

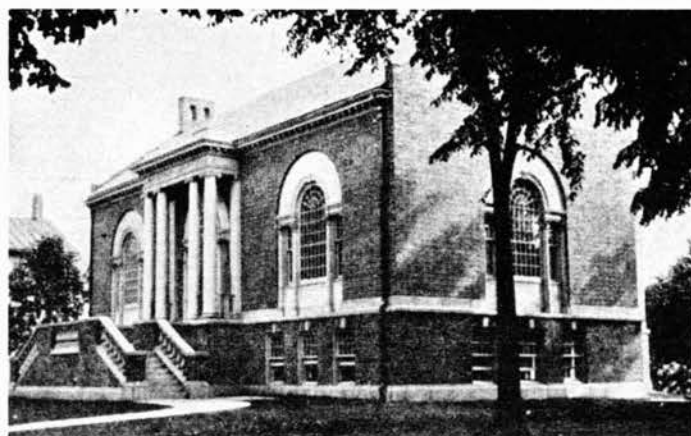
# THE QUARTERLY

Official Publication of the St. Lawrence County Historical Association

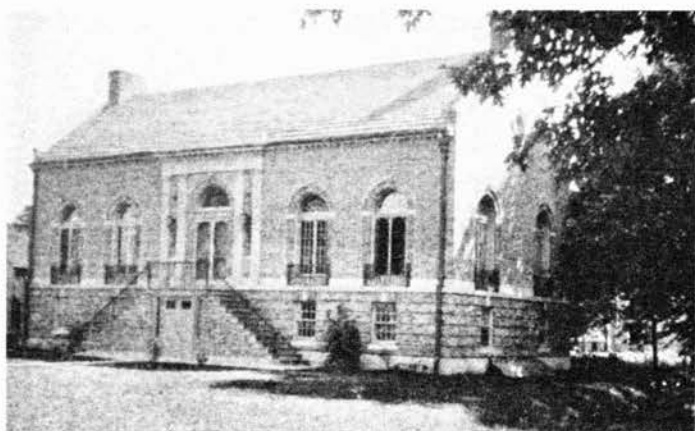
January 1980



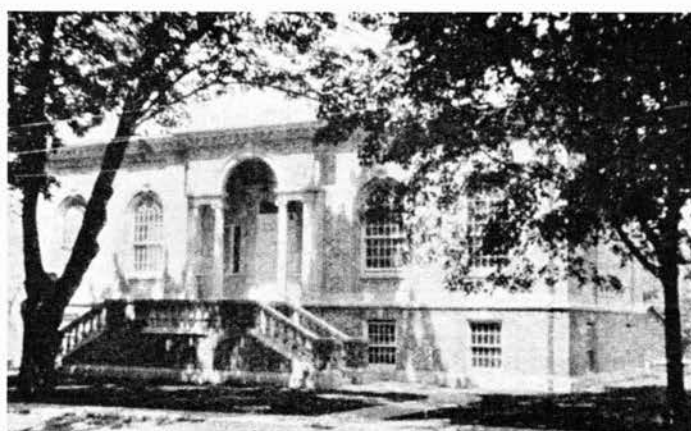
Colton



Waddington



Madrid



Hermon

## HEPBURN LIBRARIES

*Commemorative Issue*

OUR TWENTY-FIFTH YEAR OF PUBLICATION

# THE QUARTERLY

Official Publication of the St. Lawrence County Historical Association

VOLUME XXV

JANUARY 1980

NO. 1

## CONTENTS

<i>Eileen L. McGrath</i>	3	Mr. Hepburn's Libraries
<i>John R. Greene</i>	7	The Tozers of Northern New York: A Documented Genealogy
<i>Mary Ruth Beaman</i>	10	The Wright Corner
<i>Marion Clark Baker</i>	11	'Whey, Whey!': Recollection of St. Lawrence County Cattle Drives
<i>Nelson B. Winters</i>	12	A Brief History of Gouverneur's Riverside Cemetery
<i>Meredith Smith</i>	15	A Day in the Life of a Crossroads Cheese Factory
	21	Annual Reports of the SLCHA

*THE QUARTERLY* is published in January, April, July and October each year by the St. Lawrence County Historical Association.

As a courtesy to authors and the editor, the Association asks anyone wishing to reproduce all or part of material included in *THE QUARTERLY* to submit a specific request in writing at least 30 days in advance of its anticipated use.

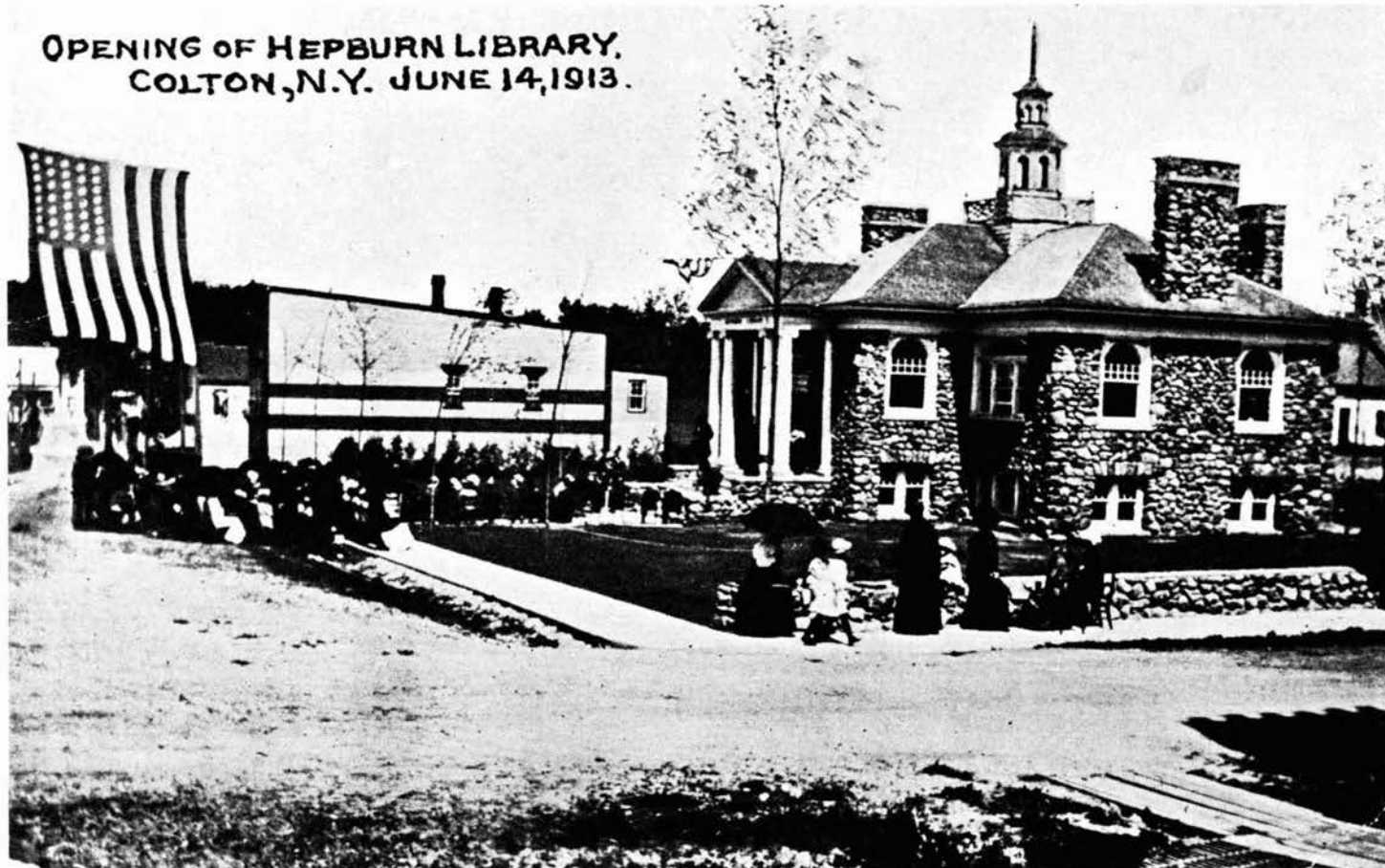
Extra copies may be obtained from the History Center, P.O. Box 8, Canton, N.Y. 13617, at \$2.00 plus 25¢ postage and handling.

Editor: Varick A. Chittenden

*This publication is made possible in part with public funds from the New York State Council on the Arts.*

**Cover:** Four of the seven Hepburn Libraries in St. Lawrence County. Others were also established in Lisbon, Norfolk, and Edwards. See Eileen McGrath's article beginning on page 3. (Photos from Joseph Bucklin Bishop's *A. Barton Hepburn: His Life and Service to his Time*, courtesy the History Center Archives.)

**OPENING OF HEPBURN LIBRARY,  
COLTON, N.Y. JUNE 14, 1913.**



*Postcard view of the assembled crowd for the opening ceremonies of the first Hepburn Library, in Colton, on June 14, 1913. (Courtesy of the Hepburn Library, Colton, Nancy McCarthy, Librarian)*

## Mr. Hepburn's Libraries

by Eileen L. McGrath

*The first Colton boy ever to go to college, A. Barton Hepburn never forgot either the meaning of learning or of his native region to his own successful life. Like Andrew Carnegie, but with much more personal interest, Hepburn saw to it that several small communities could have libraries, but only if they demonstrated considerable interest in their building and its maintenance. The author, herself a professional librarian, explores the development of our county's seven Hepburn libraries and the role they have played in people's lives since.*

On June 14, 1913, one of the largest crowds ever seen in Colton gathered at a site near the center of the village. School was dismissed for the day, and Cushing's orchestra came from Potsdam to provide musical entertainment. Three village clergymen had prepared invocations or brief speeches, and Almon Gunnison, the president of St. Lawrence University, came from Canton to address the gathering. The occasion was the dedication of Colton's first library building, a spacious cobblestone structure on an attractive half-acre site at the town's crossroads. This building was a source of civic pride to the little village, since it was the only institution of such size and potential in the county, except for the

libraries in the commercial centers of Canton and Ogdensburg. Observing the crowd and hearing the casual comments and proud speeches was the man whose unsolicited gift made the library possible, A. Barton Hepburn. The library in Colton was the first of seven that Hepburn would establish in St. Lawrence County; these "Hepburn Libraries" changed the cultural landscape of St. Lawrence County, and the story of the libraries and their benefactor is part of the North Country's heritage.

Barton Hepburn was born in Colton in 1846, the seventh child of Zina Earl Hepburn, a first-generation settler from Vermont, and Beulah Gray Hepburn of Madrid. Barton grew into a self-

reliant, industrious boy and was such an exceptional student at the St. Lawrence Academy in Potsdam that he was asked to teach in the rural schools of the area before he had completed his own program at the academy. Perhaps as a sign that he had his mind set on big things, Hepburn added Alonzo to his name at this time.

As Alonzo Barton Hepburn he became the first Colton lad to go to college, enrolling in Middlebury College in 1867. However, Hepburn's meager financial resources prevented him from continuing at Middlebury. He returned to educational work in the North Country in 1868, first as a mathematics teacher at the St. Lawrence Academy and later as



the principal of the Ogdensburg Educational Institute. While teaching, Hepburn studied law, yet, even after he was admitted to the bar in 1871, he took a final educational post as the school commissioner for the Second Assembly District. As school commissioner, Hepburn traveled throughout the county and came to know it and to be known and respected by its inhabitants. Perhaps as a result of the exposure he received as the school commissioner, Hepburn had enough personal popularity to be elected to the state assembly as a Republican in 1874 without the backing of the county's Republican leadership.

Hepburn's service in the state legislature, from 1875 to 1880, was the beginning of his new life, one of wealth and power, which would be lived away from the North Country. In 1880 Hepburn was appointed state superintendent of banking. He resigned this post after only three years to return to Canton, but he had made a mark on the banking establishment, and it set him on a career in finance. In 1889 Hepburn became the federal bank examiner for New York City, and there he caught the eye of President Benjamin Harrison, who appointed him Comptroller of the Currency. Hepburn did not stay in this position long, for the 1892 election brought the Democrats under Grover Cleveland to power. Upon his resignation from federal service, Hepburn received several offers from the banking community of New York. He accepted the presidency of the Third National Bank of New York City. Hepburn stayed with that organization when it merged into the National City Bank in 1896, but he left it in 1899 to join Chase National Bank. Hepburn joined Chase as a vice-president, but he was being groomed by Henry W. Cannon to succeed him as Chase's president. In 1904 Hepburn did become Chase's president. In this post, Hepburn moved Chase National Bank into a position of power in the banking world, and as he did so he made a name for himself among bankers, economists, and public officials, both in the United States and Europe. (For more on Hepburn's life see Flora H. Garner's article in the April 1964 issue of *The Quarterly*.)

In 1911 Hepburn resigned as the president of Chase National Bank and became chairman of its board of directors. Perhaps in his new position, Hepburn had more time to reflect on his early years in the North Country and to consider the dispersion of some of his wealth. In early 1912 he approached the officials of his old hometown, Colton, with a proposal reminiscent of those that a noted contemporary, Andrew Carnegie, had made to other towns. A. Barton Hepburn wanted to give Colton a library. Like Carnegie, he thought that libraries were valuable educational centers for citizens interested in self-

improvement. And like Carnegie, Hepburn thought that the gift of a library should be contingent upon the initial approval and continuing support of a community. A. Barton Hepburn went beyond Carnegie, however, in proposing to give not just a library building but also a site for the building, its furnishings and equipment, and an endowment to help meet the cost of books and maintenance.

Hepburn's proposal was set before the voters of Colton in detail on March 5, 1912. He offered the town "a substantial and creditable Library Building,"<sup>1</sup> together with the land it was on, necessary furnishings and equipment, and an endowment of \$35,000. In return for this gift, the town was asked to maintain the building, to protect the endowment from losses, and to see to it that at least \$1,750 was available annually, from endowment income or from tax revenues, to purchase books, supplies, janitorial help, and other services and supplies needed to operate the library. A board of trustees was to be established to administer the library and a branch in South Colton, and all this must be approved by two-thirds of those voting on the issue. The proposal was accepted by a vote of 85 to 1.

Unlike Andrew Carnegie, who in his "wholesale" giveaway of library buildings left the details of his gifts to a secretary, A. Barton Hepburn took a personal interest in the creation of the library in Colton. Hepburn chose the lot and surveyed it himself to insure the accuracy of the title. He chose to use materials available locally and to top the library with a replica of the Independence Hall belfry. He also directed the layout of the library. The building was to be 64 feet by 50 feet, with two floors of equal size. The main floor would have a children's room, an adult reading room, a librarian's office, and an area of book stacks. The lower floor would contain a kitchen and a large community room, which could be made available to a variety of local groups for meetings and shows. This meeting room was a novel feature for a library at that time, but its inclusion and subsequent heavy use showed that A. Barton Hepburn knew the needs of the community from which he came.

Even after the Proctor Manufacturing Company of Ogdensburg had the construction of the library well underway, Hepburn corresponded with the town fathers of Colton about the particulars of the library. In a letter to Joseph T. Smith, dated January 2, 1913, in which he turns over the title for the library to the town, Hepburn informs Smith that he has selected 700 or 800 books for the library, and he takes obvious pleasure in naming the bushes he has selected for the library grounds.

If the creation of the library gave Hepburn pleasure, he must also have

been gratified by its heavy use. The crowds that came to the dedication of the library returned over the years to read and borrow books and to gather in its community room for suppers, socials, and civic meetings. In keeping with Mr. Hepburn's wishes, the room was used, free of charge, for everything except dancing. Smoking was also not permitted.<sup>2</sup> Throughout the first decade of the library the librarian, Gertrude Krafft, could boast of a per capita circulation figure that placed Colton on the state's "Honor Roll of Libraries."

Although no records exist to verify the conjecture, it seems safe to assume that Mr. Hepburn was pleased with the operation of the Colton library and that its success was a factor that led him to establish six other libraries in St. Lawrence County. Early in 1917 Beulah Hepburn's birthplace, Madrid, received the offer of a library from Hepburn. Before 1918 was over, Lisbon, Waddington, Hermon, Edwards, and Norfolk had all voted to accept a Hepburn Library, and, despite unsettled economic conditions, all the libraries were open to the public by the winter of 1921-1922.

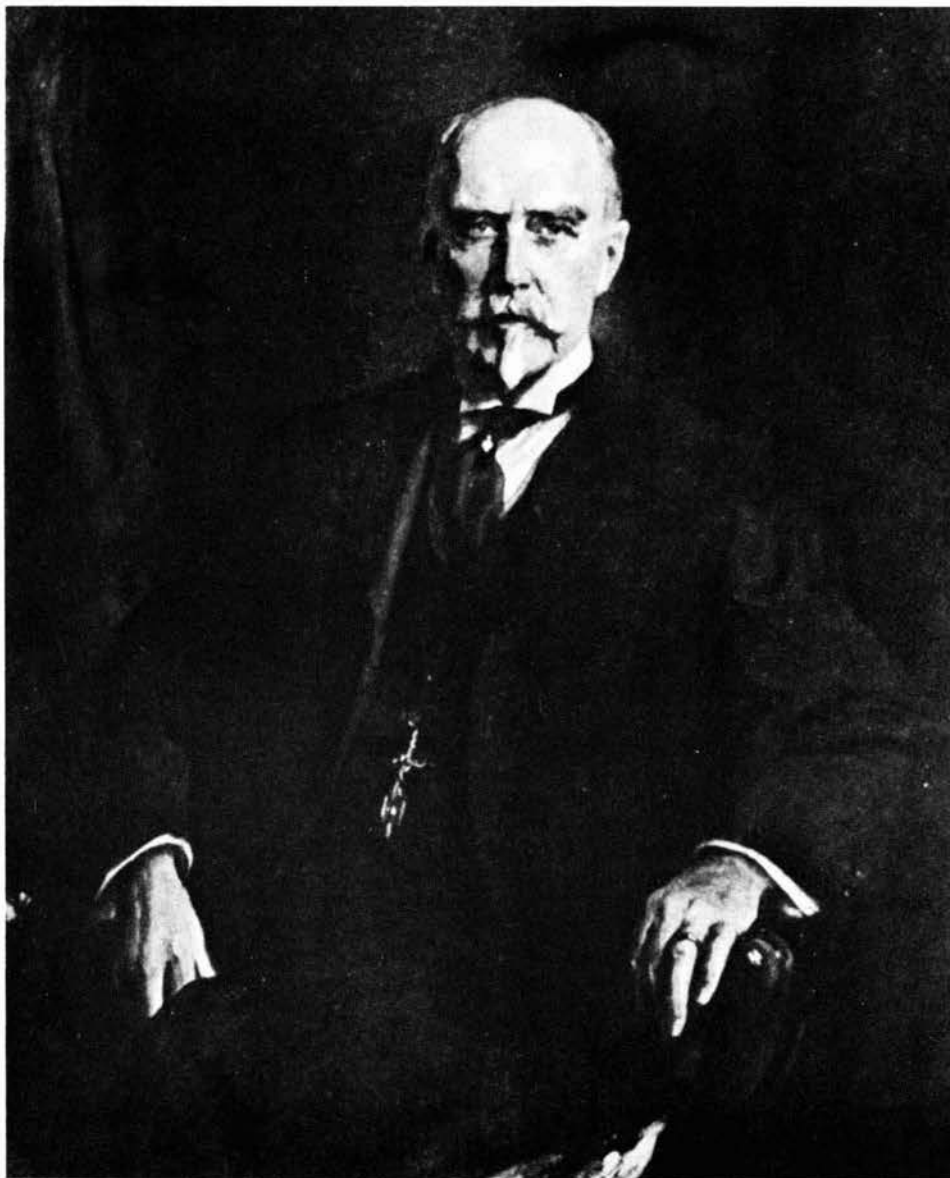
Hepburn's approach and offer to the other six towns were similar, but not identical, to his arrangement with Colton. In all cases, he first approached a village official, usually the supervisor if such an office existed, with his proposal in its general form. If interest in the offer was expressed, Mr. Hepburn asked that at least 25 citizens petition for a special election on the matter. In order to leave no detail unclear, Mr. Hepburn had his own lawyers draw up the election ballot, with all the terms of the agreement listed. As in Colton, Hepburn demanded that the offer be accepted by a two-thirds majority of the voters. He got the majority in every case, though not by the overwhelming margin of the Colton election.

The proposal to the six towns differed from his offer to Colton in several ways. He continued to offer the land, building, furnishings, and equipment for a library, but the endowment he offered was \$20,000, not the \$35,000 that he gave to Colton. At first glance one would think that Colton, because it was Hepburn's hometown, received the largest gift, but in fact the total amount given to each of the later towns may have been equal to the gift to Colton. This is because World War I had upset the nation's economy and had driven up prices, so that, where Colton's handsome library building cost \$22,226, the later buildings cost up to \$15,000 more.<sup>3</sup> Perhaps because of the increased cost of the buildings, Hepburn stipulated in the later contracts that the building and its furnishings be insured and that the towns be held responsible for repairing or replacing the building in the event of

a fire. Instead of relying only on the income from the endowment to support the library, voters in each town were asked to commit the town to \$1,000 in annual support for the library. Hepburn believed that this \$1,000, together with the \$1,000 that the town could realize annually from prudent investment of the endowment, would be sufficient for the maintenance of the library. Finally, the later agreements called for the employment of a librarian "trained and educated in the administration of libraries."<sup>4</sup>

The layout of the libraries in Madrid, Lisbon, Waddington, Hermon, Edwards and Norfolk was the same as the layout in Colton, though the exterior finishes and decorations varied. The community room was a popular feature in each library, attracting groups for everything from Boy Scout meetings to health clinics. It made the library a center for village social and civic activities. The residents were grateful for the facility and translated that gratitude into gifts of draperies, dinnerware, and new coats of paint when needed. Each library began with a small stock of books from Mr. Hepburn (Colton received the largest number), and this collection was augmented by books bought with state funds or endowment income and gifts from individuals or groups such as the various women's clubs that existed in several of the towns.

The libraries were prospering at the time of Mr. Hepburn's death in January, 1922. Some believed that, had he lived longer, other villages beyond these seven in his old school district would have received libraries. To speculate on what might have been, however, makes light of what was done and lessens our appreciation of A. Barton Hepburn's lifelong attachment to the North Country. Despite the great success that he achieved in New York City and the exciting and important friendships that he made with diplomats and national leaders, Hepburn remained a son of the North Country. He visited the area almost every year on business or on his way to or from hunting or fishing vacations in Canada or the Adirondacks. During these visits, he watched what was occurring in the area and noted its special needs. In addition to creating the Hepburn Libraries, Hepburn supported established North Country institutions. Benton Library in Canton received a \$50,000 endowment, which allowed it to expand its services through branch libraries in Morley, Rensselaer Falls, Crary Mills, and Pyrites. Hepburn was also during his lifetime St. Lawrence University's most generous benefactor. In 1916, the Ogdensburg city hospital was renamed in Hepburn's honor as a result of his gift of \$130,000. In his letter to the hospital building committee, Hepburn revealed a reason for his



Portrait of A. Barton Hepburn, taken from a painting by Irving R. Wiles; appeared as frontespiece of biography of Hepburn by Joseph Bucklin Bishop. (Courtesy of History Center Archives)

philanthropy:

*"I have a very warm regard for Northern New York and especially for the good old county of St. Lawrence, where the first half of my life was spent. Appreciation of the generous and sympathetic support which I received at all times and in all my activities, I would like to evidence in some tangible form."*<sup>5</sup>

He remembered the enthusiasm with which the residents of Colton had sent him off as their first son to go to college, the support that he had received when he had bucked the local political machine in 1874, and the many people who had trusted him with their business and legal affairs. To do some good in return for these kindnesses was part of Hepburn's character.

A good memory was also part of Hepburn's character. He remembered the hardships of North Country life. When

he was a child, his family had had few books, yet the long nights of the area's long winters made reading an attractive activity. While Barton was growing up, books had to be shared. Each member of the Hepburn clan took turns reading aloud to the others, and these readings were followed by question periods meant to increase everyone's appreciation of what had been read. Books were too precious just to breeze through without reflection.

To Hepburn's dismay, conditions had changed little between his youth and adulthood. Books were still a scarce commodity when he was a school commissioner. He explains this time best:

*"As I traveled about the district, discharging the duties of this office, fresh from college and educational work, I was deeply impressed with the meager educational facilities of these villages. Those*



storehouses of the accumulated thought and knowledge of the ages—books—were scarce. There was no such thing as a public library."<sup>6</sup>

Hepburn's gifts to Colton, Madrid, Lisbon, Waddington, Hermon, Edwards, Norfolk, and Canton were a way to meet a longstanding need of the area that had spawned and nurtured him. In addition, they were a way to create opportunities for individuals to better themselves. Hepburn was a self-made man, and he believed that others, given the opportunity, could rise as he had. Although he believed in the "survival of the fittest" as a principle of all evolution, Hepburn was selective in his acceptance of social Darwinism. He believed that the fit should rise in human society, but he also felt that there could be unfair obstacles in their way. Hepburn thought that his development had been retarded by the absence of a public library. His respect and affection for the people of St. Lawrence County led him to believe that others in the county could achieve some greatness if the road to success were cleared of a few obstacles. In giving the village a public library, Hepburn was giving its citizens an opportunity for self-improvement, which each individual could use or ignore. It was this element of choice and individual initiative that made the gift of a library consistent with Hepburn's social philosophy.

Hepburn's endowments made St. Lawrence County the leading rural county in the state in library development. His offer to Colton was praised as "perhaps unique in the library history of the state in the combined generosity and wisdom of its terms."<sup>7</sup> The offers to the other towns showed only an increase in Hepburn's sagacity and generosity, and they spread respect and affection for Hepburn across the county. Even now, more than 50 years after A. Barton Hepburn's death, the Hepburn Libraries serve the intellectual and social needs of their communities and remind us of the benevolence of one North Country son.

#### FOOTNOTES

<sup>1</sup>Agreement between Alonzo Barton Hepburn and the Town of Colton, signed 26 April 1912. Town Clerk's Office, Town of Colton, New York.

<sup>2</sup>Gertrude Krafft to J.B. Stevens, 5 April 1926, Hepburn Library, Edwards, New York.

<sup>3</sup>Actual or estimated costs for more of the Hepburn Libraries can be found in various issues of *New York Libraries*, 1913-1922.

<sup>4</sup>Election ballot of 6 November 1917, Hepburn Library, Lisbon, New York.

<sup>5</sup>*Ogdensburg Advance*, 13 July 1916, p. 1.

<sup>6</sup>"The Hepburn Libraries of St. Lawrence County," *New York Libraries*, 8 (February 1922): 47.

<sup>7</sup>"Library Notes," *New York Libraries*, 3 (April 1922): 119.



Kadiak Bear (left)  
Wyoming Elk (right)

New Brunswick Moose (left)  
African Native Buffalo (right)

*Some hunting trophies from Hepburn's large collection, many of which were given to Hepburn libraries for permanent public exhibition. (From biography by Bucklin, courtesy of History Center Archives)*

#### For Further Reading

Joseph Bucklin Bishop. *A. Barton Hepburn; His Life and Service to His Time*. New York: Scribner's, 1922.

Flora H. Garner. "North Country Loyal Son." *The Quarterly*, April, 1964.

Ottillie H. Rollins. *The Hepburn Libraries of the St. Lawrence Valley*. n.p., 1960.

#### About the Author

Eileen L. McGrath is a 1971 St. Lawrence University graduate who has since completed a Master of Library Science degree. She worked on the staff of the Owen D. Young Library before going to her present position at the Wabash College Library in Crawfordsville, Indiana.

#### PLEASE NOTE

The Town of Lisbon is preparing for the 50th anniversary of Old Home Week, scheduled for August 15, 16, 17, 1980. The town historian for Lisbon requests that anyone having photos or documents pertaining to the history of Lisbon, especially the years 1930-80, to please contact her by calling 393-7055 or writing to Jennifer Bixby, R.D. 1, Heuvelton, N.Y. 13654. It is important for this material to be gathered together as soon as possible.

# The Tozers of Northern New York: A Documented Genealogy

by John R. Greene

*Using many resources, especially significant primary source documents like vital statistics and wills, the author has been able to assemble an impressive family genealogy of the Tozers, whose generations have lived in several different northern New York communities. Especially noteworthy here is William Tozer who, in 1904, began a partnership with W.H. Osborne and opened the American Mills of Potsdam, the grist mill whose stone building on Maple Street was razed in 1975. The Mr. Donut Restaurant now stands in its place. The author's mother, Margaret Tozer Greene, is the last of the Tozer family line. She and her family, including John R. Greene, now live in Syracuse.*

The Tozer family, centered since the mid-nineteenth century in New York's St. Lawrence and Jefferson counties, can trace its ancestry back to colonial Boston. Richard Tozer, originally from Devonshire, England, emigrated to Massachusetts in about 1655. He married Judith Smith, daughter of a London merchant who had also moved to Boston on July 3, 1656. They had one son, Thomas, on May 5, 1657, and later that same year moved north to the town of Killery in what is now Maine. Both Richard and Thomas fought in King Philip's War, Richard being killed and Thomas being wounded seriously enough to return to Killery before the war's end. Although there is no available record of Thomas' marriage, the evidence indicates that he fathered a son, Richard, most likely born around 1680. Richard moved from Killery to New London, Connecticut, where he married Mercy Beebe, also of New London, on April 8, 1702.<sup>1</sup>

Richard and Mercy, whose last name has been spelled 'Tozor' by several resources,<sup>2</sup> had five children whose records are traceable (Thomas, Richard Jr., Susanna, Samuel, and John), and possibly parented two other children whose existence is only hinted to (James and Mercy). The eldest son, Thomas (1705-?), moved from New London to Lyme, Connecticut, married Deborah Bates of nearby Saybrook in 1740, and together they had one son, Elishane.<sup>3</sup> Richard (1707-1745) remained unmarried, and died in New London.<sup>4</sup> The first female Tozer born in America, Susanna (1710-1782), married John Giddings of Lyme in 1739, and they had two children, John and Lois.<sup>5</sup> The fourth child, Samuel (1716-1786), will be discussed momentarily. The last formally recorded child of Richard and Mercy Tozer, John, has no surviving birth or death dates. However, other sources show that he married Mary Babcock of Salisbury, Connecticut, in 1750, and these same sources identify John as "the son of Richard and Mercy."<sup>6</sup> There are also records of a Private John Tozer who

served in the Connecticut Militia (Watson Company) from 1777 to 1780.<sup>7</sup> It is also suggested by information in the Tozer family letters that Richard and Mercy had two other children, James and Mercy. However, the official records show no evidence of their existence. It is assumed that Richard and Mercy both died in New London.

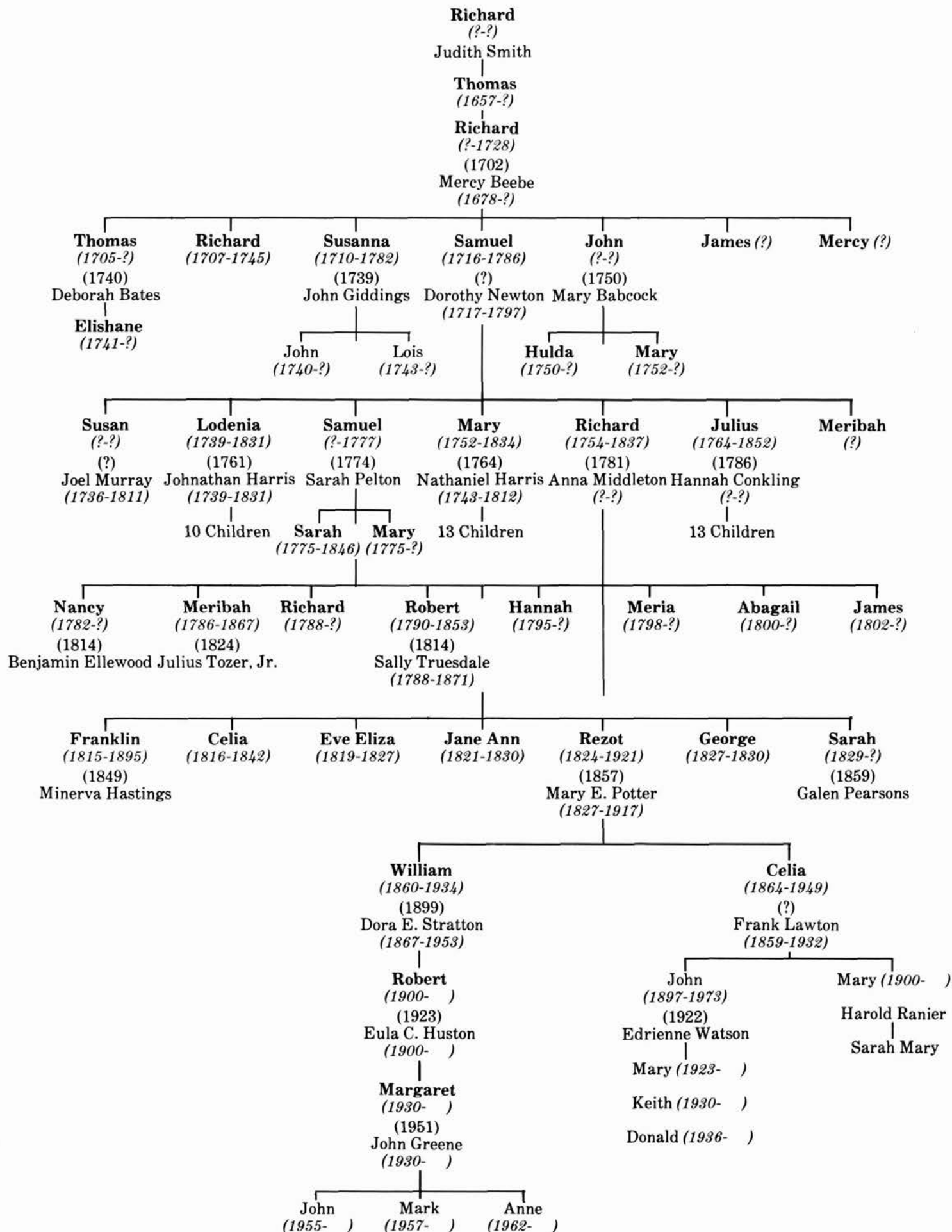
There are no records which throw much light onto the lives of the children of Thomas, Susanna, and John Tozer. However, the lives of the children of Samuel are well documented, and it is through this family that the Tozer lineage continues. Samuel moved from New London to Colchester, Connecticut, where he married Dorothy Newton (1717-1797), daughter of one of the town's Deacons. They had seven children whose lives are traceable, and possibly one other. Although her birth date is unknown, Susan was probably the eldest child. She was followed by Lodenia (1739-1831). Most likely Samuel Jr. (?-1777), Mary (1752-1834), Richard (1754-1837), and Julius (1764-1852). Clair Newton's history of the *Newton Families of Colonial Connecticut* mentions one other possible child of Samuel and Dorothy, a girl named Meribah. However, no official records of a daughter by this name are available.<sup>9</sup>

Coincidentally, both Lodenia and Mary married into the same Colchester family. Lodenia married Johnathan Harris on April 13, 1761, and Mary married his brother, Nathaniel, on February 1, 1764. Nathaniel and Mary lived their entire life in Colchester, raising thirteen children. Johnathan and Lodenia moved to Luzerne County, Pennsylvania, in 1789, where they were one of the earliest settlers of the town of Athens.<sup>10</sup> Johnathan's move west was not totally a surprising one. In 1764 the elder Samuel had also relocated his family to Pennsylvania, settling in the Luzerne County town of Wyoming.<sup>11</sup> It was here that Susan married Joel Murray, another Connecticut emigrant, probably around 1765.<sup>12</sup>

Two of Samuel's sons fought in the Revolution. Samuel Jr., who had married Sarah Pelton in Catham, Connecticut on July 29, 1774, served in the Pennsylvania Militia. However, he was forced to leave the army after contracting an unidentified disease, and he died at the Pittsfield, Massachusetts home of his widowed mother-in-law in 1777.<sup>13</sup> Julius also served in the Pennsylvania Militia, volunteering when he was only sixteen. He was present at Yorktown for the surrender of Lord Cornwallis' British army, and he received an honorable discharge that was signed by George Washington. He married Hannah Conkling in 1786, and returned to Athens, where he and Hannah had thirteen children.<sup>14</sup>

The branch of the Tozer family tree which leads into the New York North Country is that of Samuel and Dorothy's second son, Richard. Richard, who did not serve in the Revolutionary Army, married Anna Middleton of Athens in 1781, and the couple had eight children. Yet the records of several of these children are incomplete. The information on seven of the eight children comes mostly from the family records, with state and local records confirming only the birth dates of five of the children, and the childless marriage of the two eldest daughters. Nancy (1782-?) married Benjamin Ellewood in 1814 (the place is not recorded, but it is assumed to be Athens), and Meribah (1786-1867) married her first cousin, Julius Tozer, Jr. of Athens (son of Julius and Hannah) in 1824.

Yet the records are complete on Richard and Anna's fourth son, Robert H. Tozer (1790-1853), and it was Robert who transplanted the Tozers from Pennsylvania to New York. Robert married Sally Truesdale of Richfield (Otsego County) New York on March 17, 1814, and settled in the town. While living in Richfield, the couple had their first of seven children. The eldest, Franklin (1815-1895), was born in Richfield, as were the next three children, Celia





(1816-1842), Eve Eliza (1819-1827), and Jane Ann (1821-1830).<sup>16</sup> However, between 1821 and 1824 Robert moved his family north to St. Lawrence County. Robert and Mary's next two children were born in the town of Morristown. The first was christened Rezot (1824-1821)—a name determined by spelling 'Tozer' backwards, and a name which, so far as is known, no other man has borne. The second child came to Morristown in February, 1827, when Sally bore her third son, George (1827-1830). That summer, Robert moved his family south to Jefferson County, where he began to work a small farm in the village of Evans Mills. However, the year ended with the December 1st death of Eve Eliza.<sup>17</sup> The last child, Sarah Evaline (1829-?), was born two years later.

An early death seems to have been fated for several of the Tozer children. Jane Ann and baby George both died three years after Eve Eliza in 1830, possible evidence of an epidemic of some sort in the North Country that year. Celia also died at a relatively young age, passing away in 1842 at age 27. However, Franklin, Rezot, and Sarah escaped this fate. Franklin married Minerva Hastings on March 6, 1849 in Evans Mills, a marriage which was to be childless. Rezot married Mary E. Potter on March 4, 1857, also at Evans Mills, a union which would produce two children who would carry on the Tozer lineage. Sarah was joined to one of the ushers at Rezot's wedding, Galen W. Pearsons, at Evans Mills on November 15, 1859. No record exists of any children being borne by this marriage. Robert and Sally moved north in Jefferson County in 1852, settling in the town of Alexandria on the St. Lawrence River. Robert died in 1853, while Sally died in 1871.<sup>18</sup>

Rezot Tozer, fifth child of Richard and Sally, would make a mark for himself in several areas. He married Mary E. Potter in 1857, and in doing so related himself to an early English settler of Rhode Island (Robert Potter of Warwick, England), and one of the signers of the Declaration of Independence (Oliver Wolcott).<sup>19</sup> Their only two children, William (1860-1934) and Celia (1864-1949), were born in Alexandria, Rezot having followed his parents north. Opportunity presented itself in the summer of 1865. On June 12 Rezot purchased a home and 199 acre farm in Evans Mills from his father-in-law, Samuel Stratton, for \$8,000.<sup>20</sup> He developed this farm into a dairy farm of respectable size.<sup>21</sup> Rezot worked this farm, situated along the old Route 41 in Evans Mills, until he was confined to bed by age. Both the farm and the house were turned over to his son upon Rezot's death (William's sister, Celia, was also given an interest in the farm by Rezot, but she never lived on the

farm after her marriage. Her share was formally deeded to her brother by her husband, Frank Lawton, on October 19, 1922).<sup>22</sup> Aside from the farm, Rezot also received a sizeable inheritance when his father, Robert, died in 1853.<sup>23</sup>

By the standards of the day, Rezot was a man of some wealth and stature in the community. He was one of the original trustees of the Evans Mills Cemetery Association, an organization which was formed on June 29, 1869.<sup>24</sup> Rezot was also interested in national politics, corresponding with a Chicago minister on such issues as the qualifications of Senator Stephen A. Douglas of Illinois as a Presidential prospect, as well as the feasibility of a national policy of prohibition.<sup>25</sup> Rezot died at the home of his son on his 97th birthday in 1921.

William Tozer, Rezot's only son, would carry the Tozer family into the twentieth century, and he was destined to become even more of a commercial success than his father. After his high school graduation in about 1880, William worked for a time on a government survey from Little Rock, Arkansas, to Vermillion County, Dakota. Returning to Evans Mills in 1895, William became a partner with his cousin, Arthur Davenport (son of Mary Potter's sister, Amelia, and Platt Davenport, both of Evans Mills) in a grain milling operation which was named Tozer and Davenport Milling.<sup>26</sup> The partnership was a successful one, with the mill being able to handle large out-of-state flour consignments as well as the mill feed that they were themselves grinding. With the business successful, William married an Evans Mills school teacher, Cora E. Stratton, on June 21, 1899. The two had one child, Robert, on April 29, 1900.<sup>27</sup> In that same year, Davenport left the partnership, and for four years, William ran the business by himself.<sup>28</sup>

In 1904, William sold out his remaining interest in the Evans Mills business, possibly to a man with the surname of Hass,<sup>29</sup> and moved his family north to Potsdam in St. Lawrence County. There he entered into a partnership with W. H. Osborne of Honeoye Falls, New York. The two men opened another grist mill, named the American Mills of Potsdam, which they operated together for several years. The mill was later operated by William Edson Perkins, who bought Osborne's share of the mill, and Kimball J. Snell. William eventually sold his interest in the firm to Congressman Bertrand H. Snell—United States Congressman from that district and eventual benefactor of Clarkson College in Potsdam. William then entered into the employ of the two Snell brothers and Perkins, and would work for them until his retirement. The firm was later sold to the Potsdam Feed and Coal Company, and a 1923 fire in the mill forced aban-

donment of the business.<sup>30</sup> In 1926, William suffered a crippling stroke, incapacitating him until his death on his 74th birthday in 1934.<sup>31</sup> Both William and Cora (who died at Memorial Hospital in Syracuse in 1953) are buried in the cemetery that was made out of part of the Tozer farm in Evans Mills. His sister, Celia Tozer Lawton, died on January 1, 1949, and is buried with her husband Frank in the same cemetery.

William's one son, Robert, moved the Tozers out of the North Country and into Central New York. Robert graduated from Clarkson College of Technology in 1922 with a Bachelor of Science in Electrical Engineering, and took his Master of Science in 1925. In 1923 he married Eula C. Huston (1900- ) of Carthage, New York. Eula had gone to Potsdam Normal School for Special Music and Drawing, and had taught for a year at the Thomas Street School in Rome, New York. Robert worked from June, 1925 to about January, 1926 with Bosch Magneto Company in Springfield, Massachusetts. He then returned to Potsdam, and worked for the St. Lawrence County Utilities and the St. Lawrence Valley Power Corporation for four years. In 1930 he was transferred to Syracuse, New York, where he became a supervisor for what would eventually be named the Niagara Mohawk Power Corporation. He retired in 1965, and died in February, 1979.<sup>33</sup> The last of the Tozer line is Robert and Eula's only child, Margaret (1930- ). She married John C. Greene (1930- ) of Syracuse on October 13, 1952. They reside in Syracuse with their three children.



#### FOOTNOTES

<sup>1</sup>Newton, Clair A., *Newton Families of Colonial Connecticut*, Volume I (Naperville, Illinois, 1949), p. 43; Caulkins, Frances M., *History of New London, Connecticut* (New London: H.D. Utley, 1895), p. 339; Beebe, Clarence, *A Monograph of the Descent of the Family of Beebe* (New York, 1904), p. 20; Barbour's *Collection of the Vital Records of Connecticut: Lyme*; Murray, Louise W., *A History of Tioga Point and Early Athens, Pennsylvania* (Athens: 1908), p. 340.

<sup>2</sup>Beebe, *Family of Beebe*, p. 20; Caulkins, *History of New London*, p. 339.

<sup>3</sup>Barbour's *Vital Records of Connecticut: Lyme*, while there is no certain record of Thomas' death, there is an interesting entry in the Lyme Selectmen's Book of Bills, which reports of one dollar being paid for digging and blessing the grave of one Thomas Tozer on November 3, 1806. If the bill was paid on time, Thomas may have died at the advanced age of 101! (see *Vital Records of Lyme, Connecticut: 1665-1850*, Modus Print Shop, Connecticut, 1976, p. 300).

<sup>4</sup>Barbour's *Vital Records of Connecticut: Lyme*.

<sup>5</sup>*Vital Records of Lyme*, p. 32; Barbour's *Vital Records of Connecticut: Lyme*.

<sup>6</sup>Notes in the Cora Stratton Tozer Letters, owned by Robert W. Tozer, Syracuse, New York; Barbour's *Vital Records of Connecticut: Salisbury and Lyme*.

<sup>7</sup>*Record of Connecticut Men in the War of the Revolution, War of 1812, and Mexican War* (Hartford, 1899), pp. 226, 644.

<sup>8</sup>Notes in the Tozer Letters; Newton, *Newton Families of Connecticut*, p. 43.

<sup>9</sup>*Ibid.*, p. 43; For birth and death dates, see Murray, *A History of Tioga Point*, 340; Newton, *Newton Families of Connecticut*; p. 43, and Barbour's *Vital Records of Connecticut*; Salisbury.

<sup>10</sup>Morgan, Nathaniel H., *A History of James Harris of New London, Connecticut, and his Descendants, from 1640 to 1878* (Hartford: Case, Lockwood, and Brainard Company, 1878), pp. 40-41; Barbour's *Vital Records of Connecticut*; Colchester; Murray, *A History of Tioga Point*, p. 311.

<sup>11</sup>Murray, *A History of Tioga Point*, p. 340.

<sup>12</sup>Newton, *Newton Families of Connecticut*, pp. 43-44.

<sup>13</sup>Pelton, J.M., *Genealogy of the Pelton Family in America* (Albany: Joel Munsell's Sons, 1892), pp. 598-599.

<sup>14</sup>Murray, *A History of Tioga Point*, p. 340.

<sup>15</sup>"Family Record" in Family Bible (printed in 1819), in Tozer Letters.

<sup>16</sup>*Ibid.*

<sup>17</sup>The Tozer Family Bible offers a touching account of Eve Eliza's death:

"... After being told she must dye she called the brothers and sisters to her to bade them good bye and then she continued to dispose of what she had and exhorted them to be good children and not to cry for her for she said you have all got to dye, sends her love to her relations in Richfield..."

<sup>18</sup>Birth and death dates are found in the Tozer Family Bible, Tozer Letters.

<sup>19</sup>Marriage Certificate: Rezot Tozer and Mary Potter, Tozer Letters; Undated Newspaper Clipping from *Watertown Daily Times*, "Old Houses of the North Country: Potter House of Evans Mills," Tozer Letters; Potter, Charles E. (ed.), *Genealogies of the Potter Families and their Descendants* (Boston: Alfred Mudge and Son, 1888), p. 7.

<sup>20</sup>Warranty Deed from Samuel Potter and Wife to Mary E. Tozer, June 12, 1865, Tozer Letters; *Watertown Daily Times* clipping, "Old Houses," Tozer Letters.

<sup>21</sup>Horton, William H. (ed.), *Gazetteer and Business Directory of Jefferson County, New York* (Syracuse: Syracuse Journal Company, 1890), p. 137.

<sup>22</sup>*Watertown Daily Times* clipping, "Old Houses," Tozer Letters.

<sup>23</sup>Last Will and Testament of Robert H. Tozer, Tozer Letters.

<sup>24</sup>Interview with Virginia Smith, Town Clerk, Evans Mills, New York.

<sup>25</sup>William H. Thomson to Rezot Tozer, August 3, 1858, Tozer Letters.

<sup>26</sup>The two accounts of William Tozer's business experience, both in Evans Mills and in Potsdam, are Emerson, Edgar C., *Our County and its People: A Descriptive Work on Jefferson County* (Boston: 1898), pp. 104-105, and "109-Year-Old Grist Mill Still in Good Condition," *Watertown Daily Times*, August 12, 1938 (clipping in the Tozer Letters).

<sup>27</sup>Horton, *Gazetteer of Jefferson County*, p. 136; Invitation to Cora Stratton and William Tozer Wedding, Tozer Letters.

<sup>28</sup>Interview with Robert W. Tozer; Syracuse, New York.

<sup>29</sup>*Ibid.*

<sup>30</sup>The Grist Mill was razed in 1975; the Mr. Donut Restaurant now stands in its place in Potsdam.

<sup>31</sup>Interview, Robert W. Tozer.

<sup>32</sup>*Watertown Daily Times* clipping, "Old Houses," Tozer Letters; Interview with Edrienne Watson Lawton Lawton; Watertown, New York.

<sup>33</sup>Interview, Robert W. Tozer; Fuller, Marion and Robert, *The Genealogy of the Stratton Family* (privately printed, 1976), pp. 13-14.

# The Wright Corner

by Mary Ruth Beaman

*This is another in a series of occasional columns of unrelated but interesting facts and anecdotes that pertain to Gov. Silas Wright. If you find anything of interest, please send it to Ms. Beaman at the Association office.*

"Silas Wright lived in the house now occupied by Pliny Wright, which was then painted YELLOW." *Hermon Courier*, 1879.

\*\*\*\*\*

"Mr. Pliny Wright has made a present to the county of a life-like portrait of the late David C. Judson of Ogdensburg, done in India ink, by Mr. H.D. Kip of this village. This picture, with an equally admirable likeness of the late SILAS WRIGHT, done by the same hand, were hung in the Deputy's room of the county clerk's office, on Thursday morning of last week." *Hermon Courier*, 1879.

\*\*\*\*\*

In 1890 the traveling public who stopped at Brier Hill station and were seated in the comfortable conveyance that took them to the village, had the privilege of a ride, for 25¢, in the identical carriage that Gov. Silas Wright had built to order at Albany circa 1845. It was an old-fashioned 3 seated covered coach, upholstered with white broadcloth, with a top of finest leather. One might wonder how Mr. U.A. Strough come to own it, and, how it ended its days! *Hammond Advertiser*.

\*\*\*\*\*

When Gov. Silas Wright died intestate in 1847, the estate went to his heirs. No mention was made of the house. When Clarissa, his widow, died in 1870 testate the estate went to certain heirs, no mention of the house. When Pliny Wright married the widow of his nephew in 1871 he purchased the house from the various heirs of Silas Wright.

\*\*\*\*\*

Gov. Silas Wright was not the first in his family to enter political life. His father, Silas Wright, Sr. was the Weybridge, Vt. representative to the General Assembly for four years from 1801 through 1804. At that time the state officers and town representatives were elected annually. In our files at the County Historical Association we have photo-copies of petitions signed by Silas Wright, Sr. which indicate his concern with matters relevant to his community, and something of his standing within that community.

(from Marlene Wallace, Ass't. Editor of State Papers, Secretary of State, Montpelier, Vt., to Mary Ruth Beaman.)

From "In Old Albany," Vol. III, p. 17, under GOVERNORS' MANSIONS is listed Silas Wright, 1845 to 1847 at 133 North Pearl St. This was a furnished house owned by a Mr. Stevens on Clinton Square at the intersection of No. Pearl and Orange Sts. Because of the lack of what he considered proper furniture he had originally planned to rent furniture and live at the Delevan House at Broadway and Steuben Sts.

\*\*\*\*\*

Silas Wright never refused the nomination for president of the U.S. because he was not nominated for that office. He was nominated for vice-president in 1844 but declined that honor.

\*\*\*\*\*

After being admitted to the bar at Sandy Hill, N.Y., Silas Wright, in 1816 left for Buffalo where he called upon Judge Spencer who informed him that there were only 38 lawyers in that city and that they would be glad to have him join their ranks. However, Silas deemed it wiser to return to his home state of Vermont. On the way he stopped in the woods at Canton where Medad Moody talked him into staying to do some legal work for the settlers. As we know he eventually married Clarissa Moody and became well known in local, county, state and national politics. (*Ogdensburg Journal*, 26 Oct. 1882; as told by William Dart of Potsdam.)

\*\*\*\*\*

There was Silas Wright and Silas Wright and Silas Wright!!

From the Brasher Cemetery census—"Silas, son of Benjamin and Rebecca (Bacom) Wright, 1841-1864."

From the St. Lawrence County Surrogate's office—No. 7583 Silas D. Wright, 20 Apr. 1887 and No. 9499, Silas M. Wright, 18 May 1898.

From Hermon Cemetery census—"Silas W. Wright, son of T.W. and Harriet Wright, 1867-1895."

From 1850 census of Canton, N.Y.—Silas Wright, age 5, in residence of Edwin Cooke.

From 1860 census of Stockholm, N.Y.—Silas Wright, age 19, in residence of George and Martha Barden.

From Nevins Cemetery, Massena, N.Y.—Silas Wright, 1875-19--.

Page 958 of "Massachusetts Soldiers and Sailors in the War of the Revolution" lists four Silas Wrights.



# 'Whey, Whey!': Recollections of St. Lawrence County Cattle Drives

by Marion Clark Baker

*If you believed most history textbooks, cattle drives were only a thing of the great American West. Here the author recalls such annual events over local roads in St. Lawrence County, when farmers would cull their herds and drive them into stockyards by the railroad tracks in some county villages. From Monterey (DeGrasse) to Canton was one familiar route; the exciting hullabaloo and the veteran family cowdog were essential parts.*

A business activity of upper St. Lawrence County long since abandoned was the cattle drive. When it had its beginnings is not certain, but it was thriving in the late 1890's, continuing through the early 1900's.

The drive, it is said, might take place any time of the year, but most often in the late summer or early fall. At this season farmers were eager to get rid of this or that cow of their dairy herd, either because she was old or farrow, or perhaps because the hay and corn crops had been poor and feed was "short," as a farmer was likely to express it.

There were buyers who would drive about the county with a horse and buggy and call at all the farms to deal with any farmer who had cows to sell. From the Russell area they went as far south as DeGrasse (in that day called Monterey), east toward Pierrepont and west through Hermon and DeKalb. The buyers most easily recalled of the area described were Leonard Clark of North Russell and John Cunningham of Canton. Naturally there was much bartering necessary between seller and buyer. Little information is available as to the top price a cow would bring, but it is known that some animals were bought for \$4.00 a head, most likely the bottom price.

On a designated day after all the bargaining was completed, the drive began. Ordinarily the same men drove every year; of this area they were Fred Ray and Andrew Wescottt. The farmer who was selling would drive or lead his cow to the barnyard of a neighbor who lived near the road from Monterey to Canton, or he might bring the cow in a box on a wagon drawn by a team of horses to the roadside where it would join the drove as it moved along the road. By the time the drove reached Canton it might number as few as twenty-five or as many as fifty cows.

Whatever the number, the noise, the dust (from the unpaved road), excitement and turbulence they caused provided an unforgettable experience. It was a quiet countryside: no cars or trucks in those days, few vehicles of any kind on the road. Children were playing

in the yard, a woman would be hanging out her washing, a man hoeing his garden. Suddenly, there they came, mooing and bellowing! Men were yelling at the top of their voices, "Whey, whey!" and running all around, brandishing their whips or sticks to keep the cows out of the gardens, out of the apple orchards, out of the fields, and on the road. There were dogs barking and chasing vagrant cows, men calling off a dog which might be overdoing his chore, noise, dust and fear; not fear of an individual cow, but fear of the possible havoc to be wrought by the drove. Mothers and their children ran for the porch. The farmer ran to help keep the cows off his property; he darted about, waving his arms and shouting, "Whey, whey!"

A few farms had fences along the front of their property. Some were board fences; others were picket fences. Evert's *History of St. Lawrence County* depicts the farm homes protected by fences, but one wonders if the artist did not take liberties with his drawings of these homes in a desire to make them attractive, or more to his liking.

On would go the bewildered animals until finally they were corraled by men and dogs near exhaustion in Canton's stockyard (a fenced area where the Grasse River Agway now stands). Here they would wait until loaded onto freight cars, their destination the slaughter houses of New York City.

After the drive there was always a rehashing of the entire episode in the evenings at the country store. Here the men gathered to exchange comments, ostensibly (of course) there on an errand to supply the pantry with tea or sugar, or themselves with smoking or chewing tobacco. There was always much discussion as to the merits of this or that deal. Grave and funny incidents of the drive were told and the emotions they aroused shared.

The account of the extraordinary behavior of one of the cowdogs pleased the men. Her name was Snyder. She was an excellent driver, intelligent and fast, always in demand for every drive. She would spot an errant cow before the man

driver could and quickly would head it back onto the road. She did not bite, but a skillful nip at the heels of a cow was enough to discipline the animal. The cows early became aware of the power of this dog.

On the occasion of one drive Snyder had just had a litter of puppies which she was still feeding. She was taken by horse and buggy from her home in North Russell to Monterey and there left to be ready for the drive of the following day. In the evening she disappeared. The men responsible for the drive were concerned as her help was considered necessary, but there was nothing they could do (no telephones yet). Her owner too was concerned when he was awakened in the night by her bark, asking for access to her pups in the closed barn. There was nothing he could do either except open the barn doors.

In the morning back at Monterey the men busily getting the drive underway commented regretfully on the missing dog. But as the cattle began to move and to roam, there she was! Between sunset and sunrise she had traveled those several miles to do her duty as a mother, and back to Monterey to fulfill her duties as a cowdog. Among the farmers Snyder was a legend.

Sometime in the late 1920's a man by the name of Seymour who lived in DeKalb Junction began buying cows and shipping them from that railroad junction. His venture must have been a success, for the cattle drive as herein described became unprofitable and was discontinued.



## For Further Reading

Helen Escha Tyler. "Tote Road Business," in *Mountain Memories: Folk Tales of the Adirondacks*, 1974.

## About the Author

Marion Clark Baker is a retired teacher who lives in North Russell and frequently contributes to *The Quarterly*.



### Original Officers of the Association:

B. B. BECKWITH, *President.*  
 CHARLES ANTHONY, *Vice President.*  
 STEPHEN B. VAN DUZER, *Treasurer.*  
 CORNELIUS A. PARKER, *Secretary.*

#### Trustees.

B. B. BECKWITH,	THOMAS M. THAYER,
EDWIN DODGE,	JOHN BOLTON,
ERWIN S. BARNES,	MILTON BARNBY,
S. B. VAN DUZER,	WM. H. BOWNE,
CHARLES ANTHONY,	HARVEY D. SMITH,
CORNELIUS A. PARKER,	RICHARD PARSONS,

*Landscape Gardener and Civil Engineer.*

BENJAMIN F. HATHEWAY.

#### Superintendent.

WILLIAM MILLER.

1865

### Officers of the Association.

REV. B. B. BECKWITH, *President.*  
 CHARLES ANTHONY, *Vice President.*  
 W. H. BOWNE, *Treasurer.*  
 H. L. CONKLIN, *Secretary.*

#### Trustees.

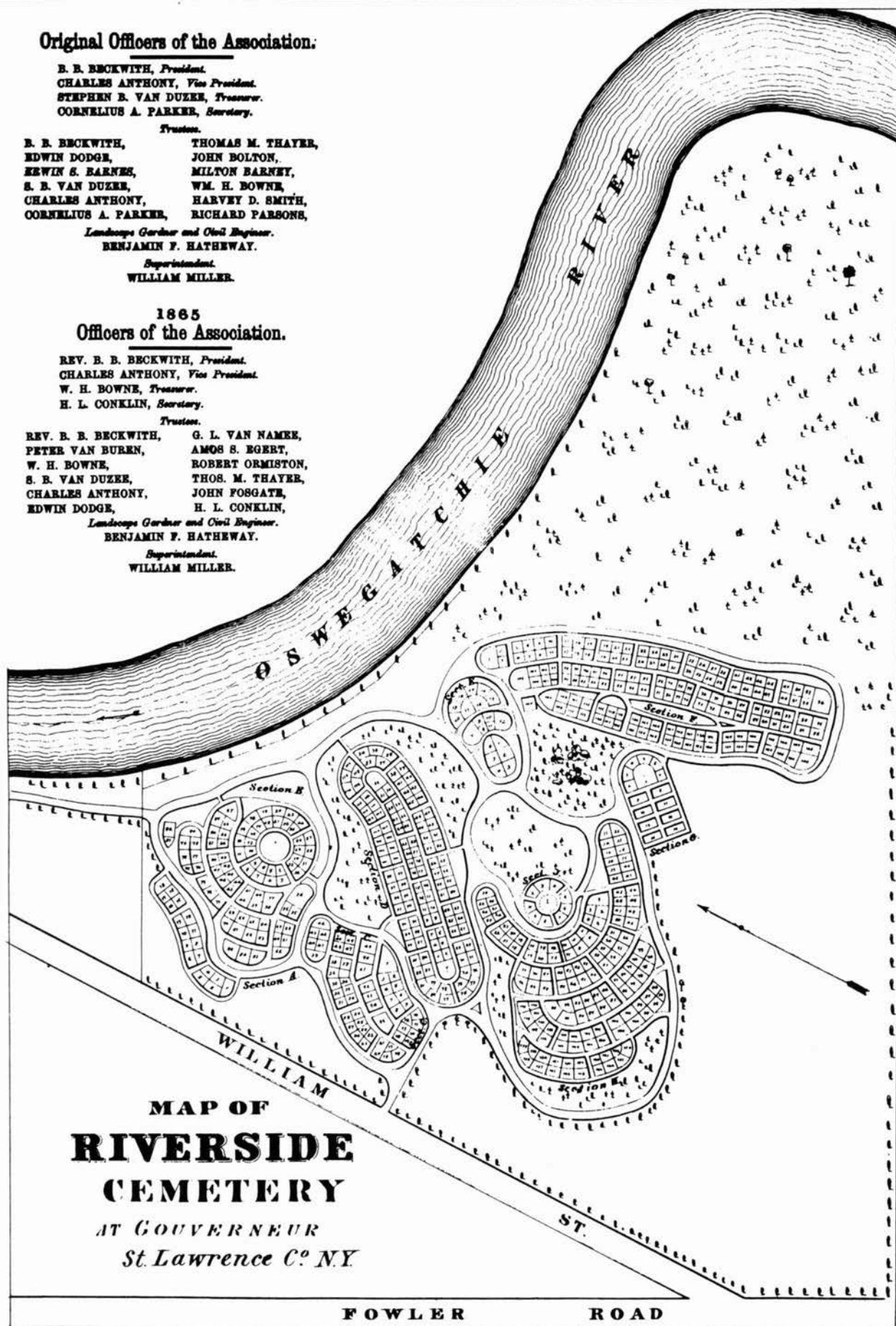
REV. B. B. BECKWITH,	G. L. VAN NAME,
PETER VAN BURK,	AMOS S. EGERT,
W. H. BOWNE,	ROBERT ORMISTON,
S. B. VAN DUZER,	THOS. M. THAYER,
CHARLES ANTHONY,	JOHN FOSGATE,
EDWIN DODGE,	H. L. CONKLIN,

*Landscape Gardener and Civil Engineer.*

BENJAMIN F. HATHEWAY.

#### Superintendent.

WILLIAM MILLER.



## MAP OF RIVERSIDE CEMETERY

AT GOUVERNEUR  
 St. Lawrence Co. N.Y.

FOWLER

ROAD

# A Brief History of Gouverneur's Riverside Cemetery

by Nelson B. Winters

*The evolution and growth of a cemetery is history, too, and here the author traces the origins and changes of one of the largest and most attractive cemeteries in the county. Riverside Cemetery in Gouverneur, as the map opposite this page suggests, appears to be a carefully planned layout in the Victorian fashion of urban park planning. The map is reproduced from the 1865 Beers Atlas of St. Lawrence County.*

Early in August, 1808, a shadow came over the settlement of Cambray in the sudden death of Emily Porter, a sprightly little girl of two years, and daughter of Isreal Porter. She had been out during the day with some other children gathering peas and, it is believed, ate a quantity of the half-ripened kernels which swelled in the stomach, causing her death. This occasion led to the selection of the first burying ground which was in the area of the present Presbyterian church in a hemlock grove. Here Emily Porter was laid to rest in a pine coffin.

Land for this first cemetery was ceded to the inhabitants of Cambray by Gouverneur Morris and consisted of two acres bounded by the Oswegatchie River and roughly by what are now John, William, and Church streets.

In 1857 it became apparent that a new and larger cemetery was necessary. After looking over the various lots offered for sale, a committee settled upon the former Pardon Babcock farm which had become the property of Harvey D. Smith. It lay southwest of the village on the banks of the Oswegatchie. Thirty acres of this farm were purchased "at a cost of \$1,500.00 and 'one burying plot'" from Mr. and Mrs. Smith by the Gouverneur Cemetery Association which had been organized in June of 1857. B.F. Hathaway of Brookline, N.Y. was employed to lay out and grade the new ground. More than 600 lots were prepared for use, with miles of walks and avenues. Trees were planted and everything to make the cemetery attractive was done. By 1860 records indicate eleven acres had been added, and in 1866 there is an entry in the minutes of the annual meeting noting \$800 spent that year for land.

The first officers of the new association were: Rev. B.B. Beckwith, president; Charles Anthony, vice president; Stephen B. VanDuzee, treasurer; and Cornelius A. Parker, secretary. The initial trustees were: Rev. Beckwith, Mr. Anthony, Mr. VanDuzee, Mr. Parker and Edwin Dodge, Erwin S. Barnes, Thomas M. Thayer, John Bol-

ton, Milton Barney, W.H. Bowne, Harvey D. Smith, and Richard Parsons, with William Miller for superintendent and sexton. The first burial was that of J. Bradford Smith on August 24, 1857.

By 1860 the public mind became reconciled to transferring the dead from the old burying ground. The most picturesque portion of the new cemetery was selected for this purpose, boxes were provided, and the whole accomplished in two weeks at the expense of the corporation. In all, 637 removals were made under the direction of Thomas Thayer. Many of the removals were from unmarked graves.

The new cemetery adopted the name Riverside at a meeting of the association held April 14, 1858, and the dedication ceremonies took place on Sunday, June 23 of that year.

The earliest available printing of the by-laws is dated 1908. In that year the president was Newton Aldrich, with Aaron B. Cutting as vice president, and Henry Sudds the secretary and treas-

urer. In addition to the twelve articles of by-laws, the publication includes rules and regulations covering purchase and care of lots, internments, visitors (for instance—driving on the grass and on the avenues or bicycle riding at a rate faster than four miles per hour is forbidden; horses must not be left on the grounds unfastened), also rules for workmen, duties of the superintendent, fees for perpetual care of lots, and the establishment of trust funds.

Riverside was enlarged again in 1941 by adding two acres from the south side obtained from the Walter Perrin farm. Back in 1860 the Town of Gouverneur purchased three acres from the association for the sum of \$600.00 and some of the transfers at that time were buried thereon. A portion of this acreage is set aside for use by indigents—an area commonly referred to in early days as Potters Field. It contains marked as well as unmarked graves and the entire three acres are maintained by the town government.



Postcard view of the Oswegatchie River and Riverside Cemetery on the right.  
(Courtesy of History Center Archives)



*Memorial Day Observance at Riverside Cemetery, May 30, 1976. Photo courtesy of the author)*

In 1954 it became apparent to the officers and trustees that more ground was a necessity. All 1,676 salable lots in Riverside had been purchased. Using a figure of three burials per lot (actually probably more), it could be said that the population of Riverside was greater than that of the village.

A site on the east bank of the Oswegatchie was finally selected which consisted of ten acres purchased for \$3,500 and a perpetual option was granted for up to thirty more acres. Two sections had been surveyed and are in use. Eventually, about 900 lots of eight graves each can be laid out. This addition is designated as East Riverside and should serve the area for many years.

The present officers of the association are: Robert Hay, president; Jack Scott, vice president; and Nelson Winters, secretary-treasurer. Trustees include the officers and Philip Nelson, Frederick Drury, Robert D. Hayden, Fred Otto, Ernest J. Deuval, Walter Christensen, Glenn Miller, Charles Cook, and Paul Jones. Dale Bowman is the superintendent. No history of the association would be complete without special mention of four individuals, each of whom served for many years—William Miller as superintendent from 1857 to 1893, Henry Sudds as secretary and treasurer from 1889 to 1911, James O. Sheldon in that same office from 1911 to 1938, and Everett S. Latham as superintendent from 1939 to 1970.

The cemetery association functions under the supervision of the New York State Cemetery Board, a division of the Department of State. Its laws and rules of procedure furnish the guidelines for

the association officers and trustees, a total of sixty pages. Among other things, it calls for an annual report of cemetery operations, fiscal and physical. Occasional audits are performed.

The association has three principal sources of income—sale of lots, burials, and income from trust funds. The latter consists of a perpetual care fund for lots and a permanent maintenance fund for upkeep of the two cemeteries. In the years before 1948 perpetual care was optional with a lot owner, but since that date it is mandatory (by rules of the Cemetery Board) that the association put twenty-five percent of the purchase price of a lot into the Perpetual Care Fund and another ten percent in the Permanent Maintenance Fund. Removal of decayed trees has been and will continue to be for some time a heavy drain on resources.

Day to day operations are under the direction of the superintendent, who is employed on a year-round basis. He has a crew of two from April through October with an extra man in the months of April and May. Mowing is on a continuous basis from Riverside to East Riverside and back to Riverside. There are miles of roads to be maintained, brush to be cut, fences to be repaired, leaves to be raked, and foundations for gravestones to be prepared. Everything that time and weather will allow is done to keep the cemeteries attractive. The normal work week is five days.

All lot owners are automatically members of the Gouverneur Cemetery Association. The annual meeting takes place the second Monday in June. For book-

keeping purposes the fiscal year ends May 31st. Four trustees are elected at each annual meeting for three-year terms. Immediately following the association meeting the trustees meet and elect officers for one-year terms. Special meetings are held when necessary.

"Within the last few years Riverside has been designated by a D.A.R. bronze marker as the burial ground of Revolutionary War soldiers. In addition, the local veterans' organizations have erected a monument with plaque in memory of deceased members of all U.S. Armed Forces. A flag and pole were also provided. The Memorial Day official observance is held annually at this place in the cemetery."

#### FOOTNOTE

The Gouverneur Cemetery Association is the second oldest non-religious organization in Gouverneur.



#### For Further Reading

Jay S. Corbin. *Centennial History of Gouverneur*, 1905.

Mrs. Cornelius A. Parker. *History of Gouverneur*, 1890.

Original Secretary's Record Book of Gouverneur Cemetery Association meetings.

#### About the Author

Nelson B. Winters is the village historian for Gouverneur, a longtime Association member, and a frequent contributor to *The Quarterly*.



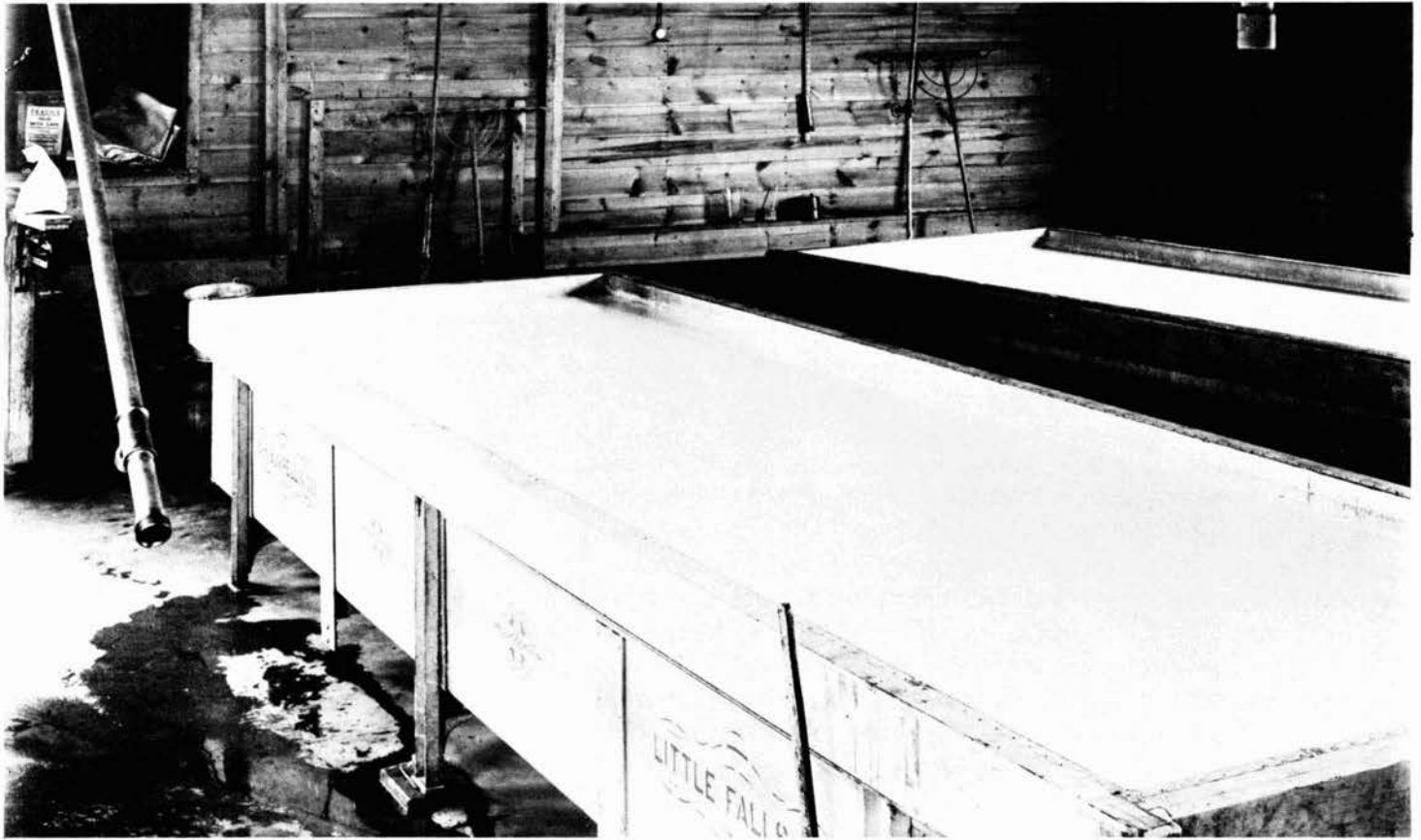
# A Day in the Life of a Crossroads Cheese Factory: a photographic album of daily events in the making of washed curd cheese

by Meredith Smith

*This is the story of the washed-curd cheese industry in St. Lawrence County. The cheese industry began in N.Y. state when Jesse Williams opened a cheese factory in Rome in 1850. From this time on the industry flourished in the region. It especially flourished in large dairy counties such as St. Lawrence. By the turn of the century there were 1,800 cheese factories in New York, 121 of which were in St. Lawrence county. In 1892, 14.2 million pounds of cheese were made in these 121 factories. At this time the county led the state in milk and cheese production. Most people who were born and raised in the county have at least one relative who was in the cheese-making business. In the early years, farmers relied on horse-drawn wagons to deliver their milk to the factory. So the factories were usually only one and one-half to two miles apart. Wherever there was a crossroads one was likely to find a cheese factory. There were factories in Russell, North Russell, DePeyster, Degrasse, Gouverneur, Elm's Grove, Beech Grove, Pierce's Corners, Pope's Mills, Mud Lake, Kokomo, West Hermon, Hickory Lake and Oswegatchie to name only a few. Most factories were small, just wooden frame buildings. Cheese would be made in one part of the building while the cheese-maker and his family would live upstairs or in an adjoining house. These were often called "crossroads" or "mamma and poppa" factories. A man and his wife and family would run the business. In the morning the cheese-maker would fire up the boiler and take in the milk, then his wife would come out and help.*



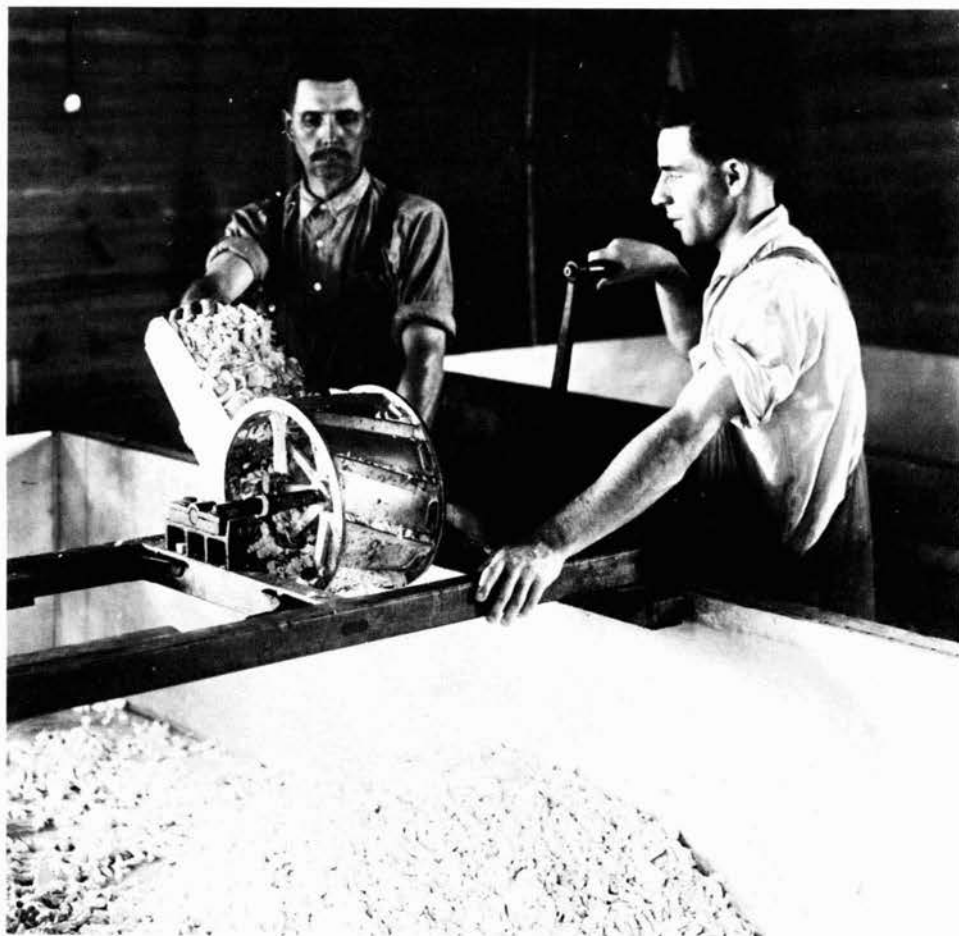
*"The farmers hauled their milk to the factory in fifty gallon milk cans. These cans had loops on the side so they could be lifted up and weighed at the factory. When the milk had been weighed and the milk cans emptied, the farmer would drive around to the back of the factory and fill the cans with whey, later to be fed to the calves and pigs at home."*



*"A typical cheese factory had one or two large vats which held eight thousand pounds of milk each and another small vat for summer overflow . . . A cheesemaker could expect one pound of cheese from every ten pounds of milk."*



*"You heat the milk up to ninety degrees . . . let it set with rennet about thirty minutes, until thick like liver . . . cut with curd knife into little cubes . . . stir it with a wooden rake all the time to keep it from sticking on the bottom of the vat . . . Then you run your whey off, you ditch it out in the middle. What I mean is you pull the curd up on one side and up on the other side."*

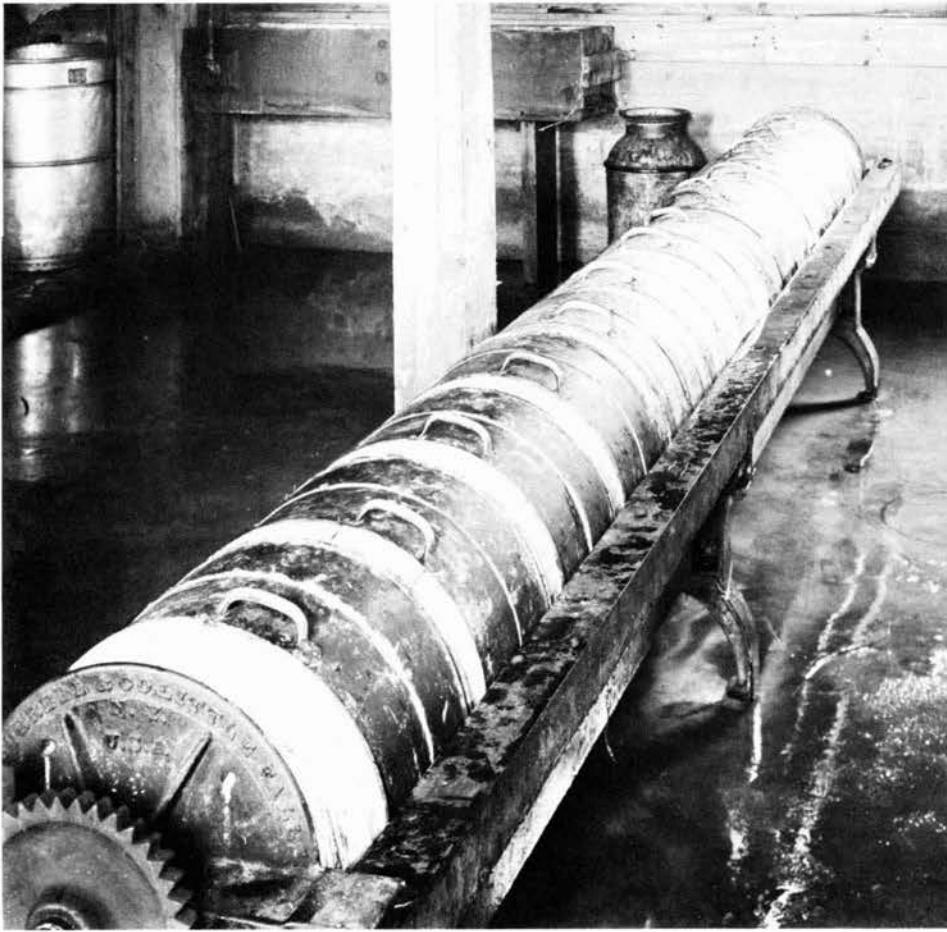


*"After it sits down, you take a knife and cut it in six inch pieces . . . keep turning it and turning it to work the whey out of the curd . . . after it gets where you have enough acid in it, you put it in a curd mill and grind it into cubes like your finger . . . then grind it into water and wash the curd."*

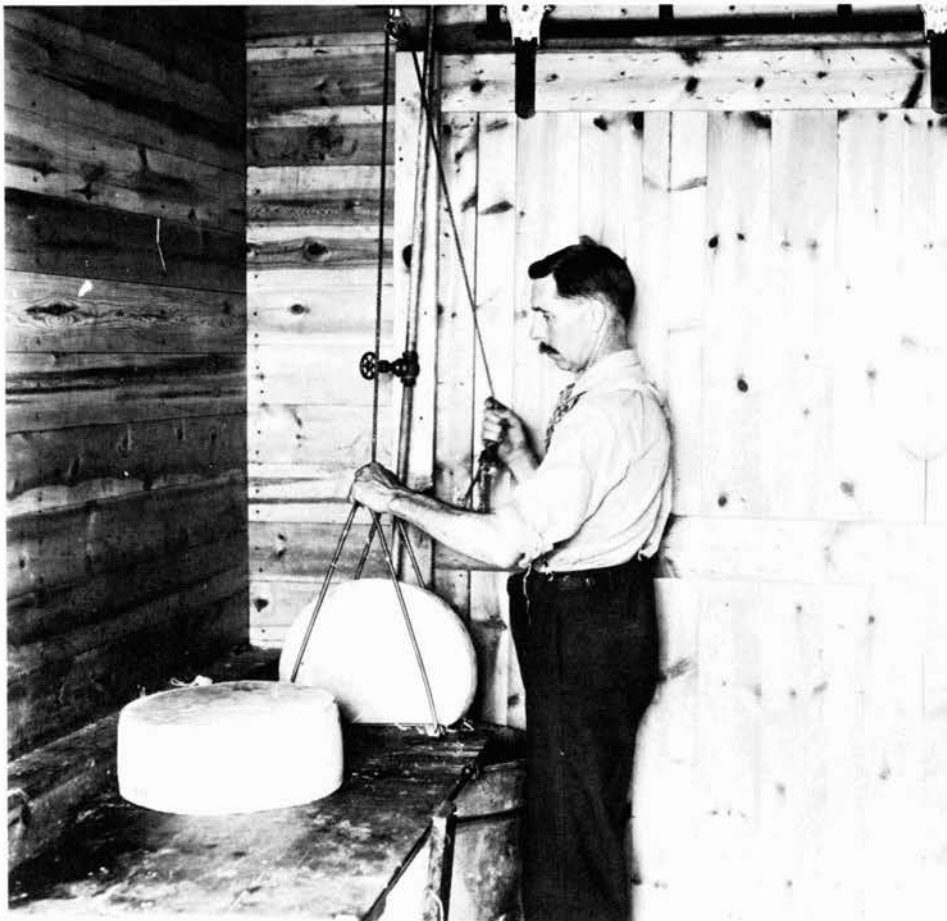


*"After the curd was washed and the water drained off, the curds were scooped up and packed into hoops."*





*"Once the curd was in the hoops, the hoops were placed in the press and ratcheted up tight so the whey could drain off. This would be done at three or four o'clock in the afternoon. But the press had to be tightened again before the cheesemaker went to bed. So there was really no end to the days' work . . . Before the next morning's milk ever arrived, the cheeses were removed from the presses."*



*Weighing up the "wheels" or "rounds" of cheese, usually 40 pounds for general stores or 13 pounds ("picnics") for homes.*



*Cheeses were stored on shelves in the curing room for seven days before they were boxed and shipped. Aging might be done at the factory or, more often, at the retail store. In the summer heat cheeses would be waxed or paraffined after they left the curing room.*



*"The boxes were shipped out every Monday on the train."*



*"In a few factories the cheesemaker was responsible for selling the cheese but farmers usually sold through a salesman... The factories elected a salesman who would meet with cheese buyers from places like New York City and Boston. Together the buyers and the salesmen would form a committee called a cheese board. There were cheese boards in Canton, Ogdensburg, Watertown, and Gouverneur. It was at the weekly meetings of a cheese board that the price for cheese was set. The Canton, Ogdensburg, and Watertown cheese boards lasted until 1930, the Gouverneur cheese board until 1940."*



*During the spring of 1979, Meredith Smith, then a senior at St. Lawrence University, undertook an extensive research project on the history of cheesemaking and cheese factories in St. Lawrence County. Ultimately, she produced a slide audio tape presentation incorporating many historical photographs, taped voices of county cheesemakers, and her interpretive narrative. Especially impressive in the program is this set of ten excellent photographs, showing the major phases of the daily cheesemaking process that was repeated on so many similar small factories throughout the county. This set, reprinted by Diamon Smithers of Heuvelton from glass plate negatives originally owned by Ralph Best, photographer of Heuvelton, illustrates the work of the Brookfield Cheese Factory of the turn-of-the-century in Heuvelton. Ms. Smith's slide program is available for distribution from the Center for the Study of North Country Folklife at the State University of New York at Canton. Captions for this photographic album have been adapted from the script of the slide program. (Photos courtesy of History Center Archives)*



# Annual Reports of the SLCHA

As I prepared for this report to the members of the Association, I reviewed the reports given at previous annual meetings. Actually, I was looking for some catchy phrases that could be reused, for this meeting was here before I could even think about a report, much less develop a polished speech. But it rapidly became apparent that this organization has rarely stood still long enough to allow for the same remarks to be reiterated. The founding group of interested citizens in 1947 began a steady series of expanding programs and new initiatives that led directly to this meeting today in Ogdensburg. A series of historical talks in the early 1950's led to the first issue of *The Quarterly* in 1956. In turn the historical interest of members gained by its publication encouraged the establishment of the first county museum in the church in Richville in 1965-66. But again the Association saw a need to do more and in 1973 began the series of fund drives and rebuilding projects that led to the restoration of the Silas Wright House, which opened to the public in 1978.

Every time one of these steps was taken, there has been an element of risk: gambling that there would be enough volunteers to write for and produce *The Quarterly*; gambling that volunteers, artifacts, and money could be found to support the county museum in Richville and later to buy the Wright House in Canton; and finally now gambling again that the Association can continue to maintain and expand its museum and publishing activities in the face of ever-increasing inflation and the resulting belt-tightening in charitable giving.

However, before I move to long-range plans and future Association goals, I would like briefly to pause and review where we are now by way of our 1979 activities. The Silas Wright House and Museum recently completed its first full year of operation and is rapidly becoming an important cultural asset to St. Lawrence County. Over the past year several donations of important pieces of furniture and household furnishings have made the house look more complete and accurate to the period, 1830-1850. We hope this trend will continue. The second floor gallery has been the site of major exhibitions by members of the Canton Gallery, contemporary needlework loaned by people from throughout the county, and the current show on St. Lawrence County architecture. Special events in the museum continue to attract sizeable numbers of visitors. The Sunday Afternoon Lecture Series and the Christmas Festival with the Potsdam Public Museum have been very successful and will continue this year. Also, the museum has hosted a variety of community and regional groups who have requested meeting space. Such meetings introduce new groups of people to the Historical Association. Thus, the museum and its maintenance have been a focal point for our attention.

But the long-standing activities remain. Our summer tour schedule was the most successful in a number of years, with the three tours—one to Camp Topridge, one to the Highland Games at Maxville, Ontario, and the overnight visit to Vermont—each oversubscribed shortly after they were announced.

Also, Varick Chittenden has ably continued his fine editorship of *The Quarterly* in addition to his many responsibilities for other organizations. To encourage a wider variety of manuscripts, the Publications Committee is holding a writing competition this fall for potential *Quarterly* articles. The majority of reader reactions submitted to the Association's office has welcomed the magazine's new format.

Finally, a new venture by the Association is just getting underway. In conjunction with the Potsdam Public Museum and funded by the New York State Council on the Arts, we have welcomed John Scholl of Norwood to the staff. His job is to develop a museum education outreach program for our county schools. The new initiative, co-sponsored by the Potsdam Public Museum, marks a major new Association responsibility.

Naturally, all of this activity has required money. During 1979 business memberships increased substantially; individual memberships grew by 150 to 978; the ALCOA Foundation contributed \$1,500 to our general fund; and the Noble Foundation \$2,000 grant completed the second floor track lighting, underwrote the architecture exhibit, and paid for reprinting the publicity brochure. In addition the New York State Council on the Arts, the Village of Canton and the St. Lawrence County Legislature have continued to support our work. In fact the legislature has increased our 1980 appropriation to \$11,000. Also, rental of office space to BOCES, a white elephant auction, and memorial gifts in the names of Fleeta

## Unaudited Balance Sheet—December 31, 1979

Assets	Operating Total	Capital Account	Account
<b>Current Assets:</b>			
Cash in Bank .....	\$ 5,995.50	\$4,698.28	\$ 1,297.22
Inventory .....	1,000.00	1,000.00	0
Total Current Assets .....	\$ 6,995.50	\$5,698.28	\$ 1,297.22
<b>Fixed Assets:</b>			
Silas Wright House and Museum .....	185,354.25	0	185,354.25
<b>Investments:</b>			
10 shares CIT and 24 shares Dean Foods .....	1,075.00	0	1,075.00
<b>TOTAL .....</b>	<u>\$193,424.75</u>	<u>\$5,698.28</u>	<u>\$187,726.47</u>
<b>Liabilities and Equity</b>			
<b>Liabilities:</b>			
Accrued and Withheld Payroll Taxes .....	\$ 889.32	\$ 889.32	\$ 0
Architectural Fees Payable .....	5,850.00	0	5,850.00
Mortgage Payable .....	24,864.88	0	24,864.88
Total Liabilities .....	\$ 31,604.20	\$ 889.32	\$ 30,714.88
<b>Equity .....</b>	<u>161,820.55</u>	<u>4,808.96</u>	<u>157,011.59</u>
<b>TOTAL .....</b>	<u>\$193,424.75</u>	<u>\$5,698.28</u>	<u>\$187,726.47</u>

Whalen, Eugene Hatch, Mr. Rexford and Carl Witherbee have helped defray various continuing and special expenses. Finally, the roofing grant of \$5,000 and its speedy match by generous Association friends and members will assure a new wood shingle roof next spring. And let us not forget *Landmarks and Lemon Crackers*, the sales of which are seen as a major benefit in 1980.

All of this is to say that the Association is healthy and capable of receiving support measured in both money and countless volunteer hours. Naturally, much work remains to be done, and now is the time to look toward the future because no organization can survive long without challenging but attainable goals. In 1980, as Director, I hope that the foun-

dation for long-term financial security can be laid, that the museum accreditation process by the American Association of Museums begins, that the spirit of cooperation among all County museums will continue to grow, and that our collections will grow in quantity and quality, because the better our collections, the more support we can expect from visitors and donors.

Finally, two unsolicited testimonials are in order. As many now know, Marilyn Barlow, Association secretary, left the Association in late July to open a Canton gift shop. Marilyn was always loyal and dedicated to the Association, often in difficult times. She is very much missed and will be difficult to replace. The Association owes her many thanks.

Until a new secretary is hired, Mary Ruth Beaman has been ably filling in.

In addition I would like to thank the Association trustees, each of whom has contributed in some manner to the promotion and guidance of our organization in the past year. The leadership and commitment of Allen Splete is especially noteworthy and fortunate for the Association. His efforts on our behalf despite his many other responsibilities have been an inspiration.

I urge that each of us remember the Association and help it continue to grow and serve a wider part of the County as we look forward to the 1980's. Thank you.

John A. Baule  
Director

### Unaudited Statement of Income and Expense and Equity For the Twelve Months Ended December 31, 1979

	1979 Budget	Total	Operating	Capital	Proposed 1980 Budget
<b>Income:</b>					
St. Lawrence County .....	\$10,000.00	\$ 10,000.00	\$10,000.00	\$ 0	\$11,000.00
NYS Council on the Arts .....	6,000.00	6,000.00	6,000.00		5,000.00
Membership/Business .....	12,500.00	11,483.24	11,483.24		12,500.00
Gifts .....	1,000.00	6,840.00	922.50	5,917.50	1,000.00
Interest .....	200.00	388.81	213.88	174.93	300.00
Village of Canton .....	5,000.00	5,000.00	5,000.00		5,000.00
Admissions .....	600.00	228.00	228.00		250.00
Fund Raising, Merchandise .....	3,000.00	2,327.49	2,327.49		3,000.00
Cookbook (Net) .....	0	3,198.47	3,198.47		6,000.00
Miscellaneous .....	500.00	554.88	554.88		600.00
Rental .....	1,800.00	1,050.00	1,050.00		1,800.00
Self Sustaining (Net) .....	0	588.22	588.22		500.00
E.J. Noble (Net) .....	0	17.68	17.68		0
Gain on Sale of Stock .....	0	82.50	0	82.50	0
<b>Total Income .....</b>	<b>\$40,600.00</b>	<b>\$ 47,759.29</b>	<b>\$41,584.36</b>	<b>\$ 6,174.93</b>	<b>\$46,950.00</b>
<b>Expense:</b>					
Salary—Director .....	\$11,500.00	\$ 11,461.34	\$11,461.34		\$12,700.00
Salary—Secretary .....	5,250.00	4,486.86	4,486.86		5,700.00
Fringe Benefits .....	500.00	519.09	519.09		600.00
Unemployment, FICA .....	1,570.00	1,502.08	1,502.08		1,800.00
Office Supplies/Postage .....	1,300.00	1,725.70	1,725.70		1,800.00
Water and Sewer .....	100.00	116.34	116.34		150.00
Heat .....	2,500.00	2,639.25	2,639.25		4,000.00
Electricity .....	1,000.00	953.20	953.20		1,000.00
Telephone .....	1,000.00	814.93	814.93		1,000.00
Insurance .....	1,400.00	1,371.00	1,371.00		1,400.00
Interest .....	2,400.00	2,146.38	2,146.38		1,800.00
Snow Removal .....	150.00	120.00	120.00		300.00
Repairs/Maintenance .....	1,500.00	1,500.00	1,500.00		1,500.00
Publications .....	3,200.00	2,872.85	2,875.85		4,000.00
Printing .....	1,300.00	1,549.37	1,549.37		1,300.00
Exhibits and Programs .....	1,000.00	736.19	736.19		2,000.00
Subscriptions/Books .....	300.00	225.75	225.75		300.00
Conservation Supplies .....	1,000.00	390.77	390.77		1,000.00
Travel and Meetings .....	480.00	322.32	322.32		500.00
Miscellaneous .....	500.00	0	0		500.00
Accreditation .....	0	0	0		500.00
<b>Total Expense .....</b>	<b>\$ 35,453.42</b>	<b>\$35,453.42</b>	<b>\$ 0</b>	<b>\$ 0</b>	
<b>NET INCOME .....</b>	<b>\$ 12,305.87</b>	<b>\$ 6,130.94</b>	<b>\$ 6,174.93</b>		
<b>EQUITY—Beginning .....</b>	<b>154,514.68</b>	<b>3,418.82</b>	<b>151,095.86</b>		
Interfund Transfers (Net) .....	2,150.00	(5,000.00)	(5,000.00)	(259.20)	3,100.00
Cancel Dickson Pledge .....		(5,000.00)	(5,000.00)	0	
New Roof .....	500.00	0	0	0	
<b>EQUITY—END OF YEAR .....</b>	<b>\$40,600.00</b>	<b>\$161,820.55</b>	<b>\$ 4,808.96</b>	<b>\$157,011.59</b>	<b>\$46,950.00</b>

## Unaudited Statement of Changes in Financial Position For the Twelve Months Ended December 31, 1979

### Funds were provided by:

Net income for the twelve months indicated ..... \$ 12,305.87

### Funds were expended for:

Increase in Investments .....	\$1,075.00
Debt Reduction (Note and Mortgage) .....	5,717.67
Architectural Fee Paid .....	1,000.00
House Improvements Made .....	3,059.34
Write-off of Dickson Pledge .....	5,000.00
Total Funds Expended .....	15,852.01
Net Decrease in Working Capital .....	<u>\$(3,546.14)</u>

### Detail of Changes in Working Capital:

#### Increase (Decrease) in Current Assets:

Cash .....	\$2,648.71
Accounts Receivable .....	(8,000.00)
Net Decrease in Current Assets .....	\$(5,351.29)

#### Increase (Decrease) in Current Liabilities:

Accounts Payable and Payroll Taxes .....	(1,805.15)
Net Decrease in Working Capital .....	<u>\$(3,546.14)</u>

## Board of Trustees

*President:* Allen Splete, 14 Goodrich Street, Canton; *Vice President:* Allan Newell, RD 2, Hammond; *Secretary:* Betty Worsh, RD 2, Woodmere, Canton; *Treasurer:* Mary Jane Watson, South Colton.

### Term Expires 1980:

Varick Chittenden, RD 4, Judson Street Road, Canton; Kelsie Harder, 5 Lawrence Avenue, Potsdam; DeeAnn Martin, 41 Judson Street, Canton; Ralph Perkins, 51 Farmer Street, Canton; Anne Piskor, 54 East Main Street, Canton.

### Term Expires 1981:

Donald Blount, Lincoln Road, Canton; Judy Gibson, 16 Hillside Avenue, Canton; Vern & Connie Ingram, Jr., 5 East Drive, Potsdam; David Nelson, 70 Birchwood Drive, Gouverneur; Doris Wheaton, 222 Proctor Avenue, Ogdensburg.

### Term Expires 1982:

Edward Blankman, 67 State Street, Canton; Richard Buckley, Piercesfield; Louis Greenblatt, 5 Missouri Avenue, Potsdam; Beverly Markkula, 101 Riverside Drive, Canton; Dwight Mayne, 7 Hillcrest, Box 211, Massena.



Association members on the September trip to Vermont, at the Morgan Horse Farm in Weybridge. Left to right: Beverly Markkula, Mary Ruth Beaman, Mrs. Burton McMonagle, Madeline Gray, Marilyn Barlow, Mrs. Mark Snider, Doris Wade, and Mayfred Pellegrino.

The cost of publications and other operating expenses of the St. Lawrence County Historical Association are partially subsidized by this advertising support.

**Barbour's**  
The Alcoa  
Foundation  
Mayhews  
Wholesale Inc.  
The  
Barnhart Trust  
and other  
Friends of  
the Association

If your corporation or institution would like to support Association work, a representative will gladly discuss details with you.



## NOW IN ITS SECOND PRINTING

### *Landmarks and Lemon Crackers*

The highly successful first printing of the Association cookbook sold out completely before Christmas, 1979. Now it is back in stock, in time for great gifts for birthdays, bridal showers, housewarmings, hostesses, business thank-you's or no special reason at all. For SLCHA members, \$6.00 each; for non-members, \$6.95 plus tax. Can be gift wrapped and mailed at additional charge.

*Available at the Association office or in Selected Retail Outlets*



## Sunday Afternoon at the Museum

*The Sunday Afternoon Lecture Series, sponsored by the St. Lawrence County Historical Association and the Potsdam Public Museum, will continue this winter and spring. Please mark the following dates on your calendar and plan to attend as many of this year's programs as possible.*

- |                                  |  |
|----------------------------------|--|
| January 13, 1980                 | Dr. Stuart Winning, "The History of Medicine in St. Lawrence County," 3:00 p.m., Potsdam Museum  |
| January 27, 1980                 | Bill McKentley, "Native Trees of St. Lawrence County," 3:00 p.m., Silas Wright House   |
| February 10, 1980                | "Main Street" and "Built to Last"; two historic preservation films that outline the benefits of downtown preservation as it has occurred in other American towns. 3:00 p.m., Potsdam Museum            |
| February 17, 1980                | "Glass From St. Lawrence County," an exhibit opening. 2:00-5:00 p.m., Silas Wright House   |
| March 9, 1980                    | "The History of the American Red Cross," Mr. Mack Smith, Red Cross District Consultant, 3:00 p.m., Potsdam Museum  |
| March 23, 1980                   | "The Lake Placid Olympic Oral History Project in Retrospect." A panel chaired by Jon and Kelli Rossie, 3:00 p.m., Silas Wright House   |
| April 20, 1980                   | To Be Announced  |
| April 27, 1980                   | "Charles Ehrliche, North Country Watercolorist," Dr. Paul Schweizer, 2:00 p.m., Silas Wright House at the opening of the exhibit of artistic work done by local residents in the 1800s and early 1900s |
| May 11, 1980<br>(date tentative) | "The Shaker Movement in the Nineteenth Century," Ms. June Sprigg, curator of Hancock Shaker Village, 2:00 p.m., Potsdam Museum   |