

THE QUARTERLY

Official Publication of the St. Lawrence County Historical Association

April 1985



THE QUARTERLY

Official Publication of the St. Lawrence County Historical Association

VOLUME XXX

APRIL 1985

NO. 2

CONTENTS

<i>Lynn Ekfelt</i>	3	Life Among the River Rats: The Island Community of Chippewa Bay
<i>Doris Parker</i>	9	Echoes from the Valley: The Diary of Henry Sweet Allen
<i>Arthur L. Johnson</i>	15	War of Words: Border Newspapers and the Canadian Rebellions of 1837, 1838
<i>Emma Remington</i>	17	The Sylvan Falls Area
	18	Official Historians in the County, 1985
<i>John Baule</i>	19	SLCHA Annual Report—1984

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

ISSN 0558-1931

Copyright St. Lawrence County Historical Association
1985

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

Cover: Mr. and Mrs. Thomas S. Knap in costume for the fiftieth anniversary celebration of the summer colony at Manzanita Island in 1937. (Photograph courtesy of Elizabeth Knap)



The steamer Island Belle transported visitors to Chippewa Bay from Ogdensburg. (Photograph courtesy of the St. Lawrence County Historical Association Archives)

Life Among the River Rats: The Island Community of Chippewa Bay

by Lynn Ekfelt

Summer is always a special time, when the pace of life alters to complement the lengthened days and when the sun's warmth inspires an outdoor existence. No where is this more true than in the "island community" of Chippewa Bay. One might at first think that island life would be more conducive to isolation and the absence of community, but the author convincingly demonstrates—what the island residents have always known—that island life breeds a very special kind of community sentiment.

Oh I am itching to get up on that Island but it's three long months yet. I look forward to it like a school boy. I want to get out on those rocks by my studio in a bath robe in the early morning when the birds are singing and hop in among the bass. When I die my heaven is going to be something like that. Every fellow's imagination taxes up a Heaven to suit his tastes and I'd be mighty good and play this earthly game according to the rules if I could get a thousand Eons of something just like that.

In these words artist Frederic Remington described his love for Ingleneuk (now Temagami), his island in Chippewa Bay. A modern reader might be inclined to attribute this extravagant praise for a small tree-covered rock to an excess of artistic temperament or to

nineteenth-century effusiveness. He or she would be hard-put, though, to explain away the many similar statements in *Who's Up*, a book of reminiscences by members of the Chippewa Bay island community. After all, that book was written in 1981 by "regular" people, solidly grounded in our pragmatic modern age. What is it that makes the islanders of any age wax eloquent about their summer homes? Before we attempt to answer that question, it would seem wise to take a look at what this place is that inspires such affection and loyalty.

Chippewa Bay is an indentation in the St. Lawrence shoreline formed by Chippewa Creek as it flows into the river about halfway between Alexandria Bay and Ogdensburg. Its islands form part of the well-known Thousand Islands, but they lie downstream from the most famous of that chain, so one

rarely finds them discussed in travel brochures concerned with the Thousand Islands resort area. The earliest human inhabitants of the bay were the Mississaguas, a branch of the Chippewa (or Ojibway) Indians, for whom it is named. Even today, island dwellers occasionally find the arrowheads and potsherds which were the Mississagua brand of litter, although the Indians' birch bark huts have long since vanished. Other early residents of the area who left only ruins for a monument were the French. More interested in trade than in agriculture, they forfeited one of the islands during the French and Indian War to protect their trade route along the St. Lawrence. Chimney Island is named for the chimneys which were the only portions of that fort to survive.

The land along the shore of the Bay, including the village of Chippewa Bay,



Frederic Remington at Ingleneuk in a photograph taken by Thomas S. Knap. (Photograph courtesy of Elizabeth Knap)

is part of the town of Hammond, named for its original owner, Abijah Hammond. Hammond was a land speculator who purchased the area in hopes of attracting immigrants to buy farms from him. He lost interest in his plan before selling any farmsteads, however, and readily sold his many acres to David Parish in 1814. At that point, the town had only one settler, William McNeill, a hermit from Vermont, who was living in a niche in the rocks in the shoreline of Chippewa Bay. McNeill had attempted no farming, but was living on what he could get by hunting and fishing. Never one to sit on idle land, Parish sent his agent, Loren Bailey, into the town in 1818, and it began to develop rapidly in his skillful hands.

Today, this area of the river seems to doze, casting an occasional languorous glance at the huge Seaway freighters hurrying by. However, it was not always a sleepy backwater. By the mid-1820s a tannery, built by David Schermerhorn, was operating in the new village of Chippewa Bay. Another important industry of the early settlers was brick-making, thanks to the abundance of blue clay and river sand found along the shore. By the 1830s and 40s, Chippewa Bay was becoming famous for the dishes and hollow-ware produced in its glass factory. Founded by Messrs. Boss and Scott, the factory operated in a log building in Chippewa Bay for several years before moving to Calaboga. Before the coming of the railroad, the docks of Chippewa Bay were piled high with the produce of the area, ready to be shipped to distant markets, for at that time the river was the major

artery for trade. Haddock, in his *Souvenir of the Thousand Islands*, gives us a good idea of the sorts of things one might have expected to see there: "lumber, shingles, tanbark, lath, hoops, stone, lead, tons of grains and farm produce, cattle, hogs, [and] barrels of apples." We know that the Iron Islands were so named because the iron which was mined and smelted near Rossie was brought to Chippewa Bay for shipment to Buffalo. The pig iron was stored near the river until the ice formed. Then, it was transported to the outer of the Iron Islands where there was deep enough water on the channel side that small steamboats could collect the iron. Similarly, Scow Island served as a depository for timbers which were to be picked up and transported by scow to Ogdensburg.

At that time, the islands in the bay were considered valuable only for the trees which grew on them—sources of fuel for the engines of the local steamboat companies. Owners were therefore quite willing to part with their land for a small price to cover the timber. Thus there was no enraged landowner to complain about squatters when a runaway slave named Jack built a hut in the 1840s on what is now Atlantis Island and lived there by fishing, hunting, and doing odd jobs for the families on shore. Jack was joined by another runaway slave, Joe, who settled on the present Wyanoke Island. (At that time, of course, the islands were simply known as Jack's and Joe's.)

Two years before the arrival of Jack, Cedar Island had been similarly colonized by a man named Ezra Brockway. Brockway imagined himself to be the

son of Napoleon Bonaparte and the rightful owner of all the land in the vicinity. He believed that his mother had been killed in Ogdensburg and that he, while still an infant, had been set adrift on the river in a canoe from which he was rescued by a Canadian woman, Mrs. Bradley. He claimed that the knowledge that he was Napoleon's son had been communicated to him in a dream and had later been confirmed by spirits with which he was in constant communication. He refused to pay any taxes on his land, and out of pity for him, the taxes were waived. Brockway lived on Cedar until 1876, making a healing salve which he sold. In February of that year, a party crossing the ice noticed that there was no smoke coming out of his chimney. When they went to investigate, they found his door open and his body helpless and half-frozen in the drifted snow. When they carried him to shore, Brockway refused all medicines, saying that he was acting under the direction of the spirit Mary. He died without ever revealing the formula for his famous salve, and was buried in the old stone school-house cemetery in Chippewa Bay.

The Indians, the French, Jack, Joe, and Ezra Brockway were the earliest inhabitants of the islands in Chippewa Bay. However, they were transient; for various reasons, they left no descendants. It was not until 1882 that the "island community" of this article began—with the building of a house by the Bells on Brush Island, then called Belle Isle. That house was followed very shortly by others: the Baileys' on Atlantis in 1884 and the Knaps' on Manzanita and Choke Cherry in 1886. By 1907, most of the island houses had been built. Usually, their owners visit them only in the summer and early fall, although sometimes islanders who live in Ogdensburg make winter treks across the ice. How can these houses on scattered islands, occupied for only a few months of the year, be said to form a community?

The "community", of course, comes from the inhabitants. Time and again in *Who's Up* the islanders refer to the special warmth of feeling which connects them. They speak proudly of the fact that at the Bay, there is no such thing as a generation gap. If proof of this special closeness were needed, one could find it in the number of marriages that have taken place through the years between island families. Many of the islands have been passed down through the families of their original owners; others have been purchased by descendants of early islanders who did not inherit the "family" island but wished to remain part of the community.

Although there is a great sense of

continuity in the island community, many details of life there have changed over the years. First, there's the matter of getting up to the Bay in the summer. In the earliest days, one took a train to Clayton, where one caught a boat to Alexandria Bay, then another boat to Chippewa. Until 1922, the steamer *Island Belle*, a fine boat which could hold 300 passengers, brought guests to the Bay from Ogdensburg. It boasted an observation cabin, a piano, a social hall, a dining hall, a gallery, a freight room, and a deck full of wicker chairs. Later generations took a sleeper train to Ogdensburg, where they were met by local men who drove them to Chippewa Bay. Now, of course, one can simply hop into the car and tool along on superhighways.

On the other hand, to put in a kind word for the "good old days," fathers who worked in New York City were able to spend weekends with their families on the islands—something that would be difficult today unless one owned a private plane. They simply caught a train at 10:30 on Friday night which brought them into Hammond by 7 A.M. on Saturday. Sunday night they reversed the process, returning to the city on the 6:30 train. One aspect of travel to the islands hasn't changed, however. Generations of tired adults have distracted fractious and overexcited children with the traditional game of "who can be the first to spot the river?"—a pastime equally diverting whether played from a station wagon

or a train window.

A second very major difference between the early days of the islands and the present ones lies in the numbers of servants. Today, very few, if any, of the islanders have hired help. In the old days, life was different. Floyd Babcock, who devoted sixty years of his life to the inhabitants of Scow Island, arrived there in the early part of the century at age 14. He was one of fourteen servants in the "cottage," and his sole responsibility was that of bootblack. Although not everyone had such a full complement of staff, most of the islanders in the early years had at least a cook, a maid or two, and a boatman. These boatmen were watery chauffeurs in that they not only took care of the household's boats, but also transported the family members wherever they wanted to go. This brief comment in *Who's Up* by Mrs. Gladys Craig of Thelema Island seems to present a fair picture of the typical island household of those days:

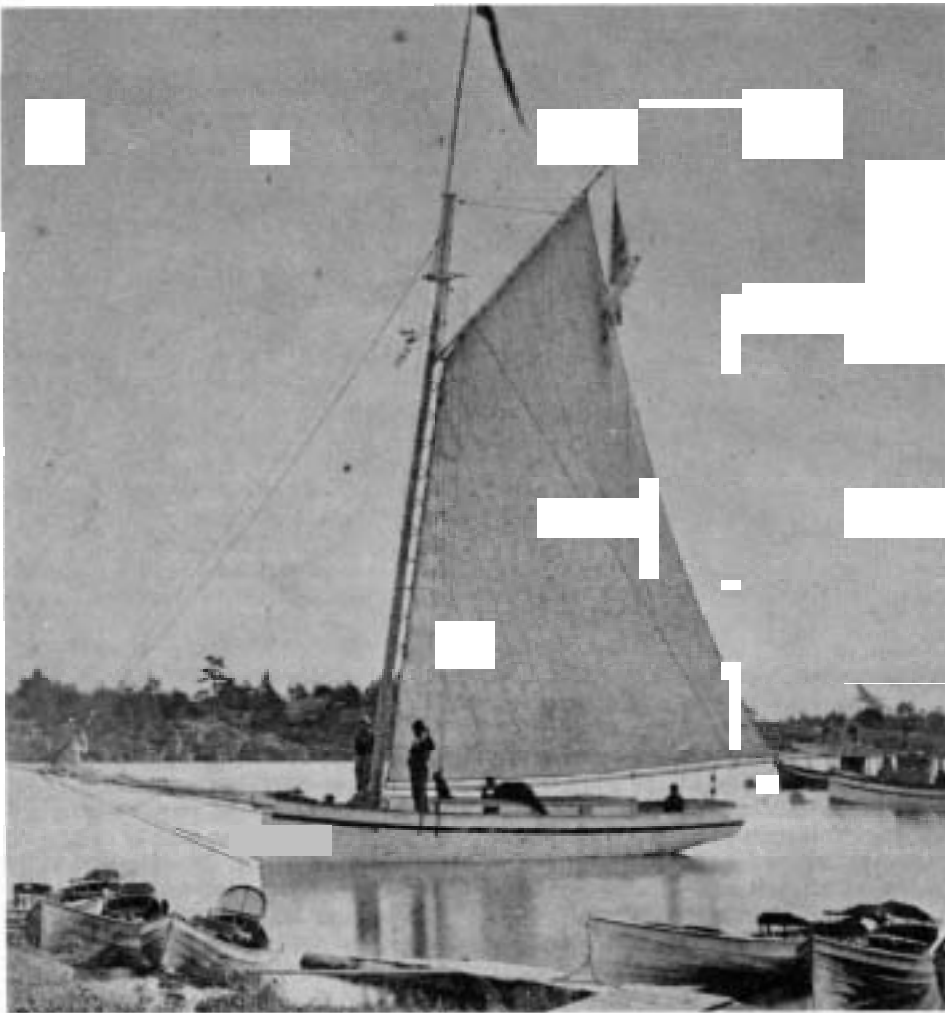
It was easy to get servants in those days. I remember Mother didn't want any smell of cooking so that was done in the kitchen over the boathouse and our man brought it up to the pantry on big trays, where one of the maids looked after it and us. The cook and maid had their room on the third floor and the man had a room next to the boathouse.

Reading the reminiscences of early island life, one is struck constantly by

the extra effort that had to be put into even the smallest of things. Without refrigerators, for example, feeding an island full of family and guests for the summer became a mammoth undertaking. Before heading north each year, families packed crate after crate of canned goods to be carried with them on the train, then transported in rowboats to the islands. In the earliest days, fish was the main source of protein. (When meat was served on Atlantis in the late 1800s, Mr. Bailey not only noted it in his diary, but underlined it for added emphasis.) Every day included some time for fishing for the table, and fish pounds were built to house surplus fish from one day's catch as insurance against the next day's bad luck. Meat and other groceries were ordered by mail. Islanders would write out their orders in the morning and place them in large wicker hampers which they dispatched to Ogdensburg from the Cedar Island store by the steamers *Massena* or *Island Belle*. Then, in the afternoon, the filled hampers were collected by boatmen or by families who enjoyed the sociability of the afternoon gathering on the porch of the store. Milk was another problem; twice a day someone had to row to the mainland to fill up the milk pail at the Forrester Farm, later owned by the Cuthberts. Instead of refrigerators, islanders used ice boxes filled with blocks of ice which had been sawed out of Chippewa Bay the previous winter and stored in sawdust in their island's



A summer home on Rob Roy Island in Chippewa Bay. (Photograph courtesy of Elizabeth Knap)



James G. Knap's sailing yacht "Sophie" in 1876 from a stereopticon slide.
(Photograph courtesy of Elizabeth Knap)

ice house. Once a day, some strong person hauled one of these monster ice cubes down to the river with tongs and washed the sawdust off it, then toted it to the "cottage" ice box.

Acquisition of food was not the only thing that required planning and great effort in those early years. The problems of shelter were equally daunting. People constructed their island homes in various ways, none of which was easy. On Wyanoke, the house was built from material which had been brought from Ogdensburg in the winter over the snow and ice. Mr. Sudds, of Little Cedar, topped that feat by moving *his* house across the ice already built. Everything that went to the islands had to go by boat, unless it could be taken across the ice. Three-story houses, some filled with valuable antiques; tennis courts; and gardens planted in transported topsoil are not the sorts of things one would expect to find in a place where people had to labor under such conditions. Yet we know that there were at least two grand pianos on the islands at that time—one on Manzanita and one, which family members

had pulled up from the barge to the house by a system of pulleys, on Halfway. Thomas Knap remembers that his family took nearly everything of value from their Ogdensburg home by steamboat to Manzanita in the spring, then carried it back with them in the fall. Twelve to fifteen trunks of blankets, linens, and silver made that journey twice a year!

Other things that we modern mainlandlubbers take for granted came late, or not at all, to the islands. In the early days, mail was delivered twice daily (not all change is progress!), but there was no "Island Free Delivery." Hence, it required two rowboat trips to collect the day's mail from the Chippewa Bay Post Office where it was being held in large leather sacks labeled with the names of the various islands. In 1894 telephones made a brief appearance at the Bay when the college boys of the islands set up the Chippewa Bay Telephone Company. They ran a cable, purchased from the Guttapurcha Company of New York City, underwater from Atlantis to Wyanoke to Ragnavok and then to shore,

at which point it went above-ground to the Post Office. It had to be taken up each fall, and the cows did great damage to the poles. The company did not stay in business long—probably because escape from the strident summons of the telephone is one of the greatest joys of island life. On the other hand, electricity was welcomed when it finally was brought to the islands in 1952 by Archie Quarrier. At last the ice boxes could be turned into book cases or cupboards!

Not all island life involved overcoming obstacles, however. Sociability has always played a big role in the lives of the islanders, even in the early days when, due to the difficulties of transportation, one usually had one's houseguests—plus their mammoth steamer trunks—around for at least two weeks. The parties have changed a bit; yachts no longer tie up at the Dark Island dock on the Fourth of July, discharging passengers who will stroll along paths lined with alternating red, white, and blue lanterns, while their boatmen wait for them on board, trading gossip about how many maids and valets had come up for the season with the family. Today, a party is more likely to be a cookout, and no one spreads oriental carpets on the ground by the tennis courts anymore to prevent the players from getting grass stains on their immaculate "whites" as they sip their lemonade. Still, the parties do go on. They may take a different form, but the result is the same. They help provide the cement that holds the island community together.

Another aspect of island life that has changed in detail but not in substance is the islanders' love of the river—scarcely a surprising quality in people who voluntarily spend several months out of their lives every year surrounded by water. They call themselves "river rats," and for them, it is a proud epithet. The children, now as always, spend hours swimming, crawling out with prune-like skins only long enough to eat. And the boats! Stephen Beste provides some insight into the islanders' feelings about their seamanship when he says, "most islanders take it as a point of honor that they know the river and that they could get home blind drunk on a dark night at full throttle with no mishaps." This pride in knowing the river, this sense of belonging to a special fraternity, is another tie that binds the island community together.

Of course the specific boats have changed a good deal over the years. When the first "river rats" came to the Bay, they used rowboats and sailboats. Some of the wealthier men maintained steam yachts which were lovingly cared for by their boatmen and housed in elaborate boathouses. (Tom Strong,



A summer scene on Manzanita Island in 1894. Posed on the school house porch were James G. Knap and Thomas S. Knap. (Photograph courtesy of Elizabeth Knap)

of Temagami, had one with brass fittings which were declared by the natives to be solid gold.) A popular local craft was the St. Lawrence skiff, a one- or two-person wooded boat, resembling a canoe, but rowed with a pair of oars instead of paddled. These were built by Ed Denner in his shop in the town of Chippewa Bay. It is said that he learned his trade from the Canadian Indians and that he had the forms destroyed when he decided to stop boat-building. Frederic Remington's fleet is fairly typical of the contents of the boathouse of the average turn-of-the-century river rat. He owned two Rushton canoes, two St. Lawrence skiffs, a naphtha launch, and a punt.

Obviously it was a while before outboards came to the islands, but now they are the main type of transportation around the Bay. Of course people still own sailboats and/or canoes, but the outboard is too useful to be passed up for errand-running and emergency

trips. More than just convenience is involved in the river rats' love affair with their power boats, however. For the islanders, boats play a part in many of life's transitions. The shift from childhood to young adulthood is marked by one's gaining permission to take the boat out alone, and night boat rides on the Bay are where teenage island couples experiment with "making out." Lanie Menkel Benet, in *Who's Up*, says of her childhood and adolescence, "Like our elders, we dreamed of faster and bigger boats. Successive summers are measured in my mind by boat engines—5 1/2, 7 1/2, 15, and 18." When one islander piled his boat up on a shoal he had known about for years, he decided that his days of boat-driving should come to an end. To the river rats of today, as to their ancestors, boats and life's passages are intricately intertwined.

One way in which the islanders have always shared their love of boats is

through the Chippewa Yacht Club. The club was organized in 1895 by a group of islanders who selected as its first officers: C.M. Englis, Commodore; Capt. D.H. Lyon, Vice Commodore; and Jas. Knap, Secretary/Treasurer. Presently, it is a "club without a clubhouse," holding its annual meeting on different islands. (For the last ten years, it has met on Oak Island at the home of Margot Griffin.) For several years in the 1920's, the Club rented the Wyanoke boathouse and used it as a clubhouse. There ladies, transported by their boatmen, would gather for the once-a-week bridge games, and entire families would gather on the weekends for the race meetings.

The high point of the summer has always been the Club Regatta. In the 1920s, the Regatta was a two-day affair with luncheon served on both days. There were rowing, sailing, and aquaplane races (there were no water skis in those days; window shutters took



Hewlett Strong at the 1937 costume party celebrating the fiftieth anniversary of the Manzanita Island summer colony. (Photograph courtesy of Elizabeth Knap)

their place!). For the children there were swimming and diving contests and water baseball games in which the fathers joined. On the evening of the first day of the regatta, boats with all their lights on were anchored off Atlantis Island, and there was a dance. Today's regattas are simpler, but equally popular. They are held on the last Saturday in July on Temagami. Adults enjoy sunfish races and trap shooting contests while the children still compete in a variety of swimming events. There is still a luncheon, but now it takes the form of a family picnic.

The Chippewa Yacht Club enjoys the distinction of having won the Gold Cup Races five times. In 1902, the American Power Boat Association was organized,

and in 1904 decided to award as a perpetual trophy a large gold-plated cup to be raced for under handicap rules. The first year's race was won by the Columbia Yacht Club, but the Chippewa Yacht Club swept the second, third, fourth and fifth. Today these races are major hydroplane events in which the club no longer enters a boat, but the members are justly proud of their former victories.

David Holdt of Owatonna Island has said of the Chippewa Bay islands:

Islands are like circles. When you walk round one you come again to where you were before. Islands seem like good places to get away from it all. They stand apart from the main. They stand against

the flow of events with an independence that generated perspective. But underneath the flow, all islands are connected.

It is this sense of connection that makes the Chippewa Bay islanders so loyal to their vacation homes. Even though they are in their cottages for only a small part of the year, they feel at home there amid current friends and ghostly ancestors who loved the river as they do now. In a world which acts increasingly to isolate people from the support of families and close friends, finding such a community is a welcome and lovely thing indeed.

BIBLIOGRAPHY

- "Belle Steamed from Clayton to Ogdensburg," Summer Fun issue of *Watertown Daily Times*, September 8, 1983, p.4.
- Biondi [Smallman], Mary. Series of three articles on Hammond history in the *Ogdensburg Advance News*, September 16 (p.13), September 23 (p.2), and September 30 (p.8), 1962.
- Durant, S.W. *History of Saint Lawrence County, New York*. Philadelphia: Everts & Co., 1878.
- Haddock, John. *A Souvenir of the Thousand Islands of the St. Lawrence River*. Albany: Weed-Parsons Printing Co, 1896.
- Hammond Advertiser*. Series of articles on Hammond history. Appear in most issues of 1907 paper.
- Hough, Franklin. *History of St. Lawrence and Franklin Counties, New York*. Baltimore: Regional Publishing House, 1970.
- "Of Remington, Cedar Island, and Ingleueuk," Summer Fun issue of *Watertown Daily Times*, September 8, 1983, p. 1.
- Remington, Frederic. Correspondence from the Remington manuscript collection of Owen D. Young Library, St. Lawrence University.
- Who's Up*. Compiled by Susan Manes, Licia Beekley, and Anne Wolcott, 1981.

About the Author

Lynn Ekfelt is the archivist and rare books librarian at St. Lawrence University and secretary of the St. Lawrence County Historical Association.

COMING IN THE JULY QUARTERLY

Neal S. Burdick on Martin Van Buren Ives, Donna Earle Seymour on George Edison Bartholomew and his car, Christopher Tonjes on National Register sites in St. Lawrence County, John Ranlett on rail passenger service in this county forty years ago and more.

Echoes from the Valley:

The Diary of Henry Sweet Allen

by Doris Parker

Henry Sweet Allen's diary for 1865, following his birthday on 9 January, is presented here in its entirety, exactly as it appears in a copy made by Doris Parker and provided by Miss Parker and her cousin, Elizabeth Baum Woodward. The diary recounts the birth of Henry's daughter, Bertha, the end of the Civil War and the assassination of Abraham Lincoln. It is also an excellent account of the day-to-day life of a farmer, conveying a sense of hard, often tedious, work for small monetary rewards. The reader should observe Henry's growing sense of the individuality of his infant daughter: the point, for example, where she ceases to be called "baby" and becomes Bertha. Henry made his last diary entry on 6 August. According to Miss Parker's note at the end of the diary, Henry became sick on 12 August and died on 22 August 1865, probably of typhoid, at age 30. Previous excerpts from the Henry Sweet Allen diary, with commentary by Doris Parker, may be found in the October 1984 and January 1985 Quarterly.

Jan. 10. Chas Page & I worked in back woods. We cut down 2 dead pine trees, & cut of sawed off 7 logs. It snowed & melted on our clothes & wet me thro. We did not think it stormed very hard being in the swamp & did not know that the wind blew any at all, but when we came out of the woods, we were surprised to see how it stormed & blustered. We did not go back in P.M.

[Jan.] 11. Choped, broke roads & drew up three small loads from back lot.

[Jan.] 12. Drew up 4 small loads & then quit as it kept drifting up my road. Chas. Page & I choped cord wood in P.M.

[Jan.] 13. Robt. Centrell came with



Bertha Lovisa Allen was born 15 February 1865 and was six months old when her father died. (Photograph courtesy of Doris Parker)

Father Ellises oxen to help me get up the prim logs. I had a road to within 4 rods of them, where I could go with the horses. The ground is not frozen under the snow which is 2 ft. deep which made it bad work. We drew with both teams & got up 8 logs.

[Jan.] 14. Still it comes. It snowed & blowed all day from E. The drifts are

as high as the fences.

[Jan.] 15. Sun. Cold. The roads are well drifted up. No team been past today.

[Jan.] 16. Folks have to break out roads today. Alden came home. He spent yesterday in Dickenson. He intends to preach there a while. He says Father & Mother will come tomorrow.

[Jan.] 17. Carried Sarah to school in A.M. Went down to N. Potsdam after parents. I came home foot after going to the sawmill & stopping to read a Daily at Hotel. Where I saw Col. Thorndyke who has just moved his headquarters from Malone to N. Potsdam. He was making proposals to Mr. Innman [?] to build barrocks.

[Jan.] 18. Went to village. Sold eggs at \$.25 a doz. & bot spice & pepper \$.60 per lb. Cinnamon \$.1. nutmeg \$.15 per oz. Brot home Delia's rocking chairs \$3.50

[Jan.] 19. Drew one log — pine to the mill at village. The weather is little more mild, but cold enough.

[Jan.] 20. I had the tooth ache last night so that I did not sleep any after 12 o'clock. I drew a load of logs up to saw mill & hurried to the Dentists office & had the aching thing out. It cost only \$.50. A min.'s work. No harm done. When I got home found Frederick & girls out on a short visit. I drew 2 logs to village in P.M. I was very tired & ached hard when I got home. I soaked my feet, drank sage tea & went to bed & sweat till I got easy.

[Jan.] 21. Mr. D.L. Clark came after his corn 40 bu. ears. I sold when the price was \$1.50 but it is now \$2. Went to village with 2 logs. the last of the seven that I had to draw. Alden went up with me. I took Delia down home & left her to stay over night. Attended singing school in evening.

[Jan.] 22. Sun. Went down after Delia in P.M. Stormed in the evening.

[Jan.] 23. Alden helped me move 2 loads of straw from new barn down to Old 'arn. It thawed a little enough to start the eaves to running, but it soon grew cold.

[Jan.] 24. Mother Ellis was taken with a fit of the palsy last evening. One half of her body is paralyzed. She cannot speak nor swallow but a very little. The Dr. did not give much encouragement that she would get well. I carried Delia down home & left her, & then carried Alden down to the Junction to take the cars for Dickenson & I went down to the new grist mill & had a grist ground. Went after Delia in evening.

[Jan.] 25. Carried Delia down home. Mother Ellis is a little better, but can't talk & has not much reason to make known her wants. I went to village & got a load of my boards. I heard Clarissa (Call) Sweet was dead. Her funeral will be to-morrow at village. Stormed in evening so that I did not go after Delia.

[Jan.] 26. Went after Delia in morning. Mother is no better. I went down to back lot & cut a pine tree & drew up 2 logs to draw to mill.

[Jan.] 27. Drew up the logs & got a load of boards, & went down & got 2 more logs to draw up tomorrow. I loaded the logs alone with the horses. I

brot Father a present — a letter which contained \$5.00. The letter was, "Please accept this small token from one who owes you more than money." I.[?]. E. Shaw. Rec. a box of books, a present from Ira to Alden.

[Jan.] 28. Drew up the logs & a load of bords back & then went down home with Delia. Mother is not much better. There is a possibility that she may come out of the fit, but there is not much to inspire hope.

[Jan.] 29. Sun. Mother Birthday. She is 66 yrs. old. She is able to wait upon herself & sows a little, reads & writes to her children & sisters. Went down to see Mother Ellis after dinner. I cannot see that she is any better.

[Jan.] 30. Chas. Page is chopping cord wood for me. I drew up 3 loads for the back side of the back-woods.

[Jan.] 31. Judson Shaw & I butcher a cow, "Old Spot." I drove her over to his barn. I have a cold & do not feel very well.

Feb. 1. I took 3 quarters of the beef & hide to the village & sold them in a few min. at \$.08 & \$.09 & hide at \$.8 1/2 She weighed 570 lbs. worth 48\$ I drew home a load of boards When I got home found that they had come after Delia to go home & see her mother, who is worse & cannot live long. I went down after her just night.

[Feb.] 2. As soon as I finished chores, Delia & I went down home & staid all day, not expecting Mother could live thro the day. Her feet & limbs are mortifying.

[Feb.] 3. We went down home not expecting to find Mother alive, but she still lingers unconscious of all about her.

[Feb.] 4. After we got to bed last evening, Arnold Gates called to tell us that Mother died little past 6 o'clock. Her suffering is past. We went down home as soon as we could & stayed all day, till about 3 o'clock. While there I went down to Mr. Melons & borrowed 2 mourning bonnets. The funeral is to be tomorrow at 12 o'clock.

[Feb.] 5. Sun. It storms a little, but is not cold. I took Delia down home & came back & got Mother. Father did not feel well enough to go out. The funeral was at the house. Father Ellis is not able to go out & the school house is small & poor. There were a great many present. The house was full. There were 60 relatives present. Dr. Fisher of Canton preached from Luke 24 c. 50 & 51 V. He preached *good*. I like to hear him. As the snow was so deep & it being stormy only a few went to the grave. Mother was buried in a metalic coffin, cost about \$70. So another near & dear friend & a good woman has left us & gone to her long home above. She will be missed as all good persons are.

[Feb.] 6. Carried Delia down home,

then came back & went to the village & went after Delia after I got back & did the chores.

[Feb.] 7. Worked in the house, trying out tallow, neet foot oil, paring apples &c.

[Feb.] 8. Martha Ellis & Giles McAllister was married today & started for the west, to Fort Wane Ind. where he is Secy. of an insurance Co. a very good match I guess. Mr. Eastman came & carried Delia down home & I went to the village & got the last of my lumber.

[Feb.] 9. It snowed last night & drifts today. Mary Shaw & Aunt Sarah Ellis were here today.

[Feb.] 10. Stormed most of day.

[Feb.] 11. Bright, cold & pleasant. Roads are bad. We went down to Father Ellises in P.M.

[Feb.] 12. Sun. Clear & cold. Went down home a little while towards night.

[Feb.] 13. Pleasant Commenced to chop on wood pile.

[Feb.] 14. Delia had pains at intervals all last night, so that we did not sleep. I went & got Arvilla Ellis in morning. Delia was quite easy during the day. I went down to N. Potsdam to meet a woman that we expected to come on the cars from Moira, to take care of Delia a few weeks but she did not come. Did up my chores early. About 6 o'clock. Delia was taken very sick & I sent Carlos after the Dr. I went after Aunt Ester [Ellis] & Irena Fisk. Alzina came over. Dr. Bates came about 8 o'clock. Delia labored hard all night till after 11 o'clock. A.M., (the 15th of Feb.) when she gave birth to a daughter. I remained with her all the time. She suffered a great deal of pain. The Dr. gave her chloroform which she was glad to take. I was so exhausted from loss of sleep, anxiety & sympathy, that I unexpectedly to myself, burst right out crying for joy, as soon as the child was born. The Dr. said I had done first rate, for he had seen men faint away. No one can realize how much women suffer in child-birth until they have been with them, seen them writhe & heard them groan. I consider the *gift* as the best & most valuable one I ever received & I prize it the more highly for its having cost its mother so much pain. I carried the Dr. home in P.M. got the interest due on U.S. Bonds, "Seven Thirties." Carried Mrs. Fisk. Mrs. Shaw & Mrs. Arvilla Ellis home. I hired Mrs. Turner to act as nurse, she is a widow & used to the business. I was glad to go to bed, not having slept but all very little for two nights.

[Feb.] 16. Stormy, Did my chores & wrote three letters, to Ira, Elizabeth & Albert.

[Feb.] 17. Pleasant. Delia & baby are getting along well. Carried Mrs. Job

April 1985

Ellis & girl up home. I bot several things for Delia & baby. Paid \$15.00 Subscription to bounty fund to hire our quota of men, which is only 14 men as we were 39 ahead.

[Feb.] 18. Sat. Pleasant. Heard & saw a crow. No thaw to settle the snow since Dec.

[Feb.] 19. Sun. Mild. Wrote an article for the Herald on "Our Schools.["]

[Feb.] 20. Choped on wood pile.

[Feb.] 21. Went to village Alden came home.

[Feb.] 22. Thaws! Father & Alden went out to Fred's & staid all night.

[Feb.] 23. Stopped thawing. The snow has settled about a foot. *Good news.* Charleston is evacuated & in our possession! also the captor of S.C.

[Feb.] 24. Went to Village. It is very rough since the thaw.

[Feb.] 25. Father Ellis has been up three times this week, the first that he has been out this winter. I took Alden down part way to the depot. Choped. Attended singing sch. in eve. A good many there from a distance. They sang mostly anthems, as there were some excellent singers present.

[Feb.] 26. Sun. Rains.

[Feb.] 27-28. choped on my wood pile. Snowed.

Mar. 1. I had 2 cows "come in" yesterday & last night. I went out to Bicknellville to mill. Carried 13 bu. of wheat & provender.

[Mar.] 2. To village P.M.

[Mar.] 3. Rains in A.M. Choped & broke out road into the sugar lot.

[Mar.] 4. Snows. Killed 2 calves & "tinkered round." Mrs. Douglass from Potsdam made us a visit. Father's health is very poor & he has a lame back.

[Mar.] 5. Sun. Pleasant. Hulday [Huldah] Smith was buried today at E. Sch. H. Mr. Phelps preached. She died of consumption.

[Mar.] 6. Choped a little. Mr. Howe came out.

[Mar.] 7. Tried to draw wood from back lot. Went twice & gave it up. Commenced to thaw. I got Chas. Smith, a boy who lives at the Twins to help me get my buckets down & drew out three loads to the woods.

[Mar.] 8. Colder, went to village. Bot 12 tin buckets of \$5.40.

[Mar.] 9. Warmer. I drew out a load of buckets & taped about 40 trees.

[Mar.] 10. Colder & stormed all day.

[Mar.] 11. Pleasant & cold. Hosea Bicknell & wife made us a short visit also Jhon Burroughs & wife. Aunt Ellis & her daughter-in-law & baby staid here 2 nights & started for home this A.M. I sent Chas. Smith after Sarah & took Mrs. Turner home. Paid her \$3 a week 3 1/2 weeks.

[Mar.] 12. Sun. Pleasant but cold & windy. I staid in room with Delia for

1st time last night. She & I did not get more than 3 hrs. sleep. The baby was very restless.

[Mar.] 13. Helped Delia most of the day, while Sarah was washing. Taped 50 trees.

[Mar.] 14. Cold. Went to village, good sleighing.

[Mar.] 15. Grew warm in night & rained in morning. I went to tapping about 10 o'clock. alone & taped about 175 before 5 P.M. The snow is deep & soft & it was hard work to get about. Isaac Shaw & wife called & bade us "Good by." They leave tomorrow for Calif. They go there to make it their home. Isaac has lived there 10 yrs.

[Mar.] 16. I have slept on the lounge 5 nights so as to wait on Delia, keep fire, &c. I finished tapping in A.M. carried out the pan, fixed up the arch with mortar gathered about 30 pails of sap & commenced boiling about 3 P.M. Caroline (Sayles) Smith & Sarah McGill called today. Thawed fast all day.

[Mar.] 17. Snowing in morning. The trees were loaded with snow. I gathered about 100 pails of sap. As I am alone & have all my chores to do I have to be very busy. I go out to the woods the first thing in the morning little past 5 o'clock. fill up the pan & the arch with wood which takes about 1/2 hr., then feed my cattle horses & hogs & milk before breakfast. I then fin. my chores & then for the sugar lot.

[Mar.] 18. *Windy*, I built one fire under the pan before breakfast & found it sirup when I went down to get it. Had 3 pails full. Gathered sap in P.M. about 80 pails. There is a good deal of water in the sap.

[Mar.] 19. Sun. It froze a little last night & thaws today, so that sap runs. I kept a fire under the pan during the day. Levi French & Kate Eastman called to see Father & Delia.

[Mar.] 20. Gathered up all the sap in P.M. Siruped off in morning.

[Mar.] 21. Boiled sap. Sugared off at the house out doors. Had over 100 lbs. tub sugar.

[Mar.] 22. Gathered up all the sap in A.M. about 60 pails & went to village in P.M. Kept fire in the arch.

[Mar.] 23. Finished boiling & siruped off in P.M. & wrote 2 letters.

[Mar.] 24. Called at Judson Shaws & Joseph Morgans in A.M. Sugared off P.M. 100 lbs. Mrs. Worthington & daughter Emma are here on a visit. They moved from this neighborhood to Iowa nearly 10 yrs. ago.

[Mar.] 25. Did up the chores, killed a calf & went to woods about 10 A.M. was surprised to find so much sap. Some of buckets were full. Gathered a panfull by hand & set it to boiling in 1 hrs. time. Got the horses & gathered 1 1/2 tubs full before dinner & gathered again just before supper till I had vat

& tub full. I gathered all the woods except about 40 trees near by. Had 150 pails of sap. Boiled till about 11 o'clock. at night.

[Mar.] 26. Alzina Shaw [Judson Shaw's wife] staid with Delia last night. She has not got over her Plurisy pains yet, of which she had a severe attack the night before. Kept a fire in the arch. Siruped off in P.M.

[Mar.] 27. Siruped off just night.

[Mar.] 28. Sap run all night. Plenty of sap, boiled till 12 o'clock. night. Sugared off in A.M. & caked it 100 lbs.

[Mar.] 29. Siruped off in P.M. 4 pails full. Mrs. Burroughs, Mrs. Johnson, Aunt Ester [Ellis Shaw] & Lydia & Father Ellis were here in the P.M. & to tea. Boiled sap till 12 o'clock. midnight.

[Mar.] 30. Siruped off 3 pails full.

[Mar.] 31. Alzina Shaw has stayed with Delia several nights past as I had to be in the woods a part of the night & did not wish to be broke of my rest, when I did get a chance to sleep. Carried Delia & baby down home for the 1st time, to stay a couple of days. Sugared off in P.M. Tub sugar — 140 lbs. which filled our large barrel tub full. Gathered about 2/3 tub of sap just night, which was all there was. The trees have run themselves dry. Did not finish my chores till after dark, then went down & boiled sap till 9 P.M. Felt very tired after a week's driving at sugaring. My feet are sore. I never sugared alone before & ought to have help.

Apr. 1. Sat. I went to village. Carried up some caked sugar, 77 lbs. sold it for 20 cts. They did not want to pay but \$.18 but it was nice & good, so they gave me what I asked for it. sold it at to [two?] groceries. New maple sugar sold for 25 & 30 cts. a week ago in small cakes. When I got home from village found Mr. How & girls there. I finished boiling in the sap. Went down to Mr. Morgans in evening & to singing sch. part of eve.

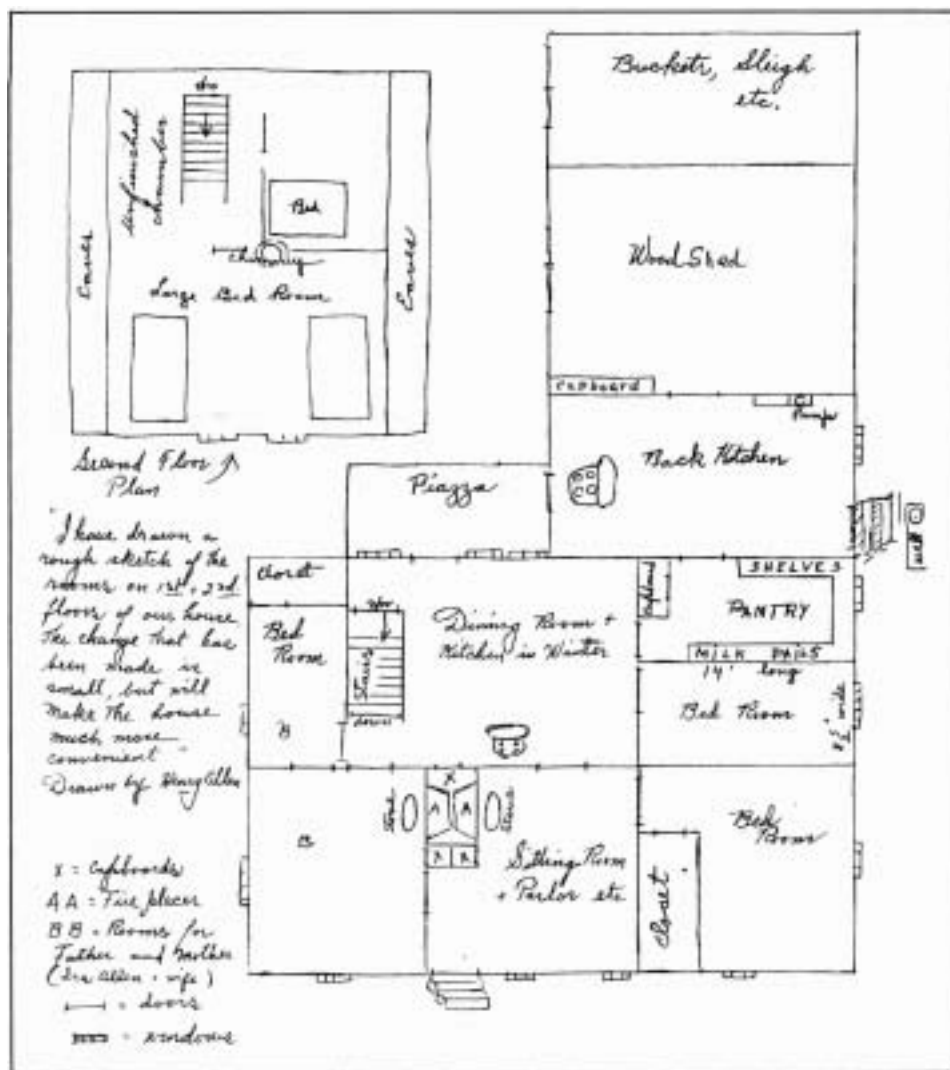
[Apr.] 2. Went down after Delia P.M.

[Apr.] 3. Sugared off. Caked it all. Hired boy 17 yrs. old for 1 mo. — \$16. Daniel Vandyke. Gathered a little sap just night.

[Apr.] 4. Went to village & sold the caked sugar. 103 lbs. @ \$.18 to Milton Brown. Good news! Yesterday & today! Richmond is taken! Petersburg evacuated. Lee & army fleeing to Danville — Sheridan is hastening to cut off [f] his retreat. 12000 prisoners were taken. Gathered the remainder of the sap.

[Apr.] 5. Took the buckets off the hook & laid them down. Siruped off 3 pails full. chopped on wood pile.

[Apr.] 6. Rained, grass looks green. Flowers can be found in the woods. A few snow drifts can be seen yet in the shade the woods, or walls. Sugared off about 60 lbs. chopped wood.



One of the numerous drawings which accompanied Doris Parker's "Echoes from the Valley" depicted the Ira Allen residence, the house to which Henry Allen brought his bride, Delia Ellis, in 1864, and where they lived with Henry's parents until Henry's death. The home, no longer standing, was on LaVine Road. (See map in October 1984 Quarterly.) (Drawing courtesy of Doris Parker; copied by Aimee Lindenmayer Ay, formerly on the Potsdam Museum staff)

[Apr.] 7. Went to village sold 97 lbs. caked sugar @ \$.18 Had to peddle it about town — a very windy day.

[Apr.] 8. About sick. Had company all day. Lucy French has been down a couple days. We have considerable company of late. Mostly girls & women, who come to see the baby & folks.

[Apr.] 9. Sun. It froze some last night, but sap does not run much today. Carried Miss French & Delia down home.

[Apr.] 10. Snowed a little in A.M. Chopped scattering wood in the sugar lot & drew it to Sugar house. They rung the bells at the village an hour today noon & fired canon nearly all P.M. & evening. Had a large bonfire & houses illuminated & speeches in evening. *Gen. Lee surrendered himself & army to Gen. Grant!*

[Apr.] 11. Gathered the sap (25 pails) & buckets in P.M.

[Apr.] 12. Boy washed the buckets to day & I went to mill & blacksmiths. Sold a ham & shoulder for \$8.14. The wind blew *hard* all day but *very hard* in P.M. It blew down fences all over the country. Trees & buildings also were blown down. If the trees had had their leaves on, the woods would have suffered greatly. It took boy & I half a day to put up the fences, but that is a small part of the damage done to me. It blew one of my frame shed off from its foundation 5 ft., which let the end of another shed, which was framed into it, down & 1/3 of the roof fell in to the ground.

[Apr.] 13. We put up fences in A.M. Drew up buckets in P.M. & fixed up the sugar house.

[Apr.] 14. Drew stone in A.M. In P.M. Delia, baby & I went down to Arnold Gates.

[Apr.] 15. I went to Frederick's in P.M. when I got as far as Ruel Shaws [Hewittville Rd.], George asked me if I had heard that Pres. Lincoln & Secy. Seward & son had been killed. I told him *no*. He said a couple of boys had been by & told him the news. We thot they were fooling, but before I got out to Mr. How's I was inquired of again if it was true. Soon Mr. Goodale came by from the village & said it was *true*. Horrible sickening news! Lincoln was shot in the Theatre. Seward was stabled laying sick in his bed. His son was stabbed while coming in at the door. Mr. How's folks were gone to the village & did not get home till 5 o'clock when it began to rain so I concluded to stay all night.

[Apr.] 16. Came home in morning. It rained a little all the way. I brot home 30 grafted apple trees & 2 bu. barley.

[Apr.] 17. Drew 21 bu. corn in P.M. down to Tagget's Mill.

[Apr.] 18. Boy drew out manure, I helped a little. I went up to village after Uncle Lamb & wife. I have Father Ellis horse a few days to run about with. Aunt came down with me.

[Apr.] 19. Boy plowed in west orchard. I took Father down to visit Widow Morgan who is not expected to live long & then went down to Tagget's mill to get my pay for the corn \$34.65. Got back to Hawthorne Morgans just noon; took dinner & came home. Uncle came down after Aunt in A.M. Pres. Lincoln's funeral is today at 12 o'clock: all over the country funeral services were held.

[Apr.] 20. Alden & I went up to attend the M.E. conference, which commenced yesterday. We staid till noon & came home. It rained all P.M.

[Apr.] 21. Drew out manure. Carried Delia down home & went after her just night as we had company come from a distance. Cousin Harriet Babcock & husband & Aunt Lamb came just night.

[Apr.] 22. Mr. Babcock & wife left at 10 o'clock for Norfolk to visit a brother. Father carried Aunt Lamb up to village. Boy & I draw out manure.

[Apr.] 23. Went down to Father Ellis' in P.M. Arch. Ellis & wife were there.

[Apr.] 24. Drew out manure. Had company to tea. Arch. Ellis, wife & daughter, Aunt Lydia & Darius.

[Apr.] 25. Drew out manure. We have drawn out 83 loads. There are about 6 more loads.

[Apr.] 26. Sowed the West orchard to oats.

[Apr.] 27. Sowed grass seed & rolled the orchard A.M. & set out 31 grafted apple trees of 1 yrs. growth, which I got of Fred. Set out 1 row current bushes also. In P.M. drew 5 loads stone off piece W. of orchard & moved a fence, 8 loads of rails.

[Apr.] 28. Boy plowed E. orchard & I laid up fence.

April 1985

[Apr.] 29. Rainy, went to village P.M. My hired boy's time is out to day. Delia went down home Wed. & came home today. I can see that the baby has changed some in that short time.

[Apr.] 30. Last day of April. Cool, cattle can get their living quite well. The spring is forward.

May 1. Fin. plowing E. orchard & sowed it to Barley. Harrowed it twice & sowed grass seed.

[May] 2. Delia & I went to village A.M. & did some trading. Bot 20 yds. light cotton cloth sheeting for \$.25 per yd.

[May] 3. Made garden A.M. Plowed in P.M.

[May] 4. Plowed A.M., & planted potatoes P.M.

[May] 5. Plowed till 3 P.M. when brother Chas. came home unexpectedly from Mich. He took the pony & went after his wife & trunks at the village depot.

[May] 6. Dressed a veal in A.M. & carried 3 quarters & hide to village which sold for 5.25. Made my report to the Assesor of Internal Revenue. Rained all P.M.

[May] 7. Father & Mother go up to meeting in P.M. Rest of us at home all day. Had a long sing with Charles & wife.

[May] 8. Carried up 16 bu. potatoes & sold them for .45 & .50.

[May] 9. Plowed an acre of old ground.

[May] 10. Plowed, drew out manure.

[May] 11. Rainy. Fixed my wheat for sowing & plowed a little.

[May] 12. Plowed green sward so. of new barn.

[May] 13. Sowed our wheat only 2 1/2 acres & planted about 1/2 acre of corn.

[May] 14. Sun. Rainy all remained at home.

[May] 15. Sowed grass seed. Harrowed it in. Plowed greesward fin. my plowing.

[May] 16. Went to village to mill &c. Made garden out by barn for beets, squash, sweet & pop corn mellons, etc.

[May] 17. A heavy rain.

[May] 18. Spread manure & harrowed 1 1/2 acres for planting.

[May] 19. Planted 1 1/2 acres of corn & a few rows of potatoes.

[May] 20. Planted about 1 acre of corn & potatoes, which finishes our Plowing & Spring's work except 1/2 acre of wet land to sow to oats. Father & Mother go out to Fredericks. Father is 75 today. His health is poor, but he is able to ride & walk to the nearest neighbors.

[May] 21. Sun. Very pleasant, but the musketoes are very thick & troublesome, apple trees are in blossom, Chas. & wife, Delia & I had a good sing.

[May] 22. Delia, baby & I went down home. Geo. Eastman & I cut & dug up

green sods & carried them to the grave yard & formed a grassy mound over Mother Ellis' grave.

[May] 23. Charles cleaned out the cellar & I went to village a foot. Rode home with Jo. Bird. Father & Mother came home from Frederick's via of Mr. Olmstead's on Canton road. Father was all tired out & looked bad.

[May] 24. Charles & I commenced to repair the damage done to the framed sheds by the wind last April.

[May] 25. We got the sheds back to their old places, all ready to shingle the roof that fell.

[May] 26. Shingled in A.M. Went with Delia & baby over to Wayland's in P.M.

[May] 27. Delia went to village in A.M. & did some trading. I bot a milk can with name & wood bottom for 7.00. also bot Mother a black codery dress for \$5.70 &c.

[May] 28. Cool weather for the past few days, but no frost. Chas. & wife went out to Frederick's.

[May] 29. Worked on shed at old Barn.

[May] 30. Shingled a part of Horse barn on west side.

[May] 31. Worked on road.

June 1. Worked on road.

[June] 2. Same in A.M. in P.M. went to village & got a thousand shingle.

[June] 3. Sowed a piece of wet ground in old meadow to oats & harrowed it in. Very warm & dry.

[June] 4. Sun. Pleasant, warm day. Have had no rain for 2 weeks. Kirby Smith the last of the Southern Generals has surrendered, so the war is closed. Chas. & wife went to village to meeting. Had a fine shower in evening. So I will not have to go to the river in the morning after soft water.

[June] 5. Commenced our hoing.

[June] 6. Cultivated out & hoed corn, which has got a good start & looks well. The cut worms do not disturb it much.

[June] 7. Alden came home yesterday on his way to Jeff. Co. to attend the annual conference.

[June] 8. Carried Alden to village in A.M. Hoed corn in P.M.

[June] 9. Hoed corn, good weather for hoing, warm & dry.

[June] 10. Sat. It rained a little last night & part of the time today. A slow valuable rain. Our Jenny mare has a smart little horse colt, 2 da. old.

June 11. Mother & I went down to Mrs. Rebecca Morgan's funeral. Mr. Francis — a spiritualist preached — a lovely & beautiful June Sabbath. All vegetation has got a heavy growth for this time of year.

[June] 12. Finished hoing for first time.

[June] 13. Hoed & wed out gardens. I went to village. Alden came home with me. Heard Mr. Fields — a Westlian

Methodist preach in eve. at E. sch. house.

[June] 14. Washed & painted the covered carriage. Delia & I went straw burying down in our old meadow. The berries are much thicker than usual.

[June] 15. Charlie & wife & Delia & I went down in the old meadow & picked strawberries in the morning. Varnished the carriage in P.M. Bertha is 4 mo. old to-day. She is getting to be quite a plaything. It is not so much work to take care of her as it was. She sleeps better.

[June] 16. Delia, baby & I went over to Nathan Shaws & made a visit & returned to Father Ellis' to tea & staid to meeting at sch. house. Alden preached. He has improved since I last heard him — last winter.

[June] 17. Went up to village to mill & got home at 10 o'clock. Found Frederick & girls here. It is a very hot day. It is quite dry. The brooks are about dry. Chas. & wife went home with Frederick's folks to stay a while & make the little girls some dresses & c.

[June] 18. Alden & Chas. go down to No. Potsdam to meeting. It is very hot. 96° in shade. Alden preached at 7 o'clock. at E. sch. House — a good number present.

[June] 19. Commenced hoeing the second time. Alden returned to Dickenson. Very warm. Had a little shower. I painted the old buggy over.

[June] 20. Rained some in A.M. I set out a few cabbages. Hoed & cultivated out corn in P.M.

[June] 21 & 22. Hoed & went strawberrying 1 1/2 hrs. in old meadow.

[June] 23. Delia & I took Bertha up & had her likeness taken. Charles & I picked 10 qts. of strawberries with stems in little over 2 hrs. Charles dries his in sugar to carry home.

[June] 24. Rained a little in A.M. Hoed corn in P.M.

[June] 25. Delia & I went up to meeting in A.M. leaving baby at home in Sarah's [Hughes] care. Frederick brot Charles' wife home.

[June] 26. Took a tub of butter down to N. Potsdam & sold it for \$.27. Delia went down & made a call at A. Gates. Hoed potatoes till it began to rain 3 o'clock. P.M.

[June] 27. Fin. hoeing & went strawberrying. We have picked over a bu. this season.

[June] 28. Took a small load of lumber to the village to get a cistern made. Bot couple of rakes & a scythe.

[June] 29. Commenced haying & cutting a piece of western clover. Old Dr. French & his new wife called in P.M.

[June] 30. My back is so lame, that I did not work today, but went to the village after the mail. Chas. mowed. Darius Ellis came home from a journey

out west.

[July 1. Sat. I spread out the hay Charles mowed yesterday & we raked & cocked it up in P.M. It takes clover a long time to dry. Delia went down home, drew the baby in her cart.

[July] 2. Went down after Delia in P.M.

[July] 3. Hayed. Drew in 2 loads.

[July] 4. There is no celebration in our town to day, but at Brasher & Ogd. We remained at home all day. Chas. & wife went up to village & had some Ice cream &c. Several couple of young folks in Ellis neighborhood went down to Massena for a ride. Sarah Hughes went with Chas. Barton. We mowed a couple of hours in A.M. & raked it up just night. It has been a splendid day for the Fourth — clear & cool. Father Ellis, Aunt Lydia, Carlos & wife called in P.M.

[July] 5. Hayed. drew in 2 loads. Ira is 28 to day.

[July] 6. Hayed. drew in 2 loads. Aunt Mary & daughter here in P.M

[July] 7. Poor hay day, mowed North of road. Very heavy. New stock.

[July] 8. Drew in 3 loads of hay & cocked up 62 cocks.

[July] 10. Drew in 3 loads & cocked up 47 cocks N. of road. The grass is heavy on new stocked ground.

[July] 11. I went to village in A.M. to mill & got the horses shod &c. drew in 2 large loads of hay.

[July] 12. Poor hay day. got in one load. It rained P.M.

[July] 13. We attended a Picnic in Father Ellis' sugar lot got up by the Currier family. There were 70 of the Currier connection present & about 100 others. Each family carried provision for the table, which was well & richly loaded.

[July] 14. Mowed in A.M. Poor hay day.

[July] 15. Got in 5 loads hay P.M. which makes 11 large loads of clover & timothy hay off from the west lot N. of road on 4 3/4 acres, equal I think to 10 ton of hay. Bertha is 5 mo. old today. She is healthy & weighs 16 lbs.

[July] 16. Rained nearly all day slowly.

[July] 17. Commenced haying in old meadow.

[July] 18. Got in 3 loads hay. The grass is lighter than usual in old meadow.

[July] 19. Mowed on brook got in 2 loads.

[July] 20. Mowed but did not get in any hay.

[July] 21. Rained last night & this morning. I went to village with Delia. Had a letter from Ira & Elizabeth. Ira writes that they had a son born to them of the 14 of July & that he is smart & doing well. Drew in 2 loads of hay.

[July] 22. Mowed the piece beyond

the brook 1 1/2 acres & got in 2 loads.

[July] 23. Attended meeting at E. Sch. House. Eld. Fields preached.

[July] 24. Mowed over an acre & got only a load. Our old meadow has been mowed over 40 yrs. & no manure put onto the wet portion & it is running out. I shall return it into pasture.

[July] 25. Finished mowing & should have finished haying if the weather had permitted.

[July] 26. Dug & carried to the village & sold 5 bu. new potatoes for \$1. per bu. Bot a barrel of salt in exchange for 3\$ that was exchanging a bbl. of potatoes for a bbl. of salt — easily paid.

[July] 27. Carried 10 bu. new potatoes to village & sold them for 8\$ could not get a dollar for all of them per bu. Finished haying in P.M. We have had 30 loads of hay this year about our usual amount. Got in a load of barley cut last Monday.

[July] 28. Got in a small load of barley in morning, then we went down to Father Ellis & drew in 3 loads of hay & in P.M. cut & bound about an acre of oats. Geo. Eastman is sick so that Darius needs help to get in his hay. He has to cut enough for 3 horses & 2 cows.

[July] 29. It rained finely this A.M. Delia, baby & I went out to Frederick's got there just dinner time. In P.M. we went up to Walter Hows. I came back to Frederick's in evening & staid all night.

[July] 30. Sun. Heard Mr. Parker, M.E. Methodist, preach. They have a sabbath day. Cool. Clear & bright.

[July] 31. I cradled the oats in W. orchard, then went down & helped Darius draw in 2 loads of hay & finish out a stack over back on a Island in the brook.

Aug. 1. Helped Darius hay all day.

[Aug.] 2. Helped Darius till a small shower put a stop to our work.

[Aug.] 3. Drew in our oats, 2 loads. went to village in P.M.

[Aug.] 4. I took the covering off from the old cistern in A.M. & Charles & I commenced digging it deeper to put in a new wood cistern. Had company in P.M. Mrs. Shaler Lewis & Mrs. Frank Ellis & baby.

[Aug.] 5. Charles & I went up to village in A.M. with double waggon & got our cistern. We rolled it up on top of the waggon box on plank & rode home in the top of it in the shade — a very hot & dry day. dug in the cistern in P.M. Frederick came out & got 2 pigs of me. I have sold 4 for 8 dollars, enough to pay for making the cistern. I have 2 pigs left for my own keeping.

[Aug.] 6. Sunday. We are now having hot, dry, sultry weather. The corn leaves roll up & the grass hoppers are eating our garden vegetables up, everything that come[s] in their way in the

shape of green leaves, They are eating the leaves off my new apple trees, onion tops, carrots, beets, turnip tops all have to suffer. Charles & wife went down to N. Potsdam to meeting. Bertha has got so that she sits alone. She is most 6 months old.



About the Author

Doris Parker, a Potsdam native, now resides in Hagerstown, Maryland. Henry Sweet Allen was her grandmother's first husband.

CAN YOU HELP?

The St. Lawrence County Historical Association has received a grant from the New York State Council on the Arts to research and plan in 1985 an exhibit on the county's various agricultural expositions from about 1850 to about 1930. Fairs were held in Potsdam, Oswegatchie (Ogdensburg), Hammond, Gouverneur and Canton. The SLCHA is seeking to locate all kinds of materials relating to these fairs, including written records, to establish an accurate history of the agricultural expositions held in this county. If you have or know of any written records (for example, letters or diaries detailing visits to a fair as well as any official minute books or other records) or artifacts, including prize-winning items, connected with any of the fairs, please contact John Baule or Judith B. Ranlett at the SLCHA in Canton. Please help us!

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

War of Words: Border News- papers and the Canadian Rebellions of 1837, 1838

by Arthur L. Johnson

Once again, in the years 1837 and 1838, the presence of the international border between the United States and Canada shaped events in St. Lawrence County. This article details how newspapers on both sides of the border entered the fray and played a role in the dramatic events of the Patriot War.

When politicians speak of the northern border of our country they usually fall into platitudes about the "longest undefended border in the world" and the neighborly (neighbourly) relationship of Americans and Canadians. Canadians are more likely to be aware that it was not always so. Until 1871 British troops watched the long frontier lest the Yankees try to realize by force of arms what many believed was part of the "manifest destiny" of the republic. Between the War of 1812 and 1871 the border was indeed defended and occasional incidents threatened to turn the long "cold war" into a hot one. One such incident involved Ogdensburg and Prescott and was part of what was called the "Patriot War".

In the autumn of 1837 pent-up discontent of some Canadians with their oligarchic provincial governments in Quebec (Lower Canada) and Ontario (Upper Canada) burst into violent rebellions. British troops marched out of Montreal as they had from Boston in April 1775, only this time they were successful. Rebellion around Montreal and at Toronto was quickly suppressed. Refugees from these abortive risings fled to New York and Vermont and there plotted to return and conquer.

Americans along the border watched with interest and sympathy. They misread the Canadian revolts against local elites as a final chapter in the American Revolution, which would see Canada enter the American union as two states. Ogdensburg's newspaper, the *St. Lawrence Republican*, (a Democratic paper that used the old party



H.F. Ainsley's April 1839 sketch of the Prescott Windmill and surrounding buildings. (Picture courtesy of the St. Lawrence County Historical Association Archives)

name) cheered on the rebels. A letter to the editor on December 5 exulted in the Canadian revolution:

Hallelujah. The people are coming! Man will no longer bite the dust at the feet of morose military despots. We must assist the Canadians. They are many of them blood of our blood-flesh of our flesh.

A further incentive was offered:

The Canadians offer 500 acres of land and good pay to all volunteers. The risk is nothing but the advantages are enticing.

It was signed "a descendant of one who fought at Bennington and Saratoga." The editor shared the hope that Americans would help:

Strike but once for freedom and thousands of patriot hearts will respond to the reveille in the camp of liberty and 'long for the trumpet's clangor and the cannon's roar.'

The *Republican* noted with pleasure the pro-rebel sympathies of St. Lawrence County as attested by the number of meetings and rallies to drum up support. This was depression time in the United States and many were out of work and looking for adventure and perhaps gain. Stories like the December 19 account of a "reign of terror" in Brockville, complete with beatings of prisoners by soldiers, kept border passions inflamed.

Some "tory" Canadian must have threatened the editor and he replied:

We have been rebuked of late for the freedom with which we expressed our liberal opinions in relation to the contest in the Canadas. Indeed, some sprigs of royalty in Prescott have gone so far as to threaten us with a 'flogging' should we set foot upon the opposite shore of the St. Lawrence.

The editor would not, of course, bend to that kind of pressure. In fact it gave him the occasion for this exemplary

piece of contemporary journalistic flourish:

The artificial terrors which crowned heads use to keep their subjects in awe, look impotent to us, whether displayed by an 'army with banners' or in the less imposing form of a verbal threat of annihilation! (How the threat has grown) We shall therefore continue to speak our sentiments, and to encourage the heart of the patriot to press forward till his wrongs shall be redressed and his rights respected. The oppressed of every nation are beginning to think for themselves, and to read in the passing events the dawn of that era predicted by the poet when:

'Prone to the dust oppression
shall be hurled,
Her name, her nature withered
from the world.'

On December 26 the editor referred to the repression by royal soldiers and militia as "coldblooded, cowardly butchery" and said that "The best men in the provinces have been driven from their homes and a price set upon their heads."

The Canadian press replied predictably, the few rebel papers having been suppressed. The *Upper Canada Herald* of Kingston, found on January 9, 1838, "The fever of infatuation and frenzy in the States in favor of the Canadian rebels has abated since they discovered that it is not so easy to obtain the plunder of Canada as they had been led to expect." The American aid to the rebels (volunteers and collections of ammunition) was "the most disgraceful of any that have occurred in their history."

The ideological theme was prevalent on both sides, with American papers deploring the "monarchical despotism" presumed to prevail in the Canadas and Canadian papers denouncing republican tyranny and violence. Out-

rageous to the Kingston editor was the thought

that we shall not be allowed the privilege or right of managing our own affairs as we think best; but that whenever a set of knaves or madmen among us think proper to raise a disturbance under the name of liberty, a mob of brigands from the States shall rush in to aid them in their thievish and murderous designs.

Many restless young Americans joined associations called the "Hunters' Lodges" to assist the rebels, although the national and state authorities implored them to observe strict neutrality. After all, it was one thing for local editors to fantasize about trouncing the "rascals" over the border but quite another for President Martin Van Buren, with a tiny army and navy, to contemplate war with Britain. Canada might have less than one tenth of the American population, but it was the North American part of the world's greatest empire.

To the Kingston editor all Americans were Hunters:

Hereafter we shall know how to value the professions of friendship which the Americans have been in the habit of making towards us. Those professions were made because it then suited their interest to make them, but the moment they conceive the case to be altered they are ready to join our expelled brigands in attempts to rob and enslave us. Truly republicans are tyrants at heart.

The Ontario rebel, William Lyon Mackenzie, recruited Americans and gathered an army around his republic-in-exile at Navy Island, a bit of Canadian soil in the Niagara River. On the night of December 29, a British raiding party rowed across to the New York shore and destroyed the American steamboat *Caroline*, which had been supplying the rebels. This daring raid provoked a furious fusillade from the American press which exaggerated reports of deaths (there was one) and appealed to international legalities, which showed a fine indifference to the illegal activities of the steamboat.

The *Caroline* furor died away for a time and the *St. Lawrence Republican* returned its editorial attention to excoriating the Whigs. Exiles and Hunters continued to plot, and several attempts to cross into Canada and revive the rebellion came to grief that year. Ogdensburg was the point of departure for one of the last of these abortive filibusters. On November 11 a force of would-be liberators seized control of the steamboat *United States*, downbound on its regular run from Niagara to Ogdensburg. They towed

two schooners full of men and weapons through the Thousand Islands and about 200 men led by a Polish soldier of fortune named Von Schoultz landed and established a beachhead at Windmill Point, east of Fort Wellington, Prescott, Ontario. The windmill, which became their headquarters, is still visible from the international bridge, looking upriver, a white structure like a lighthouse with red trim.

The invaders were disappointed. Instead of a populace flocking to their standard, they found themselves surrounded by the Canadian militia and the gunboats of the Provincial Marine. They were in for a bad time.

"WAR IN OUR MIDST" shrieked the *Republican* on November 13, and wondered where now were the bloodthirsty Tories of yesterday on the Canadian side. They were not long in finding out. Most Canadians had no taste for revolution. Moreover the United States was determined to enforce neutrality. A detachment of federal troops arrived promptly from Sackets Harbor to seal off the border. After a few days of hopeless fighting the surviving "patriots" surrendered and were carted off to jail in Fort Henry.

At last the border press realized the truth. The Canadians wanted to remain British. The invaders had been misled and deluded. Who was to blame? The *Republican* knew. It was the Whigs of course. Wicked Whig leaders had seduced the youth of Northern New York into this wild scheme and then abandoned them to their fate.

The Canadian press was bitter, calling for bloody repression against the "thousands of unprincipled persons leagued together and bound by a solemn oath to attempt the subjugation of their province." The Prescott *Sentinel* called the invaders pirates "sworn to impose upon us a republican government." Never mind that this was hardly the traditional goal of pirates. The Prescott editor was typical in finding the root of the problem in the faulty American institutions:

Here is the true picture of the effects which republican institutions have upon the minds and conduct of its members. We would ask any candid, unbiased person how long can a government (if such it can be called) composed of such materials exist? What can the thinking and intelligent portion of the American community say now? Would not the shade of their Washington arise and with a look that can be better imagined than described, tell them in a voice that would reach through the remotest wilds of America that the republic he had labored to establish upon the true principles

of civil and religious liberty and which would be a model for the world, had greatly degenerated and was fast hastening to decay; that error upon error and one corruption after another had crept in among them until, like the ancient republics of Greece and Rome, they are about to be involved in one general scene of ruin and devastation and that instead of attempting to remodel other governments, each member of the Union should strive to correct his own. (Nov. 24, 1838)

The *Sentinel*, on November 27, noted that Americans on the Ogdensburg shore had cheered the invaders on. All their professions of friendship were dismissed as "but idle tales, which their every act has shown, and were only held out to lull us into security."

The Patriot War fizzled out after this and the border was quiet until the Irish Nationalist Fenian Brotherhood incursions in 1866. British troops guarded the border until 1871 after the Treaty of Washington had removed most points of contention between Britain and the United States. The United States gradually reconciled itself to the permanent separate existence of Canada. A hundred and two years after the Battle of the Windmill, the leaders of Canada and the United States, over dinner in a railroad car on a siding in Heuvelton, having decided that, for defensive purposes, the continent was one, formed a military alliance that has remained.

The hatred and violence of the Anglo-American "cold war" and the border scuffles it engendered seem a very long time ago. A brief detour between Ogdensburg and Prescott will take you to the Windmill with its plaque dedicated to the defending Canadian militiamen. You can watch a ship breasting the slow current and feel the throb of its diesels. In the silence as the diesels fade away, in your mind perhaps you can hear the shots and the shouts which were echoed in the newspapers of New York and Canada almost 150 years ago. Canadians rejected American domination then as they had before in 1775 and 1812 and would again. With what success? Back in your car, if you have a child with you, when you turn the key you will be reminded that, even though on foreign soil, you have not left the WPAC listening area.



About the Author

Arthur L. Johnson is a member of the History Department of Potsdam College.

The Sylvan Falls Area

by Emma Remington

In October 1984, members of the St. Lawrence County Historical Association and their guests went on a hayride which began on the Maine Farm in Hopkinton and ended at Sylvan Falls, passing the site of the Sylvan Falls Hotel. Emma Remington, whose grandparents George and Emma Magill lived on the Maine farm in the mid-1890s, provided tour notes and old postcards so that past and present views might be contrasted.



When the Sylvan Falls Hotel was a popular summer resort, the fishing, seclusion, and Adirondack scenery made it ideal for "tired business men." The hotel was built about 1893 by Harvey Toll for Lewis and Dyke of Hopkinton, who ran it till succeeded by Mr. Johnson. He was followed by Abe Harper, who was a genial host, and the hotel's success was largely due to the fine meals prepared by Mrs. Harper, a marvelous cook. The hotel remained open through the hunting season. Later, the property was used by H.W. Downey to house lumberjacks and their families during logging operations. Then Adam Mearkley ran the hotel for about a year and a half, followed by George Defoy for two or three years. Mrs. Mearkley prepared splendid meals, as did Mrs. Defoy, but the hotel began to decline. State roads, camp sites, and motor cars, as well as the impact of the depression which began in 1929, contributed to the abandonment of the Sylvan Falls Hotel. It closed about 1929. The hotel was dismantled, and truckloads of its salvaged lumber passed through the village of Parishville in October, 1931. (Picture courtesy of Emma Remington)

Harper's Dam on the St. Regis River. The Maine Farm was once owned by John (Jack) Harper, who also owned and operated a sawmill located near the house on the St. Regis River. Other members of the Harper family lived nearby, including Abe, host of the Sylvan Falls Hotel, and Patrick, father of Jack, Abe and Milo Harper. (Picture courtesy of Emma Remington)





Sylvan Falls as it appeared on a 1910 postcard. (Picture courtesy of Emma Remington)

About the Author

Emma Remington, Parishville Town Historian, was born at the home of her grandparents, George and Emma Magill, on the Sylvan Falls Road near Squires Bridge. With her parents, she visited her grandparents at this farm frequently, and she grew to know the Sylvan Falls area well.

LOCAL HISTORIANS — 1985

TOWN

BRASHER: Grace O'Brien, Box 15, Brasher Falls, N.Y. 13613
CANTON: Harriet Armstrong, Municipal Bldg., Canton, N.Y. 13617
CLARE: Claudia Giffin, Rt. 1, Box 226, Russell, N.Y. 13684
CLIFTON: Jeanne Reynolds, Cranberry Lake, N.Y. 12927
COLTON: Lillian Cassell, c/o Town Hall, Colton, N.Y. 13625
DEKALB: Virginia Fischer, Box 37, School Street, DeKalb Jct., N.Y. 13630
DEPEYSTER: Mrs. Budd Bracy, RD 1, Heuvelton, N.Y. 13654
EDWARDS: Edith Duffy, c/o Town Hall, Edwards, N.Y. 13635
FINE: Julia Giffin, Oswegatchie, N.Y. 13670
FOWLER: Connie Bishop, RD #3, Gouverneur, N.Y. 13642
GOVERNEUR: Eugenia Huntress, 26 John Street, Gouverneur, N.Y. 13642
HAMMOND: Valera Bickelhaupt, RFD #1, Hammond, N.Y. 13646
HERMON: Mary H. Smallman, Box 171 B, RFD 1, Hermon, N.Y. 13652
HOPKINTON: Sarah Powers, Box 425, Hopkinton, N.Y. 12940 **DEPUTY:** Lawrence Powers, Hopkinton, N.Y. 12940
LAWRENCE: Elizabeth Winn, Box 15, No. Lawrence, N.Y. 12967 **DEPUTY:** Helen Hazen, No. Lawrence, N.Y. 12967
LISBON: Terry Fischer, Rt. 2, Lisbon, N.Y. 13658
LOUISVILLE: Patricia Shirley, Star Rte., Massena, N.Y. 13662
MACOMB: Julia Kittle, RFD #1, Box 300, Hammond, N.Y. 13646
MADRID: Marian Bouchard, Bridge Street, Madrid, N.Y. 13660
MASSENA: Eleanor Dumas, 200 E. Orvis, Massena, N.Y. 13662
MORRISTOWN: Lorraine Bogardus, RD #2, River Road, Ogdensburg, N.Y. 13669 **DEPUTY:** Ella Mae Phillips, Rt. 1, Hammond, N.Y. 13646
NORFOLK: Leon Burnap, RFD 1, Norfolk, N.Y. 13667 **DEPUTY:** Louise Bixby, RFD, Norfolk, N.Y. 13667

OSWEGATCHIE: Persis Y. Boyesen, RFD #3, Ogdensburg, N.Y. 13669
PARISHVILLE: Emma Remington, c/o Parishville Historical Assn. Museum, Main Street, Parishville, N.Y. 13672
PIERCEFIELD: William Wilkins, Childwold, N.Y. 12922
PIERREPONT: Betty Newton, RFD, Potsdam, N.Y. 13676
PITCAIRN: Pamela Conlin, RD #2, Harrisville, N.Y. 13648
POTSDAM: Susan Lyman, 38 Prospect Street, Norwood, N.Y. 13668
ROSSIE: Elwood Simons, Rossie, N.Y. 13646
RUSSELL: Betty Hull, RFD #1, Hermon, N.Y. 13652
STOCKHOLM: Mildred Jenkins, Rte. 2, Potsdam, N.Y. 13676
WADDINGTON: Mary-Carmen Earle, Town Hall, Waddington, N.Y. 13694

VILLAGE

CANTON: Harriet Armstrong (see above)
GOVERNEUR: Nelson B. Winters, Box 48, Gouverneur, N.Y. 13642
HAMMOND: Valera Bickelhaupt (see above)
HERMON: C. Walter Smallman, RFD 1, Box 171 B, Hermon, N.Y. 13652
HEUVELTON: Persis Y. Boyesen (see above)
MASSENA: Eleanor Dumas (see above)
MORRISTOWN: Lorraine Bogardus (see above)
NORWOOD: Susan Lyman (see above)
POTSDAM: Kay Wyant, Potsdam Civic Center Museum, Potsdam, N.Y. 13676
RENSSELAER FALLS: Dorothy Crane, Rensselaer Falls, N.Y. 13680
RICHVILLE: Helen Reed, Box J, Richville, N.Y. 13681

CITY

OGDENSBURG: Elizabeth Baxter, 814 Jay Street, Ogdensburg, N.Y. 13669 **DEPUTY:** Frederick Erwin, 732 Morris Street, Ogdensburg, N.Y. 13669

COUNTY

ST. LAWRENCE COUNTY: John Baule, Director, St. Lawrence County Historical Association, 3 East Main Street, Canton, N.Y. 13617

SLCHA Annual Reports 1984

by John Baule

Amid the daily regimen of scheduling special events, answering research questions, watching food being lovingly prepared for a gourmet dinner, and frantically trying to finish the last section of a temporary exhibition only hours before the time of opening, it is very easy to lose sight of what the St. Lawrence County Historical Association exists for. Now thirty-seven years old, the Association is still a relative newcomer in the world of local history organizations; but even in that short time, it has certainly made considerable progress in attempting to fulfill its original purpose — the preservation and promotion of St. Lawrence County history. This growth continued to be evident in 1984 as the Association once again sponsored a wide range of programs and activities designed to make certain the county's heritage is preserved.

As the physical headquarters of the Association, the St. Lawrence County Museum in the Silas Wright House hosted a wide range of events. The temporary exhibition program in particular has several especially strong offerings. In April "Your Country Calls" — an interpretive look at the artifacts that showed St. Lawrence County's involvement in the nation's wars, opened. Along with the usual weapons and uniforms that many county residents retained as souvenirs, the exhibition also included medical tools used during the Civil War, rare pictures of the 1940 peacetime maneuvers in St. Lawrence County, and even a musical lament composed by a local draft resister in 1863. This exhibition was followed by "St. Lawrence County Collects," which provided local residents with an opportunity to loan personal collections for others to view and begin to understand the nature of collecting as a local and national pastime. "Hart/Ogdensburgh: An Exhibition of Decorated Stoneware Made in Ogdensburgh, N.Y. 1850-79" was the most ambitious offering of the year. Made possible by a grant from the New York State Council on the Arts, the exhibition featured over 70 pieces of the highly decorated stoneware loaned by collectors as far away as Ohio, Michigan, and New Jersey, and was accompanied by an illustrated catalog. By presenting and promoting research into a hitherto little explored facet of St. Lawrence County history, "Hart/Ogdensburgh" is an excellent example of the type of project the



The restoration of the main entranceway of the Silas Wright House to the period 1830-1850 was made possible by donations in memory of Edward Blankman. (Photograph courtesy of the St. Lawrence County Historical Association Archives)

Association is now able to accomplish successfully. The year closed with an interesting juxtaposition of Christmas gift advertisements found in area newspapers between 1880 and 1925, and actual samples of the items advertised. Displayed in re-created shop windows, the objects reminded visitors that the commercial aspects of the holiday season have certainly been present in St. Lawrence County for some time.

Such exhibitions are, however, only one responsibility of the Association. Equal attention was given in 1984 to programs or lectures that either at-

tracted people to the county museum or were held at various locations outside of Canton. The Christmas activities, including the ever-popular candlelight reception, the cream tea, the children's play, and the readers' theater production, offered opportunities for all ages. Likewise, the in-house display of military artifacts owned by a private collector, lecture/tours prepared for students in local public and private schools as well as universities; and the 1984 bus tours to Providence/Newport, Rhode Island; Ottawa; Syracuse Stage; Skaneateles, and Vermont all were part

of the past year's program schedule. In addition to these customary projects, however, the Association inaugurated more extensive outreach programming, beginning with a well-attended lecture on the area's Amish settlement, researched and presented by Dr. Dean Jeanblanc in Norwood. This success was followed by an ethnic history series, which was comprised of multifaceted programs of the traditions, poetry, music, and dance brought by Irish and Scottish immigrants to the county. These programs were held in cooperation with the local historians in Canton, Hammond, and Waddington, and were among the most popular ever sponsored by the Association. Finally, an antique car rally through the towns of Lisbon and Waddington was blessed with ideal summer weather, and a family hayride/picnic to Sylvan Falls in Hopkinton was a truly golden opportunity to experience the area's fall foliage in a historic manner.

All of these exhibitions and programs have been made possible by volunteers under the able direction of Richard Rummel, Association programs coordinator since February 1983. Rich's enthusiasm and dedication in trying to strengthen the Association has made him a well-known figure among members and friends, as well as brought increased depth to these offerings. During the past year he has also moved the Association forward in its longstanding quest to provide better interpretive materials on local history for area teachers. Working with Andrea Bellinger, former Jefferson County Historical Society museum educator and now an Ogdensburg resident, a pilot issue of *The County Chronicler*, a local history newspaper full of area history, related state and national stories, and activity exercises, was launched in December for use by elementary school students throughout the county. Four issues per school year will be prepared and distributed by Andrea and Rich, and the costs underwritten by subscription fees and support from St. Lawrence-Lewis BOCES. Now being field tested by selected area teachers and students, the *Chronicler* is an exciting project precisely because it will begin to fulfill the Association's desire to help local teachers promote and interpret local history to future generations.

In a similar fashion, *The Quarterly* continues to interpret local history to adult readers. During 1984, Varick Chittenden, editor since 1977, reluctantly decided it was time to move on to other pursuits. His work has been exemplary and *The Quarterly* achieved new excellence under his guidance. Fortunately, Judith B. Ranlett of Potsdam offered to take over the task begin-

ning with the July 1984 edition. Already she has proved her capability with three excellent issues and the Association is exceedingly grateful for her volunteer assistance.

One of the most visible accomplishments of the past year was the restoration of the main entranceway in the period room section of the county museum. Made possible by donations in memory of Edward Blankman, the woodwork was painted oxblood, a wall-paper border installed, and a painted canvas floorcloth commissioned. The result is spectacular, appropriate to the period 1830-1850, and a fitting tribute to tireless efforts of Ed Blankman on behalf of the Association. Also highly visible, the repainting of the Silas Wright House exterior combined the volunteer efforts of the Canton High School soccer team and veteran painter Greg Howe. Other physical improvements to the Association's real estate have been undertaken primarily to improve collection care. The remodeling of the second floor of the archives building into suitable furniture storage and collection processing areas was largely completed during the year — as was the construction of permanent cases to better protect items on exhibition on the second floor of the county museum.

Collection care and growth remains a primary concern of the Association. Once again many residents saw fit to entrust their heirlooms to the permanent care of this organization. Such items as St. Lawrence County archival material, quilts, clothing, an unusual hair wreath made c. 1875-85 by Sarah Ann Spouls of Lisbon, an Empire secretary from DePeyster, a late 19th century three piece bedroom suite, a set of 6 cane-bottomed chairs originally the property of Silas Wright's nephew, early area school records, a c. 1850 wooden loom, a Huff-Daland Airplane Company of Ogdensburg baseball team uniform, and an 1850 hand-drawn map of Ogdensburg are among the many items acquired during 1984. Generous gifts are crucial to the Association as it continues to preserve and interpret local history.

The processing of this material is a major task in order that each item is properly identified as to original use and donor as well as stored carefully when not on exhibit. Fortunately, volunteer Dot Mackey, who recently was joined by Mickey Williams, has assumed this responsibility in addition to Association staff efforts. The reorganization of the primary and secondary archival material in the Association archives likewise received a tremendous boost when Thelma O'Neil joined the staff in October under the auspices of the local office of the National Council

on Aging. Thelma has been of great help in ensuring that all the valuable photographs, books, and papers are placed in acid-free storage materials to prevent the further ravages of time. These materials are being consulted more and more frequently by students, genealogists, Association staff, and special subject researchers, all of whom recognize the unique value of the material and its paramount need for appropriate preservation.

All of the above efforts of the Association during the past year have continued to draw upon the willing services of countless volunteers. Fund raising dinners and programs, furniture repair, and even the bulk mailing of *The Quarterly* and newsletters would clearly have been impossible without such support. Some of these people have already been recognized, and it is difficult in this report to list every individual whose efforts are nevertheless appreciated, but several groups deserve special note. The town and village historians continue to respond to queries for added information and serve as willing liaisons in most parts of the county. Members of the Board of Trustees under the leadership of Ruth Blankman Barbour remained committed to the growth of the organization and continued to work hard to develop both policies and financial support that will enable the Association to have a strong future. Finally, the Association support staff continues to be dedicated in the best sense of the word. Vivienne Conjura, Association Administrative Assistant since 1979, retired in May and moved to North Carolina. Her loss was deeply felt, but once again the Association was extremely fortunate to find Janet McFarland and Jane Wilken, who now share the full-time position and also give more time, energy, and expertise than their financial compensation is able to address. Rich Rummel continues to be creative, adaptable, hard-working, and exhibits the sense of humor essential to making the day-to-day affairs run smoothly.

Financially the Association has managed to hold its own and meet the costs of the programs outlined above. The stable operating support provided by the St. Lawrence County Board of Legislators, the Village of Canton, over 1100 members, the federal Institute of Museum Services, friends, business and industry, in addition to special project assistance from the New York State Council on the Arts, is deeply appreciated. Furthermore, volunteers have made the task of fund-raising more enjoyable by combining it with entertaining events. The Special Events committee under the leadership of Ruth McKean and Betty Coots labored diligently by sponsoring monthly can-

dleight dinners, a fall luncheon, and a very successful antique fair/lawn sale in September. An ice cream social in Massena at the Festival of North Country Folklife and profits from the bus tours also added dollars to the Association coffers. The most spectacular offering of the year, however, was the Roaring Twenties theme party in late October. Featuring a raffle, a jazz band, a floor show without parallel, 1920s decorations and clothes, and "gambling," the speakeasy was a smash hit—earning praise and over \$2500 in profits.

Nevertheless, even though our finances are relatively stable, the Association must continue to be ever-vigilant about its financial future. With a very limited endowment base, the Association is exceedingly vulnerable to downturns in the local economy and the bracing competition from other charitable entities. Looking ahead to 1985, it is precisely this weak endowment base that must be strengthened in the coming months through, it is hoped, a combination of outright gifts, grants, and deferred giving. Although hardly glamorous, such expanded income will allow the Association to do a more adequate job of assisting teachers with local history materials, improving the quality of collection care, and reaching out throughout the county with better programs and activities. We cannot afford to rest on the status quo, and the challenges of establishing better service are formidable, but with the same type of commitment that made 1984 so successful, the outlook for 1985 is definitely optimistic.

Board of Trustees

Pres. Varick Chittenden, Canton
 Vice-Pres. . . . Robert Burns, Potsdam
 Secretary Lynn Ekfelt, Canton
 Treas. Mary Jane Watson, S. Colton

Term Expires 1985:

Christopher Acker, Ogdensburg;
 Ruth Barbour, Canton; Betty Coots,
 Canton; Harry Wheaton, Ogdensburg.

Term Expires 1986:

Priscilla Angelo, Canton; Joan Brandy,
 Ogdensburg; Larry Hazen, Colton;
 Beverly Markkula, Canton; Harold
 Wilder, Canton.

Term Expires 1987:

Dwight Mayne, Massena; Ruth
 McKean, Canton; Don Pearson, Canton;
 Jeanne Reynolds, Cranberry Lake;
 Bernard Sperling, Ogdensburg.

Staff:

John Baule, Director; Janet McFarland,
 Admin. Asst.; Richard Rummel,
 Programs Coordinator; Jane Wilken,
 Admin. Asst.

BALANCE SHEET—December 31, 1984

ASSETS	
Current Assets:	
Cash in Bank - Operating	\$ 1,340.25
Cash in Bank - Special	120.41
Cash in Bank - Capital	254.22
Cash in Bank - Blankman Memorial	13,081.38
Cash in Bank - Money Market	1,471.29
Cash in Bank - Certificate of Deposit	2,500.00
Deferred Interest	85.74
Investments	771.88
Total Current Assets	\$ 19,625.17
FIXED ASSETS (Note A):	
Silas Wright House and Museum	196,100.05
TOTAL	<u>\$215,725.22</u>
LIABILITIES & EQUITY	
Liabilities:	
Withheld Payroll Taxes Payable	\$ 640.28
Architectural Fees Payable	920.00
Mortgage Payable	14,686.11
Loan Payable - St. Lawrence National Bank	669.13
Total Liabilities	\$ 16,915.52
Restricted Funds:	
Greenblatt Endowment	\$ 2,250.00
Blankman/Gibson Memorial	17,851.43
Total Restricted Funds	20,101.43
Equity	178,708.27
TOTAL	<u>\$215,725.22</u>

See Accountant's Compilation Report.
 The accompanying notes are an integral part of these financial statements.

STATEMENT OF INCOME & EXPENSE AND RETAINED EARNINGS FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 1984

	1985 Budget	1984 Budget	1984 Actual
Income:			
<i>St. Lawrence County:</i>			
Historian	\$11,000	\$11,000	\$ 11,000.00
Operating	11,000	11,000	11,000.00
New York State Council on the Arts	12,000	11,000	11,000.00
Dues	17,000	16,500	16,400.00
Gifts	5,000	5,000	6,598.31
Interest	6,000	3,000	2,452.50
Village of Canton	5,000	5,000	5,000.00
Cookbook/Sales	4,000	5,000	4,075.66
Miscellaneous & Grant Reimbursements	1,500	1,500	4,171.69
Fund Raising	6,500	6,000	5,917.29
IMS Grant	4,400	0	4,398.50
Advertising (Quarterly)	4,500	5,500	3,025.00
Total Income	<u>\$87,900</u>	<u>\$80,500</u>	<u>\$ 85,038.95</u>
Expense:			
Salary - Director	\$18,000	\$16,500	\$ 16,500.12
Salary - Historian/Admin. Asst.	10,000	8,500	8,793.86
Salary - Program Coordinator	14,000	12,000	11,999.78
Fringe Benefits	600	400	498.00
Payroll Taxes	4,200	3,900	3,333.81
Supplies and Postage	4,500	4,000	3,965.67
Utilities	8,500	8,500	8,301.66
Insurance	2,200	2,000	2,088.24
Interest	1,500	1,500	1,396.91
Repairs	3,500	3,000	4,596.27
Publications	7,000	7,000	7,031.22
Printing	1,500	2,000	990.66
Exhibits and Programs	4,500	3,000	3,403.82
Subscriptions	700	500	580.36
Conservation	2,000	1,000	1,606.79
Travel	600	500	238.50
Miscellaneous	500	500	697.28
Contingency	300	500	0
Fund Raising	0	0	7,500.00
Total Expense			\$ 83,522.95
NET INCOME FOR YEAR INDICATED ...			\$ 1,516.00
EQUITY - Beginning			177,192.27
Debt Reduction	3,800	5,200	0
EQUITY - ENDING	<u>\$87,900</u>	<u>\$80,500</u>	<u>\$178,708.27</u>

*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



*THIS SPACE
AVAILABLE FOR
YOUR
ADVERTISEMENT.*

*FOR MORE
INFORMATION
CALL
386-2780.*

*The
newell
group*

Ryan Press, Inc.

for all your printing needs

Offset * Letterpress * Screenprinting

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

April 1985

WHERE YOU SAVE DOES MAKE A DIFFERENCE[®]

MEMBER

FSLIC

Federal Savings & Loan Insurance Corp.

A U.S. Government Agency

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
Permit No. 21
Canton, N.Y. 13617

NON-PROFIT
ORGANIZATION

Since 1866-



Executor · Guardian · Trustee

TRUST DEPARTMENT



**The
St. Lawrence
National
Bank**

Member FDIC 