

*The St. Lawrence County Historical Association*

# *QUARTERLY*

---

*Volume XLVI - Number 4 - Fall 2001*

---



# The St. Lawrence County Historical Association at the Silas Wright House

The St. Lawrence County Historical Association is a private, not-for-profit, membership organization based at the Silas Wright House in Canton, New York. Founded in 1947, the Association is governed by a constitution, by-laws, and Board of Trustees. The Historical Association's membership meets annually to elect its trustees.

## 2002 Officers:

President: Carl Stickney, Norwood  
Vice-President: Jane Subramanian, Potsdam  
Treasurer: Carol Johnson, Canton  
Secretary: Susie Wood, Hammond

## 2002 Staff:

Trent Trulock, *Executive Director*  
Sue Longshore, *Collections Manager*  
Mary Ellen Jones, *Archives Manager*  
Beverly Brownell, *Administrative Assistant*

## 2002 Trustees:

Chris Angus, Canton  
Patricia Carson, Canton  
Richard Foster, Rossie  
R. Shawn Gray, Massena  
E. Jane Layo, Waddington  
Stan Maine, Pierrepoint  
Lowell McAllister, Heuvelton  
Todd Moe, Norwood  
Cathleen O'Horo, Canton  
Susan Omohundro, Hannawa Falls  
Tim Strong, Potsdam  
J. Rebecca Thompson, Hannawa Falls  
Peter Van de Water, Canton

## Our Mission

The St. Lawrence County Historical Association is a not-for-profit membership organization and museum which serves as an educational resource for the use and benefit of the citizens of St. Lawrence County and others interested in the County's history and traditions. The Association collects and preserves archival material and artifacts pertinent to the County's history. In cooperation and collaboration with other local organizations, the Association promotes an understanding of and appreciation for the County's rich history through publications, exhibits, and programs. The St. Lawrence County Historical Association operates within museum standards established by the American Association of Museums.

## SLCHA Membership

Membership in the St. Lawrence County Historical Association is open to all interested parties. Annual membership dues are: Individual, \$25; Senior/Student, \$20; Family, \$35; Contributor, \$50; Supporter, \$100; Patron, \$250; Businesses, \$50 to \$1,000. Members receive the *SLCHA Quarterly*, the Historical Association's bi-monthly newsletter, and various discounts on publications, programs and events.

St. Lawrence County Historical Association  
at the Silas Wright House  
3 East Main Street, PO Box 8  
Canton, New York 13617  
(315) 386-8133  
fax (315) 386-8134  
e-mail: [slcha@northnet.org](mailto:slcha@northnet.org)  
[www.slcha.org](http://www.slcha.org)

Published continuously since 1956

*The Quarterly* is endowed in memory of Albert Priest Newell and Ella Waterman Newell.

Publication of *The Quarterly* is also made possible with public funds from the New York State Council on the Arts, a State agency.



Managing Editor:  
**Pamela Ouimet**

Production Editor:  
**Susan L. Dresye**

Advisory Board:  
**Chris Angus, Canton**  
**Arthur Johnson, Potsdam**  
**Herb Judd, Canton**  
**Mary Ruth Judd, Canton**

Copyright ©2001 by the  
St. Lawrence County Historical  
Association. All rights reserved.

Except for brief excerpts, no part of this publication may be copied or reproduced without the express written permission of the author and the Historical Association. The St. Lawrence County Historical Association is not responsible for the statements, interpretations, and opinions of contributors to *The SLCHA Quarterly*.

*The SLCHA Quarterly* is published Winter, Spring, Summer, and Fall each year by the St. Lawrence County Historical Association for its members and friends.

Additional copies may be obtained from the St. Lawrence County Historical Association, P.O. Box 8, Canton, NY 13617 at \$4.00 each (\$2.00 for members), plus \$1.00 for postage.

**Contributions:**

*The SLCHA Quarterly* welcomes contributions. To submit a manuscript, or for further information, please contact the editor through the St. Lawrence County Historical Association. Please address communications to: Managing Editor, *The SLCHA Quarterly*, P.O. Box 8, Canton, NY 13617.

The St. Lawrence County Historical Association

# Quarterly

Volume XLVI - Number 4 - 2001

ISSN: 0558-1931

## CONTENTS

<b>Editor's Notes</b> <i>By Pamela Ouimet</i>	2
<b>An Honorable Position: an Honorable Man</b> <i>Reprinted from The Hermonitor</i>	3
<b>Gouverneur Round Table Club</b> <i>By Kenneth R. Ross</i>	6
<b>Heritage Grist Mill Association Acquires Vintage Separating Machine</b>	9
<b>Massena Students Get a Feel For History</b>	11
<b>Former Town of DePeyster Historian Passes Away</b>	13
<b>Grand Opening of the New Norfolk Museum</b>	14
<b>SLCHA Annual Holiday Open House and Red Barn Grand Opening: December 7, 2001</b>	17

Issue Editor:  
Pamela Ouimet

**Cover Illustration**

*First Baptist Church, Church Street, Hermon, NY.*  
*(Photograph courtesy of Agnes Woodrow,  
Mary Smallman and Robert Jennings.)*

## **Editor's Notes**

**By Pamela Ouimet**

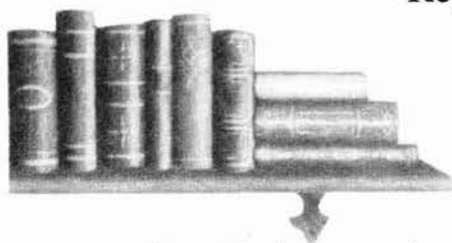
If you will be traveling or taking an extended vacation, please notify the St. Lawrence County Historical Association so we can either put your issue(s) of the *Quarterly* on hold or forward it to another address.

You may contact the SLCHA by calling 315-386-8133, emailing [slcha@northnet.org](mailto:slcha@northnet.org) or mailing us at St. Lawrence County Historical Association, 3 East Main St., PO Box 8, Canton, NY 13617.

We appreciate your attention to this request.

## An Honorable Position: An Honorable Man

Reprinted from *The Hermonitor*



# HERMONITOR

We took a look around Hermon and made note of two unusual mementos honoring one of Hermon's finest.

In the belfry of the First Baptist Church is the three-faces clock, mentioned as the second town clock in the county. The story of how and why it is there is our first complete one for our members.

Born in Hermon, actually near West Hermon, in 1873 the only son of John W. and Christeen Noble Hyland, Nilie M. Hyland brought great credit to his parents, his town and to his county. In 1898 Nilie left here to become Under Sheriff for Sheriff Charles C. Caldwell, remaining 3 years until J. Frank Harder of Gouverneur became Sheriff, at which time Nilie returned to Hermon. In 1904 Caldwell again was elected and engaged Nilie as Under Sheriff. But in 1906 he entered the race for Sheriff himself on the Republican ticket—and won handily.

The local press commented that Nilie was remarkably adapted to his position, an officer invaluable, fearless and with a retentive memory. He recalled every face and the record of each person coming under his care. He was reticent and undemonstrative with remarkable ability to secure information.

He started his term on January 1, 1907, but a great event had taken place the evening before. With the Re. G. M. Gerrish presiding, Nilie was married that New Year's Eve to Minnie L. Gillett at her parents' home on West Street, Canton. Minnie had been born Feb. 12, 1861 to Jeremiah and Mary (Agon) Gillett.

The couple resided at the Jail, where Nilie's mother was also residing when she died Apr. 2, 1908. His father at that time resided in DeKalb Junction. Both are buried in Hermon Cemetery.

Although it was customary at that time for the Sheriff's spouse to also serve as Jail Matron, we find no evidence of Minnie's



Portrait of Nilie M. Hyland with Masonic emblem which is actually pinned to the likeness, 24 x 30 in massive frame in the Hermon Masonic Lodge #500. Loaned by the Lodge for this story courtesy of Eli Tracy.

Photograph courtesy of Agnes Woodrow, Mary Smallman and Robert Jennings.



doing so. Was his mother serving in that capacity? On Jan. 1, 1910 Glyndon S. Phillips of Hammond became Sheriff and Nilie was once again named Under Sheriff. During the next year he worked on several high-profile cases. In the summer of 1911 he spent much time investigating "an Italian murder case," as the papers termed it.

Later news reports told that the evening of July 25 a "stabbing affray occurred in an Italian shack near the filtration plant at Ogdensburg during which Thomas Peretine of Rome was fatally stabbed with a knife by another Italian, Aurelio Capone. Peretine died on Wednesday. District Attorney Crapser and Asst. D. A. James C. Doland held a hearing that week, Friday and Saturday. Peretine had been the storekeeper at the filtration works. Capone, 26, escaped and was last seen walking south on the New York Central tracks."

On Friday Aug. 4, Doland and U.S. Deputy Marshall E.C.J. Smith met with Hyland in Ogdensburg. They were reportedly sitting on the Seymour House verandah discussing the case, when Hyland "in his usual robust health" suddenly said he was feeling ill. He soon complained of cramps in his legs and back, was perspiring freely. He turned to Smith, remarking that he was going to die, taking from one pocket his revolver and from another his money, insisting that Smith take them.

While Smith was gone securing Dr. Hanbidge, Nilie collapsed and was taken to his room in the hotel. Initially diagnosed as "acute indigestion," the doctor found him paralyzed from the hips down indicating "a blood

clot." A nurse stayed with him along with friends that night while his wife was telephoned for. She reached the 'Burg by train in the morning and by that time Nilie had been taken to the hospital. Soon after her arrival there, he went into convulsions and died immediately of "heart failure," as one obituary mentions.

The extensive accounts in Ogdensburg and Canton vary on so many points it has been difficult to get the complete story without a copy of the actual death

certificate. One details "Undertaker Colville of O'Callahan undertaking room"; the other "the remains were removed to the McGillis morgue and in the afternoon taken to his father's in DeKalb."

### Handsome is as Handsome Does

At any rate, at the age of 38 Nilie had had notable local lodges association as he was initiated into Hermon's Lodge #500 of the Free and Accepted Masons on Feb. 1, 1905, to Fellow Craft on Feb. 15. He was raised to

Behold St. Lawrence set in mourning—  
Mourning o'er one bravest son;  
Stricken in the heat of battle  
When victory was nearly won.

Nilie Hyland brave and generous  
Nobly done his little part;  
E'en his name brought joy and sunshine  
Cheering many a lonely heart.

Born and reared in Hermon village  
All his boyhood was beloved;  
And the many friends who miss him  
Hope to meet him up above.

Thinking o'er his work one evening  
Of a lovely summers' day;  
The Angel Death approached him  
Saying, "You must come this way!"

Pale he lay on that white couch,  
Near him stood his weeping wife  
Praying "Father call him not yet,  
Spare Oh! Spare his precious life!"  
All physicians skill was baffled,  
Fighting for a life so dear,  
But the "Angel Death" had spoken  
And e'en now was drawing near.

And the wail night wind whispered  
Thinking of brave deeds he has done;  
Answered by the mourning tree tops,  
Think of the victories he has won.

It is o'er. The thread is broken!  
Aged father do not weep;

Just a little while to linger  
And you too will fall asleep.

Now the moon's pale light is gleaming  
O'er a hillock cold and bare;  
Underneath a warrior's sleeping,  
Sweetly sleeping free from care.

Weep not kindred of Sir Hyland—  
Weep not thou his widowed wife.  
Not in shame, but stainless honor  
He lay down his useful life.  
Snows will come and Springtime's sunshine  
Flowers bloom and fade away,  
While he's resting, silent sleeping  
Waiting for the coming day.

Till he hears the Saviour calling,  
Calling him in loving tone;  
"Come ye blessed of my Father,  
Weary children all come home!"

Lonely ones there is a harbor  
Waiting every troubled breast;  
Where the wicked cease from troubling  
And the weary are at rest."

Let us follow your example  
Kind and patient all way,  
And at least we'll reach that haven  
On some bright and cloudless day.

1911  
Anna m. VanBuren

MAY 8, 1906

To the voters of St. Lawrence County:

I announce my candidacy for Sheriff of the County of St. Lawrence. This announcement has been delayed to this time because I wanted to ascertain the feeling generally in the county before I entered upon a canvass for the office. The reception my candidacy has met with justifies me in declaring myself.

For my qualifications for the office I refer to those with whom I have had business dealings, personal and official, and to my six years experience, three as turnkey and three as undersheriff.

The management of the sheriff's office necessitates tact, good judgment, firmness tempered with humaneness, discretion guided by adherence to law, economy directed by a due sense of the fact that this office must be conducted with dignity, and last, but not least, experience. This office is a business no less than any other, public or personal, in the county. No one would expect the head of one business to take charge of another of different character and run it with the economy and efficiency at the command of one who had risen in it and carefully observed the various details necessary to its successful conduct.

Experience in the conduct of the business of the office means a cash saving to every taxpayer in the county, and if nominated and elected I promise to use the knowledge gained by six years' study of the business details of the office for the best interests of the people who pay their money to maintain it.

NILIE M. HYLAND

Master Mason on March first. He was also an exemplar member of Knights Templar.

In fact, when his remains were moved from Ogdensburg to go by the 1:10 train for DeKalb Junction, a detail of Ogdensburg Commandery, Knights Templar accompanied them along with Mrs. Hyland, Sheriff Phillips and Deputy Akins. At DeKalb the body was born to his father's home there.

On Sunday the sixth, the funeral was held in Hermon, with a pastoral prayer and the funeral ceremony conducted by the St. Lawrence Commandery of which Nilie was a member. The impressive services were attended by sixty-six Knights in full uniform. Admirers and friends from Massena, Potsdam, Winthrop, Waddington, DeGrasse, Ogdensburg and Gouverneur among other places

attended. Burial was in McBrier part of Hermon Cemetery beside his mother.

Another of the local news items mentions that Nilie was a member of Canton's Mason Lodge and the Canton Commandery of the Mystic Shrine. "He possessed a natural aptitude for the work and everything he did was well done. A genial disposition and a man of few words, he was held in the highest esteem."

### **The Apple of his Father's Eye**

In 1914 Nilie was honored by a gift to the Hermon Cemetery Association of a line of black iron fence along the front, as well as a gate and plaque announcing his father's gift. The plaque, gate posts next to the eastern side of the central drive to the McBrier Mausoleum, and the line of fence are still meticulously cared for.



Photograph courtesy of Agnes Woodrow, Mary Smallman and Robert Jennings.

*Nilie M. Hyland's stone with Knights Templar insignia*

## Gouverneur Round Table Club

A body of men known as the Round Table Club, drawn from widely different walks of life, but possessed of a common interest in works of science, literature and religion, have for several years met one evening each week during the winter months for the purpose of study and discussion of their favorite themes.

It was at one of these meetings, December 1, 1915, during the informal discussion which always accompanied the regular work, that the conversation turned on sonnets and sonneteers. President Clarence Johnson opened a small volume and began reading, and some half dozen sonnets on Sleep, by well known writers had been read, discussed freely, and criticized to some extent, when in a spirit of banter someone suggested that in as much as the members of the Round Table Club were able to show wherein these sonnets could have been so much improved had the authors been able to consult their criticism, said members each write a sonnet and present same for reading at the next meeting.

The idea was received with that enthusiasm which the club always manifests when anything of an unusual nature is proposed, and every man agreed "to do something."

According to agreement, ten members, whose names and productions appear in the accompanying autographed volume, re-

ported at the next meeting, December 8, 1915, that they prepared.

The meeting was called together by President Johnson, who having collected the sonnets from the members, proceeded as follows: the sonnets were numbered, and as each one was read by him, the members recorded their opinions as to who was the author of each, on slips of paper provided for the purpose. Incident to this feature of the occasion was a peculiar condition revealed by the canvass which followed the readings.

These men, associates of years in a business way, as well as socially, proved to be, in a literary sense, almost strangers; being unable to identify the author in most instances.

The evening was one of the most enjoyable of the many interesting meetings of the club, and as a souvenir of the occasion, President Johnson presented each member present with a copy of "A Century of Sonnets," the volume of which this inset forms a part, being one of them.

Fraternally yours,  
Jerome F. Payne, Secretary.  
Gouverneur, N. Y.  
December 8, 1915

### SLEEP

A tired wing folds o'er a drowsy head,  
A noisy cricket seeks his quiet bed,

And far below earth's crimsoned edge  
The God of day retires -  
Longer and dark the shadows grow,  
Stilled are the sounds of day -  
Deep is the hush that night brings on  
While purple and gold turn grey,  
And out in that unchartered somewhere  
Our senses silently creep,  
Till at last we know naught  
Of this region of thought,  
For we're lost in that realm we call sleep.

*Payne*

### SONNET

Spent, at the finish of a hard fought day,  
Like one who ventures into calm vast deeps  
Through breakers, so I sink through dreams to sleep's  
Profound abysses, when I bring away  
Rich treasures; strength of mind and heart to play  
The man yet longer and to breast new steep  
The last fierce climb disclosed, and hope, which keeps  
A goal transcendent gilded by its ray.  
I know that in that unknown blessed place  
This life is not. The shadowy bourn of dreams  
Which mocks our wistful peering quenches gleams  
Of memory there as well, nor leaves a trace  
Of waking thought; -else, conscious of the pain



We suffer daily, who'd come  
back again?

*Johnson*

{UNTITLED}

A gentle stillness like a poultice  
falls  
On tired flesh and over aching  
brain;  
Lost in forgetfulness is every  
pain;  
Silence, itself, reverberates down  
halls  
That echo nothingness and calls  
With vacant voices far down a  
trackless main,  
Through vacuous space that can't  
reply again  
From dead desires under sable  
palls.

Yet deeper than thy zone, where  
we are lost,  
The spirit passes to a waking  
world,  
And lives its life with gauzy  
wings unfurled  
With only faintest dreamings to  
us tossed.  
At last, within thy lethe, 'tis to  
be  
We sink - but sink to sail another  
sea.

*Livingston*

SLEEP

The soldier at eve on the blood  
drenched field;  
At close of weary march o'er hill  
and moor;  
Or racked with dreadful pain at  
midnight hour;  
A single solace has; a single  
shield.

The crippled child whose days  
are filled with grief;  
Whose maimed limbs refuse to  
do his will,  
In happy dreams once more  
wades in the rill,

Once more his playmates' joy he  
shares, though brief.

When awful darkness falls o'er  
human eyes,  
And friends no longer now do we  
behold,  
Then gentle sleep doth us in arms  
enfold.  
Again we see them, under sunny  
skies.

Again we see the lovelight in  
their eyes;  
Again we meet them as in days  
of old.

*Herring*

LINES TO A DYING BUTTER-  
FLY

A poet sat him down to write  
The inner man a craving,  
He caught a butterfly in flight  
His appetite was raging.  
His stock in trade was laid out  
bare  
A choice collection rich and rare  
With voices from the ether  
Mahatmas gliding whispered  
low  
Hello old man you'd best go slow  
Your butterfly is burning  
He'd hobnobbed with the All  
Sublime  
Until he'd got HIM down in  
rhyme

The theme it was so lofty - deep  
Alas the poet fell asleep.

*Jordan*

SPENCERIAN SLUMBER  
SONG

Matter, its Indestructibility,  
First Principles and Relativity,  
And Homogeneous Instability,  
The celebrated Law of Evolu-  
tion,  
Which twisted thought as in a  
revolution,  
All make of Spencer's words a

sleeping potion.

Conceptions are Symbolic - hold  
that notion  
Through that incomprehensibil-  
ity  
His devotees miscall ability,  
Which bringeth sleep, not socia-  
bility.  
Sonorous Herbert may be scien-  
tific  
But his Philosophy is soporific.

At Ethics one should hardly dare  
to peep  
For his Big Words are the First  
Cause of sleep.

*Hatmaker*

UNTITLED

Oh sleep! Restorer of the weary  
one;  
Benign alike, to debauchee and  
sage;  
Assistant, until manhood's goal  
is won;  
Physician, in the downward trend  
of age.

What can I do, thy service to  
command?  
What all-compelling action,  
what magic wand  
May I exploit, to win thee to my  
side?  
That I may sleep and rest,  
whate'er betide.

Oh! Could I, hopefully, expect-  
antly, petition thee?  
Enfold my consciousness, as an  
engulfing sea.  
Without the "healing in thy  
wings," I cannot be  
Prepared, with honest purpose,  
as with willing hands and free;  
To reap joy, from serving oth-  
ers, as thou restorest me.

*Bodman*

## PROLOG

Sleep, Shakespeare says, is of  
hurt minds the balm,  
Sore labor's bath, great nature's  
second birth.

As Shakespeare soared, so let me  
rise from earth

And an immortal poem write.

But calm

Thy flight my soul. How can I  
hope to palm

Effusions off on practiced bards  
as worth

The sonneteers' attention, in the  
dearth

Of rhyme and reason too? But I  
have promised

Fairly and my pledg'ed word  
must keep,

For Spencer's Ethics teaches us  
that from

The cosmos's heights to nature's  
lowest deep

Untruthfulness has ever held the  
palm

'Mong sins. Here goes. And I  
don't care a damn (sic)

If sonnet writers listening fall  
asleep.

## SLEEP

O welcome sleep, of night and  
stillness born,

Restorer kindly of the weary  
frame,

Renewer of the spirit when the  
flame

Of life burns low, and the long  
hours till morn

Without thy soothing, like a  
flower torn,

Its fragrance vanished, but a trace  
can claim

Of life's full joy and beauty. Thy  
sweet name

Is ne'er so sweet as when thy loss  
we mourn,

How welcome art thou as when  
life's tide is high.

How much more welcome at its  
neap, when heart,

And brain oppressed and body  
spent, we lie

And friend's who o'er us anxious  
vigils keep,

Shall note the flickering breath  
grow far apart,

Then cease forever, as at last we  
sleep.

*Orvis*

## UNTITLED

I am asked to write a sonnet and  
will stake my word upon it

That I'll find it no easy thing to  
do,

To compete with sonneteers who  
have whacked away for years,

Their names inscribed in poet's  
"Who is Who."

There's the doctor versatile,  
making poems all the while

That scintillate like stars up in the  
sky,

And the subtle music master who  
turns them out much faster

And plants them in the firma-  
ment as high.

There's the man beneath whose  
hat all geology is pat,

Who certainly is might with the  
pen,

And the fascinating scribe of the  
journalistic tribe,

Who surely writes a sonnet now  
and then.

There's the philosopher bucolic  
midst the cabbages can frolic,

His cup to wisdom's fountain  
firmly held,

And the sage of legal thought

who will show us what is what  
With pearls of wisdom culled  
from works of old.

And there are many more who  
will occupy the floor

With skill and rhyme and palpi-  
tating wit,

But as I have got to do it I might  
as well go to it

And do my very best "to do my  
bit."

## UNTITLED

He dreams and tow'ring palaces  
arise

Upon the barren crests where  
chaos keeps

The world in awe, except to him  
who sleeps,

And dreaming climbs with dar-  
ing enterprise

To where the rich vistas stretch  
before his eyes.

He spans with hope the wild and  
rugged steeps

As surely as the trailing ivy  
creeps

And paints the vivid hues of  
paradise.

He sleeps and seeing not the  
things that are

Sees drab and dull reality out-  
shone.

Carves then his vision on the  
stolid stone

Where time shall not efface nor  
tide shall mar.

Had he not slept, his dreams were  
yet his own,

His visions, pictures, statues still  
unknown.

*Parker*

# Heritage Grist Mill Association Acquires Vintage Separating Machine: Move Into Next Phase of Restoring Historic Mill

The Heritage Gristmill Association recently received a gift of an 1840s vintage separating machine from Mr. Tom Young of Norwood for the Harison Morley Grist Mill preservation project. The old flour production cockle separating machine was built in Wisconsin in the 1840s. Discovered in a barn just outside the village of Norwood this year, the machine is in working condition and was donated to the Heritage Grist Mill Association to become part of their collection of historic agriculture equipment for the living educational grist mill located in Morley.

The separator is part of the process of milling which removes burrs and other weeds from the grain prior to grinding. Cornell Cooperative Extension in Canton will be storing the machine, which is now added to an inventory of items for the museum and working displays. Other artifacts were found during an archaeological dig at the grist mill site in 1998 conducted by SUNY Potsdam, and are preserved for future display.

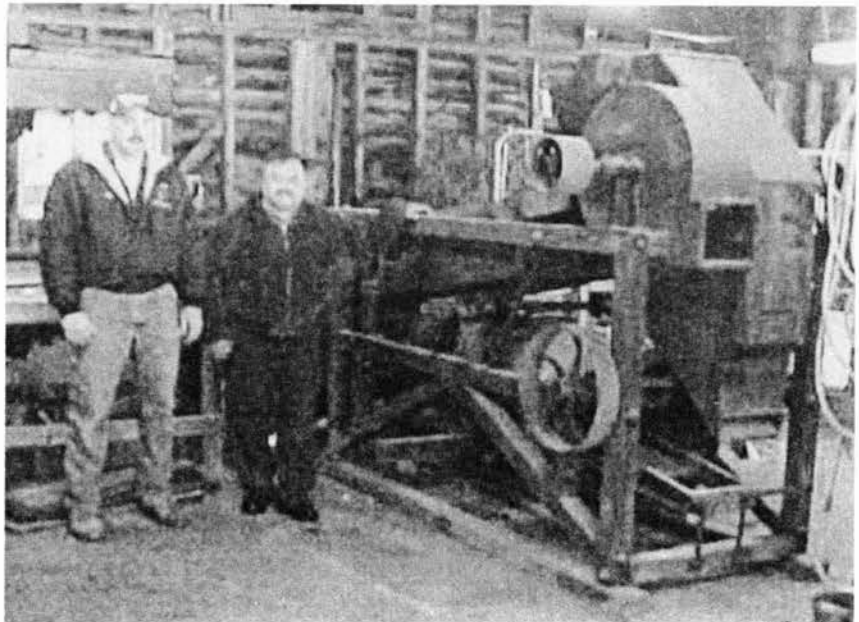
The historic renovation project of the 1840s era Harison Grist Mill is moving into the next phase of the master plan, according to Administrator Charlie LaShombe. It is the mission of the association to preserve the old grist mill and to create a living heritage site for education and learning. The pre-development studies have been com-

pleted as well as architectural and engineering plans drawn. Now that all permits from the NYS Department of Environmental Conservation and U.S. Army Corps of Engineers have been issued, the group will move toward the next step of the renovation - a capital campaign to supplement several matching fund grants.

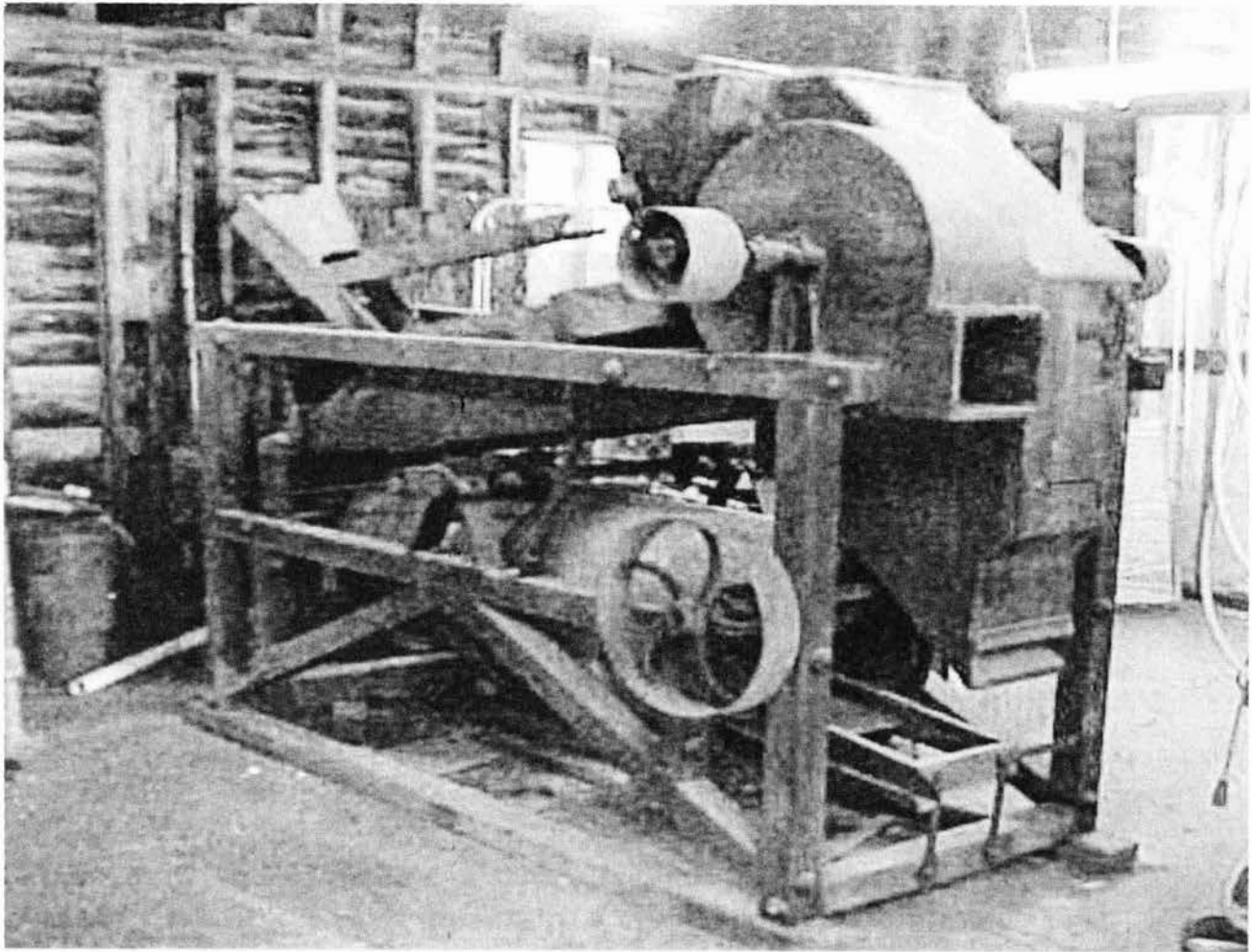
Additional support from corporate and private citizens will be sought to match the grant monies. The group is hopeful the local people and corporations will financially support the project as it is intended to become a tourist destination as well as a field trip location for stu-

dents and teachers for the region's schools. The capital fundraising phase of the master plan is planned to begin in mid-2002. Interest from several local corporations has already brought donations to help launch the undertaking. Eventually, visitors will see 19<sup>th</sup> century agricultural grain processing first hand at the fully restored grist mill that at one time was instrumental to the financial prosperity of the area in the mid and late 1800s.

The Heritage Grist Mill Association was recently accepted as members of the Society for the Preservation of Old Mills (SPOOM), which is the interna-



*Charley & Tom with the separator*



*The separator.*

tional recognized organization that promotes interest in old mills - specifically preservation and rebuilding of old mill structures. Located in Michigan, the society maintains a library on mills and related subjects and acts as a clearinghouse for mill related information while keeping abreast of changes and happen-

ings in mill preservation.

A new slate of officers for the Heritage Grist Mill Association was elected at the December 2001 Board of Directors meeting in Norwood. They include: Charles LaShombe, Chair and Administrator; Joseph Smelley of Norwood, Vice Chair; Trena Whitcomb of Parishville, Secre-

tary; Tanya Smelley of Norwood, Treasurer; James Sherman of Norwood, Trustee; and Trent Trulock of the St. Lawrence County Historical Association, Trustee.



## Massena Students Get a Feel For History

By Staff Reporter Bob Beckstead

Reprinted, with permission,  
from the January 16, 2002 edition of the *Daily Courier Observer*.

Students at J.W. Leary Junior High School aren't just studying history. They're living it through a project they've taken on at the Massena Museum.

Honors students from Tony Cafarella's social studies class have been at the museum Tuesdays and Thursdays after school - from around 2:30 to 4 p.m. each visit - to hold pieces of history in their hands, as they scan postcards and other historical material into a computer for safekeeping.

"The teacher (Cafarella) called me and said he had some honor students and wanted to do a project. They were willing to bring down a computer and do it here," Massena Town Historian Theresa Sharp said.

Actually, Cafarella noted, the idea belongs to the junior high's Dean of Students Richard Norris. Cafarella said, when he began teaching social studies - and a Massena unit - at J.W. Leary about five years ago, his material consisted largely of "a bunch of old slides." That's when Norris asked him, "Why don't you set up a situation where you go down to the museum and use technology to basically renew the past?"

That's exactly what Cafarella and his students have done since the beginning of the school year.

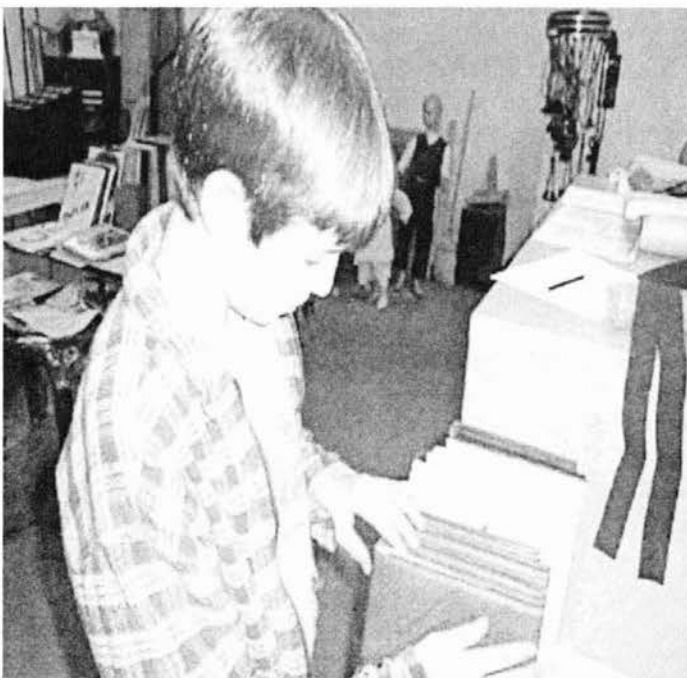
When they were approached about the idea, Cafarella said his honors students jumped at the opportunity to work on the project.

"The students selected themselves. They're core students who really enjoying working on this project," he said. "The idea was to somehow get kids and get some sort of organized learning experience around Massena's

history. In the museum, the students would pick up all this other great stuff. They get to see behind the scenes at the museum. I think (the museum) is an under-used resource."

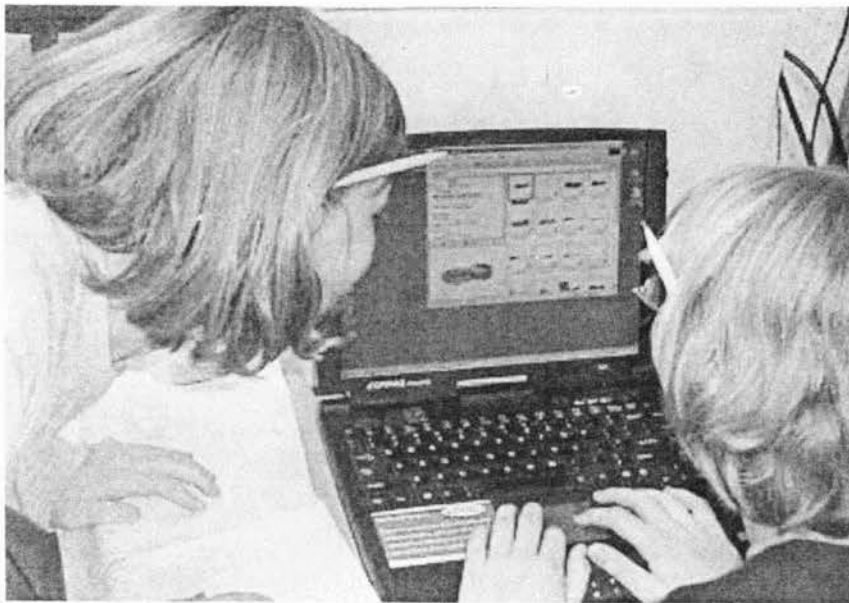
"It helps the school because they have an extra project to work on," Sharp noted.

The school and district's administration helped the cause by



*SETTING UP - J.W. Leary Junior High student Ethan Lecuyer sets up items to be scanned at the Massena Museum. Students in Tony Cafarella's social studies class have been spending part of their Tuesday and Thursday afternoons at the museum, scanning old postcards and other historical materials. (Photo Courtesy of Tony Cafarella)*





*WORKING TOGETHER - Traci Bacon and Samantha O'Neil work on categorizing information at the Massena Museum. Traci, Samantha and other honors students from J.W. Leary Junior High School have spent the year scanning and categorizing materials at the museum as part of an effort to learn about Massena's history. (Photo Courtesy of Tony Cafarella)*

donating a computer and scanner for Cafarella and his students to use on the project, which takes place in the basement of the museum on East Orvis Street.

Now, twice a week, the students gingerly handle materials in the museum's archive, transferring them from a century-old document to modern age image in a computer. Sharp said some of the postcards date back to the beginning of the 1900s, more than 100 years ago.

It's a load of work, according to both Cafarella and Sharp. The students must catalog the materials, scan them, adjust the settings once they've got the picture on the screen, rename the file and store it.

"So far we've done perhaps 50 to 100 postcards. We scan the front and back side," Cafarella said, adding they've also scanned about a quarter of a journal. It's really been kind of an exploratory kind of thing."

"We'll never see the end of the pile," Sharp said, speaking of the box that holds a pile of postcards yet to hit the scanner's surface.

The pile may be big, but the motivation of the students is just as huge. And whatever doesn't get done this year will get passed on to next year's class, and possibly classes in the years after, according to Cafarella.

"I envision this project as long-term," he said. "It's something that's successive for students in the social studies department."

Sharp said, for her part, she can help make sure the students never run out of work at the museum.

"We have lots of photos, too," she said. "They may work on those, too."

Many of those photographs were taken between the early 1900s and World War II. Once the war was on, Sharp said, film became hard to find.

## Former Town of DePeyster Historian Passes Away

Word has been received that Adelaide H. Steele, 81, of Route 184 in Heuvelton, died in January 2002 at the Claxton-Hepburn Medical Center in Ogdensburg.

She was the Town of DePeyster historian for many years, and was a national genealogist. She enjoyed being a member of the DePeyster Sewing Club, playing bridge, knitting, gardening and restoring and collecting antiques.

Mrs. Steele was a retired business teacher. She worked for GLF (Agway) in Ithaca after graduating from college and taught at Romulus, North Salem and Blasdell High School in Western New York. She later became the first business teacher at Heuvelton Central School and taught in Lisbon, Hermon-DeKalb and Heuvelton central school districts until retiring in 1983.

She was a member of Heuvelton United Methodist Church, treasurer of the United Methodist Women and a past member of the Heuvelton Library Board. She served as president of the St. Lawrence County Historians Group, the St. Lawrence County Alumni Association, Heuvelton Teachers Association and the Kendrew Grange. She served on the Program Committee of the St. Lawrence County Historical Association in the 1970s. Mrs. Steele also served as secretary of the Board of overseers in the early 1970s. This board was in charge of the renovations to the Silas Wright House and old pizza parlor, and turned them into a museum and archives.

Mrs. Steele was born Oct. 10, 1920 in Gouverneur, the daughter of Elbridge and Sara Wainwright Hurlbut. She is survived by two sons, Samuel and Jeanette

Steele of Puyallup, Wash., and Mason Steele, Jr. of Heuvelton; one daughter, Mrs. Paul (Marianne) Savino of Hamburg; two step-sons, Robert and Catherine Steele of Norwood, and John and Gail Steele of Highland; two sisters, Marion MacKintosh of Raleigh, NC, and Mrs. David (Evelyn) Lush of St. John's, Newfoundland; two brothers, Elbridge Hurlbut of Rockville, Md, and Worth Hurlbut of DeKalb; 14 grandchildren and several great-grandchildren; many nieces nephews and cousins.

# Grand Opening of the New Norfolk Museum June 3, 2001

(All photos courtesy of William Bond, Norfolk  
Historical Association)



*Norfolk Town Supervisor George Molnar (l) and Museum Curator Leon Burnap cut the ribbon to officially open the new Norfolk Historical Museum.*



*The ribbon cutting ceremony is underway.*



*Museum Curator Leon Burnap dedicates the new museum.*



*Town Supervisor George Molnar addresses the crowd.*



*Chairman of the Norfolk Museum Board addresses those in attendance.*

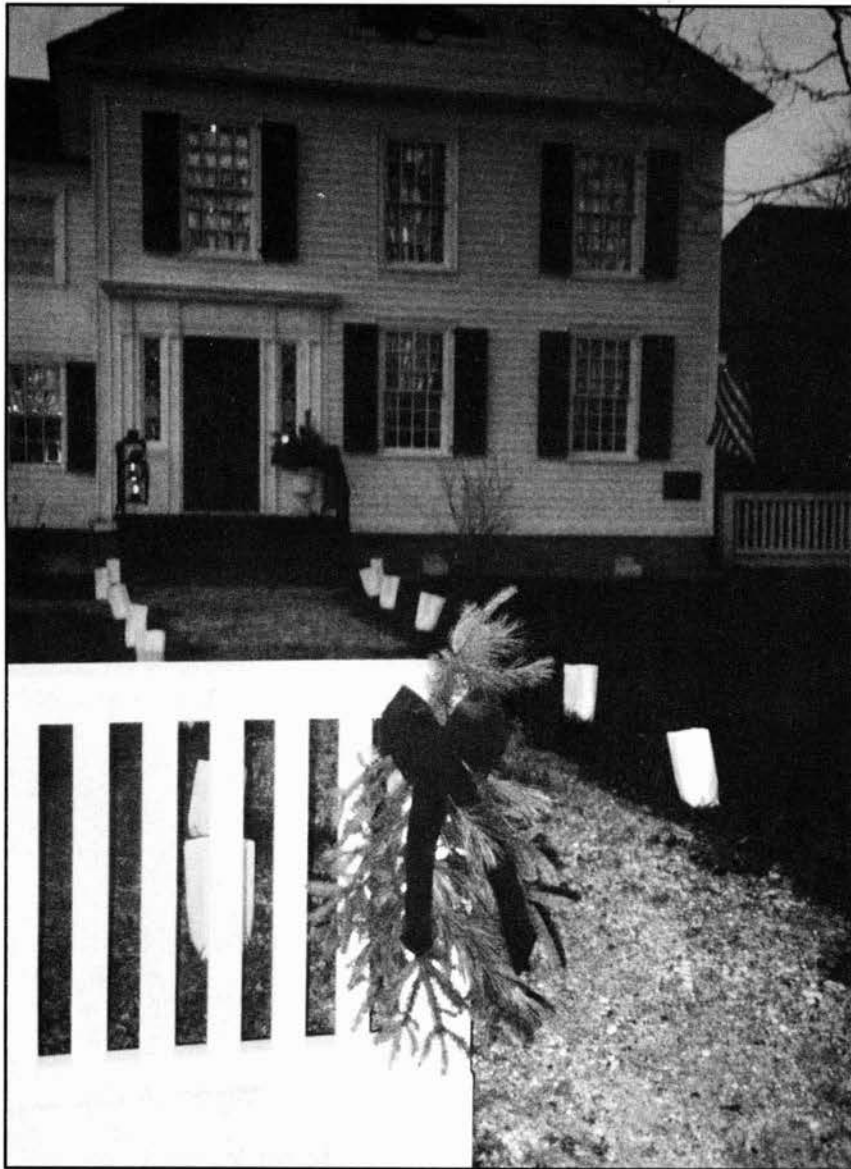


*The front entrance of the new Norfolk Historical Museum.*



**St. Lawrence County Historical Association  
Annual Holiday Open House and Red Barn Grand Opening  
December 7, 2001,  
Silas Wright House, Canton, NY**

*(All photographs are courtesy of Pamela Ouimet)*



*The entrance to the Historical Association was adorned with luminarias.*



*The front hall was decorated with holiday greenery.*



*Guests sign in as they enter the rear entrance.*



*A number of people toured the new Research Room.*



*This tree was provided by Peter Van de Water.*



*This Peace On Earth tree was provided by the Canton Garden Club.*



*A buffet with finger foods and hot cider was served.*

## THE OLIVER LAW FIRM

Cathleen E. O'Horo  
Roger B. Linden  
Francis P. Cappello

Michelle H. Ladouceur, Associate

117 Main Street  
Canton, NY 13617

Tel.: 315-386-4595 Fax: 315-379-1240

Fax: 265-9222



Cell: 322-3520

Toll Free: 1-800-371-9286

Serving the North Country Since 1979

[www.walshauction.com](http://www.walshauction.com)

*Reach readers  
interested in heritage  
& history by placing an  
ad here!*

## St. Lawrence County Historical Association Hours

SLCHA Office, SLCHA Archives  
& Silas Wright House

Open Tuesday - Saturday, Noon - 4:00 p.m.  
Friday Noon - 8 p.m.  
(and by Appointment)  
Admission Fees:

Museum	Free
Archives	Members - Free
	Students - \$2.50
	General Public - \$5.00

**1802 - 2002**

***Celebrate  
St. Lawrence County's  
Bicentennial at the  
St. Lawrence County  
Historical Association***

**1802 - 2002**



Return Service Requested  
PO Box 8  
Canton, NY 13617

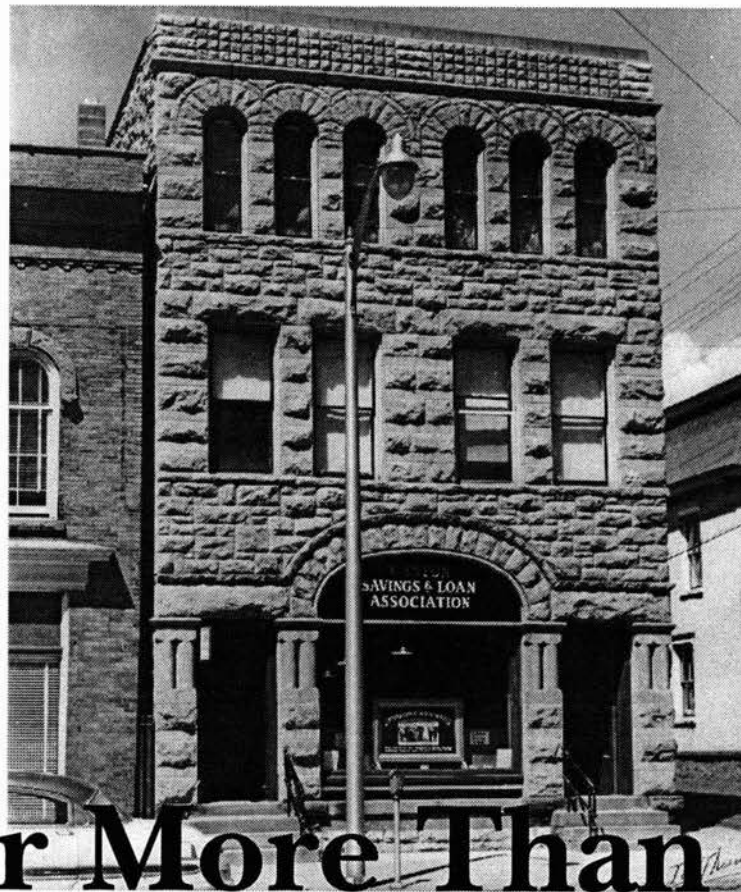
Bulk Rate  
U.S. Postage  
Paid  
Permit No. 21  
Canton, NY 13617

Non-Profit Organization



**NORTH COUNTRY  
SAVINGS BANK**

# Proud of our Rich Heritage of Service in the Community



# For More Than A Century.

**NORTH COUNTRY SAVINGS BANK LOCATIONS:**

- 315.393.1600 Caroline & Green, Ogdensburg
- 315.769.3566 22 Phillips Street, Massena
- 315.265.2300 31 Main Street, Potsdam
- 315.261.0003 Cubley House, 33 Main Street, Potsdam
- 315.386.4533 127 Main Street, Canton

