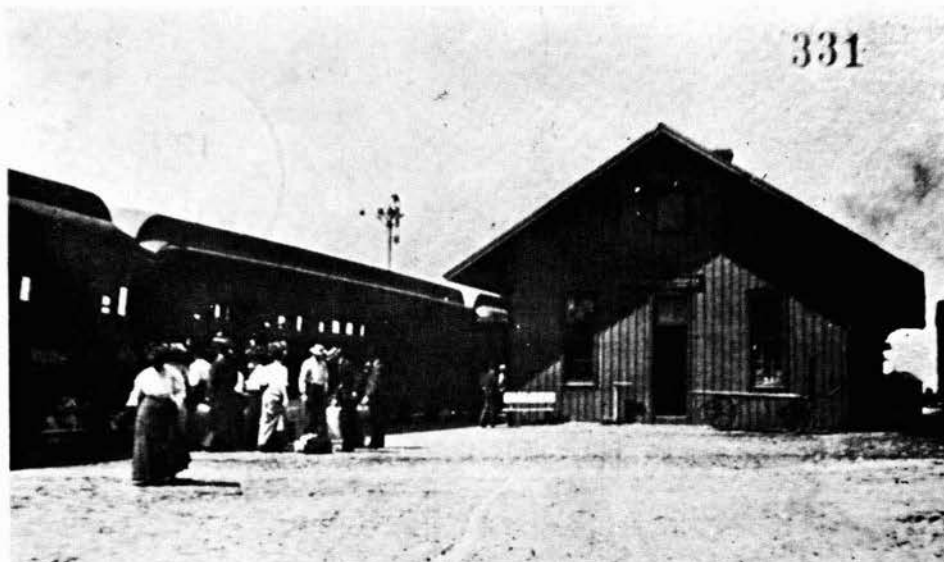
The village had four blacksmiths, two boot and shoe stores, five carpenters and joiners, three carriage makers. There was a Methodist church whose pastor was Rev. F.F. Jewell, while Rev. R.W. McCormick served the Presbyterian church. Dan Spafford Giffin was the village lawyer. There were three dressmakers who made apparel for the ladies while Mrs. Corbin made hats. Two medical doctors, Lewis Sanborn and A.C. Taylor cared for the sick. There were at least two hotels. Nathan Giffin had, two years previous, built a stone grist mill by the bridge and which is now owned by the Richardsons and is the present laundromat.

Going farther back in the history of Heuvelton, to about 1805, the hamlet was called Fordsburgh in honor of Nathan Ford. Later it was called East Branch and with the coming of Jacob Van den Heuvel, the place was called Heuvel. In 1832 it was changed to Heuvelton.

Railroading really came into its own, state wide, in the early sixties. To be sure it sounded the death knell of the state coach time in our history. Heuvelton and the surrounding area of fine farms made use of the opportunity; as farms were being increased in size.

In 1865 the first cheese factory in St. Lawrence county was in operation. Production increased and here were the

This post card shows the railroad depot at Heuvelton as it appeared in 1908.



Depot at Heuvelton, N. Y.

Published by W. I. Allen & Son



THE VAN HEUVEL HOUSE, HEUVELTON, N.Y. 2

railroads to transport the products of the farm. Old scrapbooks have yielded much valuable information. There may have been earlier "Turkey Days" in Heuvelton but in 1902 a report indicates that fourteen tons of turkeys were shipped via the railroad. These were the days when most farms had a small flock of turkeys. Buyers from Boston and New York and their local representatives came to Heuvelton on appointed days just previous to the Thanksgiving and Christmas holidays and dealt directly with farmers and farmers' wives whose wagons and sleighs were along the sides of the streets. In 1902 prices ranged from 15 to 20 cents per pound for dressed birds. That year other shipments from Heuvelton included 9000 head of livestock, considerable lumber and twelve tons of honey, also many pounds of cheese.

Saturday was known as "Calf Day" all around the countryside. For the accomodation of the cattle dealers, yards for cattle and sheep were built at the rear of the station. Buyers travelled the countryside, purchasing animals to be delivered late Friday evening or early Saturday morning at the railroad depot. Space became a controversial issue; at times it was the occasion for loud arguments among the several dealers, many of whom bore the same family name.

The post card at left is post-marked in Heuvelton August 13, 1910, and was addressed in pencil to Mrs. William Thayer, DeKalb Junction, N.Y., with the following message: Dear Ma I wish you a happy berthday and wish you many more of them. I went to Heuvelton and sold my cow and I am tard of walking, I am at work in the flats, and it is hard work good by from Leslie to Ma.

Monday was "Cheese Day". Deliveries were made to the box cars on the sidings by the farmer with his team of horses hitched to a farm wagon with a high box. Farmers took turns in each factory, and each delivered his share of the output of the factory. Life was much simpler in those days. It should be mentioned here that the buyers made arrangements for the purchase of the cheese at the Saturday night meetings of the "Cheese Board" of the county.

Railroads were vital to the economy of the times and in turn the area did much for the prosperity of the railroads.

Interviews with several people brought forth conflicting ideas. That a new station was built on the present site in 1914 was conceded by some; others believed the old station was moved to the present site. Examination of the lonely premises would impress one that both sides of the story might be true as the structures appears to have been in two sections. The historian often has to resort to the quote, "I know not what the truth may be; I tell the tale as 'twas told to me". Certainly the new location had much in its favor.

The story of Heuvelton and the railroad could not be told without reference to the work of Archie Ellsworth who  
(Continued on Page Fourteen)

# Mrs. Daniels of Parishville

By WARREN O. DANIELS

It may seem inappropriate that I should write an appreciation of the work of the woman who was my wife for 68 years. I do this at the request of the local Historical Society. She was the first Town Historian of Parishville and people still remember her contribution toward our local history.

Nina Benham Daniels was born in 1870 at Hannawa Falls, the sole daughter of Solomon R. Benham and Augusta Glidden Benham. Her childhood was passed in South Colton where she attended school with such well known persons as Bertrand H. Snell. When 17 years old she entered the Potsdam Normal School. To pay expenses she taught school at Childwold and South Colton and graduated in the Normal class of 1892. In 1893 she married Warren O. Daniels, whom she met at the Normal School and they spent their first year of married life at Ossining, New York. Later they both taught at Nicholville and the husband at Edwards. Then her husband studied law and was admitted to the bar in 1898. In the fall of 1898, the couple, with their little daughter, came to Parishville. In 1913, their son Roger was born.

Nina quickly became a part of the community life of her new home, serving as an active church member and as head of the Red Cross during World War One. She was deeply patriotic and proud of her father's record as a soldier in the Civil War. Later she was to see her only son leave for Germany in World War Two and to watch with deadly fear the reports from the battle of the Bulge where he fought as an artillery officer.

Her ancestry entitled her to become a member of the Daughters of the American Revolution, which organization she joined. She became Regent of Nihaniwate Chapter of Potsdam. With her love of country and her reverence for American institutions it was inevitable that she would be happy in this order. On occasions she attended the National Conventions at Washington.

For years she served as Secretary of the Parishville Union Church and in other church work, also as head of the Red Cross during World War No. One. When the new state law required the town to have a Historian, it was logical that she be named and she held this position until advanced age and failing health required a new historian. She literally spent months in the study of local history and was greatly aided by the books and documents possessed by Mrs. Byron Parker. The hardships and triumphs of pioneer life stirred her imagination and admiration. With the instinct of the true historian she traced the relationship between the early settlers and our contemporary citizens. Especially did she investigate the Parish family and their part in the early development of our town. Many of her articles were printed in our local papers.

But Nina Daniels' greatest public service consisted in her work as correspondent for the Potsdam Herald-Recorder. For years she reported the "happenings", as she called them, in the little hamlet of Parishville. The births, the deaths, the marriages, the removals, the visitations, the parties, the changing seasons from the frozen winters to our sunny Junes and our golden-hued Octobers. But her articles were not a bare recital of dry and commonplace events. To her this was life, with its smiles and tears, its triumphs and tragedies. Life



in Parishville after all was an epitome of life everywhere and she sought by pithy comments and sometimes striking descriptions to convey her impressions. And somehow, as the people read her letters, they became interested and caught the spirit of the author.

So discerning people, like Harold Johnson, Editor of the Watertown Times, wrote her letters of commendation. Finally she was summoned to Syracuse on January 28, 1939, to receive from the New York State Press Association a Certificate of Award, naming her as the New York State Champion Country Correspondent. Later, in June, 1939, she received from the National Association a Certificate of Award naming her as the second best Country Correspondent in the United States.

It was natural that one with such wide enthusiasms should be a boon companion. She never attended a party or took a trip that was not a success. She found in every friend some common interest.

Her last years were darkened by suffering and weakness and enforced withdrawal from the activities she loved. Her long life had been filled with kindly deeds and usefulness. It will perhaps be appropriate to close this little sketch with her own words, the last stanza of her class poem read from the Potsdam Normal rostrum on her own graduation seventy years ago:

"We know not what awaits us,  
For the sea of time is wide,  
Shall we keep this for our watchword,  
Till we reach the farther side?  
To our honor none more faithful,  
To the standard none more true,  
To Alma Mater none more loyal,  
Than the class of '92."



# The Scullin Mansion

By MADELEINE M. GRAY  
Town of Brasher Historian

A mile above Helena, the St. Regis River's south bank forms a bend. At this point, the river drops from a series of rapids into a lovely, still sheet of water that extends from there to Helena. In this rather remote spot, one-quarter mile back from the Helena-Brasher Falls road and overlooking the river stands a 25-room, three-story mansion. The stranger who does not know the story of John Scullin might be inclined to wonder why the builder chose such an unlikely spot to erect an elaborate home.

John Scullin was born in the Town of Brasher, a son of Nicholas Scullin, a native of County Antrim, Ireland. Nicholas came to this country with his mother, brothers and sisters at the age of nineteen. Mrs. Scullin decided to locate on a farm near Helena; this was in 1819, only two years after the first settlement of March 17, 1817 near the site of the present village of Helena. The homestead was then part of a dense wilderness.

Mrs. Scullin, widowed some years previously while still living in Ireland, must have been endowed with typical pioneer spirit and fortitude. She managed to rear a family of eleven children while wresting a living from the farm in the wilderness. Eighty years later, her grandson, John Scullin, was to return to Helena and fulfill a lifelong dream of building a palatial summer estate on the old homestead where he was born in 1840. He left the old farm as a young man, believing that there was no future for him there, and drifted west to California. He later travelled back eastward and entered the railroad contracting business. Mr. Scullin subsequently obtained the controlling interest in a street railway company in St. Louis, Missouri and was at one time reputedly worth \$20,000,000.

Williams and Johnson, Ogdensburg architects, were consulted by Mr. Scullin when he was ready to build his dream house. They drew up the plans for the large three-story frame structure. It contained twenty-five rooms of which fourteen were bedrooms. The third floor was occupied by the servants. The entire house was finished in hard pine with hardwood floors throughout. A complete water system brought water to all parts of the house; and the house, barn and grounds were lighted by electricity, the generator being run by a gasoline engine in the same building with the pumping machinery located on the bank

of the river. Fifty-six storage batteries furnished a reserve supply of current for use when the generator was not running. The house was completed in 1899 at an estimated cost of \$75,000, while the barn alone cost \$7,000.

Adjoining the house was a concrete tennis court and the grounds about the property were beautifully landscaped with cedar hedges, lilac bushes, pines and other trees. Mr. Scullin had purchased the tract of land, then known as the Barlow Farm, across the river from the house. This farm contained 116 acres, nearly all timberland, including fifteen acres of pines, and was to provide hunting grounds. Mr. Scullin laid out beautiful drives through the woods and originally a bridge connected the hunting grounds with the main part of the property. The estate also included a tract of approximately 200 hard maple trees and Mr. Scullin had provided a complete maple-sugaring outfit for the farm. It was his wish to operate the farm much as it had been in his youth.

When the Scullin family came to Helena from St. Louis, they usually travelled north in a private Pullman car. Another car carried their horses and sometimes their automobiles. In one of the barns on the estate was stored a 30-foot sailboat which carried gay parties on the St. Regis River in the summertime. Another barn contained one of the many rigs owned by the family, a two-wheeled Irish Jaunting Car, given to Mr. Scullin by a friend from the "Old Sod". Alongside it was a fancy rig from Paris which attracted great attention on the streets of St. Louis.

There were two daughters and three sons in Mr. Scullin's family. Older Helena residents like to reminisce about this fabulous family, relating rather fondly how they rode horseback through the streets on spirited mounts or drove behind fast "steppers". The Scullin family entertained frequently and lavishly, their friends coming from all parts of the country.

After John Scullin's death in 1920, some years after his wife predeceased him, his children abandoned the beloved retreat and in 1922 sold it to Arthur Hammill of Massena. In 1927, the estate was considered for use as a farm school for St. Lawrence County's wayward boys, but these plans were later abandoned.

The mansion is now owned and occupied by Mr. and Mrs. Leon Shampine and is used as a year-round dwelling.

**MORRIS** (Continued from Page Four)

and constitutions of the states were thrown in the fire. . . and any particular state ought to be injured for the sake of a majority of the people, in case its conduct showed that it deserved it."

He made more speeches than any other representative (Madison was second), and Morris was perhaps the most brilliant thinker among several brilliant men. (This group could rightly be called the first American Braintrust) He advocated many things that were incorporated into the Constitution, but some of the things he wanted that were ruled out were as follows: He wanted the President elected for life, with the power to elect a cabinet for life. He wanted votes limited to property owners (otherwise the poor would sell their votes to the rich). In spite of many of his ideas being defeated, he whole-heartedly endorsed the Constitution as finally adopted, and as Madison said of him:

"To the brilliancy of his genius he added, what is too rare, a candid surrender of his opinions, when the light of discussion satisfied him that they had been too hastily formed, and a readiness to aid in making the best of measures in which he had been overruled."

It was he who finally drew up the document, and put the finish to its style so that, as it now stands, the Constitution comes from his pen.

In 1789 Morris went to France on private business. (He crossed the ocean in February, and it took him 40 days to reach Paris.) His importance in America, and his own personal magnetism at once admitted him to the highest social and political circles. He kept precise diaries during the whole of his 10 years in Europe, and his accounts of the French Revolution particularly have been widely read and studied by historians. He met and became friends with Lafayette, and later loaned money to Madam Lafayette and helped her escape from prison. He also came in contact with John Paul Jones and Thomas Payne. The former he advised to go to Russia to find employment in the navy, but the latter he had no use for all.

According to his diary, one of the most important meetings of his life took place in March of 1789 when he was introduced to Adele DeFlahaut, destined to become his mistress. The lady was already a great friend of the famous, or infamous, Talleyrand, and also of Lord Wycombe of England! The love affair between Adele and Gouverneur continued for several years, during which time he was Minister to France. She eventually married De Sousa, the Portuguese Minister to France, and one wonders how she felt, when as the minister's wife, she found herself dining at the American Embassy as a guest of Mr. Livingston, and saw on the table, the same dishes that she herself had helped Morris choose 11 years earlier.

In 1792 Washington appointed Morris Minister to France, the appointment being bitterly fought in the Senate. Some of the opposition to his appointment arose from the aristocratic views he held, and the feeling that he would be too much on the side of the royalists in France, and also from the fact, that the secret mission Washington had sent him on to London had not met with success. (Jay's Treaty finally accomplished the things Morris had been unable to do at that time.)

No American Minister has had a harder job to fulfill, or performed it with the bravery and dignity shown by Morris during his years in France. In the midst of one of the bloodiest periods in the history of the world, our American minister, never once flinched from his duty (He was the only foreign minister to remain in Paris) and in spite of being in danger of his own life from the mob, he upheld the proud dignity of our nation as it has seldom been held since. He opened the American Embassy to refugees and refused to be intimidated by anyone. Mr. Roosevelt says that we have never had a foreign minister who deserved so much honor. He was always generous, and made many loans to French friends, now destitute, that were never repaid (the money he loaned the Lafayette family, was however, repaid by the U.S. government in appreciation for the help rendered this country by Lafayette.)

Upon meeting Genet (who was on his way to become French Minister to the United States) Morris with his usual shrewdness, wrote to Washington, that Genet needed to be

watched carefully. Eventually, when Genet was recalled at the request of Washington, the French government retaliated by requesting the recall of Gouverneur Morris, and so ended another episode in the political life of one of our most interesting early statesmen.

The last years of Morris' life were as active as ever; he fulfilled an unexpired term in the Senate in 1880, he was chairman of the board of the Erie Canal Commission for many years. He approved the Louisiana Purchase but was bitterly opposed to the War of 1812. On Christmas Day, in 1809, he married at the age of 56, the 34 year old Nancy Randolph of the Virginia Randolphs. One child, a boy was born to them. Morris' life was drawing to a close; he had pronounced funeral orations on Washington, Hamilton, and Governor Clinton. In 1816 at his country estate, Gouverneur Morris died after a short illness.

One cannot help wondering why this brilliant statesman of keen intellect never reached the highest offices in the land. His greatest failing, it would seem, was his inability to trust the people. He was willing and able to devote his life in their cause, but he could not believe that the average man was capable of thinking for himself and making the right decision. If he could have been a little humble, and had the faith to present himself to the people as a candidate, we may have had another great President.

Gouverneur Morris, with all his faults, however, rendered an unforgettable service to his country, and many of his predictions as to the importance of our nation have come to pass. He was truly a nationalist before we even had a nation.

Note: In the middle of some of New York's worst slums, still stands the small church built and dedicated to the memory of his mother, by the son of Gouverneur Morris. The name of the church is St. Ann's.

The Town of Gouverneur, New York, celebrated its Sesqui-Centennial Anniversary in 1955, and the Chamber of Commerce kindly sent me the booklet put out for this event. In this book it tells of the land that Morris purchased in three lots, beginning in 1798. He founded the settlement there in northern New York, and named the town for his mother's family.

**RAILROAD** (Continued from Page Eleven)

served as station master from 1890 to 1928 when he retired. He was a trusted employee of the New York Central and an honorable gentleman. He passed away in 1934. Harold Lee served in like capacity during the period 1940-1951. Others who have served at Heuvelton include G.A. Seaman, Joseph Rasbeck and Silvia Lavaghetta. Monroe Ritter was section foreman at one time and lived in Heuvelton.

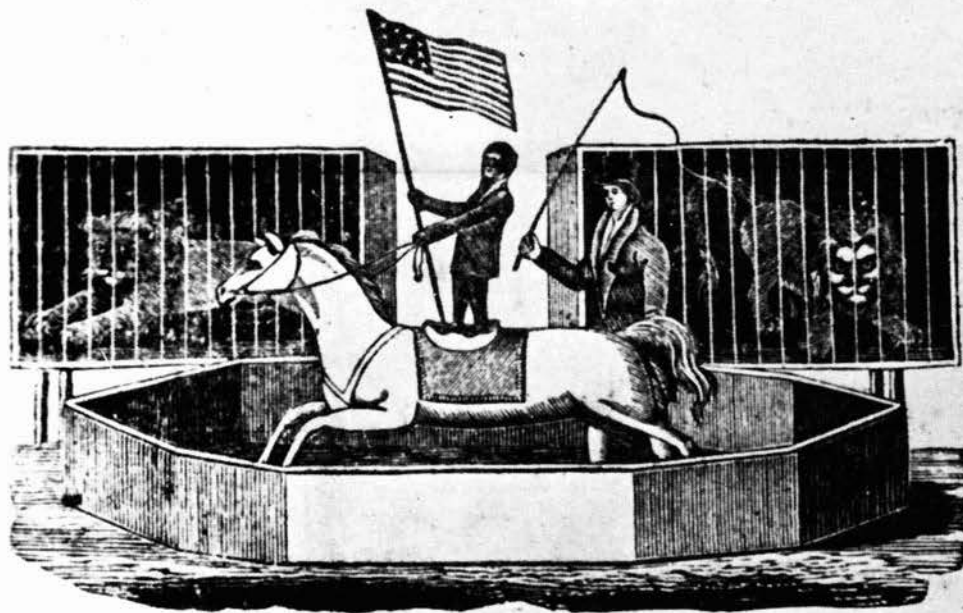
Perhaps the most historic date in the history of Heuvelton and the railroad was August 17, 1940. Affairs of world importance were discussed that evening in the private car of President Franklin D. Roosevelt in that famous meeting with Prime Minister MacKenzie King.

It was a hot night in Ogdensburg. General Drum gave a dinner that evening in Ogdensburg at which the President was to have been a guest. However the President cancelled his appearance and invited the Prime Minister to his private car at Ogdensburg. In search of cooler air and more comfortable surroundings, the car was moved to Heuvelton for the night.

The railroad is part of our vanishing scene in the north country. Only a daily freight can be seen on this once popular line. The last few years of passenger service was provided by a gas train. "The Hootin' Annie" as she was sometimes called, has also made her last run which is reported to have been in 1956.

OPPOSITE PAGE--This display advertisement for a circus appeared in the Canton Advertiser & St. Lawrence Republican of September 16, 1828. The newspaper was published in Canton by William W. Wyman; it was later moved to Ogdensburg and was bought by Preston King. The photographic reproduction was furnished to the Quarterly by Andrew K. Peters, St. Lawrence University librarian.

# GRAND COLLECTION OF LIVING ANIMALS.



**The Largest ever Exhibited in America, and never before In this part of the Country.**

Will be Exhibited at the following places, viz:—At Judge Bailey's, in Potsdam, on Thursday the 18th September; at Columbia village, on Saturday the 20th; at Norfolk, on Monday the 22d; at Potsdam, on Tuesday the 23d; at Parishville, on Wednesday the 24th; at Hopkinton, on Thursday the 25th; at Bangor, on Friday the 26th.

No. 1. Great African LION. This is not only the largest, but from his flowing mane, and superior courage, is considered the finest of his species in America.

No. 2. LIONESS—the most beautiful animal that ever has been seen in captivity—yet the most courageous. The Lioness when she has young ones to nourish, will combat with fury, even the most powerful animals that interrupt her, the Tiger or Elephant, would on these occasions, in vain attempt to oppose her—when pursued by mankind, she is only to be conquered by means of powerful weapons which they bring against her.

No. 3. South American TIGER, whose ferocity is well known to travellers.

No. 4. JAGUAR, from South America.

5. The Celebrated CAMEL.

6. Beautiful LEOPARD.

7. CATAMOUNT.

8. The JACKALL, or Lion's provider.

9. ICHNEUMON, an Egyptian Animal, famous for destroying crocodile's eggs and young reptiles, and formerly worshipped by the Egyptians.

No. 10. Black WOLF, taken at the Silver Lakes.

No. 11. Grey WOLVES, male and female.

12. Young LAMA, from Peru.

13. Ribbed-nose Baboon.

14. Dog-faced Baboon.

No. 15. Monkey from Guinea.

16. Saucy Jack.

17. Famous Dancing Monkey; from the Island of Borneo.

No. 18. Manmazel Monkey.

19. Capt. Bill, will go through his pleasing performances on his Indian Poney, with other diverting tricks.

No. 20. Dandy Jack, the semi-equestrian, has excited the admiration of all who have visited the Menagerie, with his unexampled feats of horse-monkey-ship, on his small Shetland Poney. A ring is fitted for his performance.

No. 21. The Sailor, who never fails to divert the audience with his pleasing performances

No. 22. Barbary Ape.

23. Sports of the Ring.

24. Monkey from Guinea.

Also, a number of smaller animals not mentioned.

A Band of Music accompanies the Cartoon. Admittance 25 Cents. Children half-price.

## The Grand Musical Machine,

From Germany, will also be exhibited at the same time and places, as the above. It is the production of three years incessant labor, and the proprietor flatters himself that it will give satisfaction to every one who will do him the honor to examine it. It consists of Six Gall-

eries, containing 128 Figures, all which may be set in motion at the same time.

The first Gallery contains the following: Two Lions, which rear themselves up at the sound of music; and Two Rope Dancers, who perform very skilfully on the tight rope, and keep time with the music.

The second Gallery contains A Band of Military Music, and figures representing several Distinguished Monarchs of Europe, prom-enading with their Queens.

The third Gallery represents the Parade of Corps of Light Infantry and Cavalry.

The fourth Gallery contains A Dancing Party, surrounded by applauding spectators.

The fifth Gallery contains a collection of Laborers and Mechanics, such as Blacksmiths, Coopers, Woodcutters, Women Spinning, &c. employed in their various occupations.

The sixth Gallery contains A Beautiful Garden, in which Children are walking & playing.

The above is but an imperfect description of the exhibition. The proprietor believes that every lover of the Arts who examines this piece of Machinery, will be highly gratified.

Each Gallery can be put in motion separately, or all at once, as may be wished. During the exhibition, the Instrument plays twenty beautiful Airs and Waltzes.

Admittance 12 1-2 cents. Children half-price. September 16, 1838.

IN THE ST. LAWRENCE GAZETTE  
OF APRIL 21, 1829  
APPEARED THE FOLLOWING NOTICE

The Executive Council have given notice that sealed Tenders will be received at their Office until the first Thursday in May next for a Horse or steam Ferry for the term of seven years to be established between Prescott and Ogdensburgh.  
Brockville Gazette.

WHILE OUR NEIGHBORS ACROSS THE RIVER WERE PLANNING A HORSE OR STEAMBOAT FERRY BETWEEN PRESCOTT AND OGDENSBURG, A GROUP OF ENTER-PRISING MEN IN OGDENSBURG, INCLUDING HORACE ALLEN, BARON S. DOTY, WILLIAM BACON, DAVID C. JUDSON AND AMOS BACON, WERE ORGANIZING THE OGDENSBURGH BANK, WHICH WAS CHARTERED BY THE NEW YORK STATE LEGISLATURE ON APRIL 30TH, 1829 AND CONTINUES AS THE OGDENSBURG TRUST COMPANY.

THE TRUST COMPANY TAKES THIS OPPORTUNITY TO HONOR THOSE PUBLIC SPIRITED CITIZENS, BOTH LIVING AND DEAD, WHO OVER THE YEARS HAVE CONTRIBUTED SO MUCH OF THEIR TIME, ENERGY AND THOUGHT TO MAKE ST. LAWRENCE COUNTY A BETTER PLACE TO LIVE IN AND WHO ARE INTERESTED IN PRESERVING IT'S HISTORY,



OGDENSBURG TRUST COMPANY

OGDENSBURG, NEW YORK

Member Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation



# North Stockholm METHODIST CHURCH



The church looks somewhat different now than when the snapshot at left was taken -- before the steeple was re-



moved. The photo at right records some of the people present at a Sunday school picnic in the old days.

By MILDRED JENKINS

In the hamlet of North Stockholm, smugly upon a knoll, is situated the North Stockholm Methodist church, which was moved here from Sanfordville, ninety-six years ago in the winter of 1867. It is located on the northern outskirts and for several years, it was called the "North Stockholm Methodist Episcopal church". It still serves the religious needs of the community.

This church was moved in sections with three ox teams and sleds, a distance of five miles; and two of the teams that helped to draw these timbers were owned by the late William Fletcher and Ephriam Wilkins. William Fletcher was my great-grandfather; and Ephriam Wilkins was Clifford Wilkin's grandfather. Mrs. William Dyke sr. told me that the late Joel Dyke and his son, Austin, owned a sawmill at North Stockholm at the time. They furnished some of the lumber for the church, when it was set up at North Stockholm. Joel Dyke would be Howard Dyke's great-grandfather, and Austin Dyke, was Howard's grandfather.

Prior to that time, this church had served for years as a Congregational church in Sanfordville. It was built there in 1831. Mrs. George Sutherland, West Stockholm, told me that so many people had moved away that the church was sold to the Methodist conference. Mrs. Sutherland's father, the late Lucius P. Wolcott was a carpenter, and helped to work on the church. Dedication services were held when it was completed.

Before the church was moved here, religious services were held in a large tent located on the corner by what is now known as the Osie Baxter farm. They were organized in February 1865, with Rev. Joseph Smedley as the first pastor. The church was erected two years later, at a cost of \$2,800 and a membership of 50, most of the settlers coming from Vermont during the early 1800's. The late Rev. J.W. Simpson, of Norwood, was called to preach for them, and he also served the Methodist church in Norwood at the same time. Mrs. George Sutherland, West Stockholm, who will be 90 years of age next July 13 (She was born in 1873), recalls when the late Rev. Tuttle of Nor-

wood was the minister there.

Mrs. Sutherland remembers going into the church when it was heated with two square wood stoves, one on each side of the entrance. Ezekial Osgood, who lived across the road from the church, was the first janitor.

Miss Bessie Martin recalls that while the church was being erected, the tent was moved across the road from the site, and services were held in Ezekial Osgood's yard. Mr. Osgood was the grandfather of the Misses Bessie and Beulah Martin, Hugh and Harvey Martin. Following completion of the church the tent was used for church suppers, ice cream socials and other money-making projects. Homemade ice cream was prepared for socials. Ice had to be obtained, and the women would try to find young boys to turn the old fashioned freezer. When no boys were available, the women had to do it themselves. (See photo loaned by Miss Bessie Martin who also contributed the picture of the church with the steeple.)

The late Henry Smith, then owner of the Osie Baxter farm, donated the land to be used for the church site, as long as the church exists there.

This church, well preserved through the years, is a wooden structure, and will comfortably seat 200 persons. It has been kept painted white throughout the years on the exterior. It is now heated with a new wood furnace, installed in 1950.

The steeple was removed quite a few years ago and has never been replaced. The church sheds, built in back of the church for the purpose of hitching the horses when the families came to church in their buggies or sleds, were torn down several years ago.

The interior of the church has a white ceiling, and the walls are now painted a rose color.

On September 6, 1925, the bell was dedicated. Made in Hillsboro, Ohio, it was presented to the church by the late Martin E. Chandler, as a memorial to his wife, the late Nellie Chase Chandler, an efficient worker and member of this church, and whose beautiful alto voice will long be remembered. The late Rev. N. McLellan was then pastor.

(Continued on Page Eighteen)

**METHODIST** (Continued from Page Seventeen)

Mr. Chandler also donated an electric light in memory of his wife.

The church and hall were wired for electricity in 1928. How well I remember the old kerosene lamps that were used, prior to the electric lights. A well was dug in back of the church hall in 1958 so that now there is running hot and cold water in the hall.

On July 8, 1945 Mr. and Mrs. George Sutherland of West Stockholm, presented the church with two nice collection plates in memory of Mrs. Sutherland's sister, Mrs. Ella Christy, who also did much for the church.

The lighted cross was dedicated December 25, 1938, by the Epworth League, when the former Miss Mildred Scott, now Mrs. Harold Jenkins, was president of the group -- then 25 members. The cross was made by Donald Porter, now of Watertown. A baptismal bowl was dedicated December 19, 1948 by the Youth Fellowship group. A walnut inlaid cross and candle holders were made and presented to the church Easter Sunday, April 17, 1949, by Maynard A. Nichols, in memory of his father and mother, the late Abraham L. and Nellie Nichols.

A pulpit scarf and Communion plate were given by the Dyke family, in memory of the late Mrs. Walter (Ellen Sanborn) Dyke. A pulpit lamp and hymn board were presented as gifts recently.

Apparently the North Stockholm church and the Norwood Methodist church were served by the same minister until 1924, as records show that Rev. Charles Carter of Norwood, was pastor of both from 1920-1924. He was followed by Rev. McClelland, who at that time served the North Stockholm and West Stockholm Methodist churches. These two churches were served together until June 1944, when Rev. William Wood, Norwood, served the North Stockholm and Norwood Methodist churches. The West Stockholm Methodist church was served by the pastor of the Potsdam Methodist church until February 18, 1945, when the North Stockholm and West Stockholm churches were reunited, to be served by the same pastor -- at that time was Rev. John Kelly. They have since remained together.

This church's name was changed from the Methodist Episcopal church, to the Methodist church, when it was reorganized in 1940.

Another Methodist Episcopal church was built on the  
(Continued on Page Eighteen)

**HOUSECLEANING** (Continued from Page Nine)

and warmed over cowslip greens, cake and tea. The family was tired and went to rest early, but left the woodbox filled, with kindling nearby and the pail filled with water from the nearby well.

Next morning with breakfast out of the way, straw was laid over the clean floor and spread evenly. Then the carpet was drawn tight and straight and tacked every five inches. Then the well cleaned sofa was carried in and the men excused. The corner whatnot was cleaned and brought in, the trinkets washed and the two large pictures were hung back on the wall. One favorite of the time was the Horse Fair, and the other was called the Seven Ages of Man, which represented a boat crossing the River of Life, filled with people of all seven ages.

Next came the center table which was placed, "New Style," at the side of the room with its fancy cover, large lamp (of kerosene, of course) and the family album on one side and the Bible on the other. Next the muslin curtains were ironed and hung, carefully looped back near the bottom of the window and held back with the new crocheted tie backs and the straight chairs and one rocker placed to best advantage.

But the outside work involved was pumping water into a pail from a cistern and heating it in a boiler or stationary tank attached to the kitchen range, keeping a wood fire, dipping the warm water into pails for cleaning, heating sadirons on the kitchen stove, ironing on a covered board placed on the table and a chair back.

The work completed, Mary Hawkins sat in her cleaned room a few minutes inhaling the fragrance no chemist could produce. Cleanliness mixed with fresh spring air and sunshine. The Great Task was finished.

**Cracker Barrel**

CANTON: (E. F. Heim) Have been busy during this last quarter with clippings, scrapbooks and gathering material for the time we may have a Town and Village Museum. The Sorority girls continue to clip old papers and this material will be sorted and filed. Another project for the winter season is to have identifications made on the numerous photos--about 800-- given to me by Mr. Heinzen of the Plaindealer. I have also cleaned and restored several large framed pictures. CANTON: (Rensselaer Falls Village, Mrs. Nina H. Wilson) Still working on old buildings and settlers and bringing cemetery records up to date. CLIFTON: (Mrs. Clara McKenny) On Feb. 10 Mrs. Glencora Wescott celebrated her 94th birthday. She was born in the town of Russell, the daughter of Dr. Samuel and Martha Harris Cross. She came to Cranberry Lake in Feb. 1885 and on July 4 of that year she was married to Chauncy Wescott. DEKALB: (F.F.E. Walrath) Have been busy answering many letters of inquiry concerning genealogical data, etc., from all over the United States. I am also working on a scrapbook collecting town of DeKalb material. I have compiled a great many names of Civil War Veterans of the town, but still doing much research work on their rank of service, marriage and burial data. DEPEYSTER: (Nina Smithers) Historian prepared annual report for 1962 and presented same at Board meeting on Feb. 12, 1963. Copies of reports were given to each board member in addition to clerk's copy for filing. EDWARDS: (Leah Noble) Have an article in "Tribune" about our Universalist Society, which has sold its property to the Edwards firemen. Now, I'm getting the local railroad article in shape. FINE: (Mrs. Rowland Brownell) I am working on some old scrapbooks and compiling a record of our old rural schools. Then too, I am trying to find material for our project "Dances and Music in this town years ago". GOUVERNEUR VILLAGE: (J. R. Bartlett) I am working on a local story which may appear in the April quarterly. It concerns a West Main street bride, dam and mills about 70 years ago. HAMMOND: (Mrs. Mary H. Biondi) Biggest news item for me was attendance at Assoc. of Towns meetings in New York in Feb. Also, am getting my files and materials ready to move to new quarters the town is making for the Historian's office in the Town hall, which has recently been renovated and decorated. Quarters will include a giant size walk-in wall safe. Have been asked to contribute articles for the New York State Folklore Quarterly. Have written historical items for newspapers nearly every week. Have been in correspondence with Burch McMorrin about route of new scenic highway and its effect on our town. One of the earliest stone houses will be affected. HERMON: (Rebecca Brunet) I have finished a story on Stella Mines for Mrs. Planty to be used on the tour of mines this summer. I have also started working on dances and dance bands. HOPKINTON: (Mrs. Vaughn Day) Working on scrapbook is my only activity this winter. LISBON: (Lee Martin) I attended the annual association of towns meeting in February in New York. On my return I wrote an account giving some of the high lights of the meeting. This was published in the Ogdensburg Journal. LOUISVILLE: My resignation (due to reasons of health) was not accepted by my supervisor, so I remain town historian, but not very active for some time yet. Thanks to all for the thoughtful cards and letters. They are deeply appreciated. MORRISTOWN: (Doris Planty) About Morrissetown and from Coleman, Fla., continuing clipping news items and keeping the books pasted up to date. Working on historical articles. NORFOLK: (Mrs. John VanKennen) During the Christmas vacation, I made historical material available at my home to one of our Norfolk girls, now attending Keuka College, Keuka Park, N.Y. for her term paper on community service. Her findings will go toward her graduation credits. I talked on Local History to the members of the Fortnightly club at the home of Mrs. Oliver Crabb on March 4. I hope the interest of the ladies  
(Continued on Page Nineteen)

(Continued from Page Eighteen)

may bring in a few more members. PIERCEFIELD: (Mrs. Beulah B. Dorothy) Working on clippings from newspapers for scrapbook. PIERREPONT: (Frank E. Olmstead) Cut clippings from local newspaper. Obtained information from parents of a boy who enlisted in the air force. POTSDAM: (Dr. Charles Lahey) I started a weekly column in the local paper on Oct. 11, 1962. The series is entitled "Racquette Reflections" and will cover not only the history of Potsdam but also of the north country. We are still going strong. ROSSIE: (Virgie B. Simons) Two new bridges will be completed in September 1963 at Rossie so I am getting information on old bridges and an adjacent store (more than 100 years old) which was torn down last fall. RUSSELL: (Mrs. Jeanette D. Barnes) I have written a story about the "Silver Hill" Drum and Fife Corps. Organized in 1888 composed of 8 members. One survivor left of the group and was active for about 50 years and was well known in this vicinity. STOCKHOLM: (Lindon E. Riggs) A long cold winter. I have answered a number of inquiries from distant places, tried to help two students with their thesis. Great excitement one night when our nearest neighbor's house burned, one of the first houses built in this vicinity, sometime before the Civil War. WADDINGTON: (Mrs. Ethel Olds) The First Presbyterian church of Waddington notes 1963 as the one hundredth year since its reception into the St. Lawrence Presbytery. The group had been organized since 1828 as a Congregational unit.

## Yorker Cracker Barrel

CANTON: Foote's Followers--Our scrapbook is coming along fine. I'm real proud of what the students have accomplished this year.--Mrs. Ruth Ayers, sponsor. LISBON: Anna Carr, David Wallace and Gary Wallace represented the Lisbon and St. Lawrence chapters at Adirondack Executive Council meeting in Canton recently. All the Yorkers are busy with projects. At their last meeting, the Lisbon Yorkers played a game about famous people in history. The St. Lawrence chapter changed the exhibit in the case in the Hepburn library. It had exhibited utensils used in pioneer life in the case at school. They are now on display in the library and an exhibit of coins by David Wallace, president of Lisbon Yorkers.--Rachel Dandy, sponsor. MASSENA: The Andre chapter has recently completed a successful money-making drive with candy--close to \$300.--sponsor, Barbara Calipari.

### LOCAL HISTORICAL

## Associations

GOUVERNEUR: The Gouverneur Historical association set up a museum for two weeks in January in a vacant store on Main street owned by the town. We had between 4 and 5 hundred visitors including three classes from the schools. Several new articles were brought in and donated to the association at this time. We also got a number of new members including ten for the county association--Harold A. Storie.

### LOCAL HISTORICAL MUSEUMS

POTSDAM Museum has had the insides of two large cases painted a delphinium blue to match some of the other cases. This color enhances the items displayed and seems to lighten the whole area. From the estate of Miss Julie T. Walling the museum received a great many valuable things--dresses, hats, shoes, albums, glass, jewelry and books. Thirty-five students from the fifth grade of the Norwood-Norfolk Central school came for a tour in February.--Marguerite G. Chapman.

Did you know--That the town of Morristown was created from the Town of Oswegatchie on March 27, 1821? The original name of Morristown was Hague, from the Netherlands.

# Letters

To the Editor of the Quarterly:

Howard M. Smith's article on Dances of St. Lawrence County (January 1963) especially attracted my attention. I have the following footnote to add to it:

First, he speaks of "the lancers." There were, in fact, two lancers: the Saratoga Lancers and the College Lancers. I am of the impression that the Saratoga Lancers was the older form, as it was somewhat simpler than the College Lancers. The Saratoga Lancers probably originated, or at least took their name from the famous watering-place, along with the Saratoga trunk. The College Lancers may have been a local (Canton) development.

Second: Mr. Smith made no mention of the Portland Fancy. As I remember there were four couples in a set, standing in two lines facing each other.

Mrs. John Wheeler, wife of Rob Dezell's partner in the Town Hall auditorium and mother of "Nat" Wheeler, was the Canton dancing teacher around 1900. She held her classes on Saturdays during the winter in the D&B Hall on the third floor of the block built by Donahee and Baker on the south side of Main street. I think the date of building is on a stone at the top of the building. The annual Dancing School Reception held in Minor Hall at the end of the dancing school season was one of the major events in the year.

Mrs. Wheeler taught the two lancers, Portland fancy, gavotte, schottische, polka and waltz. She would not teach or allow danced at dancing school the two-step, as she felt that it ruined the dancers' waltzing. Later, with her advanced students she allowed the two-step occasionally as a rest from waltzing and the square and set dances.

In the College Lancers at one point the music was that of the refrain "Get away from that window my love and my dove, . . ." and when that came we always sang it.

To lead the Grand March at the Reception, Mrs. Wheeler always selected her best pupils, so it was considered a real honor to be part of one of these couples. I was one of these the last year, I think, that I attended dancing school.

Sincerely,  
Dorothy Salisbury

8016 Flower Avenue  
Takoma Park  
Washington 12, D.C.  
January 13, 1963

Did you know--That the bridge at Chase Mills is the only one in St. Lawrence County built by three towns? In 1902, Waddington and Madrid were ordered to aid Louisville in building the bridge. It was completed in 1905 at a cost of \$10,000.

### METHODIST (Continued from Page Eighteen)

Pickle Street road, on the corner by the Page school house. But after a few years, it was torn down and removed to a farm near Lincoln Bridge, where it was used as a horse barn. After a few years, it burned down.

On September 1, 1946, "Old Home Sunday" was observed with many familiar faces present. Guests from away who were present came from Melrose, Mass.; Toledo, Ohio; Detroit, Mich.; Auburn, N.Y.; Plymouth, Mich.; Malone and Brainardsville.

There are 116 baptisms on record, 19 marriages and 45 living members. Thirty-seven pastors have been recorded as serving this church. Two of the pastors were ladies. The late Rev. T. Pittenger of Brainardsville served both the North Stockholm and West Stockholm Methodist churches from December 1926-1933. She was the first woman ever to offer prayer at the morning sessions of both houses of the State Legislature at Albany, in 1940.

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