

THE QUARTERLY

OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE ST. LAWRENCE COUNTY HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION



JAN 1974

THE QUARTERLY

Official Publication Of The St. Lawrence County Historical Association

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COVER PHOTO

Abbot Augustus Low inspects his newly completed H.F.C. Railway. (see Low Dynasty Story)



the Catholic Apostolic Church in Potsdam

by

Dr. Martin Kessler, State University of New York at Albany,
and Dr. Robert B. Shaw, Clarkson College of Technology.

One of Potsdam's historic landmarks, now almost forgotten, was the house of worship of the Catholic Apostolic Church which stood facing Pine Street on the corner of Maple Street where a Texaco service station was until recently located. The Catholic Apostolic Church originated in the British Isles. In the winter of 1829-30 Edward Irving, minister of the Scotch (Presbyterian) Church, Regent Square, London, delivered a series of lectures in which he asserted that the spiritual gifts alluded to in the New Testament (particularly speaking in tongues and prophesying) were still relevant to the present time. About the same time miraculous healings were reported at Port Glasgow, Scotland, and were found to be genuine. In 1833 Irving was deposed from the ministry of the Church of Scotland for heresy. A new movement had been born, the leadership of which would soon pass into the hands of "twelve Apostles", and the nature of which reflected Anglican more largely than Presbyterian tendencies.

From the standpoint of local history, it is of considerable interest that the Potsdam congregation was the first of this denomination to be established in the United States. Its origins are obscure, however. Two standard St. Lawrence County histories (those by Everts and Curtis) assert that the local church was founded in 1837 by two evangelists, "Card and Cuthbert", who came here upon the invitation of a David Lewis. Card must be William R. Caird of Edin-

burgh, who had been ordained an evangelist in the Catholic Apostolic Church in 1832 by John Bate Cardale, the "pillar" of the movement's apostolic college in England; Cuthbert seems to have served as an evangelist in Kingston, Ontario. According to P. E. Shaw, Caird and George Ryerson were sent out as Catholic Apostolic missionaries from England to Canada in 1834. After an apparently unsuccessful mission, Caird was sent out again in 1836, accompanied by Cuthbert. The two county histories seem to allude to this pair, though the source of their information and the circumstances of their coming to Potsdam are unknown. Shaw simply remarks: "The Catholic Apostolic Church soon made its appearance in the United States, and many responded to its message." Potsdam's proximity to Kingston, where the first Catholic Apostolic Church in Canada had been established makes it entirely possible that work was started here at a very early date, quite likely before New York City. If, as the histories indicate, 1851 is the date when the New York City church was founded (although public meetings were held there as early as December, 1848), then the Potsdam church is prior, for William Watson Andrew's coming to Potsdam in 1849 is well attested. However, the question of the relative priority of the Potsdam church can only be settled conclusively by access to relevant primary sources, either in Canada or in the records of both congregations. The whereabouts of such data are not presently known. Another significant connecting link must be sought in the career of George Ryerson, a graduate of Union College, Schenectady, who had served the Grand River mission (Methodist) in Ontario



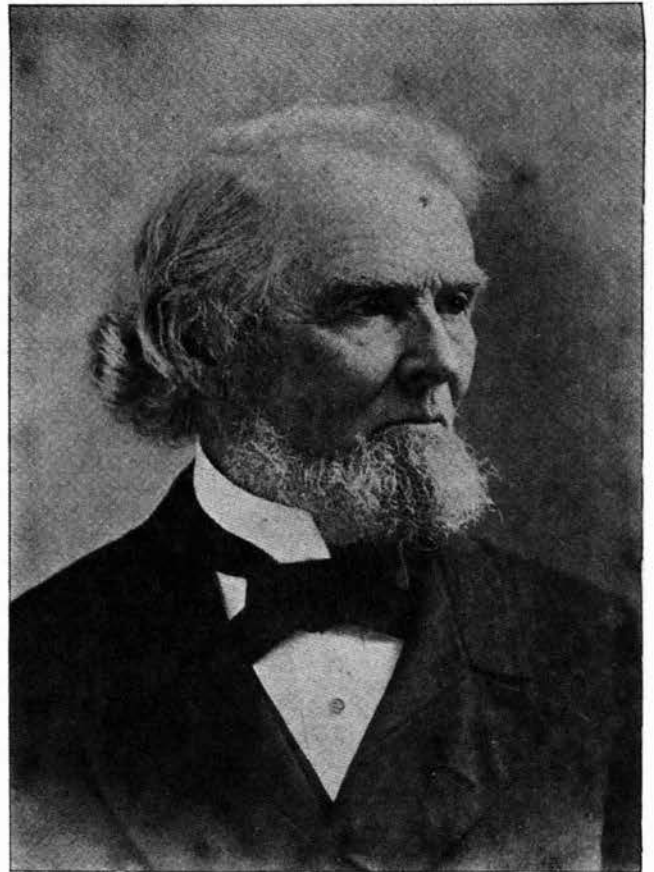
Catholic Apostolic Church at Maple Street, Potsdam. (Picture loaned by Potsdam Museum.)

as a probationer, and went to England in 1831 where he came under the influence of Edward Irving. "In a subsequent visit to Canada, he was instrumental in inoculating the Methodists of both Toronto and Kingston with the errors of Irvingism to a most disastrous extent," writes John Carroll. Besides Kingston, two Catholic Apostolic congregations were founded in Toronto, one of which was served by Ryerson for many years. It seems likely that Potsdam was evangelized from the Kingston base.

As mentioned above, the earliest date given for the founding of the Potsdam congregation is 1837. Elmer T. Clark erroneously gives 1851 as the date, with the New York City congregation established soon thereafter. Michael G. Barnett mentions a man named Lewis (probably David Lewis) who had a blacksmith shop on the corner of Maple and Pine, on the present site of a Mobil service station. He writes: "This man Lewis built a little church across the street on the other corner where the Texaco station is now. This church was known as the Croaker church." According to Everts' HISTORY, "a small frame house of worship was erected in Potsdam in 1846...sometimes considered a branch of New York City, at other times of Ottawa." Marguerite Chapman gives a date of 1843, with the additional information that the building was enlarged in 1874. An 1865 map of Potsdam shows both church and parsonage at the stated location. The U.S. Census of 1906 confirms that the first church of this denomination in the United States was organized in Potsdam, N.Y., and the second in New York City in 1851. The same census numbers 2,907 communicants nationwide. The New International Encyclopedia (1917) states that the Catholic Apostolic Church had 11 congregations in 1913 in the United States. Presently, besides the church in Manhattan, at 417 West 57th Street, which still holds services about every other week, there is a congregation in Chicago; these two seem to be the only congregations of this denomination operative in this country. The librarian of Emmanuel College, Toronto, reports that no congregations are listed in Canada presently.

Clark's comment that the "Irvingites," as the adherents of the Catholic Apostolic Church are sometimes called, are an exception of the rule "that such groups take their rise among the ignorant poor" is also attested in the Potsdam congregation, whose members were often prominent and substantial citizens. Though membership records are not available, some members are known. One prominent family is the descendants of William James Sealy, born in London, who came to Canada in 1821, and to Potsdam some time before 1862, where he died in 1878. He had three sons and three daughters. One son, William F. P. Sealy (1846-1928), served the congregation as its spiritual leader. He is also shown in old directories as a resident at 49 Maple Street and a "manager" at 22 1/2 Market Street. He was superintendent of the Potsdam Water Works for 18 years and also an associate of Bertrand Snell in various activities. The 1924 Potsdam Directory lists the same Mr. Sealy as retired and living at 49 Maple Street. As recently as 1941 Mrs. E. Mae Sealy, "widow C. S." (probably Clarence) was shown as still living at this address. Other prominent names among the membership included Dunlop, Elliott, and Bicknell.

The church was legally dissolved as of March 9, 1894. Nevertheless the congregation remained intact, in some sense, for a few years longer. Apparently Mr. William F. P. Sealy bought the property (for \$8,500) and lived in the parsonage, continuing to serve the church, although the title was transferred to the "Church Building Association of Potsdam" (Deed 142B, Canton Courthouse). Notice of this transaction appears in the St. Lawrence Herald for three weeks beginning 3 November 1893, David Lewis being mentioned as the sole surviving trustee. It seems that the building remained intact and services continued to be held. In fact, the last communicant was received into membership as late as 1901. Mrs. Chapman has written that the building was torn down after December 1920, "when the church was given up." No specific corroboration of this event can be found in the local newspapers. The Potsdam Courier-Freeman of 23 June 1920 announces the marriage of Bernetta Sealy (a niece of William F. P. Sealy) to Basil Elliott, of Tupper



The Rev. William Watson Andrews, minister of the Catholic Apostolic Church in Potsdam from 1849-1857, its only "professional" pastor. (loaned by Congregational Church, Kent, Conn.)

Lake. Mrs. Elliott still resides in Potsdam and seems to be the only surviving member of the congregation. Since the ceremony was performed in Trinity (Episcopal) Church in Potsdam, the Catholic Apostolic congregation must have disbanded prior to this time. Further, in the minutes of the final meeting of the leaders of the church, dated June 1922, the observation is made that services had been discontinued some ten or more years earlier and that the building had been torn down about five years ago; this would bring this event to about 1917.

According to Mrs. Bicknell, the wife of one of the last surviving members (Herbert Bicknell, deceased 1971), the remaining parishioners were advised to join Trinity Church. The pews from the demolished church were stored in the loft of her father-in-law, Hosea Bicknell (who had been ordained a priest in 1879 and also served as president of the Potsdam Savings & Loan Association), on Market Street for a number of years. Some time in the early 1930's they were damaged by fire, and they were later donated to the Jewish congregation, Beth-El. Dr. Leete, Potsdam Town Historian, reported in 1926 that the marble of the altar was broken up and buried.

A listing of clergy which served the church is found in Everts' HISTORY, but the information is quite indefinite. Cuthbert supervised the congregation for a year. Then, a Mr. Easton served as pastor for 1 1/2 years; after that, Norman Holmes for about 10 years. Easily the most illustrious of this roster, and the one whose career is also most amply documented, is William Watson Andrews, who served Potsdam from 1849 to 1857. The name mentioned next is Noah Perrin, chief elder and acting pastor. He died in 1876. Quite inexplicably, the congregational records indicate Mr. Perrin as the "first priest" in the Potsdam congregation.

A Mr. Britton served as pastor for 2 1/2 years and Mr.



Leonard H. Prince

AND THEY CALL IT PROGRESS

Nobody Whittles Any More, Fewer and Fewer Women Take Along Knitting or Tatting

Have you seen any men whittling lately?

Or any women knitting or crocheting when they attend meetings or ride on planes or buses?

There was a day when every man and woman tried to keep busy—just to pass the time away.

What the men did usually amounted to little—although pine shavings are mighty nice to use in starting a fire. It was cheaper than buying coal oil at the grocery store.

But women crocheted and knitted and tatted—and they made useful as well as beautiful articles.

Where would a man get an old pine board in these days that would be suitable for whittling?

Without too many knots?

Today, nothing seems to be as nice to this generation as knotty pine.

But years ago, a board with very many knots in it would have been turned back at the lumberyard—Al Hawes and Walter Pratt and others who were in the lumberyard business would still have had those defective boards on hand—if times and styles had not changed.

Nelson Phelix and Will Abert and George Pitts would have had nothing to do with a board full of knots.

Some years ago, a Massena couple were happy to secure a quantity of knotty pine lumber, just beautiful according to the new standards.

Will Abert lived on Church St., and was an excellent carpenter. The knotty pine was to be used in a camp on the St. Lawrence River.

The couple were very happy—and looked forward to having a most attractive cottage.

Mr. Abert, an old time carpenter, was taken to the cottage and told what was wanted. He was left alone.

The couple wondered what took this carpenter so long, he was an efficient workman.

They asked him.

He said he was having a difficult time sawing up the lumber in such a way as to get rid of the knots. He had never seen such knotty lumber in his life.

Mr. Abert died years ago, but he was of the old school. His cottage on Church St. is now part of the Schine's Inn parking lot.

Today, the small bits of wood, the sawdust and other chips are pressed into panels. They are attractive. All this went to waste in the old-time lumberyards. They are highly prized now.

When a group of men dropped around at the corner grocery store to loaf in the evenings, somebody would pull out his jackknife and start whittling on a small board.

Usually there was no pattern to what was being made or fashioned from the board. The shavings were put in a pile and eventually were scooped up by hand in starting the fire the next morning.

In those days, men took a great deal of pride in their jackknives. They kept them sharpened and in perfect shape. They ground them on the grindstone or the emery wheel, then honed them a bit.

With a dry pine board and a sharp knife, a man could do a lot of whittling and thinking at the same time. The shavings didn't amount to much; probably neither did his thinking.

On two occasions thus far this year, I have noted just two women working on some project.

On a plane flight from Tampa to Syracuse in March, I sat in the same row of seats as a young woman who was working on an afghan. She said she was a teacher, that she had made the trip to Florida just for the weekend, and that she had made more afghans than she knew what to do with. But she said she would rather be making afghans than just looking out the plane window and seeing the clouds.

Regional meeting of Sigma Delta Chi National Journalism Society was held at Windsor, Conn., in April.

Two years ago, the sedate Sigma Delta Chi voted to allow newspaper women to become members.

Thus, the group at the convention included men and women, men who had long been engaged in newspaper work and their wives, women who were members of the society in their own right.

Many of these people were in high positions on some of the largest and most important newspapers in Northeastern United States.

In all that group, just one woman brought her knitting. She was rather large and elderly—for she was a member of that generation which believed in always keeping busy and in eating well.

She worked while she listened to the speeches.

You had the idea that she and her husband were affluent enough that they could have opened a big department store and stocked it with about a million of the articles that woman was making.

Most people in this day don't do anything. They sit and dream. The men don't whittle any more; most women have long quit taking along their knitting when they go out for a meeting.

This is the affluent era.

Did you know that ---

Governor Silas Wright had blue eyes, sandy hair, a large nose and large ears set close to his head?

Did you know that ---

Mrs. David MacAleese (formerly Louise Elmer) of Cranberry Lake is a great grand-niece of Gov. Silas Wright?

Did you know that ---

Silas Wright had three brothers and three sisters, all of whom lived to adulthood -- Samuel, Daniel L., Pliny, Orenda, Lucretia and Eleanor?

Did you know that ---

the Surrogate Judge Silas Wright died intestate?

Lake Ozonia

Gold Mining in the 1880's

By William McLoughlin

Among the more memorable legends of Lake Ozonia is that of the spiritualists with a divining rod who dug for gold along the shores of the lake and the mountain around it. Mrs. Mollie McEwen in her engaging memoir wrote: "There was a legend in connection with this gold mining which was that a group of Spiritualists gathered around Jumbo Rock and during the seance they were told to dig on the hill down at the right of the outlet and they would find gold." According to Robert Cutting, whose father owned the property where some of the mining operations took place, this prospector "had a so-called divining rod he claimed would point to gold."

Like most legends, this one embroiders upon a hard core of fact. Anyone who wants to climb Miners Mountain at the southwest tip of the lake can see the old mineshaft which still extends ninety feet down into the mountain at a point about two-thirds of the way up its western slope. Now half filled with water (because the shaft descended at a forty-five degree angle into the heart of the hill) it was 130 feet long. It is dark, cold, and damp in the mine and no signs of the men who dug it now remain, though they lived and worked in the area for over five years in the 1880's. Another mute remnant of this gold-mining fever can be found in the woods at the end of the eastern bay of the lake, near where the old Log Hotel once stood and on the knoll behind the cottage now owned by William H. Cubley of Potsdam. But this mine is now little more than a slight dent in the earth; its shaft, if it ever had one, has long since crumbled in.

The man chiefly responsible for these and other similar mining operations around Trout Lake (as Ozonia was then called) was a Dr. S. McBride, who came to the Adirondack region from Wisconsin in 1880 in search of health. With him he brought his daughter and son-in-law. After prospecting around the shore of the lake, McBride began his major operation on Miners Mountain in 1882. Building a log cabin near the entrance to the mine, he and his son-in-law returned summer after summer digging deeper and deeper into the bowels of the earth. "Black powder was used for the charge and the powder holes drilled by hand of course," writes Robert Cutting. "After the holes were blown, the rock pieces were placed in wooden boxes with handles on each end, carried up the shaft and deposited over the side of the hill near the entrance. My father (Frank A. Cutting) took rock samples back to Boston and had them assayed at M.I.T. where the findings were 'traces of gold' too minute to be practicable to develop further."

But this did not stop McBride. In a report he gave to the Potsdam Courier-Freeman in the fall of 1887 he said, "He has fifteen mining claims already filed at the Secretary of State's office at Albany. He has done considerable digging



in several places in the vicinity of the lake, but the shaft sunk near the south end of the lake is the most extensive, being 130 feet deep...He says he intends to return here again in the spring bringing his family with him, also being accompanied by his brother and family, prepared to vigorously push forward the work of prospecting. He firmly believes that he will have to sink the present shaft but a few feet farther to find gold and silver ore of sufficient richness to richly pay for working, as he has already had samples assayed that showed a value of fifty dollars to the ton. The Dr. has already expended some \$2,000 in prospecting...fully believing that the Adirondacks possess untold mineral wealth only awaiting the persistent seeker. He also intends boring for oil and gas....That he may be successful is the earnest wish of all."

Another part of the legend, also based upon fact, is that a baby was born in that rude cabin on Miners Mountain of which there is now no trace. Mrs. McEwen, who recalls that it was the doctor's son and daughter-in-law who lived with him (not his daughter and son-in-law) visited the mother soon after the birth: "His son's wife came to that poorly equipped mining shack to have her baby and Rose (Reeve) and I climbed Mine Hill, as it was then called, to call on the mother and son whom she said was to be called 'Adirondack.' Observe the spelling. That was the way she pronounced it...the mother was quite good looking and the baby too."

Most accounts of Dr. McBride's mining operations agree that he never found gold or silver--or gas or oil. But no one is quite sure when he gave up. Probably within a year or two after the interview printed in the Courier-Freeman, Frank Cutting, who allowed him to dig on his property free of charge, was perfectly able to have pursued the effort if he had thought it worthwhile. But there was more and easier profit to be made from hemlock bark in that region, and Cutting invested in that instead. Where McBride went prospecting next is unknown -- perhaps in the Klondike, Nor have we any knowledge of what happened to little Adirondack.

While McBride did not find gold, he did, according to his report, discover "a deposit of variegated marble resembling somewhat the marble found in the vicinity of Gouverneur." Anyone who wants to pump out forty feet of icy water from the old mine shaft might obtain a block of this marble to erect a small monument to McBride in honor of his incredible labor and forlorn hope. As Robert Cutting so aptly puts it, "When one visits this spot, goes into the mine (where it seems to be 30 degrees cooler), comes out, views the tremendous pile of rock tailings, all the work of two men in following a dream that never materialized, why they too were among the countless others all over the world in various endeavors who never found what they sought."



Heritage Preserved

By MASON JAHRS

To Mason Jahrs

"The train is coming around the bend,
Good-bye, Old Grover, good-bye.
It's loaded down with Harrison's men,
Good-bye, OLD Grover, Good bye.

Chorus

Good-bye, Grover, Good-bye Old Grover, Good-bye

(Repeat)

(Campaign song during election, hoping to speed "Old Grover" Cleveland on his way out of the public life.) Its swinging tune and catchy phrases caught on, and children and all sang it for months afterward when I was small.

Edith S. Van Kernen
Norfolk, New York

Dear Mason Jahrs:

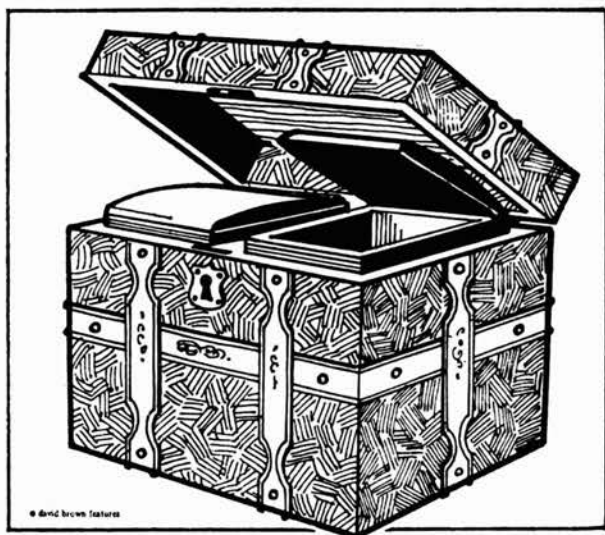
I recently read in your column a query about a song in which a little girl was lashed to the mast of her father's boat. The enclosed poem may Jahr May B.'s memory. I'm sure Henry Wadsworth Longfellow got the idea for his "Wreck of the Hesperus" from the folk song. This was printed in one of my aunt's early elementary school readers.

Sincerely,
Nora Stites
(Mrs. John Stites, III)
3615 Wilbur Place
Nashville, Tenn 37204

Dear Nora:

We, too, were jahred into another nostalgic reverie by the reprint of "The Wreck" you sent. My little sister used to cry bailbuckets of tears every time we had to read this in school...why did they make poems so sad?? However, we believe that BOTH Longfellow and the folksong bard got the idea from an actual shipwreck off the reef of Norman's Woe. These rocks are off the coast of Massachusetts and many ships have gone aground in northeasterly gales. Perhaps one such was actually named the "Hesperus." Any other readers' comments?

MJ



October, 1903. Valuable ore has been discovered in Fine--mica, copper, gold, silver and some precious stones in white granite. Prospectors from Canada are there...The first shipment from Macomb for the Gouverneur Lead & Garnet Company, worth \$800, has been made, says Amasa Corbin... Expectations to start a gold mine on the Converse farm, Nicholville.

Gov. Wright House Museum Campaign

Campaign tidbits...

The oldest County native to send in a gift was probably George H. Partridge, one of our Life Members, of New Hartford. This past year he celebrated his 100th birthday.

**

Campaign tidbits...

Typical of the enthusiasm shown by "younger" onetime residents of the county was support by Terry and Walt Shannon, now of LaFayette, N.Y., but "looking forward to happy hours in the future museum."

**

Campaign tidbits...

Some gifts are for very specific purposes. The Potsdam Garden Club designated its contribution for outdoor beautification of the property. Wouldn't it be delightful to have a Victorian cutting garden with the house?

**

Campaign tidbits...

The Whalen family of Canton made a \$10,000 Challenge Gift. Mrs. Charles J. Whalen, Fleeta to her many friends, noted that the present Whalen residence at 38 Park Street is on what was once Silas Wright land. In a history of Canton written in 1898 by Mrs. Frank N. Cleveland she notes "the west side of Park Street, extending to the river, and from West Street to Lincoln, constituted the Silas Wright farm proper, the present residence of Mr. A.J. Squires being its farm house."

**

Campaign tidbits...

Gifts came from Texas, Arizona and Minnesota...from housewives, lawyers, teachers, merchants, priests and ministers, retirees, doctors, service station proprietors, undertakers, miners, farmers, photographers, and so on. Name anything for a profession, and it's on our donor list.

**

Campaign tidbits...

It is still possible to add to the Memorial list. The first pledge from an area-based foundation is the Barnhart Foundation.

**

From the Gouverneur Free Press, 1895: Newspaper publishers will welcome with pleasure the folding machine invented and manufactured by Mr. A. G. Snyder of Madrid. The first machine that Mr. Snyder had perfected was put in at the Free Press, and it works like a charm. It was set up here as an experiment and has been in operation five weeks and took the place of one of another make that we had used for three years past. The Snyder machine will probably remain a fixture in our office. The frame is iron and all the parts are perfect fitting, and it folds the large editions of this newspaper and the Grand Army Journal without a skip. A very valuable device which Mr. Snyder has patented and placed upon his folder is the adjustable feed. By means of this ingenious piece of mechanism the sheet is neatly drawn to one side of the machine so that the first knife strikes exactly in the centre whether the sheet is fed to the machine straight or not. The price of the folder is so moderate that an office with any pretention to a circulation will save money by buying one. Since setting up the folder here Mr. Snyder has sold four others, one to a daily newspaper. The high priced manufacturers will have to look to their laurels for the Snyder folder is very liable to crowd them out of the market.



Rare portrait of Eleanor Goodale, daughter of Isaac Goodale and Huldah Burt, both natives of Massachusetts, who married Silas Wright, Sr., in 1780 in Massachusetts. Silas, Jr., their fifth child, was born 24 May 1795 at Amherst shortly before the family moved to Weybridge, Vt. (Photo courtesy of Potsdam Museum collection).

••



Rex Ayers and Mantie Ayers Clark



Lydia Ayers with the catch of the year, about 1918.



MASSENA, N.Y. VIEW OF MAIN ST., LOOKING SOUTH.

Galbreath and Fregoe, Druggists, Massena, N.Y.

Massena, Main Street, looking South, about 1907. (History Center Archives.)

The LOW DYNASTY

By F. Mark Clark

The death of A. A. Low of Horseshoe, New York on September 25, 1912 ended a period in the history of eastern St. Lawrence County that began in 1892. A mere twenty years earlier, to be sure, but a period filled with exceptional and exciting doings that, at times, challenged the credulity of his associates. At graveside in Brooklyn, the immediate family included besides his widow, Marian, four children and one grandchild; also brother Seth, former mayor of New York and president of Columbia; brother Bill, eminent attorney, as well as Governor and Mrs. John Dix. Sadly, those who had profited most from his presence in the mountains were not even aware of his illness, and the Herald published in nearby Tupper Lake couldn't even spell his name correctly in its obituary.

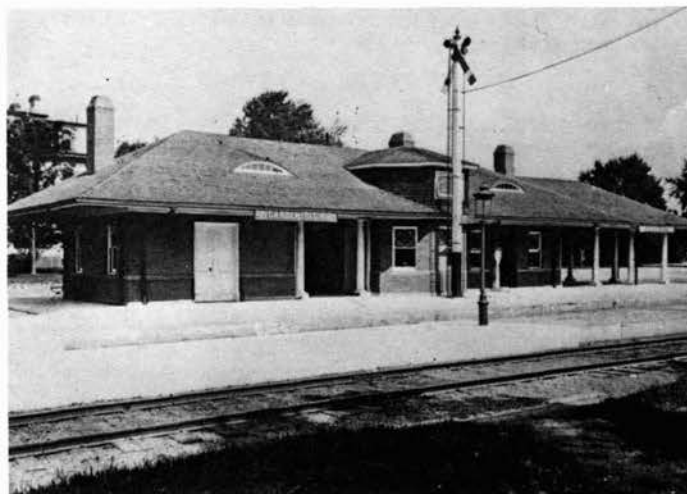
There was nothing really exceptional about a wealthy man acquiring large land holdings in the Adirondacks at that time. The tax rolls of most Forest Preserve counties were studded with the names of the nation's wealthy and socially prominent families. It was not commonplace, though, for such holdings to exceed 40,000 acres and to embrace the headwaters and two-thirds of a famous river's entire watershed.

At an early age he had apprenticed himself to the large shipping and importing enterprise founded by his father. There, he received a liberal business education, prospered and became a partner in the business. In the rough and tough environment around the wharves, warehouses and ship yards of New York and Brooklyn he earned a reputation as an innovator and inventor. In the mountains, his familiarity with, and liberal use of, the most sophisticated power-operated equipment for the performance of work normally done in the woods by horses and men never ceased to amaze his employees.

Although the Lows had been summering at Lake Luzerne for more than fifteen years, the building of a rustic summer home on the western shore of Bog Lake started them on the way to becoming permanent residents of the North woods. Access to the Bog Lake camp was gained through a whistle stop on the new M. & M. Railroad which Marian named "Robinwood." With advice and encouragement from John Dix, an experienced lumberman whom Mr. Low had met at Lake Luzerne, and who later turned politician, land acquisition went forward rapidly. Most of the Bog River basin had been bought by the end of 1896.



A. A. Low poses on the platform of his new depot. He became postmaster at "Horseshoe" in 1898.



This depot at Garden City, Long Island, was reproduced at Horseshoe by Low and sold to M & M railroad for \$1.00.

That same year Mr. Low arranged with the M. & M. Railroad for a full-fledged depot with telegraph and ticket office, as well as facilities for freight and express shipments at Horseshoe Pond -- about ten miles north of Robinwood. There, at Horseshoe, Mr. Low decided to make his headquarters. The government agreed to establish a U.S. Post Office, and George Dukelow, manager of Low's first boarding house for employees, was appointed Postmaster.

Lumbering the Mud Lake tract also started that year. The logs were floated down the Bog River to Tupper Lake the following spring. In addition, a private standard-gauge railroad was also built by Mr. Low in '97 -- primarily to haul logs cut north of Horseshoe to the Bog for the spring drives beginning in '98. The rolling stock bore the name "Horseshoe Forestry Company." Mr. Low had assumed that name as a facade for most of his business ventures in the mountains. When completed the H. F. C. Railway boasted over 15 miles of trackage, two locomotives, a crane, a shovel, a log loader -- all powered by steam -- and, of course, several flat cars.

The Lows claimed Brooklyn as home, where they lived in the house built by his Father in 1857, but the shape of things planned and developing at Horseshoe was making a substantial impact on their lives. Mr. Low who was variously known as Abbot Augustus, A. Augustus, and Abbot A., as well as A. A. Low, served on the boards of several New York companies. Many of his ideas for the solution of their mechanical and electrical problems were patented and assigned by him to the respective companies. Between board meetings he was commuting to Horseshoe where the growing Horseshoe Forestry Co. claimed more and more of his time and attention.

Both Abbot and Marian were enamored with life in the mountains, and were hiding their time until they could become year around residents there. Now that the H. F. C. Ry was completed and doing its job of hauling logs, it could also be used to get other projects under way. The first of these was a sawmill to be built on the Bog River near Hitchins Pond and the southwestern terminus of the private railroad. This station Marian called "Hitchins Park."

It was not unusual in the North Woods to set up a portable sawmill and edger to supply rough lumber at the site of a large construction job; Sometimes a small planer-shaper were added to dress and match cured lumber. But, when the mill at Hitchins Park was finished, the likes of it had not

been seen before in the mountains by any of his employees -- or for that matter, by Abbot. It was a band mill that cut both hard and soft wood, and included all manner of standard woodworking equipment, and in addition special re-sawing and box-making machines, also a stave and heading mill. 1898 found the drying yard at Hitchins Park well stocked with curing lumber, and John Leggett, a North Country engineer and builder, who had supervised the building of the H. G. C. Rwy and the erection of the mill, was ready for his next assignment.

SPRING WATER AND SYRUP

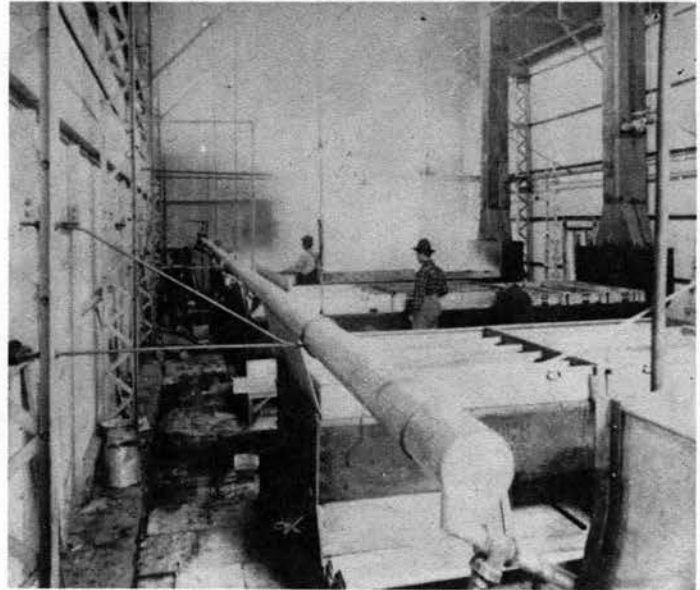
A three-story boarding house at Hitchins Park headed a long list; when finished it was managed by Mrs. Leggett. Housing and feeding employees both at the depot and the Park had already become a major problem. Simultaneously, several cottages were built at both places to house married personnel. Also underway that year were the bottling works for spring water and the first evaporator for maple products. Horseshoe and Hitchins Park, it seemed, were being transformed almost overnight from small clearings in the forest into bustling hamlets.



Two views of Bottle used.

Low's spring water was first sent to market early in 1899. Two large flowing springs were in a deep ravine about twenty feet below the road bed of the H. F. C. Ry -- half way between Hitchins Park and the depot at Horseshoe. Bottles were filled and packed in shipping cases at the springs and then elevated by a steam-powered escalator to a loading platform at rail side. A square returnable bottle had been designed and patented by Abbot. The shipping cases, also returnable, were made at the Park. Both bottles and cases bore the legend "Virgin Forest Water Company, Virgin Forest Springs, Horseshoe, St. Lawrence County, N.Y." This water found a ready market until 1904 or '05 when the demand for bottled waters seems to have waned.

The construction of the first evaporator started in '98 was completed in time to begin operating the next spring. Two men had been engaged to install and operate the equipment and to supervise the tapping and collection of sap from roughly 10,000 maple trees. It is estimated that 4000 gallons of syrup were made. The maple products of the Horseshoe Forestry Company won prizes that fall at fairs held in Philadelphia, Pa. and Rutland, Vt. A feature of the sugar



First Evaporator, Maple Valley

bush operation that astounded the natives was a system of tubs, pipes, and troughs that brought sap to rail side where it was transferred to large tanks mounted on flat cars and taken by rail to the evaporator. In one instance, at least, the sap was conducted directly to a vat at the evaporator.

The steam-heated flue-type pans plus the sap-collecting system used by the Horseshoe Forestry Company may have been the most sophisticated sugar bush operation in the nation at that time. In its peak year, 1907, it is said that 20,000 gallons of syrup were made in three evaporators. James Hill and John Rivett who had managed the project from the beginning had perfected the evaporator pans to control the heat and the flow of the sap passing through the maze. Mr. Low recognized the uniqueness of the equipment and applied for a patent in their names. Patent #684,242 was granted to them on October 8, 1901. Also during the summer of '99, native berries were harvested and made into preserves utilizing the evaporator pans to do the cooking. For this product, Abbot designed and patented another bottle. Patent #31,235 was granted July 18, 1899.

From the beginning containers for syrup had been coopered from staves and heads produced at Hitchins Park along with shipping cases for water and preserves. By 1900, a site on Lake Marian had been selected for the Low's permanent home. The M. & M. Railroad had finally given Mr. Low permission to erect a permanent depot at Horseshoe, since the Lows were very unhappy with the structure the railroad would provide. When completed the title to the new structure was turned over to the railroad for one dollar.

AND WINE

This year also a wine cellar was built and staves for large aging barrels were turned out at the Park. A winemaker was recruited to process native fruit. That, however, didn't pan out and grapes were brought in from the Finger Lakes to fill the barrels. The wine was used exclusively by the family as a table beverage, except that Abbot who was a deacon in his church served wine after the services he conducted every Sunday. It is said that this practice helped the attendance.

Also in 1900, A. A. Low was granted patent #660,863 for a "natural wood fuel." This product was made by sawing the limbs of trees into wafers from which the hearts were removed. When dry they were strung by the dozen on small rope. It was Abbot's hope that this product would provide a practical means for removing the wasteful and hazardous debris left on the forest floor by the lumbermen. He felt that it would find a large market among the dwellers in the cold water flats of the large coastal cities. Several strings of wafers were packaged in small burlap bags and sent to market bearing a supposedly descriptive and attractive name -- "Physic Coal." That name didn't have much sales appeal.

No. 684,242.

Patented Oct. 8, 1901.

J. H. HILL & J. RIVETT.

EVAPORATING PAN.

Application filed Apr. 25, 1901.

Fig. 3.

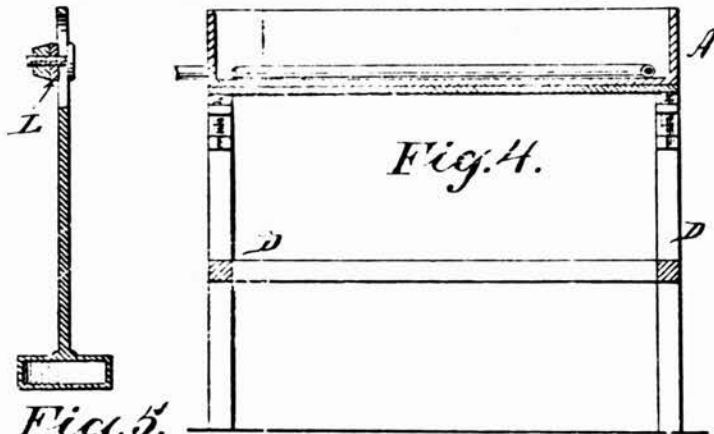
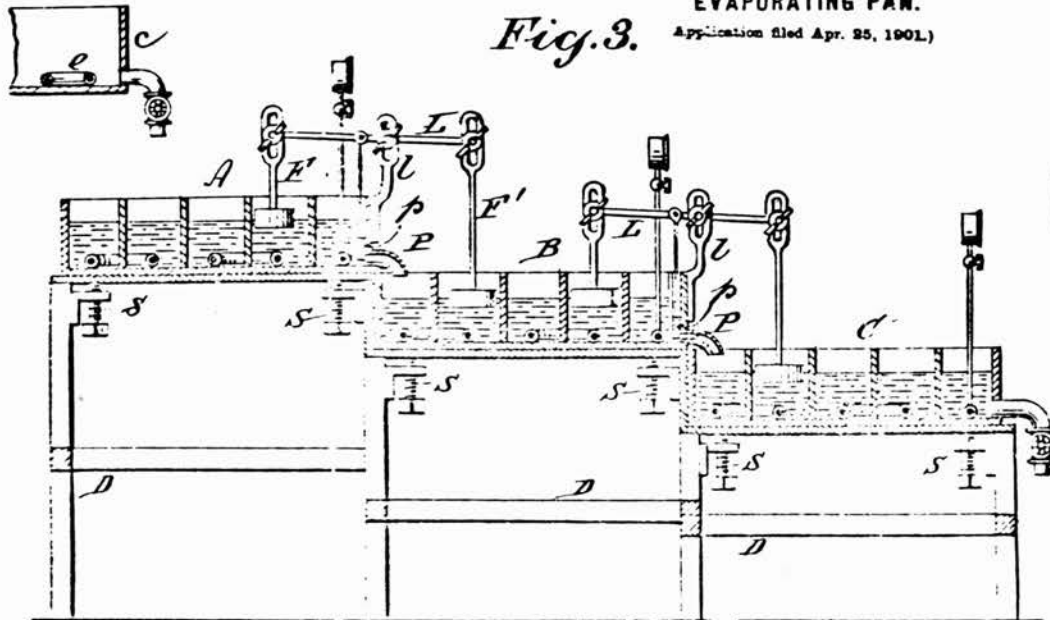


Fig. 5.

Witnesses:
 W. Gardner
 John Hill

Inventors:
 James H. Hill
 John Rivett
 By their attorney
 Leo. T. Miah

(No Model.)

No. 660,863.

A. A. LOW.
NATURAL WOOD FUEL.

Patented Oct. 30, 1900.

Fig. 1.

Fig. 2.

Fig. 3.

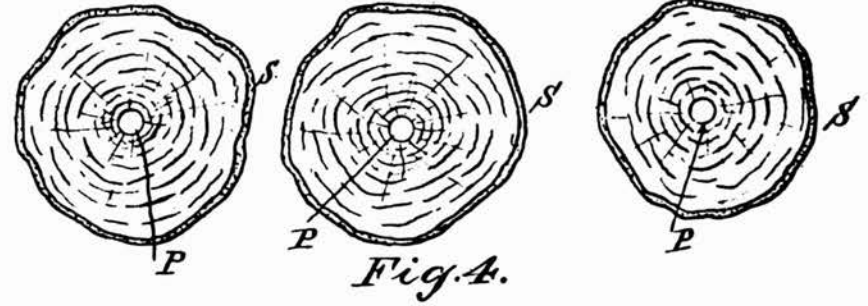


Fig. 4.

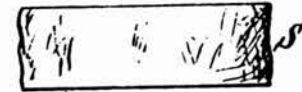


Fig. 5.

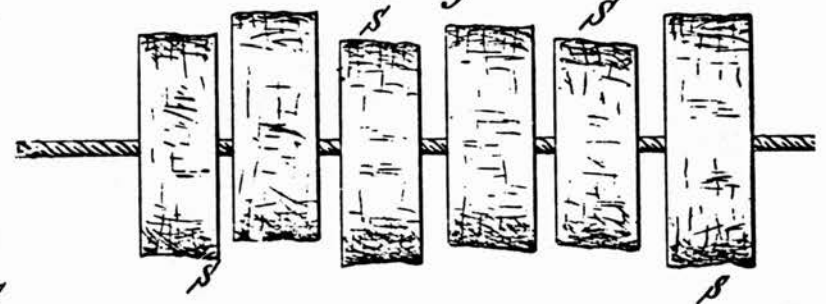


Fig. 6.

Witnesses:

Henry S. Blackmore
 W. Gardner.

Inventor:
 Albert Augustus Low
 By his attorney
 Leo. T. Miah

(No Model.)

Application filed Apr. 12, 1900

It was customary for Mr. Low to have the meets and bounds of each parcel of property purchased by him verified by an engineer. In 1903 he had an additional job for his surveyor; it was to establish the boundaries of his newly discovered gold mine. On May 29 when filing several deeds in the County Clerk's office at Canton, he filed a locator's claim describing the character and the location of the mine. This appears to have been done to protect his interest in the event that the ore sample sent to Philadelphia for analysis generated a favorable report. Sorry to relate, his discovery was only a flash in the pan, but it caused tongues to wag at Horseshoe for many a day.



Excavating footings at first dam.



The first dam in the Bog by A. A. Low.

POWER COMES

The first dam in the Bog was finished the same year. It served the dual purpose of aiding the annual log drives by controlling the spring freshets and of operating turbines to drive two electric generators. The design of this reinforced concrete structure was most unusual for that day in the mountains. By 1905, the mill and all buildings both at the Park and the Depot had been electrified. A power line had also been extended to the new residence on Lake Marian. It was then that it became clear that the water impounded back of the dam was not sufficient to guarantee the year around operation of the power plant. Thereupon, John Leggett was directed to build a second dam which would raise the water in the flow ground another four or five feet and it would include a second power house. This dam was completed in 1907.



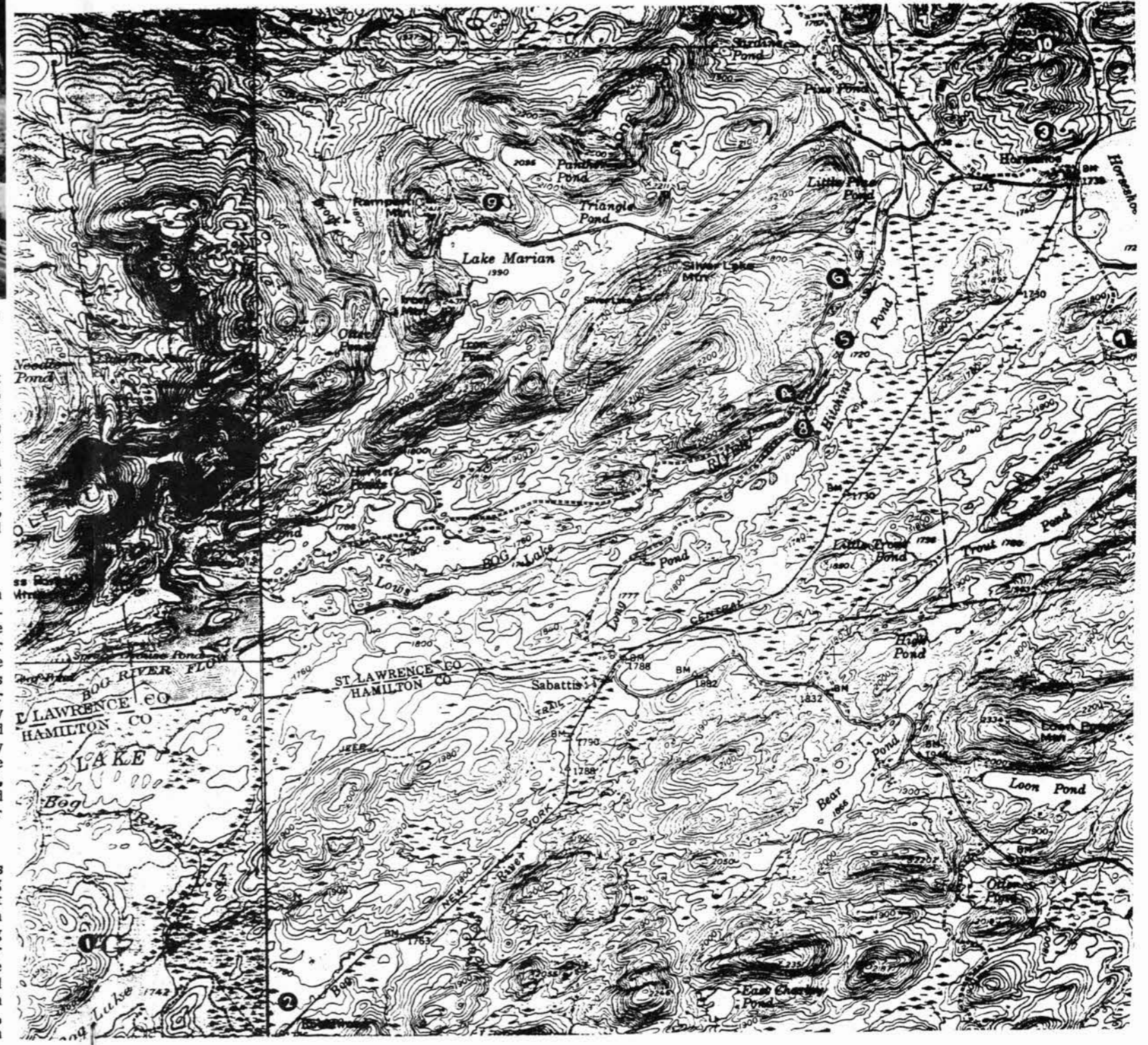
Second dam in the Bog by Low. Power House and tail race visible.

Except for the construction of the second dam, life at Horseshoe had become quite serene. Abbot continued to submit applications for letters of patent of which he already held more than 200. The lumbering and maple products business was good. Their social life had been successfully transferred from Brooklyn to Horseshoe. Daughter Marian had married and was expecting their first grandchild. Son George had finished college; the other two boys were at Groton and Yale. The only cloud on the horizon in 1908, an exceptionally dry year, was the pall of smoke created by numerous forest fires.

Snowfall had been light and drought prevailed through the summer. Fires started by sparks from M. & M. locomotives would continue to smoulder in the duff on the forest floor after they had been contained by rangers or railroad employees. The slightest breeze would fan those pockets of hot coals into raging flames. In the midst of this atmosphere of impending doom, Mr. Low received a letter from the Forest, Fish, and Game Commission dated July 3, 1908. It notified him that his dams in the Bog River had caused the flooding of certain lands in Hamilton County owned by the State. It demanded that the flooding cease and that specified damages be paid. Abbot knew of the flooding, claimed ownership of the flooded land for himself, and dismissed the Commission's charges out of hand in favor of the more pressing threat of forest fire.

On September 27, 1908, the blaze swept through the forests on his Mud Lake and Big Trout tracts destroying everything in its path including the nearby hamlet of Long Lake West (Sabattis). The following year the State pursued its claim for damages. Abbot refused to do anything about the flooding but did pay the fine under protest stipulating duress. Over 40 years later due to the persistence of his son, the Supreme Court of New York ruled on May 5, 1950 that the State had not owned the flooded land in 1909, and that it must return the fine to Mr. Low's estate with interest. Regrettably, most of those who knew about the original confrontation were not around for the finale.

Although a law was enacted in the winter of 1909 requiring that limbs be completely removed from all coniferous trees, except Christmas trees, cut in the forest preserve counties after May 25, it was small comfort to Abbot who had favored its passage. The previous year's massive fire had dealt the Horseshoe Forestry Company a staggering blow. Its lumbering was severely curtailed by the lack of standing timber. Thousands of acres had been burned to a crisp. Its maple products business would not, by itself, be able to maintain a profitable operation. Faced with this circumstance, Abbot was forced to evaluate his position and take stock of his options.



The Bog River Basin scene of A. A. Low's empire. Numerals indicate the sites of principal activities

Item	Page	Item
1. Bog Lake Camp	2	6. First Evaporator - Maple Valley
2. Robinwood	3	7. First dam
3. Horseshoe	3	8. Second dam
4. Hitchins Park	5	9. Lake Marian residence
5. Virgin Forest Springs	6	10. Gold Mine

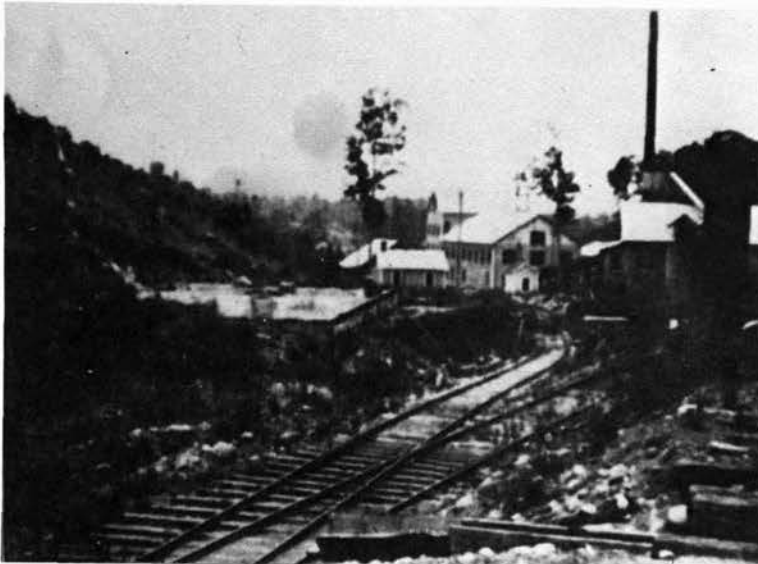
FACING LIQUIDATION

Until now, he had moved boldly from one enterprise to another with little or no thought given to the associated hazards. But, the losses from the fire, the anticipated lawsuit against the railroad and the fine improperly imposed by the State, all combined to dampen his ardor. After some soul searching it was decided that the Horseshoe Forestry Company would be liquidated. In August, 1911, the author visited Horseshoe for several days. The chugging engines of the H. F. C. RY. were gone from the scene. What had been a bustling little hamlet had become a ghost town until darkness set in. Then, all the vacant buildings became a carnival of lights.

Sixty years later another visit by the author to the place where Horseshoe had stood found hardly a trace of this formerly thriving community. Only the rusting rails of the abandoned M. & M. Railroad made it possible to find the spot where its palatial depot had been. At Hitchins Park the three-story boarding house had become the Low family's seldom used rustic camp. The wine cellar still under lock and key has also survived. At the site of the first evaporator ruins of the marble floor as well as rusting hoops and wasting staves can be seen. The walls around the flowing springs still stand. The woodworking plant went first and other buildings were torn down to remove or minimize the danger of fire.



Headed for the Spring drive.



Bog River Mill at Hitchins Park demolition under way.



Ribbon won at Philadelphia in 1899.



Square bottle by Abbot, trademark by Marian.

(Continued on next page)

(Continued from page 14)



Manor House at the depot for Low's family and visiting VIP's.

Abbot's will dated October 28, 1910 may have indicated at age 66 a premonition of the end. By that time, most of the assets of the Horseshoe Forestry Company had been liquidated. His activities in the mountains were now largely concentrated on surveys and appraisals of his fire losses, and upon the prosecution of his case against the railroad. There were in 1911 a few bright spots. Daughter Marian presented them with a granddaughter, A. Augustus, Jr. graduated from Yale, and son George was married in November. Less than a year later on September 25, Abbot died. His death ended a love affair with the Adirondacks that had lasted more than a quarter of a century.

In life his aim had been to develop, improve and utilize the fruits of his mountain empire without despoiling it. If his spirit roams the Bog River Valley today, it must be pleased that two monuments to his enterprise still stand tall and proud after more than 60 years. They are the two dams completed in 1903 and '07 -- still holding back the Bog River for more than 10 miles, and still generating electric power for a select group of users.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

The author thanks the following persons for their assistance:

Mr. William Raymond, grandson of A. A. Low, for permission to inspect papers and to reproduce pictures and memorabilia from the Low family collection at Hitchins Park.

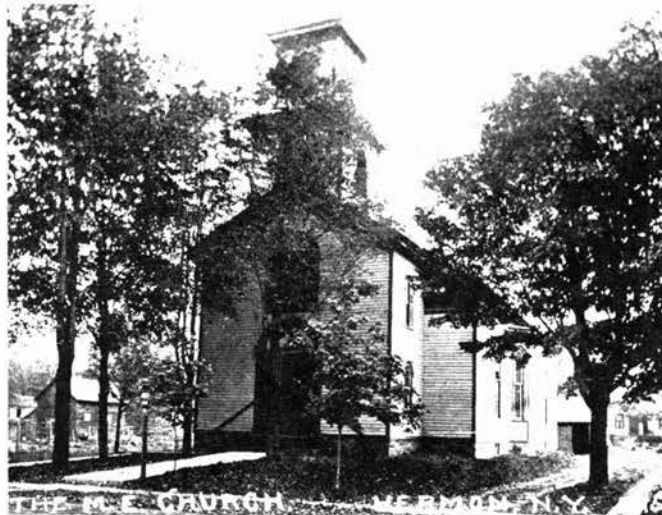
Mr. Armand Vaillancourt, caretaker and manager of the Low estate for more than forty years, for his help in confirming the nature and occurrence of certain events.

Mrs. Mary Biondi — Historian of St. Lawrence Co. for searching the County Archives for facts to confirm the author's memory.

Harold K. Hochschild — Author of "Township 34"

Marcia Smith — Librarian, The Adirondack Museum

The author is also indebted to several Departments of the U.S. Government and New York State for their cooperation and help



Needed..... VOLUNTEERS

For Committees:

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

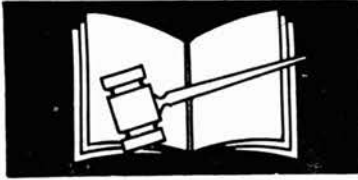
Special Gifts (including funding and sales)
Time: Indexing; Thursdays at History Center
Gifts: Building Fund
Memberships to relatives, friends



BAPTIST CHURCH, OSWEGATCHIE, N. Y.



Cemetery and old Arsenal at Russell (from an old zinc plate loaned by Eloise McKee, Russell)



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

We knew we could...we knew we could...we knew we could!

Dear Friends,

Those familiar words about the little engine that tried, and could, have such a meaningful ring to them now. A few short but very busy months ago the idea of having a new museum for the county was only a fantasy. Much less, who would have thought that we might soon also own one of the most distinguished homes--architecturally and historically--in the county, to boot?

Obviously, many apparently did. And I want now publicly, in a very understated way, to thank oh-so-many people for their generous contributions of money, effort, time, and especially enthusiasm. The Governor Wright Historical Center Campaign IS a whopping success. We are well on our way to an exciting cultural and educational addition which we hope can adequately interpret our county's story. I cannot possibly name all the people who made the campaign work, but I must name some. Rob Peters, Walt Gunnison, Donna Kelley, all helped to make Silas Wright a household name in the North Country; Mary Biondi and Pris Angelo brought people from all over this huge county together to work; Margaret Quinn, Homer Kelly and my wife Judy kept an accurate accounting of our whole campaign fund; Ed Blankman did some of each of these, plus a great deal more. His enthusiasm and energy kept us all going, from 7:30 a.m. staff meetings through late night speaking engagements and TV appearances. And there were so many more...

At last the property is ours. We took title (and responsibility) on Friday November 30. The fund has gone over \$80,000...and still coming in. We can now think of what happens next. First, to the Board of Supervisors for support for operation and maintenance; then to the New York State Council on the Arts for financial support for a professional director and support staff. Then to the State Department of Parks and Recreation for nomination to the National Register of Historic Places. And on and on...to private and public foundations for funds and planning for renovation, refurbishing, etc.

The word is out. We shall henceforth be an ACTIVE organization; we need an ACTIVE museum board of overseers, an ACTIVE house committee, ACTIVE volunteers to help with renovation, cataloguing, accessioning, and most of all "manning" the new facilities in the future. Won't you step forward? Please watch area newspapers for news of various plans and events in the next few months in which YOU can take part.

Thank you all so much for supporting the cause. We can now look forward together to great times at our new home, the Governor Wright Historical Center.

THE SUPERVISOR STORY, a book being published jointly by the Board of Supervisors and this Association, will soon be in the hands of families of present and former supervisors as well as a bonus gift to all paid members of this Association. The story of all supervisors from 1802 through 1973 has been edited by County Historian Mary H. Biondi, from material supplied by town, and city of Ogdensburg, historians and Miss Megan Carmichael who gathered together the items, coordinating photographs and, in cases where a historian did not supply material, finding facts. Extra copies will be available as gifts, or for libraries. Inquire how to get them by writing Box 43, Canton, editorial office, 13617.

Our Annual Meeting



Mary H. Biondi, county historian, accepts five books of correspondence of the League of Women Voters of Canton and Potsdam for the archives from Doris Frazer, president. Members and past presidents attended the October annual meeting in Potsdam, honoring our women.

Our County's Women

Among the stories of some of our unsung women, are a few we should hear about. Miss Caroline L. Sumner of Norwood gave the public many beautiful songs. She wrote the music for "The Golden Long Ago" and words and music for "By Thy Abiding Power." In 1921 she composed the lyrics for "Trifles" for which Frank H. Grey wrote the music. Concert artist Elsie Baker performed her popular song "Smile On." Leonora M. Barry, born in county Cork, Ireland, and brought to this country when a young child lived in Pierrepont. She married (Barry was her married name), was left with three fatherless children to support which necessitated her going to work in a factory. She became a "machine hand" in a hosiery mill in Amsterdam. She was elected to travel the country by the Knights of Labor, to agitate for equal pay for equal work and the abolition of child labor. She became the first woman Union organizer, on a scale of public speaking, that only two other women had equaled until then: Susan B. Anthony and Frances Willard. However, they both were educated, and she was catapulted into leadership, with only experience as her teacher. The first day she worked her earnings were 11¢, the first week 65¢.

(NOTE: We had so many stories submitted, others will be published in April issue.)

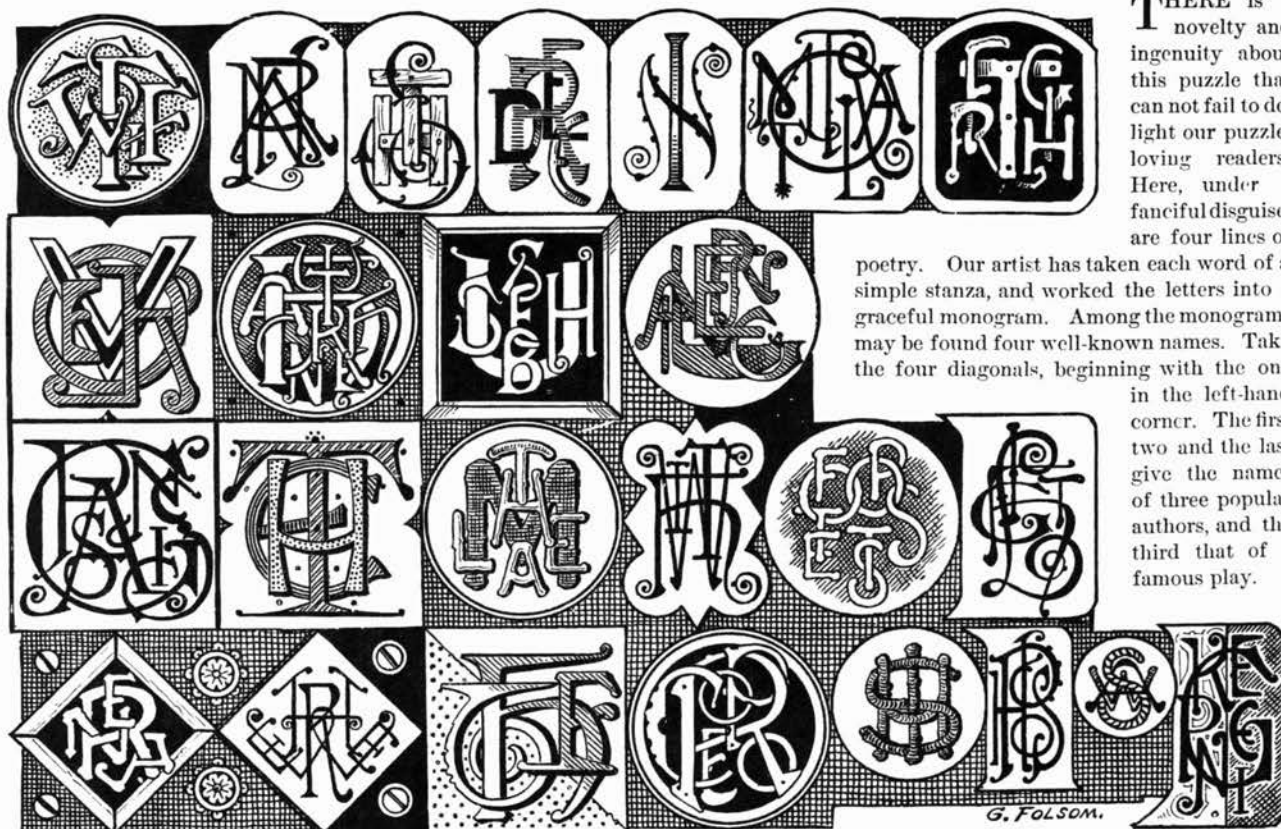
Green as Grass ROOTS

First meeting of Green as Grass ROOTS genealogical group was scheduled for December 27. Anyone interested in learning how to search archives for family history is invited to get in touch with this group. Van C. Hoyt, a trained genealogical searcher and instructor, is on hand to assist. Some members from as far away as Georgia responded to the notice in October issue of QUARTERLY. For those who cannot attend, problems by mail may be sent to Green as Grass ROOTS, Box 43, Canton, N.Y. 13617.

FIRST CLASS MAILING

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.

MONOGRAM PUZZLE.



THERE is a novelty and ingenuity about this puzzle that can not fail to delight our puzzle-loving readers. Here, under a fanciful disguise, are four lines of poetry. Our artist has taken each word of a simple stanza, and worked the letters into a graceful monogram. Among the monograms may be found four well-known names. Take the four diagonals, beginning with the one in the left-hand corner. The first two and the last give the names of three popular authors, and the third that of a famous play.

G. FOLSOM.

Did you know that ---

Jonah Sanford, great grandfather of Judge Donald E. Sanford of Ogdensburg was a member of the Second session of the Twenty-first Congress from 6 Dec. 1830 to 3 March 1831 to fill out the unexpired term of Silas Wright?

Wouldn't you like to know that ---

among items mentioned in the inventory of the estate of Silas Wright are "miniature broaches of Mr. and Mrs. Wright, 2 painted miniatures of Mr. and Mrs. Wright and one daguerreotype of Mr. Wright." What happened to them?

Is your gift Wright ?

Here is my gift for the Gov. Wright History Center. Please include my name in the book of contributors.

Name _____ Amount \$ _____

Street _____

City _____ State _____ ZIP _____

All gifts are tax deductible. Mail to:
 Gov. Wright History Center
 Box 83
 Canton, New York 13617

Poetical Portraits



Our Annual Meeting Oct. 20, 1973

Rose Tripp

(Member of Co. H. Ass'n)

Our Association meeting
We look forward to each fall,
And this year we met in Potsdam
At the big Masonic Hall.

There were many at the dinner
Which we all enjoy so much;
For it is a time we socialize
And actually keep in touch.

I must tell you of the menu:
Choice of rolls, and cottage cheese,
Goulash, coleslaw, and coffee,
A vegetable plate to please.

But the part I like about it,
Though the service I commend,
Food always does taste better
While we visit with our friends.

Then over to the museum,
Which was just across the way:
We walked so the parking problem
Would not impede our stay.

We enjoyed archaic dishes
So tactfully displayed,
And other antique articles
Which looked as if hand made.

Next on through to the meeting room,
We gradually entered in,
Varick Chittenden was waiting
For the session to begin.

The business taken care of,
The problems of concern:
A program of significance
Gave facts we like to learn.

Margaret Nulty introduced them,
Three speakers, to be sure,
Describing famous characters
Now long gone on before.

Gladys Hill spoke on "The First Trained Nurse"
Born in eighteen forty-one,
Right here near by in Potsdam,
When the Civil War had begun

She gave her time and talent,
For better or for worse,
Linda Richards - ten years later -
The nations first "Trained Nurse."

The hours were unbelievable -
To church each year just twice;
No wonder all her class dropped out,
That hardly would suffice.

Yes, she lived a long and useful life,
Death came at eighty-eight
To this lady of distinction
In our United States.

The second speaker dwelt upon
A lady I once knew,
Rhoda Fox Graves, State Senator,
The first in New York, too.

I enjoyed the highlights of her life
So casual as a rule;
She boarded with my parents
In the days when she taught school.

I also knew her sons, of course
In school at Gouverneur.
They came many years for apples
From a tree here by our door.

Helen Hosmer spoke on a lady
Whose school still bears her name;
Way back in eighteen eighty-six
She organized "The Crane."

Oh, I could write and write and write
Of this meeting, I assure you;
I'll see you all again next fall,
I hope I didn't bore you.



Our three (honored) women speakers who extolled other honored women and their nation-wide accomplishments. Gladys Hill, Mrs. Paul Graves, Dr. Helen Hosmer kept the audience captivated with stories of Linda Richards, Rhoda Fox Graves and (Julia) Ettie Crane.

archives highlight



Newton Falls, about 1907. (History Center Archives)



Oswegatchie Years Ago

(History Center Archives)

Beeline



FROM
THE EDITOR

Many changes are coming to the history buff in this county. Local groups with interests centered on an interest, an area or a town have sprung up, bringing to light many valuable archives and artifacts which might be shown off to the rest of the county in short-term displays in our new History Center on the property back of the Silas Wright House Museum. Let us not forget to emphasize that this is a COUNTY Center, and every nook and cranny of it should be represented in displays here.

The enthusiasm cannot be matched for the nostalgia permeating a meeting of the Chase Mills History Club at Chase Mills Inn (which will be nominated for the Register of Historic Places soon.) Trains, boats, the horse, all come in for their heyday at these meetings.

Stockholm, too, has been active in stimulating interest of the local people in their pasts. This will aid the displays we hope to make at the new History Center. The historians, together with students and professors, the Potsdam Museum and the county historian are embarking on a three-year-long project to culminate in a fine book as a Bicentennial Memorial in 1976. All citizens of this county will become involved in this great project. Everyone will be hearing more of this very soon. We urge you to become involved with all of these forward-looking plans when you are called upon to do so. We need YOU.



MHB

Our Members Write

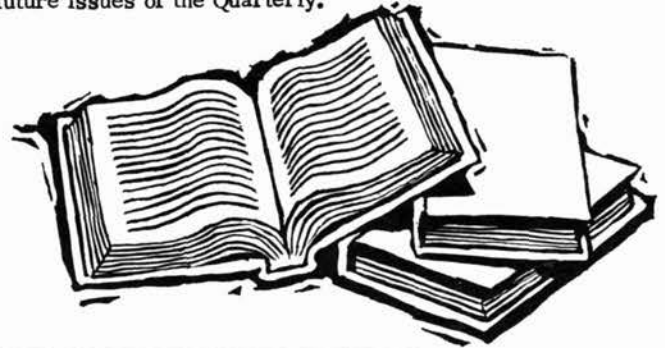
Have you read these county residents' and members' books? Seasons of the Self, poetry by Max Coots of Canton Greener Pastures by Marnie Crowell of Pierrepont The Wheat Field and other Poems by Lee P. Finley of Ogdensburg

Murray Isle by Margaret Nulty of Gouverneur Man of the Woods by Herbert F. Keith of Wanakena Rushton and his times in American Canoeing by G. Atwood Manley of Canton

The Wilder Family Story by Dorothy Smith of Malone The story of Norwood (1872-1972) by Susan Lyman of Norwood A History of the Foundations of Catholicism in Northern New York by Sister Mary Christine Taylor of Ogdensburg Clarkson at 75, a Portrait of the College by Donald G. Stillman of Potsdam



So many fascinating stories of Our Women were submitted for annual meeting, we will reprint them as possible in future issues of the Quarterly.



District School East of Nicholville Rt 11B known as the Fisk Dist. Front row L to R: *Vernon Francis, *Frank Smith, *Alden Trussell, Dennis Murphy, John Donovan, Lillian Raymo, Herman Smith, *Ralph Fisk, *Dan Donovan, *Oswald Raymo. Second row, *Varick Savage, *Lawrence Sova, *Ethel Smith, *Meda Francis, *Iva Smith, *Edna Raymo, Bertha Savage, *Maybelle Savage, (Little girl is Ella Donovan,) Stella Smith. Third row, Murphy Twins, Gordon Cole, *Florence Francis, *Agnes Jenkins, Hester Cole, *Jessie

Perkins, *Bernice Savage, *Goldie Sova. Back row, *Cecilia Raymo, Teacher *Emma Lawrence, Jessie Trussell, Anna Donovan and *Julia Drake. Picture was taken in 1903. The names marked * are known to be deceased by information given to me by Anna Donovan O'Donnell of Brushton, N.Y. The teacher Miss Lawrence was a first cousin to my mother.

(Contributed by Herbert K. Hastings, Town of Dickinson Historian, Dickinson Center, New York)

THE CATHOLIC APOSTOLIC CHURCH IN POTSDAM, NEW YORK

(Continued from Page 4)

Dunlop 1 1/2 years. Precise dates and clerical titles are lacking, except for Mr. Andrews. When Everts published his HISTORY in 1878, there were 40 communicants, with George Lewis chief elder and acting pastor. Whether he was related to trustee David Lewis, mentioned above, cannot be ascertained.

It is probably not accidental that more information is available on William Watson Andrews (1810-1897) than any other clergyman or leader of the congregation, in view of his eminent personal qualities both intellectual and religious. Born in Windham, Conn., the son of a Congregational minister who was a descendant of one of the settlers of New Haven in 1638, William entered Yale at the age of 14, taught school the following year (because of financial exigencies), re-entering Yale at the age of 18, where he distinguished himself in English composition and debate. Two Yale classmates became his lifelong friends: Noah Porter, who later became President of his alma mater, and Lyman Hotchkiss Atwater, who taught logic at the College of New Jersey.

Although William had always thought of studying law, he was strongly influenced by the religious ferment of the 1830's. At this time England witnessed the Oxford movement and the rise of Anglo-Catholicism, both of which had been nurtured to a great extent by the Romantic protest against 18th century rationalism. Little wonder that Andrews was occasionally questioned as to whether he, too, would join John Henry Newman and others who returned to Rome. His answer was always in the negative, however.

To return to Andrews' personal history: after leaving college in 1831 he came upon a letter in FRASER'S MAGAZINE, giving an account of speaking in tongues and prophesying in Scotland, which spurred him on to study the New Testament. Gradually, his interest in religious questions broadened to include the constitution and government of the church. After having taught in Virginia and Connecticut, he decided to enter the ministry, but as he could not afford to enroll in a divinity school he read theology with his father. He became pastor of the Congregational church in Kent, Conn., in 1834. This church had been vacant for five years; after the former minister left, the church could not agree on a successor till Andrews was invited, as he put it many years later, "to heal the wounds of a sorely divided church."

Early in his ministry he was invited to join the Pastoral Union, a group which had been formed to defend what they considered an orthodox theological position. Although Andrews generally sympathized with this, he declined to join for reasons which strike a keynote of the Catholic Apostolic movement. The church, he felt, is God's institution, Who has given it in its fourfold ministry of apostles, prophets, evangelists and pastors (angels as they were called in the Catholic Apostolic Church) every needed means of defense. Thus voluntary man-made associations (such as the Pastoral Union) are not God's way to do His work. Instead, the church should rely in the carrying-out of its mission in the world wholly on the divinely-ordained means; in addition to the fourfold ministry the church should recover the spiritual gifts (charismata) described in the New Testament. Undoubtedly one of the most striking features of the movement was the reconstitution of the Twelve Apostles. For a full, systematic discussion the reader is referred to the volume by P. E. Shaw, listed in the bibliography.

Andrews, one of the most significant intellectual leaders of the movement in America, was not only critical but also appreciative of the Roman Catholic and Reformation positions. By 1838 he was already being accused of "Irvingism." The same year he met George Ryerson, who served under the Apostles. In 1840 he visited Kingston, Ontario, where his ideas about church organization were rounded out. Three years later he visited for two weeks with Henry Drummond, one of the leading Apostles, at Albury, England. In spite of brotherly advice from good friends (such as Noah Porter and Horace Bushnell), Andrews persisted in his views which eventually led him to resign his beloved Kent pastorate to serve under the Apostles, who sent him to Potsdam in the fall of 1849.

Andrews went to work in this community with much courage. Every Sunday morning Holy Communion was celebrated with a short homily; in the evening there was evening prayer with "pastoral teaching." Special services were held on fast-days. For a time, the congregation and its minister were viewed with much suspicion. Andrews often felt lonely and depressed, particularly since his wife had died the year before he came to Potsdam, while his children had to be cared for by relatives.

Despite his change in denomination, Andrews retained a warm affection for his early Parish in Kent all of his long life. In 1894 he gave an address at the Kent church at the 60th anniversary of his ordination. By that time, at the age of 84, he spoke of his "thankfulness to God for setting me here as your pastor in the

In 1854 Andrews was raised to the rank of Angel (the lower hierarchical ranks were deacon and priest). Gradually he found acceptance with other local clergy, particularly with Dr. William Staunton (1803-1880), English-born rector of Trinity (Episcopal) Church since 1852, who refers to the Potsdam church as a "small but firm and well-instructed congregation" and Mr. Andrews as "an able man, most amiable and gentlemanly, and a frequent inmate of my study. In catholic doctrine and ritual matters he was...far in advance of anything and everybody in my parish."

Andrews' years in Potsdam were spiced by occasional visits to Connecticut (1851 and 1853) and one to Ohio (1855). Early in 1857 he left Potsdam, having been called to be an Evangelist, an office he filled till his death.

In his sermon on the 60th anniversary of his ordination, referred to above, he asked himself the question whether he had not been disappointed when He wept over Jerusalem...

he had not been disappointed in the fruits of his labors. "I answer, Yes; as the Lord was disappointed when He wept over Jerusalem...I have been disappointed that He has been pleased so long to delay His coming, although I never professed to know when the time would be."

This attitude could also be said to epitomize the movement which he represented. When the Twelve Apostles of the new denomination were appointed, it was expected that they would survive the return of Christ. In 1855 the first Apostle died (Thomas Carlyle); by 1907 none survived. Though a split developed on the question of apostolic succession (the NEW Apostolic Church appointed additional apostles to fill vacancies), the Catholic Apostolic Church attempted to hold its own without the benefit of its earlier inspired leadership. The movement cannot be understood, however, without appreciating its vision: the recovery of apostolicity and catholicity, including the charismatic gifts mentioned in the New Testament, set in a tradition which borrowed heavily from Anglicanism, against the expectation of the imminent Second Coming of Christ.

It seemed a natural step for members of the Catholic Apostolic Church following its disbandment to join with the Episcopal Church. Father Penneck, present rector of Trinity Church, reports that the church was strengthened considerably by this welcomed influx of perhaps two dozen or so new members.

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(Continued on Page 23)



STATE OF NEW YORK
EXECUTIVE CHAMBER
ALBANY 12224

NELSON A. ROCKEFELLER
GOVERNOR

November 15, 1973

Dear Mary:

A P.S. to the story of A.A. Low...since his death in 1912 his extensive holdings have been gradually reduced by sales to the State (Big Trout Reserve) and to two or three individuals who still maintain secluded retreats. The area retained by the family which included most of the Bog River valley was incorporated in the 30's as the Hitchins Corporation. The senior male descendant has served as president of this family corporation ever since. On Aug. 10 the Hitchins Corporation was sold lock, stock and barrel to the Suffolk County Council of Boy Scouts terminating the association of the Low Family with the Adirondacks after about 80 years. You might be on the lookout for the deed filed in the court house in Canton. . .
F. Mark Clark

Dear Mrs. Biondi:

I am delighted to learn of the progress being made toward creating a museum and research center in the former home of Governor Silas Wright, Jr. My congratulations to all concerned with this undertaking.

This commemoration of Governor Wright is most appropriate for he was indeed a distinguished son of the North Country.

With warm best wishes,

Sincerely,

Mrs. Edward Biondi
NYS American Revolution
Bicentennial Commission
Box 648
Ogdensburg, New York 13669

I have been delighted with the response to the fund campaign for the Governor Wright Historical Center. Frankly, it exceeds what I had anticipated, and I think it is just wonderful. With all best wishes.

Cordially,
Robert C. McEwen
Congress of the United States
30th District
(a life member)



MYSTERIES



Who?



researchers

Summer of 1882 saw the first meeting of the Madrid Historical Society at the home of Dr. Reynolds. The Rev. Dr. Thompson was chairman, and Charles M. Hale secretary. All the large number present took part in the discussion, "How to Study History." The object of this society was to "create an interest in the study of history." (Editor's note: What happened to this society?)



January 1880 Massena -- The Titus Turtle Club will give a penny reading at the town hall. . . (What was this Club? What was a penny reading?)



NEEDED--loan of artifacts, facts, pictures, postal cards, stories of Terrace Park (Morristown) which is 100 years old. Write Editor Box 43, Canton or Mrs. Warren R. More, P.O. Box 7, Marcellus, N.Y. 13108.



WANTED TO BUY:

"Black River in the North Country" by Thomas

An 1878 Everts St. Lawrence County History

Lewis County Atlas

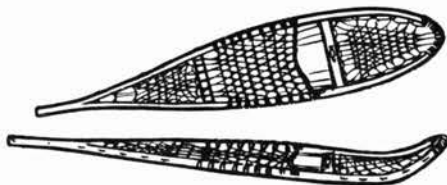
(Write or call History Center if you have these to part with.)

Notice

HOURS AT THE HISTORY CENTER COUNTY BUILDING, CANTON

Monday

9:00 A.M. - 4:00 P.M.



Catholic Church in POTSDAM

(Continued from Page 21)

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The authors express their thanks to the librarians of Emmanuel College, Toronto; Kingston (Ontario) Public Library; Wadhams Hall Seminary; St. Lawrence University; State University College at Potsdam; Union Theological Seminary; Princeton Theological Seminary; and to Mrs. Dee Little, Curator, Potsdam Museum; Canon James Pennock, Trinity Church; Mr. Verner Ingram; Professor Robert T. Handy, Union Theological Seminary; and Mr. Edward G. Rasmussen, to Mrs. Herbert Bicknell, who generously gave of her time to share information she had received from her husband and who kindly donated many helpful materials. special thanks are extended.

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