

THE QUARTERLY

OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE ST. LAWRENCE COUNTY HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION



JAN 1972

THE QUARTERLY

Official Publication Of The St. Lawrence County Historical Association

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COVER PHOTO
George T. Manley entered a print shop at age 13 (in 1863), later became foreman at the St. Lawrence Plaindealer (1873-1908). Here he poses in his "over-grown parlor print shop" in Hermon, on his 73rd birthday, Feb. 24, 1923, where "job printing is done while you wait -- if you wait long enough." (From History Center archives.)

archives highlight

Ogdensburg of 1809-1810

(Part I)

By MISS L.M. HASBROUCK

From the days when the lean Jesuits blazed the way in North America for the flag of France, life on the frontier has been hard -- that in Ogdensburg in 1809-10 was no exception. It called for all that was strong, courageous, patient and persevering in men who were determined to make it their home. Many drifted in and soon drifted on again, finding life too strenuous to linger. The hardships and drawbacks were many for the few who stayed, venturing their all in the uncertainties of war, of inaccessible markets (Montreal and Oswego being the nearest), of vicissitudes of every kind. There was great scarcity of good workmen, and those who wished to build were thus greatly delayed in getting the desired materials ready, and transported to the place of building.

While we are all familiar with the events of this time recorded in Hough's History and the "Reminiscences of Ogdensburg," I have fortunately, through the courtesy of Mr. Frank Rosseel, had access to the correspondence of Mr. David Parish and Mr. Joseph Rosseel during those years, while the facts are the same, the real letters with their quaint old-time courtesy and kind shrewdness may perhaps lend an added interest.

The approach of the war of 1812 greatly retarded the growth of the village, and the embargo laid on all trade with Canada was of course, a great drawback, as a large part of our supplies came from there, and made this act an exceedingly onerous one. Troops were sent to enforce it, and they were so disreputable that the villagers resented them even more, and when finally they were relieved of their presence, drummed them out of town.

Mr. Joseph Rosseel writes to Mr. Parish in Baltimore:
New York, Feb. 14, 1808

"I delivered your letters of introduction to Mr. Gouverneur Morris by whom I was introduced to Mr. LeRay de Chaumont, and to a nephew of his, Mr. Lewis Morris, the owner of the land in that County watered by the Oswegatchie river, or about 325 miles from New York, and to which spot we proceed today in the stage for Albany. These respectable gentlemen approve very much of my resorting to that new country with the view, as they said, of opening a trade and establishing myself there. Hence I conclude that your intention is perhaps, to unite if possible, the land business with trade. Mr. LeRay has sold part of his land and was kind enough to show me the list of the sale of his lands, and I have taken therefrom with my eyes everything that I thought conducive to information."

District of Bridgewater, on the headwaters of Wayalus-
ing Creek, July 19, 1808

"I arrived here today much surprised not to find Dr. Rose, who intended to pass by his brother's, who lives in the woods sixteen miles from this house. I shall ride thither tomorrow and wait for him one or two days, and take then Chenango point on my way to Utica. I bought a sorrel horse, one white foot, four years old, for \$75.00; he is quite harmless and so far I find in him no vice, only he is careless for his feet, and so tender in the mouth that when I would control him by bracing the reins, he raises his head in the air and looks just like Balaam's ass, by which means he has the advantage over me. Sunday night he broke his chain and ran off, thus preventing me from riding in the company of five gentlemen, travelling to the Falls of Niagara. My horse was finally found browsing in a field of clover, and I rode yesterday 28 miles to Tuskehanna Creek -- travelling were most agreeable if it were not for the gnats and flies most cruel to man and beast."

Rome, Aug. 7, 1808

"I had to ford Cayuta Creek (near Ithaca) which I guided my course by, at least twenty times in sixteen miles. I travelled by way of Ithaca, Scipio, Camillus, etc., to Oneida and stopped at Oneida Castle, where was much annoyed by Indians, who would have me drink whiskey and gin with them. I shall proceed to Black River tomorrow."

New York, November 11, 1808

"I shall transmit to you by Mr. Lewis, copies of the Contracts made with Mr. LeRay, Gen. Morris and Judge Ford for the purchase and cession of certain tracts of land and Village Lots in Ogdensburg. As the settlement on Gen. Morris tract has already considerably progressed, it is perhaps not advisable to stop sales, and you are therefore authorized to continue them, if you can dispose of good settleable land at \$5,00 an acre. I don't mean to bind you down to this price, which is merely stated to express approximately what I consider the tract to be at present worth. It is my wish that you exercise your own judgment, act according to circumstances, and not look to a trifle in the price of a lot of land, if by granting some deduction, or other indulgence, you can secure a deserving and valuable settler. I have agreed to continue the arrangement with Mr. Jenison for the grist and Saw Mills. The object which in the first place require your most entire and particular attention are those connected with your Commercial Establishment at Ogdensburg, where I propose erecting certain buildings to enable you to carry on said business. It is therefore necessary that you should immediately make such arrangements for the collecting and preparing the materials during the winter as may be necessary to accomplish, without loss of time, the objects I have in view, very early in the spring.



Daniel W. Church

"I shall forward next week Mr. Newton's plans with the requisite explanations for the building of the Store-house and dwelling house, which will enable you to contract with the Carpenter and other workmen at Ogdensburg. If they should not have a sufficient number of hands there to prosecute the work with great activity, you must insist on their authorizing you to engage them at Montreal, where good masons are always to be met with.

"You will, of course, attend particularly to the building of the two vessels, which is a very interesting object, paying the wages fixed, and all other expenses that may be incurred during the prosecution of the work. I enclose you a check for \$100.00 for my account. It is my wish that every article, as well as the labor required for the build-

ings, should be paid weekly, so as to have long accounts with no persons. My interests will be best served by paying cash for everything. I recommend your applying to Mr. Church, a carpenter, at Canton, to erect one of the buildings -- he is a very honest man, and a clever mechanic and I presume will meet you at Ogdensburg, on hearing that you wish to make a contract with him. Mr. Stephen Van Rensselaer at Albany, who owns part of Canton, will give you a letter for Mr. Church. I also annex a letter of Mr. LeRay de Chaumont, dated October 3, 1808, in which he engages to convey to me a lot of 440 acres in grant No. 4, Macomb's purchase.

"I repeat for regularities' sake, that you are entitled to charge a commission of 5 per cent on all moneys coming into your hands in payment of lands, or the interest due thereon, and which is to constitute your compensation for the agency of my private concerns in the two above mentioned counties (Jefferson and St. Lawrence). I shall expect to hear from you once a week after you are fixed at Ogdensburg, and finding nothing to add at present, I wish you a pleasant journey, health and happiness and beg you to receive the assurance of my constant and sincere attachment,
David Parish."

Mr. David Parish writes to Mr. Joseph Rosseel from Philadelphia, under date of Dec. 23, 1808, "There is no doubt that the Customs House officers on the margin of the Lake and River will view your establishment with a suspicious eye and consider it formed for the express purpose of smuggling, great circumspection and prudence will therefore be necessary on your part not to evade in the slightest manner the Embargo laws, which as you will observe by the papers, are to be very rigidly enforced. If I can find time I shall go to Washington in the course of the winter to have a conversation with Mr. Gallatin and explain to him the object you have in view, and thereby counteract the effect of the insidious reports which may be made to the Treasury Department by the Collectors in your neighborhood."

Jan. 16, 1809

"Our friend the Judge wishes the "s" to be added to your place of residence, to which I shall accordingly conform, and beg you will do the same." (Before this time they had called it "Ogdenburg.")

Ogdensburg, Dec. 16, 1808

"I am waiting for a passage to Montreal and anticipate, with your letter of introduction, no difficulties on account of my being a foreigner. I wrote urging Mr. Lewis to wait in Albany or Utica until our goods have started as there is nothing here for him to do until they arrive, neither accommodation. The temporary store is still a building and the red house occupied -- so I find myself forced to pass away my time unprofitably to us both at the tavern (Berthong's) doing nothing at all, for I could neither read nor write, where bacchanalians keep the house in an uproar-- and even at night it is no uncommon thing to find one or more of these Brutes in my bed snoring like the unclean beast from which they only differ in shape. Last Sunday I went to Morristown to call on David Ford, Esq., and today I have been on His Majesty's territory to hire a sleigh to proceed to Montreal."

OPENING OF THE STORE

Ogdensburg, Jan. 24, 1809

"Having constantly been busy with the settling of our store, I could not find time to copy the deed you wish. Do not find fault with me, nor be displeased with my writing to you now with hurry, and an unsettled mind. I am still overlaid with business in which we are urged by crowds of people who wish to see our store open. We work from break of day till midnight; my bed is on the counter, so that I never leave this, unless when called to table. Mr. Lewis and Mr. Hoylarts occupy the red house. The latter is very active, I am very fond of him. You did us a great service by directing him to us. Beside the female housekeeper and

her child, Daniel and his brother, lodge also at the red house; they arrived here last Friday from Vermont. One of the vessels will be launched by the end of June. The Hon. Judge wants to know the price in your place, of laying one porch of stone, also of brick wall -- that he may bargain for similar work here. He also wants to know of what you have resolved to have your building (the store) made; he has promised to you to have it partly of stone and partly of brick. I wish you would write to him on the subject that he may contract for the necessary material in case you should wish to have the second and third stories built of brick. The Judge intends to go to New York in March for three months, so that I wish to make all necessary arrangements while he is here, for people here will seize upon the moment of his absence to cheat me if they can. I am very much dissatisfied with our present temporary store, the work of Mr. Pohlman -- that man knows no more of carpentership than I do. I expect to have Mr. Church of Canton as a leader for our future buildings."

Ogdensburg, Feb. 6, 1809. (Great emphasis is given the "s" in Ogdensburg.)

"In compliance with the wishes of the Hon. Judge (Ford) and with subordination to yours, I shall order the dock to be built about 20 feet below the line which divides Berthong's lot and your premises, in order to conserve the interstice to secure the boats or a vessel in, when occasion requires -- and to obviate the inconvenience which might arise from other people's building a similar dock close up to yours. The Hon. Judge, whom I visited today, has communicated your letter to me, in which you have omitted to give your opinion respecting the building of the store, either partly of brick and partly of stone, or altogether of stone. I could discover in his countenance the type of displeasure which this omission was evidently the cause of; and I found myself rather uneasy on the occasion, because I could not account for your having passed without remark or observation the principal paragraph of his letter, and because this omission makes so loud a clash with the punctuality and regularity with which the administration of your affairs is always attended. The Hon. Judge is unquestionably a very kind, officious friend to us, in whose integrity I cannot but have reliance; yet should I undertake to account for the anxiety which in one instance appeared in his countenance, on the subject of building, to have the store built with stones and brick, I could not but connect it with interest. It is possible that the bricklayers whom our friend wishes to contract with, are his debtors; thus no better chance for him to deliberate with them than to have them employed for you -- excuse my conjectures. To conclude, the store shall be built of limestone, the only one this country affords, but before contracting with the masons here, I wish to know the price in your canton for laying a porch of stone without symmetry, finding all the necessary materials on the spot."

Feb. 19, 1809

"If your vessels are permitted to navigate on the Lakes, I am sure of their making voyages both successful and advantageous both to you, Sir, and to the commander. The carrying of passengers alone, I am told, between Kingston and the Fort of Niagara, has cleared in one season \$4,000. The communication between these places is very great during the Summer. The Kingstonsians, too well aware of the deadly blow which our shipping must bring on their dismantled marine, may envy but cannot prevent the rise and progress of the Port of Ogdensburg. There remains one more question to propose, on which I pray you to give your decision, "What materials, is the dwelling house to be built of?" I thought the wood would answer as well, but the Hon. Judge thinks brick would suit better, because, he says, it would be cheaper."

Feb. 27, 1809

"The Non-Intercourse Bill with England and France has passed the Senate and is now before the House of representatives. There is hardly a doubt that it will become

THE PRESS

By STEVE RAGAN

(Part II)

"The Commercial Advertiser" first saw ink in Norwood but moved to Canton in May of 1877. Published by Hall and Tracey, the eight-column folio was 40 by 26 inches.

Potsdam has also had its share of newspapers. The first was "The Potsdam Gazette" established by Frederick Powell on January 13, 1816. This 18 by 22 inch paper was neutral in politics and issued weekly. Mr. Powell also issued the "Potsdam American" beginning in January of 1824. It was 20 by 24 inches, had four columns and was printed on the "Gazette" press. It was discontinued in April of 1829. It was followed by "The Herald" the next month. Published by Elias Williams, this anti-Masonic paper lasted only until August of the same year. The next paper was the "Patriot," published by William Hughes in April of 1830. Once again anti-Masonic, the five column paper ceased to be in 1831 when it was moved to Ogdensburg.

"The Repository" started on July 20, 1846 on the old "Cabinet" press which had been moved to Potsdam. This weekly was subsequently sold to William L. Knowles who changed its name to "The St. Lawrence Mercury." Two years later he sold to William H. Wallace who operated it for two years and then sold in June of 1851 to H.C. Fay. Under Fay it was known as "The St. Lawrence Journal" until July 1852 when it was merged with "The Potsdam Courier."

Not to be outstripped by the other towns, Morristown started a paper with the unlikely name of the "Weekly Gleaner." Begun February 12, 1892 by Allen C. Strough, this weekly was independent in politics. At a subscription price of one dollar a year, the paper claimed to be "Devoted to Literature, Local, General and Agricultural news."* Contrary to general practice the "Gleaner" refrained from placing news on the front page, reserving this space for advertising and items of interest.

MONTHLY STAR

Even as small a town as Fine produced a newspaper. This was a monthly four-pager called "The Fine Star." Edited and owned by G.L. Jones, the paper cost fifty cents a year. As in other papers it contained columns dedicated to surrounding small towns such as East Pitcairn, South Edwards, and South Russell. In addition to news and advertising, the paper ran story serials which were continued each month until finished. It was a surprisingly lively paper first published around 1899.

"The Hammond Advertiser," published in Hammond by D. Moyer and W.B. Burton, was unique. Its issues opened from bottom to top rather than from right to left. It seemed to be overburdened with advertising and very concerned with the local scene. Such articles as "How to Load Hay" and "Samantha' Medical Adviser" were not uncommon. Founded about 1886, the paper served the community well for a long time.

In Heuvelton, "The Bee" kept the community informed. Established in 1912 by Wilbur W. Lowry, the four-page sixteen-column paper tended to use advertising and local news almost exclusively.

"The Madrid Herald" was a good deal larger than the usual local paper. It was eight pages in size with six columns to a page. Begun about 1899 or 1900, the paper gives a good mix of world and local news and a superabundance of advertising. Lisbon and Waddington are given especially large columns in the local news section.

"The Advertiser" of Parishville was started about 1880. Owned by A.D. Bradford, this small four-page sheet was adeptly handled. It contained out of the way items of interest, local news, and a small amount of world news plus advertising. A single copy was two cents and a subscription was fifty cents. It was well worth the money.

The main function of these papers was to keep their public informed as to world and local news while offering a small bit of entertainment. In an age with no television, no radio, and few telephones in this area, the press per-

formed an important function. The advent of these media, the decline in the importance of the railroad and agriculture, and the dwindling of population as well as their wider horizons stifled many of these enterprises. The loss felt when these papers were discontinued was probably sharp. People had become attached to some aspects of these papers such as the "Mickey Sez" column of the "Hammond Advertiser." It was a general comment and gossip column done in the local vernacular. He was a kind of David Frost of Hammond in some instances. People still remember and miss this column. Another excellent column was found in the Canton "Plaindealer." Called "The Rounder," in this column the Editor could discuss everything and anything. Whatever happened to strike Mr. Manley's fancy, he recorded in his column. It was a lively and entertaining column, widely read and greatly enjoyed by many unless you happened to be the object of its enmity. It is said to have had great influence with the people. Mr. Manley certainly was an alert and persuasive writer.

GOUVERNEUR'S MANY TRIES

Gouverneur attempted its first newspaper in 1849. "The Northern New Yorker" was a small weekly produced by W.M. Goodrich and M.F. Wilson on April 19th. It failed and was purchased by J. Bruett and Company who discontinued it in 1851. "The St. Lawrence Advertiser" continued for a short time until the office moved to Potsdam. "The Laborer" was erected in 1852 by Martin Mitchell. Shortly it became "The Free Press" under a Mr. Mason. When H. Mitchell took over it became "The St. Lawrence Free Press." In 1854 the paper was discontinued for financial reasons. The town went without a newspaper until 1864 when F.E. Merritt relieved the situation with "The Gouverneur Times." "The New York Recorder," started by Miss M.M. Smith was published from 1866-1873.

"The Gouverneur Herald" began publishing on April 10, 1873. H.G. Reynolds accepted Frank L. Cox as a partner on November 12, 1874 and enlarged the business. It was Republican by choice and was a thirty-six-column folio. It purchased "The Gouverneur Times" on April 1, 1880 and thus became the "Herald Times." The paper was sold to R.S. Sackett in 1892. He combined it with the "Northern Tribune" to form the "Northern Tribune and Gouverneur Herald-Times." Another paper, "The Gouverneur Free Press," was begun by B.G. Parker in 1882. It has all become the Gouverneur Tribune Press.

Waddington was able to launch a newspaper also. It was "The Waddington Pioneer," an eight-column weekly begun in 1877.

Massena was an amazing disappointment. It had little newspaper activity for its size and importance. "The Northern Observer" was started on a weekly basis by L.C. Sutton and G.W. Church in 1891. It was a four-column folio at first. In May of 1892 Sutton took over control until December when George A. Miller became a partner. The paper was then enlarged to eight columns, becoming an county paper ever since with little change in name.

Hermon was a surprise to me. As compared with Massena, it was a boom town of the newspaper industry. "The Hermon Union" was a twenty-eight-column weekly started by T.A. Farnsworth and D.C. Carter on October 27, 1874. The office was destroyed by fire on April 27, 1875 and never reopened. "The Hermon Advertiser" was a semi-monthly printed at the "Union" office. Its general concern was business and local news but a little literary and entertaining flavor was not lost in the effort to sell products. It was printed on an 8 by 12 inch sheet.*

"The Observer" was published every Wednesday in Hermon by B.C. Demmon and S.R. Hamilton. It seemed to be a very competent paper arranged much like those of today with the exception of the advertising on the front. It was devoted primarily to news both domestic and foreign with an eye on the economy. Started in 1888 by G.T. Chaney, the paper was a Republican supporter. As mentioned before, the "Hermon Recorder" was started in 1886 by P.L. Doyle and operated successfully for six years before being moved to Potsdam. P.L. Doyle also ran a sheet called "The Courier" in Hermon. It was generally an advertising and business paper with incidental sidelights.

MICKIE SAYS

TH' REASON I SMILE ALL TH' TIME IS BECUZ I DONT NEVER DO NO WORRYING! BIZNESS MIGHT BE BETTER N IT MIGHT BE A HULL LOT WORSE AN' WERE ON TH' UP-GRADE AGAIN, WICH IS WHY I ALWAYS WEAR A SMILE! YOU TRY ONE!



CHARLES WOODRICK

Mickie's Own Colym

Written by the Printer's Devil

A feller told me the other day that the reason why some of these jazz fiends do this cheek to cheek stunt is cause their weak heads need proppin' up.

I just learned about a new game. Its got that drop-the-handkerchief and postoffice beat a mile. They call it

"Christianity." The Christians who are the girls, all get on one side of the room and the boys who are the heathens, get on the other side. Then the heathens cross over and embrace Christianity. Aint she a dindy?

Come on, you fellers who raise cheese for a livin', look pleasant, she jumped 3-4 of a cent last Saturday and every little jump counts.

The inside of the bank looks some better since Rob Wilson and Judge More give it the once over. There was so bloomin' much smoke in there this winter, its no wonder she needed paintin'. It wouldn't been a bad stunt to fumigate the place before Smithy went in, but I guess the disease the other cashier had aint catchin'. Anyway Lee has seen enough to make him fire proof.

Aint that some swell letter I got from that woman out in Californy? I asked the boss if he liked to get that kind and he says. "Kid, you said a mouthful." He says its worth a darn site more'n dollars and cents to know that folks like the Advertiser. Gee, I gues he's almost human, likes a little slap on the back just the same as other folks

Hermon Nicol has gradated out of the Ford class, he's got a Dodge now Looks to me like a pretty big bus for two little people.

Seeing how a lot a folks been tellin' egg stories in the Advertiser here's an egg story I swiped. Maybe some of the Hammond girls might tryit. Maybe it would change their luck.

The bachelor had bought two new-laid eggs for the next morning's breakfast, and when he got home with them he noticed some writing on the shell of

one of them. Of course, he read what the thing had to say. It ran like this: "I am a farmer's daughter, 17 years of age, blond hair and brown eyes, height and weight just about right, and complexion the same. If this should meet the eye of some young man who desires to wed a merry but industrious country girl, let him communicate with —" and then followed the merry country girl's name and address. Well, the young man was so pleased that he rushed off and telegraphed to the girl. He got her answer next morning. She wired, "You are too late. Was married six years ago, and am now the mother of five."

What do you know bout it, didn't Hank Gregor do things up brown when he sent the Library that dandy bunch of books. He didn't send a bunch of junk that the devil wouldn't use for kindni' wood, but went right out and bought some brand span new ones, the best he could buy and sent em on. You don't need to tell me Hank's got a soft spot in his heart for the old home town. He's a regular guy. But I bet he wont like it too well me tellin' folks about it, but when a guy does something good, I can't keep my mouth shut about it.

I don't know just how to do it, cause my language is kinda bum, but I want to tell Doc Ferguson I think he's one in a million. He's been preachin' here in this burg for 47 years and any man who can get along with a town full of Scotchmen for that long aint no ordinary feller. As a preacher he dont' take a back seat for none of 'em; as a citizen, he's a real fellow and as a man, he's a MAN among men. Here's hopin' he'll be with us for years to come.

Mickie.

Locally known as the Hammond "Aggravator," its pithy column "Mickey Sez" wouldn't be missed by the populace.

Continued on Page 10



Hammond Advertiser is building third from left (town hall which burned). Building now a plumbing shop.

PIERREPONT SCHOOLS

Omitted from Oct. Story of Pierrepont Schools

By Millard Hundley, Historian



District No. 2, Pierrepont Schools



Howard School House No. 6 which was Irving Bacheller's School.



District No. 3, Brick School.



Cooks Corners, District No. 15



District No. 4, at Hannawa.



District No. 16



Sellechs Corners, District No. 11

Errata:

In story (Oct.) No. 9 should be corrected to Beech Plains, which merged with No. 5, West Pierrepont.

No. 17 was the Starr School, with Rose Endersbee, teacher.

The Gas Plant

By M. ESTHER BIONDI

A landmark older than the city of Ogdensburg itself was the original coal gas plant in the second ward. It was razed by the Central New York Power Corp. in 1939.

Once a source of Supply for the gas lamps which lighted city streets and used until 1938 to manufacture all gas used in the city, the stone building was built in 1854, when a franchise was awarded by village officials to a group from Philadelphia.

The original portion was constructed over a quarry site and the stone used in the work was taken from its location.

The early history of the gas plant is unknown, but in a space of about 20 years control of the company was gradually taken over by local stockholders, chief of whom was a Mr. Findley.

A steam power house was built next to the original building in the late 1880's and electricity was generated by steam there for a number of years.

One of the principal functions of the gas plant was to supply street lights in the city and a Thomas Mallette, father of John, was for many years entrusted with the daily work of lighting the lamps. Others who worked for the company were Edward, grandfather of Francis B. Burns, and the father of Albert H. Cordwell of the city.

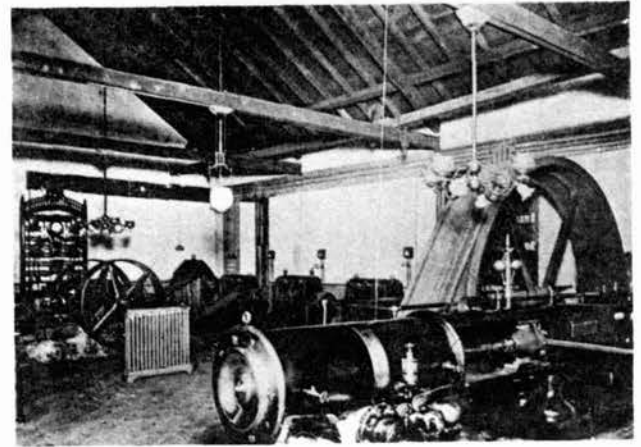
The advent of the street railway brought additional use for power and the company grew. A Mr. Hawkins gained control of the gas plant, electrical plant and street railway system. Coal gas was distributed city wide.

The plant was during depression years taken over by Aluminum Co. of America, later the Niagara Hudson Co., then Central New York Power corporation who demolished the equipment after a change-over to propane gas.

At the same time the Bill, Bell company was razed. (see Quarterly July, 1971)



The 85-year old gas-electric plant was demolished in 1939. This view is from Rensselaer Ave.



Old Trolley Barn of Ogdensburg Street Railway Co. on New York Avenue near Cedar Street. This view taken Aug. 5, 1932. The building still stands, in use.

Vignette

Sam Grossman

For many years, there was a real character around Edwards, Sam Grossman, a large and, to us kids in town, a fierce looking individual with heavy beetling black eyebrows and an equally heavy black mustache. He had the known characteristic of riding rough shod over anybody he felt he could dominate. His business was selling clothing out of a regular peddler's cart drawn by a tired looking horse. Huge bales of clothing would arrive periodically at the Edwards railroad station, Sam would appear after a few days, pay the express charges, stow the stuff away in his cart and take off. One time he met one of Woodcock Brothers heavy logging teams on a back road with insufficient room to turn out so Sam stopped as did the teamster. After about a minute, this worthy shouted at Sam, "Back up you damn fool." To which Sam gave a quite typical answer, "Back up, vich vay?"

After a number of years, there came a time when quite a number of bales of clothing began to arrive from every wholesale house in the country -- the Singmeisters, the Friedmans, the Hermanns, the Liebensteins, etc. My father said he had an idea Sam was about to go broke the profitable way. As he was about to start his annual vacation, he told

my sister, Clara, and me that if Sam arrived do not let him have any of the goods until he had paid all the charges and to be sure he signed the express receipt book in full. As I recall, there were about two pages of entries and the charges were well over a hundred dollars. Sure enough, about the day after Dad had gone, here comes Sam, saying "Let me have dot express shipment vot iss here for me." We let him look at the bales, piled high in the freight house, figured up what he owed and insisted that he sign every one of the lines in the book. Then we checked the bundles out to him, one at a time so there could be no possibility of a claim for shortage.

After that, he spent the greater part of the day stowing and cramming clothing into his wagon until it would hold no more and when he finally departed there was a pile on the seat beside him, two or three bales tied on top and one hanging down beneath the rear axle. I cannot recall ever seeing him again but it has been said that most of the shipment was hidden away in some farmer's barn while Sam kept out of the way of his creditors.

Contributed by
Earl T. Meldrim

June 11, 1878 Norwood News: Trains on the new road from Morristown to Ogdensburg will commence about July 1st.

The Gouverneur Rockets (baseball club) offer big odds that they will win back the silver ball and bat from the Rensselaer Falls Club next week.

June 25, 1878: The catcher of the Rockets accidentally had his nose broken by being hit with a club while playing at Rensselaer Falls last week.

A hens egg was broken the other day at the American House, which contained another about the size of a ground bird's egg, with perfect shell and of a light brown color.



Otis Crane at his desk in Rensselaer Falls. After serving 35 years, he retired in 1945.

Let the Old Name Stand

Considerable discussion has resulted in this village among the prominent owners of property at Black Lake relative to the suggested change of that body of water, which is the largest sheet of water in St. Lawrence County. The new name which has been suggested is "Lake Roosevelt" to honor the late lamented former president.

Assemblyman Frank L. Seaker has been requested to introduce a bill authorizing the change in the designation of this body of water, which historians say dates back to antiquity. The ancient origin of the lake has been demonstrated by the fact that some of the oldest fish known to scientists abound there. The suggestion has met with general approval among all interested in the lake and with large numbers of other residents of St. Lawrence County.

The Northern Tribune, Gouverneur (1920)

The above editorial comment provoked an editorial in rebuttal in the Gouverneur Free Press of March 24, 1920, B.G. Parker, editor:

As much as we all love the memory of Colonel Roosevelt and would rejoice in attaching his name to anything, let's not try to deprive one of our principal northern New York lakes of the name the pioneers gave it, simply because someone wants to do something. Shades of old Dan Church who was one of the first white men to visit its shores! Shades also of the Congers and the Morses, the Eustices and the Turners, who have long been well-known names there! Change the name to Roosevelt Lake? Well, hardly. The old name is more fitting and besides it has been firmly established by the years. There's too much sentiment connected with it to uproot it now.

The suggestion is made that Assemblyman Seaker petition the legislature to change the name. In the first place the state legislature has no more to do with it than the Jap Diet. The United States Geographic Board, Washing-

ton, "passes on all unsettled questions concerning geographic names which arise as well as determines changes and fixes place names," etc. But if Assemblyman Seaker could bring about the change by legislative action, he probably would meditate a long while over the question; he caught bullheads and pickerel, black bass and pike there as a boy, just as many others of us did. There would be too much shattering of sentiment about it all to cause him to hasten toward a change in name now.

Black Lake once had a bad name. That was years ago. Fish pirates lived there. It was the rendezvous of cattle thieves. Bad men made the lake islands their stopping place when they were moving north into Canada. It was as tough a place as this North Country afforded. But it was tamed long years ago. It is today as peaceful as a hired hand in the heat of an August day. Now it is civilized. There are many attractive summer homes there. The Dutch farmers who live on the north shore road are as thrifty as their Mohawk Valley forebears. Black Lake has lived down its bad reputation of an earlier day, and it should be permitted to enjoy the good name which it has rescued from that which was very unsavory.

Let the old name remain. Called something else the lake would never be the same. Even the mention of that simple name rolls back the years as the drops are moved in a great scenic production in a 20th century playhouse. There is the lake again smiling under the July sun. The bold outlines of its far shores present a charming picture. A soft wind blows up the white caps perchance as it descends from the Hammond shores, and over on the Maccomb side it stirs the magenta, the mulberry flowers and the wild sweet peas that find place on the high embankments. Then who will ever forget the purple flowering water shrub in the island bays and the "captain's feather" that sends its pink plumes majestically from the rocky ledges? Change the name? No, let it stand and keep alive and fresh a sentiment of long ago that otherwise might be lost and gone forever.

(Shades of all the hasty renaming for President Kennedy-- airports, schools, streets, etc. he never saw; renaming of parks, islands and bridges in waves of sentiment. Hear tell that the local people cling to Barnhart Island name in spite of waves of name changes! MHB)

The Press Continued from Page 6

"The Hermon News" was published in Hermon by A.R. Jarvis and soon became "The Hermon News and Edwards Review" under the same publisher. Small towns such as Russell, Pyrites, and Dekalb Junction had columns devoted to the local happenings of each. In addition to the usual advertising and news there was attention to amusing thoughts and general happenings.

Hermon is now completely devoid of a newspaper. It would seem that the town would miss such a convenience. A newspaper, particularly the "News" if well done, as it was, would keep the people well informed upon local happenings and also provide a small bit of entertainment as this one undoubtedly did.

"The Norwood News" was a highly localized newspaper started by E.D. Parker who ran it for five years. It was taken over by F.R. Smith and F.R. Martin in 1882. It stood on the Republican platform and kept its readers informed on world affairs. As in "The Hermon News" columns were given to certain towns in the surrounding area, Winthrop, Brasher Falls, Sanfordville, and Bucks Bridge are among those covered.

-30-

For further information read:

Curtis, Gates ed. 9, "History of St. Lawrence County, New York." Syracuse, D. Mason and Company, 1894.

Durant, Samuel W. and Pierce, Henry B. (eds.), "History of St. Lawrence County, New York." Philadelphia, L.H. Everts and Co., 1878.

"Hammond Advertiser." Hammond, New York.

"Norwood News." Norwood, New York.

"The Advertiser." Parishville, New York.

"The Bee." Heuvelton, New York.

"The Courier." Hermon, New York.

"The Fine Star." Fine, New York.

"The Hermon Advertiser." Hermon, New York.

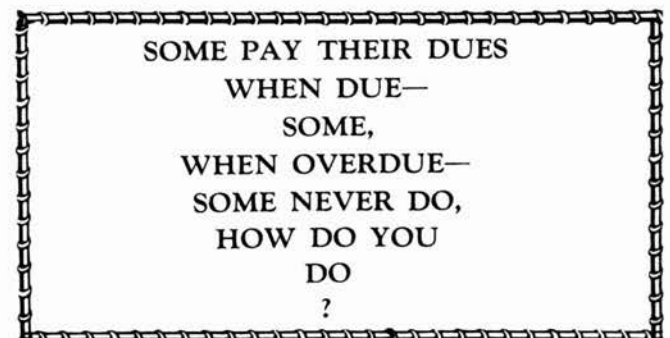
"The Hermon News." Hermon, New York.

"The Hermon News and Edwards Review." Hermon, New York.

"The Madrid Herald." Madrid, New York.

"The Observer." Hermon, New York.

"The Weekly Gleaner." Morristown, New York.



The First Garage in Star Lake

By F. KERR

In April 1921 J. Hartwell Kerr purchased an ice cream parlor and a house in Star Lake from Herb Shaw of Oswegatchie, N.Y. Mr. Kerr operated the ice cream parlor that summer with the help of Nettie Lalonde Kerr. The following year he built a section of the present structure between the ice cream parlor and Potter's Store. (Over the years five more sections were added.) This building was rented for about two years to Maynard Gregg who operated it as the "Star Lake Garage". Mr. Gregg then sold his tools and equipment to J. Hartwell Kerr, who started running it as a repair garage.

In the summer of 1923 Verna Thompson operated the ice cream parlor and her husband, Floyd Thompson, helped Hartwell do repair work. Elmer Winch and Ivan Bell also worked at the garage at different times.

During the first few years that Mr. Kerr operated the garage business, the first snow storm closed the roads to automobile traffic and people who owned automobiles stored them for the winter. The only gas operated vehicles to run during the winter were a few cars which had been converted to snowmobiles. One of these vehicles was owned and operated by Milton Wilcox, a tavern owner in Benson Mines. Another one was operated by Dr. Letherland of Harrisville, N.Y., who travelled twenty miles, from Harrisville to this locality to make house calls. These winters while the garage was not kept open, Mr. Kerr worked in the woods and drove Lynn Tractor for the Emporium Forestry Co. at Cranberry Lake.

In April 1927 Ralph Kerr joined his brother J. Hartwell Kerr and formed the partnership of Kerr Bros. In 1931 Kerr Bros. began selling new Chrysler and Plymouth cars. Among the first mechanics to work for them were Ivan



Bell, Clyde Johnson, Donald Whitmore and Mark Colton.

The Star Lake Fire Department was formed Nov. 1929. The first piece of fire department equipment was purchased in the spring of 1930. The garage housed the fire department equipment from 1930 until 1942 and the fire siren was located on top of the garage.

On July 1, 1955, the partnership became a corporation known as Kerr Bros. Sales and Service, Inc., J. Hartwell Kerr sold his stock to Ralph W. Kerr and retired from the garage business in June 1968.

Kerr Bros. Sales and Service Inc. was bought by Harry Smithers, of Gouverneur, N.Y. on July 1, 1969 who formed a new corporation, Star Lake Auto Sales Inc. which terminated in June 1971.



Part of building on the right is the old ice cream parlor. At right by the old car is the ramp where they repaired. The can by the gas pump was used to measure the gas, pumped up by hand, then poured into the tank. There were

living quarters over the garage at one time. L. to R.: Hartwell Kerr, Donald Whitmore, Ralph Kerr and Clyde Johnson.



Mr. Potter who owned the Potter block at Star Lake.



Potter Block and Post Office. Ice Cream parlor of J.H. Kerr. (probably 1921)



When the garage changed to overhead door.



Moving the Edwards National Bank, Star Lake Branch. Now Witters Drug Store, Star Lake.



Kerr Bros. Garage in 1955



Building a part of the Kerr Garage which collapsed in February 1971.



Today's scene at the Garage.



G.C. Marshall in front of Star Lake School.

Our Members Write

The last Quarterly was one of the best yet, or at least to me as I was born in Madrid where my dad worked in the Madrid Carriage works. My cousin lived in Waddington so we made dozens of trips back and forth on the old stage from Waddington to Madrid and knew the half-way house well.

Also the cover picture of Madrid village showing Main St. from Fred Merriman's brick house to the corner was most interesting.

Roy H. Bassett
Canton, N.Y.

(Thanks, but no wonder you were both late getting home! -- Going to Madrid from Waddington via the Foote-Legge-Stocking Half Way House on the Canton-Ogdensburg Road! M.H.B.)

As a result of a casual inquiry to the History Center "What is new sugar?" and then two years of correspondence, sleuthing, editing and hassling with printers, a fine book has come to our shelves as we go to press. George W. Chamberlin, Jr., a member in Alabama, has put together letters of his ancestor born in Parishville, Hawthorn Solomon Chamberlin. The monumental work is very well documented, very readable and an example of how it can be done. Come in and look "Letters of Hawthorn" over-- it contains maps and information about other families of Potsdam, Hopkinton, Stockholm as well. Thank you, Georget!



MYSTERIES

Where? Who? When?



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 --
 All 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.

The Builder 1868

By ANNA MATHEWS COLE
 This house reflects the fabric of his dream,
 A dream grown weary with the years and lone,
 This stately dwelling formally aloof
 Is sum of all the struggle he had known.

Each brick on brick how skillfully was laid
 To form its ample size, The frame how high
 Room after room in fine austerity
 Subduing the bright splendor of the sky.

Surrounding maples planted in true rows
 Were for posterity exactly spaced
 As were the orchard's most selective trees
 Whose ripened fruit have never lived to taste.

No day of summer dawns however bright,
 No bird at morning so estatic calls
 But something of his kindred presence clings
 In contemplation round these roseate walls.

For all the lives that shared beneath its roof,
 For changes wrought within a century's span
 The builder's art retains its entity,
 A symbol of the staunch Victorian.



LETTER FROM THE EDITOR

Which would you rather be? Twenty years old or seventy years young? Not much choice is there?

We've known some twenty-year olds we like to steer clear of; we're sure youth doesn't have the fun and enjoyment out of life we all did. If they don't fritter the time away, they're over-serious, grinding through their school years in a frenzy to "get going." They even depress us in their seriousness of attitude, even if not of goals.

On the other hand haven't you known lots of delightful happy seventy-year youngs? Our Association boasts many of you. You've now got courage to say "no", to enjoy grand children and the greats -- when you want and can. (Thanking goodness you don't have their bringing up these days.)

But what of the middle-agers? The greatest majority of us fit this in-between era. We have our children nearly out of the nest, career or work going well, warm roof over our heads and little courage to say "no." We are volunteer-worked to death it seems, but that is part of our system. We have a large choice of groups or causes for which to work. Each has a personal reason for a given choice.

We hope your middle years are kind, in health and satisfaction, and that you will find a place in your busy schedule for an hour to give to this Association now and then. We need you!

MHB



1947-1972

Help us celebrate this Silver Anniversary Year with a new member.



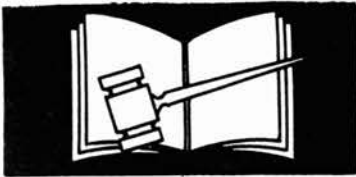
Needed..... VOLUNTEERS

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.



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Despite same-day meetings such as that of the Retired Teachers Association, our annual luncheon and gathering October 16 had an attendance of almost one hundred. Dr. Fink of Oneonta State College gave a delightfully informal run-over of the VanRensselaer family. His stress was on the Patroon, Stephen, but he did not neglect the son, Henry, who lived and invested in the Rensselaer Falls -- Canton area.

We met, of course, in the Grange Hall of Rensselaer Falls. The village's hospitality was warm, and many of its present or past residents contributed to a fine exhibit in the Morrison room of the Union Church. To Adelaide Steele and so many of her colleagues and to Canton's town historian Edith Costa our hearty appreciation.

For the first time in years, amendments were voted to our constitution. One provides for regular meetings of the board of trustees. The other creates an Advisory Council of six to nine members. These shall be chosen with an eye to geographical distribution through the county, and helpfulness to the Association through their wide acquaintance and other ways. Initial members will be chosen by the trustees, who must decide on a total number. In years following this, election will be held in the usual way, following nomination at the annual meeting.

This is being written directly following the trustees' November meeting. Part of our business in December and succeeding months will be to discuss nominees for the Council, and, with no need for haste, to select members. Should you have someone in mind to recommend, please forward the name, with a written statement as to qualifications, to

me or the Secretary of the Association, Steve Ragan.

As you think of nominees, give attention not only to wide acquaintance as a criterion, but interest in county historical matters and influence in forwarding the membership and financial needs of the Association. I would mention too that a prime interest of ours is securing active members and associates in the 30-60 age bracket. This is imperative for the future. One of our signs of health, by the way, is that three of our important officers represent the 20's-30's age group.

November 9, Margaret Nulty and Paul Smith represented us at the first Regional Historical Agencies Conference at Watertown. A principal topic of discussion was methods and subject matter as to cooperation among museums in the state. Second topic was a look-ahead to bicentennial of the Revolution, with observance at key periods from 1975-83.

Our own member of the State Commission, Mary Biondi, suggested an emphasis in St. Lawrence County on the part played by the Indians, Loyalists, women, and food. Do you have any other suggestions? (I'd like to see some kind of inventory of the numbers of Revolutionary War veterans who sleep in North Country graves. The number would be amazing.)

One surprising fact I came across a while ago is the number of war pensioners in St. Lawrence County about 1840. It was 118. This included, of course, some women and children, as well as soldiers of War of 1812.

In subsequent issues of the Quarterly you will get some intimations of things to come with the Bicentennial. The Commission agrees on one thing; celebrations should be historical, scholarly, and dignified.

Edward J. Blankman



The Gutterson family of Rensselaer Falls, taken summer, 1892. Standing, Miss Ina Gutterson (Mrs. Charles Stone). Seated on hammock, Mabel Gutterson (Mrs. Rella Childs), Charles (father of State Trooper George Gutterson), Mrs. George (Ella Dickinson) Gutterson, holding baby Olive

(Mrs. Ara Cline). Seated on chairs, George Dexter Gutterson, Mrs. Abner (Arvilla Wright) Gutterson. She was a daughter of Alpheus and Anna Loveland Wright. A son Harold was born after this picture.

A new column

Heritage Preserved

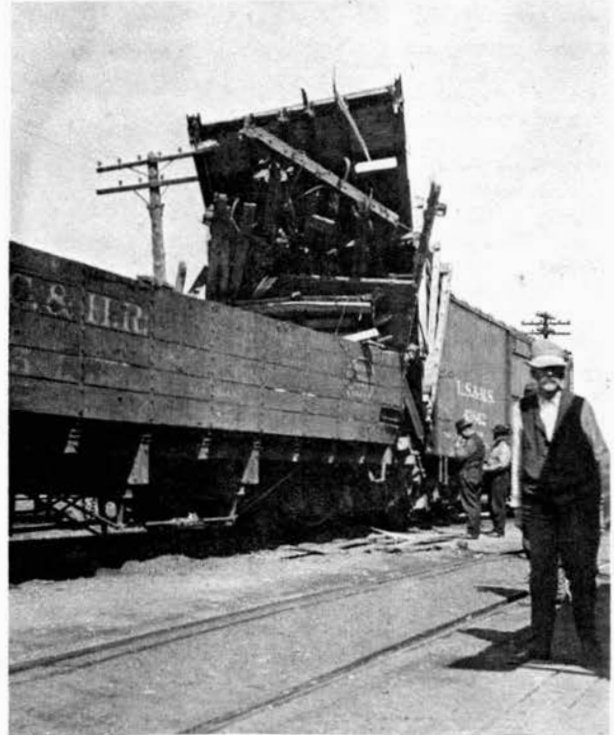
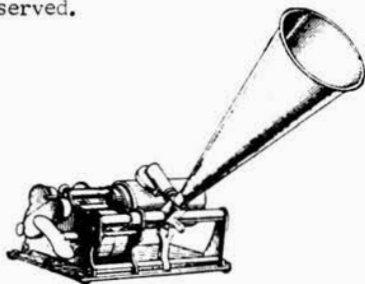
By MASON JAHRS

Although we HOPE to render a regular treatise on some aspect of preserving our heritage, we are sorely tempted to use the priceless phrase Mr. Beaman "thunk up" a half-century ago to head his little newspaper, "published semi-occasionally," (see Oct. 1971 Quarterly).

The seventies they say will become the decade of nostalgia. People are collecting all manner of discards. From old comic books (remember censoring Jr's purchases?) to colored insulators, to barbed wire (remember repairing the back forty?), to sheet music (remember those hits of World War I?) to campaign buttons. (Did you save that Alf Landon one?)

You and your special collection may be featured if you write me. Perhaps samples can be featured at the County History Center or at a future meeting.

Write me at Box 43, Canton, N.Y. 13617 with ideas for Heritage Preserved.



An accident on the railroad at Bigelow in September 1913. Man in foreground is Thomas P. Griffith, affectionately always known as old Tom P. (Photograph Courtesy Mary Ruth (Beaman) Marney).

Bold Highway Men of Rossie

By MRS. J.L. ELLSWORTH

A short time ago a newspaper story told of an attempted holdup in Long Swamp many years ago. It was foiled by the driver who whipped up his team, and upset the two highwaymen in the ditch.

It brought to mind the story of a successful hold-up that also took place nearly 50 years ago in historic Long Swamp, the scene of so many adventures.

A young lady by the name of Brown who lived on the new Connecticut road, near the end of the Swamp was walking to Oxbow one afternoon, carrying a pail containing a dozen or more fresh eggs. When about halfway through the Swamp, a tattered, be-whiskered individual stepped out of the bushes into the road, and took the pail from her hand. Too frightened to run, the girl stood there and watched the tramp consume the eggs. Perhaps she wished she had not been so particular to have them all strictly fresh.

Finally a team came in sight, and the tramp hastily bestowed the remaining eggs about his ragged person, generously returned the empty pail and vanished into the forest.

Those were the days of the traveling milliner. Twice a year one came to Oxbow with a stock of the latest styles. She usually remained about a week, and was well patronized by the ladies of the community.

Miss Moore, a young lady who was staying with friends on the Rossie road, had ordered a hat which was to be ready on Saturday, the last day of the milliner's stay in the village. A neighbor who was going to Oxbow that afternoon had offered her a ride, but as time passed and he did not appear, the girl decided to wait no longer.

It was no great distance to walk, but it was growing late and if at all delayed, it was likely to be dark before she got home. The late autumn days were short, and darkness fell early in the heavily wooded Swamp. Moreover, she had heard of Miss Brown's adventure, and that added nothing to the pleasure of the trip, but if she got her hat, she must go after it, so at last she started out.

She had nearly reached the place where the tramp had appeared, when a man stepped out into the road as before. He did not answer the description of the tramp, but you never could tell, there might be more than one, so when the man called to her and started toward her, that was enough. She turned and ran back toward home as fast as she could. The shouts of the man who kept on after her did not lessen her fears. She burst into the house, nearly exhausted, and gasped in answer to enquiries: "It's the tramp. He's got white whiskers and red mittens on. There he is now!" as a rap came on the door.

"Sounds more like Santa Claus" said her friend as she opened the door.

There stood a man with white whiskers and red mittens, but he was of Oxbow's most respected citizens, a kindly old man, who had followed the girl home just to assure her that she had nothing to fear.

History fails to record whether the young lady got her hat or not, but it is to be hoped that she did.

(The late Mrs. Ellsworth wrote this 35 years ago.)



Trolley Power House, 2nd Ward, Ogdensburg.

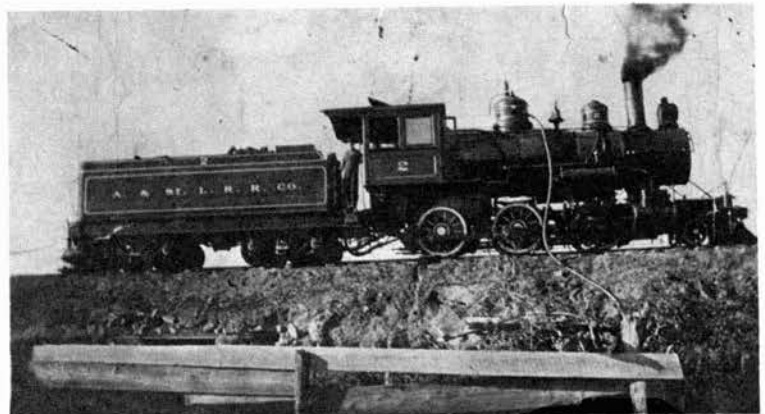


The Gouverneur High School Training Class, 1897-98. The girls from the left Mildred Taitt (Milton), Grace Beaman (Wood), Harriet Forsythe (Aldrich), Laura Rushton, Jennie Murphy (Manning), Iva L. Dodds, Leona Steele, Gussie Jepson (Stiles), Jessie Richardson, Maud Wood (Smith), Nellie C. Quill.

In rear stand Professor John C. Bliss, high school principal and Superintendent of Gouverneur Schools, who was instructor of the training class for two years, and male students Otis Fletcher and Fred Scurrah. Photo was taken by Prof. Harry D. DeGroat, vice principal. (from History Center collection).



"Ice" Tower at Brushton in 1965. Tower is now gone. (Photo courtesy Robert E. Shaw).



A. and St. L.R.R. Locomotive No. 2 of the Adirondack and St. Lawrence, Engineer Tull and Fireman McCollum in charge. (From History Center Archives.)

June 18, 1878, Norwood News: Steel Rails are being laid on the east end of the Ogdensburg and Lake Champlain R.R. and the iron rails that are taken up to make room for them are laid on the west end of the road, as they are nearly new and considerable larger than the old ones.

The through train leaving here at 7:35 arrives at Ogdensburg 9:30. Returning leaves there at 10:05 arriving here at 11:55.

St. Lawrence area Search and Research

by
Van C. Hoyt
56 Main St.
Madrid, N.Y. 13660

OR

Mary H. Biondi
Box 43
Canton, N.Y. 13617

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

Ogdensburg 1809-10 Continued from Page 4

a law, and that for some months at least, you must give up all hopes of trading with Canada.

"I omitted mentioning in my last letter that I wish a stable and coach-house to be erected on the lot on which you propose building your dwelling house; stabling for four or five horses, and a place to put up two carriages will be sufficient. The building ought to be ready by the end of June, at which time I propose being with you, and as it is necessary to have only a simple frame, I presume there will be no difficulty to complete the work before my arrival."

April 13, 1809

"Our Epistolary communication grows more slow and urged. Letters which used to arrive in twenty days from Philadelphia are four weeks coming now, and the time between the arrival and departure of the mails, which used to be twenty-four hours is now a couple of hours. One of your vessels is framed. The shipwrights are to go in quest of timber to the 1000 islands. Mr. Brown is going thither in a boat, will take notice of the current, depth of water, etc. as he goes along on the river."

Philadelphia, May 1, 1809

"I expect that Capt. Mayo and his wife will leave New York for Ogdensburg this week with all the articles necessary for both vessels: their cost amounts to \$3600. I trust you will be able to procure the necessary accommodation for them in the village, though I dare say it is very much overcrowded. Capt. Mayo wishes to purchase one or two lots, which you will allow him to choose and for which he is to pay at the rate agreed upon with the Judge. I don't see anything which will prevent my starting for the St. Lawrence the beginning of July and remaining three or four months at or near Ogdensburg. I shall be glad to hear that Mr. Brown has been successful in procuring the timber he went in quest of to the islands. All my endeavors to procure masons and other workmen have been fruitless. I trust you will get some at Utica, and I propose writing tomorrow on the subject to Mr. Van Rensselaer at Albany. I sent you on Saturday part of the "Aurora," containing the very important intelligence of all differences with Great Britain being amicably adjusted; this event is most fortunate for you as well as for me, and in my opinion enhances the value of property on the St. Lawrence fifty per cent. I trust that your fears with regard to your situation will now subside, and that the intercourse about to be renewed with Canada will make you view matters through a different medium. I have now the pleasure to inform you that during my stay

at New York, I purchased the village of Ogdensburg, of its late proprietor, David B. Ogden, for \$8000. I should have advised you of this purchase in my last letter, if a misunderstanding had not arisen between Mr. Ogden and me, on the subject of our agreement, which is now removed. You will receive enclosed a copy of this agreement, by which you will observe what lands are to be excepted. As all Lots sold by the Judge after the 8th of April are to be for my account, it will be necessary for you to obtain the exact situation of the property, and you will please continue sales at the same prices and conditions as those lately made by the Judge, until you hear further from me.

I am always and very truly my dear Sir, your most obedient servant.

David Parish."

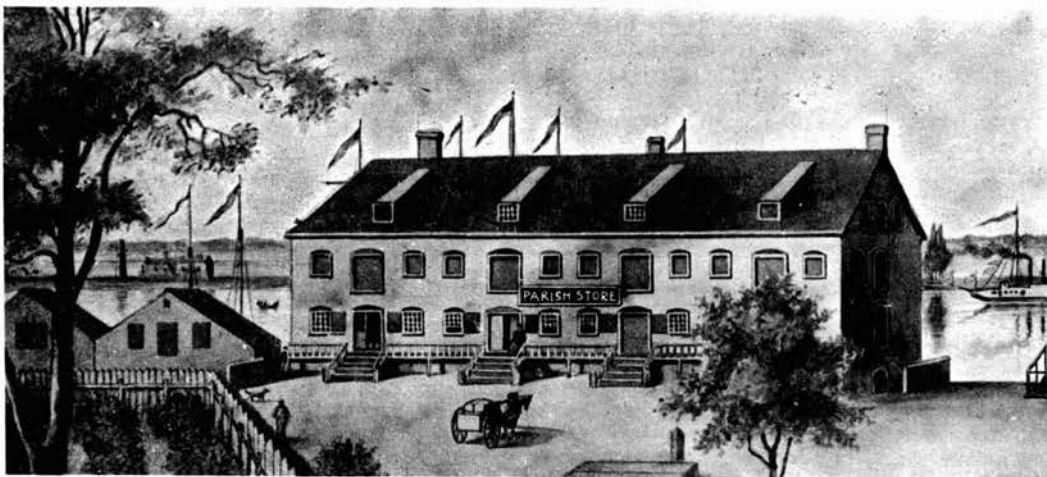
May, 1809

"I have just received your favors of the 24th and 1st, and am returned from the Judge's (Fords) without having been able to ascertain the exact quantity of Land in this Village which remained unsold on the 8th of April, agreeably to your instructions. The Judge could not be seen; the unfortunate gentlemen is so dangerously ill that it is apprehended that he will pay tonight his tribute to nature. I spoke to the Major whom I found deeply affected for the situation his brother is in. I exhibited unto him the agreement for the purchase of this village between you and Mr. Ogden and he told me that he would call on me tomorrow. The news of this acquisition of yours surprises me and will surprise the people here when they come to know it. It gives an impression to my mind most beneficial to myself; and if I had no attachment to the place, this circumstance would have been sufficient to create one.

The Judge objected to giving more than one lot to Capt. Mayo, whom he does not like on account of the difference in their principles of Politicks, which the Judge has been informed of. When I read over to him some time ago a paragraph of your letter concerning Capt. Mayo he said "That 'Capt. Mayo may be an acquisition to you, but perceived not how he could be one to me,'" on the contrary there were too many D--- Democrats in the Country. But we ought to make allowance, for the old gentleman and his brother, as you perfectly know, are two great politicians. Some time ago I entered into a very warm debate with the latter, which changed his disposition to me from the greatest degree of intimacy to the lowest degree of coldness and indifference."

May 15, 1809

"I went today through the ceremony of laying the first stone of the ware house."



FROM THE COUNTY'S



CRACKER BARREL

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE YEAR 1971

BRASHER (Mae Murray) Town events of the year have been most exciting, especially as it was a town election year. Parades, radio speeches, picnics and dinners were sponsored by both parties. Our winter carnival was a sparkling success, as was the four-day carnival in August. Canoe and cycle races, fireworks, etc., provided action full time during the daylight hours. Our recreation committee has provided nice areas for these activities. While our softball team did not win first place their games were well attended and interesting. In October the diocesan C.Y.O. was held at St. Patrick's Church and over 200 young people of the diocese attended. A Junior Miss from St. Lawrence Central School represented this area in the Junior Miss Pageant in Massena. Many from here attended that event. The Trail Blazers, members of the local Snowmobile Club, are making plans for their winter program. (See Annual Meeting item).

CANTON (Edith L. Costa)

CLARE (Iris Fry)

CLIFTON (Clara McKenney) In 1963 a cemetery association was formed and the following year improvement and development were accomplished with the help of the townspeople. This year, 1971, it decided to make a drive for funds with which to build a vault. The drive was successful and we now have a new vault.

This year, due to the fact that land was being sold around the lake, there was a problem of a place where children could swim. The younger women of the town formed a group and got permission from one of the landowners to make a beach. There was a lot of hard work involved but when it came time to go swimming the children had a nice beach and playground.

COLTON (Lorena Reed) The water and sewer project was completed in the fall. The new water storage tank, sewer treatment plant and two new drilled wells are in full operation. Several new homes are in construction, including those of Tim Hennessey, Jay Walter, Dale Rexford and Ron Houston.

DEKALB (F.F.E. Walrath) DeKalb Junction has just completed the installation of a sewerage system, including a processing plant. This is a great improvement to our village.

The new highway between this village and Hermon is finished and is much easier to travel over than the old one.

Meetings and dinners of the Senior Citizens, held nearly every Wednesday in the Grange Hall on Main Street, are well attended.

DEPEYSTER (Adelaide Steele) DePeyster has seen another quiet year, repairing and building roads, helping the Youth Commission in their activities, and trying to keep their taxes reasonable.

The DePeyster historian assisted the citizens of Rensselaer Falls (with no historian) in entertaining the association in October. They were extremely generous in their loan of VanRensselaer deeds, oil paintings, a quilt of names, embroidered and quilted in 1908 at Kendrew, and pictures of early scenes. The principal of Rensselaer Falls High School from 1911 to 1914, Mr. Glen Seeley, and members of his senior classes and faculty were there. He is 91 and reminisced of his life in Rensselaer Falls. Jerry Streeter's granddaughter, Mrs. Eileen Barnard, wrote a biography of her grandfather for the local papers.

The ladies of the United Church gave us a fine luncheon and the day was beautiful. Our speaker gave a very interesting picture of the VanRensselaers in New York State.

EDWARDS (Leah Noble) On October 9 and 10 we held an Open House and Art Exhibit in our new Historical Center, with over 100 guests. At this time Mrs. Louise Bullock displayed many of her beautiful oil paintings. Miss Mildred Fisk exhibited hooked rugs as well as demonstrating that skill. Miss Alice Austin's water colors done in England were greatly admired.

FINE (Catherine Brownell) One of the activities which took place in our town and one of which we are very proud, was the program for over 150 muscular dystrophic patients at the Jerry Lewis summer camp located at Star Lake. Many people in the town helped to make it a success.

The Lions Club held an auction for the sight program in August.

In September our bank merged with the St. Lawrence County National Bank.

During the summer a Senior Citizens Club was formed. They meet once a month in the basement of St. Hubert's Church.

FOWLER (Isabelle Hance) The St. Joseph Minerals Corporation opened their new \$30,000,000 Balmat Complex with an open house September 27.

GOUVERNEUR (Harold Storie) Cambray Court, our fine new housing project for the elderly, constructed with government funds with the sponsorship of the Gouverneur Clericus, is finished and will open when some technicalities are cleared. "Cambray" is the early name of Gouverneur.

Summer was marked by several fine concerts by an army band from Camp Drum and late in August, by a Rock and Mineral Show.

HAMMOND (Maxine Rutherford) The Sesquicentennial celebration of the Hammond Presbyterian Society was the highlight of our town's historical year. It began with a dinner and program September 4th and was followed by a memorial service on Sunday, September 5th.

The Hammond Fire Department's Field Day held in August was climaxed by a parade of bands, visiting fire departments and floats.

Agriculture was the theme of this year's historical exhibit at the Hammond 4-H and FFA Fair. Bee-keeping equipment used during the 1870's and later was displayed. We also had a return engagement of Aunt Harriet's Quilting Party.

HERMON (Helen LeBlanc) The Hermon Firemen and Auxiliary held a very well attended field day with perfect weather in July.

The Senior Citizens of Hermon and DeKalb have held their monthly dinners alternately in the Hermon Fire Hall and DeKalb Neighborhood Center. They have had good programs and a fair crowd.

Election was very lively and close in Hermon, with the Democrats taking over every office except road commissioner and town clerk. This was something new for Hermon which has four times as many Republicans as Democrats. Levi Kio is the new supervisor.

The new state road was completed in late October after

two years of work between DeKalb Junction and Russell-- a splendid road.

HOPKINTON (Ferne Conklin) More than 100 people attended the Republican dinner October 22 at which Mrs. Betsy Kaplan, Republican Chairman of St. Lawrence County, was the main speaker.

We have two men who will retire as of January first. Sidney Conklin, who has been Superintendent of Highways of the Town of Hopkinton for 28 years and an employee of the town for over 35 years, plans to go to Florida with Mrs. Conklin. Frank Baldwin, who has been Justice of the Peace for 23 years, plans on just taking things easy after January 1. They are succeeded by Hubert Boulds as Superintendent of Highways and Erwin Zahler, Town Justice.

LAWRENCE (Anna Cole) The three celebrations in the town of Lawrence in 1971 were Firemen's Field Days; in Nicholville, June 26; in Lawrenceville, September 12; and in North Lawrence, August 22.

LISBON (Doreen Martin) Town clerk and town board officers were extensively renovated during the year. The American Legion has built a new dining room on their home, the original "Hall House." Natural gas is being installed in many Lisbon homes. Lisbon churches have two new pastors: the Rev. Paul Fariš at Reformed Presbyterian and Rev. Milton Skiff at the United Presbyterian Church.

LOUISVILLE (Lorraine Bandy) Our town was proud and honored to have a local boy chosen as one to represent northern New York in Japan this past summer. Alan Shanks, son of Shirley and Irvin Shanks, was one of the five Boy Scouts in this area. He took with him several Louisville, New York, pennants to give to other Scouts to let them know Louisville is "on the map."

Our local volunteer Fire Department had a very successful field day this past summer as did the Little League teams. The Volunteer Fire Department Softball League ended up next to the last team, but they had lots of fun and the league banquet in October topped off their summer. A poem by yours truly about the Softball Turtles was read by the M.C. at the banquet. (Filed in the archives to use when space permits, Editor)

MACOMB (Willis Kittle)

MADRID (Florence Fisher) The County Historical Association unveiled a plaque at the bridge crossing the Grass River on the county road between Waddington and Norfolk. Formerly called the Chamberlain Corners Bridge, this bridge lies between the townships of Madrid and Waddington, it is now known as the Earl J. Mattis Bridge.

MASSENA (Marie Eldon-Browne) The 100th anniversary of our school district ended with a two-hour radio program of interviews with ethnic groups, discussing their reasons for settling in Massena. Reprints are available by writing Mr. Harry Butler, Massena Central High School.

A parade with ceremonies marked Memorial Day. The Firemen's Annual Convention and District 4 meeting, New York State Federation of Garden Clubs were held in Massena. Other important events included; the V.F.W. dinner honoring the outstanding citizen of the year, Sgt. Harold Manning, Police Department; the opening of the new wing of the Massena Memorial Hospital; a memorial "sing-out" for William G. Cornell, a beloved teacher in Massena Central High School, by the combined choirs of the school, with a large attendance.

In connection with the 10th annual Seaway Junior Miss Pageant, Miss Nancy Pike will receive a \$400 unrestricted scholarship from the William G. Cornell Memorial Fund.

MORRISTOWN (Ella Mae Phillips) The long celebration of the town's sesquicentennial included Charter Day, April 3, the annual July 4th celebration by the firemen, dedication of the museum and window displays.

NORFOLK (Edith VanKennen) The Rev. John Granger, pas-

tor of the Wesleyan Church of Norfolk, his wife and members of the church, hosted the Champlain District of the Wesleyan Church October 10-13. Forty-two of the fifty-two churches were represented. Among the guests were four pastors who have retired. This Ministerial Institute was considered the best yet.

OSWEGATCHIE (Persis Boyesen) The Presbyterian Stone Church held its increasingly popular "Memory Lane Festival" in July. Also in July the Galilee Methodist Church welcomed its new pastor, Rev. Alan Barnes.

One mile of the Middle Road leading from the Black Lake Road was resurfaced as was a section of the Horseshoe Road connecting with the Taylor Road and the village of Heuvelton.

The new United Helpers Home being constructed on the former Pythian Home site on Riverside Drive is nearly finished.

Mrs. Jennie Smithers, town historian, 1961-1963, died during this year.

Mr. Donald Livingston was reelected supervisor of the town of Oswegatchie for the fifth consecutive term by a margin of 10 votes.

PARISHVILLE (D. Norene Forrest) The Firemen's Field Day held July 25 featured a dinner served to 750 people. High School Alumni Day was held August 7. A big attraction has been ski-doo races on the grass.

PIERCEFIELD (Beulah Dorothy) My town was host to the St. Lawrence County Health Fair on August 13, 14, and 15. Nearly every family in the town participated in this event.

PIERREPONT (Millard Hundley)

PITCAIRN (Edna Hosmer) Our town continues to grow, with more homes, trailers and people.

The East Pitcairn Wesleyan Church is building an addition.

Our county picnic area has been enlarged and supplied with more tables. Beautiful Greenwood State Park is much used. Come to it and see real unspoiled natural grandeur.

POTSDAM (Susan Lyman) Potsdam is the home of one of the nation's foremost schools of engineering, Clarkson College of Technology. 1971 marks the 75th anniversary of the founding of the college and a year-long observance is under way. A 5.5 million dollar science complex is nearly completed and was described by Mundy L. Peale, chairman of the board of trustees at a recent Charter Day observance. The 10,000th Clarkson diploma was given at the 1971 commencement.

ROSSIE (Frances Gardner) About 50 children of the vicinity enjoyed the annual Halloween party held at the boat launch in the village and supported by donations from business people and others. They enjoyed a huge bonfire, cider, apples and a surprise treat.

Food sales are held on Saturday before each legal holiday for the benefit of the Rossie Presbyterian Church and on Sunday morning before legal holidays for St. Patrick's Catholic Church.

The annual fish run, April 18 to 23, attracted a large crowd from the North Country. A refreshment stand at the town barn served food for the benefit of the Rossie Community Center.

The Presbyterian Church held a bazaar and served meals at the Community Center October 15 and 16.

The new mail box installed at the post office November 1 is the same one that has done service in the Watertown Arcade for 50 years.

A new road superintendent was elected Nov. 2 and a macadam road has been completed to within one-half mile of the Jefferson County line on the Rossie River Road. (Laura Gillett) In November, 1970, our minister, Rev. Robert North, left our church. Fortunately, Floyd Powell, a layman from the DeKalb Junction church, helped us out we gladly received Rev. Donald Dodds as our regular minister in June, 1971.

There have been many church activities; a Father and Son banquet in January at which Rev. Stanley Brown spoke; a smorgasbord in March with maple wax on snow; a W.S.C.S. Northern New York spring meeting; a luncheon served by the Methodist men and W.S.C.S. for people at Dr. Livingston's auction in Gouverneur; and in June a luncheon for the Gouverneur Outlook Club and a breakfast for the graduates of this area at the church. In July a Strawberry Festival and chicken barbecue were held at the church. On October 17 many out-of-town friends joined us in a Dedication Service to mark three years of improvements to our church -- a large addition, remodeling, painting, plumbing and a new parking rea. The accumulated debt has been paid off.

RUSSELL (Jan Barnes) Events of the year in Russell included;

April 15 -- 66th anniversary of the Russell Grange, No. 1031, organized April 3, 1905, was celebrated with a county-wide banquet at Knox Memorial Central School. There was an exchange of American and Canadian flags.

June 19 -- 2nd annual Old Home Day at DeGrasse Methodist Church with parade and banquet.

July 10 -- 14th Annual Russell Volunteer Firemen's Field Day with parade and barbecue.

July 25 -- Annual DeGrasse Volunteer Firemen's Field Day with parade and chicken barbecue.

October 12 -- Edgewood Chapter 118, Eastern Star of Russell, celebrated 75 years of active existence since receiving their charter. Jan Barnes wrote the history of the chapter and read it to a very large crowd attending the celebration.

October 20 -- 2nd annual Fiddlers' Contest, at Knox Memorial Central High School, preceded by a banquet.

October 27 -- Opening of the beautiful new United States Post Office in Russell in new quarters at a new location. The dedication will take place later at Washington's direction.

STOCKHOLM (Hazel Chapman) The town of Stockholm is proud to say that we have a new bridge, built at Skinnerville in 1971. There is also a new Farmers National Bank of Winthrop, built where the Rutland Railroad Station stood for many years. The First National Bank (across Rt. 11) was built in 1915.

WADDINGTON (Dorothy Hill) St. Paul's Episcopal Church, the oldest in the North Country, had its 12th annual antique show in the elementary school. This year a flea market was added.

The Blue Water Regatta, the annual boat races of the firemen, took place on Lake St. Lawrence, while the American Legion held the first summer international snowmobile races. There was also a swimming program for the children. The Moose Lodge for Eastern New York State held their golf tournament on the Twin Brooks eighteen-hole golf course.

CITIES AND VILLAGES

GOUVERNEUR (Nelson Winters)

HEUVELTON (Persis Boyesen) The Heuvelton Volunteer Fire Department again sponsored a successful annual Labor Day parade and festivities.

Mr. Merritt F. Mayne of Huevelton celebrated his 96th birthday April 29, and he and Mrs. Mayne celebrated their 65th wedding anniversary August 27. Miss Harriet Todd celebrated her 101st birthday August 2.

Vocational education students from Heuvelton Central School attend classes at Northwest Tech in Ogdensburg, where classes opened in September.

Monsignor Robert Giroux was transferred in June to Notre Dame Church in Ogdensburg, while Rev. Phillip T. Allen was installed as pastor of St. Raphael's in Heuvelton.

NORWOOD (Susan Lyman) A committee of 27 delegates from all the Norwood churches, civic, social and frater-

nal organizations has been formed as the Norwood Centennial Committee and is busily planning a year-long series of events in 1972 in commemoration of the 100th anniversary of the incorporation of the village of Norwood. Village Trustee Richard L. French has accepted the office of general chairman.

OGDENSBURG (Elizabeth Baxter)

POTSDAM (Dee Little)

RICHVILLE (Georgiana Wranesh)

HISTORICAL ASSOCIATIONS

Gouverneur Historical Association -- The members have been trying to find a suitable place for storage and for display of items that have been placed in the safekeeping of the Association. Two members, Margaret Nulty and Paul Smith, are co-chairmen of the county association's program committee for next year. At the local association's April meeting, Virginia Huntress Eugenia spoke on the War of 1812 in northern New York. In October Helen Lynde presented a paper on early roads in the county and Margaret Nulty spoke on President Monroe's Grand Tour of the North Country in 1817.

Norwood Historical Association -- The Norwood Historical Association and Museum has received a \$1000 grant from the New York State Council on the Arts to help finance a Crafts Fair to be held next summer in conjunction with the village centennial celebration. Sherwood Smith, Norwood artist and a teacher at Potsdam Central School, is chairman of the Crafts Fair and is seeking persons to demonstrate traditional crafts.

A well - illustrated booklet has been written by the historian and Mrs. Carroll L. Chase and is now at the printer's.

A kick-off dinner will be held Jan. 15, 1972 at Sunset Lodge as the first event in the village's centennial observance.

All friends are invited to each event which will take place during 1972. An invitation has been extended to the membership of the St. Lawrence Historical Association to make a tour here in July during the Crafts Fair.

Parishville Historical Association -- The association held its annual day on August 28, 1971. Dinner was served to 150 people and a program recalling the days, 1909 through World War I, was presented in the afternoon, with 200 people in attendance. A hundred people visited our museum also. Despite the rain it was a successful day. Thanks to all for coming and participating.

YORKER CRACKER BARREL

Yorkers -- Yorkers are trying to collect material on the 1876 Centennial observance of our Country. All ideas welcomed.

(Towns without news did not return query in time for publication.)



Do you think you are eligible for DAR, Mayflower Descendant, Colonial Dames, etc.? Perhaps just the material you need for proof can be found in the History Center, Canton. We have many unusual and unique records of our county and its pioneers. Come in and see us.

researchers

A contest for sculptors and medalists of New York State has been announced by the State's American Bicentennial Commission. It is sponsored also for the N.Y. City Commission. Two official medals will be chosen, designs to be submitted by April 1, 1972. Details may be learned by contacting the History Center, Canton or the N.Y. State Bicentennial Commission, Albany, N.Y. 12210.

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Having read some of the Quarterlies at the Seattle Library, I am herewith sending my membership check. Somehow I feel I will find solutions to my family search by joining.

I am searching for Greenes, Fairbanks, Kellogs, Parkers, Copseys, Georges, Gibbs in your area. (Town of Hermon primarily). Sometimes the Greene was without an "e".

Blanche Greene Curtin
3958 So. Findlay
Seattle, Wa., 98118

(Thanks! MHB)



Many members have been so long renewing their dues, volunteers have been working overtime trying to get out reminders. Some get missed. Some may have already sent in renewal before all check lists, mimeographing, mailing etc., can be accomplished. It helps us to see that you get your Quarterly regularly if we don't have to use that time uselessly. Please renew promptly! (Thanks to Retired Teachers Association for Volunteers).

.....

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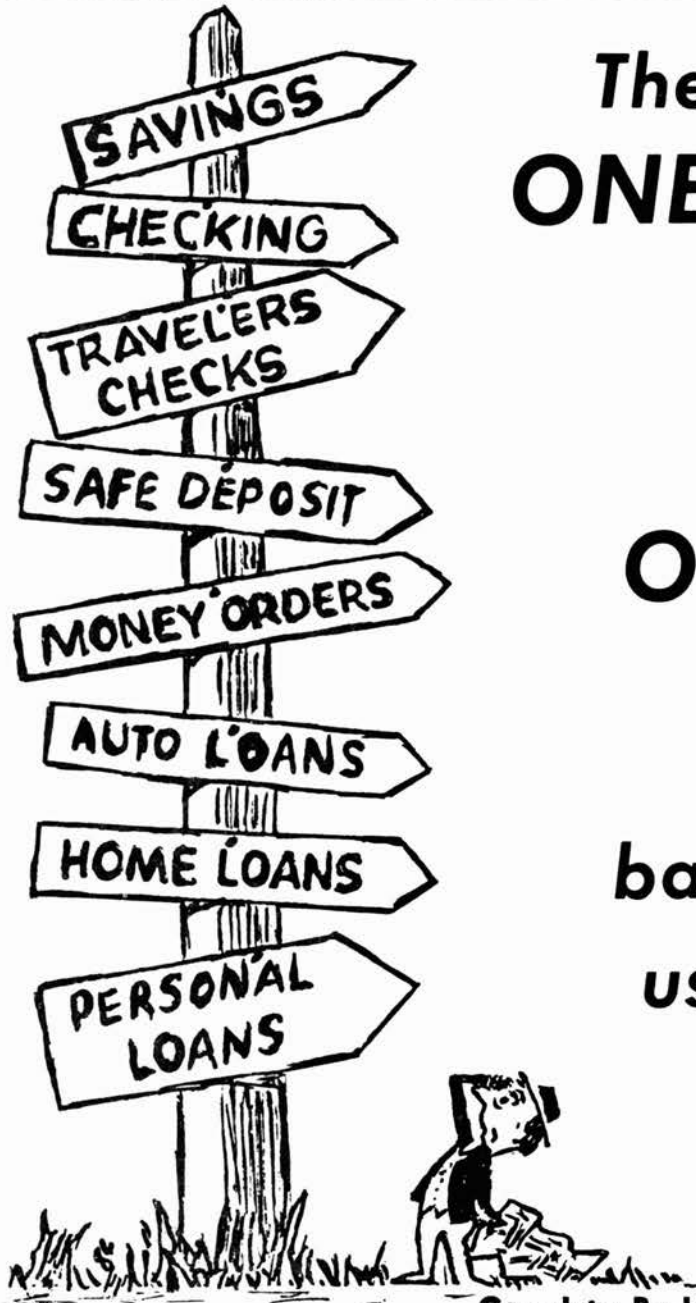
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