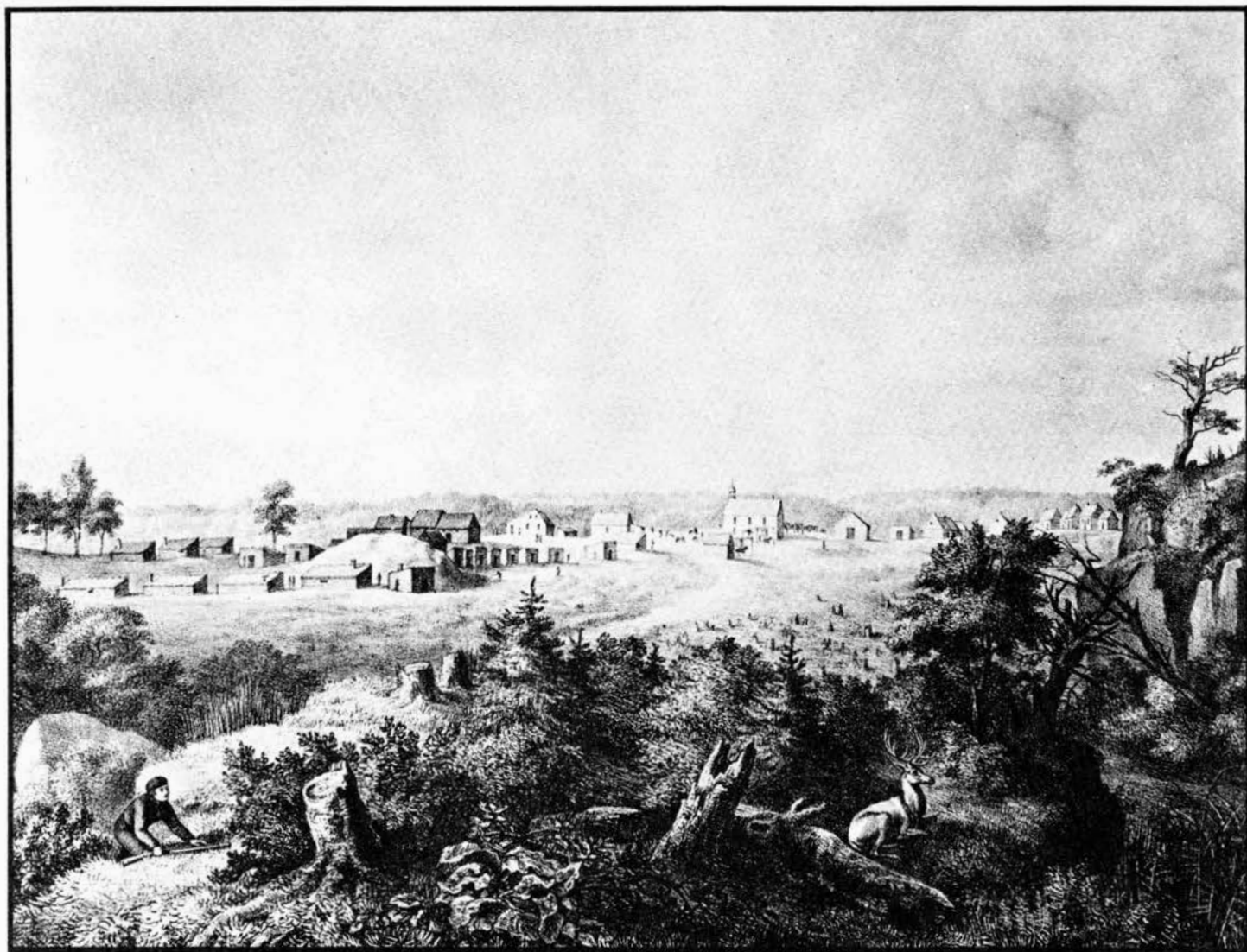


THE  
QUARTERLY

Official Publication of the St. Lawrence County Historical Association

April 1979



# THE QUARTERLY

Official Publication of the St. Lawrence County Historical Association

VOLUME XXIV

APRIL 1979

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Editor: Varick A. Chittenden

**Please Note:** The October 1978 and January 1979 issues were incorrectly numbered as Volume XXXIII and Volume XXXIV, respectively; they should be Volume XXIII and Volume XXIV.

**Cover:** A lithographic print of an early view of Parishville, done by Salathiel Ellis as part of a set of eight views of Parish land holdings, commissioned by the Parish family. Ellis, one-time resident of Canton, later became nationally prominent as a sculptor and designer of commemorative medals. (Photograph of lithograph courtesy of History Center Archives)

*The Board of Trustees and the Publications Committee  
are pleased to announce*

## **The St. Lawrence County Historical Association Writing Competition**

To commemorate the Twenty-fifth Year of Publication  
of *The Quarterly*

### **Divisions**

Senior (Adults)  
Undergraduate (College Student)  
High School (Grades 7-12)

Division of entry will be determined by entrant's status as of May 15, 1979.  
Entrants do not have to be residents of St. Lawrence County.

### **Format**

4-10 pages

Sketches, photographs, or other illustrations are encouraged

Double spaced on one side only of an 8½ x 11 sheet

Typewritten preferred but not required

Name, address, telephone number, and school (if applicable), must be on *a separate sheet*

Manuscript must have a title

A list of sources must be attached

A copy of the manuscript should be retained by the writer

### **Topics**

The article must be related to St. Lawrence County. This includes, but is not limited to, such topics as the following:

Town/family/individual history	Performing or visual arts
Folklore	Natural history
Business/industry/farming	Personalities
Decorative Arts	Sports or recreation
Education	Religion
Architecture	Etc.

### **Prizes**

1st place in each division—\$50.00

2nd place in each division—\$25.00

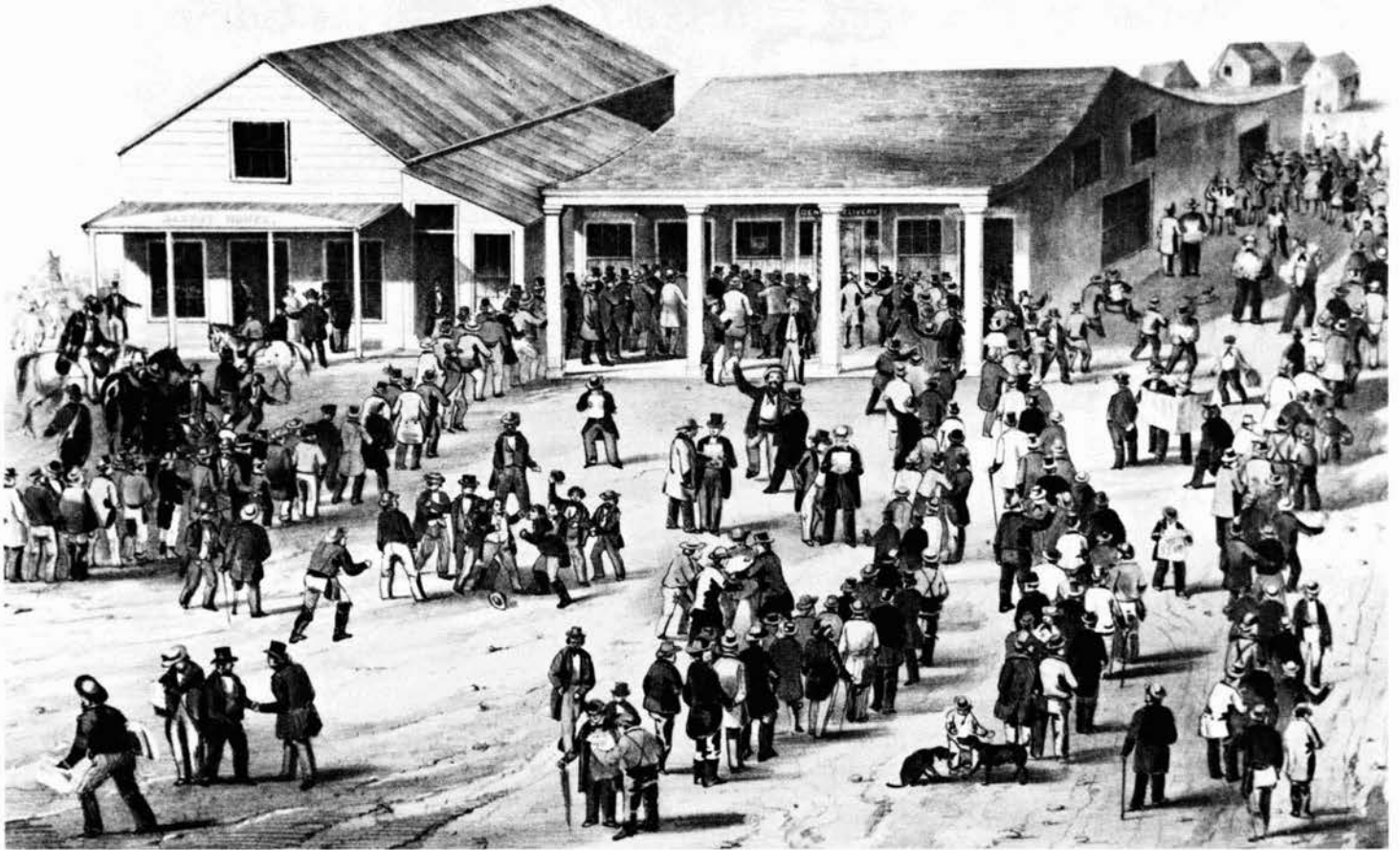
3rd place in each division—\$10.00

### **Deadline**

October 15, 1979

Submit all inquiries or entries to:

Writing Competition Committee  
St. Lawrence County Historical Association  
P.O. Box 8  
Canton, New York 13617



*Post Office, San Francisco, California, "A Faithful Representation of the Crowds Daily Applying at that office for Letters and Newspapers." Lithograph by Wm. Endicott: Co., New York, after H.F. Cox. Pub. c. 1850. (Photo courtesy of the Old Print Gallery, Washington, D.C.)*

## ‘... Indipendant as a King on his throne.’: the California Goldfield Letters of Frank E. Kip (part three)

*Edited by Varick A. Chittenden*

*The third and final part of a series of selected letters from Canton man Frank E. Kip, sent back to his family from California; these reveal his meager successes and his increasing homesickness. The War Between the States ends the melancholy tale for him.*

Forest City Aug 24th 56

Dear Father

I fear that two mails have sliped by since I wrote last. But I have been on a tramp (as the miners term it) and as I did not know where I should fetch up I thought I would wait till I got around home. Well here I am in an old log cabin—hard by a little stroomlet called Kanaka Creek. It is evening but not dark. The woods are on fire in every direction—O it is a grand sight to gase up at a lofty mountain whose side is covered with flame—to watch the serpentine coils as they run through the dry grass or climb a tall Pine eating at its roots till it falls with a crash louder than the thunder of heven—which is

echoed and reechoed through gorge and ravine till lost among the distant hills.

I am about to try my luck again at river mining. We have been at work three days. It will be sometime before I can tell how it will pay—but more of this anon. To my tramp, four weeks ago I started from this place for San Francisco. I have read some where of the pleasures of a stage coach trip but I guess the author never was hauled over the Sierra Nevadas for the distance of 130 miles between the hours of 3 AM-10 PM. Being nearly worn out, on reaching Sacramento I proccured a bed as speedily as possible and would have had a good nights rest if it had not been for an alarm of fire which did not amount to

anything and an army of Flees that amounted to coniderable.

The next day at 2 oclock I took the Boat for San F.... and arrived there about 10 in the evening. On getting ashore I found a score of Hack Drivers all of whome belonged to any hotel you wished to go to and would take you there for 5 Dolls baggage free. As I had no baggage I declined riding and after turning a few corners I brought up at the What Cheer House—an exelent hotel. Board onley \$6 per week. This seemd verry cheap to me—for up here in the mountains you cannot get a meal for less than a dollar. The Sun had just risen as I crawlid out of a comfortable bed the next morning. As it wante an hour to



Breakfast I walked down Sacramento St to Fort Vigilance. There was few stirring about the place. Here and there could be seen a lazy sentinel sitting on the sand bags with a pipe in his mouth and musgat on his shoulder. The walls of the old brick building present a gloomy appearance. The iron shutters are closed, all save the two fatal windows in the sand bag breastworks. The blue flag spotted with stars. The cannon and sentinells strike one at first sight more like something we read of than a reality. On the roof hands a Bell at the top of which five thousand men rush to arms with the determination that Justis shall be executed tho the leagle authorities cry out Law Law—and luckey will be the murderer that ever again escaped the roap in San Francisco.

As I intend giving you several letters on San F. . . . I will drop this subject for the present.

In your last letter you spoke about Mr. Parker. Why he does not write oftner to his family? I cannot say—but I know that he is alive and in good health—he is now about 50 miles above Shasta on the Sacramento river. I saw Henry Richardson while at San F. . . . (and by the way you may tell Mrs Parker if you have an opportunity that Henry sailed on the clipper ship Young America for Hong Kong and from there will go to New York). He told me that Mr Parker had some Ditch property that he thought would be of some value to him before long. Mr. Parker has worked hard in this country for nearly 5 years an made nothing—when he does make a raise he will come home, but he is what we call a resolute miner and it will be many a long year before he returns without a dollar.

I found John V in good health tho he has been troubled some with the rhumatism. He appeared to be verry glad to see me and treated me verry kindly. I staid with him over a week. I think he has a verry good situation but business at present is verry dull and his expences are heavy. He pais \$50 rent per month for his office—he told me he would send you the money on that note as soon as he could possibly spare it.

It is getting late and I am tired. I will send you a map of California as soon as I can find one—I am in receipt of your letters and papers regular. I am well, My love to all

Good night, Frank



Dear Brother

San Francisco is a little world of its self. Here can be seen all the various phases of life. Here are all grades of men—all nations all colors. It is early

evening. Let us strole out on the Plaza. Take a seat on one of the numerous benches in front of the monumental and examin that part of the city. The Plaza is situated nearly in the center of the city. In early days it was caled Portsmouth Squair. Fronting it on Kearney Street is the old El Dorado, once famous for being the cracked gambling house of the city. Next the city Hall once the Jeny Lind Theater & Parker House. On the left along Washington St is a neat block of Brick Buildings. Conspicuous among them the Bella Union once an extencive French gambling establishment at present used as a concert room. On the right along Clay st the buildings are all wood and built at some early day in the history of San Francisco. Back of us is the Monumental Engine house—the old Poutsmouth house built in 51, and a half doz other buildings of lesser note. How time has changed thing around the Plaza since 49. Then scattered irregularly along the unpaved streets were canvas tents interspaced with a few homly frame buildings Now brick and stone edifises built with all the art and skill of a modern architect adorn the squairs. But a greater change has been wrought with those who peopled it 9 years ago. While we are yet musing, an old man takes a seat beside us. His clothes are old and tatered, his hair grey, his features marked with disapation. He is one of the many who vibrate betwene the low grogshop, the station house & the chain-gang. The court term is vagrant. Truly he is a loathesome object but who that has a spark of manhood can turn away without a sympathising thought or a kind word for the falen. He was once as we are. There is a cause for his miss-fortune. Let us listen to his story. With a few preliminaries the old man told his story thus: I cam to San Francisco in 49 from Boston where I left my wife and two sons also a Brother with whome I was conected in a retail Boot & Shoe Store. I brought a stock of goods with me and opened a store on Long wharf. Business prospered beyond my most sanguine hopes and I sent for my brother and oldest son. They closed out affairs in Boston and with a very large stock sailed for this port where they arrived in due time. For a year we prospered—then came a change. The old mans eye was bent upon the El Dorado and as we folowed his gase we could almost read the final of his story. My Boy (and the old mans vois trembled) My Dear Boy, I was lured by the gamblers into that Hellish den. Being our confidential clerk he had charge of all the money—one night he took all the gold from the safe, \$20000, and resorted to the El Dorado. At a Monte table in less than 3 hours he had lost every dollar. Madned at the thought that he had ruined himself and me he

struck the dealer in the face. The next moment a Pistol shot rang through the hall and poor Fred fell forward upon the table a corps. Two days after this occurrence a destructive Fire swept away all the lower part of the City. Our little remaining stock went with the rest. My brother left me, and I to dround sorrow took to drinking. Evil folowed evil—till I became tired almost of life. Years rold on and you see me now. A plain simple story but how truly it will apply to hundreds of the poor of San Francisco.

Fire-Fire—Toll—Toll—Toll. Fire in the third ward—hurrah. Boys for a run with the machine, and before the Great Bell of the City Hall has peeled her second warning the monumentals Engine was rumbling over the pave in the direction of Chinadom (the name given to that portion of the City occupied mostly by Celestials). Forgetting for the moment the old man and his story, we join the throng that are eagerly hastening to and arrive at the supposed to be fire just in time to find out that it is a false alarm.

Dear Brother

It seems as if the Fate's had conspired against us. Last spring when I quit work in the tunnel at Alleghany I thought that by July I could collect together enough money to cancel all our present embarisments. Embarking on a little enterprise which at the time promised to remunerate me well I lost all my winters work (a little over \$300). This was on account of the exodus for Frazer River. Nearly every trader about Alleghany has been obliged to suspend business. Mining is at a standstill, the miners scarcely making a living. I have yet \$500 owing to me but when I can colect it is more than I can at present tell. What my future operations will be I can not at present determine. I had thought some of going to Frazer but since I have been in this City I have become prety well convinced that it is a grand humbug.

I shall be doing something soon and trust that time, the great rectifier of human events, will yet set all to rights.

I send you my picture. You will see that 4 years has wrought little changes in Frank

Nearly 30,000 men have left this state for the British posesions. These are mostly of the working class and you can imagin what a disasterous effect it produces on California.

My love to Pa & Ma. I will write more by the next steamer.

Frank  
John V is well and send his love to all.  
F. . . .



Dear Pa

I believe I must write you a few lines this mail. Enclosed you will find a small map of California—it is not a perfect one but the only one I could find small enough to send by letter. The snow is 4 ft deep here now and the weather very cold. I scarcely know what to write about—for the want of a better subject I will give you a *Political blast*.

Truly (as the St. Law Plain Dealer says) we have fallen upon strange times in this nineteenth century. The past Election has undoubtedly caused more disappointment and more rejoicing among the American people than any that has before taken place. Fremont has taken French leave in a balloon, bound for the Island of Jamaica, where it is hoped the woolly Colt will find plenty of fresh grass, and old Rum—where free soil, and free niggers are abundant. Yes there can he live with the palanthropic Greeley in peace with the world and in social intercourse with the almighty nigger, freed from the whip and chain of slavery. Fremont was better known perhaps in California than in any other state—even his own party could say no good of him.

Gov Foote, in a speech at Downieville in speaking of Fremont, lifted up his hands and in a solemn voice exclaimed Fremont is not a fit man for the Presidency, *I declair to God he aint*.

Milard Filmore has been badly beaten. Well perhaps the saying of Tom Paine has for once proved true: the majority are the biggest fools. It was the duty of every Californian to vote for the man that would most sanction the building of a Pacific R.R. If one thing is more vital than another to the interests of this state, it is a R.R. From a sectional party we could not expect a national Road, therefore Fremont must be discarded. Of the Democratic party what can we expect. Is not one of their fixed principles opposition to internal improvements? Are not the Southern Democracy opposed to the R.R.? Yes Californians have asked for bread and received a stone. They have asked for a R.R. and received a Dromedary. Tru, tied on to the tail end of the Dem platform we read that they are in favor of a speedy communication with the Pacific—speedy communication that dont say RR once. How would a poor miner look returning to his home after the absence of many years on the hump of a Dromedary? It would be *a la Arab* sure enough and this bids fair to be as speedy a communication as we will have for the next four years. Well let em rip. I can stand it if others can. But I must close for this time—so I will bid you good night.

My love to all  
Yours,  
Frank

Forest City Dec 23 1856

Friend Bill

It has been a long time since you and I crossed the briney deep to come to this outlandish country—but never the less we have lived through it and here I am and I learn through the columns of the St. Law Plain Dealer that you are at Texas Hill. I never have had the pleasure of receiving a line from any of the Boys that came out when we did except Gillet. I answered his communication from San Francisco and have heard nothing since. If you see any of the Boys give them my tender regards and tell them if they will write to me I will be happy in answering their letters. Bill write me how you are getting along and when you think of returning home. As for your humble servant, he is in good health and Spirits, but in the Finantial line he is rather low probably might pay 33-1/3 per cent on old grub bills. I am living with Bill Pitt formaly of South Canton. He intends going home next May. Amasa Sheldon is working about 12 miles from here. Sile Parker is 50 miles above Shasta. Elijah Clark is up there somewhere I think. Hank Richardson shiped in a clipper bound for Hong Kong from there to N.Y.

Dick Clark died at Petaluma in 54. He had a feaver sore on his arm. He had to have it amputated and lived but a short time after.

Bill dont you wish you could be in Canton these times? Donations at two shilling Dances, Och Sweat America I smell yer now. But I must blow out this luminary of a letter and crall in to the old blankets. If you will answer this I will write again.

Meanwhile I remain your,

Frank E. Kip  
Forest City  
Sierra Co  
Cal

William Conkey  
Texas Hill  
Sac County

P.S. I wrote this some days ago but owing to a shard snow I could not get it to the office. I am stopping at Smiths Flat 1 miles from Forest City. F.E.



Forest City Jan 29 1857

Messers Editors

The protracted snow storm that has visited us this winter has at last passed away. It turned in to a rain and for twenty four hours came down as onley in California it can. Then the clouds broke away and the sun as tho to make amends for so long hiding his face shown forth with that warm brilliancy which makes the climate of California so delightful. The rain has furnished the miners with plenty of water and the immense

quantities of snow that has falen which packs hard on the mountains and is melted graduly by the sun will keep the demand good much later in the season that it has in years passed. The miners are improving their time now that water is plenty and some of them are reaping rich rewards for their labor. Some of the companies at this place wash out on an average one hundred oz per day (\$1750.). Gold in the hill diggings is found in large Basins or Lands surrounded by rims of Bed rock. Through this, rock tunnells are cut, sometimes to the distance of two thousand feet before striking pay. Through this tunnel a track is laid and the dirt run out in cars. If the tunnel is to high when they get through the rock incline plains are run down. The gold is found mixed with quarts gravel washed smooth, showing that it has some day been subjected to the action of water. Large petrified trees are often found in these Hills, some having the appearance of oak others of a kind not known in this country at the present day. Bones of animals have also been excavated but these instances are rare. They also are of a specie not known to modern . . .\*. Nothing has ever been discovered to indicate the existence of human beings on this part of the Earth at the time these mountains were formed. The mode of seperating the Gold from the dirt is very simple. Sluice boxes are laid to a coniderable length through which a stream of water is run. When the gravel is shoveled in, the gold settles to the botom and is caught in riffles. Sometimes when the gold is very fine, quicksilver is required to save it. The gold mixes with the quicksilver forming an amalgam. This when heated seperates. I have little general news to communicate. The Banking House of S.W. Langton & Co. has suspended. I have little doubt that it will be a total failure. The circumstances are something as follows: A Banking House in San Francisco formaly connected with Langton had been cashing his drafts. This house had a confidential clark who tended to all the business. Said clark became adicted to gambling. Gambling with many is a loosing game and so it proved with him. First his money was lost then his employers. Langton meantime was sending down heavy drafts on this Bank, also sending the money to cash them. The clark cashed the drafts with money belonging to the Bank, entering them on the Books against Langton, putting the funds to the amount of \$80000. in his own pocket. All this it is supposed was lost at the gambling table. Such an open fraud could not long remain a secret. It was discovered, the clark stoped and the Bank suspended. Thus matters stand at the present time.

Frank



Dear Brother

\*Substitute the right word. Alter this to make sence if you can if they have a mind to print it, all right. If not there will be nothing lost. I have not time to right more at present. I am in tolerable health. My love to Pa Ma and yourself.

Yours affectionate Bro  
Frank



North Fork June 29th 1857

My Dear Father

It is with pleasure that I sit down this morning to commence a letter to you. In your last you said you wished I could come home and enter in to the painting business with Bub. Be assured I should be most happy in doing so and if I meet with no better success in future than I have in times passed. I shall endeavor to come home next spring or summer—I think if Bub and I were to start business in good earnest in the line you spoke of we might make a good living. "What does Bub say?" But it is hard to calculate so far ahead in this country. Everything is as uncertain as sunshine in winter. I have quite a little sum of money owing me which I have no hopes of getting before winter—and it has been the fortune of many to work and get swindled out of their pay. I hope it will not be mine. It would be indeed a happyness to me if I could be able to get money enough in this country to make us independent. But I shall not always strive for gold at the sacrificis of pleasures which in my estimation are worth far more. But I am getting on to a Philosofic strain and must leave this subject and for the want of a more interesting one I will give you a scetch of my last 3 days adventures—which I will entitle "A visit to the Old stamping grounds". I will not call it beautiful for all mornings are alike at this season (and when we call a thing beautiful we infer there is something existing of the same nature that is inferior). When I left Forest City to visit the old north fork, our journey commenced by ascending a mountain by a steep and narrow mule trail (al trails in California are up hill both ways). The sun was just peeping in unclouded briiliancy over the distant hills as we reached a more even and less toilsome road. A fine sea breeze was blowing which had lost none of its freshness by passing over many a lovely vale and cragy hilltop. Pausing for a moment to view the surrounding scenery we resumed our walk and in the course of an hour commenced decending the hill to old Downieville. It is a long and winding road down the mountain and the sun was well up by the maridean when we reached the foot. Meeting many old friends in Downieville we



Woodcut by Charles Christian Nahl, from *The Idle and Industrious Miner*, published in Sacramento in 1854. (Reprinted with the permission of the Bancroft Library, University of California, Berkeley)

were induced to tary over night. Downieville has changed but little since I first saw it in 55. The same old saloons are there minus the noisy throngs that used to gather round the gambling tables. The same old prices are charged at the hotels "\$1 per meal & \$.50 for lodging." The Theater was in full blast and in the evening we could not resist the temptation of going to see the great tragedian Stark in his new play "The Moors in Spain." This tragedy bears rather hard on Catholicism and I thought caused some dissatisfaction with a certain class of the audience. But the after peace entitled "A Peep in to New York" taken from one of Ned Buntlines works put the cap on and at the close of the preformance I heard a man with a big red mouth say that Bejabers it was a knownothing preformance all through and was got up on purpose to abuse the poor ignorant Irish so it was, and the next dollar I get I am going to give to the holy church as an offset to the one I have spent tonight so I am. Next morning after eating a breakfast which consisted of Beef steak (which I didnt eat), coffee without milk, boiled potatoes and flap jacks I settled my bill with a good American Quarter Eagle, received the best wishes of the land lord and a cabig leaf cigar (for my good looks I

suppose). I resumed my tramp up the North Fork. The trail winds along the stream, now crossing at some shallow ford, now spanning the cannon with a single log (mules pack heavy loads across these logs with perfect safety). As we advanced, many old familiar objects met our eye. 5 miles up we came to Dead Mans flat so caled because it has generally been the burial place of those who have died on the fork. Too lone graves encircled by a dilapidated paling are the first we see. Two rough pieces of slate rock are at their head upon one of which is scratched—Wells died May 1852. Grass groes rank oer the mounds where they sleep but their resting place is sacred. No miner will up turn their bones in his search for gold *we trust*. Farther on is a grave which bears a more recent date, a plain white Board marked John Nelson killed by the caving in of a Bank January 1855. Next the grave of a son of the celestial Empire. His resting place is marked by a rough board upon which are painted characters unintelligible to me. Their troubles are ore and now on the mountain side in the sunset land—where the wildflowers blow and the bright birds sing. They sleep well—peace to their ashes. A little farther on we come to Virginia flat. A half doz

deserted cabins, a liberty pole raised on some glorious 4th years ago, and the upturned rocks and trees are all that is left to tell that stout hearted miners once labored here. As we paused to rest for a few moments in an old log cabin we could not but let the imagination conjure the scenes that had been enacted within its wooden walls. Here the old man had told to his companions tales of his by gone days—here the youth had read with delight and answered letters from his dear love friends—here the lone miner had brooded over his passed misfortune and his future prospects. Young, old, grave, and gay had at the rough food and smoked the pipe round the large old fire place—but they are scattered now and where are they? Some have joined their families in their native state and are now enjoying the rewards of a hard earned fortune. Others are still wandering up and down these rivers, restless spirits who will never be at peace till the mighty power calls them to another world and others still, on the green knoll tells the sequel—fit place for the bearded miner to sleep the long sleep where the waterfall of the Yuba will sing forever his requiem. For the next mile scattered along the river are fragments of old flumes, sluice boxes, water wheels and other implements necessary for river mining. Now we pass a company of chinaman working with their pans and rockers, garbelling in their strange dialect which resembles very much the cackling of wild bees. A little farther on we see an old miner at work. His looks are familiar. Yes it is our old friend Tom Brown who worked with us in the deep cannon far up the river once on a time and now as he digs in the bank I will give you a description of an old miner. His pants are his own manufacture made of flour sacs and he has very ingeniously left the brand *Self Raising* on the seat. Big boots—well worn gray shirt and a hat with the top off finishes his wearing apparel—long beard and hair that has not been shorn for many a long month mark him as an old settler. But with all this rough exterior Tom has a warm heart and it is with pleasure we grasp him by the hand and sit down on a boulder to have a half hours chat. And here for a time we will drop the recital of our travels. Next time I will give you a description of the 4th. Gov Johnson is expected to deliver an oration in Downieville on that occasion.

Dear Pa—I dont know as you will be able to read all the scratches I have made on this sheat but it tires me to write a long letter with a pen so I scribe them off with a pencil. I have heard nothing from John—for a long time but I think he is yet in San Francisco. You must overlook all mistakes and bad spelling in my letters. Perhaps if I would bestow more time on them I could

write better.

Tell Mama and Bub I would like to see them very much and have a good dinner of fried eggs an tomatoes on the old kitchen table with the turned up leavs. Talking about dinner makes me hungry as blases and as I see Mr Sheldon is setting the tin crockery on the table I will draw this to a close trusting that on the reception of this your health will be equally as good as mine at the present time. I remain

Yours Affectionately

Frank

P.S. By papers that I sent you last mail you will see that the Universalists are not all dead in this benighted land. I have a personal acquaintance with Mr Edmunds and beleive him to be a gentleman and a Christian. I will send you the paper as I get it. I hope and think it will prosper.

AR Kip Esq Canton St. Lawrence County New York



*A self-portrait of Henry Devalcourt Kip of Canton, done in 1898 from a photograph. Henry was the brother—"Bub"—of Frank, who remained in Canton and received most of the letters. (Reproduced courtesy of Griffiths Art Gallery, St. Lawrence University)*

Many of the letters not included here deal with other experiences of Frank Kip's six or so years in the hills of northern California, not too far west of Reno, Nevada. He writes from several camp sites and towns with great details of work, of some other excursions "with the boys" into Sacramento and San Francisco, of gambling and saloons, of bitter local political disputes that sometimes end in murder, and of much more. He even describes working there for a while "tunnelling for the St. Lawrence canal," an endeavor of a Mr. A. Sheldon, apparently of Canton. His last letter

from California in the bundle is dated January 7, 1861, from Alleghany. In it he gives no indication of plans to return but does speak of his being discouraged with no finds and little money, of homesickness, and being tired of mining, and that "it is estimated that the mining population of California has decreased twenty-five percent since 1856."

The next significant date yet found pertinent to young Frank Kip reveals his enlisting in Company G of the Eleventh New York Cavalry at age 26, on August 31, 1864, in Canton. More popularly known as Scott's 900, that regiment campaigned through the mid and deep South in 1864 and 1865, a fact suggested by several other letters from Kip to Canton from such encampments as Memphis and Baton Rouge. All of this is verified in a history of that regiment by Thomas West Smith, including an account of "The Last Skirmish," written by Lt. John Mills of Company G. On April 18, 1865, near Germantown, Tennessee, about 15 miles from Memphis, 18 men went with Mills to Colliersville, 11 miles away. Kip and four others died in the first discharge of an ambush by 85 Confederates. Lt. Mills recalled the event this way:

"I cannot close this sketch without paying a tribute to the men killed and wounded that day. Brave and true men all of them. They stood their ground and fought as long as they were able, when they might have retreated and escaped. I remember particularly the conduct of Frank E. Kip, a man who had spent some years in the gold mines of California. Cool and steady, he aimed and fired across his bridle arm, sending death into the rebel ranks, and only ceased when he fell from his saddle with a bullet through his head—and every one of the others did their duty fearlessly, as well as they had done it for three years and more . . ."

The date, April 18, was two days after the last dated letter from soldier Kip at Germantown to his family in Canton; it was nine days after Lee's surrender to Grant at Appomatox Court House. Frank Everington Kip's body was eventually returned to Canton and rests in the family plot in the old cemetery at the corner of West and Miner Streets. But the excitement and daring of this young North Countryman's adventures still live on in his very own words.

#### About the Author

Varick Chittenden, who read the entire Kip letter collection and selected and edited these for publication, is currently researching the life and works of Henry Devalcourt Kip for a masters thesis. Chittenden is also editor of *The Quarterly* and an associate professor of English at Canton ATC.



# DEPARTMENT OF FAMILY REMEDIES AND ITEMS FOR THE HOME

MAILING CHARGES—2-ounce bottle, tube and postage, extra, 12 cents; 4-ounce bottle, tube and postage, extra, 16 cents; 8-ounce and 16-ounce bottles unmailable on account of weight. Remember, the pure food law in effect January 1, 1907, is your only safeguard. This applies only to drugs shipped from one state to the other and has no goods sold in your own state. Therefore, buy your drugs from reliable mail order houses whose drugs are guaranteed absolutely pure and pass every pure food law in the United States, either state or national.

**Powdered Borax. The House-keeper's Friend.**  
 No. BK505 Price, 1-pound carton... 9c  
**Paregoric, U. S. P.**  
 No. BK508 Full directions with each bottle. Price, 4-ounce bottle... 17c  
 Mailable sizes, see note above.



**Tasteless Castor Oil.**  
 This preparation is a combination of pure castor oil with other substances and aromatics and made in such a manner that the nauseating and objectionable properties are largely eliminated and yet it possesses all the good points that have made castor oil one of the most certain and reliable cathartics that can be used when a remedy of this kind is required. Can be taken by adults and children alike. After you have given our Tasteless Castor Oil a trial you will never use any other, and you will always keep it on hand as one of the standard cathartic and household remedies. (See medicine spoon, page 788).

No. BK511 Price, 4-ounce bottle... 19c  
 No. BK512 Price, 8-ounce bottle... 36c  
 Mailable sizes, see note above.

**Sweet Spirits of Nitre.**  
 Guaranteed absolutely pure, fresh and of full strength. Much more reliable than that generally offered for sale in drug stores.

No. BK516 Price, 4-ounce bottle... 20c  
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**Essence Peppermint, U. S. P.**  
 Pure, strong and of full strength. Full directions with each bottle.

No. BK521 Price, 4-ounce bottle... 19c  
 Mailable sizes, see note above.

**Essence Jamaica Ginger, U. S. P.**  
 Prepared of great strength from the finest quality of Jamaica ginger. Full directions with each bottle.

No. BK526 Price, 4-ounce bottle... 21c  
 Mailable sizes, see note above.

**Essence of Peppin.**  
 A preparation regularly prescribed by physicians, and usually recommended for the treatment of indigestion, sour stomach, dyspepsia, bad breath and in all conditions arising from a lack of gastric juice to properly digest and assimilate the food. A teaspoonful before meals will aid digestion and assimilation of food, and affords prompt relief when suffering from indigestion, as well as the distressing attacks to which chronic sufferers from dyspepsia are subject; also freely used for making junket, whey, etc. for invalids.

No. BK530 Price, 8-ounce bottle... 43c  
 Mailable sizes, see note above.



**Carbolic Acid.**  
 A 5 per cent solution of Carbolic Acid for disinfecting purposes, destroying contagion, cleansing purposes, etc. Excellent for keeping away disease, destroying bad odors. Put up expressly for household use.  
 No. BK576 Price, 1-pound bottle... 16c  
 Unmailable.

**Tincture of Arnica, U. S. P.**  
 The value of arnica is well known as an application to bruises, sprains, cuts, swellings, etc., but to secure any benefit it is necessary to have a strong, well prepared tincture such as ours.  
 No. BK580 Price, 4-ounce bottle... 19c  
 No. BK581 Price, 1/2-pint bottle... 36c  
 No. BK582 Price, 1-pint bottle... 63c  
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**Household Ammonia.**  
 Standard quality. Extra purity and strength. Put up expressly for home use. It lightens work and brightens the home. Makes the washing cleaner and polishing easier. In pint bottles, with full directions for use in the laundry, for the toilet, and for cleaning glass, crockery, paint, taking out stains, etc.  
 No. BK585 Price, per pint bottle... 11c  
 No. BK586 Price, per gallon jug... 75c  
 Unmailable on account of weight.

**Violet Ammonia.**  
 For the toilet and bath. Violet Ammonia is a comparatively new article for toilet and bathing purposes, which has won the favor of every lady and gentleman who has given it a trial. Once used you would never be without it. We furnish Violet Ammonia in liquid form and in the very best condition for toilet and bath. It is inexpensive and a few drops added to the water before washing will be sufficient to perfume it, intensify the cleansing and invigorating effects greatly, leaving a mild but lasting odor always pleasing and refreshing.



No. BK588 Violet Ammonia. Price, 1-pint bottle... 17c  
 Unmailable on account of weight.

**Willow Charcoal Tablets.**  
 Every person is well acquainted with the great benefit derived from willow charcoal in gastric and intestinal disorders, indigestion, dyspepsia, heartburn, sour or acid stomach, gas upon the stomach, constant belching, fetid breath, all gaseous complications and for the removal of the offensive odor from the breath after smoking. These tablets are prepared from the purest, carefully treated willow charcoal and will not interfere in any way with the action of other medicines. Can be conveniently carried in the pocket. Regular price, per box, 25 cents.



**Bromo Viohy.**  
 (EFFERVESCENT HEADACHE SALTS.)  
 The best manufactured.  
 A morning bracer. A headache reliever. A brain clearer. A nerve steadier.



This is a very reliable effervescent headache preparation. It is free from acetanilid and all harmful substances. Its sale is entirely unrestricted by National and State Pure Food Laws. One or two teaspoonfuls of the bromo taken in a half tumbler of cold water will shortly dispel sickness of the stomach, relieve a severe headache, clear up the brain and steady the nerves. It is a thirst quencher, and causes a pleasant feeling to prevail all through the body. It is a quick remedy for nervous headaches, neuralgia, sleeplessness, over brain work, depression following alcoholic excesses, and all nervous troubles. A little should always be on one's bureau or table for use in the morning or at night.  
 No. BK137 Price, 25-cent size... 18c  
 No. BK138 Price, 50-cent size... 37c  
 Unmailable.

**Glycerine Suppositories.**  
 Harmless, certain and agreeable, and contain 95 per cent glycerine.  
 The best treatment for constipation, producing painless, prompt and copious evacuation of the bowels without disturbing the stomach and whole system. The ideal method of emptying the lower bowels. Easy to apply and will keep indefinitely. The best remedy for constipated children. Full directions with each bottle.



No. BK23 Price, per bottle, containing 12 adult suppositories... 17c  
 If by mail, postage extra, per bottle, 10 cents.

**Boil Remedy.**  
 A preparation composed mainly of calcium sulphide, and which has for years been known to quickly check and free the system from boils. Many persons are subject to them periodically, they being caused by a peculiar condition of the system. The remedy is perfectly safe and it seems certain in its effects. No trouble, easy to take, the results are all that can be expected. Don't wait until you are tormented with a boil. Be ready for the trouble. Keep a package on hand. It never spoils. Retail price, 50 cents.



No. BK64 Our price, per box... 24c  
 If by mail, postage extra, per box, 5 cents.

**Santal Perles.**  
 Each perle contains five minims of the purest East India santalwood oil.  
 These well known perles act speedily on



**Pure Norwegian Cod Liver Oil.**  
 A PURE OIL FOR MEDICINAL PURPOSES.



In the treatment of wasting diseases where the body has become emaciated, where patients are losing flesh, where the system is constantly weakening and reaches a state of debility, our Pure Norwegian Cod Liver Oil will not only act as a food, increasing properly the assimilation of all food partaken of, but the medicinal properties which it contains will at the same time produce a quick restoration to general health. For severe colds, lung and throat troubles, Norwegian Cod Liver Oil should be taken regularly.  
 No. BK83 Price, per bottle... \$0.53  
 3 pint bottles for... 1.50  
 No. BK84 Price, per 1/2 gallon... 1.70  
 No. BK85 Price, per 1 gallon... 2.95  
 Unmailable on account of weight.

**Blackberry Cordial.**  
 Formerly known as Blackberry Brand.

An exceptionally fine and Pure Blackberry Cordial, made from the ripe blackberry; fine dark red color, heavy body and combined with the juice of the blackberry. Held by manufacturers as absolutely pure. Many grades of blackberry cordial are not pure, but our product is guaranteed by the manufacturers. Used and prescribed by many physicians as one of the simplest and most effective remedies for all derangements of the stomach and bowels. Does not constipate. Fine in taste, agreeable and tones up and invigorates the system; also largely used for cooking and pastry work.



No. BK128 Price, per pint bottle... 37c  
 No. BK130 Price, per quart bottle... 62c  
 All sizes unmailable on account of weight.

**Leininger's Formaldehyde and Menthol Inhaler.**

Leininger's Formaldehyde and Menthol Inhaler is a scientific combinator for treating hay fever, catarrh, asthma and all acute diseases of the nose, throat and lungs. Leininger's Formaldehyde and Menthol Inhaler is recognized as the only reliable treatment by inhalation for the purposes for which they are indicated. If you are a sufferer from hay fever and catarrh and so far have been unable to obtain relief, we recommend Leininger's Formaldehyde and Menthol Inhaler, which has proved effective where many other treatments have been found inadequate.

Furnished in a handsome aluminum tube, with a closely fitting cap to prevent evaporation. Contains a two to three months' treatment. Regular price, 25 cents.  
 No. BK316 Our price... 19c

Detail of a page of "patent medicines" in the 1908 Sears, Roebuck Catalogue. Such medications became the formalized, popularized replacements for home remedies or cures used almost universally before.

## Stir Well and 'Swallow with a Smile'

by Paul Letson

Home cures—folk medicine—may seem to be out of the distant past, but there are still some people among us who insist that natural ingredients and simple compounds are to be trusted more than the products of modern medical science, with their side effects and long term problems. James Buckley, of the French Pond Road in the Town of Colton, still remembers, and sometimes uses, the remedies for common ailments that he himself can create.

Folk medicine has been defined as the knowledge and practice of remedying illnesses by the use of what would be described today as unorthodox and perhaps medically unacceptable methods and cures. It is also important to understand that these skills must be handed down generation to generation or otherwise learned informally, not studied from books or courses.

Folk cures are all around us in our

daily lives, although we may not recognize them as such. One simple remedy that would qualify as a bit of folk medicine and that most of us are familiar with is putting butter on a burn. Many people have probably heard of this or perhaps even tried it, but those same people, if asked, would probably tell you that they didn't know any home remedies. Perhaps, too, they are embarrassed to tell, for modern medicine

suggests that butter is one of the worst things to put on a burn, because the oil holds in the heat. Cold water or ice is actually much more effective in reducing inflammation and blistering.

One man who still often relies on home remedies (with no apparent embarrassment) is Jim Buckley. Jim was born 65 years ago in the French Settlement, on the French Hill Road, about two miles from South Colton. Jim

was one of nine children, three of whom are now dead, and all of whom were born at home, without the aid of a doctor. Jim stresses this point, and this point does deserve some serious thought when discussing folk medicine. When Jim was a young lad and learned most of what he now knows about folk medicine, doctors were few and far between. Finding one could be difficult, not to mention getting him to visit, and then trying to pay him. The severe winter weather, and people living far "from town" played a major role in the promotion of home remedies. As Jim points out, with a lack of communication as we know it today, and also a lack of rapid transportation, a family could wait a long time for a doctor to arrive. First there was a ten or twelve mile buggy ride over rough or possibly impassable roads. Then one would have to find the doctor and make the same long buggy ride back. From this situation arose the need for home remedies.

Jim claims that he himself "never needed much doctorin'. He says that he learned most of his cures from his father and his paternal grandfather, who both needed to be self sufficient in order to survive. Many of the cures Jim uses the most are the same ones that were originally designed for use on horses and dairy cattle. One of his favorites is called black oil, and is famous (or notorious) among his family and friends.

Black oil is a concoction that was originally used for healing fence cuts "and the like" on cattle and horses. Jim says that it worked so well on them that he decided to use it himself. He adds that it works especially well "on blisters on your heels, but only if you pierce the blister first, and tear away the top skin, so the black oil can get in to do its job." It also works well on any type of cut or sore. One old woman uses Jim's black oil on bruises, claiming relief from pain as well as rapid healing. These are the ingredients: 1 pint raw linseed oil; 1 pint turpentine; 4 ounces sulfuric acid (he doesn't specify what strength of solution). Mix well and apply generously. Jim complains that he has experienced quite a bit of difficulty in finding the sulfuric acid lately.

Jim also recommends a 40/60 mixture of sulfur and molasses (taken orally) to clear up pimples and any other skin blemishes.

Another of Jim's favorites is his sure fire cough syrup. Children aren't too fond of it, but it stops their coughing, and he says that it's cheaper than buying it. It includes: onions (cooked down); maple syrup (or corn syrup—second choice); pine tar. Stir well and "swallow with a smile."

Sulfur can also be added to your cattles' or horses' grain supply to keep the mice from eating it. Although this is not really a "home cure," it is noteworthy to show the parallel between this farmer's traditional "trick of the trade" and his home cures. Here Jim has unwittingly demonstrated his flexibility and resourcefulness by using a common substance in several applications, where a need was present.

An example similar to the above is Jim's use of saltpeter on the farm. Jim says that he has had to give his livestock saltpeter before when they have had trouble voiding liquids. This, he says, clears them right up. But he also uses saltpeter on his lips and in his mouth as a remedy for cold sores and cancar sores.

Jim recalls that when he was young, he had quite a problem with nosebleeds. At one point, he had a nosebleed that wouldn't stop, despite his and his mother's efforts. But he remembered that when a horse got a nosebleed or any kind of a surface cut, it was common to pack cobwebs up the horse's nose or into the wound. So, he promptly packed his nose full of cobwebs, which almost immediately stopped the bleeding. He claims that he hasn't had a nosebleed since. (What doctor today would prescribe that?) He adds: "An old Indian friend once told me that a wounded bear will pack moss into a wound to stop bleeding and heal the wound."

Another concerns Jim's father and his almost perpetual earache problem. As Jim tells it, his father had terrible earaches and could find no lasting cure for this malady. Finally, one woman suggested pouring hot chamber water in his ear. So, as a last resort, Jim's father tried it, and surprisingly enough it worked. Jim says that his father could go outside on even the coldest, windiest day and not have to cover his ears, and never has had another earache since.

Jim also recalls from his childhood the tri-weekly dose of cod liver oil his mother required all the children to take "to keep them working right." But, if the cod liver oil worked too well, there were always cheese curds available, or boiled milk with pepper to slow things down to normal.

There is also a cure for the common cold in Jim Buckley's tricks. He prescribes drinking a mixture of red pepper and milk to clear up the sniffles. And if you have a sore throat along with that cold, you should wrap the sock off your left foot around your neck, with the heel on one end and the toe on the other.

A poultice of mustard and lard can also be used for a chest cold. The lard makes the mixture good and pasty, for easy application, and lots of "stick-to-it-ness." This mixture should be rubbed in

well, leaving a surplus amount on the chest, and then a piece of cheese cloth should be laid over the top of it.

Other poultices are available for various maladies, but Jim's favorite is the salt pork poultice (he swears by this one). Salt pork, the saltier the better, should be applied to the affected area, particularly an infection. Then, gauze or cheese cloth goes in place over the top of it to form the bandage. Jim claims that the salt pork is sure to draw the infection out in a hurry. He says that salt pork has such great healing powers that a repairman who sometimes services his milking equipment puts salt pork in his (the repairman's) socks, sometimes for a week at a time, to relieve his tired, aching feet! Jim's wife says that the smell was so bad that she had to leave the room that he was working in. I wonder if *he* would wrap *his* left sock around his neck for a cold remedy? Another common poultice, but not one of Jim's favorites, is the bread and milk poultice. I suspect that this one is too ordinary for Jim—not colorful enough to earn a place in Jim's catalogue of cures.

Jim and his family still live within a quarter of a mile of where Jim was born 65 years ago. A spectrum of technological advances have been made since Jim was a boy growing up in rural New York, and there is no longer a real need for some of the home cures or so many of the other old ways and traditions that he and his family still believe in and enjoy. But many of them make some sense, even to modern medical science and, faced with the constant review of side effects of "miracle cures" these days, we may better appreciate someone who still remembers how simple remedies are made.

If it were possible to do so, you could send Jim and his family back 100 years in time, and take away his tractor and his chain saw, and his other 20th century conveniences, and give him a cross cut saw and a team of oxen, and he could live the same happy and fruitful life he lives now. He is like a man out of place in time. He lives a slow and easy life in the country, seeing to his family's and his own needs. And he'll probably never suffer from an ulcer as you or I might, living a fast paced lifestyle and working in modern industry or in some other high pressure position. But if he ever did, you can bet that he would have a home remedy for it!

#### About the Author

Paul Letson, a native of Syracuse, is a freshman student at Canton ATC, who interviewed Mr. Buckley and prepared this article for a course in American Folklore.





*A simple stone cottage in the Chipman area settled by Scot families in the early nineteenth century. This early photograph shows the basic stone structure with a frame construction wing and porch. (Photo courtesy of Pauline Tedford)*

## Stone Houses of the Chipman— A Preliminary Study

*by Pauline Tedford and John A. Baule*

*What many might take for granted—i.e., the very common appearance of simple, old stone houses very close to each other in two neighboring towns—our author (Ms. Tedford) has undertaken to study in earnest. Who builds them; why that “style” and why stone; when were they built; etc., etc.? Her conclusions, drawn in this preliminary statement, arouse the imagination of people interested in folk architecture, ethnography, cultural geography . . . and just nice old houses.*

“We call ourselves Chipman,” the Scot families in the towns of Madrid and Waddington say. Proud of their Scottish ancestry, they retain many Scottish traditions and center social activities at the Scotch Presbyterian Church in the hamlet of Chipman. The tourist merely traveling through the Chipman, however, is probably unaware of this

Scottish background, but even the most casual observer cannot fail to notice the multitude of stone houses dotting the area landscape.

Pauline Tedford, Waddington Town Historian, is one person who has noticed and wondered why the early Scottish settlers chose to build this particular type of house. She soon discovered that

no one had yet investigated the architectural history of these stone houses. Thus, she has undertaken a preliminary study and comparison of the houses, old photographs, documents, and information gleaned from interviews to introduce the subject. The following account relates Ms. Tedford’s findings and conclusions to date, but her



research will continue.

The first homes of the Madrid/Waddington area pioneers were log structures, but the settlers desired more permanent structures. Brick was considered to be costly in the early nineteenth century, for kilns had to be built, clay procured, the bricks hand molded and fired, transported to the building site, and, of course, finally paid for. As a result brick did not become a popular building material in Waddington until about 1845. Wood was plentiful, and the first saw mill was built on Brandy Brook in 1799. But wood also had to be cut, taken to a saw mill, and then finally returned to the building site. Stones, on the other hand, were plentiful in the fields around Waddington, free for transporting to a building site. Masons were probably in abundance, for stone had been a common building material in Scotland, and neighbors shared their skills and ingenuity.

Generally, the use of stone for building houses in the Madrid/Waddington area extended from 1800 to 1845. Between 1850 and 1890 other stone structures were built—the Waddington Town Hall, designed by Isaac Johnson in 1884; the Waddington

Presbyterian Church in 1887; and the Chamberlain Corners and Madrid bridges; but these were not private residences. Rather the classical stone cottage is a distinctly rural phenomenon and is not found within the present villages of Madrid and Waddington. In fact, with the exception of two houses in the Irish Settlement (or eastern) section, all the stone residences are located within what is now called the Chipman area.

At the present time there are fifty such houses, which range from the well-maintained state to a pile of rocks and rubble in the middle of a field. However, photographs document the existence of other structures and the ruins still standing give an excellent opportunity to study construction techniques and materials.

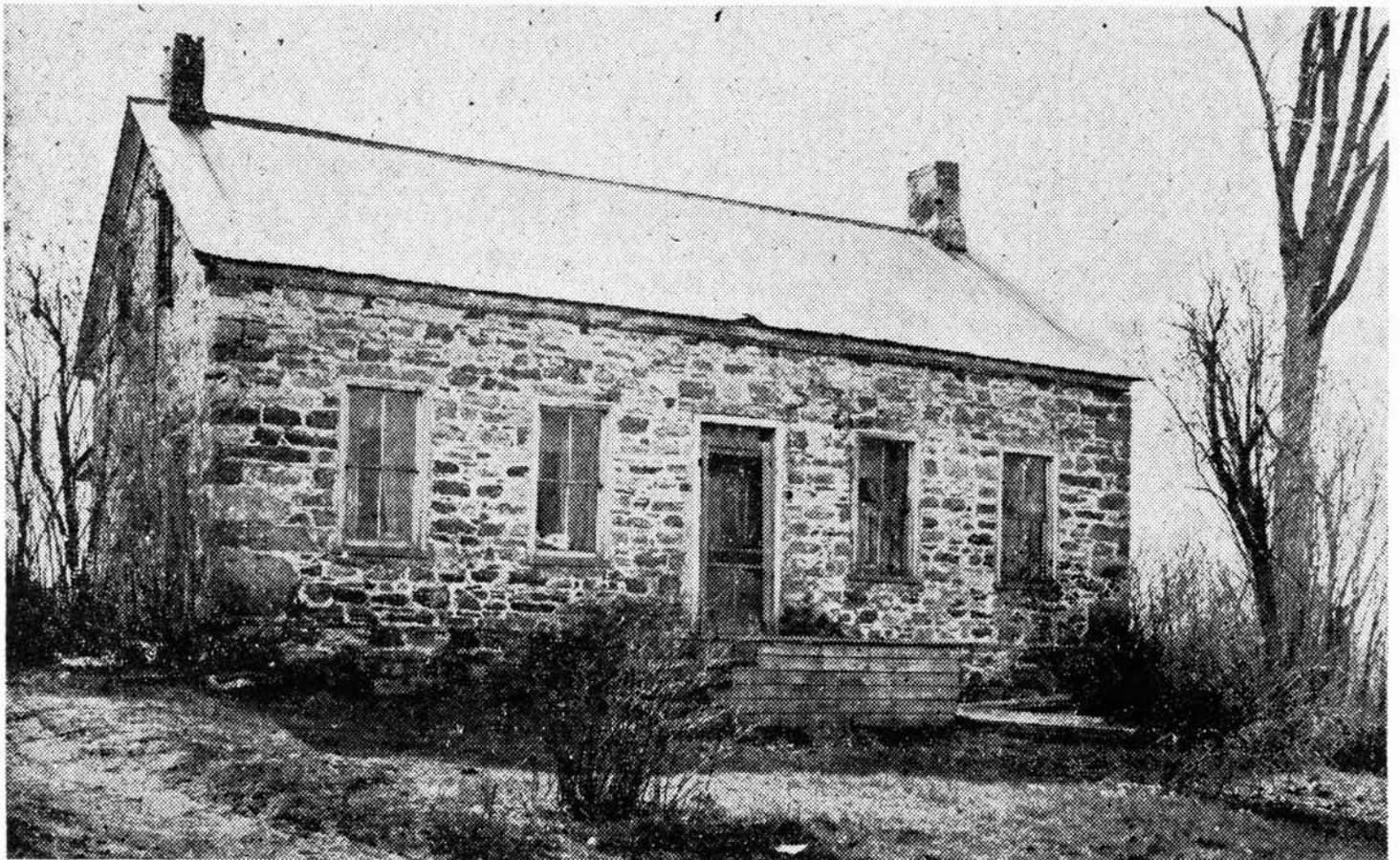
All of the houses have certain similarities. The main house measures about 34 by 22 feet, and most have wings added at a later time. The walls are of limestone, sandstone, or fieldstone. The fenestration is symmetrical with two windows on either side of a center door, and a window on either side of the chimney on the gable ends. The second story windows are smaller and closer to the chimney than those on the first floor. All

the houses are one and one-half stories high.

However, Ms. Tedford has noticed that there are differences among the houses and thus has divided the structures into four categories. House type A is the earliest and the most naive in construction. The walls consist of very roughly laid, chinked stone. Lintels and sills appear to be wooden planks and the walls were stuccoed at one time.

House type B is much more sophisticated. It has a curved lintel over a semi-circular fanlight above the front doorway, and flared window lintels. The front doorway is recessed 24-30 inches because of the wall thickness and measures six feet nine inches high and 36 inches wide.

The foundations of the house have about five courses of stone between ground level and the sill. There are six to eight courses of stone between sill and window, and 22 to 24 courses from sill to plate. The shingled roof is low pitched with 24 courses of stone from plate to ridge. The front and gable end that faces the road is built of stones carefully laid in horizontal courses, with the stones projecting beyond the mortar joints, and rough-cut stone quoins at the exterior corners. The stones, gathered just as



*A newspaper photograph of the Thomas Short homestead on the Madrid-Waddington Road, near the village of Waddington. It represents the most unsophisticated of all the house types and the earliest, with random rubble field stone walls, a square door casing with no adornments. (Photo from the David Land series on historic buildings, Watertown Daily Times, 1940's, courtesy of Pauline Tedford)*



*William Day home on Buck Road. Evidence of more sophisticated construction methods and influence of architecture style: semi-circular, fan shaped doorway; smooth, regular courses of stonework on front; and rougher, more random treatment on side. (Photo courtesy of Pauline Tedford)*

they were from the fields, or quarried locally, are of warm, colorful, earthy tones. The width of the mortar joints is about one inch. The mortar in these walls is made of limestone and sand, and it appears that the masons used a sort of "V" treatment to set off each stone. The end wall connecting with the wing, and the rear wall are of a "chinked" fieldstone, and there does not appear to have been any attempt to form a pattern, or a straight row of stones.

The walls are three stones (24 to 30 inches) thick with each stone approximately the same size as the facing stone, and placed in the wall so that the stones in the center of the wall come opposite the vertical joints of the exterior and interior stones. The entire thickness of the wall was built up at the same time, so that the facing stones are an integral part of the wall construction.

The quoins (or corner stones) are very large fieldstones, but generally they are roughly formed, or possibly merely stone slabs broken off from a layer of limestone. The exposed faces and edges

remain rough. They vary from 10 to 12 inches high, from 12 to 14 inches long, and about seven inches deep.

Door and window jambs are of heavy wood planks or limestone slabs set out to within one or two inches of the face of the masonry walls, and the space between the frame and stone filled with mortar. Finally, the gable end chimneys do not protrude beyond the surface of the exterior walls.

House types C and D are identical to type B except that the lintel over the doorway is constructed of vertically laid stone blocks in C houses and of horizontally laid stone slabs in D houses.

The interior design of all of the houses is somewhat similar and is illustrated in the adjacent floor plan, drawn to scale. Briefly, the homes have two floors and a cellar. The cellar is divided into two large rooms by a stone partition, which supports one end of the floor joists. These joists run from the gable ends. The first floor, as shown, contains two rooms on either side of a center hall. The two front rooms were heated originally

by fireplaces, but they eventually were blocked off in many of the homes to allow for the use of more efficient stoves. The first floor interior doors are six panels and were painted. The windows were originally 24 small panes (known as 12 over 12 windows), measure 68 x 36 x 22 inches, and have casings containing paneled hinged shutters.

The second floor contains only one room measuring 15' 6" x 24-32 feet on either side of a center hallway 6' 5" x 7' 5" (a closet connects the two rooms). The gable end windows measure 36 x 22 x 43 inches and also have hinged shutters. The doors are constructed of straight vertical boards held in place by horizontal boards at the top and bottom of one side of the door. The floors are wide soft boards.

This then is a preliminary study of the stone houses in Madrid and Waddington. Many questions remain to be answered. Why did settlers cluster this house type in this area? How do these houses relate to stone structures in other

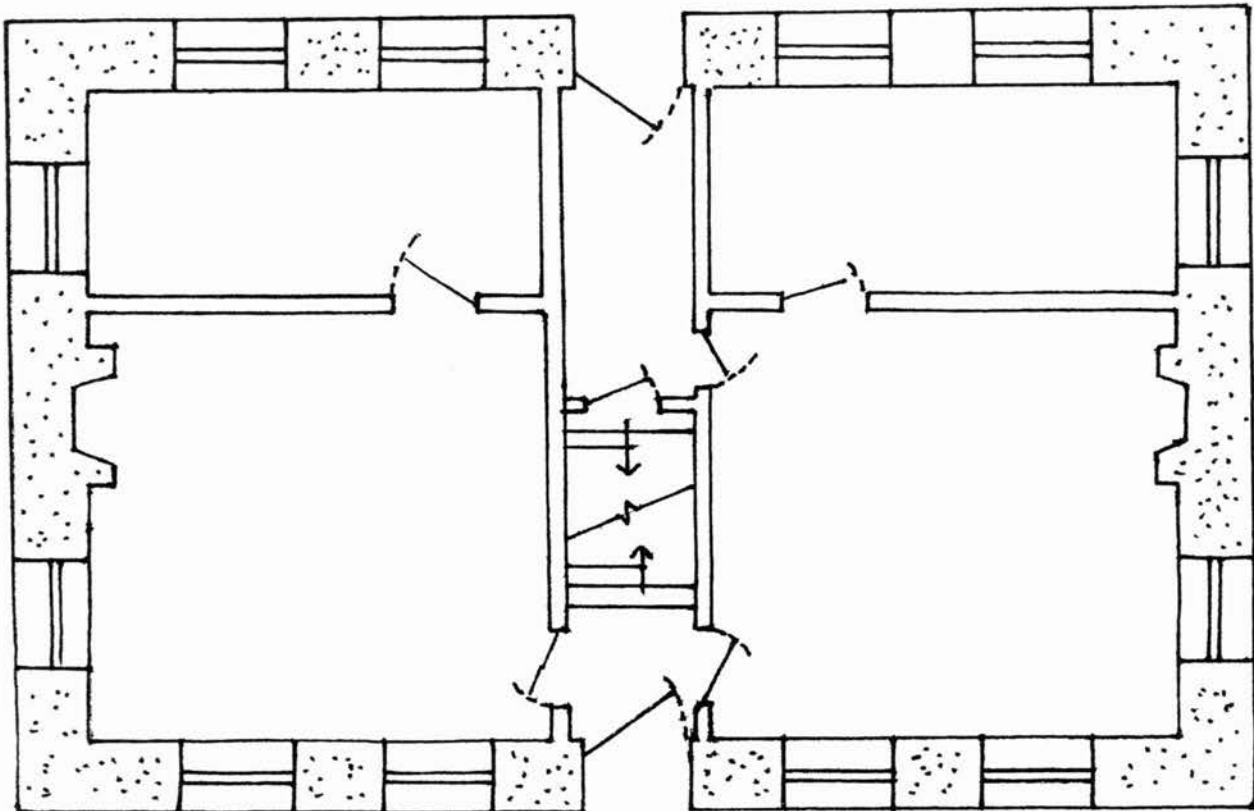




*Doorway detail of Rookey house at Chipman Corners. (Photo courtesy of Pauline Tedford)*



*Ruin of a stone cottage on Buck Road, showing the inclusion of the fireplace into the gable end walls and the thick stone walls. (Photo courtesy of Pauline Tedford)*



*Typical floor plan of the first floor of Chipman area stone cottages. (Courtesy John Baule)*

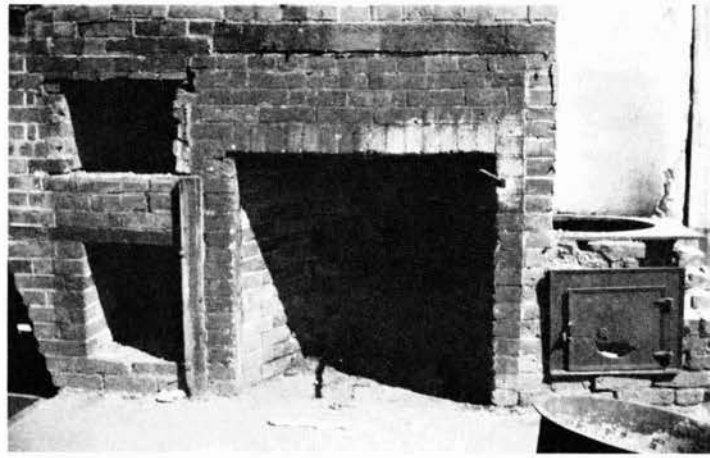




*Rookey house at Chipman Corners. Coarse rubble on gable ends, smooth cut on facade, frame construction wing. (Photo courtesy of Pauline Tedford)*

parts of the county? Where did the original design originate? Were these homes based on ancestral structures in Scotland? Were the masons themselves Scottish settlers or were other men hired?

It is hoped that the above information will help publicize this county feature and also will elicit reader responses that will help tell the complete and accurate story of the Madrid/Waddington stone houses.



*Typical fireplace in gable end of stone cottages: bake oven, wood box underneath. (Photo courtesy of Pauline Tedford)*



**About the Authors**

(Note: Ms. Tedford wishes to acknowledge her appreciation for special help with this project to Thomas Fife.) Pauline Tedford, the historian for the Town of Waddington, has studied folklore at SUC Potsdam and has developed an interest in the ways that traditions are carried from one place to another, especially within immigrant groups. John Baule, SLCHA director, is especially interested in architecture and historic preservation.



*House with fan over entrance and wing also constructed of stone. Located on Ridge Road, this house is now being restored by Harry Doelger. (Photo courtesy of Pauline Tedford)*

# David Parish's Early Land Developments in St. Lawrence County: 1812-1816

by Kent Newell

*The great wealth, energy, and vision of David Parish is captured in this article, one chapter selected from an honor's thesis in history about the application of the historian Frederick Jackson Turner theory of American growth and frontier development to the Parish enterprises in northern New York State. Mr. Newell has relied heavily on primary source material, especially the Parish-Rosseel Collection of correspondence in the Rare Book Room at St. Lawrence University's Owen D. Young Library and the Parish Land Book in the County Clerk's Office, Canton. (The original text of this paper, with the extensive footnotes and bibliography, is available from the author or the editor.)*



*Portrait of David Parish, done in Germany. From Franklin Hough's A History of St. Lawrence and Franklin Counties, 1853. (Courtesy Association files)*

After eighteen months in Europe, Parish was eager to return to Northern New York and commence activities immediately. During his stay in Europe he finalized his financial affairs concerning the bullion trade and could now give his undivided attention to the settlements.

Soon after his return in November, 1811, Parish travelled to Ogdensburg where he received a detailed report on Antwerp's payment problem and the developments in Rossie and Parishville.

Believing that hostilities would soon cease, David Parish found much to be done in order to stabilize his settlement in Antwerp. He immediately began to discuss the options open to him with regard to the collection of debts. Realizing that money was scarce in Northern New York, and that the increasing agitation between Britain and America was inhibiting trade and economic expansion, Parish was unwilling to take harsh measures concerning the settlers' financial plight.

Unfortunately, before he could propose a uniform and feasible solution, he withdrew to Philadelphia, where he became involved in a government loan. Parish consulted with Stephen Girard, a Philadelphia merchant, and sponsored a government loan at the urging of Secretary of Treasury Gallatin. Girard and Parish eventually invested \$7,055,850 of the government's newly acquired sixteen million dollar loan.

During Parish's stay in Philadelphia he formulated a policy that benefited those faulty debtors while enhancing his existing land policy. His instructions urged Rosseel to send a notice to the settlers of Antwerp informing them that land contracts would be renewed on March 15, 1812. Although the new contract did not relieve the settlers of their obligation to pay the 7% annual interest, the terms of the contract were very lenient:

1. That their contracts will be renewed for three years beginning from the 1st of March next ensuing, that is to say, the amount due on their contracts on the *First of March next*, shall be payable in three equal yearly payments with legal interest accruing on the whole amount to be paid annually also.
2. That in consideration of this facility granted to the settlers, they will obligate themselves to pay either in money or in Labor, Two and a half percent of the amount of their res-

pective contracts, for which their note of hand will be demanded upon their receiving a new contract.

3. That the Commissioners of Highways of this Town, jointly with two more judicious persons, will be charged to collect said notes and apply the labor and money to the improvements of the roads in Antwerp within the lines of David Parish's premises.

Parish considered the two and one-half percent penalty a viable means to improve the transportation system within the township. Over the years, the roads in Antwerp had become practically impassable. The monies secured from the renewal of the contracts would be forwarded to the Commissioners of Highways immediately. Exerting political pressure, Parish influenced the Commissioners to begin the necessary repairs within a week.

Parish also hoped that the improvements in the roads would increase land values and would in turn encourage the

settlers to make further improvements.

In the following weeks, Rosseel made visits to Antwerp in order to renew the contracts of faulty debtors. In April, Rosseel noted that the payment problem went far beyond the economic recession caused by the war. He felt that there were very few settlers in Antwerp that conducted their farming affairs properly and "very few settlers . . . were insensible to their great error in buying so much land . . ." He further stated that most of the settlers were not "sincerely" trying to fulfill their contract agreements because of the difficulty involved in making improvements on their over-extended purchases.

David Parish rushed to Ogdensburg when war broke out in the early summer of 1812. Predicting an early termination of the war, he sent Rosseel on vacation for several weeks while he administered his settlements personally. During this period he inspected all of his settlements and sketched out future plans for economic developments. Antwerp, being primarily an agricultural settlement, would be left to grow and prosper with little supervision. He considered the addition of a new grist mill but felt that a delay until the end of the war was prudent.

He now saw Ogdensburg as the commercial center for all his holdings. Since the declaration of the war, his aspirations for formulating a lake trade and forwarding station were totally destroyed. He now felt that real estate promotion provided the best investment.

In Rossie, he planned the erection of an Iron Works and the completion of the village at the head of Black Lake.

Parishville would not only become an agricultural and trading site, but also a diversified and well rounded settlement. He wished to construct an entire town which would supply all the essential trades. He also built a farm near the lower falls to serve as a retreat.

By 1813, the extension of payments in Antwerp did not appear to be living up to Parish's expectations. Those settlers, faulty in contract agreements and debts, still found it difficult to meet Parish's demands.

In February, Parish adopted Rosseel's observation which attributed faulty payments to the mismanagement of land and over-extension of purchases. Parish enforced this belief when Daniel Heald and Francis McAllister applied for land. Each had already acquired 200 and 150 acres of land respectively. With little encouragement from Rosseel, Parish denied the request because their land holdings were already sufficient.

Those individuals that had taken out loans for improvements also found it difficult to get further advances. Mr. Baudot, the owner of the distillery, who was having considerable difficulty meeting payments, applied for further assistance in 1813 and was rejected.

Prior to Parish's trip to Europe, Baudot had applied for an extension on his loan on the grounds that because of the nature of his establishment, it was next to impossible to expect him to make a profit in the first season. Parish rejected this early proposal because he felt Baudot's request was made in expectation of hardship and he lacked sufficient knowledge of Baudot's management abilities. Unfortunately,

Baudot's troubles increased during the next eighteen months. Upon Parish's return, Baudot, suffering heavily on his investment, was ready to sell the distillery. In June, Parish cancelled the land contract and purchased the distillery from Baudot.

Parish and Rosseel were sorely disappointed by early March 1813, with the settlers' response to their payments on the extensions. Only a small number of individuals had made the proper payments. In the ensuing week, Silvius Hoard, appointed sub-agent in Antwerp and Rossie, was instructed to visit the settlers and take what little payments were available. Even though this action was practiced for several months, little was accomplished.

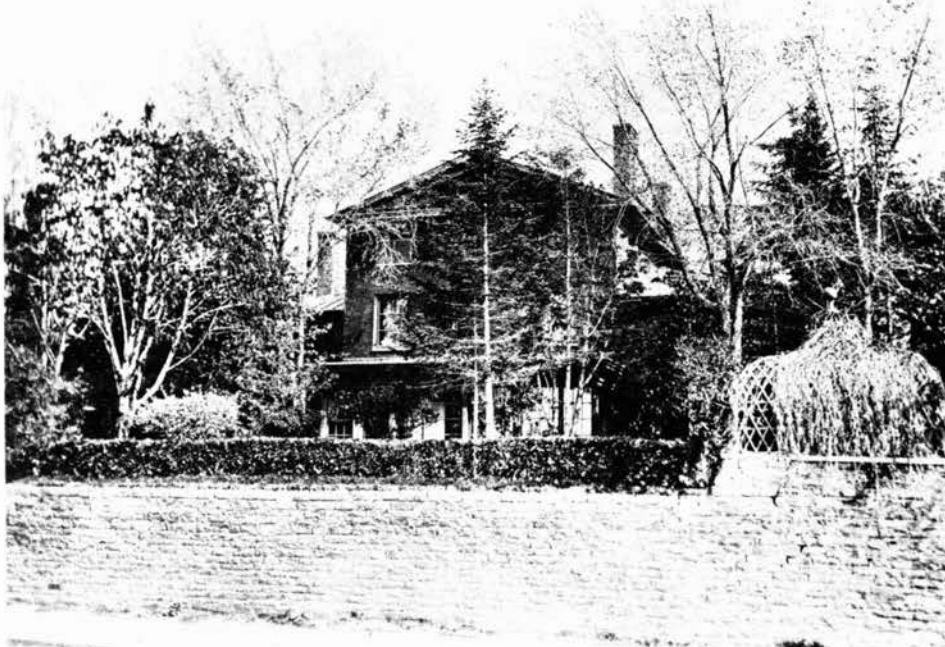
Even though Parish was becoming totally discouraged with the situation, he was still willing to make exceptions to those "worthy" settlers. In March, 1813, Mr. Sterling, one of the oldest settlers in Antwerp, was assisted by Parish. Rosseel felt him to be a "good, honest man" who fell under hard times. He noted that Silas Brooks had defrauded him of almost all his savings; and therefore he was not directly responsible for his faulty debt. Parish accepted the recommendation presented by Rosseel and extended Sterling's contract.

By May Parish realized that the extension policy was not successful, for the efforts of Hoard had been ineffectual. The amount collected was as little as had been in 1812. In early May he decided to take a firm stand. He ordered Rosseel to address a letter to every settler that was faulty on their payments, informing them that they would be liable if the interest on their debt was not received by June 15, 1813. By autumn, Parish found that several settlers had defaulted, few had paid the interest due and the majority had made arrangements with Rosseel in order to defer payment.

By November, Parish was determined in his effort to receive the revenue on debts, and he advised Rosseel on a new method of collection. He instructed Rosseel that "it was absolutely necessary to pursue a system of firmness and decision with such of the settlers as don't pay up the interest or make satisfactory arrangements with you apply for it." Again, he allowed Rosseel to use his discretion concerning the extensions of worthy settlers' payments, but insisted that those "shiftless" farmers were to be evicted.

Rosseel, as discouraged as his patron over the debt problem, stated that he was "glad of having your (Parish's) authority to act more firmly and decisively with regard to those of your settlers who are in default of paying up the interest."

Even though Rosseel was now em-



*The Parish mansion in Ogdensburg as photographed in 1860. Now the Remington Art Museum, the front of the mansion in this photograph has long since been changed to the opposite side of the building, facing the St. Lawrence River. (Photo courtesy of the History Center Archives)*



powered with full authority, he was wary of evicting all those settlers who had defaulted on their contracts or loans. In a report to Parish in early December, he stated that many settlers were beginning to resent the pressure applied by Parish. They felt that Parish was attempting to take advantage of their situation and, consequently, were "far from being inclined to make further payments on accounts of their lands, and regret what has been already paid."

By December 1, 1813, twenty contractees had defaulted on their interest payment, totalling \$894.24. Eleven of them failed to give any explanation for their negligence.

For the next two years, collection of payments plagued both Parish and Rosseel. In late 1814, Parish attempted one more program in an effort to receive monies owed. Rosseel granted extensions for a three or four year period to those settlers he felt responsible. If Rosseel thought that the settler sincerely needed a longer period of time, Parish was willing to grant up to ten years for the reimbursement of debts. Even though this appeared to be a very lenient policy, Parish's own interests were protected—the stipulation on the long term extension was that 7% be paid during the first three years, 12% the next three years, and 18% for all years extended over the initial six.

The contractual system which Parish instituted in early 1810 cannot be held solely responsible for the drawbacks of his land policy. In both Antwerp and Parishville the foremost difficulties in the collection of debts were the depressed nature of the economy due to the war and the quantity of land purchased by the settlers. Circumstances surrounding the defaulting on loans were much the same.

The situation in Rossie was somewhat different from that of his other settlements. Uncertain about the possibilities of exploiting the iron ore in Rossie, Parish visited iron works in Pennsylvania, where he talked with several iron masters about the potential for an iron ore industry in Northern New York. Returning to Ogdensburg in early 1812, Parish began to investigate the feasibility of such an enterprise.

The village site proposed by Rosseel in 1810 also impressed Parish as the site for the iron ore furnace. Ore could be hauled from Somerville to Rossie on the road opened in 1810. The Black River provided a perfect transportation route for products and the proposed Ogdensburg Turnpike would allow easy access to the iron works. Furthermore, the vast stands of timber provided the necessary wood needed for both fuel and construction.

During the summer of 1812, Parish personally supervised the initial con-

struction of the furnace and the planning of the village. Realizing the need for a full-time representative at Rossie, Parish employed Silvius Hoard as a sub-agent in Antwerp and Rossie. He also engaged an English iron master, William Benbow, to supervise all work in the furnace. In a letter to Rosseel, who was still vacationing, Parish informed him that "operations to erect iron works at Rossie have commenced. Mr. Benbow is there with a dozen hands. . . I contemplate charging Silvius Hoard with the sub-agency of the lands in Antwerp and Somerville, to reside at Rossie where he will also be able to be of use to Mr. Benbow." In the ensuing months Parish directed the development of Rossie with enthusiasm. He hired workers to assist in the erection of the furnace, tavern, workers' quarters, brewery and grist mill.

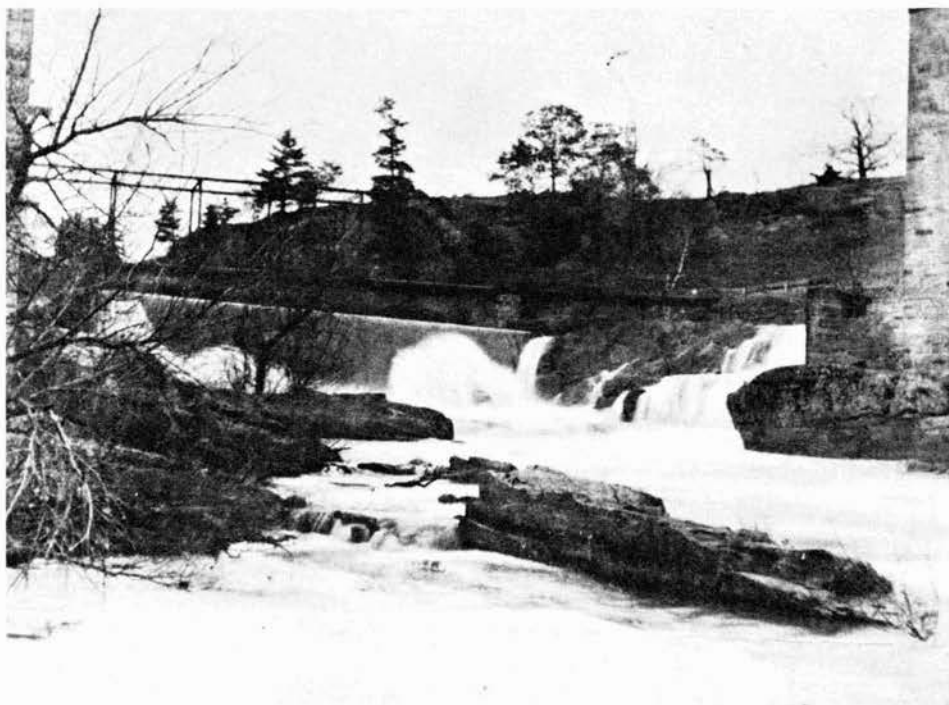
By January 1813, with the construction well under way, Parish also advanced additional money in order to begin drawing and hauling ore from Somerville. Benbow informed Silvius Hoard that much ore was being drawn and hauled. He noted that "there were 37 sleighs a day the greater part of which draw a ton of ore a load" and asked for more money and additional contracts for teamsters. In response to Benbow's request, Silvius Hoard wrote to Rosseel advising him of the necessity of additional money and laborers. These added resources would permit an expansion of the mining operation. Rosseel quickly responded to the request and added twenty-five more teamsters to the employee roster. With considerable construction and the expansion of the mining operations, the

cost of running the entire operation required about \$5,000 per month. Realizing that the high cost incurred was due to the construction, Parish continued to supply the funds. However, by 1814, he felt that \$5,000 per month was an exorbitant amount for *running* the operations. Therefore, he cut the budget \$1,000 per month.

Parish was optimistic that iron ingots would soon be produced, and he began to look for markets. Inquiring at the military ordnance, Parish had an interview with Colonel Wadsworth, Commissary General of Ordnance. He found that if the regional commander in the north was amenable to his request, a contract could be made. Accordingly, Parish wrote to Commodore Chauncey at Sackets Harbor and offered "a few hundred tons of cannonball . . . at 85¢ per ton."

The escalation of war with Britain had, in the early months of 1813, created a large measure of uncertainty in the North Country. Consequently, Parish cancelled the building of a mill in Antwerp, ordered his agents to cut down on expenses, and eliminate all unnecessary work. He realized that the depressed state of the economy was a direct result of the open hostilities. With open aggression between American and British troops at Ogdensburg in early 1813, both Parish and Rosseel agreed that a complete evacuation might be necessary. Thus, in March Parish ordered Rosseel to transfer all land books to Rossie; the small community would now serve as the center for all Parish's enterprises.

By April, with assurance from Secretary of Treasury Gallatin, Parish was



Rossie Falls. (Photo courtesy of the History Center Archives)

certain that peace was imminent. The assurance from Gallatin prompted Parish to pursue the contract with the government concerning the production of cannonballs.

Unfortunately, hostilities broke out once more and Parish became skeptical about the production of military hardware: "I have till now declined entering into a contract for bombs or shots with the government until I find that our frontier is secure from the incursion of the British, for without protection it would be highly imprudent." The impropriety of stringing out troops along the border in an attempt to secure the area led the American commander to concentrate his forces at Sackets Harbor and Plattsburgh. This tactic delayed all negotiations between Parish and the government.

By the fall of 1813, operations and construction were following their normal course. The construction of the Ogdensburg Turnpike and the completion of several buildings at Rossie were creating an influx of settlers and workers into the area. Silvius Hoard, finding it difficult to give proper attention to the land agency and the Rossie Iron Works, asked for an assistant. Parish responded by hiring a

young accountant and sending him to Rossie to attend to the books. Mr. Jordain arrived at Rossie in the middle of September 1813. After six weeks Rosseel wrote Parish and informed him that Jordain was very concerned over his job because his "relative slowness" at work was not comparable to that of Mr. Benbow and Mr. Hoard. Rosseel assured him that he was doing a fine job and after becoming fully acquainted with the method of operation he would soon "be able to work with ease and speed."

After a year and a half of development, Rosseel reported that the blast furnace would soon be completed and iron ingots would be produced. In November Rosseel calculated that Benbow would need about \$12,000 for the next three months:

"For wages to carpenters, laborers, blacksmiths—furnance men, molders, woodcollins, choppers—corn and hay for teams, pork, wheat and hauling iron from the mines."

In December, Rosseel spent several days observing the construction of the furnace. Much to his satisfaction, Benbow had used his resource wisely and that construction was moving ahead at a rapid pace. He noted, however, that

Benbow was very dissatisfied with the layout of the village and the ensuing intercourse between the iron mill workers and the settlers. He observed that the proximity of Berthrong's Tavern to the works permitted disorderly contact between the two. He recommended that the 'grogshop' should be removed and a "vigilant porter placed (after the European fashion) at the gate on the bridge which might effectively prevent all unnecessary intercourse between the works and the village." Parish, responding to Benbow's concerns, ordered Rosseel to close down the 'grogshop.' Much to Rosseel's dismay, Berthrong removed the tavern sign and claimed it closed, all the while still serving liquor.

The first test of the furnace came on January 18, 1814. Anticipating complete success, Judge Ford, Rosseel and Silvius Hoard gathered for the momentous occasion. Benbow stoked the furnace, ignited it and soon "the hearth was covered to the depth of several inches of liquid iron pronounced by W. Benbow and his master workman the best they ever saw; when, it gives me (Rosseel) real pain to state it, the hearth stone, no longer able to resist the fire melted and formed with the iron



*Rossie Iron Furnace.* (Photo courtesy of the History Center Archives)



*D<sup>e</sup> Parish Office, David Parish Esq*

1812	March 10	To 1 yoke Oxen & yoke Reed of Elphabrooks	78.00		
		To Cash in Exchanging of Oxen	11.00		
	Sept 26	To Cutting 20 Chains of Road	12.50		
		To digging 40 rods of Side the at 30 ft. rod	12.00		
		To making 25 rods of broomage	25.00		
	Sept 1	To Chopping & cleaning 1 Mile & 64 Rods of Road	12.00		
	October 18	To Building a Bridge over the 1 <sup>st</sup> Regt at Parishville	212.00		
1813	January	To Balance of Taxes	37.44	189	06
	March 1	To Balance of A/C from 1812 to my private credit to pay		301	54
				490	65

*D<sup>r</sup> Uriel H. Crois*

1814	Dec 19	To 59 Gallons whiskey		59	
		" one Cask	2	"	2
1815	Feb 3	" 126 Gallons whiskey		126	
		one Cask	2	"	2
	March 24			189	
		" 43 Gallons whiskey @ 4 1/2	195.00		
		" 1 Cask	1.75		
	31	" 72,08/100 Gallons whiskey	72.08		
		" Cask	2.00	118	83
	Sept 14	Balance of his " which is paid to Pennock's Credit	1077	1077	
1819	Nov 6	" Interest		2	50
				321	10

Details of two pages from the very early account books of Parish's land agents and the distillery in Parishville. Complete original books for nearly fifty years are now a very valuable part of the History Center Archives Collection, gift of Ms. Rosabel Meashaw of Parishville. (Courtesy of the History Center Archives)

and charcoal one common mass." Though unsuccessful, Benbow was not dismayed, assuring Rosseel that the difficulty could be easily corrected.

After several more attempts in the next two years, Benbow could not master the process because of his lack of knowledge of the materials available. In May, 1816, Benbow asked to be released from his contract. Parish accordingly, and without regret, paid Benbow \$1,440.74 compensation for his employment and bid him farewell.

Since Parish planned to return to Europe in July 1816, he immediately started to search for another iron master. Eventually he offered Messrs. Keith, Marvin and Sykes, a New England firm, the free use of the furnace for three months for experimental purposes. If they were satisfied with the outcome, a contract would be drawn up.

During the period 1812-1816, Parish's main focus in Rossie was the completion and full production of the Rossie Iron Works. Little attention was paid to the development of land. However, the Ogdensburg Turnpike and the Village of Rossie attracted several settlers. By November 1, 1814, with the increase in farming, Rosseel proposed the erection of another grist mill. No action was ever taken on behalf of Parish. The purchase of Hammond was the only other special interest which directed Parish's actions. Even though Hammond only had two settlers, because of its fine timber and suspected mineral resources, Parish built a road to "Chipeway Bay," where he proposed to build a sawmill. Discouraged by Rosseel, the mill was not constructed until several years later.

The development of Parishville from 1812-1816 was indicative of Parish's extravagance. By 1812, a road had been built from Potsdam to Parishville, and a road to Stockholm was almost completed. Many acres of land had been cleared by employees in order to provide uninterrupted construction of the village. A sawmill had been built and the new grist mill was under construction. By mid-1812, the St. Lawrence Turnpike had been surveyed and was ready for construction. Under the supervision of Daniel Hoard, Parishville was being carved out of complete wilderness.

Parish's return to the North Country initiated the rapid development of the village. Even though the country was depressed economically, and Parishville lay in the war theater, Parish pursued a rigorous campaign to construct an entire community.

Parish's enthusiasm for the project was obvious by the end of 1812. Hoard had spent approximately \$8,000 inaugurating construction on a mill house solely for the operator of the sawmill, a store on John Street, several houses



within the village, a blacksmith shop, and a bridge across the St. Regis River. Parish, attempting to instill an atmosphere of contentment and prosperity, even had Hoard prepare a deer park in the village green.

To further boost Parish's already inflated opinion of the eventual success of his operation, Daniel Hoard reported that the land sales were increasing so rapidly that people were waiting for plots to be surveyed and, hence, defined for sale.

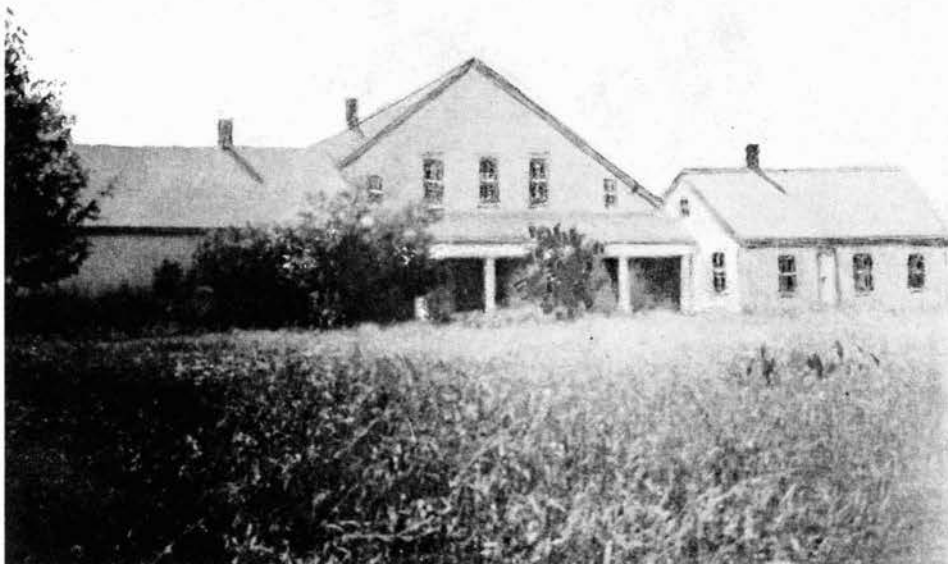
The anticipated success of the region attracted opportunistic individuals. In March, Hoard applied for a deed so that he would be in a position to hold public office. In late March 1812, he also applied for a raise in his commission for the sale of land. Indeed, Hoard's actions were indicative of the prevalent feelings about the ultimate success of Parishville. The development of Parishville also attracted Parish's chief supervisor, Daniel Church. After repairing to Parishville in order to construct the grist mill, Church eventually decided in early 1813 to take up residence. Even though he had received a house in Ogdensburg as partial payment for his services, he realized that his talents would be needed in Parishville, for opportunities were numerous. By March, 1813, Church was "fixed" at Parishville. Occasionally he would send reports to Rosseel informing him of progress in that village.

As the years passed and construction continued at an abnormally high level, the cost to Parish became overwhelming. Hoard estimated that expenses for 1813 alone ran above \$30,000. His constant demand for money was becoming a ritual for Rosseel, who had to make a direct request for monies to David Parish before he could make an advance.

In 1813, the construction of outstanding buildings began. The tavern "was the largest and most impressive building erected in the village." It was three stories high and consisted of a coach house and plush furnishings. It was not open for occupancy until 1814. At this time, Parish also directed the building of a farm house at Allens Falls, two miles north of the village. It consisted of a manor house, a barn, and was accompanied by other small buildings.

By the summer of 1816, the continued advances made to Hoard for his operation were becoming exorbitant. Parish felt it prudent to curtail development during his stay in Europe. Thereupon, he ordered Rosseel to limit Hoard's financial resources.

While construction continued, settlers arrived in order to purchase farms and village plots. In April, Hoard reported that fourteen families had moved into Parishville over the winter, and that he



*Right wing of David Parish home near Parishville, built 1813. Right wing was spinning house and left wing laundry and work house. Most recently owned by James Bradish family. (Photo courtesy of History Center Archives)*

expected many new arrivals next spring. Even though land sales were not as numerous in the outlying area, Hoard had issued contracts to twenty-six settlers during the years 1812-1814. By 1814, Parishville boasted that the community's population was approximately 270. In May, 1814, Rosseel proceeded to Parishville for the purpose of executing land contracts. In the next two years, the annual rate of growth in population of the village would decrease, contrary to Parish's expectations.

This 'ideal' community was not without its problems. Suffering from the economic conditions as did the rest of the North Country, many settlers found it difficult to meet the terms of their contracts. Mr. Guy Nash, an early settler in the community, had purchased a considerable amount of land. He was obligated, according to his contract, to clear 30 acres of land and pay the required interest of 7% annually. Because of extenuating circumstances, he could not meet the payments. Unlike



*David Parish barn near Parishville, built in 1813, destroyed by fire in 1959. Dimensions: 96' x 56', 7' at eaves. (Photo courtesy of History Center Archives)*



Parish storehouse near the river in the village of Parishville, most recently used as a residence. Destroyed by fire in 1977. (Photo courtesy of History Center Archives)

most of the settlers in his position, Nash decided to sell the farm: "The situation of our family occasioned by death and sickness does still render it impossible to go on with the labor. As much profits may be got of the land this season, I wish you . . . to sell the farm at auction immediately."

The payment of contracts became increasingly problematic as Parish's departure drew near. It may be presumed that he handled the situation as he had done in Antwerp.

By 1814, agriculture had not burgeoned into a profitable trade as Parish had anticipated. Even though he could invest large amounts of money and erect an entire town, attracting trades, he could not accelerate the clearings of land, planting of seed and harvesting of crops. As the farmers increased, Daniel Hoard also predicted a large increase in grain production. Anticipating the farmer's need of a market for surplus grain, he constructed a distillery and storehouse. Much to his disappointment, Hoard found that he could not purchase enough grain from the surrounding farms. He was forced to buy grain from Potsdam in order to produce enough whiskey for a small profit. Eventually, Hoard reported that "grain is very low . . . money very scarce . . . whiskey worth nothing—it isn't possible to raise money from it to pay the duties."

Although Parishville had the potential to become a trade center because it lay at the crossroads of major transportation routes, it was suppressed largely because it lay in the war theater. The fact that Parishville was also in direct line of troop movement from Sackets Harbor to Plattsburgh plagued the reputation of the town. It not only placed the village closer to the war theater, but the practice of confiscation delayed or totally obstructed the movement of trade and supplies.

As Parish departed for Europe in June, 1816, he felt that he had clarified his policies and developmental schemes to ensure continued growth. Even though both Parishville and Antwerp's faculty payments became more problematic and the collection of interest on loans frustrating, Parish felt his new extension policy would allow ample time for the settlers to raise themselves from the effects of the war. He also hoped that upon his return, Messrs. Keith, Marvin, and Sykes would have the Rossie Iron Works in full production.

#### About the Author

Kent Newell, native of New Jersey, graduated with honors in history in 1978 from St. Lawrence University and is presently a graduate student in history at Johns Hopkins University.

## Local Historians 1979

### Towns

- Brasher:** Grace O'Brien, Brasher Falls 13613  
**Canton:** Harriett Armstrong, Municipal Bldg., Canton 13617  
**Clare:** Claudia Giffen, Rt. 1, Russell 13684  
**Clifton:** Jeanne Reynolds, Cranberry Lake 12927  
**Colton:** Lillian Cassel, Colton 13625  
**DeKalb:** Virginia Fischer, DeKalb Junction 13630  
**DePeyster:** Adelaide H. Steele, RFD, Heuvelton 13654  
**Edwards:** Miss Leah M. Noble, Edwards 13635  
**Fine:** Bessie DeCosse, Star Lake 13690  
**Fowler:** Ann-Sarah Byrnnne, Rt. 3, Gouverneur 13642  
**Gouverneur:** Eugenia Huntress, 24 John St., Gouverneur 13642  
**Hammond:** Mrs. Sherschel Bickelhaupt, Rt. 1, Box 9, Hammond 13646  
**Hermon:** Mary H. Smallman, Box 43, Canton 13617  
**Hopkinton:** Sarah Powers, Hopkinton 12940  
**Lawrence:** Miss Elizabeth Winn, No. Lawrence 12927  
**Lisbon:** Jennifer Bixby, Rt. 1, Heuvelton 13654  
**Louisville:** Helen Paige, Star Route, Massena 13662  
**Macomb:** Julia Barlow, RFD 2, Heuvelton 13654  
**Madrid:** Lourene Pierce, RFD Chase Mills Rd., Madrid 13660  
**Massena:** Margaret Ringwall, Town Hall, Massena 13662  
**Morristown:** Lorraine Bogardus, RD 2, Ogdensburg 13669  
**Norfolk:** Ivan Wing, RFD, Norfolk 13667  
**Oscego:** Persis Y. Boyesen, RFD 3, Ogdensburg 13669  
**Parishville:** Emma Remington, Parishville 13672  
**Pierceland:** Beulah B. Dorothy, Childwold 12922  
**Pierrepont:** Jane McEwen, RFD 4, Canton 13617  
**Piteairn:** Lucille Eastman, Rt. 2, Harrisville 13648  
**Potsdam:** Susan Lyman, Norwood 13668  
**Rossie:** Jessie O'Hara, RFD 1, Antwerp 13608  
**Russell:** Awaiting appointment  
**Stockholm:** Mildred Jenkins, Rt. 2, Potsdam 13676  
**Waddington:** Miss Pauline Tedford, Waddington 13694

### Villages

- Gouverneur:** Nelson B. Winters, Gouverneur 13642  
**Heuvelton:** Persis Y. Boyesen  
**Norwood:** Susan Lyman  
**Potsdam:** Kay Wyant, Potsdam Civic Center Museum, Potsdam 13676  
**Rensselaer Falls:** Dorothy Crane, Rensselaer Falls, 13680  
**Richville:** Georgianna Wranesh, Richville 13681  
 Morristown and Waddington are also same as town historian. No appointments in Canton, Hermon, Massena or Hammond.

### City

- Miss Elizabeth Baxter, 814 Jay St., Ogdensburg, 13669  
 Frederick Erwin, 732 Morris St., Ogdensburg 13669 (deputy)

### County

- Mary H. Smallman, P.O. Box 506, Canton 13617  
 Van C. Hoyt, 56 E. Main St., Madrid 13660 (deputy)



# From the Editor's Notebook . . .

The announcement by the Board of Trustees of a writing competition based on St. Lawrence County historical materials to commemorate the twenty-fifth anniversary of *The Quarterly* in 1980 is exciting to me indeed. Although we are fortunate right now to be having good manuscripts on varied topics submitted voluntarily, we look forward to the incentive of the competition to involve writers—veterans and newcomers—to research and write about some of the many yet-unexplored aspects of our history. The material submitted (following guidelines on page 3) will be judged within its own division, identified for judges only by a number rather than a name, and read by several before decisions are made. Issues of the 1980 Anniversary Volume will include selected winners from the competition; the first prize winners will automatically be published. We invite you to write something yourself or to encourage someone you know, whether or not he/she lives here, to submit a manuscript. All together these articles should provide a very interesting, meaningful, and appropriate celebration of this publication's silver anniversary.

Varick Chittenden  
Editor



## The Wright Corner

by Mary Ruth Beaman

*Since 1973 and the beginning of the purchase of the home of Gov. Silas Wright for a county museum, Mary Ruth Beaman of Ogdensburg has regularly and diligently been researching any possible material about Wright and his career. Mary Ruth here continues a series of planned columns relating little-known but interesting facts that have surfaced. If you find such information yourself, she will welcome it.*

### Wife Locks Senator Out of Bedroom

This did not appear on the front page of a recent scandal sheet. It probably did not show up in a newspaper of the era in which it happened. However, Senator Silas Wright mentioned the incident in a letter to his brother-in-law, Capt. Lucius Moody, 19th January, 1838. You might find excerpts from this correspondence interesting reading.

"My Dear Brother,

We have now two small rooms upon the second floor of the house, one of which is our bedroom and Clarissa's working room, and the other is my office . . . when I closed my labors in my room last evening, at rather a late hour, and attempted to get to my bed, I found myself locked out, and not having any bed in my own room, the prospect for a while was rather discouraging . . . By rattling the door, however, for a few times, I gained admittance, and Clarissa, with all the apparent honesty in the world, assured me that she had fastened the door to undress, and had gone to bed and to sleep without thinking to unfasten it. During the time she was telling the story I kept my position firmly in the open door, and not finding the old bachelor of our mess attempting to rush out past me, nor being able to see him in the room, I made the best of it I could, assumed to believe her whole story, and here the matter rested . . . this evening, if the wind does not blow too severely, we propose to walk to the theater and see Mr. Booth in Richard III . . . We have been looking with great anxiety to the revolutionary movements in your Province and Lower Canada . . . We have heard that you had closed your services on board the Great Britain and were to take charge of another boat of Mr. Hamilton's in the spring . . . Clarissa sends her love to Julia and the boy."

Most truly yours,  
Silas Wright, Jr.

Mr. Lucius Moody.

Reference: "Life and Times of Silas Wright" by Ransom Gillet.

## SLCHA Committees for 1979

### Standing Committees

**Finance and Development:** Ed Blankman, Chairperson; Louis Greenblatt; Don Blount; Mary Jane Watson; Stuart Winning; Harold Wilder; Allen Splete; and John Baule.

**Membership:** Marty Davis; Beverly Markkula; Barbara Audet; Dee Ann Martin, Chairperson; Dwight Mayne; Allan Newell; Betty Coots; Allen Splete; and John Baule.

**Publications:** Kelsie Harder, Chairperson; Margaret Nulty; Varick Chittenden; Betty Worsch; Joan Kepes; Paul Jamieson; Allen Splete; John Baule; and Kelli Rossi.

### Ad Hoc Committees

**Public Relations:** Doris Wheaton and Judy Gibson.

**Fund Raising Events:** Ann Piskor and Judy Chittenden.

**Programming:** Vern Ingram and Connie Ingram.



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