

NORTH COUNTRY NOTES

ISSUED OCCASIONALLY BY THE
CLINTON COUNTY HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION

No. 31

Allan S. Everest and Charles W. McLellan, Editors

Nov. 1966

The November Meeting

of the Association will be held on Thursday evening, November 10, at 8 o'clock in the auditorium of the new high school on Rugar Street. Please note this change in time and place.

The program will consist of a selection of traditional Indian dances performed by eight children from the St. Regis Reservation under the direction of Mr. Ernest Benedict, who will also explain the significance of the dances and how they are passed down among the members of the tribe. Guests are welcome at our meetings, and this would be a good meeting for the younger members of our families.

There will be neither a meeting of the Association nor an edition of the "Notes" in December. The next meeting will be Monday evening, January 9, 1967.

Riddle of the Month

Mr. Halsey R. Shields of Keeseville sends a correct answer to last month's riddle: "The earliest settler in Ausable was Capt. Edward Everett. He sailed up the Ausable River to the Basin in 1786 in a party of ten people and built a cabin at the foot of Hallock Hill, as is stated by J. Warren Harkness."

New question: How did the hamlet of Harkness get its name?

PIONEER HOMES OF CLINTON COUNTY

The Clinton County Historical Association, with assistance from the County of Clinton, will publish this fall a book entitled **Pioneer Homes of Clinton County, 1790-1820**. This is Allan Everest's study of the homes of the pioneers which were built before 1820 and are still standing. A picture and short history of each house is included.

The approximate date of publication is mid-December. The Board of Directors believes that the members of the Association should be given the first opportunity to purchase copies. Consequently, a pre-publication offer is hereby made to all members to order one or more copies of the book by **November 30**. Checks, made out to the Association, should accompany the order. The price of a paper-back edition until November 30 is \$2.75, which will subsequently become \$4.00. The price of a hard-cover copy, available while a limited printing lasts, is \$3.75, which will later become \$5.00. Orders should be addressed to the Secretary, whose address appears in the "Notes". If our printers keep their promise, we can mail your copies before Christmas.

AMASA C. MOORE TO JUDGE PLINY MOORE

From Middlebury, Vermont, where he attended the Academy, Amasa wrote to his father, Judge Moore of Champlain, on June 30, 1817. He refers to General Samuel Strong, who commanded the Vermont volunteers at the battle of Plattsburgh.

My dear Papa

Having received no answer to my letter, I again address you, hoping that I may be permitted to expect one hereafter. In consequence of not having received an answer to my last a pair of shoes and hat have been bought for me which were very necessary for me, and for this purpose Money was procured of Mr. Mattocks and also for the purpose of getting some cloaths and shoes mended. The Price of the heat was \$4.00, the Shoes \$2.75 and mending \$1.25 making in all \$8.00 which is due Mr. Mattocks.

Dear Papa I fear that you will think that I spend money uselessly, because you have sent me so much since my return, but I assure You that it was impossible for me to go without shoes or hat any longer as I looked like a vagabond.

Last Wednesday a sword was presented to General Strong by a committee from the State of New York. There was a great concourse of people assembled, a great part of the inhabitants. Students & Academicians of Middlebury went out to Vergennes to see it presented. I attended. Col. Smith of Plats'g presented the sword after which Gen. Strong treated the populace to as much as they could drink. Many got drunk and fought, the mayor ordered the Sherif to exercise his authority he rushed in the middle of the crowd and was caught by five or six of them who began to beat him but several civil officers went to his assistance and after a short scuffle rescued him the troop was then ordered out to quiet the disturbance and populace ordered to disperse on penalty of the law. The troop and civil officers secured all the ring leaders and committed them to jail. I saw three put in jail and was since told that there were a number of others It was a complet mob as ever was. My paper will not permit me to write more on the subject at present.

It is a long time since I have heard from Cham—be so kind as to answer this the first opportunity. the quarter will be out in seven weeks, when I expect to come home with your permission if I enter College of which I entertain great hopes. The room which I spoke to you of some time ago, I have been obleiged to engage as I other wise would have been occupied by some one else, the rent of it will be \$13. per annum, and at commencement I shall have occupied it six months which will be \$6.50.

Be so kind as to give my love to sister Ann Sophia and Matilda, to all my brothers and friends, do tell them to write to me

I remain dear papa

Your affectionate Son

A Moore
(McLellan Collection)

Fourth Of July In Plattsburgh

The Fourth of July has long been a high point on the calendar of Plattsburgh residents, as revealed in a sampling of the reports in Plattsburgh newspapers:

1900—This year's Fourth was marked by a typical, old-fashioned celebration. The Clinton Park Association arranged a program of sports that was "second to none in this section of the country." Events included the 100-yard dash, 75-yard sack race, 100-yard hurdle race, and putting the shot. A \$5 prize was awarded for each event. The city band gave concerts in the afternoon and evening. A display of fireworks was held after the evening concert which was described as "the finest ever seen in Northern New York."

1910—July 4th marked the 13th anniversary of the Saratoga Local Council of the K of C. This was celebrated by a banquet, a reunion, "plus all the enjoyable features of ladies' night". This was the first of three days of horse racing under the auspices of the Gentlemen's Driving Club. The annual Methodist Picnic was held in Ricketson's Grove and was described as a "splendid affair". The event, open to the public, included a baseball game, races and various other sports. Concluding the day's activities was a giant display of fireworks.

1920—The day's festivities were opened at 9 a.m. with a parade and an address by Rev. J. Driscoll. Some of the events included: a potato race with a prize of three packages of White House coffee; a 100-yard dash, the prize a belt with silver buckle; and a fat man's race, rewarded by a box of good cigars. Later in the day there was music and dancing, with open-air movies concluding the day at 10 p.m.

1930—Events included a baseball game between faculty and students of the Catholic Summer School. It also marked the opening of supervised swimming at the Municipal Beach. At 3 o'clock there was baseball between the Plattsburgh City team and Lake Placid. At 9 p.m. an American Legion carnival was held at Leonard's Pavilion. The **Republican** noted that residents should "learn first aid in the case of accidents on the Fourth of July". And also that "four were arrested for firing fireworks before the Fourth of July."

1940—July 4th found the city apprehensive concerning the war in Europe. The **Press** commented: "The Fourth of July, 1940, should drive home to us the lesson of preparedness. This is no fire cracker Fourth and when grown men lend themselves to extremes in childishness in their enthusiasm, they might remember that realism is the order of the present day and that nothing but the real thing will suffice should the test come to our preparedness plan now in the making." Citizens were left to enjoy the day as best they could without a civic program. This was also the last year that fireworks could be sold; a new state law, effective on August 1st, prohibited their sale except for public displays.

Laurie Francis, SUC

CHAMPLAIN PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH RECORDS

Oct. 14, 1808. Bro. Hicks brought charges against Bro. Lane that he had been frequently disguised with liquor.

Oct. 28, 1808. Bro. Lane acknowledged that the charge against him respecting his being disguised with liquor was just . . . The church then required Bro. Lane to make a public confession that he had been frequently disguised with liquor..

Dec. 18, 1808. Bro. Lane in a verbal manner made a confession, asked forgiveness & promised that he would with Assistance of God lead a new life. The church voted to remove the censure & receive him into their fellowship again.

Apr. 7, 1809. Bro. Lane voluntarily confessed that he had relapsed into the sin which most easily besets him, asked the prayers of the church, and expressed his determination to reform.

Aug. 25, 1809. Bro. Dunning brought a written complaint against Bro. Lane that he had been again guilty of intoxication.

Sept. 22, 1809. Bro. Lane expressed his willingness to make a public confession provided he should find that he could live agreeably to it.

Oct. 22, 1809. Read Bro. Lane's confession.

(And so, on and on and on! In March, 1810, Bro. Lane was excommunicated.)

(McLellan Collection)

DISTINGUISHED DAUGHTER OF CLINTON COUNTY

Dr. Georgia Harkness

Georgia Harkness was born in the family homestead on Hallock Hill in the town of Ausable. She is the great-granddaughter of the pioneer, Daniel Harkness, who settled there in 1801. Her father was J. Warren Harkness, who attended Oswego Normal School and then settled on the family farm. He became a local historian of repute, and his articles have recently been compiled and reproduced by the Quaker Union Society.

Dr. Harkness' career as Methodist minister, educator and author started with schooling in her home town. She earned her bachelor's degree at Cornell in 1912, two masters' degrees from Boston University in 1920 and a Ph.D. from the same institution in 1923. She did post-graduate work at several institutions and has a long list of honorary degrees.

She started teaching Latin in the high schools of Schuylerville and Scotia, then moved on to an instructorship at Boston University. She taught religious education and philosophy at Elmira College between 1922 and 1937; religion at Mr. Holyoke (1937-39); applied theology at the Garrett Bible Institute (1939-50) and at the Pacific School of Religion at Berkeley (1950-61). She was ordained into the Methodist ministry in 1926 and has since attended international religious conferences in India, The Netherlands, Sweden and Great Britain.

Her first book appeared in 1931 and a dozen titles on religious and philosophical subjects have followed. She resides at 10 Kerr Avenue, Berkeley, California, 94707. In most summers she pays a visit to her home town and preaches in the church at Harkness, named for a member of her family. Clinton County has produced a great scholar and theologian in this notable daughter.

★ NORTH COUNTRY NOTES ★

Issued by the

CLINTON COUNTY HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION

Mrs. E. F. Beyer, Secretary
Route 1
Morrisonville, New York

#31