

THE QUARTERLY

OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE ST. LAWRENCE COUNTY HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION



OCT 1971

THE QUARTERLY

Official Publication Of The St. Lawrence County Historical Association

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Cover Photo:
Madrid Herald Building between the Merriman House
and the Corner Store.

First 150 Years

Hammond Presbyterian Society

By MAXINE B. RUTHERFORD

Presbyterianism in Hammond began in 1818 when a few Scotch emigrants settled in the Chippewa Bay area. Some itinerant preachers passed through the town but no church was organized. Following such a meeting at which many of the Scotch families attended, it was decided to form a group of their own and not depend on the transient ministers. An arrangement was made to hold a service the next Sunday at the home of Thomas Dodds on the Chippewa Bay road. John Hill was chosen to line and lead the singing, Robert Shiell to lead in prayer and James Rodger was appointed to read and expound the Scripture. This was the first Presbyterian service held in the town. These meetings were held at various houses in the neighborhood for more than a year.

During the winter of 1821 the group of pioneers felt an increasing desire to become organized into a church. Accordingly the Rev. James W. Sandford, pastor of the Presbyterian church of Oxbow was invited to meet with them. He made the trip to Hammond on Apr. 1, 1821. With due solemnity, a church was formed and Elders were elected and it was known as the First Presbyterian Union Church of Rossie (the town of Hammond not yet organized was still a part of the town of Rossie). There were 17 charter members. James Rodger, Margaret Hill Rodger, Peter Allen, Janette Allen, John Hill, Janette D. Hill, Thomas Dodds, Helen Shiell Dodds, John Mercer, David Gregor, Janette Allen Gregor, Robert Shiell, John Gregor, John Baird, Agnes Baird, Patty Talcott, Mary Gregor, and later James Hill and Alpheus Talcott. Elder James Rodger still continued to preach to the people. He was finally licensed by the Presbytery of Ogdensburg on Mar. 6, 1823 and served as Pastor of the Society for 6 years. The Union Presbyterian Society was incorporated Dec. 22, 1827.

In October 1833, measures were taken in preparing to build a meeting house. A lot was secured from the Arnold

Smith property, site of the present church, and during the winter quantities of stone, timber and other materials were placed on the spot ready for work to commence the following spring. The contract for building the church was awarded to William Smith. Money was secured by selling pews and by further pledges among the members. Many of the people paid their pledges in work and produce. The record shows that a day's labor was worth 87 1/2 cents, carpenters received \$1.25 per day, one day's work drawing stone, sand, etc. with oxen, \$1.50. Those who donated produce were credited with 25 cents per bu. of potatoes, 23 cents per bu. of oats, 1 ton of hay at \$5.00 and flour at 3 cents a lb. After 5 years of labor the first house of worship, the old Stone Church, was completed. The census report of 1845 valued the church property of the Presbyterian Society at \$1500. There was a minimum price placed on each pew and the purchaser pledged that amount and as much more as he could afford to give. One man gave \$75, which was equivalent to the cost of 15 acres of land. The pews sold at an average of \$40 and the two square box seats situated on either side of the pulpit brought \$90 each. These seats were occupied by the Rodger family and the A.P. Morse family.

The building was described as being 40 by 60 ft. and constructed of local stone. It had a gallery on three sides supported by five columns. On the fourth side was the pulpit, a box like affair several feet from the floor and was reached by a short flight of stairs. Two box seats, mentioned previously, were on either side of the pulpit. The pews of church had doors as was the custom of the day. The choir sat in the gallery opposite the pulpit. The gallery was also used as a place for holding Sunday School. The building was heated by 2 box stoves.

The Rev. J.M. McGregor, who succeeded Rev. James



Hammond Presbyterian Church, structure built in 1870, burned in 1918.

Rodger, began his pastorate about 1832. He served the church for two decades. It was during this period that the first church edifice was erected. Rev. McGregor came from Scotland when he had completed his education and settled down on the Bay road (on the farm presently owned by Vincent and Virginia Gibson). He was a sedate well educated man and a faithful pastor, always feeling it his duty to visit the homes of his congregation at least once a year, always making the trip on horseback.

When Rev. McGregor retired, the session began to look for a replacement. They finally settled on Rev. James Gardner, a young man, a teacher in the St. Lawrence Academy at Potsdam. Mr. Gardner was a native of Ireland and a graduate of Dublin University and had been in this country but a short time. He took up the work with energy and will, preaching at two services at the church and then driving to school houses at Calaboga, Pleasant Valley, Brier Hill and Newfield. He continued here until 1869 when he received and accepted a call from the Presbyterian Church at Canton, where he remained for several years. While there the degree of D.D. was conferred upon him by Hamilton College. Later he accepted a call to Gloversville where he remained until his retirement.

During the next 6 years three men served as supply pastors, Reverends Rodger, Milne and Swift. During these years Presbyterian emphasis was on orthodoxy of belief and puritanism in character together with great dignity in church practice. The story is told of Scottish Elder who forbade the playing of a trumpet in the church service. His answer to this request was, "There'll be no horn here this Morn".

As the church membership grew larger the old stone church became inadequate. In 1871 a lovely frame church was erected at a cost of \$10,000 and had a seating capacity of 400.

DR. FERGUSON

The out-standing span of time in the life of the church was the 48 years when it was served continuously by one pastor. He was Rev. Daniel A. Ferguson, D.D., grandson of Rev. James Rodger who read the Scripture at the first Presbyterian service and who later served as pastor.

Tragedy struck on Nov. 3, 1915, when fire destroyed the frame church and parsonage, Dr. and Mrs. Ferguson barely escaping with their lives. Plans for rebuilding were immediately made and a new building was erected on the old site constructed of Hammond sandstone. The cornerstone was laid on Sept. 14, 1916 and the dedication of the church was Dec. 12, 1918. During the period when the Presbyterian Society was with out a house of worship, services were held in the Hammond Town Hall.

A Centennial Anniversary of the church was held on June 26 and 27, 1921. On Sunday the Centenary sermon was given by Rev. J.G. Rodger, Ph.D., Pres. of the International University Union, Washington, D.C. and a former member of this church. On Monday an historical address was given by the pastor, Dr. Ferguson, as well as remarks and addresses by visiting clergy including Rev. J.H. Gardner, Fort Covington, son of a former pastor.

With deep regret the congregation accepted the resignation of the Rev. Daniel A. Ferguson, D.D., after 48 years of faithful service. On Aug. 26, 1923, Dr. Ferguson gave his farewell message.

It then became necessary to call a new minister. Having preached in the pulpit on two Sundays in November 1923, Rev. W. Halbert Campbell was extended a unanimous call in Dec. to become pastor. He accepted and moved into the Manse in March 1924. In 1931 the church assumed the responsibility for entertaining the Oak Point Summer Conference for young people.

In April 1935 Rev. Campbell resigned to become pastor of the church in Waterloo, N.Y. and the Rev. Garner S. O'Dell was called. He served three years. In the winter of 1939 a call was extended to William G. Bell. He accepted, and was ordained and installed in May of that year.



The second stone church, third house of worship on the site, dedicated by Dr. Daniel C. Ferguson in his sixth decade there.

In 1943 Rev. W.H. Campbell returned to the Pastorate of this church and resumed work on Oct. 17. It was a strategic time to begin a pastorate. The tide of Hammond church life was at flood. The Methodist Church in the village had been discontinued and a goodly number of Christian people were ready to join in making one United Protestant church in Hammond. At Easter time in 1944, 89 new members united with this church.

Using the initials of the church name, H.P.C., a group of couples formed the Happy Partners Club, active for many years.

The year 1946 saw the 125th Anniversary Celebration beginning with the Sunday service on Mar. 31 and ending with the Anniversary Banquet on Monday Apr. 1. Interest centered in the presentation of a pageant, "A Star and a Candlestick", written by Pastor Campbell, which depicted the history of the Hammond Church. At 3 p.m. on Mon., April 1, the bell in the church began tolling, marking the day and hour of the founding of the Presbyterian Society here. A Banquet in the Knox Hall climaxed the event with Lawrence F. Cuthbert serving as toastmaster and Rt. Rev. Malcolm E. Peabody, bishop of the Syracuse diocese of the Episcopal Church, delivering the main address.

In the fall of the Anniversary year a Liberty Carillon was presented to the church by Lawrence F. and Helen Rodger Cuthbert in memory of their parents, Mr. and Mrs. William S. Cuthbert and Mr. and Mrs. John S. Rodger. A service of dedication was held on Sept. 29, 1946.

For some years the church had been placing a great deal of emphasis upon its work with the children and young people in the Sunday School and religious day school. It became necessary to enlarge the structure so this work could be carried on. In 1949 a two-story annex was constructed. It consisted of a nursery, Sunday school rooms, a chapel, church office and minister's study. Dedication ceremonies were held on Nov. 6, 1949 in the new chapel.

Rev. Vincent Crawford served the Hammond Church for ten years, leaving in 1967 to take up pastoral duties in Victor, N.Y. A call was extended to Rev. Gerald Shibley. He accepted and is the present pastor of this church.

The Hammond Presbyterian Society has reached another milestone. A century and a half has passed since the small group of pioneers chose to meet and form a Christian society.

GOVERNEUR 50 YEARS AGO

By NELSON B. WINTERS
VILLAGE HISTORIAN

A review of the Gouverneur city directory published by Kamargo Press of Watertown, N.Y. in 1921 reveals many businesses which have ceased to exist over the last 50 years and a few hardy ones which have withstood the effects of time. While the population of the area has remained at about the same figure, 6500 -- give or take 100, individual requirements have changed considerably. For instance, in 1921 there were 8 dressmakers listed as active in that trade. The latest directory, published in 1970, does not have a dressmaker classification.

Coal and ice were in heavy demand in 1921 with 6 businesses of those natures dispensing the ingredients for warmth in the winter and coolness in the summer. Today there is one dealer in coal and none in ice -- the type which was cut from the Oswegatchie River in the winter and stored for later use. How many of today's youngsters ever followed the ice wagon for the cool chips which they could suck on during a hot summer day?

In 1921 there were probably more horses than automobiles around our village. This is a surmise probably substantiated by the numbers and kinds of services devoted to the equine-related activities such as harness maker (1), horse dealer (1), livery stables (2), teamsters (4), blacksmiths (5), and feed dealers (3), but only one veterinary doctor.

Boarding houses were popular that year -- 4 being listed. There was 1 burr manufacturer, 1 grafanola dealer, 1 market dealer, 1 milliner, and 1 delivery service -- categories foreign to modern times.

Of the business enterprises active in 1921 and still purveying goods and services 50 years later, not necessarily by the same owner(s), we find Seaker-Graves Motor Co. (now Seaker Chevrolet, Inc.) dealt in Buick and Dodge cars, the Gralyn Theater still presents the latest in motion pictures, Central Garage, listed under automobile garage supplies and repairs in 1921 now has the Buick and Oldsmobile agencies, and is still operated by the Rotundo family. The Bank of Gouverneur, First National Bank, and the Savings and Loan, as in 1921, still provide banking services at about the same interest rates. The Marble City Garage Ford Agency now includes the Mercury and operates as Dodds Motor Corp. B.O. Kinney was listed under Books and Stationery and Kodak Supplies as well as Drugs and Medicines. The W.S. Corbin Coal Co. now does business as G.W. White and Son.

The Sol Kaplan clothing store was 1 of 7 such businesses in 1921. Listed under Confectioners was the Crystal Palace which just this year was sold after 62 years in the hands of the Constantikes family. The St. Lawrence Transmission Co. has been merged into the Niagara Mohawk Power Corp. American Railway Express Co. office was closed last August, but service continues on a more impersonal basis. The McAllaster family now deals in fuels and plumbing supplies instead of flour and feed, Mountain Home Telephone Co., predecessor to N.Y. Telephone, and Western Union were handling messages 50 years ago.

Sprague and Mott of 1921 remains as the Sprague Funeral Home. The A and P Tea Co. was doing business as the only chain food store in Gouverneur. Incidentally, in 1921 there were 21 individuals and partnerships dispensing groceries and/or meats. Of the 5 hotels active in 1921 only the Marble City hotel is in business.

The successor to York Press Co., job printers in 1921, produced this edition of The Quarterly. The Northern Tribune of 1921 is the current Tribune Press. The Prospect Street Lumber Co. now handles building supplies as W.T. Anderson Co. In 1921 Fred Scozzafava had a machine shop on Park St. It is still in the same location operated by his sons as an auto parts and supply company. The Mosher and Pete restaurant on Clinton St. has changed hands several times since 1921 and is still doing business.

In 1921, as today, advertising paid the bill for a city

directory. Providing the money that year were Gauthier Theater, Ed Fredenburg (Barber Shop), Fred J. Love Lumber Co., Scott and O'Hagen (plumbing and furnaces), H.C. Rogers (Real Estate), H.H. Noble (Coal and Wood), A.W. Overacker (Coal and Wood), Perrin's Drug Store (Van-Slyke and Curtis, Props.), W.S. Lee and Co. (clothing), Downey and Homer (plumbers), Spooner-Campbell (Reo cars), George M. Frazier (dry goods), Cox Dry Goods, Prospect Street Lumber Co., D.M. Hazelton (insurance), The Whitney Garage (Overland and Willys-Knight), Sprague and Mott (funeral directors), Freeman Bros. (farm machinery), The Northern-Tribune, Gouverneur Savings and Loan Assoc., and the Marble City Garage (Ford cars).

Also included in the 1921 Directory was of course a complete alphabetical listing of all residents with addresses and occupations, the R.F.D. mail routes with alphabetical listing of patrons, a complete alphabetical street directory with building numbers and names of residential occupants. In all, there are 106 pages of Gouverneur history in the form of names from Abbott to Youngs each of whom played a part, large or small, in keeping Gouverneur on the move.

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Half Way House

By CATHERINE LUKENS

When Mr. and Mrs. A.L. Lukens, Son Laurence, 12, and Catherine, 7, moved there in March, 1912, the history of the Halfway House was told to them by Henry and Mason Chambers, then elderly gentlemen, who lived in the log cabin which is the second house on the south side of the road toward Canton. The Chambers' father had been tollgate keeper there.

The Halfway House was built as a tavern by Stillman Foote of Canton when he obtained the franchise to carry the mail between Ogdensburg and Canton. The horses on the stage were changed here to make the eighteen-mile trip faster. Quarterway houses were also built, at Woodbridge Hill on the Canton end (now owned by Frank Norton) and on the Big Curve at Northrups Corners toward Ogdensburg (now owned by Barton Armstrong).

After Foote built the house, it was operated as a tavern by a man called Legge. Legge's daughter married a Stocking and they called the place the Foote-Legge-Stocking Tavern. Henry Chambers remembered visiting there as a small boy where he saw the colorful signboard with the booted leg by the basement door.

The basement was where the family lived, and it has the great fireplace with large brick oven, but the central chimney was torn out after all the trees were cut and no wood available. In the basement is still the old door to the dirt floored root cellar. Wide boards still are the wainscoting alongside the stairs, finished with the original red paint. The oak timbers that framed the house are visible here, now tough as iron.

Upstairs, one enters the dining room with seven doors, fireplace and wainscot of wide boards up to the chair rail. Chair rails are in all downstairs rooms. Another smaller fireplace with cupboards above is in the adjoining small storage room (probably a warm sitting room for ladies). From the front door which is framed with narrow glass, one enters the hall with the stairway ascending ahead. To the right is a paneled room with large fireplace with cupboards above and at the side. The bar had been here.

To the left of the hall was the parlor with six-inch floor boards and mitred door and window casings. This opened to the dining room and a bedroom (now the kitchen).

Upstairs was the dance hall and one bedroom for the ladies. The men slept over the coach house (moved across the road about 1900.) Now there are four large bedrooms, making 11 rooms in all. Some of the boards here are very wide, up to 14 inches. In the high attic all the floor boards are wide. [When I was small, I was helping my mother clean the attic. (1915) Washing off the big oak purlin plate, (the supporting timbers running the length of the house) I discovered a date of 1808 (or perhaps it was 1806 in black paint under the shingle nails that extrude through the roof. Performing the same chore in 1970, I could not find this date again, though I searched several times. My brother claimed it was somewhere else but he was not sure where, nor could he locate it later.]

After the Stockings, ownership of the place is uncertain. Before the Lukens family, it had belonged eight years to Sam Livingston, 1904-1912. Wallaces had lived there at one time. For a time it was unoccupied and used to store oats. This brought rats, and cats were shut in to take care of them. As small children we were entertained by stains left by the cats which suggested maps of Africa and South America. Rodents are easy to exclude from the 18-inch stone wall foundations. The hearth in the cellar is a very large dressed stone. Another such stone is at the front door. Brick was made on the place near the brook beside the highway and can still be seen as wet areas where the clay was removed.

The original property was 360 acres of the good fertile land of the St. Lawrence River valley. Growing up there, I never knew that there was a limited depth to "top soil." This property was split up into small acreages. In 1912, there were cellar holes indicating small homes on each side. 112 acres belonged to the place in 1912, and Laurence



Lukens bought back 100 acres more, making a total of 218 acres.

From the large brass lock on the front door, from George Washington's "Woodlawn," to the solid stone foundations, a sense of permanence, beauty and solidity is apparent.

One has to visit the place to understand the charm and hospitality which was built into it. Even at the very entrance, one feels a sense of welcome in the atmosphere created by the builder.

HENRY VAN RENSSELAER

Henry Bell Van Rensselaer, born May 14, 1810 at the Van Rensselaer Manor House in Albany, was the son of Mr. and Mrs. Stephen Van Rensselaer. He was graduated from the United States Military Academy at West Point in 1831, and commissioned brevet second lieutenant in the Fifth Infantry Regiment on July 1 of that year.

He resigned Jan. 27, 1832 and engaged in Agricultural pursuits near the old village of Ogdensburg. His father was at one time proprietor of most of the town of Canton and the westerly half of this county. In 1834 Henry took charge of his father's estates and lands in the county. He had just married a daughter of New York's Governor John A. King and Henry himself became proprietor in 1836.

Van Rensselaer also was associated with mining interests. A Whig, he was elected a representative to the 27th Congress and served from March 4, 1841 to March 3, 1843 -- one month during the brief presidency of William Henry Harrison and the remainder after the vice president John Tyler became president. Silas Wright Jr., of Canton was then a United States Senator.

In the fall of 1855 the Van Rensselaers went to New York City to spend the winter with his family. He remained there as his "mansion at Woodford," the stately home west of Ogdensburg was destroyed by fire.

Upon the outbreak of the Civil War, he reentered military service with the rank of brigadier general of the Union Army and became chief of staff under Gen. Winfield Scott. He served as Inspector General with rank of Colonel from 1862 until his death March 23, 1864, of fever at Cincinnati, Ohio. He was buried in the Grace Episcopal Churchyard, Jamaica, L.I.

Rensselaer Falls, named for Henry Van Rensselaer, was begun in 1839 and originally called Tateville, then Canton Falls. Its post office was established Dec. 19, 1851 and the first tavern kept by Van Rensselaer's agent, John Shull, Jr.

Liberal to the settlers on his hands, Henry had the reputation of being "the rich man's companion and the poor man's friend."

His father Stephen (1764-1839) a New York City native, was a representative in Congress, major general of volunteers of the war of 1812, president of the Canal commission, member of the State Constitutional Convention in 1821, founder of Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute in Troy and a regent of the University of New York State.

Compiled by Elizabeth Baxter

Russets in Russell

ORCHARDS of HAMILTON HILL

By EUGENE HATCH

Turning off the Russell-Hermon state road at the west end of Russell, one starts on the Hamilton Hill road and after a mile, the Scouten Road branches from it on the right. (see the Quarterly for April 1966 and October 1967). At this junction of the roads today we will keep straight ahead and climb the rather steep road up Hamilton hill. This is one of several steep hills which ring Russell village as natural guardians and defenders, only leaving space for the Grass River which snakes through a narrow valley on its way to the St. Lawrence. Across from us rises Kimball Hill.

The slope of our hill now lessens. On either side of the road is the Hamilton farm, and traces of the stone roadside fences can be seen. Just ahead on our left was the main Hamilton apple orchard of eighteen acres, once enclosed by stone walls. In addition to the Hatch and Johnson orchards beyond, this was the chief orchard country for a large area.

Sturdy woodland saplings have quietly taken possession of the orchard, but less than fifty years ago it was filled with long rows of fruit-bearing apple trees. Each May brought a cloud of ethereal white blossoms hung in the branches to the muted music of humming bees and a haunting fragrance greeted the passerby. Later in the year myriad glints of red could be seen among the leaves as the apples ripened.

Above the orchard the land levels off briefly and on our left stands the white Hamilton house, still well kept, fronted by an ample lawn shaded by maples. The older low wing has been remodeled into a square, two-story addition. An inside feature is a cat hole, an ingenious covered exit or entrance for cats found in some early houses, and a great square lock securing the parlor door. This homestead has a history contemporary with that of the town itself.

This spot was the home of pioneer Nathaniel Higgins of Blanford, Mass. He had married in 1797 Miss Polly Lloyd, also of Blanford. The Lloyds were of Scotch-Irish origin and Polly's father had fought for the colonists in the Seven Years' War. Later as one who followed up patriotic words by action, he had fought in the Revolution. Polly's grandmother was a Black. It is on record that the Blacks had the largest house in Blanford and that they were public spirited enough to permit the first school in town to be held there. Russell Attwater who kept store in Blanford had bought at the price of forty cents an acre a tract of 13,600 acres in far off St. Lawrence County. His holdings included the town of Ballybean and half of Sarahsburg and formed the township of Russell. Mr. Attwater made a move to begin settlement of this area in 1805 when he came bringing Timothy Blair of Blanford to make surveys. Others of that party were the Knox men, David, Nathan and Loren; Reuben Ashman, Heman Morgan, Elias Hayden, Jesse Bunnell and Elihu Morgan.

It is likely that Nathaniel and Polly Higgins also from Blanford had caught some of storekeeper Attwater's enthusiasm for the new country and wanted to be in at the beginning, so they made the long six-week's journey by ox team that same year. In the fall Joel Clark of Hartland, Mass., arrived with his family and settled at Plum Brook and built a saw mill, the first in town.

The Attwater party left for their homes in the fall after a busy summer. They had cleared twelve acres and surveyed the land. That winter the Higginses and the Clarks lived in hastily built homes, a few miles apart. In the little clearings, the smoke rose from their cabin chimneys, the only signs of civilization in a vast wilderness.

There were no grist mills, the nearest being in Ogdensburg, so Nathaniel took his first crop of grain there by ox team, a week's journey. Years later Polly Higgins was to remember that for a few years after they came to Russell they were pestered by Indians, and by numerous wolves.

The wolves as she recalled hung about the door for the bones they threw out.

In 1807 a daughter Rowena was born to Nathaniel and Polly, the first girl child born in Russell. Rowena never married. She died at the late age of 78 and her tombstone is in the village cemetery.



Captions: Judson Hamilton House, originally the "Higgins Place" site of home of Russell's first settler.

Rowena's younger sister Charlotte married in 1844 Judson Hamilton, whose father was Isaac Hamilton. A family tradition has it that the Hamiltons came from Rhode Island but it is known that his grandfather Alexander lived in Huntington near Shelton, Conn., where Isaac was born. The family moved from there to Sandgate, Vt., and Isaac grew up there, married and ran a farm, selling out and coming to Russell in 1837.

While they journeyed with what household goods they could manage, they added what was equally important, a sound knowledge of orchards management and to Judson who stayed with his bride on the Higgins farm is credited the founding of the apple orchard. He understood well the art of grafting scions onto the hardy native trees and his work was much in demand by the neighbor orchardists. Before the colonists came, there were only two native species of apple trees growing here and these were crab apples. Apple culture began when the settlers planted trees or raised trees from seeds they had brought from their homes in Europe. In the last century the apple was the principal fruit of our Northeast. All other fruit offered in the markets was high in price. When the railroads were built, other fruit became more plentiful but it was not until 1851 that refrigerator cars began to run on the Rutland Railroad and the first carload of California oranges left Los Angeles for the East only in 1886.

Most farmsteads had at least a few apple trees, and in my boyhood apples were accepted casually as much a part of country living as feather beds or maple syrup. Growing boys and girls nonchalantly munched apples to tide them over in the long, empty time between meals and when the threshers came a big panful was set out in a handy place.

As a long winter evening began, it was the farm boy's chore to take the apple basket down cellar. As he entered that cool place, he was greeted with the pungent fragrance of apples piled in the bins. Housewives baked apples in pastry to make that supreme dessert, the apple pie and apples were an important ingredient of mince pies. They were baked or stewed or cut in wedges. At times they were strung like beads and festooned around the stove to dry to be made into pies later. A dried apple pie had a splendid flavor all its own. Many were sweetened with maple sugar, more common and plentiful in most homes.

To lighten the endless chore of peeling apples which all these activities demanded, Yankee ingenuity once more came to the rescue and mechanical iron apple peelers were invented. There are a number of types of this machine patented. I have seven, and the collection at Richville boasts a few, too.

Essentially, the apple was impaled on a shaft turned by a hand crank, while it was held against a knife which peeled the skin. They were clever and efficient machines, sold by the itinerant peddlers for many years.

LATER HAMILTONS

To the Judson Hamiltons of Hamilton Hill, was born a son Sidney who gradually took over the farm and orchard work as his parents grew older. He had married Lottie Dana of Dana Hill. As always in the fall the apples were in great demand and people drove there for miles to get their winter apples, Sidney's son Earl, the last Hamilton to live there, tells that in one single year the orchard yielded 2000 bushels of apples. Besides Earl, there was a daughter May, one of my early teachers in our district school.

Above the Hamiltons, on each side of the road have been orchards of young trees, then the road again rises briefly and we are on level ground. Off to the left sixty-five years ago, a road entered to a small gray house, now no longer standing. It was the home of Mrs. Maria Hill. The land had belonged to her father Lucas Hatch, who had settled next to his brother Samuel. An accomplished fiddler, he played at the dances held at the country inns evenings after farm work.

Charlie Hill, a personable and charming man, appeared in the neighborhood from some vaguely mentioned place. He met Maria Hatch, and they were married. He was not, to say the least, a steady home body and finally he disappeared permanently as mysteriously as he had come, leaving Maria with six children. Somehow they all grew up, and Sidney, one of them, had a long busy career as an evangelist.

At the end of a stone wall on our right is a cellar hole where my grandfather Samuel Hatch built a square white house when he retired from his farm across the road, fronted by a level lawn that once was bright with Grandma Hatch's flowers. This small boy liked to spend Saturdays there.

A little farther along the route on the left a road can be faintly seen through the brush. It led to Grandpa's farm buildings on the top of Hamilton Hill. He had built here a low white wood house with green shutters and brick-filled walls, now gone, and the barns with it. Here his family of six were born.

The large orchard lay on the hill below and extended beyond it. Like the Hamilton orchards, it was planted on the north slope, a location much favored by apple growers.

The orchard was a fine place to be for an apple hungry boy. The very sound of names of the apple varieties was like music, and each had its own appealing flavor and season. The first to ripen were the Dutchess of Oldenbergs and the Yellow Transparents. Later came the juicy St. Lawrence, Petoskie, Winesap, Ben Davis, Tallman Sweets, Stone, Golden Russets and Snows. This list is by no means complete.

A short distance along the road and one comes to a farmstead on the left. This was once the home of Henry Hatch. It was here to his kinsmen Samuel Hatch he came as a boy with his mother Temperance following the death of her husband Dr. William Hatch, Dr. Hatch had brought his family from Charlotte, Vt., to practice medicine at Crary Mills. The widow and her son were taken to Deacon Henry Hatch's home, and grandfather Samuel grew up and bought the farm we just passed. A long stone wall ran between the two farms. Grandpa married Ann Ives, Justus Ives' daughter, Justus and it is believed another family, purchased land back of the roadfront farms. They were promised by the land agent that a road would be built joining their farms to the Russell Turnpike, but it was never constructed. Ann Ives' sister Sophia married George Scoughton of Scouten Road.



House of Porter Johnson, erected 1880.
(this is the square one.)

THE JOHNSONS

The Henry Hatch farm changed hands several times. The arrival of Harriet and Porter Johnson from Pitcairn marked the beginning of much of our family history. There was a good, but smaller, apple orchard on this farm and it is now the only one left on the Hill, although many trees are gone. Porter was a Civil War veteran. (see Quarterly, Apr. 1965). It is said that Harriet was delighted with the orchard as her people, the Newtons in Vermont, had a fine orchard there and there had been none on their farm in Pitcairn. The Johnsons were also destined to become my grandparents.

It was not surprising that the young people of the Hatch and Johnson families of about the same ages should have become congenial. Between their homes was only a short walk through the orchard. My father, Dr. Alfred Hatch was attracted to Miss Fannie Johnson and in 1886 they were married and settled in Russell village for his medical practice.

Then Milo Johnson courted Mattie Hatch and they were married. Uncle Milo, not heeding Horace Greeley's admonition, went East to Vermont and became a farmer and success as a Holstein breeder.

Other Hatch children were my Uncle Lester who taught school, later bought a farm in the district and served his town as justice and supervisor; Uncle Vic carried on the farm after his father retired, and Uncle Gene who went to Illinois. After a time his letters stopped and he was never heard from again. Arthur Johnson went to Gouverneur to study law with George Gleason. He married the boss' daughter Caroline, became a partner and for years was a well-known lawyer on Main Street. His sister Addie taught school until her retirement at Tacoma, Wash., after seventeen years there. She never married and died at Gouverneur. Then there was a bachelor Roy. Five children of these families died in their twenties, victims like those in other families at that time, of respiratory diseases.

Grandpa Johnson built the square house with mansard roof in 1880, the style a new departure from the usual gable-and-ell house of the period. The carpenter was Sam Fanning, who also that year built one much like it for my Uncle Lester.

The barn was on a level site in the rear and after an easy slope the house sits on a level site below. Professor Chadwick, then of the geology department of St. Lawrence University, on one of his field trips with my cousin Grover Hatch (his pupil) noticed the contours of these levels and traced them over a mile toward Elm Creek. He was convinced that they marked the sites of two beaches of prehistoric Lake Iroquois which was formed by the melting ice of the last glacier. In the course of centuries the water had receded from the upper beach to form one forty feet lower. Eventually the old lake diminished and now Lake

Manzanita Island By THOMAS S. KNAP

(continued from July issue)

During the years 1900-1910 Chippewa Bay came into its own. The Yacht Club was organized in 1895 by C.M. Englis, Commodore; Captain David H. Lyon, vice commodore; James G. Knap, secretary and treasurer; Dr. F.H. Bailey, C.B. Orcutt, H.W. Williams, Sylvester Albert, S.G. Averell, S.S. Thompson, J.C. Howard all of whom owned islands except Albert and Averell.

Up to 1902 most of the Sailing races involved sailing skiffs. That year a class of so-called runabouts was started. These boats were 18 feet long with a cat-yawl rig, main sail and dandy with 160 square feet sail area. They were safe but slow. There were nine of these boats and were raced for years.

Another class about this time were the "twenty-footers." These boats were 20 feet at the water line, about 30 feet overall. They had sliding centerboards and carried nearly 300 square feet of sail. These boats were scow-type racing machines -- good for nothing else.

The American Power Boat Association was organized in 1902 and gave as a perpetual trophy a large gold-plated cup, to be raced for each year under handicap rules. This cup was raced for first in 1904, won by the Columbia Yacht Club. The second, over the same Hudson River course, was won by "Vingt-et-Un II" entered by the Chippewa Yacht Club. The third race was over a course laid out of the Chippewa Club, starting at Cedar Island State land up river to the head of Ironsides and back, fifteen miles (twice around). This race was won by "Chip I." She was 15 feet long, four foot beam and had a two-cylinder, two cycle engine. The hull was by Leyare Boat works at Ogdensburg. The fourth, was won by "Chip II" and the fifth race was won by "Chip III." The owner of all three "Chips" was Jonathan Wainwright.

About this time speed boat designers woke up to the fact that it was easier to drive a boat over the water than through it. This discovery spelled defeat for Chippewa the next year as "Dixie II" lifted the cup for Thousand Islands Yacht Club which attained 30.9 m.p.h. The "Dixie" was the first hydroplane ever seen on the river.

Along about 1905 small one cylinder gasoline engines came into use and we were foolish enough to put one into each of the sailing skiffs. Not being built for this usage, they soon fell apart.

The Young people in 1912 thought that the Chippewa Yacht Club was not serving their interests and so started the Oak Island Yacht Club which flourished for about five years. By 1920 sailing races were a thing of the past and only motor boats were used. Outboards came in in 1915.

In 1903 father bought our first real motorboat, the "Manzanita I." This boat, 30 feet long, with a six-foot beam, was constructed with Oak Keel and ribs and had three-quarter inch planking and Mahogany decks. The engine was a two-cylinder, two-cycle job with make-and-break spark and developed ten horsepower at 800 r.p.m. There was a large flywheel at the front that you turned over to start. The total weight of the engine was about 500 lbs. The maximum speed of this boat was 10 m.p.h., but she was a fine sea boat and used until 1932.

In 1933 he sold the "Manzanita I" to a man by the name of Fratich in Ogdensburg, adding a 30-foot motorboat from the estate of James Westbrook. This boat built by Leyare was only five and a half foot in beam, quite fast but wet.

I put in a 40 hp Grey engine and she gave us many years of service until 1946, when we exchanged for "Manzanita III." I also built and raced three "skimming dishes."

In 1934 I organized the purchase of a class of 14-foot sailboats called "Nimblets." There were six of these small sloops and the young people had a lot of fun racing them for years. The Talstar class was started by Bill Cuthbert in 1961. An eight foot punt was added to our fleet in 1962 which the grandchildren named the "Nanny Boat."

The last trip of the "Island Belle" was made in August of 1922, the "Riverside" ran until about 1930.



Professor William Sudds with his Caprice at Chippewa Bay.

Egg Economics

By ABIGAIL SMITH COLE

The picture of the interior of a country store of long ago (in July 71 Quarterly) reminds me of one of my first lessons in finance.

The summer after I had gone as far as I could in the little village school, Mamma injured her ankle so seriously that she suffered agonies for weeks. That fall she couldn't spare me from our little farm home to go away to Teacher's Training Class. One of her ways of compensating for that disappointment gave me a lesson that I know now was more important in my future life.

"If you will take care of my hens," she said, "I will let you have the egg money when the hens start laying." Mamma's little flock of white hens was her particular joy.

From the time that I could sit on the seat between Mama and Papa when they went to the village to do their trading, I remember Mamma's egg basket. It was about two feet long and eighteen inches wide, and five inches deep. My earliest memories of it are when, sitting there between them I could just look over the top and see the eggs, each set carefully on its pointed end, in even rows. When we got to the village, Papa would hitch the horse at a post in front of Sweet's store. Then he would lift me out and take the basket of eggs from Mamma. When she had climbed out, she would take the egg basket and we would go up the three steps into the store. How well I remember the wide counter and the shelves back of it where pretty dress materials and trimmings were displayed! As soon as I was tall enough for my eyes to be above that counter, I began to be interested in what Mamma and Mrs. Sweet were talking about.

The egg basket, between trading days, hung in the cool cellarway. Mamma had a way of putting the eggs in that basket so that she was always using the oldest eggs. In the fall, when the hens stopped laying, the eggs in that basket began to disappear without taking any to Mrs. Sweet. Anyone who has eaten pumpkin pie made without an egg, can understand how eager a farmer's wife was for her hens to start laying in the spring.

In mid-afternoon, every single day, all through that winter, I had to stop whatever I was doing and put some ears of corn in the oven. The oven doors were open, and a wood fire was kept burning all day in that kitchen stove. I had to wait until the corn was good and warm, but not hot enough to burn my fingers when I shelled it.

"My biddies," Mamma said, "have to have some warm corn in their crops to help them get to sleep, and keep them warm all night."

No matter if it was snowing, and blowing, and way below zero, I had to put on my overshoes, coat, hood, and

mitten, and take that warm corn over a narrow path through the snow to the barn.

How well I remember the joy of warmer weather. The snow was melting. Our neighbor had his trees tapped and was making maple sugar. Why didn't those silly hens start laying!

At last! One day I found an egg! Just one egg. "Look Mamma!"

"Do you want me to make a pumpkin pie, or a cake?"

"This is my egg! You promised that I could have the egg money." I put that one egg in the great big egg basket.

The next day I found another egg. The next day there was none. Then there were two. Finally there was a whole dozen eggs in that big basket.

"Mamma, I want to take my dozen eggs to Mrs. Sweet and start my account."

"You may, tomorrow. Papa will be going for his paper and the mail."

"I want to go today. Please, Mamma."

Mamma let me put my eggs in a small pail, and through slush and water, I trudged the whole mile to the village, carefully carrying my precious pail of eggs.

Mrs. Sweet was delighted. "Everybody's hens are slow in laying this spring. I'll give you a quarter for the dozen." She handed me a coin.

"Mrs. Sweet, please, I don't want the money. I want you to start an account for me -- just like Mama had. She promised to let me have the egg money, if I took care of her hens."

Mrs. Sweet took her ledger from under the counter and I watched her write my name at the top of a page; then in the credit column she put ".25". I went home feeling as rich as Rockefeller!

"Mamma," I asked as soon as I got home. "How many eggs do the hens lay when they really get to laying?" I put some figures down and did some arithmetic. I was in business. In my mind I had lots of money to spend.

The next dozen eggs that I took to Mrs. Sweet, she told me, "Hens are laying now. I can only credit you with .20 for this dozen."

Next time I had two dozen, but the price for eggs had gone down to fifteen cents a dozen. With a lump in my throat I saw MRS. Sweet write \$.30 under my \$.20 and \$.25. The lump was in my throat all the way home.

"Mamma, how little does Mrs. Sweet ever pay for eggs?"

"In the summer they are usually ten cents a dozen, but I have sold some for eight cents."

I went out to the barn. When I came in I had three eggs. I gave them to Mama. "Please make a cake with deep maple sugar frosting."

I have never forgotten this lesson. The more eggs the hens laid, the less they were worth per egg. But the more eggs the hens gave us, the better was our eating!

October



Needed.... VOLUNTEERS

For Committees:
 Museum and
 Displays
 Membership (mailing list)
 Finance
 Publicity
 Programs (including tours)

Special Gifts (including funding and sales)
 Time: Indexing; Thursdays at History Center
 Gifts: Building Fund
 Memberships to relatives, friends
 Mailing of Hough's Index to members
 Typing of member lists, etc.

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

GRASSROOTS FOURTH ESTATE

THE PRESS IN ST. LAWRENCE COUNTY

By STEVE RAGAN

The history of the press in St. Lawrence County has been much the same as that of the newspaper business all over the United States. It has been subject to mergers, selling and reorganization, disaster and discontinuation. In many instances the name may have changed while the paper itself didn't.

The newspaper business started in St. Lawrence County when the first issues of the "Palladium" rolled off the presses in Ogdensburg in December of 1810. It was a two-page weekly started by J.C. Kipp and T.C. Strong. The capital for the venture was provided by David Parish and the office building was provided by Parish and D.W. Church. The first issue was 11 by 17 1/2 inches and was concerned mainly with advertising and local notes. Strong didn't last long and Kipp took over the operation until 1812 when he sold out to John P. Sheldon. Sheldon enlarged it to a folio and, due to paper supply problems, had to print some of the issues on foolscap or writing paper. It was published weekly and delivered by foot-post. This paper was Federalist in politics and was discontinued in 1814.

The "St. Lawrence Gazette" was begun in Ogdensburg by David R. Strachan and Platt B. Fairchild in December of 1815. The small folio, 20 by 25 inches, boasted five columns

to a page and a subscription cost of two dollars a year. As with the "Palladium" one partner, Fairchild, left and the other became sole operator until April 12, 1826 and when he allowed the paper to be purchased by Dan Spafford and James C. Barter. It continued to be operated under the same name until it was sold to Preston King on January 1, 1830 at which time it was discontinued.

W.B. Rogers began the "Northern Light" on July 7, 1831. This anti-Masonic paper was later turned over to A. Tyler and A.B. James. Its name was changed to "The Times" on April 10, 1834 and then after being enlarged the name was again changed, this time to the "Ogdensburgh Times." Another name change took place in July of 1837 when it became the "Times and Advertiser" and in 1844 it was bought by Foote and Seeley who renamed it the "Frontier Sentinel." This six-column folio began publication on April 12, 1844. Renamed the "Ogdensburgh Sentinel" on June 8, 1847, the paper was enlarged to eight columns and on November 27, 1847 the paper was acquired by Stillman Foote and operated by him until October 1, 1858 when it was discontinued. The "Ogdensburgh Sentinel" also published the "St. Lawrence Budget," a "small advertising sheet," semi-monthly from 1850-1851. On April 14, 1848 Stillman Foote tried still another journalistic venture. This was the short



Ogdensburg Journal offices on Isabella St., Ogdensburg. Commercial printing office at right is now a parking area for employees.

PRESS

Northern New-Yorker.
A WEEKLY NEWSPAPER.
VOL. I.
Divided to Education, Justice and Domestic News.
GOUVERNEUR, JUNE 28, 1898.

Get our Rates for Advertising.
Circulation, - - 2,700.

NORWOOD NEWS
SMITH & MARTIN, Publishers.
THE BLESSING OF GOD
ON THE PROGRESS OF
THE GREAT REPUBLIC
ON THE 4TH OF JULY
1876

Job Printing
AT LOW RATES.
Latest Styles Type.

Hermon Advertiser
HERMON, N. Y., Saturday, July 6 1878.
USUAL DEVOTED EXCLUSIVELY TO THE INTERESTS OF ITS PATRONS.

THE ADVANCE
OGDENSBURGH, N. Y.
August 12 1891.
FOR THE FIRST TIME STANFORD PORT.
When breaking the bar for the first time
With Patience and perseverance
The "Advance" has been established in its
place.

The Daily Journal.
NO. 1321.
FRIDAY EVENING, AUGUST 19, 1899.
OGDENSBURGH, N. Y.
TWO CENTS.
POTSDAM

XII. NORWOOD, ST. LAWRENCE COUNTY, N. Y., TUESDAY, OCTOBER 8, 1889.

St. Lawrence Republican.
AND OGDENSBURG WEEKLY JOURNAL.
OGDENSBURG, N. Y., WEDNESDAY, JUNE 22, 1898.
Everybody's Assistant.
NUMBER 70

NORTHERN TRIBUNE.
SINGLE COPIES, FOUR CENTS.
GOUVERNEUR, N. Y. WEDNESDAY, JUNE 7, 1922.

BEAMAN'S MONTHLY.
No. 27.
25 Cents Per Year.
RICHVILLE, N. Y. MAY 1881.

Hammond Advertiser.
VOL. XXI.
HAMMOND, N. Y., THURSDAY, SEPT. 27, 1906.

Ogdensburg Advance.
AND ST. LAWRENCE WEEKLY DEMOCRAT.
OGDENSBURG, N. Y., THURSDAY, DECEMBER 20, 1900.

Everybody's Assistant
For the Glory of God and the Salvation of Man.
VOL. XI.
MORRISTOWN, N. Y., JANUARY 28, 1910.

The Weekly Gleaner.
MORRISTOWN, N. Y., FRIDAY, JULY 7, 1893.

THE FINE STAR.
VOL. 2.
FINE, N. Y. FEBRUARY 20, 1900.
Published Monthly.
50 Cents a Year.

Gouverneur
FORTY-FOURTH YEAR
GOUVERNEUR, ST. LAWRENCE CO., N. Y., WEDNESDAY, JULY 15, 1925.

Free Press
VOL. I

THE OGDENSBURG NEWS.
PUBLISHED SEMI-WEEKLY.
OGDENSBURG, N. Y., AUGUST 29, 1885.
NO. 362

MADRID HERALD
THE MAN WHO ADVERTISES
IS THE MAN WHO SELLS
No 53
MADRID, N. Y., MAY 31, 1917

The Ogdensburg Journal.
OGDENSBURG, N. Y., SATURDAY, DECEMBER 2, 1911.

St. Lawrence Republican.
AND OGDENSBURG WEEKLY JOURNAL.
OGDENSBURG, N. Y., TUESDAY, DECEMBER 21, 1867.

BEAMAN'S MONTHLY.
VOL. I, No. 4
RICHVILLE, N. Y., AUGUST 1881
25 CENTS PER YEAR

THE B. D. S.
PUBLISHED SEMI-OCCASIONALLY BY THE BEAMAN DRUG STORE.

St. Lawrence Plaindealer
OGDENSBURG, TUESDAY, OCTOBER 20, 1840

COMMERCIAL ADVERTISER.
ESTABLISHED, 1878.
"PRINCIPLES--NOT MEN."
SINGLE COPIES, FIVE CENTS.
CANTON, N. Y., WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 30, 1891.

lived "Daily Sentinel," the first daily paper in St. Lawrence County. This three-column paper died on September 14, 1848.

The "Meteorological Register" was a scientific paper started on January 1, 1839 by J.H. Coffin and died shortly thereafter due to lack of interest on the part of the populace. It ran only four issues.

Supporting a Whig platform, the "Ogdensburgh Forum" came into being on April 24, 1848. It started as a small tri-weekly in quarto form but was quickly cut to folio size and then discontinued in February of 1851. The paper's office had done job work, the first in St. Lawrence County, which it continued until 1852. It was then sold and taken to Gouverneur.

The "Daily Morning News" and the "Weekly News" were the property of William U. Oswell. Both enterprises were started in 1852, the first in March and the second in September. They were neutral in politics and ably done.

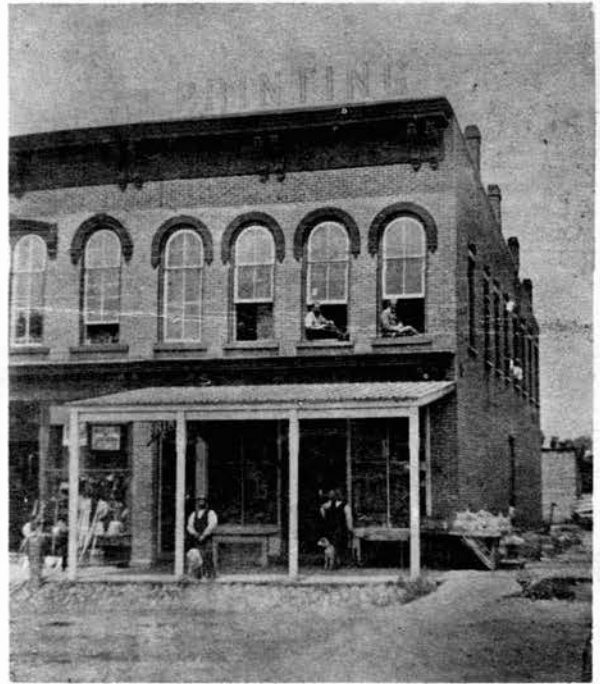
The "Ogdensburgh Daily Times" was launched by William Yeaton and Warren Dow on October 18, 1852 and printed at the St. Lawrence Republican office. Its publication was brought to an abrupt halt when fire destroyed its office shortly after it began.

DEMOCRATIC REPUBLICAN

The "St. Lawrence Republican" has quite a history behind it. Started in Potsdam by William H. Lyman in 1826, it later became affiliated with Jonathan Wallace and so became the first Democratic newspaper in the county. Moved to Canton in 1827, it became the "Canton Advertiser and St. Lawrence Republican." Purchased by Preston King, the paper once again packed its bags and moved to Ogdensburgh on January 1, 1830. The old name of "St. Lawrence Republican" was reinstated and it operated under the auspices of Mr. King until January of 1833 when Samuel Hoard bought it. He added a couple of new presses and in 1834 the business was sold to Matthew M. and John M. Tillotson. April of 1839 saw the paper destroyed by fire, but the spirit had not died. Early that summer it bounced back better than ever. It had a new press and was enlarged to seven columns. The period from 1841 to 1860 is studded with switches in ownership and partnership, with Henry R. James becoming the sole owner in 1860. Mr. James, in cooperation with James W. Hopkins, and Charles R. Foster, also participated in the establishment of "The Boys Journal" and the "Weekly Journal" in 1856. These two papers were later merged with the "St. Lawrence Republican" to form the "Ogdensburgh Journal," daily, and the "St. Lawrence Republican and Journal," weekly. The "Ogdensburgh Journal" was the first successful daily paper in St. Lawrence County. It ran fourteen years. On January 1, 1874 S.P. Remington and S.H. Palmer became partners in the paper and subsequently took full control of its operation. Originally a Democratic newspaper, the "Republican" switched to the Republican Party when the party was organized in 1855.

"The Ogdensburgh Advance" was founded by James W. Hopkins in March of 1861. In December of 1862 O'Brien of the "St. Lawrence Democrat" in Canton was joined by Amos S. Partridge and the "Advance" and "Democrat" were merged to form "The Ogdensburgh Advance and St. Lawrence Weekly Democrat." It was a Democratic newspaper in a sea of Republican news. Mr. O'Brien was succeeded by E.M. Holbrook on May 31, 1863 and on October 24, 1864 the paper was purchased by Ranson Sheels. Charles J. Hynes bought the paper April of 1867 and then sold it to D.T. Elmer and G.F. Darrow ten years later.

"The Monitor," started by Gardiner B. Chapin in 1869, lasted two years and died. Likewise "The Critic," a politically independent semi-weekly, remained afloat only two years during which time its office burned twice. It closed down because of financial difficulties. "The Signal" was an independent weekly begun by Reverend N. Klock. It was discontinued after four years. "The News," started in 1883 by Z.B. and H.C. Buckman, was delivered twice a week. In 1890 it split to become "The News" and "The Star." Captain Henry Holland bought them July 1, 1890. On February 2, 1890 he came out with a daily and the "Saturday News" published once a week. September 7, 1893 saw the whole set-up sold to the "Ogdensburgh News Company" of



Site of present St. Lawrence Plaindealer and its predecessors in Canton.

which Holland was the manager. "The Courier" was a Roman Catholic weekly begun on April 13, 1889 with Father Conroy as manager. On September 1, 1892 it was sold to a stock company which leased it to John McCormic on December 1, 1893.

OTHER PLACES

Canton's press history began in July of 1832. The "Northern Telegraph" was started by C.C. Bill and it was Whig by political inclination. Purchased by Orlando Squires, it became the "Canton Democrat" and then faded away as did the "Luminary of the North," begun in July 1834. Another Whig paper was the "St. Lawrence Democrat," published by Edgar A. Barber from September, 1840 through April, 1842. Charles Boynton started the "Northern Cabinet and Literary Repository" January 2, 1843. As its ponderous title suggests, the paper was concerned with literary topics and was neutral in politics.

Canton was the birthplace of the "Northern Freeman." Begun in 1858 by Doty and Greenleaf, it was moved to Potsdam when Greenleaf was succeeded by O.D. Baker. The "Courier" and "Freeman" joined in 1861 to become the "Courier and Freeman." "The Potsdam Courier" started in 1851 under the leadership of Veron Harrington and merged with the "Journal" in July of 1852. Fay gained sole ownership in 1853. The paper was a 36-column folio with a Republican dialogue.

The "Canton Independent" and the "Canton Weekly Citizen" were both short lived. The "Citizen" lasted only four weeks.

William B. Goodrich and S.P. Remington started the "St. Lawrence Plaindealer" in July, 1856. The Republican campaign sheet was first published on old materials from the defunct "St. Lawrence Democrat." The enterprise being successful, new materials were purchased for the "Plaindealer." Goodrich retired and Remington took over until 1862. Remington then sold the paper to J. Van Slyke because he had to fulfill his military obligation. He bought the place back in 1867 and operated it until August 1, 1873 when Gilbert G. Manley bought him out. Like some Ogdensburgh papers, the "Plaindealer" was not left untouched by fire. It was leveled on August 14, 1869 and on August 4, 1870. Each time the entire facility was destroyed and each time the paper built upon the ashes and acquitted itself well. This influential Republican sheet was 26 by 40 inches and a thirty-two column folio.

(To be continued next issue)

Poetical Portraits

Where the Partridge Drums

When the tamarack dyed
Water rushes
By the Alder bushes
And the bodeful autumn wind
In the fir tree weeps and hushes.

When the air is sharply damp
Round the solitary camp,
And the moose bush in the thicket
And the moose bush in the thicket
Glimmers like a scarlet lamp.
When the coral bunches mellow,
And the birches twinkle yellow,
And the owl across the twilight
Trumpets to his downy fellow.

When the nut-fed chipmunks romp
Through the maples crimson pomp,
And the slim verbernum flashes
In the darkness of the swamp.

When the rowan clusters red,
When the blueberries are dead,
And the shy bear summer sleekened
In the bracken makes his bed,
On a day there comes once more
To the latched and lonely door
Down the blazed trail striding silent
One who has been there before.

Green spruce branches for his head,
Here he makes his simple bed,
Couching with the sun and rising
When the dawn is frosty red.

All day long he wanders wide
Dainty hoof marks for his guide,
And his lonely rifle startles
The expectant forest side.

Toward the quiet close of day
Back to camp he takes his way,
And about his noiseless footsteps
Unafraid the squirrels play.

On his roof the red leaf falls,
At his door the blue jay calls,
And he hears the wood mice hurry
Up and down his rough log walls.



LETTER FROM THE EDITOR

Sometimes an editor has to use a column to catch up on some miscellaneous bits of information. This is one of those times.

How does one choose among the choice tidbits of items the U.S. Postal Service brings to our desk? Wonderful gems you'd all like always arrive just as the finishing touches are being put on an issue. We do plan ahead.

Former editors may have consciously tried to balance the fare per issue -- not all nature, not all communities on one side of our vast county, not all done by historians or literary moguls or whatever. We've tried to do a little of many things -- have devoted special issues to Transportation, to the Ladies, to the Adirondacks, to our authors for example. We've tried to keep a balance of kinds of articles, of various lengths of articles, of writers -- professional and not so. This requires some juggling, some delay for some articles, especially when at the last minute a pearly gem comes in.

First, if a decision as to usability of an article is a toss-up, we give the benefit of the doubt to a member. Members of any age or ability have the edge.

Second, we try to check to see if subject has been written up recently. Also to see if the article might have appeared elsewhere, such as newspapers all over the area. It is not always possible to be sure.

Then, and last, we decide if it has general appeal to members, friends, and relatives of members. Of least importance are the spelling or the grammar of a story. Facts we hope are correct, spelling can be corrected.

So with these ideas in mind, we hope members won't hesitate to submit articles, poems, sketches, pictures or just ideas for these things for us to unearth.

If you find it takes a long time to see yours in print (we do have a few good ones yet on hand to work in when and as we can), it may be that its content is a little general, or the length doesn't fit the inches available this time or some other reason. Just keep on trying and be patient! We'll get to it yet.



MHB

Hears the laughter of the loon
Thrill the dying afternoon.
Hears the barking of the foxes
Echo to the early moon.

And he hears the partridge drumming,
The belated hornet humming,
And the faint prophetic sounds
That foretell the winter's coming.

And the wind about the eaves
Through the chilly night wet leaves,
And the earth's dumb patience fills him
Fellow to the dying leaves.

(If anyone knows author, please let us know -- MHB).

PIERREPONT SCHOOLS

By Millard Hundley, Historian

Gone are the little red school houses which once dotted the countryside, the place where children of the rural districts learned the four R's of education. It is recorded in Everts history of St. Lawrence County that Nathan Crary, Jr., then a resident of Potsdam, taught the first school in the town of Pierrepont in 1815-16 in a log house that stood near the present residence of Kenneth Camp. At one time there was a school house on Beech Plains, somewhere near the present church.

At one time, about 1865, there were two separate schools in East Pierrepont, now Hannawa Falls, but when the power dam was put into the Raquette River there, the school on the west bank of the river was merged with the one on the east bank and a two-room building was built. Beginning with the 20th century, the town was divided into sixteen school districts as follows:

- District #1, Sand Hill or Jenner
- District #2, Pierrepont Center
- District #3, Brick School, or Andrews, or Crarytown
- District #4, Hannawa Falls
- District #5, West Pierrepont
- District #6, Howard School
- District #7, Butternut Ridge
- District #8, Aldrich
- District #9, Starr
- District #10, Claflin
- District #11, Selleck
- District #12, Irish Settlement or McCabe
- District #13, Crary school
- District #14, Northrup
- District #15, Cooks Corners
- District #16, Stone school

During the years that these schools were in operation, many of our town's children received their education. However, at times because of lack of children in a certain district, that district contracted with a neighboring district for its children to come to school there. For example, #7 took its children or child to District #3.

Years passed and the attendance in the rural districts

fell off. At the 1917 meeting of the New York State Grange at Oneonta, a resolution was sent to the state legislature suggesting the township school system. This State Grange meeting was in February of that year. The State Legislature passed the township resolution and it went into operation for the school year of 1917-18. Officers of the Pierrepont township school system were:

Frank Crary, president
 Millard Hundley, Clerk
 Theodore Hundley, treasurer
 Board members: W.A. Jenner, Oliver Crary,
 Melvin Davis, W.J. Hefferon, George Selleck.

The teacher's salary did not exceed \$50.00 per month. Following is a list of teachers for each District that year: #1, Mary Stewart; 2, Iva Cook; 3, Katherine Hourihan; 4, Maud Holden, Audrey Fullerton (resigned), Maud Chittenden; 5, Bernice Ellsworth; 6, Bessie Clark; 7, contract with #3, 8, Ruth Cota; 9, Rose Endersbee; 10, Ella Quinn; 11, Mildred A. Hepburn; 12, Marie Hassett; 13, Elsie Cole; 14, Ernestine Smith; 15, Monica Vebber; 16, Pearl Hendricks.

The township school system did not prove to be satisfactory so at the end of the school year 1917-18, schools went back to the original system. During the years following, the idea of centralization began to take shape. By June 1958 the axe of centralization closed the last of Pierrepont's district schools, save the one at Hannawa Falls as that one is maintained by the Potsdam division of the town. Canton and Russell came in for a share of Pierrepont's district schools' children.

Let us see what has become of the other 15 school houses. The buildings of Districts 6, 10, 12 and 14 have vanished entirely from the countryside. Those in Districts 1, 5, 7, 9, 13 and 16 have been converted into dwellings and #3 is in the process of being made into a home. While No. 2, 8, 11 and 15 stand yet waiting patiently with the shattered hope that some day eager youngsters may come back to learn their four R's and romp in the school yard. Goodbye to Pierrepont's beloved district schools!



The Gorge at Parishville

Ontario is a remnant of this great body of inland water.

One of Grandpa Johnson's farm projects was beekeeping. One fall morning he was shocked to find his hives broken into and much honey stolen. It was a mess, and it could only have been done by a bear. Guessing that the bear would come back for another feast of honey, Grandpa lost no time in locating and borrowing a bear trap and set it by the hive. The bear was found caught one morning soon after and destroyed. The news spread quickly, bears were rare in our neighborhood, and people began driving to the farm to view the dead animal. With New England thrift, Grandpa butchered the bear and sold cuts of the meat to the flock of visitors.

TOUR RESUMED

The road now begins to tilt downward like a slightly slanted table top and shortly one comes to the William Stewart place. He married Polly, one of the three Barnes girls from the Lower Road who all married neighborhood men. The Stewart house, gone for years, was of Cape Cod type and sat sideways to the highway. Nearly square, it had windows of various sizes in the gables. It is reputed to have been the first frame house on our road. William Stewart's grandson Foster Reed came back from Watertown and built the new house and barn and farmed there until his death in 1948.

William Stewart was a gifted singer. My uncle said when he was a boy, it was a pleasure to listen to him when he called the cows and to hear the music of William's voice echo among the hills.

Picnics were then a popular diversion on the last day of school, or annually for the Sunday schools. Then the neighborhood women vied with each other as culinary artists and they created marvels of cakes and pies, besides the omnipresent baked beans, later joined by escalloped potatoes and they two became standard before-dessert standbys. This super repast was washed down by lemonade or cold tea. After, it was customary to have a program of

speaking pieces and singing. William Stewart was in great demand for singing at these picnics. His talent descended through the generations to his granddaughter and great grandson Leland LaFaver of the Lower Road. All these were members of the choir of Russell Methodist Church.

Just beyond the Stewart place on the left is the Wescott house, now an empty ruin, a row of huge pines in the yard in front, that was once enclosed along the roadway by an ornamental wood fence. Horace Wescott began farming here in 1869. He had married Miss Macy Mouthrup of DeKalb. The Wescotts were descendants of the Tanners, a family of the industrious settlers from Coopers-town who came to make homes and stay on Judge William Cooper's lands in DeKalb in 1809.

The Wescotts had known sorrow when their only son Erwin died at 22, but they had their daughter Etta and were never heard to complain. I remember as a boy, it was good to hear Mrs. Wescott's hearty laugh. Horace Wescott labored busily on his farm until one June day when he was in his seventieth year, he was found dead in one of his own fields.

The Hamiltons, Hatches, Hills and Higgenses lie close together in Russell Cemetery, inside the curve of the horse-shoe road, neighbors forever as they were in life.

After a mile or so our road drops steeply into Elm Creek valley, crosses the Creek and joins the Hermon-Edwards highway. There is another farmstead beyond us, the McBrier place, but their story rates a page of its own.

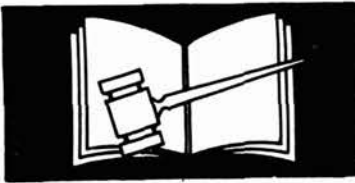
Author's note: In preparing this article, I am much indebted to the late Earl Hamilton, who died at 82 in Watertown, N.Y. on May 30, 1971. He furnished me with the Higgins and Hamilton genealogic records, researched by his sister, the late May Hamilton Bickers.

References to Russell History were from the Everts and Holcomb (1878) and Curtis (1893) histories of the county, with the 1873-74 County Directory and earlier issues of the Quarterlies -- all available for further research in the History Center in Canton.



Massena Center Suspension Bridge. Picture taken in January 1911. Designed and built by Holton D. Robinson in 1910, his first bridge. Span 400 feet across the Grass

River, cost \$10,000. Preliminary survey and soundings of the river made by Joseph H. Clark, Max B. Webb and Harland R. Horton.



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Annual Meeting: Saturday, October 16, Noon luncheon, headed by turkey, at the Grange Hall on Main Street, \$1.65. Following this, the business meeting and program at the Union Church next door. Exhibit in the church's Morrison Memorial Room.

The program will feature Dr. William Fink, Chairman Social Education department, Oneonta State College. His subject: Stephen Van Rensselaer and the Van Rensselaer family.

Special notice to Trustees and Officers: a meeting prior to the luncheon at 11:00. Make it if you can.

A business of the general meeting will be election of officers for 1971-72. Lawrence Bovard is our chairman of the nominating committee. There will be other matters of business, including proposal of innovations to strengthen our Association.

As I have already informed officers and trustees. I will propose two amendments to our Constitution. One is a provision for regular monthly meetings of trustees and officers, except maybe the summer months when so much can be handled by small committees.

The other proposal would create an Advisory Council of five to seven members. These would be invited to meetings, but would not be voting members. Drawn from different parts of the county, they would serve as links between the organization and institutions (or individuals) that can benefit the Association through bequests and grants as well as specialized advice. They would merely supplement our Trustees and Committee members, not replace.

Very frankly, with the prospect of quarters for a real museum in the renovated Canton Grammar School, we must broaden and lengthen our activities, including fuller use for the public of such a History Center. We will need, in short, to operate on a clearly-defined budget and work toward funds for that budget. A prime necessity (as with all societies like ours) is to cultivate and use friends who are bankers or lawyers or have political influence. We can use on this council too those always-special persons who work on chores unflinching when they're asked -- or even when they're not asked.

This will be discussed at the annual meeting. Remember that, if it passes, such a council will work with the trustees and officers and while they will not vote on trustee matters, individually will retain all rights as active members.

SUMMER TOURS

For those who outlasted the morning rain of July 17, the tour to the Wellesley Island Nature Center was a distinct success. The afternoon sun was gorgeous, and our sense of "togetherness" with the Jefferson County Association was a splendid thing. Some of us went to the Decoy Show at Clayton and this is a fast-growing annual event. Already it reaches out to national and international scope.

The June 19 dedication of the Earl J. Mattis plaque at the Chamberlain Corners bridge, and the naming of the bridge for Mr. Mattis, drew close to two hundred guests. Among the guests were many present and former supervisors of the county, highway superintendents and workers, Association members, and friends of Earl and Ferne Mattis. Mrs. Mattis spoke briefly.



These days the shadow that hangs over out-of-the-way memorial plaques is the threat of vandalism. Your president, Cceil Graham, and County Highway Superintendent Bill Falla spent a great deal of time finding the right boulder and getting the plaque mounted. Beyond that, "boxing-in" by concrete seems to be necessary. We hope the day won't arrive when most memorials have to be preserved in a history center under security conditions. But it may.

Speaking of plaques, our town of Waddington historian, Dorothy Hill, feels that a 19th-century North Country builder, Isaac Johnson, has been neglected. Mr. Johnson supervised work on the Chamberlain Corners bridge 1880-84, as well as the Town Hall and two arched bridges in Waddington. He was a master stonemason, and the Chamberlain Corners arched bridge, as it has been carefully reconditioned, is possibly the loveliest in our county.

Isaac Johnson happened to be a negro. He was probably the son of Johnsons who, prior to the Civil War, had escaped to Canada as fugitive slaves.

Though never numerous in our far-north county, blacks did contribute to its growth. Here, indeed, Mrs. Hill, is a chance to memorialize this in honoring Isaac Johnson. Waddington and Madrid, where he worked, should be interested in this project. I would pledge my own efforts toward something like a memorial plaque. How about it, Mrs. Hill, shall we start building interest and a fund?

Another of our loyal members, Mrs. Austin Allen, feels we need something like a plaque honoring the memory of Irving Bacheller, our best-remembered North Country writer. The Bacheller homestead has been demolished. It is hard now to tell even the house-site where Bacheller spent his boyhood days. This is another unpatrolled and vulnerable location for a plaque. But Mrs. Allen's suggestion has great merit. Should we look toward funding a plaque? Where should it be mounted, at the homestead or in our History Center?

All sorts of questions, you see, come up all the time.

And, incidentally, it is thoughts like these which underline one great necessity for the future of our Association: regular monthly meetings of the board of trustees and officers, particularly during the non-tour months.

Edward J. Blankman

When the Steamer MASSENA Burned

By JACK BROWN
MALLORYTOWN

While Ogdensburg slept, an early morning thunderstorm swept through the city on August 19, 1903.

The Str. Massena lay at her berth in the harbour. One of the crew was awakened by the smell of smoke, and he discovered the ship was almost enveloped in flames. He roused the captain, purser, engineer, steward and two deckhands. They barely had time to get ashore in their night clothes. Finding escape by the gangways cut off, the cook broke the glass in a window and crawled through, severely cutting his hand. Captain Dana was the last man to leave the boat. He slept in the office at the rear of the pilot house, and when he awakened, huge sheets of flame were leaping up from all quarters of the deck. The floor of his room was uncomfortably warm. He snatched his trousers and jumped to the door, but he found that it was locked. He groped for the key which had fallen to the floor, and found it in time to escape safely through the flames to the dock. His personal effects, \$50 in bills, about \$10 in silver, and the steamer's books had to be abandoned.

An alarm was given, but when the firemen arrived the steamer's lines had burned and the boat drifted out into the channel beyond their reach. The dock and sheds caught fire but the blaze was quickly put out. The vessel floated onto the edge of the bar nearly abreast of her dock and burned to the water's edge. Hundreds of people who had been aroused by the alarm and attracted to the scene by the flames watched the spectacular sight. The wreck settled on the edge of the bar and remained fast in the sand.

The crew were taken to nearby hotels and provided with clothing. Captain Dana stood for half an hour, barefoot and scantily clad, watching as his boat burned.

The steamer was valued at \$12,000 upon which there was \$6800 insurance. Thirty tons of soft coal had been placed in the boat's bunkers the evening before, and 124 barrels of lime and a quantity of supplies for campers up the St. Lawrence were loaded on deck ready for the early morning start. These of course were lost. After the wreck had settled in the sand and water commenced to leak through the burned hull, the lime began to slake. In a short time the remainder of the hull was consumed. No one was sure what caused the fire. Some thought the ship was struck by lightning.

The Massena was built at Buffalo in 1878 for Captain James Fox of Massena, who operated her for several years as an excursion steamer. About 1890 Captain Dana purchased the Massena to replace the Guide, which had become too small to handle the increasing business of his route.

She was 59 tons register, 92 feet long, 18 feet wide, and 5.5 feet deep. In 1896 she was cut in two at Alexandria Bay and 17 feet was added to her length. At the same time, an electric light plant with searchlight was installed.

In commenting on the fire, the Brockville Recorder wrote "Today Brockville sympathizes with Captain Dana in his loss, for no more popular boat or captain ever travelled the waters of this majestic river. Yesterday the boat called in here as usual, and again about five o'clock on the return trip home from Alexandria Bay, having her usual quota of passengers on board. The Steamer Massena is perhaps the best known boat on the river, more particularly between Alexandria Bay and Ogdensburg, and usually was kept running between eight and nine months of every year, the first boat to land here in the spring, being more welcome than the robin, and the last boat to ply the waters in the fall. The loss of the steamer, particularly at this time of the year, when business is at its height, is most regrettable and it must have been a sad sight indeed to watch Captain Dana seeing his steamer going to ruin. But the Recorder is happy to know that neither the captain nor any of the crew were in any way injured."

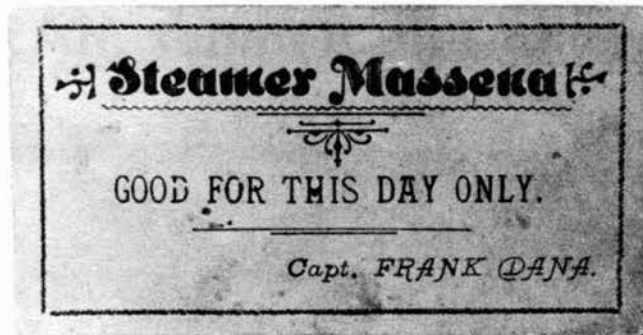
Captain Francis Dana was born in the town of Hammond in 1840. His father settled there twenty years earlier and established the first brick plant in the area at Dana's Point, Chippewa Bay. In 1862 Frank enlisted in Company C, 106th N.Y. Volunteers and took part in seventeen battles. He was wounded at Monocacy. After the war, he came back to Chippewa Bay and married Mary Buss. He traded along the river with sloops. One of his first boats was the Dolphin. As business grew, he bought a steam yacht and used it for towing scows. Then he bought his first river steamer, the Guide, which he ran until he replaced her with the Massena.

The Massena was well known on both sides of the river. She called at Ogdensburg, Morristown, Brockville, Oak Point, Forrester's Dock, Allen's Dock and Alexandria Bay. She was one of the few boats that braved the shoals and shallows of Chippewa Bay. She varied her daily trips between Ogdensburg and Alexandria Bay with Around-the-Horn excursions through the islands twice a week. At Ogdensburg Fair time, Captain Dana would insert an advertisement in the Brockville paper to the effect that "Str. Massena for Ogdensburg Fair, Wednesday and Thursday. Leaving Brockville at 9:30 a.m. Returning will leave Ogdensburg at 5 p.m. Tickets 25 cents. Good to return either day." But she did a large business also in the freight line, and on one occasion the Evening Recorder reported that "The Str. Massena left off here this morning 334 boxes of cheese."



Each spring an Ogdensburg lumber dealer named Duane had the Massena drop logging chains along the way so oak logs could be rafted down the river. Elton Eligh of Jones Creek recalls the days when Canadian lumbermen met the steamer at Forrester's Dock to pick up the bindings.

Before the fire had gone out in the wreck of his favorite craft, Captain Dana secured the Str. Mary to make a trip later in the day so there would be no delays or disappointments to the public. Within a month he bought the Str. Riverside of Buffalo. But Captain Dana's heart was with the Massena and when she burned, a bit of him died with her. He never recovered. He let his son Captain John Dana look after the business and run the Riverside. He spent much of his time around Chippewa Bay with friends and relatives, and was frequently seen operating his put-put there. Within a year he was ill and six months later he died. It was only fitting that after the funeral at his Alex-



andria Bay residence, he was borne by the Riverside to Allen's Dock and thence to Hammond's Pleasant Valley Cemetery nearby. The loss of Captain Dana and his steamer saddened the river communities on both shores.

RENSSELAER FALLS HIGH SCHOOL

By ELIZABETH BAXTER, A GRADUATE

Rensselaer Falls High School spanned 63 years, being opened in 1882 and closed in 1945. The old high school still lives, however, in the 1970-71 New York Telephone directory, which lists "Rensselaer Falls High School," 344-7950.

The first commencement exercises were held June 17, 1886, in the chapel of the school, completed in 1882. Addresses were given by the four graduates, Herbert E. Thornhill, whose subject was "American Inventions and Their Inventors"; Elvira Johnson, "The Golden Key"; William Akins, "Courage," and Eliza Breaky, "Leisure Hours." Speakers included A.H. Wiggins, the first principal of the school, Rev. C.A. Redgrave and Rev. H. Kanoff. N.E. Doty and G.H. Spooner sang solos and Mary and Laura Howe, a duet.

The first Rensselaer Falls High School alumni banquet was held June 7, 1895, in the Methodist Episcopal Church and was followed by a dance at Hinsdale's Hall. The menu included olives, pickles, cold boiled ham, cold boiled tongue, currant jelly, lemon jelly, Worcestershire sauce, Saratoga chips, potato salad, cabbage salad, Vienna rolls, lemon ice, vanilla ice cream, butternut cake, chocolate cake, angel's food cake, sponge cake, strawberries with cream, bananas, oranges, raisins, cheese, coffee, and tea.

The first officers of the 33-member alumni organization were: Miss Winona Carver, president; Miss Alice Kitts, secretary, and Wesley Tisdale, treasurer.

MORE FIRES

The building, constructed in 1882, burned to the ground Feb. 2, 1903, in a fire that started about 9:30 a.m. from an overheated furnace. Many students jumped from second story windows, and four girls were injured. Rooms over M.H. Craig's store were used for advanced and intermediate departments and a house owned by Fred Barter, for the primary department.

Williams and Johnston, Ogdensburg architects, made the plans for the new building. Carpenters started work June 1 and the new building was ready for occupancy at the end of August, 1903. The building also was used for elementary pupils and this use was continued until 1969, when the new Rensselaer Falls Elementary School was dedicated. The latter is for pre-kindergarten through grade four. Pupils in upper grades and high school students are bussed to the Canton Central School.

The old schoolhouse was purchased from the Canton Central School District through efforts of the Rensselaer Falls Village Board and the St. Lawrence County Community Development Program and has been a senior citizen and youth center since 1969.

Rensselaer Falls High School in its 63 years graduated 268, an average of 4.25 a year.



Costumes the well-dressed boater wore in early 1900's.



Fourth of July at Chippewa Bay in an unknown early year.

Road Conditions

By ABIGAIL COLE

Oh life is a journey
and varied the roads;
We stumble and grow weary
When heavy the loads.

The road may be icy
And covered with snow,
It may wend its way pleasantly
Where sweet flowers grow.

The ruts may be deep,
Filled with mud and water;
We may find ourselves stuck
If we stumble or falter.

The road may disappear
In a barren land;
Every track wind removed
From the deep drifted sand.

We may seek out the smooth roads
And stick to the highways;
We may leave the crowds,
And travel the by-ways.

Oh life is a journey -- but
Think of it not with dismay!
Take God as your partner,
And enjoy going His way.

Poetical Portraits

Christmas Cards

By ABIGAIL COLE

Christmas is the special time
For renewing friendships dear;
For remembering childhood friends,
And those we met this year

To some go pictures of the Holy Land;
For others Santa Claus seems better --
Or a poinsettia, candle, tree, or bells.
Into some we tuck a letter

On the birthday of the "Prince of Peace"
The star -- angels -- make us look above.
The happiness of all increases
When we share God's gift of love.

With each card goes different thoughts --
Are filled with memories we treasure.
The reciprocating joy each brings,
We have no way to measure.

Be the card large or small;
Be the picture what it may;
It's the love we know goes with it,
That brings cheer on Christmas day.



SCHOOL DAYS, DEAR OLD HIGH SCHOOL DAYS AT DEKALB JUNCTION HIGH SCHOOL 1922. Left to right: Front row-- Leland Bishop, Irene Spencer, Mable Premo, Chapin, Doris Hayes (deceased), Lois Holland, Pearl Bishop, Myldred Mott, Helena McCarthy--Latin teacher, Evelyn Ginn, Mary Powers, Second row -- Kermit Farr, Daisey Bishop (deceased), Alice Conant (deceased), Ruth Webster, Waitie Fairbanks,

Donna Cass, Marian Matteson, Dorothy Powell, Harold Patterson, Percy Sayer. Third row -- Harley Matteson, Eva Risley, Gartha Stevens (deceased), Harold Folsom (deceased). Fourth row -- Michael Sullivan, Luella Taylor, Roy Gotham, Dorothy Matteson, Charles Kentfield, Everett Miles (deceased), Principal Wiley, Harold Patters, Burton Matteson. Picture loaned by Mrs. Lloyd Powell.

NINE DECADES OF MEMORIES of Rensselaer Falls

Mrs. Ellen Gilbert Sharpe was for many years "the court of last resort" on the early history of Rensselaer Falls.

Born Aug. 6, 1853, at Rensselaer Falls, she was the daughter of Joseph and Mary Ann Dickinson Gilbert. Her maternal ancestors were from Yorkshire, England, and her paternal ancestors from Brookfield, Mass. She attended local schools, one at the site of the late W.C. Wainwright's place of business and the other in the Rensselaer Falls Congregational Church.

She was married Dec. 28, 1875, to Corlis Sharpe of Waddington, and was a widow many years.

Mrs. Sharpe, a dressmaker for more than 60 years, spent her entire life at Rensselaer Falls, except one year, 1882, in South Dakota. She died April 7, 1945, at her home with burial in the Rensselaer Falls cemetery.

Herewith is presented her recollections, given in an interview with Elizabeth Baxter in 1943, of nine decades of living in Rensselaer Falls.

I remember when the streets were not laid out and the road to Canton was the main road. When the Gherings and the Clines came there was no road on this side of the river. They came up the other side and crossed the river in canoes. Then they went up what we now call the 'South Road.' In the early days it was called 'the Lost Nation Road.' There was a plank road from Russell to Ogdensburg. The planks were 10 feet long and 12 to 14 inches wide. They were three inches thick.

I remember seeing the stagecoaches stop at the hotel. Two hotels were built about the same time. One was over the canal with the entrance on the railroad side, Chapin was the proprietor. The stagecoaches stopped at the other one. This side of the river was settled first. Across the river, between Floyd McNeil's and Pratt's, two long log buildings were built later. One of these was a hotel. On the farthest end of Herb Dexter's island was a forge where iron ore was smelted.

Henry VanRensselaer put the canal through about the same time he built his gristmill. The purpose of the canal was to drain the flats. Van Rensselaer also built a dam and sawmill, which was operated by the Sunderlands until a flood carried it downriver. The stone mill built by Henry Van Rensselaer burned in 1875 and was rebuilt by W.B. Rose and Son. Irwin Rose died the following year and the mill was sold to the Maloney brothers.

The McKees bought the original schoolhouse and made it over into a house, which was purchased by Dr. Mac-Monagle. The schoolhouse burned Feb. 2, 1902. Some of the pupils jumped from the second story.

FIRES RECALLED

I have seen 11 mills burn in this place. They used to have shingles. I think three mills across the river burned at once. Dexter's mill was below the box factory. There were three mills between the box factory and the gristmill.

There were several other industries in Rensselaer Falls, among them a barrel stave factory, a butter tub factory, and a felloe factory. They smelted iron ore at the forge.

John Fosgate had a mill, which burned. The hotel on the corner burned May 20, 1903. The McKelvey store burned Aug. 24, 1894, along with 14 other buildings. John Brown had the first store, next to the Post Office. The store had seven or eight steps.

The Phoenix Bent Works were built by M.W. Spaulding, and burned Oct. 2, 1902.

The Methodist Church burned in December, 1878. The fire started in the front of the church from the spontaneous combustion of rags stored in a basement cupboard. All the records were destroyed. Chamberlain Phelps was the Methodist minister in 1878. The Methodist parsonage is the same. When the Methodists built the brick church, the

original church was sold to Lafayette Trombly, who added a second story. The first Methodist church is now the Simpson store. It originally stood where Mrs. Beach's house is now. The first Methodist parsonage is now Etta Rice's house. Henry Van Rensselaer gave Rensselaer Falls land for the cemetery.

The Congregational Church was the first in the village.

At the time of the big storm in the winter of '88, men shoveled the roads out before the railroad was opened, and the postmaster, Orrin Van Waters, took his team and sleigh to Ogdensburg and brought back three days' mail. The Post Office was then in the Simpson store.

M.W. Spaulding built the house that is now Riverside Hotel. Charles Chaplin's hotel, which stood over the canal, burned. This hotel had a large hall in which they held shows and had dances. The Masons used it for a meeting place for several years.

Chris McCoy had a furniture store, which took fire one Sunday night. One corner burned. Carl Heptonstall's barn was originally a blacksmith shop owned by a Mr. Lewis. Between the Bockus house and Mrs. Bonney's there were two stores, a bakery and a meat market. One of these was sold to Robert Bellen and is used as a poultry house.

Melvin Creighton's house was built by a Methodist minister named Johnson.

Willie McKee had a small house near the Bailey drug store.

The doctors were Chandler and Murdock. Dr. Murdock was the first. They used to laugh at Murdock and his widows.

Elmer Lytle's house was the site of the first school. The first school, a one-room building, was not large enough, so, in 1862, on Wainwright's corner, another school, with two large rooms, was built. The teachers were Mr. and Mrs. Wardell. Wardell was a one-armed Civil War veteran. If you wanted to study, you did, and if you didn't want to study, you didn't. At first we had six days of school each week but later only five.

The teacher let the pupils see the train in 1862, when it first came from DeKalb Junction. We went out to look at it when we heard the whistle blowing. The track beyond the Falls was not completed. The first train consisted of flat cars bearing equipment and the train crew. The track was a branch of the road from Norwood to Watertown. The present depot was built in 1862, also.

Mrs. Major Williams had a select school in an old log house. Major was a name, not a title. She taught about 20 pupils, the overflow from the regular school. Earlier, a select school was taught in the Sunday school room of the Methodist Church. The teacher was George Craig. The Rev. Mr. Phillips, pastor of the Congregational Church, also taught a select school.



researchers

Cyrus and Nancy (McAllister) Webster were married in Rossie or Macomb, 1844-5. Whereabouts of any records, proof, information needed. Contact County Historian, Canton.

Marriage proof needed of Achsah, daug. of Jonathan Brown, (b. 1814) to Nelson Brown about 1835. Also Achsah (Haynes) Brown Hutchins to Nelson Brown. Contact County Historian, Canton.

St. Lawrence area Search and Research

by Van C. Hoyt or Mary H. Biondi
 56 Main St. Box 43
 Madrid, N.Y. 13660 Canton, N.Y. 13617

Write
 St. Lawrence and Hoyt
 Box 43
 Canton, N.Y. 13617
 with details needed.

Heirloom family gifts received recently from Elizabeth Baxter have bolstered displays at Richville. More than 150 persons attended Open House Day at Richville August first. Georgianna Wranesh, Richville historian, prepared the exhibits and secured volunteer hostesses.

Annual Meeting

October 16, 1971

Don't miss the President's Message about Constitution and By Laws changes to be voted at Annual Meeting. Come prepared to discuss and vote. See you at Rensselaer Falls, Oct. 16.

We have extra copies of many past issues. Why not secure one, send to a friend with a membership application card? Or better yet, give a gift of a year's membership.

Have you checked to see if your library is a subscriber to the Quarterly? You could suggest it, or give one as a gift.

Every member get a member.

Our members write

July 23, 1971

To the Editor:

Somehow my April Quarterly slipped into the magazine rack unread. Today I discovered it and on reading Jack Brown's stories of North Country Panthers, note that he does not include Canton's panther story. Here it is as told me by my father, Frank Nash Cleaveland, lawyer and specialist in St. Lawrence County land titles and much historic lore.

It was a clear winter morning with the mercury far below the zero mark. Mr. Kinsland, living on the hill near the schoolhouse, dreaded to go out in the cold, but the pig must be fed. He picked up a bucket of table scraps and, holding the bucket before him, opened the door just wide enough to put it out ahead of him. Instantly a heavy blow from an unseen assailant knocked the pail from his hand. He slammed and bolted the door. A little later he carefully peeked out. Huge cat tracks in the snow showed that a panther had been his unwelcome visitor.

Mr. Kinsland collected others to join him and they followed the tracks till they overtook the panther on what is now College Hill where it was shot.

Mr. Kinsland's home was about where the present Methodist Church stands, at the corner of Court and Chapel Streets. To some old-timers the name "Catamount Hill" still identifies the spot where the big cat interfered with the pig's breakfast.

Sorry I am too far away to join any of the tours and programs. My husband and I did attend the dedication of Richville building and also the trip to Newton Falls.

Best wishes for the continued success of the organization and The Quarterly.

Sincerely,
 Dorothy Cleaveland Salisbury

It is NO MISTAKE

if you received your membership card with your notice of renewal. For the past four months we have been pricking your conscience (and saving mailing time and postage) by including your card with your renewal reminder. Please send your check promptly -- the card is then yours to use!

Before leaving town -- leave forwarding money with Post Master.

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For an additional \$1.00 per year for postage and special treatment, you may receive your Quarterly by FIRST CLASS MAIL, which is forwardable, if you have different winter and summer addresses. We cannot change addresses on our bulk rate mailing labels every few months.

St. Lawrence Co. Historical Ass'n
 Box 8
 Canton, N.Y. 13617

My subscription to the Quarterly expires Enclosed is \$..... to renew

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