

## **Museum Shop**

We will gladly mail books and prints from the museum shop. We are updating our booklist and will have it ready for mailing in next issue of North Country Notes. Meanwhile, if you would like to inquire about ordering a book, please call 518-561-0340.

**From the Archives:** Captain Samuel Chester Reid, a hero of the War of 1812, designed the third version of the Stars and Stripes in 1818 and his wife sewed this flag of silk provided by the government. The original flag of the U.S. of America was created by Resolution of Congress on June 4, 1777, with thirteen stars and stripes. The Second Flag Act was passed in 1794 to authorize 15 stars and stripes, due to the entry of Vermont and Kentucky. By 1818 there were twenty and it was then proposed to fix the number of stripes at 13.

CLINTON COUNTY HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION  
48 Court Street  
Plattsburgh, New York 12901

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# **NORTH COUNTRY NOTES**

ISSUED BY THE

**CLINTON COUNTY HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION**

No. 360

Shirley L. Koester, Editor

Feb 1998

## ***The Next Meeting***

Will be held on February 1, 1999, in the first floor meeting room at the Clinton County Government Center, 137 Margaret Street, Plattsburgh, NY at 7:30 P.M. The topic of discussion will be the bequest by Miss Elizabeth Saily Warren of her home at 3 Cumberland Avenue, to the Clinton County Historical Association for the use as a museum. A number of historically important artifacts have also been given to the association. These gifts attest to the history of Clinton County and the role of Miss Warren's antecedent, Peter Saily in the early settlement period. This meeting will provide an opportunity for the membership to learn about this gift. Members of the Board of Trustees will be present to answer questions, along with Director Shirley Koester and former Director Helen Allan.

## ***Toys and Games***

This will be the theme of the new museum exhibit opening February 17, 1999. This exhibit will focus on the amusements and entertainments of bygone years: games, dolls, table games, books and just-for-fun items from the collection. Through the generosity of many people who have spent their lives in and around Clinton County, we have a "virtual toy box," here at the museum. If you have toys you would like us to include in the exhibit on a short-term loan, please call the museum.

## **Old Military Turnpike, Clinton County 's Historical Highway**

In 1817, President Monroe toured the border and was entertained royally. It was noted that he arrived on July 27, 1817 and was escorted to Israel Green's hotel. In celebration, Captain Clark's U.S. Infantry, Captain Sperry's company of horse, the Plattsburgh rifles and the "young ladies of Miss Cook's and Miss Forrence's schools strewed his path with flowers. In the evening the president was entertained at the home of Captain Sidney Smith of the Navy. The following day the President's entourage started on the turnpike to Chateaugay.

The Post Road of the North Country of the past was built by soldiers from Plattsburgh Barracks. In an article from 1925, it was reported that the work on the road was begun in August of the year 1817. This was at a point three miles west from the village at a crossroads known as Thorn's Corners, by a detachment of the Sixth Regiment, under the command of Lt. Col. Snelling. This work continued at a slow pace and to the disgust of the soldiers assigned to the task. In March of 1822 a sum of \$7,000.00 was appropriated in 'extending and completing' the road to Chateaugay, a distance of fourteen miles. One-half of the sum was to be raised by the counties of Clinton and Franklin, and the residue was to be furnished by the State. By an act passed February 14, 1823, the Judges of the Clinton Common Pleas were authorized to erect a tollgate 'at or near the dwelling house of Benjamin H. Mooers, eighteen miles west of Plattsburgh village.' These tolls provided for care of the road. This was the main thoroughfare until the completion of the Ogdensburgh railroad. It was the principal route of communication between Lake Champlain and the towns in Franklin County, and the eastern portion of St. Lawrence.

In 1823, Jonathan Thompson, "the mail carrier," commenced running a stage once a week between Plattsburgh and Ogdensburgh, leaving this village every Tuesday morning, and arriving at Ogdensburgh on Thursday evening. This line connected with the steamboats on Lake Champlain and Lake Ontario. It was advertised as the best route between the Eastern States and the country bordering the Great Lakes and the St. Lawrence. Mr. Thompson offered further inducement to passengers that they would be carried in "covered spring carriages, strong and commodious."

The above article appeared in the *Plattsburgh Daily Press*, in 1925. The author states that everything about the road had changed except the bumps in the road. "Naturally, however, there is a difference between the point of

view between those to whom "covered spring wagons" denoted the height of comfort and those pampered ones of the present time whose comfort requires a foot and a half of upholstery, a car that runs like greased quick-silver over roads which rival plate glass for smoothness."

### **Museum News**

Some exciting events have been planned for the upcoming months. A Bridal Show is in the works for April! This will be an opportunity for those of you who have saved your wedding dresses to model them or to invite your daughters, granddaughters or "borrowed" daughters to participate. It will provide a showcase for the museum collection, many of which will be on display for the first time. An original dress in the collection worn by a Peru resident for her wedding in 1908, is a part of the permanent collection. We have been given two additional gowns belonging to her descendants. These will be displayed in addition to selected gowns from the collection along with wedding memorabilia. Watch for the opening date to be announced in the next "Notes." We invite your participation; it should be a lot of fun! Would you like to be involved in the preparation? Serve on the committee? Contribute your ideas? All are welcome.

### **Museum Trips**

An opportunity to expand your horizons! A trip is being planned to see the Monet *Waterlillies* exhibit at the Fine Arts Museum in Montreal. The date is not firm at this time; however, the tentative plans are for late February. A membership mailing, with details, will be sent out once plans are firmed up.

### **Museum Collections**

During 1998 the museum received many wonderful new additions to the collections: a hand hewn woodenware trencher, of a type known as treenware (a common household item in the 18<sup>th</sup> century); Congressional Medals recognizing the heroes of the War of 1812; early scrapbooks of postcards of long ago scenes of the area. These items and many more were gratefully accepted. In short, everything from a copper wash boiler to documents and letters were received. We are always very grateful for items brought to us and strive to take the very best care of these artifacts of the past. To this end we invited a professional archivist to survey the collection and make recommendations to provide optimum storage for preservation. One of the saddest things we hear is that a household has been cleared out and letters and items from an earlier age have been disposed of. Please remember your museum and give us a call when in doubt.