

NORTH COUNTRY NOTES

ISSUED OCCASIONALLY BY THE

CLINTON COUNTY HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION

No. 32 ⁴⁹ Allan S. Everest and Charles W. McLellan, Editors

November, 1968

The November Meeting

of the Historical Association will be held Monday evening, November 4, in the auditorium of the Plattsburgh Public Library. The speaker of the evening will be Mr. Evalon Merritt, retired Plattsburgh school superintendent, who will reminisce about school life in Clinton County.

Historical objects purchased for the Historical Association at the Witherill auction will be on display. They are described elsewhere in this issue.

Problems of Law and Order

(William C. Fisk of Chazy to Miss Janet Addoms, daughter of the Rev. Townsend Addoms of West Plattsburgh, April 17, 1838.)

"I have just returned from viewing the effects of the punishment inflicted on the poor, inanimate, unoffending meeting house for entertaining the abolitionists yesterday. The windows on both sides have been broken by stones and clubs, 3 or 4 sashes broken in."

(From Hurd's CLINTON AND FRANKLIN COUNTIES, under Peru.)

"The first hotel north of the river was kept by Garlick & Hackstaff. The house was a little to the north by west of Franklin Elmore's store. It fell into bad hands, bad repute, and a fatal decline. Nauseous to virtue, it was razed to the ground by an unknown and self-appointed committee of safety, under the cover of night."

(From S. K. Smith of Peru in RECOLLECTIONS OF CLINTON COUNTY)

"Our abolition society, the first on this side of the lake, was called the 'West Peru Anti-Slavery Society.' There was also a town society at Champlain, at Beekmantown and at Schuyler Falls. In August 1839 delegations from some of these societies were to meet in the court house in Plattsburgh and organize a county anti-slavery society. When our procession of delegates came into Plattsburgh, we were egged and hooted and otherwise mobbed. At the time of the mob there were from six to ten large wagon loads of the Peru delegation. The mob said to my grandfather, 'Your gray hairs shall be no protection to you.'

"We drove around to the Cumberland House, but were not allowed to hold our meeting in the court house. St. John B. L. Skinner begged and besought the mob to desist and the meeting would adjourn to Beekmantown. It did desist, and we adjourned to the Stone Church in Beekmantown."

Alice Maynard --

The assistance of our readers is sought in identifying the author of a book—a novel—bearing the above title. The only positive information, revealed by the book itself, is that it was written by a woman who was a resident of Clinton County.

The title page reads: "Alice Maynard; or, The Uses of Affliction./ . . . Troy, N. Y.: D. H. Jones, Book and Job Printer, 216 River Street, 1861." The book is printed on 295 pages, page size 4½" x 7¼", and bound in the usual purple-brown cloth binding of the period. The "Preface" reads as follows:

From thoughts that are the promptings of experience, the effects of observation, and the results of reflection, materials have been gleaned for a story, the object of which is by an interweaving of sentiment and narrative, a blending of instruction with entertainment, to convey to the mind correct practical views of life and invest them with an interest which shall commend them to the reader's attention,—nay more,—to sympathy,—to approval,—to adoption.

Entirely written since the commencement of January last, amidst a multiplicity of cares inseparable from the situation of the authoress, the task has not been accomplished without persevering effort. If it should be deemed worthy of the patronage of an enlightened public; if it should contribute to raise the tastes and sentiments of the reader; while it incites desire and purpose to turn the lessons inculcated to practical account; the principal objects will have been attained;—the work will not be considered superfluous.

Champlain, N. Y., May 24th, 1860.

The story itself, while thick with plot, is typical of the trite tales so popular in the mid-nineteenth century; love, jealousy, the trivial but heart-rending complications, coupled with the long wordy philosophical analyses of the pure female mind. Virtue and justice are always victorious.

Only a few casual references place the locale in our north country:

Traveling with the rapidity which modern improvements have greatly facilitated, a short time brought him to the residence of Mrs. Maynard in B., on the Eastern shore of the beautiful Champlain, and within sight of its placid waters.

The route proposed was from B. north to Montreal and Quebec, thence to Portland, Boston, New York, Philadelphia, then back to New York; from there to Niagara, and home by way of Lake Ontario, the St. Lawrence and Montreal, to their own beloved Champlain.

A memorandum in the book, dated July, 1950, states that "Charles Norwood Gates told me (Hugh McLellan) that the book *Alice Maynard* was written by Catherine Day, probably a sister of Julia Day, wife of Francis Dubuque, who died April 14, 1871, aged 62 years, buried in Glenwood Cemetery, Champlain, N. Y."

Is anyone able to verify, or correct this statement, or add any additional information about this unknown north country novelist?

ARTICLES TO WATCH FOR

Oscar Bredenberg of Champlain and North Hero has published in the September issue of the *Fort Ticonderoga Bulletin* an article "The American Champlain Fleet, 1775-77." It relates how the Americans created a navy on Lake Champlain during the Revolution, and what happened to each vessel.

"Early Roads and Taverns of the Champlain Valley" is the title of an article by Allan Everest which will appear in an early issue of *Vermont History*. The roads and taverns follow the main north-south routes on the Vermont side of the lake.

BOOKS IN PROGRESS ON LOCAL HISTORY

History of Chazy, New York—by Mrs. B. F. Sullivan and David Martin of Chazy.
History of Beekmantown, New York—by Professor Philip White of Chicago.
History of Steamboat Travel on Lake Champlain—by Jim Shaughnessy of Troy.
History of the Canadian and Nova Scotia Refugee Tract—by Mrs. John Arneson of Syracuse.

Federal Economy

The care which our federal Government has always taken to protect the taxpayer against the slightest waste or unnecessary expenditure is clearly demonstrated by the following letter:

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
Lighthouse Service

Joseph Laundrie Keeper
Rouse Point Lt. Sta.
Rouse Point, N. Y.

11-7-1914

Referring to your annual property return, for 1914, you are advised of the following discrepancies:-

	On Hand	Should Be
1-gallon can	0	1
2-gallon can	0	1

You state you returned these to stock and stores. There is no record in this office of receipt. If you have one forward it to this office.

You will make a careful search for the above-mentioned articles and inform this office, by return mail, what disposition has been made of same. If you have credit receipt or condemned receipt for any of the articles short, you will forward an exact copy of same to this office. As stated in circular letter No. 31, from this office, dated June 27, 1914, you cannot expend any of the above articles if they are worn out unless they have been surveyed, condemned and removed from the station. If you find the above articles on hand, you will correct your own copy of annual property return and inform this office accordingly.

(signed) Yates

Inspector

It will be noted that the economy extended even to the elimination of unnecessary words or letters. At this period the Post Office Department had eliminated the letter "s" at the ending of "Rouses."

The light house was located on the end of the breakwater on Stoney Point, near the south end of the village. It has since been replaced by an automatic light.

On the outside of the envelope enclosing the above letter, Mr. Laundrie had made the following notations:

1914

Nov. 17—Light was burning at 1 o'clock. Lamp overflowed and light was out this morning.

Nov. 20—Richelieu River froze over. Tow turned back at fort.

Nov. 23—Lake was froze over this morning.

24 24—Men crossed over on the ice.

McLellan Collection

MAIL-ORDER EDUCATION

At the turn of the century, mail-order enterprises began to thrive. Into this promising field rushed the Columbia Scientific Academy of New York City. For five dollars the student received the complete "Ki-Magi" System of Personal Influence which included instruction in the reading of character from the hand, face, head and handwriting; personal magnetism; the art and science of personal influence; scientific second sight; and a new secret method of physical development and curing of diseases by magnetic healing. Also included was "full information in regard to the vocation you should follow to achieve the greatest success in life." This course of study thus contained elements of Dale Carnegie and the modern guidance counsellor.

Individuals who got on the mailing list of the Scientific Academy were not willingly let go. The President expressed to Mrs. Brownell of Parishville, Franklin County, the "keenest disappointment" in not hearing further from her. He decided to make her "one more proposition" which would be "to you and to you alone" because "I have a personal interest in you."

Testimonials from other students praised the course. Magnetic Healing enabled you to get rid of his headaches and then start healing others. A business man, by learning to "read" others, could better manage his employees. He had become "a very confer among men" who could "sway and bind his fellows as he pleases." If the testimonials were to be believed, health and power were within the reach of any person.

PURCHASED AT THE WITHERILL

The executive board of the Association made \$200.00 available. It was supplemented by cash gifts from Everest Allen, Alan Smith and Allan Everest, which made possible the purchase of the following:

- Engraved birds'-eye view of Plattsburgh in 1877.
- Engraving, Battle of Plattsburgh.
- Colored wood engraving, Battle of Plattsburgh.
- Colored wood engraving, Plattsburgh and Lake Champlain.
- Engraving, Fort Jackson, Peru.
- Fifteen framed photographs of famous people and prominent sites of Clinton County.

RECENT ADDITIONS TO THE ASSOCIATION'S MUSEUM

- Wooden canteen and sash used at the Battle of Plattsburgh. Given by Mr. Sanford Larkin.
- A dress sword and a machete given by Miss Helen Barber.
- A "Hearts' Delight" calendar of 1913 given by Mrs. Ruth Hecht.
- A double yoke for carrying buckets. From the Witherill auction and given by Dr. Mrs. Carl Engelhart.
- An electrified showcase from the stock of Larkin's Pharmacy. Given by Dr. Chandler Bragdon.
- A showcase given by Mrs. VanBrakle of Saranac Lake.

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David K. Martin, Secretary
West Chazy, New York

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