

THE
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Cover: Frederic Remington in the center of this 1872 photograph. As a child he was the mascot of the St. Lawrence Hose Company, Canton's fire brigade. His lifelong love of adventure may have sprung from the exciting tales of his firemen friends. The others, seated, left to right, W.J. McLeod and Ogden H. Packard; standing, left to right, P.S.W. Judd and Rollin D. Baker. (*Photograph courtesy of the Special Collection of St. Lawrence University.*)

Gouverneur Morris: North Country Connection

by Lorraine B. Bogardus and Mark DuPré

The bicentennial celebration of the United States Constitution could not be complete in St. Lawrence County without a reminder of the major role played by Gouverneur Morris in drafting the Constitution and of his role in the development of this area.



Gouverneur Morris (Portrait courtesy of the St. Lawrence County Historical Association archives)

Statesman. Diplomat. Stylist of the United States Constitution. Urbane man of the world. Minister to France during the Reign of Terror. And to some, "the lover with the wooden leg."

Gouverneur Morris was all these things and more, and as the namesake of the towns of Gouverneur and Morristown, he is St. Lawrence County's link to the events attending the very

birth and infancy of the United States. Morris will be receiving widespread attention this year because of the bicentennial of the Constitution, for which he constructed the final draft.

And while his accomplishments far exceeded his involvement in that one project, history has seemed to mute his greatness. The story of his life and works is admittedly almost an historical conceit, as Morris is seen rubbing shoulders with the more romantically remembered figures of the time: Washington, Lafayette, Jefferson, Alexander Hamilton, and John Paul Jones. But his was a robust life all its own, touched by and in turn impacting on the events of his time. If his contributions have been overshadowed by those of his contemporaries, perhaps this celebration of the founding document of our government will, in its wake, serve to correct that historical imbalance.

Gouverneur Morris, like most of the other patriot leaders, was from the educated, landowning class with strong mercantile affiliations. Born January 31, 1752 in the family manor of Morrisania in Westchester County, New York, Gouverneur was his father's fifth son and the only son of his father's second marriage. (Half-brother Lewis, also born at Morrisania, was a signer of the Declaration of Independence, member of the Continental Congress, and member of the New York State legislature). He received a fine classical education, graduating from King's College (now Columbia University in Manhattan) at 16, and commencing his law practice at the advanced age of 18.

Philosophically, Morris was not imbued with the Calvinist spirit which pervaded many leaders of the day. To his mind, whatever was, was, and things would always work out for the best. He had a great love of books and became an avid collector. He spoke and wrote French like a native. An imposing man, he stood well over six feet tall, and maintained a great interest in outdoor activities, including hunting, fishing, farming, and raising horses. An astute businessman, he turned a small legacy from his father into a personal fortune. Unlike a great many of his contemporaries in business, he kept it.

Morris's financial acumen expressed itself publicly and early. At 20, he wrote a brilliant paper warning the New York State legislature against issuing paper money for public indebtedness. Years later, he would serve a four-year term under Robert Morris (no relation), the financial agent of Congress, contributing the decimal coinage system adopted by the Federal government.

Morris was 24 at the outbreak of the Revolution, becoming the youngest man to serve in the Continental Congress. Ironically, Morris was suspected of loyalist sympathies at first, as his mother was a passive loyalist and his

brothers-in-law (including Samuel Ogden) were accused of similar sentiments. Subsequent events put the lie to such accusations, of course, as he served in the Congress throughout the war, becoming one of Washington's strongest supporters.

Perhaps Morris's greatest claim to fame is the very reason for his falling short of historical star status. His monumental contribution to the Constitution lacks the romantic appeal of, say, John Hancock's signing of the Declaration of Independence, and the 1787 date puts the drafting and presentation of that masterwork just beyond that fondly-remembered historical moment of Minutemen, a ringing Liberty Bell, and the shot heard 'round the world. Yet to Morris goes the credit for framing the initial Articles of Confederation in 1781, delivering 173 speeches at the Constitutional Convention designed to replace these Articles, and forming the Constitution's final draft, conferring his style of writing and editorial structure to that most elastic of documents. Ironically for us New Yorkers, Morris was elected to the Convention as a Pennsylvania delegate.

With the Constitution behind him, Morris turned his energies toward his business life. He formed a partnership with William Constable, a merchant broker with an international financial empire. In 1789, Morris traveled to France as a financial agent, a personal move which once again set the stage for public service. Three years later he was appointed minister to France, serving during the height of the Reign of Terror.

Two of Morris's most characteristic personal qualities came to the fore during his time in France. One was his tendency toward philandering, a lifelong penchant which blossomed into a full-blown affair with Adele de Flauharet, an aristocrat of King Louis XVI's court. The other, less scandalous but perhaps even more discreetly carried out, was his personal generosity. Lafayette was a financial beneficiary, and a number of French aristocrats found sanctuary in his home and at the American ministry. Morris's aid was felt by many others throughout his life, including John Paul Jones, Robert Morris (for whom he arranged a stipend out of his own pocket upon the elder Morris's release from debtor's prison) and Mrs. Alexander Hamilton (for whom Morris set up a trust fund after the famous duel with Aaron Burr).

Replaced as minister by James Monroe in 1794, Morris spent the next five years traveling throughout the continent. While in Hamburg he met banker John Parish, whom Morris

influenced to invest in the wild lands of St. Lawrence County, having just invested in the great Macomb tract two years before. Morris prevailed upon Parish's son David to come to the New World to investigate the purchase. (Years later, David's son George of "Parish's Fancy" followed his father to Ogdensburg.)

Morris returned to the United States in 1799, only to be quickly faced with the death of his friend George Washington. Morris, again taking his place in a historical moment, delivered the funeral oration.

Public service beckoned once again, and Morris was appointed to the United States Senate—now as a New Yorker—to serve out James Watson's term until 1803.

In 1807, Morris finally came north to visit his purchase. Ever the outdoorsman, he shot the rapids on the St. Lawrence River—wooden leg notwithstanding. Traveling like an Old World monarch with servants in tow, Morris spent most of the summer near present-day Gouverneur, building his summer residence at Natural Dam. He returned in 1809.

Later that year, on Christmas Day, the inveterate bachelor finally became a husband, marrying Ann Cary Randolph of Virginia. The younger woman, part of a well-known aristocratic Southern family, was superficially a strange choice for Morris. Years earlier, Ann had been involved in a trial surrounding the alleged murder of her "stillborn" child, born out of wedlock. She was acquitted with the help of her lawyer, Patrick Henry, and by the testimony of Martha Jefferson Randolph, Ann's sister-in-law and President Jefferson's daughter. The acquittal did little to soften the scandal, however, and Ann went north, penniless, where she became a schoolteacher in Connecticut.

Once married to Morris, however, her popularity with her family increased almost overnight, and the Morrises were looked to for financial assistance by the same relatives who had turned their backs on Ann fifteen years before.

Morris's remaining years were as full of varied interests and activities as his earlier ones. In 1807, Morris had been appointed chairman of the Erie Canal Commission, and he is credited with having the original idea for the Canal. That same year had also seen the passage of the Embargo Act, which had closed all ports on the St. Lawrence to foreign trade and was choking the development of the entire area. When the War of 1812 finally erupted, Morris, like many others, bitterly referred to it as "Mr. Madison's War," considering it a war no one wanted and



The Gouverneur Morris house at Natural Dam, outside Gouverneur. (Photograph courtesy of Lorraine B. Bogardus)

which threatened to wreak havoc on his northern land investments.

In 1813, Gouverneur, Jr., was born to the happy couple. Two years later, the three of them traveled north for what would be Morris's final journey to his summer home at Natural Dam. Morris died in 1816.

Morris's historical reputation is due to a number of factors, only one of which is the relative lack of romantic excitement attached to the drafting of the Constitution. His was a time of many great men, of whom a number went beyond the political post of Senator—politics generally being a stronger claim to lasting fame than business acumen. Morris's affairs, Old

World sophistication, and marriage to a woman of notoriety are also not associations America prefers to make with its founding fathers.

Morris also had a lot of political enemies, such as Jefferson—on philosophical grounds—and John Adams—for Morris's personal life as much as for his politics. Jefferson and Adams became President, Morris did not, and Presidents usually tend to have the last word on such issues.

But for St. Lawrence County, as well as the rest of the country, this is the time to remember Morris. He is the north country's connection to the tumultuous, exciting events of the birth of the nation, and a more colorful,

dynamic, and multifaceted character could scarcely have been found.



About the Authors:

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The Norfolk Union School about 1895. (Photograph courtesy of the Norfolk Museum)

History of the Norwood-Norfolk Central School System

by Marcia Eggleston

This article is dedicated to the author's grandfather, John Margittay, who served on the Norwood-Norfolk Central School Board for eighteen years.

Norwood-Norfolk Central School District is presently a school of approximately 1500 students in grades kindergarten through twelve. It was centralized in 1949 from the two separate districts of Norwood and Norfolk following a vote of approval by the residents of those districts. The history of the Norwood and Norfolk schools must be dealt with separately to show how the central district came about.

The first school in Norfolk was known to exist in 1812. By the 1820s, the township was divided into several school districts. District No. 1 was located at Norfolk slightly north of the present elementary school. District No. 2 was located at Raymondville, and District No. 3 was located at Plum Brook. District No. 4 was centered at a stone schoolhouse on the northeast corner of the Joy and Plum Brook Roads. District No. 5 was centered at the Judson Schoolhouse, on the southwest corner of the Norfolk-Plum Brook Road and what is now Route 56, and District No. 6 was centered in Grantville.

School was in session for two terms,

summer and winter. In the winter, when farm work was slack, most children attended school. Often one teacher would have sixty or seventy students aged five to twenty years old. Many times some of the students would be older than the teacher, as a teaching license could be obtained at age sixteen.

Licenses were given by school commissioners following examinations given by them. The certificates for teaching were in three grades. Often young people could pass an examination to teach, getting a third grade license without ever going to a high school or normal school. After a certain length of time, the law required them to get a second grade license, and finally a first grade license. Then many went to a normal school for periods of time to help them pass the exams.

Wages were low, and often as part of their pay, teachers were given board in local homes as part of their salaries, in periods proportionate to the number of children in the family. It was also customary to have each family furnish a share of dry wood to help heat the schoolhouse. When families failed to do

so, school trustees purchased wood and the delinquent families were compelled to pay for it. Minutes of the Norfolk School Board meeting for October 26, 1830, stated that "each of the patrons of the district deliver a cord of wood for each scholar on or before the first day of January next."

Private or select schools were common in these times and pupils had to pay tuition. At Raymondville, the home of Judge Raymond was used as a select school. It was said to have had many fireplaces and was quite a showcase.

A trustees' report was kept for the Norfolk School starting in the 1820s. The January 1, 1829 report stated that school was held for four months and three weeks since the last report, a year earlier. The amount of money received for the year was \$26.27. The number of children taught in 1829 was 46 with the number of children residing in the district who were over five and under sixteen being 72.

In 1840, the trustees began collecting money for a school library. That year they purchased 10 volumes and collected \$3.72. By 1842, there were 22 volumes and the trustees began saving money for the purchase of a library for the district. Each year one of the school trustees was appointed librarian. School Board minutes for January 1, 1848 stated that the books used in school were Porter's Rhetorical Reader, Adams Arithmetic, Mitchell and Olney's Geography, and Webster's Spell Book.

A schoolhouse on a lot north of the present grade school on Hepburn Street was used until the 1870s. Then District No. 1 was relocated to Sober Street almost opposite the end of Morris Street. This was originally a one story building, but in 1894 it was enlarged to a two story building then employing two teachers. It was used until September 1906 when the Norfolk Union School was opened. This school combined the Norfolk, East Norfolk and No. 5 (Judson School) districts and was again located on Hepburn Street, with 217 pupils attending. Thomas Haggerty was principal, Alberta Wilson was preceptress and music teacher, Mollie King, Erna Borrman, Maud Van Kernen and Etta Raymond were teachers in 1906.

In 1871, a school was built in Raymondville on the corner of the Grantville Road and what is now Route 56. In 1904-1905, it was enlarged to two rooms and in 1920-1921, enlarged to four rooms.

The first graduating class of the Norfolk Union High School consisted of Laura Wood, Earl Cuglar, and LeRoy Taft, in 1913. The school did not have an auditorium or a gymnasium,

so graduation exercises were held at the Town Hall and students were required to present long essays or orations at the ceremony.

Because of the outbreak of World War I, the Norfolk Union School Board minutes of June 5, 1918 declared that "a notice be posted in the school building to the effect that the subject of German be discontinued in the course of study for the reason that it is the language of the enemy country and the Board desires to express their disapproval of the teaching of German or the singing of German songs in this or any other school."

By 1919, the population was growing due to an influx of many Hungarians and Italians and the school board requested a committee to ascertain the cost of renting a room for separating the first grade and the advisability of hiring a second first grade teacher.

On January 26, 1920, fire broke out in the Norfolk School building at 7:15 a.m. and the building was entirely destroyed. The fire was believed to have been caused by overheated pipes and the loss was estimated at \$30,000. Arrangements were immediately made to hold classes in the Town Hall, the fire station, the Methodist Church and the Goodnow building on the southwest corner of Main and Sober Streets, until a new building would be ready for use.

A proposition to raise \$100,000 to build a new school passed on March 19, 1920, and the plans for the new school were accepted by the State Education Department on August 23, 1921.

In February 1922, the school board published the school policy which contained rules on attendance, school work, school sports, and tobacco and profanity:

Attendance — Absence from school exerts an unfavorable influence on both absentee and school, interrupts study, diminishes interest and causes unnecessary annoyance. Therefore, the Board of Education requires all pupils to attend school regularly except when unavoidably detained at home. When a pupil is irregular in attendance, the principal shall notify the parents and request regular attendance. In case of noncompliance, the principal shall notify the Board of Education who will deal with the case.

School Work — Attendance presupposes the regular and thorough preparation of each day's lessons. When a pupil's class standing falls below satisfactory grades, parents shall be notified. If the work is not brought up to a

satisfactory grade within one month, the pupil will be demoted—even into the grades (elementary) if necessary, or other coercive measures will be used. A pupil who refuses to do reputable work will not be tolerated in school.

School Sports — To be eligible to membership in any organized high school sport, a pupil must carry at least three academic subjects and maintain a class standing of 70% in each subject or an average of 75%. The principal and other high school teachers shall have general supervision of all school sports, arrange for games, and direct the use of all money.

Tobacco and Profanity — The

Board of Education sternly forbids the use of tobacco in any form about the school grounds and building or during athletic games. Any member of the school found violating this rule is automatically suspended from school until he will be reinstated by the Board of Education.

The new Norfolk Union School opened in September 1922 on the site of the school that had burned two years earlier. The teachers of grades one through eight received salaries of \$800 a year while the high school teachers received \$900 a year at this time, with annual increments of \$75, starting in September 1923.

The community was again growing rapidly, and in November 1923, the Board of Education asked Miss Flynn,



The first graduating class of the Norfolk Union High School, 1913. Left to right, Leroy Taft, Laura Wood, Earl Cuglar. (Photograph courtesy of the Norfolk Museum)



The Norwood School about 1899 and 1940. (Photographs courtesy of the Norwood Museum)



the first grade teacher, to see the parents of the children under six to see if they would take them out of school because of the overcrowded condition. Instead, in April 1924, the Board voted to hire an extra first grade teacher and have an extra room equipped for school use.

By September 1928, the Board of

Education voted to hire another high school teacher to take care of the crowded condition there. A proposition to raise \$16,000 for an addition to the school was put to the voters on October 6, 1931, and passed. The new wing was built in 1932.

The Norfolk Union Free School District purchased from the St. Regis

Paper Company in 1936 approximately four acres of land, what was then known as Barkley Park, for the sum of \$200 to be used for athletic and recreational purposes.

The first known school in Norwood was at a building at the corner of North Main Street and Cedar Street in 1852. A second school was known to exist in the village in 1858.

In 1862, a school was built on Park Avenue at a cost of \$2500. One part of the building still stands as part of the house on the south side of St. Andrews Church and the remainder was sold to the village for \$700.

A new school building, the site of the present elementary school, was built in 1885 at a cost of \$15,000. The Norwood School Board minutes of October 25, 1886 stated that they would "amend the bylaws of the school as to make the terms consist of 40 weeks in three terms known as fall, winter, and spring terms, two terms of 13 weeks each and one term of 14 weeks, each term to commence at such dates as to make the last week of each term to coincide with the weeks appointed by the regents for examinations."

The teachers at this time were making \$6.00 or \$7.00 per week depending on their duties. On June 15, 1887, a communication was read to the school board from one of the teachers in which she offered to teach for \$8.00 per week. The Board then instructed the Teachers Committee to find the rate of wages paid "lady teachers" in other schools of the county. The Teachers Committee reported on June 20, 1887, by reading letters from school officers of Gouverneur, Canton, Heuvelton, Morristown, Massena, and Brasher Falls. Their report read "These letters showed that our lady teachers were not paid as high a rate of wages as others paid." The Board then offered slightly higher wages to several of the teachers.

The Norwood School was closed on May 18, 1891, because of an epidemic of scarlet fever. The Primary Department remained closed for the rest of the term while the Academic Department opened again June 8. The regents examinations were postponed until the next term because of the illness. The Board voted at this time not to allow a pupil to come to school from a family in which there was a case of dangerous contagious disease.

In 1903, the school was in an overcrowded condition which prompted the principal to go to the Board. He stated that one primary room had 91 students. A committee was appointed to investigate. Several classes were divided and taught in the churches and various residences of the village.

The course of study adopted for the high school in 1907 for the first high school year were English I, Elementary Algebra, Biology, Latin I, Bookkeeping, and Elementary Drawing. Courses for the second year were English II, Plane Geometry, American History, Latin, French or German, Advanced Drawing, and Language. English III, English History, Latin, French or German, Intermediate Algebra, Language, and Physical Geography were taught the third year. During the fourth year, American History, Physics, Chemistry, Solid Geometry and Language were taught.

The textbooks used in the primary grades at this time were the New Educational Reader in first grade, Mother Goose Village in third grade, Baldwin's Reader in fourth grade, Wentworth and Smith's Arithmetic in third and fourth grade, Makers and Defenders History No. 2 in fifth and sixth grade, Davidson's Health Lessons in sixth and seventh grade, Carpenter's Reader in eighth grade and Miln's Algebra in ninth grade. *Popular Science Monthly* was purchased for the Academic Department and *St. Nicholas Magazine* was used in the primary grades.

In February 1917, the principal told the Board of Education that all of the rooms were congested. There were 59 students in one first grade, 28 students in a second first grade, 55 students in second grade, 52 students in third grade, and 48 students in fourth grade, while 30 to 40 students were all the State Education Department allowed. An inspector from the Department had recently visited the school and stated there was an unallowable congested condition and insufficient light. The Board voted to have an architect come and look over the school and make a rough sketch of an addition. Plans for the addition 48' x 98' adjoining the west side of the building at a cost of \$20,000 were presented at the next meeting. The addition, consisting of several classrooms and a gymnasium, was built later that year.

In 1926, the school was again overcrowded and rooms outside the school had to be found for some classes. The first grade was split into two groups, a morning and afternoon session. Several classes were housed in the Powell residence, referred to as the "Little School." In December of 1928, Dr. Swartz of St. Lawrence University was employed to determine whether a new building proposition should be brought up.

In June 1929, a committee was appointed by the Board of Education to secure information regarding plans and cost of constructing a new school building and of remodeling the old building. In February 1930, a proposi-

tion to purchase an addition to the school site at a cost of \$3000 and to construct and equip a new school at a cost of \$297,000 was put to the voters of the district and both were voted down. In June of 1930, these propositions were again put to the voters of the district and again voted down. The Board then decided to give up on the idea of a new school for the time being.

In September 1944 the Norfolk Board of Education voted to have the principal, Mr. Francis Kelly, contact District Superintendent C.B. Olds in regard to available information and procedure for centralization of schools. Mr. Richard Hann, principal of the Norwood School, and Mr. E.J. Mulholland, board member, met with Mr. Kelly and one board member from Norfolk in November 1945 to arrange a program of instruction for the new central school if it was voted on.

Meetings continued for the next couple of years between the two school districts and the State Education Department. On June 17, 1949, a combined meeting of the Norwood and Norfolk School Boards was held and the following resolution was put to the voters: Resolved that the Central School District No. 1 of the Towns of Norfolk, Potsdam, Madrid, Stockholm and Louisville, as described in the order of the Commissioner of Education be organized and a Central School for instruction in elementary and high school subjects be established. The vote was 827 for and 205 against. The first Central School Board consisted of Howard J. Hall, Russell Colbert, Kenneth McDonald, Jack Lynch, George Dailey, William Salisbury, Kinsman Wright, Donald Bixby, and Kenyon Jones.

At the first organizational meeting, Kinsman Wright was elected president of the Board. Richard Hann was elected supervising principal and Francis Kelly was elected vice-principal. In July 1949, the school district was named Norwood-Norfolk Central School District.

The year book for 1950 was the first combining the two schools, and was called the *Keystoner*. It stated that "the keystone signifies the new central school to be built with the keystone symbolizing centralized unity and cooperation." The keystone is the uppermost and last stone set in the middle of the arch above the front entrance.

The rural schools known as the Bixby, Plum Brook, Stockholm 24, Daily Ridge, Kinsman, Regan, Burnhams Corners, and Tiernan Ridge schools voted over the next two years to join the central district.

Plans for a new central school building began immediately. On Jan-

uary 10, 1951, the voters of the district passed a proposition to construct a Junior-Senior High School including a bus garage at a cost of \$1,335,000 at a site on the Norwood-Norfolk Road, and renovate the three schools of the district for \$65,000.

The first classes were taught in the new Junior-Senior High School on February 23, 1953.

On May 24, 1953, the new Junior-Senior High School of the Norwood-Norfolk Central School District was dedicated with then Deputy Attorney General William P. Rogers as guest speaker. Mr. Rogers, a native of Norfolk, spoke to over 750, listing as ideals of education the inculcation in the student of self-confidence, a zest for learning, and an appreciation of the greatness of America.

In 1958, additional classrooms were added to both the Norwood and Norfolk Elementary Schools. In 1962-1963, additional office space was added to the Junior-Senior High School and in 1966-67, a library and classroom wing was added to the High School. The Raymondville School was closed in 1970 due to decreasing enrollment and those children were sent to the Norfolk Elementary School. Another addition was added to the Junior-Senior High School during the 1979-1980 school year consisting of several classrooms, a second gymnasium and new band and chorus rooms. This addition became the new seventh and eighth grade wing.

On June 4, 1985, centennial celebrations were held at the Norwood Elementary School. A contest has held for the students to design a logo for the centennial and an anniversary cake was made for students and staff. Repairs were also made to the school bell and the fountain in the school yard.

The history of the Norwood-Norfolk Central School District is a microcosm of thousands of other school districts across the nation. These districts started out as small independent schools and developed into much larger and more complex school systems. Only time will tell whether these trends will continue or whether the next history of the school district will reveal entirely different trends in education not yet realized.



About the Author:

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Reflections on a Short Stay in St. Lawrence County by a Frenchwoman from Alsace

by Yvonne Vonach

Yvonne Vonach writes in a long tradition of European observers of American life. In this article one can see someone searching for points of contact and organizing impressions based on her own previous life and experiences, living near another great river in a border area.



The author grew very fond of the Racquette River during her stay in Potsdam. (Photograph courtesy of Yvonne Vonach)

On a beautiful morning in 1979, I received a letter telling me I was awarded a Fulbright grant and would spend nearly two months in the United States. I felt on top of the world! This was going to be my second journey to

the States, and I had such wonderful memories of the hospitality and the kindness of the American people! My first trip had taken me mainly to large cities, but now I would stay at S.U.N.Y. Potsdam for five weeks, through the

month of July and the beginning of August, before visiting a few cities once more!

Yet I must admit that I was surprised to read that the State University of New York was located in a place

called Potsdam. Although they are both French, my parents lived in Berlin some years ago and I used to visit them quite often. I was well aware then, that Potsdam was next door but in the German Democratic Republic. And when a former colleague of mine working in Canada sent me a road atlas to check where Potsdam lay, I was even more puzzled. My plane would land in Syracuse, and, once in Potsdam, I would be a few miles as the crow flies from Canton, Stockholm, Madrid and Bombay! The whole world in a nutshell would be at hand. St. Lawrence County could have inspired Walt Disney to create his Epcot Center. There, the bewildered and delighted traveller gazes at such wonderful landmarks as the Eiffel Tower while walking past the Venetian Doge's palace. A very British high street may lead him to a Chinese pagoda or a Japanese temple; the Medina of Marrakech is near by.

As with a magic wand, the past, the present and the future are one in northern New York, too. The mighty St. Lawrence flows past a Rhineland castle, one stumbles upon the wild west in Frontier Town, and soldiers dressed in ancient uniforms fire guns and muskets in Fort Ticonderoga. One learns about Indians in the land of Nenibush on the way to Upper Canada Village, and, driving to Shelburne Museum in nearby Vermont, one can call at Santa's Workshop at the foot of Whiteface Mountain! At the same time, the formidable locks and dams in Massena point toward the future. Great efficiency and great technological achievements are omnipresent. In imagination, we follow one of the ocean-going ships sailing on the St. Lawrence and dream of "inland" sea ports and never-never lands. It is the same feeling of admiration and wonder that takes hold of the visitor at Epcot Center! We are told and taught a lot although facts do not remain dry and bare. Imagination and even a sense of fun pervade everything so that teaching and amusing go hand-in-hand. You have the sense of fun we are missing. We take ourselves too seriously and we still have to learn how to enjoy ourselves. The Declaration of Independence proclaimed your right to happiness and you are happiness-oriented.

Yet things are a-changing in my part of the world. We too try to recapture atmospheres and think of the well-being of the visitor. Is it because our national heritage is disappearing too quickly? Is it your influence? For example, a whole village is being artificially put together in the south of Alsace. The houses come from different parts of the province; some date back

to the 16th century. They were decaying where they stood and would have been demolished had not a preservation plan been set afoot and the Ecomuseum of Ungersheim near Mulhouse created. Yet, in doing so, a tradition is in a way respected because these half-timbered houses were meant to be moved. They can be stripped of their cob, and their wood structures may be taken to another place where they can be completed again. This notion of mobility is not supposed to be French at all! In our minds it is linked with the

United States. But apparently it is an Alsatian trait too.

Little wonder the inhabitants of Alsace immigrated massively to the New World, to New York State and to Canada. I live in Haguenau near Strasburg, which is one of the seats of the European Parliament. There are or were thirteen Strasburgs in the United States. There was one in New York State, in Oswego County, 35 kilometers north of Syracuse near Lake Ontario, but in the 1840s it became part of the village of Parish. Another Strasburg



Scenes on an Amish farm in Norfolk. The author wondered whether the farm's owners were descendants of the Amish who once fled from Alsace. (Photographs courtesy of Yvonne Vonach)





How others see us: such front porch scenes were unsettling to the foreign visitors. (Photograph courtesy of Yvonne Vonach)

was founded between 1830 and 1834 in Ontario, in Waterloo County. It is now Kitchener.

Little did I know I would follow in the footsteps of so many people from my part of the world. My crossing took place when all the DC 10s had to be checked, and the air trip included a stopover in Greenland. This was nothing compared with the journey of Joseph Batt, a farmer from Merzwiller, a small town near Haguenau. He was born in 1789, the year of the French Revolution, and his journey to America took 84 days. He emigrated with his wife, his children and a servant and their ship was caught in a tempest. He promised to build a chapel if they reached the United States safely. His chapel became Our Lady of Cheektowaga in the diocese of Buffalo.

A few of my countrymen did not adjust to the New World and came back, but most of them stayed. Among them were the Weinstains, Lauren Bacall's parents; the Marx Brothers; William Wyler, the Oscar-winning film director (a street is named after him in Mulhouse); and the father of Eugene Meyer. Eugene Meyer, Jr., bought *The Washington Post* in 1933. An ancestor

of General John Joseph Pershing was born in Strasburg in 1730. The Firestone Company was founded by Harvey S. Firestone who descends from Hans Nicholas Feuerstein, born in 1712 at Berg in the northern part of Alsace. A self-made man, Frank Joseph Sensenbrenner, whose roots are in Soufflenheim near Haguenau, became president of the Kimberly Clark Corporation and launched Kleenex tissues. There are so many links!

Maybe, the Amish whose settlement I saw in the Norfolk area in St. Lawrence County descend from the ones that left Alsace driven away by Louis XIV and then, with other Amish people from Switzerland, found a new home in Pennsylvania, or from those who fled with Mennonites in order not to be enrolled in Napoleon I's armies. A whole group settled down in Croghan in Lewis County, New York. There are still Mennonites in Alsace but no Amish people; they found more tolerance in the United States. As a matter of fact, their way of life resembles the old villagers and their customs resemble some of ours. But what struck me is that if most French people do not understand the dialect we speak in

Alsace, the Amish do! Our dialect is partly Alemannic like the "Schwyzerdütsch" or the dialect spoken in Baden-Württemberg and in Lichtenstein and partly Francic, like the one used in the Pfalz! So, in a way, I speak and understand Pennsylvania Dutch!

In the bus that was taking me to Potsdam, I did not think of my country at all. As we passed fields and farms, old and new barns, abandoned sheds or shining silos, I was gradually becoming aware that this was the America I had subconsciously been looking for, the America I expected, I do not know why. The countryside seemed familiar to me and I took to it immediately. I was fond of the wooden and often slanting telephone poles and I found the white wooden houses on their fenceless lawns very inviting. Their trees conferred on them an atmosphere of peace and tranquility that is not to be found elsewhere. Your houses look homely and unsophisticated and maybe they express your philosophy. They seem to stress the transience of life and the need for good neighbors. In France, mainly in Alsace, we tend to mistrust everybody and we hide behind walls and hedges. We build "fortresses" that are meant to last forever and that as a matter of fact become quickly old-fashioned, whereas your houses seem in a way ageless. Ours stress our materialistic outlook; yours show, in a way, a closer contact with the others and nature in general. Several of my travelling companions, foreigners like me but coming from cities, were taken aback. They had imagined New York State packed with skyscrapers. And their surprise turned to anxiety when we drove past the houses in which—as we were told later—some of the students lived. I must confess that I was a little shaken too because many looked poor and in bad repair. They badly needed a coat of paint and their porches sheltered shabby seats and displayed empty beer bottles and Coca Cola cans.

My dream was a little shattered by this encounter with what I believed to be dire poverty. I did not expect this in a rural area and I was to experience a similar feeling when I saw people selling small bunches of vegetables on the hoods of their cars or on the ground. Today we might come across the same type of scene in France because of unemployment and inflation. But in 1979 it would have been inconceivable. And I imagined that in the hinterland there were a lot of these people, not really poor according to European standards, as they all seemed to own big cars and cars in Europe are a status symbol, but on the verge of poverty, living on the margin of society in order to be free and yet having a minimum of contact with it to survive.

I could not check my assumptions for I was carless and bikeless. After lectures I was most of the time by myself. There were almost no American students on the campus at that time of the year; even the cafeteria, which might have been a convenient meeting place, closed shortly after our arrival, our TV was not working, and my countrymen had heard the call of the West. Thanks to my "Pennsylvania Dutch" I was occasionally accepted in a German group, but of course we did not always share the same interests. Once a charming old lady gave me a lift and I was struck by what she told me. She was quite contented with what she had, her own wood, a well and a car to drive to her job. This mixture of simplicity and modernism fascinated me. This scene took place in 1979; then Haguenau, whose forest is so big that we are the second largest town in France as far as acreage is concerned, could not sell its wood. Things have changed. What with the shortage of oil and the ever-increasing inflation, French people have reverted to traditional fuel. And today backyards are packed with huge heaps of logs. The wise old lady was right!

At any rate, it was hard for me to admit I was in a northern county. In fact, I believed I was in a tropical region, and I wondered why it was not advertised by European travel agents. Fancy! So many sunny days in a row! Such heat and no crowds! It was paradise to me, as it would have been to many people of Alsace. We really hunger for sunshine. Our summers are rarely nice. We may buy summer clothes and never wear them, unless we migrate to the south with the hordes of tourists from Holland, Denmark and Germany who cross France for the same reason. I could have even done with air-conditioning, although before staying in the United States I thought it was a useless gadget. The same exotic note was struck by the sight of the huge marrows and beautiful vegetables I saw in your gardens so early in the summer. We have to wait a long time for ours to ripen and by then the market is overflowing with the Italian and Spanish ones.

Not only do you have the heat but you have also the water to go with it. My first visit was to the St. Lawrence. I paid my tribute to the mighty river. Later, I had the opportunity to admire the Thousand Islands. I still hope that one day my family will be able to share my fascination for it. If the St. Lawrence impressed me very much, the Raquette river took my fancy. Its charm is quite subtle. I enjoyed strolling down the winding path leading to the lazy Raquette, knowing all the time I would be quite relaxed and happy on



The monument on the Moder Canal commemorating the American liberation of Haguenau in 1945. (Photograph courtesy of Yvonne Vonach)

its banks. I was really fond of it and sometimes a feeling of nostalgia overcomes me and I have the Raquette River blues. I also miss the feeling of freedom and exhilaration one experiences "on the road." Boundless expanses of land unfold endlessly and you may drive for a very long time without passing anyone. All these landscapes haunt my memory.

I am not the only one to have been under the spell. In her autobiography, Gold Meir wrote, "I have a permanent nostalgia for the great beauty of the American countryside." Part of the beauty of the country is due to the impression we have that it is still wild, unspoiled and partly unknown. Once, in the Adirondacks we wondered which road to choose. They were all wonderful. A motorist stopped to help us. He lived in the area, but he knew only one road, the one he took to go to his job . . . in Potsdam! He advised us not to venture on the others; although they looked very inviting, he did not know where they led to. Another time, stretching our legs on a lake shore we asked a lone angler the name of the lake. He had no idea. And later, as darkness was setting in, it occurred to us that we could get lost. We were becoming tired and hungry and we watched for any sign that would point out a restaurant. At last we perceived a glowing light in front of a house. Driving nearer we read: Bait! But, of course, we managed to survive.

On the other hand, one feels safer in the "wilderness" far from the cities and pollution. I know that the wilderness is not that wild and that even in Alexis de Tocqueville's time there were "ruins" in what seemed to be a virgin area of New York State. Recently Anne La-Bastille, who spent ten years by herself in a log cabin in the Adirondacks, complained about the consequences of acid rain, snowmobiles, and the pol-

lution of water by campers. But still, you have plenty of elbow room, and the overall impression is that you live in a healthy area. In Europe we have suffered from the consequences of Tchernobyl. "Tchernobasle" followed. Big chemical plants in Basle turned the Rhine into a dead river. What will come next? In imagination I get away from it all and go back to St. Lawrence County.

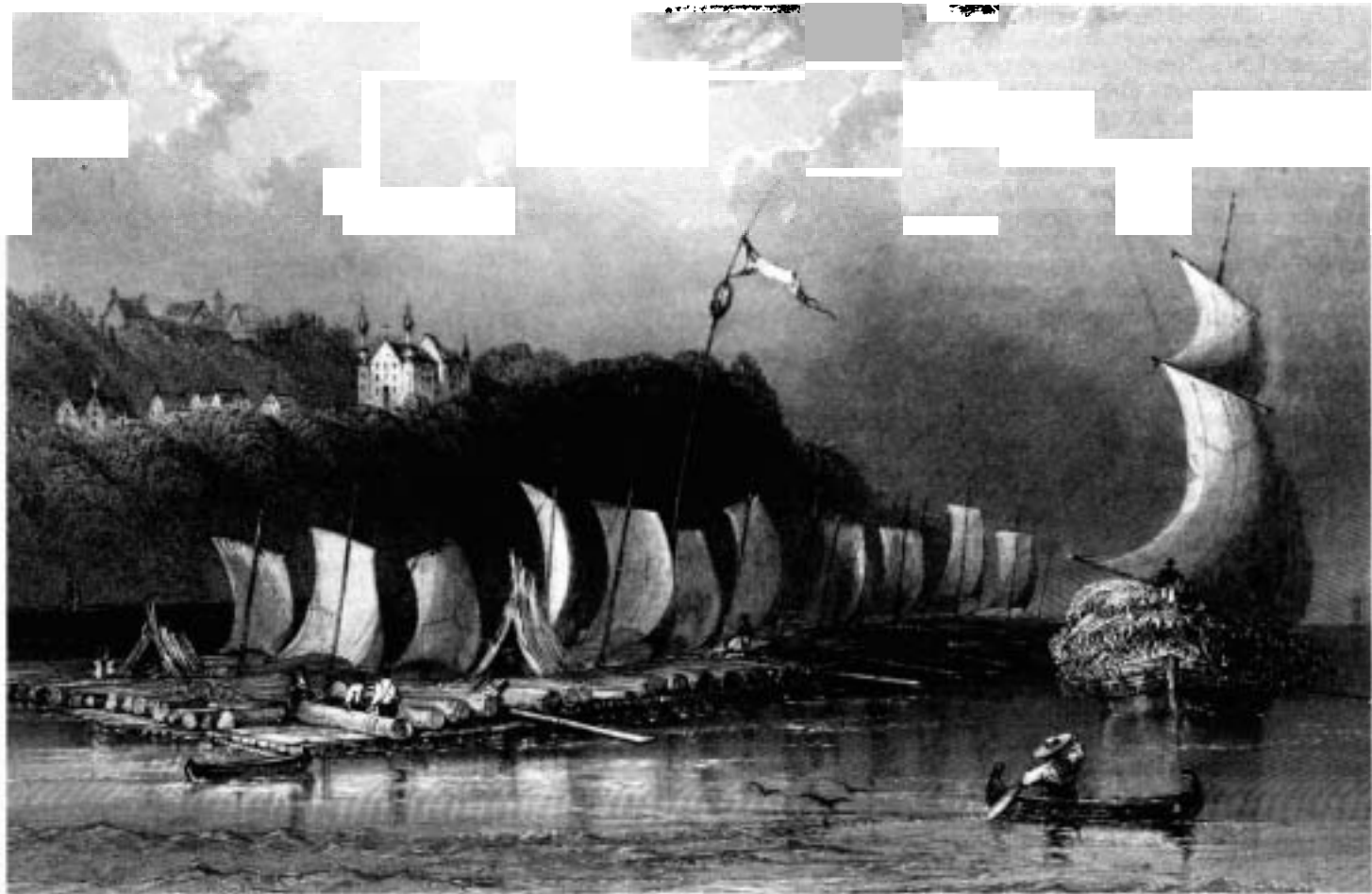
In spite of all these differences, I realized that, like Alsace, St. Lawrence County is a border land. And sometimes I really felt at the end of the country. As I wanted to see more of the United States, I inquired about tours or planes at the local travel agency. I was advised either to go to Montreal, to have good connections, or to visit Europe like everybody else. It is the same here. Paris is far. We fly from Frankfurt or Luxemburg. Many people come to Alsace because it is near Germany. I often do my shopping there; the grass is greener beyond the border. There are even French people who believe we are German! And, of course, there are still pending problems of boundaries. For example the Forest of the "Obermundat," near Wissembourg is French for the time being, but the Germans want it back! If my memory serves me right, your boundaries have also shifted. Today the St. Regis Mohawk Indian Reservation at Akwesasne is partly in the United States and partly in Canada because of the Treaty of Paris. The international boundary was even redrawn in 1817. In Alsace the past has left many tragic traces. Everywhere we come upon battlefields, military cemeteries and remnants of the Maginot line. The wars of 1870, 1914-18 and 1939-45 devastated the area. During the Second World War Alsace, compared to the other French provinces, paid the heaviest toll in proportion to the size of its population. In 1944-45 Haguenau was nearly wiped out. Today, a few yards from my house, there is a plaque which reads

Here, early in the morning, on March 16th, 1945, the tanks of the American army crossed the Moder Canal to fight the decisive battle which repelled the German besiegers and liberated Haguenau.

And I avail myself of the opportunity to thank all the Americans who helped us be free. Without them I might never have come to Potsdam, U.S.A.

About the Author:

Yvonne Vonach, a teacher, lives with her husband, daughter, and ever-changing constellation of felines in Alsace, near the French border with Germany.



In the days before the St. Lawrence Seaway, local lumbermen sent their logs to Montreal for sale. They tied the logs together into huge rafts powered by sails, then floated them down the river to market. This picture, entitled "Raft on the St. Lawrence at Cape Sant," depicts one of the rafts of the Ogden family.

The Special Collections of St. Lawrence University: A Treasure Chest for Historians

by Lynn Ekfelt

This fourth article in an occasional series on practical aspects of carrying on historical research in St. Lawrence County explores the resources of St. Lawrence University's Special Collection. Previous articles in this series appeared in October 1985, July 1986, and January 1987. All illustrations are from the Special Collection.

1907 issues of the *Hammond Advertiser* and the *Malone Evening Telegram*, a sad collection of letters from a Russell boy to his family during the Civil War (ending with a letter from his friend reporting his death), a photo album of log-rafting on the St. Lawrence River in the pre-Seaway days—all of these and more are found in the special collections of St. Lawrence University. Thanks to such men as Richard Ellsworth, Andy Peters, and Ed Blankman (names as well known to members of the Historical Association as to the university community), St.

Lawrence began half a century ago its efforts to preserve a record of the North Country and its inhabitants.

Often the best place to begin to explore the wealth of a library is in its card catalog. Sometimes, however, those banks of drawers can be rather intimidating. Although I don't want to turn this brief article into a "how-to-use-the-library" lecture, it might not be amiss to suggest a few subject headings. The most important thing to remember is that libraries catalog books under the most specific heading possible. Thus if you want a book on the history

of railroads in St. Lawrence County, you should look under either the name of a specific railroad or under RAILROADS—ST. LAWRENCE COUNTY, rather than under a more general heading such as RAILROADS alone, without the local subdivision.

With that tip in mind, it is not difficult to come up with a list of some local history headings which could be used in the Owen D. Young Library at St. Lawrence. one might look under the name of a family (OGDEN FAMILY), the name of an individual (WRIGHT, SILAS), the name of a particular town

(POTSDAM, N.Y.—HISTORY), the name of a particular county (ST. LAWRENCE COUNTY, N.Y.—HISTORY), or a particular location (ADIRONDACK MOUNTAINS—HISTORY), or even the name of a particular industry (LUMBER AND LUMBERING—ADIRONDACKS).

A brief glance at the card catalog, using these headings, would show that St. Lawrence has extensive holdings on North Country history. There are many county histories and town histories, as well as biographies and genealogies of prominent local people. In addition, there are particularly large collections on the Adirondacks (mainly concerned with their heyday as a recreation and health mecca in the nineteenth century), the Thousand Islands, railroads in the North Country, and the planning and building of the St. Lawrence Seaway.

Not all useful information for historians is found in books, however. One of the most valuable sources for people trying to research the history of a particular area is its newspapers. St. Lawrence houses a fine collection of local papers on microfilm. Unfortunately, there is as yet no index to these papers. Of course if you know the date of the historical event you are researching, the lack of an index presents no problem. A general subject search is a bit more difficult without the help of an index, but it usually proves well worth the effort. The following newspapers are available on film at St. Lawrence for the years indicated:

Adirondack News 1887-1933
Adirondack Daily Enterprise 1896-1951
Black River Gazette 1825-1832
Black River Herald 1855-1871 and

Boonville Herald 1871-1962
Brockville Gazette 1828-1832
Brockville Recorder 1830-1849 (Canton) *Commercial Advertiser* 1874-1957
Chateaugay Journal 1896-1903
Chateaugay Record 1881-1951
Daily Sentinel 4/1848-9/1848
Frontier-Palladium Newspaper 1849-1864 and *Malone Palladium Newspaper* 1864-1909
Hammond Advertiser 1907-1949
Lewis County Democrat 1867-1885
Malone Evening Telegram 1905-1939
Massena Observer 1901-1959
Potsdam Courier-Freeman 9/1861-5/1940
Potsdam Herald 1950
Potsdam Recorder 12/1893-1/1905
St. Lawrence County Mercury 3/1847-3/1848 and 1/1849-12/1850
St. Lawrence Gazette 12/1817-12/



If you have seen the Ogdensburg Public Library, this house might look familiar to you, for it served as the pattern for the library building. Built in about 1840 by Joseph Rosseel, land agent for the Parish family in Ogdensburg, it stood on the site where the library now stands. (This photo from the Parish Collection dates from about 1875.)



At one time, Ogdensburg was a major port of entry into the United States. These immigrant Chinese women are obviously objects of considerable interest to the local inhabitants. This image was printed from a negative that is part of a large collection of turn-of-the-century glass plate negatives by an Ogdensburg photographer.

1818 and 4/1826-4/1827
St. Lawrence Herald 1879-1905
St. Lawrence Plaindealer (Canton)
 1859--
Watertown Daily Times 1850--

Besides newspapers, there are other periodicals which have information of interest to local historians. *Adirondack Life*, *North Country Notes*, *York State Tradition*, *New York History*, and, of course, the *St. Lawrence County Historical Association's Quarterly* are all valuable resources for studying the history of this county and the North Country, and all are available in the periodical section of the library.

Probably the most exciting kind of material for someone delving into history is primary sources. Somehow looking at a diary or an account book or a letter written a hundred years ago makes the history of that period come

alive in a way that reading a book about it may not. Also, there's always the feeling that one might happen across some wonderful morsel of information missed by all the scholars who have studied the subject in the past. *St. Lawrence* has much to offer those who like this kind of excitement in their research.

The manuscript materials at *St. Lawrence* fall into several basic subject groups. The first of these consists of collections relating to the settlement of the area by land developers. Many of the collections in this group are inter-related, for the men who created them were acquainted with each other and had regular business and social dealings. The outstanding collection in this group is the *Parish Papers*. The *Parish* family was largely responsible for the settlement and development of the *North Country*, as is evident by the

number of place names which relate in some way to the family; *Parish*, *Parishville*, *Rossie*, and *Antwerp* are all a legacy of the *Parishes*. The bulk of the material in the collection falls within the period 1807 to 1816 and consists of financial papers, legal documents, ledgers, and correspondence, including some fascinating eye-witness accounts of the *British* attacks on *Ogdensburg* during the *War of 1812*.

Another very large collection in this group of manuscripts by land developers is the *Redington Papers*. *Redington* was a landowner and operator of a large lumber business in *Waddington*. He also served as agent for the *Ogden* family. The collection is a good source of information on an early and still important county business, lumbering, and it has some fascinating material on the *Sons of Temperance* movement in which *Redington* and his brother were

active.

Other interesting papers of this sort are the Child Papers (the Child brothers were agents for James Moon of Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, who settled Philadelphia, New York), the Man Papers (Ebenezer Man was the land agent in the Malone area for Edward Ellice of London), the Brush Papers (Brush was an early settler in—obviously—Brushton), the Ripley Papers (Ripley was one of the founders of Matildaville, now Colton, and he also owned a business in Ogdensburg), the Brown Papers (Jacob Jennings Brown founded Brownville and served with distinction in the War of 1812), and the Clark Papers (the Clark family was tied to the early families of Ogdensburg, the Ogdens, Fords, and Hasbroucks).

The second type of manuscript material in the St. Lawrence special collections is that relating to political history of the area. A major collection in this group is the King/Smith Papers which includes correspondence, business papers and legal papers of Preston King and his law clerk, Simeon Smith. Mr. King was a lawyer from Ogdensburg who served two terms in the U.S. Congress; his letters tell much about the issues in national as well as local politics. Mr. Smith's papers are particularly interesting for his correspondence from his wife, who spent much time in Ogdensburg while he was in Washington and who gives fascinating accounts of the daily life of a woman in the North Country in the 1840s.

Also included in this second group of manuscripts are the papers of Robert McEwen. Mr. McEwen was the U.S. congressman from this area during some very exciting times. His papers are an excellent source for those interested in the Seaway, the 1980 Winter Olympics at Lake Placid, or the local response to such issues as pollution or the Vietnam War.

The third type of manuscript information available at St. Lawrence is cultural. The best-known of these collections is the Remington Collection. Remington was born and buried in Canton, though he never lived here as an adult. St. Lawrence has one of the country's finest collections of Remington letters, many illustrated with little sketches. Supporting materials in the book collection include copies of magazines and books containing articles written or illustrated by Remington, as well as most of the books which have been published about him and his work.

Although Irving Bacheller is remembered today primarily for his novel *Eben Holden*, in his heyday at the turn of the century his books were sold out before they were even published. The

Bacheller Collection at St. Lawrence includes business and personal correspondence, biographical material, and—most exciting—manuscripts of both published and unpublished works. Bacheller was very orderly, crossing out unwanted phrases with a single line and writing in his changes above, so it is easy to follow the creative process in his manuscripts.

Finally, as happens with most efforts to divide things into tidy categories, we are reduced to creating a "Miscellaneous" group to incorporate the rest of the special manuscript collections. Here can be found the Kip Papers (letters home from the California Gold Rush by Frank Kip of Canton), the Beach Letters (letters home from the Civil War by two brothers from Russell), the Pryce Lewis Collection (the diary of a Union spy during the Civil War, together with supporting material by a local woman who studied him extensively), and many others of equal interest.

In addition to making available its own manuscripts, the library can offer help in locating manuscripts held in other libraries around the country. In most cases, those items can not be borrowed on interlibrary loan, but it is usually possible to hire someone in the holding library to do some research for you if you can not visit the collection in person.

The special collections room at St.

Lawrence is open from 8:30-4:30 on weekdays. Because the staff is small, it is usually wisest to call before you come, if you think you will need assistance in finding what you need in the collection; that way we can be sure someone is available to help you. The library is continually trying to improve its offerings of local history material and welcomes donations of papers relating to business, industry, politics, and everyday life in the recent as well as the distant past. At present, we are particularly interested in obtaining diaries of women who have lived in the county through the years. The papers in the special collections receive the best care possible: storage in acid-free containers in a temperature and humidity-controlled environment which is protected from fire and theft. We want to offer users a hundred years from now the same thrill that we currently offer you—the chance to open the lid of a veritable treasure chest and to peek inside at North Country life in the past.



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.

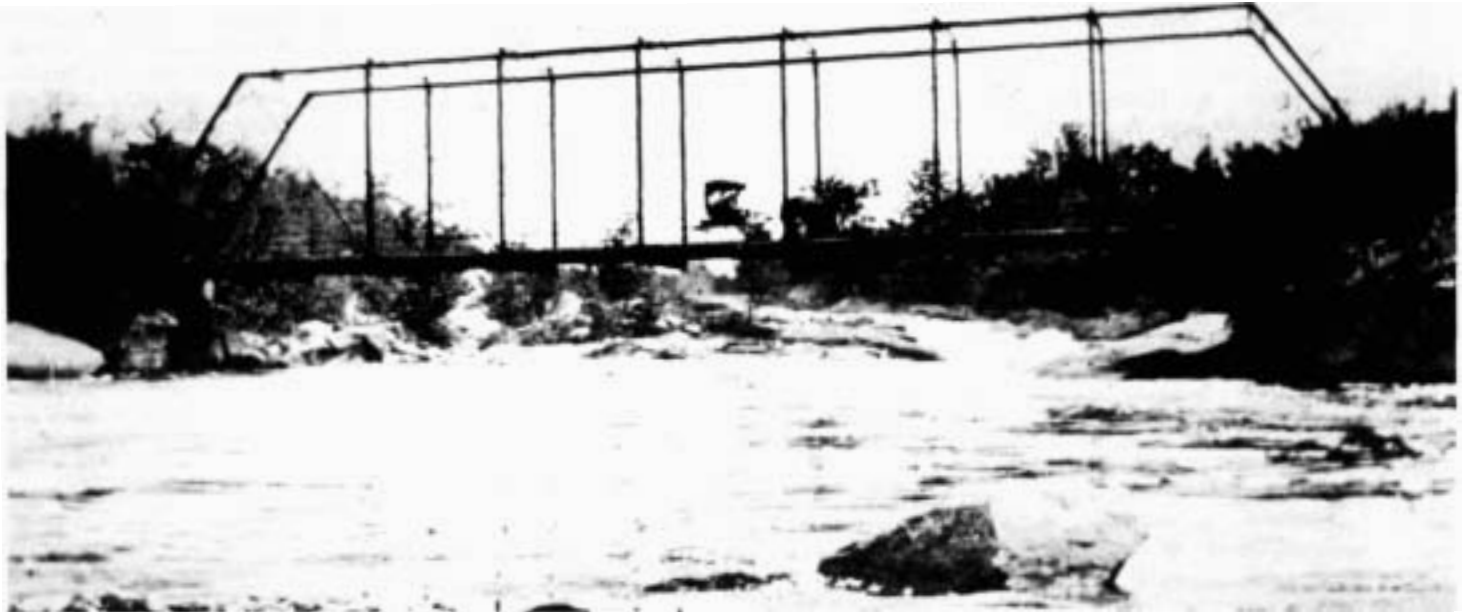
Editor's Farewell

Editing *The Quarterly* for the last three and a half years (this is my fourteenth issue) has been a pleasurable experience, one which has served to attach me more firmly to St. Lawrence County than I ever thought possible when I moved here nineteen years ago. Many people have made the editing task lighter, but I especially wish to thank Donna Seymour, Herb and MaryRuth Judd, Kay Wyant, Persis Boyesen, Pauline Tedford, and, of course, the staff at the Silas Wright House, particularly former director John Baule. Furthermore, very special thanks go to Joanne Thornhill and Merry Beth DeFranco of Ryan Press; the visual attractiveness of *The Quarterly* has been very substantially the result of their unflagging efforts. To my successor, I wish the same happy experience I have had working with some wonderful contributors and meeting people, if only by mail, who share my—newfound—interest in the history of this county.

Judith B. Ranlett

Can Anyone Help?

To continue in 1988 the series "Profiles of North Country Women" which appeared in local newspapers and on radio stations during National Women's History Month in March 1987, the St. Lawrence County Branch of the American Association of University Women seeks information about North Country women who made significant contributions to their communities. The 1987 series featured Rhoda Fox Graves, Eliza Kellas, Sarah Raymond Koch, Julia Crane and Marietta Holley. Suggestions of women to be featured in the 1988 series will be gratefully received by K. Briggs at 265-8513 or at 11 Bradley Drive, Potsdam, N.Y. 13676.



The Rainbow Bridge over the Racquette River. Niagara Mohawk flooded this area in 1933. (Photograph courtesy of Emma Remington)

Rainbow, Ormsby Pond, and Long Bow in the Town of Parishville

by Emma Remington



The home of Thomas and Ada Martin, near the bridge over the Racquette at Rainbow Falls. (Photograph courtesy of Emma Remington)

The section above the Reed home where Sally and Charles Kelly now reside on the Picketville Road through to the Racquette River was called the Rainbow Falls Road. Before Niagara Mohawk started the power development project, there was a bridge where people could cross the Racquette River and come out opposite the Williamson Corner on the East Hill Road out of South Colton in the Long Bow section. Several farms were on this road, including the Platt farm, the McEwen farm, the Decker farm, the Frank Perkins farm and the Thomas Martin farm. Also, the Perkins school district #17 was located at a four corners on this road; one road went to Rock Pond and the other followed the river toward South Colton. The school was abandoned because of a lack of children, and the remaining children were sent across the river to Long Bow school district #13. From the Reed farm to the Williamson Corner is about four and one half miles. The road was abandoned from a point opposite the Guy Reed residence past the Martin farm and



The Lamb farm and the Mathie scow at Mathie's Landing on the Racquette River. (Photograph courtesy of Emma Remington)

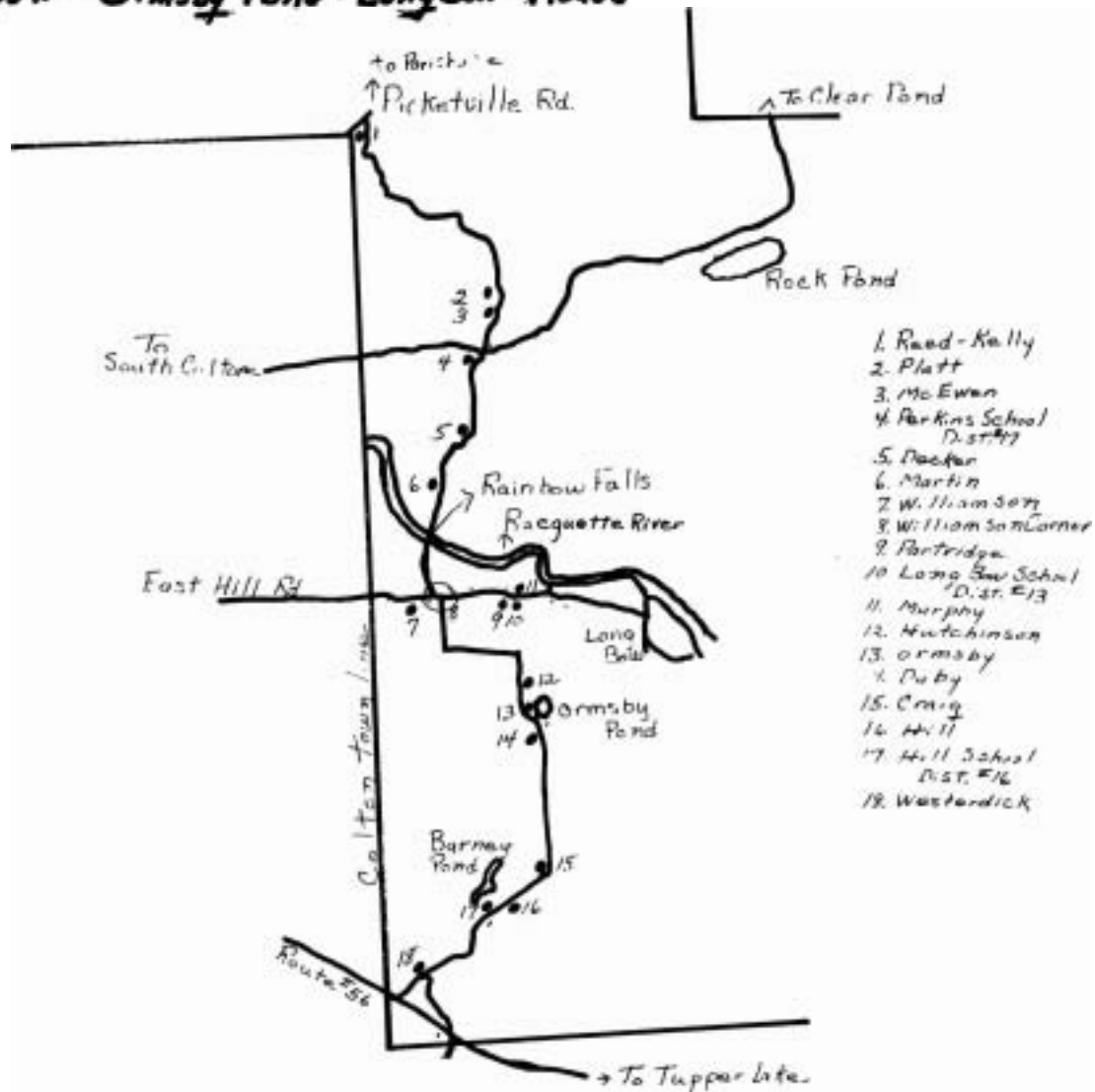


Edward Eli Henderson, an early settler at Long Bow. (Photograph courtesy of Emma Remington)



The Henderson Homestead at Long Bow about 1902. (Photograph courtesy of Emma Remington)

Rainbow - Ormsby Pond - Long Bow Roads



Map of Rainbow, Ormsby Pond, and Long Bow Roads. (Courtesy of Emma Remington)

across the Racquette River and to the so-called Forrest Williamson Corner, all in the Town of Parishville, on the 18th of March 1926. I remember going on picnics on the shore of the Racquette just below the bridge. It was a beautiful spot. My husband did a lot of fishing around this area. During the construction of the dams, the bridge was dropped into the river. Now, there are camps all the way from the Reed (Kelly) home to the river. You cannot cross the Racquette, so all campers go in from the Picketville Road.

Another road at the Williamson Corners, opposite the Rainbow Falls Road, takes you to Ormsby Pond, past Barney Pond to Route #56-Tupper Lake Road. The Hutchinson, Duby, Craig, Hill and Westerdick families lived on this road. Also, there was another school, Hill district #16. It was a log building located at the point of

Barney Pond. The road leading from the Tupper Lake Road to Ormsby Pond was abandoned in June 1923. Now the road is maintained by the Town of Parishville about a mile from Williamson Corner to a camp, and is called the Round Pond Road.

Long Bow was changed when the dam project was developed. Well-to-do city families came to Long Bow section and spent the summers, buying eggs, butter, milk, and fresh-baked bread from the local families. The Partridge, Henderson, Sullivan, Fisher, Clothier, Hutchinson, Bowen, Mathie, Murphy and Lamb families had small farms in this section. Some of these farm sites plus many small islands were flooded by the power development. Bill and Mary Murphy lived across the road from the school house and kept a post office, general store and a sort of "rooming house" for people who needed

to stay overnight. One of the highlights of the spring was the log drives. They came down the long bow of the Racquette River below Leonard Falls. It was thrilling to watch the drivers riding the logs as they floated on the swift currents; the drivers had remarkable skill with pikes to keep the logs from jamming and going ashore. Long Bow school district #13 was discontinued in 1942. Today the school house still stands; it is a hunting camp. Several year-around homes have been built near Long Bow and on the Power Dam road.



About the Author:
Emma Remington is Historian for the Town of Parishville.

Bourbon or Bumpkin?

by E.M. Thomas

It stands by the side of the highway, there in the small village of Hogansburg, New York, a weird reminder of days gone by. Vehicles of various descriptions sweeping past on Route 37 only emphasize what an anachronism it is with its pitched roof and casement windows. There is a certain foreign flavor to the Lost Dauphin Cottage, so proclaimed by the historical marker in the front yard. There is certainly no other like it in the area. What style architecture? What were the furnishings like? Let us consider the original inhabitant.

We are told this was the home of Eleazer Williams, who was born about 1787. Exactly when and where no one knows, for no birth records can be found, although they exist for his eleven 'siblings.' Oldtimers swore they knew him to be the son of Thomas Williams and his wife. The couple lived among the Iroquois Indians, and young Eleazer grew up to know and understand them intimately. He was trained to become an American Protestant Episcopal missionary under the auspices of funds rumored to be mysteriously sent by 'friends unknown' for such purposes. He was often referred to as a hero of the War of 1812, when he acted as liaison between the United States government and the Indians. Who would call such an unpolished backwoodsman a 'Lost Dauphin,' and why?

Due to the manner in which the United States was first settled, many of the early colonies had direct links to one European country or another. Regionally, the St. Regis Indians took their name from John Francis Regis, a French nobleman/philanthropist/priest who died before he was able to carry out his plans to cast his lot with the American Indians; however, Louis XV was so impressed with the success of his mission at Caughnawaga that he donated a bell to it. The Lost Dauphin was Louis XV's great grandson.

In 1774, shy, unpopular Louis XVI of French throne, actually was the Dauphin, could one wonder at the rough loving queen, Marie-Antoinette. Intrigue was her forte, and soon both were suspected of treason and imprisoned. In 1792 they went to the guillotine. By proclaiming their son, Louis XVII, king, the Royalists procured a death sentence for him, also.

If Eleazer Williams, claimant to the French throne, actually was the Dauphin, could one wonder at the rough manners of a child, rudely torn from



The Lost Dauphin Cottage. (Photograph courtesy of E.M. Thomas)

his family's bosom and thrown into prison where he supposedly languished for three years . . . years spent in the care of a brutal jailer who kept him in solitary confinement? Rumor now steps back in and suggests that the Dauphin was stolen away by night and another young child, sick and soon to die anyway, was substituted. Young Louis was smuggled aboard a ship and transported by sympathetic hands to northern New York State where he was given into the hands of the Williams family. The matriarch, Eunice Williams, grandmother to Thomas, was herself a white woman, daughter of the Rev. John Williams, pastor of Deerfield, Massachusetts, whose family was taken prisoner in a raid by Indians and carried to Canada in 1704. All of his children were eventually returned, save ten year old Eunice, who preferred to remain with her captors.

Could Eleazer be the Lost Dauphin? He was educated by a cousin in Massachusetts with whom he lived from 1800 until 1808. He moved to Green Bay, Wisconsin, with the Oneida Nation and was employed there as a missionary until 1835. He then returned to the scenes of his childhood and began preaching in St. James Episcopal Church in Hogansburg where he died in 1853. The rectory in which he lived is called the "Lost Dauphin Cottage." It is of singularly interesting

architecture with its high pitched roofs and A-frame construction. The first floor is separated by a room which forms a foyer at the front with a staircase leading to the upper floor. To the rear of this lies the kitchen. On either side of these two central rooms lie other chambers, two to a side, and they have apparently been used for varied purposes from time to time. One can see that in its heyday, this must have been a pleasant, attractive domicile when the sun streamed in through the mullioned windows, striking and glinting on the many diamond-shaped panes of glass while the towering trees and many shrubs seemed to peer inside.

Over the years there has been much controversy over this subject. It has been the plot of several books and, in the 1950s, a movie. There was one very informative book published by the Rev. John H. Hanson called *The Lost Prince*. It seems that there was some doubt on the other side of the ocean, too; for many years in Paris there was a monthly magazine published entitled *Revue Historique de la Question Louis XVII*.

If Eleazer was not the Dauphin, one wonders why his body was exhumed at 5:30 in the morning in April 1947 and transported from the Hogansburg area to his final resting place in Wisconsin. Indeed, we shall never know, really, but one can romanticize, and wonder if legend was fact. And the historical marker stands by the roadside before the quaint, weather-beaten house, and the people pass, and the traffic passes by, and somewhere Louis sleeps, and Eleazer sleeps, but do they sleep in two graves, or one?

About the Author:

E.M. Thomas lives in Massena. Writing is her avocation; she also enjoys painting and gardening.

Can Anyone Help?

Solomon Barrett, Jr., of Madrid, N.Y., was an important nineteenth century grammarian, born about 1800. Can anyone provide information on this man or his family? If so, please contact Robert Ian Scott, Department of English, University of Saskatchewan, Saskatoon, Canada, S7N 0W0.

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