

**THE
QUARTERLY**

Official Publication of the St. Lawrence County Historical Association

January 1985



THE QUARTERLY

Official Publication of the St. Lawrence County Historical Association

VOLUME XXX

JANUARY 1985

NO. 1

CONTENTS

<i>Pauline E. Tedford</i>	3	The Brannens in Waddington
<i>Herbert Judd & Judith B. Ranlett</i>	11	A Peek at Judd Family Photos
<i>Doris Parker</i>	16	Echoes from the Valley
<i>David L. Dickinson & A.A. Paquette</i>	18	A Denault/Denno Odyssey

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

The Quarterly is published in January, April, July and October each year by the St. Lawrence County Historical Association.

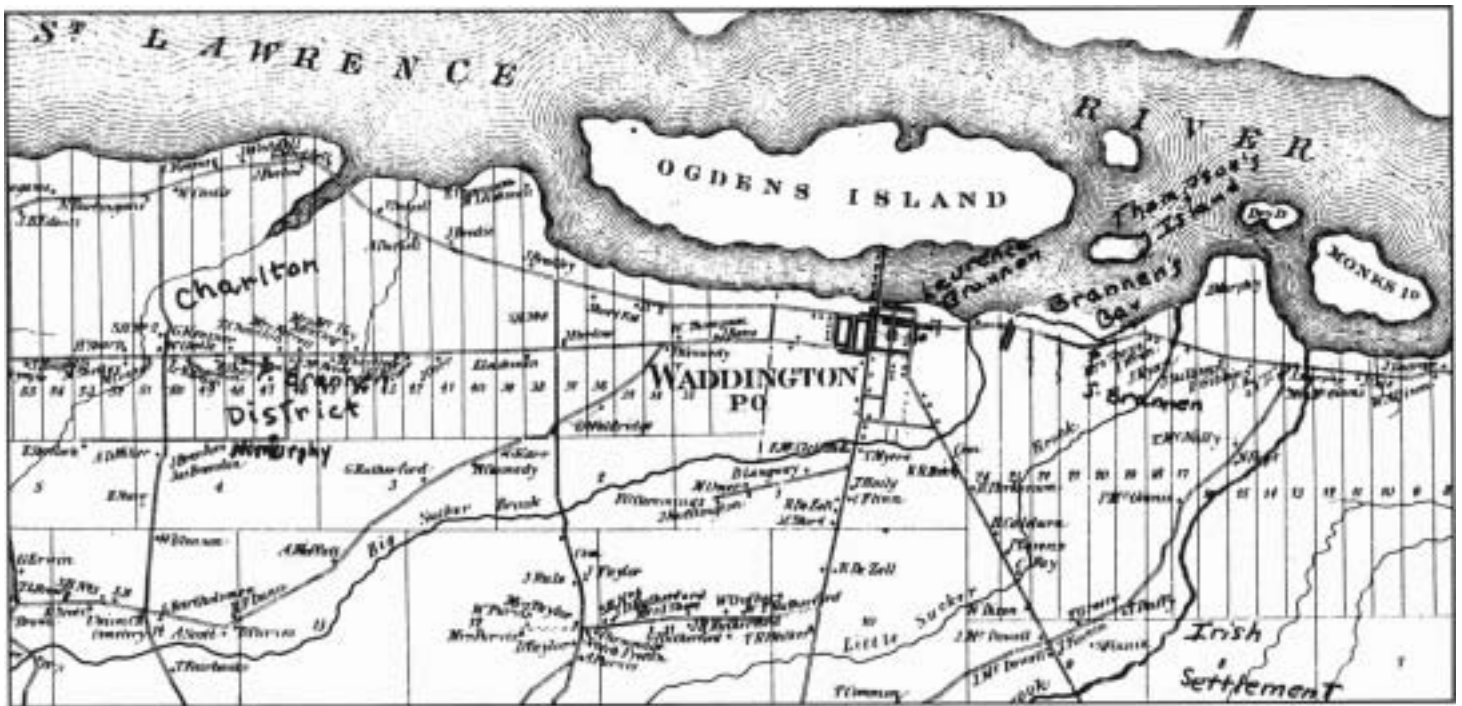
Extra copies may be obtained from the History Center, P.O. Box 8, Canton, N.Y. 13617, at \$2.00 plus 25¢ postage and handling.

Editor: Judith B. Ranlett

ISSN 0558-1931

Copyright St. Lawrence County Historical Association
1985

Cover: Zettie Shipman (1869-1942) and Frank Judd (1865-1927) married 15 September 1889 at the Brick Chapel Parsonage in the town of Canton. Family photo collections often contain such formal studio portraits immortalizing a marriage. They are in marked contrast to the candid snapshots which are often taken to commemorate weddings today. (Photo courtesy of Herbert Judd)



Waddington, from the 1865 St. Lawrence County Atlas, showing the Irish settlements and various Brannen properties. (Courtesy of History Center Archives)

The Brannens in Waddington

by Pauline E. Tedford

Researching a family's past is for many an engrossing and satisfying hobby. Here the author shows what can be done using local records, family photographs and oral interviews to tell the story of one branch of the numerous descendants of an early 19th-century immigrant, Peter Brannen.

Peter Brannen came to Waddington, New York, from Ireland in 1829, probably with his wife, Ann Morgan. He most likely arrived in Montreal, and either walked or came by Durham boat and stagecoach from there to Waddington.

Waddington in 1829¹ was a bustling, small river town situated on the St. Lawrence River about seventy-five miles west of Montreal. Settlement in the town of Waddington had begun in 1793, and the first land was sold in 1798. By 1829 there was a well-established Irish Settlement located about three miles west of the village on the present Route 37. From 1955 to 1960 the St. Lawrence Seaway and Power Project caused demolition and destruction of many beautiful buildings and rich farmland along the river; therefore, today it is difficult to imagine the town as it appeared in the early days. There are many pictures, however, to illustrate the history of the town because until 1955 there had been few changes in the landscape of the area.

The first records of Peter Brannen are from the St. Lawrence County Clerk's Office in Canton, New York. The Alien Registration Book² shows Peter Brannen arriving in the United

States at Madrid (Waddington) in the year 1829. Two years before this John and James Brannen had arrived in Waddington.³ It is believed that these three men were brothers. Peter's parents were James and Mary Brannen⁴ who were born and buried in Ireland. There is no record indicating that they ever came to the United States.

The 1830 federal census shows Peter Braghnan (Brannen) living in Waddington, the head of a family.⁵ Since Peter's oldest daughter, Mary, was twenty in 1850, it appears that Peter was married either in Ireland before he came to America or shortly after his arrival here. In 1840 the census records⁶ show Peter Brannen between ages thirty and forty, two sons under age five, one son between ages five and ten, and five females in the family.

On February 26, 1856, Peter bought land from Joshua Waddington in mile square thirteen, Lot four, adjoining Nicholas and Rose (Charlton) Murphy, in the Irish, or Charlton, Settlement.⁷ He had been occupying this land as a tenant under contract, probably since his arrival in Waddington. At the same time, or soon after, he bought an adjacent lot. According to the Waddington Town Tax Records from 1859 to 1881,

the farm consisted of seventy acres.⁸ One reason that Peter did not buy the land sooner may have been that he was not a United States citizen. The alien registration records show that he continued to register as a non-citizen at least until 1838.

Life in Waddington during the time Peter and Ann were raising their family was hard. They were not wealthy, although town tax records show that their real and personal property were valued higher than that of the majority of the townspeople. Although Peter did not leave records telling us about the daily routine of the life of a farmer and head of family, the Waddington Town Archives contain diaries from this period which show what Peter's family life must have been like, since the writers lived within five miles of Peter's house.⁹

The farmers raised corn, potatoes, peas, oats, wheat, barley, sugar beets (used for feeding the hogs), carrots, millet, turnips, onions, parsnips and flax. Most farms contained an apple orchard and sugar bush, and each had cows, chickens, pigs, oxen, and probably at least one horse.

During the winter the men chopped trees and piled in brush, which they

Peter Brannen Family in Waddington

James BRANNEN--Mary ?
 (Both born and died in Ireland)

Ann (Morgan)-----Peter Brannen-----Bridget (Savage)
 (1808-1858) (1803-1883) (1827-1915)

Thomas 1866-? m. Catherine Buckley
 Ellen (Nellie) 1868-1945 m. James RUDDY
 Sarah 1872-? m.1 William GAFFNEY
 Julia 1865-? m. James BUCKLEY
 Catherine 1869-1882 m.2 Dennis JORDAN

Mary 1830-? m. Luke FAY
 Elizabeth 1832-? m. Peter DUFFY
 James 1834-1917 m. Mary Murphy
 Ann 1836-1909
 Bridget 1838-1873 m. ?
 George 1840-?
 Patrick 1842-?
 John 1848-1868

Ann Brannen m. William GORMAN
 Hugh Brannen died in infancy
 Laurence Brannen 1861-1938 m. Lydia Clement
 Mary Brannen m. James McKENNA
 Margaret Brannen m. John DESMOND

Irene Brannen 1900- m. Monie TEDFORD

James Tedford 1942- m. Laila Hale

Calligraphy by Faye M. Martin
 November 12, 1984



James Brannen panning for gold in California, 1851. (Photo courtesy of Pauline Tedford)

left on the ground during the summer to dry, and in September, October and November, they fired the log heaps. They took the ashes (On September 14, 1839, twenty-three bushels) to the village to sell. Also during the winter they threshed, got out logs and shingle woods, chopped wood for family use and for sale, and repaired and built new equipment and buildings. Evenings were also spent working. The diaries relate that in the evenings the girls picked and husked corn, broke and dressed flax, and boiled potatoes for the hogs.

In April the bees were let out of the winter house, and in May the farmers ploughed and dragged and carried sap and fencing. In April, 1838, thirty hands raised a barn twenty-one feet by twenty-five feet on a farm near Peter's. The children often spent time gathering stones, which were thrown onto a sled pulled by oxen and used to build stone walls. The farmers also used stumps and brush to build fences, and often the stones were used to strengthen the other fences.

Animal skins (including a dog skin at one time) were taken to the tannery to be made into leather. In the winter, the shoemaker went to the various houses and made boots and shoes for all members of the family. Also during the

winter, the tailor traveled around the town making trousers for the men of the family. The ladies spun the yarn and wove the cloth. One family took thirty yards of their own weaving to the mill in the village to be fulled. When they picked it up, it amounted to twenty-one yards.

Traveling twenty miles to nearby towns evidently did not faze people in the least. In January, 1851, a Waddington family bought a "Yankee Nation" stove in Potsdam. On April 12, 1852,



Brannen's Bay, with the old pulp dock in the background. (Photo courtesy of Pauline Tedford)

that same family went to Canton to see John Davener, a murderer, executed. On another occasion, the father of the family went to Canton for lime so that he could finish painting his kitchen and shed.

Life was not all work, however. The "Great Show of Wild Animals" with Tom Thumb and a giant and giantess came to town almost every year. All of the schools in town had a "literature" society and a library from which taxpayers could borrow books. Lectures were sometimes held at the schoolhouse or church.

If sickness in the family went beyond what home remedies could cure, the sick person was tended by Dr. Mott or Dr. Stowers. These two doctors were often paid in kind. A cord of wood was regularly taken to the priest and to the school.

On April 14, 1853, a Waddington resident subscribed three dollars for a book which "was descriptive of St. Lawrence and Franklin Counties." This book was probably Hough's *History of St. Lawrence and Franklin Counties*, which was reprinted in 1970.¹⁰

Peter's son James went to California during the gold rush. The Common-Allison Diary related that on "January 4, 1852, Douglas Rutherford, Thomas Blythe, Thomas Walker, and about forty more goes off to California in a company." James would have been eighteen or nineteen years old at that time and probably was with this group.

Ann (Morgan) Brannen, who was sometimes called Nancy, died in Waddington on June 14, 1858.¹¹ Her youngest child, John, was about ten years old, and the oldest, Mary, about thirty. Peter continued to live on the farm with some of his children.

On April 4, 1864, almost six years after Ann died, Peter married Bridget Savage in St. Mary's Catholic Church in Waddington.¹² The attendants at their wedding were John Lang and



This classic family photograph features, seated, Mary (Murphy) Brannen, Laurence Henry Brannen, and James Brannen. The three daughters of Mary and James, standing left to right, were Mary (Minnie), Ann and Margaret. (Photo courtesy of Pauline Tedford)

Margaret White. Peter and Bridget had five children: Julia, Thomas, Nellie, Catherine and Sarah.

In 1881, two years before his death, Peter sold his farm to Thomas Murphy and Gardner Kentner and bought a house with a two-acre lot in the village.¹³ This house still stands. It is located on West St. Lawrence Avenue on the corner of Beech Street. Peter's second wife, Bridget (Savage), continued to live in this house until her death in 1913.¹⁴

James, son of Peter and Ann (Morgan) Brannen, was born in Waddington on December 15, 1834.¹⁵ He married Mary Murphy, daughter of Nicholas and Rose (Charlton) Murphy on October 27, 1858, in St. Mary's Church in Waddington. Their attendants were Lawrence Brannen and Anastatia Brady. It is thought that Lawrence was a cousin of James.

Mary Murphy was the "girl next door." An 1858 map of Waddington shows her father owning property adjacent to Peter Brannen's lot.¹⁶ Mary was born in Waddington on March 24, 1833.¹⁷ The children of James and

Mary were Hugh (who died in infancy), Laurence Henry, Mary (Minnie), Ann and Margaret.¹⁸

For a time, James and Mary (Murphy) Brannen and their family lived at Bucks Bridge in the town of Canton, and their son Laurence was born there. In 1871 James purchased a farm from John S. Chipman, River Lots Nos. 18, 19 and 20, about one mile east of the village of Waddington.¹⁹ This land was to become known as Brannen's Bay. He was a farmer all his life, and when his son Laurence came of age, he helped his father and continued to live on the family farm.

Although there are few family records, James' granddaughter Mary Irene (Brannen) Tedford remembers her grandmother and grandfather very well, and much of the following information is based on her memories.²⁰

Mary (Murphy) Brannen, was short and plump. She had dark hair until the time she died at age 82. She was quick in her movements and appeared to have a stern disposition, but she was actually a very gentle and very religious person. On First Friday she would

hitch the horse to the buggy, and she and Irene would drive to the village to church. Even though kerosene lanterns were used throughout the house, Mary made her own candles. She also made patchwork quilts, braided rugs, and sewed carpet rags to be sent away to be made into carpets.

James was tall with broad shoulders and with snow white hair and beard. He had blue eyes and a fair complexion, and he, like his wife, looked stern. He was very serious, but had a sense of humor. He used to tell stories about his trip to California and his bout with typhoid fever on board ship on the long voyage around Cape Horn. He was a dairy farmer with an average stock of twenty-five. Both he and Mary were hardworking, thrifty and faithful to their Catholic religion.

Their children attended the country school about one and a half miles east of their home. Margaret, the youngest, was the only child to finish high school. Ann married William Gorman in 1884, and Mary (Minnie) married James McKenna in 1887.²¹ In 1904 they bought a piano for their daughter Mar-



James Brannen's house on Route 37, Waddington, about 1906. He is standing; his wife Mary Brannen is seated. Lydia (Clement) Brannen stands behind her daughter, Irene. Little boy is a visitor. (Photo courtesy of Pauline Tedford)

garet, who took voice and piano lessons, and taught her niece, Irene, to sing, dance and play the piano.

According to the 1870 federal census, they had living in their household, in addition to their own family, Mary Hoy (a relative of Mary's) as a servant, and James Brannen, age 21, (a nephew of James) as a farm laborer.²² They had at least one grandchild staying with them most of the time after their daughter Margaret married and left home.

James and Mary did not travel far from home. Their daughter Margaret married John Desmond in 1906, and moved to Keene, New Hampshire, where John operated a livery stable. Mary did make one trip to New Hampshire to visit Margaret and John, probably when their son James was born. Otherwise she was homebound. She and James sometimes visited relatives in nearby towns at which times they were away for about one week.

The family possessed a four-poster bed which is thought to have belonged to Rose (Charlton) Murphy, Mary (Murphy) Brannen's mother. Another bed, with dresser and stand, was given to

James and Mary (Murphy) Brannen at the time of their wedding. This set occupied the guest room and remains, like the four-poster, in the family. Another treasured heirloom is a cradle, probably made by James and used for Laurence and the other children of James and Mary.

About 1896 Laurence Henry Brannen, son of James and Mary (Murphy) Brannen, was the attendant at the marriage of his uncle Michael Murphy, and Josette Clement. At this wedding, he met Josette's sister, Lydia Clement, from Chesterville, Ontario. Lydia Clement was the daughter of Edward and Bridget (Griffin) Clement, and was brought up on the family farm at Dunbar, Ontario, about four miles from Chesterville.

During this time Lydia was teaching school in Chesterville, but the romance bloomed in spite of the St. Lawrence River dividing them. Laurence rowed across the river, a distance of about a mile, and probably took the stage from Morrisburg to Chesterville, a distance of about fourteen miles, to continue the courtship. In February, 1898, Laurence

and Lydia were married in St. Mary's Catholic Church in Chesterville, Ontario, and Laurence brought his bride home to the Brannen family farm in mid-winter. (At that time the river between Morrisburg and Brannen's Bay remained open during the winter because of strong currents between the foot of Ogden Island and the head of Thompson's Island.) Lydia was absorbed into the Brannen household, which at that time included James, Mary and Margaret. This arrangement, of course, was difficult; within a few years Laurence and Lydia built an addition to the wing part of the house and thereafter were able to have their own living quarters.

On June 28, 1900, Mary Irene (always known as Irene) was born to Laurence and Lydia (Clement) Brannen. She was to be their only child. Evidently they considered adopting a boy, because in 1906 they took a four-year old orphan from near New York City and kept him for one summer. The decision was made, however, not to keep him, and no further consideration was given to adopting a child.

Lydia (Clement) was a graduate of the Collegiate Institute in Morrisburg, Ontario, and until the time of her marriage had taught school at various towns in Dundas County, Ontario. She was an avid reader, and there were several hundred books on the shelves at the farm.

Lydia did some sewing, but dress-making was usually done by having someone come to the house; also, in the early nineteen hundreds ready-to-wear dresses were becoming available in the stores. She was interested in politics and worked hard for women's suffrage. She was a member of the Waddington Study Club, the Women's Improvement Society, Grange, and other organizations. By this time there was regular ferry service between Waddington and Morrisburg, and Lydia and her family were able to visit back and forth. Before her marriage, Lydia had traveled to northwest Canada to visit two sisters living in Calgary and Shepard, Alberta. In 1905 or 1906 she

took Irene to a fair in Ottawa. In the 1920's Lydia took several long trips to New York, New Jersey, and Washington, D.C., with her daughter.

From about 1900 Laurence had sole responsibility for operating the farm because his father had retired from farming. In 1914 James gave title to the farm to Laurence, but he and Mary continued to live in the main part of the house. On May 13, 1915, a week after she was taken ill, Mary (Murphy) Brannen died. From that time, James began to fail in health, and two years later he died.

Laurence did the farming with the help of a hired man. He built a small house across the road from the farm for the use of the hired man's family. He sold milk, cream and butter to the villagers. In about 1914 he bought a milking machine. To separate the cream from the milk he used a separator which was operated by a sheep, Dinah, on a treadmill, and to furnish power for churning he used a horse,

Nellie, on another, larger, treadmill. Lydia raised turkeys to be sold at Thanksgiving time to earn "pin money." The turkeys were shipped by rail from Madrid to Boston.

In 1920 Laurence sold the farm to George Gates and bought a house and lot in the village. This house is still owned and occupied by his daughter and her family. After moving to the village, Laurence continued a small milk route, but no longer made butter. In 1917 he bought a Studebaker car, one of the first in town, but when he moved to the village he also kept one horse, Tibby, to pull the milk delivery wagon.

Irene described her father as slim and of average height, with dark hair, blue eyes and a mustache. Laurence was very interested in horses, and earlier, when he was living on the farm, he kept horses for show and for ice racing. He was a member of the Waddington Grange and the Waddington Agricultural Society. In 1930 he retired from farming entirely. He and Lydia had decided to move to California with their daughter, and they held an auction at which they sold most of their household furnishings.

They traveled to California by railroad, taking some furniture with them.²³ Lydia recorded her first impressions of their new home:

The scenery there seemed so wonderful at first, especially at night, viewing the mountains and lights of Hollywood, and the air so fresh and delightful. Then we climbed a hill north of us, and such a climb! I shall never forget how wonderful it was to look down over lighted city in every direction as far as eye could reach. So many houses, in Spanish style, rising above one another on the hills. The tall palms against the evening sky and lovely cool evenings and nights are unforgettable. Our little bungalow so clean, attractive, and handy except for spare clothing space.

There were some drawbacks, however. She mentioned the strangeness of surroundings and homesickness, and the fact that the trees, although lovely, were strange. She evidently missed being able to walk along the streets and see friends and acquaintances. She also worried about financial affairs. When Laurence retired they had planned to live on the interest earned on their savings. With all the insecurities of living in an environment different from that to which they had been accustomed, Lydia appeared to worry more than usual. They returned to Waddington during the summer of 1932.

In November, 1933, Lydia discovered



Laurence and Lydia Brannen, 1898. (Photo courtesy of Pauline Tedford)



(Mary) Irene Brannen about 1900 and 1904. (Photos courtesy of Pauline Tedford)

she had cancer of the stomach. She was cared for at home by Dr. Madill of Ogdensburg and Dr. Dunlop of Madrid. She died on March 31, 1934. After her death, Laurence lost interest in many of his outside activities. He puttered around the house, but his health continued to fail.

Mary Irene Brannen—Irene—was born on June 28, 1900. She had a very happy, carefree childhood on the farm with her parents, grandparents and her Aunt Margaret. Relatives were constantly coming to visit. She attended the same country school that her father had attended; but alternately she went to the school in the village. She attended high school at Union Academy in Waddington and later the Ogdensburg Business School in Ogdensburg, New York.

Holidays on the farm were filled with joy for a little girl. On Christmas Eve Irene would hang up her stocking then, full of excitement, go to bed with the anticipation of what Santa Claus would leave for her. She would get up at five o'clock in the morning and open her presents. Presents were games, books and other toys and always a doll! Even though Irene did not like to play with dolls, she wanted one on the tree

at Christmas. She did not receive clothes for gifts, always something to play with. Christmas morning she played with her new toys until it was time to go to church. At that time it was the custom to fast from food and water until after Communion was received. About ten o'clock the family hitched up the sleigh and all drove to the village to St. Mary's Church for Christmas Morning Mass. Upon their return home, they had breakfast, and, later in the day, a traditional dinner of roast goose, salads, vegetables, mashed potatoes, mince and pumpkin pies. Homemade wild grape wine was served, and there were also nuts, candies (especially ribbon candy) and fresh fruit.

As a child Irene helped her father, feeding the chickens and pigs, and cross raking the hay. She did, however, have specific household duties helping her mother. She spent much of her leisure time on or near the river. When she was twelve years old, she and two of her friends "sneaked" the boat and took it alone to Morrisburg, a distance of about a mile from the Brannen farm. The St. Lawrence River at that point was full of currents and whirlpools; however, as a child growing up on the river she had learned, by watch-

ing and helping older people, how to manage the swift water. In the summertime she often rode the horses bareback; and in the winter she skied on barrel-stave skis. At about age ten she started taking formal piano and voice lessons, and all during her life she took part in entertainments by singing, dancing (including the Irish jig which her father had taught her), and playing the piano and organ. When she was older, she was organist and choir director at the churches in the towns where she lived. At various times she was responsible for a junior choir and often taught religion classes.

After graduation from business school, Irene worked for the New York Central Railroad in Potsdam. In 1927 she started work at the Waddington Bank. In the fall of 1929 she and a friend went to California where she attended a business school in Los Angeles to brush up on her shorthand skills. She came home in mid-winter of 1930 and in May of that year returned to Los Angeles, taking her mother and father with her.

In the summer of 1932 she and her parents returned to Waddington, and in the fall Irene moved to Brooklyn where she worked for the Mundet Cork



Laurence Brannen, about 1905, with one of his horses. (Photo courtesy of Pauline Tedford)



Irene Brannen (and friends) at the wheel of the family car. (Photo courtesy of Pauline Tedford)

Corporation at the head office of the company for which she had worked in Los Angeles. While working in Brooklyn, she lived at the Gould Club, a women's residence hotel. In August, 1933, she returned to Waddington and shortly afterward became secretary to the commissioner of public welfare at the St. Lawrence County offices in Canton.

While Irene's father was ill, Anne Handlin, a cousin of Laurence, came to keep house for Laurence and Irene. For about two years Irene and Anne kept a tourist home called "Elm Tree House." Laurence Brannen died on November 17, 1938.²⁴ Anne returned to her own home, and Irene stayed in Canton for the winter with the Raymond McKenna family. The following spring Irene took a cruise to Bermuda. She spent that summer in the house in Waddington, but rented it the next fall and took an apartment in Canton to be nearer her work.

In 1938 Irene met Monie L. Tedford, a widower with three daughters, aged fifteen, ten and nine. Monie, a Border Patrolman, lived about a half block from the Brannen home. His wife, Mildred Viola (Tibbitts) had died on October 8, 1937. He kept his daughters with him, and in the fall of 1938 was transferred to Massena. In June, 1939, he was transferred to Houlton, Maine. Irene spent that Christmas with the Tedfords in Houlton. The following year Monie was transferred to Machias, Maine, and Irene came there in the fall. On December 10, 1940, Irene and Monie were married at the Catholic Church in Machias. March 19, 1942, a son, James Monie, was born to Monie and Irene (Brannen) Tedford. In 1945, the family returned to Waddington.

Thus ends the history of one branch of the Peter Brannen family. The

Brannen name ended with Mary Irene (Brannen) Tedford. A new beginning occurred with the birth of her son, James Monie Tedford.

One hundred fifty years have passed since Peter left Ireland to come to Waddington, and the roots he established have been nourished through four generations.

The Brannen family have played their parts in the history of Waddington. Peter was among the first of the pioneers who came to the north country. He participated in the establishment of the first Catholic church in Waddington under the leadership of Father James Salmon. He encouraged and assisted friends and relatives coming from Ireland, and his descendants have continued to play an active role in the town.

There was a uniformity in the lives of this family through the first three generations. By the time Laurence had retired from farming and Irene had entered the business world, the patterns of life in the entire country had changed. Each generation of Brannens adapted to meet the demands made on it.

FOOTNOTES

¹ L.H. Everts and J.M. Holcomb, *History of St. Lawrence Co., New York* (Philadelphia, 1878), 287-298.

² Alien Book "A", County Clerk's Office, St. Lawrence County, Canton, New York, 16.

³ Alien Book "A".

⁴ Peter Brannen, Death Records for 1883, Town Clerk's Office, Waddington, New York.

⁵ Federal Manuscript Census Record, 1830 for Town of Madrid, St. Lawrence County, New York. Microfilm.

⁶ Federal Manuscript Census Record, 1840 for Town of Madrid, Village of Waddington, St. Lawrence County, New York. Microfilm.

⁷ Deed, Liber 51A, p. 619, County Clerk's Office, St. Lawrence County, Canton, New York.

⁸ Assessment Rolls, Town of Waddington, 1859-1900. Town Historian's Office, Waddington, New York.

⁹ Common-Allison Diary 1828-1853 (Original no longer exists.) Copy of excerpts taken from the diary is presently in Town Historian's Office, Waddington, New York.

¹⁰ Franklin B. Hough, *A History of St. Lawrence and Franklin Counties, New York* (Albany, 1853).

¹¹ Parish Records, 1858, St. Mary's Church, Waddington, New York.

¹² Parish Records, 1864, St. Mary's Church, Waddington, New York.

¹³ Deed, Liber 51A, p. 619, County Clerk's Office, St. Lawrence County, Canton, New York.

¹⁴ Thomas Ruddy, Oral Interview, November 1978.

¹⁵ Parish Records, 1832, St. Mary's Church, Waddington, New York.

¹⁶ Map, A.E. Rogerson, Map of St. Lawrence Co. Large 1858 wall map in Waddington Hepburn Library; see also Deed, Liber 51A, p. 619, St. Lawrence County Clerk's Office, St. Lawrence County, Canton, New York.

¹⁷ Parish Records, 1833, St. Mary's Church, Waddington, New York.

¹⁸ Mary Irene (Brannen) Tedford, Oral Interview, September 1978.

¹⁹ Deed, Liber 186B, p. 685, St. Lawrence County Clerk's Office, St. Lawrence County, Canton, New York.

²⁰ Mary Irene (Brannen) Tedford, Oral Interview, October 1978.

²¹ Parish Records, 1884 and 1887, St. Mary's Church, Waddington, New York.

²² Federal Manuscript Census Record, 1870 for Town and Village of Waddington, St. Lawrence County, New York. Microfilm.

²³ Lydia (Clement) Brannen Diary 1930. Presently in possession of Mary Irene (Brannen) Tedford in Waddington, New York.

²⁴ Death Records, 1938, Town of Waddington, New York.

About the Author

Pauline E. Tedford is the recently retired historian for the town of Waddington and co-author of *Waddington, St. Lawrence County, New York: A Look at Our Past* (1976).

A Peek at Judd Family Photos

One of the richest sources for a personal history most families possess is a photograph collection. Often called the democratic art, photography has permitted ordinary people to acquire the kind of visual past previously available only to the wealthy who could have their portraits painted. Almost everyone has, at one time or another, enjoyed poring over family photos, seeking to discern family resemblances or making judgments about personalities or commenting on the hemlines or hats worn by ancestors.

Herbert Judd of Canton, a great-great-great-grandson of Dan Judd who arrived in Canton from Vermont about 1802 to be the first miller at Stillman Foote's gristmill, has an especially fine collection of family photographs. Ranging from tintypes and daguerreotypes through studio photos to his own snapshots, Herb's pictures splendidly supplement his long-time interest in family and local history. (He even possesses a complete run of The Quarterly!) The themes of his photographs reflect the family as a corporate and emotional entity, with a public and private image, as a functioning social and economic unit. Readers may wish to compare these photos with those which accompany the article on the Brannen family.

Some works which can help one understand the meaning behind family photos and the visual conventions they embody or which give advice on restoring, organizing and storing family photos or which skillfully employ family photos to tell a family's story are Dorothy Gallagher, Hannah's Daughters: Six Generations of an American Family: 1876-1976 (1976); Jeffrey Simpson, The American Family: A History in Photographs (1976); Thomas L. Davies, Shoots: A Guide to Your Family's Photographic Heritage (1977); Julia Hirsch, Family Photographs: Content, Meaning and Effect (1981); and Catherine Hanf Noren, The Camera of My Family (1976).



A family presents itself to the public about 1900: Zettie Shipman Judd, Almeron Judd (1891-1981), and Frank Judd. The dog was Nero. Such pictures suggest that shared possession was a partial basis for family. To be successful, as this picture is, the scale of the people relative to the housefront should indicate that the people dominated their environment. The house was on the Ore Bed Road in Pierrepont and was the second house on the site, replacing a log house.

Portrait photos emphasize the visual



John P. Shipman (1815-1871) and Harriet Louise (Cook) Shipman (1817-1878), great-great-grandparents of Herbert Judd, came to Pierrepoint in 1854 from Franklin County in an oxcart drawn by one horse and one cow. The originals are tintypes.



Albert Shipman (1844-1931) and his wife Laura Maria (Searles) Shipman (1851-1937) are great-grandparents of Herb Judd. Albert was the son of John and Harriet and a veteran of the Civil War. They, too, lived in Pierrepoint.

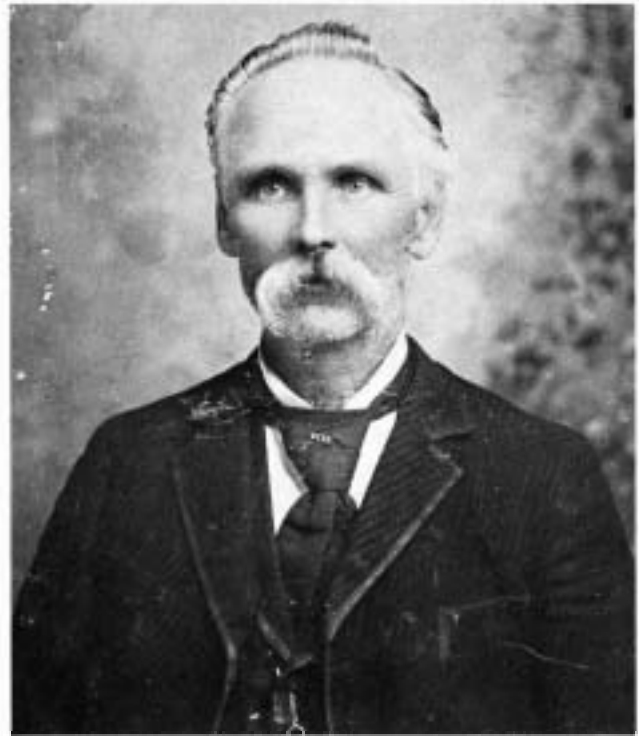
al genealogy aspect of a family collection.



Franklin Benjamin Judd (1826-1905) and Emily C. (Averill) Judd (1827-1897) married in 1849 in Madrid. Franklin Benjamin was the grandson of Dan Judd, miller of Canton. They are great-grandparents of Herbert Judd.



Emily C. (Averill) Judd's father was Canfield Averill (1790-1869), a veteran of the War of 1812 who settled in Madrid. Canfield Averill is another of Herb's great-great-grandfathers.



Silence Tryphena (Leonard) Judd (1800-1879) married Michael Dayfoot Judd, son of Dan Judd, in 1817. She was the mother of Franklin Benjamin Judd and a great-great-grandmother of Herbert Judd.

Houses are symbols of permanence in family photo collections as cars—or perhaps horses at an earlier time—are symbols of mobility. Almost all family collections contain house photos.



The Shipman house on Wilson Road in Pierrepont, built by Albert Shipman between 1865 and 1868. The front was made of logs and later boarded over.



The McLellan-Judd house on Farns Road, Canton, with upper window shaded for Polly McLellan Judd's comfort at the time of Herb's birth. Polly's parents had settled at this location in 1884; the family has now farmed these acres for a full century.

Family photos can also reflect the family as an economic unit.



Almeron Judd with Fannie, his Morgan horse, about 1912.



Blossom, given to Herbert Judd upon his graduation from high school in 1936 by his father, Almeron. All Herb's present cattle are descended from Blossom, one of whose descendants ate the cattles' "genealogy" which Herb had posted in his barn.



A 1923 barn raising at the Judd home on Farns Road in Canton. Almeron and Polly McLellan Judd moved there in 1919.



Father and son, Almeron Judd and Herb Judd: these studio portraits were taken about 25 years apart. Note the dress worn by the little Almeron. In all other respects, the conventions of formally photographing a child had changed little.



A multi-generational picture which also shows the family as a functioning social unit, taken at Thanksgiving, 1917: Zettie Shipman Judd, Frank Judd, Herb McLellan, Lucy Blackmuir, and Emma Vaughan McLellan are standing. Almeron Judd is seated, holding Herb, with Polly McLellan Judd next to him.



The family also represents biological continuity, which makes multi-generational pictures special treasures. This one depicts infant Herbert with his four grandparents: Frank Judd; Zettie Shipman Judd, Emma Vaughan McLellan (1864-1919) and Herb McLellan (1850-1922).

Echoes from the Valley

by Doris Parker

These excerpts from the diary of Henry Sweet Allen with commentary by Doris Parker cover his marriage to Delia Ellis and the first year of their married life. The October 1984 Quarterly contains more of the Allen diary.

"January, Wednesday the 6th, I went to the village in the forenoon, called on Rev. F.E. Hicks, invited him to attend our wedding in the P.M. Mr. How's folks came out at noon, (his relatives, Frederick, Harriet, Nellie & Alice). The wedding was appointed at 3 o'clock. I went down at 2 o'clock: found several of their friends present. The guests all arrived in good season. I remained by myself, not mingling with the company. One or two of my friends asked me if I did not dread to go through the ceremony? I told them I had passed through many more trying times than to stand up and be married. My conversion, baptism & several college examinations required more courage & were more embarrassing to me. One reason was probably I was several years younger at those times. We had kept confidential company nearly 2 years and for more than a year had expressed our willingness to unite ourselves in holy wedlock, whenever circumstances were the most favorable. Our minds having been so long made up of course, we did not dread the *step* as we would, if it had been hurriedly talked up. When the company were ready, Darius Ellis—the Bride's brother—conducted me and Miss Mary Shaw conducted the Bride Miss Delia L. Ellis from our private apartments to the end of the long dining room and seated us,—they taking seats by our sides. In about 5 minutes the clock struck 3, then Mr. Hicks stepped forward & told us to arise. We arose, alone. He then made a short prayer, then pronounced the marriage ceremony; after which Father made a short prayer, then Mr. Hicks pronounced the benediction upon us, which closed the ceremony. After which followed as usual, greetings, introductions, the expressing of good wishes, kissing, etc. We then all went into the parlor, filling it full—there being over thirty guests present, there we visited & listened to music on the Piano by Elizabeth Shaw until the tables were spread in the dinning Hall. Mrs. Allen & myself were seated at the head of the



*Delia Lovisa Ellis (1841-1911) married Henry S. Allen on 6 January 1864.
(Photo courtesy of Doris Parker)*

table, Darius & Mary on the opposite sides, then Mr. Hicks and the nearest relatives, till the 4 tables were surrounded with old folks. The tables were richly & abundantly filled. After we finished our repast, the tables were reset and surrounded with younger folks, who enjoyed themselves well. Most of the company left about 6 o'clock: a few of the young folks remained & 4 couples danced, or rather tried to, by the music of the piano. The rest of the company left at about 9 o'clock, except those who remained all night."

I have been told that Henry had to go to his own home after the wedding to tend to bread, which had been left to rise; as I recall, he baked it. I think it was Aunt Bertha that told me that. However he did not say anything about the bread in his diary. The next day he did go home, as his folks intended to go to Dickinson. It was so cold, they waited till the following day. Henry

had stayed with Delia both nights and after his folks had gone, he took his new bride to his home to stay with him. In the evening his buddy Wayland and wife called on them. "Made us the first visit" he wrote, "we did not expect nor care to have company so quick."

The next day (Jan. 9th) being his 29th birthday, they "fastened up the house after dinner & went down to her peoples a while." And later in the week Delia's folks made them a short visit. So for two weeks Henry and Delia were by themselves to enjoy a honeymoon, until January 21 when his father and mother returned.

The next week Henry and Delia decided to take a trip to see their relations.

"The 27th, Wed. Delia & I started after dinner for Bicknelville with horse and covered carriage. We first called at Elizabeth Strait's, but no one was home. We went a little further & called on Amanda Doud (Delia's cousin) &

took tea with them. Mr. Doud's boy aimed for all the oats I had to spare for .65cts a bushel. We then went to Richmond Bicknell's, spent the evening and staid over night. Mr. B. has strange religious & political views. He is very severe & rigid in his ways. They have a large new home and he & his wife live alone. A Mrs. Barnard & child were boarding there and going to school. Warm's & thaws fast."

"Jan. 28th. We made 2 short calls across the road in A.M. at Young Hosea Bicknell's (Richmond's son) and at Ester Ellis's (a widow then). We then went up to Carlton Smith's and stayed till after dinner. Mrs. Smith is Delia's cousin. We then went to Mr. Sumner's, about a mile and staid to tea & till dark. Mr. Smith married Allena Bird, Delia's cousin. In the evening we came back to put up at Jason Bicknell's. Mrs. Hosea Bicknell (Jason's brother's Hosea's wife) & daughter Hattie were present in the evening. Jason Bicknell & his wife live alone this winter: they are fine folks. Thawed all day."

"29th. We remain at Uncle Jason's till after dinner, then they went with us to John Stafford's, his wife Martha was Delia's cousin. We all stayed there till dark, we then went to Allen Lyman's, Delia's uncle. He lives in the edge of the Village, on high ground & has the finest house in the place, which house and lot he lately purchased after selling his nice farm. His sister (a widow) Aunt Lorena (Lyman) Bicknell & daughter-in-law and little Lorena (7 yrs. old) live with him. They are all nice, fine and quiet people. The weather changed today & we had a cold N.E. wind."

"Jan. 30. It snows a little. At 10 o'clock Mrs. Lyman went with us to Dr. Hosea Bicknell's, where we stayed about 4 hours. Mr. B. is a Doctor after Dr. Beaches fashion. He has a fine family & he would be, if he would be

temperate. On our way home we stopped almost an hour at Mr. Straight's, then came home. The storm was to our backs."

Henry left Delia at her father and mother's over night. The next day was Sunday and it snowed all night and day and drifted; by noon the next day it stopped, and he got his bride in the afternoon. At 4 a.m. the following morning, a neighbor, Mr. Green, was on his way to the village after the Doctor for Delia's mother. They went right down, as soon as they could dress & harness the horse & found her mother holding her arm in hot water, writhing with terrible pain. Dr. Reynolds was there, and they had sent for Dr. Bates. "They were afraid mortification would settle in her arm, for her arm was dead to all feeling & appearance. But part of the pain left her arm about morning."

She recovered slowly and lived about a year. Meanwhile Henry and Delia got settled at the Allen home, got some new carpeting for the parlor and some new furniture and also took some things from her home, beds, crockery, etc.

Sugaring time was always a busy season in the north country. It came quite early that year of 1864. Henry and his little hired hand, a boy of less than 14 years and small at that, washed the buckets on March 10 and tapped about 200 trees before 5 P.M. the next afternoon. They were tired, and Henry said tapping was hard business. To quote him on March 12, "Sap ran all night. We finished taping our trees & worked & scalded out our sap holders in the A.M. In P.M. we gathered up the sap, about 90 pails & commenced boiling. Boiled till 10 P.M. then left it." They boiled the next day again.

[Henry's diary also commented on events of the Civil War. In the Spring of 1864 he wrote:]

"Grant now fighting the Rebels & Gen. Butler was south of Richmond,

keeping Gen. Beauregard with his 25,000 men from reinforcing Lee. A great many thousand have already been lost on both sides. I hope this campaign will end the war."

"May 24. Delia & I went to the village in the P.M. saw Tom Thumb and wife, Com. Nutt & little Elfin Minnie Warren. The village was full of people, not near all the folks could get into the Town Hall at 3 o'clock, so they had a second exhibition at 4 o'clock & in the evening at 7 o'clock. The sight of so small folks, with their singing & other performances was very interesting. They must have taken in \$600.00 in Potsdam. They sold a great many of their pictures, photographs and lithographs. I bought one of the latter. Five men went with the little folks as managers."

August [25 and/or 29], 1864. "There is a good deal of excitement in town, on account of the comming draft, on Nov. 5. 12 men are appointed recruiting agents, they are hard at work. They get \$25.00 for each man they enlist. A subscription to increase the bounty to \$1,000.00 was raised in town, mostly by those liable to a draft paying \$100.00 each, which sum I paid; a fund of \$14,000.00 was raised in town. 27 volunteers left at 4 o'clock P.M. for New York city to enlist in the Navy. Job Ellis & George Post were among the number. I went to the village a foot & remained all day."

"Sept. 2, 1864. We are out of the draft this time, but it has cost us & this town about \$80,000.00. We shall for 15 years to come have taxes enough to pay."

"Nov. 9, 1864. Went to the village P.M. They had up the large flag & the folks were feeling glad at the Election news, which was that the Union (Lincoln's) vote was ahead by a large majority. Made out the School Tax of \$65.00 on property assessed in this District. The Rail-Road is assessed \$60.60 which is quite a help."

"Jan. 9, 1865—This is my birthday. I am 30 years of age! How soon this short life will be passed & gone. 10 years ago I taught our Dist. school. The following 4 years I spent in study and I have been here at home 6 years come spring. I went with Judson Shaw down to Mr. Shufelt's. Judson had bot his best cow for \$40.00, which he drove home. I went to collect an old debt of \$4.00 for corn, which he bought most 4 years ago. I did not much expect to get my pay, without suing him which is something I never did & never wish to do. But he paid me. He could not say, as often before, I have no money, for Shaw had just paid him for the cow."

About the Author

Born in Potsdam, Doris Parker now resides in Hagerstown, Maryland.



The Ellis home was built 1809-10 by Isaac Ellis, Sr., to replace a log cabin. This house was the scene of the marriage between Delia Ellis and Henry Allen. (Photo courtesy of Doris Parker)

A Denault/Denno Odyssey

by David L. Dickinson and A.A. Paquette

St. Lawrence County's history includes a rich French-Canadian heritage. The following article highlights one county family whose roots lie in France and in Quebec. Although the major theme of the article is one of transience, it should be noted that many of Olivier Denault's descendants reside in St. Lawrence County today. David Dickinson's mother, Lena Denno Dickinson, lives in Lisbon; her sister, Alice Denno Campeau, lives in Ogdensburg; both are granddaughters of Olivier Denault. Other descendants, probably well over a hundred, reside in Ogdensburg and in the towns of Lisbon, Oswegatchie and Hammond.

Counties and towns typically take pride in their long established families. However, other people come and go from an area and in the course of things are forgotten. They leave little or no tangible remains of their former presence. Perhaps one might say that these people are more molded by life in a county rather than molding it. Yet, in their passing, these transient people have exerted some effect on the character of a given area. If one accepts this train of thought, then these transients come to be interesting in their own right and potentially valuable in studying a county's history.

One such family whose presence in America has spanned over three hundred years is the Denno family. Its name will not now be found in St. Lawrence County, although its bloodlines remain. The family name was stripped of its accepted spelling many years ago although the pronunciation was retained. Denault, a good French name, became Denno. Such undoubtedly occurred at the persistence of English speaking neighbors and various government officials and with the acquiescence of its owners. Olivier Denault came to Ogdensburg shortly after the Civil War. He was the only one of his name to do so. From him we will look back to a carpenter from the Loire valley of France who, in 1653, was a man with a desire to strike out on a new course. From Olivier we shall look ahead as some of his progeny, nurtured in St. Lawrence County, again strike out to seek new and exotic places.

Marin Deniau dit Destailis (spellings are used as found in original documents) was born about 1620 in the province of Maine, France. As an adult, Marin lived in the parish of Luché near the city of LaFlèche. An apparently childless widower, he decided to join with others who were to make a religiously motivated journey to bring the benefits of Catholicism to the savages of New France. The goal was to populate and hold a desolate frontier outpost on the St. Lawrence River. At that time, this

tenuous outpost was called Villemarie. Today it is Montreal. In 1651, Father Ragueneau wrote: "It is a wonder that the French at Villemarie have not been exterminated by the frequent surprises (attacks) of the Iroquois warriors who have been greatly endured and repulsed several times."¹ The vulnerability of Villemarie was apparent not only to its residents but also to persons in France of deep religious faith. It was a matter of concern that the word of God would not be spread in New France if something were not done to hold Villemarie. In the winter of 1653, Paul de Chomedey, Sieur de Maisonneuve, along with Marguerite Bourgeoys, began to recruit men in France. Later known as the Great Recruitment of 1653, this selling of a missionary concept to bolster Villemarie netted one hundred and fifty-three volunteers. Most of these men came from northwestern France, primarily from the provinces of Maine and Anjou. They signed contracts to stay in New France from three to five years. Marin Deniau contracted for a period of five years. Of the one hundred and fifty-three, fifty men backed out before leaving France. Of the remainder who boarded ship at St. Nazaire, eight died at sea. Ninety-five arrived at Villemarie in November 1653. Of those men, twenty-four were killed by Indians, four drowned in the St. Lawrence and one burned to death before their contracts expired. Life was not easy. By day the streets of the fledgling town belonged to the French. At night they belonged to the Indians. Of Marin Deniau and his compatriots, Governor Sieur de Denonville and Intendant de Champigny in 1687 wrote, "These one hundred men have saved the island of Montreal and all of Canada, also."² His statement was indicative of the pressure weighing on Villemarie and its inhabitants.

Having settled in New France at Villemarie, Marin Deniau was ceded land at Point St. Charles in what is now the western end of Montreal. Soon after, he married Louise Therese



Olivier Denault (1831-1920) moved to Ogdensburg after the Civil War. (Photo courtesy of David L. Dickinson)

LeBreuil, an orphan, who had come from Brittany, France. Marin was not Louise's first choice as a husband. She had been engaged to Sylvestre Vacher on October 3, 1659. The marital contract had been made, but before Louise and Sylvestre could be married, Sylvestre was killed by the Iroquois on October 25, 1659. A month later Louise was wed to Marin. Their marriage contract still exists, dated November 11, 1659 at Montreal. The document is long, a legal paper detailing the mutual obligations and rights of each party. One of the witnesses to the marriage was the governor of the colony, Paul de Chomedey, Sieur de Maisonneuve. Why he graced this humble wedding with his presence, we do not know.

A census of the population of Montreal done in 1663 listed Marin and Louise with sons Jacques and Charles. In 1672, Marin and Louise sold their lands on the north shore of the St. Lawrence River and took a concession of land near St. Lambert from the Jesuits. Apparently soon after this, Marin died. In 1678, Louise remarried and relocated to LaPrairie de la Madeleine, just across the St. Lawrence River from Montreal. Marin and Louise's sons, Jacques and Charles, must have accompanied her as they too appear there in later records.

We know less about Marin's son Jacques Deniau dit Destailis and his descendants. As the area around Montreal became more densely populated, the Deniau family became one of many

and so less notable. Jacques married Marie Rivet on April 18, 1690 in Montreal. In late summer of that same year, Captain John Schuyler of England's New York Colony attacked Jacques' village of LaPrairie with a force of twenty-nine soldiers and one hundred Indians. The villagers and their French soldier-protectors were out harvesting wheat. In the surprise attack, twenty-five French were killed or captured and the houses, barns, haystacks and cattle of LaPrairie were destroyed. The following winter must have been quite an ordeal for Jacques and Marie Deniau and their neighbors. In February 1691 a son, Etienne, was born to Jacques. When Etienne was nine months old, the English returned. Almost three hundred New York militia and Indians under the command of Major Peter Schuyler descended upon LaPrairie. Many French soldiers, militia and friendly Indians were killed or wounded. The townspeople of LaPrairie were driven into their fort for safety.

These attacks upon French Canada and others like it signalled over sixty years of conflict which, in 1760, witnessed the loss of New France to Great Britain. Living near the shore of the St. Lawrence River, the Deniau families must have viewed much of the comings and goings of war. Certainly, they watched with dismay Amherst's triumphant descent of the St. Lawrence River in 1760 soon after he had destroyed Fort Levis on Isle Royale near present day Ogdensburg. Amherst demanded and received the surrender of Montreal. With the fall of Montreal came the demise of New France.

Etienne Deniau's grandson, Louis-Albert Denault, was born in LaPrairie in 1766. He married there in 1790 and sometime before 1801 relocated about ten miles south to St. Philippe. In that year a son, Laurent, was born there. In 1831, Laurent had a son named Olivier, also born in St. Philippe. Olivier was to renew the family odyssey.

We do not know precisely when Olivier decided to come to the United States and we do not know precisely why. Concerning the latter, however, we are able to make some educated guesses. Olivier probably left St. Philippe because he felt that there was little economic future for him there. In the 1840's and 1850's, many French-Canadians left Quebec for greener pastures in the United States. Economic conditions in Quebec were depressed. Many if not most of those who left were young males brought up on farms. There was little land available to a young man to start farming. Unemployment in agriculture was very high in the winter-time. The area was overpopulated and there had been bad har-

vests. And there was discontent with the politics of the powerful English minority.³ It is likely that some or all of these factors contributed to Olivier's moving just across the border into the Rouse's Point-Champlain area of New York State.

On June 30, 1856 in Coopersville, New York, Olivier wed Domatilde Soucis of Rouse's Point. Domatilde was the daughter of a French-Canadian sawyer who had come to New York to live. After marriage, Olivier and Domatilde moved to Malone where Olivier worked as a machinist.

Machinist was a generic term for a laborer in a manufacturing business involving machinery. Children began to come along, which is not surprising. What is surprising is that Olivier, with a house full of kids, decided to enlist in the Union Army toward the end of the Civil War.

His military and pension records indicate that Olivier enlisted in Company H of the 193rd Regiment, New York State Volunteers on March 24, 1865. Although the muster roll is dated at Malone, Olivier's enlistment was credited to the Township of Lisbon.



Frederick LaFlair, grandson of Olivier, about 1920. (Photo courtesy of A.A. Paquette)

Precisely where Olivier lived when he enlisted is unclear. From oblique statements, he implies that he lived in Malone. Blue eyed, brown haired, five feet-eight inches tall, French-Canadian by birth, Olivier joined up for a period of one year. He served with the Third Brigade of the Third Division of the Army of the Shenandoah. Virtually nothing is known of his career as a soldier in an army of occupation. He was mustered out of service at Harper's Ferry, West Virginia on January 18, 1866. In one year, Olivier's regiment lost twenty-five men, all from disease.

From Olivier's application for a veteran's pension, we learn something of his military service and post-war circumstances. In a letter obviously dictated to someone who could write well in English, Olivier, in May of 1890, justified his application for a medical pension from the U.S. government:

I first felt the rheumatism about three months before I was discharged the fall and winter of 1865. It came in darting pains through my shoulders and back and down my arms. I did not go to the surgeon or complain to any of the officers or men as I thought it was just the result of the cold and the hard rainstorms which I was obliged to endure while on picket duty. Besides, I could only speak a few words of English and had great difficulty in making myself understood. . . . I have worked as a common laborer on the railroad since my return from the army and the rheumatism so affects my fingers that I have lost my power of holding anything in my hands such as a bar or hammer. . . . At times others have to feed me with a spoon. I did not know what disease I was suffering from until about eight years ago when Drs. D.B. and Elisha Bridges of Ogdensburg, New York were called in to treat me.

Following the Civil War, Olivier returned to Malone, lived there about three years and then moved to Ogdensburg where he resided the rest of his life. In later years, Olivier and Domatilde operated a small store in the front of their home. The house still stands at the south end of Ford Avenue and Pine Street. Despite his ailments, Olivier lived to be eighty-nine. A member of the Grand Army of the Republic and a parishioner of Notre Dame Cathedral, he died on January 29, 1920. He left a wife who had given him fourteen children.

Of Olivier's many children, we shall choose Mary to carry on the story of the Denno family. Mary is selected because her children exemplify the adventure-



Edna LaFlair Pelloux, granddaughter of Oliver, about 1918 in Buffalo, Wyoming. (Photo courtesy of A.A. Paquette)

some spirit of this family. With Mary and her children we lose the Denault name but continue the bloodline with individuals whose experiences were quite unlike those of St. Lawrence County.

Olivier's second child, Mary, born on March 5, 1860, married Louis Napoleon LaFlair on August 23, 1880, at Notre Dame Roman Catholic Church in Ogdensburg, New York. The LaFlairs had immigrated in late 1863 to Ogdensburg from Quebec through Ontario. The couple settled on Covington Street in Ogdensburg. Their first child was born on March 12, 1882. Their sixteenth and last child was born on January 13, 1903. All were baptized at Notre Dame.

Mary and her husband bought almost a whole city block bounded by Jefferson and Madison Avenues and Spruce and Cherry Streets in Ogdensburg on April 12, 1898, and moved their family to the only house in that block. On April 4, 1902, the family purchased the last remaining lot in that block.

While Mary took care of the children and the house, Louis earned the living for the family as a cooper in the employ of H.I. Northrup of Ogdensburg. In later years, he fed his family by operating as a truck gardener from the city block on Jefferson and by peddling his

produce from door to door with a horse-drawn cart.

Mary and Louis' children like many others learned their French-Canadian language and culture at home, and their American-English culture at school. With their peers they melded the two and gradually adopted the dominant American-English culture.

Olivier's daughter and husband raised their family and grew old in their home on Jefferson Avenue. Louis died first, on April 20, 1938, and Mary died on January 31, 1943. Both are buried in Notre Dame cemetery in Ogdensburg, not far from Mary's father, the French-Canadian-American veteran of the Grand Army of the Republic and the Civil War.

From their home on Jefferson Avenue, Mary and Louis' children set out on their own treks through life. Ogdensburg could not hold onto all of its sons and daughters. Frederick, the seventh child, born on January 6, 1889 and baptized on January 27, eventually moved west.

After a brief stint in the army, Frederick was honorably discharged at Fort Logan, Colorado, on July 7, 1918. On February 20, 1920, he married a girl in Buffalo, Wyoming, whose folks had come from Tennessee. The couple stayed for a while in Niagara Falls, New York, and Houston, Texas, but eventually settled permanently in Wyoming. Frederick, known as "The Frenchman," in addition to working in the sheep ranching business, built a horse ranch southwest of Buffalo, Wyoming and earned the reputation of being one of the best bronc-busters in the state. Around 1955, the Frenchman sold the horse ranch and went into chicken processing in Sheridan, Wyoming, some thirty miles north of Buffalo. Frederick was predeceased by his wife and child; he died on June 18, 1975.

In the Spring of 1918, Edna LaFlair, one of a pair of twins born to Mary on October 3, 1897, went west to Wyoming with her brother Frederick. On April 3, 1918, Edna married a sheep rancher who had emigrated from St. Bonett (near Grenoble), France. They spent their honeymoon in a sheepwagon on the open range. They raised three children. After her husband's death, Edna carried on sheep ranching and later turned to turkey farming just outside Buffalo, Wyoming. This granddaughter of Olivier died on August 29, 1967.

Another grandson of Olivier, and brother to Frederick and Edna, was Alvin Jack. This ninth child was born on June 14, 1891, and baptized the next day. When he was fifteen years old, he also went west. Train hopping took him through Chicago, and westward into

Wyoming, where he worked on several ranches. He soon drifted on, on horseback and by train-hopping, through the American west. He worked his way through Mexico to the Panama Canal, on which he worked for a while.

Alvin Jack returned home to Ogdensburg in 1911 to visit his folks with his wealth in gold sewn into his belt. After a short stay it was 'westward-ho' to Montana and beyond. Taking the cattle trails of the 1880's, this grandson of Olivier entered Alberta, Canada, in the spring of 1914 with a small herd of horses in hope of starting a ranch in the foothills of the Canadian Rockies. As all the good land had already been claimed, he drifted northward through Calgary and Edmonton, Alberta.

He wintered on a tributary of the Peace River in northern Alberta. In the spring of 1915, he set out and rafted along the tributary, the Peace, other rivers and lakes, and arrived in October, 1915, at the South Nahanni River¹ and its valley in the North West Territories of Canada. He took up fur trapping and later became a fur trader, trading furs for the necessities of the other trappers and for a few luxuries, such as tobacco, beads and colored thread, and chewing gum and candy. He returned to Ogdensburg, one last time, in 1920 to see his parents.

In 1938 this grandson of Olivier Denault met a woman from northern Saskatchewan of French-Canadian, Indian and Scottish ancestry, and they had a child. Alvin Jack LaFlair died on October 17, 1950. For his grave marker, he has a mountain called Nahanni Butte.

The Denault odyssey took this family from old France to New France, to the



Alvin Jack LaFlair's cabin and store, about 1940, with Nahanni Butte in the background. (Photo courtesy of A.A. Paquette)

United States and to Northern Canada, from one frontier to another. The Denaults and others like them have added something to the places where they lived. St. Lawrence County was the permanent home for some Denault/Dennos and their descendants. For others in the family, this county was the seedbed, the place where they grew to adulthood and were nurtured before venturing forth on their own personal journeys.

Canada's Northwest Territories see: *National Geographic*, Vol. 160, No. 3 (September, 1981) "Nahanni: Canada's Wilderness Park" pp. 396-420

About the Authors

A.A. Paquette is a lawyer and notary public in Vancouver, British Columbia. David L. Dickinson is president of the Niagara County Genealogical Society and a past contributor to *The Quarterly*. He is currently a Rural Employment Representative with the New York State Employment Service.

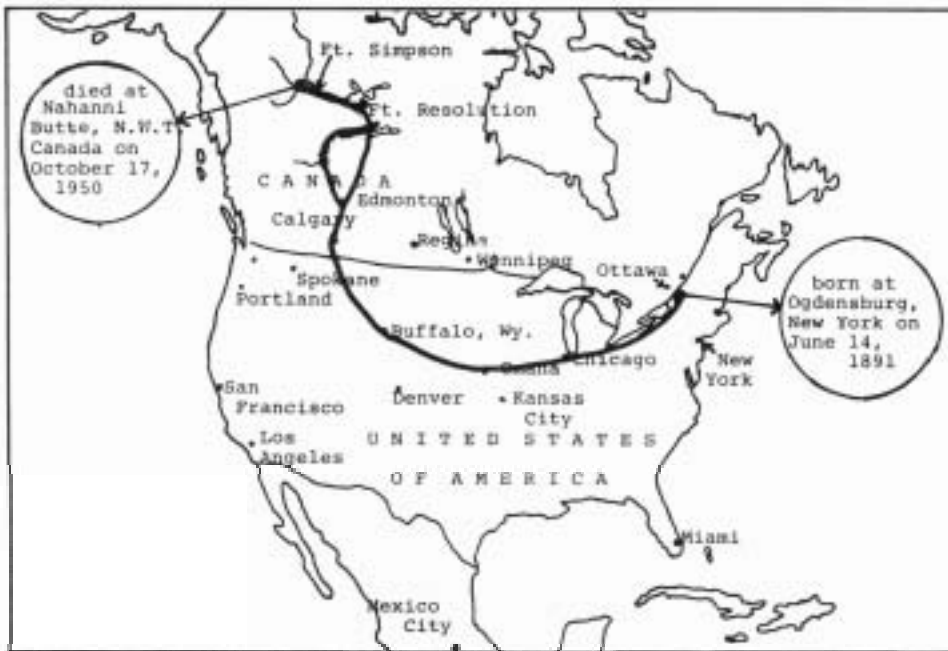
FOOTNOTES

- ¹ Roland -J. AUGER, "La Grande Recrue de 1653", La Societe Genealogique Canadienne-Francaise, (Montreal, Quebec, 1955) p. 1.
- ² *Ibid.*, p. iii.
- ³ Yolande LaVOIE, "L'emigration des Quebecois aux Etats-Unis de 1840 a 1930", Government of Quebec, (Quebec, 1979) p. 15-16.
- ⁴ For further information on Nahanni Region of

COMING IN THE APRIL QUARTERLY

Lynn Ekfelt on Chippewa Bay, Arthur L. Johnson on Border Newspapers and the Canadian Rebellions of 1837, 1838, additional excerpts from the Henry Sweet Allen diaries, the annual reports of the SLCHA and more.

The 1983-84
Supplementary Index
to *The Quarterly*
is now available from
the St. Lawrence Co.
Historical Association
for \$1.00.



The map depicts the odyssey of Alvin Jack LaFlair, grandson of Olivier Denault. (Map courtesy of A.A. Paquette)

Enrich your Spirit
with a visit to

THE SILAS WRIGHT MUSEUM

and then stop at

Barbour's

13 HODSKIN ST. • CANTON, N.Y. 13617

BEAUTIFUL COLLECTIONS
OF FINE
LADIES and MEN'S APPAREL



St. Lawrence Skiff

For TODAY with the Tradition
& Quality of YESTERDAY

More than a century ago, skilled craftsman built the St. Lawrence Skiff in cedar. Today, we offer a virtually maintenance free reproduction built from a mold taken off an original hull. This fine rowing boat has a proven design, is quiet, non polluting & provides great family fun and exercise.

Hull: Hand Lay up Fiberglass Construction.

Woodwork: Finest Mahogany, gunwales, seats and interior appointments. Multiple coats of Marine Varnish.

Specifications: Length: 16'6"; Beam: 41";
Depth: 22"; Weight: 135 lbs.; Load Capacity:
800 lbs

St. Lawrence Skiffs built exclusively by:
DALE INDUSTRIES

DUCK COVE RD., RD #2 • HAMMOND, N.Y. 13646
Phone (315) 324-5966 or 324-5854

Handcrafted by Dale

The newell group

Ryan Press, Inc.

for all your printing needs

Offset * Letterpress * Screenprinting

305 Main Street
Ogdensburg, N.Y.
Phone 393-6430

WHERE YOU SAVE DOES MAKE A DIFFERENCE[®]



When you see this emblem on our door, windows and in our office, you can be sure that your Savings Account, in addition to earning high interest rates, is safe, protected by Government laws and by Government auditing procedures. Backed by a strong reserve system, invested principally in sound home loans, and insured up to \$100,000 by an agency of the U.S. Government - The Federal Savings and Loan Insurance Corporation (FSLIC). So, come in today and open your "Peace of Mind" Savings Account.

canton federal

SAVINGS & LOAN ASSOCIATION

127 MAIN STREET

CANTON, NEW YORK

Address Correction Requested
Forwarding Postage Guaranteed
P.O. Box 8
Canton, N.Y. 13617

BULK RATE
U.S. Postage
PAID
Canton, N.Y. 13617

NON-PROFIT
ORGANIZATION

Since 1866-



Executor · Guardian · Trustee

TRUST DEPARTMENT



**The
St. Lawrence
National
Bank**

Member FDIC 