

# The Quarterly

OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE ST. LAWRENCE COUNTY HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION



FROM AN OLD POST CARD

January 1966

# The Quarterly

Official Publication of The St. Lawrence County Historical Assn.

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# COME, FOLLOW ME..

BY NINA WILSON

Men and their families crossed the Oswegatchie River, from west to east, in canoes; settling along the Lost Nation Road (Canton Road). A forge, on the west bank, was built by Tate, Chaffee & Co. with three fires using bog ore from Lisbon and specular ore from Hermon. Thus did the land belonging to the two VanRensselaers, Henry and Stephen, begin its "life" with the earliest settlers in the year of 1839. First called Tateville, after Robert Tate, but more generally known as Canton Falls was this first hamlet.

Stephen Van Rensselaer seems to have soon vanished from the town's history but Henry remains often on the tongues of the inhabitants of Rensselaer Falls to this day. His interest in his holdings extended to construction of the first dam, saw mill, grist mill and the canal. It is interesting to note that, in a day when men were the landowners, the name of Henry's wife appears with his on the first deeds. A democratic and foresighted gentleman!

No records have been found for the date of the construction of the first wooden, covered bridge but it is safe to assume it must have come soon after the construction of the forge in 1839. It was replaced by an iron one in 1895 which, in turn, was replaced by the present concrete span in 1930.

Though the village roads had been paved during the mayorship of Franklin Morrison after 1912, the roads leading from the village remained unpaved until the state road was laid in 1930. In the earliest days of the settlement a plank road, consisting of 12 ft. to 14 ft. planks, ran from Ogdensburg to Russell. Whether this road was the one which followed the river bank through to Kendrew bridge we know not. Evidence of the existence of houses along this known road has been obvious until recent years but the old plank road would be difficult to detect, of course. In the 1930s the road to Heuvelton was surfaced and as late as 1957 came the first paving of the road to Route 11. We have traveled so fast apace in the past few years, it is difficult to believe that these conveniences were so long in coming to an area where the first automobiles arrived as early as 1904!

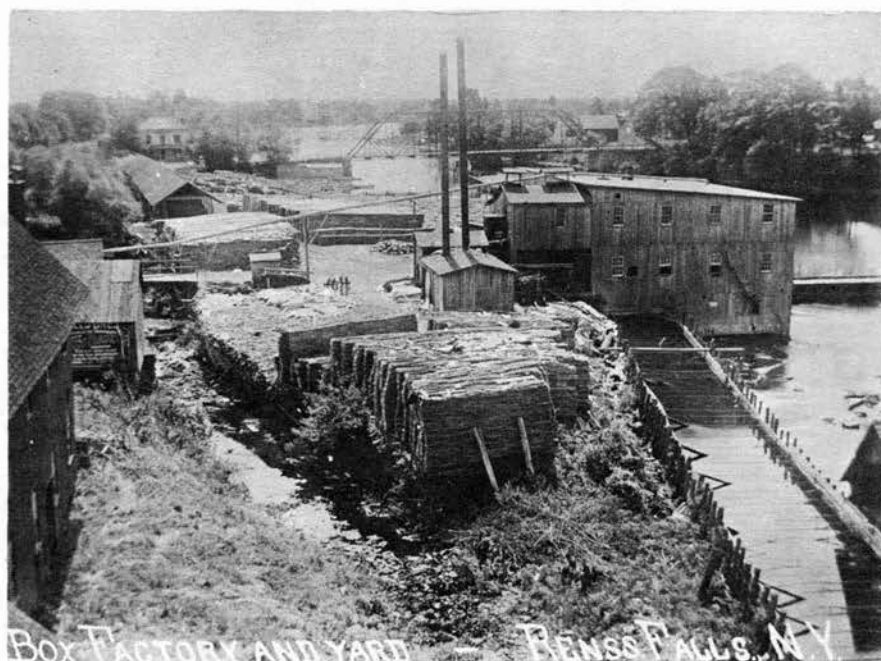
Incorporation of the village came in October 1912. Soon thereafter sidewalks appeared through the encouragement of the Women's Improvement Society. Through the continued efforts of Mrs. Grant Crysler and Mrs. William Blair, this organization brought about the construction of two areas of pavement and the village completed the rest.

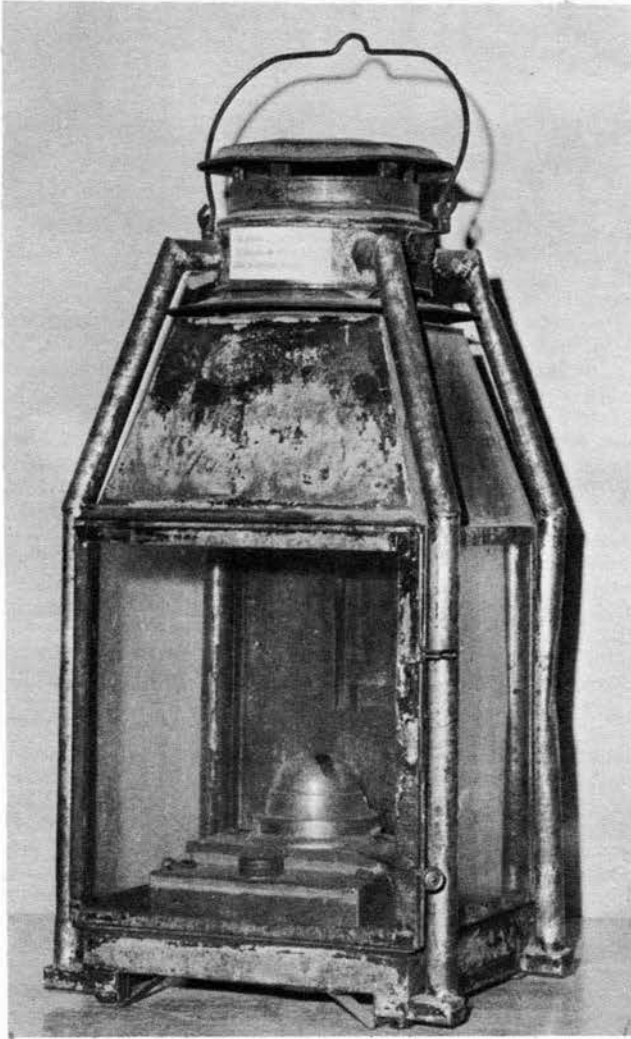
Street lights followed, but the original contract stated that the lights would not be on for the two nights of each month having the light of the full moon! The first electricity arrived with the installation of a small dynamo in the Morrison Mill solely for its own use. Members of the family lived in different sections of the village and the two homes were supplied with electricity from this dynamo. It was turned on in the late afternoon and at a pre-arranged signal from Mr. Morrison each family would light the kerosene lamps when he left to go home for the night. Just this small taste of the luxury-to-be-inspired others to wish for the same convenience within their own homes. Between 1904-08 Morrison and Blair purchased a larger dynamo engaging the late Pearly Burlingame to operate and maintain it. Before this enterprise was sold out to St. Lawrence Utilities, power was also supplied the village of DeKalb Junction. Even during the period of this innovation, emancipation from the care of kerosene lamps was not completely eliminated, for the lighting was not always dependable and the service only extended from late afternoon to an hour before midnight -- with the exception of Tuesday mornings when the power was turned on for the benefit of those ladies owning an electric flatiron!

We know there was one public telephone in the drug store of the late Hollis J. Doty and later one in the McBride store before home service was supplied by Webster Wainwright around 1908. The telephone office for his company was located in a room of the hotel now known as the Sands Hotel. It was long after the Depression of the 1930s before phones became an

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Photographs accompanying this story were supplied by Clarence Poor of Rensselaer Falls, from his large collection of old post cards of the village.



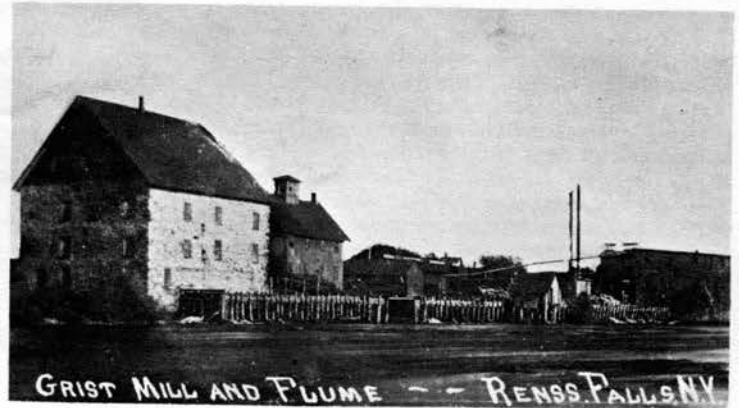


OLD STREET LAMP

accepted means of communication from home to home.

The school system began in 1842 when the first building was erected on land donated by Robert Tate. It stood on the present site of the Elmer Lytle home. Known as the Little Red School House and consisting of one room, it was taught by Emily Kilbourne. Overcrowding ended its usefulness and it was replaced by a two room structure having a vestibule in front. It was erected on land furnished by Henry VanRensselaer where the Wainwright building stands today. This later school, built about 1850, was first taught by Mr. and Mrs. Martin Wardell. Mr. Wardell was a one-armed Civil War veteran. At the same time other classes were being taught in Select Schools, one of these being in a log cabin located in the area of the present home of Morrison Dowe on East Street and conducted by Mrs. Major Williams. The Rev. Phelps, pastor of the Congregational Church, taught classes in the vestibule of the church. There were also classes taught in the Sunday School room of the Methodist Church and presided over by George Craig. This building was then located on the present site of Pioneer Park. It was later moved to the main street becoming, eventually, the Simpson Store. Mrs. Henrietta Craig had a school for the very young in a room on the farther side of the building which later became the Collins garage. The present school site later came into being in the year 1883, when a building of two stories, consisting of two rooms on the main floor with a large hall above them, was built. By then there were three teachers and a janitor employed. Destroyed by fire on February 3, 1903, it was replaced by a larger building ready for use in the fall of that same year. In 1897 the high school was added to its curriculum and main-

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# BARBARA HECK

By PERSIS BOYESEN

On July 29 the St. Lawrence Historical Association visited the Barbara Heck monument in the Blue Church Cemetery which is situated overlooking the beautiful St. Lawrence River between Prescott and Maitland, Ontario. From this side of the river on clear days the Blue Church may be seen from the River road and the Lee road in the Town of Oswegatchie.

The monument which cost about \$3,000 was erected in 1909 through the efforts and contributions of Methodists of Canada and the United States to honor the "Mother of Methodism" as Barbara Heck is generally known. It is said that she "called out the first minister, convened the first congregation, met the first class, planned the first Methodist Church edifice and secured its completion." The unveiling of the Memorial took place Thursday, July 1, 1909, the exercises commencing at 10 a.m. Evelyn Bennington, great-great-granddaughter of Barbara Heck had the honor of pulling the cord which dropped the flag from the monument constructed of Barre, Vermont granite.

Methodists from all over Canada and the United States attended the dedication to pay tribute to Barbara Heck, for nearly 105 years had passed since her death on August 17, 1804. Among those present was Rev. S.T. Dibble of Ogdensburg who represented the Northern New York conference at this important event.

The monument weighs from 35 to 40 tons and stands approximately 20 feet in height. It was cut by McIntosh Granite Company, Ltd. of Toronto and the monument work was done by the Bowers Brothers Monumental Works of Ogdensburg. W.A. Bowers who died in 1931 was a partner with his brother, Richard J. Bowers.

Who was Barbara Heck? She was born in the County of Limerick, Ireland in 1734, the daughter of Sebastian Ruckle. She was of German-Palatine descent. Having been persecuted for their religious beliefs during the reign of Louis XIV, her ancestors, like many other Palatine refugees found haven in Ireland, especially in the County of Limerick. In 1760 she married Paul Heck, also of Palatine ancestry.

John Wesley had preached in Ireland in 1750 and had been gratified by the response of the Palatines, among whom was Phillip Embury. In 1760 Palatine families from Ireland by names of Dulmage, Heck, Lawrence, Embury and others decided to emigrate to America and the trip was said to have taken 63 days to New York.

Well known is the story of how Barbara Heck broke up a card game, threw the cards into the fire and implored Philip Embury to preach. Many writers claim that she was a cousin of Philip Embury who "preached the first Methodist sermon in New York, in his own hired house, to a congregation of five persons." The five people to whom he preached were his wife, Margaret, John Lawrence, Barbara and Paul Heck and Betty, a Negro servant. Four of these are buried in the Blue Church cemetery.

Services were soon held in a "rigging loft" on what is now William Street in New York City, and as time went on the need for a meeting house increased. Land was acquired on John Street and a stone building covered with blue plaster called Wesley Chapel, was constructed in 1768, and on the last Sunday in October of that year, Philip Embury preached the first sermon. For two more years this closely knit, inter-related group of German families from Ireland labored and lived in New York.

In the spring of 1770 the families of Philip Embury, Paul Heck, John Dulmage and others migrated to Camden Valley, Charlotte County (now Washington County) New York. Tragedy soon hit the group when Philip Embury died at the age of 45 in August, 1773. His wife, Margaret Switzer Embury was left with four children, two of whom died within two years. In 1775 she married John Lawrence. Also at this time, came the beginning of the Revolutionary War, and as this group felt strong allegiance to a government which had granted them haven, they remained loyal to the King and became known as United Empire Loyalists.

In 1776 Paul Heck with 39 other farmers joined the British

Army at Crown Point. At the time of his enlistment he had 250 acres of land on lease in Camden, N.Y. He had cleared about 40 acres in his seven years of occupation and could boast of 17 head of cattle, three horses and some hogs. His family was burned out by the "rebels" who also took his stock. Previous to his enlistment, Paul Heck had signed an obligation to be quiet and took no part in the conflict, but during the war he served as a Corporal under General Burgoyne and as a Sergeant with Major Leake. The Heck family escaped in the dark of the night by way of Lake Champlain, the Richelieu River and the St. Lawrence River to Montreal. It is said that Paul Heck was arrested by patriot soldiers, that he escaped at night and made his way through the woods of northern New York to Canada where he joined his family.

The Heck family stayed in Montreal during the war until they were granted land in 1785 by the Crown in compensation for their loyalty, services and loss of property in the United States. Paul Heck received his grant in the wilderness of the Township of Augusta. He took an active part in the pioneer life of the community; in fact, he is recorded as serving as a grand-juror at New Johnstown 14 August, 1793. At the time of the writing of his will 22 February, 1794, he lived on farm lot number 14 in the 3rd concession, Augusta Township. He died in 1795.

The front of the large monument has a portrait of Barbara Heck in bronze with the inscription:

"Barbara Heck, born in 1734, died August 17, 1804. Barbara Heck put her brave soul against the rugged possibilities of the future and under God brought into existence American and Canadian Methodism and between these her memory will ever form a most hallowed link. In memory of one who laid foundations others have built upon."

The Barbara Heck Bicentenary Commission on August 17, 1934 affixed a bronze plaque to the back of the monument inscribed; "Interred here, Paul Heck 1730-1795, Margaret Embury Lawrence 1743-1807, John Lawrence 1742-1822, the first members of the Methodist Society in America organized 1766 in New York City by Barbara Heck and Philip Embury."

The inscriptions on the other tombstones surrounding this historic monument are very interesting. Among them are:

"In memory of Rev. Samuel Heck who laboured in his missionary vineyard for upwards of 38 years departed this life in the triumph of faith on the 18th August 1844 aged 70 years and 21 days." He died at Augusta and his tombstone inscription is now very difficult to read and nearly illegible. (The above dates were verified from the Brockville Recorder and from the Ontario Historical Society paper, Vol. 19, page 91, "Blue Church Burying Ground" with inscriptions copied in 1899)

"In Memory of Lois, wife of Rev. Samuel Heck, who died 31 December, 1842 aged 63 years, 2 months and 18 days". She was the daughter of Samuel Wright, a pioneer settler of the Town of Oswegatchie. (The Wright property is now owned by Spencer Merry.) Samuel Wright was originally from Canada, via Connecticut, as he also supported the King during the Revolutionary War.

Among the bequests in his Will dated 23 June 1815 and recorded 6 July 1818 was land to his son, Sylvester Wright, Esquire, in lot number 8, seventh concession of Elizabethtown, County of Leeds, District of Johnstown, Province of Upper Canada and a sum of money to his daughter, Lois Heck. Samuel Heck was one of the witnesses of the Will.

A small tombstone located near the large Heck Memorial is to the memory of "Hester Heck, 1812-1907, last surviving grandchild of Paul and Barbara Heck." She was the daughter of Samuel and Lois Wright Heck and was born December 17, 1812. Thus from the year 1730 when Paul Heck was born in Ireland, to the birth of his son, Samuel in 1774 in Camden, Washington County, New York to the death of his granddaughter Hester Heck in 1907 in the Province of Ontario, the Heck family spanned three generations in three counties with only

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# THE OLD BRICK SCHOOL

The author of this article, who resides on Canton R.D. 3, is a former student in the old brick school, and former Town of Pierrepont historian.

By MILLARD L. HUNDLEY

Records show that before 1870 there was a schoolhouse across the road from the present old brick schoolhouse. This earlier schoolhouse came to need so many repairs that at a schoolhouse meeting in 1869 it was voted to raise \$800 by tax to buy a new site and erect a new building.

On September 23, 1869 William and Sally Morrill Pitt deeded to the trustees of District No. 3, Town of Pierrepont, County of St. Lawrence, a parcel of land on the northwest side of the Canton-Pierrepont road (now Route 68) containing 155 sq. rods, for the sum of \$75. This parcel of land was a part of a lot formerly owned by Clarissa S. Pangborn but at that time it was owned by Mr. Pitt.

The St. Lawrence County map by E.G. Blankman notes this district as the Andrews school; others know it as the Crarytown school; while still others call it just the Brick school.

A.B. Hamilton had been appointed chairman to build this new school; the district was to put up the fence, and Mr. Pitt was to plant the trees around the same.

From the opening of the brick schoolhouse until about 1895 or 1896 records are not clear. However, I have heard my folks speak of two of the teachers, namely Anna McGary, wife of Homer McGary who lived in later years in Potsdam, and Helen Lobdell from Pierrepont Center, a sister of Charles Lobdell. Following Miss Lobdell came Carrie Joyce (McGruer) of Canton who taught two years. Some of the late teachers were: Leon E. Tucker, Lydia Crary, Cora E. Pitt (Wires), Mary

M. Hamilton, Harriet S. Forsythe (Aldrich), Edith S. Brown and Mayfred E. Enslow. This list brings us up to 1906, and Walter E. Andrews was School Commissioner during these years. After his retirement Forrest Gibbons served in this office, and he was followed by Rose M. Libby.

The school was heated in the fall and winter by a stove, either a box stove with a round or oblong heater on top or by a large Round Oak stove. The wood was furnished by someone living in the district who had bid it in at the annual school meeting. In this manner, he turned the wood in toward his school tax. Usually some of the older boys were hired to build the fire and although the pay was not very large, it was prized by some boy.

I remember one winter of a boy who walked a mile through the cold and snow, waist deep, to build the fire. Would they do it today?

The pupils, on pleasant winter days, at noon and recesses, played either fox and goose or dog and deer. Sometimes they built forts and played war. Inside on stormy days, they played "kitty corner" or "cross questions and crooked answers", "blind man's bluff" or "button, button who has the button".

Come spring, baseball was the drawing card, or I spy; sometimes they played "rob the bank" or "duck on the rock", or "steal sticks". In the years that followed one of the teachers was Julia Hayes from Colton; she taught two years and boarded at Jess Post's. Another one to be mentioned is Grace Pearl (Fallon).

The school year 1917-18 saw the Township school system in operation. Kathryn Hourihan of Colton was the teacher -- her yearly salary no doubt was about one-fifth of what a teacher receives today. The Township system lasted only that year. School continued on as usual for the next few years with the usual change of teachers.

In the early part of the 1930's Beatrice Mathous (Aldrich) came to teach. During her first year she interested the pupils in 4-H work and with the help of Bert Rogers, County 4-H agent, the Husky Workers 4-H club was formed. This club still exists, in name at least, for now it is somewhere in the vicinity of Crary Mills. Another achievement "B" brought to the pupils of the district, through Drs. Palmer and Bings of the Potsdam Normal School, was the work of student teachers which they recommended.

About this time consolidation was the topic of conversation throughout the district. During the next few ensuing years consolidation accomplished its purpose, the closing of district one-room schools (the little red schoolhouses), the pupils being bussed to a central location. However Dist. No. 3, Pierrepont, remained in operation until June, 1958 when it was permanently closed. A few years elapsed from the closing until the building with the grounds and contents were put up at auction on Oct. 8, 1960. Bower Noble was high bidder at \$750.

Sometime around Halloween the year before some party removed the bell without the knowledge of the nearest residents. This was called to the attention of the principal of the Canton Central school, but nothing was done about it. Some district residents think that it did not go very far away. The bell had the best tone of any for miles around.

One stipulation in the sale was that the old school should be used for residential purposes only. Years have now passed with many changes and it brings to mind the following: "As I walk to Suffern along the Erie tracks I pass a poor old farm house its shingles all broken and black." So comes to an end the pleasant old Brick School. Today it is neither a school nor a home, the yard is unkept and some of the tall cedar trees in front have been cut. But pleasant memories of school days spent here still linger on.

## PARISHVILLE ARSENAL

By ELSIE F. BRESEE  
Town Historian

Do YOU know what happened to the Parishville cannon? Legend says that years ago it "was towed away somewhere over towards Potsdam." The Parishville Historical Museum would like to find it.

For the cannon was an important part of the old Parishville Arsenal, a building perhaps 12 ft. by 18 or 20 ft. which stood on the Parish property on Charles Street, on land now owned by Mrs. Sumner Fenner. It has two doors, one facing Charles Street, and a larger one facing the Parish Agent's house, and through which the cannon was hauled in and out.

During the Civil War era, Captain Hatch used to drill men for service. They took the cannon to the top of our Dugway to practice firing across the valley at rocks on the hills beyond. Cannon balls were found in this vicinity several years ago by the Planty boys who were playing there. The Arsenal later was used as a storehouse; years ago it was torn down and the lumber used to build a henhouse out in the country. It was sold for twenty-five dollars.

Some of our residents report having seen the cannon standing near some buildings on our Common in more recent years. Others tell me it was towed away toward Potsdam.

The spirit of our early settlers was alive to our needs for training and service. The effort made to make and preserve our town is something we residents have much to be proud of, and thankful for.

I often think what an addition this old cannon would make to our historical museum if we could find it. I am indebted to Frank Daniels for first calling my attention to this arsenal; and to the late Lucy Planty and Allie Middlemiss for some of the details.




**PUPILS**

Millard Shipman  
 Bernice McBath  
 Beatrice Morrill  
 Frank Tucker  
 Wallace Shipman  
 Theodore Henderson  
 Charles Post  
 Almon Holcomb  
 Millard Hundley  
 Mildred Morrill  
 Karl Powers

Frank Welch  
 Allie Henderson  
 Walter Post  
 Leon Knapp  
 Willie Welch  
 George Henderson  
 Stanley Morrill  
 Francis Knapp  
 Herbert Henderson  
 Jennie Parody  
 Mabel Collett

INSTRUCTOR CO., DANVILLE, N. Y.

**SOUVENIR**



**CRARYTOWN SCHOOL**  
 DISTRICT NUMBER 3  
 PIERREPONT, St. Lawrence Co., N. Y.  
 DECEMBER 1901 \* JUNE 1902

Presented By  
**Cora E. Pitt, Teacher**

HOMER O. TUCKER                      Trustee

STATE OF NEW YORK

**Department of Public Instruction**

*County of St. Lawrence.*

This is to Certify That *Millard Hundley*  
 a pupil in District No. *3*, Town of *Pierrepont, N. Y.*,  
 has satisfactorily passed the examination for the First Term of  
 the *4th* Grade in the Course of Study for the Common Schools, and  
 is qualified to pursue the course prescribed for the following term.

*Mary M. Hamilton, Teacher*  
*Walter E. Andrews, School Commissioner*

Dated, *February 7, 1901.*



# AMERICA'S FIRST TRAINED NURSE

Members may recall the following address delivered by Miss Kiah in Ogdensburg in the course of the September 1964 tour.

By LILLIAN M. KIAH, R.N.

I am indeed happy to have been invited to tell you the story of Linda Richards -- America's First Trained Nurse. Back in the 1920's as a student nurse I sensed a great pride in learning from a History of Nursing Course that St. Lawrence County was the birthplace of this world renowned pioneer nurse and humanitarian. Over the years I have always felt that as citizens of this fine county we have been remiss in giving due honor to Linda Richards whom we can rightly claim as our very own. I sincerely hope my presentation this afternoon will kindle a spark of determination in your organization to accept the challenge in carrying the cause forward.

Melinda Ann Judson Richards was born on July 27, 1841 in a little town near Potsdam, New York. Linda, as she preferred to be called was of English descent, her ancestors having come to the United States in 1630 and settled in New England. The mother, a Sinclair, sprang from the Sinclairs of the Orkney Isles; they were prominent as military leaders in both the English army and the American Revolution. Ministers, doctors and educators were numerous in the Richards' ancestry; a paternal cousin is said to have founded the Meriden Academy in Meriden, New Hampshire.

Linda's parents were married in Newport, Vermont and established their home in the town of Potsdam, New York. Here their marriage was blessed by four daughters of which Linda was the third born. When she was four years of age the family located in the newly opened Wisconsin Territory on a tract of land in Watertown. Six weeks after arriving in their new western home the father died of pulmonary tuberculosis. Promptly Mrs. Richards returned to her native Vermont and provided a home for her daughters near that of her parents. Shortly after and upon the death of her mother she assumed the role of housekeeper in her father's home. Here she and her daughters found comfort and happiness until he married again a few years later. Again, Mrs. Richards purchased a small nearby farm home for her family. Shortly after this, she too contracted tuberculosis and soon became bedridden most of the time. The older daughters, Laura and Elizabeth, ran the house and did what chores they could around the farm. Young Linda cared for her mother tenderly and as best she could. The mother died when Linda was ten years old. The farm was sold, the older sisters married and Linda returned to live with her grandmother and grandfather Sinclair. Linda spoke very warmly of her childhood association with her grandfather. In her later writings she referred to him as "my most intimate friend from whom I received much valuable advice."

Dr. Currier, the county doctor, had recognized Linda's ability in caring for her sick mother; he also had observed her understanding and compassion far beyond her tender years. He often stopped by and picked her up in his buggy to take her on house calls with him. When Linda was fourteen he called upon her to help a mother in the care of a desperately sick child. Having filled this need so well that thereafter she was often called upon to tend sick neighbors who came to speak of her as a "born nurse". In spite of these innate tendencies and because of her deep love for children she yielded to her grandfather's encouragement to become a school teacher. At the age of fifteen Linda enrolled at the teaching academy in St. Johnsbury, thirty miles from her grandfather's home. Here she completed the one year course and then accepted a teaching position in a country school. While boarding with a widow who lived near the school Linda fell in love with her nephew, George Poole. They became engaged. Poole enlisted with the Green Mountain Boys, entered the Civil War in 1861 and returned seriously ill with tuberculosis. Linda nursed him for five years until his death. Shocked at his tales of nursing conditions in the Civil War she decided that nursing, not teaching, would be her life's work.

Linda's decision in favoring nursing was made in advance of the establishment of nurse training schools in America. In 1870 Linda went to work as a wardaide at the Boston City Hospital. Here she cared for indigent patients, learning nursing practice alone and the special guidance of the head nurse who recognized her excellent potential for nursing. At the end of three months Linda had to leave her position because of ill health. In the interim which followed she read all she could find on nursing including the training program set up at St. Thomas Hospital in London, England and Florence Nightingale's book, "Notes on Nursing". While browsing in a Boston bookstore Linda saw a notice that the New England Hospital for Women and Children was going to start a one-year course to train nurses. The training was to be under the supervision of two women doctors in attendance, Dr. Susan Dimock and Dr. Marie Zakrzweska. Linda Richards and several others applied and were accepted. The students wore calico house dresses and felt slippers, and were given one dollar a week allowance, and an afternoon off every two weeks. They were instructed by doctors. They were on duty twenty-four hours a day, sleeping at night in tiny rooms located between patients' wards.

The year passed quickly and though the other students dropped out Linda persevered and received her diploma in May, 1873. Thus Linda Richards became America's first trained nurse! Her services were then much in demand by other hospitals desirous of setting up training schools. Bellevue Training School in New York City had set up a two year course in May of 1873 under the direction of Sister Helen, an English Sister of the All Saints Order who had a hospital in London. Linda Richards accepted the position of night superintendent of nurses at Bellevue Hospital because she wanted the experience of working with Sister Helen a recognized organizer. Here Miss Richards made a record for herself in that she originated the use of written reports, orders, graphs for recording patients' temperature, pulse and respirations which in principle are all in universal use today. Her untiring efforts to improve the cleanliness and sanitation of patient surroundings met paramount results.

In 1877 Linda Richards fulfilled a long felt dream when she visited Florence Nightingale at St. Thomas Hospital in London to learn of the latest nursing methods. From London she went to Edinburgh, Scotland, and worked for a month at the Royal Infirmary. She also attended lectures by Dr. Joseph Lister's assistant, and here she learned that germs caused disease. In 1878 she organized a training school at Boston City Hospital.

In her quest to conquer new fields in nursing Linda Richards went to Japan in 1885 and spent almost five years as a medical missionary. While there she established Japan's first training school for nurses at Kyoto. At first she taught through an interpreter but soon mastered the Japanese language and taught in that tongue. Upon her return to America she helped establish the Hospital Economics course at Teachers College, Columbia University, New York City. From 1890-1892 she worked in the Philadelphia Visiting Nurse Society, Kirkbride Asylum and the Methodist Episcopal Hospital.

Linda Richardson was a firm believer in the merit of nursing organizations. In 1893 she became a founder of the National League of Nursing Education. In 1900 she purchased the first share of stock in the American Journal of Nursing, the official publication of the American Nurses Association.

The last ten years of her active nursing career were devoted to organizing schools of nursing in hospitals for the insane in Massachusetts and Michigan.

At the age of 70, in 1911, Linda Richards retired. During her retirement she continued to take an active interest in nursing. It was then that she published her memoirs entitled "Reminiscences of Linda Richards, America's First Trained Nurse".

America is proud of her first professional nurse and rightly so. Over the many years the following events give testi-

(Continued on Page 14)

# OLDEST PUBLIC BUILDING

Mr. Walker is public relations officer for U.S. Customs District No. 7 with headquarters in Ogdensburg. It will be recalled that he was principal speaker at the Association's annual meeting in Massena last October 9.

By WILLIAM G. WALKER

As a result of a survey taken during the past year by the Public Buildings Service, the Customs House at Ogdensburg has now been designated by the General Services Administration (GSA), Washington, D.C., as the oldest Government-owned building operated by them reported to date -- older than any of the Government buildings in Washington and elsewhere in the United States.

It is considered unlikely that any other GSA buildings will displace the local building as "oldest"; especially when it is borne in mind that the British burned the White House and other buildings in Washington during the War of 1812. This was a few years after the local building was completed.

The latest issue of "Operations Notes," the official internal publication of the Public Buildings Service, contains a description and picture of the local building, borrowing most of the wording from a description written by the late Clark LaFrenay, local customs officer, about twenty years ago.

When it was called to Collector of Customs Edward J. Gosier's attention that the GSA was making a survey to find the oldest building, he sent them Mr. Frenay's article. Here is the original, as written by Mr. LaFrenay.

The fine old limestone structure on North Water Street, now occupied by units of the U.S. Customs Bureau, U.S. Immigration Service, and other Government agencies, has a unique place in the history of the city.

Although the United States Government has spent a considerable sum on renovation and modernization, basically the building remains the same as when erected in 1810 by David Parish, one of the early land proprietors of the North Country. During the war of the Rebellion, more popularly known as the American Civil War, it served as barracks for a Massachusetts Company of Union Troops, then engaged in protecting our northern borders against raids by Confederate partisans.

As an interesting comparison between the values of the early 1800's and most of the present, an old day boat, supposed to have been hidden in the building, records a transaction wherein a man received a gallon of whisky and a sack of flour each valued at 25 cents plus about 15 cents in return for one day's use of his team of oxen and his own service as driver.

Although the interior of the building has been completely modernized, the original exterior lines, except for minor details, such as the entrance are unchanged. The appearance of antiquity is thus so well preserved that the traveler hurrying past the building on his way to or from the ferry dock is invariably impressed by this singular quality.

Existing as it has through an era in our history when the significance of old landmarks was so generally unappreciated that they were in many cases ruthlessly destroyed in the march of modern enterprise, its survival must be attributed principally to the soundness of its construction and its continuous commercial usefulness.

Only in this last half century and particularly in this state has there been a definite manifestation of a public interest in this direction. Because preservation was almost entirely

neglected, restoration when and where undertaken has usually proved both tedious and expensive. Distinctively sound and rugged, rather than beautiful in its architectural style, it stands as a monument to the early American craftsmanship that produced the King House on State Street and the Old Maple City Mill in Ogdensburg, the Gouverneur Morris Mansion in Morristown and many other quaint old north country structures.

Although all Federal buildings are now under the primary jurisdiction of the U.S. Public Buildings Administration, this one, officially designated as the U.S. Customs House, is the custodial responsibility of the Collector of the Port of Ogdensburg. Located on the first and second floors are units of the headquarters of the 7th district of the Customs Bureau. These are the overhead installations serving an area extending from Rouses Point to the Jefferson County Line, comprising the ports of Cape Vincent, Clayton, Alexandria Bay, Morristown, Ogdensburg, Waddington, Rooseveltown, Fort Covington, Malone, Chateaugay, Mooers, Champlain and Rouses Point. Its activities include the functions of the Collector, Appraiser and Customs Agents.

Headquarters, Sector 4, Immigration Border Patrol of Immigration and Naturalization Service, is located in the east end of the second floor. This organization patrols an area comprising the entire counties of Jefferson, St. Lawrence and Lewis, together with parts of Hamilton and involves surveillance of a water border of 187 miles, extending from the shore of Lake Ontario at Big Sandy to a point on the St. Lawrence River near Cornwall Island.

A radio installation at headquarters provides two-way communication with mobile units operating out of Watertown, Clayton, Morristown, Ogdensburg, and Massena. The Bureau of Animal Industry, Department of Agriculture, maintains an office on the same floor. During the war years and at present units of the Selective Service System functions in another office on the second floor.

The entire western half of the third floor is furnished as a dormitory for the Immigration Patrol. The remaining space on that level is used for the roof. The old hand hewn rafters are still in place. The four dormers shown in a picture of the old stone warehouse as it appeared in 1810, also remain. On the rainspout at the east end the date 1809 appears; the one on the other end bears the date 1937, the year when remodeling operations started. The cornerstone is inscribed with the name of Henry Morgenthau, Jr., Secretary of the Treasury, and the date 1937.

Rented by the Federal Government in 1934, it had been purchased from the George Hall Corporation for \$65,000 and remodeled at a cost of \$125,000. While alterations were in progress, customs operations were conducted in the old Hannan residence on Washington Street. The premises were reoccupied by Government agencies on Sept. 26, 1938.

For many years prior to the establishment of the Customs House at its present location, its activities were conducted in the Post Office Building.



THE BUILDING AS IT APPEARED IN 1936



RECENT PHOTO OF THE CUSTOM HOUSE

# RICHVILLE BAPTIST

This is the church which has been offered to the Association as a museum. Mrs. Wranesh, Richville Village Historian, is the wife of Village Clerk Joseph Wranesh.

By GEORGIANA WRANESH

Beside the cemetery and halfway down the hill, as one enters Richville from the south on U.S. Route 11, stands the Richville Baptist Church, a reminder of the character and spirit of the people of the village over a century ago. This large, white frame Greek revival building with its wide steps leading up to the two plain front doors, was built solidly on a high stone foundation. Among its outstanding features are the beautiful stained glass windows which were added around 1910. Although the pointed steeple and the carriage sheds at the rear have been removed, the church today looks very much like the old photographs published with this article.

Much of the following material was obtained from a little booklet on the first 76 years of the history of the church. It was written by Helena White in 1910.

The story begins on St. Valentine's Day, February 14, 1834, when the Baptist Church of Gouverneur voted letters of recommendation and dismissal to 16 members at their own request, for the purpose of organizing a Baptist church at Richville.

The original 16 members were: Cynthia Rich, wife of Salmon Rich, founder of the village; Nathan Barker, Sally Barker, Hannah H. Phelps, Ephraim Johnson, Deacon Russell Johnson, Phebe Eddy Johnson, Eli Cole, Simon Mellen, Mary Mellen,

Stella Hedden, Nancy Smith, Lucy Borland, Mary Ann Godard, Mary Walker and Hannah Turner.

A council was then called on June 14, composed of delegates from neighboring churches, and these 16 people were constituted into a church body under the name of the Richville Baptist Church.

Russell Johnson was elected the first church clerk with Nathan Barker as the first deacon.

At Parishville in September, the church was formally welcomed into the St. Lawrence Baptist Association. The first church letter read at the time contains this statement: "Union prevails; a desire to act her part in the sacramental host in this day of conflict with the powers of evil."

The first religious services were held in the home of Salmon Rich and in the stone schoolhouse with preaching only occasionally. The first pastor, Rev. Allen Gurnsey, wasn't called until two years later in 1836.

The church standing today is 110 years old and is the second one built. The first church building was small -- being only 42 by 36 feet -- and it stood on the present site. S.C. Van Duzee of Gouverneur was the contractor. The church was dedicated in the fall of 1837 and was used for 18 years. In 1855, it was torn down and replaced by the present structure. In 1876 about \$2,500 was spent in improvements.

In that same year the Sunday School was organized with Captain Samuel Phelps as first superintendent. The Women's Circle was organized in 1878 under the direction of Miss Matilda Barker and a Mrs. Lovett. Every year the Circle contributed toward the pastor's salary besides paying for improvements on the church property. One of the gifts of the mission was an organ.

In 1889 the young people organized an Endeavor Society. Another interesting fact is that the largest church membership was around 100, but by 1910 it had declined to 50. In the first seventy-six years of the Richville Baptist Church, 21 pastors were called and in that time 507 members had been united with the church -- 202 men and 305 women.

Then in 1927 the Baptist Church was without a pastor. This was due to the sudden death of the Rev. Mr. Gates. At the same time, the Congregational minister had resigned and the Methodist group had a new pastor, the Rev. Mr. F.J. Bennetts. A movement was started to unite the churches. This presented many problems, but on Sunday, April 10, 1927, each church voted unanimously to accept the contract and unite. The Rev. F.J. Bennetts was the first pastor of the United Church serving from 1927 to 1935. Services were held in the winter months in the Congregational Church and in the summer at the Baptist Church until the last few years. Now all the services are held in the former Congregational Church.

So ends the history of the Baptist Church as a separate church in Richville. However, this fine old building may still serve a useful purpose and begin a new era in its history if plans to use it as a resource center and museum can be carried out.

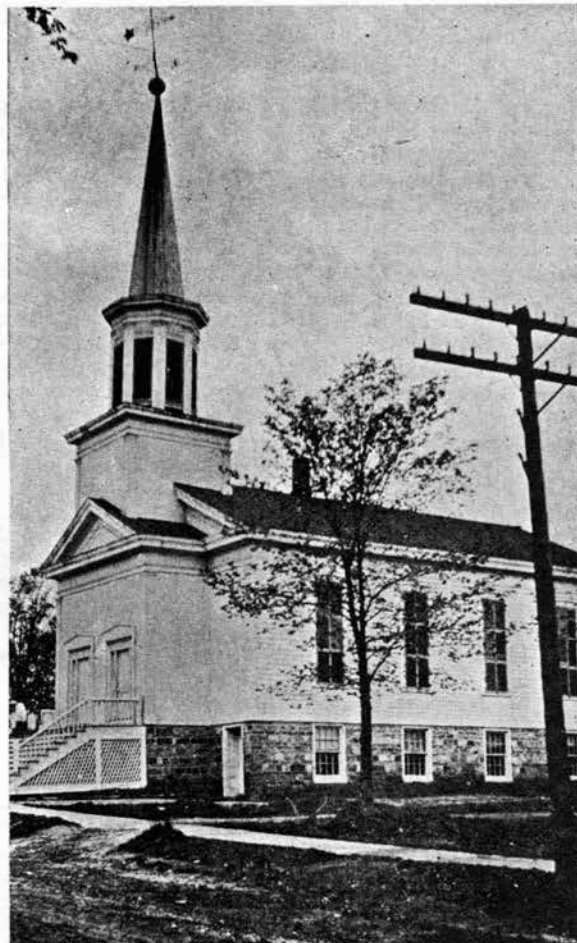


PHOTO at left shows church as it appears today. Note, by comparison with photo at top right, which was probably taken about 1910, that the original steeple has since been removed.

# ST CHURCH



This memorial window is placed behind the rostrum, at the rear of the church. It is one of the most beautiful to be found anywhere in the county -- black-and-white photography cannot do justice to so magnificent a work of art which really requires color to represent it properly.



Baptist Church, Richville, N. Y.

Pub. by F. B. Beaman



These are just two of the several and equally beautiful smaller memorial windows in the Richville church -- in themselves well worthy of preservation as a part of St. Lawrence county history.



## AMERICA'S FIRST TRAINED NURSE

(Continued from Page 9)

mony of this fact. In 1912 the American Nurses Association engraved Linda Richards's likeness on its incorporate seal. In 1922, she was given much recognition at the fiftieth anniversary of the opening of her Alma Mater, the New England Hospital for Women and Children. It was here she returned to spend her last days until death claimed her in April 1930, shortly before her 89th birthday. As time sped on her memory brought only an ever expanding appreciation of her accomplishments. In 1948 the United States celebrated the seventy-fifth anniversary of Linda Richards graduation. Special luncheons, dinners, ceremonies, etc., were held. President Truman, Ex-President Herbert Hoover and over sixty other distinguished persons joined the American Nurses Association in sponsoring the Diamond Jubilee. November sixteenth was set aside as Linda Richards Day which was highlighted by a huge banquet at the Biltmore Hotel in New York City. Many scholarships and awards were given in her honor. A medal with the likeness of Linda Richards was presented to the outstanding nurse in each of the then forty-eight states. Her Alma Mater dedicated a memorial room in the hospital in her name. It contains her Bible, one of her uniforms, letters, photos and other mementos.

Within the county of her birth, St. Lawrence, we find the following evidence of tribute to the memory of Linda Richards. First, an inscription on a wall plaque in the waiting room of the Potsdam Hospital reads:

Furnished by  
The 20th Century Club of Potsdam  
in memory of  
LINDA A. J. RICHARDS  
First Trained Nurse in United States  
born in Potsdam, New York  
on  
July 27, 1841

Secondly, on November 18, 1941 twenty-six nurse educators in St. Lawrence, Lewis and Jefferson Counties formed a local branch of the National and New York State Leagues of Nursing Education with Miss Greeta V. Hunter of Watertown as its first president. Again my thoughts went back to the St. Lawrence County native who became America's First Trained Nurse and with little persuasion on my part the group unanimously agreed that our organization should be named The Linda Richards League of Nursing Education. In 1952 when our professional nursing organization's structural picture was changed the National League for Nursing was born and consequently our local unit's name became the Linda Richards League for Nursing providing membership for all interested nurses and non-nurses. Our present membership has reached an all high of eighty members. St. Lawrence County residents who have served as president of this local League include Mrs. Ruth Warren, Mrs. Virginia McAllister, myself and Sister Mary Loretta, Grey Nun of the Sacred Heart, who serves in that office at the present time.

Are we of St. Lawrence County satisfied that we have fully perpetuated the memory of such an outstanding personality as Linda Richards? I would like to suggest that your Association take the initiative in accepting this challenge and that consideration be given to placing tangible evidence of our claim on America's First Trained Nurse in the two existing Schools of Nursing of St. Lawrence County. Thus, Linda Richards' memory will be a continuing inspiration to St. Lawrence County student nurses.

## Notice

**HOURS AT THE HISTORY CENTER  
COUNTY BUILDING, CANTON  
Monday and Thursday  
9:00 A.M. - 4:00 P.M.**

## Yorker Cracker Barrel

CANTON: Foote Followers--This year being a centennial year for the ending of the Civil War, we felt that we would devote our time on a study of the role of St. Lawrence County in the Civil War.--Mrs. R. Michalski, sponsor. GOUVERNEUR: Marble Village--We're making candles and planning a food sale. The members are starting to work on various projects. We plan to attend Council meeting in Potsdam Dec. 4.--Mrs. Georgiana Wranesh, sponsor. LISBON: Lisbon Chapter of 8th Yorkers has 12 members. Teddy Moore is president; Barbara Cruikshank, vice president; Sandra Griffith, secretary; Donna Abbrid, treasurer; Steve Wallace, historian; Patty Cassellman, reporter. The St. Lawrence Chapter has 27 members. Jack Teele, president; Marsha Snyder, vice president; Susan Lamos, secretary; Debbie Putney, treasurer; Kathy Jordan, reporter and Claudia Abbrid, historian. They exhibited many things for open house from straw bonnets to horse collars. The Seaway Valley Yorkers have published a fine 12-page edition of the Adirondack Newsletter which will be ready to distribute at the Executive Council meeting at Potsdam Dec. 4. Much of the credit goes to David Wallace. Paul Russell has planned the Council meeting.--Rachel Dandy, sponsor. POTSDAM: Benjamin Raymond Yorkers visited the Adirondack Museum in October. Have our largest club yet -- 61 members-- this year. Mrs. Chapman is going to speak at our next meeting. We were hosts to the Adirondack Dist. officers meeting (and Exec. council) Saturday, Dec. 4. After the meeting there was a tour of Potsdam museum. The club sold Christmas cards this fall to raise money for trip expenses. New officers for the year are: president, Anne Alverson; vice president, Ricky Bovay; treasurer, Barbara Dunlop; secretary, Debby Fadden.--Mrs. Robert McGee, sponsor.

### LOCAL HISTORICAL MUSEUMS

POTSDAM PUBLIC MUSEUM: The annual meeting was held Monday evening, Oct. 25 at the museum. Mrs. R.L. Sisson and Mrs. David Palmer were elected to the board for terms of three years. At the trustees meeting following Mrs. Chapman was elected president; Mrs. Helen Fiske, secretary, and Miss Anna Fairbairn, treasurer; Mrs. George Little, curator; Mrs. Jack Covell, assistant. Prof. Robert McGill of the Clarkson faculty gave a most interesting talk on Clarkson College history and had an excellent exhibit of items, pictures, etc., relating to the college and the Clarkson family. Mrs. W.J. Chapman spoke before the Norwood Historical association on the early development of St. Lawrence county. She also gave a history of the Potsdam hospital for the Registered Nurses association at the Potsdam Civic center. In her annual report Dee Little reported 2,146 visitors to the museum Nov. 1964-Oct. 1965. From Nov. 8 to Dec. 8 there was an exhibit of antique swords loaned by Royal Lyman, Norwood. A new exhibit, "Winter Season", was put in the museum Dec. 9 depicting indoor and outdoor activities, clothes, etc.

On Jan. 12 an exhibit will be put in the museum to commemorate the 150th anniversary of the St. Lawrence academy. On Dec. 4 the executive committee of the Adirondack Yorker clubs association held a meeting in Potsdam and came to the museum for a tour.--N.G. Chapman, president.

## notice!

Please check the address label on the back cover of this issue of the Quarterly -- NOW -- to determine when your membership expires. If it HAS expired, or if it will expire soon, be sure to send in your check to Treasurer David Cleland AT CNCEI Your non-profit Association cannot afford to continue sending the Quarterly to any member whose dues remain unpaid, and beginning with the January issue, the magazine will no longer go to anyone in arrears. This handy form is for your convenience -- please compute the amount of unpaid dues at \$2 per year and your dues in advance at \$3 per year -- and MAIL YOUR CHECK TODAY to David Cleland, Treasurer, Canton, N.Y. III

NAME-----  
STREET-----  
CITY-----STATE-----

# CANTON'S UPPER MAIN STREET IN THE EIGHTIES



AT LEFT—  
Old "American House" and village park in background. Principal transportation facilities in foreground. Purpose of peak-roofed structure in center unknown.



AT RIGHT—  
Site of the present First National Bank Building as it appeared in 1887, the year the bank was founded. Its present building was completed in 1925.

## SERVICES LINKING THE PAST, PRESENT, & FUTURE

From grandparents to parents to children to grandchildren, money and property accumulated by years of thrift, judgment and labor can be passed on to provide protection and for maintenance and education of those dependent on us.

A carefully-drawn will and wise choice of your executor and trustee however, may be necessary to carry out your wishes.

The advantages of naming the First National Bank of Canton your executor and trustee deserve careful consideration:

- Permanent, continuous service throughout the lives of beneficiaries.
- Estate administration as one of its chief functions.
- Full and accurate accounts, including tax accounting.
- Group judgment of successful business men.
- Financial responsibility and years of specialized experience.
- Prompt attention to the needs of beneficiaries.

all at fees set by law, the same as are allowed an individual executor and trustee. We suggest that you consult your lawyer about your will soon. Wills may be left with us for safekeeping without charge.

THE FIRST NATIONAL BANK  
OF CANTON

MEMBER OF  
FEDERAL RESERVE SYSTEM  
FEDERAL DEPOSIT INSURANCE CORPORATION

# THE C & A RAILROAD

By CECIL H. GRAHAM

The C & A, or to be correct, the Carthage and Adirondack Railroad, running from Carthage to Newton Falls, has a choice bit of unique local history known to but a few of us who were born or lived in the southern part of St. Lawrence County comprising the towns of Pitcairn, Fine and Clifton or the neighboring town of Diana in Lewis County.

It was built in the early 1880's as a means of getting to the markets the products of the virgin forests which were being opened up soon after the close of the Civil War, and, also to an equal extent of transporting the iron ore from the Jayville iron mines of Pitcairn and the Benson deposits at Benson Mines. The Jayville mines were started up about 1870 and the ore for the first number of years was taken by horse and wagon to Fuller-ville and Gouverneur, a distance of some fifteen or twenty miles. These mines were operated until 1919 when the end of the first World War and dwindling supplies forced their closing. Benson Mines also closed about that time but reopened at the beginning of the second World War. They are now owned by the Jones and Laughlin Steel Corporation and are a major industry for the area. Newton Falls at the end of the line is the site of a newly enlarged and modernized paper industry.

The C & A winds through some of the most scenic parts of our county, up and around sharp grades and curves, through swamps and muskeg, through enormous rock cuts for their time, and over equally deep fills which must have been a nightmare to the engineers and contractors of eighty years ago. So, who did all this hard hand work of those early days? The answer is mostly the large gangs of Irish and Italian laborers who were immigrating to this country about that time, plus all the local men who wanted to work. Many of the local men were engaged as teamsters for the hundreds of horses used on the project. Each racial group usually worked by itself and each stayed in his own boarding camp but they all had their place in perhaps the largest construction job in the county prior to the building of the Seaway some seventy years later.

The overall length of the railroad is about 45 miles from Carthage to Newton Falls. As a boy, I worked for four years with the section crews doing track maintenance on the span from North Croghan, near Natural Bridge to the other end at Newton Falls, some 37 miles in length. Each foreman was responsible for about eight miles of trackage and had four to six men with a hand car and in the latter years a modern gasoline powered speeder. When there were extensive renovations to be done such as laying new steel rails or other heavy maintenance, all the crews on the line would cooperate in this work. Also, each spring they would do the same and burn the right of way for its entire length and then in midsummer would mow with hand scythes all the grass and brush. At these times there might be as many as fifty men working in one group. I too, was one of these, and for those several years, have literally stepped on every railroad tie, knew the location of every mudhole, wasp's nest, every deer crossing and every other detail of those early days of railroading.

Now what about the villages and hamlets along this railroad? The larger places were Natural Bridge, Harrisville, Oswegatchie, Benson Mines and Newton Falls. The little places and the ones which we like to remember, now almost deserted and forgotten, were settlements like Fitzgerald's, Lake Bonaparte, Bacon's Crossing, Kalurah, Jayville, Bear

Lake, Brigg's Switch, Collins, Aldrich, Coffin's Mills and Vaughan's Switch. Most of these except the two mining locations and Lake Bonaparte were sites of sawmills and lumber yards. Lake Bonaparte, named after Joseph Bonaparte as deposed King of France and brother of Napoleon, was the site of his lodge and summer home while his residence was in Natural Bridge during his exile in this country. About the turn of the century this lake became a popular summer resort and until the 1920's the city vacationers would commute from their homes to the lake by railroad. This of course ended with the advent of the automobile. Kalurah and Aldrich were exclusively logging towns, each with its own railroad spur going back into the woods for several miles to haul out logs to the mills. Kalurah was the site of the Mecca Lumber Co. mill, also the firm of Weston, Dean & Aldrich who had the log drives down Jenne Creek into the Oswegatchie River and then on into Gouverneur. Many of these little hamlets such as Brigg's Switch and Bear Lake were almost isolated and depended on the railroad as their only way to the outside. Many people living today will remember that their only newspaper was the one thrown off by the engineer or fireman.

Many tales of local interest have been told and retold of happenings along the railroad during its construction and during the heyday of the little communities alongside. Of especial interest is the incident at the Big Sink, about midway between Harrisville and Kalurah, when a section of track with almost an entire work train suddenly settled into the mud of a swampy crossing. Only the locomotive and a few cars were uncoupled and saved. The tops of some of these cars are still visible where they have lain for seventy-five years. And there is Kalurah, where a man was murdered on the track by a rifle shot after an argument with another worker, and Jayville, where there was once a tar and feathering of an errant couple planning to elope contrary to the wishes of their legally wed spouses and against the ethics of neighbors. Then there is the incident of Brigg's Switch where a box car loaded with lumber got away and rolled all by itself down the grade almost 20 miles to Harrisville before it was stopped and without doing any damage. And there is Milepost 60 near the "summit" of the long Jayville grade, where

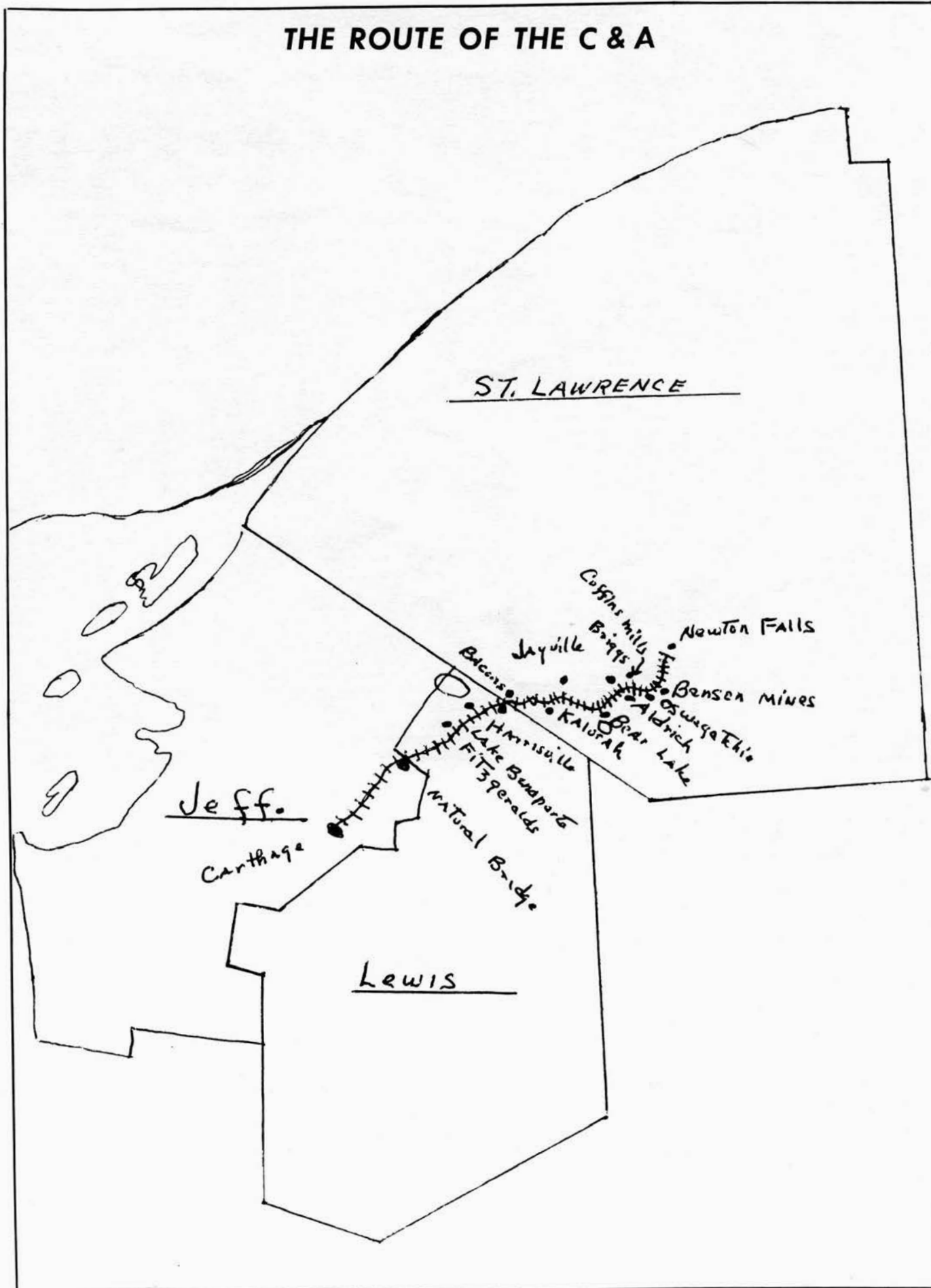
it was stopped and without doing any damage. And there is Milepost 60, near the "summit" of the long Jayville grade, where is located Greenswood Lake and the Huckleberry Rocks. Years ago during the berrying season anyone wishing to get off there to pick blueberries would alight from the upbound morning train, which would stop to pick them up when downbound about four in the afternoon. In those days there were two passenger trains each way daily plus one freight or "local" as it was known. Quite some years ago passenger trains were eliminated entirely. Today there is a 100 plus freight each day loaded with ore for Pittsburgh or Cleveland.

In conclusion I might well title this story the "Symphony of the Foothills", with the thud of the axes, the whine of the saws and the toot of the steam locomotive echoing through the hills, gone now for just a generation but almost forgotten. This with the hardy lumberjack, the early day sportsman, the railroad section gangs and the picturesque trackwalker with his wrench and flag all go to make up a big page in the history of St. Lawrence County.

Perhaps someone else, with greater intimate knowledge than I, can add a sequel to this episode. I hope so.



# THE ROUTE OF THE C & A





## COMMERCIAL HOUSE

By MRS. LESLIE SHORT

In the early history of Madrid Springs, the Commercial House was kept by James Reed. Later a post office was established at the "Springs", with C.A. Chandler as postmaster. Mr. Chandler also maintained a store and feed mill.

About that time the Ogdensburg-Lake Champlain Railroad was built and there was a depot at Madrid Springs. The springs were not found to be of medicinal value until after the Civil War, when it was discovered that the water contained iron and other minerals supposedly beneficial to human ailments.

The Commercial House accommodated many travelers in the days of the Ogdensburg-Lake Champlain Railroad, later known as the Rutland Railroad. Visits from commercial travelers and people seeking to improve their health with the spring water made this a thriving business. The hotel was also a stop for business men travelling to Waddington by stagecoach.

Drovers who bought local livestock for shipment by train also made the hotel their stopping place, renting horse and rig to visit surrounding farms. Friday was known as "Caring Day" or "Shipping Day", when cattle, horses, sheep and pigs were brought to the stockyard for shipment. This was a good day for the hotel financially as livestock was brought to the shipping yard by teams of horses and wagons.

Later the Waddington Milk Condensing Plant was built, along with feed mills and coal sheds.

As the years have gone by, many changes have taken place. Automobiles have eliminated the necessity of railway travel. Trucks have replaced the horsedrawn wagon; stock cars and yards are no longer needed.

The old Rutland depot now houses the Madrid Rescue Squad equipment; Kelley's Auto Sales takes the place of the Chandler Store; a GLF store meets the needs of the farmer, while two groceries supply the people's daily needs; and the Commercial House, later known as Madrid Springs Hotel, came to be operated as Tabby's Inn by another proprietor, Thomas Charlebois.

Although the closing of the Waddington Milk Company building at Madrid Springs inconvenienced the farmer, there always seems to be a way to adjust to new conditions. Each generation has solved the problems and met the needs of the changing times.

Among some interesting characters who have made the hotel their home was one Allen Bence, a section hand on the railroad, who lived at the hotel before Mr. Charlebois took over. Mr. Charlebois claimed Mr. Bence "never said a bad word of any-

(Continued on Page 20)

# THE HIRED MAN

By DORIS PLANTY

In the early days, here in our own St. Lawrence county as all across the land, farming was considered the very foundation of the nation, for it was by sheer manual labor that the land was cleared and laid out in fields, divided by stump fences or stone walls, the materials salvaged from the clearing of the land itself.

Farms in the olden time were often quite small, but toward the close of the Civil War, farms were enlarged -- the average being about 100 to 150 acres -- so they could carry more cattle.

The farmer usually had some stalwart sons who helped with the work. But after the War many of the men who returned were out of work. Some had taken bounty money, others their war pay, and bought farms. Most of these had at least two teams of horses to work the land for planting crops. Since all work was done by hand, it was necessary to have one or two hired men.

The pay in those days for the "hired man" was 50 cents per day, board and room and washing, and sometimes he was provided "keep" for a horse. He became a member of the family and enjoyed the good home-cooked meals and the evenings spent in the farm kitchen or parlor with the organ and phonograph. He soon got acquainted with the neighbors and spent many evenings, walking to the neighbors to "visit".

His routine required that he be up at daylight, and in season, go get the cows from the pasture, and milk by hand the number assigned to him. In winter, he had to shovel snow to the barn, milk the cows before breakfast and perform many other chores. Then in to a hearty breakfast of potatoes, side pork and muffins or pancakes with maple syrup and sausage. The pancake starter was set in a jar and used every time to raise the pancakes. And there was good home-made bread, butter and lots of preserves.

St. Lawrence county was one of the world's greatest cheese producers. The farmer would usually draw his milk to the cheese factory in 30 gallon cans, with horse and wagon. The hired man did the work at home. During the winter season, there was wood to cut, sled length in the woods, whence it was brought up to be sawed for stove wood to heat the house. Logs were cut and taken to the sawmill to make lumber for buildings and repair the barns. Some logs were sold for lumber.

In those days a farmer could work out part of his taxes. In winter a plow was made on side of sleighs to plow out the roads; in summer the team and wagon were sent with the "hired man" to work on the roads as directed by the pathmaster. A record was kept of the work, and the equivalent value taken off the farmer's taxes.

In spring, the team was harnessed right after the chores were done, and headed for the sugar bush, where the maple trees were tapped. This was usually around the 17th of March, but it depended on the season. The sap was drawn in a milk tank or a wooden tank to an open arch where seasoned wood was piled ready for the fire; the sap was boiled in a flat pan until it was heavy syrup. This meant lots of work and most of the family did their share, especially when the syrup was taken from the woods to the house, where it was cleansed and canned or made into soft sugar for the year's supply. Later more modern equipment came into use such as the modern evaporator in the sugar house in the woods.

When the nice warm days of spring arrived, it was time to plant the crops, so usually by May 1st, another hired man was added for the summer season. The fields had to be plowed, worked and planted, using farm implements a row wide. The horses were hitched to them and the hired man walked row by row all day or until the ground was fitted and planted. St. Lawrence County's principal crops were hay, corn and oats. This was hard corn, which provided the fodder for the cattle, horses and hogs for the coming winter. Some years later, when the corn was grown, it was cut and put in silo for ensilage. Meanwhile, there was also the large family garden, where most of the family food was raised, lots of potatoes and orchards of apples.

When it came time for the harvest, it was the custom to ex-

change work with the neighbor farmers. So many men went as would return the work; thus the farmer and his hired man would be three or four weeks going from farm to farm to help with threshing oats and cutting corn to fill silos. When it came time for all to come to your place, this was the event of the year. The farmer's wife would cook for days "getting ready" for the threshers or corn cutters -- and what meals! and what fun we had. Most of the ladies were good cooks. Chicken dinners and pies quickly disappeared, and all enjoyed the friendly hours spent together.

On these occasions the hired men got to talk to each other, and would find out who was good to work for and who was not. But all knew that if they didn't do a good day's work they could be fired -- and that meant walking the road until they could find another place. It was common in those days for a man to come to your door and ask for something to eat; some looked pretty ragged.

In the fall, the hard corn was picked by hand and taken to the barn, and now it was the usual thing to have a husking bee. The whole neighborhood was invited and started early to husk the ears of corn and put them in a pile. Whenever a red ear was found that one got a kiss from a young person. In this way the farmers corn was prepared so that it could be ground for feed. Later in the evening an extra special meal was prepared for all present. Sometimes a courtship developed, ending with a big home wedding to which people came from far and wide by horse and buggy or, in winter, by horse and sleigh. Wedding presents were usually very useful household things; they were gratefully received and put to good use in the new farm home.

Many times the "hired man" married the farmer's daughter, and a good many prosperous farmers were once hired men. Some of our country's biggest businessmen can look back many years to recall that they once were hired men on the farm back where they came from.

But as the years crept by, more modern machinery was introduced and farms were enlarged in St. Lawrence county, so that large numbers of cows could be handled more easily and efficiently with modern methods. Large fields of cropland were worked with tractors, combines, hay choppers, corn pickers and the like -- much of this equipment being operated by the farmer himself. This today represents a big investment equal to that in some of the biggest industries of the country.

The days of the hired man have changed. Some still follow the tilling of the soil, but today all have their own cars and live in tenant houses. Few live in with the farm family. Wages have been increased to equal our standard of living today; and the hired man's farm work is vastly changed from the days when crops were planted and harvested by hand. But agriculture still is our great American Heritage.

\* \* \* \* \*

## Old Time Church Socials

Many years ago the social life of the church and community in St. Lawrence county was centered about the "socials" held for the benefit of the church. These usually occurred during the winter months, and church suppers at different times of the year.

## Box Social

The "box social" was widely advertised and held either at a home or a hall. The ladies would spend the whole day making goodies to fill a nicely trimmed box, a whole meal for two people -- sometimes fried chicken, home-made bread, baked beans, fancy cakes, pickles, pie or tarts; and the box was auctioned off. Sometimes it was marked so the boy friend would know the box, but whichever man paid the highest bid got the box. Usually the price was \$1-\$1.50-\$2; sometimes as cheap as 75 cents and this man would have to share the lunch with the lady who packed the box. There were children's boxes also.

## Carpet Rag Social

Each girl would put her name on a card and wind carpet

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## HIRED MAN

(Continued from Page 19)

rags around it to form a ball. Then all the carpet rag balls were placed on a table, and each one sold to a man. He would unwind the carpet ball -- to find the name of the girl he was to eat supper with. Sometimes this developed into a courtship. The price paid was the price of the supper for two, and all money raised was for the church, and a "good time was had by all."

## Shadow Social

A sheet was hung in an archway, a lamp burning in back of it; the girl sat in a chair. In the room in front of the sheet, the crowd stood and bid for the shadow. When sold, the girl would step out to be claimed by the bidder. She would eat supper and spend the evening with the man that bought the shadow. Sometimes they would disguise themselves so they would not be known.

## Cobweb Social

A girl's name was tied to a clothespin; string fastened to the clothespin would be strung all around the house -- upstairs, back of pictures, around bed legs, around furniture, and then the end of the string hung in one place, usually down the stairway. Now each girl would have a string cobweb around the house. It sure was a sight to see the cobwebs of string all over the place. The men would buy a string and start to wind, and wind, and wind until he came to the other end with the girl's name on it. It would take quite a while before he would find the name as there were tangles and knots along the way. But when the name was found, that girl was his partner for the evening.

## Necktie Social

Girls would make aprons and neckties of the same material. The girls would wear the aprons and the men would buy the ties, then find the girl with the apron matching the tie he bought. He would have supper and shared the evening with her.

## Toe Social

Large crowds gathered for the winter socials, some coming with horses and cutters or sleighs, and even a hay ride. They were usually held at a farm home.

In the "toe social" one room was darkened and a sheet hung in an archway. The girls stood in back of the sheet, the men out front. Some good salesman then started to sell the toes that stuck out from under the sheet. Sometimes the girls would change their shoes or wear overshoes so their own shoes would not be known by many. It was quite exciting when red shoes would peep out or white socks appeared. Whoever bought the toes claimed that partner for the evening. Games were played during the evening, the couple taking part in all events and eating supper together. Sometimes toes would sell for 10 cents; some would go for 50 cents.

## Maple Sugar Social

These "maple sugar socials" were a spring event, when the maple sugar bushes were tapped and most farmers were making maple sugar or syrup. The social was usually held at a farm home where maple syrup was cooked down and placed on pans of snow so that maple wax could be made on snow. Others would provide thick maple syrup, this to be stirred in dishes to make soft sugar, or to be eaten just as maple syrup. There were always dill pickles, crackers and hot biscuits, too. After there were pancake suppers with homemade sausage and maple syrup.

## Oyster Supper

The oyster supper was held by most churches or organizations, the oysters being shipped in by bulk -- quarts or gallons. They were usually served as oyster stew, but sometimes as fried oysters. In those days when you could have all you could eat for the price of the supper, many bowls of oysters were consumed.

## Penny Suppers

For years the "penny supper" was very popular. This was a variety supper, and each helping priced at so many pennies: Meat dishes, 15 pennies, potatoes, 10 pennies; baked beans, 5 pennies; vegetables, 8 pennies, bread, 3 pennies, pickles 2, pie 10, cake 10, coffee 5, tea 5 -- a large variety to choose from, but a whole meal was 50 or 60 pennies. As food prices increased this type of supper disappeared, but it was fun. Many a church supper cost as little as 25 cents.

# The President's Message

As we prepare to observe the Holy Day of Christmas, let every historian remember the true meaning of the day and the joyous birth it commemorates. May the spirit of Christmas be with all of us and bring to our hearts and minds true peace and happiness for this day and all the days to come. I wish to each of you and your families a very Merry Christmas and a New Year filled with happiness.

*Miles Greene*

## COMMERCIAL HOUSE

(Continued from Page 18)

one" and was a source of the history and area of the hotel. Another frequent visitor was Asa Hedden, a log runner during the early settlement of the town. He conducted "log runs" down the Grasse River from Bucks Bridge to Madrid, where there was a saw mill at that time. He also was an expert on the early history of the place and its people.

Some of the hotel's proprietors in days gone by were: James Reed, the first proprietor, Barney Leonard, James Carter, Frank and Neil O'Brien, John Rule, Lee Williams, a Mrs. McMonagle and Thomas Charlebois.

Mr. Charlebois owned and operated the hotel from October, 1949 to October 15, 1964 when death took him from those who loved him and friends who admired his congenial ways. Francis Brakley purchased the property and operated the hotel until September 20, 1965 when a devastating fire of unknown origin completely ruined the interior of the building. The walls and roof still stand, and Mr. Barkley plans to make repairs and open for business again, continuing under the name of Fran's Hotel in the future.

Damage was estimated at \$25,000. Ten fire departments fought to control the fire for several hours. Mr. Barkley resides at 23 West Main Street in Canton.

## BARBARA HECK

(Continued from Page 5)

Paul Heck living in all three!

The mighty St. Lawrence River and an International Boundary Line are not obstacles to the ties of family history of Canada and the United States, for many of the residents of the town of Oswegatchie and area towns have ancestors buried in the Blue Church Cemetery.

Judge Smith Stilwell, whose mansion was located directly across the river from the Heck home, in a letter dated December, 1866, described how he crossed the St. Lawrence in a boat in the company of General N.M. Curtis to visit the graves of Paul and Barbara Heck at the Blue Church Cemetery and visit with three of their grandchildren, Catherine, Frances and George at the old homestead.

At this point I have no proof to substantiate the tradition that Barbara Heck visited the old Village of Ogdensburg on many occasions and conducted services among the inhabitants of the areas who were followers of Methodism. It is entirely possible that she did make the trip across the river between 1796 when Nathan Ford made the first settlement for the Americans and 1804 when she died at the age of 70 on August 17. The boat-ride across the St. Lawrence would have been child's play in comparison with some of her earlier journeys.

In winter sleigh rides would be part of the fun going to a social. Other church suppers included the harvest supper, "ice cream socials" in summer -- and everyone would get better acquainted when spending the evening with the someone who purchased her company -- so different from today when television has taken over the evenings.

## COME, FOLLOW ME

(Continued from Page 4)

tained with credit until it and the 7th and 8th grades were taken to the Central School System in Canton in September 1945. Eighty-eight children attend the kindergarten through sixth grade still being taught here with a staff of six teachers. The building is kept in excellent condition by Glenn Streeter.

When we think of education we also think in terms of books. Books played a very important part in the education and history of this small village. As early as the first school, books were in common usage and by the 1870s both churches had libraries of several hundred volumes each. A rental library had been kept in the Doty store before that same building was bequeathed to the village by Chester Doty for the express purpose of providing a permanent home for the library already begun before this date of 1921. It was then housed in a small building once used as a shoemaker's shop by a Mr. Parsons. It was staffed by volunteers; Mrs. James Cleland and Mrs. Melvin Creighton among others. In 1922 Mrs. Creighton became librarian and held the position until her retirement in 1946. In July 1954 the building and its contents were consumed by fire and temporary quarters were set up in the store in the Grange building which had been vacated by Earl Perry. A cement block building replaced the old wooden one at once. Mrs. Ralph Wrisley is the present librarian, having taken over the work in 1946.

The first miller was Jessie Brunnell and it is assumed he worked in the first grist mill built by Henry Van Rensselaer in 1842. Four years after its construction it was destroyed by fire. This time it was re-erected by W.B. Rose and Son. Upon the death of Irwin Rose, about a year later, it became the property of the Maloney Brothers. Once again the building was burned and this time it was rebuilt by Maloney and Morrison in 1913. Today it is owned by Miss Edna Morrison and is rented by Herbert Wainwright who continues the business in terms of today's somewhat changed demands.

In 1839 the first saw mill was on the east bank, also built by Van Rensselaer through his agent, John Shull Jr. In 1840 it was "borne away by the spring freshet!" It was replaced and again fire took this second building. M.W. Spaulding built the third building on this same site and it was then called the Phoenix Bent Works -- this before 1878. Again fire destroyed the structure in 1902. Morrisons replaced this last building which served as the box factory until it was torn down in 1949.

Mrs. Ellen Sharpe, who was born in 1853 and lived all her life in the village, passing away in 1945 (in her 92nd year) recalled that in her lifetime, she had seen eleven mills burn here. One of these was most likely that of John Forsgate, an early settler.

When one considers the number of fires which the town has suffered since its inception, it is a wonder it is yet in existence at all! In one fire there were 14 buildings destroyed. Many of these were business properties. The first of these tragedies took the McKelvey (also known as Gilbert) Block which then housed the stores of T. McKelvey, C.W. Lent and the J.L. Gilbert Millinery and Dressmaking shop as well as the living quarters of the Gilbert family. It also destroyed a blacksmith shop, woodworking shop and a number of dwellings. In 1903 a large portion of the main street disappeared when fire started in the old hotel on the corner of Front and Rensselaer Streets. With it went the hotel, its barn, Hinsdale's store, a small office building, and the barn of the McKee home. The north portion of the hotel set fire to a store and dwelling beside it and carried to another house north of that. Few buildings have "departed" from the ravages of time; most of them have been taken by fire. Two mills were washed away with spring floods and only a few buildings have been torn down.

At one period there were nine stores, a hotel, grist mill, two saw mills, the Phoenix Bent Works, a chair factory, a cheese box factory, two wagon shops and other mechanic shops. This was in the 1870s and just beyond. Ice harvesting was a busy occupation for many years. So needed was the

"harvest" that sawdust for its preservation had to be acquired long in advance to supply the demand for ice. Many had their own ice houses. There was also an ashery in operation, and it was located north of the cemetery and east of the present home of Mrs. John Wilson. The work of a blacksmith was a vital necessity, and the first person to ply this trade was Caleb Johnson who was followed, in turn, by Henry Lewis, a Mr. Nash, Archibald VanDyke, Melvin Creighton and the late Arthur Bill.

At the time the first Post Office was established here on December 19, 1851, the village became known as Rensselaer Falls. The first Postmaster was Archibald Shull. It has been located in several different stores from time to time, among them being the McBride General Store, Hinsdale's General Store, Simpson's General Store, McKelvey's and then from 1909 until 1958 it was stationed in the southwest corner of the old hotel building with Mrs. Jessie McBride as postmistress. It was then moved into a section of the Grange building and in 1966, for the first time in its history, will be located in a building erected expressly for its accommodation. This building is now in the process of construction and is owned by Herbert and Jessie Wainwright.

A fire department was formed in 1923 with the late Grant Crysler as the first Fire Chief. There were 32 charter members who began with no equipment, no fire house but with enough interest to find today's department in its own quarters with two trucks, hose, pumpers, radio system, resuscitators, etc. and 25 active members. Today the department is no longer under the village government but an independent organization of volunteers.

One could never forget the railroad which in 1878 was referred to as the "R.W. & O", later becoming the New York Central. It was a branch of the road from Norwood to Watertown. When its whistle was first heard in the village, the teachers dismissed school so the children might join the men and women who were waiting to greet its arrival. This, then was the end of the line and the engine arrived pulling flat cars laden with men and materials to continue the laying of tracks on toward Ogdensburg. Within this same year of 1862 the big depot was also constructed and a thriving, vital element of village life began throbbing with the coming and departing of eight passenger trains a day and the frequent arrivals of freights. Negotiations for the coming of the railroad were begun in 1852 and the ten years, from then to its reality, were consumed in the acquisition of the rights of way and the construction thereafter. In 1954, after four months of hearings, the station was closed and passenger service cut to the flagging down of the small diesel train which ran through, north and south, once each day. By 1956 all service was discontinued completely. The tracks and the occasional freight are all that remain to remind those who loved the pomp and power of steam that it had ever been here at all.

Through the years the church has been a continuous influence since the first one was organized in June 1842 in the village school house. The first building, by this group, of the Congregational denomination, was built on its present site in 1847. In 1875 it was enlarged to the present proportions. It has been in use ever since. The Methodist group had its beginnings in the spring of 1853. Like the first organization, it, too, used the village school house for its meetings until it was incorporated in November 1858. At this time a church, costing \$1,000 was erected on the present site of Pioneer Park. In 1866 this building was sold and the land for the new church was bought. A church was built where the present Methodist Church now stands. The dedication for this took place September 16, 1868. Like so many of the other structures in the village, this too was burned around 1878 and rebuilt in 1879. It is now used in conjunction with the United Church, formed by the Methodist and Congregational Churches in 1954; services being held in both of these buildings at alternate intervals.

It is interesting to note that the first recorded population figure for the village was 350 persons. Today the census records it just a little above that number. In spite of the diminished business activity, the population has, more or less, remained at just about this same number -- from 1878 to 1965!

FROM THE COUNTY'S

# Cracker Barrel

(Including the names of all Town and Village Historians together with a continuing report of their activities.) BRASHER: (Mrs. John Gray). CANTON: (Edward F. Heim). RENSSELAER FALL VILLAGE, Town of Canton; (Mrs. Nina Wilson) Mother's box of clippings lay untouched these many years. I have spent some time sorting them. They date from 1870-1941 and make a good history of Rensselaer Falls. There are a thousand some of interest to Canton also Ogdensburg. CLARE: (Mrs. Iris J. Frye). CLIFTON: (Mrs. Clara McKenny). COLTON: (Mrs. Lorena Reed). DEKALB: (F.F.E. Walrath). RICHVILLE VILLAGE, Town of DeKalb: (Mrs. Georgiana Wranesh). DePEYSTER: (Mrs. Emery Smithers). EDWARDS (Miss Leah Noble) Has completed a written history of schools and schooling in the Town of Edwards and also wrote a paper "Green Medicine" for workshop. She is writing autobiographies of prominent people in Edwards. FINE: (Mrs. Catherine Brownell). FOWLER: (Mrs. Robert Yerdon). GOUVERNEUR: (Harold A. Storie). HAMMOND: (Mrs. Maxine Rutherford) Set up exhibit "Dairy Industry in Hammond" at 4-H and FFA fair in September; assisted students who were writing papers on local histories; completed assignment on Medicinal Plants (very interesting); attended annual meeting in Massena Oct. 9 and Fall Workshop in Canton Oct. 20; continuing column "Yesteryear in Hammond". The annual report has been prepared to present to the Town Board in December. A very busy and interesting year. HERMON: (Mrs. Harriet Jenne). HOPKINTON: (Mrs. Vaughn Day). LAWRENCE: (Mrs. Gordon Cole). LISBON: (Lee Martin) The Town of Lisbon is in the process of erecting signs giving the names and numbers of its highways. The Grange is cooperating in this worthwhile project. LOUISVILLE: (Mrs. Lorraine Bandy) Sent annual report to State, Town and County. Have been at schools speaking on local history and helping students with projects. Answered geneological requests from Texas, Maryland, Alabama and Washington. Am helping to arrange Old Fashioned clothes display; am bringing our town calendar up-to-date for a new publication in 1966; also making new contacts and trying to keep service records up-to-date. MADRID: (Mrs. Florence Fisher). MASSENA: (Mrs. Robert Eldon Brown) We have had a busy few months. A total of 201 visitors, these included 94 members of St. Lawrence County Historical Association, 4 Girl Scout Troops -- 1 troop coming back for a second visit, -- 2 Boy Scout Troops (one 15-year old has returned to help restore some pieces). Made two visits to schools for 4th and 5th grades, followed by 3 visits to Historical Center, plus 18 retarded children who really got quite a joy out of the visit taking back with them some of the clothes to wear for the Thanksgiving play. Three students are working on a model of Main St., Massena, in the 1890's for their project, and we have a Keuka College student, Judith Forbes, doing her 140 hours of field work in community service. We have moved the office to a front room of the Newton House, a reading and reference table, changing of displays, new painting of cases upstairs and added material. We hope to have a room for old musical instruments in the New Year. MORRISTOWN: (Mrs. Doris Planty) Attended Fall Workshop at Historical Center, Canton. Turned in year 1965 report of historian to Town Board and County Historian; gathered material and pictures to write history of J.L. Smithers and Son Hardware store in Morristown 75 years. NORFOLK: (Mrs. Edith Van Kernen) Several interesting articles from the house of the late Miss Mary Douglass, Norfolk have been given to me and placed in the case at the A. Barton Hepburn library, Norfolk. Also a spinning wheel, reel and swifts are beside the case. I hope to have a detailed write-up about these articles for the Quarterly in the near future. NORWOOD VILLAGE, Town of Norfolk: (Mrs. Susan Lyman). OSWEGATCHIE: (Mrs. Persis Boyesen) Has been working on the History of the Heuvelton Central School for the coming school dedication. She needs information about all the common schools which are now part of H.C.S. and would like to borrow pictures, souvenir items and scrapbook clippings for this history. HEUVELTON, Town of Oswegatchie. (Mrs. Ida Downing). PARISHVILLE: (Mrs. Eisie F. Bresee). PIERCEFIELD: (Mrs. Beulah B. Dorothy). PIERREPONT: (Mrs. Iva

## LOCAL HISTORICAL Associations

CANTON: Grasse River--There have been no meetings of the historical association this fall due to lack of interest--Frank Crary. NORWOOD: Norwood Historical association held annual meeting and election of officers in the Education Bldg. of the Norwood Methodist church Oct. 28. Marguerite Gurley Chapman, Potsdam, gave a wonderful talk on the early history of Potsdam. Penny Lou Hollinger was given an honorary membership for her help in the scrapbook work. Officers for the coming two years: co-chairmen, Mrs. Harland Bancroft and Mrs. Royal J. Lyman; secretary-treasurer, Miss Mary Gorman; trustees, Robert Parr, Roscoe Bowhall, Richard Dunne, Lorraine Bartlett, Shirley Orologio, Dorothy Stowell, Pearl Holt and Mary H. Brouse. The association is planning to begin the task of cataloging local cemeteries in the spring. Mrs. Bancroft and I are continuing to collect all items relative to our community and we are given something nearly every week. However, it is no longer wise to store easily destroyed items in what we started out to make a repository, so all paper goods, etc., are kept in a steel file in my office or at Mrs. Bancroft's home where they are very readily available to anyone concerned. We use these papers, maps, and documents a great deal in assisting students in term papers and on Yorker projects. Hope to assist many more Yorkers in some worthwhile project.--Susan Lyman, co-chairman. GOUVERNEUR: The Gouverneur association has not been having any meetings out of courtesy to one of our foremost members who has been seriously ill.--Harold A. Storie.

R. Tupper) Watch for pictures of this town. PITCAIRN: (No historian). POTSDAM: (Susan C. Lyman) As the brand new Town of Potsdam historian, I am starting from "scratch" to collect items related to that area. I have had the most wonderful reception and cooperation from all those I have approached. I attended a Clarkston Faculty Wives tea at the home of Mrs. William Whitson, Pres. of Clarkston; annual meeting of the Potsdam Museum; and various functions. Both the Norwood Village Board and the Norwood Chamber of Commerce have offered every possible help in the event a future St. Lawrence County Historical Ass'n. tour is held in our region. We hope to have one this coming summer. I am currently helping a college senior with a term paper on the history of the local schools, and expect to help another. ROSSIE: (No historian). RUSSELL: (Mrs. Jeanette Barnes) Working on servicemen's records. Have two books "Vanishing Americana" on display at the Town Clerk's office for all to look at; Have a display of plants and herbs, used for medicinal purposes years ago, on display in the Town Clerk's office. STOCKHOLM: (Mrs. Hazel Chapman) Had one new bridge opened to traffic in Sept. also a number of new homes and one large dairy barn has been built by Raymond Munson. It has free stalling and a milking parlor with a house for the hired man over the milking parlor. The barn will house 100 head of cattle. WADDINGTON: (Mrs. Ethel C. Olds) The fair grounds and race track of the Waddington Agricultural fair which flourished from 1869-1881 have been made this past summer into a 9-hole golf course, the Twin Brooks Golf club.

CANTON: (Edward F. Heim). Since October Canton town historian has been busy with the usual work in the local museum. The display for Veterans Day in the case in the lower hall was visited by many people who appreciate our efforts. Sergeant Major Earl, U.S. Army Retired, now with our local Civil Defense Unit, was kind enough to loan us his beautiful display case containing Medals awarded during 20 years of service all over the World and a fine letter of appreciation from his Commanding General. Many people have visited our Museum in the New Municipal Building and some have returned with family historical records asking that they be safely guarded and preserved. For the Christmas Season we have a small barn, crib set with the Holy Family, Shepards, Wise Men and Angels to be put in the lower hall display case. That will have a background of evergreen boughs. Many old pictures and items of local history are being brought in from time to time. Many clippings have been pasted in scrapbooks now on our shelves. College and graduate students keep asking for historical material with which to prepare papers requested by their teachers. We are always glad to help if possible. Another item of interest is the Old Automatic Fire Alarm system just received from the Canton Fire Department.

# Annual Meeting

The annual business meeting of the St. Lawrence County Historical Association was held Saturday, Oct. 9 at Schine's Inn in Massena. Preceding the meeting luncheon was served to 125 members.

President Edward Heim opened the meeting and introduced Mrs. Marie Eldon-Browne, the new historian for the town of Massena and Mrs. Royal Lyman, the new Potsdam historian.

Mrs. Edward Biondi read the minutes of the last annual meeting. David Cleland gave the treasurer's report, stating that the receipts of this year were \$2,494.68. These, added to the balance of \$557.44 from last year made a total of \$3,052.12. Expenses were \$2,378.34 leaving a balance at the present of \$673.78.

Mr. Heim then introduced Mrs. W.B. Fleetham, financial secretary who gave her report.

Mr. Heim asked members to turn in extra Quarterlies to satisfy demand for them.

Mason Smith, editor of the Quarterly, pointed out that dues should be paid promptly and that date of expiration appears on the address on the back of each Quarterly. He reported that the magazine is popular in other parts of the country. He asked members to write articles for the Quarterly to insure a variety in both writers and subjects.

Mrs. Edward Biondi, chairman of the museum committee, spoke of the architect's report on the Baptist church at Richville which has been offered to the Association. He said it would deteriorate soon if unoccupied and Mrs. Biondi, as county historian, said we have no room to store valuable items now. She said the committee would like to ask all members if they were in favor of the Association accepting the Richville church. Mr. Heim said there was a time limit on it. It was decided that the committee should continue working with the Baptist society and the County Board of Supervisors.

Mr. Smith amended this to take a vote of members present so that, if the vote were favorable, the committee could proceed to accept the church, and it was carried.

Harold Storie, chairman of the Fair committee, reported on the County Fair at Gouverneur, stating that 24 new memberships were sold and 5 renewals at \$2 and 2 at \$3. Mr. Storie thanked those who helped with our booth at the Fair, especially Mr. Kittle who is in Hepburn Hospital at this time.

Mr. Heim then introduced Mrs. Doris Planty, program chairman who reviewed the tours taken this year including June 26 -- Hogansburg tour with 168 attending; July 31 -- Kingston-Fort Henry tour with 148 present and Sept. 11 -- Waddington-Morley tour with 110 attending.

Mrs. Biondi reported on the promotion committee concerning the Richville Baptist church and said as the Association has no funds for the project, we could raise money by subscription or ask the Board of Supervisors to help us financially or it could be given to the County and then turned over to the Association.

Mr. Bovard spoke of the repairs needed at the church and of adequate parking area.

Mr. Bovard reported for the nominating committee of which Carlton Olds was chairman; president, Miles Greene, Massena; 1st vice president, Wm. Van Buren, Ogdensburg; 2nd vice president, Cecil Graham, Canton; financial secretary, Mrs. W. B. Fleetham, DePeyster; corresponding secretary, Mrs. Miles Greene, Massena; treasurer, Mr. David Cleland, Canton; Editor of the Quarterly, Mason Smith, Gouverneur. Trustees whose terms expire in 1966: Mrs. D. Little, Potsdam, W. Kittle, Rossie, M. Hundley, Canton; terms expiring in 1967: Mrs. Doris Planty, Ogdensburg, Harry Sharpe, Macomb, Ed. Heim, Canton; terms expiring in 1968: Mrs. Wm. Chapman, Potsdam, Harold Storie, Gouverneur and Ray Loop, Russell. Quarterly committee: Mason Smith, Mrs. Karl Mayhew Jr., Mr. Storie, Leonard Prince and Mrs. Nina Smithers. Program committee: Mrs. Doris Planty, Mrs. Nina Smithers, Mr. Bovard and Mrs. Maxine Rutherford. Promotion committee: Mrs. Mary Biondi, Mrs. D. Little, Miss Leah Noble, Cecil Graham, Dan McCormick, Mrs. J. Daniel. Museums:

## OFFICERS MEETING

A special meeting of the officers of the St. Lawrence County Historical Association was held Friday, Nov. 5 at 2 p.m. in a conference room at the Court House, Canton, the purpose to take action on raising dues and acceptance or rejection of the offer of the Baptists of Richville to give their church for a museum.

Present were: Miles Greene, president, William Van Buren, 1st vice president, Cecil Graham, 2nd vice president, trustees, Millard Hundley, Mrs. Doris Planty, Edward Heim, Mrs. William Chapman, Ray Loop, Harold Storie, treasurer, David Cleland; museum committee: Mrs. Edward Biondi, Mrs. Nina Smithers, Lawrence Bovard, Bert Rogers and Mason Smith. Other members requested to be present were not present for the following reasons: Mrs. Miles Greene, death of her brother; William Kittle, illness; Mrs. W. B. Fleetham thought the meeting was Saturday.

The meeting was called to order at 2 p.m. by president Greene. First discussed was the offer of the Richville Baptist church for a museum. Mrs. Biondi, chairman of the special museum committee, gave a very detailed discussion of the matter. Briefly the Baptists will give the Historical Association a clear title to the church and properties to use as we see fit, the only restriction being that the church can never again be used for religious services.

After thorough discussion in which all participated, all expressed themselves as in favor of accepting the offer except Mrs. William Chapman.

Mr. Heim made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Nina Smithers, to accept the offer. The motion carried, 14 in favor and 1 opposed. Mrs. Biondi and her committee were directed to proceed with the necessary steps to bring the matter to a conclusion.

The second subject of the day was the matter of increasing dues. After much discussion Mr. Heim made a motion, seconded by Harold Storie, that the dues be raised from the present \$2 to \$3 for a single membership and from the present \$3 to \$5 for a double membership as of Jan. 1, 1966. All present were as being in favor. Mr. Smith, editor of the Quarterly, was instructed to insert this information in the next issue.

A discussion took place on dropping those members whose dues are more than 3 months in arrears. Mr. Smith was asked the difference in cost of printing 1,000 copies as compared with 750, and he said he couldn't tell without some figures but the saving would be small. It was suggested that someone go over the membership list before the next issue and strike out the names of people who haven't paid their dues. Some thought on a percentage basis we ought to carry them. No final decision was reached on the matter.

Mrs. Planty, chairman of the program committee, said she would build her program around the Richville museum if possible. Mrs. Biondi suggested an auction of donated articles at the Richville museum.

The meeting adjourned at 3:50 p.m.

Miles Greene, sec'y. pro-tem

Mr. Bovard, Mrs. Biondi, Mrs. E. Bresee, Mrs. Marion Brickey, Mrs. M. Chapman, Mrs. Nina Smithers. Nominating committee: Mr. Olds, Mr. Storie, Mrs. Biondi, Mrs. Smithers, Mr. Bovard, Mr. Heim; County Fair committee: Clarence Poor, Mr. Storie, Mrs. A. McHeffey, Mr. Kittle, Eugene Hatch, Mr. Bovard, Yorker Clubs; Mrs. Georgiana Wranesh and Miss Rachel Dandy. The motion was made and seconded that we accept the new slate of officers.

Mr. Heim then introduced Mrs. Nina Smithers, former County Historian, past presidents Atwood Manley and Lawrence Bovard and Mrs. William Chapman of the museums committee.

Mr. Heim then turned the meeting over to Mr. Greene of Massena, the new president. Mr. Greene said he hoped everyone would continue to enjoy the tours and meetings of the association. He then introduced William Walker of the U.S. Customs office in Ogdensburg who traced the history of the customs in the North Country from 1808 to the present time, reciting many interesting anecdotes especially those occurring during the prohibition era. A still from Louisville and some records were shown after his talk which was much enjoyed by all. Mr. Greene thanked Mr. Walker for his fine account and this concluded the meeting.

Respectfully submitted  
Kathleen Greene, corr. sec'y.

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