

# The Quarterly

OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE ST. LAWRENCE COUNTY HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION



BRIER HILL'S BICYCLE GIRLS

October 1964

# The Quarterly

Official Publication of The St. Lawrence County Historical Assn.

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THE QUARTERLY is published in January, April, July and October each year by the St. Lawrence County Historical Association, editorial, advertising and publication office 40-42 Clinton street, Gouverneur, N. Y.

EXTRA COPIES may be obtained from Mrs. Nina W. Smithers, St. Lawrence County Historian's Office, County Building, Canton, N. Y. at 50 cents each.

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COVER — This is the Brier Hill Bicycle Club of 1896, left to right, Jessie Graves, Eva Harder, Bertha Giffin, Lizzie Poole and Delia Stevenson. The picture was taken on Main Street in Brier Hill in front of the lot where the Young Memorial Church was built in 1908. See Mrs. Planty's story on Page 6.

## notice!

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IN OCTOBER, 1915, former President Taft (left) visited Potsdam. He is shown here in an open car with Dr. Thompson (center) and Congressman Snell (behind driver). Photo courtesy Potsdam Museum.

# BERT SNELL'S FIRST CAMPAIGN

By DEE LITTLE

One of the hardest fought campaigns for Member of Congress from the 31st Congressional District was conducted in St. Lawrence and neighboring counties just 49 years ago when Bertrand H. Snell, a rising young Potsdam businessman, made his first entrance into the political ring and began a career in the U.S. Congress that lasted over twenty-four years.

The campaign had all the elements of an exciting, political novel -- candidates from different areas, an unusual unofficial primary, a young neophyte trying his luck against the seasoned office holder and the political boss, the press of the entire area enthusiastically taking sides, and finally, the young man winning a decisive victory as the start of a new political era in the North Country.

The pages of the Potsdam Courier-Freeman between June 9 and November 3, 1915 tell the story eloquently.

The 31st Congressional Seat had been held by a Republican for years and here in the North Country nomination in the GOP primary nearly always meant victory. The district included the counties of St. Lawrence, Franklin, Clinton and Essex. The seat had become vacant in December, 1914 when Edwin A. Merritt Jr., had died. Merritt had been in the State Assembly since 1902 and had succeeded George R. Malby, Ogdensburg Republican, as Member of Congress in 1913. He ran for re-election in November, 1914, though in poor health and had won the election easily but had died a month later. He had been opposed in the Republican Primary by his protegee Major William H. Daniels, Ogdensburg.

The Republicans in Franklin and St. Lawrence County had been having very friendly relations. Franklin had two of its native sons in top jobs: Marshall as State Senator and Flack in the Assembly, and it was assumed that Franklin would return the favor by allowing the Congressional seat to stay in St. Lawrence.

However, it was well-known that H.D. Stevens of Malone had definite political ambitions and would very probably enter the race, notwithstanding any arrangement on the part of the Franklin County GOP leaders. In addition, John O'Brien of Plattsburg was the political boss of Clinton County and was assumed to be in the fray somehow.

By the beginning of June, five candidates from St. Lawrence County had indicated their intentions of running for Merritt's seat. They were Bert Snell, Potsdam; William Daniels, Ogdensburg; Col. Martin R. Sackett, Gou-

verneur; Assemblyman Frank L. Seaker, Macomb; and the Hon. Clarence S. Ferris, Potsdam. Ferris was an ex-St. Lawrence County Judge and Col. Sackett was the former U.S. Consul at Prescott, Ont. Seaker was a member of the Assembly from his district.

Daniels was 75 years old and had been in public life for 40 years. He was Collector of the Port in Ogdensburg for 25 years until the Democratic Administration came in; he had been GOP County chairman for a number of years and he was active in the location of the ATI campus at Canton. The previous Fall he had run against Merritt in the primary and had carried St. Lawrence and Franklin Counties but had lost the seat.

Bert Snell was 45 years old and a native of Colton. He had graduated from the Potsdam Normal in 1889, the second youngest graduate in the classical course in the history of the school. He was a graduate of Amherst College, Class of 1894. After graduation he joined the Racquette River Paper Co. and was first bookkeeper, then manager until 1902. He then formed his own lumber business and owned a good deal of timber in the Adirondacks and in 1911 purchased an undeveloped water power at Higly Falls and developed it. He was also active in the Phoenix Cheese Company, the Potsdam Milling Co. and the Northwood Manufacturing Co. By 1915 he was director of the Northern New York Trust Co., Watertown, and the St. Lawrence County National Bank, Canton; trustee and treasurer of Clarkson College; trustee of the Potsdam Public Library; vice president of the Northern New York Development League; and in 1914 had been elected to represent the 2nd Assembly District of the county on the GOP State Committee. He had a long history of success in business but had been in politics a very short time.

The idea of five candidates from St. Lawrence County was not good from the standpoint of winning the seat for the county as the local vote would be split so badly. Republican voter enrollment in St. Lawrence was 9953 while Franklin had 4919; Clinton, 4246, and Essex, 3013. The other three counties totaled more than St. Lawrence so if the local county vote was split, an out of county candidate was sure to win.

Assemblyman Seaker suggested the plan to hold an unofficial primary in St. Lawrence County to choose just one

(Continued on Page Twenty-One)

# Mr *S. B. Van Duzee* of Gouverneur



By JULIUS BARTLETT

(From History of St. Lawrence  
County 1749-1878)

One of the most prominent men in Gouverneur in the pioneer days was Stephen Brown Van Duzee, who lived here continually from 1831 to his death in 1893. He ranked with such leading figures as Judge Edwin Dodge (who came here in 1829 as agent for the Gouverneur Morris Estate until Gouverneur Morris the second should become of age in 1834), Harvey D. Smith, Charles Anthony (founder of the Bank of Gouverneur), Moses Rowley, Israel Porter and William H. Bowne (of the famous Bowne brothers who came from Flushing).

Mr. Van Duzee moved to Gouverneur from Hartford, Washington County, with his parents, James and Abigail Brown Van Duzee in 1813. He was then but four years old, and he remained here until he was 13, when he returned to Hartford in 1822 to live with an uncle. He assisted the uncle in farm work and attended the Hartford school. In 1827 he went to Swanton, Vt. to work as a clerk in the store of a relative for three years, then decided upon learning a trade and became a wheelwright. Returning to Gouverneur in 1831, he learned carpentry and the joiners trade. At age 22, with his brother, Alonzo, he began his main life work, which was manufacturing furniture, and employed as 30 men. This venture was largely one of manual production.

In 1850 Mr. Van Duzee bought the mill on the Oswegatchie river on the downstream side of the West Main street bridge and dam, known as the Keyes Tooling works. This business had proven a benefit to the farmers and others in that early period. The tooling works were converted into a furniture plant which was operated as the S. B. Van Duzee Manufacturing Company, in which Charles A. Van Duzee, a nephew, was also employed. This plant was on the approximate site of the present Gouverneur village municipal electric plant; it appears on the village map as 26 West Main Street.

Soon after Mr. Van Duzee had put the waterwheel-driven plant into operation, the company started a store somewhere on the site of the present John W. Rouse Construction Corporation block and the unused Union Hall movie theater. The Stone & Stewart atlas of 1865 shows this area a row of nondescript buildings. The same volume indicates the post office as being about where the Niagara-Mohawk Power Corporation office at 6 Church Street is now situated. In the early days the postal appointees usually had the post office in their business place, and Mr. Van Duzee was postmaster in the year 1865. In 1863, Alonzo J. Van Duzee, Mr. Van Duzee's son, and Lewis Eckman who had been the upholsterer for the Van Duzee Company were made partners. Alonzo started a store in Watertown in 1866, which operated for some time after his death in 1870.

In 1875 Willet H. Bowne and Mr. Van Duzee razed the

buildings at the corner of William and Church streets and erected a three story brick block with a frontage of about 100 feet in Church street, extending about 80 feet to the rear, where was located a paint shop. This building burned on October 7, 1877 together with the paint and finish shop. The same partners rebuilt, Mr. Bowne having a hardware store at the William street corner, Mr. Van Duzee occupying about three-fifths of the building with two stores.

The second floor contained offices in front; a large hall and show house extended across the entire rear, with the stage toward the Presbyterian church. Shows and meetings of various kinds were held in this hall, entrance to which was by way of a wide stairway in the front. The third floor was used by various lodges. The proceeds from entertainments or other gatherings was divided between the two owners, who gave it the name of Union Hall. A firewall extended only to the second floor. The Van Duzee company had a store in this building.

Business for the Van Duzee Manufacturing company was brisk, much of their wood coming from local sources. The original building bought from the Keyes Tooling company in 1850, burned on August 5, 1882. It was rebuilt at once on a somewhat larger scale and continued successful operation until some time after the death of Mr. Van Duzee in 1893. The growth of large furniture plants at the turn of the present century adversely affected the small local company, and soon after it was in financial difficulties. Its career ended in about a decade of this century, but its operation had a marked effect for more than fifty years on the economic and industrial life of Gouverneur. After different tries at making something of old plant, it was partially burned in August 1921 and razed after that. As noted, the present municipal electric plant is situated on the site.

Mr. Van Duzee was of Dutch descent, his grandfather being David Van Duzee of Holland who settled on the present city of Hudson on the Hudson river, so Stephen B. Van Duzee has a date line extending back part way into the area of the Hudson River-Lake Champlain 350th year observance. He married Ruby Hobart of Cortland in 1837, and they had five children, Lucy Ann, Alonzo J., Cordelia Harriet, Manley Hobart and Henry Clay. All died young except Lucy Ann, who married Alexander Turnbull and she resided here after the death of her husband, in the stately Van Duzee home, 26 William street. She gave that home to the village for a hospital, which was opened in March 1929 to serve the community until the new Edward John Noble hospital opened on August 8, 1950. It was named the Stephen B. Van Duzee hospital after Mr. Van Duzee; a plaque in the Noble hospital commemorates the Van

(Continued on Page Twenty)

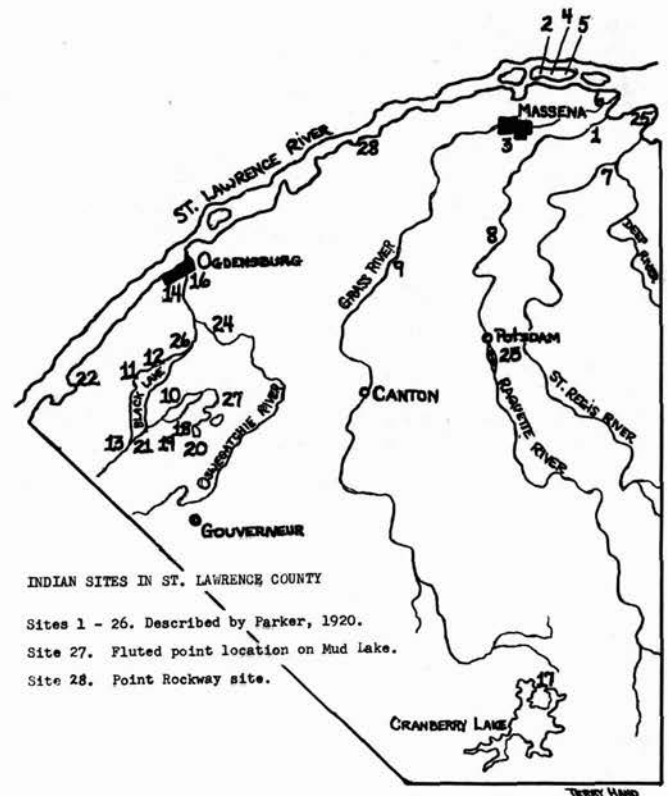
# INDIANS IN SAINT LAWRENCE COUNTY

Compiled by Charles H. Faulkener

Situated on a great water highway over which many waves of aboriginal migration passed, St. Lawrence County has long been familiar to the Indians. However, few artifacts of the prehistoric Indian have been recovered because of the small proportion of tilled land in the county which hinders one in the location of habitation sites, and because of inadequate survey work done in the county. Nevertheless, enough material has been found by local collectors to reveal that the county was inhabited by four major prehistoric cultures that were located throughout New York State. The historic Indian occupation is well documented in local and state histories.

Approximately 10,000 years ago a glacier advanced into the Erie, Huron, and Ontario basins of the Northeast. After the retreat of the ice sheet about 7,000 years ago the earliest occupants of St. Lawrence County moved into the area after a relatively modern condition of topography, climate, and fauna and flora had become established. These Paleo-Indians were big game hunters who moved in small, widely scattered groups; therefore, their camps are difficult to find, and little is known about this period. The bow and arrow was unknown. These people made finely chipped, leaf-shaped projectile points with a longitudinal flake knocked off the center of either side. These fluted points are diagnostic artifacts of the period and were hafted on jabbing or throwing spears. Two fluted points have been found in the country. In the Ogdensburg Public Library is a fluted point made of black flint found in the DePeyster area near Mud Lake. The other fluted point was found by Leslie Richardson on his farm on the north shore of Black Lake near Edwardsville. This artifact is in the St. Lawrence County Historical collection in the county courthouse.

After 3000 B.C. a warmer and drier climate in the North Country made hunting, fishing, and collecting more favorable. This period, called the Archaic in the eastern United States, lasted from about 3500 B.C. to 1000 B.C. in St. Lawrence County. Several Archaic cultures were found throughout the state at this time, and the Archaic culture of St. Lawrence County is called the Laurentian Culture. The Laurentians were hunters, fishermen, and gatherers of wild plant food. They had no knowledge of pottery making or horticulture. They had not progressed to using the bow and arrow but hunted with spears tipped with notched and



INDIAN SITES IN ST. LAWRENCE COUNTY

Sites 1 - 26. Described by Parker, 1920.

Site 27. Fluted point location on Mud Lake.

Site 28. Point Rockway site.

stemmed chipped flint points and ground slate points. The stone gouge was an indispensable tool in the working of wood.

There is some direct evidence for the presence of the Laurentians in St. Lawrence County. The C.B. Olds collection in the Ogdensburg Public Library includes slate points and a number of fine gouges. The County Historical Society collection contains a slate point found on the Richardson farm and a finely made gouge from the Charles A. Wooster farm at Oak Point. Gouges have also been found near Norfolk, at Eel Weir on the Oswegatchie River, and on Ogden Island.

The Laurentian Indians buried their dead with some ceremony and cremation was practiced. Occasionally they sprinkled red ochre (powdered hematite) over the bones or bodies and buried a few tools and weapons with the dead. Laurentian burials have been found at Point Rockway near Waddington. In 1954 six cremations were found on this site, and Dr. William A. Ritchie, State Archaeologist, believes these burials are Laurentian since a typical Laurentian javelin point of flint was discovered in one of the masses of calcined bone.

Approximately 3,000 years ago a new wave of peoples moved into the St. Lawrence Valley bringing new cultural innovations. These were the Woodland peoples who formed the base of all the later cultural development in the state, even the Iroquoian peoples. Because of the introduction of plant domestication, these Indians had leisure time for the elaboration of their culture. Additions include the manufacture of a grit-tempered, cord-marked pottery and trade for exotic and useful articles over a wide area. More importantly, the elaboration of their culture was related to the welfare of the dead, and in the eastern United States mounds were constructed for the burial of distinguished persons.

Mound construction in St. Lawrence County was rare, the Woodland cultures generally burying their dead in sand knolls like the earlier Laurentians. However, there was a profusion of grave goods and the copious use of red ochre. These Point Peninsula peoples were present in the county, although the best evidence for their sojourn in the North Country comes from the Indian River area of neigh-

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# Brier Hill's Bicycle Club

By DORIS PLANTY  
Town of Morristown Historian

One might presume that the hard-top road was the result of the automobile age, yet the first such roads were designed for the sole use of bicycles. While automobiles were still struggling along back country dirt roads, bicycle clubs had organized into powerful groups, who sponsored hard-top roads, even paying for building them. The League of American Wheelmen was the first organized group of American voters to demand better roads. In fact, many members demanded that automobiles be barred from improved bicycle roads, or at least placed on adjacent gravel road sections.

By the end of the 1800s the bicycle had become popular nationwide. People spent over a hundred dollars for a "bike", often keeping four or five in one household. At that time, a fine buggy could be bought for fifty dollars.

Hundreds of factories were turning out over a million bicycles a year, and many businesses had to gear themselves to the bicycle age or fail. The clothing industry featured bicycle wear for everyday street use. Hat manufacturers, after appealing to Congress to make every cyclist buy two hats with every bicycle, settled on making cycling caps for women and men. Whole church sermons were devoted to "whether bicycle riding on Sunday is sinful or not". The wheelman of 1882 replied that it "depends upon the spirit and association of the ride".

Amelia Bloomer designed the famous trousers for women cyclers and shook the fashion world. Businessmen came to work in bicycle pants and stockings.

Whatever the social and economic impact of the bicycle, its influence toward scientific road building is still felt in present day America, although we who regard the bicycle as a toy find this hard to believe.

People even wrote poems about bicycles such as the following:

A Hint to the Cyclist  
When Mary rides a bicycle,  
She wears a natty suit,  
With leggins trim, and saucy cap,  
And Oh! she is a "beaut"!  
She doesn't wobble on her wheel,  
She sets up straight and fair,  
And, seeing her, the men all stop  
To watch her everywhere.

When Harry rides a bicycle,  
He straps his trousers tight  
Around his ankles in a bunch.  
And Oh! They are a sight!  
He humps his back like an old cat,  
In most ungraceful crooks,  
And everyone who sees him says:  
"How bad that fellow looks."

The moral of this bit of verse  
Is plain enough, I guess.  
It is that bicyclists should be  
Most careful how they dress.  
A wheel makes one conspicuous,  
And one brought in sight  
Of thousands of his fellow men  
Should try to dress just right.

The small hamlet of Brier Hill in St. Lawrence county had a bicycle club, formed about 1896 and was enjoyed for several years.

Members were Jessie Graves (Mrs. F.E. Graves), Eva Harder (Mrs. Loren Harder), Bertha Giffin (Mrs. Ollie Giffin), Lizzie Poole (Mrs. H.E. Poole, and Delia Stevenson (Mrs. Martin Stevenson).

Many trips were taken by this group. On one of their journeys, they rode to Morristown in the early morning and crossed on the ferry boat to Brockville, where they rode all over the town to see many places of interest. They then continued on down the highway along the river to the little Blue Church, the highlight of the trip.

This historic spot is in the township of Augusta, County of Grenville, Ontario, Canada.

Barbara Heck and her group of followers who had come from Ireland to New York City and who were organizers of the First Methodist Church in that city, came to the northern wilderness along the St. Lawrence river before 1800. She was the founder of Methodism in Canada.

The church is located three miles west of Prescott and the present building is the third to bear the name "Blue Church". The first was built in 1790, later destroyed by fire. The second was built 1809 and suffered the same fate. The present church was erected in 1845, and services were held here until the year 1913.

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Submitted by  
Mrs. Abigail S. Cole,  
23 Highview Ave.,  
New Rochelle, N.Y. 10801

Today, in my 1954 Notebook, I happened to come across the following poem. It was written for, and read by the author, at a 50th anniversary party given for Mr. Seeley, in the Nicholville graded school. He was a teacher there in 1904. My husband, John M. Cole (Clarkson 1911) and I went up from New Rochelle to be with the rest of my old schoolmates on that very special occasion. Anna Matthews Cole, whose poems I have enjoyed reading in the St. Lawrence Quarterly, and also in New York State Tradition (formerly North Country Life) will be one who will be sure to remember that day.

## SCHOOL DAYS IN RETROSPECT

To a little square box of a schoolhouse  
On a quiet village street,  
We children turned, in September  
With eager - or reluctant - feet.

Mildred, and Anna, and Ella,  
Each came from a village home;  
While Abbie, from over the river,  
Along a country road must roam.

Some years we welcomed a stranger -  
Charlotte was one of these.  
We girls, in our neat new dresses,  
Were as happy as you please.

At recess we dashed from the building to  
Play king-king-kang-ga-loo across the walk.  
Or maybe we played tag - and, sometimes,  
We strolled, arm in arm, for a talk.

Mildred's father had a harness shop.  
He was always good for a cent -  
And, when we were children,  
It's amazing how far that went!

I remember certain other pupils -  
Mostly good for making a noise!  
They were rough, tough, and awkward -  
I never did like the boys!

There was Ward, Jude, and Jimmy -  
It's better nothing about them be said!  
There was Dan, and Floyd, and Carl.  
Many a time I've wished them all dead!

They pestered me, and stole my ribbons;  
They delighted in making me mad.  
I'd scream: "I wish the whole lot of you gone!"  
Nothing would have made me more glad.

Promoted - up to the globe and big dictionary -  
Oh, what a proud and happy day!  
Until I found myself alone  
When it came time to play.

The other girls in the class were older.  
The cold shoulder they gave to me.  
When I went, lingering, down the stairs,  
Teacher said: "This is where you shouldn't be."

In school we are taught problems to solve.  
We solve others as through life we progress.  
Some it takes time to find the answer.  
Some go unanswered - I guess.

But, oh, it's fun to think back -  
To laugh at our troubles so small;  
To find that simply awful little boy,  
Grown up to be kind, straight, and tall.

It's a shock to find Anna a grandmother -  
That little girl, with her giggle and curls!  
But you- you greyhaired, baldheaded, old  
grandfathers -  
What do you think of the girls?



# Ford Family Vault

By PERSIS YATES BOYESEN  
(Oswegatchie Town Historian)

A landmark of historical significance is located in Ogdensburg in the second ward, between Lake Street and Lincoln Avenue. This is the Ford family vault, the final resting place of the founders, promoters and pioneers of the townships of Oswegatchie and Morristown. This internment area is unique in the fact that among those buried are Nathan Ford, the founder of Ogdensburg; his brother, David Ford, the founder of Morristown; Lewis Morris Ogden, the son of Col. Samuel Ogden, proprietor of Ogdensburg; and General Jacob Arnold of the War of 1812. All are interred in the vault which has been constructed in the west bank of the hill facing the Oswegatchie.

Looking downstream the Ford vault may be seen from the Lafayette Street bridge. The area can be reached from Lake Street as the front entrance of the vault faces the New York Central railroad tracks and the Oswegatchie river. An approach can be made also by Lincoln avenue, which is a one-way street directly at the west end of the Lafayette Street bridge. The vault is located on an odd shaped site containing about a quarter of an acre. The vault is a stone tunnel constructed into the hillside. The roof of the vault is covered with grass and six lilac trees and is just a small grade above the level of Lincoln Avenue.

A rustic stone wall of hand cut stones surrounds the two long sides of the property.

On the roof of the vault over the entrance of the sealed doorway there is a red granite monument in the shape of a cross. One account says the granite used in this memorial was taken from the area of the Thousand Islands. This stone cross was erected in the early 1900's by Beverly Jones, a descendant of David Ford. Mr. Jones also ordered the doorway to be sealed and in his will he left a trust fund, administered by the City of Ogdensburg, for the perpetual care of the Ford family vault. On the sides of this memorial are inscriptions to the memory of only four of the nineteen history says are interred within this vault. Research has revealed the names of ten others entombed here.

On the front of the cross facing the Oswegatchie is this modest inscription to the memory of the first citizen of Oswegatchie: "Nathan Ford, a pioneer and founder of Ogdensburg, born December 2, 1763, died March 29, 1829. Judge from 1802-1820." The back of the cross, facing Lincoln Avenue says, "Lewis Morris Ogden died Nov.

2, 1810, aged 26 years, son of Col. Samuel Ogden after whom Ogdensburg was named." The north side bears the inscription, "David Ford, a pioneer of Morristown, N.Y., born April 16, 1765, died November 6, 1835". The following is on the south side of the cross. "Anastasia, wife of David Ford, daughter of Rev. Samuel Cook, D.D., First Rector of Fredericktown, New Brunswick, died November 19, 1846 aged 75 years."

land holdings in northern New York, engaged Nathan Ford as his land agent. Ford had been a deputy quartermaster under Washington in the Revolutionary War. Together with those he had hired to aid him in the possession and settlement of Oswegatchie, Ford arrived here in the late summer of 1796. The British had reluctantly relinquished possession of Fort Oswegatchie, as Ogdensburg was then called, to the rightful landowners in the spring of 1796 according to the terms of Jay's Treaty.

In 1804, David Ford, brother of Nathan arrived in Morristown to make improvements, as land agent for Gouverneur Morris, also of New Jersey and proprietor of the township of Morristown. David Ford settled his family in Morristown in 1808.

It was not only a coincidence that two brothers should be so instrumental in the founding of adjoining townships but also there was a close relationship between Gouverneur Morris and Samuel Ogden as the latter had married Euphemia Morris, sister of Gouverneur Morris. Samuel Ogden, for whom Ogdensburg was named, never came to Ogdensburg, but his son, Lewis Morris Ogden was in Ogdensburg and as mentioned before is interred in the Ford vault.

The vault was not constructed until after the death of Nathan Ford, March 29, 1829. For he, in his will, gave specific instructions as to the building of such a vault. His will was dated March 17, 1829 and witnessed by Susan Faesch, Silvester Gilbert and J.W. Smith. The final item of the document stated: "I do hereby order and direct my executors hereinafter named to select a proper Scite for the building of a vault to deposit the dead, and that a reservation of one quarter of an acre of Land be made for that purpose. And that my said Executors, with all convenient speed proceed to build a vault of sufficient size and convenience, and that the same be held and used as a Family vault. And lastly, I do hereby nominate and constitute and

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School House No. 9, Town of DeKalb, playing "steal wedges" about 1908. Teacher Louise Storie Bingham seated on grass. Author is girl in plaid skirt talking to teacher.

In background are cords of wood to be used for stoking limekiln across street.

# COUNTRY SCHOOL

By DORIS JONES HADLOCK

The old country schoolhouse has been often maligned as an educational institution. However, many fine people who played an important part in our country's development were educated in little red school houses.

True, there was no bus, no free lunch, no work books, no running water. But on the credit side there was usually a dedicated teacher who did the best she could morally as well as intellectually for her pupils.

The school I know best was No. 9 in Bigelow which I attended through seven grades. During those seven years I occupied one of the double seats with the same seatmate moving from the front to the back of the room as we outgrew the seats.

In the early nineteen hundreds many older boys attended school sporadically when there was no work. Consequently the seventh and eighth grade boys were often as old as the teacher who usually was teaching with but one year of training class after High School. Many times discipline was a problem but sometimes there was a romance between a young teacher and an eighteen-year-old pupil.

The best years in our school were those under the direction of Louise Storie Bingham who taught there for several years and who brooked no nonsense from any of us.

Our day began before nine when the older boys brought in a day's supply of wood for the box stove. In winter wet mittens and overshoes were spread to dry on the floor around the stove. In pleasant weather the windows were open to the breeze.

When teacher rang her bell we took our seats and opened our song books and the day began. We sang songs

like Juanita, Music in the Air, Flag of the Free, Men of Harlech and America. Then we read together a psalm from the back of the Song book.

After this, classes began in earnest except that two well-behaved children were given the privilege of going to the spring at the Lime kiln for a pail of water. This was placed on a shelf in the corner and a dipper hung over it. I've wondered since if that dipper was ever washed.

At noon those who lived at a distance and those who could persuade their mothers to let them bring a lunch, opened their tin dinner pails and quickly ate the sandwiches and hard boiled eggs and went out to play.

In warm weather we ate under the trees -- a pleasant thing to remember. In winter games in the snow were in order. Fox and geese came first: After a new fallen snow a large circle was tramped out in the snow. Then paths across like spokes of a wheel. The fox stood at the hub and the geese at the points where the spokes touched the rim. From here, though I found many others who had played this game, no one could remember just how it went. Does any reader remember?

The boys would take off their rubbers and run in their "felts" to have more speed. We coasted down limekiln hill into the road. Naturally there were several narrow escapes from being caught under a team of horses. Fortunately the few cars in town never ran in winter as roads were not plowed. The more adventuresome rode skip jacks. Ours were homemade with a block of wood fas-

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FORD VAULT (Continued from Page Eight)

appoint my brother David and my nephew, Jacob J. Ford, and my friend, Louis Hasbrouck Executors of my will, with full power and authority to execute the same."

As Nathan Ford had termed this to be "used as a Family vault", his own remains and those of other members of his family and of Lewis Morris Ogden who had predeceased him were removed from an already existing cemetery and reinterred in the newly constructed vault. According to the History of St. Lawrence County published by L.H. Everts in 1878, page 187, it is stated that, "The first ground occupied for burial purposes within the present limits of the City of Ogdensburg was on the high ground west of the Oswegatchie river, on the block east of the French church, where possibly, burials were made by Father Picquet as early as 1749-50, and certainly by the British garrison, which subsequently occupied the post of Oswegatchie, from 1760 to 1796." The first death in the town occurred six weeks after the arrival of the Ford party at Oswegatchie. This was of Martha Babbit Lyon, second wife of John Lyon. Was the above mentioned cemetery the one used by the early settlers of Oswegatchie and the Village of Ogdensburg until the establishment of a burying-ground at Hamilton Park in 1820? At the present time there is no evidence that such a cemetery existed.

David Parish deeded "burying ground" in 1820 to officials of the First Presbyterian church of the town of Oswegatchie and also to those of St. John's Church of Ogdensburg. This cemetery was located on the site of the present Hamilton Park. It was used as a cemetery until after the present Ogdensburg cemetery was established. By the end of late 1863 all bodies from marked graves had been moved from the old burying ground and reinterred in the new Ogdensburg cemetery which had been dedicated September 18, 1847. This cemetery is located in the town of Oswegatchie on the east bank of the Oswegatchie river.

By 1851 Ogdensburg had expanded across the west bank of the Oswegatchie and the present second ward became part of the village, and thus at this time the site of the Ford vault became situated within the environs of Ogdensburg. At the time of the construction of the vault all the land in its immediate area was in the possession of the Ford family because Nathan Ford had lived in seclusion in his "Mansion House" in the manner of a country gentleman. He discouraged all business on the west side of the Oswegatchie save those in which he had a monetary interest.

Thus by the pattern of time and events the Ford family vault, a historical shrine, is the only cemetery within the confines of Ogdensburg.

BICYCLE CLUB (Continued from Page Six)

The cemetery located in the church yard is rich in history and tradition. It contains the graves of many people prominent in the early days of upper Canada.

The old Barbara Heck stone house, near the Blue Church, is believed to have been built about 1800 by Samuel Heck and it was here that Barbara Heck, the founder of Methodism in North America, spent her last few years with her son, after raising her family on the land granted to her husband, Paul Heck. She died in 1804.

On the first day of July 1909, the monument to the memory of Barbara Heck was erected and unveiled, in the Blue Church cemetery.

After spending some time there the bicyclists started to ride again, and after going a little way, they found one of their number missing. They rode back to find the missing cyclist shut in a small building with the button turned. After she was released, the party continued to Prescott and looked that town over.

They crossed on the ferry to Ogdensburg, enjoying the ride on the St. Lawrence River. But by this time they were getting pretty tired, so a friend took pity on them, loaded the bicycles on a hay wagon and took them back to Brier Hill. Meanwhile the fair ladies took the New York Central evening train out of Ogdensburg for home. They were met at the train by faithful Robert Petrie with his horse and buggy. He carried the mail and express and gave the women a ride back to the village.

The ladies decided to have riding clothes alike, wool bloomers, skirts, shirtwaists with high collars and a tie through a loop at the neck, caps and high button shoes. They were dressed like the national bicycle clubs of that day.

The historic Customs House at Ogdensburg was originally built in 1890 as the Parish store. French-Canadian masons were imported from Montreal to build the enormous store house from native stone. The government has renovated the building, and it is the oldest government-owned building operated by it in the United States.

**Christmas**  
**is coming!**  
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THIS YEAR, why not give GIFT MEMBERSHIPS in the St. Lawrence County Historical Association to friends and relatives here at home or far away? At only \$2, the membership (which includes four issues of The Quarterly), is a real bargain — and it can mean much in enjoyment to the recipient all the year 'round! Send in yours NOW — to start with The Quarterly for January 1965.

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# EGERT BLOCK

By JULIUS R. BARTLETT

Standing at the corner of East Main and Clinton streets, Gouverneur, is a three-story brick building, 100 years old and the property of Gouverneur Independent Order of Odd Fellows Lodge No. 325. This old landmark's three stories have had new fronts but otherwise none of the face lifting acquired by several other store fronts. It was built by brick made by William J. and James G. Averell, who had a brickyard in lower Grove street. They were from Ogdensburg; Averell street, a short connection between Grove and Depot streets, was named for them. Former Gov. W. Averell Harriman is the grandson of William J. Averell. All other buildings in East Main street except where the Carbone shoe store is situated have been burned and the Carbone store was partly destroyed in the 1876 conflagration.

The East Main street front has Mason's Jewelers at No. 1 East Main street, the Karmel corn shop, No. 3 East Main; the stairway entrance leading to the upper

part of the building, No. 5 East Main and the Venice Baker at No. 7 East Main. Jumbo's Dinette, now operated by Robert Hilts, is at 4 Clinton street. The upper floors are entirely used by the Lodge members, including a social club. The building was erected in 1863 by Charles P. Egert of Oneida County who had a general store. It was known, in part, as the Egert block until more recent years. For the first half century or more it was brick red in color, but later it was painted white. The color faded out, so a new coat of red was applied. It is now painted a light shade of green. This old building is a sort of sentinel of time.

The Odd Fellows acquired it about 45 years ago. It suffered some fire damage in February 1921. It does not have the heavy overhanging cornices which appear on buildings constructed later, as can be seen on the Town of Gouverneur building at the right and the Sol Kaplans store at the left.

## INDIANS (Continued from Page Five)

boring Jefferson County. Here cremations were richly endowed with grave goods including hundreds of triangular cach blades, regarded as diagnostic artifacts of the Point Peninsula culture. These blades were apparently buried with the dead as material wealth, or as raw material for tool making in the "happy hunting ground". Dr. Ritchie found a possible early Point Peninsula burial at Point Rockway in 1954, and 10 cache blades of grey flint were plowed up on the E.J. Tracy farm.

One of the most important sites of this early Woodland period is Long Sault Island, formerly located in the St. Lawrence River two miles north of Massena. The site which was flooded by the St. Lawrence Seaway, actually consisted of habitation areas and two burial mounds. The

mounds are of major interest because they are the most northern known locus of the Middlesex Culture, an Early Woodland group in New York that is similar to the mound building Adena culture of the Ohio Valley. On the north shore of the island was a small peninsula called Indian Point. Less than a half mile west of Indian Point on a bank 50 feet above the river was a mound described as five feet high and 40 feet in diameter. Early reports also mention a mound 60 feet in diameter and five feet high about a half mile south-east of the first mound. The mounds were investigated in 1881.

Many exotic artifacts were found in the mounds that indicate a migratory people or extensive trade relations. There were awls and beads made from Lake Superior

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# Notice Is Hereby Given

By GENE HATCH

One morning in late spring we "scholars" arriving at the schoolhouse door, were faced with a written notice. Beginning impressively, "Notice is hereby given", it stated that the annual school meeting would be held at the schoolhouse of "said" district. The date of the meeting followed. We lived in District 3, Russell, designated on the Blankman map of 1896 as the Fanning District.

This event, any event that promised a change in our days filled with routine duties at home, school and church going Sundays, was eagerly anticipated.

After supper on the eve of the meeting, my brother and I asked our uncle where we lived if we could go, and as we expected, he assented. This was years before woman suffrage and mothers and daughters were perfectly willing to leave such matters to their menfolks.

After the evening chores, my uncle got down the kerosene barn lantern, and my brother and I walked single file behind him, our way crossing the sugar bush, a usual short cut to the schoolhouse. Approaching the building, we could see through the darkness the gleam of other lanterns being carried from other directions.

So it might have been in the early ages of man, when men of the tribe bore torches, followed by the boys, gathered for an evening council at the tribal cave.

Inside the schoolhouse, the lanterns were placed at good vantage points on the pine desks. We greeted other boys shyly but we attempted no games outside. We were too interested in the talk of the men and we were somewhat subdued by the unaccustomed look of the place with the pools of light contrasting with huge shadows on the walls which the lanterns tried vainly to disperse.

The common school districts of New York state, as organized by an enlightened state assemblyman, Jedidiah Peck of Otsego county in 1812, had proven until the auto age, to be an ideal educational unit. There were 12,000 school districts, though some were never organized. They reached their high point in 1855 when there were 11,500.

In my boyhood, the district schools were run with a minimum of outside supervision. The state furnished public money based on school attendance and once a year, Mr. Walter Andrews, the district superintendent, drove his horse and buggy to the school, looked through the attendance record book, then departed.

In our own district, the landholders lived along two roads, so there were two groups of neighbors. The ridge road people, even in my sons' time were called in children's good-natured raillery, "hillbillies". In turn, the lower road people were nicknamed "river rats", but let it be said, the elders on both roads worked together without division. The meeting began and what we were about to witness was democracy working at its best.

An elderly farmer was named chairman -- he had been for years, -- since he seemed to know all the age-old archaic phrases so loved by presiding officers the English speaking world over. He began by asking, "Gentlemen, what is your pleasure?" Someone nominated a clerk. This functionary was someone known as a legible writer, to record the proceedings of the meeting.

At this point, the district clerk's book was produced and opened, perhaps the very same volume used at the first school meeting held by the district fathers. The names were a cross-section of the district's people and indicate those thought capable by their fellows to lead in school affairs.

There are probably a number of these district meeting books around the county, and it is hoped they will be preserved. Mrs. Nina Smithers, our county historian, with her well known zeal for things historical, has collected most of the record books from the eleven districts of DePeyster. One of these begins in 1835. Our own clerk's book of District Number 3, Russell, kindly loaned me by Mr. Grover Hatch, a native of our district, begins with the date of 1847.

After the clerk's and collector's reports, dull reading to us boys, came the big event, the election of officers by ballot, beginning with trustee. Besides hiring the teacher for next year, this official had to us a most important power, he hired the janitor. My brother and I had this job for several years. It paid 25 cents a week and we had to furnish our own kindling wood and arrive early to start the fire in the schools' box stove. We took turns each week, kept accounts of our earnings and already we felt like capitalists. After the meeting we would see the new trustee without delay and apply before any other boy got the job ahead of us.

Following the election of a school clerk, a collector was elected to receive the district school taxes on district property the town assessors had valued. He could levy on property if taxes were unpaid, but that was most unusual. Only once I remember a levy was made on a delinquent taxpayer's hay stack. On the day set and before the auction of the stack started, the owner produced his tax money.

For some obscure reason or happenstance, I have observed in our district, and in others, the collector lived in a far corner of the locality, so the teacher had to travel a goodly distance, beside teaching to get her salary, as the collector had to sign her order.

The officers having been elected, the question of the wood was taken up. Wood, that commodity so essential to the pupils' comfort through the long North Country winters, back in 1853 had been furnished by parents at the rate of a quarter cord for each pupil. Fifteen years later, each taxpayer was allowed to pay his school tax in wood. After that, it was found that letting the wood job to the lowest bidder was more efficient. So now the bidding began in a more re-



2d Schoolhouse in District No. 3, Russell from painting of Miss Middie Curtis. The building, erected in 1852, cost \$168.

laxes manner, neighbor egging on neighbor to keep the bids going. Nearly all had woodlots, and all knew the work of sawing wood with two men drawing a cross cut saw. The clause in the clerk's book "good, hardwood, two feet long well fitted for the stove" was always entered. Its importance was shown when I was clerk at one meeting. I was suddenly called away before the wood bidding, and the substitute clerk failed to enter the phrase in the book. That winter the trusee was faced with cords of green elm, a stove wood notorious for poor heating, but it was burned without too much hardship. In 1911, the last entry, wood was bid at \$2.35 a cord.

There were some desultory remarks about repairs to be made by the trustee, then the chairman called for a motion to adjourn sine die, pronounced "signed I". Later we learned it was Latin and meant literally, "without date (set)."

The lanterns started out through the darkness up and down the road, and walking home silently, we thought we had solved the problems of our district school properly and well.

To my brother and me there was only one unanswered question: "Who will be the next school ma'am?"

#### LOCAL HISTORICAL MUSEUMS

POTSDAM: The Potsdam Public Museum has had a record number of visitors during the summer. Mrs. Keller has recorded many new documents and articles besides working on the card catalogue and other records. Dee Little has been doing research on the history of the schools from 1810-1964. --Mrs. Marguerite Chapman.



3d Schoolhouse erected 1875. After four plans were rejected by the taxpayers, a plan of Albon McBrier of the district was accepted. Mr. McBrier was the father of Merton McBrier, cousin to Seymour Knox and Frank Woolworth and associated with them in the 5 and 10 cent business. Merton McBrier became a millionaire and benefactor of Hermon. The teacher (above) was Mrs. Lula Ellis Hutchison, who taught the school in 1906.

# They Called It "Pure!"



This milkman claimed that his milk was pure, but it was far from it. At the time when this picture was taken less than 100 years ago, there were no sanitary requirements for the milk producer and none from the farm to the consumer. Some of the milk came from diseased cattle. It was not pasteurized nor cooled, and the bacteria count must have run dangerously high most of the time.

As the picture shows, consumers brought their own container and the milkman dipped it out with a dipper that only got washed once in a while. Today, milk is one of the cleanest and purest foods on the market -- and that is real progress. (Reprinted by permission from American Agriculturist)

## INDIANS (Continued from Page Eleven)

copper, tubular pipes of Ohio pipestone, and blades made from flint from Flint Ridge, Ohio, and Harrison County, Indiana. Some archaeologists believe these artifacts from the Ohio area were brought to New York by the actual migration of the Adena people into the Northeast.

During a survey by Dr. William A. Ritchie in 1954 the remains of a cremation were found at the site of the mounds and surface material was picked up at Indian Point although none of the material on the habitation site could be definitely related to the material found in the mounds. There is a suggestion that the site at Indian Point was a temporary fishing camp utilized during the spring spawning runs of suckers and sturgeon.

St. Lawrence County and its environs has figured prominently in the prehistory of the Iroquois. The term prehistory is used because even though a majority of habitation sites located in the county seem to be Iroquoian, the St. Lawrence Valley was only a hunting area for these Indians when the Europeans first arrived. There is good evidence that the Iroquois culture evolved out of the earlier Woodland cultures, and a portion of this early development took place further south in the Watertown area. Here the Onondaga branch developed sometime before 1500 A.D. and expanded north along the St. Lawrence River. When Jacques Cartier ascended the St. Lawrence River to the Quebec area in 1535, he found the Indians speaking an Iroquoian language. Shortly after this time these Iroquoian Onondagas returned or were driven south where they concentrated in Oswego, Oneida, and Onondaga Counties. In 1603, Champlain found no Iroquois along the river since it was then controlled by the Algonkian tribes.

When the Onondagas initially moved northward from the Watertown area, they built numerous small villages surrounded by earthworks and palisades. This seems to indicate that they were in unfriendly territory or perhaps they did not have the intertribal cohesion they had in later times and were fighting amongst themselves. Sites with earthworks and ditches are quite numerous in St. Lawrence County, although cultivation and building have obliterated most of these visible remains. Sites of this period that have been recorded previously include a village

and earthwork enclosure southwest of the railroad bridge over the Racquette River; a fort site near Massena on the Racquette River; a village site in Helena on the St. Regis River; a large village on Black Lake near Edwardsville; an earthwork near Ogdensburg on the Oswegatchie River; a semi-circular earthwork with gateways in the town of Potsdam about a half mile north of the Racquette River; a crescent-shaped earthwork near Brasie Corners; a village and earthwork with a parapet and ditch in Macomb Township; a semi-circular earthwork enclosing about half an acre along Birch Creek; and an earthwork and village site on the Alvin Washburn farm along Birch Creek in the town of Macomb.

The Washburn site is probably the best known prehistoric Onondaga village site in the county. The village is situated on a low flat field bordered on one side by the stream and on the opposite side by a series of rocky ridges. Collections of artifacts have been made in the plowed field and in a refuse area along the ridge. The C.E. Olds collection in Ogdensburg contains many pottery fragments from this site. The pottery is grit-tempered with a smooth rounded bottom, a constricted neck, and a collared castellated rim with typical Onondaga decorations. Most of the decorations include triangular plats filled with lines made in the soft clay by incising with a pointed object or stamping with a notched implement. The Historical Societies' collection from the site was made by the Washburn children and their friends from 1943-1945 and contains pottery sherds, broken clay trumpet pipes, four stone beads, a celt (ungrooved axe), and broken bone and antler awls and needles.

Since none of these Iroquois sites in the county have ever been excavated by professional archaeologists, their inhabitants' way of life cannot be described in full, but the artifacts found on this site are identical to those found on sites that have been extensively and carefully excavated.

During the first half of the 17th century the Iroquois reasserted their dominance over the St. Lawrence Valley and the lower Ontario peninsula armed with Dutch guns and the powerful political organization of the Iroquois Confederacy. After the British defeated the Dutch in 1664, most of the Iroquois were staunch British allies even through

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# 1812-15, WAR OF MILITARY MISCHANCES

By EUGENE HATCH

Scattered through the pages of our county's histories, some of the incidents of the Second War with Great Britain, especially in the earlier stages, though doubtless serious enough at the time, seem at this late date to have comic opera overtones.

For instance, there was the naval battle in the St. Lawrence river off Morristown in early 1812, fought between the United States schooner "Julia" and the British "Earl of Moira". The two ships ran alongside each other and began a steady and furious cannonade which raged for three hours. There were no casualties and no serious damage to either and at nightfall each vessel retired to her own shore, leaving the situation quite unchanged.

On land, too, there was the action at St. Regis. In direct violation of an agreement made with the United States in 1812, a small company of British troops took post there. Major Young, head of the American force at French Mills (later Fort Covington) made a surprise attack on St. Regis before dawn on Oct. 21, 1812. The British soon surrendered, losing five men. The victorious Americans took forty prisoners back to French Mills, and captured a stand of colors. This flag was taken in triumph to Albany, as the first British colors captured in the war and received at the capitol with elaborate ceremonies. But if a British historian may be believed, this same flag was found in a citizen's house during the St. Regis raid.

The sequel to the victory at St. Regis was a British raid on French Mills and the capture of forty-four Americans. These were exchanged for the British prisoners captured at St. Regis again leaving affairs much as they had been before.

It should be remembered that northern New York was predominately Federalist in politics, from the great land holders to the settlers. They had seen their chosen candidate John Adams beaten by Jefferson in the 1800 election, a great catastrophe to them, in those days of bitter politics. Ogdensburg had been evacuated by the British only about 20 years before and the owners of great tracts of land were absorbed in selling land to settlers, building mills and making roads to develop their interests.

The only products, besides furs, that brought in cash money were potash and lumber floated down the St. Lawrence to Montreal. Our settlers had found the Canadians fair to deal with; each held the other in mutual respect. In river towns like Louisville it is recorded that families exchanged visits to friends across the St. Lawrence "as if the river was but a common street," and during the war



When war threatened with Great Britain, the state legislature passed an act in 1809 to build several arsenals in the state. Governor Thompson selected for one site a commanding hill above Russell village and presumably the building was erected soon after.

The walls were constructed of native stone 30 feet by 50 feet in size. Originally it was surrounded by a high stone wall, bristling with iron spikes. During the War of 1812, Corporal Horace Dickinson, with a small company of soldiers was stationed there.

In 1850 the arsenal was sold by the state together with 400 stand of arms. The building became the village school-house in 1860. It was ruined by fire in March 1945 and torn down.

these visits, held now at night, were common.

In 1807 Jefferson's Embargo Act legally stopped all this busy trade with Canada, and a brisk smuggling business began. News travelled slowly to our frontier and mail took four weeks to come from Philadelphia, Pa. The British seizure of American sailors, one of the war's chief causes, seemed to make only a faint impression on this inland region. The Federalist party lost again in 1810. Their candidate, Pinckney, was overcome by the Democrat, James Madison, and many northern New Yorkers gave a cool response to "Mr. Madison's War".

The first United States troops, records state, were sent to Ogdensburg under Captain Anderson to check the smuggling. They were charged with being overly officious in searching persons crossing the river, and they were accused of being adept foragers of the citizen's chickens and garden stuff. Some of the dislike for these troops, however, may have been caused from the curtailment of the dearly held right of some of the people to carry on smuggling. The embargo was removed and the troops left. In early 1812, scarlet coated British officers might be seen on the streets of Ogdensburg, shopping or going to be entertained at Mr. Parish's elegant mansion. In a recently published letter giving instructions to Lieutenant Ingram, General Pike writes, "British officers of rank are frequently seen at Ogdensburg. Conceal your march (to that place) and you may seize them."

Strangely, on the eve of the war, there was a great fear, not of troops from Canada, but of Indians. Many of the settlers had come north by way of the Mohawk valley, and had heard of the Indian raids, of homes burned and settlers scalped through the valley and at Cherry Valley only 30 years before. It was firmly believed by many that the British would incite the St. Regis Indians to wipe out our settlements.

The sight of a single Indian was enough to cause alarm and they dared not travel without a pass signed by some well known citizen. This paper they would hold in sight when still at a distance.

In the river towns many settlers fled. In Lawrence only five families remained and the panic spread as far

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# 100 YEARS IN St. Patrick's Church Colton MATILDAVILLE

By LORENA REED  
(Town of Colton Historian)



In the eighteen-forties when the potato famine occurred in Ireland, many Irishmen emigrated to the United States. The building of the Northern Railroad, later known as the Rutland, furnished employment for many of them who had settled in Northern New York. Later, the chance to secure land at a very low price and the prospect of lumbering lured them into the foothills of the beautiful Adirondacks. For the same reasons, many French Catholics in Canada moved southward and joined them. That is how Catholicism entered the township of Matildaville, later named Colton.

Those early settlers without a parish but with the true Faith strong in their hearts often made the long journey to Ogdensburg or Waddington for Masses and the Sacraments. Father Salmon of Waddington at one time took care of St. Lawrence County. In or about 1832 he said Mass in Potsdam.

It is known that Mrs. Patrick (Mary) Maloney, who lived at the far end of the Wildwood Area on the Donovan Road, walked and carried at least three of her children to Ogdensburg to be baptized. Those children were Bridget, Mrs. Martin Clohosey of Pierrepont; Katherine, Mrs. Patrick Daly of Potsdam; and Bartholomew, whose home was in Scranton, Iowa. Likewise, Mrs. T.E. (Anna) Frank's grandmother, Mrs. Jeremiah Hayes, walked over thirty miles to Ogdensburg and carried her baby to be baptized. Later a man would hitch his horses to the big wagon and take a load of mothers, children, and their Godparents on the long journey down the sandy, dirt road to Potsdam for the Sacrament of Baptism. Doubtless, many others made similar journeys.

Such acts as these show the true Faith was strong in their hearts and daily lived in their homes. Real family life is the strength of the nation, so sincere religion lived daily in the home life is the backbone of true Christianity.

#### Mission of Potsdam

Soon after 1857, when St. Mary's Parish in Potsdam was founded, Colton became a mission of Potsdam. Masses were then offered in the Hugh Casey Home, Wildwood Road, which is now owned by the Misses Ella and Frances Bicknell. The Catholics from the surrounding area would flock to attend these Masses, showing their appreciation for the chance to live an active Catholic life in their own

community. Often, Mass was followed by Baptisms. Henry Randall, father of Mrs. George Russell, was one of the babies baptized in the Hugh Casey home.

#### St. Patrick's Cemetery

With death already occurring in some homes, the early settlers in 1859 decided to purchase a burying ground. In 1874, a large wooden cross was erected and Bishop Edgar P. Wadhams, first Bishop of the Diocese of Ogdensburg, blessed the cemetery. Thus, St. Patrick's Cemetery in Colton was established.

Studying the inscriptions on monuments is a fascinating way of obtaining historical facts. Here are the readings on three of them:

1. Jeremiah Hayes - died August 10, 1854 - age 10 yrs. - Native of Ireland, County of Cork - May his soul rest in peace, amen.
2. Jeremiah Hayes - died June 19, 1868 - age 98 yrs. - May his soul rest in peace, amen.
3. Patrick Haggarty - 1790 - 1898 - May his soul rest in peace, amen.

These inscriptions show that some of the Irish immigrants died young, while others lived to ripe old ages. Patrick Haggarty, who lived to the age of 108, must have been blessed with a rugged constitution.

On the Jeremiah Haggarty monument, next to Patrick Haggarty's, is a Gaelic cross well worth inspecting.

When a death occurred, the neighbors expressed their sympathy and charity by digging the grave, and after the burial formed a nice family plot for the bereaved, who continued to care for it.

In 1906, the need for enlarging the cemetery, resulted in the purchase, by St. Patrick's and St. Paul's Parishes, of the bordering Currier estate which had been part of the land known as the "Seventy-Nine Acres" (This included the Currier Estate, the O'Malley property, and the Lyman Tannery on the brook).

About 1920, Protestants and Catholics each received a gift of one thousand dollars from the Honorable A. Barton Hepburn, a native son of Colton, for the erection of a suit-

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## 100 YEARS (Continued from Page Sixteen)

able fence along the front of each cemetery. The Protestants erected the beautiful iron fence at Pleasant Mound Cemetery. The Catholics, under Father De Smet's guidance, built the concrete fence. Along the other three sides they planted a border of young pines, which are now stately trees.

At that time, the pastor, who foresaw that the additional acres would not be immediately needed, made this statement: "We have ample time to plant, grow and harvest pine lumber long before that day comes." So they started a young pine grove. Later more trees were added. As a result, we have a thriving pine grove which not only adds grandeur to our property, but which will help finance future needs of the parishes. Already, the cutting of some of the pines has helped our cemetery fund.

For years, the care of the cemetery lots was the responsibility of the lot-holders. As time went on, some lots were left uncared for because the descendants of the lot-holders had either died or moved away. So part of the cemetery was well kept and part was covered with wild roses and berry bushes. The sight of it grieved both pastor parishioners. Individual care was abandoned and a caretaker for the whole cemetery employed. It was financed by an annual assessment on lot-holders, and was welcomed by most of the locals, and folks living away who had relatives buried here. Today, perpetual care is available.

In the interior was a small sanctuary which contained a wooden altar and was surrounded by a railing. At each side and facing the sanctuary were pews. On the wall at the right of the altar was placed a statue of St. Patrick holding the shamrock in his raised right hand.

In the nave of the church were arranged pews (eight sittings) in the center and pews (four sittings) along each side near the wall, with two side aisles where funeral processions used the right aisle going to the sanctuary and the left aisle for leaving. Wedding parties used only the left aisle for entering and leaving. Above and extending over half the nave was a gallery, where there were more pews and an organ. For years, Eliza Toomey was the organist. Today, we enjoy the wonderful music that Arthur Lines produces from the same old organ.

In the addition on the back of the church were the sacristy, cellar way, and a storeroom where church supplies and wood and kindling were kept for the two stoves in the church and the stove in the sacristy.

In the early years of the twentieth century, the sanctuary was extended across the front and a new Communion railing was built. Tan oatmeal wallpaper replaced the red paper. The many panes of glass in each Roman style window were covered with imitation stain glass paper which nice to look at, but the changes in temperature and humidity continually unglued the attempted simulation. The old pews were replaced with second hand pews purchased from the Methodist Church in Potsdam, and arranged with a center aisle and two side aisles. A pipeless wood and coal furnace to replace the stoves was installed in the cellar with one large register in the center aisle.

Since then the sanctuary has been enlarged by the cutting of an arch into the addition; the ceiling has been arched; the Roman style windows have been changed to Gothic style with stained glass windows; the gallery has been reduced to half its original size; new pews with padded kneelers have been installed. Less noticeable has been the major project of building a new foundation and an enlarged cellar.

In order to improve the appearance of the property, extra land was purchased in 1869. An Indenture dated October 5, 1869, indicates that David Brown and Unice Brown conveyed to Michael Brennon, Cornelius Hayes and Cornelius Toomey, Trustees of St. Patrick's Church in Colton additional land next to the "new Catholic Church".

In the horse and buggy days, parishioners hitched their horses in the rear of the church and on the George Bicknell property across the street to trees, fence posts or anything else available.

In 1902, on the hill behind the church, Martin Clohosey, William Quinn and the Miller brothers built a shed consisting of three stalls with double doors on each stall to protect their horses from the inclement weather. About 1905, Martin Clohosey sold his part to Thomas Fitzgerald. When cars came into use, the sheds were torn down and the grounds around the church became the parking area.

According to church records, St. Patrick's Parish has had three stations, at Wick (or "Sterling Wick"), White Hill and French Pond. It is well to explain that a "station" denotes a locality where the priest has the care of souls and offers Mass in a private home; a "mission" denotes a location where there is a church but no resident pastor. In 1897, for one year, Father Pierce had an assistant, Father John Corbett, to help him care for this large area.

In 1898, Station Wick was discontinued. In 1909, Stations White Hill and French Pond were discontinued. Wick and White Hill became part of Holy Cross Parish in Hopkinton, and recently were transferred to St. Michael's Church in Parishville. The French Pond people became parishioners of St. Paul's Parish in South Colton.

When French Pond was a Station of St. Patrick's Mass was offered in the James Liston home, now the home of the John Regan family.

In Wick, Mass was first offered in the Charles Coolin home. Mrs. Ira Gushea, a descendant of the Coolins, says she remembers Father Plunkett and Father Pierce coming to the Coolin home. Starting about 1900 Masses were then offered in the Norman home which is now owned by George Garner of Potsdam. James Clohosey, of Colton, says he remembers Archie Collins, with Fritz the horse hitched to the buggy, driving Father Mahoney to Wick. They would be gone a couple of days. John Norman, of Colton, has the crucifix and brass candlesticks used in those Masses; the altar missal, more than one hundred years ago, is in St. Mary's Cathedral in Ogdensburg.

In the early 1800's, nestled in the foothills of the virgin-forested Adirondacks, on the banks of the Racquette River, was the little village of Three Falls, in the township of Matildaville, about five miles south of the village of Matildaville. Settled here were hard-working pioneers, among them Irish Catholic immigrants right from the Old Sod. They labored hard all week at their various trades, and on Sundays and Holy Days they expended heroic efforts to fulfill their obligation to assist at Mass. When St. Patrick's Parish was established, the hardship was somewhat lessened, but nonetheless present. On hot summer Sundays, one ex-parishioner recalls, her Mother would walk barefoot carrying her best shoes until nearly to the church. Some of her group always brought tea, so before returning home they could have a hot cup of tea, the hot water being supplied by the hospitable Mrs. Dailey who lived across the road from the church, and was likened to the proverbial Polly of the nursery rhyme.

Late in the century, Three Falls took its clue from its larger neighbor, and became known as South Colton. As the community grew, a church of their own was becoming a necessity. In June 26, 1899, land was purchased for \$40. from Marcia French and the Laura Shea estate. In 1927, the land adjoining the church toward the river was given to St. Paul's Church by Michael J. Barnett.

Now that the site was acquired, came the task of raising the funds to build a church. Donations, large and small; lumber camps canvassed; chances sold on various articles; all sorts of money-raising activities were carried on. In the fall of 1900, the ground was broken and the foundation laid. The stones used for that purpose were hauled by volunteer crews of men with teams attached to stoneboats and loaded from the banks of the Racquette River. The fact that a well-known proprietor of a hotel close by was generously supplying liquid refreshment on his back porch might be reason why this phase of the building was most popular, and also well accomplished.

Under the capable leadership of James Guiney as head carpenter, the present St. Paul's Church was erected. The whole interior is matched, native hardwood with a varnished finish. Proof of its fine construction is evidenced by the

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## 100 YEARS (Continued from Page Seventeen)

low repair bills and the few changes over the years. Only recently did the front doors need replacing. Two new windows were placed in the sanctuary, electric lights replaced the old kerosene lamps, and in February, 1959, our present modern lighting system was installed by young men of the parish. The old wood-burning furnace has been replaced by an oil furnace which operates with the flick of a switch. This brings to mind the long hours spent by the late Philip Healy, who would stay long after midnight on Saturday nights stoking the orney old furnace, so the church would be warm on below-zero Sundays. His wife, Ettie, would always bring him a hearty lunch and hot coffee, which they would share before midnight so as not to break their fast for Sunday Communion.

New cushioned kneelers have replaced the splintery boards. The original, ornate altar still stands, but today the pastor offers Mass facing the people on a temporary altatable. The original altar was designed and constructed by Morris B. Hawley, a cabinet maker from Colton. Although not of the Catholic Faith, he spent a great deal of time travelling and studying altars in Catholic Churches before completing his work.

The original organ is still in use in the choir loft; in the early days it was played by Mrs. Nora Lehan, and later by her daughter, Josie Lehan Mulligan, now residing in Potsdam. The first couple to be married in the new church were Dennis Shea and Julia Regan, and the first funeral Mass was offered for Jack Regan.

Although we now have the Altar and Rosary Society which takes care of all altar and church cleaning, years ago there were many good women who worked faithfully, Nell Cayey, Mary Donahue, Minnie Matthie, Ettie Healy, and Abbie Sullivan, to mention a few. A lady of the parish recalls drawing a little red wagon from East Hill, filled with flowering plants which her motner raiseu especially to decorate the altar every Sunday. This same lady also washed and ironed the altar linens. The League of the Sacred Heart was organized in September, 1905. St. Paul's was incorporated as a parish on June 20, 1913. The first trustees were Philip Healy, Dennis Healy, and Michael Barnett.

During the pastorate of Father Connors, a parish hall was purchased from W.E. Lindsay. It was sold in 1951 for \$1500 to the present owners, The Racquette Valley Fish and Game Club. It was in this hall that many money-raising activities were held for both parishes, such as annual picnics, home-talent plays, dances, hunters' breakfasts, harvest suppers, Mother's Day dinners, and card parties.

At St. Paul's Church, in the early spring of 1959, the people erected an outdoor shrine to the Sacred Heart. The statue is carved from Carrara marble, and was shipped directly from the marble fields in Pietrasanta, Italy. It was donated by a friend.

Men of the parish worked together on the beautiful brick-work; trees and flowers were planted and are cared for by loving hands.

Through a special lighting system, the shrine is illuminated as soon as darkness descends in the evening, and remains lighted, as a beacon for travellers, until the early hours of the morning. People of all religions are invited to visit the shrine and offer their prayers. Passers-by utter a "quickle" for their safety on the road, especially when entering the long, lonely stretch of woods southward to Seveys.

Prior to 1906, when the present rectory was purchased, pastors lived at first in the home of Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Jones. (Their home was on the now vacant lot between the Teddy Bear restaurant and Mrs. McHenry's home.) Later, the pastor stayed at the Empire Exchange Hotel on the present site at the Hepburn Library. On March 9, 1900, the hotel burned and all the church records were lost, resulting in countless small tragedies when people came seeking their Baptismal records to prove their date of birth, especially when applying for social security benefits. Very often, in those days, the church records were the only possible

proof of date of birth, since county or state records were not kept. The proprietor of the hotel, Dan McDonald, moved his family into the Beckwith house, now occupied by the Albert (Jack) McEwen family, and later to the Toomey house, now owned by Everett (Nick) McEwen. The resident pastor lived with the McDonald family in both houses.

On the Currier estate was a large house which provided a rectory for St. Patrick's and St. Paul's Parishes. The purchase of this estate for \$1700 in 1906 and the upkeep of the property has been financed by both parishes.

The large house, with its many spacious rooms, made an excellent rectory, especially in the horse and buggy days. Visiting priests to assist at Forty Hours and other church functions would stay all night. With speedy cars and good roads they now come only for dinner.

If the first pastor to live in the rectory could return, he would marvel at the many changes both inside and out, such as the addition on the south side which enlarges the living room and provides a breakfast room off the kitchen. Examining the central oil heating system, he might remark, "I used to be very comfortable with a wood fire as I sat in my rocker and read my breviary."

Climbing the stairs, he would observe that the stairs, hall and four upstairs bedrooms look much the same except for paper, paint and some furnishings. "But what is this at the head of the stairs? A bathroom! Now they have a bath. And I just had a path!"

The kitchen would appear like a fairyland. Turning on the tap for a drink of water, he would recall the many trips to the wellhouse outside, wherein was a bucket to lower into the well and a crank to raise it. Then the water was emptied into the pail. Peeping into the electric refrigerator, he would see that there was no more worrying about food spoiling or the need of several trips down cellar to store the perishable foods on the cool cellar floor.

Opening the door to what was the woodshed, he would behold a lovely chapel, used in cold weather for week-day Masses. In former years, the morning Masses were offered in the church sacristy which was heated by a woodstove. Later, various rooms in the rectory were used. In 1951, the old woodshed, which had previously been used as a recreation room, was transformed into a chapel which expresses both simplicity and beauty. Its artistic altar was built by Harry Gilmore.

Parishioners have always been generous in driving pastors on their parish rounds. A typical example occurred many years ago, when a man said to a young lad, "Take my horse and buggy and drive Father Plunkett out to French Hill on a sick call. Don't talk on the way out." On the return trip, they did talk and the boy learned from his pastor the true meaning of a sick call, -- and that they were silent because he was taking Our Lord in the Blessed Sacrament to the sick man.

Finally, one Christmas, the parishioners purchased Fritz, the famous sorrel horse, for Father Pierce to drive. He was kept in Dan McDonald's barn (on the property now owned by Mr. and Mrs. Everett McEwen). Dan cared for the horse and sometimes drove Father about the parish.

One Sunday after Mass in South Colton, Fritz hitched to the driverless buggy ran wildly through Colton village to the barn, his refuge. Soon, Father Pierce, safe and sound but walking, was met by the excited villagers. He explained the runaway in this manner, "Out on the Horton Flats, that frisky horse threw me from the buggy and vanished."

In 1906, Father Mahoney moved Fritz to the big barn on the rectory property. There he was cared for by Archie Collins. The sorrel horse, though not as frisky as in his runaway days, became the pride of both Father and Archie. It was a familiar sight to see Father Mahoney drive by, with Fritz hitched to the top carriage and his collie dog sitting on the seat beside him.

In 1909, Father Byrne arrived with his own team of horses. To share the parish barn with those horses must have made the old parish horse a bit jealous. What happened to Fritz we cannot find out, but we assume that he soon died of old age, or perhaps of a broken heart and

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# the original harison house

A generation after the American Revolution Richard Harison, a prominent attorney and City Treasurer of New York, is said to have purchased from the State large tracts of "waste" and "unappropriated" lands in Northern New York, at from eight to twelve cents an acre, and built the home pictured above on Judson Street in Canton. It was referred to as a mansion, originally one story high in brick, and wholly surrounded by a pillared piazza. A second story was added later, and it became successively a fraternity house and an apartment house. It is now the site of the new "Harison House," a modern luxury apartment building owned by Dr. and Mrs. Harry E. Howe.

Richard Harison later built and lived for many years in the house on Main Street which is now the Kappa Kappa Gamma chapter house, and in the late nineties was the home of Senator D. S. Lynde, first president of the First National Bank of Canton.

## The First National Bank of Canton

BETTER LIVING AND BETTER BUSINESS THRU BETTER BANKING

MEMBER FEDERAL DEPOSIT INSURANCE CORPORATION

## 100 YEARS (Continued from Page Eighteen)

received an appropriate burial for an animal of his stature.

At first Father DeSmet had a big Metz car. Later, he used a Model T Ford coupe for his parish rounds, and used the old barn as a garage.

Father Migneron had the present garage built, with upstairs living quarters for a caretaker. Fading memories identify his make of car as everything from a Rolls Royce to a Cadillac, but we do know that it must have been a big one, and impressive. The barn then became a cote for doves and a home for sheep and other animals. An extension on the garage provided an up-to-date chicken coop, with built-in ventilators which still excite the curiosity of visitors. Today, the old barn is idle.

For years, Colton was known all over the North Country for its famous Fifteenth of August picnic, which was held in the Lyman grove bordering the Hepburn estate. All summer it was in the making. Usually there was a contest over a watch or a suit of clothes, which caused much strife, but resulted in a financial success. During the summer, the children saved pennies to spend at the picnic.

In the early evening of the previous day, a farmer selected in each section of the parish collected milk and eggs from his neighbors, which were delivered to Mrs. Frank Spear's home (now the home of Mrs. Matthew Stowe and Mrs. Glen Gale). The village women assembled and made ice cream. A couple of strong village boys were on hand to turn the crank, knowing that their traditional reward would be to lick the paddles when finished. Ice for freezing was furnished by Joseph T. Smith who ran an icehouse in connection with his general store (now Frank's Grocery). During the previous winter, the icehouse had been filled with large cakes of ice from the Racquette River and covered with sawdust for protection from the summer heat.

What about eats for the picnic, each mother would say, "I must cook more food than my family will eat, because many friends and relatives from the neighboring towns will be here." And they would be there, after a long ride in their horsedrawn carriages over dirt roads. Usually the children would announce their arrival by shouting, "Here comes Aunt Min, Uncle Pat and all the kids from Potsdam! Other children would scream, "Here comes the Cant folks!" But no matter how many came, there was food galore and then some. Mother would sacrifice two her for her delicious chicken pie, secure from the garden large kettle of potatoes and another kettle of carrots and beets. She would bake three or four pies, usually apple or berry, a large pan of home-baked beans and about four dozen rolls. The farmers who sold their milk at the local cheese factory chipped in to buy a whole cheese for the picnic and those who patronized the local creamery furnished butter.

August Fifteenth being the Feast of the Assumption of Our Blessed Mother, the great day was started with a nine o'clock Mass. After Mass, parishioners assembled at the picnic grounds where, waiting for them, were the long home-made tables on which they spread their table cloths and dishes brought from home. There was an open fireplace, and later a St. Lawrence cookstove, to keep food warm, and to make tea or coffee. At a distance was a stand where women sold the home-made ice cream, and nearby another stand where two men made and sold lemonade. There was a platform built for dancing and in the open field beyond, they played games: baseball and bran-sack races for the children; and pole-vaulting, standing broad jump and the inevitable greased pig for the adults; and then there was the famous tug-of-war, in which ten strong men from the east side of the Racquette would pull against ten strong men from the west side. Sometimes it was difficult for them to control their tempers so it would not end in a civil war.

Between 9 and 10 p.m. more than three hundred people would assemble in the old town hall, still being used for the Town Clerk's office. Downstairs, another big feed from the day's leftovers was prepared for the midnight supper. Upstairs there was round and square dancing until the wee hours of the morning.

## MR. VANDUZEE (Continued from Page Four)

Duzee hospital story.

The building was later torn down and the area is presently used as a free municipal parking lot.

Mr. Van Duzee was a Republican in his political beliefs and was appointed postmaster in 1862, remaining in that position until 1865 when a veteran of the Civil War, Capt. George B. Winslow replaced him. Mr. Van Duzee's appointment was the first under the Republican party which chose its first president, Abraham Lincoln in 1860. Besides being Gouverneur's first Republican postmaster, Mr. Van Duzee also was one of the first men to serve on the on the Cranberry Lake Commission, which in 1866 had just built the water storage dam at Cranberry Lake. The Commission was appointed by the St. Lawrence County judge and consisted of three men, two of whom at that time came from Ogdensburg. Mr. Van Duzee also served on the village board.

A few local residents still recall the Van Duzee furniture store at 10 Church, now the site of offices for Northeast Constructors and just previously George Coughler's Lido restaurant. An old picture of the Van Duzee store carries the printed address under the picture, "The Van Duzee store, 10 Main street". This was a slip of the pen on the part of the one getting out the card. Church street has always begun at the top of West Main street incline at the West Main juncture with William Street. There was a storehouse at the rear of the store which stored furniture and some other purposes. This three-story structure had no utility use for the John Rouse Construction Corporation who eventually acquired it and it was razed early in 1959 to permit exit from the rear of the Presbyterian Church to William or Church Streets.

Mr. Van Duzee engaged in other enterprises. He was a partner and once president of the Gouverneur Marble Company; he put up the money for a talc mill at Hailesboro, which eventually became part of the International Talc Corporation. Since it was off the railroad which started to Edwards in 1893, the Van Duzee talc mill did not operate after the advent of the Gouverneur and Edwards railroad.

## The President's Report

Thanks to all members who keep their dues paid up to date and to those members who attend our tours and workshops. We have had a busy and interesting summer. Mrs. Planty has done a fine job of planning a variety of trips for us and large groups of members and friends report considerable enjoyment both with the variety and good meals. In another section of the Quarterly you will note a special message to all delinquent members. Try to keep off this list. We cannot afford to send any more Quarterlies to those who are not interested enough to pay the small sum of \$2.00 a year dues. Won't you please "pay your fare or get off the train?"

At our Ogdensburg meeting recently, we discussed Membership again, with a group of more than one hundred members who attended the tour and workshop. We now have more delinquent members than ever before. Those present voted unanimously to discontinue sending our Quarterly to all members who are now delinquent in the payment of their Annual Dues. The October Quarterly will be mailed to all and it will be the last one until your dues are brought up to date. We are a non-profit organization, but there is no reason why so many people are willing to have their neighbors carry the load of supporting the financial burden all the time.

Please take advantage of the Membership form appearing in this issue. We hope to receive your membership dues right away.

*Edward J. Stein*

**BERT SNELL** (Continued from Page Three)

candidate to enter the September primary from the county. Major Daniels persuaded both Sacket and Sealer to withdraw in his favor because he had made such a strong showing against Merritt the year before and was therefore the strongest candidate. Both withdrew and so did Ferris so the unofficial primary was to be between Daniels and Snell.

In the June 9 Courier was a full report of the June 4 meeting of the County Republican Committee under the chairmanship of Harry Ingram of Ogdensburg. It was held in the Canton Courthouse and over 200 Republicans attended. A lively discussion developed over the primary and Bert Snell announced he was a candidate for the Congressional seat, that he was willing to enter the unofficial primary and would abide by its results and support the candidate that won.

After a half-hour recess the meeting was reconvened and L.C. Sutton, editor of the "Massena Observer" asked Major Daniels point blank if he would abide by the result of the unofficial primary and support the winner and Major Daniels said he would. It was voted by the group to hold the unofficial primary and later a committee set the date for Aug. 10. The cost of the primary was to be shared by the two candidates.

The Courier-Freeman was strongly behind its native son. The St. Lawrence Republican (Republican) said "The political leaders of Franklin County have indicated their disposition to stand with St. Lawrence County in this matter and some of the most prominent Republicans of that county including Hon. H.D. Stevens have indicated very strongly that Franklin County would not have a candidate for the Congressional nomination provided St. Lawrence County settled its local differences and settled on one candidate. Thus it is clearly a matter of political expediency for St. Lawrence County Republicans to select a single Candidate to be presented at the primary election next September."

The Democratic paper, the Ogdensburg News, was more outspoken: "The unofficial primary is a novelty and how this proposition will be received is a matter of speculation as is also the stand of the Republican voters of Franklin County. Some budding ambitions are noticeable in the neighborhood of Malone."

In its June 11th issue the Courier mentioned a rumor that Halbert D. Stevens of Malone would enter the race for the nomination "as the approved candidate of the Clinton County Republican leader. It is quite apparent that the motive back of the Clinton County offer is to defeat St. Lawrence even at a temporary sacrifice of personal ambitions. Franklin county as a whole may be relied on to give calm consideration to the subject."

Newspapers backing Snell included the Courier, the Massena Observer (who praised his youth and vigor), the Watertown Times and the Canton Plaindealer. The Gouverneur Free Press was for Daniels and the Ogdensburg News (Democrat) wondered if Daniels would withdraw since the majority of those attending the County Committee meeting on June 4 were for Snell.

An editorial in the July 7 Courier stated "The two St. Lawrence County candidates for the Republican Congressional nomination are engaged in a gentlemanly campaign for the support of a majority of the enrolled voters of the county. Bert Snell is making a vigorous personal canvass of the county."

The Gouverneur Tribune compared the two, saying that Daniels signified the "old order" after 40 years of public life while Snell was the "new order" as a newcomer to politics. It added "part of Snell's strength is that he hasn't been active in politics and so unhampered by the ties and obligations which such activities entail."

All seemed calm and quiet and the unofficial primary seemed the ideal way for St. Lawrence to decide which of the two candidates would enter the primary in September. However, the calm hid a bubbling volcano which was just ready to erupt.

The July 21 Courier headlined two developments which set the county Republicans back on their heels. The first was the announcement by H.D. Stevens, editor of the Malone Farmer, that he was a candidate for the GOP nomination for the Congressional seat and would enter the primary. This was not really a surprise although he had been saying he wouldn't run. You couldn't always believe politicians.

The second bombshell was the receipt of a letter the day before by Harry Ingram from Major Daniels to the effect that Daniels "would withdraw from the unofficial primary and will become a candidate at the primary in September regardless of any agreement or statement made to the contrary at the meeting of the GOP County Committee at Canton recently."

Daniels gave as his reasons for his action the candidacy of Stevens and the alleged opposition to the unofficial primary in St. Lawrence County in the other counties throughout the district. Apparently he felt that the other three counties would have ganged up against the St. Lawrence County candidate to defeat him. However, according to other papers and other stories, Daniels was inclined to feel Snell would beat him in the unofficial primary.

The fine hand of John O'Brien of Clinton County was showing now, as he was apparently backing Stevens of Malone and also encouraging Daniels to run in the primary in September. Under questioning, Daniels admitted he had consulted personally with both Stevens and O'Brien. This of course gave rise to much speculation that Daniels had allied himself with O'Brien who was very much disliked in St. Lawrence.

Daniels' action occasioned a furor of editorial comment all over the area, which was reprinted in the Courier. One accused him of being a poor loser and being "poorly advised by his Democratic friends in Ogdensburg." Another commented that O'Brien had been alleged to agree to eliminate himself as a candidate and "deliver to Stevens the enrolled GOP electorate of Clinton and Essex Counties". The paper noted that counties don't like to be delivered!

Also mentioned was the fact that St. Lawrence County had had a fairly strong progressive showing in the 1912 election -- "a bolt encouraged to revive when old candidates personifying old methods and old principles are pushed to the front" and suggested that this current situation might be encouraging another such bolt.

There was much consternation among the GOP County Committee heads, who were very upset about Daniels going back on his promise to abide by the unofficial primary results. Col. Sacket of Gouverneur was particularly annoyed and immediately announced his support of Snell and the majority of the others were behind him also. Parker, Gouverneur, asked Daniels to withdraw from the September primary "in the interest of the party" but Daniels did not reply.

The Plattsburgh Republican Press backed Stevens and praised Daniels. The Courier was very much against the Plattsburgh Press, thought to be the mouthpiece of O'Brien, and there were editorials weekly refuting the Plattsburgh paper's statements. Both papers must have increased their circulation during these months. The Plattsburgh Republican was distributing papers in St. Lawrence County and this was probably another reason for the Courier's animosity.

Courier editor Ernest Fay accused O'Brien of encouraging Daniels to detract from the St. Lawrence County vote and said that it looked like Daniels was determined to beat Snell at any cost. He also suggested that perhaps Clinton and Essex planned to enter a candidate of their own at the last minute to carry the total 7859 vote of those two counties which would have swung the election if St. Lawrence was split.

It was interesting to note that this issue of the paper also included a special four page, full size Trade Edition printed on slick stock and including pictures and stories on all businesses and important businessmen in Potsdam, including Bert Snell. The timing was very good. Perhaps it was distributed in Clinton county too!

A Courier editorial on Aug. 18 called John O'Brien "a would-be dictator of Republican politics from Lake

**BERT SNELL** (Continued from Page Twenty-One)

Champlain to the St. Lawrence" and quoted the Plattsburgh paper as saying that Clinton, Essex and Franklin must nominate Stevens. "Are the enrolled Republicans going to choose their own candidate or are they going to let John F. O'Brien choose one for them?" asked Ernest Fay.

In the meanwhile, Bert Snell had been making personal canvasses in Franklin County and in Essex County, especially in Lake Placid. Said the Courier "In Clinton County there is an independent movement which is causing the O'Brien faction more uneasiness than it cares to admit. There are indications that Clinton refuses to be delivered."

Snell's petitions were filed with the Secretary of State and included over 5000 names, reported in the paper "to be the largest ever filed from the county and in many districts containing the name of every enrolled Republican voter. His supporters are busy in every town and everywhere the sentiment is the same. . . In Essex County a candidate for office has been making a direct canvass among the voters, something new in that section. Appealing directly to the electorate, Mr. Snell's campaign there has made remarkable progress and from a comparable stranger he had come to be as well known as any man in public life in Essex County." (Sept. 8 Courier)

The primary was held on September 28 and the next day's Courier carried on its front page the news that Bert Snell had won the primary handily with a plurality of over 1000. It also said that he ran well in the southern end of Franklin County (Tupper gave him 248 votes to Stevens' 27 and Daniels' 9) and that he had made a good showing in Essex, especially in Elizabethtown and Lake Placid.

The Oct. 6 Courier gave the official figures. Snell had a plurality of 1441 over his two opponents and would oppose on election day the Democratic candidate, George L. Allen, a Malone lawyer, and the Progressive candidate, Howard D. Hadley of Plattsburgh.

The vote by counties was as follows: St. Lawrence: Snell, 4751; Stevens, 118; Daniels, 1449; Franklin: Snell, 735; Stevens, 1723; Daniels, 118; Essex: Snell, 826; Stevens, 1348; Daniels, 153; Clinton: Snell, 289; Stevens, 1971; Daniels, 124. The totals were Snell, 6601; Stevens, 5160; Daniels 2844.

The Courier called it "one of the hardest fought political battles in the North Country in some years which attracted attention all over the state. Snell received over 200 congratulatory letters and telegrams including those from Gov. Charles S. Whitman, Lt. Gov. Schoeneck, Highway Commissioners Duffy, Speaker of the Assembly T.C. Sweet, Judge Paddock of Franklin County, John McLaughlin and Judge Park of Essex County, and F. Roy Kirk, Republican County Chairman of Franklin County.

Two weeks later ex-president William Howard Taft came to Potsdam to talk before the Fortnightly Club on "Our World Relations". He had been a classmate at college of Prof. E.W. Flagg of the Normal School. He arrived in Potsdam Oct. 21, was given a banquet by the Potsdam Businessmen's Association, and a public reception in the Normal Hall before his talk to nearly 1000 persons. Among the local businessmen riding in the official car with him was Bert Snell and Taft stayed with Mr. and Mrs. Snell that evening at their home on Market Street.

The Nov. 3rd election results were as expected in the strongly Republican North Country. Bert Snell was elected to Congress by one of the largest majorities ever given a Republican in the 31st Congressional District and he even carried Ogdensburg "by 524 -- the largest majority that Democratic town ever gave a Republican." The county polled one of the largest votes ever recorded in an off year and as stated by the Courier "prompted by the fear of losing their votes next year if they didn't enroll, the farmers went to the polls in force."

Bert Snell of Potsdam was now on his way to Congress to start his brilliant career in Washington. It is now 49 years later and Bert Snell has been dead seven years but his efforts in Congress for the benefit of St. Lawrence County along the lines of the development of the St. Law-

rence Seaway have been memorialized by naming one of the two U.S. Seaway locks in his honor, the Bertrand H. Snell Lock.

You Won't Want to Miss the

**ANNUAL MEETING**

of your

**St. Lawrence County Historical Association**

Beginning at 11:30 a.m.

Saturday, October 17, 1964

Gouverneur High School Cafeteria

•

Reports and Election of Officers

•

Program Will Include a Skit

by Gouverneur Community Players and

**MOVIES**

of Our Tours Since 1961

•

(Good Time to Pay Your Dues, Too!)

**MEMBERSHIP UP TO DATE?**

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

Dear Mr. Cleland:

Enclosed find \$2.00 in cash, check or money order to cover my dues.

Please send The Quarterly to me at this address:

NAME .....

STREET and NUMBER .....

or RURAL ROUTE .....

**MAIL THIS HANDY COUPON  
WITH CHECK -- TODAY!**

## FROM THE COUNTY'S Cracker Barrel

(Including the names of all Town and Village Historians together with a continuing report of their activities.) BRASHER: (Mrs. John Gray). CANTON: (Edward F. Heim) This has been a busy summer for all of us. We attended all the tours and workshops of the St. Lawrence County Historical Association, including the Ogdensburg tour Sept. 12. Mrs. Planty has done an excellent job planning these interesting trips for our members. Recently we visited Parishville to take part in the dedication of their Historical Museum, which was most interesting. The members of this small organization put to shame we larger groups who have missed opportunities to have our own museums. During August we spent two weeks with a group of men from the County Welfare Dept., cleaning up the Olin Cemetery on the Sykes road. We unearthed a number of buried stones and now have a rather complete record of 164 Grave Markers with names, dates, etc. The old post and rail fence and gate were restored and many fallen stones were set up again and cleaned. We had the help of tools and equipment from the town highway dept., and also the advice and help of Mr. Robert Whalen and Bill Stalder of the Witherbee & Whalen Monument Co., of Canton, with their staff of workers and trucks. New maps were drawn and copies filed with Mrs. Smithers, County Historian, with a complete list of Grave Markers with numbers to match the maps. CLARE: (Mrs. Iris J. Fry). CLIFTON: (Mrs. Clara McKenny) One of our older residents, Thomas H. Bruce, age 82, passed away on Sunday, Aug. 31 in an Ogdensburg hospital. He was born at South Colton Apr. 2, 1882, son of John and Katherine Welch Bruce. For years Mr. Bruce owned and operated Rustic Lodge at Cranberry Lake. He was also foreman for Oval Wood Dish at Tupper Lake. He retired years ago. COLTON: (Mrs. Lorena Reed). DEKALB: (F.F.E. Walrath). DEPEYSTER: (Mrs. Emery Smithers) A touch with the historical past was felt in DePeyster when Joseph B. DePeyster, Headmaster at the University Lake school in Hartland, Wis., and a descendant of Frederick DePeyster from whom our town was named, paid us a visit. Mr. DePeyster was attending sessions at SLU. It was his first visit east. EDWARDS: (Miss Leah Noble) Have helped several find genealogy data, rechecked cemeteries, went "hunting" with a camera, and visited (several) Upper Canada Village and others -- thrilled at the marvelous miniatures by Bennie Arnold at Naumburg. FINE: (Mrs. Catherine Brownell) Have been busy answering letters from people who are writing family histories. FOWLER: (Mrs. Robert Yerdon) GOUVERNEUR: (Harold Storie) The first meeting of this season of the Gouverneur Historical Association will be held the first Thursday evening of Oct. Election of officers will be held at this time. HAMMOND: (Mrs. Maxine B. Rutherford) HERMON: (Mrs. Harriet Jenne) HOPKINTON: (Mrs. Vaughn Day) Working on the Vanishing Americana and scrapbook. LAWRENCE: (Mrs. Gordon Cole). LISBON: (Lee M. Martin) I enjoyed the historical tour of Ogdensburg. Found it interesting and instructive. The large attendance of tours is encouraging. LOUISVILLE: (Lorraine Bandy) Most of my summer work was with tourists on genealogical surveys. Loaned clothing and artifacts to several individuals for the Old Fashioned Days in Massena that represented the Town of Louisville. All clippings are up-to-date but Military and cemetery records are slow, as usual! MADRID: (Mrs. Florence Fisher) MASSENA: (Anthony Romeo) The 3rd, 4th and 5th grades are the best and most appreciative listeners. These children not only tell their parents and friends about the Historian's work but become a part of the great work done by the Historic Association and societies. MORRISTOWN: (Mrs. Doris Planty) Helped a Boy Scout troop from St. George Parish, Ottawa, Canada, who was on a bicycle trip and wanted a history of our town, and a sketch of our Famous resident who was Charles Chapman N.A. (Artist). Contacted the village board also the town board to get a fence around the Indian Kettle at the end of the Gib-way trail. NORFOLK: (Mrs. Edith Van Kernen) I have acquired

two 25" x 6" pictures and one 35" x 6" picture of St. Lawrence County Draftees, Dist. No. 2 of World War I. Am trying to get the names to go along with these men. I hope eventually to give these pictures to our History Center at Canton. OSWEGATCHIE: (Mrs. Persis Boyesen) is welcomed as a new and very active historian. As area editor she sends to Syracuse four times a year genealogical information of Franklin and St. Law. Counties for the quarterly "Tree Talks". One Hundred pictures have been snapped of the Vanishing Landscape of the town with 72 more to be taken. For the last Historical Tour Mrs. Boyesen spoke on the Ford Vault. She also gave a talk to the DAR on the 23 first families of the Town. The Pine Hill Cemetery census is completed and clippings are being saved for the Town scrapbook. OSWEGATCHIE, HEUVELTON VILLAGE: (Mrs. Ida Downing). OGDENSBURG CITY Historian (Miss Elizabeth Baxter) is also being welcomed to the historian fold. She has been writing a fine series of articles on Adam Scott which have been appearing since May of this year in the Watertown Daily Times. Miss Baxter also edited the Tour Brochure and procured the speakers for the Sept. tour of the St. Law. County Historical Association. PARISHVILLE: (Mrs. Elsie F. Bresee) I have been busy with the county projects, pictures and articles about our "Americana". Also scrapbook material and work for our association in opening our new museum. A busy two months, July and August. PIERCEFIELD: (Mrs. Beulah Dorothy) I furnished the Rochester Democrat and Chronicle Daily newspaper information for a story on the life of Mr. Child at Massawepie Park hotel. PIERCEFIELD: (Mrs. Iva R. Tupper) I attended the Historical Tour at Ogdensburg. PITCAIRN: (No historian). POTSDAM: (Dr. Charles Lahey). RENSSELAER FALLS VILLAGE: (Mrs. Nina Wilson). ROSSIE: (Mrs. Virgie B. Simons). RUSSELL: (Mrs. Jeanette D. Barnes). STOCKHOLM: (Mrs. Hazel Chapman) I have completed taking the pictures of my town and will soon have them in a book, called "Glimpses of Stockholm in 1964". WADDINGTON: (Mrs. Ethel C. Olds).

## Yorker Cracker Barrel

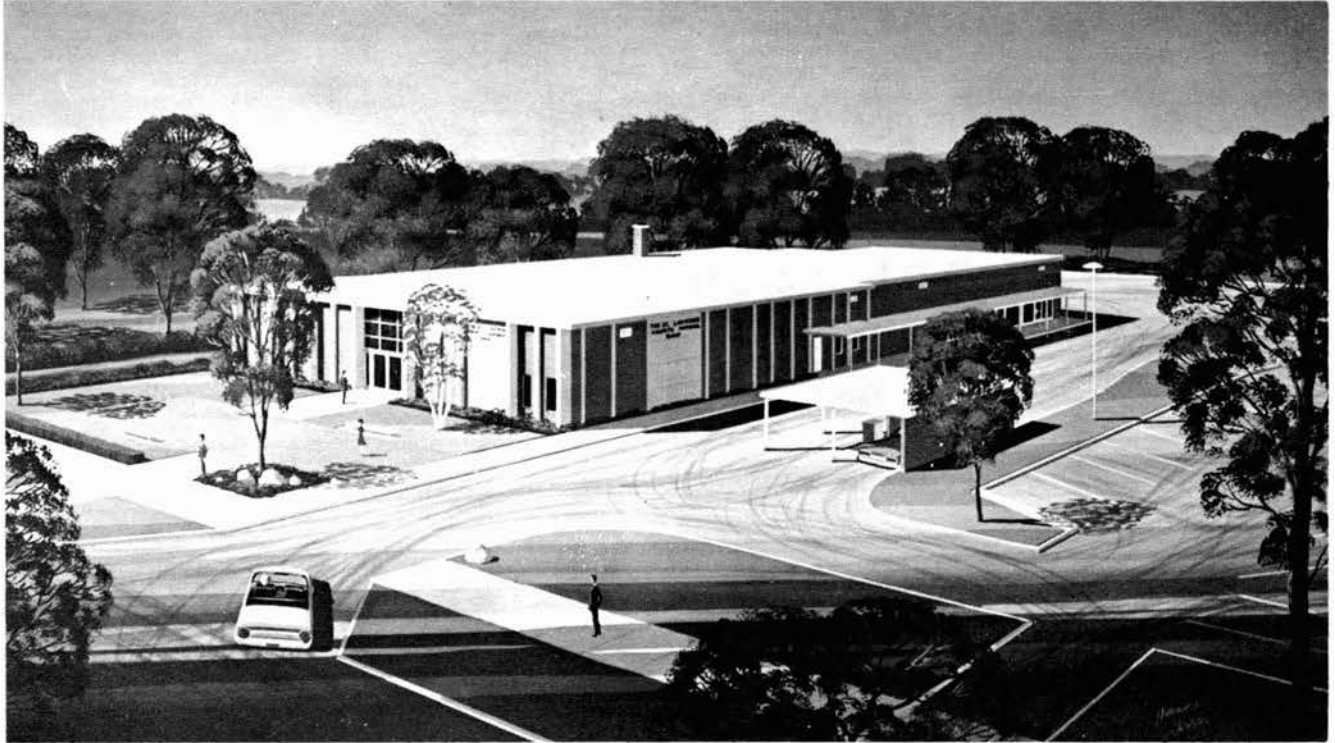
GOUVERNEUR: Marble Village Yorkers hope to get organized within the next few weeks. I am planning on attending the Yorker Sponsors workshop in Cooperstown in October. --Georgiana Wranesh. LISBON: Election of officers of Lisbon chapter planned for Sept. 16 and a trip to Upper Canada Village on Sept. 19. St. Law. Chapter was expected to organize the following week. The projects made for contest in spring are displayed in Hepburn library. The three winning projects are exhibited in J.C. George building beside Post Office. We hope to arrange a Yorker trophy case soon. Mr. R. D. Leonardi, teacher of 9th and 10th Social Studies, will be sponsor of high school group, SEAWAY VALLEY Yorkers.--Rachel Dandy.

### LOCAL HISTORICAL

## Associations

NORWOOD: A Busy Summer! Mr. and Mrs. Lyman attended summer session at SUCE Potsdam, taking History of the North Country from Dr. W.C. Lahey, mapped the old Union Cemetery (both map and listing of gravestones and inscriptions), made a data book of Village of Norwood which is being profusely illustrated and will be in Norwood library for student use. Appealed to Town Board to fence Union Cemetery from livestock which they promised to do. Working as usual on scrap books, picture project of the year and arranging in museum.--Susan Lyman, co-chairman. PARISHVILLE: Opened its museum at a new location, the former P.J. Clark home on East Main St. Aug. 29. Over 300 guests helped us to celebrate this occasion. A supper, exhibit and sale were held at the town hall during the afternoon and evening so that the proceeds might help us with the upkeep of our new home. The Town Board has kindly given us the use of the home and we are indeed grateful for their thoughtfulness.--Mrs. Everett Bassett.

# NEW POTSDAM OFFICE



We are pleased to have started the urban renewal program in Potsdam with this new modern bank. As residents of the county since 1866, we have great confidence in its future and are now serving St. Lawrence County with six offices. You are cordially invited to look over this new banking office and see the many new features to facilitate modern, friendly banking service.

T. V. DRIVE-IN BANKING

128 CAR PARKING LOT

INDOOR 24-HOUR BANKING SERVICE

FULL SERVICE BANK

## THE ST. LAWRENCE COUNTY NATIONAL BANK

CANTON ● HEUVELTON ● MADRID ● NORWOOD

OGDENSBURG ● POTSDAM

NON-PROFIT  
ORGANIZATION

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PERMIT NO. 3  
GOVERNOR, N. Y.