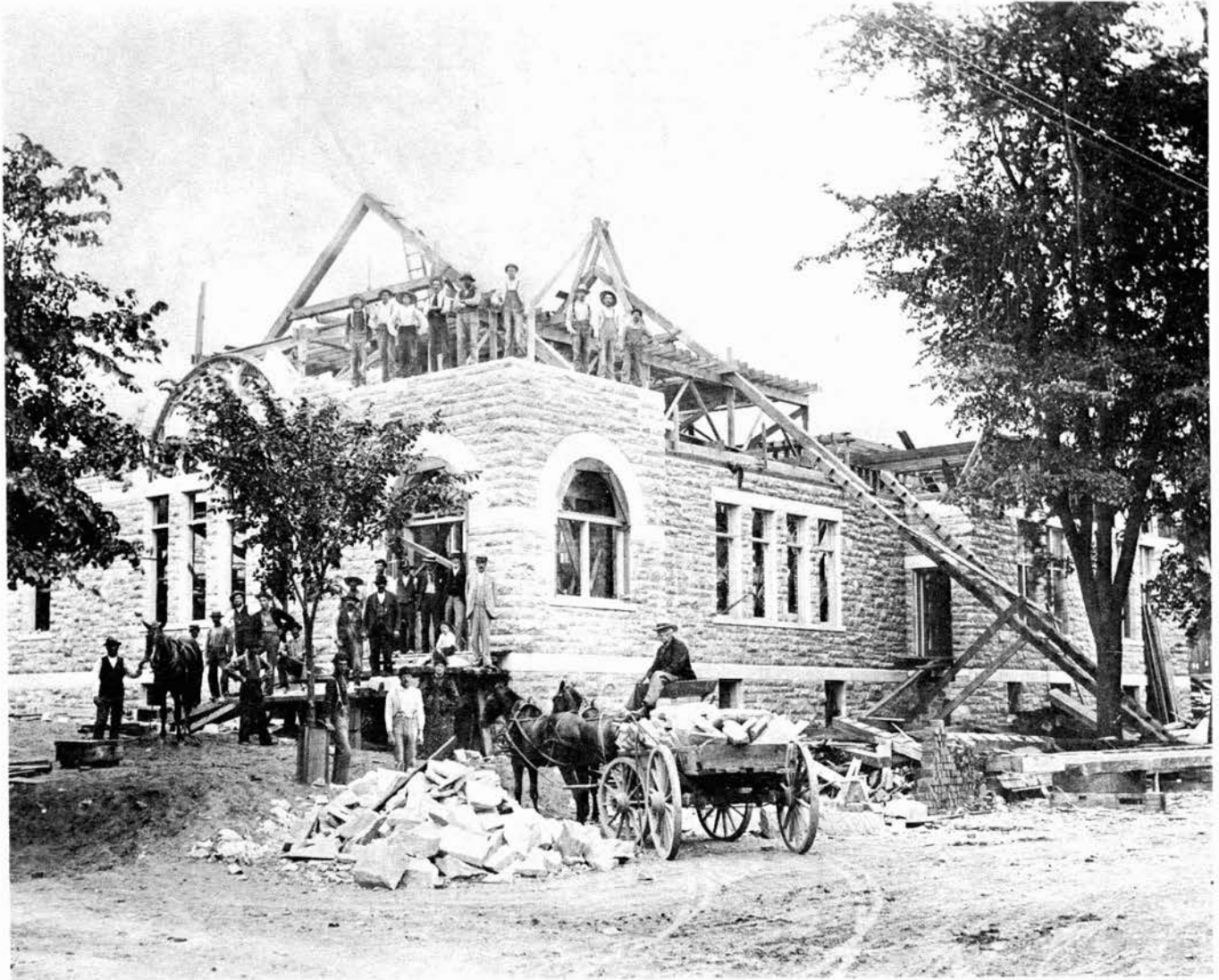


# The Quarterly

OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE ST. LAWRENCE COUNTY HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION



GOUVERNEUR MARBLE FOR A GOUVERNEUR CHURCH

July 1965

# The Quarterly

Official Publication of The St. Lawrence County Historical Assn.

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COVER: In 1894 the Baptists of Gouverneur laid the cornerstone of a new church, to replace the edifice destroyed by fire. Gouverneur then was one of the great marble producing communities of the land, and local stone was shipped all over the world for cemetery memorials and building construction. Appropriately, the Gouverneur Baptists chose their own Gouverneur stone for the new church, which was completed in 1895. See story beginning on page nine.

# Honor Retiring St. Lawrence County Historian



Mrs. Nina Willard Smithers, who retired April 30 as County Historian after 15 years of service, is pictured receiving a silver Revere bowl, inscribed "for a half century of gracious public service", as a gift commemorating her work in developing the county historical museum and collection. Pictured with her at testimonial dinner April 22, from left to right, are Edward F. Heim, Canton Town Historian and president of the St. Lawrence County Historical

Association; Mrs. Smithers; Mrs. Mary H. Biondi, of Ogdensburg, who succeeds her as County Historian; Dr. William G. Tyrrell, historian of the Division of Archives and History of the State Education Department, who was guest speaker, and Cecil H. Graham, of the county building staff, who was toastmaster. (Jubenville Photo courtesy St. Lawrence Plaindealer, Canton)

More than 150 persons attended the testimonial dinner honoring Mrs. Willard (Nina) Smithers, St. Lawrence County Historian, held at the Canton Club Thursday, April 22. Mrs. Smithers, who has served as County Historian since 1950, retired May 1. She was succeeded by Mrs. Edward Biondi, formerly Deputy County Historian.

Guest speaker was Dr. William G. Tyrrell, historian, Division of Archives and History, State Education Department, Albany.

Cecil Graham, a member of the County Historical Association and a county employee, was toastmaster.

In his address, Dr. Tyrrell cited St. Lawrence county as an outstanding example in the state for cooperation of the county historian with state objectives and of its working with local historians on projects outlined by the County Historian. He commended Mrs. Smithers for her "gentle but firm hand" in securing this cooperation.

"New York State is unique in requiring local governing bodies to have historians, while counties 'may' have appointees. There are 1,100 local historians and 62 county historians who collect, preserve and make available on the local level all manner of materials of historic importance," Dr. Tyrrell said.

"History and particularly local history, is important," he continued. "Through study of change, we can better understand why we do what we do now and provide a continuity of interest." Dr. Tyrrell especially remarked on St. Lawrence County's emphasis on people. "People make

up history," he said. "The special studies this county's historians have made under Nina Smithers' guidance of such things as abandoned roads, ghost communities in towns (perhaps learning why people left for other places), the music, dances, and bands people used for recreation and entertainment, and even the cemetery records which are an invaluable source of information for researchers, are people.

Mrs. Biondi, on behalf of members of the St. Lawrence County Historical Association and friends, presented Mrs. Smithers with a silver Revere bowl, appropriately inscribed. In making the presentation, Mrs. Biondi said, in part:

"They say that a county without a history is a county without a soul. Our county has a history and our county has a soul. Part of a soul is spirit and part of the spirit has been Nina Smithers.

"She has put more impetus, and more zing into the historians' projects than any county historian in this state -- and I say this without reservation. . . .

"It isn't often that one has the rare occasion to exchange positions with one's boss. This month I take the position of County Historian of the state's largest county and Nina continues as a town historian. I WAS a town historian, learning from Nina, and it was fun and informative."

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# the methodists of dekalb jct.

This is one of the many articles which was taken from the early History of DeKalb Junction written a few years ago by Mr. Walrath, Town Historian of DeKalb.

By F.F.E. WALRATH  
(Town of DeKalb Historian)

Not too long after DeKalb Junction began to rise, a small group of interested religious people representing the Methodist church, decided to organize and hold services somewhere in the village, if a convenient place could be found.

In the group was one person who thought the depot would be an excellent place for awhile, if the railroad company would grant permission. An inquiry was at once made and without any difficulty permission was granted. In those days very few trains ran on Sundays, and since the depot were not much in use on the Sabbath, nothing would interfere with religious services.

If I remember correctly, Pastor A.G. Markham was secured to preach, being the first minister to represent the Methodist Episcopal church here.

Quite a number of people attended, and many from out of town drove in to these Sunday services: The Merithews, Smiths, Lawsons, Sheels, Grahams and Merills and many others, all faithful members.

Later on these church services were held in the Red Schoolhouse located over on the corner of Main and School street. Mrs. Sarah H. Smith, then postmistress, organized the first Sunday school led by Andrew J. Merithew. By this time the church organization had grown to around 90 members. During all this time, plans were afoot to build a church as soon as the money could be raised and a piece of land suitable for a church could be obtained.

Andrew J. Merithew owned a sizable area of land adjoining the highway on the west side, leading south from the village. He had given a plot of this land for the parsonage which was soon built.

In 1870 Rev. Daniel Fulford was engaged as pastor and he located here for a while. During his pastorate, a fire of unknown origin destroyed the parsonage together with all church records.

Rev. George S. Hastings, also Rev. O.F. Nichols who were pastors here, faithfully supported the building project for a church. Across the road from the site of the burned parsonage was the farm land of Obidiah K. Rundell. Being a member of the Methodist Episcopal Church Society, Mr. Rundell freely donated enough land for the erection of a church. In 1877 to 1879, Rev. Asa L. Smith, the then pastor, promoted the project. The plan called for a frame building, 62 feet by 36 feet with a ceiling of 17 feet.

The contract was let to a prominent business man, George Gibbons, who had been engaged in the construction of several buildings in this village with great success. At this time more than a \$1,000 had been raised from donations and church suppers and socials put on by the Ladies Aid Society for the church building.

Rev. Asa Smith and several members with their cross cut saws, axes and teams went into the woods nearby to get out the timber for the project. By the fall of 1879, the job was finished and on November 25 dedication services were held.

The pulpit was located in the east end of the auditorium; the pews were all straight, in many rows. In the rear of the church outside a shed was built to accommodate several horses for those who drove in from the country to worship.

Rev. John A. Cosgrove served as pastor from 1880 to



1882. He was followed by Rev. Stanley F. Danforth, who served from 1883 to 1887, and it was during his charge that at a cost of \$1,000 the second parsonage was built to replace the one that burned in the 1870's. A later pastor was Rev. Chamberlayne Phelps, often called "Hallelujah Phelps" who served to 1887. During his pastorate in December of 1886 the new bell was installed in the belfry. Next came Rev. Herbert W. Howard, Rev. James P. Dunham, who served as pastor in the M.E. Church at East DeKalb until it was abandoned in 1889. (That church is still standing and now is being used as a storage place for road implements.) Rev. Dunham was pastor here in the 1890's. During the pastorate of Raymond F. Ferguson from 1897 to 1898, this church was rebuilt at a cost of about \$2,000. The repairs consisted of a new roof, new hallways, an alcove on the south side for a new pulpit, new steps in the front of the building, steel on the ceiling and sides in the auditorium, new circular pews, carpets, windows, pulpit furniture, all newly upholstered, and a stairway leading from the main room to the basement; a new furnace, floor, ceiling, wainscoting, papered, painted and decorated. Ten memorial windows with leaded glass also were placed in the church -- to the memory of Mrs. Sarah H. Smith, Solomon Lamson, to Mr. and Mrs. J.H. Merrill, Mrs. Ann Graham, Truman Skeels, and

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# JOHN HENRY MILLS OF CANTON

By G. ATWOOD MANLEY

(Reprinted from the St. Lawrence Plaindealer, Canton)

The death in Canton in mid-March of Miss Alice Mills at the age of 86, marks the passing of the last of the John Mills family in this community. Before time completely erases most of the memories of the past, this story of a family should be entered on the book of Canton's history.

John Henry Mills, the father of the late Miss Alice, was Postmaster in this village during the first administration of President Grover Cleveland. Mills was a Democrat. The appointment was not the only reason Canton should remember this man. In fact, there are several things which should give John Mills a place on the record.

For one thing his Civil War record is of interest at this time. He was a Canadian by birth, a Montrealer, born in 1839. He crossed the border and at the age of twenty-one did what many a young fellow hereabouts did as the Civil War broke out -- he enlisted.

He was living in Canton and he enlisted here. Without question he was recruited by Frederic Remington's father, Colonel Seth P. Remington, of "Scott's 900", otherwise known as the 11th New York Cavalry. Remington did a pretty good job of recruiting for that outfit.

Under a directive dated October 1, 1861 by the War Department over the name of Thomas A. Scott, Assistant Secretary of War, Lieutenant James B. Swain of the Regular Army was granted permission to recruit a cavalry regiment in New York State. This directive was addressed to Governor Morgan of New York, and Thomas Gillhouse, Adjutant General, authorizing Lieutenant Swain to proceed and naming him the new regiment's colonel. Swain quickly established a number of enlistment offices in the state, and he also announced that the new regiment would be named in honor of Thomas A. Scott.

He refused to recognize that his new regiment was strictly a New York outfit, and it was not until February, 1864, that "Scott's 900" was officially given its numerical rating as the 11th New York Cavalry.

This possibly explains why it was so often given inactive duties, such as furnishing the bodyguard to the President of the United States, Lincoln, and why much of its early service consisted largely of guarding the national capitol and making only occasional scouting forays. It did, however, manage to participate in a number of major battles, including Gettysburg.

Remington was made one of Colonel Swain's three top staff officers, that of Major, at the start, when the outfit went into camp at Staten Island. He was later advanced to Colonel, and served with conspicuous gallantry.

From the Canton area, undoubtedly due to his enthusiastic recruiting, nearly three hundred of the Remington's nine hundred men were enlisted. John H. Mills was made a Sergeant right at the start. His friendship with the Remingtons in Canton continued as long as the family remained in this village.

Sergeant Mills was assigned to D Company, which was equipped in horseflesh with handsome bays. Of the ten companies making up the "900" Co. A was mounted on Blacks; Co. C and G on grays; H and K on sorrels; B, D, E, F, I and M on bays. Co. L was mounted on a mixed lot of horses.

From Staten Island, "Scott's 900" was sent to Washington and bivouacked on Meridan Hill in Camp Relief, of their own naming because that was Colonel Swain's wife's name. During the long months of Washington duty, the War Department frequently called upon the Regiment for many other assignments. Sergeant Mills was delegated on several occasions to deliver messages from the War



Department to the President at the White House.

Mills was not with the detail of about ninety members of the "900" under Remington's command that day in 1862 when "the affair at Fairfax" took place when Remington led his men directly into the front ranks of General "Jeb" Stuart's oncoming Black Horse Cavalry, two thousand strong.

Stuart was on his way to join Lee in Pennsylvania. The Fairfax fight, so the history of the "900" states, may have been the pivot on which the outcome of the Battle of Gettysburg turned. General Lee lacked "the eyes and ears of the army", his cavalry, as the fighting lines formed. Stuart had been delayed. Remington's detail had thrown the Confederate troops into confusion by their sudden, unexpected attack at Fairfax, that caused the delay, alas, for Lee at Gettysburg.

From the Potomac area "Scott's 900" was assigned to duty in the Mississippi bayou country, and participated in several minor engagements there. Then, as the war was drawing to a close, it was moved northward. Exactly one hundred years ago this week, part of the Regiment was stationed near Germantown, Tennessee.

It was there that another Canton cavalryman, a close friend of Lieut. Mills, was killed in action. One can find today the plain marble slab headstone in Canton's Silas Wright Cemetery, erected in tribute to Francis Everington Kip, son of Albert Ryckman Kip, of this village, and brother of Canton artist, Henry Devalcourt Kip. Frank Kip was, therefore, the uncle of the late William and Benjamin Kip, of Canton, and the great uncle of the late Miss Welthia Kip, all of whom lived on Chapel Street.

Lieut. Mills and his detail of 18 were ordered to patrol and scout along the railroad running from Germantown to Collierville. Germantown is only fifteen miles from Memphis. Although Lee had surrendered, and the War was all but over, Confederate guerrillas were still active and troublesome in western Tennessee.

Patrols usually numbered about eighty or ninety men but that day the detail had been cut down to only 18. Lieut. Mills and this mere handful of troopers suddenly found themselves confronted by nearly one hundred mounted guerrilla troops under Col. Bill Forrest's command.

The engagement was brief, wild, and one-sided. The op-

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# Reminiscences . . . .

By PAULINE P. NIMS

It's been borne in upon me more and more forcibly of late that we folk whose childhood was passed previous to movies and motors, unshadowed by war, had something very, very precious which must not be lost in its entirety as we pass from the scene. That was a distinct period of history; nothing like it in the past and there never can be anything like it again. It was a rich and varied childhood, so secure, so happy.

It's the picture that's important, not the actors nor the family circumstances, so I'm making this as impersonal as possible. Having been impregnated from earliest childhood with the American doctrine of liberty and justice for all, I have always striven to put it in practice.

These first memories can hardly be put in connected form as they are disjointed sketches without definite place in time other than this or that happened while we still lived on Spring Street, or after we moved to Park Street. It's hard to find a string upon which to hang these beads; beads that speak of a happy childhood, true American ideals and initiative.

Mother and Dad had been having a party and at long last were wearily retiring. It was fun to give a party but bed would seem good. Then small daughter awoke and began to cry, the burden of the wail being, "I want my Mama to rock me." This was repeated over and over with unvarying monotony. That child was never rocked. She absolutely refused to calm down and go to sleep. Exasperated, Dad jumped from bed and administered one good smack. The silence was immediate and complete. In the middle of a cry, she went soundly asleep -- she'd been crying to keep herself awake.

Another day, Mother had put me to bed for my afternoon nap and I didn't feel sleepy. Consequently, I didn't stay put but began climbing around and finally reached a tempting looking bottle. I grabbed it, removed the cork and stuck it in my mouth. That alas, was too much -- my cries quickly brought Mother and she in turn sent for the doctor. It was a long, long time before I had anything but liquids and those from the tip of a spoon. To this day, I don't want a whiff of ammonia and my lower lip has very little feeling.

\* \* \* \* \*

The caller was gushing and thoughtless. The hostess' half-past-three daughter was obviously ill at ease.

"My dear, I'd give anything I have for one of your curls. Won't you let me have one, just one?"

The little girl who suffered tortures every day when the many snarls were combed from these same curls, left the room, found a pair of shears and reappeared with one long curl in her hand. This curl she placed in the guest's lap.

Consternation -- a hurried departure. The little girl received the punishment the guest so richly merited.

\* \* \* \* \*

During my first years in school, Queen Victoria died. In that day before projects, we made booklets of her life profusely illustrated. One picture clings vividly in my memory -- a little old lady with a mushroom parasol out driving. From that day on, Queen Victoria and my grandmother were always linked in my mind. Grandmother -- whose build was like Queen Victoria and who used a little black mushroom parasol (I now have it) when driving behind Mike, the coachman. Now I know the similarity didn't end there. Both were typical matriarchs.

\* \* \* \* \*

Another memory of these early years is getting my brother to eat sand by telling him it was brown sugar. I was a runaway. It was fun to see the two babies on the street

have their baths -- and I went to see them. I spent a lot of time tied to a tree!

## The Boomerang

The little girl knew she couldn't sing. Just as straight haired little girls long for curls so she yearned to sing and always would. Maybe the heavenly choir will some time accept her.

It was Children's Day. Her class were all singing. She knew the words far better than most of the singers. Their turn came and the class marched to the platform leaving her in solitary state. Just as they were about to begin, she arose, faced the audience and distinctly announced, "I can't sing but I'm going up anyway." Up she went and stood at the end of the line saying the words clearly.

She didn't like to speak pieces. They always asked her to speak but you had to stand on the platform all alone for that. It did no good to say she didn't want to -- it was the thing she could do and do well so she must.

When she was naughty, she knew she'd be punished. She usually decided whether she wanted to do a thing enough to be punished for it or not. If she did, she went her own sweet way and then took the consequences. It would probably be considered naughty but she thought she'd found a remedy for the speaking. She simply wouldn't learn the thing. She didn't know even the first line at the last rehearsal. No one could understand it. Her mother labored with her between Sunday breakfast and church time but still she didn't know that poem. In spite of that, they didn't take her from the program and she had to go forward when her name was called. She was prompted nearly every other word. It was a most humiliating performance. She'd played dumb for nothing. Not until long afterwards did she realize the punishment fitted the crime.

## The Kitten

We had a kitten; a beautiful part-angora kitten. Mrs. Warriner had given us her lovely black and white fluffy kitten. One thing marred our pleasure. Helen, who always had her own way and had everything she wanted, wanted our kitten.

The whole neighborhood played at our house always and as usual Helen made one of the crowd. Play was fast and furious. Then a lull -- we missed Helen. We missed the kitten. Swift moves the minds of youth to conclusions. A few moments of planning and a delegation went to Helen's, rapped on the door and politely asked for the kitten, only to be told it wouldn't hurt us to let Helen play with that cat and to run along home.

That answer sent us home and into a council of war with the result the neighborhood was scouted for reinforcements. Fourteen or fifteen strong, we marched back to Helen's and around and around the house shouting at the top of lusty young lungs, "We want our cat." Finally a back door was opened and the kitten literally thrown at us with an order to take that cat and clear out. We had furnished unexpected and unwanted entertainment for an important reception.

## Gardens

Always running through my memory like a vivid thread are the gardens. From earliest childhood on, I loved flowers of all kinds and only with years did discrimination

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# depeyster in 1862

By NINA W. SMITHERS  
(Town Historian)

Thirty-seven years previous to the time of which we are writing, the township of DePeyster was erected. Taking a part of the town of DeKalb and a portion of Oswegatchie, two of the original ten towns of which much history has been written, a petition was made to New York state for permission to become the 20th town of St. Lawrence county. DePeyster thus became a full-fledged town on April 1, 1825.

Many families were located there at the time of its organization; settlers came in from the New England states, the Mohawk area and England. The attraction was the rich and productive land. DePeyster was, and still is, one of the best farming towns in St. Lawrence county. In 1862 the population was 1,172, the peak having been 1,249 in 1860. The impact of the war may here be noted. There were 165 farms in town and a total of 226 families.

The village of DePeyster grew up on the four corners where Smith Stillwell settled in 1809. In its early days, it was known as "Punchlock", a name often used by the old-timers of this generation. It is said to have gotten the name from the fact that the Punchlock or Pill-lock gun was made here.

In 1862 Punchlock was the center of the social life as well as being the trading center. There were two stores, typical of the country store of that period, doing a large business in all kinds of merchandise, cash and barter. There were two carriage and wagon shops employing several men, also blacksmith shops. Silas Pearson, known as a carpenter, joiner and housebuilder was available to the many who were anxious to improve their homes and farm buildings. John B. Chandler was both postmaster and supervisor and was active in the affairs of the community.

Kings Corners, a little over a mile away and later to be known as Kokomo, was an active little settlement. Church services were held in the schoolhouse and the ring of the blacksmith's anvil could be heard at the corner smithy.

West of King's Corners was Edenton with its schoolhouse. Here Benjamin Partridge, the pioneer, was successful in establishing a post office in 1852. Of course, the office was in the farmhouse -- how pleasant for the neighbors to meet and get the mail!

## THE MASON HOUSE

The Mason House was known throughout the county as a good country hotel. There had been two or three other taverns in the town, but at the time of the Civil War, the Mason House was the only survivor. Close by it was erected the "Liberty Pole" from which the flag was flown.

## CHURCHES

At the time of the Civil War DePeyster was "well churched". Historians list three churches: The first, known as Bethel Union church and Town house, was a stone structure, located in the present town park. It was set back from the highway in true New England style and tradition. Building costs were met by contributions of cash and labor of the citizens of the new town. Plans were made at the first town meeting in 1825 and the building was in use by 1830. It was used as a town house and a church home for the Methodists and Congregationalists.

By 1862, however, each society had erected its own church building. The Methodists were the first to get established in theirs in 1857, and it was here that the first planned Civil War rally in the county was held in April 1861. The building, which has seen many improvements, is in use by the Methodists of the present day.

The Congregationalists erected a fine church building in 1859 on the site of the present Grange hall. It is said that both churches had large congregations.



SMITH STILLWELL came to the wilderness which was to become DePeyster, in 1809, and bought large holdings. He was the town's first supervisor in 1825, also served as postmaster.

The Bethel Union church was used for public gatherings and town meetings. It was at this Town house that the first group of volunteers met in a solemn assemblage with their families and friends on the morning of May 2, 1861. Prayer was offered by Rev. Dr. Francisco of the Congregational church, goodbyes were said and the men departed in wagons drawn by teams of horses, for Ogdensburg. In charge was Captain Newton Martin Curtis, a young DePeyster man who was to have a great career in the war.

In 1862 came the year of the draft and a quote from the "Ogdensburg Republican" of July 29, 1862 shows what was going on in DePeyster: "A large and enthusiastic war meeting was held at DePeyster on Friday night with Benjamin Eastman presiding. Warren Young served as Secretary. The meeting was called by the ringing of the bells and the church was crowded to overflowing.

Addresses were made by D.M. Chapin and Rev. J.H. Lamb of Ogdensburg and Rev. Palmer of DePeyster. At the close of the proceedings six persons came forward and had their names enrolled in Capt. Parker's company.

"Glorious little DePeyster had already done more than her full share for the prosecution of the war, yet she is determined to put her full quota of the new levy in the field at once.

"The meeting adjourned with three rousing cheers for Capt. Parker and three more for the Union."

(Continued on Page Eight)

THE MASON HOUSE, long a country hotel at DePeyster, now the site of the post office and home of Mr. and Mrs. W.B. Fleetham.



## DEPEYSTER

(Continued from Page Seven)

### BOUNTIES

The serviceman of the Civil War received a local bounty as well as a bounty from the state. Toward the end of the war, this reached the three hundred dollar mark. According to the records in the minute book of the town of DePeyster, the town paid out \$2,946.65 to its volunteers.

The DePeyster town board, John B. Chandler, Supervisor, passed a resolution in 1862, which provided that a committee be named in each school district to secure enlistments for the draft call which was for 35 men. The town offered a bounty of fifty dollars. In 1863 the board passed a resolution to pay its men entering the service a bounty of three hundred dollars. The soldier's monthly pay was fixed at twelve dollars and fifty cents for the private.

In 1863 Supervisor Robert Dorman was sent to Washington to ascertain if DePeyster men who were serving in the 60th Regiment were being given full credit by the government. It is interesting to note at the close of the war there was a balance of \$1,003.35 of bounty money in the Supervisor's hands.

At the close of the war, Town Clerk G. M. Austin, in compliance with the law, prepared a list of soldiers in the military service. There were one hundred nineteen names on this record.

There also appear the names of 15 men who were hired as substitutes. A substitute for the man whose family or business kept him at home could usually be arranged by a trip across the border to Canada where adventuresome youths were attracted by the financial arrangement.

Were there deserters? The reader can draw his own conclusions, but there is a record of a special meeting August 3, 1864 at which authorization was made to pay each veteran a bounty of three hundred dollars, but nothing was to be paid a deserter.

Tourists travelling in central New York have seen the "Scythe Tree" which was so designated because a brave young man hung his scythe on the limb of a tree and went off to enlist, remarking that it should stay there until he returned. He fell in battle, but to this day the small section of steel protrudes from the tree. DePeyster has such a story -- the only difference being that the young man returned to remove the scythe at the end of the war.

The story is told that Lee Rounds of the East Road had decided to enlist. On his way to DePeyster he came upon John Best, a young married man who was mowing by the roadside. John, who had been born 27 years before in Ireland, was easily convinced. Hanging his scythe in an elm

tree he got his coat, and the two men journeyed to DePeyster where they enlisted. This was in August of 1862. John Best served in the 142nd Infantry throughout the war and was discharged at Ogdensburg, June 20, 1865. The tree became a well-known landmark on the East road of DePeyster, but has long since disappeared.

Another true story of the war days in DePeyster was told to the writer by Miss Minnie Merriman of Ogdensburg and a descendent of the Curtis family of DePeyster. Gates Curtis, brother of General Newton Martin Curtis, had an iron foundry on the DePeyster-King's Corners Road. He conceived an idea for spreading the news from the theater of war. Taking the materials at hand, he constructed a cannon and erected it on the elevation by the farmhouse. News of battles reached Ogdensburg by telegraph in those days, and the General's family was kept well-posted. When the news arrived, Gates Curtis shot off the cannon, which could be heard for miles around. The families of the servicemen lost no time in hitching up "Old Dobbin" and driving to the Curtis farm to learn the news, good or bad.

### SCHOOLS

In 1862 there were nine common school districts in DePeyster with a total of two hundred seventy-six pupils. Parents were sending their children to Gouverneur to the Wesleyan Seminary or to Ogdensburg to the Academy for further education.

It was the day when the country school teacher boarded around, and men teachers were hired for the winter term when the big boys from the farm came to school.

### THE RAILROAD

Farmers and shopkeepers were discussing another subject during the stirring days of 1862. That was the coming of the new railroad known as the Rome, Watertown and Ogdensburg Railroad between DeKalb Junction and the village of Ogdensburg. Construction had begun in 1861 and the first train passed over the tracks in September of 1862. DePeyster citizens had invested in the railroad stock and no doubt but that many a DePeyster boy and girl had their first train ride in 1862.

### HOME LIFE IN 1862

A chapter could be written on life on the farm during the war years. It was the age of homespun -- literally, as all farms had more sheep than cattle from which wool was obtained for clothing. Flax was grown in this town and was more popular than southern cotton.

It was an age of hand labor with few conveniences for the household or farm. The local cooper, and there were five of them, made wooden tubs for farm and household

(Continued on Page Eighteen)

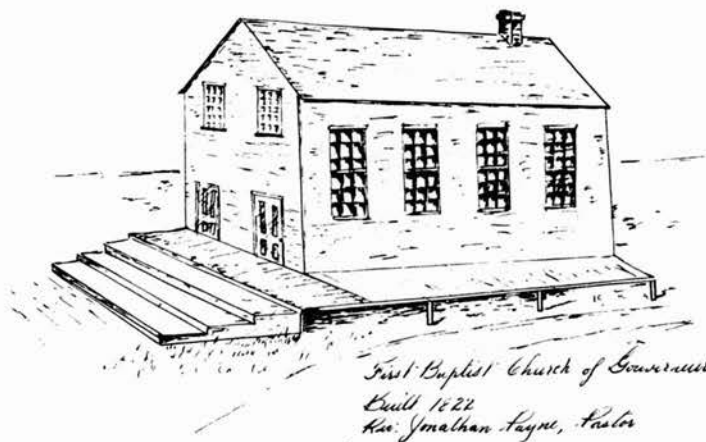


# the baptists of gouverneur

By EUGENE HATCH

One day in 1806 two men appeared at the home of Isaac Austin in the new frontier settlement of Cambray. They were greeted by Mrs. Austin and gave their names as Pettibone and Nichols. Missionaries, they had come to hold religious meetings and had been directed to the Austin home. Coming from Connecticut, with its substantially built homes, one of them could not contain his disappointment at the Austin's rude dwelling. Mrs. Austin was quick to note it too, and remarked with spirit, "Our Saviour was born in a stable; you can preach in our shanty."

The meetings were held, and as always in Gouverneur, listened to attentively. Mrs. Austin, though suffering from a crippling disease guided her household ably from a chair. (She had been carried from the pioneer home in Hartford, N.Y.) The home served as a center of religious worship, and even Gouverneur Morris found it comfortable when he came north to inspect his NorthCountry land holdings. The home was the scene too, of the first funeral in town. Little two-year-old Emily Porter, daughter of Israel Porter died suddenly. Their home was across the river and there was not yet a bridge. Crossing was either by boat or precariously by foot over felled trees. The Austin home seemed



a natural place in the minds of the people for the service. Allen Smith had the distinction of being the first child born in 1806, and in due time he was to be chosen a Baptist Deacon.

The increasing interest in religion in the Austin home led to the formation of a Baptist Church in the town, now called Gouverneur. In 1811, a council from the home church at Hartford, N.Y. arrived and the 'church was planted'. A promising young man, Johnathan Payne, was chosen first deacon with the practical Austin and John Brown to attend to the finances. Soon Brother Payne was advanced to the ministry of the little flock of eighteen, and was duly ordained by a council whose members came from sister churches of Watertown, Rutland, Henderson and Denmark.

To her everlasting credit, it was a woman, Sally Patterson, who was the first person baptized into the new Church.

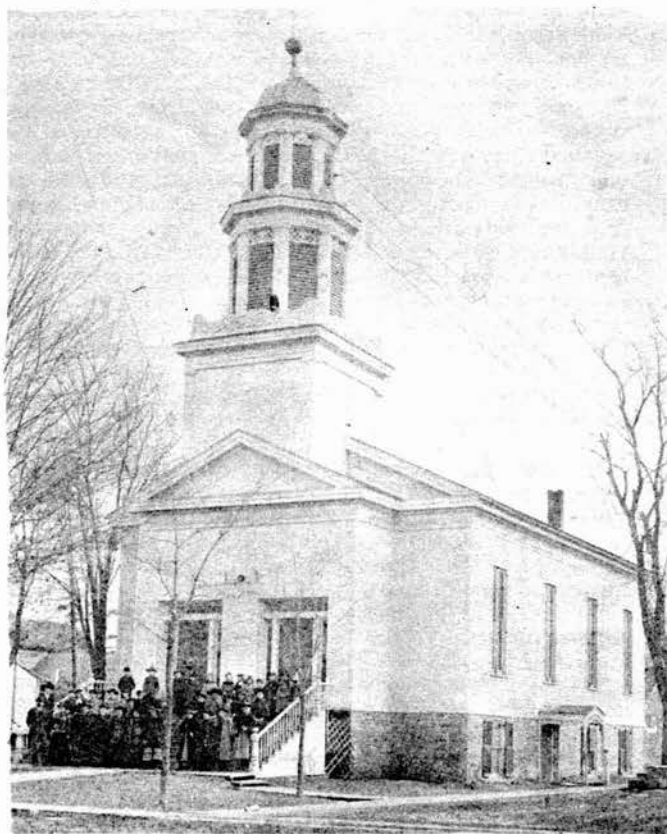
The Baptists early gained the reputation for outstanding good music at their services when the Thompsons, arriving in town in 1808, began their attendance. James Thompson was choirmaster, and when he sounded his pitch pipe, the choir, mostly his sons and a daughter, sang, it was noted, with 'impressive effect'.

In 1816 minister-farmer Payne left. Noah Barrel had grown in the faith since his baptism in 1817, so that in 1825 he was ordained elder and ministered to the Church and a remarkable growth began. Nearly a hundred persons were baptized and Brother Stowell was ordained elder.

In 1822 the Church had built a meeting house, strictly functional, and severely plain, but it was to be their permanent home. The site was the present one, land given by Gouverneur Morris.

At the close of Elder Barrel's fruitful ministry in 1828, the Rev. Joseph Sawyer was called. He was soon faced with the serious split in the Church, as the news of the Morgan Affair of 1826 penetrated here.

The Morgan-Masonic Affair of 1826, now nearly forgotten, had penetrated to the village of Gouverneur. Morgan was preparing to publish a book exposing the secrets of the Masonic Order. Last seen at Niagara Falls, his disappearance remains to this day a mystery.



SECOND EDIFICE ERECTED 1848

(Continued on Page Ten)

## BAPTISTS

(Continued from Page Nine)

A large number of the members of First Baptist were Masons. Those not connected with Freemasonry believed they had caused his death. Masonic members were asked to leave their lodge, or be removed from the Church. Resentfully, they left the Church together with friends and sympathizers and formed a group called by the dull name of "Conference Brethren". There were now two small weak groups. A year of this sissension and both sides were happy to reunite after the Church made some sensible concessions. Now the work could go forward again in harmony.

In January 1834, sixteen members were granted letters of dismissal to form a Baptist Church in Richville (the building later built by this group still stands in the village, on Route 11, near the cemetery). Before this in 1822, a group had gone in similiar fashion to form the Fowler Baptist Church in Fowler. Further missionary activity from the mother Church is evidenced in the records with the words which state "Two other Sunday schools are superintended by our brethren".

In 1837, the pastor received the usual salary of \$300 per year. For the first time the Associational Letter mentioned a woman's organization "The Female Benevolent Society". The first woman's meeting may be said to have been held by an early missionary. It is told that when he arrived at the Isaac Austin residence he learned that all the men of the settlement had been called to Morris Mills (Natural Dam) by Mr. Harris' agent to help build a sawmill and that they would be absent several days. He remarked to Mrs. Austin he would have to wait to start meetings until they returned. That estimable lady, always ready to hear the word, replied that Paul and Silas, while at Phillippi, held an all woman's meeting by the riverside. The missionary was convinced, and a meeting composed of the frontier women was held.

Baptist Churches of the north were well aware of the problems of the day and at a session of the Association held in 1838, the Gouverneur pastor headed a committee who presented resolutions against slavery, which entered "our deliberate and solemn protest against our Southern brethren who cherish the greivous sin of slavery. . ." The resolutions passed without dissent.

In 1845 the exclusion of one of the members was growing to serious proportions, and as was the custom, a council was held and its decision was accepted. One of the council members, Rev. J. Sawyer, was called for his second pastorate in 1848. Under his care a new house of worship was built. It was influenced architecturally by a revival of the classic style from the 1820's. It was admirably suited to the beauty and simplicity of Protestant worship. The severe lines of the sanctuary were relieved by the beautifully proportioned tower and octagonal double lantern. There were two identical portals. In many Churches of that period, the men sat on one side, the women on the other. Our skilled Deacon-carpenter, Christopher Brown, it is recorded, worked tirelessly on this edifice. At the dedication on Nov. 7, 1850 the pastor read for the sermon text the stately words of Haggai, "The glory of the later house shall be greater than the former, saith the Lord of Hosts, and in this place will I give peace."

Gouverneur, at the gateway of the North Country, was, at mid-nineteenth century a large and thriving village. It has grown to a population of 1100 since Isaac Austin's axe first rang out in the wilderness. Across from the neat row of stores on Main Street the white towers of the Baptist and Presbyterian Churches rose above the young trees on the village green, that gave it all an air of a New England village.

In the new Church, pews were first assigned in proportion to the amount the people had contributed toward its erection. Later the Trustees decided to rent the pews, as was customary in some churches. The owners of pews objected. The controversy ended with the member's agreement to allow free pews for all. Democratic spirit prevailed.

Different spiritual guides brought different spiritual gifts. At Hamilton, the Baptist Church revival meetings had

made a stir among many of the seminary students, among them, H.A. Morgan. He was to be the next pastor, coming in June 13, 1853, and ordained here. He preached with evangelistic fervor and it is recorded, fifty persons were added to the Church during his stay. The Rev. O.W. Babcock (1855-1862) who followed him has the distinction of having the longest period of service during the century.

Rev. Ames commenced his pastorate on May 31, 1862, as the Civil War had begun. Though there were a few who disapproved, this militant preacher upheld the Union cause from the pulpit and at the Association Meeting in Nicholville on September 1862 fathered a resolution which was adopted expressing our full cooperation in the prosecution of the war. Only mention can be made of many of these clergymen, faithful shepherds all. Details of some may be found in the old church records now in custody of the Historical Library, housed at the Colgate Rochester Divinity School in Rochester for safe keeping.

At the Rev. D.D. Monroe's accession in 1900, the Church was free of debt and all departments were prospering. It was time, he believed, to replace the now outmoded edifice with a new and fitting structure. Plans were proceeding when disaster struck. Overnight the wooden Church building was gutted with fire. In the morning it stood only a charred ruin.

The loss of a Church home brought an urgent need to fulfill the plans that had been made for an indefinite future. The new Church was built of Gouverneur marble, the corner stone being laid on June 5, 1894. The building of the new edifice was pushed with such vigor that in a year and a half it was finished, complete with baptistry. The date of dedication ceremonies on Nov. 5, 1895 corresponded to the date of the dedication services of the old Church forty-five years before.

The pioneers had done their work well and in the 1890's the North Country was coming of age. In the larger towns, as more thought could be given to permanence and beauty, handsome public buildings and Churches were going up. How fortunate it was that in a few towns marble could be quarried! In our town, fine marble was handily at the edge of the village.

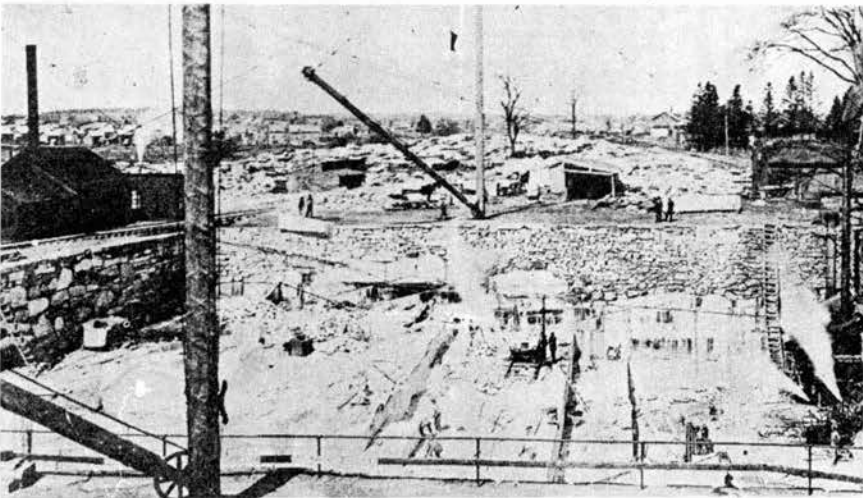
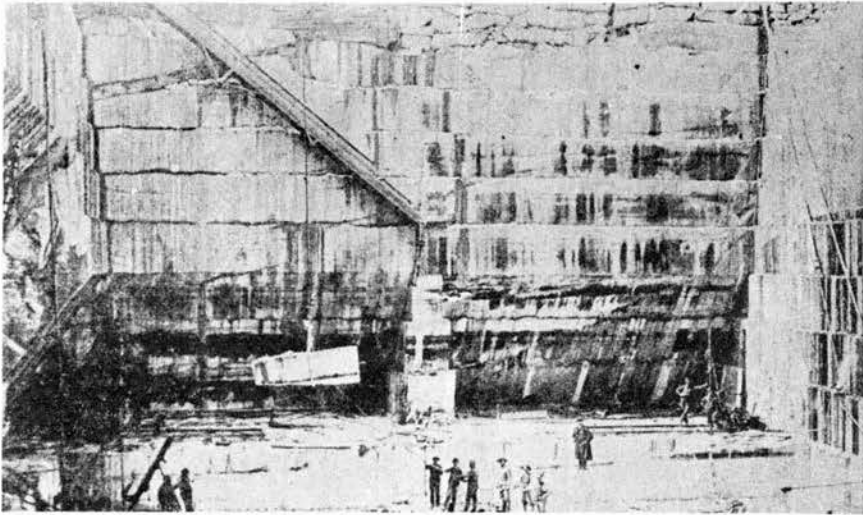
Our present Church has many features of the favored style of the period, a variant of the classic, known as Romanesque. This appears in the curved arches of the portal and in the central window of the facade. In the tower, finely turned marble columns adorn the open windows surrounding the bell and aid in supporting the tower roof. Graceful soaring arches also appear in the ceiling of the sanctuary and simulate roof vaulting. Hung near the sanctuary's inner door may be seen a small carefully framed square of stained glass, rescued by some thoughtful friend from the ruins of the old burned-out Church. It is the sole visible link we have today with that building. This fragment has painted on it an elaborate chalice representing the Saviour's cup of sacrifice. Perhaps it was a sign too, of the sacrifice that was to be required of our members, not of life, but of labor and their treasure to complete the new Church.

The present structure cost \$25,000, which in 1894 when a man's daily wage in the stone quarry was about \$1.25, was quite a goodly sum.

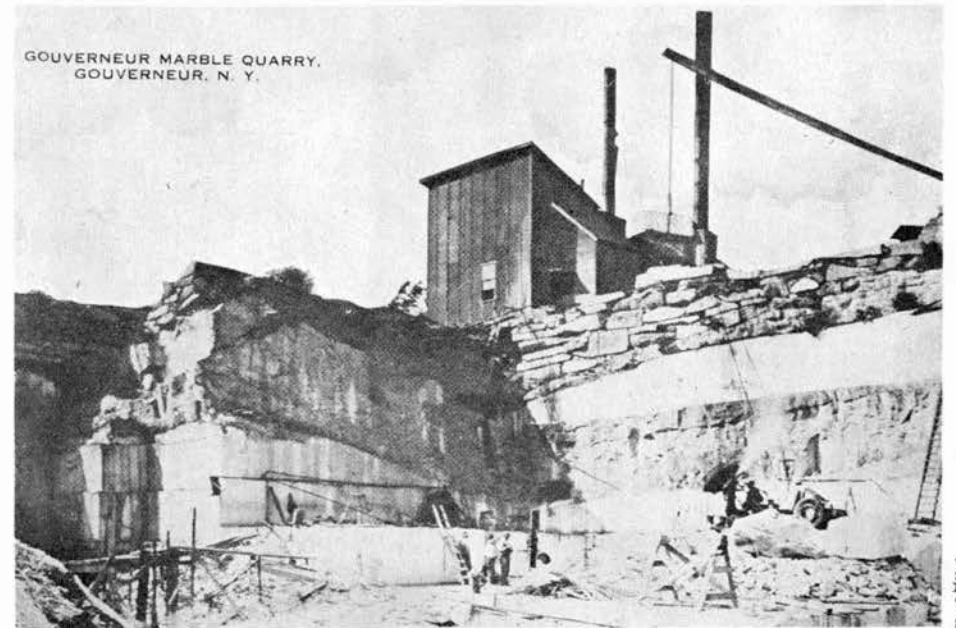
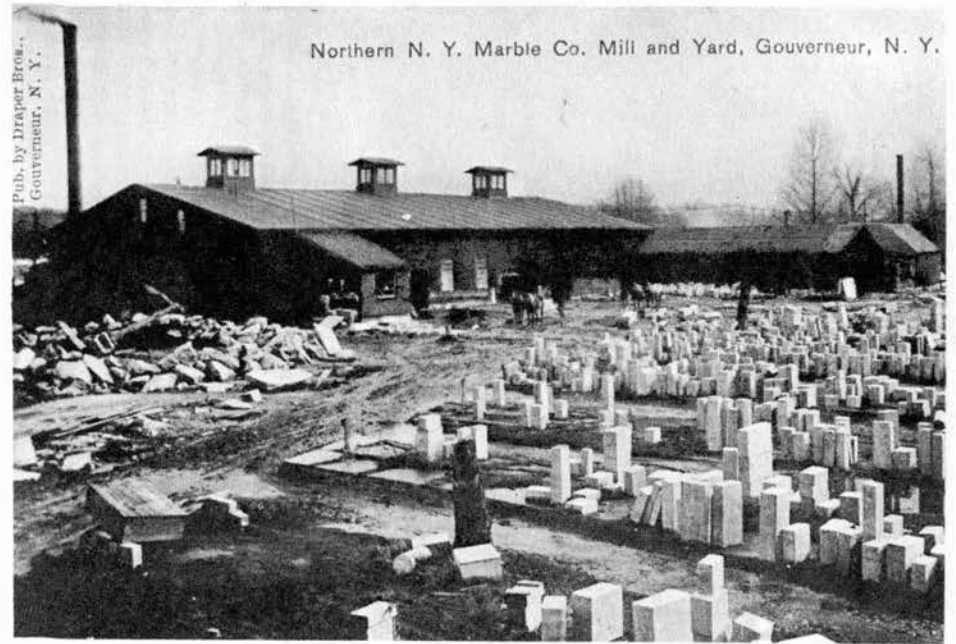
The Rev. D.D. Monroe has been pastor in the planning, the disaster, and in the new plans for a Church home. He stayed throughout the rebuilding period and in 1897 resigned. An interim period of three months followed, but interest remained high. It was perhaps the formation of a 'Lookout League' in which the parish was divided into five districts, each with a superintendent and each with frequent devotional meetings that aided the Church to show progress at this time.

The Rev. Irving Beckwith began his ministry on Sept. 1, 1911 and Nov. 19 of that year marked the opening of the long to be remembered one hundredth anniversary celebration. A former pastor, Rev. A.W. Rogers, of Schenectady, came to preach the opening sermon in the beautiful edifice his predecessor, Rev. Monroe, had built and he himself had secured for the membership free and clear of

(Continued on Page Eighteen)



GOUVERNEUR  
MARBLE  
WORKS  
(POST CARDS  
OF 1910)  
From the  
Lester White  
Collection



# PYRITES — PAPER MILL TOWN 60 YEARS AGO



By EDWARD J. AUSTIN

Just below the High Falls on the Grass River, near the southern part of Canton lies Pyrites. Copperas and alum was manufactured here in 1832 by S. and H. Foote of Canton who were later joined by C.W. Shepard and J.C. Bush of Ogdensburg.

The first year not much was accomplished except for getting things ready. But then the enterprise was found unprofitable, and so it was abandoned after three or four years.

The rocks were found to be rich in iron, however, and being porous in nature were easily broken out by hand. One part of alum to three of copper was found. A thousand tons of copper and a third as much of alum were obtained before the project was given up. The New York markets used most of the production.

Because unlimited quantities of iron pyrites existed here, a sulphuric acid plant was later built in the locality. This was constructed on the island, a short distance below High Falls. By 1893 pulp was being made here and sent to other mills in the vicinity to be made into paper. It was drawn by teams to Canton or Eddy and shipped thence by train to other places. The sulphite pulp was made in the form of laps which could be handled easily, because it could be rolled into rolls.

Logs were floated down the Grass River for pulp from which to make the sulphite laps. A mill was all that was needed to make it possible to complete the process of paper making at this location. In 1903 construction of a paper mill began.



The late Frank Augsbury Sr. was one of the promoters of this paper mill. The lack of adequate capital made progress slow. However the project proved successful. The operation became known as the DeGrasse Paper Company and continued to manufacture newsprint paper until 1919. At that time the firm was sold to a New York newspaper, the old New York World. In 1927, the International Paper Company took over the mill and continued to operate it until 1930 when the mill was finally closed and equipment moved away. The closing resulted from the high cost of wood pulp and the crash of the New York stock market.

At the height of the industry, the population of the village reached about 1,500 but soon after the mill went down this began to diminish rapidly. Houses were sold and torn down for the lumber and were transported to various points for other uses. One reason for this was that the company did not own the land on which they were built, so they could be sold only with the understanding that they were to be moved. The people who remained in Pyrites owned their homes.

The closing hit hard not only Pyrites but Canton also because of the \$15,000 weekly payroll. Most of the business was done in Canton.

In May 1894, seven blocks had been laid out, containing 182 building lots. Plans were made for more houses to be built. A road running along the river was named Main Street. Broadway ran from the corner where Pelton's Store was and up past where the school stands today. The road from Pelton's Store across the bridge was named Bridge Street. Churchill Street ran from Pelton's Store up past where Kelly's Store is now. This



PYRITES - NY

street was named after O.B. Churchill who built most of the houses.

O.W. Crane gave a building site and ground for a school. Later two other schools were built, the Townline school and the Cousintown school. In 1915 the Pyrites district met to organize the district as the Pyrites Union Free School district. This was the first step in the move for a new high school. In 1919, a special meeting was held and \$50,000 for a new high school was voted; and construction was started in October 1921. In June 1938 the high school closed and moved to Canton. Now the first six grades attend the school today with an enrollment of about 75 students.

During the period 1921-22, the library was built. A four-day carnival was held to raise money to build the building. Additional funds were raised later, by card parties and similar undertakings. The library continued to operate until it burned in March, 1959.

Pyrites never had any local government except that provided as a part of the Town of Canton. Group meetings were held to communicate the ideas and wishes of the people to the Town Board.

The first fire department was organized in 1919, with twenty members, later increased to twenty-five. Some of the members were J.J. St. Louis, Sam Hewitt, George Newman, Herb Morgan, James Given and Frank Lavery. (Frank Lavery is the only member of the first department still living in Pyrites and still a member of the department.) The fire department had two horse carts and 550 feet of hose, a hook and ladder wagon carrying 500 feet of hose, three 40-gallon chemicals on wheels. Today the department has twenty-two members, one truck, and about 1,000 feet of two different size hose.

Pyrites always enjoyed the entertainment and social life typical of a small community. Box socials and dancing were popular, so popular that a dancing class was started in 1902.

During the latter 1920's, there were numerous clubs and associations: The Library association, Dramatic club, Tennis club, the Ladies Aid societies, and even a "Pyrites Improvement Society".

There was a theatre here, a community gathering place, Murray Hall, later known as Union Hall. This was used for all social occasions, bazaars, and even church services. The main social occasion event of the year "The Papermaker's Ball", was held Easter Monday evening. The best music was found and everyone made an effort to attend whether he or she went to any other event during the year.

Pyrites has today Kelly's Store, Lavery's gas station, Rocco's store and post office. St. Paul's Church, recreation hall, the school, and the new fire hall.

Some of the remaining landmarks are the recreation

hall which was the Crane Memorial church (now owned by the fire department), the school, which is part of Canton Central school district and St. Paul's church, now served by the assistant rector of St. Mary's Church in Canton.

## METHODISTS

(Continued from Page Four)

Mr. and Mrs. Andrew J. Merithew. The windows in the alcove have the following inscriptions: Built 1879, Pastor Asa L. Smith; Rebuilt 1898, Pastor Raymond H. Ferguson. The windows in the vestibule read as follows: "The gift of the Epworth League" and "The gift of the Sunday School".

The following pastors served subsequently: Rev. W.F. Ball, Rev. Reuben Sherman who was here in 1903, Rev. Robert MacLaren, 1907, Rev. George A. Wilkinson, 1908, Rev. Summers, 1916; Rev. Alexander Scott, 1912-14; Rev. Carley, 1916-18; Rev. Elmer O. Webster, 1925; Rev. Dr. Harvey, Rev. George Dando, Rev. Grace Adams, Rev. Carleton Frazier, Rev. Frank Brown, Rev. Howard Gabriel, Rev. Husted, Rev. Lewis McConnell, Rev. Kelsey Bickell, Rev. Erwin Williams, Rev. Raoul Walters, 1955; Rev. Pauline Burdett, Rev. Henry Fisher and Rev. Allen Best.

A few organists who served during the services were Mrs. Truman Stacy, Mrs. Myrtle Rice, Mrs. Ethel Powell, Miss Imogene Gibbons, Mrs. George Elsey, and now Mrs. Elmer Elsey. On Easter Sunday, April 5, 1953 Mrs. Magdalene York of Watertown, N.Y. gave a musical program consisting of many old hymns played on the new electric Hammond organ recently installed. A large crowd was present and the lovely music was enjoyed by all.

Among the many janitors who also took up the offering and rang the bell at call for worship were Albert J. Tyner, Truman Stacy, Ansil J. Penny, Addison and Albert Bishop, Leslie Rasey, Leslie and Raymond Rice.

A large leaded glass window in colors showing a picture of Christ kneeling in the garden of Gethsemane, was purchased by Mrs. Maude Smithers McDonald of Buffalo, from a firm in Ogdensburg and placed to the rear of the pulpit in memory of her mother, the late Mrs. Samuel Smithers; this was dedicated September 5, 1931. The large window cost several hundred dollars including installation. A short time later Mrs. Samuel Elsey donated a sum of money to illuminate this window with flood lights. The bulletin board was also donated at a cost of fifty-one dollars and placed out front.

Electric lights were installed in the church early in the

(Continued on Page Eighteen)

# UNCLE ELI AND THE GOLD RUSH

By DOROTHY ROBERTS SQUIRE  
(Former Hopkinton Town Historian)

Whenever I read about the jet planes that travel from here to the Pacific Coast in a matter of a few hours, I get to thinking about Uncle Eli Roberts and how he set out for California from Hopkinton, N.Y. behind a yoke of oxen back in 1848. He got there too, after a fashion. Uncle Eli was really my grandfather's uncle, so that should make him great, great uncle to me.

Here's the story as it was handed down in my family:

The California Gold Rush was on, and Uncle Eli got the fever and got it bad. So he decided to pack his family and belongings into a covered wagon and head west; just like his father, the pioneer Eli Roberts, had done back in 1807, when he'd come over to Hopkinton from Vergennes, Vermont. Uncle Eli's family consisted of his wife Martha, aged 26; his little daughter, Rosalie Eugenia, aged 5, himself, aged 32. His worldly possessions were few: a pair of oxen which were getting along in years, and a nice cow named Bessie; a wagon and a few household items which could easily be loaded into it. If he owned any other goods or chattels he turned them over to his older brother John, who remained on the home place, in return for provisions to start him off on his journey.

John hated to see Eli go. He tried his best to talk him out of it, said he'd always be welcome here on the farm, and the two families "always had got along together and always would." Eli allowed that John had his wife Eveline and five young 'uns to support off the farm, that times were tough, and it was "hard 'nuff pickin' fer one family, let alone two." Well, John said "Eli'd never make it with them old oxen -- they wouldn't last half-way to Illinois, say nothin' 'bout Californy."

But Eli was full of "do or die" and pretty "sot" in his ways, so off they went one fine day in the spring of 1838: Martha and Eli and little Rosalie Eugenia, or "Genie" as she was called -- full of hope and courage and rosy dreams. Grandpa Roberts, John's son, was 14 at the time, and he watched them start off. The old oxen were drawing the wagon, and Bessie was tied to the rear and trudging along behind.

They traveled on, day in and day out, month in and month out. And "somewhere along the plains, 'bout half-way to Illinois, sure 'nuff the nigh ox petered out, just like John said would happen. And Eli had to yoke up Bessie beside the off ox, to draw the wagon." On and on they went, and finally, at last, they reached Waukegan, Illinois. It was in October, six months since they had left Hopkinton.

The family made quite a stop-over in Waukegan, and for a very good reason. Martha's baby boy, Almond, was born in October, soon after they arrived. He was a frail little fellow -- never fat and rosy-cheeked like Genie -- and so the family stayed right there as long as he lived, which was only a little over a year. Eli supported them by doing jobs, especially carpenter work. Then, the next spring after Baby Almond died, he took Martha and Little Genie and joined the wagon trains pushing westward toward the cherished goal. He paid their passage by helping to build houses along the way -- houses that were springing up like mushrooms at every stopping place. Then, when they finally reached California a year or two later, he found his services as carpenter much in demand.

Uncle Eli never found gold. In fact, I don't believe he ever went prospecting, after all. Maybe the gold fever had all been drained out of his blood before he got to California. But he became quite prosperous as a carpenter and never regretted going West. He died there in 1891 at the age of 75. Martha had died ten years earlier. Genie grew up to be a beautiful woman. She married Charles Kinsman, and before the turn of the century she brought her family to Hopkinton by train, to visit the old home place. Although

it's no longer in the family -- in fact, no one works the farm any more -- it is still known as Sunnybrook Farm. Located just outside Hopkinton on the Lake Ozonia Road, its handsome old farmhouse and the barns still stand. It was worked by my late brother, Cecil Roberts and his family for years before he died. Cecil was John's great grandson and the fifth generation of Roberts' to live on the old home farm.

I wish my old Dad were alive today. His name was Eli, too, and he was quite proud of Uncle Eli -- with his dauntless courage that made him set out for California behind a pair of old oxen. I've tried to give the story just as Dad always told it. But he could give you more details, he'd even tell you the name of the oxen -- especially the "tough" old off ox that made it as far as Waukegan, Illinois, even though it did take six months to get there."

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## COUNTY LAW LIBRARY

By CECIL H. GRAHAM

The St. Lawrence County Law Library which is housed on the second floor of the Court House in Canton and which utilizes three rooms adjacent to the Court Room contains approximately 5,700 volumes. Although not large compared with many law libraries it is complete enough so that a lawyer has ready reference for most trial work in the local and state courts of New York as well as that of the United States Federal Courts.

Its various sets of texts, reports, decisions of the Appellate division and Court of Appeals will enable any attorney to have full knowledge of the laws and rules for our rather complicated criminal and civil procedures. The Library is kept abreast of the frequent changes, amendments and addition of new laws by a subscription service by which the publishers furnish supplements or new books to keep it up to date.

Among the many sets of books it contains are those of the New York State Session Laws complete from 1777 up to the present time. It is reported that this is one of perhaps only a dozen such complete sets in the entire state. The older volumes have been rebound with new covers and the set is in remarkably good shape considering their age.

Among the contents of this set which are of much current interest is the Act of the Confederation between the new State of New York as one of the original thirteen states and that of the Congress of the United States. This was the first act of our State Legislature in 1777.

Also, in this first session was an act requiring the inhabitants of the state to furnish shoes and stockings to the militia during the closing months of the Revolution. The person furnishing these was given sixteen shillings for every good pair of shoes and fourteen shillings for every good pair of woolen stockings furnished. If they refused to deliver these they were subject to a fine of ten dollars for each item.

Also passed in 1781 was a bill to prohibit hawkers or peddlers going from house to house or town to town with their goods or wares. They were subject to a fine of ten pounds. It would seem that this law has been relaxed considerably in recent years.

In 1784 an act was passed to make naturalized citizens from a number of Revolutionary soldiers one of whom was the General Baron William Frederick Steuben.

(Continued on Page Eighteen)

FOUR OLD SOLDIERS with the Pierrepont Band, Decoration Day, 1920. The Civil War veterans were Lyman Tupper, Lemuel Seaver, Ed Harris and Charles Beakman.



# PIERREPONT BAND

By MRS. IVA TUPPER

The Pierrepont band was organized in 1919 with Robert Brown as leader. There were 27 members when the accompanying picture was taken.

They practiced every Tuesday night at the Town Hall; every Saturday evening, they gave a free concert and the town's people came and enjoyed dancing.

Each member purchased his own uniforms and instruments. The band received no financial help. They gave a benefit dance at the Town Hall to purchase uniforms and equipment.

The band frequently was featured at picnics, 4th of July

celebrations, Decoration Day parades, church socials, Labor Day parades and at the Potsdam fair.

There were occasional excursions -- one of the most memorable took them to the 1000 Islands. Band members and their families enjoyed a picnic dinner.

From this group a six-piece orchestra was selected to play for dances in 1920.

But by 1923, the band became so badly depleted in 1923 that the remaining members joined with others from Morley to form the Morley Band.

# Washday in 1898

By MRS. WILLIAM PERRY, Dolgeville

Jane Arnold watched a beautiful sunset one night in late May, and they ARE beautiful along the St. Lawrence River, but the housewife just said, "A good washday tomorrow!"

She went about the house and gathered a large basket of soiled bedding and garments and carried them to the summer kitchen. She then laid a fire in the range, and had one of the boys fill the wood box. She took the boiler from its nail, placed it on the stove, and pumped three pails of water from the cistern and emptied them into the boiler. Jane placed a bench not far from the stove and the pitcher pump, then set the new galvanized tub on it.

Next she went to the cellar and brought the old wooden tub from where it was stored to prevent shrinkage, placed it on the washbench with a bit of water and proudly attached the new invention, the hand wringer to it by clamps, and placed the washboard in the tub.

This now seldom-used utensil was a piece of corrugated zinc, placed in a frame two sides of which extended six inches beyond the zinc and formed legs which rested on the bottom of the tub against the sides. At the other end of the zinc was a box or shelf like frame which held the cake of yellow soap.

The boiler which has gone out of use today, covered two

griddles of the cookstove, was oval, about twenty inches long and about the same height and would hold five or six pails of water. It needed muscle to pump water and feed the boiler.

Jane rose early the next morning and lighted the fire and did household tasks while the water heated. When it was hot, she dipped it into pails with the big dipper or tin dish which held about two quarts, larger at the top than the bottom, and had a hollow handle extending from one side.

The water transferred into the tub, Jane pumped more water for the boiler, and fed more wood to the fire and the real work began, wetting the soiled clothes, and rubbing soap on the needed spots; necks, cuffs, and hems getting special attention. All garments of that day were "ample". Dresses and petticoats were three yards at the hem and just cleared the ground and all under garments had more yardage than needed. They were not washed as often as our clothes today.

After the soaping was finished, the clothes were rubbed on the board, soiled spots first, then a general rubbing, and then put through the wringer and tossed into the next tub.

(Continued on Page Twenty)

# THE RUTLAND RAILROAD

By HAZEL CHAPMAN  
(Town of Stockholm Historian)

It is hard to find a railroad to compare scenically and historically with the Rutland Railroad. With Yankee persistence its trains struggled through the snows of Vermont and Northern New York for more than one hundred years.

It was the workhorse for our town. We had the mail train, the milk train with a passenger coach, regular freight trains, and for many years two passenger trains each day. How people enjoyed traveling! They drove by horse and buggy to Winthrop (Stockholm Depot), put the horse in the livery barn and boarded the train for Malone or Potsdam fair. They went on the early train and came back on the evening train. As the years went by they shipped their cream from Winthrop to the Norwood creamery, and their milk to New York City. Mail was delivered so much faster to and from the faraway places. Traveling salesmen used the trains to go from town to town to sell to the stores. Of course, they stayed all night in our one hotel.

We had just two trains stations in Stockholm, Winthrop and Knapps Station. The name of Stockholm Depot was changed to Winthrop April 1, 1891.

As early as 1830, a group of men from Vermont and men from Northern New York who traveled three days by stage coach to reach Montpelier met on a howling February night to discuss building a rail system that would go from the Great Lakes to Boston. Nearly twenty years passed before it became a reality. Then \$2,000,000 in shares of 50 each were sold to begin building the line.

Early in March of 1848, after it was surveyed, shovels bit into the frozen dirt at both ends of the line. Here was a chance for the settlers to earn some money, and 400 men were put to work. Everything was done by hand. As soon as a temporary bed was laid and the rails down, gravel was brought in by the trainload for the fills along the way.

Six men were assigned to a car and with short handled shovels, and three tons of dirt were taken off with no machinery to help. As soon as one trainload was emptied another took its place. Two bosses were on hand, and they were relentless in their urge to keep the men at work. There were no eight hours days. For this hard work the men received a dollar a day.

It's a long, long trail over the century since the first wood burning engine, hauling a few flat cars with wooden seats (called an excursion train) puffed through Winthrop and the town of Stockholm from Malone to Ogdensburg.

The first bridges along the line were made of wood. One night in 1883 the bridge at Winthrop over the St. Regis river burned. The night train from the East backed up when part way across the bridge and saved itself and passengers from going in the river.

At first in order to cross Lake Champlain the cars were ferried. Later came a floating railroad bridge, still later the iron bridges of today.

The ties and stringers for the railroad were to be had for the cutting, but rails, spikes and rolling stock had to be shipped in from outside. The first ties were hemlock and so did not last long. The railroad also had trouble with many of the fills washing out in the spring. During the years the line changed ownership many times.

In 1868 steam engines which used coal were used on the tracks. It is said the engineers thought more of their engines than their wives. Each man saw to it that his engine was polished and oiled to perfection. They wanted the most outstanding engine on the road. As years went by we often saw two engines pulling 100 cars. In 1949 the steam engines were replaced with diesels.

Many are the stories the engineers on the Rutland can tell! In our town on nearly every crossing there has been someone killed because he did not obey the crossing sign

which says, "Look Out For the Engine".

Norman Guertin of Winthrop tells of the time when he was an engineer on Train No. 93, when engine 33 went through the Rouses Point trestle into Lake Champlain. It happened at 11:30 p.m. on April 2, 1920. There were five men in the engine. A large wind-driven cake of ice hit the end of the trestle and over went the engine to the bottom of the lake.

By a miracle all five men escaped drowning. How cold the water must have been! Mr. Guertin recalls that the next morning he came out on a wrecker on the other end of the trestle hoping to pick the engine from the lake bottom, and when they were in the middle of the bridge the end went down. He said they sat there on what was left for six hours before they were rescued. It wasn't until the next September that the engine was raised and sent to Montreal for overhauling. He said the five men never even caught a cold from their unexpected swim.

Ogdensburg had a big celebration for the first excursion train. All morning long people poured into the town and by train time thousands jammed into the erstwhile pasture that was the railroad terminal. On the train from Stockholm were two brothers from East Part, Calvin T. and Cornelius Hulburg, Spencer Stearns from Stockholm Depot and Amelia Streeter from Knapps Station and many others. Those who came to view this first train were nearly paralyzed with fear and their fright was dispelled only after the huge affair moved on.

When the train arrived in Ogdensburg in the faint distance a smoke was seen, followed by a long whistle blast. A cannon boomed as Train No. 1 rolled into town and the crowd let out a whoop that lasted into the early hours long after the speeches had been made.

At first the Rutland was called the Northern, then the Ogdensburg and Lake Champlain; finally the Rutland because it went to Rutland, Vermont.

In 1852 the train crossed into Vermont with a number of refrigerator cars of butter. These were the first refrigerator cars in history and they were made in the Ogdensburg car shop. The train carried eight tons of butter to Boston, and after paying the freight charges the farmers had \$800 more than if the butter had been sold locally. The butter cars were an immediate success.

Results were far reaching. The railroad prospered; Boston got fresh butter. This led to a falling off of the city's East India spice trade -- spices had been used to make rancid butter palatable. By the summer of 1853 the farms along the northern border had doubled in value.

With the wide use of automobiles and trucks, the Rutland lost trade and now is a thing of the past. It has not been in use since the strikes of 1961-62. The track from Norwood to Ogdensburg -- 25 miles -- which joins the New York Central may be used again by the Ogdensburg Port Authority, but the rest is to be torn up.

Foster is the big railroad materials company that bought the line to be dismantled. The tearing up job is highly mechanized these days. There are automatic pullers that unscrew the bolts holding the rails to the fasteners. A standard rail is 39 feet long and weighs 1,365 lbs. The rails are piled onto a work train and hauled off to the nearest shipping area. They are used by companies as side-tracks to their plants.

If anyone is interested in reading more of this famous line, there is a good book written and photographically illustrated by Jim Shaugnessy called, "The Rutland Railroad".

# Irving Bacheller, best known author of St. Lawrence Valley's "North Country"

From its people, homes, hills and forests he found inspiration for a number of his most widely-read books. Of one of the first, "Eben Holden," more than a million copies were sold.



His boyhood home on Pierrepont Hill, overlooking his "Paradise Valley."

## *a Song to a Sweet Singer*

Sing bobolink in the meadows,  
My love is lying near,  
And spread, day long, your rainbow of song  
It may be she will hear.

She sang as you sing O woodthrush!  
As you sit in the dusk alone;  
Your sad, sweet lay to the dying day  
Hath the peace of God in its tone.

Sing flowers in the measured valley  
Your song of the quickened sod.  
Sing stars of night with your farflung light  
Of the infinite valleys of God.

Sing shepherd in the twilight,  
Sing pine by the breezes whirled,  
In all your airs are longing prayers  
From the deep heart of the world.

I sing of the faith that liveth  
In the brave old heart of man  
Oh ages long it hath filled his song  
Since the ancient school began!

Irving Bacheller

These verses were penned by Irving Bacheller in memory of his wife following her death in 1924, and were found among the papers of the late Dr. Richard E. Sykes, a life-long friend and schoolmate of the author.

*I sing of the faith that liveth  
In the brave old heart of man  
Oh ages long it hath filled his song  
Since the ancient school began!*

*Irving Bacheller*

After graduation from St. Lawrence University, he went to New York to enter newspaper work, and there formed the first newspaper syndicate column in the U. S. He returned often to Canton, to visit his mother, and later for summer vacations and as a trustee and loyal alumnus of the University.

The older officers and directors of the First National were among his personal friends. The Bank's records show that he continued his checking account here when residing elsewhere. Years later the bank called his attention to a small balance which had remained inactive. It was found to represent the total of a number of his checks which the recipients had kept as souvenirs instead of cashing them.



## The First National Bank of Canton

BETTER BANKING FOR BETTER LIVING

MEMBER OF  
FEDERAL RESERVE SYSTEM  
FEDERAL DEPOSIT INSURANCE CORPORATION



## BAPTISTS

(Continued from Page Ten)

debt. It stands today, a monument to the labors of these two pastors.

Another highlight of the four day event was the singing of a hymn composed just for the occasion by another former pastor, the Rev. M.L. Rugg. Greetings were read from W.L. Soper, a member, then missionary to Burma and head of a school of some 500 boys. The town's sister Churches joined in an evening service which, it is reported, packed the sanctuary and the adjoining Sunday School rooms. There was inspiring singing under the direction of Charles M. Tait.

Children were not forgotten. On the second day about a hundred, all under fifteen years of age, sat at a special banquet in the Church dining hall. The adults had their own banquet later that evening.

Rev. Beckwith left in 1916. Soon after his ordination in his native state of Indiana, the Rev. Roy Barnett was called to Gouverneur. Impressive evangelistic services by a Rev. Macomb in this period caused a great spiritual awakening and forty members were added to the Church. Among Rev. Barrett's many activities was the launching along with Mr. Clayton Rush, of a publication "The Reminder". Ten issues were published when the periodical ran afoul of postal regulations and it was refused admission at new rates so it had to be discontinued.

The World War was raging and Rev. Barnett was granted leave in 1919 to serve in the Army WMCA Service for four months. This pastor, it is believed, formed the first organization of Boy Scouts in Gouverneur. The troop had its own fife and drum corps, and were active for many years. This energetic leader resigned on Sept. 24, 1919 to return to his native Indiana.

The Rev. J.W. Richardson came in 1919. Before his call to the ministry he had been an actor in New York City and used his considerable talent to compose and stage several pageants and plays of a religious nature. They were produced on a specially constructed stage and were received with much interest by capacity audiences.

In 1936 a Church Historian, Mrs. Carl Brown, notes triumphantly, "At this time women have equal rights with the men in our Church". She makes reference to the occasion of the annual meeting when three deaconesses were elected to serve with the Board of Deacons. They were Mrs. Pearl Turnbull, Mrs. Hattie Bowman, and Miss Nina Pike. They served at at least one communion also. (It should be noted, however, that there is a record of a meeting on April 2, 1913, when six deaconesses were appointed. This custom seems to have been discontinued until the latter date.

The First Baptist Church in a very special way has always been closely linked with the public school system in Gouverneur. When the village had outgrown a tiny school building which stood near the Presbyterian Church, the school-minded Baptists generously donated a portion of their lot as a site for a new school building. When construction began on a one story brick school house on this lot, our citizens showed their keen interest in the education of the young. They wanted to add a second story to accommodate the higher grades. That meant extra cost. It was solved in a manner characteristic of our ancestors' sturdy independence. A meeting was held in 1826 and the sum of \$540 was raised by pledges of \$10 each by an Association. This school was known by the impressive name of "The Gouverneur Union Academy" and opened the next year. The Wesleyan Seminary in 1834 provided for the top grades, with the brick school serving lower grades until 1872. It stood four square and four long, serving later humbler use as a laundry and plumbing shop until it was torn down in 1962. The site now belongs to the Gouverneur Savings and Loan, as a parking lot -- still appreciated by Baptists on Sunday mornings.

Ironically, the liberal and forward looking act of our Church in giving the lot so ideally situated to the Academy, to our peoples consternation, was condemned by one unfriendly individual. He pointed out that the Baptists, in giv-

## DEPEYSTER

(Continued from Page Eight)

use. Detergents were unheard of and soft soap was made each spring for the year's supply.

There was always a wood box to fill and youth had little time for recreation. All the food for the family was produced on the farm except for a few staples such as tea, baking soda, etc.

Even life was uncertain. The DePeyster doctor, R.B. Johnson, did his best to care for the sick. Epidemics of contagious disease were prevalent, brought back by the serviceman on furlough.

Of course, there were times when neighbors got together for quilting parties, apple paring, corn huskings in the fall and skating in the winter. Neighbors helped each other as they shared the grief of the war.

One cannot but have great admiration for the citizens of that age.

teens. During the summer of 1887 the Ladies Aid Society raised enough money to purchase a large five foot circular chandelier which hung from the center of the ceiling of the large room. This comprised fourteen kerosene lamp burners and a double reflector, one convex, the other concave. This large chandelier was built so it could be raised up near the ceiling or lowered by means of a six foot pole with a hook on one end.

The steeple was equipped with a weathervane, but during the last few years was discarded diminishing the beauty of the steeple considerably. Before the belfry was boarded up, the bell could often be heard in Hermon, a distance of four miles -- not so today. In years gone by, this church bell was the only signal used in case of fire. During funerals it was often tolled slowly for the number of years the deceased person had lived.

In the past year, floodlights have been placed on the roof of the church. Many improvements have been made in the basement with a drilled well and water piped into the kitchen.

## LAW LIBRARY

(Continued from Page Fourteen)

One of the first acts of 1802 was the creating of St. Lawrence County with its original ten towns. It is of interest to note that the votes in the first election had to be sent and counted by the Clerk of Oneida County.

St. Lawrence County also owns and maintains a rather complete Law Library in the Supreme Court Chambers Building at Gouverneur, which is occupied by the Hon. Paul D. Graves as a Justice of the State Supreme Court. This library contains many law books of a specialized nature and used for a specific purpose by a presiding trial justice.

The annual cost to the County of keeping up to date the Libraries with new books and supplements amounted in 1964 to \$2,867.34 for the one in Canton and \$2,276.93 for the Supreme Court Library in Gouverneur.

ing the lot, had forfeited the title to their property, since Gouverneur Morris had deeded it to them and had stipulated that the lot was to be used solely for Church purposes, and if any part of it were conveyed to another, the property would revert to the owners. The Church appealed to Mr. Morris, and through the good offices of his agent, Judge Dodge, he allowed the title to remain.

In 1952, when the Rev. William Work became pastor here, the Gouverneur schools faced a crisis. The growing population of children overcrowded the schools. An appeal was made to our Church to furnish classroom space for the week-day sessions. Again, our Church came to the rescue, and after an agreeable rental was found, classes were let in the Church, first using the dining rooms only, then expanding into the entire Church School areas. This continued until the new high school was completed and dedicated in 1961, when the present pastor, Rev. Donald Barton came as minister. It is estimated that the school paid some \$4000 for improvements to the Church during their stay, plus the rental which was forthcoming annually.

## REMINISCENCES

(Continued from Page Six)

come. Woe betide anyone who had to sleep with me if the bed wasn't first searched. As other children took dolls or favorite toys to bed, I took flowers. The flowers were apt to be dandelions or thistles or pansies or violets. Only once did I rebel at the pricklers on a rose and that was when I carried a large bouquet of them at an aunt's wedding. How vividly do I remember hanging over a fence to steep myself in the gorgeousness of the first oriental poppies I'd ever seen. I could lead you now to that garden or at least where it stood.

The loveliest garden of all was my father's. No matter how many others I see or know, that will always be my favorite. That garden was the size of a modern house lot. The flower garden half was fenced and on two sides of that fence grew sweet peas. Modern peas may be larger and frillier but they lack the profusion and the fragrance of those. Somewhere on that fence grew nasturtiums and clematis. Probably somewhere on it grew non-flowering vines or vegetables but those things would make no impression on me. Within that fence were beds containing in their season colorful tulips, fragrant hyacinths, graceful jonquils and narcissi, carpets of pansies, Stars of Bethlehem, gorgeous asters, snapdragons, marigolds, phlox. In fact just about everything was there and in abundance. Nothing was more greatly missed and mourned than that garden when we moved.

In winter, Dad had large tubs on legs filled with tulips, narcissus and hyacinths in a sunny bay window. I'd lie prone on the floor studying and soaking in their fragrance.

One of the last remarks Dad ever made was, "I always did love a garden." This one of his children feels the same way. The Elysian Fields must be filled with flowers gay and fragrant.

## Books

To me, a house without books is simply unfurnished. Flowers and books are as necessary in a home as the the kitchen stove or the furnace. These books are not just for appearance sake, but friends to live with and love. I don't mind lending books but sorting over and giving some away takes courage and self-denial. Well do I remember the day when I gave to a child who had no books one of my best loved friends.

From the time I could read, I certainly read everything I could get in my hands. Books about famous men and women of long ago -- Darius, Alexander, Cleopatra, and Semiramis; books about explorations in Egypt; fairy stories, all I could find anywhere; Greek and Roman myths were as familiar to me as stories from the Bible; Dickens' Child's History of England; an Arabian Nights at least a thousand pages long -- fine print at that -- (I'd like to know where it is now); Alice in Wonderland and Through the Looking Glass were all grist for my mill. The Elsie and the Rollo books somehow had very little appeal, just something to fill time when there was nothing else.

Howard Pyle's Story of King Arthur ran in St. Nicholas the magazine and it was hard to wait from one issue to the next. Ralph Henry Barbour's stories came out in the same magazine and in the Youth's Companion. What has become of Henty's books? You can look in vain for them in a modern library, yet nothing was more influential in giving me a love of history that I'll always have. Everett Tomlinson couldn't write books fast enough to satisfy my insatiable desire and I certainly saw his books about as fast as they came out, for a niece of his was one of my playmates. Often I read those books before she did. My bound St. Nicholas volumes were as much loved by my daughters as when new by me.

Books and magazines at home, a small public library, a school library and a Sunday School library, besides all the books and magazines at grandmother's, couldn't completely fill my desire for things to read though my family frequently refused to let me read another book for a week. What an endless week! Also a week accompanied by a more than ordinary number of scrapes probably caused by putting into practice some ideas suggested by all this reading.

## The Explanation

Back in the time when it was a two or three day trip with horse and wagon from Ogdensburg to Star Lake, my father had a rare piece of luck. A stranger on his first trip into the woods, he was given a room directly over the general room of the hotel. That room was as much a club for the village men as the grocery. This night there was a bull session. The tired young stranger heard through the stove pipe hole in the floor, discussion that ranged from politics and religion to science.

Finally, the session became very heated.

"Lightnin' don't do no damage. It's the thunder."

"Tain't so. It's the lightnin'. Thunder's jest talk like a barkin' pup."

"Don't either you fellers know nuthin'. Listen to me -- 'member when we was threshin' to Spence Ward's, lightnin' run all over the belt? Didn't do no harm -- wan't no thunder. T'other day, 'twas dark and grumbled for an hour. Didn't hurt nuthin' -- 'twan't no lightnin'. It's when them two mix that all hell busts loose."

The voice of authority had spoken. The session closed and the weary stranger slept, realizing he'd learned more of the true mind of the native than he would in months of casual association. Thirty years later when campaigning for office, that knowledge helped make that same section one of his strongest supporters in the district.

## Dangerous Play

Children must have a special guardian angel. Otherwise I don't know how any normally active youngster lives to grow up. Each generation finds a different variety of scrapes to get into. I'd scramble anywhere after the older children or go adventuring on my own. Anywhere anyone else could climb, I'd go -- no matter if my legs were shorter. I fell all the way down the stony bank of Sandy Creek into a mess of broken glass and was actually picked up unharmed. Ladders and trees were always a dare to me. Yet it was my sister who walked the cornice of the house for a tennis ball.

One afternoon, my brother and I in the course of vigorous play smashed the glass in the front door. I, via the new telephone, called George and a fresh pane was installed before mother came back from a round of calls. Another day, during a vigorous battle with the enemy, my brother decided there was one man unskilled and in his zeal to put an end to him, hit a Roger's group doing considerable damage to John Alden. Whether the same battle accounted for the smashed Apollo on the mantle, I can't remember.

The bridge was at least fifty feet above the stony bottom of the creek and had a rail much too tempting to active boys and girls. My father's office and mill were at one end of the bridge and our house about a block from the other end, so that the bridge rail was a constant temptation to me. Finally I succumbed: Who should catch me at my dangerous occupation but the most important man in our small town? He told me to get down and I replied, "You're not the boss of me." He stopped not to argue but went quickly to my father's office and returned with the "Boss" of me. It's well to draw the curtain.

Games and toys never held our attention long. Plays based on ideas derived from my extensive reading were more our line. One day, we were crusaders with King Richard, another Pilgrims battling with the Indians and still another Revolutionary soldiers chasing the Redcoats. Odd as it may seem, our play never touched upon the Civil War and we had yet to see our first Uncle Tom show.

One day, I actually threw a cat I loved from a second floor window to see if it would land on its feet. Another time, to the admiring cheers of my cohorts, I beat Yankee Doodle with my heels on the ribs of the conquered leader while sitting upon her.

In view of these memories, could I be too surprised when my daughter tested the aeroplane the neighbor's sons built or when she went hand over hand along an aerial until she fell? I offered a prayer of thankfulness to the guardian angel that no serious damage was done.

## JOHN MILLS

(Continued from Page Five)

posing troops mixed things up in a general melee. Six of the "900" detail were killed. Frank Kip was one of them, with a bullet in his head. Seven were taken prisoners, two were seriously wounded. Lieut. Mills and two others made their escape, but in doing so Mills was wounded in his left hand, the hand with which he had held the reins of his horse.

His final act while mounted was taking a brook in a big jump, just as a Confederate fired at him. In writing about this encounter years later he said: "I think this was the last shot fired between Unionists and Confederates in West Tennessee."

Upon being discharged in September, 1865, Lieut. Mills returned to Canton. When the Clifton Iron Mines were put into full operation about 1869 a railroad spur-line was run from the Rome & Potsdam Division, from East DeKalb, up through the wilderness to the mines, Mills became the conductor on this branch line.

It was a crude installation. The rails were made of wood. The purpose of the spur was to bring the cars loaded with the iron, smelted and pigged at the Clifton Iron Furnace, out to the main line. The Clifton Mines did not survive long. The operation was too costly, but for a time there were several hundred families housed up there in the forest when Clifton was expected to become the Pittsburgh of St. Lawrence County.

John Mills later was on the clerical staff of the big Hurd Lumber Company which opened up the Tupper Lake country, building a railroad from Moira to Tupper Lake.

During the latter part of his life John Mills clerked here for many years in the Ellsworth Boot and Shoe Store. His wife was the sister of Joseph Barnes Ellsworth, grandfather of Mrs. Mary Manning, Canton Librarian, and Joseph C. Ellsworth. Mr. and Mrs. Mills lived then on State street.

As a close friend of Colonel S.P. Remington, it was but natural that John Mills took a great interest in the Colonel's son, Fred Remington. In fact, Colonel Remington and Lieutenant Mills found a mutual interest in horse flesh, growing out of their war experiences. The Colonel maintained his own stable in Canton and then in Ogdensburg, Mills always had a first rate road horse stabled in the barn back of his State Street home.

Joseph Ellsworth says: Uncle John loved horses. He managed to have a nice one, always some former trotter or pacer which had raced locally at the fair. I remember Japonica, a beautiful bay. Uncle John always hitched Japonica to the little rubber tired buggy for a Sunday afternoon ride, and often took me along."

It was said that on several occasions when he was using his Uncle Horace Sackrider's State street horse barn for a summer studio, Fred Remington would persuade John Mills to put on his old cavalry uniform, the old broad-brimmed cavalry hat, spurs and all, throw a saddle on a horse and do a little modeling.

John Mills was always adorned with one of those elegantly groomed Custer-like mustaches. How many times Fred Remington borrowed that mustache for his western cavalry canvasses it would be difficult to say, but more than once by Canton tradition.

John Mills died in 1934 at the age of 95.

## SMITHERS

(Continued from Page Three)

Attending the dinner were friends and acquaintances of Mrs. Smithers from all over the county and every department of the county government was represented. Local historians and past presidents of the County Historical Association, officers of the association, as well as visiting historians were also among the guests.

The Rev. William Masters of Madrid gave the invocation.

Flowers were given by W. Allan Newell of Ogdensburg and tickets for the dinner were printed by Phil McMasters of Canton.

## PUBLIC MUSEUMS

POTSDAM: Dee Little, curator of the Potsdam Museum, and Penny Covell, assistant, have had a busy three months. A special exhibit "Children's World of Yesteryear" taken from the museum collection included books and toys used in the past. A display of children's dresses included one worn by Henry Knowles in 1817. At present there is a special exhibit of railroad items owned by Thomas Dunstone, Clinton street, Potsdam. It includes railroad telegraph and signaling equipment, locomotive bells, record books and many other items. An exhibit of the Thatcher milk bottle consisting of material furnished partly by the Museum and prepared by John Garner of the Benjamin Raymond Yorker club and shown at the Yorker convention in Utica May 8 is at present on view at the Museum. Material on the Revolutionary, Civil and World War I wars was loaned to the Lawrence Avenue school for the Memorial Day Exhibit.

"An old fashioned kitchen" was exhibited at the Flea Market at the Clarkson arena sponsored by the Guild of the Potsdam hospital.

The curators have had Museum tours for the following classes: 6-first grade classes; 3-sixth grade classes from rural schools; 1-fourth grade class from Colton; 1-third grade class from Campus school. From April 1 to June 8 636 people have registered in the Museum.--Marguerite G. Chapman, president.

## WASHDAY

(Continued from Page Fifteen)

The first tub consisted of what was known as fine clothes, children's white dresses and ruffled or embroidered petticoats, white table cloth and white napkins, men's white shirts with separate collars. At that time boiling clothes was not deemed necessary, but hot water was poured on the clothes, cold water added and clothes well rinsed by lifting them in and out of the water, passed through the wringer and into another tub of water to which a bit of bluing was added.

After they left this water via the wringer, the well-reinforced shirt fronts which were buttoned down the back were stiffly starched as were the ruffled petticoats and men's cuffs and separate collars.

As two women were often needed for this work, one would hang the clean garments on the outside line. If the line was near the road, the wash must be arranged so as not to excite too much comment from the passersby. The flopping wash did not excite Dobbin, who took his time. The driver reserved his comments but his spouse said, Jane Arnold was always pizen neat.

When the white things were on the line, they were followed by a few much used linen or crash towels, also dish towels, then colored clothes, aprons, dresses and blue overalls. Socks and black cotton hose had a separate wash.

With all this hard work people had smaller washings.

As soon as the wash was all on the line, or spread over the cleanest spot of grass, the leftover water was used for cleaning. The summer kitchen was mopped. The boiler and tubs and board were washed and stored. The zinc tub was hung away and the wooden tub once more carried to the cellar. Wash water was used to scrub the back steps and the out house. The water left after all the scrubbing was thrown on the flower bed. The soapsuds were good for getting rid of the aphids.

When all was scrubbed, the many houseflies attracted by the warmth of the kitchen were driven out and it was mid-afternoon.

Dinner dishes were washed up and a few minutes of rest were snatched before preparing the evening meal called supper. The men were used to a filling but simple meal on washday.

# WORLD HISTORY AT HEUVELTON

By PERSIS YATES BOYESEN

August 17 and 18 will mark the twenty-fifth anniversary of the historic meeting in the Ogdensburg area of President Franklin Delano Roosevelt and Prime Minister William Lyon Mackenzie King of Canada. At that time the United States was participating in the largest peace time war maneuvers in history in St. Lawrence County. President Roosevelt, under the guise of inspecting 100,000 Regular Army, National Guard and Reserve Troops of the First Army in their training areas, arrived in Norwood only hours after an announcement by White House officials that he would confer with Prime Minister King of Canada.

President Roosevelt arrived in Norwood via his private railroad car. He transferred to an open auto and the train proceeded to Ogdensburg. After a six hour tour of inspection of the First Army troops he arrived in Ogdensburg at 5:45 p.m. via Proctor Avenue, the business section and the State Street to the Public Relations Headquarters located at the Ogdensburg Free Academy. There he was accorded all the respect and honor due a President of the United States. At 6:25 p.m. he arrived at his private railroad car which was located on a siding in the New York Central yards in Ogdensburg.

Approximately twenty minutes later Prime Minister Mackenzie King of Canada, C.A. Casselman, Member of Parliament and Jay Pierrepont Moffatt, a career diplomat and United States Minister to Canada and their staff arrived from Prescott by special trip guided across the St. Lawrence by Captain S.J. Delaney, a veteran pilot of the local ferry. They immediately proceeded by official automobile to President Roosevelt's private train for dinner and conference. However, the dinner served behind the drawn curtains of the private train was all that occurred in Ogdensburg on the night of August 17.

At about 7:30 p.m. the Presidential train was moved seven miles south of Ogdensburg to a siding which was located just a few hundred feet from the present abandoned New York Central Railway Station in Heuvelton. At that time officials announced that the large gasoline storage tanks in the area of the New York Central Railroad Terminal afforded a possible hazard to the heads of state so the train was moved to Heuvelton. The residents of that village felt honored that no untoward incident marred the important conference held within the confines of that place. Other reasons have also been advanced for the move to Heuvelton. One was that it had been a very hot day and evening and the train was moved out of the City of Ogdensburg for some cooler air. Another reason for the transfer was to find a quiet area as Ogdensburg was wild with excitement.

Telephones equipped with long cords enabling them to be taken into the President's car were temporarily installed beside the railroad tracks at Heuvelton and Utica. These were connected to long distance loops with central offices at Utica and Ogdensburg at which special circuits from Washington terminated.

The private train remained until about 8 o'clock Sunday morning, August 18 when it returned to Ogdensburg. During the time it was in Heuvelton, G.H. Corliff and F.A. Keane, State Troopers, assisted 200 soldiers and other police in guarding the train. It was reported that residents of the village did not get a glimpse of their famous visitors.

At about 9:30 Sunday morning the President and Prime Minister King inspected the First Army Aircraft at the Ogdensburg Airport. Immediately after they attended memorial services for the War dead of the 28th Division, Pennsyl-

vania National Guard in the Lisbon Camp area. Prime Minister King returned to Ottawa as also did J.P. Moffatt. President Roosevelt headed for his home at Hyde Park for a few quiet days of rest before going back to Washington to face the trials of a pending global conflict and the tensions of a national election.

The first village President Roosevelt passed through on his return to Hyde Park was Heuvelton. It is not often that a locality is honored twice within the span of a few hours of a Presidential train passing through its environs. Local residents well remember how closely guarded were all the roads and crossings in the Heuvelton area.

It was stated in a local newspaper that "the Presidential train was hauled from Hyde Park to Ogdensburg and back by the same engine, one of the high speed type used on the New York Central. The crews were changed at Utica."

The conference between Prime Minister King and President Roosevelt took place in Heuvelton and not in Ogdensburg. Has a misnomer ever become as historic as "The Pact of Ogdensburg", "Ogdensburg Accord", or "The Ogdensburg Agreement"?

In regards to suggestions that a suitable marker be placed to indicate the spot where the Presidential train was located in Ogdensburg, Mayor Francis Burns stated: "Probably many people do not fully realize at present the full significance of the defense program agreed to by President and Mr. King in Ogdensburg, but in the future its importance will be more apparent and the place where it was consummated will become another historic spot in the North Country."

The Ogdensburg Advance observed Aug. 25, 1940, in its column titled Editorial Paragraphs, "Heuvelton ought to do something about marking the spot where the historic conference took place."

Following is the text of the joint statement by Prime Minister King and President Roosevelt on North American defense:

"The Prime Minister and the President have discussed the mutual problems of defense in relation to the safety of Canada and the United States.

"It has been agreed that a Permanent Joint Board on Defense shall be set up at once by the two countries.

This permanent Joint Board on Defense shall commence immediate studies relating to sea, land and air problems including personnel and material.

"It will consider in the broad sense the defense of the north half of the Western Hemisphere.

"The Permanent Joint Board on Defense will consist of four or five members from each country, most of them from the services. It will meet shortly."

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## LOCAL HISTORICAL MUSEUMS

CANTON: Grasse River association cooperated in a very successful Canoe Race on the Grass river in May. For the first time a girl participated in the event, Miss Rouette McMasters, who traversed the course with her father, Phillip McMasters. They are both of Canton. NORWOOD Historical association has received several important gifts recently including a large number of clippings, a hand drawn and number coded map of Norwood. The Yorker club of the Norwood-Norfolk Central school has volunteered to help paste and get the items ready for display. Mrs. Lyman spoke to the second grade at the Norwood Elementary school and to the Potsdam Yorker club and the Norwood Yorker club.

# The President's Message

We have lost a good County Historian and gained a good worker to take her place. If we all work together our Local and County records should be kept in excellent condition for future reference. Mrs. Planty and her committee have arranged for a most interesting summer program. In June we visited Hogansburg, in July we visit our friends in Canada by bus, and this should be an especially valuable tour. Later a wandering tour along the St. Lawrence and some inland villages where history was made, and in the fall our Annual Meeting. So get your walking shoes on and join us.

Edward F. Heim, President

## Mrs. Virgie B. Simons



Mrs. Virgie B. Simons, prominent historian and former town clerk of the Town of Rossie, died April 21. The following editorial appeared in the Gouverneur Tribune-Press April 28:

It is not surprising that in all of her long career of public service, the late Mrs. Virgie B. Simons was never opposed in an election, for she served her people well. She was town clerk for 30 years; churchwoman, historian, registrar of vital statistics, newspaper correspondent, insurance agent. She was, indeed, Rossie's first and most beloved citizen.

She crowded an amazing amount of work into an active, useful life, yet she will be remembered most for her great kindness, understanding and the spirit of helpfulness toward others which pervaded everything she did.

A warm, friendly, cheerful personality with a sparkling sense of humor, she was a devoted craftsman in all that she undertook. Descendant of early Gouverneur area pioneers, she made a careful study of her own lineage and eventually became one of the finest historians in the North.

People native to Rossie seem somehow always to possess an intense loyalty to the town, but none more than Mrs. Simons, who has left her mark on her community as one of its leaders and most dedicated citizens.

## Booth Goes to Goshen

Malcolm A. Booth has been named a full-time research associate of the Orange County Community of Museums and Galleries in Goshen for ten weeks, June 7 to Aug. 13, made possible by a \$1,000 grant from the New York State Council on the Arts.

Mr. Booth has previously served the Community of Museums as a volunteer as secretary, treasurer, editor, and research associate at various times since November of 1961.

He also served as secretary of the St. Lawrence County Historical Association in Canton and director of public relations at Old Museum Village of Smith's Clove in Monroe. He received a master of arts degree in museum administration at the State University College at Oneonta June 5.

While working for the Community of Museums, he will prepare a photographic slide program on Orange County history, a bibliography of books about Orange County, and an advertising and distribution program for the organization's quarterly magazine, "Views".

The community is composed of the Hall of Fame of the Trotter in Goshen; Old Museum Village; West Point Museum, West Point; National Temple Hill Association, Vails Gate; Washington's Headquarters, Newburgh; Knox's Headquarters, Vails Gate; Bethlehem Art Gallery near Salisbury Mills; Storm King Art Center, Mountainville; Empire State Railway Museum, Middletown; and the Museum of the Cornwall Countryside, Cornwall-on-Hudson.

## June Tour

First tour of the 1965 season was an all-day trip to the St. Regis Indian reservation and Hogansburg, arranged by Mrs. Doris Planty, program chairman.

Members making the trip met at the County Museum in the Court House at 9:30 a.m. Saturday, June 26.

The Last Dauphin House was visited first, then the oldest church in the Seaway Valley, built in 1752. A basket picnic followed at Hogansburg High School. After lunch, several speakers from the Reservation and from Fort Covington were presented.

Plans for other tours include one to old Fort Henry, Fort Wellington and the Blue Church in Canada July 31 and another County tour September 11.

## July Tour

One of the most interesting of all the Association's summer tours awaits us July 31 when we visit Kingston, Ont.

Be sure to respond to the mail request for reservations when you receive it about the middle of this month!

Here's what our own inimitable Mrs. Doris Planty has planned for us:

Meet at Ogdensburg Bridge Port & Authority parking lot at 8 a.m. to board chartered buses. Thence to historic old Fort Henry, Kingston, for tour of fort and view of precision drills and colorful guard ceremony; Lunch at Skyline Hotel, Brockville; visit to Blue Church, Maitland, grave of Barbara von Ruckel Heck, founder of Methodism in North America; thence to Prescott to tour Fort Wellington and the old windmill, site of the ill-fated "invasion" of 1838; finally back to Ogdensburg.

## 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) Canton Town Historian has had a busy winter and spring session with many interesting projects. Boy Scouts were helped with advancement by clipping newspapers and painting the fence along the Sykes road at the Olin Cemetery. The members of the AXO Sorority at ATC continue their four year project of clipping newspapers and promise to help again this Fall when they return. The historian worked at the Rushton Memorial Canoe race in May and with the Memorial Day activities with the Legion and VFW, placing flags and markers on the graves of veterans. Many local people and those from away have visited our new Museum in the Municipal Building and signed the Guest Book. RENSSELAER FALLS VILLAGE, Town of Canton: (Mrs. Nina Wilson) Helping people visiting village concerning ancestors. Find people are beginning to come about former owners of property or if rented who lived in homes. Sometime expect to have the history of all buildings. CLARE: (Mrs. Iris J. Fry). CLIFTON: (Mrs. Carla McKinney) Sent in an article about the State Dam at Cranberry and pictures for the Quarterly. COLTON: (Mrs. Lorena Reed). DeKALB: (F.F.E. Walrath). DePEYSTER: (Mrs. Emery Smithers). EDWARDS: (Miss Leah Noble) As far as I have been able to, I have made a list of all the teachers who have taught in the Town of Edwards including the rural schools. FINE: (Mrs. Catherine Brownell). FOWLER: (Mrs. Robert Yerdon). GOUVERNEUR: (Harold A. Storie). HAMMOND: (Mrs. Maxine B. Rutherford) Attended the spring workshop at Canton May 19, 1965. We are looking forward to working under the guidance of our new County Historian, Mrs. Mary Biondi. The historian gave material to college and grade school students for history assignments. Preparations are being made for a Frederic Remington exhibit at the History Center in the Hammond Town Hall during the months of July and August. It will include an interesting table display of biographies, pictures and newspaper clippings describing Remington's summer home on Cedar Island in the St. Lawrence river. The exhibit will feature six reprints of Remington paintings in color published by Collier's magazine at the turn of the century. HERMON: (Mrs. Harriet Jenne). HOPKINTON: (Mrs. Vaughn Day). LAWRENCE: (Mrs. Gordon Cole). LISBON: (Lee M. Martin). LOUISVILLE: (Mrs. Lorraine Bandy) Genealogical material has been given to people in North Carolina, Texas and California. Placed flags on veterans graves for Memorial Day. Pictures are being taken of local buildings being remodeled which were the first buildings in town. Clippings and records are being done. Boy Scouts were helped with local history projects. Several requests for copies of Louisville Town calendar have been filled. MADRID: (Mrs. Florence W. Fisher) Is taking pictures of "Vanishing America" and helped a very interested group of seventh graders with town history. MASSENA: (Anthony Romeo). MORRISTOWN: (Mrs. Doris Planty) Attended the workshop meeting at Canton; is making records of Pine Hill cemetery and is working for this season's tours of the St. Lawrence County Historical association. NORFOLK: (Mrs. Edith VanKennen). NORWOOD VILLAGE, Town of Norfolk: (Mrs. Susan C. Lyman) Norwood Historical Association has received several important gifts recently including a large number of clippings, a hand drawn and number coded map of Norwood. The Yorker Club of the Norwood-Norfolk Central school has volunteered to help paste and get the items ready for display. Mrs. Lyman spoke to the second grade at the Norwood Elementary school and to the Potsdam Yorker Club and the Norwood Yorker Club. Mrs. Bancroft and Mrs. Lyman continue to work on scrapbooks, historian's project, and collecting artifacts of local interest. We have had several articles and pictures published in the Potsdam Courier-Freeman. OSWEGATCHIE: (Mrs. Persis Boy-

## Yorker Cracker Barrel

CANTON: Foote's Followers Senior High School Yorkers visited Parishville Museum with the help of Vice President Edward Petty. Other officers included for the past school year, president, Cheryl Miller; secretary, Paula Stiles and treasurer, Carolyn Merritt. Individual Yorker members wrote biographies of early settlers and posted them on the bulletin board.--Mrs. Michalski, sponsor. GOUVERNEUR: Marble City Yorkers report four members with Mrs. Wranesh as chaperon went to Utica to the State Convention May 7-8. They were accompanied by the Junior High Yorker group. During the weekend they visited Cooperstown. Election of officers with new officers: president, Nancy Wranesh, secretary, Dorothy Nace and treasurer, Allaine Maynard. Allaine is also district treasurer.--Mrs. Georgiana Wranesh, sponsor. LISBON: St. Lawrence Yorkers (grade 7) visited Fort Wellington May 15. They also visited the cairn that marks the battle of Fort Lewis, 1760, the last stand of the French in America. David Wallace and Paul Russell attended state convention in Utica and reported on their trip to a joint meeting of Lisbon and St. Lawrence Chapters. They had an interesting visit at the Farmer's Museum Saturday afternoon in Cooperstown after the convention. The Yorker exhibit at Hepburn library has been changed for the summer. Projects made by 7 and 8 grade Yorkers are on display.--Rachel Dandy, sponsor. POTSDAM: Benjamin Raymon Yorker club ended its activities for this year Wednesday, June 9 with a meeting at which Mrs. Susan Lyman of Norwood spoke on history of that community. Following the meeting the group went to Parishville to visit the house restored as museum. Thirty-two members attended the convention in Utica in May. we took projects on the Thatcher Mills battle and Frederic Remington.--sponsor, Louis Bautaw.

esen) Attended the May 19 Town Historian workshop in Canton. Wrote an article for the July Quarterly and is organizing a card filing system of Civil War records of Oswegatchie residents. Additional data as found in other research, such as obituaries, etc., will be placed on a colored card. HEUVELTON: (Town of Oswegatchie, Mrs. Ida Downing). OGDENSBURG: (Mrs. Elizabeth Baxter, city). PARISHVILLE: (Mrs. Elsie F. Bresee) Attended Mary Biondi workshop meeting May 22. Working on summer project "Americana" and scrapbooks and Genealogies. Making plans for our summer historical project, "Old Industries of Parishville". PIERCEFIELD: (Mrs. Beulah Dorothy) Has been answering numerous letters on old landmarks. PIERREPONT: (Mrs. Iva R. Tupper) Visited the County Historian to discuss the St. Lawrence County Historical association trip to Hogsburg, sent picture of an old town band and notes to The Quarterly editor and is making a story scrapbook of blacksmith ship, milk factory, old schoolhouses, firehouse, etc., as well as collecting stories and pictures of unusual people. PITCAIRN: (No historian). POTSDAM: (Dr. Charles Lahey). ROSSIE: It is with deep regret that we report that Mrs. Virgie Simons, long the beloved historian of this town, passed away on April 21. RUSSELL: (Mrs. Jeanette D. Barnes) Has finished her last cemetery report and has it all compiled. She is still busy taking photographs of articles and writing stories about each picture. STOCKHOLM: (Mrs. Hazel Chapman) The First National Bank of Winthrop, N.Y., only bank in Stockholm, celebrated its 50th anniversary the week of June 7th. It received its charter June 10, 1915. A \$100 savings bond was given during the drawing. Also free gifts. An exhibit of primitive and exotic money was displayed during the week. WADDINGTON: (Mrs. C.B. Olds) A copy of a forty page booklet "Slavery Days in Old Kentucky" written by Isaac Johnson and published in Ogdensburg in 1901 has been given to the Waddington historical collection. The author, a former slave, was the contractor and builder of the Waddington Town Hall, completed in 1884.

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WHEN HELD	VALUE	WHEN HELD	VALUE
3 Months . . . . .	\$41.30	33 Months . . . . .	\$45.72
6 Months . . . . .	41.72	36 Months . . . . .	46.18
9 Months . . . . .	42.16	39 Months . . . . .	46.64
12 Months . . . . .	42.64	42 Months . . . . .	47.10
15 Months . . . . .	43.08	45 Months . . . . .	47.56
18 Months . . . . .	43.50	48 Months . . . . .	48.04
21 Months . . . . .	43.98	51 Months . . . . .	48.52
24 Months . . . . .	44.36	54 Months . . . . .	49.00
27 Months . . . . .	44.82	57 Months . . . . .	49.50
30 Months . . . . .	45.26	60 Months . . . . .	50.00

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12 Months . . . . .	42.64	42 Months . . . . .	47.10
15 Months . . . . .	43.08	45 Months . . . . .	47.56
18 Months . . . . .	43.50	48 Months . . . . .	48.04
21 Months . . . . .	43.98	51 Months . . . . .	48.52
24 Months . . . . .	44.36	54 Months . . . . .	49.00
27 Months . . . . .	44.82	57 Months . . . . .	49.50
30 Months . . . . .	45.26	60 Months . . . . .	50.00