

THE
QUARTERLY

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Cover: This view of the wood room and pond of the Aldrich Paper Company mill at Natural Dam, New York, was photographed sometime between 1900 and 1913. (*Post Card collection of Lawrence Robillard*)

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Editor: Nadine N. Jennings

Contributing Editors: Varick A. Chittenden
Herbert F. Judd
George F. McFarland
Elwood M. Simons

Advertising Editor: Ruth McKean

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Nathan Ford Giffin, a resident of Heuvelton since 1830, built in 1860 this stone building at the northwest corner of State and Union Streets for a grist mill. The building was later sold and converted into a butter and cheese factory. In 1874 it was known as the St. Lawrence Creamery or Butter Manufactory under the management of Captain John S. Snyder. In June of that year about 10,000 pounds of milk were received each day and May butter sold for 31 cents a pound. In the 1880s James C. Birge purchased the building and continued operation until the fall of 1894 when he sold to William H. McCadam, who then operated the plant until June 1896 when he sold to A.B. Hargrave. In 1903 Herman Mills and Jon Rankin purchased the plant, and the two men conducted the business for two or three years until Rankin sold his interest to Mills. It continued under Mills' management until his death April 12, 1913. The building was destroyed by fire in the summer of 1921; on the site today is a gas station. (Photograph courtesy of the Heuvelton Free Library)

Heuvelton Roots of *Winnegatoo*

by Persis Yates Boyeson

Against the backdrop of a romance, Dan S. Giffin is revealed through the characters of his historical novel Winnegatoo to be a man uncommonly sensitive to the concerns of the settlers of the North Country and to the diverse viewpoints of the displaced Native American population.

The setting of the historical novel *Winnegatoo*, written by Dan S. Giffin in the early 1900s, stems from the very earliest years of the settlement of the area now known as the town of Oswegatchie and the city of Ogdensburg.

In the summer of 1747 Abbe Francois Picquet received permission for the future establishment of La Presentation. In October 1748 he started toward Fort

Frontenac, now known as the City of Kingston, Ontario, to examine the surrounding countryside to find a convenient place suitable for the establishment of an Indian Village for those Indians who wished to become Christians. On November 21, 1748, the feast of the Presentation of the Blessed Virgin in the temple, Abbe Picquet discovered the little peninsula at the confluence of

the Oswegatchie and St. Lawrence Rivers. He consecrated this date by naming the mission La Presentation. He returned to the chosen site on May 30, 1749, with four Iroquois Indians, a stone mason, a carpenter, a few French soldiers and some common laborers, in all thirty persons, and commenced to build an establishment that would later have long lasting international conse-

quences.

The Mission drew Indians from the Onondagas, Oneidas, Mississaguais, Abenakis, and other Indian tribes. The Indians who made their home at La Presentation were called the Oswegatchie or Swe-Kat-si Indians.

The first recorded religious celebration at the new Mission was on January 9, 1750, when the daughter of an Onondaga Indian Chief was baptized.

In the Mission records for the years 1753 and 1754 is found the name Ignace Ogentiagon, also spelled Gentiagon and Gentiakion. In one instance he was identified as an "Iroquois Indian of the Mission of La Presentation". Another entry lists his wife's name as Catherine. Was Ignace Ogentiagon the same Indian whose name is spelled "Ogentago" in the story, *Winnegatoo*? I would like to think that there was a continuity from the time of the founding of the Indian Mission at La Presentation to the relating of this dramatic story which covers the period of about 1796-1814.

The British were in possession of the territory from the time of the French capitulation in August 1760 until June 1796 when they evacuated Fort Oswegatchie, as the Fort was named after the French surrender. The evacuation of Fort Oswegatchie was in accordance with the terms of Jay's Treaty. According to Hough, while the area was in the possession of the British, four representatives of the Oswegatchie Indians, one of whom was Ogentago, the father of *Winnegatoo*, the heroine of the story, "bargained, agreed and to farm let for ever" to two individuals, Major Watson and Daniel Smith, land running "ten miles on the river St. Lawrence with nine miles back into the woods." (The word "Major" was a name and not a title.) This land transaction, among others by the Oswegatchie Indians, caused much consternation to the land proprietor, Samuel Ogden, and his land agent, Nathan Ford.

Nathan Ford was the real founder of the area even though in the beginning he was the land agent for Samuel Ogden. In a summer 1795 letter he was commissioned by Ogden "to spend some weeks or perhaps months" at Oswegatchie to prepare and arrange things for the settlement the following year when by the terms of Jay's Treaty the British would evacuate the Fort in 1796.

On August 11, 1796, Nathan Ford, accompanied by his negro slave Dick, Richard Fitz Randolph, Thomas Lee and the John Lyon family, arrived at Fort Oswegatchie. These first settlers are important characters in *Winnegatoo*. They were well known people to David Doane Giffin, grandfather of Dan S. Giffin, the author, and to his father, Nathan Ford Giffin.

The family of John Lyon consisted of his second wife, Martha Babbitt, their seven children and his sixteen-year-old daughter, Rachel, by his first wife, Rachel Reeves, who died four months after the birth of Rachel. The John Lyon family were given quarters in the Mill House. This action immediately brought a letter dated August 16, 1796, to Nathan Ford from Catherine Lorimier of Edwardsburg, Canada, in which she informed him that he had taken possession of her house and that she understood that he proposed to remove the portion of the dam still remaining. Catherine Lorimier was the widow of Captain Lorimier, the son of a former commandant of La Presentation and Indian interpreter at Fort Oswegatchie for the British during the American Revolution. Lorimier had obtained a verbal lease in 1785 from the Oswegatchie chiefs located at Grenville, Upper Canada, and had built the mill house. The Lorimier family lived here for a year until the dam went out and then returned to Canada. Martha Lyon was not to know for very long this home in the Mill House for her death at the age of 37 years, the first in the new settlement, occurred about three weeks after arrival at Fort Oswegatchie. Martha's step-daughter, Rachel, at sixteen became the "mother" of her seven step-brothers and sisters ranging in age from three to fourteen years.

In a letter dated September 1796 to Samuel Ogden, just a few weeks after arrival at Oswegatchie, Nathan Ford said, "my carpenter will stay the winter." The carpenter was Thomas Lee, who not only stayed the winter but spent the remainder of his life in the town of Oswegatchie. It may have been the maiden, Rachel Lyon, who was the real reason for the decision to remain in the town. The date of the marriage of Rachel Lyon and Thomas Lee has not been learned but the assumption is that it did occur before 1800. Thomas Lee was the pioneer settler on the Morristown Road. His was the first deed in the town recorded from Samuel Ogden and Nathan Ford. This indenture was made January 16, 1798, for a tract containing 145 acres strict measure for the sum of 166 pounds, eleven shillings and ten pence. Richard Fitz Randolph was one of those who witnessed this document.

The clerk accompanying Nathan Ford was Richard Fitz Randolph, who soon became Ford's expert "right hand". His name appears often on documents in the period 1796-1801. He returned to New Jersey, where he died in 1815. It is known that two of his descendants returned to St. Lawrence County.

The location now known as Heuvelton was referred to by Nathan Ford as East Branch, meaning the place where

the highway crossed the East Branch, (Oswegatchie River). A village plat was surveyed at this area by Joseph Edsall and named Fordsburgh in honor of Nathan Ford.

Dan S. Giffin, author of *Winnegatoo*, interwove the actual experiences of the first settlers in the early years of the settlement of the town with his two fictional characters, *Winnegatoo* and Charles Maywood.

The grandfather of Dan S. Giffin, David Doane Giffin, settled in 1800 on land located on the St. Lawrence River, in the town of Oswegatchie, about six miles from Ogdensburg towards Morristown. He was a farmer, blacksmith and "maker of nails." He was commissioned a Captain of a company of militia and is said to have served as a spy on the frontier during the War of 1812.

David Doane Giffin married Jerusha Thompson, daughter of a Revolutionary War veteran. They were the parents of eight children; the four youngest were born in the town of Oswegatchie. The sixth child, Nathan Ford Giffin was born December 6, 1805, and was named in honor of his father's friend, Nathan Ford.

Nathan Ford Giffin in an unpublished manuscript of some of his early recollections said: "I remember living on my father's farm on the St. Lawrence River. I attended school a little, learned reading, writing and the first four rules of arithmetic. There were plenty of bears and Indians in the country at the time. We saw Indians but they never offered to molest us."

At the age of 21 years he went to work on the farm of his brother-in-law, James Stewart, near Waterloo, New York. His brother, William, who later was with him in the early business in Heuvelton, carried him on his horse's back as far as Brier Hill. He walked the rest of the way, excepting when he caught a ride with travelers. He arrived there on Christmas Day 1826, worked on the farm through the next summer, and returned home in the fall.

In the spring of 1828 he returned to Waterloo and hired out to work in the tannery of Augustus Elder, learning the trade of tanner and currier. About a year later his brother, Henry, went to Waterloo, and the two brothers returned to the Giffin farm driving a horse and cutter that Nathan had purchased.

Nathan Ford Giffin and his brother, William Canfield Giffin, purchased in the spring of 1829 an acre of land on their father's farm for sixty dollars and built a tannery and worked it during the summer. Research in the deeds in the St. Lawrence County Clerk's office shows that the indenture was made August 9, 1830, for sixty dollars an acre for the piece of land known by the



Nathan Ford Giffin erected in 1853 this stone building at the northwest end of the bridge on State Street. He was a dealer in boots, groceries, harnesses and also had a tannery. In 1887 George C. McFadden and his father-in-law, Charles P. Anderson, formed a partnership and purchased the Giffin store, and established a grist mill and feed store. The business was operated until 1916 when the illness of Mr. McFadden forced him to sell the business to Henry G. Mayne and son. In 1943 the building was purchased by Stanley and Alice Richardson. Dan S. Giffin's law office is believed to have been in the second floor right hand corner where the Notary Public sign can be seen. This picture was taken after 1906, because that year electricity came to Heuvelton. The men are identified as John Crawford, Jr., Charles P. Anderson, Harlan Smithers, and William Smith. (Photograph courtesy of the Heuvelton Free Library)

name of the tannery lot and situated in the town of Oswegatchie, River Lot number three. The deed was recorded August 24, 1831.

Nathan F. Giffin, in relating his life's experiences, said that "in the spring of 1830 we came to reside in Heuvelton and finished the building for a tannery and ran it for two years." This was the unfinished building that had been constructed by Jacob Vanden Heuvel for a distillery.

The first book of accounts kept by N.F. Giffin shows that he knew the basics of bookkeeping. Very little cash changed hands. It was a barter system. His spelling was quite phonetic, "lether," "nale," "pale," "bords," "harnis," and "Shoges" are some examples. His

writing is quite legible in the ledger still extant 150 years later.

Among the expenses listed for completing the construction of the tannery were "clapboards" from Cobb for \$3.50, 5,000 shingles for \$7.50 and 24 pounds of "nales" for \$2.40.

Research in the St. Lawrence County Clerk's Office shows that on Sept. 8, 1831, Nathan F. Giffin and William C. Giffin purchased a parcel in the Village of Heuvel (Heuvel became Heuvelton in 1832) from Grosvenor T. Howard and his wife, Louise, all parties being of the town of Oswegatchie, for the sum of fifty-five dollars. The parcel was described as block number two in part of lot number three, containing seven hundred and twenty-seven square feet,

located on Lisbon Street. This document was recorded September 14, 1831. The parcel was from a parcel of land purchased in July 1828 by Howard from Jacob A. Vanden Heuvel. The account book shows that the cost of the lot was \$55.00, 75 cents for "servaing," and "ecndidging" (acknowledging) the deed 75 cents.

It has not been determined where the two bachelor brothers lived during the 1830-1831 period. Under the entry for John "Roudouck" (Ruddock) for January 24, 1831, appears Ruddock's account paid by house rent of \$10.49. For November 25, 1831, the record says "commenced in John Roudick's house at \$2.00 per month." This house may have been the one that Nathan F.



The Giffin home as Dan S. Giffin knew it. (Photograph courtesy of The Advance News)

Giffin purchased in 1841 from John Fleetham.

Nathan F. Giffin and Mary Galloway were married April 26, 1831, by the Rev. John Sykes. The ceremony took place in a log house on the Preston King farm in the Bromaghim settlement in the town of Oswegatchie. Mr. King was first cousin of Mary Galloway, daughter of Duty and Martha (Galloway) Galloway.

William married Mary Dawson nearly a year later, on January 19, 1832, and moved to Morristown.

Nathan and William were partners until February 1832 when William sold his interest to their brother-in-law, Rawlings Webster, husband of Margaret Galloway, sister of Mrs. N.F. Giffin. He was a shoemaker and remained a partner of Nathan for three or four years.

The first child of Nathan Ford Giffin was a daughter, Mary Elizabeth, born March 11, 1832. In August 1832, Nathan purchased the westerly part of lot number three in block seven from Van Heuvel for fifty-three dollars. The parcel, containing forty seven-one hundredth acre, was located on Lisbon Street. The deed was recorded in June 1833 and witnessed by Rawlings Web-

ster. Sometime after the date of the purchase in 1832, the family moved temporarily to Brockville, Ontario, returning in time for a son, Nathan Clark Giffin, to be born on October 10, 1833, in Heuvelton. While in Canada, Mr. Giffin remained a partner in the firm, and some of the leather made at Heuvelton was sent to him there. He sold part of it and made the remainder into boots and shoes in a shop employing five or six men.

The ledger dates start again on November 5, 1833, with an account for George Seamon, another early settler in Heuvelton.

When N.F. Giffin returned from Canada in 1833, he probably rented Grosvenor Tarbell Howard's house. The ledger for December 6, 1834, says, "commenced another year in G.T. Howard's house at \$32.50 per year." Dan S. Giffin, in his early recollections of Heuvelton in 1901, says that his sister, "Elizabeth and brother Nathan were born on Lisbon Street, house now gone, west of the house now owned (1901) by Winters. It was a 'rough cast' house, lathed and plastered on the outside with coarse mortar and gravel."

The next recorded residence of the Nathan Giffin family is the house lo-

cated at the corner of State and Justina Streets. D.S. Giffin in 1901 said that "the back part of the house now there was a part of the house." It was in this house that Dan S. Giffin was born May 19, 1838.

When Dan was eleven years old, Nathan moved into the house on State Street, presently the residence of the Robert Balfour family. This house was built by Van Heuvel and is the one listed in the *St. Lawrence Gazette* advertisement of April 21, 1829, as "dwelling house in the village, containing seven rooms and fitted in other respects for the immediate residence of a family." Mr. Giffin related, in his memoranda about pioneers of Heuvelton, that "Lincoln Morris was agent for Van Heuvel when the house was being built and some young fellows playing on the roof knocked down the chimney and Morris made them pay for it."

At the time George Seaman came to Heuvelton in May or June 1823, there were only three frame houses in town. The following families resided there: Jude Pinney; Jarius Remington; David Burroughs; Henry Huntington, a blacksmith; John Ruddock; Lincoln Morris; Widow Dexter; Jacob Vanden Heuvel, at the Mill; Jonathan Higgins, a sawyer;

Otis Fisk; John Doran; J.B. Fisk, a carder; Peter Sherewood, and John Messer.

On January 26, 1835, the firm of N.F. Giffin and Co. commenced and Major Roger Sargent became a partner in the firm. After that partnership dissolved Mr. Giffin ran the business alone, and for several years his father-in-law, Duty Galloway, worked in the tannery.

Mr. Giffin purchased the store located at the southwest corner of State and River Streets from E.N. Fairchild and occupied it until 1853, when he built the stone building still there in 1988. In 1860 he built a stone building at the northwest corner of State and Union Streets for a grist mill and used steam power. The grist mill was sold and converted into a butter factory and later a cheese factory. In 1988 a gasoline station is on the site. He also built a steam saw mill in the same area. The saw mill was sold to Josiah Palmer.

Mr. Giffin's business operations included operating a tannery, the running of a shoe and harness shop, general store; a saw, shingle and grist mill, and the manufacture of pot ash and pearl ash. His business career spanned approximately a half century in the Village of Heuvelton.

Dan Spafford Giffin, the fourth child of Nathan Ford Giffin and the author of *Winnegatoo*, resided in Heuvelton most of his life. He attended the district school in Heuvelton and the Gouverneur Wesleyan Seminary. At the ages of 17 and 18 he taught school for two years. In 1857 he entered Union College. After one year he left college to resume teaching and to "read Law". He taught at old Number One school in Ogdensburg and was in the offices of Brown and Spencer, and later with Morris and Vary in Ogdensburg. He was admitted to the bar in 1861.

On August 30, 1862, he enlisted as a private in Company G, 142 Regiment for the term of three years. He was mustered in September 29 and promoted to First Lieutenant October 4, 1862, and to Captain May 21, 1863. He was wounded in action May 16, 1864, at Drury's Bluff, and was discharged for disability September 13, 1864. Until his death he suffered intense pain periodically from the wound received in battle.

He set up a law office in Heuvelton and was also in active partnership with his father, Nathan F., and his brother, Charles H., in the business of the general store, tannery, and the shoe and harness shop. He served as school commissioner, First District, St. Lawrence County. For several terms he was Deputy Clerk of the New York State Assembly and later served as Assistant Journal Clerk. He was elected six times

Justice of the Peace. For several years he was Secretary of the St. Lawrence County Republican Committee. He was a long time reporter of Heuvelton news and events to the newspapers, *The St. Lawrence Republican* and *The Advance*.

Mr. Giffin was named Dan and was very annoyed when he saw his name spelled Daniel. He was heard to say: "I belong to the tribe of Dan and my name is the good old Bible name of Dan, not Daniel."

He was described in his obituary as one of the strong characters of St. Lawrence County and a gifted, scholarly man, an able writer and essayist.

General Newton Martin Curtis, under whom Captain Giffin served in the Civil War, wrote these words in tribute at the time of the death of Dan S. Giffin January 30, 1907: "The Captain was a studious man and possessed a fund of information on a greater variety of subjects than many of our best cultured persons were little acquainted with. He wrote well and his articles on political and current topics were clear and convincing."

The experiences of Mr. Giffin's ancestors in the settling of this area certainly

contributed to the writing of this novel. *Winnegatoo* reflects Mr. Giffin's intense interest in the events of local historical importance and their impact on related affairs of the time. He heeded the advice of President Grant, who suggested that each town have its local history written. Thus, he collected during his life time the reminiscences of many of the early settlers of the area.



About the Author:

Persis Yates Boyeson is Historian for the City of Ogdensburg, Town of Oswegatchie, and the Village of Heuvelton. Mrs. Boyeson has written articles on local history for *The Quarterly*, *The Advance News*, and *The Watertown Daily Times*. She edited and updated the manuscript of *History of Heuvelton and Vicinity*, by the late Courtland Smithers, published by the Heuvelton Free Library in 1971. Mrs. Boyeson is a graduate of the University of Vermont and is employed at the Ogdensburg Public Library.



The Giffin home as it is today. (Photograph courtesy of The Advance News)

Suggested Reading

Hough, Franklin B. *A History of St. Lawrence and Franklin Counties, New York, From the Earliest Period to the Present Time*, a facsimile edition with an added foreword. Baltimore: Regional Publishing Company, 1970.

Smithers, Courtland F. *History of Heuvelton and Vicinity*. Ogdensburg, NY: Heuvelton Free Library, 1971.

Winnegatoo, a novel of early 19th century North Country life, is available through the SLCHA. Regular price is \$7.95; SLCHA members' price is \$6.95. Please add \$1.00 for shipping. Mail orders to: SLCHA, P.O. Box 8, Canton, NY 13617. Proceeds from sales can be used to complete the National Endowment for the Humanities Challenge Grant match.

Gralyn Theatre, Gouverneur, New York

by Nelson B. Winters

Visible in the Gralyn Theatre today is the care and attention with which it was built. Still there are the orchestra pit with its entrance to the under-stage dressing rooms, the gold gilt ornamentation, and the abstract ceiling design in tones of blue and orange which is as modern today as in 1920.



The Ladies of the Gralyn. (Photographs by N.N. Jennings)

In the August 6, 1919, *Gouverneur Northern Tribune* was an announcement that a new 1000 seat movie house, without a balcony but having raised sections and box seats on each side, would be built at 119 East Main Street under the ownership of J. Clare (Claire) Carpenter, a World War I veteran and son of a local hardware merchant. Mr. Carpenter named the new movie house Gralyn in fond memory of a Miami, Florida hotel of the same name where he enjoyed a winter vacation in 1914 with his parents. The Gralyn would present both motion pictures and stage entertainment. First mortgage bonds in the amount of \$25,000 carrying a 6% coupon were offered to local investors and others.

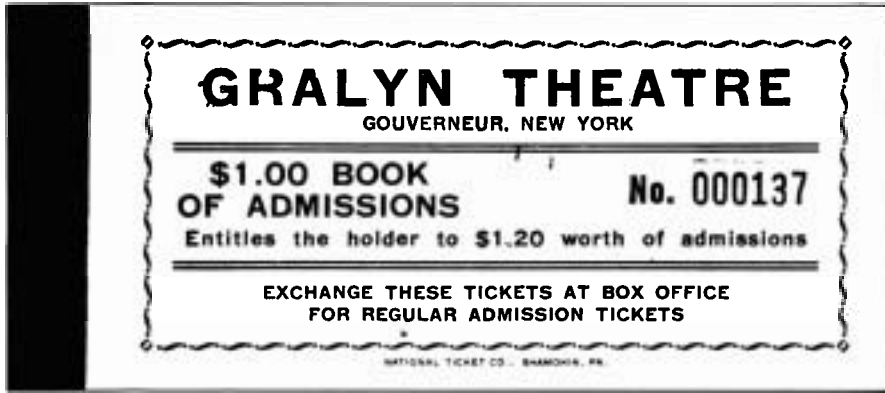
The grand opening scheduled for late December was delayed until January

30, 1920, due to construction and financial problems. The first presentation was a road show musical comedy, *Maytime*. As the theater was only partially completed and poorly heated, the zero temperature outside that night made the title ironic. After opening night regular evening prices were 25¢ for adults and 15¢ for children under 12 years. Low admission prices prevailed as late as the 1960s, when books of 5¢ and 10¢ coupons exchangeable for \$1.20 worth of tickets could be purchased for \$1.00.

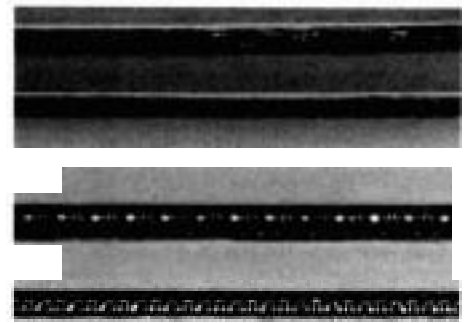
Less than two years after its debut the new theater encountered insurmountable financial difficulties, and in December 1921 former county treasurer G. Murray Holmes of Gouverneur was appointed receiver. At the bankruptcy sale in June 1922 Mr. Walter Perrin,

one of five bondholders with \$32,000 interest in the property, was the successful bidder for the building, furnishings, and entrance for \$25,000.

In August of the same year, according to records in the office of the St. Lawrence County Clerk, James Papayanakos of Watertown purchased the Gralyn for \$33,000. He finished construction of the building and redecorated it. Extensive improvements—indirect lighting, acoustic drapes, cushioned seats, carpeted aisles—were made. Mr. Papayanakos was one of the first theater owners to install videophone sound in 1929, and shortly after came sound on film. He was also one of the first owners in the United States to install stereophonic sound wide screen. Prior to the advent of "talking pictures," the large stage, orchestra pit, and dressing



Gralyn Theatre admission ticket book. (Courtesy of the author)



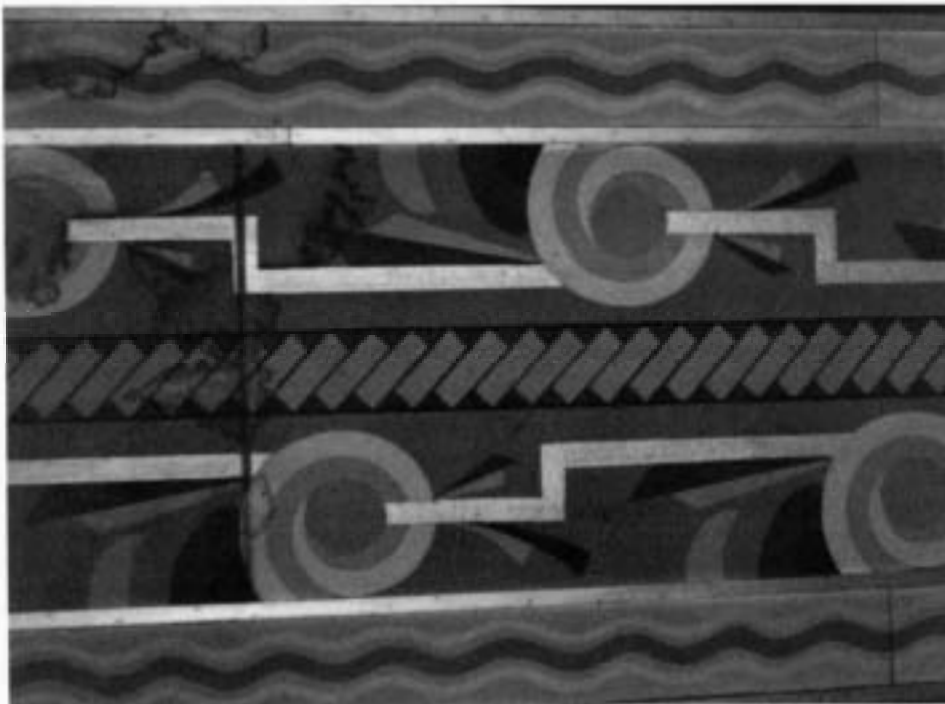
The underside of the Gralyn marquee. (Photograph by N.N. Jennings)



The exterior of the Gralyn Theatre as it looks today. (Photograph by Clarence Evans, courtesy of the Village of Gouverneur Historian's Office)



Mr. and Mrs. James
(Annette) Papayanakos.
(Photograph courtesy of the
Village of Gouverneur
Historian's Office)



Gralyn Theatre ceiling detail. The colors of blue, turquoise, orange, brown, and tan are echoed in the tones of original marquee. (Photograph by N.N. Jennings)

rooms accommodated frequent road shows, vaudeville, and local amateur productions. Perhaps the most memorable of the last category was the 1935 production of *The Red Lady*, put on by the Gouverneur Luncheon Club, which raised \$1500 for the new VanDuzee hospital. The Gralyn was also the site of Dean High School graduation exercises until about 1937.

During the silent picture era, pianist Venita Fuller and violinist Orela Kenyon provided musical accompaniment appropriate to the type of movie on the screen. For some of the early years Roy Cross operated the projector and Charlie Belile was custodian. Later on Charles Bartholomew, Kenneth Abel, Gregory Fox, and John Clark served as projectionists. Marion Fortune and her four sisters succeeded one another as box office cashiers. Leon Whalen was right hand man to the Papayanakos brothers for many years. The area today occupied by the box and business offices was originally the office of insurance agencies represented by Bligh A. Dodds and Clarence I. Bockus.

The Gralyn was sold in 1957 to Jomay Enterprises of Albany, New York. From 1957 to 1974 Frank Bergau was an officer and part owner of Jomay Enterprises and later James Papayanakos Gouverneur Theaters, Inc. of Albany. He acted as local general manager and introduced the concept of occasional evening "art movies" combined with buffet style refreshments and discussion.

James Papayanakos died in 1960 and Mrs. Papayanakos in 1974. William and Reta Hulbert of Lowville, New York bought the Gralyn in 1974. The Hulberts sold it to Eldon Conklin and John Smith, local businessmen, in 1986. For the past few years the Gralyn has been open only Friday through Sunday.

Chronological Ownership According to Abstract of Title

- 1920 J. Clare (Claire) Carpenter
- 1922 Walter Perrin (for bondholders)
- 1922 James Papayanakos
- 1926 Harry Papayanakos (brother of James)
- 1937 Sylvia Papayanakos (widow of Harry)
- 1944 James Papayanakos (half interest)
- 1949 James and Annette Papayanakos (full ownership)
- 1957 Jomay Enterprises (Albany, NY)
- 1959 James Papayanakos Gouverneur Theaters Corp. (Albany, NY)
- 1974 William and Reta Hulbert
- 1986 Eldon Conklin and John Smith



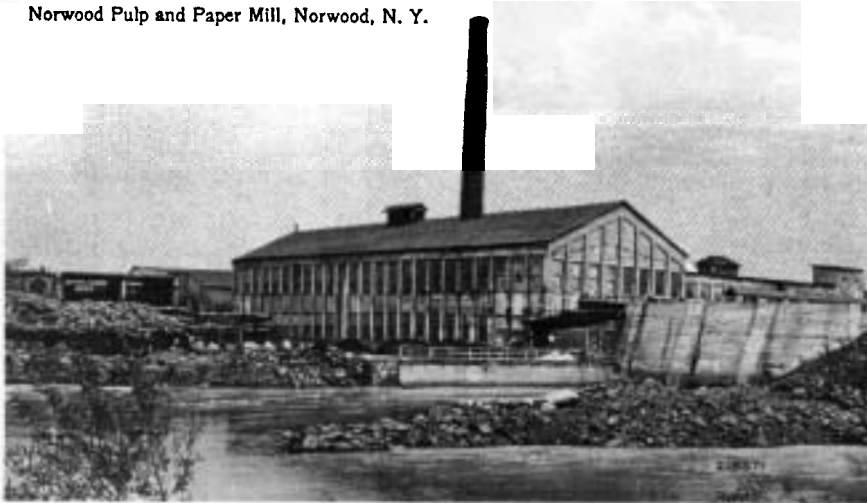
About the Author:

Nelson B. Winters is the Village Historian for Gouverneur and a frequent contributor to *The Quarterly*.

Pulp and Paper Mills of St. Lawrence County, New York: Post Card Collection of Lawrence Robillard

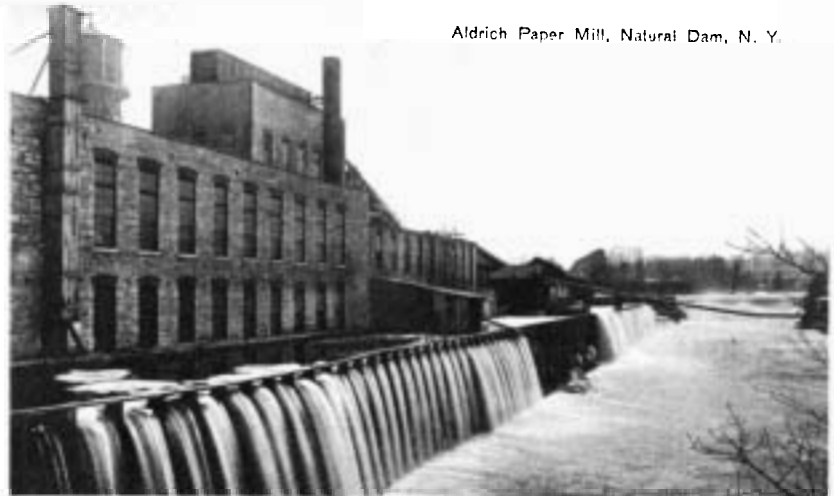
The following family post cards were mailed between 1900 and 1925. Rustic to streamlined, the mills were an integral part of North Country life.

Norwood Pulp and Paper Mill, Norwood, N. Y.



*Norwood Pulp and Paper Mill,
Norwood, New York*

Aldrich Paper Mill, Natural Dam, N. Y.



*Aldrich Paper Mill,
Natural Dam, New York*



*Remington-Martin Paper Mill,
Norfolk, New York*

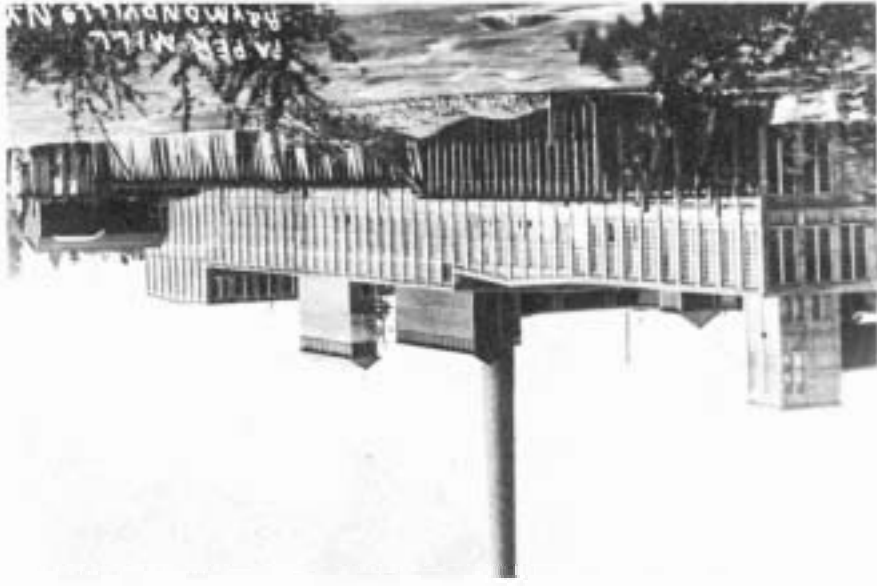
Emeryville, New York



*The Planting Mill,
Conifer, New York*



*Paper Mill,
Raymondville, New York*

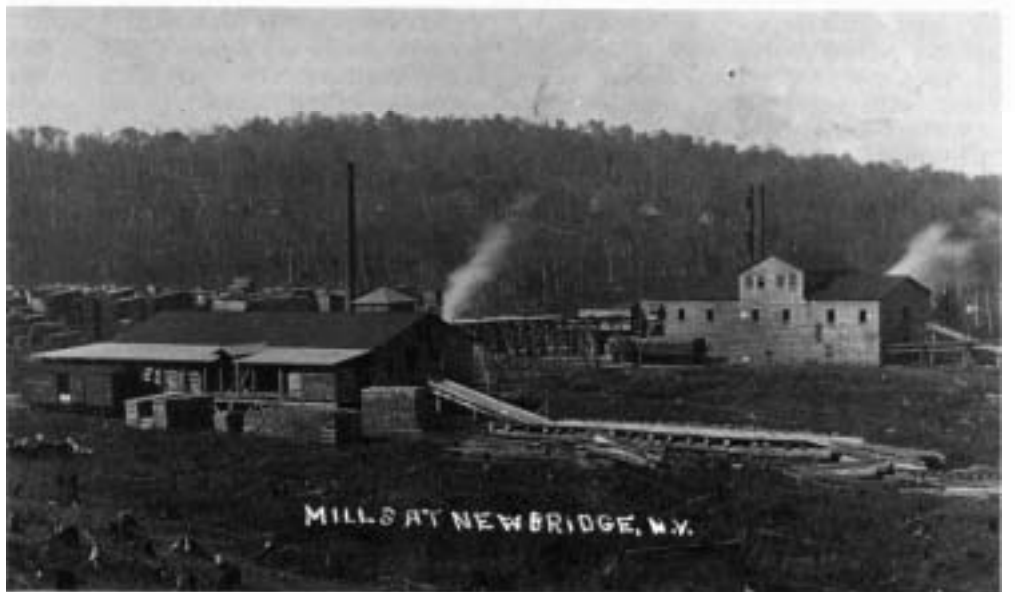




*The Wood Room,
Newton Falls Paper Mill*



*New Bridge,
New York, in the Adirondacks*



*Mills at New Bridge,
New York*

A Century of Change: A History of the Pulp and Paper Mills in St. Lawrence County, New York

Part II

by Lynne Haskins Matott

For the initial segment of this two-part article, see the January 1987 Quarterly.



An aerial view of the Newton Falls Paper Mill. (Photograph by Dwight Church, courtesy of the Adirondack Museum)

Between 1914 and 1921 labor difficulties plagued the former Remington mills where the workers went on strike both in 1914 and 1919.⁸⁴ These strikes coincided with other labor trouble throughout the country, but particularly in the Black River mills. David Smith commented, "This industry has had remarkably little labor difficulties throughout its history, and much of that was centered in the Watertown area."⁸⁵ Violence and martial law marked the strike at the Deferriet mill in 1915.⁸⁶ Again Smith said, "War time conditions drove up the cost of living, and the unions became stronger as demands for higher wages spread across the industry."⁸⁷

The Remington mill workers attempted to introduce a closed shop by striking in 1919, but they called off the strike before achieving their goal. Finally, the mills were completely unionized in 1920, and the management recognized the unions and granted a 20 per cent

wage increase for all 800 employees.⁸⁸

A "slight depression" in the winter of 1920 cut mill production so much that none of the Northern New York Mills were operating at full capacity in the spring of 1921.⁸⁹ David Smith wrote, "In fact, in that spring many of the gains made by the unions across the country disappeared in the recession. No solidarity was really present, as yet in these unions."⁹⁰ In 1921 the Remington mill workers were forced to take a 25 per cent wage reduction; unskilled workers were paid 32 cents an hour and skilled workers were paid 5 cents an hour more.⁹¹

By 1916 paper mills across the country had a "3-tour" system or 8-hour shifts. St. Lawrence County mills may have been slow to change, since the Unionville mill operated on a 2-tour day until 1916.⁹²

The success of the St. Lawrence County mills during the 1920's was mixed. The paper industry grew so fast

during the post-war boom of the 1920's that it over-produced both pulp and paper by the end of the decade. The newsprint industry also had to compete with Canadian newsprint which was no longer restricted by tariffs, and "over production" and "under-consumption" were basic problems for the newsprint industry which had begun the decade with a shortage.⁹³

The Hanna company did not withstand the labor agitation and the 1920 recession, and it sold its stock to the St. Regis Paper Company which continued to expand under the leadership of Watertown capitalists. In 1922 it was the third largest paper company in the United States. By the end of the decade, however, it was overstocked and it closed the Raymondville pulp mill in 1928. After shortening the work week at the other mills, it was forced to close the Norwood, Raymondville, and East Norfolk mills in 1932. Only the Norfolk mill remained open.⁹⁴

Since World War I caused a newsprint shortage, two publishing firms purchased mills in St. Lawrence County to ensure a continuous supply of paper for themselves. In 1917 the *New York World* purchased the controlling interest in the De Grasse Paper Company at Pyrites, and in 1920 the Chilton Company and the McGraw Publishing Company jointly purchased the Newton Falls Paper Company.⁹⁵

The Natural Dam mill operated between 1923 and 1929, yet it closed "for lack of orders," and probably the Emeryville pulp mill closed with it.⁹⁶ The Depression also closed the Piercefield mill in 1935 and the Pyrites mill in 1930. Hydroelectric power dams replaced the mills at Piercefield, Colton, and Emeryville during the 1930's. The Ruderman Machinery Exchange purchased the Piercefield mill equipment, and the Pyrites mill was also stripped of its machinery during this time.⁹⁷

The Sisson mill survived the Depression well by changing their production from newsprint to specialty papers during the 1920's. A bleach plant was constructed in 1925 and a German embossing machine was acquired in 1929. At that time it was the second mill in the country to produce IBM tab card stock, and it was also one of the first to produce wet strength paper for maps. In 1938 the embossing machine

and new printing and sheeting machines were placed in a new converting plant where they made printed and embossed wrapping for large stores, such as Rexall Drugs, Macy's, and Gimbel's. In 1946 a coating machine and in 1951 a paper bag factory were added. The Sissons continued to make a profit from these converting plant operations, since they made specialty papers which could be sold at higher prices to a specific market.⁹⁸

At some point during the 1930's the Newton Falls Paper Company discontinued its pulp operations and instead purchased it on the open market. It probably purchased its groundwood pulp from Canada and its sulphite pulp from Sweden, yet in 1982 it purchases Kraft pulp from Canada and the southern United States. Newton Falls continued to produce newsprint and magazine stock for Chilton and McGraw, but it also produced fine paper for a separate market. By 1982 the mill contains four paper machines, yet it still produces the same grades of paper.⁹⁹

The Natural Dam mill shut down at the start of the Depression, yet it was back in operation in 1935 when the Wemyss family removed the newsprint machines and installed a tissue paper machine. Like the Sissons, they saved the mill by changing from newsprint to a specialty paper production. In 1945 they purchased the International Lace Company buildings in Gouverneur to use as a tissue paper converting plant. The Natural Dam mill still markets tissue paper products under "Vanity Fair" and "Blue Ribbon" labels in 1982.¹⁰⁰

Under the leadership of Roy Ferguson, the St. Regis Paper Company survived the Depression well. It consolidated its position in the paper industry by closing the small, unprofitable mills and improving the others. Between 1934 and 1940 it spent \$6.7 million to improve mills in the East, such as Norfolk and Deferriet, and it also purchased mills in Florida and Washington.¹⁰¹

Another marginal paper mill operated in Potsdam on Depot Street during this time for about 35 years. It opened sometime between 1901 and 1907 as the Syracuse Wall Paper Manufacturing Company and operated off and on until about 1950. Potsdam Directories list the Potsdam Paper Mills in 1913 and 1919 and the United Paper Mill in 1924. In 1941 Max Swerdlow was president of the Potsdam Paper Makers, Inc., and in 1948 F.P. Sweeney ran the Potsdam Paper Mills, Inc. for the Fox Feature Syndicate, Inc. The mill finally closed in 1949 or 1950, since it is not listed in a 1950 Directory. This mill contained one paper machine which produced poor grade cardboard and

tablet paper from purchased pulp and scrap cardboard boxes. The property was sold during a bankruptcy sale in the early 1950's, and the village razed the building in 1956.¹⁰²

In 1940 paper mills were operating in the following locations in St. Lawrence County:

1. *Natural Dam*, owned by the Wemyss family as the Rushmore Paper Company and producing tissue paper;
2. *Newton Falls*, jointly owned by Chilton and McGraw and producing book and magazine paper;
3. *Norfolk*, owned by St. Regis and producing newsprint;
4. *Unionville*, owned by the Sisson family as the Raquette River Paper Company and producing specialty papers;
5. *Ogdensburg*, owned by the Algonquin Paper Company and producing newsprint;
6. *Yaleville*, owned by the Martin family and making tissue paper;
7. *Potsdam*, the Potsdam Paper Makers producing tablet paper and cardboard.

Each mill, except Newton Falls and Potsdam, still produced both groundwood and sulphite pulp.

If paper mills could keep running during World War II, they could make a good profit. Many mills could not obtain enough pulp wood because there was a shortage of pulp cutters and gasoline and other mills no longer received Scandinavian pulp. Consequently, there was a shortage of paper during the forties, and the demand kept the county's mills running at top speed. It was even rumored that the Norfolk mill produced newsprint outside of government regulations and sold it on the "black market" for a high price.¹⁰³

To keep up after the war, however, it was necessary for St. Lawrence County mills to modernize by improving both their equipment and their accounting techniques. St. Regis continued to modernize its Norfolk mill by adding a large converting operation to produce specialty papers, including Hershey candy wrappers and Railroad timetable stock. It also placed new management personnel in Norfolk to train the local mill hands to use the new equipment.¹⁰⁴

In 1944 the Berst-Forster-Dixfield Company purchased the Ogdensburg mill from Algonquin, and in 1947 Diamond Match acquired B-F-D. Diamond modernized the sulphite and groundwood pulp operations and shipped the pulp to its paper mills in Plattsburgh. Eventually, it installed 16 special machines to produce moulded food trays and paper plates, and production continued until 1978 when their New York City market ended with a law requiring

see-through meat trays.¹⁰⁵

Neither the Potsdam mill nor the Yaleville mill modernized after the war, and both closed within ten years. Orrin Martin died and his son Hollis was killed in a car accident, yet Arthur continued to run the Yaleville business until the workers staged a strike in 1956 and he closed the mill down. Martin never had enough money to maintain the mill well, and he only produced a poor grade of tissue paper. His mill hands were local, uneducated men who did not have the expertise to keep the two paper machines running well.¹⁰⁶

A revolution occurred in the American paper industry after the war because the Kraft process was perfected to use the Southern Pine, an abundant and fast-growing tree. In 1940 the first good newsprint was produced in Texas using this technique. Little was done during the war, but after it, the larger companies expanded into the South and the Pacific Northwest where they built large modern mills with new automation and instrumentation techniques. In 1957 St. Regis built the largest paper board machine in the world in Jacksonville, Florida; and for the first time, a mill could produce 1000 tons of paper a day. It seemed only a matter of time before these large new mills forced smaller, older mills to close; and in fact, St. Regis closed its Norfolk mill in 1959.¹⁰⁷

Paper industry expansion into the South included the development of tree farms to create a constant supply of trees near the mills. Excessive cutting in New York during World War II illustrated the need for companies to produce their own timber crops. They were attracted by the Southern Pine's short growing cycle, and 56 million seedlings were planted between 1946 and 1947.¹⁰⁸

In 1955 the Sissons sold the Unionville mill to the Orchard Park Paper Company who in turn sold it to Nekoosa-Edwards in 1957. Nekoosa did not buy the large converting operation but allowed Orchard Park to use it until 1962. They lost a good source of profits, however, by not producing specialty papers and maintaining Sisson's former market. Instead, they revamped the sulphite pulp plant to make fine papers, yet they were never able to cut into the Eastern market. During the same time, they built a Kraft mill in Ashtown, Arkansas, which produced large quantities of pulp for less, and they discontinued producing pulp at the Unionville mill. Nekoosa finally closed it in 1975.¹⁰⁹

Meanwhile, the Norfolk mill changed hands several times after St. Regis closed it. The St. Lawrence Pulp and Paper Company operated it for about five years until they sold it to the



Exterior view of the Pyrites mill. (Photograph courtesy of the Canton Municipal Museum)



Interior view of the Pyrites mill showing the Fourdrinier machine. (Photograph courtesy of the Canton Municipal Museum)

Northland Paper Company in 1965, which declared bankruptcy two years later. The Norfolk Development Corporation obtained ownership and they sold it to Leo Davis, a paper executive from Dallas, Texas. Davis did not succeed with the mill either, and Simplicity Patterns purchased it at a bankruptcy auction in 1972.¹¹⁰

By the 1970's and 80's these St. Lawrence County mills can compete with the large commodity mills only if they produce specialty papers that the larger mills do not produce. Since they are near the Boston-Washington, D.C. megalopolis, they have a large market for their paper products. The Natural Dam mill in 1982 still produces tissue

paper and converts most of it at the plant. The Norfolk mill, purchased by Chagrin Fabrics in 1982, produces light-weight paper for medical examining tables and telephone directories. The Newtown Falls mill produces fine paper and magazine stock; it sheets and coats some of it, but sells most in the mill rolls.¹¹¹

Since the Potsdam Paper Corporation acquired the Unionville mill in 1977, they have developed a profitable market for "highly specialized papers" or custom-made products for specific customers.¹¹² As part-owner Will Krueger pointed out, "The term 'specialty' is a catch-all. One criterion for a specialty product is that it's harder to make and therefore has a limited number of manufacturers and commands a better price. It isolates you from the commodity market."¹¹³ Commodity mills must make the same grade and color day after day in order to achieve their high-speed, high volume production. Small mills are more flexible, and their operations can be changed easily to make special runs lasting only eight to ten hours.

Each of the four paper mills, Newton Falls, Unionville, Norfolk, and Natural Dam, has cut back on its former converting and pulp operations. Norfolk and Unionville no longer convert any paper; Newton Falls still sheets some; and Natural Dam ships out some mill rolls whereas it used to convert all of its production. Instead of making their own pulp, each mill now buys it in the form of hardwood (groundwood) or softwood (Kraft). Very little sulphite pulp is made today, since its chemicals cannot be reclaimed and those of Kraft can. Natural Dam receives its hardwood pulp from Diamond International's mill in Penobscot, Maine, but it also purchases softwood on the open market, as does Newton Falls. The Unionville mill prefers the practice of buying pulp, because "... The company can select and mix the best types of pulp for the various specialty grades it makes."¹¹⁴

Since the cost of new pulp continues to rise for all of the mills, each one uses a certain amount of recycled paper that is generally clean and unused. The Norfolk mill does not use pulp at all; instead it repulps clean waste paper from mill-reject rolls and converting trim. This limits their production to certain grades of paper, yet markets exist for it. Using about ten percent secondary fiber in its pulp mixture, Newton Falls repulps mill-reject rolls, its own trim, and office waste paper which has been de-inked at the mill. Natural Dam also uses about ten percent in its tissue paper, but Unionville uses about 33 percent.¹¹⁵

In 1979 the Potsdam Paper Company formed an affiliate, the St. Lawrence

Pulp and Paper Company, in order to purchase the Ogdensburg mill and produce recycled pulp for the Unionville mill. Problems plagued the mill and it closed within a year. In 1981 help came from South Carolina's Sonoco Products Company, which bought 80 percent of the new company and poured five million dollars into new equipment specifically designed to bleach and strain "consumer-used waste paper."¹¹⁶ Since this pulp still contains long fibers, it can be substituted directly for new pulp, and Unionville plans to use it to replace about 17 percent of its purchased pulp demand. Ed Norris, Ogdensburg's manager, is confident that it can sell the pulp to many of the 40 paper mills located in Northern New York and Southern Ontario.¹¹⁷

Each paper company must continue to reinvest in its plant with proper maintenance and new equipment to guarantee smooth operations. Some mills in St. Lawrence County are better able to do this than others. On the one hand, Newton Falls added a new \$10 million paper machine in 1981; and on the other, Norfolk still uses the 1902 Bagley and Sewall dryers and Unionville uses "vintage Beloit fourdriniers modified many times over the years."¹¹⁸ Newton Falls also has a standard procedure for maintaining its machines; it shuts down one machine each week and it closes the entire mill for three days each year. Using old equipment slows down production since break-downs occur frequently, and normal maintenance schedules are difficult to follow. Furthermore, each plant is housed in old building structures, and repairs are costly.¹¹⁹

Since such large amounts of money are needed to purchase and operate these plants today, there are no family-owned mills left. National and multinational companies own the Newton Falls, Natural Dam, and Norfolk mills and 80 percent of the Ogdensburg mill. Potsdam Paper Corporation is locally-owned, yet it purchased the Unionville and Ogdensburg mills with both local bank and government-financed loans. State and local industrial development organizations are encouraging investment in New York with guaranteed loans and bonds. In Norfolk, however, the Norfolk Development Corporation had to pick up the tab when Northland and Leo Davis declared bankruptcy.¹²⁰

Today the mills depend upon both railroad and truck transportation for shipping and receiving, although the proportion varies for each one. Natural Dam is the only one to use rail almost 100 percent since its mill is still divided by a railroad spur separating the paper-making plant from the converting operation. Ogdensburg also depends heavily upon the railroad, and the county is

Mill Location	Company	Date	Employment
Pyrites	Degrass River	1930	375
Unionville	Raquette River	1899	125
	Raquette River	1950	25
	Nekoosa-Edwards	1973	194
		later	171
	Potsdam Paper	1982	150
Norfolk	St. Regis	1942	350
	Northland	1966	270
	Northland	1967	221
	Simplicity	1980	57
	Chagrin Fabrics	1982	55
Ogdensburg	Diamond National	1948	350
	Diamond International	1978	250
	St. Lawrence Pulp and Paper	1979	25
	St. Lawrence Pulp and Paper	1982	58
Natural Dam	Groveton	1979-1982	130
Newton Falls	Newton Falls	1982	550

helping by rehabilitating the Ogdensburg-DeKalb line. Unionville uses the railroad and private trucks in a 50 to 50 ratio, whereas Norfolk uses them in a 15 to 85 ratio. Newton Falls uses both, yet it also owns a trucking fleet. Railroad transportation is cheaper if the mills can send a full carload, but it is slower and not convenient for buyers with small inventories. Consequently, trucking is more popular with small mills producing small-order specialty papers.¹²¹

The pulp and paper industry must have been the county's primary employer during its initial period of construction and growth. Following that, it remained a major industrial employer until the late 1950's. Since then, each company change-over has resulted in a decrease in employment and compared to the aluminum and education industries, the paper industry was only a minor employer in 1982.

Although increased mechanization has reduced the need for certain workers, the closure of pulp plants and converting operations has caused larger decreases in employment. Each time a mill reduces its operations, it likewise reduces its employment. The above chart illustrates the gradual reduction in employment over the years.¹²²

Groveton Papers employment has decreased somewhat over the past ten years since it closed the International Lace Building finishing operation, while that of Newton Falls must have increased when it installed its fourth machine.¹²³

During the 1970's federal and state requirements forced each mill to install water pollution control equipment to meet strict effluent guidelines. Each mill must remove both pulp fibers and additives from the waste water before it is put back into the river. Installation of this equipment, effluent clarifiers and often settling ponds, was not a

financial problem for Simplicity at Norfolk, Diamond International at Ogdensburg, Newton Falls, or Nekoosa-Edwards at Unionville. It was a burden, however, for the Wemyss family, and perhaps it caused their decision to sell the mill in 1968.¹²⁴

Pollution was never mentioned as a problem for any of the mills on the Oswegatchie and Raquette Rivers. Perhaps the fast water forced the pulp particles to settle quickly, or perhaps it existed but was ignored or endured by residents in the paper towns or along the river.¹²⁵

Pollution was quite a problem for the farms and communities north of the Pyrites mill on the Degrass River. In January 1905 the Canton Case Laundry found small stringy particles of pulp clogging its boiler intake screens.¹²⁶ Eventually the fibrous material blocked up the Canton water pipes, and in 1917 the village sued the Degrass Paper Company. The Appellate Division of the Court ruled "... that the water was unfit for municipal and domestic use and that the efficiency of the fire department lessened; ..." and it ordered the company to pay for the cost of replacing the water system.¹²⁷ A few years later a farmer who owned land on the river ten miles below the mill brought suit against the mill and "... charged that the pollution of the river by the mill reduced the usefulness of his land and that the pollution was unhealthful, causing the sickness and death of his livestock."¹²⁸ In September 1925 the judge ordered the Pyrites mill to stop disposing its waste water into the Grasse River by January 1, 1926, yet in November the final date was postponed until six months after the completion of further litigation concerning the Dodds case. After Dodds' initial suit, the company paid other farmers to release it from responsibility for any property damage. Apparently no fur-

ther action was taken, and the mill operated for four more years under International Paper Company ownership from 1927 until 1930 when it closed for good.¹²⁹

Throughout the past century, company towns played an important part in the life of the paper industry in the county. Initial mill construction usually included employee housing on company-owned land, followed by stores and hotels if needed. The company collected rent from these structures for years. When International Paper closed its mill in Piercefield, it sold the entire town to the Ruderman Machinery Exchange which later moved many of the houses to the Benson Mines community at Star Lake. The Sissons built about 50 houses at Unionville and Hewittville after World War I; the Remingtons built houses across from the Norfolk mill along High Street; James Newton initially built 40 houses, and after World War II the company built a new housing development to encourage veterans to settle in Newton Falls. Although the Wing Corporation still owned the Sisson houses in 1955, they had sold them all by 1973. By 1982 the Newton Falls Paper Company had sold most of its property and Simplicity Pattern had disposed of several lots on High Street which were attached to its deed. At the time of construction, company housing was a necessity for the mills, but it must have remained somewhat profitable, since the companies were reluctant to sell them.¹³⁰

Paper companies displayed various amounts of paternalism toward their employees living in their towns. The Sisson mill sold coal for a reduced price to its employees, and both Sisson and Newton provided water systems for their towns; in fact, water is still free for Newton Falls residents in 1982. The Remingtons heated the High Street houses with steam heat from the mill, and they allowed early residents to take hot showers at the mill once a week and to wash clothes in the flume. Bringing in nurses and St. Lawrence University students, the Pyrites mill set up a temporary hospital during the 1918 influenza epidemic. Disrupted by gangs, Pyrites was a rough community with several murders and suspicious fires during Prohibition. Life in each town varied, but the paper companies dominated for decades.¹³¹

First discovered in Europe, the technology for grinding wood into a suitable pulp was imported into the United States in 1866. Twenty-five years later, groundwood pulp and paper mills sprouted all over St. Lawrence County for several reasons. The county is near the Black River paper mills where the demand for pulp exceeded their ability to produce it. Investors from the Water-



This photograph appeared in the Racquette River Paper Company publication Raripaco News in 1941. These are the hands of Maydell Dwyer as she counted and sorted sheet paper. (Photograph by Clarence Premo, Raripaco News courtesy of Rowland Murphy)

town area poured money into the development of the industry along three of the county's major rivers because each river began in the Adirondack forest lands and provided easy transportation for pulp wood. Furthermore, the river water provided power for the mills and water for the paper-making process. These mills involved massive construction projects, including the mill buildings, dams, water flumes, sulphite mills, employee housing, stores, hotels, wagon roads, railroad spurs, and even short railroad lines. The period from 1890 to 1925 was one of tremendous growth and prosperity.

The late 1920's brought a period of over-production and economic depression to the industry and many mills were forced to close. The remaining mills changed from bag and newsprint production to specialty papers with large converting operations because of advances made in the Southern paper industry. Although the St. Lawrence County mills were among the most modern when they were first built, they did not continue to change their equipment and buildings to keep up with the always-changing paper-making technology. Eventually, the larger companies built over-sized high-speed, high-production mills which outproduced the older, smaller mills in commodity papers. Consequently, the four operating paper mills in 1982 compete in the low-volume specialty paper market, but they considerably reduced their original operations, and each uses secondary fiber. The Ogdensburg mill, however, is investing in the most modern equipment to produce good quality pulp from consumer-used paper.

The development of the paper industry over the past 150 years in St. Lawrence County reflects both the changes that have occurred in pulp and paper-making technology as well as changes within the economic state of the paper industry on the national level.

Afterword

The paper industry continues to thrive in St. Lawrence County today (1988). Each mill has changed ownership at least once, yet only the Ogdensburg mill has permanently closed. The remaining four continue to renovate and modernize to remain competitive in today's strong market.

In 1983 Diamond International sold its interest in the Groveton Paper Company at Natural Dam to the James River Corporation. Douglas Roberts, Personnel Manager, stated in recent correspondence that basic changes have been made to the one paper machine. The head box has been rebuilt; a Measurex System was installed; and an electric hoist was added. This mill continues to produce 40 tons of specialty tissue products per day while employing 96 people.

The Potsdam Paper Corporation was purchased by the Little Rapids Corporation of Green Bay, Wisconsin, in 1984. Donald Pearson, Vice President, stated in a telephone conversation that their company has a strong market for its specialty papers in the food packaging industry. Furthermore, they began to produce a new line of crepe papers after rebuilding the No. 3 paper machine in 1986. About 150 people are employed at the Unionville plant.

In 1984 the owners of the Newton Falls Paper Company sold the entire operation to Stora, Sweden's largest forest products company. Newton Falls Paper Mill, Inc. became the first, and so far only, American enterprise purchased by this Swedish giant. According to Henry Parnass, former president of the Newton Falls Paper Company, Stora has invested \$20 million in renovations that have included remodeling the No. 4 paper machine, modernizing and expanding the finishing department, computerizing the order-entry operation, and building a new warehouse facility. The latter change has definitely increased their marketing capacity. Discontinuing the line of uncoated paper, Stora has expanded the line of highly specialized coated papers to include both double-sided and single-sided coated papers. Employment remains the same at 500.

In August 1984 Chagrin Fibers, Inc. sold their lease for the Norfolk paper mill to the Hamilton Hy-Bar Company of Richmond, Virginia. Employing about 50 people, Hamilton Hy-Bar continued to operate the plant for only six more months when a severe slump in the paper industry forced its closing in February 1985. In November 1986 the vacant property was purchased by the St. Lawrence County Industrial Development Agency in Canton, New York, under the direction of Edmund Russell.

(Mr. Russell kindly allowed me to search through his files to piece together the recent history of the paper mills at both Norfolk and Ogdensburg.) The IDA later arranged a lease/purchase agreement with Fournand Fournier, owner of another small paper company in Fayetteville, New York, and the Norfolk mill reopened as the Norfolk Paper Company, Inc. in May 1987. Within a month its production was 50 tons or 95% of the mill's capacity. They continue to use shredded waste paper and cardboard as pulp to produce heavy-weight furniture and flooring wrap. Because it is a small operation with one paper machine, the Norfolk Paper Company can routinely stop production to alternate between white and brown paper to increase its line of specialty paper products, and thereby increase its economic viability.

When losses accrued by the St. Lawrence Pulp and Paper Company at Ogdensburg became intolerable. Sonoco Products closed its subsidiary in May 1983. With the help of a federally funded Urban Development Action Grant, Ponderosa Fibers of America purchased the Ogdensburg plant in February 1984. Opening operation was delayed by problems of waste disposal until August, but it closed again in May 1985, another victim of the nationwide recession in the paper industry. Edmund Russell maintains that the deinked pulp produced by the mill would be in great demand today. Unfortunately, the plant was taken over by the Bank of New York in 1986 and its entire contents were stripped and auctioned off. The buildings remain empty today.

According to Henry Parnass, paper companies will always need to address the problem of pollution. Although Newton Falls has a sophisticated pollution control plant, it will need constant improvements to accommodate changing federal and state environmental regulations. Various newspaper clippings in the IDA files indicate that both Potsdam and Norfolk mills have repeatedly discharged "white streaks" into the Racquette River. Ponderosa Fibers was willing to purchase land near Star Lake to dump its waste sludge on old mine tailings, but first it had to overcome resistance by the Adirondack Park Agency. Concerns with waste water discharge, solid waste disposal, and emissions discharged into the air will continue to bother paper companies in the future. The most recent problem arose with the discovery in August 1987 of 140 fifty-gallon drums of toxic chemicals at the abandoned Ogdensburg plant. Pressure was put upon the Bank of New York to provide for proper disposal of the chemicals.

Paper production has remained steady and profitable at the three plants where

ownership has remained somewhat constant - the Newton Falls Paper Mill, Inc., at Newton Falls; the Natural Dam Division of the James River Corporation; and the Potsdam Paper Mill, a division of the Little Rapids Corporation at Unionville. Each plant has continued to make renovations that have enabled it to remain competitive in the specialty paper market. The Norfolk mill has not been completely renovated in recent years, and perhaps this is why its different owners have had difficulty in creating a product that will be profitable. The Ogdensburg mill was completely remodeled in 1981 to change from the production of paper to that of deinked pulp. Unfortunately, this change was made at a time when the nationwide paper market was undergoing a decline, and the mill was permanently closed. It is obvious that for these small paper mills to survive, they must respond to the demands of the national, and even international, market.



About the Author:

Lynne Haskins Matott received her B.A. from Potsdam College of SUNY and her M.L.S. from the School of Information Science and Policy, SUNY Albany. Currently Elementary Librarian for the Ogdensburg City School District, she resides in Canton with her seven children.



NOTES

- ⁸⁴Lymna, "Norwood: Mills."
- ⁸⁵Smith, *Papermaking*, 232.
- ⁸⁶Ibid.
- ⁸⁷Ibid., 598
- ⁸⁸Lyman, "Norwood Mills."
- ⁸⁹Smith, *Papermaking*, 349; Lyman, "Norwood Mills."
- ⁹⁰Smith, *Papermaking*, 349.
- ⁹¹Lyman, "Norwood Mills."
- ⁹²Smith, *Papermaking*, 598; Little, "Paper Company."
- ⁹³Smith, *Papermaking*, 359.
- ⁹⁴"Raquette River."
- ⁹⁵"Newton Falls."
- ⁹⁶Sesqui-Centennial Committee, *Gouverneur*, 68.
- ⁹⁷William Wilkins; Interview with Hale North, Town Supervisor, Pierceland, New York, 14 April 1982; Landon, *North Country*, 498; Conversation with Nelson Winters, Gouverneur Village Historian, 22 April 1982; Hale North; Smith, "Pyrites," 37.
- ⁹⁸George McLennan; "Potsdam Mill"; Little, "Paper Company"; "Potsdam Mill"; Sisson, "Sisson Family"; Little, "Paper Company"; George McLennan.
- ⁹⁹Richard Phelps.
- ¹⁰⁰"Groveton Paper"; Interview with Mr. Donaldson, Manager, Groveton Paper Company, Natural Dam, New York, 22 April 1982.
- ¹⁰¹Smith, *Papermaking*, 455 and 551.
- ¹⁰²*Potsdam Directory*, 1901; *Moore's Standard Directory*, 1907-1908, *Potsdam and Norwood, New York*, 78; *Potsdam Directory*, 1913, 140; *Directory*, 1919, *Massena and Potsdam, New York*, 200; *Directory*, 1924, *Massena and Potsdam, New York*, II, 217; *Potsdam, New York, Con Surrey City Directory*, 1941 (Mullin-Kille Co. and the *Potsdam Courier-Freeman*) 257; *Manning's Potsdam and Canton Directory*, August 1950; all directories can be found in the Potsdam Museum; George McLennan; and John Van Ness, former mayor of Potsdam, New York, telephone conversation, 12 April 1982.
- ¹⁰³George McLennan; Smith, *Papermaking*, 501; David R. Haskins, letter to author, 15 March 1980.
- ¹⁰⁴Smith, *Papermaking*, 552; Norfolk Town Papers, St. Lawrence County Historical Association.
- ¹⁰⁵Bicentennial Corporation, *Mission Post*; Interview with Edward Norris, Operations Manager, St. Lawrence Pulp and Paper Company, Ogdensburg, New York, 21 April 1982; "St. Lawrence Pulp and Paper Acquisition Completed," *Courier-Freeman*, Potsdam, New York, 11 November 1979, 13.
- ¹⁰⁶John Van Ness; Susan Lyman, Norwood Village Historian, Norwood, New York, telephone conversation, 12 April 1982; George McLennan.
- ¹⁰⁷David Haskins; Smith, *Papermaking*, 552; "Raquette River."
- ¹⁰⁸Smith, *Papermaking*, 560, 414 and 418.
- ¹⁰⁹"An Introduction to Potsdam Paper Corporation," received from Potsdam Paper Corporation, Unionville, New York, April 1980; George McLennan; David Haskins; George McLennan.
- ¹¹⁰Buddy Edwards; "Northland Paper Company Purchased," *Courier-Freeman*, 16 November 1967, 1; Buddy Edwards.
- ¹¹¹Interview with Duncan MacCalman, General Manager, Potsdam Paper Corporation, Unionville, New York, 19 April 1982; Donaldson; Buddy Edwards; Richard Phelps.
- ¹¹²Boiko, "Potsdam Specialty," 24.
- ¹¹³Will Krueger quoted in Boiko, "Potsdam Specialty," 26.
- ¹¹⁴Buddy Edwards; Duncan MacCalman; Richard Phelps; Donaldson; Buddy Edwards; Donaldson; Richard Phelps; Will Krueger quoted in Boiko, "Potsdam Specialty," 26.
- ¹¹⁵Buddy Edwards; Richard Phelps; Donaldson; Duncan MacCalman.
- ¹¹⁶Edward Norris; "St. Lawrence Acquisition;" "The Objective of the Corporation," mimeographed sheets obtained from Edward Norris, 21 April 1982.
- ¹¹⁷Duncan MacCalman; Boiko, "Potsdam Specialty," 25.
- ¹¹⁸Richard Phelps; Boiko, "Potsdam Specialty," 25.
- ¹¹⁹Richard Phelps; Both the Norfolk and Ogdensburg mills had trouble with their machinery causing a temporary production stoppage during my visits in April 1982.
- ¹²⁰"Introduction"; "Northland paper"; "St. Lawrence Acquisition."
- ¹²¹Donaldson; Edward Norris; Duncan MacCalman; Buddy Edwards; Richard Phelps; Buddy Edwards.
- ¹²²Smith, "Pyrites," 36; Little, "Paper Company;" George McLennan; "Potsdam Mills;" Duncan MacCalman; Town of Norfolk papers, St. Lawrence County Historical Association; "Northland Paper;" Buddy Edwards; Bicentennial Corporation, *Ogdensburg*; St. Lawrence Acquisition;" Macreena Doyle, "Pulp Plant Geared Up for Opening This Month," *Rural News*, Ogdensburg, New York, 1 March 1982, 1; "Groveton Paper;" Richard Phelps.
- ¹²³Donaldson.
- ¹²⁴"St. Regis and the Environment," in "St. Regis News Release," April 1978, 4, mimeographed sheet received from St. Regis Paper Company, New York City; Mr. Donaldson.
- ¹²⁵William Wilkins; Smith, *Papermaking*, 629.
- ¹²⁶Smith, "Pyrites," 24-25.
- ¹²⁷Ibid., 25.
- ¹²⁸Ibid., 33.
- ¹²⁹Ibid.
- ¹³⁰Hale North; Sisson, "Sisson Family;" Buddy Edwards; Gouverneur Sesqui-Centennial Committee, *Gouverneur*, 211; Richard Phelps; Buddy Edwards.
- ¹³¹Mrs. Kay Wyant, Director, Potsdam Museum; George McLennan; Richard Phelps; Buddy Edwards; Smith, "Pyrites," 23-24, 51-52.

**ST. LAWRENCE COUNTY HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION, INC.
STATEMENT OF ASSETS AND LIABILITIES,
(CASH BASIS) DECEMBER 31, 1987
ASSETS**

Current Assets:	TOTAL
Cash on Hand and in Banks	\$133,228.97
Fixed Assets:	
Silas Wright House and Museum	200,200.05
Building Addition	115,726.48
Investments	<u>111,853.83</u>
TOTAL	<u><u>\$561,009.33</u></u>

LIABILITIES AND FUND BALANCE

Liabilities:	
Withheld Payroll Taxes	\$ 791.48
Mortgage Payable	6,480.44
Deferred Restricted Support	3,133.70
Fund Balance	<u>550,603.71</u>
TOTAL	<u><u>\$561,009.33</u></u>

**STATEMENT OF REVENUES AND EXPENSES AND FUND BALANCE
(CASH BASIS) FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 1987**

	1988 Budget	1987 Budget	Total
Revenues:			
St. Lawrence County Historian	\$11,000	\$11,000	\$ 11,000.00
St. Lawrence County Operating	11,000	11,000	11,000.00
NYSCA	10,000	7,000	7,000.00
IMS Grant	9,375	8,500	8,523.00
Fund Raising	16,000	12,500	8,618.85
Advertising	2,500	2,500	2,162.50
Investment Income	12,750	8,850	18,357.46
Dues	20,000	18,000	16,400.00
Gifts	5,000	3,000	2,173.23
Miscellaneous & Grant Reimbursements.....	2,000	6,200	8,061.23
Campaign Receipts			139,897.25
Gain on Sale of Securities			8,623.71
Grant Income			<u>21,045.00</u>
Total Revenues	<u><u>\$99,625</u></u>	<u><u>\$88,550</u></u>	<u><u>\$262,862.23</u></u>
Expenses:			
Salary - Director	\$14,625	\$15,400	\$ 15,915.42
Salary - Program Coordinator	17,000	16,100	13,547.98
Salary - Historian/Admin. Assistant	15,525	12,000	12,815.17
Salary - Educational Coordinator	7,500		
Staff Benefits	1,100	2,000	350.50
Payroll Taxes	5,100	4,350	4,147.67
Exhibits and Programs	5,000	4,500	4,376.20
Conservation	2,000	2,000	962.34
Publications and Printing	7,500	7,000	7,881.68
Utilities	7,000	5,000	7,596.45
Interest		3,600	606.92
Repairs	3,000	3,000	4,401.61
Supplies and Postage	6,300	6,000	6,627.67
Insurance	4,000	5,000	4,073.77
Subscriptions	400	600	538.55
Travel	1,250	1,000	1,413.03
Miscellaneous	2,325	1,000	3,368.83
Grant Expense			<u>21,911.30</u>
Total Expenses	<u><u>\$99,625</u></u>	<u><u>\$88,550</u></u>	<u><u>\$110,535.09</u></u>
Excess of Revenues Over Expenses			
Before Unrealized Appreciation			
(Depreciation) in Marketable Securities	\$ -0-	\$ -0-	\$152,327.14
Unrealized Appreciation (Depreciation)			
in Marketable Securities			<u>(18,690.69)</u>
Excess of Revenues over Expenses			<u>\$133,636.45</u>
Fund Balance - Beginning of Year			<u>420,100.96</u>
Fund Balance - End of Year			<u><u>\$553,737.41</u></u>

SLCHA Annual Report 1987

by Janet McFarland

Segment one of the SLCHA Annual Report appeared in the April 1988 issue of *The Quarterly*.

Board of Trustees 1988

- President Betty Coots
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- Secretary Ruth McKean
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Term Expires 1989

Joan Brandy, Ogdensburg; Robert Burns, Potsdam; Beverly Markkula, Canton; Patricia Tocatlian, Ogdens-burg; Kay Wyant, Potsdam.

Term Expires 1990

Helen Chapple, Potsdam; Thomas Lascell, Canton; Dwight Mayne, Mas-sena; Donald Pearson, Canton; Carlton Stickney, Norwood.

Staff:

Garrett Cook, Director; Richard Rummel, Programs Coordinator; An-drea Bellinger, Education Curator; Janet McFarland, Administrative As-sistant; Joan M. Barrick, Administra-tive Assistant; Ida Kretschmar, Ar-chives Aide.



Addendum

The Quarterly regrets the omis-sion of the Village of Rensselaer Falls from the Local Historians—1988 directory published in the April 1988 issue. Village of Rens-selaer Falls Historian is Dorothy Crane, Box 102, Rensselaer Falls, NY 13680.

Genealogy Queries

The Genealogy Queries column is intended to be a service to the SLCHA membership. As many queries as possible will be printed in each issue on a space available basis. Because we anticipate considerable interest we ask that members abide by the following policies: one query per paid member per issue; limit of 35 words per query, name and address not counted; write out query in full, we will abbreviate. Address queries to Editor, *The Quarterly*, St. Lawrence County Historical Association, P.O. Box 8, Canton, NY 13617.

ATWOOD

Seeking info. family DANIEL and SALLY.

Atwood lived in Morristown, St. Law. Co. NY ca 1820-1840. Known children: GEORGE 9, ALEXANDER, JARED, SARAH ESTHER (b. Morristown, NY 1829 or 1833), FANNY and ELIZA.
Joan E. Murray, 281 Linden Ave., Palatine, IL 60067

MURPHY-SMITH

Seek identity SARAH MURPHY, Madrid, NY, who purchased land Cerro, Gordo Co., IA 1868.

JOHN MURPHY, Madrid, purchased land same section 1867, had brothers MATTHEW, PATRICK, Madrid, NY. Were they related to Sarah?
Lynne Murphy, General Delivery, Taos, NM 87571

PINNEY

Wish exchange info PINNEY families or desc. St. Law. Co.; especially LEMUEL 1776-1863 Potsdam; JUDAH 1757-1828 Oswegatchie; JOEL 1768-1847; BENJAMIN 1802-? Stockholm; EBER and JOSEPH Hopkinton; IRA DeKalb; and misc. PINNEYS Fowler.
Neil V. McGahan, 575 Stone Jug Rd., Lewisberry, PA 17339

Research Queries

As a service to our readers who are engaged in research projects or have special interests, *The Quarterly* is instituting a Research Queries column. Queries will be printed on a space available basis. Due to space limitations the following policies will be in effect: one query per paid membership per issue; queries should be concise and may be edited. Address queries to Editor, *The Quarterly*, St. Lawrence County Historical Association, P.O. Box 8, Canton, NY 13617.

DURHAM BOATS:

During the period between 1780 and 1830 a type of cargo vessel, a 40- to 60-foot long flat-bottomed, parallel sided boat with pointed ends, which was poled upstream and rowed and sailed downstream, was used on rivers and canals in Delaware and New York State. They became common on the St. Lawrence River and Lake Ontario after the War of 1812. The New York State Museum has recently begun a ten-year project on the history and archaeology of the Durham boat and the water transportation system within which it was used. Any information which you might have on the manufacturing of Durham boats, on use of the Durhams on waterways in the county, or any leads which might help in locating the sunken remains of such a boat, would be of great help.

Contact - Garrett Cook, St. Lawrence County Historical Association

MASSENA AND ALCOA PROJECT:

An exhibition on the relationship between Alcoa and Massena is in the planning stages. Any objects associated with the history of Alcoa in Massena would be of interest—especially if you know the history of the object. Examples of things we need: Baseball uniforms, posters for special events, parades etc., workers' tools or personal wear, World War II period security badges or other special items from that period, photographs of people or events associated with Alcoa, bibs from the order of the Bib.

Contact - Richard Rummel, St. Lawrence County Historical Association

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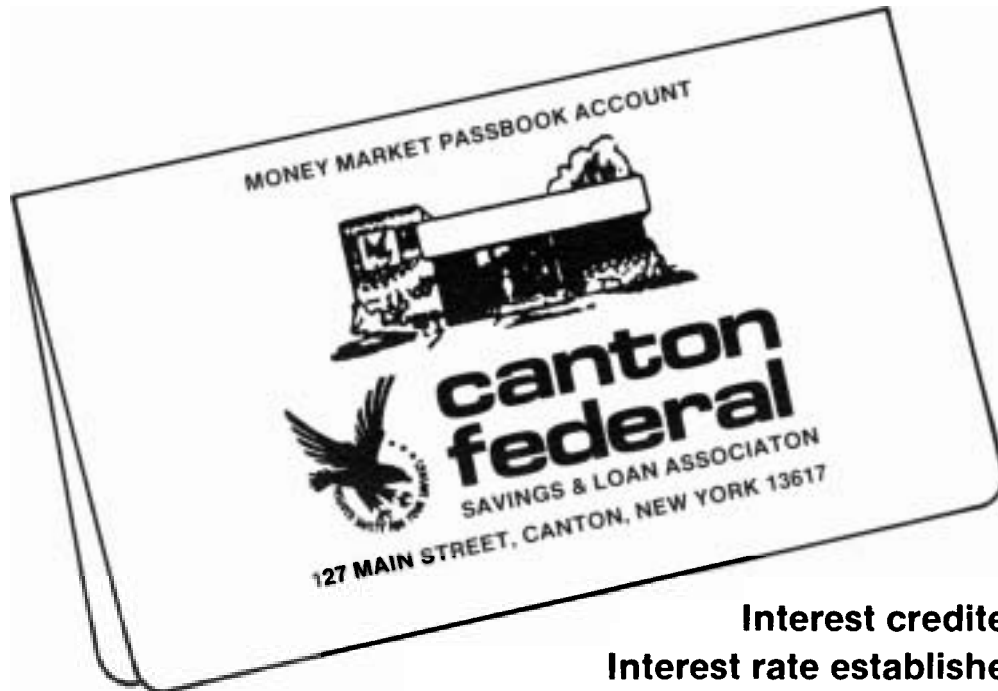
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Historical Association Publications and Products

	Regular Price	Members' Price
* <i>Winnegatoo</i> - a novel of early 19th century North Country life	\$7.95	\$6.95
**"Canton Fair, 1869" note cards, packet of 6	\$5.50	\$5.00
*Historical Association tote bag, picturing the Wright House	\$5.50	\$5.00
Everts <i>History of St. Lawrence County</i>	\$50.00	\$40.00
Special Reduced Price On *1888/1988 St. Lawrence County calendar, "A year in the life..."	\$7.95	\$4.00

**Proceeds from the sale of these items can be used to complete the National Endowment for the Humanities Challenge Grant match.*

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