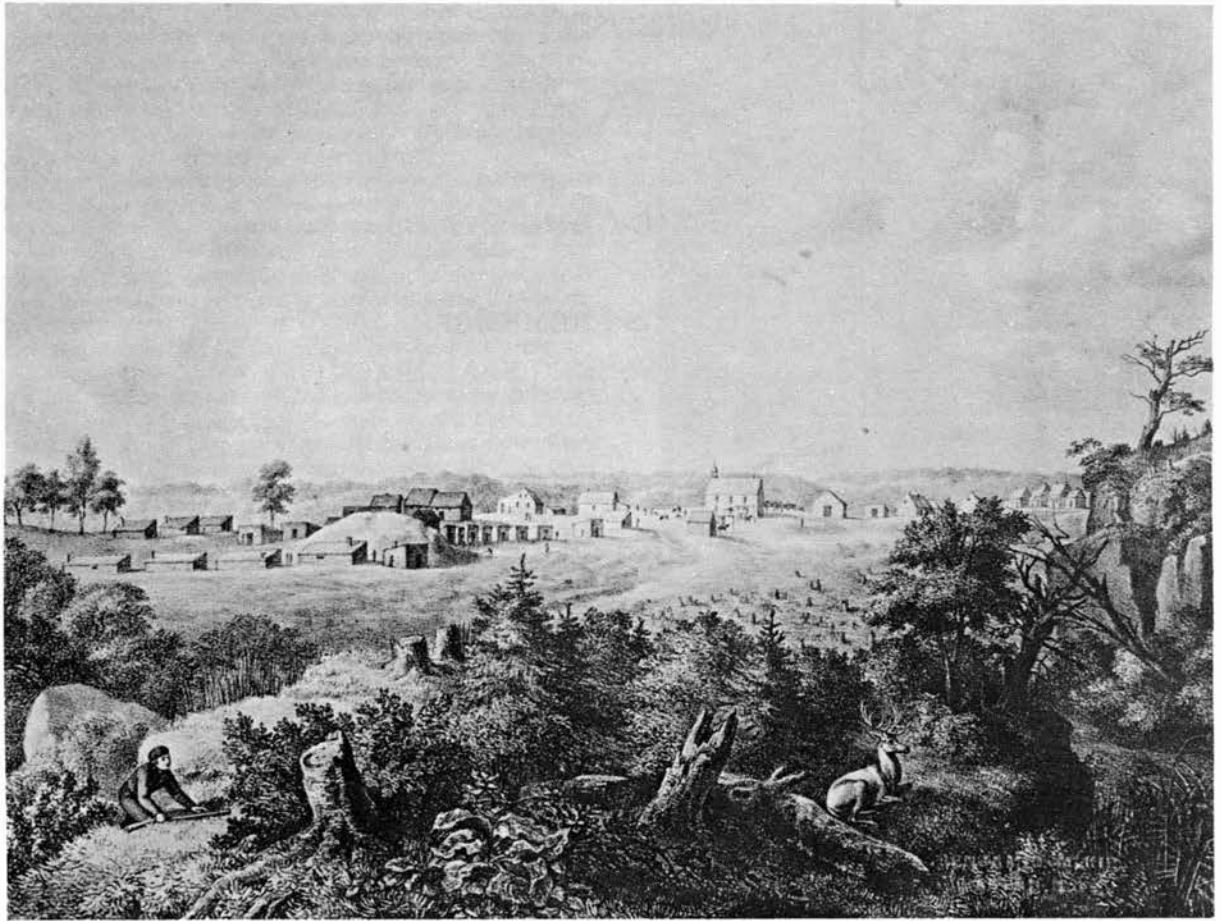


# The Quarterly

OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE ST. LAWRENCE COUNTY HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION



*Early Parishville*

October 1967

# The Quarterly

Official Publication of The St. Lawrence County Historical Assn.

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OCTOBER, 1967 VOL. 12 NO. 4

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*Cover: Parishville village at an early date. Lithograph by Salathiel Ellis*



## highways of history

# Russell's Scoughton Road

By EUGENE HATCH

To reach the sites of our article, the traveler should go from Russell village onto the old Russell-Hermon State Road. Taking the turn to the left, one enters the Hamilton Hill Road. A mile ahead appears a fork in the road. A right turn here and you enter the Lower (Scoughton) Road. Much of this first portion of the road was described in "A Rural Ramble" in the Quarterly of April 1966.

Three miles farther on, the road fringed with trees drops steeply into Elm Creek valley and skirts the edge of the valley's meadowland. Another mile and a hillock abruptly crosses the road. This is a spur of rock and here begins a section of road rich in historic, even prehistoric interest, one point of interest fairly crowds the next.

On the right side of the road, atop the hillock is the site of a notable glacial pothole, now at the Museum of Natural History in New York City. The pothole was a circular, vertical cavity about two feet across in the slanting rock ledge of the Grenville series of limestone. The hole measured 3 feet deep on the front side of the rock, and 4 feet at the rear. This hole in the rock was known in my boyhood and usually referred to as "the Indian kettle" as some persons assumed that the Indians used the aperture to grind their corn.

In prehistoric ages, four great glaciers flowed in succession into Northern New York and the present St. Lawrence River valley lay buried under ice 5000 feet thick. There were long intervals of melting ice between each glacial period. Our pothole may have been formed in the melting of the last great glacier which scientists variously estimate was 10,000 to 50,000 years ago.

As the ice melted here, the water driven by a powerful current surged about in a small whirlpool. Small rock fragments and gravel stones rotated and became the grinding agents which cut and smoothed the hole in the rock ledge. The melting ice of the last great glacial ice sheet must have left a watery world, without form, and void, like the first Creation. In the ages that followed the waters drained into rivers and lakes and the land took on the contours of our own town time. Hardwood trees of species known today began to appear and grasses sprouted as the glacial lakes receded.

Many of our present wild grass eating animals came into central New York, where their fossil remains have been found.

It was in 1910 that my cousin Grover Hatch, son of local farmer Lester Hatch, entered St. Lawrence University, and came under the teaching of Prof. Chadwick, young and energetic professor of geology there. Prof. Chadwick was attracted by the interest of the student, and together they made some field trips through the area, viewing among other features of geological interest, this ancient pothole.

Dr. Edmund Otis Hovey, head of the geology department of the American Museum of Natural History in New York City, was told of this prehistoric formation and he decided to acquire the pothole with its enclosing rock for the museum.

To cut out the pothole with its surrounding stone, a channeling machine with an operating crew was procured from a Gouverneur marble quarry. The machine consisted mainly of steam driven drills which cut through a stream of water into the rock and three weeks were required to finish the cutting. The cut out cube of rock was six feet square, a foot higher on the rear side. Grover was the superintendent of this project.

Then came the problem of getting the rock to New York. It was decided to wait until the winter snows came and then haul it on runners to the railroad for shipment. Woodcock Brothers of Edwards, then in the heyday of their logging business, undertook the exacting job of moving the block of stone on sleighs to the railroad station at Edwards, 8 miles away, and it required the pulling efforts of six of their horses to haul the ten-ton load. Each of the several wooden bridges along the road had to be carefully reinforced. At Edwards the rock-encased pothole was loaded onto a flatcar.

The pothole arrived safely at the Museum and it was placed in a conspicuous place before the south entrance. Today

it stands admired by the many visitors, a mute reminder of the time of the glaciers, a fateful period which produced such momentous physical changes in our St. Lawrence Valley and in the whole northern section of our country.

### Continuing History Road

Descending the hill and two hundred feet away is the bridge spanning Elm Creek. One should pause on this bridge. The platform of any bridge where the traffic doesn't hinder is a proper vantage point to view the surroundings.

The present iron bridge replaced a wood structure which was a simple truss. There was an upright post on each side called a 'king post' and from its top heavy timbers were fastened diagonally in both directions to the outer edges of the spanning timber at each bank of the stream. This type of early wooden bridge was quite commonly used where highways crossed the smaller streams.



Looking upstream to the left, you will notice that the creek flows through the flat land between wide meadows in a straight line. You will doubt that it is a natural channel and you will be right. The channel is a drainage ditch nearly half a mile long, a remarkable feat of hand shovel excavation. The heavy crops of native grass, before the advent of the horse-drawn mower, were laboriously cut with the handsythe, but help seemed available. An old neighbor recalls that she once saw, at sunrise, seven men handmoving in this meadow.

In the late nineties, the owner of the farm became tired of the lazy, zigzag movements of Elm Creek, which often erratically changed course and left pockets of wet land, 'sag-holes,' in the field. By geological measurement there is a drop of only four feet in over a mile and he decided to have a drainage channel dug. In attempting to learn about the origins of this ditch project in conversations with older people, the name of an Irishman professional ditch digger Peter Hurley from Richville keeps coming up. He is described as an undersized, weather-beaten man of natural courtesy. It is even asserted that he dug the drainage channel alone during one summer season. The very dimensions (four feet wide at bottom and four feet deep slanting to eight feet wide at the top) seem to preclude a one-man job as a physical impossibility and the feat would do credit to the mythical Paul Bunyan. It is more likely that Hurley was one of a crew, perhaps the boss.

One person, a contemporary of the event, says that a contractor from Malone with a crew of men, undertook the evacuations for at least part of the work and that his crew lodged in the old plank road toll house nearby on the Hermon-Edwards road. At least two farm owners above here had the Creek ditched across their lands.

(Continued on Page 4)

## HIGHWAYS

(Continued from Page 3)

The essential tool used was the round pointed shovel. Along with the gun and the axe, the shovel should be enshrined as the most important tool used in the development of our young republic. By its use, communication was carried on between the scattered settlements by shovel built roads like ours and the nearby railroad bed and canals, although our small canal was built not for travel but for drainage. This too was of prime importance in the making of the farms, as then agriculture was the leading occupation.

What may be a souvenir of the digging of this channel is a tobacco pipe found two years ago by Lester Hatch on the bottom of the channel. The pipe is of bright metal, probably pewter. Its deep bowl is an inch in diameter and has an inch long stem. It is a type not seen today.

The creek was partially tamed by the ditching but in winter it still overflows over a wide area, much to the joy of the neighborhood's younger inhabitants. As soon as the ice froze thickly enough, they put on their skates and skimmed over its broad glassy surface. The skates were then clamped securely to the shoe by a small built-in lever.

A short distance ahead the Clifton Railroad crossed the road and the old road embankment can be clearly traced on each side, head high above the fields which flank it. The terminus of this road was at East DeKalb. There it joined the Rome, Watertown and Ogdensburg Railroad, now the New York Central. Built in the late 1860's to haul the high grade magnetic ore from Clifton Mines, it was used only a few years and the track was demolished. The railroad bed follows the Elm Creek valley two miles further, then it turns easterly. After this turn the road, even grooves in the earth where the ties were placed, can be easily traced in many sections to the Russell Turnpike on its way to Clifton.

The rails were of wood laid on wood ties. Lengthwise on the upper side of the rails were fastened strips of iron two inches wide and a trifle over an inch thick. The wooden rails made an occupational hazard to one engineer, John Mills,

**Work crew removing historic pot hole.**

later postmaster at Canton. He recalled that often long sharp splinters of wood would be split off the rails and fly upward. One day while he was running the locomotive, one of the flying splinters tore the seat out of his overalls. This incident led him to promptly resign.

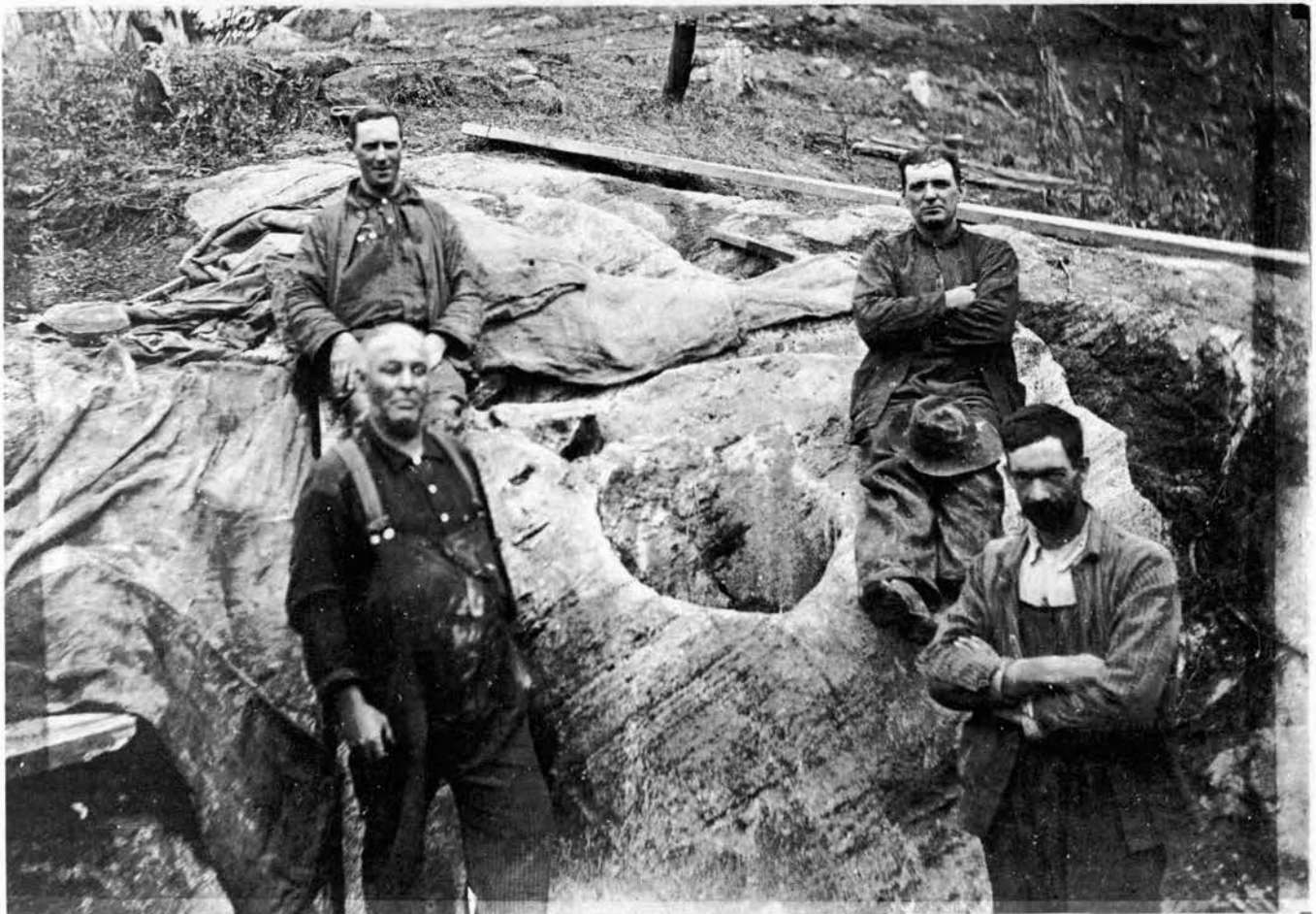


The Clifton Railroad engine was a wood burner and there was a wood yard in the meadow on the left side of the highway where the train could stop and take on wood kept piled there.

After leaving the railroad crossing, our road goes quietly and uneventfully straight on over a short distance to join the Hermon-Edwards road which once followed the latest mode of travel -- a fine plank road. Now it is busy concrete paved thoroughfare.

(I wish to thank Grover Hatch of Russell for furnishing a photo of the pothole and valuable information about it. Also thanks are due to Ray and Vernice Leonard for information about the Elm Creek channel, and the Clifton Road. Ray Leonard came to the farm through which the highway mentioned passes in 1900. Some of the information came through John Wescott, former owner. The author)

(See Map on Page 21)



# It was easy to fill 'er at Fuller's

By Irene J. Hardy

An old-time tavern I would like to tell about is The Fuller House. The Fuller House, which later became known as the Peck House, was located on the corner of Park and East Main Street in Gouverneur. It was built by C. F. Fuller and was opened in 1876 by Dan Peck. The place was eventually operated by his son Everett, who subsequently became operator of the old St. Lawrence Inn. The Fuller House was always used as a hotel and eating place while under the Pecks. In later years after the property changed hands, it was used for various types of businesses including a clothing store.

The following dinner was served on Sun. Aug. 19th 1883 at The Fuller House, according to a menu that at one time was in the possession of Mrs. William A. Van Duzee, William St. Such a dinner would be hard to find today.

## The Scene

Imagine a long, high-ceilinged dining room -- the kind we know today as the "old fashioned kind," with the bright Sunday sun streaming through its windows onto the freshly laundered tablecloths, the gleaming pyramids of napkins, and the starched uniforms of the softly gliding waitresses.

Gentlemen in sideburns and goatees, with high stiff collars and close-fitting coats, their ladies also in "Sunday best," with militant bustles covered by rustling taffeta or calico, and "rats" in their hair, lingered at the tables. The low hum of conversation buzzed through the air, amid clatter of dishes and tinkle of silverware.

The gentlemen and ladies at Sunday dinner on this day in 1883, began their repast with a choice of tomato or white bean soup, headed on the menu, as was every other course, by the large word "S-O-U-P-S." Next, under "B-O-I-L-E-D," came a choice of mutton, chicken with sliced lemon, or corned beef.

This disposed of, they attacked the "S-A-L-A-D-S" and "R-O-A-S-T-S." There were lobster, cabbage and shrimp salads, their choice of sirloin of beef with brown gravy, spare rib with applesauce, and loin of veal with raspberry jam.

Just about this time, proprietor Daniel Peck, resplendent in the silk plug hat which he never seemed to be without, would stroll through the dining room, with a cheery good-day for all, and queried "Everythin' all right, folks?"

Under "E-N-T-R-E-E-S," there was a large selection. One could have beef steak and onions, fried onions, corned beef and cabbage, baked pork and beans Boston style, fried apples and onion, or fricasseed chicken with cream biscuits. If "C-O-L-D D-I-S-H-E-S," were desired, there was lamb, corned beef, beef, veal and spare rib, and for relishes, the Fuller House menu listed mixed pickles, tomato catsup, plain pickles, chow chow, cold slaw, new onions, French olives, Worcestershire sauce, French capers, green cucumbers and French mustard.

Under "V-E-G-E-T-A-B-L-E-S," there were boiled potatoes, steamed potatoes, summer squash, hot slaw, green corn, new beets, mashed turnip, and cabbage and cream.

With all this under his belt, the diner could scan the desserts and pastries. He had his choice of apple pie, custard pie, blueberry pie, Martha Washington pie, Lemon meringue pie, or corn starch pudding with sweet cream. With this he ordered from a selection including brazil nuts, pecans, almonds, English walnuts, peanuts, hickory nuts, filberts, raisins, ribbon cake, coffee cake, lemon cake, French kinnes, 'sponge' cake, blackberries with cream, and vanilla ice cream. It must not be forgotten, in the interests of historical accuracy, that under "B-R-E-A-D-S" the Fuller House listed white bread, American cheese and crackers and graham bread.

The whole meal was accompanied by any one of three teas -- black, green or Japan, or ended by a steaming cup of coffee.

And those who remember, or those who have tasted this sumptuous dinner which was a matter of course to the Gouverneurites in those days of plenty, groan aloud with watering mouths as they recall that most important item -- the check. It generally read:

"One dinner -- 50¢."



The Spencer House on East Main St., Gouverneur, built by Dr. John Spencer in 1828-29. It burned Nov. 23, 1899. Photograph belongs to Mrs. Manley Spencer, loaned to Irene Hardy.

# Century Old Farm

By Allen Woodward, Jr., Historical Writing Contest Winner

In the spring of 1846, my great great grandfather, George Widrick, a Dutchman from Herkimer County, rented a piece of land under the DePeyster purchase. He cleared land for a one-room cabin and a small barn, but it was necessary to walk through a woods to get to it. After clearing more land he planted a crop.

He had rented the property under a landowner's agreement with an agent. But in 1847, hearing of a neighbor who was going to buy the property, he walked to Massena, leaving before daylight, to the nearest land office and bought the small tract of land. He and his wife Mary had three boys and two girls: James, Sylvester, Saranas (who was my great grandfather), Martha, and Emily.

About 1872 the present house was built and additions to the barn were made. A tool shed was built and more land was bought and cleared. The acreage now stands at approximately four hundred acres.

In 1883, great grandfather Saranas Widrick, married Cora Fieldson whose family had come from Canada and settled on the present Pope Mills state road. They lived on the home farm and took care of the George Widricks. Saranas and Cora were the parents of James and Edith, now deceased; George, Allen, Cassie (my grandmother), Roxie, Stillman, and Spencer, all living. Two other children had died in infancy.

In the 1890's the house was altered. The cream room which was used as a place for making butter, cheese, and storing milk was converted to a kitchen. The kitchen, which is now a living room, still has a pantry or "butlery," as known in those days. The parlor is not shut off as it used to be and is the main living room today. Both living rooms have bedrooms off them as they used to before the house was converted.

After the death of his parents, Saranas took over the farm and paid off his brothers. They had died on the home farm and were buried in the Purmort Cemetery, town of DePeyster, where most of my Widrick relatives are buried.

On December 10, 1913 Cassie Widrick, my grandmother, married Gerald Thornhill, a cheesemaker. My grandfather ran many cheese factories in St. Lawrence County. While living in and running a cheese factory in the town of Macomb they had a daughter, Irma, who is my mother.

My great grandfather, Saranas, died in 1940, leaving the farm to James and Spencer (his oldest and youngest sons.) In 1943 my grandparents purchased the farm and went to live there. The legend goes that Saranas, my great grandfather, called the farm Rocky View because as far as he could see there was nothing but rocks.

More buildings have been built and improved.

Even though the deed is now in the Thornhill name, the farm is still occupied by a Widrick descendant, my grandmother, Cassie Widrick Thornhill.



A Century Old Farm Rocky View



Farm house which replaced first log cabin. Present house has been considerably altered, Great, great grandparents of the author stand in front of home with members of their family.

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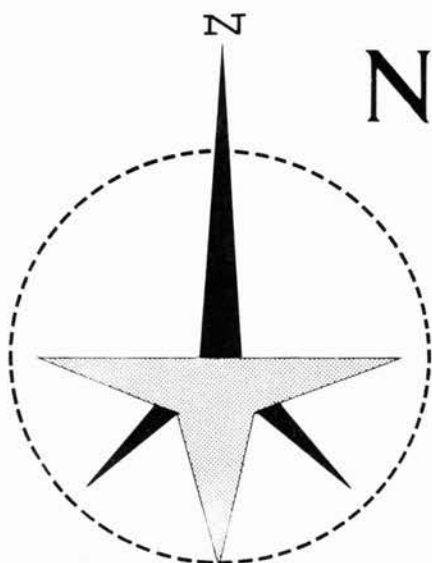
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## arching the floods-



First bridge mentioned at Nicholville was a low one which could not last through spring freshets. C. E. Sanford tells that Samuel Goodell after being captured by British in raid on Hopkinton in 1814 was forced to drive a team across a bridge on way to Malone. He thought of driving horses off bridge onto the ice hoping to break through so it must have been a low one which followed the first ford crossing, a half mile downstream from present bridge.

Between 1817 and 1830 a second bridge was built downstream from present bridge. A freshet in 1830 wiped out the dam, bridge and mills.

A foot bridge was built at once to work on bridge number three, new mills and a dam. Hopkinton's side sported 3 mills, a starch factory, tannery and distillery. Lawrence had a grist mill, saw mill, butter factory as well as a hotel, 2 general stores and blacksmith. In Nicholville village there was a thriving village with churches, businesses and societies.

It was an uncovered bridge with wooden sides built up 5-6 feet, enclosed and probably housing crossed plank supports. It no doubt rotted after sixty years of use because of non-protection, and collapsed in 1896 under the weight of a tank truck drawn by animals (horses or mules?).

By Mrs. Gordon L. Cole  
Town of Lawrence Historian

The current construction of the Nicholville - Hopkinton bridge across the east branch of the St. Regis River at Nicholville, New York, brings to mind former bridges which spanned this stream in earlier years.

Prior to 1810 the river was forded.

However about 1810 the first bridge was built here.

This bridge together with Samuel Wilson's dam above it and his mill below it, both built in 1817, and his grist mill built in 1822 were all swept away in the heavy freshet of June, 1830.

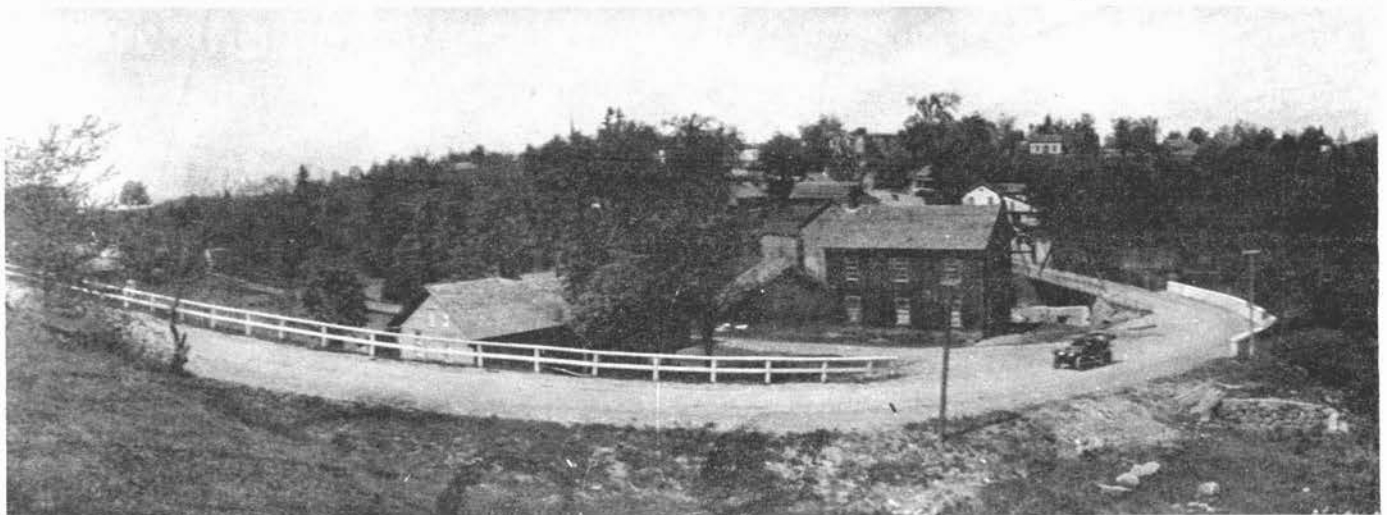
The bridge built soon after the freshet (1830) was a plain wooden affair of 4 or 5 spans which with repairs lasted until 1868 when a new bridge took its place.

The number of spans was reduced to two and a stone archway, the foundations being of stone.

George Everett was commissioner of the Town of Lawrence and F. A. Brush of Hopkinton and the work was done under the supervision of George N. Swift of Potsdam. The total expense exceeded \$10,000.

This bridge lasted until 1896 when in May of that year a Mr. James Alguire driving a distributing tank of the Potsdam branch of Standard Oil Company was crossing the bridge with his team of horses when the needle beams of the bridge gave way letting some 24 feet of the bridge together with the whole rig fall 21 feet below into the pond.

(Continued next page)





## a century and a half of Nicholville bridges

Mr. Alguire found himself beneath the horses in several feet of water but neither he nor the horses were injured and they were soon rescued by the help of nearby men.

The load consisted of 6 barrels of oil and tank and team teighing 4 tons which was too great a weight for the decaying timbers.

So in 1896 a new bridge was erected, this one of steel with a high truss and riveted consisting of 2 spans of 103 and 77 feet, the Lawrence side lengthened to provide a firmer foundation on solid rock.

This bridge was built by the St. Albans Construction Company for a total of nearly \$5,000.00 including foundation work.

This bridge was followed by the present cement bridge built, it is reported, in 1924 and 25 and which is now to be replaced down the river apiece by a much more ambitious engineering feat involving modern techniques in construction.

This will completely eliminate the steep decent with curve into the valley between Hopkinton and Nicholville sides of the stream.

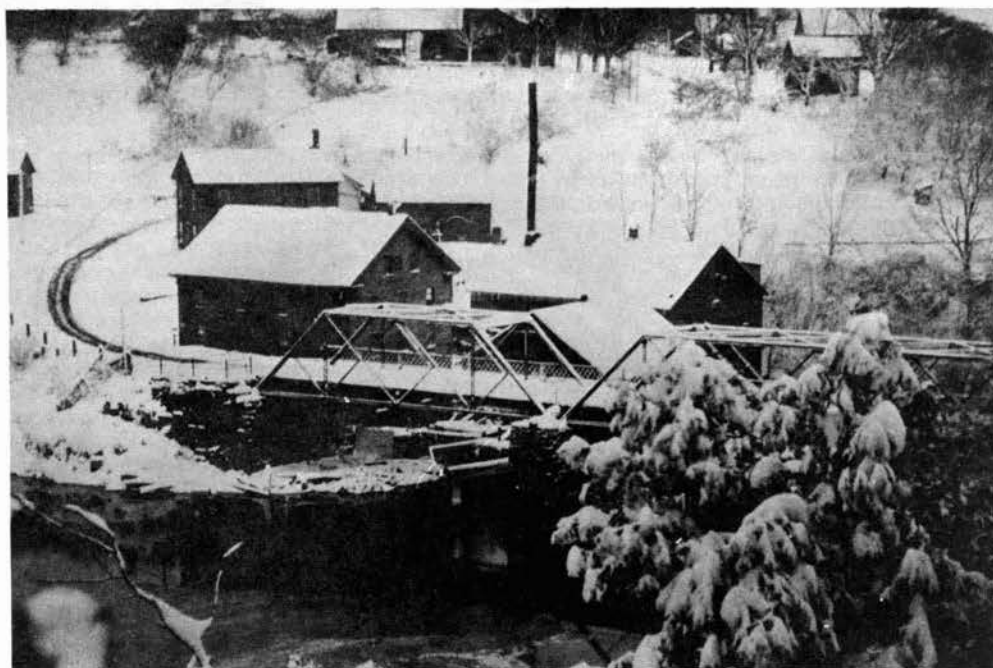
Although only one fatality has occurred here over the years, this section of Route 11-B has been viewed with some apprehension by those who have passed through it.

The rerouting of this bridge in 1967-1968 has necessitated some hardship and forfeiture of old landmarks and reportedly the loss of more than 60 of our beautiful maples and Elms.

The finest house in our village, at the top of Nicholville Hill and currently owned by Wessley Kingsley is one of the fatalities. This house was built by Lyman Day for his wife Cornelia McEwen Day in the year 1859, the carpenter being Lyman Page.

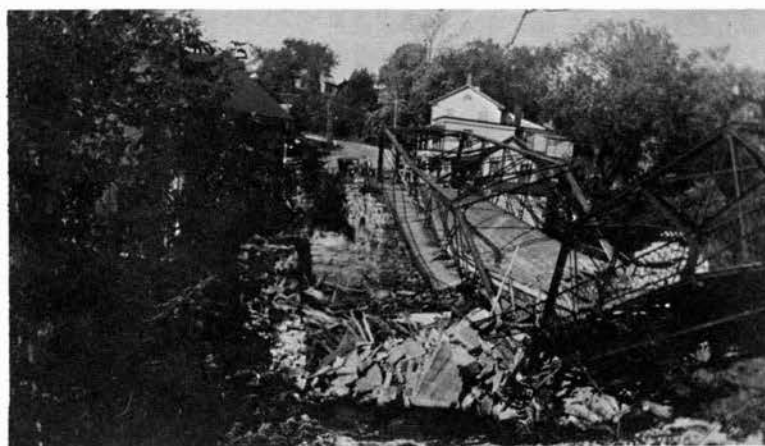
The specification and cost of this modern bridge are found in the following newspaper clipping of Nov. 19, 1966 and I quote:

J. Burch McMoran, state Superintendent of Public Works announced receipt of a low bid of \$1,020,940 from Thomason and Perry Inc., Troy, for re-



Bridge four was a two span iron bridge with plank floor. An autumn flood in 1924 crumbled part of the central pier and one span dropped into the swollen East Branch of the St. Regis.

The impact of vehicular traffic on bridge number five has left crumpled and crumbling, battered and bruised the concrete structure completed in winter of 1926-27.



New number six, 85 feet in the center above the water will be more than 400 feet from one bank to the other. Abandoned dugways will leave 5 houses on Lawrence side and 20 on Hopkinton side in hollow and at top of bank. Roads on either side will revert to the towns.

construction of 0.76 mile of section of Route 72. The bridge will be a concrete and steel three span structure, 433-feet long and 30-feet wide....Scheduled for completion by Oct. 1, 1968, all work will be under the supervision of James C. Norton, District Engineer in charge of the Department's District Office at Watertown, N.Y."

The highway will be rebuilt with a 24-foot wide asphalt concrete pavement. Additional lanes for turning at the inter-

In writing this article on the Bridges of Nicholville I wish to acknowledge the news notes of the late Mr. E.A Wood who was our able and conscientious News Correspondant for over 30 years, from 1887 to 1918, the year of his death.

# things I remember

(Contributed)

I LIKE TO REMEMBER when in our small towns, the railroad tracks that usually bisected it were the chief attraction to small children, boys and girls alike.

In those days, pennies were worth much more than they are today, and a penny could buy many things that appealed to small children, like a licorice stick or an all day sucker.

But, every boy had to hold one back in order to place it on the railroad track, then sit and wait for the wheels of a train to mash it flat. If a boy didn't have a penny, flattened by a passenger train, he just wasn't a boy.

Girls, more thrifty of pennies than boys, would place two pins cross-wise on the track, and when the wheels of the train had rolled over them, they would have a perfect miniature pair of scissors.

In those times, the roadbed of railroads were not as well laid as they are now, and at the approach of a train, the rails would begin to vibrate. So, you had to be careful, making sure that the pennies or pins were placed in the exact center of the rail. Otherwise, the vibration would shake and bounce the pins and pennies clear off the rails.

Of course our parents took a dim view of our even approaching the railroad tracks. But, nothing attracts as something which is forbidden, so in spite of their warnings, we spent many a pleasant hour beside the railroad tracks.

As we boys grew older and learned the rudiments of poker hands, we would have many an exciting hour playing "box car poker."

It was a simple game to play, but you had to be alert to read the numbers on the box cars as they sped down in front of you. Every hand in poker except a flush and a straight flush could be duplicated in the numbers stenciled on the passing box cars. But, in order to form a poker hand they had to be consecutive numbers. Thus 99988, would be an unbeatable full house. And a box car bearing the consecutive numbers of 9999 would be the highest "four of a kind" that was possible.

Likewise, 12345 would represent a "straight" of the lowest value, and the consecutive numbers of 56789 would be the highest. Do you remember?

# The President's Message

We have been coasting along this year on the momentum generated through the dedicated work of a few during the past years. We want your ideas for tours during the next years, as this will surely help the new program chairman. Won't you drop your president or editor a line with an idea for a tour in YOUR section?

Also, remembering this year's motto, "Every member REALLY get a REAL new member," how many potential new members have you told about our wonderful association?

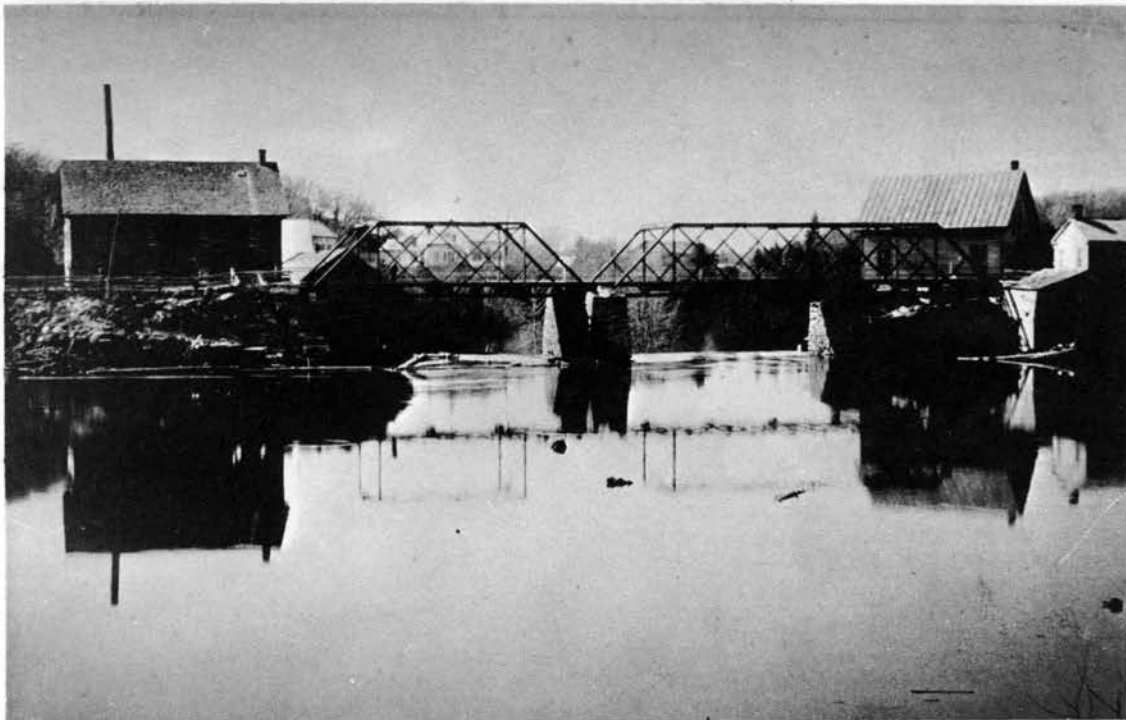
Team work is very important. We all are working toward the goal of this Association, "To promote, stimulate and preserve the artifacts and writings of the people of our county." We can all help.

W. B. VanBuren

## OGDENSBURG FLASHBACK

By George Liebler

When Nathan Ford returned to Ogdensburg in 1796, (He had previously been here in 1794 to survey the territory for Samuel Ogden) he quickly realized the need for roads -- to get the pioneers into this territory. Consequently he set out to build a road to Long Falls, which is today called Carthage. The road was completed in 1801. Narrow and rutty it was. . .but still a road and many early pioneers found their way over it. There were no bridges. . .and both the Oswegatchie and Indian Rivers had to be forded. The road led to Rossie by way of Black Lake and on to Oxbow, Antwerp and Carthage. When Washington Irving, the famed writer came to visit his friends the Ogdens, in Ogdensburg in 1803, he used Nathan Ford's Road. Today with our vibrationless transportation over highways and thruways it is hard to appreciate the hardships our forefathers were obliged and willing to endure.



# heydey DeGrasse at Pyrites

By Lawrence G. Bovard and George Newman

Mr. S. L. Barnhart conceived the idea of burning sulphur to make acid from the iron sulphur (pyrites) which abounds in the vicinity of Pyrites. Prevailing upon a group of holders of timber rights in the Adirondacks, and investors in the new electric company, which had surplus energy, these men built a sulphite pulp producing mill, incorporated under the laws of West Virginia as the High Falls Sulphite & Mining Co., capital \$75,000. Mr. George Z. Erwin was president; W. R. Weed vice-president; G. E. Sanford secretary; H. B. Barnhart treasurer; H. L. Ives and S. L. Barnhart directors. Julius Spiro of Watertown was in charge of operations.

Production began on November 3, 1893, but after running a short time the mill was shut down to repair the two cement lined acid pulp digesters, perhaps because of poor cement mixture, too strong acid solution, or some other reason. E. A. Everett of Potsdam was appointed manager. During August of 1901 the company tore down the high acid condensing tower and made acid from purchased sulphur, and began receiving pulpwood from Lower Canada via the St. Lawrence River to Ogdensburg, rail to Eddy and private railroad to the mill.

On December 24, 1902, E. A. Everett of Potsdam, together with Mark S. Wilder and James O. Outerson, both of Carthage, announced that a new papermill would be built at Pyrites retaining the existing facilities. This mill would be called "DeGrasse River Paper Company," capital \$500,000. Drawings were released in April, and by October 7th construction was underway. Roof completed in January, 1904, the mill produced about 15 tons of pulp and 35 tons of finished newsprint by April of that year. On its Board of Directors were Frederick L. Dewey, Potsdam; George H. Bowers, Canton, assistant treasurer; Frank A. Augsbury, Antwerp, treasurer and manager of the Board, and his brother Willard A. Augsbury, also of Antwerp. The mill soon became larger and more productive, finally reaching a peak of 200 tons a day, employing over 500 men.



Management. Mr. Augsbury, third left; Mr. Outerson extreme right.

To produce this amount of finished newsprint required considerable specialized equipment. For the steam cooking pulp there were two coal-burning and one sawdust-burning boilers at the old end of the plant; a chipper room where rotating knives sliced into four inch chips the two and four foot-long spruce and hemlock "bolts" for easier acid dissolving the lignum holding the cellulose fibers together. The sulphur burning room, sulphite washout tubs and five digesters were located at the far end of the mill on account of the fumes, or perhaps because they were already there. The beater room with six beaters was a most important building for it was here that the beater men mixed the sulphite and

the ground wood pulp in the right amounts to form a suitable sheet of paper, as the ground wood pulp was far less costly to produce, though shorter in length and tensile strength.

The fluid pulp was next pumped to the papermaking machine room, passing over long revolving wide "Fourdrinier" screens to allow 90 per cent of the conveying water to fall out and the paper sheets to form. The screens oscillate or shake rapidly to mat or web the fibers. The wet sheet traveling about 500 feet per minute is then directed over, under and thru a long line of vacuum rolls, hot rolls and cooler ones. Finally, it is wound up in large rolls to be slit to size, wrapped and shipped.

There were two 146" wide paper machines; one 115 inch and one 105 inch. In the basement was located the 72" machine, nicknamed the "Mudmachine" as it ran on purchased scrap paper, mill tailings, etc., anything suitable to produce a thick wrapping paper. Much water was needed to float the pulp from one stage to another; to wash the spent acid from the sulphite. Heat was needed for drying the sheet, which was supplied by two banks of Wilson Scotch Safety boilers. Electric power was used for the various motors but the largest consumers were the 1200 HP motors driving the grindstones in the basement. The paper machines were each driven by four-cylinder high-pressure "L" type engines, 2 horizontal and 3 verticle cylinders, coupled directly to center of line shafts.

Two locomotive engines owned by the Company hauled the eight carloads of coal required daily, and the many cars of Canadian pulpwood from Eddy station over the Company's own tracks to the mill, as well as returning the finished paper back to the Central.

The finished product was sold to the "New York World" under a long term contract which later allowed little profit to most of the original stockholders, who sold their shares to that company. In 1917, Donald C. Seitz, formerly of Canton, was Business Manager of the "World" and he kept Frank A. Augsbury in full charge of the mill and the timber operations.

It is impossible to record all the former employees; Harry Stone, millwright, balanced the grindstones to perfection; Frank Potter was groundwood supt.; Ernie Newman, head of the machine shop; Ned Patten, stockkeeper; Jerry Mahoney, Sulphite supt.; the Murdock, Hawes and Derby boys in the office. Later Frank Talbott was manager and John Gately, Supt.

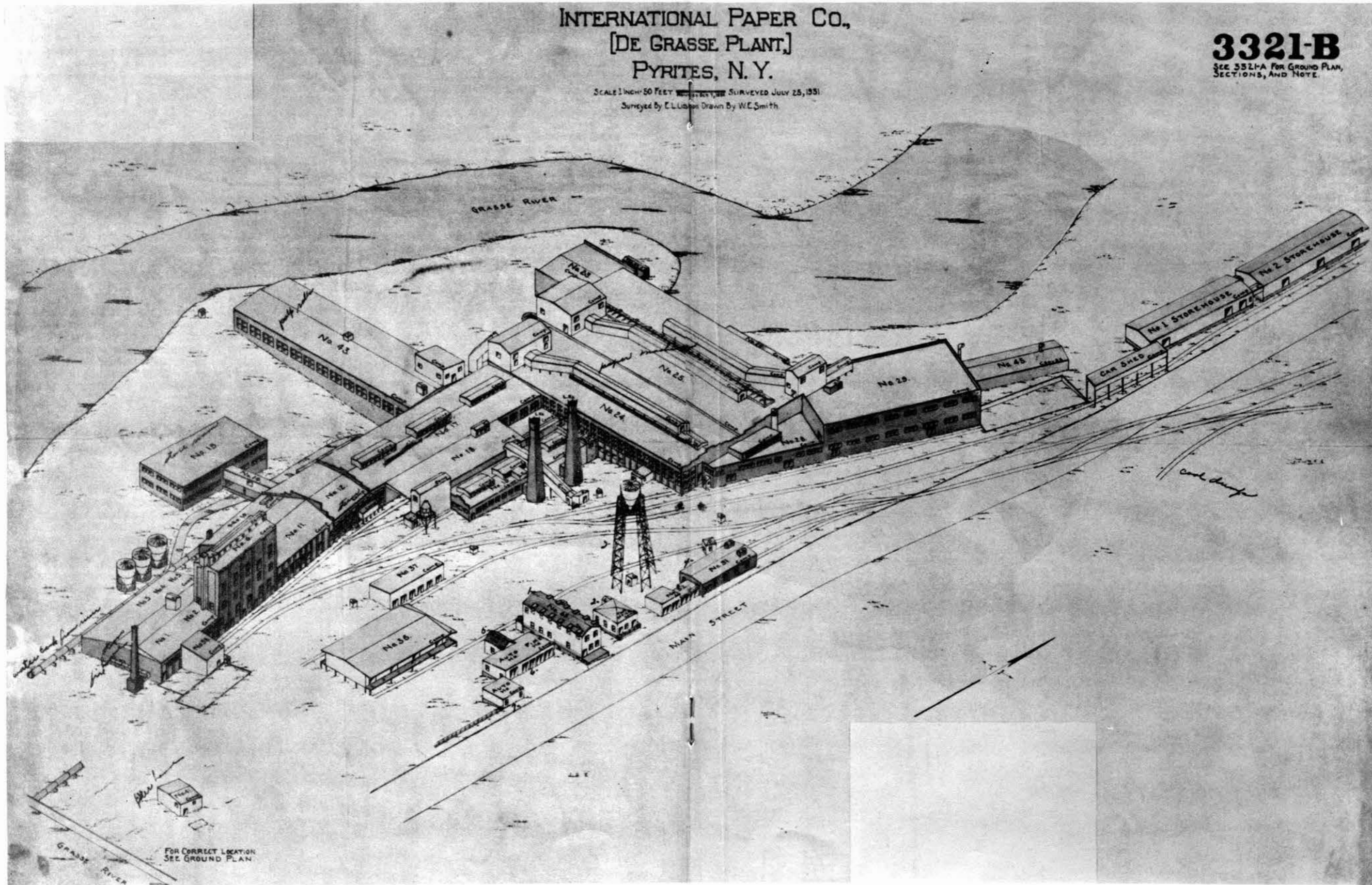
About 1925, E. A. Charlton, assistant Stuart Kay and chemist Adolph Wendler came to Pyrites to experiment with a coated paper. Much friction developed among the groups -- a stray

(Continued on Page 14)



Switch engine on trestle

# Heydey of Pyrites



(DEGRASSE, Continued from Page 11)

rubberboot into the beaters to be shredded, or a vagrant brick to leave red specks on the finished sheet. Later Mr. Charlton displaced Mr. Talbott. It is stated that Mr. Charlton was instrumental in having the International Paper Co. in 1927 purchase the "World" Pyrites mill, as well as their other mill at Norway, Maine, which had considerable timber holdings.

Although the company had a payroll of \$15,000 a week, when potatoes were fifty cents a bushel, with most of it spent in Canton, there was some feeling against the mill. In 1919, Canton village sued for \$250,000 damages, sustained by water pollution of the Grass River, and was awarded \$20,000 and costs. During 1922 the Town of Canton built a 14-foot-road to Pyrites.

The mill had its own Fire Dept. First, horse drawn and hand drawn hose reels. About 1915 they bought two Chevrolet chassis and mill carpenters built the cabs and hose carrying bodies. Each fireman was paid \$2.00 every time the fire whistle sounded, and was fined \$3.00 by his mates if AWOL. This money was placed in the Labor Day and the St. Pat's Day funds. The company sponsored baseball teams; each department had its team, sometimes with "imported" talent.

The village, located on privately owned land a short distance from the millsite, was marked out into seven blocks, 182 building lots in all. A. B. Churchill built most of the houses on Churchill St. Pelton's store was on Broadway; Kelly's store is still active. Mrs. Ethel Kelly, whose father built the Rushton House which had 13 rooms, was postmistress 36 years. Ed O'Brien came to Pyrites to run a hotel for Mr. Augsbury, later built one for himself. Nearer the mill were the Polish boarding house and the Italian boarding house. Murray's in the village proper had a large room upstairs which was used as a Catholic Chapel, a schoolroom and a Union Hall. The Crane Memorial Chapel is now used by the Boy Scouts.

On Saturday morning June 24th, 1930, Mr. Baker, manager of the mill, received a wire from the New York office ordering the mill closed July first, and shortly thereafter the machinery was removed by the Ruderman Machinery Exchange of Gouverneur. The employees moved to other company mills, or other trades, and today the mill is a mass of deliberately broken concrete fragments, the company houses removed to other villages and to Ogdensburg. There remain in Pyrites very few of the 1500 citizens who made Pyrites "Py-rut-tees."



Locomotive back of papermachine room



Company houses, taken about 1908



Sunday, on the porch of the company hotel, Pyrites

### Key to Centerfold Map

DeGrasse River Plant -- International Paper Co. --Map 3321 B

Tabulation by George Newman

**Buildings:**

- 1 Sulphite Boiler Room
  - 2 Chipper Room
  - 3 Sulphur Burning Room
  - 4/5 Sulphite washout tubs
  - 6 Sulphite digester room
  - 10 Machine Shop
  - 11 Acid making section
  - 12 Carpenter and tinsmith shop
  - 14 Bridge from carpenter shop to stock bldg.
  - 15 Stock room
  - 17 Beater room
  - 18 Unloading shed for beater room
  - 19 Papermill Boiler Room, stacks 155 high
  - 20 Boiler pumps and condensor room
  - 23 Electric power substation
  - 24 Small papermachine room
  - 25 Large papermachine room
  - 26 Testing laboratory
  - 28 Old shipping room, later used as grinder room for press rolls and calendar stack rolls
  - 29 New shipping building
    - First floor shipping & cutting room
    - Second, storage for felts, canvas, wires
  - 31 Shed for two yard locomotives
  - 32 Building for truck, tractor, track handcar, tools
  - 36 Lumber and cement shed
  - 37 Junk brass and copper shed
  - 38 Shed over sulphite boiler room coal bunker
  - 41 Filter building, water for paper machines
  - 43 Ground wood pulp building; full basement is a pulp tank; first floor, pulp screens and lap machines
  - 44 Electric Company's parts building
  - 45 Wrapper machine building
- \* \* \*
- 1 Main business office, basement housing two fire trucks
  - 2 Time office and punch card clocks
  - 3 Water tower
  - 4 Locomotive house
  - 5 Paint shop
  - 6 Main garage
  - 7 Manager's garage
  - 1 Storage shed for waste paper for wrapping machine
  - 2 Storage shed for purchased scrap newspapers



Front view of mill, taken from log chute.



Logs in front of dam

# The Power of an Idea

Notes from the late Charles H. Brush

Some years ago in a pasture on the east bank of Lyd Brook at Hopkinton, downstream about 40 rods from the Military Turnpike of early history, lay a granite boulder of several tons weight, with a hole of about 8 inches square cut into its upper surface. It was a complete mystery to the few who saw it until recent years when complete evidence of its use was brought to light.

Historian C. E. Sanford became greatly interested, and starting an investigation was able to record these events in his "History of the Town of Hopkinton" along with some information later added by Charles H. Brush:

During the War of 1812 Ebenezer Frost, a young blacksmith from Barton, Vt., attached himself to the U. S. Cavalry as horseshoer and general blacksmith at Plattsburgh. At the close of the War he wended his way through the woods to the enterprising young village of Hopkinton, looking for work at his trade as general blacksmith.

Most of the iron in use at interior points was at that time Swedish wrought in all forms and sizes, but of short lengths since heavier pieces could not easily be brought in. To draw it out into lengths for wagon tires, and pound it down into small pieces for horse and ox shoes and other small articles, required much time and hard work. Frost conceived the idea of saving time and muscle work by using mechanical power.

He bought a strip of land extending from the North and South road back to the brook which here has a rapid descent. Building a dam of stone and timber, he erected a few rods below it a building which came to be known as the Trip Hammer Shop. It housed the boulder, selected for its weight and solidity to support the heavy anvil which evidently had a square projection on the under side. To receive this a square hole 8 inches in length, breadth and depth was carefully cut. Power from a water wheel was used to raise the giant hammer. It could be tripped at the desired time and height to fall with great force on the heated iron on the anvil, moved and turned about by men with large tongs. The trip hammer shop was the forerunner of the mighty rolling mills of today.

Charles Brush's grandfather Eliphalet Brush was one of the six Hopkinton pioneers of 1802. Money was an exceedingly scarce article, trade being by barter. The doctor, minister and merchant alike were glad to get their pay in any conceivable farm produce. Each man kept an account of his credits, and at intervals they balanced to see which was ahead. Grandfather Brush's old day book has accounts with nearly every man in town. The following items were entered in 1815 with E. Frost:

"Ebenezer Frost to E. Brush, Dr.

To cutting and hauling timber for shop sleepers. . .	\$.125
To hauling iron. . . . .	\$1.00
To drawing anvil. . . . .	\$1.50
To use of oxen, 8 days. . . . .	\$.800
To 2 1/2 pounds of butter. . . . .	.50¢"

Despite its good work, the venture was not profitable. The property was seized and sold under execution in 1820 for a small sum. How long the building stood, no one knows, but the die stone remained in its original position until recently. It was a wonder that it had not cracked by the freezing of water each winter in the square cut hole, or even been broken up for use in road building.

Frost then moved his family to Canton, where he opened another similar shop, but using horse power to raise the hammer. This also failed. Moving to Canada he made another effort at Hawksbury, Ontario, failing again, followed by a similar attempt at Hull. This succession of failures would have downed any ordinary man. But Frost was made of sterner stuff. With utter faith in the soundness of his original idea, he made another start at Smith's Falls, Ont., in 1839. Profiting by his earlier mistakes, he began in a small way with the making of plows, farm kettles, etc., gradually expanding the business until his became the greatest farm implement firm in Canada, employing hundreds of men, with branches all over the Dominion and even in Europe. In 1939 the Frost & Weed Co. of Smith's Falls celebrated its centennial.

Canton has laid claim to being the starting point of Frost's career, but Hopkinton clearly has that distinction with the evidence to prove it, Mr. Brush claims. Frost's first wife was one of the ten children of Abijah Chandler, a Hopkinton pioneer. Following her death, he married Caroline Harwood, from another pioneer family of that section.

Several of their sons attained distinction. George was graduated from McGill as a Civil engineer. In 1875 he founded the "Engineering News" at Chicago, removing it to New York in 1880, where it became the greatest engineering publication in the world, according to Mr. Brush. Charles and Francis joined their father, succeeding to the presidency, vice presidency and as general manager of the Frost & Weed Co., Ltd. Francis was elected to the Dominion Parliament, was appointed to the Senate, becoming one of Canada's distinguished citizens. The youngest son William headed a great iron manufacturing company of his own.

Ebenezer Frost was typical of the men to whom all progress is due. Deep thinkers, refusing to be bound by precedent, with faith in the soundness of their conceptions, they persisted in the face of crushing failures and the ridicule of their fellowmen, until they had achieved success. Someone has written, "On the plains of hesitation bleach the bones of countless millions who, on the eve of victory, sat down to rest, and resting died." Ebenezer Frost DID NOT sit down to rest.

It is expected that in the near future the town and village of Hopkinton will erect a suitable marker near the boulder, now moved to the village park, calling attention to the ingenuity and perseverance of one of its early pioneers.



Granite boulder used in early trip hammer shop in Hopkinton, idea of Ebenezer Frost, (Photo by Edi-mar, courtesy of "Top o' the State.") (Material supplied by Neva Day, town of Hopkinton Historian).

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**HAVE YOU  
CONTRIBUTED  
TO THE  
BUILDING FUND ?**

# Flour and Feed, Lumber and Seed

By Harriet Colton

Claude Colton born on a farm at Colton Hill, town of Fine in 1876, the youngest son of Ezra and Mary Ward Colton, will be remembered as owner of the feed mill at Oswegatchie for many years, as well as supervisor of the town at one time.

During the year Claude was 14, he and his mother milked 14 cows morning and night while his Dad was away at work. Claude's actual years in school were 6, but he gained a broad education in business and travel. Later he worked in his dad's general store at Lower Oswegatchie. He told of being ill and eventually deciding his health would improve if he was away from the candy supply.

In 1898 Claude married Kitty Jacot and for a time lived with father and mother Colton. Ezra had built a feed mill along the bank of Little River in 1894 and when Claude was 19 he bought the mill. One night in 1921 that mill burned and it was generally believed that it was accidentally set when someone ran out of gas traveling up the hill, backed down and while siphoning gas from the mill truck accidentally overturned the lantern which may have started the fire.

The feed mill was rebuilt the same year, it also being the year Brown's Falls dam was being constructed and many outsiders came to work on the dam bringing their teams with them. This meant much grain was needed for the horses.

During the day while construction of the mill was in progress, it was impossible to grind, therefore at night Loyd Ward, the right-hand man, would grind often until one, two or three o'clock in the morning getting grain ready for the following day. No windows or doors were yet in the building and Nellie, being the usual worrying wife, would take son Lester, then about 4 years old, to the mill and there he slept atop the feed bags while Nellie waited for Loyd to finish the grinding.

In conjunction with the feed mill was the saw mill run by water power from its beginning until the last log was sawed and planed in 1956. Each spring it was anyone's guess whether the dam would leak or go out when the ice went out of the river.

Years ago in early spring the log teams would at times be lined up as far back as the cheese factory waiting for logs to be scaled and unloaded. The saw mill would run full force while the water lasted, some days it being necessary to wait for the dam to fill before sawing could continue. In later years the logs were brought by truck and as more men went to Jones & Laughlin to work, the sawing operation gradually dwindled and most lumber was shipped to the Oswegatchie siding on the Carthage and Adirondack railroad, then trucked to the mill.

Many well known residents of Oswegatchie were employed at the mill during its years of operation. Some were: Lawrence Adams, John Baxter, John Bradley, Charles Bowman, John Durham, Sr., Rollin Colton, Emory Kerr, Max Morrison, Ivan Scott, Jay Stephens, Elmer Marsh, George Snider and Mr.

McCullum. The best known was Loyd Ward, who worked there for 40 years, first for Claude, later for Ellis Colton and until his retirement for William Trudo formerly of Lyons Falls to whom Ellis sold the mill. To this day some people still believe that Loyd is really Mr. Colton.



Loyd Ward's 35th year at the Feed Mill. Taken during the summer of 1951, from left to right: Whitey Ward, Ellis Colton, Claude Colton, Loyd Ward.



Mill and Dam at Oswegatchie, town of Fine. House in background was home of Clarence and Dorothy Virkler. It burned.

Lower Oswegatchie between 1914 and 1921. On the right across the bridge was Ivan Scott's house. Feed Mill on the left. Baptist Church in the background.



(Continued on Page 20)



## editors comment

Some things invariably quicken the pulse and give satisfaction. This is good for the soul and spurs us on to greater effort. The first spring blossoms poking through last year's leaf cover; the sight of a flight of geese overhead; a St. Lawrence sunset; a child's delight at the sight of a birthday cake; a "well done" from one's boss; the spanking white of a freshly painted and lovely building.

For the latter, we hope that every one of our donors has the opportunity to feel the satisfaction of taking part in making possible the fresh sparkle of the Richville building. Your contributions have preserved, repaired and cared for our outstanding fine Greek revival repository building.

Now it will be up to us to continue from here. If we are ever to display our many artifacts, we must be spurred on to greater effort -- not merely in funds, but in interest and in time.

If every member gave only ONE DOLLAR each year toward the Building Fund, we could accomplish great things. If every member gave even ONE HOUR of time and effort, we could do much more. How can you and I help? Surely in SOME way. Do what you can in time, effort or funds. It is YOUR building, YOUR collection, the mirror of YOUR past.

Put a future in your past, by contributing whatever only YOU can.

MHB

## September Tour

As guests of the Hammond 4-H - FFA Fair Sept. 8-9, we assisted town historian Maxine Rutherford and our Fair Committee in setting up a booth on the Handcrafts of the past for both women and men. Usual good weather!

### WATCH FOR, NEXT YEAR

Two tours already are being planned -- one to Higley Flow (Colton) and to Sunday Rock. The other will be a visit to our sister association in their new home in Malone, Franklin County. Programs will go on all year in Ogdensburg as part of their City Centennial -- or the celebration of their loss of "h."

### SUMMER TOURS

We had our usual good weather for both summer tours. The Open House at Richville was well attended; a fine turnout for a wonderful lunch and added \$50 to our Special Building Fund with a Food-Plus-Other sale, with \$30 in sales of our new stationery (which incidentally may be purchased at all times at the History Center in Canton for \$1.00 per box.)

We dedicated the plaque to six deceased members who had done much for our Association and in whose memory funds had been designated in the Special Building Fund.

In August we filled several buses with members and friends for a look at Parishville. A superb lunch and visit to the Parishville Historical Museum followed. See our front cover for reminder. Well-done booklets on Parishville were given to those participating and we thank Historian Elsie Bresee and the Parishville Historical Association for being such good hosts.

Undeliverables cost your Association 3 ways -- going, coming back, remailing at non-bulk rate.

# notice!

## ANNUAL MEETING

The Annual Meeting will be held Saturday, Oct. 14 at the American Legion Hall in Winthrop. Brasher historian Mae Murray is in charge of arrangements. Be sure to be on hand at 12 noon for luncheon, election of officers, annual reports and program. Speaker will be Senior Historian at the Department of Archives and History in Albany, J. F. vonDaacke, who succeeded Dr. William G. Tyrrell. Surprise drama and music also. We welcome also guests from the Franklin County Historical Association.

# TOP O' THE STATE

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by

Edith L. Costa,

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(from a Historian Project 1966)

Shinin' up to -- fancies, courting  
 It's making ice today (Hammond) -- a cold day colder (or hotter) than all git out (DeKalb) -- very corn strammung around (Matildaville or Colton) -- gadding needlessly  
 glom on to (various) -- grab, get ahold of  
 gop, gawp -- gape, gawk  
 gom, gawm -- act stupidly, awkwardly  
 unfriz -- thawed out, warmed up  
 hoot and a holler -- short or small amount  
 change his didies -- diapers  
 full of didoes (fractious) -- mischievous  
 (More next issue -- let us hear yours!)

# Our members work History's Servant

By Paul A. Russell, For All Lisbon Yorkers

It was spring 1942 and the people of the United States were at war. What is more, they and their allies were fighting losing battles in every part of the world. While the United States gathered its strength for the long war ahead, the enemy marched triumphantly through the Far East, Africa, and even into Russia. It was a time when a proud nation, faced with the possibility of total defeat, had to devote itself exclusively to the huge task of eventual victory.

War itself, however, forces men and women to consider their heritage as well as their future. It demands a kind of patriotism, a kind of common agreement that there is something worth fighting for, something worth preserving. So while some men worked to assure practical success against the enemy -- training for the Army and the Navy and the Air Force, and putting into production the necessary supplies -- others worked with the people, adults and children, so that they would be prepared mentally and spiritually for the struggle ahead.

It was only one small part of the statewide program when, in Albany in the spring of 1942, it was decided that state and local history would be incorporated into school curriculums primarily at the 7th grade level, but it began a movement still active 25 years later. In Cooperstown, New York, the leaders of the State Historical Association, anxious to do their part in the world struggle, saw a chance to supplement the new requirement for the social studies curriculum and created Yorkers, junior members of the Association. Dr. Dixon Ryan Fox, the president and Dr. Clifford L. Lord, the director, who shortly was to become an officer in the United States Navy, put the Yorker program into the capable hands of Miss Mary E. Cunningham. The beginnings were slow, only a handful of students and four sponsors, among whom was Lisbon's Miss Rachel Dandy.

In September of 1944, the first group in Saint Lawrence County to organize as a Yorker Club was the Lisbon Chapter. Since then there have been at least one or two chapters, and sometimes even three and four chapters at Lisbon Central. At present there are three. And under the burden of all the work and responsibility is one of the "patriarchesses" of Yorker Clubs, Rachel Dandy. She still spends nine full periods a day, and usually more, in the service of history. Say some of her students:

"She's so nice, one of the nicest teachers I've ever had!"

"She's always so helpful and she sees that you learn."

"She is always there when she's needed."

Say her former students:

"You really never appreciate a good teacher like Miss Dandy until you reach high school and don't have her anymore."

And her students DID learn. Many Senior students today can relate early names and dates associated with Lisbon's history. Names like Samuel Allen, Andrew O'Neil, Fort de Levis, 1760, Chimney Island, the Northern Railroad, and Red Mills, are still familiar to students away from her classes for five years. When a Senior can still remember the history taught him in the 7th grade, it means that somewhere he has found a source of inspiration and a will to learn, and that someone has made sure he did learn; that someone is Miss Dandy. For the 20th Anniversary Issue of the Yorker Magazine, Miss Dandy wrote:

"I was born in Lisbon and attended grade school there. After graduation from high school and teacher's training class at Ogdensburg Free Academy, I taught at a rural school for one year, before going to Potsdam Normal. After graduation from Normal I taught in Piercefild and Brier Hill. My next teaching was fifth grade in Elmira Heights. After ten years I changed to the sixth grade but later was back in Lisbon to be with my mother. In 1943 I started teaching seventh and eighth grades in Lisbon High School. There weren't many teachers but lots of fun and good times.

"School work, church activities, and housework leave little time for 'doing nothing.' Yorkers may disrupt housework



## Rachel Dandy

but they are more fun and more rewarding. Each year we hope for more time and energy to carry out ideas but I'm thankful for the enjoyment of a busy life."

Long Time Sponsor

The survival of a Yorker Club is dependent upon the sponsor alone. Miss Dandy has been sponsor longer than any other teacher in New York State. Now we have over 10,000 Yorkers and over 250 clubs and 350 sponsors. Miss Dandy's spirit of history and Yorkers has never died. Last year she spent nearly half of the school year in the hospital after a fall. But she did not fail her students, nor did her students fail her during her illness. This year again she spent a few weeks in the hospital, and now is again back! And how her students missed her! In fact, there was probably more paper and pencils borrowed than at any other one period of time. Miss Dandy wasn't there to sell the paper, which has been a means of raising money for all the social studies aids, such as projectors, and record players, and slides, and books with which the Yorkers supply the school.

Everyday it's, "Miss Dandy, could I have some paper?" "Miss Dandy, would you help me with this?" "Miss Dandy. . ." And she's ALWAYS willing to help. Recently while she was gone some students working on an "early costume" project removed some of the pictures of Miss Dandy's relatives from her personal album and incorporated them in their project. But, Miss Dandy just sighed and laughed. Her devotion is unending. The students in Lisbon may be guilty of taking advantage too much of a good thing, but when they learn, it is worth all

(Continued next page)

(Miss Dandy, a member of the Orthodox Presbyterian Church, has worked in the Vacation Bible school and regular church school. She is an active member of the Missionary Society, the PTA and the New York State Teachers Association. She was awarded a Bachelor of Science degree from SUNY, Potsdam. As a member of the Historical Association, she helped Yorkers in the celebration of the 150th anniversary of the founding of this County, with a marionette play on local history. Yorkers took part in an historical parade in Canton and won a prize in a field day parade at Lisbon High School, two state awards for chapter achievement and several "Who's Who" awards. "Outstanding Yorker" prizes have been carried home from the Adirondack District meetings, as well as high offices for her Yorkers. Author Paul A. Russell, himself an Outstanding Yorker, has been District President, and this year won the \$1,000 per year Stephen C. Clark Memorial Scholarship for an outstanding Yorker student entering the history field in college. He is attending State University College at Potsdam, and assisted the County Historian during the 1967 summer season. Ed.)

(DANDY, Continued from Page 19)

the work. Says Miss Dandy:

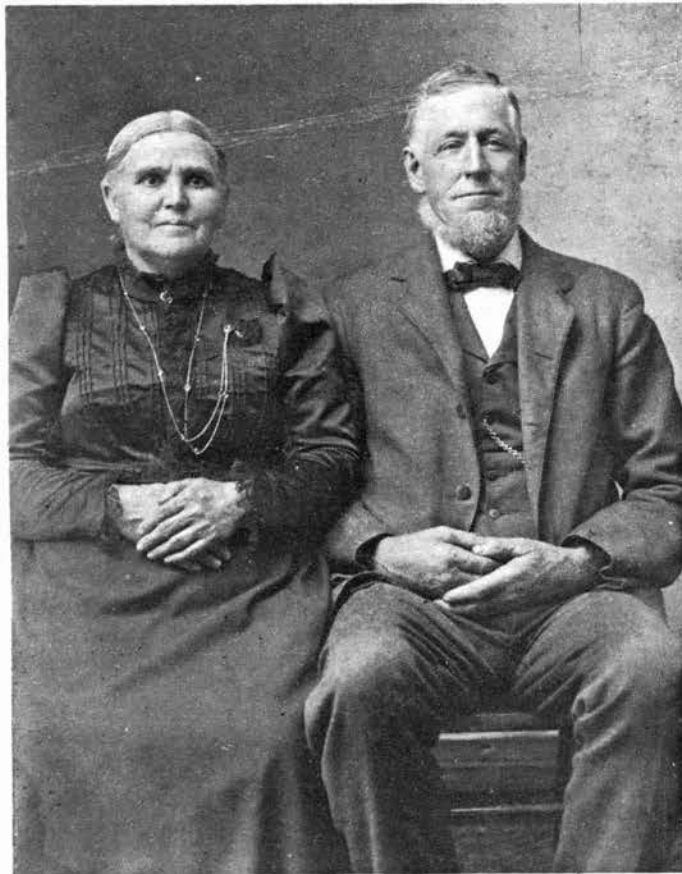
"I enjoy working with young people so much and giving them a chance to explore their own history."

This year Miss Dandy was Lisbon Central's candidate for teacher of the year. We don't ever plan to give her up.



Yorkers dressed for the 150th Anniversary of founding of St. Lawrence County 1952

(FLOUR, FEED from Page 17)



Ezra and Mary Colton.

"Strive not for riches. They are often left to thankless heirs." Elisha Risdon's diary, Hopkinton.

# VIGNETTES

## Nomad of the North

A "nomad of the north" was "Old Kyer," the adjective having no significance as both Old Plummer and Old Kyer were comparatively young men. Like Plummer, Kyer was very proficient in both prayer and profanity. The latter was the self-styled leader or prophet, and sole convert of a new religion. To become a follower, one must cut one's hair short, and live exclusively upon raw eggs and cayenne pepper. Kyer by no means confined himself to this diet, but perhaps the rules did not apply to the leader. He was apparently quite sane in other respects, and no one had any fear of him.

One Saturday in summer, Kyer appeared at the Roberts home near Rossie. Mr. Roberts and his wife had gone to the village, leaving the younger members of the family at home. Some of the neighboring young people were also there, and Kyer's arrival offered an opportunity for some sport.

Like most farmers of that time, Mr. Roberts kept a large flock of sheep, headed by a large and very ill-tempered ram. The boys told "tall tales" of his strength and ferocity and their fear of him. Nothing would induce them to enter the pasture. Kyer jeered at them -- afraid of such a timid and harmless animal! The sheep would run from him. He would not dare harm a prophet, so they conducted him to the pasture, let him through the gate, and stood by to watch the fun.

The man promptly dropped to his knees, and began crawling toward the sheep, assuring the ram that he was a prophet, the leader of the people, and not be molested. The ram, astonished at this strange behavior, stamped his feet, and backed away.

"You seel!" exclaimed Kyer triumphantly to his grinning audience. "He is afraid of me. He is backing away."

But they knew, if Kyer did not, that the seeming retreat was only preparatory to an attack. Suddenly the ram charged, and Kyer had only time to move a little aside, when the "battering-ram" struck his shoulder. A head-on collision would certainly have resulted in a broken neck or fractured skull for the prophet. As it was, he was knocked flat, and the ram stood over his victim waiting for him to rise. The boys drove the sheep off and assisted the groaning warrior from the field.

With the passing of time, Kyer grew moody and fanatical. On his last trip along the River Road, Mr. Roberts was working near the road, and Kyer stopped to chat with him, but the man appeared restless, and soon went on. He carried a market basket covered with a towel, on his arm.

After Kyer had gone, Mr. Roberts came to the house and asked the family to guess what was in the basket. Of course, they thought it must be food or extra clothing, but it was neither. It was a large, long-bladed knife. The wind had blown a corner of the towel aside so it could be seen.

A short time after, on one of his journeys, Kyer saw a woman drying her long hair in the sun. Determined to secure at least one convert, by force if not persuasion, he snatched up the knife, and pursued the terrified woman, who fled screaming, into the house, where, fortunately he did not follow. He probably meant only to cut off her hair, but in his zeal, was likely to have scalped or even decapitated her.

After that occurrence, Kyer was confined to an asylum.

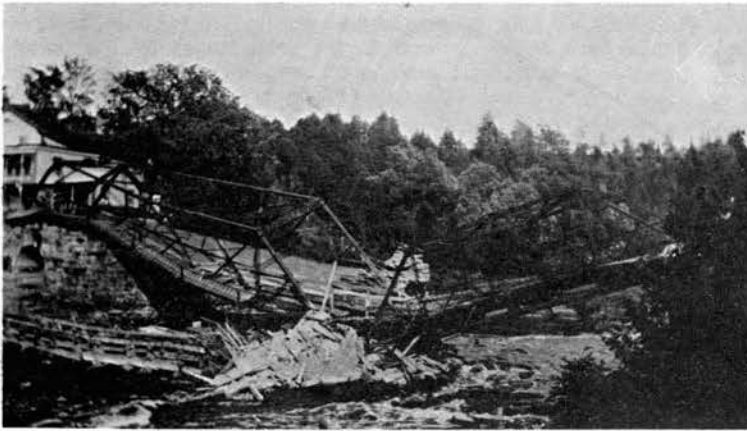
"The diligent farmer plants trees, of which he himself will never see the fruit." Cicero

"Heap high the farmer's wintry hoard!  
Heap high the golden corn!  
No richer gift has autumn poured  
From out her lavish horn!

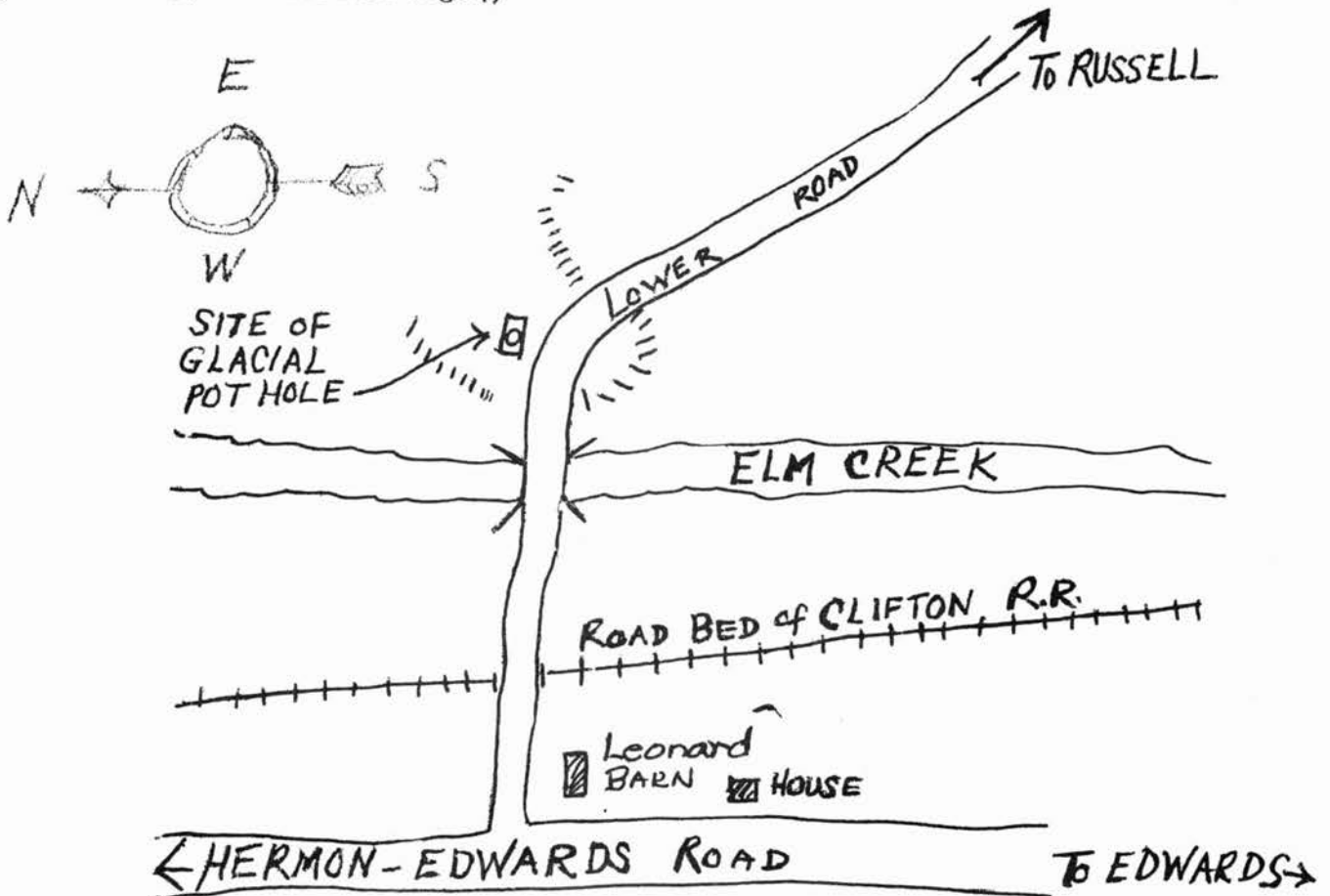
from "The Corn Song" by Whittier

**History Center Hours**  
**9-4**  
**Mondays and Thursdays**  
**Court House in Canton**

In searching genealogical records we find some picturesque early given names of our pioneers; Experience, Thankfull, Vigalence, Patience, Charity, Freelove, Silence, Desire, Decline, Deliverance, Rely, Prudence, Exercise, Hopestill, Remember, Hope, Resolved and Submit. Prize; Wayte-a-While Makepeace! Some were obvious misspellings of popular names: Garviss, Eliony, Prosilah, Scissilla, Ussillah, Bennit, Oseeth, Elianer, Izrell, Merriam, Anney, Rookby, Bathia and Bethyiah, Benhemoth, Farthrandro, Barbry, Phebey, and Neomy. Thank goodness Shadrach, Azuba, Cozbi, Cyprian, Bethsheba, Jedediah, Ichabod and Dorcas have gone out of fashion! Can you add to this list?



(HIGHWAYS, Continued from Page 4)



Map of Section of Lower or Scoughton Road

## FROM THE COUNTY'S



# CRACKER BARREL

(Including the names of all Town and Village Historians together with a continuing report of their activities.)

**BRASHER:** (Miss Mae Murray) I am compiling records of World Wars I and II servicemen and women of the Town of Brasher. **CANTON:** (Edward F. Heim). The Town Historian has been fortunate in having the help of several townspeople who are interested in pasting clippings for the various scrapbooks. There seems to be an awakening in the minds and spirits of local people who have sent or brought into the Museum many items of Local and Historical interest. We have a rather good number of Books on the Civil War; five copies of Irving Bacheller's books, a reel for preparing yarn which was brought from Canada many years ago and numerous old papers from which we are able to recover important clippings. This has been a busy summer. **RENSSELAER FALLS VILLAGE,** Town of Canton: (Mrs. Nina Wilson). **CLARE:** (Mrs. Iris J. Frye) Attended the open house and meeting at Richville, July 8. As a display for my town, I took colored pictures I had copies from old postcards pertaining to logging in Clare and Newbridge years ago. **CLIFTON:** (Mrs. Clara McKenney) Celebrated the "100 Dam Years" at Cranberry Lake 1867-1967 -- A desolate home was left in Cranberry Lake with the passing of Mrs. John Aldrich in April 1967 at the age of 83. A short time later, John Aldrich the husband passed away at the age of 83. They had lived here for 25 years. **DEKALB:** (F. F. E. Walrath) I am busy compiling a list of the young men who enlisted in the town of DeKalb, their services for the Civil War of 1861 to 1865. **RICHVILLE VILLAGE,** Town of DeKalb: (Mrs. Georgiana Wranesh). **DEPEYSTER:** (Nina W. Smithers) The great and the near-great are equally interested in family history. Have had some interesting people who spent some time at our home checking their family history. Have an exhibit in the Heuvelton Library. The making of a scrapbook goes on. **EDWARDS:** (Miss Leah Noble) Have finished "People on the Move; gathering data for Trout Lake story; another drive on Veteran's Records; continuing Our Album." **FINE:** (Mrs. Catherine Brownell) **FOWLER:** (Mrs. Robert Yerdon). **GOUVERNEUR** (Harold A. Storie, submitted by Nelson B. Winters) Assisted Town Historian Harold Storie in preparing display of historical Gouverneur Marble industry at county museum in Richville. Brought Gouverneur Village scrapbook up-to-date. Arranged for photographic record of Gouverneur Urban Renewal area before demolition of buildings. **HAMMOND:** (Mrs. Donald Rutherford) Completed project "People on the Move". Attended open house at Richville July 8. Prepared a small display from our town. Went on tour with Jefferson County Historical Association on July 18. Traveled by bus along 78 miles of Black River and Black River Canal. Visited three of six locks with water and towpath south of Boonville; also Delta Lake Dam, several dry locks, aqueduct and wading pool. Had lunch at charming old Hulbert House, Boonville, N. Y. Made plans for County Historical Exhibit at Hammond Fair, held Sept. 8 and 9. **HERMON:** (Mrs. Harriet Jenne). **HOPKINTON:** (Mrs. Neva Day). **LAWRENCE:** (Mrs. Gordon Cole). **LISBON:** (Mrs. J. Homer Martin). **LOUISVILLE:** (Mrs. Lorraine Bandy) Lots of Genealogy this summer. Have done several newspaper articles. Helped tourists on their Genealogy. The usual military records and clippings are being taken care of. **MACOMB:** (Willis E. Kittle) Continuing research on short Genealogical sketches of pioneer families, keeping scrapbook up-to-date, answering inquiries on genealogy (7) in this quarter, preparing to assist the County Historical Society at the Hammond Fair. **MADRID:** (Mrs. Florence Fisher). **MASSENA:** (Mrs. Robert Eldon-Browne) Since May, we have had 267 visitors at our center, mostly out-of-state. Have completed two histories for State College, "Place Name Survey." Have many new con-

tributions to our office. Attended Parishville meeting and found it very worthwhile and interesting. Two Boy Scouts have completed their community services for Eagle Scout. **MORRISTOWN:** (Mrs. James T. Phillips) Our welcome is extended to a new historian who has begun her duties by helping at the Historical Booth at the Hammond Fair. **NICHOLVILLE:** (Mrs. Gordon Cole) The Nicholville Firemen have broken ground on the schoolhouse lot for the new firehouse and will soon start building. **NORFOLK:** (Mrs. Edith VanKennen) Norfolk Firemen's 32nd annual Labor Day activities passed off in the usual fine manner with the "weather" favoring with perfect weather and the largest crowd ever. The financial returns went way over-the-top. Special feature was the auction in the afternoon which was supervised throughout the year by Mrs. Margaret Butler and alone netted \$1,100.00. **NORWOOD VILLAGE,** Town of Potsdam. I have spent many futile hours searching for information for two genealogy quires. Can anyone give any information on the Wait Reynolds family, lived in Norwood mid-1800's. Wife was Sarah Rood; children were Helen M.; Minnie J.; Jessie B. who married Fred Loveless; Harry W. and Grace E. Reynolds. Also; Jabez Healey family; what was the first name of the Mr. Healey who married Hulda Ames? Two elderly researchers eagerly await your help. If you send your information to me, I will be happy to pass it on. While the Norwood Historical Association is not in a position to accept large items, we are most happy to have pictures, newspapers, etc. or any small items which may be stored in the Historian's file. Recently Frank Brockman of Pittsburg, Pa., presented the school registers from Dist. 12, the old Kinsman District, to the Historian. He found them in an attic storage place after he purchased the building. **OSWEGATCHIE:** (Mrs. Persis Boyesen) **HEUVELTON,** Town of Oswegatchie: (Awaiting Appointment) **OGDENSBURG:** (Elizabeth Baxter) The brochure, Historical Ogdensburg, now is available, without charge, to anyone interested. Copies of the 28 page booklet, which commemorates the centennial of the city of Ogdensburg, 1968, may be obtained by writing to: Elizabeth Baxter, City Historian, Box 211, Ogdensburg, New York, 13669. The brochure contains 28 pictures and the cover photograph of Fort La Presentation, 1749, the first white settlement where the city now stands. In the booklet are histories of Ogdensburg's French, English, American colonial, village and city periods and places to visit. **PARISHVILLE:** (Mrs. Elsie F. Bresee) I have spent much time the past summer with scrapbooks of various titles, also the early history of Parishville, the important points of Historic interest for the Bus Tours, for our County Historical Group, getting them together, organizing and arranging for the guides for the tours. **PIERREPONT:** (Millard Hundley) assisting Mr. Edward Heim in cemeteries. Wrote article for July Quarterly. **POTSDAM,** Norwood Village: (Mrs. Susan C. Lyman) We have had a very busy summer, doing a great deal of research and answering many genealogy questions which involved even more research. Thanks to our very kind and efficient Town Clerk, Mrs. Anderson, I have, in most cases provided the needed information. Work on land titles continues each Wednesday with Mrs. Carroll L. Chase, Norwood and Cambridge, Mass. What a privilege and pleasure to work so closely with this superb historian. Have participated in each of the two tours, helped my husband with his exhibit at the Parishville day; compiled a 9-page place name list for Dr. Kelsie Harder; worked on assigned project and always on scrapbook. **PITCAIRN:** (Awaiting Appointment) **ROSSIE:** (Mrs. Frances Gardner) Attended meeting at Richville working on scrapbooks. Have had a number

(Continued on Page 23)

## CRACKER BARREL

(Continued from Page 22)

of inquiries about ancestors. **RUSSELL:** (Mrs. Janette Barnes). **STOCKHOLM:** (Mrs. Hazel Chapman) We had a mystery in our town in Brookdale. About 10 acres of land had turned up spots that looked like moon holes. Come to find out, Coon and skunks had been working to get the white grubs which next year will be June bugs. People for miles around have visited the place and even a piece written in the "Watertown Times." The grubs eat the roots of the grass. **WADDINGTON:** (Mrs. Ethel C. Olds).

## MUSEUMS

**CANTON MUSEUM:** We have had visitors from Texas, Syracuse, Buffalo and of course many young and old folks from our local area. Books galore are arriving from many sources and other items of Historical interest. We have had the usual number of requests from High School and College students for information about the History of our Canton School System and most of these have stated that they received very good marks on the papers written from the material sent to them. Most of these students have filed copies of their papers at the Museum. The Museum is open on Tuesday and Thursday Mornings from 9:30 to 11:30 a.m. --Edward F. Heim.

**PARISHVILLE MUSEUM:** During the past summer the Parishville Museum was renovated and a new room opened up for our large collection of photographs and pictures. This was open ready for our "Open House" August 12. --Elsie F. Bresee.

**POTSDAM MUSEUM:** This summer the Potsdam Museum featured as its special exhibit the Sara Snell Collection of Foreign Dolls. This proved most popular. The attendance at the museum during July and August reached 460. Visitors came from Iraq, India, Larado, Texas; Kalamazoo, Mich.; Clearwater, Fla. and Minneapolis, Minn., as well as all over New York State and the East Coast. Classes included Pre-First Title I, summer school classes and cub scouts. A highlight of the museum's activities in September was an "Age of Homespun" demonstration of spinning by Mrs. Virginia Partridge, Assistant Curator of the Farmers Museum in Cooperstown. She put the museum spinning wheels in order and gave demonstrations to enthusiastic crowds of students and adults. This Fall the Potsdam Museum will offer a first in the North Country. From Oct. 30 to Nov. 17 the museum will feature a special Art Exhibit of original Currier and Ives prints from the private collection of the Travelers Insurance Company. The 22 rare prints portray rural America during the 19th century. This special exhibit has been arranged by the Rodger Realty and Insurance Company, Potsdam, in cooperation with the Travelers. On Nov. 1 at 7:30 p.m. the Museum will hold its annual meeting, featuring the Currier and Ives exhibit and a speaker on the famed print makers. The public is welcome. Museum hours are Mondays 7 to 9 p.m., Tuesday 10 to 12 noon and 2 to 4 p.m., Thursday 1 to 5 p.m. and Saturday 1 to 3 p.m. -- Marguerite G. Chapman.

**MASSENA MUSEUM:** Since February 189 visitors have come to the Historical Center. This does not include Joseph Molnar Boy Scout working on his eagle scout rank. He has gathered, catalogued our old School Text books and added to our office a great deal of new information. He gave his time after school from January 25th to April 4th and will continue to help, because he became so involved and likes it very much. Philip St. Almond another Boy Scout doing rank work, has returned two or three times for different research and helped in the center.

It is good to find most young people deeply interested in the history of their County and the articles on display that were used by the settlers in early years.

Our files continue to grow and the St. Lawrence Seaway Development has furnished us with the Seaway Traffic reports

from 1960 to 1966 and will furnish us with 1967 report, a booklet, Questions and Answers report, prepared for the Committee on Foreign relations U. S. Senate. These will be on loan to our County Office for a month.

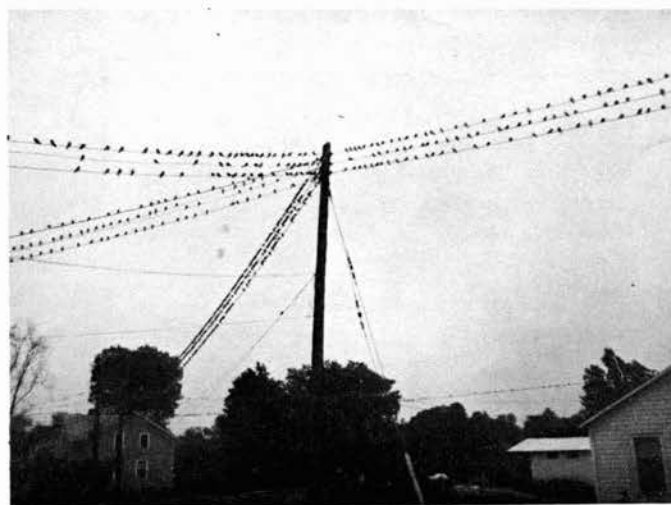
## LOCAL HISTORICAL ASSOCIATIONS

**GOUVERNEUR:** Historical Associations will start meetings in October -- H. A. Storie.

**NORWOOD:** Plans are underway for the annual meeting of the Norwood Historical Association. Place, date and program will be announced soon. Please watch for the announcement and plan to attend. Mrs. Carroll L. Chase and Mrs. R. J. Lyman are working for the third summer on early land titles for information to be used at the time of the centennial, 1972 -- Susan C. Lyman.

**PARISHVILLE:** The Parishville Historical Association spent a busy summer with their plans for their "Open House" August 12, 1967. There were changes made in the museum, many new artifacts loaned or donated. More space was needed so the association had another room finished off for a "Photo Gallery" where Photo's and pictures of the past could be better displayed. Arrangement was in charge of Mrs. Bessie Duffy. This was ready for the August 12 "Open House." There is more work to be done on this room. A "Memorial Stone" was placed at the museum in front of the large livingroom windows. This stone came from the Elder Brown Quarry on White Hill. A plaque in honor of Mr. and Mrs. Plui J. Clark had been ordered. It was hoped to have the plaque placed and have the dedication on August 12. However, it was not received in time so the dedication will be held in 1968. Committees for the bazaar and luncheon were appointed in April by the President. Many willing hands went to work with splendid results. Much credit is due the bazaar hostesses, as well as dining room, kitchen and museum, and our Girl Scouts. The Guides for the Tours are to be commended. We owe many thanks to our program leaders, our school board, principal and bus drivers. It was very encouraging to encounter the interest shown by the residents living on our tours. Their response as to placing dates on their homes and giving historical information connected with them was a source of great satisfaction. This is a subject, hardly touched yet, and an interesting one. If these old houses could talk, what interesting stories would come to life -- Elsie Bresee.

Have you planned Holiday gifts to relatives away from Northern New York? How about a membership gift, a whole year of Quarterlies for only \$3.00? Or a useful box of our attractive stationery (\$1.25 by mail) or only \$1.00 at History Center? Or a copy of "Top O' The State" the historic guide to St. Lawrence County?



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