



North Country Notes

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Henry Atkinson: When the Lion Crouched and the Eagle Soared *by Clyde Rabideau, Sr.*

I, like most people in this area, had not heard of Henry Atkinson's role in the history of Plattsburgh. It turns out that he was very well known for serving his country in the Plattsburgh area.



Brigadier General Henry Atkinson
Image courtesy of www.town-of-wheatland.com

While on a research trip, I was visiting Fort Atkinson in Council Bluffs, Nebraska and picked up a pamphlet that was given to visitors. In the pamphlet, Colonel Atkinson was said to have come from Plattsburgh, New York to build the fort. I asked the park ranger if anything else was known about him prior to his assignment to build the fort. He could not help me. Of course, whenever I came across a person from Plattsburgh while researching my extended family, I had to know more.

Henry Atkinson was born in 1782 in Person County, North Carolina. He entered the Army in 1808 as a Captain and served in several outpost on the Western Frontier before he was promoted to Colonel in 1812 and transferred to northern New York as commander of the 11th Infantry Regiment. They earned their first battle streamer, "CANADA" in November 1813. On July 5, 1814, they earned their second battle streamer, fighting British Major General Phineas Riall in the Battle of Chippawa. Dur-

ing the same year, they earned their third campaign streamer at the Battle of Lundy Lane near Niagara Falls, when they inflicted heavy casualties against the British.

Atkinson was serving as Adjutant-General under Major General Wade Hampton during the Battle of Chateaugay on October 25, 1814. The battle was lost to the British and Wade ignored orders from General James Wilkinson to return to Cornwall. Instead, he retreated to Plattsburgh and resigned from the Army. Colonel Henry Atkinson served as commander of the thirty-seventh Regiment in Plattsburgh until March 1, 1815, when a downsizing of the Army took place in the aftermath of the War of 1812. The 6th, 11th, 25th, 27th, 29th, and 37th regiments were consolidated into the 6th Regiment and Colonel Henry Atkinson was given command. The regiment was given the number six because Colonel Atkinson was the sixth ranking Colonel in the Army at the time.

During his stay in Plattsburgh, Henry Atkinson made many friend in the local community. He was particularly close to Judge Henry Delord of the Kent-Delord home and enjoyed the frequent Sunday dinners at the Delord house. Below are three of the humorous notes written to Judge Delord in 1817:

Judge Delord, June 21, 1817

I will thank you to come over immediately to eat a rout supper with myself and Dr. Nichols. I shall hate an excuse from you. Say come.

Resp.

H. Atkinson

Judge Delord, June 22, 1817

Col. Atkinson requests the pleasure of Judge Delord's company, to dine at three

o'clock on Thursday, June 24, 1817.

I shall have some pigeons and plenty of trout for dinner. Will you come and partake?

H. Atkinson

Judge Delord, Sept. 18, 1817

Will you come over and eat part of a beef steak an hour hence. Sooner will do better.

*Yours,
H. Atkinson*

Henry Delord also enjoyed the company of a young Lieutenant, Rene DeRussy, a fellow countryman from France. DeRussy appreciated the hours spent at the Delord home and in the summer of 1812, he laid out the grounds west of the house into a formal garden with walkways like the gardens in France. Delord had most of the senior military officers as guests at his home during this period.

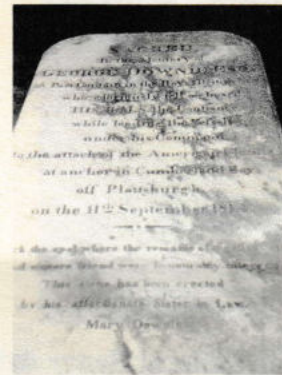
President James Monroe, made a visit to Plattsburgh in July 1817 as part of his "goodwill Tour." Plattsburgh went all out to welcome the president, and he was duly impressed. Colonel Atkinson picked the President up on Cumberland Head and brought him to Plattsburgh by barge. The President then dined with Colonel Atkinson. He later held a dinner at the Israel Green Hotel/Tavern where Colonel Atkinson was a guest along with other guest that included Judge Delord and other dignitaries of the area.

The President saw the importance of opening a "Military Turnpike" from Plattsburgh to French Mills (Fort Covington) and work was soon begun on the road by the 6th regiment under Colonel Atkinson. Colonel Atkinson announced the completion of thirteen miles of the highway in November 1818. In August 1818, Colonel Atkinson had the honor of placing a memorial stone upon the grave in Riverside Cemetery of Captain George Downie that was donated by his sister-in-law, Mary Downie. Downie was the Captain of the British Flagship, *Confiance*, in the Battle of Plattsburgh and was killed within fifteen minutes of the start of the battle.

President Monroe was impressed with Colonel Henry Atkinson and in 1819, he chose the Colonel to

head an expedition which became known as the "Yellowstone Expedition" The citizens of Plattsburgh held a dinner on March 15, 1819 at the Israel Green Hotel/Tavern for Colonel Atkinson and the officers of the 6th Regiment on their departure. Colonel Atkinson said the following in his toast to the citizens:

"The Citizens of Plattsburgh - Distinguished alike for their munificence & Patriotism; the first is familiar to the stranger; the latter is recorded on the same page with the memorable events of the 11th September, 1814, when the lion crouched and the eagle soared."



**Stone Marker at the Grave of British Captain George Downie
Photo by Clyde Rabideau, Sr.**

Colonel Atkinson and the 6th Regiment left Plattsburgh on March 20, 1819 and traveled 2,700 miles to St Louis. He hired Antoine Robidoux to guide him to Council Bluffs, the site that William Clark had recommended during the Lewis & Clark Expedition. They tried to ascend the Missouri River by steam power but had to resort to keelboats. It was a difficult journey. After arrival at Council Bluffs, Antoine Robidoux visited his brother, Joseph, who had a trading post in the area and then returned to St. Louis.

Atkinson immediately set about constructing the post. The severe winter of 1819-1820 and the lack of adequate supplies resulted in the death of 160 of the 1,120 men by scurvy and fever. The post became known as Fort Atkinson. He served in many assignments throughout the west and was promoted to a Brigadier General in 1821 and was offered the position of Adjutants General of the U.S. Army. Instead, he chose to remain in St. Louis in charge of the Wes-

tern Department of the army. He negotiated several treaties of friendship with the tribes of the upper Missouri and made another expedition to the Yellowstone in 1825.

He continued to exchange letters with Judge Henry Delord until Delord died in 1825. He wrote Delord from Louisville, Kentucky, Council Bluffs and St. Louis. He always remembered Plattsburgh with fondness and let Delord know that he enjoyed the most minute details of events in Plattsburgh that were in Delord's letters to him. In one of his first letters, Atkinson wrote about the construction of Fort Atkinson in Council Bluffs. He also mentioned that Colonel Josiah Snelling, who had been stationed in Plattsburgh, was building a strong fortress at the mouth of St. Peters (Minnesota) River.



Fort Atkinson (reconstructed) in Council Bluffs, Nebraska
Photo by Clyde Rabideau, Sr.

He described the yield in the fall of 1822 from the garden at Fort Atkinson maintained by the troops. There were 20,000 bushels of corn from 90 acres. In addition, they had 40 acres planted in potatoes, 10 acres in turnips, and a harvest of 100,000 cabbages and a like amount of other vegetables from the garden. He also expressed his desire to visit Plattsburgh in the summer of 1823. There is no record of him having made the trip.

General Henry Atkinson was in overall command of U. S. forces during the Black Hawk War of 1832. The battle caused heavy casualties and resulted in the brutal killing of Sac and Fox Indians. During the Black Hawk War, Zachary Taylor, our twelfth President, served under his command. Abraham Lincoln, our sixteenth President was serving in Reynolds' Militia that was called up to assist. Lincoln, however, did not see action. General Winfield Scott lost hun-



The remains of Fort Atkinson in Iowa
Photo courtesy http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Fort_Atkinson,_Iowa

dreds of troop from death and desertion. Jefferson Davis, who became the leader of the Confederacy, was on leave during the battle but returned in time to escort Chief Black Hawk and others, who had surrendered, to Jefferson Barracks in Missouri. Atkinson's subordinates also included four future governors of Illinois, and a future governor of Michigan, Missouri, and Wisconsin.

There are now three forts named in honor of Henry Atkinson. The one in Council Bluffs mentioned above has been rebuilt and is open to the public. The second one is in the Fort Atkinson State Preserve in Winneshiek County, Iowa, built by Henry Atkinson in the early 1840s to protect the Ho-Chunk (Winnebago) Indians. The third one is the City of Fort Atkinson in Jefferson County, Wisconsin, that was built in 1832 for use in the Black Hawk War.

Atkinson returned to Jefferson Barracks in command of the Western Department of the army where he spent the rest of his life. He died on June 14, 1842. In 1892, Atkinson's grandson, Lieutenant Benjamin Walker Atkinson, a West Point graduate, was stationed at Plattsburgh Barracks. General Henry Atkinson had many achievements during his life and fought many battles for his country. Serving in Plattsburgh was always his favorite assignment. He liked the area and its people. We should remember him for being a friend of Plattsburgh and its people and the role he played in preserving our country. The least that we could do locally is to recognize his role in building the Military Turnpike.

Clyde M. Rabideau, Sr., is a noted and published genealogist, US Marine veteran, prolific writer of letters-to-the-editor to the Press-Republican, farmer, trapper, hunter and father of five. His personal website is: www.clyderabideau.com.

HISTORY OF THE PLATTSBURGH MILITARY RESERVATION

By James Ciborski

War of 1812 to 1838

In a short article it is not possible to present a detailed history of the Plattsburgh Military Reservation. Instead, I will attempt to define the major changes in the facility's extensive history—and more importantly—what caused them and how each one affected the physical reservation itself.

During the War of 1812, American forces first established a military cantonment on the Saranac River in November 1812. Pike's Cantonment was short-lived and its destruction by the British during Murray's Raid in 1813 led to the need for a new facility. As the United States prepared for a full-fledged British invasion, General George Izard began fortifying the triangular peninsula formed by Lake Champlain and the Saranac River.



General Alexander Macomb
2011.010.0001

In June 1814, Major Joseph G. Totten, an Army Engineer, began building three forts (or redoubts) and two blockhouses on this strategic ground just south of Plattsburgh. The three forts were named Moreau (the largest in the center), Brown (high on the bank of the Saranac), and Scott (on the lakeshore). Totten also constructed Fort Izard on Cumberland Head. After General Izard was ordered to Sackets Harbor, Brigadier General Alexander Macomb assumed command of the American army and concentrated his forces around the forts built by Totten. This strategy worked in concert with the American naval force on the lake to achieve total victory in the Battle of Plattsburgh. Alt-

hough the naval victory executed by Lieutenant Thomas Macdonough deservedly receives most of the credit for the American victory, constant skirmishing and the strength of the land fortifications held the British Army at bay day after day, preventing them from gaining a permanent foothold. A victory at Plattsburgh would have gained bargaining leverage for the British at the peace table.



Commodore Thomas Macdonough
1976.010.0001

After the battle, General Macomb remained in command with a small force occupying the defenses. Two additional redoubts were built to the south, Fort Tompkins (facing the Saranac) with Fort Gaines flanking it on the lake side. Eventually, the Army built wooden barracks and connected the five forts with an encircling stockade—creating a huge cantonment in the shape of a parallelogram. The U.S. government soon purchased this land (200 acres) from Pliny Moore and Levi Platt for \$21,000, creating a permanent military reservation. The War of 1812 proved the weakness of the nation's coastal defenses and the Army began building a fort near Rouses Point in 1818 as part of a new system of national defense.

Plattsburgh took on secondary importance and the encircling stockade was apparently dismantled and transported to Rouses Point for use on the new fortification. The Plattsburgh post gained renewed importance when the government realized the new fort at Rouses Point (dubbed "Fort Blunder") was located just inside the

History of the Plattsburgh Military Reserve Continued

Canadian side of the boundary and halted its construction. Later, following a border adjustment, the U.S. began building a second fort at Rouses Point which was never completed or garrisoned. However, Fort Montgomery boasted a full complement of artillery. Between 1819-1824 only a small caretaker force manned the Plattsburgh post when most of the troops left for the Seminole Wars and other western conflicts, delaying further development. With the end of the Seminole Wars in 1842, the Army focused renewed attention on upgrading the post.

A Permanent "New Barracks" Compound – 1839-1892

By 1839 the Plattsburgh post no longer contained active defenses. However, by August of that year the Army began erecting stone barracks, recognizing the importance of the post because of its location near the Canadian border in the event of future conflicts or disturbances. The two structures, one for officers and one for enlisted soldiers, represented the first permanent barracks at the post. The approximate 600 x 600-foot fenced enclosure also contained several wooden outbuildings, including the magazine, bakery, and school house which were moved from the old barracks area. The new state-of-the-art barracks also represented a shifting of the reservation to the south of Fort Tompkins and Fort Gaines. Although work on the barracks was stopped and remained unfinished until 1844, the troops occupied the barracks before their completion. Subsequent decades witnessed periods of dormancy for Plattsburgh Barracks as the troops were dispatched to the Indian Wars out West.

During the Civil War only volunteer soldiers manned the post, which served as a hospital, a place to muster troops into the service, and as housing for the wives and children of soldiers serving in the war. During the 1860s and 1870s the Army completed badly needed maintenance and repairs on the facilities. By 1879, the New Barracks compound consisted of approximately 18 buildings. Despite the repairs, the government seriously considered closing Plattsburgh Barracks in 1882, offering to donate it to the city as a park. The local citizens fought this proposal and saved the post—instead of closure, this set the stage for a significant

expansion.

The 1890s Expansion

In 1885, the Endicott Board examined the nation's national defense system and endorsed Fort Montgomery as one of the important lake ports in the seacoast fortification system. This seemed to seal the fate of Plattsburgh Barracks—but other factors came into play to save the post while Fort Montgomery remained unmanned. Plattsburgh Barracks became a pawn for big business and local politics. The Delaware and Hudson (D&H) Railroad wanted to expand its land holdings and moving the troops to Fort Montgomery would make this possible. However, Smith M. Weed, a local businessman, had other ideas. He used his political influence and gained the support of General Stephen A. Moffitt and other national officials to reverse the plan to close Plattsburgh Barracks and significantly enlarge it!

In 1889, Weed and Moffitt accomplished the first part of their plan by constructing Government Boulevard along Peru Street to improve access to the post. Weed arranged for a luncheon attended by General John M. Schofield, General of the Army, and other influential citizens. After being wined and dined, Weed's guests, who were feeling no pain, were in full agreement that Plattsburgh Barracks should be expanded. According to Weed: "we had a long luncheon, with plenty to eat and drink.... Before they left the table they had all agreed upon the importance of having a regimental post at Plattsburg and had agreed to recommend it...." Weed also offered 500 acres of free land to the Army on behalf of the citizens of Plattsburgh, later making good on the offer by gaining local support. General Moffitt's brother, Congressman John H. Moffitt, then introduced a bill appropriating \$200,000 for the expansion which was signed into law in February 1891.

Since the War of 1812, Plattsburgh Barracks had had little impact on the city, but this all changed with the expansion in the 1890s. The expansion was a personal victory for Weed and it gained prominence for the city and helped the business community grow. The reservation then consisted of 679.35 acres, including Crab

History of the Plattsburgh Military Reserve Continued

Island. Captain George E. Pond, respected for his work on Fort Riley, Kansas, arrived in the spring of 1892 to supervise the new construction which proceeded until 1897. The expansion represented the latest phase in the physical evolution of the post as the focus returned to the northern part of the reservation close to the site of the three War of 1812 forts. Pond constructed the U. S. Oval with a parade ground, 12 sets of double officers' quarters, three four-company barracks, and an officers' mess and social club. The officers' quarters featured every modern convenience, including bathrooms! Although the focus was on the U. S. Oval, the 1842 barracks (now known as The Old Stone Barracks) received upgrades as well. All told, the expansion cost an estimated \$520,000, making Plattsburg Barracks one of the Army's largest installations. (During this era the "h" was dropped from Plattsburg's spelling.)

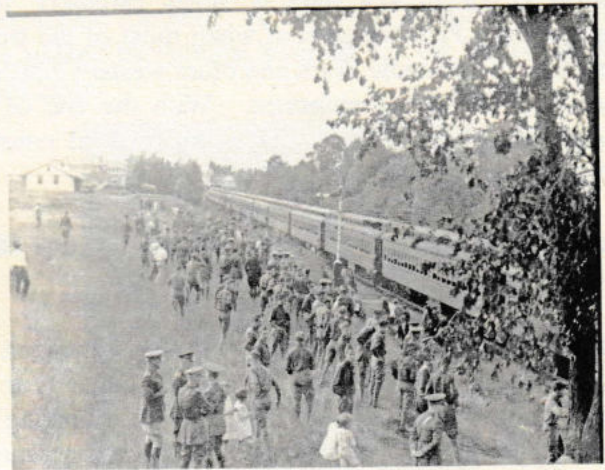


Officers of the 21st Infantry, GPN 01725

The 21st Regiment arrived in 1894 but had precious little time to enjoy their new modern facilities because they left for Cuba in 1898 to fight in the Spanish-American War and the following year went to the Philippines to deal with that insurrection. On another note, the D&H won out in the end by purchasing the Plattsburg Traction Company in 1906, which tied all their shoreline properties together. With control of the city's electric railway, the company operated regular runs to Plattsburg Barracks, the Hotel Champlain, and the Catholic Summer School.

The larger military presence at the post fostered cultural relations with the local community, and Plattsburg Barracks was often the busiest place in Plattsburg with a variety of activities open to the public. These in-

cluded marching drills, infantry band concerts at the bandstand, baseball games, masquerade parties, band hops, and boxing matches. These close community ties added to the shock when the Secretary of War considered closing Plattsburg Barracks in 1912!



CMTC, Arriving by Train, GPN 00592

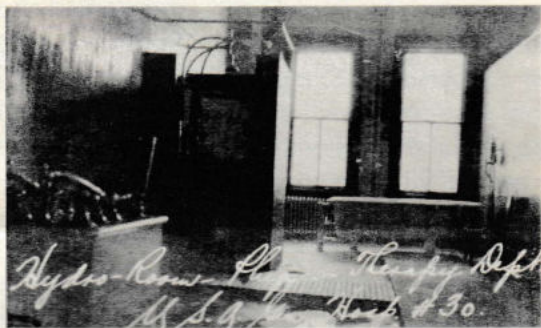
The Plattsburg Idea

Following a suggestion by Lieutenant Henry T. Bull, General Leonard Wood endorsed the concept of training qualified students in the art of military arms. He first held two small summer camps to test this concept, one in Gettysburg, Pennsylvania and one in Monterey, California in 1913. These were expanded the following year, including a camp at Fort Ethan Allen, Vermont. By 1915, the camps broadened their membership to include business and professional men. Once again, the citizenry of Plattsburg and the Chamber of Commerce successfully lobbied in support of the military to hold camps in Plattsburg, citing the city's accessibility via train, car, and water. Fostering the ideal of national service, Plattsburg held its first Businessmen's Training Camp in 1915 which became General Wood's model and was presented as "The Plattsburg Idea." Soon, similar camps were held throughout the nation with some employers giving their employees extra vacation days to attend. Eventually, a small illustrated pocket book, "The Plattsburg Manual" guided the men through a variety of military activities including target practice, attack and defense, and signals and codes.

By 1917, Plattsburg hosted training camps increased to three months in length and many of the nation's World

History of the Plattsburgh Military Reserve Continued

War I (WWI) officers received their training at these camps. The Plattsburg camps are credited with establishing the basis for the Reserve Officer Training Corps (ROTC) concept. Between the years 1921-1938, Plattsburg hosted many Citizens' Military Training Camps (CMTC) and ROTC camps. This era also witnessed the latest physical changes to the post as many new temporary and permanent structures were needed to handle the influx of camp attendees. The hills and varied countryside around Plattsburg provided the perfect setting for conducting military training. By 1917, an extensive system of practice trenches prepared the troops for exactly the type of warfare they would experience on the Western Front in WWI.



Hydro Room, Physical Therapy, General Hospital #30
2013.037.0058

During 1918-1919, Plattsburg Barracks took on a new mission with the establishment of General Hospital #30, specializing in treating emotionally injured veterans. In June 1922, the post welcomed the 26th Regiment which remained until its departure on the eve of World War II. In October 1942, Plattsburg Barracks served as a training center for Army combat engineers. The 51st Engineer Combat Battalion arrived in October 1942 and conducted much of its training at Macomb Reservation where, after many 12-mile marches from Plattsburg, they learned and practiced specialized skills including explosives and detonation, laying minefields, building fortifications, obstacles and barbed wire entanglements, and destroying tunnels. They departed for eventual service on the battlefields of Europe in September 1943.

Ownership of the post rapidly changed several times during the World War II era, with the U. S. Navy taking over in March 1944 and renaming it "Camp Mac-

donough." Four months later the first class of 2,000 newly commissioned officers graduated from the United States Naval Training School, "Camp Macdonough." Four months later the first class of 2,000 newly commissioned officers graduated from the United States Naval Training School, Camp Macdonough. The Navy's tenure was short-lived and in January 1945 the Army resumed control by establishing the U. S. Army Air Forces Convalescent Hospital, Plattsburg to care for returning veterans. A year later, the War Department declared the post surplus and turned it over to the U. S. Army Engineers. Change continued and in September 1946 Champlain College opened as a two-year, co-educational, liberal arts school with an 85-percent veteran student body. The college's days were numbered, however, because the military soon returned and executed the largest expansion in the post's history.

Plattsburgh Air Force Base (PAFB)

As Champlain College struggled to attract students, the growing Cold War prompted the Department of Defense (which retained rights to the post) to consider locating U. S. Air Force (USAF) bomber and aerial refueling tanker aircraft there. As the USAF also considered Pointe au Roche, NY and Burlington, Vermont's Municipal Airport as potential locations, Plattsburg's citizens were divided over the issue. Some wanted the college to remain while others, including Clyde A. Lewis, a local attorney and former WWII pilot, vigorously campaigned for the military's return. Lewis expressed support for the Air Force at congressional hearings and in July 1952 President Harry S. Truman signed a \$28-million appropriation to create PAFB.

The Air Force estimated it could save \$7-million by using the housing on the U. S. Oval. Modern jet aircraft needed extensive runway, ramp, and support facilities far beyond the confines of Plattsburg Barracks. In March 1954, the USAF acquired 3,600 acres of land west of the post—representing the largest military expansion in Plattsburg's history. On February 1, 1955 the Air Force activated Plattsburgh Air Force Base on inactive status and assigned it to Strategic Air Command (SAC), later placing it on active status on July 15, 1955.

History of the Plattsburgh Military Reserve Continued

The new construction was dubbed the "New Base" while the "Old Base" comprised the former Plattsburg Barracks. Macomb, Weed, and Pond could have never imagined such an expansion!

On July 11, 1955, the 380th Bombardment Wing, Medium was officially activated and held the following subsequent designations: 380th Aerospace Wing, Heavy, September 15, 1964; 380th Bombardment Wing, Medium, July 1, 1972; 380th Air Refueling Wing (AREFW), July 1, 1991. Other assigned PAFB organizations are too numerous to list but include: the 820th Air Division (later 820th Strategic Aerospace Division); 556th Strategic Missile Squadron; and the 4108th Air Refueling Wing (later 497th Air Refueling Wing).



B-47 Postcard, 1994.004.0001

PAFB received its first B-47 Stratojet bomber in December 1955 followed by KC-97 aerial refueling tankers in September 1956. On September 15, 1964 the 556th Strategic Missile Squadron became fully operational with its 12 Atlas "F" missile sites (constructed within a 50-mile radius of Plattsburgh). None of these weapon systems remained very long at Plattsburgh as the B-52 Stratofortress replaced the B-47 in June 1966, the KC-135 Stratotanker replaced the KC-97 in September 1964, and the Atlas missiles became obsolete and were decommissioned in 1965. The B-52 did not remain very long either, as they were soon deployed to Southeast Asia for the Vietnam conflict. PAFB converted to the FB-111A medium bomber in 1971. The FB-111A remained until June 1991, leaving only KC-135 tankers at PAFB. (The spelling of Plattsburgh with an "h" resumed in 1960.)

The end of the Cold War brought extensive reductions to the military through a series of Base Realignment

and Closure Commission (BRACC) rounds. Despite the Air Force's plan to increase the number of aircraft and personnel assigned to PAFB and designate it as the East Coast Mobility Wing, the 1993 BRACC voted to close PAFB! The mobility mission went to McGuire AFB, New Jersey—despite its inferior infrastructure and other inadequacies. PAFB officially closed on September 29, 1995, ending over 180 years of military activity, the final four decades under Air Force control.

According to Colonel Robert E. Dawson, the final 380th Air Refueling Wing commander: "The bond between the base and civilian community is renowned throughout the Air Force for its strength and closeness.... Of necessity, we in the Air Force have put aside our personal feelings and proceeded with the actions required to shut down this fine installation." Just as it had throughout those 180 years, the community had rallied in an unsuccessful attempt to save the base.

Shortly before the closure the Air Force contracted an architectural firm to perform a Historic Structures Survey which stated: "In reviewing the military history of Plattsburgh, one cannot help but wonder if, at some point in the future, the United States will seek to reestablish its military presence at this location." It is also interesting to read the inscription Colonel Dawson personally had inscribed on the memorial brick he purchased at the Champlain Monument in Plattsburgh: "Be strong & let the timing of the Lord be right!" In these turbulent and chaotic times no one can predict the future, but national and international events can create unexpected needs and requirements. Truly, one cannot help but wonder what the future holds for the former Plattsburgh Military Reservation.

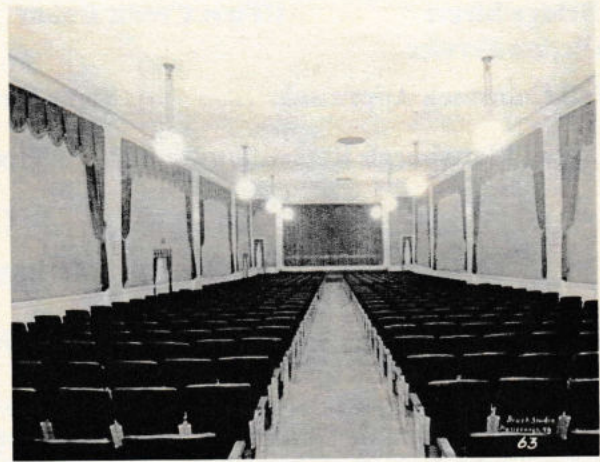
James Ciborski first served at Plattsburgh Air Force Base in 1971, later serving as its Historian from 1982-1984 and as Clinton County Historian, 1993-1996. He is a graduate of SUNY Plattsburgh with a B.A. in History. He retired from the Air Force in 1991 and lived in Peru, New York until 1997. He then took a civil service position with the Air Force and currently works as an historian at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, Ohio.

If you have questions about the articles, please contact Melissa Peck at 518-561-0340 or director@clintoncountyhistorical.org.

Photos from the CCHA Collection



1939 Military Maneuvers, GPN 00511



Interior View of the Plattsburch Barracks Theater, GPN 00509



Citizens Military Training Camp (CMTC), GPN 00523



Interior View of CMTC Barracks, GPN 00543



Citizens Military Training Camp (CMTC), GPN 00791



Plattsburch Barracks Boxing Team, GPN 00495

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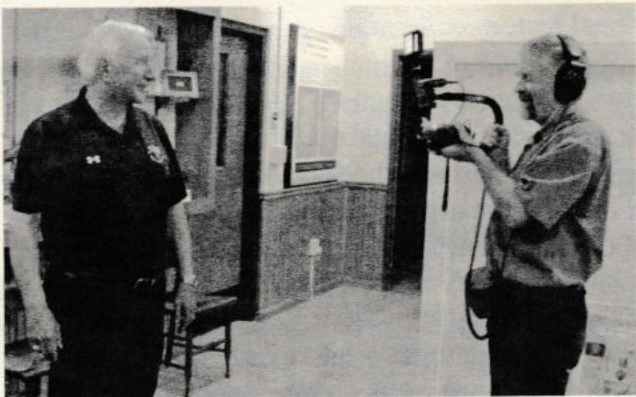
Recent Events at the Clinton County Historical Association



City of Plattsburgh Historian, John Krueger hosted 4 tours this summer of the Old Base in Plattsburgh. The programs were very well attended. We hope to continue this program next summer.



We held our first annual Citizen Soldier Youth Camp in August. The program was instructed and designed by Matthew Hewson and funded by the Chapel Hill Foundation. Look for it again next August.



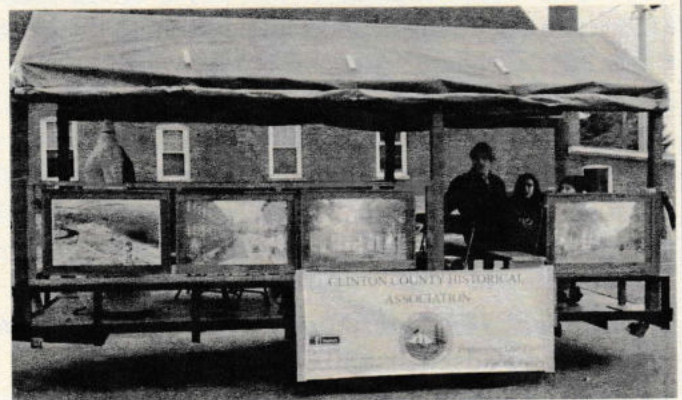
In August, we were delighted to welcome Colonel David Fitz-Enz and Richard Hall, C-SPAN Video Journalist to film a segment on the Aiken Rifle for the television show C-SPAN's American History TV. The rifle is on loan to the Museum from John Barton.



Tours this season at the Bluff Point Lighthouse were cut short due to a long awaited construction project. Roger Harwood, Lighthouse Committee Chair announced in August that the DEC would begin construction on the Lighthouse in late August. Goals include replacing the roof and addressing other structural problems.



This year marked our 5th Annual Civil War Youth Camp. Matthew Hewson also instructs and designed this program. We had over 20 children participate in the 4 day camp. We are looking forward to holding our 6th annual next year.



To celebrate the Bicentennial of the Battle of Plattsburgh, the CCHA partnered with the Work Experience Program (WEPs) to design and create a float for the parade. Pictured in the photo are youth who helped construct the float.

CLINTON COUNTY HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION
98 Ohio Avenue
Plattsburgh, NY 12903
Phone: 518-561-0340
www.clintoncountyhistorical.org

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New in the Gift Shop

Life & Times in Olde Saranac, Photos of Saranac's Past

By Sylvia Newman, \$20.00

Sylvia Newman known for her Town of Saranac Historical Calendars, has compiled her photographs and stories to create this wonderful addition to the Museum's local history collection.

More Days Away

By Richard B. Frost, \$25.00

Let this book be your guide for Days Away in northern New York, north of the Canadian border, and to the east across Lake Champlain. Whether your interests lie in history, the arts, or taking advantage of the great outdoors, you'll find destinations to satisfy all members of the family.

Adirondack 102 Club: Your Passport and Guide to the North Country

By Martin Podskoch, \$20.00

The 102 Club is a new idea meant to encourage travelers to visit all of the towns and villages of this unique, vacation destination.

BACK IN PRINT for the Holiday Season: *Remembering the Royal Savage Inn*

By Don and Barbara Benjamin, \$20.00