

NORTH COUNTRY NOTES

ISSUED BY THE

CLINTON COUNTY HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION

No. 352

David Kendall Martin, Editor

April 1998

The Next Meeting

will be Monday, April 6, 1998, at 7:30 p.m. in the first-floor meeting room of the Clinton County Government Center, 137 Margaret Street, Plattsburgh. The topic will be North Country History Day. Area schools participated in the March competition. This year's theme is "Migration in History: Peoples, Culture, Ideas." These students are to be commended for their hard work. Please join us to show our appreciation of their efforts..... you will be in for a surprise at the level of scholarship. These projects are in performance, display, and media.

Recognition

It is with regret that the board has received the resignation of Vice President John McKenna due to the demands of his business. His generous donation of time has contributed to the success of the Summer Festival and many other Board of Director's efforts.

Larry Kudrle, who is serving his second term on the board, has graciously accepted this position of Vice President.

NYSCA GRANT

CCHA is pleased to announce the award of a NYSCA grant for the duplication and printing of the museum's collection of George Woodward photographs of Clinton County sites, structures, and events. This is a two year grant, with the work to be conducted by Susan E. Lezon, a professional photographic conservator. Susan is a resident of Chazy, NY, and holds an MFA degree in Photography from Hampshire College in Amherst, Massachusetts. She has recently returned from Luxor, Egypt where she is working on a conservatorial project.

From the Plattsburgh Sentinel for 22 March 1878

The Late Charles Broadwell

That the young may die has been realized in the sad experience of many a household in this vicinity during the past season. That the old must die is a truth equally forcible to our minds as we record the death of Charles Broadwell, one of our oldest landmarks, which occurred in Morrisonville, Saturday morning, March 9, 1878. His funeral took the place of the regular service on Sunday morning in the Methodist Episcopal Church and was largely attended.

"Uncle Charles," as he was familiarly known, was born in the State of New Jersey, March 11, 1800, being one of eight sons and four daughters of William and Sarah Broadwell, having survived the whole family.

About the year 1805, his parents removed, with their family to Northern New York, and settled near the Saranac River, in what was then included in the Town of Plattsburgh; now known as Morrisonville. His father engaged in, and carried on, the lumber manufacturing business until the War of 1812 broke out, when he became an American soldier, doing effective service in removing the bridge which crosses the river at this point, thereby preventing the crossing of the British forces, which were detailed to destroy the lumber works. The deceased was at this time only twelve years of age. During his last illness (but a few days previous to his death) the writer listened to his lucid account of narrating the details of that eventful period. His face would light up with that fervor of other days, as he related the circumstances of the successful efforts of himself and brothers in assisting their father to repel the attempt of the invading forces to ford the swollen west bank where now flows the Purdy mill pond.

After barricading doors and windows to protect the mother and infant child, the youngest, a boy of five months old, they poured their musket volleys into the foremost ranks of those who were attempting to cross, until they were glad to seek shelter among the thick growth of timber on the opposite bank, with the loss of three men and one horse, also several wounded.

At the close of the war, his father procured a title to the tract of 400 acres, embracing the Morrisonville flat, extending half a mile down river.

With the help of Charles and his three older brothers, he cleared the land and began the manufacturing of lumber in his mill, twenty rods above the present bridge, until the year 1830, in the month of July when the Great Freshet occurred, sweeping out all the upper mills and works and nearly all the dwelling houses, the Broadwell house not included in the desolation.

At the age of 18, Charles was united in marriage to the widow Ford, an Ausable woman, their union being blessed with three sons, two now living and Calvin, the latter, being with and ministering to him during the severe sufferings of his last illness.

As his sons attained their majority, he divided with them his estate and removed, with the youngest son, to Ellenburgh, N.Y., where he resided until within five years, returning again to his old home in this village, broken down in health, receiving the kind attentions of a dutiful wife and an affectionate and beloved step-daughter, Miss Libbie Ford. Among the large circle of relatives, his nephew and niece, Mr. and Mrs. Jacob Broadwell, have been assiduous in their attentions to alleviate his suffering, and in these ministrations and like kind offices will it be said of them, "Inasmuch as ye have done it unto one of the least of these, my brethren, ye have done it unto me."

New War of 1812 Book

Gilbert Collins of Gloucester, Ontario has written *Guide Book to the Historic Sites of the War of 1812*, to be published this month. The book highlights several Clinton County sites among the 385 locations described and pictured in the text. You can get a copy through our association.

'From Generation to Generation'

On May 3, a new exhibit will open at the museum. Phyllis Freedman of Temple Beth Israel and the Director of CCHA, Shirley Koester will mount an exhibit chronicling the Jewish community in Clinton County. Utilizing artifacts from the Museum collection, and contributions from the Jewish citizens. The exhibition dates are: May 3 - August 19, 1998.



REQUEST FOR ITEMS FOR FUTURE HISTORIANS

An example of items which will be of interest to future historians is this handout published in June 1971 to be given to those just arriving at the Plattsburgh Air Base:

JUST ARRIVE AT PLATTSBURGH?

Welcome to Plattsburgh Air Force Base.....We are pleased to greet you as a new member of the Plattsburgh Community.If you arrive at Plattsburgh during normal duty hours (0730 thru 1630, Monday thru Friday) you should make your first stop the Base Reception Center, located in building 476, Old Base . Base intro personnel will help you to contact your sponsor or unit and direct you to the correct referral agencies for assistance.

John F. Wooten, Colonel, USAF
Base Commander

If you have recent memorabilia of Clinton County, activities or people, please consider giving them to our association for the use of future historians.

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