

NORTH COUNTRY NOTES

Issued Monthly by the Clinton County Historical Association

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

No. 332 PRESIDENT: David C. Stortz EDITOR: Jane E. Rupp June 1996

JUNE PROGRAM

The Historical Association's next meeting will be Monday, June 3, at 7:30 PM at the Clinton County Government Center meeting room. Our speaker, William Slocum, will discuss the history of Altona. Mr. Slocum, a long-time resident of Altona, was the last School Administrator at Altona Central School. Copies of *A History of the Altona Flat Rock* by Larry Gooley will be available for purchase at the meeting.

VINTAGE CAR MEET IS HIGHLIGHT OF FESTIVAL

CCHA's Third Annual Antiques Show and Vintage Car Meet Festival will take place on the grounds of the historic Plattsburgh Air Force Base on Saturday, July 6, and Sunday, July 7. The Base Parade Oval will be the site of the Vintage Car Meet. Randy Beach and Jim Judkins are serving as Meet Organizers for the third consecutive year. First, second, and third place trophies will be awarded in 23 classes, including Model A Fords, Classics, Commercial Vehicles, Corvettes, Mustangs, and Farm Tractors. Additional trophies will honor the People's Choice, Best Original (to 1942 and 1946-1971), Longest Distance Driven, Best of Show, and Oldest Car Shown. The Meet will include a Car Corral and Auto Flea Market. On Saturday there will be a driving tour of the Old and New Bases.

The Antiques Show will be held in the Base Gymnasium. As this goes to press, dealer booths are still available. "Silver" (\$50) show sponsorships are being solicited. Silver sponsors (individuals and businesses) will be listed in the show program and on the sponsor board at the show. They will receive free admission and a complimentary tour of the Oval in a horse-drawn vehicle.

Volunteers are needed for a wide variety of tasks, many tasks which are still to be determined as we move into the new site of the festival. We will need help with the gate, inside the Antiques Building, at the CCHA shop/membership table, and outside with the Vintage Cars. Those wishing to help with showroom setup should contact David Stortz at 563-4450 (days). If you can assist Brad Knapp at the gate, phone him at 834-7251 (evenings). Contact the CCHA office for information on both the Car Meet and Antiques Show, to become a show sponsor, or to volunteer.

COLONIAL-ERA STRUGGLES FOR CONTROL OF NY

[Ed. note: The following is an excerpt from "Account of the British Plantations in America," printed in *The London Magazine*, December, 1756. Variations from present-day spelling and usage are as printed by the magazine's publisher. The French based their claim to the northeastern portion of present-day New York on Samuel de Champlain's exploration of the area in 1609. They retained control of the Champlain Valley until 1759.]

After having made a grant of that part of the continent of America which now goes under the names of New-York, New-Jersey, and Pensilvania, to his brother the duke of York, he [King Charles II of Great Britain] sent out a squadron in 1664, under the command of Sir Robert Carre, with a body of land forces on board, to put his brother in possession of what he had granted him. These forces soon reduced the forts which the Dutch had built there, and compelled the people to acknowledge themselves subjects to the crown of England; for all such as agreed to do this were allowed to stay, and confirmed in the possession of the houses they had built, and the lands they had planted, which gracious condition most of the inhabitants accepted, and from hence it is that many of the best families in that country appear, by their names, to be of Dutch original.

The bounds or limits of the country, prescribed by the grant, were Maryland to the south, New-England to the east, the South-sea [Pacific Ocean] to the west, and the river of Canada, now called St. Laurence, to the north; for the French had not then possessed themselves of any part of the country to the south of that river. And as the Dutch had already built a pretty little town in the island of Manahattan, at the mouth of the Hudson River, which they had called New-Amsterdam, it was resolved to fix here the seat of government; but the name was changed to New-York, in honour of his royal highness the proprietor, by which name the whole eastern and northern parts of the country contained in the grant now goes, as also the western part from the town and fort of Albany, first built by the Dutch, and called by them Orange Fort, but the name of Albany was presently given to it by our people, from the duke of York's Scottish title.

As soon as Sir Robert Carre had reduced the country to the obedience of his sovereign, he returned with most of the squadron to England, leaving col. Richard Nicholls there as governor, together with the land forces he had carried out, and as many people went thither from England to settle, and the States-General gave up all pretensions to the country by the next treaty of peace, it soon became a numerous and thriving colony, under the prudent government of col. Nicholls and some succeeding governors; for one of the first things he did was to secure the people from being disturbed by the Indians their neighbours, by concluding a treaty with the Five Nations [Iroquois], which has continued ever since, and has been of great service to all our northern plantations. But in 1673, upon the breaking out of the second war between the Dutch and us, they sent a squadron thither, and reduced it again to their obedience, with the same ease we had done before, from which time they continued in possession of it, until the beginning of 1674, when they surrendered it up again to us, by the treaty of peace then concluded, and the English governor was re-instated in his government.

The colony continued from that time in profound peace, and without any disturbance, until the Revolution here in England [the "Glorious Revolution" of 1689, which led to increased Parliament-imposed limits on the monarch's power]; but upon the rupture with France that ensued, the French in Canada prevailed with their friends the Huron Indians to attack some of our out settlements in New-York, to revenge which col. Peter Schuyler was sent in 1690, with 300 English, and 300 Indians of the Five Nations, to attack the French in Canada, and was met, on this side Canada river, by the French governor of Quebec, at the head of 13 companies of regular troops, near 700 men, and near as many Hurons, whereupon a battle ensued, and, notwithstanding the great superiority in the number of the enemy, col. Schuyler obtained a compleat victory,

having killed 300 soldiers and 30 officers, but having no artillery, nor any boats or canoes to pass the great river of Canada, he could only destroy such plantations as the French had on this side, and then returned to Albany with very little loss.

The next year the French in their turn, undertook an expedition against New-York, and came as far as Schenectady, which they surprized, and murdered all the people they found in it, but returned without so much as making an attempt upon Albany. However, the year following the count de Frontenac, governor of Canada, resolved if possible to destroy our fort and town of Albany, for which purpose he marched at the head of 3000 men, and as he passed thro' the country of the Iroquois or Five Nations, he destroyed one of their castles, and burnt all their corn and provisions, but before he got near Albany, he heard that col. Fletcher, the then governor of New-York, was approaching with the militia of the colony, and a great body of Indians, whereupon he took care to retreat in time, and in so doing he acted more wisely, than he had done in forming the design to attack such a numerous colony with such a small force; for had he been defeated, neither he nor any of his people could ever have got home, as they had the whole country of the Iroquois to pass thro' in their return; and even as it was he lost many of his men, who fell a sacrifice to the revenge of the Iroquois, a large body of whom attacked him in his retreat, and often attended his rear.

From this time to the year 1710, we meet with nothing very remarkable in the history of New-York; but in that year the people of New-York prevailed on the allies, the kings of the Five Nations, to come over here to pay their compliments to queen Anne, which they accordingly did, to the great amusement of the people of this metropolis, and by which they furnished the authors of the Spectator with two very diverting papers.

SCHOOL-GIRL DAYS

[Ed. note: The following items were preserved in the school memory book of a female graduate of Plattsburgh High School, Class of 1913.]

SENIOR RECEPTION

One Hundred and Fifty Couples Enjoy Dancing to the Strains of Excellent Music

That the enthusiasm of young people is not easily dampened was amply shown at the Plattsburgh High School Senior reception held at the Champlain Club, Cliff Haven, last night when at least one hundred and fifty couples braved the driving rain storm and filled the spacious dancing hall of the club to its capacity.

The Champlain Club with its perfect appointments made the occasion last night one of especial pleasure and brilliance, and the splendid reception rooms could hardly be the scene of a gathering of more beautifully gowned young ladies and greater social enjoyment.

Owing to the storm many of the arrivals were late and there was some discomforture to those arriving at the station on the Lake Road but these difficulties were soon forgotten in the pleasure of the large assemblage.

The receiving line consisted of the faculty of the High School and the members of the graduating class. There were a number of out of town guests on the visiting list as this social function has now become one of prominence not only to the young people of the city but to their friends throughout the county. The musical program of the evening was furnished by the Lynch-Bourdo orchestra.

"You can talk about good lookers and your people on the stage
But in our little city high school seniors are the rage."

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CCHA COMING EVENTS

- *Exhibit at Clinton County Historical Museum, "A Great Victory through Johnny's Eyes: the Battle of Plattsburgh, September 11, 1814," May 23-July 31, 1996.
- *Antiques Show and Vintage Car Meet Festival, Old Plattsburgh Air Force Base, July 6-7, 1996.
- *Group trip to Adirondack Museum, July 23, 1996.
- *Exhibit of early twentieth century photographs from the Kennedy collection, August 10-October 31, 1996.
- *Exhibit chronicling Irish immigration to Clinton County opens Autumn, 1996.
- *CCHA annual dinner meeting, October 26, 1996.

Trip To Adirondack Museum: In a joint effort with the Kent-Delord House Museum, the Historical Association is offering its members a group trip via chartered bus to the Adirondack Museum at Blue Mountain Lake. This one-day excursion is tentatively scheduled for Tuesday, July 23, 1996. Complete details will be published in next month's *North Country Notes*, and registration will open at that time. The number of participants is limited to the bus' seating capacity (46), so you will want to register early for this event.

MUSEUM SHOP HAS NEW LOOK

The Museum Shop has been expanded to into a second room, and new books and merchandise have arrived. The new titles include: *The Gunboat Philadelphia & the Defense of Lake Champlain in 1776*; *The Phoenix Project* by the Champlain Maritime Society; *The Champlain Canal: Mules to Tugboats*; *100 Views of the Adirondacks*; *The History of Willsborough, NY*, edited by Winslow Watson in 1863; and *Growing Up Strong: Four North Country Women Recall Their Lives*. We have 18 different affordable historical paperbacks (for example: *Rascals & Rogues of Long Ago*, *Nostalgia Crossword Puzzles*, *Manners & Morals*, *Automobiles of 1904*, *Country Kitchen*, and *Fun and Games*) filled with nostalgia and covering various aspects of life in nineteenth century America. Quality crafted wooden toys, pick-up sticks, train and river boat whistles, and "Amaz-N- tops" are ideal summer time fun for children. French and British Land Grant prints, Revolutionary War engravings & maps of the 1893 Steamship routes show various stages of Lake Champlain development and make great gifts when framed. Handmade crafts from baby & hanging quilts to pillows, from folk art rag dolls to antique decorated fans are also now available in our new Museum Shop. Come in and browse. Our shop hours are Monday through Friday 9:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. and Saturday 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.