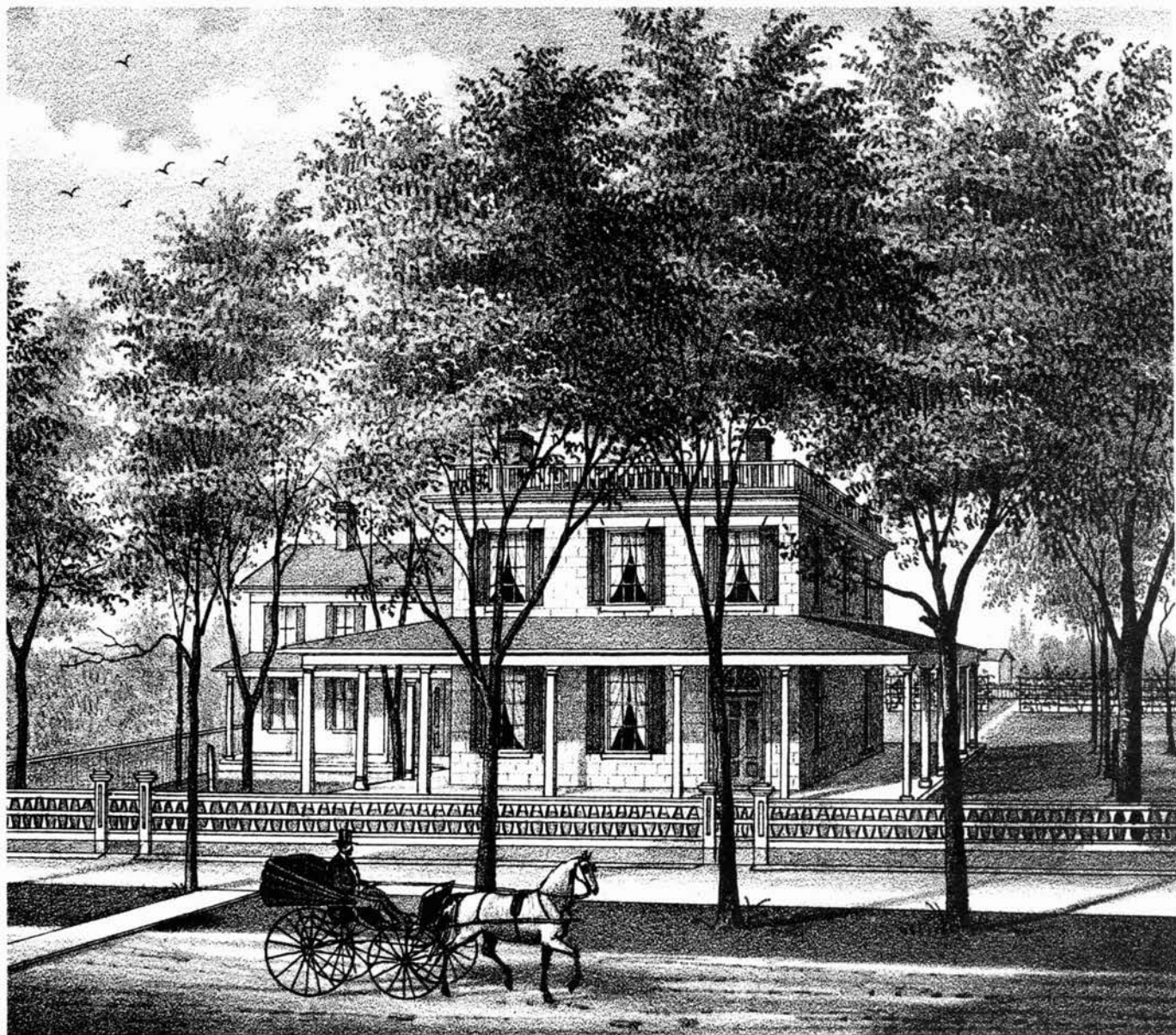


THE QUARTERLY

OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE ST. LAWRENCE COUNTY HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION



July 1971

THE QUARTERLY

Official Publication Of The St. Lawrence County Historical Association

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Cover Photo: The George Redington home in Waddington as represented in the St. Lawrence County History of 1878. (Everts and Holcomb)

Pioneer Entrepreneur

George Redington of Waddington (1798-1850)

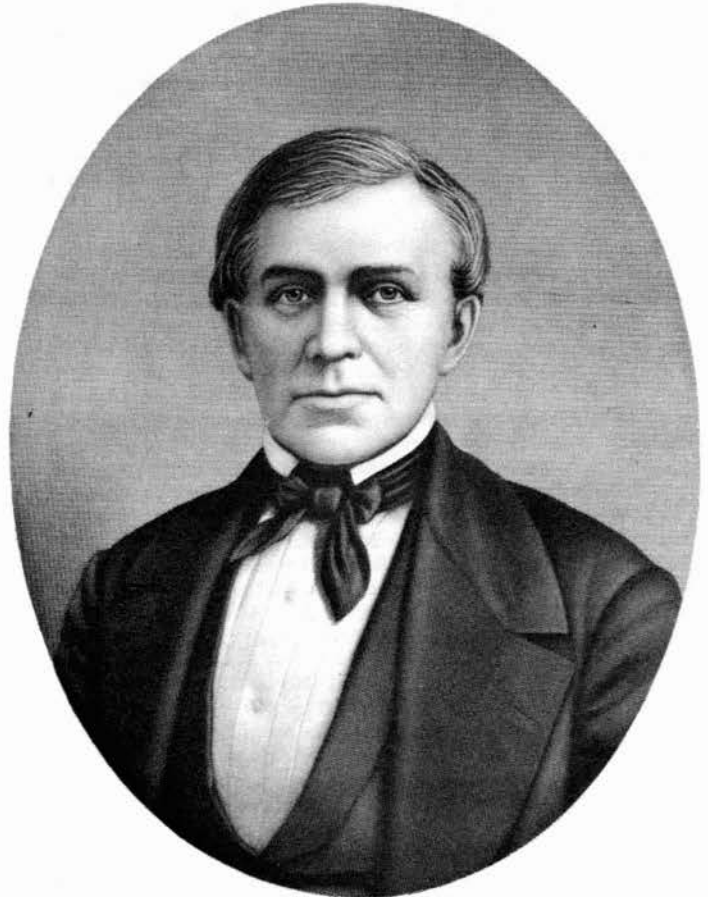
FREDERICK H. ARMSTRONG

The development of the Great Lakes -- St. Lawrence basin is one of the more neglected stories in North American history, possibly because political history is more colorful, possibly because the waters are divided between two nations and thus less easily seen as a unit. The unity of the lakes, nonetheless, is particularly well illustrated when one attempts to write the history of the development, especially the economic development of any of the counties on either side of the St. Lawrence River. Placed between the two great metropolitan centers of New York City and Montreal the early settlers in this region were able to direct their trade in either direction.

The biography of secondary personages is another neglected field of study. The great men of a nation tend to be discussed and re-discussed, whereas the many secondary personages, who may have done much to build up a limited area, are frequently forgotten. If, as Carlyle has stated, "history is the essence of innumerable biographies," we must try to reconstruct the careers of these figures in order to widen our knowledge of the basic local developments which made the broader sweep of national history possible. One of the great problems of dealing with such individuals, however, is the lack of adequate documentation, for so few collections of papers have survived.

For one of the early builders of St. Lawrence County, George Redington of Waddington, this is fortunately not the case or is at least only partially the case. Redington, a lawyer, land speculator and lumber entrepreneur, kept his papers in careful order; after his death they passed to his brother and administrator, James Redington, and were preserved, along with many of the latter's letters, at his Ogdensburg home. There they were found by a book and letter dealer of Morrisburg who regrettably divided the collection. Probably the largest section is in the Library of Congress at Washington, but there is also an excellent collection in the library of St. Lawrence University at Canton; still other letters have been scattered widely. Although reconstructing the correspondence in toto would be impossible, a complete examination of what is readily available would provide a very detailed picture of the economic evolution of St. Lawrence County in the second quarter of the nineteenth century. The following survey of Redington's career does not pretend to be in any way definitive, but merely points out the most important aspects of his activities, based on an examination of some of these letters and the old county histories.

The Redington family in North America originated with a John Redington who settled in Massachusetts. Jacob, a member of the fifth generation, was born at Tolland, Connecticut, in 1759, and died at Waddington in 1843. As a youth he fought in the Revolutionary War and then married Eunice King of New Lebanon, New York, in 1785. She was to outlive him by four years, dying in 1847 at the age of 79. They settled in Vergennes, Vermont, where the subject of this sketch, their eldest son George, was born on 23 November, 1798. Shortly after this, there is some disagreement on the date, Jacob decided to join the flow of settlers who were moving westward to open up the New York State lands that stretched along the south shore of the St. Lawrence. As the state to the north of the Mohawk and Hudson River was largely a wilderness, the trip had to be made via Montreal. By 1799 Jacob was assisting in the survey of Canton and Lisbon Towns. The next year he apparently took up land in the latter and when it received its own town government in 1801, he was elected one of the assessors. The very next year, however, St. Lawrence County was created and the section of Lisbon in which he resided was separated as the



Geo. Redington

Town of Madrid. When the first Madrid town meeting was held in 1802 Jacob was elected Clerk of the Town. Waddington, or Hamilton as it was known until 1818, which the family were to make their headquarters, was part of Madrid until 1859.

His family thus grew up on what was then the frontier. There is little information about George's early years, except that at the age of five he suffered a severe sickness, possibly polio, which resulted in the loss of the use of one of his legs. For the rest of his life he had to go around on crutches. In 1813 his father, who had fought in the War of 1812 and been wounded in a skirmish, moved from Madrid to Potsdam, where the family resided for about three years. The old sources state that at that time George was sent to the St. Lawrence Academy, where he was educated under the Rev. James Johnson, but that institution was not established until 1816, the year his father moved briefly to Montreal. George accompanied him and taught school in that city, but in 1819 he returned to St. Lawrence County and began the study of law in the office of Gouverneur Ogden at Waddington. Among his fellow students was William Henry Vining, who briefly represented the county in the State Assembly before his untimely death in 1822. George himself was admitted to the bar in 1823.

Before examining his legal career some mention should be made of two of his brothers, who were to be associated with him in his various business enterprises. Nathaniel, who was born in 1807, does not seem to have had as good an education. He was closely connected with George in his various businesses and often travelled extensively in his interests. Later he emigrated to California and died in that state. Another brother, the already mentioned James (1810-1891), was to have as important a career as George in the region. He was also a lawyer, studying first with his brother and then in Troy, before he was admitted to the bar in 1831. Later he was to be Surrogate of the County, President of Waddington village, and United States Consul at Prescott.

During the 1820's George seems to have concentrated basically on his legal practice. He kept a large library, and by 1831 he had become a justice of the peace. Although he never gave up legal activities, his work in this field soon led him to concentrate on other projects, for on a developing frontier there were many opportunities for a man of ambition to make his fortune. One activity that engaged his interests was land speculation. With the rapid opening up of the towns which stretched back from the river, there was an excellent chance for the speculator, both locally and from the more established regions, to make a good profit. George was soon purchasing and administering land both for himself and as an agent for some of the large commission merchants in New York City, who had the funds to invest in such enterprises. His correspondence, particularly in the 1830's and 1840's, contains numerous letters from three of these New York speculators: Curtis Bolton, of Bolton, Fox and Livingston on Broad Street, Benjamin Richards of Richards and Richardson, who had his office on South Street and Moses Whitcomb of Water Street, who was later to migrate west to San Francisco.

The career of Curtis Bolton (1783-1851) may be used to provide an example of the activities of the type of New York merchant who was speculating in St. Lawrence County. He was first connected with a branch of the family firm in Savannah and then with John and Curtis Bolton of New York City. By 1835 he was the head of the house of Bolton, Fox and Livingston, who were owners of the Union Line of Packets running between New York and LeHavre in France. His business connections took him frequently to both Europe and South America. At one time he was the United States government surveyor in charge of choosing a canal route through Guatemala. In New York City he was noted for his charitable interests, particularly his efforts to aid the blind and the dumb. He was a charter member of the American Institute of New York in 1828. By that time he and his brother John were engaged in land speculation in the county, each having a half interest in the venture. In 1830 he bought out John and, with Redington as his agent, continued to deal in St. Lawrence lands until 1845, when the properties were sold off for a total of \$23,000. Some of the larger holdings were in Louisville and Norfolk, where he had 850 and 1520 acres respectively; these brought him in \$5,600 of the total. Benjamin Richards, another of the merchants whom Redington represented, was the intermediary in this transaction.

One of the most interesting correspondents Redington acted for was Martin Ellsworth (1783-1857), a son of Chief Justice Oliver Ellsworth and a brother of William W. Ellsworth who was Governor of Connecticut in 1838-42. Major Ellsworth, as he was known from his activities in the state militia, was graduated from Yale in 1801 and after a mercantile career of some twenty years retired to his father's estate at Windsor, which he had inherited, and lived the life of a country gentleman. He was much interested in speculation at Ogdensburg, where he owned a sawmill and other interests. A constant source of ideas, in the late 1830's and first half of the 1840's he frequently visited Redington and he bombarded him with suggestions of ways in which he could advance the career of his son Frederick Ellsworth (1816-1878), whom Redington evidently took under his wing. The ambitions for his son failed to develop are shown by the fact that by 1844 his father was ready to sell out the Ogdensburg interests. Frederick, however, later inherited his father's estate and spent his last years at Windsor.

WITH PARISH

Another interesting connection of Redington's was with the Parish family who played such an important role in the development of Ogdensburg and the county. After George Parish returned to Europe about 1833, his nephew of the same name, the future Baron Parish von Senftenburg, came over to manage the family properties. The date of his arrival has been given as 1839, but at the opening of 1835 Redington's friend, Ransom H. Gillet, was writing from Ogdensburg stating "I hope you will take all reasonable pains to make a practical business man of Parish. That is worth more to him than wages in money." A few days later he wrote again "I shall endeavour to procure a place for Parish if I can in the City, (New York,) but it is very difficult to get clerks into good Houses there." From this Redington may well have played a role in the training of one of the county's most colorful personalities.

Along with land speculation Redington was engaged in lumbering and related projects. For instance in 1837 he built a grist mill on the Grass River in Louisville, which he operated until his death; he also had sawmills in various locations and by 1835 he had constructed a large mill and wharfs at Waddington. The trees that he cut were various species of pine, elm, and oak. Naturally he employed a considerable number of men, either directly or through sub-contracts. In his mills he manufactured not only squared timber, but also boards, bolts, staves, or whatever else might be required. He seems to have been little involved in the type of operations that might be found in more settled areas, although there is some note that he was selling cattle in the early 1840's.

For an entrepreneur with such varied interests St. Lawrence County, as noted, was ideally situated between the growing metropolitan areas of Montreal and New York, for, as the canal system opened up in the 1820's, timber could be shipped with equal ease to either city. Not only that, but for New York he was able to choose whichever of the Champlain or Erie routes was the most advantageous for his operations. His main markets were Albany, Troy and New York City to the south, and Montreal and Quebec to the east, although he also shipped to England at times. For many years he had his Canadian mail sent via the post-master at West Williamsburg.

By the 1830's he was making arrangements to have the lumber rafted down the still uncompleted canal system on the St. Lawrence to Montreal or Quebec, wherever the market was better. His agents in Montreal, at least in the mid-1830's, were the great mercantile house of Forsyth, Richardson and Company, one of the bulwarks of the local English-speaking oligarchy, the Chateau Clique. Usually the lumber was piled on the beach near the "New Market" at Montreal until it was ready for sale, or if necessary reshipment elsewhere. For instance in 1843, when lumber was selling poorly at Montreal, the market at Beauharnois was investigated.

A wide variety of cuts of lumber were exported on the rafts: planks, boards, and culls. Most of it was cut in central and western St. Lawrence County. For example in 1846 he was having rock elm cut in Macomb and Rossie which went via Black Lake to Ogdensburg. George Redington was also interested in the across-the-river trade in Canada. In 1836 he was shipping barrels to Cornwall and making inquiries about bidding on planks for the town's sewer system. From the late 1830's, when tariff restrictions came in, Canadian shipments at times were more difficult. Sometimes lower duties were available because American lumber shipped into Canada could be re-shipped to England at the same rate as British colonial timber. In 1839, however, the British government put duty on American deals shipped via Canada and the price was thus raised to a level where they were unsaleable. At the same time as tariffs were going up, however, the canals were improving and the St. Lawrence shipping thus became much easier; the Cornwall and Chambly Canals were completed in 1843, the Beauharnois in 1845 and the Williamsburg in 1847.

Transport to the south presented a different picture because there were two routes open to Troy and so on to the

Kept Alive by Devotion

Brick Chapel

Text and photo by Edith L. Costa, Canton Town Historian

For yet another summer historic Brick Chapel Church (on the Canton-Russell road) will open its door to descendants of early members and friends during July and August. Although services are not held regularly any more, the spirit of belonging there is no less strong among the parishioners today than in the early days of the church.

For this brief time, the tolling of the bell will echo through the valley, calling to 10 a.m. worship those who have been privileged for many years to share in a most unique spirit of devotion to this church.

Although there have been years when the church was not opened at all due to lack of a pastor, the Ladies Aid Society and the Cemetery Association have remained active, and the sturdy brick structure at the crest of the hill, with the valley falling away on every side around it has inspired the continued devotion of its members. For many of them, this church has been a part of their lives since earliest childhood. Mrs. Rodee, who lives at the foot of the hill to the south of the church, clearly remembers attending Sunday school here in 1904. Mrs. Janet Favro, descendant of John Richardson, who gave the land for the church and adjoining cemetery, and her husband Roger, have done much toward keeping the grounds in excellent condition. For all of these dedicated people, summer services mean a great deal at a time when each year may be the last time it will be possible.

The first board of trustees was organized on Nov. 3, 1815, and in 1823 the first church was erected, first in the township of Canton and one of the first in the county. The old church edifice was replaced in 1858 by a new building.

Originally under Methodist auspices and more recently under the Presbytery, Brick Chapel is, in a true sense, a community church. Its cemetery tombstones bear the names of many of the first settlers to put down roots in the township. The first burial in 1809 was prior to the founding of the church.

A description of the first church reads as follows:

"It was a solid building, with no sign of the modern wall decorations. The seats were rough boards, without backs or cushions. It was lighted, not by electricity, gas, or even kerosene, but by means of tallow candles. It was heated, not by a stove, furnace or steam, but by burning charcoal in a pot kettle. The wood, of poplar and balm of gilead, was charred in a coal pit of Jesse Barnes for this purpose."

This description was read at the homecoming and anniversary of the church on the occasion of its 125th anniversary in 1940. At this celebration, Miss Gertrude Richardson of Pyrites was honored as the oldest living member of the church. It was remarked that the chapel had had only summer services for the past few years at that time.

Another member, Harold S. Barnes, was honored on Nov. 28, 1962, for his many years of service to the church and to the community. He was born in the old Barnes homestead, now the Richard Sibbits home, across the meadows from the church. As a boy and as a young man, the account states, he attended and was active in church activities. He was director of the Cemetery Association and secretary-treasurer for 33 years, giving it up in 1961. His interest and

(Continued on page 20)



highway of history

Canton to Ogdensburg, 1908-9

By SUSAN K. RACE

The first state road in this part of Northern New York was built between Canton and Ogdensburg, a distance of eighteen miles, during the summer of 1908-9 when Charles Evans Hughes was New York State Governor. The job was let in two contracts. I do not recall who built the Ogdensburg half, but the Canton end was built by Eggleston and Pennell, contractors from Yonkers, N.Y.

This stretch of nine miles extended from Canton village line to the farm now owned by the Luken's family. This four story house was originally built and operated for many years as a tavern, in stage coach days, and was then known as the Halfway House.

The contractors brought with them, by train, several teams of horses, dump wagons, stone crusher, steam engine and huge steam roller, as well as a large number of laborers, mostly young Italians just off the boat, who could neither read, write nor speak English. However, they soon learned to speak our language well enough to carry on limited conversations.

The Italians lived in what had been a vacant house near Woodbridge Corners and boarded themselves on an average of twelve dollars a month, although two unusually thrifty lads boasted of spending only four to six dollars each for one month's food. Milk, eggs, tomatoes and other garden produce were purchased from nearby farmers. The men were paid fifteen cents an hour for a ten hour day, six days a week. The princely sum of nine dollars!

The Stone crusher in 1908 was located near the corner of Canton-Morley road, and just across the road from Woodbridge Corners schoolhouse. My father, the late Archie Kenny, was the crusher boss, for which he was paid twenty cents an hour. Later he worked several summers on Canton town roads, mostly in charge of the crusher steam engine, but at somewhat higher wages.

The new road was a welcome and much needed replacement of the old narrow, dusty (or muddy) sand and gravel road, portions of which had been of corduroy construction, as parts of logs were removed from several low places when the new road bed was being prepared.

The Italians worked in nearby fields and pastures loading stones from piles and walls, and drilling by hand any rocks large enough to require blasting. The stones were drawn to the crusher by neighborhood farmers who were glad of the opportunity of earning three dollars a day extra income.

The contractors teams and dump wagons were used to draw and spread the crushed stone after the grading had been completed. Construction started at Canton village line where the largest crushed stone was spread and rolled, followed by medium, then fine stone, with a top dressing of screenings (stone dust) and that was the finished road.

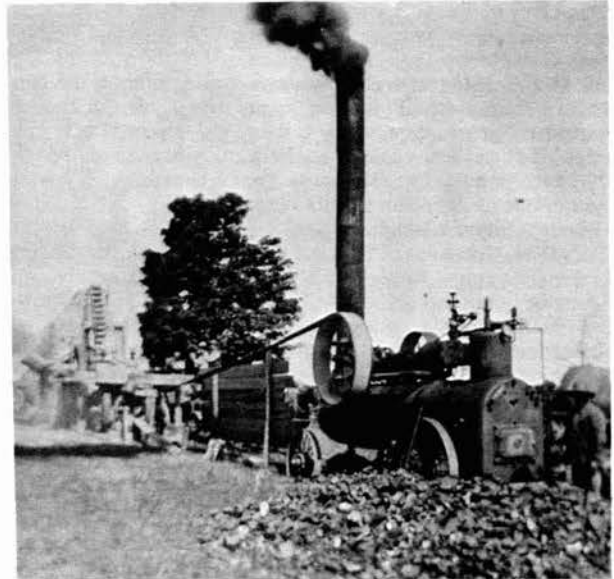
In late fall of 1908 the contractors, Eggleston and Pennell, returned to their homes in Yonkers, N.Y. for the winter, but hired my father to take their teams into the South Woods.

In 1905 a tract of 21,500 acres in the town of Clifton had been purchased by R.W. Highbie and a railroad was built from Newton Falls to Newbridge where he established a large mill and logging camp which was in operation until 1915. My father was very fond of the woods and he thoroughly enjoyed the winter he spent at Newbridge.

In the spring of 1909 the crusher was moved to the corner of the Murphy Road (not far from the Halfway House) and a stone quarry was opened on the Carmichael farm nearby. Later the quarry filled with the water and became "the ole swimmin' hole" for the neighborhood boys.

And so in the fall of 1909 the road was completed, twelve feet in width, eighteen miles in length at a cost of eight thousand dollars per mile.

Automobiles were becoming popular and they and the



wind soon swept the stone dust away, leaving the bare crushed stone, so as an afterthought the state did a black topping job the summer of 1911.

In 1930-31 a concrete road was built from Canton to Ogdensburg which was a great improvement, and has since been widened and re-surfaced twice.

In 1969-70 two miles of road were rebuilt in the vicinity of Woodbridge Corners, plus 1/2 mile of the Rensselaer Falls road. This construction eliminated Woodbridge Hill, also a dangerous curve, and two hazardous corners which had been the scenes of many serious and sometimes fatal accidents. This latest road improvement was finally completed at a cost of approximately one million one hundred thousand dollars.



Northern New York is now criss-crossed with some of the best and most modern highways in the nation, but none have a longer history than that eighteen miles of Route 68 which connects Canton and Ogdensburg.

Referring once more to the Italian laborers and their thrifty way of living, I would like to share with you a short and amusing poem, which had about that time appeared in a magazine and was almost literally true. The author is unknown.

(Continued bottom of Page 8)

The Man They HAD to Hang

New Light on Nils von Schoultz

By RICHARD A. PIERCE

Of the men who fought on either side in the Battle of the Windmill, following the ill-starred Patriot landing near Prescott, Ontario, in November, 1838, only one name stands out -- the gallant "Polish soldier of fortune" who led the invading forces, Nils von Schoultz.

Until now, little has been known of von Schoultz' origins except what he himself volunteered at his trial and before his execution at Kingston on December 8. Now a descendant of von Schoultz, Mrs. Ella Pipping, of Helsingfors, Finland, has published a book which dispels some of the mystery about him.

Nils Gustaf von Schoultz was born on October 7, 1807, in the small town of Kuopio, Finland, then part of Sweden. His parents were not Polish but Finlanders of Swedish stock. It was the troubled time of the Napoleonic wars, and Sweden became involved in a war with mighty Russia; she was defeated, and lost Finland. Nils Gustaf's father had fought with the Swedish army, and after the war took his family to Sweden. Nils was educated in a military academy in Sweden. He did well, especially in mathematics and science. Handsome and charming, he was often invited to balls in the highest circles.

He entered the army and passed his artillery officer's examination in 1829, but suddenly, in October, 1830, at 23, asked permission to leave the service, and was honorably discharged. His reasons are not known, but there was talk in the family about gambling debts. He then disappeared, and his family learned presently that he had gone to Poland to fight with the insurgents against Russia.

VonSchoultz' role in Poland is obscure, but by his own account he took part in the defense of Warsaw, and when the Russians took the city on September 8, 1831, he was captured but managed to escape. He made his way to France, joined the Foreign Legion and was sent to Africa. There he claimed to have had some terrible experiences, but he could not have been in the Legion many months, for in the spring of 1832 he managed to leave its ranks, and landed in Marseilles. He went to Italy, where in Florence on March 2, 1833 he was reunited with his mother and sister.

In Florence, Nils Gustaf met two young Scottish girls, Ann and Mary Campbell, and their mother. He taught Ann and Mary physics and chemistry in exchange for English lessons, and in the spring of 1834 he and Ann were married.

The couple and Ann's mother travelled to Sweden, where Nils was confronted with demands for payment of old debts, and his mother-in-law had to pay off his creditors. Ann bore a daughter on January 9, 1835, and a year later a second daughter. Nils set up a laboratory in their home and worked on various projects, but he had no financial backing, so nothing came of them. At last it was decided that he should seek the aid of Ann's relatives in London, so in June, 1836, Nils traveled to England.

The relatives welcomed him but after a few weeks he suddenly left the country. The passenger list of the steamer Ocmulgee, which arrived in New York on August 13, 1836, lists "N.G. von Schoultz, Soldier, 28 years old."

COMES TO U.S.

In the United States, von Schoultz settled in Salina (now Syracuse) in Onondaga County, New York, a major center for salt extraction. There he set up a small laboratory to start experiments in the processing of salt. He traveled to Washington, D.C., where he applied for a patent, and to various states where there were salt deposits. In Salina, he stayed with the family of Warren Green, a farmer, and became friendly with Green's widowed sister, Emily Field. To these people he passed himself off as a Polish refugee, hero of the sanguinary but unequal struggle before Warsaw. He charmed his new friends with his tales of heroic adventures, hair



Nils von Schoultz

(Used by permission of Ontario Archives)

breadth escapes, and travels in many lands.

As for his wife Ann, only on June 1, 1837, nearly a year later, did Nils favor her with a letter. Writing in Baltimore, he spoke glowingly of the money he would be able to make when he was granted a patent on his salt extracting method. Within a year he would send money so that she could pay off their debts. He missed her and their two daughters very much, he wrote.

The promised money never arrived, and that letter was the last that Ann would ever receive from him. Moreover, he had failed to mention that two days before, on May 30, he had applied in Washington for American citizenship.

Meanwhile, as the popular, self-styled Pole was going about his business affairs, clouds were gathering in the north. Following the defeat of William Lyon Mackenzie's attempt to set up a Republic of Upper Canada in December, 1837, Mackenzie and a number of his rebels managed to escape to the United States. There Mackenzie enlisted considerable sympathy for his cause, expressed in money, men, and arms. A series of raids against Canadian soil followed, carried out by renegade Canadians and a much larger number of their American sympathizers. There was fighting at Pelee Island in the spring of 1838, a raid across the Niagara river in June, and piratical activities on the Lakes and the Upper St. Lawrence.

During the summer of 1838, the republican agitation took on a new form. Secret societies, called Hunters' Lodges, were organized in the United States, along the

whole frontier from Maine to Michigan, with the avowed purpose of establishing republican institutions in Canada and fighting against alleged "British tyranny." At a convention of the Hunters' Lodges held in Cleveland, Ohio, on September 16, 1838, General L.V. Bierce was elected Commander-in-Chief of the Patriot Army of Upper Canada, and preparations began for a winter campaign.

Von Schoultz, though by now with good prospects as an inventor, property in several Southern states and in the state of New York, many friends, and even a "fiancee," seems also to have been caught up in the Patriot enthusiasm. What he may have hoped to gain from association with the movement is not clear. Perhaps it appealed to his sentiments against tyranny and restraint, or perhaps an increasing complexity in his personal life had aroused once again a desire to escape. His "fiancee" has been named variously as Emily Field, and as Emiline Pech (or Peck), "a member of the Onondaga County German community," whereas the only picture of von Schoultz now known, recently discovered on the Ontario archives, bears an inscription stating that it was "taken from an ivory painting in the possession of a young lady at Saratoga" to whom he was engaged.

Although he claimed later to have joined the movement only at a whim, at the last minute, von Schoultz may have been far deeper in it than he cared to let on. McLeod, a Patriot leader, claimed later that von Schoultz wrote Bierce after the Cleveland convention offering his services and those of a company of Polish exiles which he could raise, and that the offer was accepted. On October 15 von Schoultz reportedly was in New York City trying to recruit Polish refugees for the Patriot cause.

THE PATRIOTS

Von Schoultz apparently recruited only several Poles, and returned to Salina. From there he went with his followers to join General Bierce. At this time, however, says McLeod, John Ward Birge, another leader of the movement, supposedly without Bierce's knowledge, proclaimed himself the "Brigadier General commanding the Eastern Division." He prevailed upon von Schoultz and other Patriot leaders in New York State to join him under the pretext that the possession of Fort Wellington at Prescott would give them the control of Upper Canada.

The rest of the story is well known. Von Schoultz and other Patriot Hunters from the northern counties of New York boarded the steamer United States at Oswego. The ship, and two schooners made their way to Sackets Harbor and Ogdensburg, and on November 12, von Schoultz and 192 other Patriots landed at Windmill Point about a mile and a half below Prescott. There they were lucky enough to find a great stone mill, an excellent fortress, from which they were able to fight off the British army forces and militia for four days. Their position was hopeless, however. No Canadians came to join them and hastily summoned British naval vessels barred the way across the St. Lawrence to or

from the American side. In Ogdensburg, U.S. forces thwarted further Hunter efforts to send aid.

In the battle 48 men were killed, and 89 wounded, before the Hunters surrendered. The prisoners were then taken to Kingston and there tried in a series of Militia General Court Martials held at Fort Henry. The trial transcripts indicate the impression of the prisoners before the invasion that the inhabitants of Upper Canada were ripe for revolt, and needed only to be furnished with arms to achieve their revolution.

Von Schoultz tried on December 3, insisted on pleading guilty and was condemned to be hanged. During his last days, von Schoultz wrote many letters. He expressed regret at the sufferings caused by the "counterfeit cause" in which he had engaged. In his will, he left a sizable sum of money to his "fiancee," and another sum to the widows and children of the men killed in the Battle of the Windmill. But even at this final hour, there was no mention of his wife.

He lies today in St. Mary's Cemetery in Kingston, beside the body of Martin Woodruff, of Onondaga County, another of the executed leaders.

Thus died a soldier of fortune, a man of considerable attainments but with some deep-rooted instability of character, who with misplaced ardor had embraced a hopeless cause. Though the Patriot writers criticize the British authorities who condemned him to execution, it is clear that he had to hang. There had been too many raids across the border for any clemency. His and the other ten executions at Kingston, the sentencing of sixty other Patriots to hard labor in Van Dieman's Land (Tasmania) followed by the rout of yet another invasion attempt led by General Bierce at Windsor, discouraged further efforts and finally ended this strange chapter in Canadian-American relations.

Nevertheless, von Schoultz will live on. These additional facts about his life will not dispel an air of romance which surrounds his cause and untimely end, nor the many mysteries which persist regarding his motives, associations, and involvement with the Patriot cause.

For additional information Professor Pierce, Queens University, Kingston Ontario, suggests:

Edwin C. Guillet, "Early Life in Upper Canada, (Toronto, 1933), pp. 690-7-1, and the "Lives and Times of the Patriots; an account of the Rebellion in Upper Canada, 1837-1838, and the Patriot agitation in the United States, 1837-1842," (Toronto, 1938); Carl L. Carmer, "Dark Trees to the Wind, a cycle of York State years," (New York, 1949), pp. 218-240; George F.G. Stanley, "The Battle of the Windmill", "Historic Kingston," No. 3, Transactions of the Kingston Historical Society for 1953-1954, pp. 41-56; K.F. Scott, "Prescott's famous Battle of the Windmill, November 13-18," 1838, (Prescott, Ont., 1970); and the Quarterly, July, 1970.

Also, Ella Pipping, "En orons legionär. Nils Gustaf von Schoultz, 1807-1838, (Helsingfors, 1967).

Canton to Ogdensburg Continued from Page 6

Yestrday wen da wheestle blow noon,
Joe D'Annunzio lay down he's spade,
An' he's feedin' heemself pretta soon
From he's dinna' pail dare in da shade,
Wen da 'Merican boss he come by
From dat eatin' house over da way,
"Da costa da food ees so high,
Eet is keep a man busted," he say.
"Eet is vera small lunch dat I eat,
Some roas' beef an' potato an' pie,
An' a letla bit sauce weeth my meat,
But eet costa me seventy-fi'
An' I don't see how you can pay
For da food dat keep you so fat,"
"Oh, I macka fine deenar," Joe say,
"Weeth my onion an' bread an' tomat'."

An' today wen da wheestle blow noon,
Here's D'Annunzio eatin' somemore,
Come da 'Merican boss pretta soon,
An' mack da same keeck like day fore,
"Some potato an' cabbage an' ham
An' some cream an' some peaches", he say,
"Dat ees all dat I eat, but by damn,
Eet is costa me ninety today.
An' you're eatin' da bread an' tomat
Same as yestaday! My eet ees strangel!
Don't you never get tire o' dat,
An' try deeferent food for a change?"
"Sure, da yesterday's deenar," Joe say,
"Was tomat, bread an' onion for me,
But ett's deeferent now, for today
I ain't eatin' no onion, you see."

(Note: The history of Luken's Halfway House will appear in October.)

Alfred B. Street Poet of the Adirondacks

by George Moffat

Alfred Billings Street (1811-1882) is a poet whose misfortune it was to have been born at least forty years too late, and to have missed the generation in which his poetry would have been most sincerely appreciated. The influence of Wordsworth and of other members of the so-called "Lake School" of English poetry is evident in every line of his work; but he came to maturity in the early days of Victorianism. William Wordsworth himself was disheartened by the fact that, many years before his death in 1850, he had been thrust more or less into the literary shadows by the rising stars of Tennyson and Browning.

Street was born in Poughkeepsie, Dutchess County, New York, lived during his childhood in Monticello, and spent most of his adult life in Albany, where he headed the New York State Library. The scenery of his childhood and early manhood would seem especially designed for the education of a nature poet. To the west of Poughkeepsie is a range of splendid mountains ending at the south in the misty peaks of the Highlands, while at the north are seen the dim outlines of the Catskills. The locality of Monticello introduced him to scenery of another kind. At the time of his youth, Sullivan County had been organized for only a score of years, and was hardly yet rescued from the wilderness. The fields about Monticello were still hemmed in on every side by the original forest. The total contrast with the more settled community he had left made a great impression on him. Instead of the smooth meadowy ascents of Dutchess County, he saw the broken hillside blackened with fire, or just growing green with its first crop. Instead of the yellow grainfields, he saw the clearing spotted with stumps, with the thin rye growing between them; instead of the comfortable farm-house, he saw the log-cabin stooping amid the half-cleared trees; the dark ravine took the place of the mossy dell, and the wild lake of the far-stretching Hudson.

These were the scenes of his leisure time. In his more serious hours he was studying law in the office of his father; and in due time he was admitted to the bar. After practicing for a few years in Monticello, he removed to Albany in 1839, and became state librarian in 1848. He was a man who loved the rivers, lakes, and mountains of northern New York, and composed some of the best descriptive poetry that has ever been written about this part of the country. It has even been said that an artist could paint a north country landscape from any one of his poems, without ever coming near St. Lawrence County!

That Mr. Street is almost entirely forgotten today must strike us as one of the anomalies of literary history. In his own time he was criticized most favorably on both sides of the Atlantic. In England, the "Foreign Quarterly Review" said of him: "He is a descriptive poet, and at the head of his class. His pictures of American scenery are full of gusto and freshness; sometimes too wild and diffuse, but always true and beautiful." The "Westminster Review" said: "It is long since we met with a volume of poetry from which we have derived so much unmixed pleasure as from the collection now before us. Right eloquently does he discourse of Nature, her changeful features and her varied moods, as exhibited in his own 'America with her rich green forest-robe'; and many are the glowing pictures we would gladly transfer to our pages, did our limits permit, in proof of the poet's assertion that 'Nature is man's best teacher.'"

Writing in the "American Review," George H. Colton, the editor, said of Mr. Street's poetry: "In the use of language, more especially in his blank verse, Mr. Street is simple yet rich, and usually very felicitous. This is peculiarly the case in his choice of appellatives, which he selects and applies with an aptness of descriptive beauty not surpassed, if equalled, by any poet among us -- certainly by none except Bryant. What is more remarkable -- quite worthy of note amid the deluge of diluted phraseology bestowed on us by most modern writers -- is the almost exclusive use, in his poems, of Saxon words; . . .



From a painting by A.W. Twissell

Alfred B. Street

but in our language nearly all the strongest and most picturesque words, verbs, nouns, adjectives, are of one and two syllables only . . . also nearly all such words are of Saxon origin. Descriptive poetry; therefore, to be of any force or felicity, must employ them; and it was this, no doubt, that led Mr. Street -- unconsciously it may be -- to choose them so exclusively."

If this publication were a learned literary journal, instead of a historical quarterly, it would be possible to go on and on for pages, to list the tributes to Mr. Street's skill. But in the space still at our disposal we must add that "Allibone's Dictionary of Authors" calls him the "Dryden of America". And other critics pronounced that he had never been excelled by Cowper, Thomson, Wordsworth, or Bryant.

The "Albion," a prominent literary journal of the time, asked: "If Edwin Landseer desired to paint the portrait of a moose deer, could he find any more graphic sketch than the following?"

'Twas one of June's delicious eves;
Sweetly the sunset rays were streaming,
Here, tangled in the forest leaves,
There on the Catargin* gleaming.
A broad glade lay beside the flood
Where tall dropped trees and bushes stood,
A cove its semi-circle bent
Within, and through the sylvan space,
Where lay the light in splintered trace,
A moose, slow grazing, went;
Twisting his long, curved, flexile lip
Now the moose-wood's leaves to strip,
And now his maned neck, short and strong,
Stooping, between his fore-limbs long,
Stretched widely out, to crop the plant
And tall, rich grass that clothed the haunt.

On moved he to the basin's edge,
 Moving the sword-flag, rush, and sedge,
 And, wading short way, from the shore,
 Where spread the water-lilies o'er
 A pavement green with globes of gold,
 Commenced his favourite feast to hold.

*Iroquois name for the St. Lawrence.

Another charming piece of rural scenery is brought vividly to the mind in his description of Cayuga Lake, one of the Finger Lakes, in central New York:

Sweet sylvan lake! beside thee now,
 Villages point their spires to Heaven,
 Rich meadows wave, broad grain-fields bow,
 The axe resounds, the plough is driven;
 Down verdant points come herds to drink, --
 Flocks strew, like spots of snow, the brink;
 The frequent farm-house meets the sight,
 'Mid falling harvests scythes are bright,
 The watch-dog's bark comes faint from far,
 Shakes on the ear the saw-mill's jar;
 The steamer, like a darting bird,
 Parts the rich emerald of thy wave,
 And the gay song and laugh are heard --
 But all is o'er the Indian's grave.
 Pause, white man! check thy onward stride!
 Cease o'er the flood thy prow to guidel
 Until is given one sigh sincere
 For those who once were monarchs here,
 And prayer is made, beseeching God
 To spare us his avenging rod
 For all the wrongs upon the head
 Of the poor helpless savage shed;
 Who, strong when we were weak, did not
 Trample us down upon the spot,
 But weak when we were strong, were cast
 Like leaves upon the crushing blast.

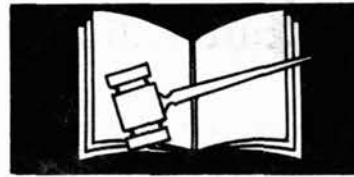
Mr. Street delivered many poems before the literary societies of colleges in New York State and elsewhere, at Geneva (now Hobart), Yale, Union, Hamilton, and others. He was a member of the Phi Beta Kappa, of Cambridge Art Union, and he received the distinction of an honorary membership of the Literary Society of Nurembert, the Literarische Verein, of which Henry Wadsworth Longfellow was likewise a recipient.

A great deal is being said at the present time in books, magazines, and newspapers, about preserving our environment from unnecessary damage. Here is a poet who wandered about St. Lawrence, Hamilton, and Franklin Counties, when the streams were not polluted with sewage and garbage, when the fish were not contaminated by mercury, when the very atmosphere was not laden with carbon monoxide and other fumes. We hope that he would enjoy our local scenery as much today as he did in the 1840's and 1850's, but it is somewhat questionable!

Needed..... VOLUNTEERS

For Committees:
 Programs (including tours)
 Museum and
 Displays
 Membership (mailing list)
 Finance
 Publicity
 Genealogy research
 Mailing of Hough's Index to members
 Typing of member lists, etc.

Special Gifts (including funding and sales)
 Time: Indexing; Thursdays at History Center
 Gifts: Building Fund
 Memberships to relatives, friends



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Local associations of towns and villages are a source of strength for the County Association. We need closer and more continuing contact with these local groups.

On June 3 I was a guest of the Gouverneur Historical Society. This was at the home of Harold Storie, a long-time trustee and supporter of the County Association. Harold always pitches in and helps everybody he can, and his advice and criticism are unfailingly constructive as well as useful.

All of us at the Gouverneur meeting had a delightful time. Last year I had to miss a local meeting in Norwood, but I hope to get there for a session of their energetic group.

At our Trustees' meeting in April, Margaret Nulty came up with a fine suggestion. Mary Biondi and I were making a pitch for volunteers to help out at the Historical Center in Canton. I mean such help as we've been getting from the Retired Teachers Association. Margaret suggested that local groups and historians supply us with names of possible volunteers. A fine idea, and Mary will surely welcome both names and the volunteers themselves.

In what areas is help needed? To name some: (1) spelling the Historian at the Center for a day when she has to be meeting with other historians or committees or researching elsewhere, doing genealogical research in Canton. This is the biggest single demand made on the Historian, and Mary very much needs help in this area. (2) serving on a Publicity Committee (3) serving on the Program Committee, or Historic Sites Committee.

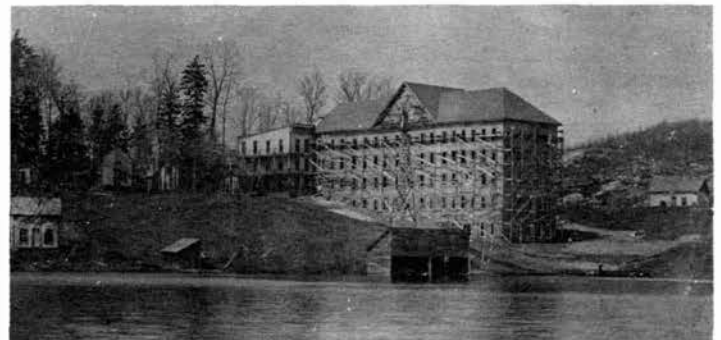
Straws are in the wind that we shall need these new Committees: Finance and Museum. In the light of future plans and development, we shall need help with exhibits, and we will have to lay plans for raising money.

As to this last, don't be frightened. What we need to do is get projects going that will raise modest sums; for example, food sales, bazaars, and what not. Other organizations do well. Why shouldn't we?

So, step forward, volunteers. You have talents and energy we can use in the field you know best, or are most interested in. Speak to your local historian, or get in touch with officers like Margaret Nulty or whomever you know in your vicinity. Speak to me, or write. Since Mary B is at the Center, she is always a logical person to get in touch with.

We have hopes of a larger Center, a more active program. In this connection, we shall make application this year for aid from the State Council on the Arts. But councils, like God, help those that help themselves. We need your help within the County Association.

Edward J. Blankman



Star Lake House on May 1, 1896.

Manzanita Island

By THOMAS S. KNAP

During the 1880's my father James G. Knap and mother Anne Seymour Knap were living in a large square stuccoed house with a mansard roof on Caroline Street in Ogdensburg. My brother James G., Jr., was born in this house in 1881, but lived only four months; my sister Louie was born in 1884 and I in 1888. Marie, my youngest sister, was born in 1895.

Sometime before my brother was born, my father and mother used to go on vacations to the Bluff Island Canoe Club located near Clayton. For a year or so they paddled a canoe with camping equipment there and back -- a distance of 40 miles each way -- and always broke the trip coming and going at Chippewa Bay. They usually camped on what is now Manzanita Island, but was shown on maps in those days as Cleared Island or Flat Island.

About 1880 my father purchased a 40-foot sailing sloop. This boat had a good sized cabin and was named "Sophie" after my mother's younger sister. From that time on they used this boat for their trips to Bluff Island and Chippewa Bay. At that time Chippewa Bay consisted of one store run by Wesley Backus (grandfather of Erdine Felt, today's storekeeper and postmaster) and approximately twenty houses. There were a few boat houses on shore and a public dock with a coal shed and office owned by George Forrester. (In 1955 this property was purchased by the Chippewa Bay Company, Inc.)

In 1886 my father decided that he would like to own an island in the Bay with the idea of camping on it during his trips up and down river, so he bought Manzanita and Chokecherry Islands from Henry Denner for the sum of \$200. In those days the only value placed on the islands was the value of the wood growing on them as most of the steamers used wood as fuel.

FIRST CAMPERS

There were three small cabins on the islands in 1886. The Bailey family had built a small house on Atlantis Island that year, and the Bells of Ogdensburg had a cabin on Brush Island. There was a shanty on Cedar Island, near the head,

lived in summers by "Old Man Brockway" who spent his time fishing and making a miracle salve called "Brockway Salve" which he peddled during winter all over the North Country. He was a veteran of both Mexican and Civil Wars.

My parents with my older sister Louie spent the winter of 1886-87 in Pasadena, California. While there my father decided he would build the Island house from a plan of one he liked there. Even the name he gave the island, "Manzanita," is Californian meaning in Spanish "Little Apple."

To go back a little, let me say that my father who had been born in Brownville in 1841, sold his business, the Bullock Printing Press Co., for what was considered for those days a good-sized fortune. So he was only forty-five years of age when he decided to retire and bought the Island. Mother, born in 1858, was only twenty-eight.

When the family returned from California in the spring of 1887, father employed a carpenter by the name of Hart from Chippewa Bay to build the Island house. The stone was found in a quarry on Oak Island and had been cut for the city of Watertown as paving stones. The owner of the quarry had died and his widow sold enough for our house and school house. My father always said he wished he had gotten more as it was cheaper than lumber. The best grade of lumber then was selling for \$40 a thousand board feet, and was full size; i.e., a 2x4 was 2 inches dressed!

The building of the house went on during that summer and was completed early in 1888. In September of that year I paid my first visit to Manzanita at the age of six weeks.

Chippewa Bay showing largest island in center rear of picture to be Manzanita, towards front in order: Chokecherry, The Rock, The Shoal and Brush. To left Robroy, in foreground Oak Island, at center right Ragnavok and extreme right Wyandot.



Chippewa Bay-St. Lawrence River
(Skyview by Dwight Church)

Manzanita Island

LIFE STYLE

Like all summer camps of those days things were a bit primitive. There was no plumbing in the house other than a hand pump in the kitchen. There was an outhouse well away from the main house about where the tennis court was later built.

Father's uncle, James Averell, (great uncle of W. Averell Herriman) owned the steam yacht "Lotus," and came often to the Island from his fine home in Ogdensburg. Uncle Jim objected to the sanitary arrangements and told my father that he (Uncle Jim) would pay for a water system if my father would put in a bathroom. The original house was built with an open porch at each end of the second floor where the bathroom and "tent room" now are. The first water system comprised a Toilet and Tub on second floor, and a sink in the kitchen and in the pantry. Six oak whiskey barrels were placed in the attic as storage and an Erickson Hot Air Pump fed them from the river. This pump was a marvel of inefficiency and was housed in a small shed. It wasn't until 1890 when the school house was built that the present Engine House was added.

During the first few years it was most difficult to get provisions to Manzanita. There were no motorboats and all river transportation to and from the Island was either by rowboat or sailboat. To get to the Island from Ogdensburg you took the train (R.W.&O.), got off at Hammond and were met by Alden Forrester with a team of horses and driven the three miles to Chippewa. From there your hired man with a skiff would row you to the Island, the total trip taking about four hours.

In 1892 Captain Dana started a steamboat line making the run between Clayton and the 'burg, stopping twice daily, except Sunday, at Cedar Island. The "Massena" would come to the dock providing the Captain happened to be in a good mood that day, but it would cost you three dollars. The usual custom was to meet the boat each morning at Cedar, put aboard an order to be filled by your grocer in Ogdensburg, and then meet it again in the afternoon. Most people used the grocer, S.P. Galliger, who would fill your order even to ribbon or a toothbrush. This arrangement was most convenient and the cost only 25 cents each trip. If you wanted to go to Ogdensburg by boat, the cost was 75 cents each way with stops at Oak Point, Brockville, Morristown and the 'burg. The boat left Cedar Island at nine in the morning, arrived at noon and left the dock in the 'burg at two o'clock. Three hours each way.

During the winter of 1894 the front dock was built so that the "Massena" could land at Manzanita. This dock was approximately 60 feet long and "L" shaped. Soon after the "Massena" came the "Island Belle." She was a somewhat larger steamer and took over the afternoon river run staying in Ogdensburg over night.

In 1892 the School House on the island was built, so called because we had lessons during the summer from a series of governesses. In 1896 competition forced Captain Dana and the "Massena" out of business and the Holmes Brothers added the steamer "Riverside" to their run.

OTHER FAMILIES

The Knaps had few neighbors during the first years. The Baileys had a small house on Atlantis, the Bells on Brush and Martin Phillips built a hotel on Cedar in 1898. Between 1890 and 1900 the boats owned at Manzanita were: three St. Lawrence skiffs, one of which ("Tom Boy") still exists; two 18-foot sailing skiffs, the "Aneta" and the "Louie" built by Clayton Boat Works in 1886. These sailing skiffs were latine rigged mainsail and dandy, well decked in, fast but tricky to sail. There was also father's sloop, the "Sophie", anchored with a 500 pound anchor at the front of the Island; a punt and two canoes.

Life on Manzanita was very pleasant during these years. There seemed to be plenty of money and plenty of help. There was a cook, maid, a French governess, a nurse and a man-of-all-work.

A small dock had been built about 1892, as well as the "old tennis court" which occupied what was then and is now during high water a swamp. One old red-whiskered Irish-

man, Mike Dooley, filled in this area, breaking up stone and wheeling in loads of fill brought over from the mainland by scow. The lower garden was built at this time. The tennis court had to be moved later on account of high water. Mike Dooley worked for my father for years as gardener, and as I remember it, got a dollar a day for ten hours of work.

There were many guests invited to Manzanita in the early days. Those from a distance were invited for at least two weeks. The reason was that it was quite a job to get there -- they took the train to either Redwood or Hammond, then by carriage and boat to Manzanita. As most guests traveled with one or more large trunks, it took some doing to get them to the Island in the skiff or sailboat.

From 1890 until about 1905 the Joseph Knap family spent at least a month each summer at the Island. He was my father's older brother and there were three children: Mary, Edgar and Day. They lived in New York and arrived and were met at Hammond station. During these early years we seldom had fewer than twelve at the dining table, and often more than that.



Manzanita Island House
in 1894
with the schoolhouse at left,

The Cedar Island Hotel was prospering during these years. At one time it had twenty bedrooms, a large dining room and lounge. Two items in the Hotel were of interest to me. One was a seal mounted in the lounge, and the other a large salmon on a board in the same room. I was told that both were caught in a net in the Bay. Martin Phillips built a dock in 1898 so that the steamers could land, and in 1903 built a small store facing the dock. The store was leased by grocer Larock from Ogdensburg, and the dock and store were the meeting place each morning and afternoon for islanders or their boatmen to dispatch or receive orders. Phillips was always known as "Jimminetty" as he pre-faced each remark with "By Jimminetty."

My father would try to get to Manzanita each spring soon after the ice went out to get his garden started and his chicken incubator in operation. Rather than stay by himself he would row to Cedar and stay at the hotel at night. He raised a hundred or so chickens each summer as broilers, using many of them during August and September, then taking them to Ogdensburg or Atlantic City for coldstorage.

During the years we lived in Ogdensburg nearly everything of value was brought to the Island by one of the steamers in the spring of each year and returned in the fall. There were twelve to fifteen trunks full of blankets, linens, silver, etc. and the shipment usually included a piano. There were no screens on the house until 1920.

LATER YEARS

When the Thomas Knaps took over the Island in 1924 living conditions were about the same as they had been for twenty years: The coal range in the kitchen with a tank at one end for hot water, two wooden, zinc-lined refrigerators in the outer kitchen filled from an ice house, kerosene lamps and candles for light, with one improvement a gasoline water pump to take place of the old hot air pump, and a pressure tank under the veranda taking the place of the storage tank in the attic. About 1926-27 Mother Harding offered to pay for a lighting plant and necessary wiring. We were able to obtain from Delco in Syracuse a rebuilt plant which we installed along with sixteen glass battery cells and wiring. This 32-volt electrical

CHIPPEWA YACHT CLUB



3rd Annual Regatta, CHIPPEWA BAY, WEDNESDAY, AUG. 19, 1896.

Program of Chippewa Bay Yacht Club Regatta, 1896 with officers listed. Inside gives rules and programme; yacht sailing, canoe sailing, St. Lawrence Sailing Skiff, rowing skiff, canoe paddling races as well as Greasy pole, tub, scull and swimming races.

(Continued from page 13)

system was used until July of 1955 -- 28 years! It had its drawbacks, though, as any appliance such as an iron had to be of that voltage, and could not be used with the plant charging. As the plant was not automatic, the batteries had to be inspected every day and charged two or three times a week.

During the World War II years and just after, the only real improvements were a new roof on the main house and veranda and a gasoline centrifugal pump with 2-inch piping to the gardens. In 1958 this was replaced with an electric pump.

In 1951 a power cable was brought to Quarrier's island and after he had installed it, other islanders took it from there and each refunded Mr. Quarrier a portion over and above the cost of their own installation. Our cable ran from The Rock to Chokecherry and thence to Manzanita. There never has been a greater improvement on Manzanita.

(A continuing chapter of the boats, the races, The Chippewa Bay Company and subsequent life in next issue.)

C & A SIDELIGHTS

By CECIL GRAHAM

At the time I wrote of the C&A Railroad from Carthage to Benson Mines and Newton Falls, I said that, in my opinion, it was the biggest Construction job in St. Lawrence County prior to the Seaway and no one has ever disputed me.

Now, it seems that there is nearly always a last person or survivor who has participated in some noteworthy event, and I believe that I may have found the last such person who played at least some small part in the building of that Railroad, through what was about 35 miles of virgin wilderness in some of the most scenic surroundings of this area. The gentleman in question is Harvey Vrooman, who presently resides in the village of Harrisville, just barely within Lewis County. Mr. Vrooman will celebrate his 90th birthday this July 28 and he remembers quite vividly many events he witnessed as a boy in the building of the C&A.

His father had two teams of horses working on the job in 1885 between Harrisville and Jayville. The next year his father and mother ran a boarding camp midway between Brigg's Switch and Little River now known as Aldrich. Although too young to work for wages at that time, he was kept busy as boys were in those days helping his parents around the boarding camp by doing assorted chores during all the daylight hours.

Among the many workmen who boarded at their camp was a gang of Canadian Frenchmen who were cutting right of way for the new railroad. Their foreman was a Fred Francis of the Pitcairn-Harrisville area. About a half mile from their camp was another which housed Italian laborers. I have read that the French cut the right of way, the Italians did much of the grade and rock work and the Irish completed the road bed and laid the rails, each group staying by themselves. Harvey remembers that each week two company Supervisors would arrive at their camp riding on white horses and would eat with his family after they had inspected the works progress and looked after paying the help. He says that when the first work train arrived at their place, his mother and he climbed aboard the locomotive and rode back to Harrisville, a distance of about 15 miles. When Mr. Vrooman became of working age, he worked as a lumberjack in the woods of this part of the County and much of the lumber he helped produce was shipped to the markets on this same Railroad. He also went to Michigan as a logger in about 1900 along with his brother and many other Northern New York men when the forests of that State were opened to the saw and axe.

Although what I have written here is only a small bit of our local history which Harvey Vrooman remembers, it is one of those things all too soon forgotten if not put down in print.

The Edgewood House on May 1, 1896.



(Star Lake Photos loaned by Alma Marsh.)

Poetical Portraits

The Ol' Swimming Hole

I've been sitting, watching goldfish
Swimming 'round their shiny bowl;
They bring to my mind some memories
Of a cool, deep swimmin' hole,
Many a warm day in Springtime,
While we were in our 'stuffy' school,
Our thoughts would stray from studies
To better ones - like that swimmin' pool.
At my Alma Mater in St. Lawrence County,
Known as "Day District No. Seven,"
Just o'er the hill, not far away,
Was that hole - that seemed like Heaven.
Noon hour, we'd grab our lunches,
Slip o'er that hill and run pell-mell,
And have such good times swimmin',
We seldom ever heard the 'bell'.
I recall - along 'bout two o'clock
We'd sneak back and take our seat,
Teacher'd say, "you stay after school,"
And with a ruler our 'hinders' beat,
Many years later I thought I'd visit
That old hole, of days of yore;
That creek's most dry, trees and log are gone
It didn't look like it did before.
But I could see the 'old gang' together,
Though they are scattered here and 'yon';
If our teacher could still take a roll call,
She'd find that many of them are gone.
I'm also thinking of another hole,
Shaded by "The Tarzan Tree,"
Where brown-bodied, healthy kids would play
And some of THEM belonged to ME.
This hole was in my pasture
Just a little way from Town,
Where village kids would come to swim -
They wore no suits to weigh them down,
They'd play and swim the whole day long,
Then come to our barn at milkin' time;
The milk they drank is probably why I'm poor,
But they grew strong, the same as MINE.
But then there came - "The Call to War;"
Those kids all did their duty well,
Like Smiling-Dave, in a far-off grave -
Some came, home, some stayed where they fell.

HERBERT H. DEWEY

Fun Riding a Load of Hay

By ABIGAIL COLE

In summer came haying time --
Harvesting timothy and clover.
The village school closed,
A child became a country rover.

Anna, or Mildred, or Ella
Came out to spend the day.
Each thought it greatest fun
To ride on a load of hay.

The hired man, a big forkfull
Would toss high upon the load.
On that soft fragrant hay
Back to the barn we rode.

Oh, there's fun in the country --
And in the village tool
Treasured are the memories
Of all the pleasant things we do.

archives highlight

WAY UP NORTH IN YORK STATE



An autobiographical story of life during what we now call the "good old days" is written with a dry, wry sense of humor. The period from 1880 to the present is telescoped into a series of incidents which many of us have either heard about or experienced ourselves. J. Harold Powers, a native of Potsdam, shows a unique talent for taking a mundane, ordinary incident and filling it with a warm combination of humor and foresight. The little red schoolhouse, milking, making maple syrup and other incidents are sharply delineated in "Way Up North in York State." It can be purchased from the author at 805 Oakwood Drive, East Lansing, Michigan.

Mr. Powers was the sixth generation to live on the site of his birth in Potsdam. He was graduated from Potsdam Normal School and Crane Institute of Music. He has become eminent in the music field and was recently honored by the naming of the Powers Music Building and Powers Music Lounge at Central Michigan University, where he is now Professor Emeritus. The publication of the above book was followed by "Pathways of Yesterday."

NOTICE

The history of Heuvelton and vicinity, with many copies of original photographs is being published, with the expected first edition about July 1, 1971.

The Heuvelton Free Library is sponsoring the publication of this work compiled by Courtland F. Smithers in his later years. Revisions to date are written by Mrs. James Boyesen, Town and Village Historian.

This book will be available with either a plastic spiral binding or hard cover. A minimum donation of \$2.50 for plastic or \$5.00 for hard cover will reserve your copy.

Considerable expense will be involved in the publishing of this first edition. Advanced orders and indication of cover style will aid greatly the trustees of the library in the publication of this valuable historical edition.

Please mail to, or contact, Mrs. Marjorie Backus, Librarian, Heuvelton, New York. 13654.

Way Back When

Shopping, 1890's Style

With their limited means and not too large selections, the women of the nineties loved to shop, only they expressed it "going to the store to trade."

One sunny January day, 'way back when, Edwin Hart and his wife Emma sat at dinner table, Edwin remarked, "We may be in for a spell of weather. There was a circle around the moon," to which Emma replied, "And I wanted to go to the store."

Edwin solved that by "I will harness Dolly and we can start in less than an hour." Emma produced a basket with four dozen eggs and a five-pound jar of butter. She changed into a warm dress, added warm overshoes, a heavy coat and scarf, which was called a fascinator, tied over her head.

Edwin drove to the door, as he could not leave the spirited hourse. Emma carried the butter and eggs, seated herself and adjusted the heavy buffalo robe and they drove to town three miles away. In less than an hour they reached the country store. Edwin tied the horse in a sheltered spot and covered her with a blanket, and they carried the butter and eggs into the store.

The central heating was a box stove with a neat pile of hard wood chunks for fuel. There were shelves of dry goods on one side, and the other showed shelves of un-ground spices, tea in foil-lined chests decorated with Chinese lettering, an iron coffee mill and hundred pound bags of sugar.

The counter held a grocery scale and a stack of brown paper bags. In the back room was housed a bag of potatoes and a barrel of vinegar, often homemade from aged cider.

by Katie Perry

from her store of ninety-year-old memories.

That day Emma was interested in the dry goods shelves, which held gingham, calico, thread, bleached and unbleached muslin, everyday shoes, black cotton stockings for women, skeins of yarn for homeknit socks and a cabinet for thread, pins and needles and steel knitting needles -- everything needed for the lives of country people.

Emma chose five yards of heavy unbleached cotton for a sheet and two and a half yards of a finer grade for pillow slips. Then ten yards of blue and white flowered calico for a dress and two and one-quarter yards of gingham for an apron. She added two spools of #40 white thread and one of black. That is all and the bill looked like this:

Brown cotton 5 yrd @.09	.45
Bleached, 2 1/2 yrd @ 12¢	.30
calico, 10 yrd @ 10¢	1.00
gingham, 2 1/4 yr @ 12¢	.27
3 spools thread @ 05	.15
	<u>\$2.17</u>

As Emma was a careful buyer, she had chosen the unbleached cotton for a sheet, and better quality for the pillow slips, near the face, (and where they might show). The dark blue calico with white design for a house dress (called an everyday dress) would be practical, and the blue and white gingham check for a long apron would be "pickup work" for she bought a skein of white yarn which she planned to dye indigo blue, tying it in spots to produce a mottled design to use for cross stitch. This mottled thread was very popular then, and called "clouded."

In her few idle minutes she would pick up her knitting, adding to the socks her husband had to wear, or making mittens which were very quickly made. There were very few really idle minutes for Emma.



PARISHVILLE HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION

Museum Open April 1 to November 30

2nd and 4th Wednesdays

HOURS - 1:00 to 4:00 P.M. AND BY SPECIAL REQUEST.

TOURS and PROGRAMS

June

One of the finest arches stone bridges in the north country is located at Chamberlain's Corners where the Grass River forms the boundary between Madrid and Waddington. Traveling from Madrid toward Chamberlain's Corners, the driver glimpses a few of the five carefully built and well preserved arches.

Around 1880, Isaac Johnson, former slave, came from Canada to Waddington to work at his trade of stone mason. He built the Waddington town hall, and two arched bridges in that village, then started the one at Chamberlain's Corners. He completed it in 1884. The bedrock of the river bottom forms an excellent foundation for that structure, which has withstood the ravages of water and time -- a tribute to a capable craftsman. It is also said that Mr. Johnson had a part in the construction of the stone bridges at Madrid and Louisville, still in use. It is possible that the stone was quarried from the river bed, obtained in the vicinity of the Corners, or even possible that it was brought from a quarry in Canada, near Williamsburg.

Some years ago the bridge needed repairs and the sup-

porting piers were not founded on the steam's bedrock. At that time the County Highway department reinforced the piers by placing new reinforced arches under the old stone masonry and made provision for a roadway 20 feet in width.

Then in the past decade, a thorough study of the bridge was made and it was decided to save the old bridge. Large reinforced beams were placed on either side of the stone spandrel walls at the height of the new floor grade. These were tied together by reinforced concrete beams. They run crosswise through the fill and are supported vertically by concrete arches and the footings on either side of the structure. A new concrete reinforced curb was placed on the heavy beams on either side and anchored to them. The beams and curb are cantilevered outward to provide for a total width of 22 feet between curbs. Black top, steel railings and rail approaches were added. The County Highway Department, former supervisors of Madrid and Waddington, Clyde Dixon and Joel Howard, former highway superintendent, the late Earl J. Mattis all are to be congratulated on saving a noble structure and attractive landmark.



July

July 17 - BIRDS - Real and Decoy
11 a.m.-3 p.m. Curator Robert Wakefield will brief us on activities and trails of Minna Anthony Common Nature Center. Remember bridge toll to Wellesley Island is our expense.

Picnic lunch on the grounds. Movies or trail watching birds, rain or shine. Take in Decoy Show at Thousand Islands Museum in Clayton afterward, or next day. Lots of North Country carvers in exhibit.

August

Aug. 1 Sunday. Old Home Day Church services and lunch at noon in Richville. Just come. Open House at our Richville building in afternoon.

September

Sept. 10-11 Hammond, FFA and 4H Fair
Sept. 18 Return match - Trip planned to Upper Canada Village.
Notice will be mailed.

October

Annual Meeting

Oct. 16 in Rensselaer Falls. Luncheon and Program. Van Rensselaer exhibits. (Welcome any items for display.) Notice will be mailed.

Other activities

Sesquicentennial of Morristown, attend Firemen's Field Day at Brier Hill.

Aug. 7 - Attend Maxville (Ont) games if you have not recently.
Aug. 8-14 Gouverneur and St. Lawrence Co. Fairs.

Oct. 1-3 Antique Show and Sale Chateaugay Valley Historical Society, Riverfield Curling Club. (Huntingdon, Que.)



**LETTER FROM
THE EDITOR**

For several years this editor has called repeatedly for volunteers. The size of the organization demands more committees -- active committees -- more help for the officers and few trustees who are already giving much. Recently these few were actually criticized for making the association successful, solvent and known across the county and state. The critics, as usually happens, are the last to volunteer time and energy so badly needed. When asked to do so, they back away from giving time and decision-making.

Perhaps such members think that memberships come in and go on record and funds into the bank for future use by remote control. Perhaps they think that carrying out of our stated purposes -- collecting and publishing our county's history -- either by means of this Quarterly or by reprints and indexing, gets accomplished by brownies and elves. Perhaps the critics feel weak when strength is needed to move, list and display the artifacts in the collections. None of these things happens automatically. These are but a few of the many decisions and work details our "few" carry out. This does not take into account answering mail, doing research for persons, accepting artifacts (or not), filling out countless forms, meeting deadlines, attending and planning programs to aid the Association, keeping files, etc. etc; the countless tasks of a large organization -- All by Volunteer-Power.

Elsewhere in this issue you will see how you can help. In the interest of our progress, we suggest the following self-test:

- Have I offered a helpful suggestion this year?
- Have I got a new member this year?
- Have I paid my own dues promptly?
- Have I donated to the special Gift Fund?
- Have I attended meetings and programs?
- Have I submitted an idea or article to the Quarterly?
- Have I offered myself, in time (even one hour), this year?
- If a member scores 100 per cent on this, he may then be a critic! (or would he be too busy himself?)

MHB



Notice

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

From the April 9, 1860 Plaindealer, "In the town of Stockholm covering a large area of territory they have five post offices," the Northern Freeman says, "one for each democrat in town. In East Stockholm, the second village in size in the town they have no office, but are served by one of the faithful who lives a mile and a half from the village back from the main road." We are not surprised to learn that this does not suit the good people of that town.

Our Members Serve

President Blankman after serving as St. Lawrence University Marshal for 22 years, has turned over the symbol of the office, the silver mace to President Dr. Frank Piskor. Since 1949 Professor Blankman has served at commencement, but will continue as university archivist and associate professor of English.

Our members write

Dear Mrs. Biondi:

The current issue is a masterpiece of well-written articles, excellent format and admirable verve. You are to be congratulated for putting out such an interesting magazine.

I am particularly drawn to the picture of schoolchildren on page eight. It demands more than casual perusal. Just about every behaviorism is exhibited in that one tiny picture, and, because of its period interest, not a little nostalgic. I can't help but imagine that somewhere a septuagenarian (or octogenarian) is chuckling.

Sincerely,
Eugene M. O'Connor

Editor,
"The Cloudsplitter"
National Lead,
MacIntyre Development
Tahawus, N.Y.

Dear Mary:

Just a note to tell you how much I enjoyed your recent "Quarterly." I was especially attracted by the photograph of those little kids in front of the schoolhouse. That is a gem. It's a very fine piece of work and it is typical of your entire program.

With best wishes and see you in Buffalo.

Respectfully,
Louis L. Tucker
State Historian
Albany, N.Y. 12210

Coming Up!

Appletime in Russell; Hammond Presbyterian Sesquicentennial; the Halfway House; The County's Press; The Chest of Drawers Secret; Schools in Pierrepont, to be found in future issues.

Notice

For extra \$1.00 you may receive your Quarterly at first class rate (even with new postage rate) and if you have two addresses will assure you of receipt promptly. Just specify when renewing -- 2 addresses, dates, etc.



A Johnson Stone Arch bridge at Madrid built in 1889.

FROM THE COUNTY'S



CRACKER BARREL

SUMMER HIGHLIGHTS, 1971

BRASHER (Mae Murray) The program of improving the playground or new recreational center continues. A summer carnival is planned as well as a series of games set up by the softball league. Indoor games are suspended for the summer months. The Tri-town Organization is becoming interested in things "historical."

Helena: July 11; Firemen's Field Day, Parade, 12 noon.
CANTON (Edith Costa) Brick Chapel Services July and August once again.

Morley: Aug. 8, horse show, Bar-B-Que of Fire Department, 11:30 a.m.

Pyrites: Sept. 5, Firemen's Field Day, Parade, 12 noon

Rensselaer Falls: June 13, Firemen's field day, parade, parade, 12 noon. Oct. 16, Annual Meeting of SLCHA, 12 noon.

CLARE (Iris Fry) The Methodist Church will sponsor an Old Home Day at Firemen's Field, DeGrasse, on June 19. The Fire Department Field Day will be held at DeGrasse July 25. The parade starts at noon, and a chicken barbecue will be served at the firehall.

CLIFTON: (Clara McKenney) July 4: Firemen's Field Day, Fireworks, All day.

COLTON (Lorena Reed) Sept. 6: Firemen's Field Day and Parade at 10 a.m.

DEKALB (F.F.E. Walrath) D.L. Paro, contractor, of Potsdam, has the job of installing a new sewage system in the village of DeKalb Junction. The DeKalb Firemen's Field Day and parade, with prizes, will be held on June 27.

Richville: Aug. 29, Firemen's Field Day, Parade, 12 noon.

DEPEYSTER (Adelaide Steele) DePeyster, as usual, has no history or events of significance this quarter. Our new supervisor, Murray Mayhew, says, "We mind our own business" and we struggle along in our daily routine. We have no fire department, one church, two fraternal organizations, no business; just farms which are late in finishing spring work."

EDWARDS (Leah Noble) July 31, Field Day and Parade 7 p.m. I am collecting data in regard to "Fire, Our Friend and Enemy." The Museum in town hall is in presentable condition, but not really organized yet.

FINE (Catherine Brownell) The Star Lake Firemen expect to hold their chicken barbecue on the third Sunday in July. The Lions Club will hold their auction July 24, Saturday, the proceeds to be used for the Youth Commission. On July 17 the Lions will have a Hole-in-One Contest.

FOWLER (Isabelle Hance) The Fly In and Open House will be held the last Sunday of June at Ryder's Skyport. Golf continues at the Country Club throughout the summer.

GOUVERNEUR (Harold Storie) The dates for the Gouverneur Fair are August 9 to 14. Firemen's parade on Aug. 10 at the Fair. Aug. 21 and 22 at the Fair Ground, Annual 7th Swap and show of St. Lawrence Co. Rock and Mineral Club.

HAMMOND (Maxine Rutherford) The Presbyterian Society is celebrating its 150th anniversary this year. The annual library food and book sale will be held in August. The annual Firemen's Field Day will be held August 6 and 7, Parade 7 p.m. The Oak Point Community Association will be sponsoring many summer activities at Oak Point, including Fourth of July Festivities, ice cream socials, record hops, etc. Boy Scout Troop 66 under the leadership of Gerald Gallagher, scoutmaster, are planning to set up a first aid tent at Firemen's Field Day. They will also be attending Camp Vigor in July. Girl Scout Junior Troop 131, under the leadership of Mrs. Aitcheson and Brownie Troop 67 with Mrs. Felt as leader will be

active in the project of "keeping America beautiful." Hammond 4H and FFA Fair will be held Friday and Saturday, September 10 and 11. Everybody welcome!

HERMON (Helen LeBlanc) On July 18, Hermon firemen will hold their annual Field Day which will feature a parade, chicken barbecue, children's midway rides, horse pulling contest, women's booth and midway games. Parade 1 p.m.

HOPKINTON (Ferne Conklin) The Firemen's 22nd annual Field Day will be August 21, under the direction of Fire Chief John Cardinal, with the help of the Ladies' Auxiliary. The parade will begin at 10:30, followed by a smorgasbord dinner, 12:00 to 6:00 p.m.

LAWRENCE (Anna M. Cole) Nicholville June 26: Firemen's Field Day, Parade 10 a.m.

No. Lawrence: Aug. 7: Firemen's Bar-B-Que, 12 noon.

Lawrenceville: Sept. 12; Firemen's Field Day, Bar-B-Que, 12 noon

LISBON (Doreen Martin)

LOUISVILLE (Lorraine Bandy) An extensive summer program is planned; June 20 -- Firematic Drills and Chicken Bar-B-Q; June 26 -- Rod and Gun Club Canoe Races from Raymondsville to Massena -- 7 miles; July 12 -- summer recreation program for 6 weeks at Louisville Elementary School grounds, 10:00 a.m. to 2 p.m. Swimming is included; July 17 and 18 -- 6th annual muzzle loading shoot at the Rod and Gun Club, which will hold a Field Day in August. All summer: Rod and Gun trap shooting Wednesday at 6:30 and Sunday at 1:00. All summer schedule at Recreation Park: Monday -- Girl's Softball League, ages 8-15. Tuesdays -- Little League games, ages 7-13. Wednesdays -- Firemen's Softball League, Thursdays -- Little League games, ages 7-13. Fridays or Saturdays -- Boys' hardball, ages 13-15. The Women's Softball League is tentatively scheduled for Wednesday evenings at the Elementary school park or Recreation Park near the Fire Department. The Golf Course and Beach are open every day. Visit Louisville History Center!

MACOMB (Willis E. Kittle) May 20 has been designated Senior Teachers and Senior Citizens Recognition Night. The historian gave a talk at the Men's Club at Brasie Corners May 24.

MADRID (Florence M. Fisher) American Legion participated at cemetery ceremonies at Bucks Bridge, May 30. July 18 and Aug. 29: Firemen's Bar-B-Que, 12 noon.

MASSENA (Marie Eldon-Browne) July 11th is the date of the Soap Box derby. The Massena Shriner's Clambake will be held on July 25 and a Funarama is scheduled for Holy Family High School August 15.

MORRISTOWN (Ella Mae Phillips) June 19 is the date of the dedication of the museum at Morristown, former Doris Planty home, River Rd. The annual Firemen's Field Day will be held at Morristown July 3 starting at 10 a.m. while the Firemen's Field Day at Brier Hill will take place August 15 at 12 noon.

NORFOLK (Edith VanKennen) The Norfolk Volunteer Fire Department will observe its annual two-day celebration over Labor Day Sept. 5, Tournament and Drill, 1 p.m., Sept. 6th, Parade 2 p.m. It is expected that neighboring departments will take part in the parade and other activities. A general invitation is extended to all, in hope of the usual good turnout.

OSWEGATCHIE (Persis Boyesen) North Country Festival at Stone Presbyterian Church, Stone Church Road, Memory Lane, Old General Store, games, local historical play. Three days of memories, good food, July 15-18.

Heuvelton: Sept. 6: Firemen's Parade 10 a.m. Tournament 1 p.m.

PARISHVILLE (Norene Forrest) Summer events include: July 24 -- the firemen's dance, 9 p.m. July 25 -- Firemen's Field Day, Parade 12 noon. August 7 -- High School Alumni Day -- registration and supper. August 28 -- Historical Association Day -- Events will begin at 11:30 with a noon luncheon, program and sale. The museum will be open with new displays.

PIERCEFIELD (Beulah B. Dorothy) Plans are being made for the 27th annual Childwood Memorial Presbyterian Church supper and tour of Massawepie Boy Scout camp which will take place in early August.

PIERREPONT (Millard Hundley) July 11: Firemen's Field Day, Parade, 12 noon.

Hannawa Falls: July 31; Firemen's Annual Dance, 9 p.m. Aug. 1: Firemen's Field Day, parade, 12 noon.

PITCAIRN (Edna Hosmer) The Geer Corners Church will observe Old Home Day the last Sunday in August. New picnic tables have been provided in the County park for the convenience of tourists. Both Camp Trefoil and Camp Portaferry are opening. There will be free exhibitions on Wednesday evenings during July and August at Portaferry.

POTSDAM (Susan Lyman) (see Norwood village news) Bucks Bridge; Old Home Sunday at Bucks Bridge Church, 2 p.m. May 30.

West Potsdam: Aug. 15: Firemen's Field Day, Parade 12 noon.

ROSSIE (Frances Gardner) Researchers, artists, and rock hounds find delight here. Welcome!

RUSSELL (Jan Barnes) Summer events include: July 10 -- Russell Volunteer Firemen's 14th annual Field Day at the Russell Ball Diamond. A chicken barbecue will start at noon, followed by a parade at 6:30 p.m. Note: Nov. 9 -- the Edgewood Chapter, No. 118 O.E.S. of Russell will celebrate the 75th anniversary of its active existence at the Masonic Temple. Refreshments will be served after the meeting. July 2 -- Old Arsenal day, luncheon at noon and program in Knox Memorial.

STOCKHOLM (Hazel Chapman) West Stockholm: July 11; Firemen's Field Day, Parade 12 noon. Part of Tri-Town activities.

WADDINGTON (Dorothy Hill) St. Paul's Episcopal Church, the oldest church in the North Country, will hold its annual antique and old book sale in the elementary school August 12. The Firemen will hold on Lake St. Lawrence July 18 -- The Blue Water Regatta all day.

CITIES AND VILLAGES

GOVERNEUR (Nelson Winters) (See Gouverneur Town) St. Lawrence County Fair. SL Co. Rock and Mineral Eastern Federation Show and Swap on Fair Grounds Aug. 21 and 22.

MORRISTOWN (Ella Mae Phillips) Morristown celebrates its sesquicentennial this year in many ways. Host to St. Lawrence County Historical Association on June 19 at the 2 p.m. dedication of the Doris Planty collection.

NORWOOD (Susan Lyman) The Norwood Firemen will hold their 34th annual celebration on July 5 with Firematic Drills, a parade at 3:00 p.m., games, etc. in the afternoon,

(Continued from page 5)

help through the years was cited as one of the reasons the church remained an important part of the community through the years.

An old clipping describes a gathering at the church on Friday, Oct. 26, 1923 as one long to be remembered, when friends and relatives of the early pioneers who erected the church came together for dedicatory services of the "six beautiful windows recently placed there." The Ladies Aid Society served a "bountiful dinner in the dining room of the church, and at 2 p.m., the company assembled in the auditorium, where the dedicatory service opened with a short address by Dr. Sill of Potsdam, followed by Dr. Marsh, district superintendent of St. Lawrence County."

Mrs. Forrest Poole spoke on struggles of the Ladies Aid Society, and Frank Cleflin, chairman, announced that Mrs. H.J. Bullis had a surprise, which turned out to be two more memorial gifts. Mrs. Bullis read a telegram from

a bandstand entertainment in the evening until dark when a fireworks display will take place. The Norwood Centennial Committee has had several "work session" meetings and have new and interesting ideas to present for the 1972 Village of Norwood Birthday Celebration. (Mr. Edmund J. Winslow was in Norwood two days as a consultant on matters related to the Centennial and the local history book to be published, money forthcoming.)

OGDENSBURG (Elizabeth Baxter) July 22: opening day of Seaway Festival, weekend activities. July 23: Parade, 1:30 p.m. July 24: Battle of the Drums, OFA, 7 p.m.

POTSDAM (Dee Little) Visitors are welcome this summer to use the facilities of the Potsdam Public Museum for genealogical searches, the history of houses or other historical research. Lists of museums in St. Lawrence County and nearby areas have been compiled and are available at all area museums.

RICHVILLE: (Georgianna Wranesh) Old Home Sunday will be Aug. 1. Church Services, luncheon, open house at Richville building of SLCHA, Aug. 29, Firemen's Field Day, parade, 12 noon.

MUSEUMS AND HISTORICAL ASSOCIATIONS

Gouverneur Historical Ass'n. -- Summer meeting June 3, at Harold Stories'. October -- Annual Meeting.

Louisville History Center -- The Center will be opened at any time, on request, by calling Lorraine Bandy, 769-3286.

Macomb Historical Association and Museum -- The Museum is open the second and fourth Sundays from 2:00 to 4:00 p.m.

Parishville Museum and Historical Association -- The association and the town are working on placing markers on the graves of World War I veterans. The museum is open the second and fourth Wednesday of each month during the summer. Aug. 28 Association Historical Day.

Potsdam Museum -- The Special Exhibit displayed until July 21 consists of New York State pottery loaned by H.J. Swinney, director of the Adirondack Museum and includes jugs, crocks, churns, jars and bowls from the 18th and 19th centuries. The Special Exhibit from July 22 to August 12 will be made up of products of the members of the museum's Summer Craft Workshops. The Special Activity of the summer will be the Summer Craft Workshops: Exploring the World of Crafts, Past and Present, which will be held from July 12 to 16, including 12 concurrent workshops offering 20 hours of depth work in a variety of crafts for 115 students. Outdoor Art Show: Saturday, September 15.

St. Lawrence County Historical Ass'n. -- Old Home Day Open House Aug. 1, Richville (See Tours)



NOTICE

A History of Heuvelton and vicinity with copies of original photos is being published about July 1. It is material compiled by the late Courtland F. Smithers, updated and revised by Persis Boyesen, Heuvelton village and town of Oswegatchie historian. Both hard cover and spiral bindings will be available.

Mrs. Nina Smead Colton of Walla Walla, Wash. in which she presented a church bell as a memorial to her father, the Rev. Elijah Smead, who was a beloved pastor of the church for many years; also a letter from Miss Laura Goodnough, who with her sister sent a bible in memory of their parents, Mr. and Mrs. George Goodnough.

Others attending and entertaining at this event were: George Barnes, Norwood; Winfield Leonard and Robert Barrows of Canton; and Miss Gertrude Richardson of Pyrites. Leslie Rodee and Mrs. Fred Hosley read letters from Rev. E.M. Gehr, a former pastor, Rev. Markham of Watertown, and Mr. Corbin of New Hartford. Professor Morrell of Canton spoke in the evening on the topic, "Youth and Their Responsibility to the church."

All of these people, and so many more, have kept Brick Chapel Church alive and meaningful through the years, and deserve much credit for the fact that the church serves as much as inspiration as it did in 1815, when it was still a dream of the future.

Continued from Page 4

New York market. The first of these again involved the use of the St. Lawrence Canals and then the Champlain Canal, which was opened from Whitehall to Waterford and Troy in 1822. Lumber shipped by this route could be passed through Canada in bond, thus avoiding the duties, or a duty refund could be claimed. Here shipping was again made easier as the Canadian canals were improved. Using this route the lumber was often warehoused at Cornwall, then shipped on the Richelieu River, picked up at Laprairie or St. Jean in Quebec by some agent, such as Eddy, Boscorn and Co. of Troy and then transferred on down the river. There are some mentions of the Richelieu railway after it was opened in the late 1830's, but probably the loading and unloading charges made it too expensive. By 1850, with the canals open, boats could be used instead of rafts to take the lumber to Laprairie, and Redington was receiving letters from such shippers as A.H. Baron of Montreal, who stated that he could handle 120 cords on his boat. Redington was also thinking of buying his own boat for the St. Lawrence route and in 1849 he sent his brother to Montreal to look over possibilities.

THE ERIE

The other route to the south was through the Oswego Feeder of the Erie Canal, which was completed in December, 1828. In 1832 Redington was considering building a boat to operate on both Lake Ontario and the Erie Canal, but was dissuaded by Martin R. Bridges who wrote from Troy:

I have some doubts whether a boat can be made sufficiently strong to stand the sea of Lake Ontario without making it too heavy for the canal. This will be the only obstacle to prevent your loading a boat at your place for the Troy market. There are boats from the Lakes Seneca and Cayuga that navigate the western canal and go down the Hudson to N. York with about 90 tons, this quantity is however much more than they carry in the canal. These boats are most of them built without sails or rigging and are toed by steam, both in the Lakes and the Hudson.

He also suggested that before any boat was built Redington have the canal dimensions noted carefully so the boat would go through the locks.

Since this route also converged on Troy, it is not surprising that Redington soon began to have ideas of opening his own forwarding business in that city. This he did in conjunction with his father-in-law Medad Sheldon and his brothers-in-law, Charles and Preston Sheldon, who were also St. Lawrence County men. They had an office in Troy by 1839, but by 1845 it had become more economical to move the operation to New York City. Even after that, however, it was necessary for Redington to have a dock for lumber at Troy. The Sheldons not only handled his lumber shipments, but also were able to advise him when the state land sales for St. Lawrence County were to come up, acted as forwarding agents -- including such items as his personal carriage -- and sent on bank drafts. In New York City they continued to be involved in the lumber business until 1865.

Like so many other timber barons, Redington gradually became mixed in politics. When the Federalist party disintegrated after the War of 1812, St. Lawrence County swung to "Democracy" under the leadership of Silas Wright, senator and Governor of New York State. Redington was a strong Andrew Jackson supporter and was rewarded with the postmastership of Waddington in 1829. Some of his activities in the politics of the era are to be found in the papers. Ransom H. Gillet of Ogdensburg, who appears to have played an important organizational role in the Democratic party of the region, in 1834 wrote from the House of Representatives attacking the Democrats' bogey, the Bank of the United States: "The country will sustain the Constitution over the monopolizing power of the Bank . . . I am for Accountable agents, but the Bank directors are not accountable to any of us." The Bank issue may have helped the Democrats in the mid-1830's, but by 1840 the party was in trouble. Gillet wrote on September 12:

Policy for insurance Mar 16, 1842-47 to "George Redington of Madrid" on his stone dwelling house in Waddington, \$1200 and household furniture including musical instruments \$500; on his stone office \$300; on his barn and shed adjoining \$100; on his store house, wood shed and carriage house \$150 and on his hay in said barn \$50; Total \$2300 with premium of \$184.00.

POLICY

ST. LAWRENCE COUNTY MUTUAL INSURANCE
COMPANY.

TO

*George Redington
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If there is an alien in your part of the country who is entitled to naturalization and who is on our side I hope you will see that he gets to Canton next week. The efforts of our opponents are such that this is necessary. In Jeff(erson) Co. this week the Whigs have naturalized over 200 persons. This is many more than we have made into voters.

If an effort was ever needed and required by our love of sound principles it is now.

Whether Redington was able to find any aliens is unknown, but the result of the contest was well summed up by Moses Whitcomb writing from New York on 2 November: "We are before this reaches you pretty bad flogged in this election." VanBuren ceased to be president and Redington was ousted from the postmastership in 1841. He continued to support VanBuren, however, voting for him as the Free Soil candidate in 1848.

TOWN LIFE

In local politics Redington was the Supervisor of the Town of Madrid in 1833-1836 and then was elected to the State

Assembly in 1841 as one of the two representatives of the county. Naturally, he was interested in the administration of the canal system. Probably the long trips to Albany were too hard on him, especially with his lame leg, for he retired in 1844. An account of the difficulties he underwent which was written by Judge C.P. Scovil in 1885 and appeared in the Quarterly earlier, is worth citing again in this context:

... on our return at the close of the session in 1843, we left Utica about 8 p.m. in the old mud wagon of those days. Mr. Ruger and his wife occupied the back seat, Amos Buck, member from Lewis, his niece, and myself, had the middle seat, while Preston King and George Redington of St. Lawrence, mounted the front seat with the driver. The roads were alternately snowdrift and mud, and we were out some half dozen times hunting up rails with which to pry up the wagon: Sometimes going twenty or thirty rods to find them, there being a board fence on either side of the wagon road. Just before we arrived at the Black River house, we turned over, injuring Mr. Buck badly, and at sunrise in the morning, (for we traveled all night,) as we were turning up to the old Boonville house, four miles from Boonville, we went over again, breaking Redington's arm and injuring Buck and Mrs. Ruger so that when we got into the house Mrs. Ruger and Buck both fainted away, and we sent to Boonville for a physician.

Thus he soon gave up politics and in 1845 was elevated to the bench as a judge of the Court of Common Pleas (County Court). He only held office, however, until the elective system came in 1846 under the new state constitution, but he continued to be known as "Judge Redington."

Also involved in local financial ventures, often with his friend Baron S. Doty of Ogdensburg, Redington held stock in the Ogdensburg Bank in the early 1830's and was a director by the late 1840's, when Parish was its president. He was also a director of the St. Lawrence County Mutual Insurance Company in 1836 and was chosen one of the original directors of the short-lived St. Lawrence Bank in 1830. Later he became a director of the Northern Railway as it pushed across the county and travelled to Albany in its interests. Not surprisingly he also made quotations for the railroad ties.

HOME LIFE

His personal life was marked by a certain amount of tragedy for he outlived both of his wives and several of his children. The first wife, whom he married in 1827, was Amorette Stone, a daughter of Daniel Stone of Madrid. She

died suddenly on February 21, 1843, of erysipelas which was then raging in the county, while he was at the Legislature in Albany. She was 36 and they had seven children. Her sister Jane died at their house only six days later, possibly of the same disease. His second wife was Lorain, the daughter of the above mentioned Medad Sheldon, whom he married in 1844, and who died in childbirth in 1849. They had three children, and there were still seven children living at home, including two grown daughters, in 1850. After his wife's death the household was run by his elder sister, Sarah (1787-1876), with the help of four servants.

Redington himself was not religious, although many of his family were, particularly his mother. After he married his first wife, a Congregationalist, however, he became a firm supporter of that denomination, which was later to amalgamate with the local Presbyterian congregation in 1862. It was possibly through the church that he became acquainted with his second wife, for the Sheldons were active members of the Congregationalist church in Waddington before moving to Troy.

Although confined to bed by a fractured hip for some six weeks Redington was active until the end, dying unexpectedly in his sleep in September 15, 1850, probably of heart trouble. His brother James became the executor of his estate, which was worth at least \$30,000, and brought up his children. The pioneer boy had thus become the wealthy entrepreneur and George Redington is a good example of the type of man who might be said to have grown up with his county and prospered as it blossomed. Although such men entered little on the national stage of history, yet they still played a very important role in North American development and through a study of their activities the growth of the frontier regions can be recreated.

The writer would like to thank Mrs. Mary H. Biondi, County Historian of St. Lawrence County, her predecessor, Mrs. Nina W. Smithers, and Mr. Andrew K. Peters, Librarian, of St. Lawrence University, for their help and suggestions in the preparation of this article.

The major sources of information used were the Redington Papers and the three county histories: Franklin B. Hough, "A History of St. Lawrence and Franklin Counties, New York," (Albany, 1853); (S.W. Durant, and H. Pierce), "History of St. Lawrence Co., New York, 1749-1878" (Philadelphia, 1878); Gates Curtis, ed., "Our County and Its People: A Memorial Record of St. Lawrence County, New York" (Syracuse, 1894). Reference has also been made to such background sources as Alexander C. Flick, ed., "History of the State of New York," (10 vols., Port Washington, N.Y., 1962).

Know Your Historian

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researchers

Information about Northern New York military and militia units (uniform, activities, life, etc.) 1800-1850 is needed by Dr. John Still, Office of State History in Albany. Old music covers, sketches, diaries, newspaper accounts of patriotic functions, etc. welcome. Especially interested in Patriot War era. Contact History Center with loan or suggestion.

TOP O' THE STATE

In commemoration of the 200th anniversary of the first New York State Constitution in 1777, the Office of State History has undertaken an analysis of that document. A drafting committee of fourteen was appointed on August 1, 1776 and, despite almost insurmountable obstacles, the finished constitution was proclaimed on April 20, 1777. To present a clear picture of the constitution-making process, it will be necessary to examine the writings (letters, diaries, etc.) of the committee members. The Office is also interested in biographical and character sketches and in likenesses of these patriots. All efforts to locate materials on the men who wrote the first Constitution will be greatly appreciated.

Replies concerning the following list of committeemen should be submitted to: Stefan Bielinski, Office of State History, Twin Towers, 99 Washington Avenue, Albany, New York, 12210. The men selected to draft our first state plan of government were John Broome (1738-1810), James Duane (1733-97), John Jay (1745-1829), and John Morin Scott (1730-84), of New York City; Robert (1738-1801) and Abraham Yates, Jr. (1724-96) of Albany; Charles DeWitt (1728-88) of Ulster; William Duer, Sr. (1747-99) of what is now Washington County; John Sloss Hobart (1738-1805) and William Smith (1721-99) of Suffolk County; Robert R. Livingston (1746-1813) of Dutchess; Gouverneur Morris (1752-1816) of Westchester; Samuel Townsend (1717-90) of Queens and Henry Wisner (1720-90) of Orange County. John McKesson (1734-98) of New York City was the secretary.

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St. Lawrence County Historian

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James Burnett (b. 1782, Hampton, Conn)md. Amanda Park(es) (b. 1785, Canterbury, Conn.) They md. in 1805 in Conn and were early settlers of DeKalb. Children: James b. 1805, md Martha Spaulding; Benedict b. 1807; Amanda b. 1809 md Wm. T. Williams; Clarissa b. 1810; George b. 1812; Asa b. 1814; Averill b. 1818; Harriet b. 1820; John b. 1822; Calvin b. 1824. Amanda Park(es) d. in 1824 and was buried in a field in DeKalb. After her death, James m. (2) Clarissa Kennan and (3) Asenath Styles and in 1833 moved to Livingston Co., Mich, taking George, Averill and Calvin. Looking for parents and ancestry or any information of Amanda Park(es) Burnett, Mrs. C. Van Spangle, 81 Gilbert Rd., Newington, Conn 06111.

Note: We've never visited Edwards, Russell, Piercefield, Conifer, Pitcairn or Cranberry Lake. Invitations anticipated (l) for future tours, and ideas welcome.

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