

# NORTH COUNTRY NOTES

Issued Monthly by the Clinton County Historical Association

48 Court Street, Plattsburgh NY 12901, 518-561-0340

---

No. 313    PRESIDENT: Mark A. McCullough    EDITOR: Helen W. Allan    October 1994

---

## ANNUAL DINNER

The usual October meeting will be waived to accommodate our annual dinner scheduled on Saturday, October 22. Co-sponsored by the History Department at SUNY Plattsburgh, the event will be held in the Centennial Room in the Angell College Center, State University, Plattsburgh. The evening starts with a cash bar at 6:00 p.m. followed by dinner at 7:00 p.m. An insert in this issue of *North Country Notes* lists the menu and includes a tear-off form. Reservations and payment must be received by Wednesday, October 19.

The highlight of the evening will be the return of a very popular speaker. Willard Sterne Randall, whose biography of Benedict Arnold was nominated for a Pulitzer Prize in 1990, will present a program entitled "Thomas Jefferson's Champlain Vacation". Mr. Randall's book, *Thomas Jefferson: A Life*, was also nominated for a Pulitzer Prize and was named one of the ten best biographies of 1993 by *Publishers Weekly*.

After teaching history and biography for many years, Will Randall is now writing a series of American History textbooks for HarperCollins. His Benedict Arnold program delivered at CCHA's 1991 dinner was highly entertaining and we look forward to an equally fascinating look at the life of Thomas Jefferson. Newly issued in paperback, *Thomas Jefferson: A Life* will be available from the author at our October 22 dinner.

## VALCOUR ISLAND LIGHTHOUSE

Although progress on preservation of the lighthouse has been hampered by incidents of vandalism, we continue our efforts to save the lighthouse. During late September members of the Adirondack Builders' Association worked on replacing glass in the light chamber and sealing the walkway on the tower. An award of \$1,000 from the Lake Champlain Partnership Program has enabled the Historical Association to purchase materials needed for interior repairs to the structure. Attendance at the Open House on August 20 was diminished due to stormy weather, but once again it gave the public an opportunity to explore the interior of the structure. Volunteers Lynn & Bill Woythaler and Roger Barrett conducted visitors through the lighthouse and explained its 121-year history.

## RECENT ACQUISITIONS

The summer of 1994 was memorable for the number of acquisitions made by the museum. Among them were several editions of the *Northern Intelligencer*, one of the earliest newspapers published in Clinton County. Although the museum does not actively seek donations of newspapers due to their fragility, the difficulty of preserving them, and the availability of their contents on microfilm or microfiche, occasionally we do accept newspapers by reason of their unique contents. Bart Holm was the donor of the recent newspaper acquisitions, following in the footsteps of his mother and aunt, Lucille and Elizabeth Gilliland, who both contributed significantly to the museum's collections. Here are some of the intriguing notices we found:

NOTICE: Whereas Jane, my wife, has behaved herself in a very unbecoming manner, by beating and flogging me at sundry times, and having become determined not to live with her any longer, this is to notify all persons from harboring her or trusting her on my account, as I will not pay any debts of her contracting after this date.

ROBERT ERWIN

Peru, April 7, 1827

(*Northern Intelligencer*, April 13, 1827)

### BATTALION ORDERS

The Commandant of the Light Battalion, Clinton County hereby directs that the Non-Commissioned Officers and Privates, of said Battalion, appear hereafter at all Company and Battalion parades, in WHITE PANTALOONS and LEATHER CAPS completely trimmed - such as are now in used in said Battalion. The Commandants of companies are also requested after this order shall have been read on parade, to return as delinquent, all such persons as shall appear at any rendezvous without such uniform and equipage.

JAS. BAILEY, MAJOR

L.C. C.S. Mooers, Adj't

(*Northern Intelligencer*, August 23, 1826)

### GOING TO FLORIDA THIS WINTER?

Make it a pleasure trip by traveling in the elegant passenger steamships of the Ocean Steamship Company. The Savannah Line from New York, or Boston. Greater comfort at 35 to 40 per cent, less expense than by rail. For rates and other information, apply to:

N.R. McIlvaine

11 Clinton Street, Plattsburgh, N.Y.

(Plattsburgh Republican, December 9, 1893)

### OYSTERS!

Yes! and the first in market! Fresh planted York Bays - through in 24 hours from the bed - received twice a week, and sold cheap, by

Geo. Dodds, Plattsburgh, (*Plattsburgh Republican*, October 12, 1849)

### LOST

On board the Steam Boat Phoenix about the 27th of Aug. last, a trunk, covered with Black leather containing the wearing apparel of a female. It was marked on the top with brass nails, with the letter "O.S." Any person who will give information where said trunk may be found, shall be generously rewarded.

SAMUEL BRACKET

Plattsburgh, October 26

(*Northern Intelligencer*, November 9, 1827)

RAGS! RAGS! RAGS!

Wanted at this office.

(Northern Intelligencer, April [illegible]1827)

(Editorial note: Before the introduction of wood pulp into the manufacture of paper, cloth rags were the staple ingredient, thus ensuring a longer life for the paper. Today, rag paper and board, 100% acid free, are used by museums for preservation of flat paper objects.)

The museum's collections were also enriched by the following objects:

- \* Photographs of construction of Physicians Hospital, State Bank of Albany and the New York Telephone Building (Rodney Swift)
- \* Advertisement for a musical show at the Plattsburgh Theatre (Julie Davies)
- \* Dictionary of the English Language by Samuel Johnson, presented to Peter Saily (Alice Moyer)
- \* "The Lost Prince" (theory that Eleazar Williams was the French Dauphin) (Saily Warren)
- \* "History of the Centennial of the Inauguration of Washington" (Leona Seaver)
- \* Deed, Thomas Treadwell's gift of land to his daughter (Historical Society of Argenteuil County, Quebec)
- \* Postcards, local scenes (Olive Eldredge)
- \* Glass plate negatives, Co. E, 21st Infantry at Plattsburgh Barracks (Margaret Davey)
- \* Letter to Smith M. Weed, legal documents, newspapers (Bart Holm)
- \* Cannon ball, found near Valcour Island (Don Walker)
- \* Sheet music, "On To Plattsburg"; flag, Battle of Plattsburgh 150th anniversary (Carlton Rennell)
- \* Photographs of 48 Court Street, Plattsburgh (Robert & Janet Dodds)
- \* Glass mug, souvenir of Champlain (William Laundry)
- \* Document, Zephaniah Platt acknowledging payment of twelve pounds sterling from the State for purchase of gunpowder (John Doran)
- \* Statuette, "Justice", presented to J.W. Davern for 50 years service as a practicing attorney, by the Clinton County Bar Association (Mrs. Kenneth Beaucaire)

## NORTH COUNTRY NOTES

Clinton County Historical Association  
48 Court Street  
Plattsburgh, NY, 12901

U.S. POSTAGE  
Non-Profit Org.  
**PAID**  
Plattsburgh NY  
PERMIT NO. 185

## NATIONAL AWARD FOR CCHA MEMBER

Congratulations go to Stanley Ransom who has been awarded a Certificate of Commendation from the American Association of State and Local History. Known in the world of folk music as the "Connecticut Peddler", Mr. Ransom was recognised for his work in the preservation of local history and folklife. Notably, he was the sole award winner from New York State out of 110 winners nationwide. His cassette tapes "Down The Saranac" and "Adirondack Sampler" will soon be followed by a Christmas tape which CCHA hopes to have available at its December meeting.

The Historical Association helped to nominate Stanley Ransom for his prestigious award. Now we wish him continued success in his efforts to preserve North Country folklife traditions.

## NEW MERCHANDISE IN THE MUSEUM SHOP

Copies of historical Lake Champlain maps and prints are now available in the Shop, published by the Maritime Museum at Basin Harbor, VT. We offer reproductions of the 1762 map of Lake Champlain by Wm. Brassier (\$21.00, color); the 1776 "Description of the Engagement on Lake Champlain" by R. Sayer (\$12.50); a 1763 map of the lake by Metcalf (\$21.00, color); the 1776 "Account of the Expedition of the British Fleet on Lake Champlain, etc" (Battle of Valcour) by Wm. Faden (\$12.50), and a map of the lake by S.R. Stoddard, 1893 (\$15.00, color). These items are printed on fine quality paper that is suitable for framing.

The Valcour Island Lighthouse has been much in the news lately and we wish to remind members and friends that copies of the print made from an oil painting by local artist Rennie Fenwick are still available. Finely reproduced in color, the lighthouse print is a perfect gift for Christmas, birthdays and presentations.

Yet another idea for Christmas shopping is "History Of Chazy" by Nell Barnett Sullivan and David K. Martin. Originally published in 1970, the book has been out of print for some years. Marie Gennett, Town of Chazy historian, tells us that the hardcover book will be available after Dec. 10. Meanwhile, pre-publication orders will be accepted by the Town of Chazy until Nov. 10 at \$25.00 plus \$3.50 shipping and handling. After that date the book will be priced at \$30.00 plus \$3.50. Chazy and the Friends Of The Library deserve our thanks for reprinting this valuable historical resource.

Clinton County Historical Association  
**ANNUAL DINNER**

Centennial Room, Angell Center, SUNY Plattsburgh  
Co-sponsored by the History Department, SUNY Plattsburgh

**SATURDAY, OCTOBER 22, 1994**  
Cash Bar 6:00 p.m., Dinner 7:00 p.m.

**Speaker:** Willard Sterne Randall, author  
of a recent biography of Thomas Jefferson  
**Program:** Thomas Jefferson's Champlain Vacation



**Entree:** Stuffed Chicken Breast  
**Price:** \$ 15.00 per person

*For further information, telephone 561-0340.  
Please note that the banquet takes the place of CCHA's October meeting.*

---

**Reservation Form**

Reservations are requested for \_\_\_\_\_ persons at \$ 15.00 each. Enclosed is a check for \$ \_\_\_\_\_, payable to the Clinton County Historical Association.

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_  
City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Reservations must be made by **OCTOBER 19.**  
Please send reservations and checks to:  
Clinton County Historical Association  
48 Court Street  
Plattsburgh, NY 12901