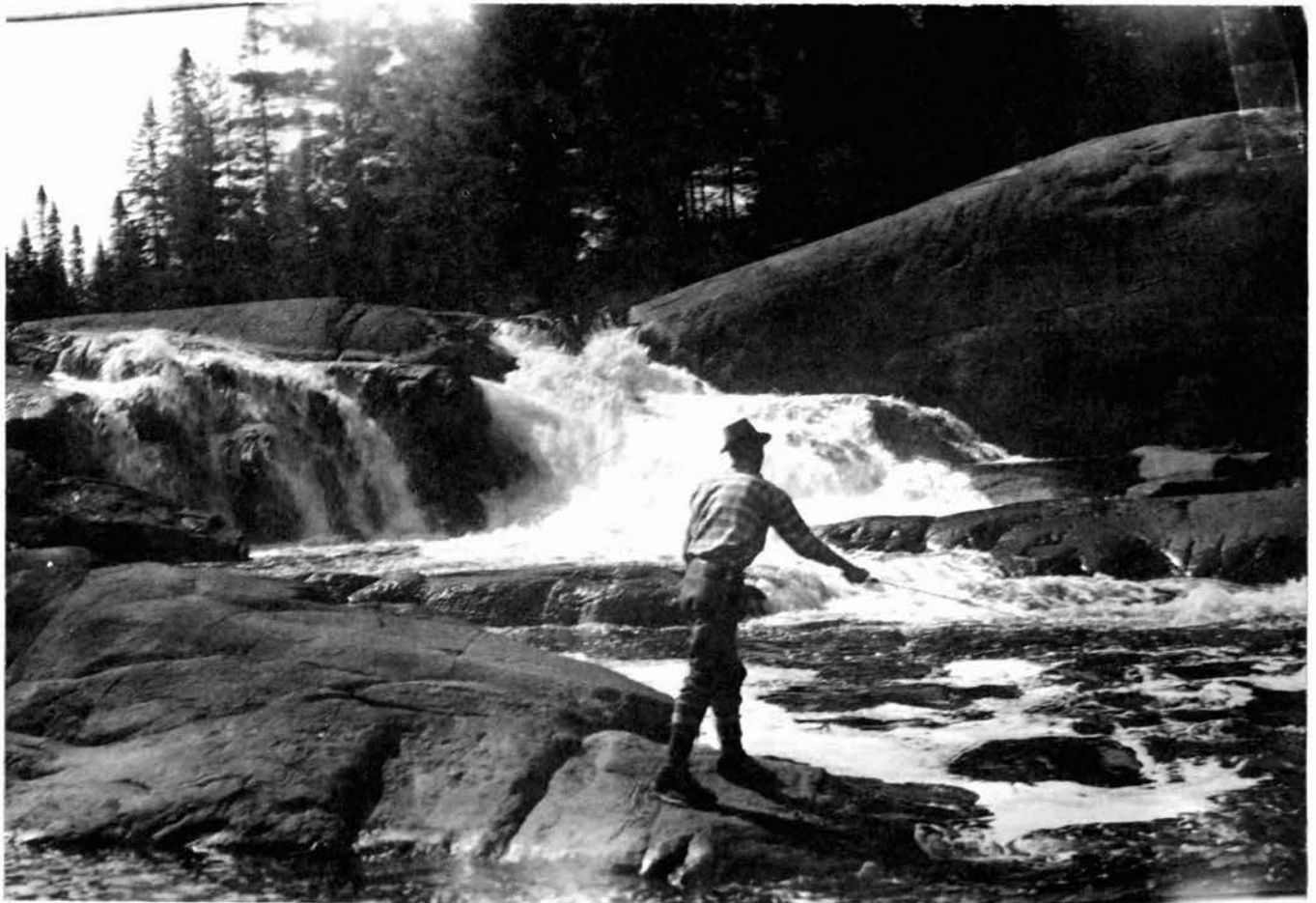


The Quarterly

OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE ST. LAWRENCE COUNTY HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION



high falls

April 1968

The Quarterly

Official Publication of The St. Lawrence County Historical Assn.

CONTENTS APRIL, 1968 NO. 2 VOL. 13

President
EUGENE HATCH
Russell

First Vice President
EDWARD J. BLANKMAN
Canton

Second Vice President
VARICK CHITTENDEN
Hopkinton

Treasurer
DAVID J. CLELAND
Edwards

Corresponding Secretary
MISS INEZ MAYBEE
Russell

Financial Secretary
MRS. W. B. FLEETHAM
DePeyster

Richville Building
MRS. JOSEPH WRANESH
Richville

Special Gifts
MRS. EDWARD BIONDI
Canton

Historic Sites and Museums
LAWRENCE G. BOVARD
Ogdensburg

Nominations
CARLTON B. OLDS
Waddington

Yorker Clubs
MRS. JOSEPH WRANESH
Richville

Fairs
CLARENCE POOR
Rensselaer Falls

Promotion and Membership
MR. LAWRENCE G. BOVARD
Ogdensburg

Program
LAWRENCE G. BOVARD
Wm. BRUCE VAN BUREN
Ogdensburg

THE QUARTERLY

MARY H. BIONDI
Editor

ADVISORY BOARD

Dr. Paul F. Jamieson	Canton
George Liebler	Ogdensburg
Mrs. Karl Mayhew, Jr.	Canton
Mrs. Nina Smithers	DePeyster
Harold Storie	Gouverneur

THE QUARTERLY is published in January, April, July and October each year by the St. Lawrence County Historical Association, Editorial Office, Box 43, Canton, advertising and publication office 40-42 Clinton Street, Gouverneur, N.Y.

EXTRA COPIES may be obtained from Mrs. Edward Biondi, St. Lawrence County Historian's Office, Box 43, County Building, Canton, N.Y. at 75 cents each. Ph: 315-386-2481

	Page
HIGHWAY OF HISTORY The First White Man Comes To St. Law. Co. <i>by Paul F. Jamison</i>	3
A GRAND OLD NAME The Sykes Family of Canton <i>by F. James Moynihan Jr.</i>	5
HOMEMAKERS FROM HOUSEWIVES <i>by Mary Carmen-Earle</i>	7
POETICAL PORTRAITS The Elms <i>by Anna Mathews Cole</i>	9
SO PASSETH THE OLD ORDER <i>by Mae Murray</i>	10
MYSTERY PICTURE	10
OUR MEMBERS WRITE	11
GOOD FENCES GOOD NEIGHBORS MAKE	12 & 13
PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE	14
LETTER FROM THE EDITOR	14
SUGAR HOUSE PICTURE	14
WOULD YOU BELIEVE <i>by Patricia Staub</i>	15
VIGNETTE Edwards Postoffice <i>by Earl T. Meldrim</i>	16
BIGELOW SCHOOL PICTURE	16
HORNED LARKS <i>by Lansing Christman</i>	18
SAINT LAWRENCE Oldest River in the World	18
BRIER HILL BAND PICTURE	19
OSWEGATCHIE R.R. DEPOT PICTURE	19
OGDENSBURG FLASHBACK <i>by George Liebler</i>	20
CENTENNIAL OGDENSBURG	20
NOTICES	23



ON THE COVER

High Falls on the Oswegatchie Inlet. Six miles south of Wanakena by trail, the Oswegatchie pours over a 10-foot ledge into a famous trout pool. Father Poncet is believed to have passed this way in 1653. (Photo By Dwight Church)

highway of history

THE FIRST WHITE MAN Comes To St. Lawrence County

By PAUL F. JAMIESON

The first European to travel in St. Lawrence County and to make a report of his trip was Joseph Antoine Poncet, a French Jesuit priest and missionary. The year was 1653, nearly a century before Picquet founded a settlement at Ogdensburg. On being released from captivity among Mohawk Indians, Father Poncet returned to the settlements of New France under Indian escort, not by the shorter and easier way of Lake Champlain, but by the northwest watershed of the Adirondacks. After a foot journey of eight days, the party descended the Oswegatchie River by boat and continued down the St. Lawrence to Montreal, Three Rivers, and Quebec. Poncet is also the first European known to have descended the upper St. Lawrence.

Father Poncet's trip through St. Lawrence County is overlooked in the three principal county histories -- those by Franklin B. Hough (1853), Samuel W. Durant (published by Everts, 1878), and Gates Curtis (1894). Harry F. Landon's NORTH COUNTRY (1932), however, gives credit to Poncet as the first white man, so far as records show, to pass through the interior of northern New York. A brief historical sketch, Clarence J. Webster's ST. LAWRENCE COUNTY: PAST AND PRESENT (1945), mentions the Jesuit priest as the first to pass through a corner of the county. Landon believes that Poncet went up West Canada Creek from the Mohawk Valley, into the Black River Valley, thence over the divide north of Carthage into the Indian River, through Black Lake, and into the Oswegatchie just seven miles above its outlet in the St. Lawrence. Webster indicates the same route.

A close reading of Father Poncet's narrative, I believe, indicates a different route through mountain country east of the Black River. There is also external evidence to support a route through the Adirondacks. That is, Poncet crossed, not the western corner, but a major portion of St. Lawrence County from its southern boundary in the vicinity of Cranberry Lake to the mouth of the Oswegatchie. This is a distance of 54 airline miles -- farther of course by trail and winding river.

Circumstances demanded that the Jesuit priests of New France become explorers as well as missionaries to the Indians. Bancroft exaggerates in saying that "not a cape was turned, nor a river entered, but a Jesuit led the way." The trader usually preceded. Unlike the traders, however, the Jesuits left records of their travels. Among the regions they opened up was western and northern New York.

In France Joseph Poncet had shown promise as a scholar and had been an instructor at the College of Orleans. In 1639 he was sent to Canada, where he served first in the Huron missions near Georgian Bay. He later founded an Algonkian mission and still later served in the parishes of Montreal and Quebec during a crisis in the fortunes of New France when the fur trade with friendly Indians was brought to a halt as the Iroquois drove remnants of the Huron nation from its homeland and harassed French settlements on the lower St. Lawrence. In the year 1652 not a single skin reached the Montreal warehouse from friendly tribes, so thoroughly had the Iroquois liquidated the Huron nation of upper Canada and terrorized the Algonkians.

CAPTIVES

On August 20, 1653, while on a mission of mercy up the St. Lawrence from Quebec, Father Poncet and a lay companion, Mathurin Franchetot, were captured by Mohawk warriors. A search party failed to overtake them, but found the faces and names of the two captives drawn in charcoal on a tree trunk stripped of bark.

At first it seemed that Poncet's fate would be that of the Jesuit martyr Father Jogues, an earlier captive of the Mohawks. Through many hardships Poncet and his companion were taken up the Richelieu River and Lake Champlain and thence overland to the palisaded villages of the Mohawks in the Mohawk

Valley. As they approached the easternmost village, they were stripped and forced to run the gantlet. Four days of derision and torture followed in this and other Mohawk villages. A child, directed by its elders, cut off the index finger of the Father's left hand and applied a burning coal to the stub. "I offered my blood and my suffering," Poncet writes, "in the cause of peace, regarding this little sacrifice with a mild eye, a serene countenance, and a stout heart." Franchetot, after losing both index fingers, was burned at the stake.

Father Poncet was then given to an old woman as a replacement for a dead man -- a brother who had lost his life or been taken captive in Canada. The woman treated Poncet as a relative of the house. A Huron captive who had known him in Canada told the Mohawks that the priest was a man of importance in New France, and that a high value would be set on his return. This was soon confirmed by a returning war party.

Meanwhile, a political situation favorable to Poncet developed. The westernmost of the Five Nations had become embroiled with the Eries, a tribe settled on Lake Erie. The Onondagas later joined the Cayugas and the Senecas in this war, and true to their principle of fighting one war at a time, the Iroquois made peace overtures to the French. In this they did not act as a unit but individually. The Oneidas soon followed the three western nations in truce negotiations. By August of 1653 (wrote Poncet's superior, Father Le Mercier) only the Mohawks, "proudest and most arrogant people of all these regions," held out.

Since the preceding winter a war party of several hundred Mohawks had been in ambush around the French settlement of Three Rivers. Not strong enough to storm the fort, they hoped finally to take it by surprise. They were still engaged in this effort at the time of Poncet's capture. Now, finding themselves abandoned by the rest of the league, the Mohawks too began to see advantages in a truce. Negotiations were begun. The French suspected a hoax, but their situation was too critical to refuse even a brief respite. One of the secret motives of the Onondagas and the Mohawks in seeking peace, the French later learned, was the hope of



Twin pines S.E. of High Falls.

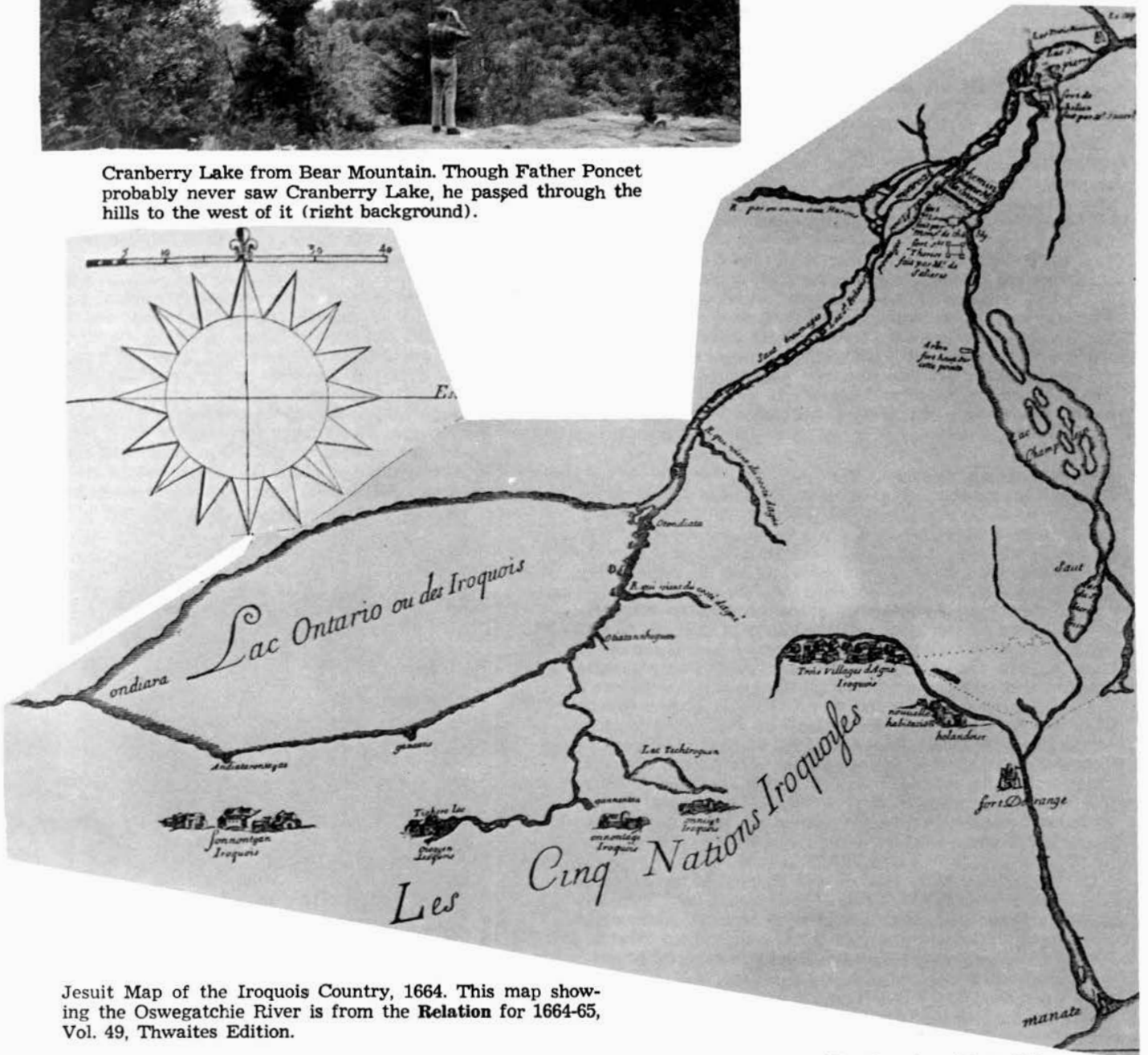
(All Photos By S. S. Slaughter)

(Continued on Page 4)

FIRST WHITE MAN (Continued from Page 3)



Cranberry Lake from Bear Mountain. Though Father Poncet probably never saw Cranberry Lake, he passed through the hills to the west of it (right background).



Jesuit Map of the Iroquois Country, 1664. This map showing the Oswegatchie River is from the **Relation** for 1664-65, Vol. 49, Thwaites Edition.

a grand old name

The SYKES Family

of canton

By F. JAMES MOYNIHAN, JR.

St. Lawrence County has made significant contributions to the cultural history of this country in many fields including religion, education and politics. Few people have contributed more to the cultural growth of the North Country than Richard Eddy Sykes, prominent educator, former president of St. Lawrence University and eminent clergyman.

Perhaps still fewer people are aware of the fact that Colonel Robert Green Ingersoll, a second cousin of Dr. Sykes, and Civil War officer, Republican party leader and eloquent American orator, had a profound effect on the political history of this country as a whole. Both of these men were sons of the North Country, close personal friends, and generally figures of no small importance.

Richard Eddy Sykes was born in Canton on Jan. 3, 1861, the son of Edwin Jones Sykes and his wife Louise. He was graduated from St. Lawrence University in 1883 with a Bachelor of Science degree and went on to take his Master's degree in theology in 1887, with a doctorate in 1906. He was ordained a Universalist minister in 1885 and spent the next 34 years of his life generally making himself indispensable to his parishioners and captivating the hearts of all who came into contact with him in his church work.

In 1887 the young minister married Miss Mabel Houghton, the daughter of Byron Knight and Emma Gay Houghton. They had two daughters, Dorothy Louise and Elizabeth Blanche. The latter, Mrs. Ralph Michaels, is presently living in Canton.

Growing up thirty years before Dr. Sykes in the North Country town of Belleville, Robert G. Ingersoll was subjected to different influences from his younger counterpart. The actual connection of the Sykes-Ingersoll families is a relatively well-known fact. In the Dec. 20, 1924, issue of the Watertown Daily Times, Dr. Sykes made the following statement:

"My grandmother Sykes was before her marriage an Ingersoll and sister to Robert Ingersoll's father, the late John Ingersoll. Robert was therefore my second cousin."

Dr. Sykes is later quoted, further clarifying the matter for us, "When he (Robert Ingersoll) first began to write and lecture on theological views, he sent his first book to my grandmother Candace Ingersoll Sykes." (Dr. Sykes grandfather was Heber Sykes.)

Robert Ingersoll's father, the Reverend John Ingersoll, was a Congregational minister and was accustomed to taking his wife, a native of Lisbon, N. Y., and his small son Robert with him on his visits to the Sykes home. They would guide the old horse up the Sykes road in the Olin settlement of Canton. Those were the days of the schoolhouse meeting.

The story of little Robert Ingersoll's attending the meetings held in the school is an old one. After meeting, the Rev. John Ingersoll would take his wife and son to the Sykes home. As John was somewhat of a narrowminded reactionary, arguments on religion waxed long into the night. The small Robert listened to these arguments and asked questions from time to time. He had a remarkable memory which he exercised by having one of the family stand him up on a chair in the large stone farmhouse kitchen and would repeat the words of his father speaking earlier in the schoolhouse, even giving the pauses and gestures.

Thus as "the great agnostic" prepared himself indecorously for his public life, Richard Eddy Sykes chose a more conservative path. His first assignment took him to Little Falls, N. Y. where he acquired a considerable reputation as a builder of churches. His congregation, being quite taken by their young pastor, grew and grew in volume until a new building was needed to house them. The entire congregation joined forces, together with admirers from the nearby community of Dolgeville which was also under Mr. Sykes' care. The foundation and base for



Rev. Richard Eddy Sykes, Little Falls, N.Y.

the structure was built from stones of an adjoining creek bed. His next assignment took him to Denver, Colorado, where he became intensely involved in welfare projects. His unbridled love for his flock led him to found a board of charities. Here also he befriended a young negro who had become involved with the law.

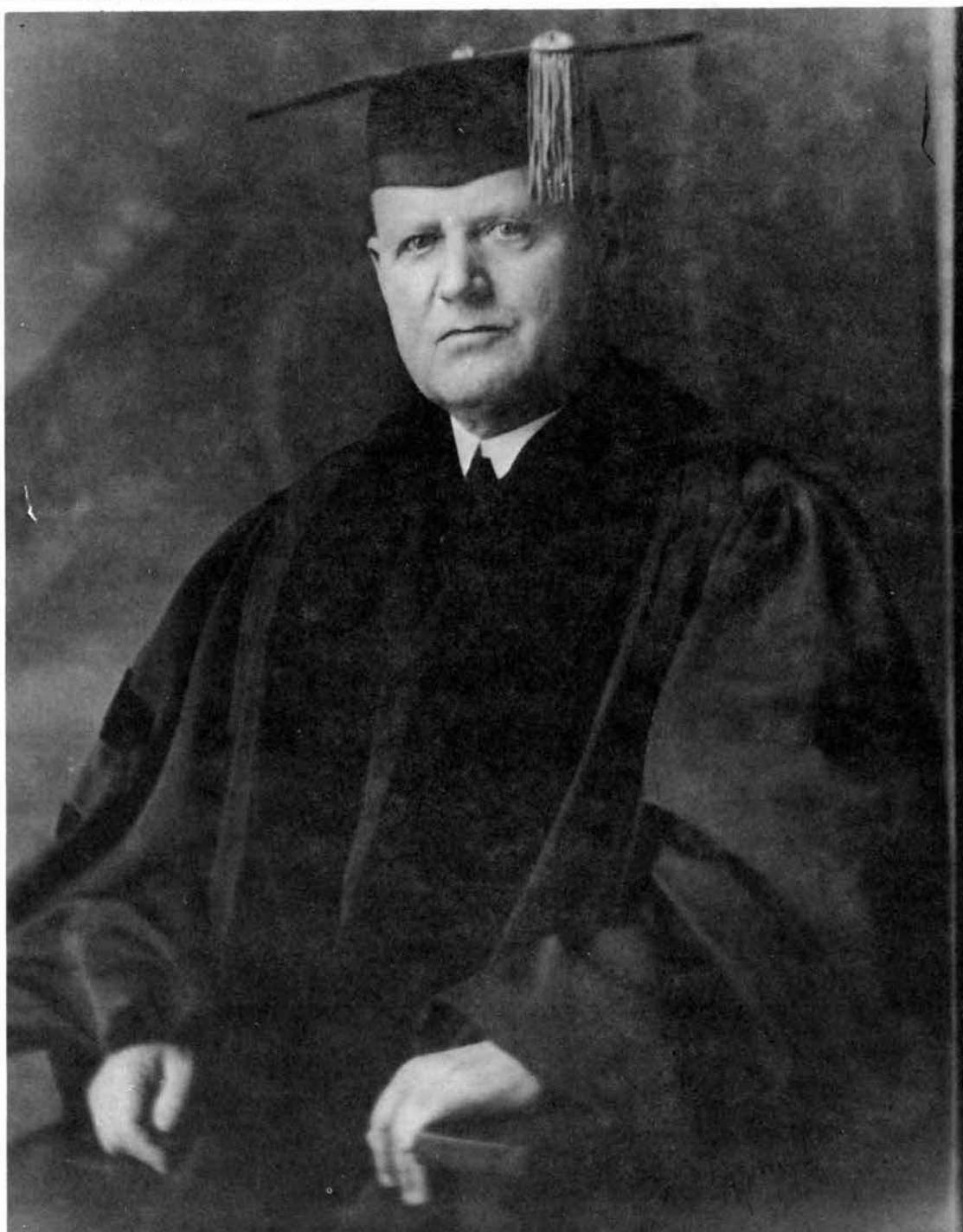
Dr. Sykes was instrumental in securing a job for the young man upon his release from prison. Among Dr. Sykes' personal belongings, some of which are in the possession of his daughter, Elizabeth Michaels, is a touching letter from the reformed convict, expressing sincerest gratitude to the rector.

Dr. Sykes was next called to Malden, Mass., a suburb of Boston. After prolonged exposure to life in the west, the family found it quite difficult to adjust to some of the rather complex New England customs. During Dr. Sykes' first service in Malden, his congregation did an abrupt about face, turning away from him to face the choir. It seems that the custom of facing the choir for the second hymn had become standard procedure for the Maldenites. To say that Dr. Sykes was 'amused' would be an understatement.

Mrs. Michaels recalls the Malden church as "very big and gloomy, opposite a fire station. It always seemed that fires and the sermons started simultaneously."

As Malden was quite a large industrial area, Dr. Sykes saw increased opportunity for working with the poor. In addition to his interest in charities, he was president of the Board of Education, founder of a boys' choir and builder of a large chapel, built somewhat on the same lines as the later chapel on the St. Lawrence University campus.

(Continued on Page 6)



Dr. Richard Eddy Sykes, S.L.U., Class of 1883.

On May 1, 1919, Dr. Richard Eddy Sykes became president of St. Lawrence University. One of his great ambitions for St. Lawrence was to make it a singing school. He would be proud of the "Laurentian Singers" and the "Saints" -- two widely known and appreciated singing groups on the campus today.

From the years 1922-25 Dr. Sykes secured an endowment of one million dollars for the school. His weekly chapel talks became a tradition at the University as were his magnetic warmth and paternal guidance. He was an avid walker and would stroll about the campus visiting with students. His daughter Elizabeth reports that Dr. Sykes would remark to Mrs. Sykes that it "feels so good to see the strong young shoulders that are going to carry on."

While Dr. Sykes was employing himself in parish work, his cousin Robert Ingersoll was an established public figure.

The source of his agnosticism is disputed but one theory is reported in the Watertown Daily Times.

"One winter day young Bob, a boy of eight or ten at the time, was walking in the snowpath from Belleville to Pierrepont Manor. He was overtaken on the road by a Mr. Mendell, a Universalist who was unusually well enlightened on the religion of his day. Mendell invited the boy to ride, and discovered that he was a son of "Priest" Ingersoll, as the elder man had been nicknamed.

"During the course of the ride, Mendell explained the difference in the doctrine of Calvinism and the doctrines of Universalism in which Mendell believed. Some have thought that this conversation is what directed the thoughts of the young boy along the channels that finally made him the greatest agnostic of the day."

(Continued on Page 18)

homemakers from housewives

By MARY-CARMEN EARLE

It was over fifty years ago that the first college extension courses for women were presented in St. Lawrence County. These offered non-credit study in informal settings, and the information was based on recent research that directly related to the concerns of the adults, and lay participation in the development and the evaluation of the program was stressed. Sounds thoroughly modern, doesn't it? Of course, we are describing the home demonstration department of the Extension Service Association, which is now officially the Home Economics Division of the Cooperative Extension Association of St. Lawrence County. For many years the Extension program for homemakers and the Home Bureau (a private organization) were synonymous. It was in 1955, you will recall, that a state law was passed which mandated separation, and the two organizations went their separate ways as did the Farm Bureau and agricultural extension.

A yellowed newspaper clipping tells us that it was on November 8, 1922 that 60 homemakers from this county gathered at Canton's Grange Hall to organize for the extension program. Miss Grace V. Watkins, state leader, was present to lead the discussion and explain Cornell's extension program for homemakers. Reading between the lines we can ascertain that many meetings of county committees had preceded this, because a constitution was adopted, a budget presented and adopted, and a slate of committee representatives was elected. The first executive committee was listed as follows: Mrs. Charlotte Samson of Potsdam, Mrs. Mabel Hosley and Miss M. Adele Chaney of Canton, Mrs. Bertha Finnimore of Morley, Mrs. Nettie Royce of Gouverneur, Mrs. Eliza Gilmore of DeKalb, and Mrs. Marion DeLong of Hammond.

It has been a very real pleasure for me to chat with Mrs. Charlotte Samson about the history of their movement to establish and organize this program for homemakers. She recalls vividly the organization meeting mentioned in the old news clipping, and that hard work followed the meeting for money appropriation from the county board of supervisors, and it was not until 1925 that the first home demonstration agent, Miss Mabel Milhan, was appointed. Mrs. Samson resides on the Potsdam-Hopkinton Road in the same home she went to as a bride 63 years ago, and she mentioned that she first heard of the extension program from Cornell for women while serving as a delegate to a state Grange meeting in Utica. The other women delegates were talking enthusiastically about the information they had received and how much it had helped them.

Long before any county organization was established, housewives in the county were receiving help from Cornell; as early as 1917 an agent representative from that college gave demonstrations in 24 of our communities on the topic of emergency foods. This type of help continued until the county organization was established. In the meantime an eager and very active group of women in the Morley area had organized under the leadership of Mrs. Bertha Finnimore. Last winter when I met with the Morley Homemakers Unit the present day membership were justifiably proud of the fact that they had 74 members in 1923, and that Mrs. Blanche Fisher is recognized as a charter member. It has taken thousands of hours of volunteer time and dedicated leadership from this community to maintain the unit's participation in the pursuit of knowledge.

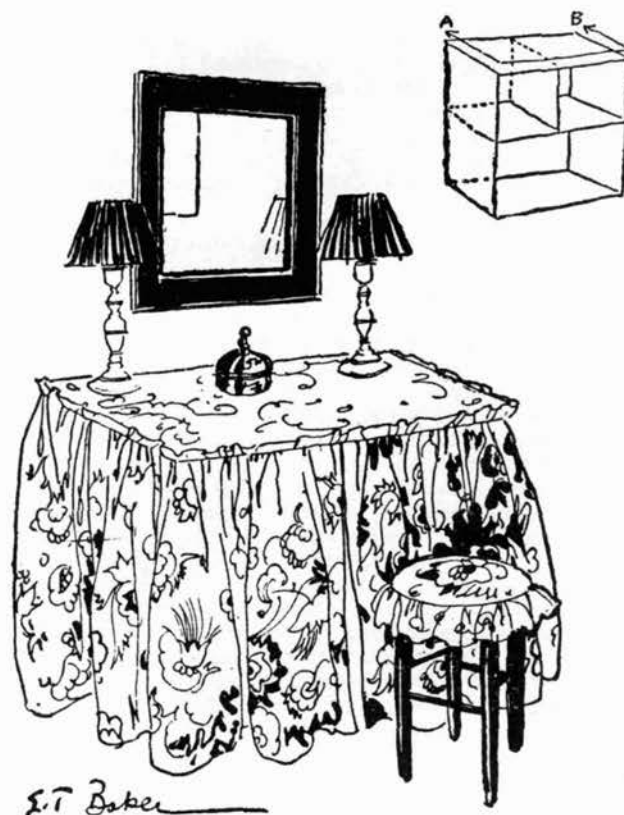
At the present time the Cooperative Extension's Home Economics Division office is neighbor to the County Historian's office in the County Building. The first office, however, was located over McPhee's store on Main Street in Canton.

The first home demonstration agent, Miss Mabel Milhan, came to Canton in 1925. A few months ago she wrote from California of her memories of the eager organization group of women who welcomed her and were able to secure space for an office over McPhee's store. Miss Milhan writes that ". . . the huge room was bare except for a double sided desk, a small wood burning stove and a pile of wood in one corner." She continues, "I almost feel our challenges were real when at a public hearing attended by hundreds at Ogdensburg during the Depression, there was an effort to withdraw county support. It met with overwhelming defeat and we continued in a limited

way." Active in many community organizations, Miss Milhan also served as a president of the American Association of University Women while in Canton. She concluded her letter to me, "In my quite modern apartment I enjoy the hooked rugs I made in earlier days -- the lamp shades I labored over, and the wood work pieces refinished. But best of all I cherish the memory of all the good women it was my privilege to work with over the years as we sought to strengthen attitudes toward the dignity of homemaking and woman's place in the world."

Some of the home economists who followed this pioneer agent and served as administrators of the department and teachers of the Cooperative Extension program for families were Rachael Merritt; Bette Mayhew; Phyllis Storm Armstrong; Sally Green Wilder; Olive Carpenter; Lois Begor Kirk and myself until the fall of 1967.

In glancing back over the lessons and projects taught by the home economic agents and the college staff from Cornell it is obvious that the program has kept abreast and ahead of the times, always based on current needs and recent research.



It's Made of a Packing Box

'DOUGH-BUSTERS'

During the depression and war years the skills of how-to-make-it-over-make-it-do were necessary and always integrated into the lessons were art and color principles. In the early days, too, bread making was such a popular project that the home agents were dubbed "dough-busters." Today's bread lesson for modern homemakers includes a cost, preparation time, and taste preference comparison of all the different kinds of breads available to the housewife in today's supermarket and kitchen. Emphasis has always been placed on family living, home management, with a recurring theme of nutrition as the science became refined. Remember, that the first discovery of vitamins was made in 1911 and every housewife needed to know what foods the members of their families

(Continued on Page 8)

Around the Home



Contrasting the Victorian "Drawing Room" with the Modernistic "Living Room"

needed, what to choose at the market, how to prepare in order to preserve the nutrients as well as how to preserve with safety the vegetable garden products. (These latter demonstrations progressed through the years from home canning to pressure cooking to home deep freezers.)

Probably as important as any of these was the psychological aspect of serving well balanced meals so that every member of the family from infant to oldsters would consume their daily nutritional needs! This must have worked too well because the current topic presents changing attitudes towards weight control.

CHANGES MADE

The method of presentation has changed from the days of World War I when a representative of the college at Cornell could come to this county and repeat a demonstration fifty or more times in every hamlet. As neighborhood audiences organized into units connected with a county agency, lay leadership developed and Extension's concept of extending college quality materials to the people was implemented.

This is how it works: Content for program arises as family or community concerns are identified and as research and reliable information are available to assist with the solution of these concerns. The College of Home Economics staff at Cornell, working with agents or special committees, often pretest content and teaching methods. Then Extension specialists conduct in-service education for agents who in turn teach club or lay leaders. Teaching tools, visuals, slides, bulletins are often provided to help lay leaders in effectively teaching their groups. Programs are always available through the county office for presentation to any community group. The one that I would personally recommend to any group and particularly those who are interested in historical backgrounds is "Clothing And Woman's Role 1840-1960." If you are looking for an interesting program for a meeting, an inquiry at the office would put it in motion.

We should mention that one of the contributing factors to the program has been the support and cooperation of the county boards of supervisors and the directors of the St. Lawrence County Extension Service Association. The latter has always been made up of the executive committees of the three departments (Ag., 4-H and Home Demonstration.) A new constitution effective January 1968 changes the make-up of the board, as well as the association's name, for more effective administration. The home economics division no longer is conducting most of its programs through home demonstration units in the state, and units are no longer specifically identified with that organization. The lessons and materials will continue to be available to these groups and to all organizations requesting. The traditional EXTENSION method of teaching lay leaders will continue. New methods of extending the knowledge have been tried and proven as the regular television program over WWNY, the regular radio programs over the radio stations in this county and the packaged programs. Audiences have included other home economists, nurses, welfare case workers, faculty and student wives, and men's service clubs. To quote

Helen G. Canoyer, Dean of the New York State College of Home Economics, "We are proud of the fact that for many years home economics Extension in New York State has moved steadily toward erasing the differences between programs directly geared to the rural farm, rural non-farm, suburban, and urban homemakers, as the differences between these groups were minimized by improving communication, transportation, modes of living and education."

NEW TEACHING

It always comes as a surprise to realize that home economics and the educational program for homemakers is still in its infancy. It was just at the turn of the century that Martha Van Rensselaer went to Cornell for the express purpose of starting a reading course for farmers' wives. The first bulletin for homemakers was published by Cornell University in November 1902. It was entitled, SAVING STEPS, and was a source of information for a reading course for homemakers. It was in 1914, that the Federal Cooperative Extension Service was created by law and the first home demonstration agent was appointed in Erie County. One of the most honored of all of the home demonstration agents was the pioneer in Broome County, Mrs. Anne Duncan, mother of Dr. Charles Duncan, veterinarian of Potsdam.

Many of the home demonstration units have kept a careful history of their organizations and could add much color and life to this history, and as a home economist I have been proud to have been a part of this educational movement. As a homemaker, too, the benefits have been invaluable.

HISTORIANS

Brasher -- Miss Mae Murray, Brasher Falls
 Canton -- Edward F. Heim, 6 Church St.
 Clare -- Mrs. Myron (Iris) Fry, RFD 2, Russell
 Clifton -- Mrs. Clara McKenney, Cranberry Lake
 Colton -- Mrs. Homer (Lorena) Reed, Colton
 DeKalb -- Floyd F. E. Walrath, DeKalb Junction
 DePeyster -- Mrs. Emery (Nina) Smithers, DePeyster
 Edwards -- Miss Leah M. Noble, Edwards
 Fine -- Mrs. Roland (Catherine) Brownell, Oswegatchie
 Fowler -- Mrs. Clifton (Isabelle) Hance, RFD 3, Gouverneur
 Gouverneur -- Harold Storie, 20 John St.
 Hammond -- Mrs. Donald (Maxine) Rutherford, RFD 1
 Hermon -- Mrs. Harriet Jenne, Hermon
 Hopkinton -- Mrs. Vaughn (Neva B.) Day, R-1, St. Regis Falls
 Lawrence -- Mrs. Gordon (Anna) Cole, Nicholville
 Lisbon -- Mrs. J. Homer (Doreen) Martin, Lisbon
 Louisville -- Mrs. Clarence E. (Lorraine) Bandy, R-1, Chase Mills
 Macomb -- Willis Kittle, R-1, Rossie
 Madrid -- Mrs. Robert (Florence) Fisher, RFD, Madrid
 Massena -- Mrs. Robert (Marie) Eldon-Browne, 7 Alvern Ave.
 Morristown -- Mrs. James T. (Ella Mae) Phillips, R-1, Hammond
 Norfolk -- Mrs. Edith VanKennen, Norfolk
 Oswegatchie -- Mrs. James (Persis) Boyesen, RFD 3, Ogdensburg
 Parishville -- Mrs. Elsie Bresee, Parishville
 Piercefield -- Mrs. Beulah Dorothy, Childwood
 Pierrepoint -- Millard Hundley, RFD, Canton
 Pitcairn -- Mrs. Ralph M. Hosmer, Harrisville
 Potsdam -- Mrs. Royal (Susan) Lyman, Norwood
 Rossie -- Mrs. Frandy (Frances) Gardner, Rossie
 Russell -- Mrs. Jeanette Barnes, Russell
 Stockholm -- Mrs. Hazel Chapman, R-2, Norfolk
 Waddington -- Mrs. C. B. (Ethel) Olds, Waddington
 Norwood -- Susan Lyman
 Richville -- Mrs. Joseph (Georgiana) Wranesh
 Ogdensburg -- Miss Elizabeth Baxter, City Hall
 Deputy County Historian -- Mrs. George (Jeanne) Reynolds, Cranberry Lake
 County Historian -- Mrs. Edward (Mary H.) Biondi, Canton

Poetical Portraits

THE ELMS



HEALTHY ELM TREE



FIRST SYMPTOMS



SERIOUS CONDITION



CRITICAL



TOO LATE

We have lived among them so long
 That we have come to take them for granted
 Like the air we breathe, like day and night,
 Like food and warmth and sunshine;
 Their grace and majesty and strength
 Outspread against the sky
 Have shaded our heavy loads, our burdened hearts
 Through decades of hot summers;
 Their beauty has been always with us
 From joyous childhood through maturity to age;
 Until late years it had never occurred to us
 That we, heaven forbid, might outlive them;
 And still had we been more mindful
 Looking back in retrospect through time
 We might have inquired
 Where are the passenger pigeons whose hoards
 Once darkened the sky in clouds of infinite beauty?
 All wantonly destroyed by man so that
 They since 1914 have been extinct.
 Where are the great auks, the last three of which
 Whose memory is cherished by conservationists
 Were exterminated by stolid northern fishermen in 1844?
 Where are the hop fields whose tapered green poles
 Climbed the sandy slopes of our great America?
 Where are the whooping cranes of which only a
 reported 47 remain in the whole world?
 Where also are the buffaloes?
 One could go on and on.
 And now the mighty Elms stricken with a disease progressive,
 As yet incurable.
 In the course of daily journeyings we look
 Upon a pathetic, majestic bleached spectre on a pasture
 Hill, an urban highway, a village street
 And in our finite helplessness and bewilderment,
 Desiring only the former status quo,
 Our Beautiful world of green trees, exclaim
 "Oh no, not the elms!"

Anna Matthews Cole

So Passeth The Old Order

By MAE MURRAY, Brasher Historian

On July 7th, 1963 the last service of the Presbyterian Church of Brasher Falls, New York was held. It was a service of commemoration and holy communion concluding the history of the church in this village. Roy Munson as Elder was Chairman of the Arrangements Committee and the service was conducted by the Reverend Varre A. Cummins of Potsdam.

On the eighth of July 1844, twenty-four persons presenting the articles of Faith and Letters of Recommendation for their Union in a church of Jesus Christ, were solemnly constituted as the First Presbyterian Church of Brasher Falls. We see such names as Calvin T. Hulburd and others of that family, the Kelseys, Pettibones, the Stevens family and many others, among the first congregation. The site was given by Ebenezer Hulburd and the amount raised by subscription was \$1995. The church was dedicated on June 9, 1848 and in 1871 it was repaired and enlarged at a cost of \$5000. It was rededicated on Feb. 14, 1872.

The interior comfortably seated about 200 persons. The pews were hand carved in a decorative style, and the walls finished in the conventional New England manner. Stained glass windows added to the decor of the interior. A very interesting feature is the original organ still in good condition which was played a few years ago at the wedding of Carol Schnedeker, a great, great granddaughter of Henry Taylor, one of the early members of this church.

On June 9, 1944, the one hundredth anniversary of the church was held with a reunion in the afternoon, and a basket supper at 5:30 in the afternoon. The weather was ideal for such an event, and many former members, their guests and the townspeople attended. At 7:30 the anniversary worship service was held.

On Sunday mornings the townspeople were awakened and called to worship by the ringing of the bells of this and other churches in the village. It is sad to think they no longer peal out their Sunday call.

"So passeth the old order"

When fire destroyed the old Brasher Stockholm High School



The Former Presbyterian Church of Brasher Falls

on January 1, 1943, grades five through eight were housed in the basement of this church until the school year closed in June 1943.

The Masonic Order of this area has purchased the building and plans to use it for their services. It is gratifying that buildings such as this will be preserved and their dignity maintained.



Mystery picture. Does anyone know where this is?

Our members write



DESTRUCTIVE FIRE

I have stayed a number of nights in the Old Forest House, Oswegatchie, pictured on page 15 of the January Quarterly. The price was 25¢ a night for bed, and 25¢ for a meal. The price for traveling men was 50¢.

On Feb. 20, 1911, the ground was bare, no snow and mild. About 9 p.m. they discovered the hotel was on fire, no fire protection, the hotel and barn back of hotel (as you see in picture lower right hand corner, door open) was used as the hotel barn and livery stable with 4-5 horses. It was run by Charles King and to the left of the hotel O. D. Collins store and to the left of them was Harry Humble's store and post office and to the left of him was the Richardson Block. In front of Collins store up across the yard was the New York Central Railroad Station. These buildings all burned to the ground.

I was there when it first started and helped save what we could. By 11 o'clock it was pretty well over. Harry Wilson was the proprietor, had been there only a short time, and it was never decided if it was an arson case. Don't know if the insurance was ever collected. If I had the names I probably would know most of the people in the picture.

Vernon Everett Rice
Masonic Home, Rm. 280
Utica, N. Y. 13503



WE AGREE!

To the Editor:

Personally I've lived in St. Lawrence County ever since I was 19 years old, and now am 94, and still interested in this "Top of the State." I believe for Grandeur we have all the other counties in New York state "licked." Now, it would seem to me that all newspapers edited in St. Lawrence County should be ready and willing to promote interest in their COUNTY by affording FREE SPACE for an article for at least once a month from the St. Lawrence County Historical Association. The writeup would be not only beneficial to the newspapers, but would perhaps secure additional members, especially from people who have lived a long time in St. Lawrence County. "We in the County are FOR the county" that's my slogan. And the newspapers better think the same way?

Mott Meldrim
Edwards, N. Y.

COVER TO COVER

. . . I wonder if there are not two more Tiffany windows in the Unitarian-Universalist Church in Canton. I remember from childhood my father speaking of the Caldwell and Fethers windows on the left side of the pulpit (as one sits in the church) as being much finer art than the other windows put in when or soon after the church was built.

The Canton to Chester Road reminded me of my master's degree thesis, The Trade and Trade Routes of Northern New York from the Beginning of Settlement to the Coming of the Railroad. I will be glad to send you a copy of you do not have it available.

My father opened his law practice in Morristown in the early '80's when the Indian Root Pill Factory (a typographical error surely in the Morristown Cracker Barrel item!) was booming.

Some of the names Phyllis Clark mentions in her Teach-



This is the Old Methodist Church at East DeKalb. It was the first Methodist church in the town of DeKalb, built well over a century ago and still standing sturdy and strong. It is now owned by the Town of DeKalb and used for storage of road machinery.

(Photo taken by and property of Mark Hemenway, Gouverneur)

er's Association article are also familiar to me.

Finally, in the Diary of January 1880, I question the pheasant dinner on Jan. 17. I don't think pheasants had been turned loose in Northern New York at that date, but it might have been turkey, but probably domesticated, or ruffed grouse, called partridge, not pheasant. You can see I read the QUARTERLY from front to back.

Sincerely,

Dorothy Cleaveland Salisbury
Takoma Park, Maryland
(Editor's note: Several readers have taken us to task for not identifying the student writing contest winner's entry of Diary of January 1880 as pure unadulterated fiction. It was entered as such in the contest.)

MISSING COPY

--In order to complete my file of Quarterlies, I need Vol. 7, No. 1. If anyone has a copy, or an extra one I would appreciate it.

Atwood Manley
Canton, N. Y. 13617

MISSING GUNSMITH

--Is there a way I can find if a gunsmith existed in Potsdam in the late 1800's or early 1900's. We have a gun with initials scratched in, either G. S. or J. S. Can't find in any books.

Mrs. C. B. O'Connor
11402 Wendover Lane
Houston, Texas 70724

GOOD FENCES GOOD NEIGHBORS MAKE

(A Picture Story)



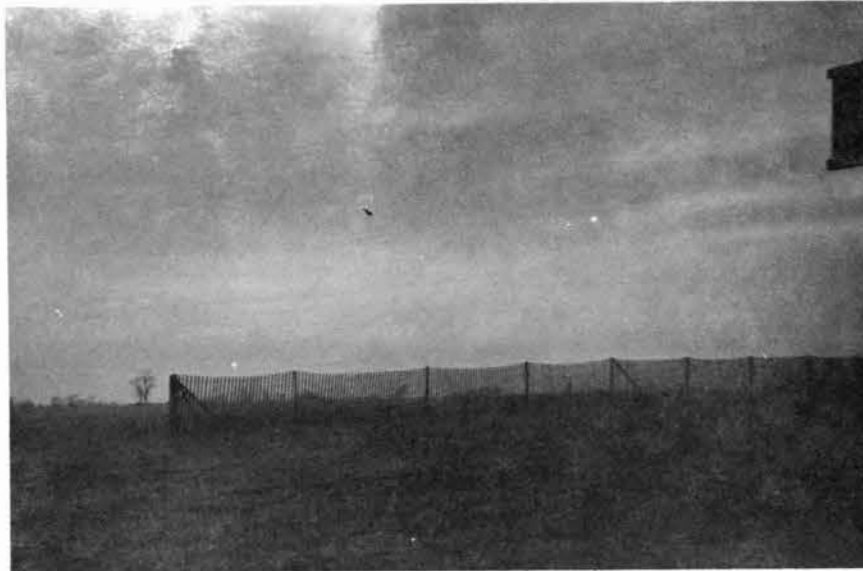
Unusual fence (Town of Canton).



Split Rail (Lincoln or "worm" fence). Many years old. (Town of Waddington.)



Flat stones laid without mortar (Town of Oswegatchie).



Familiar snow fences are becoming scare. (Town of DeKalb).



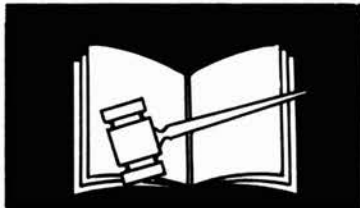
A useful stile. (near DeGrasse.)



Stump fences are a thing of the past.



Horse fence (rails and stonewall) in Town of Oswegatchie.



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

This is a good time to take a new look at a highly valuable addition to our collection in Richville, the materials at the County History Center. Though the Center is open to the general public, it should be of especial interest to our members.

Here is a small museum well worth visiting. The County Historian, Mary Biondi, is there on Mondays and Thursdays throughout the year, or her very able deputy Jeanne Reynolds can assist you. The displays are changed several times a year, and there is always something to interest us.

But the chief asset of the Center is the aid it can give to historical and genealogical research. The library has grown steadily from the few books collected by the first Historian Otto Hamel. Today there are over 1000 volumes of interest to the County, along with tapes, pictures, manuscripts, and periodicals. Here are New York State histories from Mac-Cauley's 3-volume set published in 1829 to the present day. All the known histories of our county are here. The Adirondack shelf is filling up and there are a number of Civil War history and records volumes. We try to collect works of north country authors.

The Historian stretches her budget to purchase a few volumes each year, and there have been many grateful gifts. We still need books on the Adirondacks, works of Irving Bachelier and other county authors. Gifts of district school attendance record books, association and club minute books and other unique records are always welcome.

Many contributors to the Quarterly find the library material most helpful. Searchers for genealogy will find the entire bookcase of family history records helpful. The center has a projector and slides are being collected on every town to be loaned to groups and societies all over the county. If you haven't been to the History Center lately, you will want to stop in when you are in Canton, to just browse or do study. The ground floor near the motor vehicle department is the location, and your History Center will always welcome you.

Eugene Hatch



LETTER FROM THE EDITOR

They say that nine out of a dozen Aprils bring late heavy snows. After the long extremely cold winter we have just experienced, we hope this year is one of the three early springs. We need the respite before summer.

As wider and wider stretches of asphalt take us hither and thither, we sometimes forget to just enjoy the joys of our country side away from the speed ribbons.

Marshes of pussy willows, flashing red-winged blackbirds, delicate wands of hepatica and dogtooth violets, showy trilliums vie for our attention. Ferns unfurl before our very eyes, and trees turn from gray to ruddy red to light green then deep green before we know it.

The smells of moist newly-turned soil, fragrant boiling maple sap and fresh, fresh air recently April-shower washed make us glad to be in St. Lawrence County in April.



Soon shall the winter's foil be here;
 Soon shall these icy ligatures unbind and melt --
 A little while, and air, soil, wave, suffused shall be in softness,
 bloom and growth --
 A thousand forms shall rise from these dead clods and chills,
 as from low burial graves.
 Thine eyes, ears -- all thy best attributes -- all that takes
 cognizance of natural beauty, shall wake and fill.
 Thou shalt perceive the simple shows, the delicate miracles
 of earth.
 Dandelions, clover, the emerald grass, the early scents
 and flowers;
 The arbutus under foot, the willow's yellow-green, the blossoming
 plum and cherry;
 With these the robin, lark, and thrush, singing their songs --
 the flitting bluebird; such are the scenes the annual play
 brings on.

Walt Whitman



SUGAR HOUSE NEAR OSWEGATCHIE

would you believe ...

By PATRICIA STAUB, S.L.U. Journalism Student
In St. Lawrence county, in 1849, a justice of the peace received the magnificent fee of six cents for administering an oath. A warrant for someone's arrest earned the pretentious sum of nineteen cents. The sheriff of St. Lawrence county at that time fared a little better, but not much! He received thirty-seven and a half cents for committing and discharging each prisoner.

This frugal county was begun officially on March 3, 1802. It was brought into existence by a petition written in February of that same year. In the petition, the main complaint was that:

...the principal inconvenience your petitioners labor under is the very remote distance they are placed from Plattsburgh, which is the county town of the county of Clinton. . .Between the ten townships and Plattsburgh much of the way there is no road and the remainder of the way is a very bad one; this together with the great inconvenience and expense which necessarily must arise, almost places your petitioners without the reach of that justice, which the laws of our country so happily provide for.

Your petitioners therefore beg humbly to state, that much less hardship and expense would arise to them, by having a county seat set off upon the river St. Lawrence, and your petitioners humbly pray, that a county may be set off upon the aforesaid river, in such manner as your body shall deem most proper.

Thus began St. Lawrence county. Eight years later, the population of the county was 7,885 and increasing rapidly. Some of the public officials governing these early pioneers included: excise commissioners, a county treasurer, a county clerk, a district attorney, and a sheriff. Most of these offices were at first appointive; however, with the adoption of the second constitution in 1846, many of these offices became elective.

The office of sheriff was originally termed "School Fiscal" in the 1620's when the Dutch ruled New York. At first the sheriffs of St. Lawrence county appointed by the governor. However, under the first constitution, the sheriff was appointed annually by the Council of Appointment and he was allowed to serve no more than four successive years in office. Under the second constitution which was adopted in 1846, the sheriff was elected rather than appointed and he held office for a term of three years.

The excise commissioners were also originally appointed by the governor for the purpose of regulating the sale of "spirituous liquors." However, this office was abolished in 1870.

Under the first constitution, the district attorney (originally called assistant attorney-general) was chosen by the Council of Appointment for any length of duration which they determined. However, this was changed in 1846 with the adoption of the second constitution; the court of sessions made the appointment. Finally, under the present constitution, the office became an elective one with terms of three years each.

The county treasurers were originally appointed by the boards of supervisors but this changed with the adoption of the present constitution which made this office an elective one also. County clerks were also appointed until 1846, and once again the second constitution effected a change, making this office elective along with all the others.

Some of the more unique offices which existed in the early years of this county include the pathmaster. This office eventually evolved into "superintendent of highways." Another unique office was that of fence-viewers, who among other things inquired into any incidents of dogs killing or injuring sheep or lambs. Once such an incident was reported, the fence-viewers would investigate the matter and if they were satisfied that the livestock had been attacked by a dog, they would certify this fact and then this evidence would be used in judicial proceedings.



Professor E. L. Hulett was appointed Canton's Sealer of Weights and Measures in 1907. In 1908 he was "authorized to purchase necessary outfit for weights and measures. In 1909 town minutes show that he agreed to use his own automobile (at \$1.50 per hour) to measure the roads of Canton.

JURORS CHOSEN

Throughout the years there has been much progress and this is made evident by the changes in county offices and policies. In the 1850's, jurors who served on criminal and civil courts were chosen by the supervisor, the town clerk and the assessors of several towns. These officials selected the names from a list of all people who were assessed for personal property worth two hundred and fifty dollars or more. They selected only male inhabitants of the town who were between the ages of twenty-one and sixty years of age, and many exemptions existed. Those people who were exempted from jury duty in the 1850's included: canal officials, aliens, all persons employed in the manufacture of coarse salt, all keepers of alms houses and poor houses, and all men engaged in military service.

In 1958, a new policy was created in St. Lawrence county to make jury selection more equitable for all concerned. To begin with, the office of commissioner of jurors was created. David J. Cleland, the present commissioner of jurors, explains that questionnaires are sent to all people on the election list and these questionnaires allow individuals to indicate preferences as to the time of year they would most like to serve. Mr. Cleland indicated that there is a minimum of 6,000 individuals on the list of available jurors at all times. And each year, 1200 to 1500 new jurors must be selected to replace those who either have moved, become too old, or have died. From this list of at least 6,000, the commissioner of jurors draws lots to decide who will make up the actual jury. This new treatment hopefully results in a fairer treatment for all concerned.

WEIGHTS AND MEASURES

Another office which is indicative of the changes in the county is that of sealer of weights and measures. In 1851, the Cobb-Merritt bill provided that the "board of supervisors of each county shall at their annual meeting, appoint a county sealer of weights and measures, who shall hold this office during the pleasure of the board." Many towns apparently had their own sealers. On December 10, 1910, George VanDelinder was appointed to be the first sealer of weights and measures for the entire St. Lawrence county.

Fred W. Selleck, the present holder of this office, was appointed in 1958 and he at that time requested that the job become a civil service job rather than an appointive one. His request was granted and now the office is a permanent civil service job. Selleck pointed out that according to the actual regulations, the sealer of weights and measures has all the privileges of a police officer. That is, he has the right

(Continued on Page 16)



George Vanderlinder, the first County Sealer, appointed in 1910.

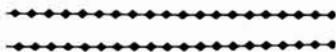
to make arrests, seize property and enter anyone's property as long as it is in the pursuit of duty. However, there has been no reason for his using these powers since most people regard the sealer as a middle man between government and the consumer, a necessary means of regulation.

Selleck also declared, "The job is changing fast. Whereas, before it was primarily manipulation of gadgets to check on the accuracy of the measuring devices themselves, now the main concern is with pre-packaged items offered for sale. More and more it is assumed that supermarkets and those farmers engaged in dairy farming, especially, will be responsible for keeping their own gadgets accurate."

Quite obviously the changes in St. Lawrence county since 1802 are major. There is a noticeable attempt on the part of county officials to insure the fact that all citizens are affected equally by regulatory action and by duties of performance. There are now thirty-eight major county offices which are essential to the smooth functioning of the government. And likewise, there have been changes in the salaries given to various officials. A sheriff in the early 1800's would have to discharge and admit quite a few criminals at thirty-seven and a half cents a person in order to earn the ten thousand dollars that is paid to the present sheriff of St. Lawrence county. Likewise, it is quite a jump from six cents for administering an oath to the seven hundred dollars a year which is now received by a justice of the peace in this county.

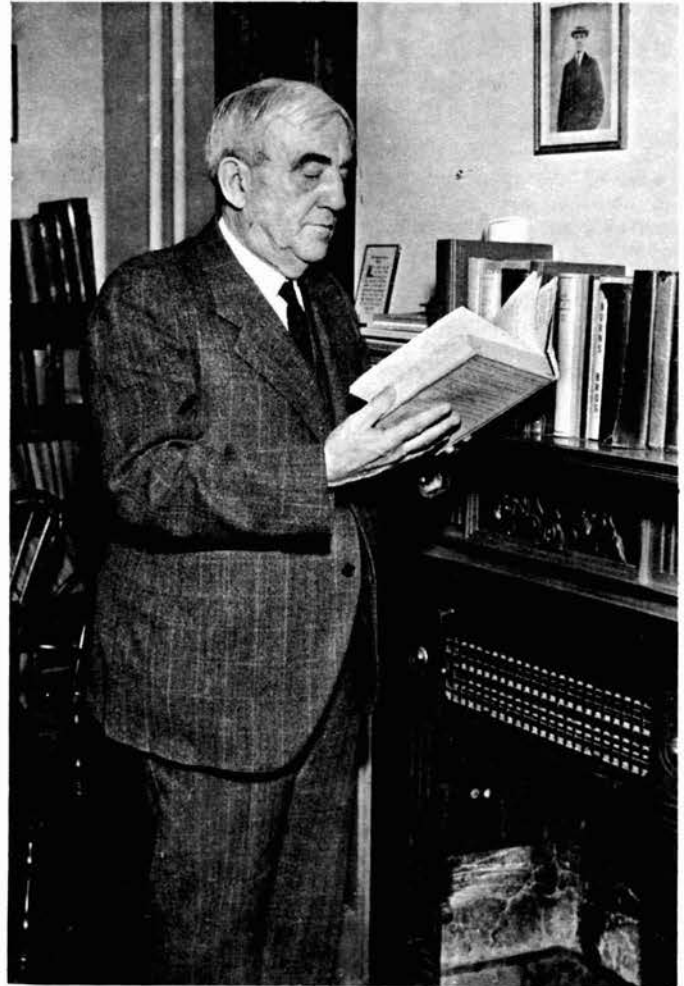
References:

1. L. H. Everts. HISTORY OF ST. LAWRENCE CO. (Philadelphia: Everts & Co. 1878) p. 82.
2. Ephraim Goss. POWERS AND DUTIES OF SUPERVISORS. (Rochester: Steele, Avery & Co. 1859) p. 185.



Now the sun will again climb the heavens, and henceforth the darkness will be pushed back each day. And the months of snow will give way to the months of leaves, and petals will fall upon the earth. The young will be brought from the womb, and the shoot will burst from the seed. Men will walk upon the greening grass, and their plowshares will divide the warming soil. In the midst of winter the promise is given of the summer season, and in the midst of darkness there comes the assurance of light. In the midst of cold comes a messenger of warmth, and in the days of death there is heard the good news of life.

Kenneth L. Patton



Edwin Lee Hulett, Dean of S.L.U.



E. L. Hulett at Hollywood, N.Y.

(Photos Courtesy of S.L.U. Archives)

Vignette

Edwards Postoffice

By EARL T. MELDRIM

A review of the operation of the post office at Edwards and its relation to the New York Central Railroad discloses some interesting items. The first location of which there is a record indicates it was in a little green store on Main Street near the Universalist church and was operated by Lev Raymond the grocer. For some reason, probably political, the appointment went to Cyrus Watson whose store was on the corner of Main Street and Maple Avenue, a location later occupied by the bank.

It was in this place when my father came to Edwards in 1896 and as he dropped in one day to mail some letters, Mr. Watson wanted to know if they should go free, being railroad mail. The next postmaster was William John McFerran, a very nice individual and a church member who also played a horn in the Edwards Town Band. He had the office in a building near the Hotel Edwards, later to be occupied by Arthur Boulet, a barber. I can well remember, as a small boy, hauling myself up by my hands on the delivery window shelf so Mr. McFerran could see me. Jane Whitehead, a Scotch resident of the town, made the remark, "I don't think so mooch of William John, an upright church member, a trompin' around the streets tootin' on his old horn."

At this time, Meade Thomas, owner of the hotel, had a driver named John Denio and, in carrying out the contract for hauling mail between the railroad station and the post office, John would cram everything into the front end of the hotel bus, climb in on top of it all and drive away. Damage to third class mail (packages) frequently occurred. There was no fourth class at that time.

The next postmaster was Arthur Gore who operated from 1906 or 1907 to about 1915, first in the McFerran store and later on in the end room of the first floor of the town hall. Sometime before he left, mail delivery was transferred to the station agent and the railroad company furnished a two wheeled cart and a heavy hand drawn bobsled. This sled was built so low it would not clear even a light snowfall so Dad obtained permission from Woodcock Brothers to use their blacksmith shop to construct a light sled with high runners.

At this time, the middle room of the town hall, was occupied by Fred Dulack as a barber shop. When the Edwards National Bank was organized in 1915, both rooms were needed so Fred



Post office in first floor of Masonic Hall, Edwards. Its unusual sculptured metal architecture is painted aluminum.

moved to his residence and the post office went to the lower floor of the Masonic Hall where it has been since then. Oswald Freeman had taken over the office of postmaster on February 1, 1915 and continued until November 1919.

Following him came Miss Mariam Bancroft who held the job until the middle of June 1922 when she decided she would rather be a housewife than a postmaster. After she left, the town Republican Committeeman, William Gardner, succeeded in having May Ferry appointed and she continued until 1935 when the present postmaster, Lee Meldrim took over the mail job. May had no use for all of the so-called "junk mail" constantly arriving so took the expedient way of getting rid of it by dumping it in the waste basket, thus relieving the box holders of the job!



School children on hill in Bigelow. Houses in back: left, Bennett R. Jones (many years road supervisor); Charles Williams home (later Wm. Parker); Manley Johnson home. Children believed to be: seated — Gordon Finley, Earl Manning, Anson Stevens, Stanley Dewan, Billy Besaw, Ed (?) Newvine, Stanley Jones. Standing — Art (?) Newvine, Thelma Ells (?), Pearl Newvine. (Positive identification would be appreciated. Ed.)

A GRAND OLD NAME (Continued from Page 6)

Robert Ingersoll was the center of a religious controversy that raged for thirty years because he attacked the orthodox Christian belief of a personalized God. He preached in an era of intellectual conformity and timorousness and was the sole, if not the supreme exemplar of courageous non-conformity and intellectual independence. At a time of intense controversy and widespread intolerance of the very idea of disbelief in a personal God, he applied to himself the term "agnostic."

Concerning Ingersoll's religious convictions, Dr. Sykes wrote:

"Robert lived in a time when the so-called severe theological views generally prevailed, and for these he seemed to form an aversion. . . It was these views that he combatted so vigorously in his addresses."

R. G. Ingersoll was best known for his views on religious topics, but his introduction to the country at large was by reason of a political and not by an agnostic address. It was in 1876 when he made the address nominating James G. Blaine for the presidency. It was in this speech that Mr. Blaine was first alluded to as the "Plumed Knight."

Ingersoll had entered politics following the Civil War in which he had served as a Colonel in the 11th Illinois Cavalry.

He spoke at a great pep rally in Ogdensburg on Oct. 9, 1880 and was billed as "the golden-tongued orator of Illinois, than whom none is more eloquent." Twenty thousand people turned out for the event! The Ogdensburg press reported:

"In many respects, Colonel Ingersoll is the leading political orator of the century. People of all parties delight to hear him whether they agree with him or not."

Albert J. Beveridge has called Ingersoll one of the four great orators America has produced. He has influenced Darrow, Debs, Beveridge and others.

Dr. Sykes added a human touch to the "great agnostic" in a Watertown Daily Times article. "One did not need to agree with him to discover that he was a man of warm heart, generous impulses, fine moral principles, true friendship and unsurpassed and flaming eloquence. His home life was ideal."

The two cousins who had originated in New York State's North Country were as diverse in their religious persuasions as two men could be; yet, the single tie of greatness sustained the close friendship between them until Ingersoll's death in 1899.

(Photos Courtesy of S.L.U. Archives)



HORNED LARKS

By LANSING CHRISTMAN, Schenectady County Historian
Winter has its countless phases of beauty and loveliness, its deep content for those hillpeople who love the ice and snow, the winter sun. As February moves in upon the snow-covered land, one of the most pleasing aspects of the wintry hours comes when the horned larks appear again on the wind-swept acres of the farm.

One sees the birds only briefly at a time of year when the winter days are working toward their hour of spring. As a boy, one liked to think of the horned lark as a harbinger of the season of thaw. As a man, he is aware that weeks must yet go by before the fluent thaw opens the fields and streams, and brings the robin and the bluebird to his rolling hills.

Working or walking about his winter farm, one often comes upon a flock of horned larks feeding from the meadows where the crowns of weed stalks hold their seeds above the snow, or feeding in the fields where the winds have whipped the acres clean. Coming upon the birds, he listens for the short whistled notes that are almost sure to mark the start of a flight that more than likely ends in the same area from which the flock had left the snow.

On his trips to town, as a boy and as a man, one has always maintained his February watch for the flocks of horned larks along the road, and in the fields. He likes to think of them as a symbol of the winter hour that borders close to spring, like the winter sun, lingering longer now over the hills on winter afternoons.

Saint Lawrence

Oldest River in the World

What is the oldest river in the world? The St. Lawrence. It is also one of the few rivers that did not have to make its own bed, and has remained unchanged since the very beginning of the American continent, says a Montreal writer.

Try to think of the time when the earth was covered by a mass of water, hot, steaming, and often tremendously disturbed by the throes of a globe beneath it that was shrinking because it was becoming cooler. As the globe shrank, every particle of the outside was naturally pulled in toward the centre, and the hardening crust, which could not be packed any more solidly than it was, had to wrinkle, sinking down here, and bulging up somewhere else. After a time certain of these rising wrinkles, or folds, the thicker, or firmer, parts of the earth's crust, stood the strain, and became permanent ridges. The oldest of them that geologists know, and apparently the first that bulged up above the universal ocean and remained high and dry, was the broad mass on which Canada now rests. It is a part of the original crust of the earth, and we can see it today, wherever it is not covered by newer rocks or soil, just as it crystalized and cooled out of the primeval molten material.

This mass formed a broad V from Labrador down to Lake Huron, and thence northwestward to Alaska; on account of its shape geologists call it the Canadian Shield. It is the oldest land known, and apparently the very strongest, for there are no signs of any extensive changes in it (except the wearing away of the surface), since it first rolled the ocean off its shoulders.

Off the eastern coast of this primitive continent lay a chain of lofty islands, about on the line of the Blue Ridge, the White Mountains, the Maine coast, and Nova Scotia. Between these islands and the mainland was a trough-like space that ran from eastern Quebec southwestward to Ohio. It was two or three hundred miles wide, and filled with a shallow sea, and just outside the island chain was the great hollow that held the Atlantic Ocean.

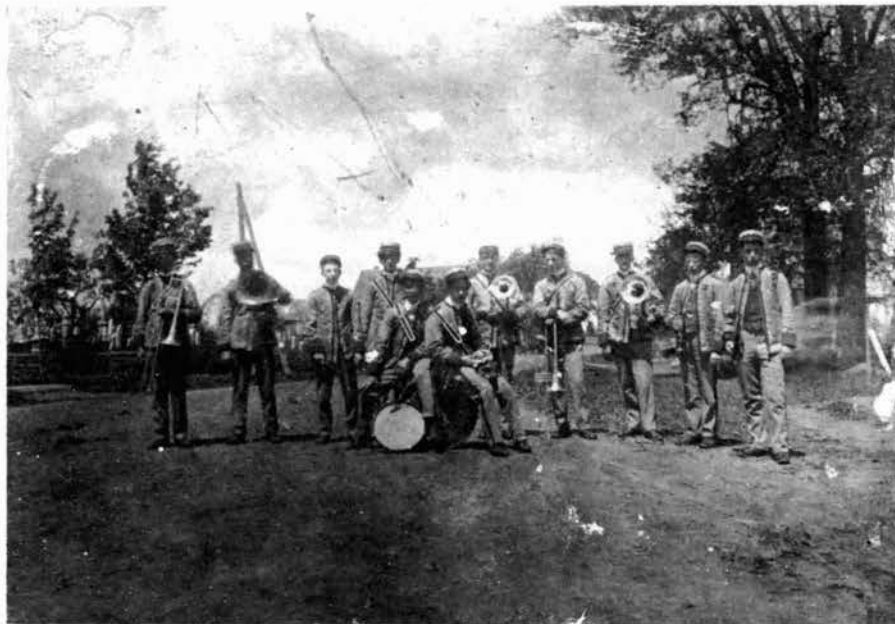
Time went on. For ages the straining and cracking of the shrinking globe, earthquake, sun and frost pounding surf, running water, blowing gales ice -- all labored to tear down the mountains and carry the wreckage of rocks and dust away into the valleys and seas, in layers and shales, sandstones and what not, were laid down in that narrow, trough-like sea between the chain of islands and the continent.

All these "sedimentary" rocks were soft and weak, compared with the solid old granite deeply rooted on either side of them; and the trough itself, a sagging fold, was a line of weakness in the crust. As the load of deposits became heavier and heavier, the floor of this trough slowly yielded, and as it sank toward the heated region below, the underside melted and grew thinner and thinner.

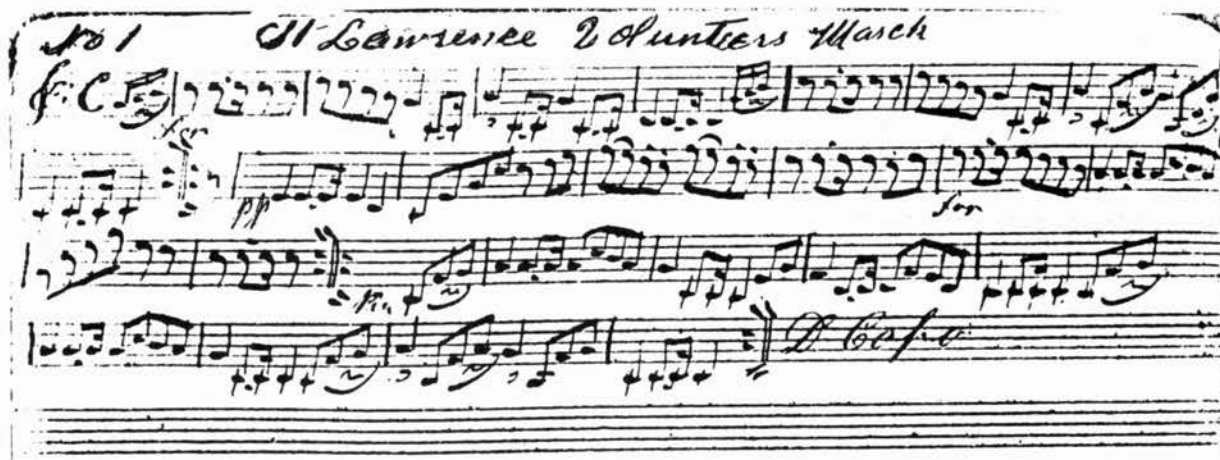
That could not go on forever, and soon the continual shrinking of the globe and the enormous pressure of the weight of the ocean became irresistible. The Canadian Shield was immovable, so the rock in the trough began to bulge or crumple all along its length. Gradually, not all at once, but by slow and varying movements, these folds were squeezed up, which in their broken and worn-down form we know as the Appalachian mountains.

Toward the south there was room for this action to be rather gentle and regular, but in the far northeast the trough was narrow; and the soft rocks were set on edge, overturned and splintered against the solid continent. Very early in the struggle a great fracture of the earth's crust occurred here along a curving northeast and southwest line. It left a deep and broad trench between the crushed and displaced rocks of the trough and the granite shore of the Canadian Shield. Into this trench rushed all the interior waters of the continent, draining away to the sea, and the St. Lawrence river was born! There, no doubt, it will remain as long as the earth keeps its present form.

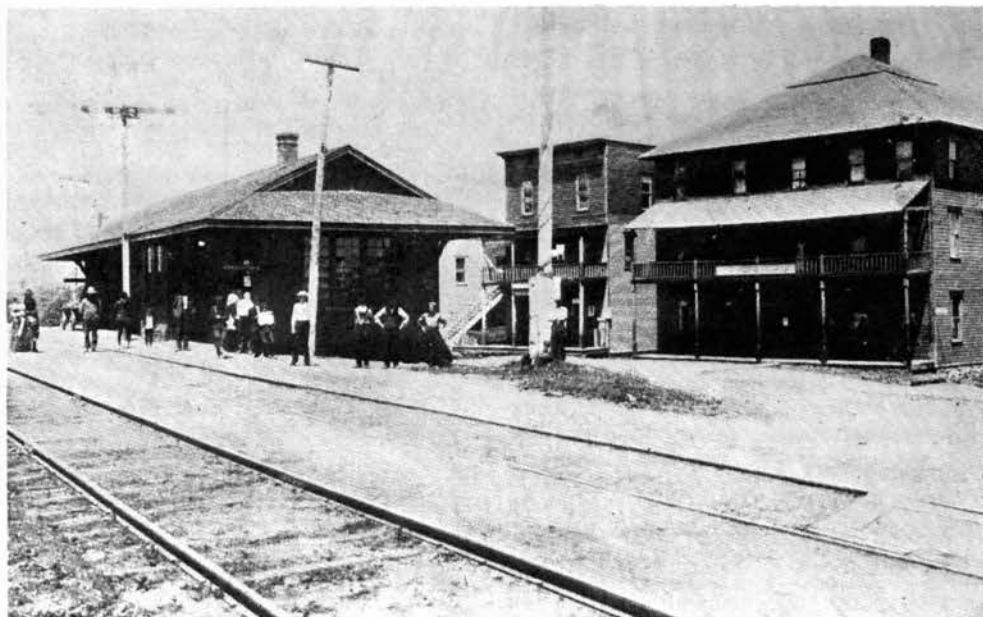
(Continued on Page 20)



Band in Brier Hill in 1890's.



Copy of original band music found in books belonging to Wegatchie Brass Band. Information is needed on this band.



N. Y. C. & H. R. R. DEPOT, OSWEGATCHIE, N. Y.

OGDENSBURG FLASHBACK

By GEORGE LIEBLER

In the life span of the average man one hundred years is a long time. "It takes a heap of livin'." This is Ogdensburg's Centennial year. Founded in 1749 Ogdensburg became a village in 1817 and a city in 1868, dropping its final "h". Last month we stood near the corner of Ford and State Sts. and watched the razing of the historic Seymour house with the dust and debris being whipped around by a frigid March wind. Located at the hub of our city this edifice has been a silent witness to the march of time for the past hundred years and longer. It has housed the great and near great of our nation. From its spacious veranda one could witness the whole panorama of our history. Parades of grim faced warriors off to wars in the four corners of the world and the seven seas. Happy parades of circus days. Old Home week and Decoration Day parades with bright scrubbed faces of school children and the grown-ups of local organizations marching in and out of step to the valiant efforts of high school bands. Rumbling trolleys and the changing vehicles of the years.

We are told that a modern gas station will appear on the former Seymour corner. In our local paper dated just after the turn of the century we read that a certain Fred Walrath was driving his horse and wagon down State St., approaching Ford St., when a vagrant breeze blew a sheet of paper over the horse's head causing the horse to panic. . . and run wild, Fred was thrown from the wagon but managed to keep hold of the reins and after a brief but violent struggle threw the horse to the ground and sat on its head until help arrived. No one was injured. And time marches on. . .

SUMMER HIGHLIGHTS OF CENTENNIAL OGDENSBURG

April	4	Art Fair, Boys Club.
April	27	Centennial Day. 2 P.M., City Hall. Raising Centennial flag, tree planting, bands, parade.
May	5-11	Education displays during Heritage Week.
May	11-18	Hospital Week.
May	12	USAF Band Concert, 2 P.M.
May	26	Boy Scout Jamboree
May	30	100th Anniversary of Memorial Day Parade.
June	1	Ft. Oswegatchie Founders Day.
June	2	Horse Show.
June	5	City Hall Day.
June	8	Last graduation of Hospital. Alumnae Weekend.
June	14	Flag Day Parade.
June	25	Garden Club Flower Show.
June	29-30	Fisherman's Weekend. "Finny" Art Show. Boat Races.
July	4	Parade, Morristown.
July	18	Mystery Day.
July	26-28	Seaway Festival.
Aug.	17-25	Old Home Week. Transportation Parade, 17th.
Sept.	13-14	Hammond 4H - FFA Fair.
Sept.	15	Linda Richards Day Program.

SAINT LAWRENCE (Continued from Page 18)

At that time there was no Gulf of St. Lawrence. The land extended out to a coast that stretched unbroken from Nova Scotia to Labrador. The present gulf is the result of a sinking of the coast region. Most of it is very shallow, but a chart of soundings shows the ancient river bed as a channel winding out between Newfoundland and Cape Breton to the deep ocean.

The St. Lawrence river has always served as a highway, first for the Indians and then for the French explorers, Cartier and Champlain and their men.

Based on the law of history that wealth, power and civilization follow and depend on safe transportation, the St. Lawrence has always been a key to the North American future.

At first the St. Lawrence river played little part in the Western settlements because of the Great Rapids in the river, but in 1954 The St. Lawrence Seaway became a reality. Now the seagoing ships are able to go to any seaport on the Great Lakes.

The Power Project which has been developed on the St. Lawrence has made living in St. Lawrence County much better. With two big industries near Massena that employ thousands of men and the new Corning Glass works near Canton we of St. Lawrence county can be thankful we have such a wonderful river at our doorstep.

Courier - Freeman Feb. 24 1915

(Submitted by Hazel Chapman, Stockholm Historian)

MAN IN TIME

Rich is the man who lives in today, filled with the problems and promises of his own times.

Richer is the man who lives in his own times, but sees in them the admixture of all the times that have been.

This earth is our present garden and a path for our feet, but each grain of soil is also a history and a romance.

Could it speak it would tell of being many times the flesh of plant and animal, lifted high in leaf, swift in muscle. The smoothness of the stone is the story of many waters. The stars are very old, although they seem to have changed hardly at all in the brief moment men have looked upon them. Time and death, the great gatherers, are ancient dwellers of this place.

Fruitful is the life of him who sinks his roots deep in the soil of culture laid down by the generations,

Man too is a rich soil gathered from many centuries.

Man too is a romance and a history.

Rich is the man who sees things newly as if eyes had never before looked upon the earth.

Richer is he who learns to look through the eyes of men who have gone before, and adds to their vision the freshness of his own sight.

We live this day within all the years of the past.

Only seasoned by the memory of yesterday is the bread and meat of today tasted in its full flavor.

Kenneth L. Patton

**Have You
Contributed
To The
Building Fund ?**

FIRST WHITE MAN (Continued from Page 4)

restoring lost manpower by subverting or capturing Huron refugees encamped below Quebec.

The French set as a condition for talking peace the safe return of the two recent captives, or at least of Father Poncet. The Mohawks then lifted their ambush around Three Rivers and left four or five hostages pending the return of a peace mission conducting Father Poncet.

When these facts became known in Mohawk villages, Father Poncet was treated with new consideration. He was taken to the Dutch settlement at Fort Orange to get clothes to replace his tattered rags. On his return to the largest of the Mohawk villages, he was a respected guest at peace councils and feasts. After one month in Mohawk country he began his journey home under escort.

REMINGTON READS

Now followed one of those epic journeys through the wilderness of the New World that have made the JESUIT RELATIONS fascinating reading to real or would-be adventurers of later days. Among these readers was a native of St. Lawrence County, Frederic Remington, Canton-born artist of the old West. He was the owner of set number 435 of the standard 73-volume American edition of the JESUIT RELATIONS, edited by Reuben G. Thwaites and published in a limited issue of 750 copies in 1896-1901, with the original Latin, French, or Italian on left-hand pages and an English translation on the right. Remington's bookplate, with his name under a drawing of a buffalo skull, is in all 73 volumes except the last three, where the artist evidently ran out of prints or of patience. In 1916 his widow gave this set, along with other books, to the Canton Free Library. I wonder whether Remington ever got as far as Volume 40 and read about Poncet's trip home down the Oswegatchie. If so, he would have been reminded of his own trip on the same river in 1892 in his canoe the NECOOCHEE and with his Adirondack guide, Hasbeck.

Poncet's trip home took over a month. The outward trip by Lake Champlain had taken only sixteen days. Why was a longer way chosen for the return trip, and a much more difficult one? Poncet says that he "had neither strength or legs for so great an undertaking." The reason given him for the western route makes little sense unless weather conditions have greatly changed in three centuries. He was told that October storms made the Champlain route dangerous. But the rapids of the St. Lawrence, which had stopped French explorers thus far, were a greater natural hazard than early October storms on Lake Champlain.

The Mohawks may have weighed Poncet's doubtful fitness for a hard foot journey against the importance to them of getting him home alive, and yet they chose the harder route to the west by which they sometimes sent war or hunting parties to Canada. This was a peace party, but its safety and perhaps secrecy were vital. The Champlain Valley, "path of empire," was everybody's route. A small band of Mohawks escorting a Frenchman (traditional enemy of the Five Nations) on the open waters of Lake George and Lake Champlain risked meeting other Iroquois not so interested in the Father's well-being as the Mohawks now were, or bands of hostile tribes. The upper St. Lawrence was less traveled and at the time better controlled by the Mohawks.

The party left on October 3, reached the St. Lawrence on October 13, arrived at Montreal on the 24th, and, after a few days there and in Three Rivers, ended their journey at Quebec on November 5. The seven-man escort, led by one Poncet calls a "captain," took up its role as a peace embassy, making eight presents to the French to bind the truce and promising that another delegation would come in the spring to conclude a treaty.

Let us turn now to the first part of Father Poncet's homeward journey. In passing through the interior of northern New York, he survived such "inconceivable fatigues" that "it seems to me," he writes, "a perpetual miracle that I was able to bear it, suffering as I was such intense pain and such extreme weakness. . . I seem to have participated a little in the weakness and exhaustion of the King of the afflicted."

They started from the westernmost of the four Mohawk villages Poncet had visited during his captivity. In the 17th century these villages extended for about thirty miles along

the south bank of the Mohawk from Schoharie Creek to a point opposite the mouth of East Canada Creek in the town of Danube, Herkimer County. Since villages were shifted as firewood gave out and successive maize crops depleted the soil, the site of the upper village in 1653 cannot be definitely located. It probably lay between modern Fort Plain and Indian Castle. North of these places two creeks drain the southern Adirondacks, the Caroga and the East Canada, forming valley routes into the highlands.

DESCENT OF THE OSWEGATCHIE

There is general agreement that Poncet reached the St. Lawrence at the mouth of the Oswegatchie. For two days, he says, his party descended by boat a river that "empties its water sixty leagues or thereabouts above the island of Montreal, and not far from the lake called Ontario." This could only be the Oswegatchie. The navigational distance from its mouth to Montreal was 117 miles, or about 47 leagues. Dangers and delays in this part of the trip, which took eleven days, explain Poncet's overestimate of distance. "As we began to draw near the island of Montreal," he writes, "my people were afraid of meeting with some Algonquins; and meanwhile they took such great pleasure in hunting -- game being very plenty in those regions of the great river Saint Lawrence -- that this delay seemed tiresome to me. Our final Cross was the danger of being swallowed up in the whirlpools of the Saint Louys rapids, within sight of the Montreal settlement. I almost thought I would find my grave in those currents, but they did me no further harm than to wash away the rest of my sins."

The French had known Lake Ontario since Champlain's voyage of 1615, though they had approached it from Huron country after ascending the Ottawa River. Both before and after 1653 they regarded the Thousand Islands as part of the lake rather than of the St. Lawrence River. Chippewa Bay was for them the foot of the lake. The mouth of the Oswegatchie is twenty miles below Chippewa Bay, or "not far from the lake called Ontario," as Poncet says. The Oswegatchie is in fact the only navigable tributary of the St. Lawrence between Cape Vincent and Ogdensburg. The mouths of the Grass and the Raquette are too far east to be reconciled with Poncet's estimate of distance.

But the question remains; where did the party reach the Oswegatchie? Historians disagree. Parkman, not knowing the interior of northern New York as well as he did the Champlain Valley, doesn't hazard a guess. Winsor believes that the route lay along the shore of Lake Ontario. A Canadian historian, William Kingsford, infers that the escort passed "to the west of the Adirondacks" to reach the Oswegatchie. Nelson Greene's HISTORY OF THE MOHAWK VALLEY indicates specifically a Black River route. Harry Landon, as we have seen, develops the latter suggestion by having Poncet ascend West Canada Creek into the Black River Valley and then reach the Oswegatchie, seven miles above its mouth, through the Indian River and Black Lake. Nellis Crouse places the route farther east: Poncet "ascended the Mohawk Valley for a considerable distance, and then left it, traveling in a northwesterly direction -- probably up West Canada Creek -- crossing many streams, and plunging through the primeval forests of the Adirondacks, until he reached the shores of Cranberry Lake in St. Lawrence County. Here he embarked on the Oswegatchie River."

In all respects but one, I believe Crouse's inference best accords with hints Father Poncet gives about the country he passed through. He writes of "mountains" and "mountain streams and brooks." From the Black River Valley one does not see mountains, much less move among them. The western slope of the Adirondacks appears as an uplift of notably even skyline, as does Tug Hill on the west. And by the time feeder streams reach the Black, they are no longer "mountain streams and brooks." In the western Adirondacks, on the other hand, Poncet would have passed many mountains ranging up to 3,600 feet and crossed many swift mountain streams.

Another consideration that makes the Black River improbable is simply the fact that Father Poncet walked for eight days. His escort had every interest in preserving his life and health. "My guide never lost his gentleness and pa-

(Continued on Page 22)

FIRST WHITE MAN (Continued from Page 21)

tience," Poncet says, "although he saw what a bad traveler I was." If the party had been on the Black River, they would surely have traveled by boat, as later on the Oswegatchie and the St. Lawrence.

FORDED RIVERS

Another hint given by Poncet is hard to reconcile with the geography of the Black River Valley. He speaks of "four rivers of considerable size which we had to cross by fording, wetting ourselves thereby to the waist," and "another large one that had to be crossed on rafts." On the left bank of the Black they would have crossed only minor streams. On the right, they would have needed rafts to cross so many tributaries that travel by trail would have been impracticable. But on a parallel route about 40 miles to the east the larger of those streams could have been crossed by waist-deep fording at points not far from their headwaters.

There is external evidence to support the theory that Poncet's foot journey lay through the western Adirondacks and touched the headwaters of the Oswegatchie, though the boat trip probably began below Cranberry Lake. A Jesuit map of Iroquois territory made in 1664 is based on the travels and observations of Jesuit missionaries up to that time. Poncet's trip doubtless furnished some of the data, as did Father le Moynes's travels in the following year, 1654. Le Moynes made the first known ascent of the upper St. Lawrence through the Thousand Islands (symbolically indicated on the map) into Lake Ontario and south along its shore and the Salmon River to the country of the Onondagas. After his pioneering, the upper St. Lawrence, Lake Ontario, and the Salmon or Oswego River became the customary route of the Jesuits in their unsuccessful efforts to found lasting Iroquois missions. On the map the course of the Oswego is indicated and the harbor mouth of the Salmon. A stub of the lower Black River appears; le Moynes had seen its mouth (placed too far south) but could only guess at its upper course. The Grass, the Raquette, the St. Regis, and other northern New York tributaries of the St. Lawrence east of Ogdensburg are not shown. Nor is the Indian River and Black Lake, Landon's route for Father Poncet. Only one southern tributary is shown between Lake Ontario and the Richelieu River -- the Oswegatchie. Its exaggerated length on the map suggests that Poncet must have touched its headwaters. Its flow through Cranberry Lake is not shown; Poncet probably never saw the lake, passing it a few miles west. No Jesuit except Poncet is reported to have traveled in that region prior to 1664. Such firsthand knowledge of the river as the Jesuits then had must have come from Poncet's trip. The river is given no name but bears the inscription, in French, "river that comes from the direction of the Mohawks."

The fact that the Black River flowed through central Oneida territory was a likely reason for avoiding it. The strength of the Iroquois lay in their union. But rivalry, distrust, and jealousy often ruffled relations among the five members of the league. Some disputes were serious. A special advantage or prestige gained by one of the nations caused jealousy or resentment among the others. Father le Moynes's visit to the Onondagas, for instance, so angered the Mohawks that they sent a deputation to Quebec to protest the affront; their nation was "the eastern door" through which all white visitors should pass. The Mohawks had a cause of distrust a year earlier when other members of the league were hastening to make peace with New France. Having held out in the hope of a prestigious victory at Three Rivers, they were in the awkward position of latecomers in peace negotiations. Their allies might gain an advantage. Their own success in making peace depended on the safer return of Father Poncet. Their charge must be safeguarded against possibly unreliable friend as well as enemy.

The safety of the mission could best be insured by travel through Mohawk territory, where hunting parties of another tribe would less likely be met. The Mohawks claimed the Adirondacks as their hunting ground. Their western boundary with the Oneidas (see map in HISTORY OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK, ed. Flick, I, 91) ran north from the Mohawk along the lower course of West Canada Creek and then to the Oswegatchie near Gouverneur, whence it followed the course of that river to the St. Lawrence. Travel east of this boundary

would involve least risk. The route suggested below meets this condition except for the last day's travel on the Oswegatchie and is shorter and more direct than the routes thus far proposed for Poncet's trip.

THE ALBANY TRAIL

Although Poncet's narrative and external evidence support a route through the Adirondacks, an attempt to outline specific locations is at best a guess based on the nature of the terrain and traditional but unverifiable Mohawk trails. There is a tradition, for instance, that the Albany Road (hereafter referred to as the Albany Trail, to which the greater part soon reverted), authorized by the state legislature during the War of 1812, followed generally the course of an old Indian trail. The course of such a trail or road was largely determined by passes through the jumbled mountain terrain of the central and western Adirondacks. Practicable routes north from the Mohawk were the stream valleys of the Sacandaga River and of Caroga, East Canada, and West Canada creeks, all of them utilized by modern roads, Mohawk hunters and trappers and war parties bound for Huron territory would have beaten out paths along these streams. Sir John Johnson probably used at least the southern part of the Albany Trail when he and his Loyalist followers fled from Johnstown to Canada. The Albany Trail (for its whole course, see the 1893 edition of the state Forest Commission's Adirondack map) began at Sir William Johnson's sporting lodge on the great bend of the Sacandaga (now flooded), where it had connections with Albany. It followed the Sacandaga Valley N to Lake Pleasant, swung NW on what is now a state trail to the Jessup River and the outlet of the Cedar Lakes, and skirted Raquette Lake on the SW. Continuing NW, it crossed the Beaver River at the outlet of Albany Lake (now Nehasane). It entered the valley of the upper Oswegatchie above High Falls, St. Lawrence County, and crossed that river at Inlet, two miles west of modern Wanakena. At this point -- an inevitable junction of foot and canoe travel because of its location at the head of a two-mile carry around rapids -- arrowheads have reportedly been found. (Today, the north bank at Inlet is a state boat-launching site. A small parcel of private land blocks the Albany Trail on the south shore, and that section is no longer maintained by the state, though still traceable. Where it crosses the state fire-truck road two miles south of Inlet, I was recently pleased to find a new sign reading "Albany Road, 1812.") From Inlet the Albany Trail continued N-NW, crossing the Oswegatchie near Newton Falls or Brown's Falls, below Cranberry Lake. Here Poncet's long tramp through the forest ended, and the journey was completed by boat.

As for the start of his foot journey, both West Canada Creek (suggested by Crouse) and the Sacandaga River would have been roundabout routes, lengthening travel by many miles. The former had the further disadvantage of bordering Oneida territory. It seems probable that the party took a more direct route north from the upper Mohawk village where Poncet was last a guest, ascending either Caroga or East Canada Creek; and that, heading N, they intersected the Albany Trail S of Raquette Lake and continued by that route.

Foot travel lasted eight days, from October 3 to 11. Delayed on the first day by leave-taking ceremonies, they covered, Poncet says, "only four leagues" (ten miles). The phrase implies a better average thereafter. An itinerary left by a Dutch colonist of Fort Orange in 1634 shows an average of sixteen miles on full days of travel on Iroquois trails. Assuming the same rate, Poncet's party would have covered 112 miles in the seven full days of travel, or 122 in all. The airline distance from the mouth of Caroga Creek is 88 miles; from East Canada Creek, 85 miles. This would allow over one-third again as much mileage for trail windings through stream valleys and mountain passes.

FURTHER EVIDENCE

From Newton Falls to the mouth, the Oswegatchie is 106 miles long, a considerable distance for two days' canoe travel. A glance at a county map, however, shows two wide oxbows in the river's course below Gouverneur that can be eliminated by a two-mile carry, saving 30 miles of river travel. The carrying place at a northward bend in modern Gouverneur would have made a logical campsite for Poncet's escort after their first day's canoeing -- a run of 42 miles from Newton Falls or 36 from Brown's Falls. The remain-

(Continued on Page 23)

June Tour

Our first tour of the season will be held June 8 at Colton and South Colton. Rededication of Sunday Rock on its new site and program planned by Historian Lorena Reed and supervisor George Swift for our members and guests. Mark your June calendars now!



REMINDER

In order not to miss your Quarterly copies, send your renewals in promptly. Also, changes of address should be mailed to QUARTERLY, Box 43, Canton, N. Y. 13617 or with your renewals.

NEEDED. . . .

Kind volunteers to assist County Historian with scrapbooks, checking lists, indexes and inventories. If you can spare a few hours, can cut and paste (or WILL) or can type, the county historian at the History Center in Canton will be very grateful. Call Monday or Thursday, or come in and VOLUNTEER.

Stories, articles, poems for QUARTERLY issues to come. Send all editorial material now to Box 43, Canton, N. Y. 13617. There are lots of ideas and stories around. Historians and members are all welcome to send material for the QUARTERLY.



FIRST WHITE MAN (Continued from Page 22)

ing 34 miles from the north end of the carry would have made an easy second day's run.

The projected Albany Road never became a throughway for wheeled vehicles from the Mohawk to the St. Lawrence Valley. Parts of the route are identical with or parallel modern roads at the N and S extremities. Other parts are occasionally re-cleared as logging roads or serve as local hunting and hiking trails. Still others are hard or impossible to trace on the ground today. Much of the route is through state forest preserve, where development and lumbering are prohibited by constitutional law. A few tracts, particularly between the Beaver River and the Oswegatchie headwaters, became forest preserve before lumbering extended into those regions. Three such tracts lie in southern St. Lawrence County, one east of the Ranger School on both sides of Inlet Flow, Cranberry Lake, and the other two on the county line flanking the upper Oswegatchie. A much larger tract of 50,000 acres in NE Herkimer and NW Hamilton counties is perhaps the largest contiguous stand of virgin timber left in northeastern states. The Albany Trail passed directly through it.

The preservation of such areas is a cause of congratulation to York Staters. Forest trail and wild river are the settings of a substantial part of North American history -- to some, the most fascinating part. Parkman summed up his lifework, the 230-year story of the struggles of the French and English to build an empire in America, simply as "the history of the American forest." The palisades and long-houses of Iroquois villages and the forts of white settlers have long vanished. But the forest, where left alone to renew itself, is a lasting memorial of that stirring past. In the southern part of our county are remnants of the primitive forest Poncet traveled in three centuries ago. A visit there helps us to recover a little of Parkman's vision: "Ghostly camp-fires seem to burn, and the fitful light is cast around on lord and vassal and black-robed priest, mingled with wild forms of savage warriors, knit in close fellowship on the same stern errand. A boundless vision grows upon us; an untamed continent; vast wastes of forest verdure; mountains silent in primeval sleep; river, lake, and glimmering pool; wilderness oceans mingling with the sky."

Notice

Franklin County Historical Society and St. Lawrence County Historical Association are planning a joint project of reprinting Dr. Franklin B. Hough's HISTORY OF ST. LAWRENCE AND FRANKLIN COUNTIES. It is the intention to offer these to our members and friends, libraries and historical agencies at a pre-publication price of \$12.50. (Publication price will be \$15.00) In order to plan how many copies to print we would appreciate word from you on how many you wish to purchase. Address RESERVATION OF COPY to SLCHA, Box 43, Canton, N. Y. or to Franklin County Historical Society, Malone, N. Y. This is not an order merely a pre-publication reservation.

TOP O' THE STATE

The historic and scenic story told in text and photos of St. Lawrence County -- the jewel in the crown of the Empire State.



by

Edith L. Costa,

in collaboration with

Mary H. Biondi

St. Lawrence County Historian

Order now for mail delivery, or get at your book store.

Book price	\$1.95
New York State Tax	.10
For delivery in the State	\$2.05

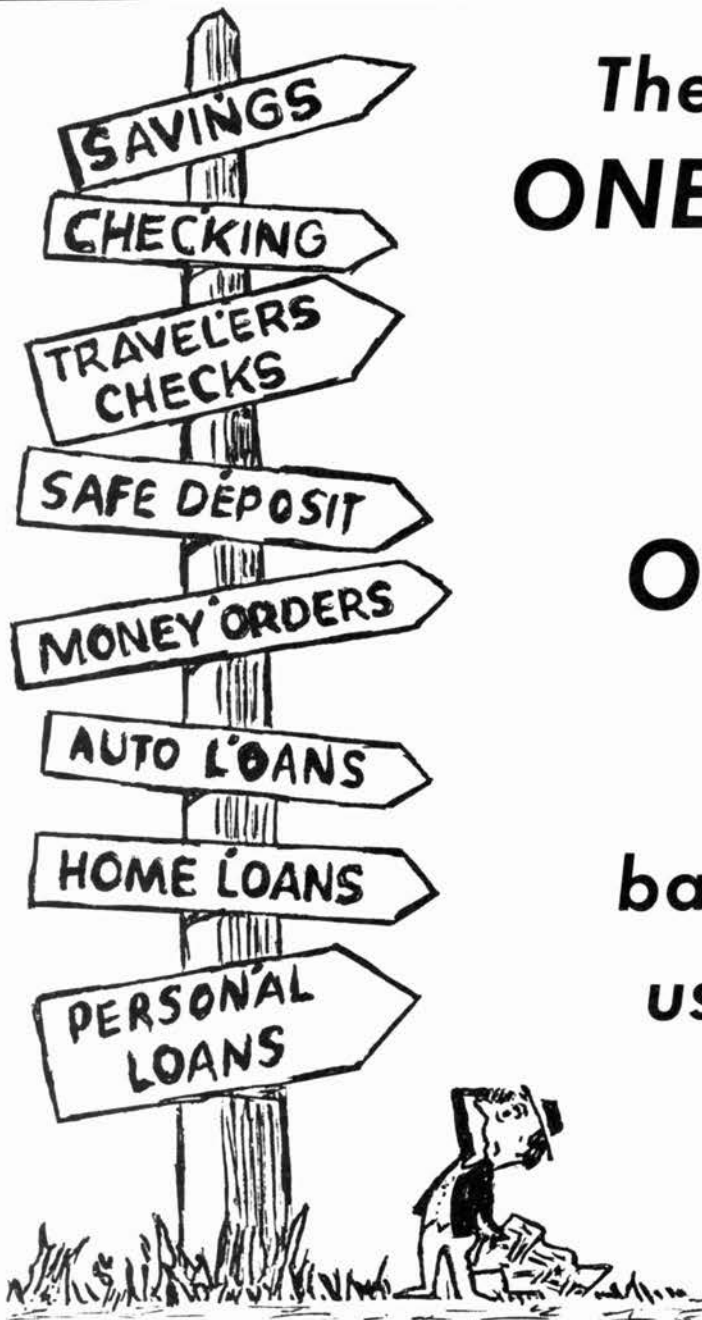
Make check payable to Top O' The State, Box 43, Canton, N. Y.

NOTICE

Preparation is nearly completed for a 12-year index of material in the QUARTERLY. This is the work of several dedicated persons, and will be sent to all current members as a 1968 bonus. Additional copies will be mailed to all libraries and may be purchased for 75¢ a copy. This will be same size as regular issues for binding ease.

BULK RATE
U. S. POSTAGE
PAID
PERMIT NO. 3
Gouverneur, N. Y.

NON-PROFIT
ORGANIZATION



They all point in
ONE DIRECTION



Right to
OUR BANK

...for **ALL** your
banking needs see
us for **Full-Service
Banking.**

It always pays.

THE

St. Lawrence County National Bank

Canton, N. Y. * Heuvelton, N. Y. * Madrid, N. Y.

Norwood, N. Y. * Ogdensburg, N. Y. * Potsdam, N. Y.

Your Home Town Bank Since 1866

Open Friday Evening 6 to 8 p.m.