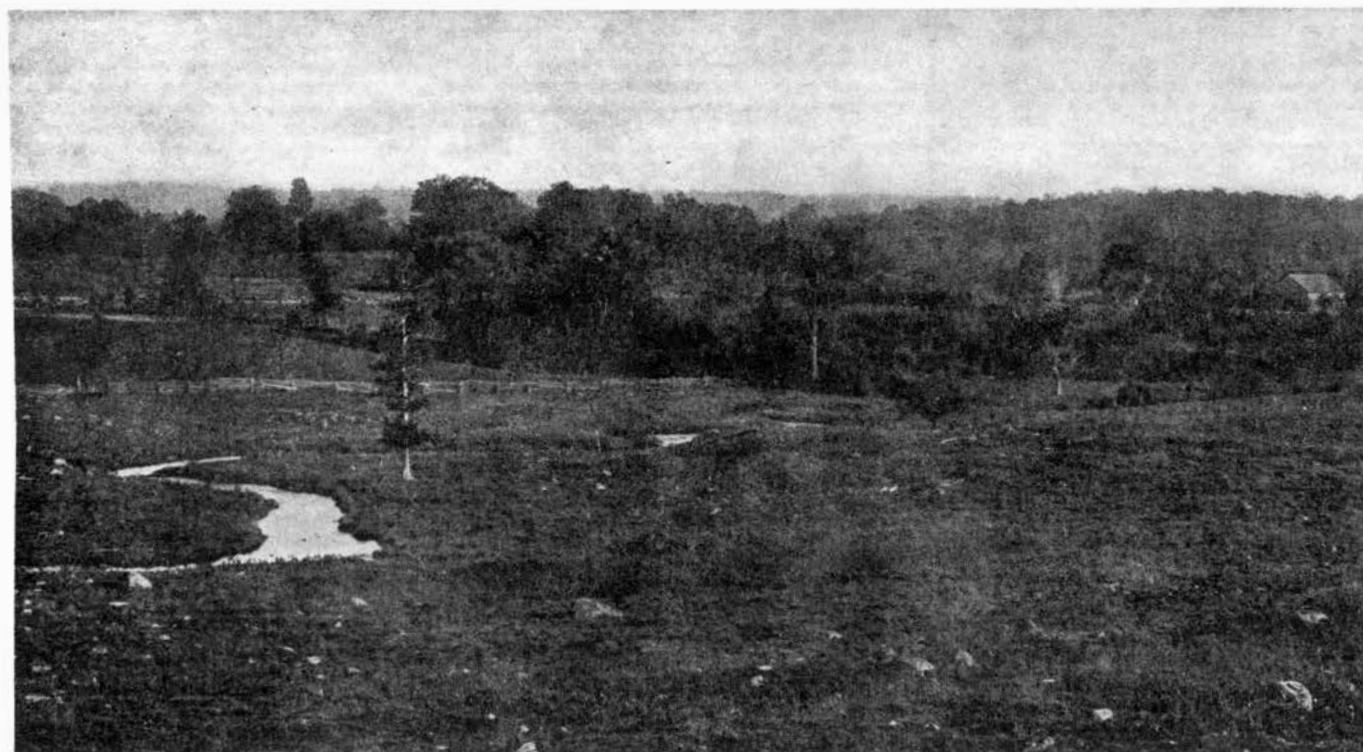


# The Quarterly

OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE ST. LAWRENCE COUNTY HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION



PARADISE VALLEY AND TINKLE BROOK

Our North Country

January 1970

# The Quarterly

Official Publication of The St. Lawrence County Historical Assn.

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### COVER PICTURE

Irving Bacheller's own Paradise Valley, part of his beloved "North Country." From the St. Lawrence University archives. See President's Message.

## Distaff Legislator

# Rhoda Fox Graves

By PAUL D. GRAVES

It was once written that the late Senator Rhoda Fox Graves "beat the bosses at home and the lobbies in Albany to carve out a legislative career unparalleled in New York State history." And with the passage of time, nearly twenty years since her death, that statement is probably as valid today as the day it was written.

Anyone who writes biography generally does so from a preconceived viewpoint...either plus or minus...either positive or negative, and this attempt is no exception as the opening paragraph indicates. Nevertheless when one has lived so intimately with his subject, he has no desire to distort the facts, especially when it is not needed. Moreover that intimacy provides a basis for bringing to light some details never before recorded.

Rhoda Fox Graves was born July 2, 1877 on the Burt farm in the Town of Fowler, the same farm which was later owned and operated by her eldest son. She was a daughter of the late Leander and Rhoda Burt Austin, but her mother died at her birth. She was cared for by Mr. and Mrs. Lafayette Fox of the Town of Fowler. After some two years, and because of the attachment which grew, Leander Austin permitted his good friends, Mr. and Mrs. Fox to adopt his baby girl.

Lafayette Fox was a native of Rossie and his wife, who was a daughter of Henry and Ann Lamb Shippee, was a native of the Town of Fowler, her maiden name being Rhoda Ann Shippee.

All of his adult life, Lafayette Fox was interested in mining and farming, and, at the time of his retirement, he was General Superintendent of talc mines and mills at Glendon, North Carolina. His brother Silas Fox was his assistant superintendent. Mr. Fox died in 1926 and was buried in Riverside Cemetery at Gouverneur. Rhoda Ann Fox died at the Graves family home on Clinton Street in Gouverneur on Dec. 10, 1940, at the age of 99 years and was then the village's oldest resident. Mrs. Graves, her daughter, then acquired the old family farm in the Town of Fowler, which is today operated by her eldest son.

Young Rhoda attended district school in Fowler, and was graduated from the Gouverneur High School and the Wesleyan Seminary. As a girl in earlier life, she was a school teacher in the rural and public schools of Gouverneur. She was a lineal descendant of Sir Roger Conant, who was Governor of Massachusetts and settled Salem in 1626.

On April 26, 1905 Rhoda Fox married Perle Atwell Graves of Gouverneur, son of Daniel and Helen Hyde Graves, the ceremony being solemnized in Trinity Episcopal Church in Gouverneur by the late Rev. James A. Dickson. In 1912 Mr. Graves and the late Frank L. Seaker of Gouverneur became partners and engaged in the business of automobile dealers.

Of the marriage of Mr. and Mrs. Graves, two sons were born: Paul D. on Nov. 23, 1907 and Mark D. on March 19, 1910. Both boys were graduated from Colgate University and Paul went on to graduate work and received his Bachelor of Laws Degree from Harvard Law School at Cambridge Massachusetts.

Mrs. Graves had one older sister, the late Mabel Burt Kellock of Harrisville. She was the wife of the late Dr. David Kellock, who was educated in Scotland and later was graduated from Queens University Medical College in Kingston, Ontario. Dr. Kellock practiced medicine in Harrisville for many years until his death. Dr. and Mrs. Kellock had two daughters, the late Grace Kellock and Jean Kellock, who is now retired. Both girls were graduated from Tufts College and each later received Master's Degrees and taught for many years in schools of Massachusetts and in New York.



RHODA FOX GRAVES

(Photo given to History Center by Ada Dona.)

### THE MOTHER

Undoubtedly mother is best remembered because of her civic and legislative life. Her political determination could be as frightening as cold steel, but with her family she was very much the homemaker and very affectionate. Indeed, it was here she recognized her only "boss".... Dad.

I recall when Mark and I were in early grade school, we often spent our winters in the south at Glendon with our grandparents. However, before we left mother would always see our teachers and get our assignments for the months ahead, and, because of her tutoring, we would always be current with our classes when we returned in the spring.

Not only was she a devoted wife and mother but she was always interested in others as well, especially children. She and the late Judge James C. Dolan of Gouverneur were original members of the old Child Welfare Board of St. Lawrence County, and it was they who secured its first appropriation from our Board of Supervisors. Mother was the only "case worker" and she spent countless hours looking after her small charges...and without compensation. It was during this time that she first learned of a young boy in Jefferson County who was only nine but then an orphan and a public charge. County lines meant nothing to her and accordingly she found a home for the boy with the family of the late Mr. and Mrs. Will McRobie of Oxbow. A short time later the boy moved to the home of my grandparents, and still later, after grandpa Fox had died, he and grandma Fox both came to live in our home. The young man graduated from high school and mother arranged for him to go to engineering college. At the last moment he decided he wanted to go directly into business and of course she furnished the entree' through the late Herbert Cutting who was then a retired Woolworth executive.

As the years went by, it seemed as if everyone who had a personal problem wrote to Mother, and she answered hundreds if not thousands of letters by longhand. In those early days, legislators received \$1500 per year and no appropriation for stenographic help when the legislature was not in session. I can see her yet with Henry our cat coiled up under the reading lamp which overhung her desk in her study, and our collie sleeping at her feet.

This train of thought brings to mind the case of a destitute widow who had been convicted for stealing groceries in our County. Of her six children, this woman's oldest daughter, age 16, wrote mother for help. I recall I happened to be in Albany at the time and I went with her to the Executive Mansion when she sought a pardon from Al Smith who was then Governor. After stating the situation, I remember the Governor saying, this woman undoubtedly was unlike the usual New York City

shoplifter and that, "she didn't know her beans." Sufficient to say, the pardon was quickly granted. Al Smith and mother were good friends for many years and many times she would support the Governor when the rest of her Republican colleagues thought it was heresy.

Later in life she often told the story of how a particular lobbyist threatened her with political extinction if she didn't support the Republican leaders in opposition to one of the Governor Smith's measures. As I recall it, it was the bill which sought to create the New York Power Authority. If she did not stay in line, the lobbyist further warned, she would not become a delegate-at-large to the forthcoming National Republican convention. Remarking on the incident, she later told a reporter: "I supported Al---and I became a delegate."

#### THE LEGISLATOR

This last incident I relate would seem to lead naturally to her political and legislative career which spanned a total of 22 years and is therefore difficult to compress into few sentences.

In the life sketch of mother written shortly after her death, the late William E. Pearson wrote of her in such a fashion that it is difficult to improve upon his works and hence I quote freely from him.

"First and only woman to represent a northern county in the state's lawmaking body; first and only woman to be elected to and to serve in the state senate; first and only woman to preside over the upper Chamber, and first and only woman to head a senate standing committee -- these and others were among precedents the Gouverneur former legislator established in nearly a quarter of a century in public office.

"Though a Republican by enrollment, she was an independent by conviction, and on matters of legislative policy she was often at odds with her party's leaders. On such occasions, no amount of whipping would persuade her to follow a course she regarded as unconscionable or detrimental to her constituents.

"If she refused to take orders from the Republican legislative managers, she was even more disdainful of the organization stalwarts back in the districts she represented. No county leader or combination of county leaders ever successfully instructed her how to vote on a legislative measure.

"Frequently they talked of purging her, and once it was tried, but on that occasion her following among the voters rose up and thumped the organization's choice for her job.

"In all, Mrs. Graves spent 22 years in the legislative halls, eight in the Assembly and fourteen in the Senate. Her assembly service was from the old first district, comprising roughly the western half of St. Lawrence county. In the senate, she represented the St. Lawrence-Franklin constituency, originally known as the 34th district and, after the Reapportionment Act effective in 1945, as the 39th.

"Though many honors and distinctions came to her, she always regarded as her greatest triumph her nomination and election to the Senate notwithstanding that she achieved it without immediate opposition. This was in the fall of 1934, but the background---the real story---was laid in 1932.

"Mrs. Graves had served eight consecutive years in the assembly---a record, incidentally, for a woman at the time---and she aspired to advance to the senate.

"She knew it was against the rules laid down by the then controlling political clique, especially since it violated a long-standing so-called gentlemen's agreement as between St. Lawrence and Franklin counties.

"Under this unwritten but up to then closely adhered-to pact, St. Lawrence county held the congressional seat, its occupant then being Bertrand H. Snell of Potsdam, and Franklin was the residence of the state senator, then Warren T. Thayer. By means of this condition, the two western counties were able to muffle the congressional ambitions of Clinton and Essex, the other counties of the old 31st congressional district.

"Ignoring the gentlemen's agreement, in the making of which she had not been consulted, and undismayed by the implied threats of what was called the Potsdam regency, the political

bosses at that time, Mrs. Graves announced her candidacy for the Republican nomination for the senate. She lost out in the primary by 700 votes after a memorably spirited battle against the incumbent.

"The Gouverneur woman campaigned on two issues. One was the gentlemen's agreement, which she characterized as a political device to frustrate the wishes of the voter, and the other was her opponent's record. As regards the latter she stressed Mr. Thayer's then alleged alignment with the power lobby in Albany.

"Though she carried St. Lawrence county, despite the regency's anguished cries, her opponent outpolled her by enough in Franklin to win the primary and thereby to assure his re-election to another two-year term in Albany. At this stage, Mrs. Graves retired from public office, but only temporarily.

"After her successful opponent returned to Albany, where he was the chairman of the Senate's Public Service Committee, he became the central figure in an Albany power scandal. This came about during a routine federal audit of one of the New York City traction companies. Unearthed was correspondence from this Committee Chairman which indicated malfeasance in office. The senate was convened as a Court of Impeachment, charges were filed and the trial begun. The accused was defended by the former State Senator Clayton R. Lusk of Cortland and by Wallace Pierce, later a Congressman, from Plattsburgh.

"In the middle of the trial the defendant resigned and surrendered his senate seat. Mrs. Graves took no part in the trial, nor did she testify as a witness.

#### FIRST SENATOR

"Thus when she announced her candidacy to succeed him in the position he had vacated, the machine bosses reeling from the power expose, never even offered to oppose her. She won the nomination and the ensuing election easily, and New York state had its first woman senator.

"By 1938, the machine had recovered sufficiently from the 1934 debacle to cross swords with her in another St. Lawrence-Franklin senatorial primary. The candidate it backed was the late John Black of Tupper Lake, who had been a member of Assembly from Franklin county. Senator Graves readily blunted the thrusts of her adversaries in this new test of political steel. She carried both counties to win the nomination. From that day to her retirement ten years later, she did not again have primary opposition."

It may be parenthetically noted that during the Black contest, Mrs. Graves conducted her campaign from her front porch..."McKinley style."

#### EARLY SUCCESSES

"A former school teacher, Mrs. Graves had taken an interest in public affairs since the days of the suffrage movement, in which she was an active participant. It was natural, then, that when women obtained the right to vote through enactment of the 19th amendment, she should enter politics.

"In those days, however, she was relatively close to the organization---her insurgency did not develop until after she went to Albany. In 1919, she was selected as Vice Chairman of the St. Lawrence county committee, a job she held until 1936, although her ardor for organization politics and "politicians" had since cooled.

"In 1924, William A. Laidlaw of Hammond announced that he would not be a candidate to succeed himself as member of assembly from the first St. Lawrence district. Mrs. Graves seized on the opportunity to place her hat in the ring. Meantime, the late Frank L. Scott of Morristown also became a candidate for the nomination, and the primary battle was on. Campaigning vigorously for the farm and the distaff vote, Mrs. Graves defeated Mr. Scott and then, in November was elected. She was the fifth woman in history to be chosen as an assemblyman.

"St. Lawrence county was one of the last counties in the state to accept woman suffrage, but when Mrs. Graves won the nomination in the 1924 primaries, her victory was looked

(Continued on Page 17)

## seats of learning

## DISTRICT SCHOOLS

By JAY S. MORRIS

An out of town traveler going from New York City to Canada will encounter a number of curious looking buildings, mostly in a sad state of disrepair--no glass in windows, roofs caving in, partly demolished foundations. The colors, what is left of them, vary from a once vivid red to no paint at all. Many are unrecognizable now as renovated dwellings.

But in terms of value to the human race those pathetic remnants are worth more than all the scenery, mineral products, manufactories, fishing and farm products of material value. These are of great importance, but not to be compared with the spiritual, cultural and moral values represented by the decaying buildings along main routes and lesser crossroads.

Many of the grandparents and great-grandparents of the present generation had no high school education whatever, and no desire for nor appreciation of such. They were under the delusion that teachers were too well paid and they voiced the complaint that "the teacher makes more money than my hired man and he works seven days a week."

Consequently the tenure of office of the teacher was usually only one year. They were fired, obtained a better job or got married, in an ascending order of importance. But after my own forty-two years of teaching experience, including 32 in a large city high school, I have come to the conclusion that the best teachers in the country were the rural teachers and the worst were the college professors. I am speaking in terms of their abilities to impart knowledge, rather than their possession of it.

The scholastic hours were from nine to twelve and from one to four with fifteen minutes recess in the forenoon and afternoon. But that entailed more hours of "getting ready" and "staying after" than it appeared.

Although we were in the "snow belt" of Northern New York, it was very seldom indeed that school was closed on account of the weather. In spite of the fact that some of the pupils had to walk more than a mile (even two or three), they were rarely absent and never tardy. Both boys and girls were hardy souls and the conditions of weather were the least of their problems. The roads in 1900 were about what one would expect in that year, and the milk wagons on the edge of the village made a sort of path and if they went in the right direction actually transported some of the pupils. If anyone then had dreamed that some day all children would be transported to their very front doors in school buses at the taxpayers' expense, he would have had his sanity questioned for uttering such nonsense.

I for one am sincerely thankful for the walking habits instilled in me. Now at the age of eighty, I walk my two miles a day in any kind of weather and enjoy perfect health.

School books were not the only things which formed one's character. Subjects taught in the rural schools were about the same as in the villages with the exception of American History, taught only in the district schools. To me the study of history was a sheer delight and not mental drudgery. The greatest portion of my professional career was teaching this subject, and I know that some of my pupils have followed in my footsteps.

## MEMORABLE FEW

I do not remember the names of all my teachers but a few I shall never forget or cease to thank. Miss Thrasher, Miss Laidlaw and Mrs. McEathron; all of these ladies are gone now, but I hope they somehow know of my gratitude. The first named was a warmhearted lady who loved her pupils, appreciated their problems and did her best to help them.

The next was Miss Alice Laidlaw. She came from a family of teachers and was sister to John Laidlaw, one of the best principals Gouverneur High School ever had. She was chiefly instrumental in pushing two bashful boys into high school, almost against their wills. The most important event and climax of the school year was the Regents' Examination to determine



District #3, Fullerville

which pupils should enter the high school. Miss Laidlaw was a wonderful teacher, a stern but benevolent disciplinarian, and was determined that all her eighth grade pupils should go to high school (where her brother John was later principal.) Thus, if any one person had an influence on our lives, it was she. For my brother and me, it meant not only high school but later college and a reasonable success in life.

But it was Mrs. McEathron to whom I owe the greatest debt of gratitude. She actually taught us to read. Not the insipid, goody-goody stories of the Youth's Companion, but REAL literature from the pens of such writers as Dickens, Defoe, Scott and especially Samuel Clemens. There were many others but the first named stand the most firmly in my memory. The Giant of them all in my memory was Mark Twain (Samuel Clemens). Mrs. McEathron would read aloud half an hour from those classics every morning and one could hear a pin drop during this period and I think today that those half hours were the most valuable of my life time.

One incident I shall never forget. My brother and I were kept out of school by one of those childhood diseases--measles--and our teacher stopped on her way home from school to find out how we were getting along. We were NOT getting along at all! We were worrying our heads off over the fate of Tom Sawyer and Huck Finn, who when we last heard from them were lost in the cave.

Of course, there was only one thing for the good lady to do and she did it under the seal of silence on the part of the two boys who slept well that night for the first time. When we returned to school, the teacher finished the chapter under the close attention of two smug-looking little brothers, who already knew the happy ending.

## CHAMPION ATTENDANCE

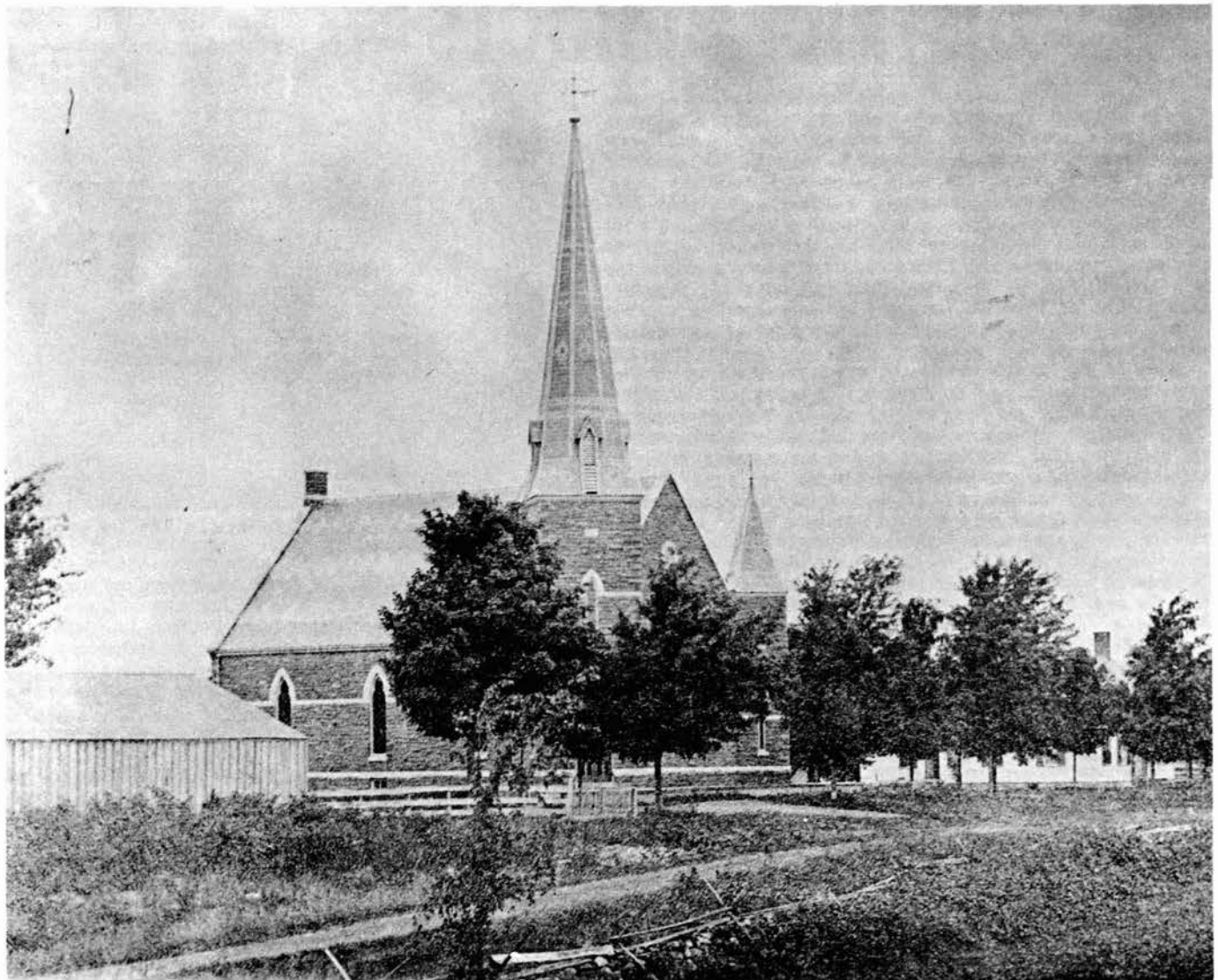
The most faithful and regular attendant in the whole school was not a human being, but a canine--a spaniel named Moxie. He belonged to the Dodds family who had three children in the school. He had the best record of good manners, good behavior and perfect attendance of any pupil in the school. Even when his little masters could not attend, Moxie was in his usual corner in the northeast part of the room. He was the most faithful attendant until he died of old age.

One facetious inspector pretended to reprimand the teacher because the dog's name, age and attendance were not entered in the school register.

All this and more dates back to a little district school on the Richville road and now when I drive by the building in a car, my heart sends to my head a brief salute of thanksgiving. To paraphrase the last lines of a famous poem,

"Her pens are rust, her books are dust  
Her soul is with the saints we trust."

## The Stone Church of Oswegatchie



(Photo and Text lent by Harriet Smithers)

Oswegatchie Apr 2<sup>nd</sup> 1856  
at a meeting of the Trustees of the second  
Presbyterian Church and Society of Oswegatchie  
with the aid of some of its members the  
following article of an agreement was entered  
into that sheds will be built for the benefit  
of said society on the site that the Church  
now stands, on the north corner may contain  
about twenty one and the east corner may  
contain eight to be done in a substantial  
workmanlike manner under the direction

(Continued on Page 7)

# NORTH COUNTRY RAILROADING

Mott Meldrim takes a look backward in RAILROADING AS compared with the present STATUS.

The promoters of the ROME, WATERTOWN, AND OGDENSBURG RAILROAD are deserving of our appreciation in giving this North country, and especially our County of St. Lawrence, its first RAILROAD SERVICE which was "ONE HUNDRED AND ONE YEARS AGO" or the year 1868. At that time the R.W.&O.R.R. established a junction with the "NEW YORK CENTRAL & HUDSON RIVER RAILROAD" at Rome, N.Y. and provided passenger service with two through trains daily from Rome to Ogdensburg, serving all stations Rome to Richland, to Watertown, to Gouverneur, Richville, DeKalb Jct., Rensselaer Falls, Heuvelton, Ogdensburg, with a connecting passenger service out of DeKalb Jct. serving Canton, Potsdam, and Potsdam Jct., where connection was made with the Ogdensburg, and Lake Champlain Railroad (O. & L. C. R. R.) serving Madrid, Lisbon, Ogdensburg; ALSO, Brasher Falls, Lawrence, Brush's Mills, Bangor, Malone, and points beyond.

SO: the old R.W. & O.R.R. gave service for passengers, baggage, car load and less-than-carload freight, the passenger trains carrying U.S. Mail and express shipments.

The writer of this article was Telegraph Operator at Gouverneur Railroad station and, in charge of the station from seven p.m. to seven O'clock A.M. in April 1893 at the age of 19 years. That was the same month and year that the NEW YORK CENTRAL & HUDSON RIVER RAILROAD took over the old R. W. & O. R. R., which had operated for the past twenty-five years.

We live in a CHANGING WORLD, new inventions change our way of living, as well as all kinds of transportation. The automobile now has become almost an absolute necessity for every family. SO: right now, the Automobiles, bus-Lines, And: Air Plane service have eventually eliminated our RAIL PASSENGER SERVICE to this North country and St. Lawrence County; caused the closing of manned, freight and passenger stations, until nothing is now left for a few rails, except CARLOAD FREIGHT AND St. Lawrence County IS THE COUNTY THAT CAN PRODUCE IT, with mines, minerals, lumber, and, manufactured products. BUT: the RAILS, are not getting all of it, as we have large trucking interests that keep them busy hauling.

SO: at the present time we still have the New York Central Railroad Hauling CAR LOAD freight only, it will of course continue as long as it is a paying proposition.

We have lately seen an experiment tried out in operating FAST PASSENGER TRAINS between Washington and New York, at a speed of 175 miles an hour. SO: as a matter of SAFETY, it would be necessary to eliminate all GRADE CROSSINGS, build, equip and man new passenger stations, make the roadbed safe, furnish new rails if necessary. With the expectation of recovering the lost passenger business? I much doubt if fast passenger trains are the answer, as the PUBLIC will use airplane service for long distance travel.

We live in a changing world, one invention after another, and the world is getting better, the grand architect of the universe is still at work, and still in control.

## The Stone Church of Oswegatchie (Continued from Page 6)

*of said trustees, its members are required to pay the sum of five Dollars on the date hereof the sheds to be finished the coming summer and will be disposed of as follows each stall must be sold to cover cost which sum is twenty dollars, the trustees are to put each stall up seperately at cost to the highest bidder and the surplus money must be applied on a debt against the church and society*

*we the subscribers promise to pay the sum set opposite our respective names for the above mentioned stall*

<i>B. Witherhead</i>	<i>20.00</i>
<i>Hugh Witherhead</i>	<i>20</i>
<i>John A. Ferguson</i>	<i>20.</i>

## One of Many for Readers

### SPRAGUEVILLE LIBRARIES

By LAURA GILLETT

The first one I have any reference about was located in what was then the Baptist Church, but now is our Community Center which started in about 1912 by Fred Martindale, a good citizen and strawberry gardener, who lived on the hill above Spragueville (where Paul Byrns now lives). He faithfully spent much time and money in organizing the library, for in those days he did not get state aid and there were no traveling libraries. The books were given by local citizens or funds cleared by holding entertainments and social events but he finally succeeded in placing a large choice of books in the kitchen part of the church. Interested citizens gave willingly of their services and aided by acting as librarians three or four hours two nights a week and all went well for a time.

It was a great aid to the school pupils and a great entertainer and educator to both old and young in the days of no T.V. or radio and fewer newspapers.

Now alas! There had been a feud previously between the Baptist and Methodist Church members and some families refused to get books or allow their children to do so because they were kept in the Baptist Church so the great project of Mr. Martindale's hopes failed after a few years of struggle and the books were scattered about. For a time later the Methodist Church had books in the basement and they were let out but this was just a minor affair.

But Leona Steele, youngest daughter of Mr. and Mrs. George Steele, couldn't give up her interest in a public library for the hometown so worked diligently for it. Finally

in 1916 she obtained a charter for the "Spragueville Free Library" and it continued on alone until 1948 when the Regional Library from Watertown came in each week to leave books and exchange others for those they had previously left which were needed no more. Thus we had a fresh supply and could place orders for special books we needed for our school work, literary society and church work and the association would search for them until they supplied our demands.

Yet again Alas! On May 19, 1966 the postmistress, Helen Bell, who lacked space in the P.O. and found not many were using the books decided to discontinue them and thus our public library project in Spragueville ended, due no doubt in part to the invention of radio, T.V. and more newspaper and magazines; also social activities.

While the Spragueville Free Library was in service (1916-1957) it was in several locations. Beginning in the Corner block (torn down by Roy Temple, the owner in 1967) at first in a room downstairs and later in a room upstairs, later moved upstairs in the Johnson store, then to the upper apartment in the Woodward (big store), later back to the corner block and lastly to the upper room of the schoolhouse, when it became a one-room-school. At one time there were about 2000 books in this library.

While located in the Johnson store, the building burned in 1942 but fortunately the books were saved.

The following served as librarians of the Free Library: Mrs. Allan Hodge, Mrs. Bert Bell, Mrs. Harold Myers, Mrs. Hudson Merriman, Mrs. Elwin Turner, Mrs. Belle Berry, Miss Leona Steele, Mayfred Berry Payne, Winifred Mason, Bessie Berry and Gladys Peacock.

After the Regional Library took over it was located in the Post Office and the following acted as librarians: Leona Steele, Florence Johnson Rawlinson, Inez Finley and Helen Bell.

## Recalling the

### Cowen Mansion

Cowen Mansion, or "Ragnarok,"  
near Canton.

Furnished by MILLARD HUNDLEY  
Town of Pierrepont Historian



Quite often one reads in the columns of the local weekly newspaper some transaction or other happenings that have taken place on the Cowen Mansion Road.

Now where is this road and why so named? First let's locate this highway. Leaving the village of Canton going east on Rt. 11 about 3 miles out, one comes to a right-hand intersection. Taking this road one crosses a brook, a railroad track, and up a rather sharp grade one continues in a southerly direction.

It was on the brow of this grade, sometime in late 1890 or so, that Mrs. Helen Cowen bought 10 acres from the Sheldon Brewer farm on which to build a summer home. At this time it was a country road and with the building of this home or mansion, the road became the Cowen Mansion Road. Mrs. Cowen was from Millersburg, Ohio. Her husband the Hon. John K. Cowen, an attorney, was at one time acting president of the B & O Railroad. On coming to Canton, her private car was often seen on the siding at the depot. Mrs. Cowen was an accomplished singer, often appearing on the commencement program at St. Lawrence University.

Regarding the construction of this summer home which was built on a liberal scale, nothing was spared to make it an attractive place to live and entertain. When completed

it was named, "Ragnarok" taken from the German, "Ragnarok" and probably going back to the Norse legend of the "Twilight of the Gods." Whatever the legend, or reason for the name here, people on Main Street familiarly applied the name "Rag-on-a-Rock." Nevertheless, it was a popular place of entertainment and receptions of college people for a number of years. When downtown people, especially the ladies, got an invitation to visit "Ragnarok," they were happy for Mrs. Cowen was a royal entertainer and spent money lavishly.

While Mrs. Cowen was in residence, it was not unusual to see some of her servants drive into town to either pick up the mail, do some shopping or perhaps to meet some guest who might be arriving on the train. Remember those were the days of the horse and buggy, not automobiles. Years passed, the place was closed and Mrs. Cowen came to Canton no more so the place was sold. At one time it was suggested as an excellent place for a county TB hospital; others thought it an excellent country club location, but nothing came of either proposition. The house was torn down, the lumber sold downstate and the once attractive mansion was no more. Today nothing remains to tell of its location, only the memory of the passing generation, and the mere name on a country road.



## highway of history

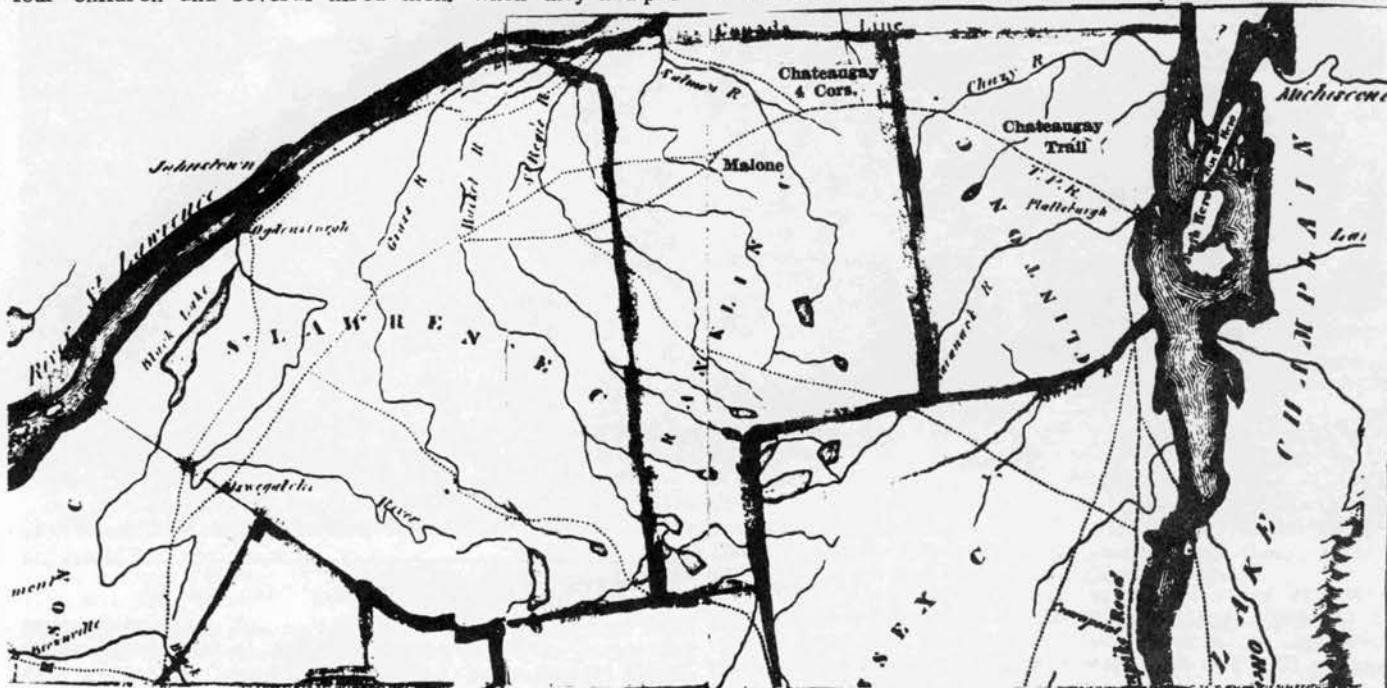
# The Chateaugay Trail

By MARION B. ROBERTS

This was originally an old Indian Trail; a mere narrow runway through the forest because, animal like, the Indian always traveled in single file, and the narrowness of these early trails made them frequently become impassable.

The first settlers to travel over this trail were Benjamin Roberts of Ferrisburg, Vt. and his brother-in-law, Nathan Beeman of Plattsburgh, N.Y. In February 1796 Mr. Roberts brought his family and goods across Lake Champlain on the ice arriving safely in Plattsburgh, but was unable to proceed to his destination because of the depth of the snow. In the early part of April he again started out with his wife and four children and several hired men. When they had pro-

The Chateaugay Trail later became known as the "Old Military Turnpike." A survey of this road was made in 1806, but little work was done on it until President Monroe made his memorable ride over it in July 1817, and it is a notable fact that a company of soldiers from Plattsburgh Barracks were ordered by the President to work on the turnpike the following month. The work was continued from year to year, much to the great disgust of the officers and men, until twenty-four miles of the road was completed. In 1822 a sum of \$7,000 was appropriated by the State Legislature to finish the road to Chateaugay Four Corners, a distance of fourteen miles. In 1823 an act was passed to erect a toll



(1808 Map by William McCalpin, History Center)

ceeded about a mile beyond the home of the last settler a Mr. Delong in Beekmantown, one of the oxen gave out. He was unyoked, and left to provide for himself. Mr. Roberts, having placed in a rude bark saddle such provisions as the odd ox was able to carry, took on his back one of his boys and led the way, driving the cattle before him, followed by his wife who carried an infant in her arms. His men and two older boys carried as heavy burdens as their strength allowed. They were from Monday to Saturday covering the remaining distance of about forty miles. Mr. Beeman made several trips in during the summer, and moved his family there that fall. Mrs. Roberts welcomed the second woman, as she had been without feminine company for at least three months. The Chateaugay settlement grew rapidly, and two years later a winter road from Lake Champlain was opened that far.

The early settlers of Franklin and St. Lawrence County were mostly from Vermont, and they came in through the Chateaugay Woods by the Northern Route. Winter was the season chosen for traveling, for then Lake Champlain could be crossed on the ice; roads impassable for wagons were easily traversed when the deep snow made sleighing possible, and ice also covered the unbridged streams. The journey then took from six to ten days under favorable circumstances.

### IMPORTANT TO SETTLEMENT

Early settlers at Canton came by the Chateaugay Road and Trail to the St. Lawrence River at St. Regis. There they crossed to Canada and went up the river on that side until opposite Lisbon. At this point they recrossed above the treacherous rapids and followed a blazed trail to their destination.

gate at or near the home of Benjamin Mooers, eighteen miles west of Plattsburgh Village, and from then on the road was kept in repair by the tolls. As the settlements grew, the road was extended to Malone and on into St. Lawrence County.

The Military Turnpike leads from Plattsburgh through Beekmantown and thence almost in a direct northwestern direction to Ellenburg Center. From there it follows the present state road (Rt. 11) to Chateaugay and Malone. From Malone it continues up Franklin St. to present State Route 11B through South and West Bangor, East Dickinson, Dickinson Center, Nicholville, Hopkinton and Potsdam, on Rt. 11 to Canton then Rt. 68 to Ogdensburg.

Peter S. Palmer in his "Historical Sketches of Plattsburgh," published in 1895, says of this road: "It was an avenue of great importance and benefit to Plattsburgh Village as well as to the inhabitants of Franklin County and the eastern portion of St. Lawrence County." It was still popularly known and referred to as the Chateaugay Trail by settlers into the 1830's.

Quoting from an article written by the late H.D. Stevens and published in the April 14, 1921 issue of the "Malone Farmer", Charles A. Bragdon, a former Canton resident, in writing of the early history of Northern New York says that in the summer of 1839 what might be called a tribal migration of his family and others took place from Charlotte and Ferrisburg, Vt. to Franklin and St. Lawrence Counties. His mother was then thirteen years old, and as a boy he often made her repeat the incidents of that journey. They crossed

(Continued on Page 10)

## The Village Band



Nearly every village or hamlet in the early 1900's had a citizens' band that entertained the populace on Saturday evenings, or furnished music for various programs of community life. The band often traveled to other villages playing at country fairs, 4th of July celebrations, field days, and the like.

In the middle of the village green, or park, a bandstand was usually built for the use of band concerts, such as the stand, which, until a few years ago stood in the parks in Canton and Madrid.

In this picture of the DeKalb Junction Cornet Band, identified standing are Ed Huntress, the late Cleland ("Pat") Huntress' father; Ruben Haven, husband of Vernilla Haven, 1st grade teacher of the DeKalb Junction School, who was also a barber in DeKalb Junction; Tim Sullivan; Band Leader James Alverson, proprietor of a hardware store; Ed Cunningham, brother of the late Isadore Cunningham, and father of Irene Cunningham, Ogdensburg; Frank Cramer, the late John Cramer's brother. Seated are Frank Dever, brother of Earl Dever and father of Marion Dever of California; Ernest Bennett, former Hermon storekeeper, who married Myrtle Maine, aunt of Harrison Maine, DeKalb Junction; Elbert Risley, father of Mrs. Allan (Leona) Bowering of DeKalb Junction, furniture dealer and local undertaker; George Baxter, farmer; Dick Dow.

Third row, from left: Carl Barber and Ed Lincoln, farmers of Eddy; Tom Matteson, farmer, who lived where Ray Flight now resides; Jim Van Delinder who lived where George Coughlin presently resides, operator of a clothing store where the old Town clerk's office was in DeKalb Junction; Oswald W. Griskill, Old DeKalb farmer who lived on the Idumea Road, and father of the late Ivan Griskill and Mrs. Hilda Cayey, Potsdam; Leon Clark, jeweler.

Picture was taken on the steps of the Old Hurley House, presently William Walsh's Hotel in DeKalb Junction in the early 1900's. (Caption by and photo lent by Rosina D. Powell.)

## CHATEAUGAY TRAIL (Continued from Page 9)

Lake Champlain, and then started through the great Chateaugay Woods, with both ox and horse teams. It took over three weeks to make the journey. Many times they would have to stop while the men cut down saplings and made a stretch of corduroy road. They had to stop early to cut fire wood as large fires had to be kept burning all night because of the wolves and panthers. Many residents of the northern counties today can thank their sturdy and courageous pioneer ancestors with similar experiences for settling this land. This was nearly forty years after the first settlement at Canton. One can only wonder what the journey might have been like twenty or thirty years before.



### Chateaugay story

Long famed for its chilly weather which has given rise to a truly North Country expression, "the Chateaugay thaw," which is described as a particularly severe spell of cold weather "thirty below and a helluva blow," seems apt here.

saddle blankets and shinplasters

# ST. LAWRENCE COUNTY CURRENCY

By RUTHERFORD E. DELMAGE  
(At the Annual Meeting, Oct. 11, 1969)

The manufacture of paper money as a medium of exchange, like the inventions of gunpowder and printing, originated in ancient China. When that intrepid Italian tourist, Marco Polo, visited the Cathay of Kubla Khan, he found the Chinese using not only toilet paper but also paper money. The first notes of the 13th century were printed on mulberry paper, each bearing the red seal of the Emperor and the signatures of his imperial treasurer. The oldest "Kwan" note was large, measuring eight and one half by thirteen and one half inches.

In Europe paper money grew out of letters of credit, equivalents of modern bank checks, issued by a goldsmith, merchant, or banker in one city and addressed to a similar dealer in money and credit in another city, it would indicate the amount of goods, gold, silver, or credit to be given or extended to the named bearer.

Indeed, the use of paper money sprang in part from human depravity. Travellers walking or riding along medieval roads stood in constant danger of attack from itinerant thieves. In our Shakespeare (1 Henry IV, Act II, scene 2) we remember Falstaff and his cronies holding up a band of Canterbury pilgrims and relieving them of their bags of gold. To this constant peril of highway robbery the land pirates often added the crimes of mayhem or murder against their luckless victims. Little wonder, then, that the letter of credit appeared, guaranteeing safety as does a modern American Express traveller's cheque. Thus paper currency marked a progressive step in civilization, joining protective security and convenience, since bags of gold, silver, and copper were cumbersome to transport. Out of letters of credit gradually emerged private, municipal, and state bank notes with the growth of more sophisticated systems of European commerce and finance.

The various colonies in British North America during the 17th and 18th century issued from time to time their own paper currency. These colonial notes were measured in milled Spanish silver dollars, which became the chief monetary unit of the New World. British coins of copper, silver, and gold also circulated in the colonies. A few colonies minted coins, the most famous being the New England pine tree shilling, each carrying the legend "Massachusetts 1652," though many of these coins were minted decades later.

During the American Revolution, the Continental Congress authorized the issuance of paper money because of the shortage

of metal coins. Increasing inflation led to the reduction of the purchasing power of these notes. A forty-dollar continental note might in time buy only four cents worth (or less) of goods. Hence, the distrustful colonists coined the expression "not worth a continental."

Though state and private banks (and even universities) printed paper money during the early years of the Republic, the government of the United States did not do so until the time of the Civil War. The first two forms of federal paper currency were the Demand notes of 1861 and the "Spinner greenbacks," named after Francis Elias Spinner, Treasurer of the United States during the Lincoln administration. (Spinner Street in Ogdensburg was named in his honor.)

## FRACTIONAL NOTES, NATIONAL AND LOCAL

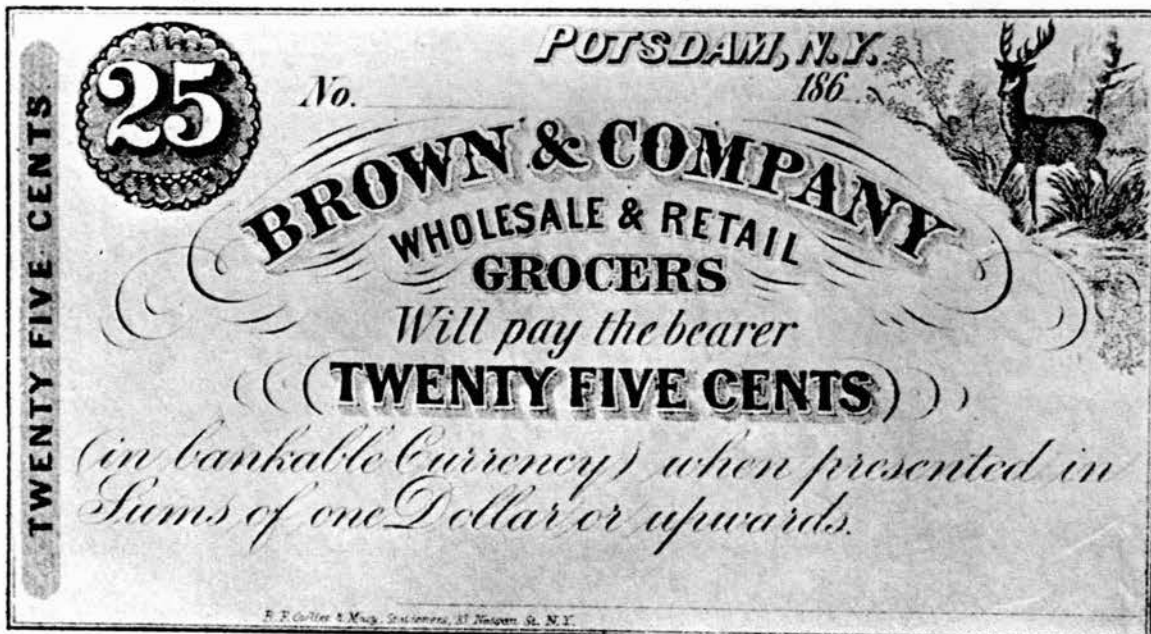
Owing to a shortage of metal coins, substitutes appeared: Civil War patriotic penny tokens, encased postage stamps, and paper "fractional currency" (3¢, 5¢, 10¢, 15¢, 25¢, and 50¢ notes), as well as fractional postal currency. These paper notes also bore the signature of Spinner and soon won the nickname "Shinplasters" because of their smallness and likeness to those medicinal adhesives.

Local evidence suggests that in the hinterland of St. Lawrence County, in smaller villages without any bank, a further shortage existed; lack even of adequate numbers of fractional paper notes. Human ingenuity, with the approval of the State of New York, invented still another kind of substitute: local paper money.

A great, great uncle of the writer of this article, Otis Earl, was a "horse-and-buggy" capitalist of Hermon. Owner of a general store, he issued paper notes redeemable in goods at his store. These probably were honored elsewhere in the locality and immediate vicinity, perhaps in Marshville (a nearby hamlet), Edwards, DeKalb, and Russell, though hardly in Canton, much less in New York City or Boston.

## OLD PAPER MONEY IN ST. LAWRENCE COUNTY

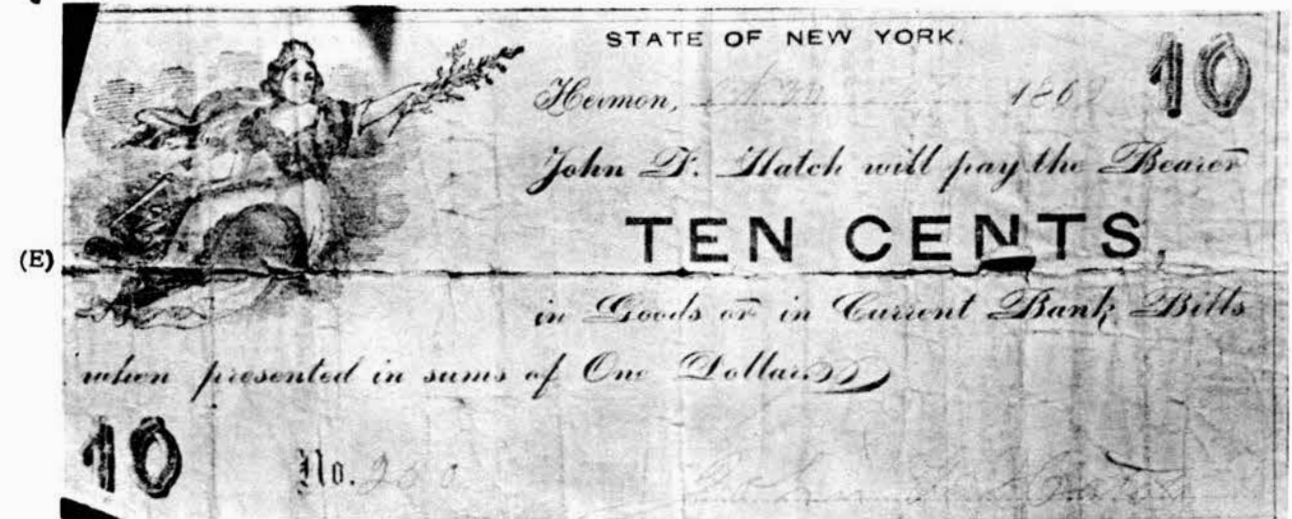
Four Earl notes survive: 5¢, 10¢, 25¢, and 50¢. Well worn and frayed, they give evidence of considerable circulation. Coming to the writer through the thoughtfulness and generosity of Frances Robinson, they were first collected by her late husband, the well-known and popular "Jim" Robinson, whom many will fondly remember. And each bill is serially numbered.



# North Country Money



Printed on one side only, measuring six and three quarter by three inches, each bears a distinctive design. (D) Fifty cents: Indian saluting from hilltop passing railroad train; seated male figure in classic costume, toga, with books at his side; an antlered deerhead; three seated female figures, No. 16.



All four notes (B-D) are dated Nov. 1, 1862, with both "Hermon, New York" and the signature of Otis Earl inscribed on each bill. A fifth Hermon note (E) is the John F. Hatch check-like promissory note for 10 cents, on white paper, smaller than the Earl fractionals (5 2/3 x 2 1/2 inches). It has the date November 21, 1862, no. 200, and a single printed pictorial design: right corner - female figure, sword in right hand, extended olive branch in left hand (America or Liberty?). Was John F. Hatch a relative of Eugene Hatch or Grover Hatch?



(C) Twenty-five cent: Eagle and shield; semi-nude female figure and eagle; wheel, anvil and hammer; female figure (Minerva or Diana?) with books, table, and reclining hound, No. 17. (B) Ten cent: blacksmith and anvil; woman painting easel; wheel, anvil and hammer; Indian with bow, No. 17.



## SILAS WRIGHT BILL

All Northern New Yorkers and citizens, Canton in particular, will be interested to learn that the portrait of our own Silas Wright (1795-1847) appears on the \$50 gold bank note of 1882. This note has the following pictorial design on the face:

"Portrait in bust of Silas Wright, Canton lawyer, United States Senator and Governor of New York, a leading Jacksonian democrat in pre-Civil War America, of whom the poet John Greenleaf Whittier admiringly wrote. Face of note, right; ten-sided star circle, large 50 in white; reverse of note, left; similar large 50 in ten-sided star circle\* center - rectangle decorated top and bottom with scroll, large capital letters, gold on black; right, huge spread eagle; lower right corner; stylized wheel. The face is signed by B.C. Bruce and A. W. Gilfillan. The 1882 note catalogues at \$200 (very fine), \$475 new in Friedberg's "Paper Money of the United States," p. 132.

In the early years of the nineteenth century the pioneer settlers of the North Country had "very little capital other than axe, pluck, and strong arm." (C. E. Sanford, "Early History of Hopkinton," 1903, p. 144). The cash to pay taxes and postage they obtained from pearl ash and black salts. Their usual manner of conducting business transactions was by exchange and barter.

Banks did not appear in the county until the third decade of the nineteenth century and later: the Ogdensburg Bank (1829), and the St. Lawrence Bank (1839) and Oswegatchie Bank (1854) of Ogdensburg. From the Frontier Bank of Potsdam came the first national bank in the county, the Potsdam National Bank, chartered in 1866. The first bank in Canton, R.M. Goddard and Company, was founded in 1858 and failed in 1860. (S. W. Durant, "History of St. Lawrence County, New York," 1877, p. 219 et seq.). The present St. Lawrence County National Bank received its charter in 1907, preceded by the H. S. Messenger Bank (1862, renamed Bank of Canton), S. D. Hungerford and Company (known as the State Bank), reorganized in 1881 as the St. Lawrence County Bank. The Ogdensburg Bank became the Ogdensburg Trust Co., now 140 years old.



FOOT NOTE (1) C. E. Sanford, "Early History of Hopkinton, 1903" p. 144.  
 (2) S. W. Durant, "History of St. Lawrence County, New York, 1877," p. 219 et seq.  
 (3) See the article "Morris, Gouverneur," "Dictionary of American Biography" and Theodore Roosevelt's "Gouverneur Morris" (1888, American Statesman Series). Morris lived from 1752 to 1816. Morris was born in New York, educated at Kings College, now Columbia University, and settled in Philadelphia as a lawyer, but he later returned to live in New York City. His most important public offices were U. S. minister to France and United Senator.

In order not to show undue partiality to Hermon or Canton (communities which are stressed in this article), we believe it only just to describe a 25¢ paper note (F) of Potsdam, New York dated 186-, and belonging to the Civil War Period. It was printed by F. P. Curtis & Macy, 33 Nassau St., N.Y. It reads "Brown and Company Wholesale and Retail Grocers will pay the bearer TWENTY FIVE CENTS." The right hand corner pictures an antlered buck deer standing between some trees and tall grass. This quarter-note differs from the others being discussed here. Bearing no signature, it would be non-negotiable. This would entitle it to the rating of "mint, unused specimen."



CANTON AND POTSDAM NATIONAL BANK NOTES

The First National Bank of Potsdam was established in 1866, the First National Bank of Canton in 1887. Both National banks were authorized to issue National Bank Notes with the name of the bank and the signatures of the President and Cashier and Cashier on each. The amount was determined by the capital holdings of the bank.

National Bank Notes were issued from 1863 to 1929. After 1875 each bank had its own charter number, which appeared on all its notes. The charter for any bank ran for twenty years, and was renewable. Issued during three charter periods, these National Bank notes for many THOUSANDS of banks throughout the various states and territories form the most extensive field for the numismatist collecting paper currency. No collector could hope to assemble examples of all, and therefore the notes are usually collected by Treasury signature combinations or by locality, i.e. by state or city of issuing banks. The early notes were large in size (three and one half by seven inches)-now called "saddle blankets." They exist in many denominations and different designs.

St. Lawrence County provides opportunities to collect beyond the National Banks of Canton and Potsdam: national banks in Ogdensburg, Massena, and Gouverneur and in smaller

villages such as Hermon, Norfolk, Winthrop, Heuvelton, Lisbon, and Harrisville. Even these are relatively rare, hard to come by in fine condition, and a genuine challenge to collectors.

The bank notes were sent to each bank in uncut sheets. With large, long scissors an employee of the bank would cut the sheets into single notes, each to be signed by the local President and Cashier. Small size National Bank notes were issued from 1929 to 1935 in sheets of six notes, each bearing a portrait of Lincoln.

Every piece of American currency since 1862 carries the distinctive seal of the United States Treasury: KEY-for SAFETY; SCALES for EQUALITY; SQUARE for RECTITUDE, with the abbreviated Latin legend, "THESAUR, AMER, SEP-TENT, SIGIL.") (The Seal of the Treasury of North America),

The tradition exists that Gouverneur Morris (3) designed the seal in 1778 and the Continental Congress approved it. The seal appears in different forms, colors, and sized-within a plain circle, circle or rays, spikes, or scallops; red, brown, blue, green, gold or yellow; small or large. The towns of Gouverneur and Morristown are named after the seal's presumed designer, Gouverneur Morris, who visited this region occasionally and owned land here, building a home in Gouverneur (Natural Dam). The life of this lawyer and brilliant leader, assistant to Robert Morris (who was not his relative), the famous financier of the Revolution and distinguished diplomat in Paris, constitutes a very colorful biography. He was indeed so fond of the ladies that he could accurately be described as an elegant and aristocratic rake. He also was one of the originators of the Erie Canal, and he suggested the decimal system on coinage-and the use of the terms "dollars" and "cents."

Hopefully this report may stimulate others to further research and discovery about our numismatic past. The more we study it in its fascinating scope and detail, the more we realize how much more of it remains for the adventurous Columboes of the mind to explore.

Acknowledgment

The \$5 notes of the First National Bank of Canton, 1929 series, and the \$5 old bill of the Goddard Bank of Canton





were provided by Atwood Manley, Ralph Michaels supplied both the old \$2 note of the First National Bank of Potsdam and the 1929 series national bank note of the First National Bank of Canton of which he is President, The St. Regis National Bank notes of \$5 and \$10, 1929 series were photographed through the kindness of Burton L. Dupree, former cashier of that bank, now Vice-President of the Ogdensburg Trust Company.

Herman L. Huff, Exec. Vice President, St. Lawrence County Chamber of Commerce, photographed the bills, and Duane Eppler of the St. Lawrence Photographic Service developed the film.

To all of these we wish to express our thanks, and also to Messrs. Homer T. Kelly and Walter M. Wilmshurst for their interest and cooperation. Only a few notes could be reproduced in this article.



POTSDAM NATIONAL BANK

The days of the year have stiffened in ice, and darkness has grown upon the land. The season of cold and early dusk is upon us. The sun has retreated down the sky, the living green has forsaken the earth, and the leaves have fallen. No longer do the flowers bloom, and the birds have fled to the south.



**LETTER FROM  
THE EDITOR**

The North Country! Words that bring differing images to all people -- to us it is HOME.

Suddenly it appeared that our files yielded a series of articles from you with a North Country theme. So it is with pride in our heart-of-the-North Country position that we present people, ideas and places in it.

We have elsewhere also recommended several other North Country items, one of which was originally submitted to us.

To those who have submitted articles and not yet seen them, just be patient please--they will eventually appear! We are proud to have a varied choice so that each issue can represent the entire county. Ideas and articles are always welcomed, especially if they have not before appeared in print.

We are gratified by the response to requests in our research columns and by the many "booster" letters! Thanks. It's YOUR Quarterly.

MHB



Also read

"North Country Syndrome" by Wilma Cummins of Canton in "York State Tradition," Spring 1969 issue - "North Country Mapped Out by an Imaginary Boundary" by Geo. W. Reeves, Watertown Times, Sept. 29, 1928. And in the same issue, "Prehistoric Indians of Northern New York," by Harry F. Landon.

See "Chateaugay" pg. 486-494 in Houghs' History of St. Lawrence and Franklin Counties.

**almost unbelievable!**

A Morley man with three daughters of marriageable age took his sofa to an upholsterer in Canton to be renovated. The following is a partial list of articles which had slipped between the back and cushion, as counted and recorded: 47 hairpins, three mustache combs, 19 suspender buttons, 13 needles, 35 cigarettes, 217 pins, 76 grains of coffee, 47 cloves, 27 cuff buttons, six pocket knives, 15 poker chips, a vial of homoeopathic medicine, 34 lumps of chewing gum, 59 toothpicks, 28 matches, 39 collar buttons, two neckties, two love letters, a few pieces of candy, two dimes, three quarters, one nickel, eight buckles, five lead pencils, one pen and four button hooks.

(From a local correspondent to the newspaper (Canton) about 1893.)

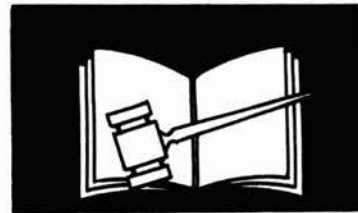


Houghs' History

January fifteenth has been scheduled for delivery of Hough's History of St. Lawrence and Franklin Counties. Reservations are still being taken for advance price of \$12.50. After publication, price will be \$15.00. Notice will be sent to each person reserving a copy when payment is needed. Reserve now, by dropping card to Reservation of Copy, Box 43, Canton, N. Y. or to Franklin County Historical Society, Malone, N. Y., 12953, co-sponsors of the reprint.



A Look Ahead: Soon will have a special Transportation issue, with many items contributed by our local historians in a 1968 project. One has given us the title -- People on the Move.



**PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE**

"North Country," as a phrase hitting off our region from about the Black River to the St. Lawrence, was coined by our own novelist Irving Bacheller (1859-1950).

Our region is slowly becoming industrialized. Farming is still our chief business, though. To memorialize the North Country through most of its rural past, let me quote some folk sayings from the pen of Bacheller. They illustrate how he caught the temper of our people and their speech.

"There's nothin' here but butter and cheese factories and whiskers and hard work."

"Used to be whiskers enough in this village (Canton) to reach Ogdensburg if they was made into a rope."

"Then we went awa-a-ay hellwards over'n this here direction." (Origin of our "'way the hell over'")

"Dear me Suz." Ever hear this? It may be a rural corruption for the French "Dieu me sauve" (God save me).

"Fact is, a man he can be any kind uv beast, but a panther he cain't be nothin' but jest a panther."

"Never start your mouth talking, and go away and leave it."

"These farms up here is pretty rough and rocky -- couldn't compete with them level, smooth, rich lands out west in raisin' wheat an' corn, but they has beat the world on one kind o' crop -- men folks an' women, high steppers and good build. I don't believe the yield to the acre can be beat by any other part o' the country. Taught to labor an' educated to command, raised with the poor an' by an' by counted 'long among the rich, they have friends all down the line 'tween poverty and wealth. They can see both sides o' the big problems."

I can't resist adding one thing. Of the past or in the present or future, that's what all of us need to do: look at all sides of the problems.

*Edward J. Blackburn*

## RHODA FOX GRAVES (Continued from Page 4)

upon as a decided triumph for women's rights also. Mrs. Graves carried Ogdensburg and every town in the first assembly district, except her opponent's, and in the subsequent election, she received 9,817 votes to 4,353 cast for her Democratic opponent, Earl Bancroft.

"Taking office as the only woman member of the legislature in 1925, she quickly aligned herself with the liberal and progressive wing of the party. While supporting the leadership where she considered its position justified, she never hesitated to kick over the traces when there was a divergency of views. Thus she early established herself as a rebel, and she gloried in the name.

## POWER AND MILK

"Principally, however, the root cause of her disaffections was the milk and power issues. In her judgment, the leaders were usually on the side of 'the interests' and against her farmer and electric power consumer constituency. It gradually evolved that milk and power became the keystones of her legislative record.

"Notwithstanding her insurrections, she sponsored countless pieces of legislation which reached the statute books in her name. The principle of many other reforms she originally proposed also became law, though by that time they had been taken over by some other legislator.

"Statutory monuments to her service are the junior operator license law; the state department of commerce, which developed as an enlargement of her proposal for a state agency to publicize New York scenic attractions; and the state highway snow clearance provisions. All of these were offered while Mrs. Graves was in the assembly.

"Perhaps her greatest service to her constituents, however, was rendered while she was in the upper house, where, as chairman of the agriculture committee, she effectively blocked the ripper bills of the milk monopoly. She was Chairman of Agriculture for ten years, 1938 through 1948.

"Mrs. Graves' last major legislative contribution to her dairyman constituency was her sponsorship of a bill to provide for a single inspection of farm premises. She first offered the measure in 1945, and it languished and died in committee. She tried once more in 1946, again without success. Meantime, however, her championship of the principle had created so much interest that in 1948 it became an administration program bill and was duly enacted into law.

"Prior to its adoption, dairy farms were subject to as many inspections as there were markets for the delivery of its milk production. Frequently the rules governing a farmer's eligibility to sell his production in one market conflicted with those of another municipality. The result was that the farmer lost a market. Under the single inspection law, observance of a uniform set of rules qualifies a producer to dispose of his milk anywhere, as far as health requirements are concerned.

## SEAWAY BOOSTER

"Only slightly less assiduous than her efforts in behalf of farmers was her belief in and promotion of the St. Lawrence seaway and power development as a public project. With the power people as strong and well organized as they are in Albany, her work was necessarily largely on the defensive side, but it is a matter of record that the first affirmative action ever taken by the New York legislature with respect to the river proposal was its approval of a Memorial Resolution she sponsored.

"This was a measure memorializing congress to proceed with development of the river for power purposes. It was adopted by the 1944 legislature.

"Among the innumerable bills she sponsored were the women's jurors bill, and the measure authorizing the construction of a proposed international bridge across the St. Lawrence river between Morristown and Brockville, Ont.

"On occasions, especially when she was an assemblyman, she was mentioned as state ticket material. However, as her independence of action increased, her chances to attain such a goal diminished." As an example of her independence, she was the only member of the senate to vote against the

"Condon-Wadlin" bill, although it is interesting to note this measure was repealed as unworkable some twenty years later to be replaced by the so-called "Taylor Law." At the time she was severely criticized by some senate leaders who declared that the legislature was now in effect a national legislature, because of the then Governor's aspiration to become a candidate for the Presidency. In reply Mrs. Graves caustically observed and remarked, "I assume we are still operating under the State Constitution."

"No sketch of her political career would be complete without reference to her husband, Perle A. Graves. Though he never sought or held office himself, he managed her more difficult campaigns and was an indispensable factor in her success. He knew personally every influential Republican in St. Lawrence county, and this was especially true of the farm precincts, which were the backbone of her political strength.

## CLUBS AND KUDOS

"In addition to her activities as a legislator, Mrs. Graves had been conspicuous in other fields. She was a past regent of the Gouverneur Morris chapter, Daughters of the American Revolution, in Gouverneur, and was a state director of the Daughters of the American Revolution.

"Widely known throughout the state for her activities in club circles and civic work as well as a legislator, Mrs. Graves in January, 1936, founded the Organized Women Legislatures of New York State. 'The Owls' and was first president of the organization; in 1941 she was appointed parliamentarian and also chairman of the committee on laws for the National Order of Women Legislators; she was a charter member of the Business and Professional Women's Club of Albany; she was a member of the Gouverneur Business and Professional Women's club, the Gouverneur Shakespeare Club; the Julia Ward Howe Tent, Daughters of Veterans; the Marble City chapter, Order of Eastern Star, Gouverneur; the national, state, Pomona granges and the Gouverneur grange, No. 303; the Home Bureau; the Academy of Political Science, Columbia university; the Women's National Republican club, the Northern Federation of Women's Clubs, of which she had served as corresponding secretary and was an honorary member of the New York State Hotel association, and the St. Lawrence County Police Protective Association.

"In 1932 she attended the National Republican convention at Chicago as delegate-at-large and the National Republican convention at Kansas City in 1928 as alternate-at-large."

She was also the first woman to receive a Citation from St. Lawrence University for her accomplishments and work in behalf of our North Country community.

"The national organization of women in the legislatures once proclaimed her the nation's outstanding woman legislator. The National League of Women Voters in 1940 hailed her as an outstanding state lawmaker in the nation. In 1938 the National Federation of Business and Professional Women's club designated her as the one woman in the country who was rendering not only distinguished service to her constituents but whose record strongly commended itself to her constituents.

"Champion of the farmer and always a bitter political foe of Tammany Hall, Mrs. Graves coined the compelling phrase 'Tipping Tammany Hall,' one day in 1932 when, as St. Lawrence county assembly member, she delivered an address on the assembly floor in connection with the continuation of the New York city investigation.

"She charged, in a particularly convincing speech, that graft in milk distribution in New York--much of which she said found its way to Tammany Hall in the form of tips--was responsible for the spread in prices between the producer and the consumer. The corruption in that field alone, she asserted, gave ample evidence that the Seabury probe of New York city affairs was justified.

"Mrs. Graves' distinguished record of public service was often used by women's organizations to prove the injustice of the old popular prejudice held against women holding public office.

(Continued on Page 19)



# Poetical Portraits

## The Old School Bell

Lorraine Bandy, Louisville Town Historian

Way, way back when school first started  
The kids heard the bell and were real downhearted.  
At first the teacher had a small hand bell,  
T' was loud enough for the kids to tell -  
That now school was about to begin, so the kids all  
came a - running in.

The classes grew, there was much more noise -  
Especially at recess - those girls and boys  
Were running all over - laughing and singing  
They never heard that tiny bell ringing!

So the teacher asked for a bigger bell  
And the kids were mad cause they could tell  
When it rang out so loud and clear  
There was no excuse that they didn't hear!

The "enrollment" swelled, there were "sags" in the beams -  
The old school almost burst its seams!  
At recess time the kids really scattered  
But to the teacher it hadn't mattered,  
As now, they had a real huge bell  
That tolled and tolled and all was well.

Yes, the old brick school was very proud  
Of its nice bell that rang so loud,  
The parents, in homes all over town  
Hearing it ring, knew the kids settled down -  
To learn readin', ritin' and 'rithmatic  
Taught to the tune of the hickory stick!

Comfort was taken in the very thought  
That money wasn't wasted - when that bell was bought!  
Their children were learning all that they could,  
In the old brick school with stove full of wood.

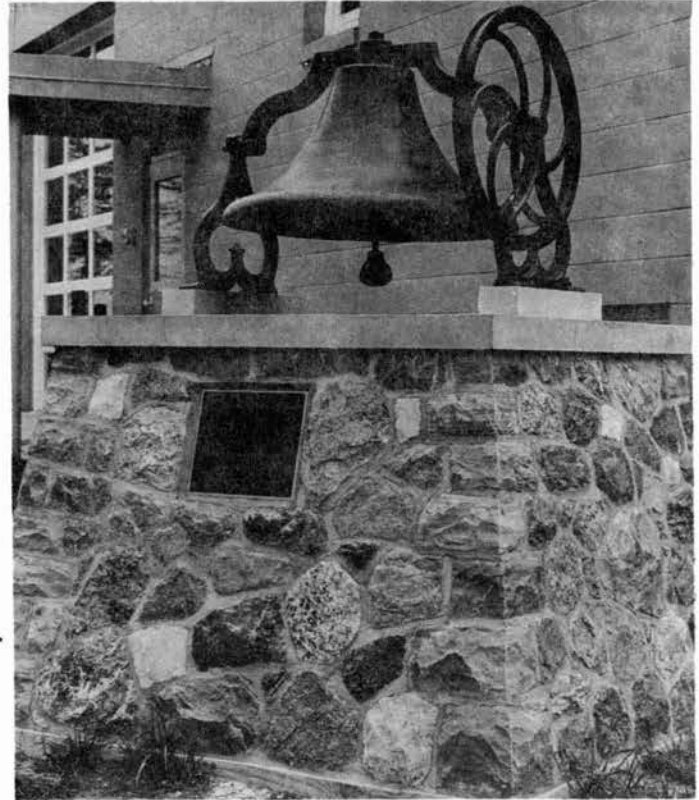
But something happened in that Louisville town -  
The old brick school burned right down!  
All that was left was the bell and some bricks  
And a sad looking pile of old charred sticks.

The 1870 steel amalgam bell  
Had just a small crack -  
You could hardly tell - the \$44.00 that it had cost  
Had all been saved - t'was not a loss!

This no. 6 bell was one of the best,  
The Gould Manufacturing Co. had stood the test!  
Those Seneca Falls people sure knew their stuff  
Three hundred ninety - six pounds was really tough!

In 1876 in cold winter weather  
January 31st townfolks got together,  
At a special board meeting Dist. 6 voted  
To build a new school and it was noted -

Twelve hundred dollars was really needed  
So that 100 pupils could all be seated,  
35 x 45 was the size of the school,  
T'was to be of wood - and another rule --



\$400.00 must be raised by June first  
And the rest by October - that was the worst!  
All that money - in less than a year?  
But with everyone helping, there was nothing to fear.

They still had the bell and each knew in his heart  
That this in itself was a real good start.  
The school was built, the bell took its place  
Up in the cupola - a small crack on its face!

Then the folks thought - it'll be there forever!  
It's a beautiful bell - we've saved it - we're clever!  
It rang out its heart for 82 years -  
Then with Cenralization it rang only tears.  
It hung there so silent for seven years more  
No kids to call to enter that door.

1958 when the school was torn down  
And replaced by a Fire Hall in the town -  
The bell was moved by Fobare and Son  
To the Chase Mills church where it was hung.

In the extreme western part of Louisville  
Is the tiny hamlet of Chase Mills.  
The Methodist church rang this bell -  
For 3 long years, God's word to tell,

Then they united with Waddington  
And the big old bell - no longer was rung.  
Through the interests of many, the bell was brought back  
To its original site - and there it sat!

For one whole year it lay on the floor  
As if no one cared for it anymore!

Then 60 firemen, the auxiliary and others -  
United together like a band of brothers.

They decided to honor this beautiful bell  
That rang on the school and the church as well,  
A fieldstone marker was built on the land  
Where it first found its home and was so in demand.

99 years old, now in '69  
Tribute is paid to the bell so fine!  
This Historical Marker makes Louisville proud  
The beautiful bell will ring long and loud.

Through the interest and efforts of the Louisville Volunteer Fire Department and its Ladies Auxiliary, with Mr. and Mrs. Clarence E. Bandy and their son Gary, a new historical marker was placed on the site of the Louisville School in July of 1969.

District #6 from 1849-1958 sported a bell cast in 1870 by the Gould Mfg. Co. Seneca Falls. It is 28 inches in diameter and weighs 396 lbs. It is steel amalgam and cost at that time \$40 with a tolling attachment \$4 extra. It was moved at the razing of the schoolhouse in 1965 to the Chase Mills Methodist Church, which was erected in 1869. Finally when that church united with the Waddington Methodist in 1968, and the building disposed of, the bell was returned to its original site and stored in the new Louisville Fire Hall. At a meeting in May of 1969, the firemen voted to preserve the bell and "Dick" Bandy and son Gary volunteered to erect an historical marker of fieldstone. The Ladies Auxiliary agreed to pay for a bronze plaque.

Through the Boy Scouts, who gathered stones, and the many interested persons in the town in addition, the 99 year old school bell has been moved four times, but never left Louisville!

## Let's Keep Christmas!

I would like to keep Christmas  
all through the year!  
Christmas! with its music and laughter;  
its warmth and its cheer.

I would like to keep Christmas -  
and, whenever I see a bright star,  
Remember how Christ said, "Our Father  
is near and not far."

I would like to keep Christmas-  
and, whenever I see a bright star,  
That as I live on this earth,  
in heaven will be my part.

I would like to keep Christmas -  
keep it with kindness and song;  
The advice of the gentlest and wisest of men  
remembering all the year long.

I would like to keep Christmas -  
with thanksgiving and joy -  
Too busy helping others  
Ever to kill, discourage or destroy.

Let's all try to keep Christmas-  
all through the year!  
Christmas! with its music and laughter;  
its warmth and its cheer.

--Abigail Cole

## Windows at Richville

Rev. Reuben Jones and Mary Electa Jones. Believe Mrs. Myron VanOrnum (Vera) 102 Church St. Theresa, is a granddaughter. (By Eugene Hatch)

Deacon Leonard Ells and Dorcas Totman were grandparents of Leonard Ells and Thelma Ells, and great grandparents of Elaine Ells now in Arizona.

Anthony C. Smith and Louisa Johnson Smith were parents of late Ford A. Smith and Anthony and his second wife Adelaide Holland were parents of Wida Smith Burnham and Efford Smith, now deceased.

Clark A. Gardner and Amorette were parents of Jennie Gardner who married Albert E. Johnson. Their children Clark Albert and Laura Johnson Deery are now living at Carthage. Clark Albert Johnson has a daughter Mrs. Joan James.

Joseph E. Smith and Margaret Borland were the parents of Homer Smith, Loyd Smith and Irving Smith, all deceased. Mrs. Irving Smith is still living, now Mrs. Jones.

Albert Johnson and Laura Smith Johnson were parents of the late Manley E. Johnson, McGee J., Albert E., Irving W. Johnson and Addie Johnson. Manley's daughters Miss Josephine L. Johnson and Mrs. John P. Hardy (Irene) ARE

Josephine L. Johnson and Mrs. John P. Hardy (Irene) are living in Gouverneur. Irving W. had one daughter the late Emeline Johnson Reynolds (who was largely responsible for the gift of this building). The latter two have a number of children and grandchildren.

Deacon Alfred Phelps and Jerusha were relatives of Lee C. Rich whose grandmother was a Phelps before her marriage to Ephraim Johnson. Another relative is Vivian Johnson Overacker. (Sent by Irene J. Hardy)

Clara Bosworth is ancestor of George Bosworth of Albany, and his father Harry Bosworth Sr. (George Bosworth)

Mrs. George L. Rogers, Antwerp, tells that her husband was a descendant of Deacon Alfred Phelps, who sold acres from his farm so that the church would be free from mortgage when the building was dedicated. The chart she drew of the relationships is on file in the History Center.

## RHODA FOX GRAVES (Continued from Page 17)

"With her strong belief that sex is not the important thing in selecting candidates for public office, she was always known for her vigorous efforts toward wiping out sex lines in politics and maintained always that ability was the essential factor that should count.

"Her record in giving women an opening wedge in the highest legislative body of the state has often been cited as one of the greatest advances femininity has made in its drive for equal rights."

### HER LIVING FAITH

As to mother's moral code and principles, I believe the record speaks for itself. But what is probably less well-known is the fact she was a deeply religious woman. She read her Bible every day, and at the time of her death the pages were almost in tatters. It undoubtedly was these deep seated convictions which sustained her during almost a lifetime of advocacy and contention. During the many times when I heard her speak on the floor of the Assembly and Senate, I always knew when she had reached the hard core of her message, because she would hesitate for a moment, and then state her ultimate position with a new sentence beginning, "I have faith to believe that..." And then her convictions would come forth in crystal clear language that no one could misconstrue. It seems she could not have lived and fought as she did without this spiritual reservoir.

When I graduated from high school in 1925, some 44 years ago, she handed me a new leather bound Bible in which she had written on the flyleaf something for me to remember and perhaps think about. She wrote this: "A rare intellectual power is not sufficient to meet the requirements of life. The chief need of the world is spiritual power, force of character which is the result of religious convictions." It would seem this is just as relevant today as it was in June 1925.

FROM THE COUNTY'S**CRACKER BARREL**

Highlights of 1969

**BRASHER** (Mae Murray) Cemetery records have been completed with the usual genealogical difficulties. One of the best winter carnivals was held last February with a spectacular parade, dog races, skidoo races and such. Memorial day was celebrated with a parade and patriotic program. Our tri-town chamber of commerce is undertaking a beautification and recreational program by constructing special park and beach facilities at the "old school" playground area on the bank of the St. Regis river. Plans are now being made for the Christmas Home Decoration Contest and the coming Winter Carnival. August 7-9 your historian attended a meeting on gerontology at Ithaca College.

**CANTON** (Edith L. Costa) On November 12 Edward F. Heim was honored with a plaque presented by the town board and St. Lawrence County Historical Association for his work as town historian. Principal events of the year include the Rushton Memorial Canoe Race, May 18, sponsored by the Canton Fish and Game Club; the centennial celebration by the Canton Fire Department September 11; and the naming by the village of its new Canton Island Park, November 12.

**CLARE** (Iris Fry)

**CLIFTON** (Clara McKenney)

**COLTON** (Lorena Reed)

**DEKALB** (F.F.E. Walrath)

**DEPEYSTER** (Adelaide Steele) On July 20 Depeyster dedicated its new town barn located on the Depeyster-Heuvelton county road. We are very proud of our new facility which honors Emery G. Smithers, who retired in 1966 after being highway superintendent for 17 years. Mrs. George Ashworth's estate gave the historian newspapers dating back to the 1800's which she has been reading, clipping and filing with the assistance of an Office Practice class at Heuvelton Central School.

**EDWARDS** (Leah M. Noble) The first of October I spoke to the local chapter of Lions about the Odd Fellows Hall, Union Church, and Boulet's Red and White Store, all of which were razed this summer. It was a unique experience, not only to speak to a very interested group, but also to be the only female among 28 men!

**FINE** (Catherine Brownell) As historian I have been busy answering letters concerning family history as well as keeping my town scrap book up to date. All the churches have been occupied with church suppers and bazaars. The November election brought about a whole new town board.

**FOWLER** (Isabelle Hance) I attended a meeting of the Association of Towns at New York City February 10, 11 and 12. Events of 1969 in this area include the sinking of the new Number Four shaft of the St. Joseph Lead Company, the completion of the new Route 58, the ground-breaking of the vocational school, a "fly-in" at Ryder's Airport, and a boat show at Sylvia Lake.

**GOVERNEUR** (Harold Storie) I have made two scrap-books of clippings from old Gouverneur papers, arranged a display at the Yorker Club's Flea Market this fall, and answered 13 inquiries on family genealogy from all over the country. One from the Post Office Department wanted to know the names of the first postmaster and the first pony riders.

**HAMMOND** (Maxine Rutherford) I completed two projects, SAFETY AND PROTECTION and RECREATION AND ENTERTAINMENT IN OUR TOWN. I attended the spring workshop May 14; the annual meeting at Hopkinton, October 11; the dedication of historical markers on Scenic Route 12, July 12; the Open House at Richville, July 27; the fall tour to Camp Drum and the LeRay Mansion, September 13; the annual Scottish games at Liverpool, August 9; and the French Festival at Cape Vincent, July 12. I also visited the Thousand Islands Museum at Clayton and the Salt Museum at Liverpool and set up an exhibit at the Hammond 4-H and FFA fair, September 5 and 6.

**HERMON** (Helen LeBlanc) This was my first year and I attended all activities and workshops connected with the work of the historian and the Historical Association. Hermon is proud to have the St. Lawrence Seaway Rehabilitation Facility in the old Hermon High School. This facility offers vocational rehabilitation to young handicapped adults of the county. Hermon has a new fire station this year.

**HOPKINTON** (Neva B. Day) I attended the workshop at the History Center in May. Hopkinton Supervisor, Clark S. Chittenden, was elected chairman of the Board of Supervisors of St. Lawrence County for 1969. On July 13 the Chittenden Store was reopened by Varick and Jay Chittenden, descendants of Clark Chittenden, original owner, who opened it in 1821. It is now the Country Store and Gift Shop. On July 25 town justice MacMillan Costa received a certificate and the title of HONORABLE at the close of the school of instruction at St. Lawrence University. There was an annual dinner given by the Town board to voters October 25.

**LAWRENCE** (Anna Cole) Nicholville has undergone an improvement by the demolition of four prominent vacant buildings. Removed were the former Olmstead store; the Grange Hall, which was the former Sumner Sweet store; the Corwin store, formerly the Joel Weller store and post office; and the former Luman Wilson brick home, later owned by Mrs. Jane Skiff. Seven consecutive scrapbooks containing Nicholville and vicinity news notes, April, 1897 to May, 1918, and written by the late historian and correspondent for the COURIER AND FREEMAN, Mr. E.A. Wood of Nicholville, were presented to the History Center at Canton by Mr. Wood's granddaughter, Mrs. Grace Wood Crowther. The VFW has recently moved from the Lawrenceville Academy to their newly completed building in North Lawrence.

**LISBON** (Doreen Martin) I am presently "typing cemeteries" and preparing my annual report for the town board meeting. I am grateful to Mrs. Mary Moore for a picture of the village in the late 1800's and to Persis Boyesen for her help during the year and the stack of Lisbon clippings from old newspapers. The St. Lawrence County American Legion held their annual meeting in our town this year. We can also brag of our first Eagle Scout, Jim Heidt, and of Donna Teele, winner of the county spelling contest.

**LOUISVILLE** (Lorraine Bandy) I placed over 1000 "Louisville, N.Y." pennants in our motels, gas stations, etc., to be sold to tourists; moved our artifacts from the Massena History Center back to Louisville where they will be on display in our new history center, which will open next May or June; completed 211 military records; put 88 flags on veterans' graves; started a brochure on Louisville but had to postpone its completion for lack of help; finally completed the 35 mm slides and history for county files and sent my annual report to town, county and state. We have a new

historical marker for our 1860 School Bell. Besides mapping two cemeteries, Chase Mills and our local Catholic cemetery, I have had articles and poems published in area newspapers and have helped students in local history.

**MACOMB** (Willis Kittle) I attended the spring and fall workshops at Canton, joined the tours of the Association, did some research, and wrote an article on mining in Macomb.

**MADRID** (Florence Fisher)

**MASSENA** (Marie Eldon-Browne) The Town of Massena Historical Center has moved from the old Waterbury home which is being torn down to its new headquarters in the basement of the Town Hall. The Massena Jaycees arranged the program for the tenth anniversary of the Power Project which was attended by President Nixon and Prime Minister Trudeau of Canada. Costumes from the museum collection were loaned to the Methodist Episcopal Church for use in a play celebrating the centennial of the church. A new Lutheran Church has been dedicated.

**MORRISTOWN** (Ella Mae Phillips) A display on Dr. Morses's Indian Root pills during the summer and providing information for researchers on this and other subjects kept me busy.

**NORFOLK** (Edith VanKennen) The most noteworthy event of the year for Norfolk was the expansion of Fire Department facilities. The department's headquarters, which have been enlarged by remodeling and adding to the former building, now houses, in addition to the regular equipment, the Emergency Squad equipment. The Honorable Robert E. Mc Ewen gave the address at the dedication, June 27.

**OSWEGATCHIE** (Persis Boyesen) I wrote an article on Smith Stilwell, early settler of Depeyster and Ogdensburg, which was published in three installments in the OGDENSBURG ADVANCE. The Stone Presbyterian Church of Oswegatchie originated this year a "Down Memory Lane" festival, which should be an annual event.

**PARISHVILLE** (Myrtle Waite) The museum will be closed during the winter months, December through March. I will be at my home in case of special requests. The cornerstone of the new \$1,400,000 school addition was laid November 10.

**PIERCEFIELD** (Beulah Dorothy) I have been compiling a list of veterans of all wars who have been buried in Gale cemetery so that a monument can be erected in their memory.

**PIERREPONT** (Millard Hundley) Collecting pictures and stories of district schools.

**PITCAIRN** (Edna Hosmer) People have made extensive use of Greenwood State Park and County Memorial Park, both on Route 3. Camp Portaferry has been expanded. People are becoming more and more interested in the many aspects of rural education.

**POTSDAM** (Susan Lyman) 1969 has seen both the Norwood American Legion, Clark Robinson Post 68, and the Legion Auxiliary celebrate their fiftieth year of service to veterans, their families, and others in need. I prepared histories of both organizations and was asked to speak at dinners sponsored for both units. Since the Legion had no pictures of the fallen World War I men whose names they commemorate, I finally found old pictures which I had copied and framed and presented them to the Post.

**ROSSIE** (Frances Gardner) I attended the spring meeting at Canton and the annual meeting at Hopkinton. I also took the LeRay mansion tour, attended the dedication of the markers on the Scenic Route 12, visited the Clayton Museum and the beautiful Childwold Presbyterian Memorial Chapel.

**RUSSELL** (Jan Barnes) DeGrasse built a new up-to-date fire hall this year located on the field day land mark for the DGSR area.

**STOCKHOLM** (Hazel Chapman) I was pleased to hear that my suggestion that public picnic tables be added to the recreational park at Winthrop was carried out. Next year a swimming place at the river will be provided for the children of the tri-towns.

**WADDINGTON** (Ethel Olds) The Scotch Presbyterian Church at Chipman celebrated its sesquicentennial and the Waddington Bank its fiftieth anniversary this year. Funds have been pledged for a Waddington Medical Center. The Town Hall and Library were repaired and painted.

## CITIES AND VILLAGES

**GOUVERNEUR** (Nelson Winters) In cooperation with our town historian, Harold Storie, I have maintained an exhibit in the First National Bank all year. Exhibits were changed from time to time in order to illustrate subjects such as schools, the Civil War, etc.

**HEUVELTON** (Persis Boyesen) In April I arranged exhibits for the Carlos Blood Historical Room in the Winona Allen Library in honor of National Library Week. The theme of the historical room was dedicated to the memory of Nina Smithers. I have shown slides on various historical places to the Heuvelton Senior Citizens.

**NORWOOD** (Susan Lyman) Several years of hard work for the historian and members of the Norwood Historical Association were rewarded September 10 when the Norwood Museum was opened to the public in a gala day-long affair, complete with a tea. Many of the area historians responded to their special invitations and were most gracious in expressing favorable impressions of the Museum. Norwood Mayor Lyle Wolstenholme cut the ribbon to officially open the building and Supervisor Francis G. Healey was present. Gifts continue to arrive and we strive to serve the community by holding "hours by appointment" as well as on a regular basis. Local school children, their teachers, Girl Scouts, Cub Scouts, and other groups visit by appointment.

**OGDENSBURG** (Elizabeth Baxter) The city of Ogdensburg celebrated its 101st birthday April 27, when a centennial plaque was dedicated at City Hall. Another post-centennial event was the laying of the cornerstone at the Centennial Terrace, new high rise building to be completed in 1970, September 30. The Ogdensburg Common Council in November moved the Fort Presentation monument to the Notre Dame church lawn where it commemorates the founder, Abbe Francois Picquet. Seventy five hundred booklets, "Historic Ogdensburg," have been distributed.

**POTSDAM** (Dee Little) Many historical and genealogical inquiries were answered during 1969 and much research was done. In the fall two geography classes at the State University College at Potsdam were assigned a term paper on "the development of the town from the geographical standpoint"; and 120 students did research in the museum. In addition, the museum held a special exhibit in November on this topic. Nearly 1000 school children visited the museum in 1969 and the museum's 11 teachers' boxes were used by many area schools.

**RICHVILLE** (Georgiana Wranesh)

## MUSEUMS AND HISTORICAL SOCIETIES

**GOUVERNEUR** (Paul J. Smith) The program for the October meeting of the Gouverneur Historical Society included the presentation of movie films of the 1955 Gouverneur Sesquicentennial Celebration. Highlighted in the film were scenes of the parade on Main Street, window displays, and the special train excursion to Edwards.

**MACOMB** (Willis Kittle) The museum held regular open days, May through August, in addition to appointments. Many additions to our collection were made. The most notable event was the gift by an anonymous donor which paid one of our outstanding notes of indebtedness, leaving us nearly out of debt. The Association is very grateful.

**PARISHVILLE** (Norene Forrest)

**POTSDAM** (Dee Little) A special exhibit of decoys, antique and handcrafted, belonging to Bob Belyea, Potsdam, will be on exhibit at the museum, mid-January through February. A costume show, "Sentimentals to Swingers - Fabulous Fashions from the Potsdam Museum" will go on view in early March. During 1969 the museum had 3500 visitors and three special art exhibits, plus its first outdoor art show on September 21, which attracted 38 exhibitors and 1500 people.

# Our members write

Editor, The Quarterly

The account in the October issue, "Presidents Who Have Visited Our County" is an interesting collection of historic events. However, I feel that for the record I must call attention to the following comments regarding the visits of Theodore and Franklin D. Roosevelt to this area as I was present on both occasions.

In the fall of 1898, during his campaign for the governorship of New York, Theodore Roosevelt came through Canton on a special train, whistle-stopping across St. Lawrence County. On each side of the locomotive's cowcatcher was fastened a new broom, indicative of T.R.'s aim to "clean house" in Albany when elected. In Canton he spoke from the rear platform to a large crowd gathered at the station. As a small girl, I was there with my father. This may have been the same trip on which he visited Watertown as given in the article. It was at this time that my father bought for me the T.R. campaign badges which I gave to the Association last year.

At the dedication of the Thousand Island International Bridge I was present with my cousin and uncle, Marjory and Nelson Robinson where we were guests of Holton D. Robinson, designer and chief engineer of the bridge complex. Our seats were on the speakers' stand from which Prime Minister Mackenzie King and President Franklin D. Roosevelt and others spoke at the dedication ceremony. This was held at a natural amphitheater on Wellsley Island about a quarter of a mile from the Rift Bridge marking the international boundary.

A crowd of 25,000 was present, several hundred in reserved seats in front of the speakers' stand, others standing or sitting on the slope behind, some even perched in trees and on rocks. The two heads of government arrived together in an open car, across the Canadian spans, preceded by an escort of Royal Canadian Mounted Police and a New York State Police Car. They passed within a few feet of me as they made their way to the front of the speakers' stand.

I still have my copy of the official souvenir program for dedication, the account of the ceremony in the St. Lawrence Plaindealer of Aug. 23, 1938 which I wrote, and my ticket for the speakers' stand. The dedication was the 18th.

Sincerely,  
Dorothy Cleaveland Salisbury  
(Mrs. Elon G. Salisbury)

## Our Members are Honored

Edward F. Heim, historian of Canton for nine years, was honored at the Association's annual meeting in Hopkinton with the presentation of a plaque by Supervisor Harold Smith on behalf of the grateful town, and Edward F. Blankman on behalf of the Association and Ed's many friends.

County Historian Mary H. Biondi has been honored to be named to the Governor's Commission for the celebration of the 200th Anniversary of the American Revolution. One of 21 members throughout the state she will represent northern New York among the educators and historians. Mrs. Biondi has also been selected to be included in the International publication in Britain of 2000 Women of Achievement, the International Dictionary of Biography, the Blue Book, and for the second time the Who's Who of American Women for 1970-71. She has just completed 18 months as president of the County Historians Association of New York State.

### THANK YOU !!!

THANKS -- to those who came in to County History Center in answer to the Wanted in October to help with sorting and indexing. Helpers always welcome.

Letter to the Editor:

I have read and approve the article in the October Quarterly, by Edward J. Blankman, President of the St. Lawrence County Historical Association. The raising of the dues to "FIVE DOLLARS" is the proper thing to do and a matter of good business management. Good members should not object to paying dues sufficient to maintain this wonderful ST. LAWRENCE COUNTY HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION, in a safe and WORTHY financial condition.

I want my membership extended ONE YEAR at the \$5.00 rate and under SPECIAL GIFTS I wish to contribute \$10.00.

AND: again I congratulate the EDITOR for the wonderful job she has done in getting out this official publication "THE QUARTERLY."

Sorry now that I had not been a member many years ago, but with my Railroad Career as Telegraph Operator, and as Agent-Telegrapher, I had no time to think of anything else!

You all now have my very best regards,  
Sincerely,  
Mott Meldrim

Letters:

I used to attend school at Woodbridge Corners in 1909, and the picture includes me and my two brothers and sister Marjorie. Would you please send me extra copies so I can mail to my sister and brother Leland?

Mildred Place Crossman,  
Potsdam



JANUARY

## researchers

### PROBLEM SOLVED

The picture on page 15 of the Oct. "Quarterly" was almost certainly taken on the steps of the MURRAY HILL HOTEL, MURRAY ISLE, N.Y., where I spend my summers. Also, many of those people are probably Gouverneur people.

Charles VanDuzee, whose grandfather's company built the hotel, agrees with me. He says the short man on the right front with his leg over the edge was an ED DUFFY and possibly the tall one with the coat over his arm was a DODDS. I thought that one might be AMASA CORBIN with GRACE CORBIN next to the little boy, but that is a guess of course. Amasa Corbin headed the company that owned and operated the hotel.

The hotel we are SURE of. On the people you could get further help from Gouverneur people. Any information you might get on the Murray Hill Hotel I would be interested in because a friend and I are writing the history of the island.

Sincerely,  
Margaret Nulty

### ASHWOOD INQUIRY

I don't know any of this family with the exception of Jessie Ashwood and her husband, William C. Freeman. The item states that they lived in Canton. That must have been quite a while ago as I knew them for over 50 years, since I was a small child, and they lived on Park St. here in Ogdensburg. They lived next door to my grandparents, on my father's side of the family.

They had 3 children that I remember, a girl whose name I have forgotten and who died several years ago, and 2 boys, Howard and Sherwell. I think Sherwell lives on the West coast and Howard lives in Glens Falls.

Jessie and Bill are both buried in the Ogdensburg Cemetery. Jessie died Oct. 31, 1959, born in 1875, and Bill died Sept. 2, 1968 at the age of 91.

I hope this little bit of information might help whoever is trying to write this family history.

Sincerely,  
Frederick G. McFadden

Ogdensburg, N.Y.

\* \* \*

Back issues needed to complete files or sets of the Quarterly for libraries are: Apr. '56; Jan. '58; Oct. '61; Jan., Oct., '62; Apr. '63; April, Oct. '65; Jan. '59; Jan. '60. Any and all of 1965 are in short supply. We'll gladly accept your extra copies for this purpose.

## Meeting

First winter program will be January 14 at 8 p.m. at the Town Hall, Main Street, Massena. Speaker-guest will be Dr. Louis L. Tucker, State Historian, to which both Franklin County Museum and Historical Society and our members and friends are all invited. He will tell us about plans for the celebration of the 200th anniversary of the American Revolution. Dr. Tucker is Executive Director of the State Commission for the celebration.

DISAPPEARED from table in History Center, Reference book "Bottle Bonanza" (\$4.00). If found, please return any Mon. or Thurs.

VOLUNTEERS needed at the History Center, or at home, to help index--cemetery census records, scrapbooks, county histories and vital statistics. Good long-winter-evening work and a real service.

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