

# NORTH COUNTRY NOTES

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CLINTON COUNTY HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION

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No. 362

Shirley L. Koester, Editor

April 1999

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## *The Next Meeting*

will be on April 5, in the first floor meeting room of the Clinton County Government Center, 137 Margaret Street at 7:30.

Major G. William Glidden, (Ret), will present a program about Major John Ellis Wool, who served during the War of 1812 under Brigadier General Benjamin Mooers of the New York Militia. Wool was in charge of 250 of the 29<sup>th</sup> Regiment Regulars. John E. Wool (1784-1869), "*Hero of Three Wars, Patriot and Sage*," was the last of the heroes who connects us with the early military history of the American Republic. He came from Revolutionary stock and received his first training in the War of 1812. He was promoted to Lt. Colonel on the day of victory, 11 Sept 1814. Wool reached his full glory in the conflict with Mexico, and retired as a major general in 1865, at the end of the Civil War. This presentation follows Wool's subsequent military career through the Mexican War and Civil War.

Major Glidden has a vital interest in the Champlain Valley with family ties going back to the first decade of the 19<sup>th</sup> century.

This program is made possible with public funds from the New York State Council on the Arts, a State Agency, and also by the Institute of Museum and Library Sciences, a federal agency serving the public by strengthening museum and libraries.. It is free and open to the public.

## ***E. Saily Warren Auction***

Due to the generous donations from more than seventy-five members of the association, we were successful in purchasing and bringing back to Clinton County items from the auction in Vermont. These artifacts from the Saily, Waite and Russell families, plus the additional items bequeathed to the association by E. Saily Warren, will substantially augment the interpretation of the roles of these families in forging the Clinton County history.

### **Museum News**

Twenty-seven members and friends enjoyed the trip to Montreal to see the Monet exhibit at the Beaux Arts Museum on March 16. We look forward to future trips and welcome suggestions of members. If you would like to suggest a trip or would be willing to help in any way, please call the museum (561-0340). We welcome comments from members.

### **Wish List**

We are in great need of at least one additional four-drawer file cabinet. Our organizational files are growing and drawers are crowded and difficult to access. Do you perhaps have such an item just taking up space? We would be glad to arrange for pick up. (561-0340) We can put to good use metal utility shelves for storage and would be grateful for donation of shelves in good shape (no rust, etc.).

### **Silent Auction**

Please keep us in mind when Spring cleaning rolls around. We are always grateful for *select* and *unusual articles* for our annual Silent Auction. Remember the old "saw", one mans trash, etc.

*The following article is an excerpt from a letter to Mrs. M. P. Lathrop from her mother Mrs. Benjamin H. Mooers (aged eighty-five at the time of the letter)*

Dear Daughter,

Not feeling well as usual, I am reminded of a request in one of your letters that as (nearly) I can recall, I would relate some of the incidents of my early life; perhaps it is not safe to defer it longer.

At a meeting February 7, 1812, to install Rev. Wm. R. Weeks at Plattsburgh, clergymen came from the Albany Presbytery, among whom, was Rev. Jonas Coe of Troy in his single sleigh and with Cousin Maria McCoon, sister to the first Mrs. Coe and also to cousin M. M. Davidson. She urged my parents to let me go directly with them to the Troy Seminary. I returned in company with them, rode with an elderly minister and a younger one from the Cambridge. When we arrived at John McCoon's, Cousin Maria met us at the door and told us her husband was very ill and to go directly to Brother Coe's and he would introduce me to the school.

Your father was at Boston with his father and mother when I left home. He came to Albany and got his commission, 1<sup>st</sup> Lieutenant in March. We were not engaged but understood each other. In September Uncle Isaac Smith and Cousin Harriet Smith came on from Lithgow, on their way to Plattsburgh and invited me to go with them. Cousin Maria told me she had made arrangements at Capt. Gardner's for me to board with her there, as I expected to return in about a month. But when I got home I was so happy, and all so glad to see me I was persuaded not to go back.

In 1813, your father resigned and went into the mercantile business, with Nathaniel C. Platt. Your father bo't the house and lot, in which Sister Charlotte died in '75 and rented it to Gen. McComb.

The British invaded Plattsburgh under Col. Murry and destroyed many buildings and much property. In February 1814 we were married. Our groomsman came on from Albany; H.E. Boardman and Caty Baily was bridesmaid.

Plattsburgh was expecting and preparing for an engagement both by land and water, and it was tho't best that our most valuable effects should be packed and taken to a place of safety. Brother was at that time in Granville at school. Sister P. in Troy. Sister Maria's health poor, went to Balston Spa and I boarded near enough to see them, as I did. Mrs. Coe was anxious I should board there, offered her guest chamber, but I preferred staying at Aunt Smiths in Cambridge a delightful elegant home.

She was a Van Ness and took me to visit and drive among her dutch friends. I enjoyed it, all so cordial and independent and letters often from all. Twice Aunt had old Dad, as they called the black man take us to Saratoga and Balston where Edward Coe, Mrs. Edgars Father Boardman, and Richard P. Hart from Troy met us. Uncle Philips Smith at his death left this old Dad and Ma'm a house and land near within call of Aunt and she had plenty of help beside.

After the Battle of Plattsburgh my Husband went express to Albany with the news of victory, sending me a letter and when he returned I went home with him.

R.H. Walworth and your Father were Father Mooers aids at the Battle. Gen. Mooers was a very modest, tho' patriotic man and General Macomb was very grateful for his not claiming much

of the honor he received himself. Mrs. Macomb was a cousin of her husband, and a pupil of Mrs. Isabella Graham of N.Y.

We first met Mrs. McDonough at the 22<sup>nd</sup> Ball in Burlington and after at Governor Van Ness's where Sister Maria and I stayed a week and Mrs. Van Ness gave us a large party. Plattsburgh was very gay and our wedding very large. We were married at 7 a.m., 17 February, went to Champlain, Dr. Mooers and wife, in one sleigh, Pa and I in another. Stopped at Julius Hubbell's to dinner found her brother Noadiah and bride there. After dinner Mr. and Mrs. Hubbell with babe joined in their single sleigh and H. Moore and wife in theirs and went to Champlain to Judge Mooer's.

They had no Minister and there was preaching in their spacious dining room that evening. (the same house John Moore now lives in). Next A.M. rode over the lines in Canada, dined at Judge Moore's. Attended a party at Silas Hubbell's, and next A.M. returned to Plattsburgh to dine with our families at Brother Platt's. They then owned and lived in the Government house. It was Saturday.

Monday over 300 persons partook of a collection at my father's, in the evening a large party, danced everywhere. Tuesday eve, a large party at Father Mooers on Cumberland head. Father Mooers danced with me, the first time he had danced in 15 yrs. I will name the Gen'ls I can remember there, Gen. Izard, Bloomfield, Swartout, Wilkinson, Major Wool, afterward Gen. Totton, Talmadge, Col. Smith and The C. A Charitable Society was there formed. All were as one church. Gen. and Honorary members put down their \$10. Apiece, Ladies 6, d pr. week.

## **New Items in the Museum Shop**

We recently received a shipment of maps from a rare book and print dealer in California, call for information and description.

We continue to offer a wide selection of books, prints, maps and Valcour Lighthouse t-shirts, Sid Couchey's poster of the lighthouses of Lake , Valcour Lighthouse prints and Champlaine Monument prints by artist Rennie Fenwick. Please stop when you are in the vicinity to visit the shop.

Shop Hours: Tuesday – Friday – 12 – 4 p.m., Saturday 12 – 4 p.m.

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