

# NORTH COUNTRY NOTES

ISSUED MONTHLY EXCEPT SUMMER BY THE  
CLINTON COUNTY HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION

No. 81

Allen S. Everest and Charles W. McLellan, Editors

January, 1972

## *The January Meeting*

of the Association will be held on the evening of Monday, January 10th, at 7:45 at the Colonial Museum in Chazy. The program will consist of a film, "The Making of a Pioneer", followed by a tour of the Museum conducted by the Rev. Coburn Sweet, curator. Refreshments will be served.

Members and friends of the Association are cordially invited.

## LONELINESS AT THE FRONT

(This touching letter was received by Miss Anna Thew, who lived with her parents in the old Rand house on Rand Hill. From the New York Collection at the College.)

Camp Near Petersburg  
July 6th 1864

Miss Anna Thew

Please pardon my long delay and excuse me for not being more prompt in answering your kind letter which was duly received on or about the 2nd day of June And I think you will when I tell you that I have not had any opportunity to write until the present time. But I have thought of you the same. I will not make to many excuses as you probably know how we have been situated during this campaign. I haven't had hardly an opportunity to mail a letter until we came to this camp. but this is enough of my excuses Miss Thew please allow me to congratulate you for being so very prompt in answering my letter as it was for an intire stranger

I was happy to receive your letter and do sincerely hope for a better acquaintance if by no other way than by letter writing and I will assure you that I will do all that is in my power to sustain a mutual correspondence You wished to know who that friend was that gave me your address and to fulfill my promise I will tell you that his name is H. H. Eastman I will not bother you to long with this awful writing but will close asking you to write soon Please except this from one who subscribes himself Your Friend and well wisher

Richard T. Bristol  
Battery "H" 1st N Y Arty 5th Corps  
Washington D. C.

N B Please excuse a pencil as a pen and ink is not to be had

## RIDDLE OF THE MONTH

Old riddle: William D. Graham of Plattsburgh correctly answered this riddle as follows: "Construction of a fort, never officially named, began in 1816 and was stopped in 1818 when it was discovered that it was being built on Canadian soil; hence its unofficial name of Fort Blunder. By 1842, when under provisions of the Webster-Ashburton Treaty, the site became U. S. territory, the structure was in ruins. The new Fort, named for General Montgomery, was completed on the site by 1870."

New riddle: Where and when was the first fort or blockhouse built in Clinton County?

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### NEW GENEALOGICAL COMMITTEE OF THE ASSOCIATION

A new committee and a new service have just been initiated by the Historical Association. Letters trickle into the county during each year seeking help for people descended from former county residents. This committee will try to help by: 1) compiling name indexes to county records, 2) maintaining files on county families, and 3) functioning like the New Jersey Project, which attempts to locate natives of New Jersey living in other states.

Of particular interest is the fact that more than half the committee is composed of students of the Chazy Central Rural School who have volunteered to work on these projects. Without such help the committee cannot hope to succeed. Committee members are: David Martin, chairman; Ardis Abell, Koert Burnham, Debby Daley, Richard Ducharme, Lorna Earl, Richard Guay, Kim Hughes, Mrs. Robert Jenkins, Mrs. Charles W. Kinney, Gary Southworth, Robert Thibault, Lila Tyler, Donald Williams, Mary Williams, Paul Zimba.

# *The Papineau Rebellion Seen from Montreal*

*(Mr. W. H. Morgan, a Plattsburgh merchant, had business and personal contacts in Montreal. Extracts from a letter to him describe the so-called Papineau Rebellion, a revolt by many French and English people against British authority in Canada. It was suppressed and its leaders, as Mr. Hagar says, fled to the States, several of them to Clinton County. The letter is in a collection recently given to the New York Collection at the College by Mrs. Katharine Lobdell Wilson, a descendant of Mr. Morgan.)*

Montreal 5 december 1837

Dear Sir

There has been very little done here lately, except in warlike preparations, which occupy all the time of our loyal citizens. Our friends in the States will feel more or less anxious, according to the reports they hear, which no doubt are much enlarged, as it is almost impossible to obtain correct information, even here, it must be still more difficult farther off.

The commencement of the war I suppose you are already acquainted with. As about a dozen of the cavalry were escorting 2 prisoners named Demary & D'Avignon from St Johns by the way of Chambly they were fired upon by a company of Canadians from behind a fence 2 or 3 miles from Longueil. The prisoners were rescued and the cavalry put to flight. Two or three were wounded. I understand the prisoners have made their escape to the States. The next action was at St. Denis. Troops were sent down the river to Sorel, to attack St Charles on one side while the Royals under Col Wetherall were to descend from Chambly and attack the fort from the opposite direction. All means of communication was cut off, all despatches stopped, & the couriers made prisoners, by the Canadians. The detachment going up from Sorel were attacked at St. Denis and fired upon out of houses. The Canadians had portholes, and kept a constant fire. The troops returned fire but with little effect as their opponents were concealed in stone houses. The engagement lasted a part of the day, till evening when the troops fatigued (having marched all the previous night in rain) and for want of ammunition, returned back to Sorel, having left one piece of cannon which they spiked. The Canadians followed them and fired a few shots at random, & without effect. It was reported that 7 soldiers were killed & one officer & several men wounded. The officer had 4 or 5 wounds. He was a very brave fellow and led on the first company. He is getting well.

During this time the Royals consisting of some 5 or 600 men were at St Hillaire a little above St Charles, waiting orders and I believe also hindered by a bridge which I understand had been pulled down to impede their march. They made an attack on St Charles a week ago last Saturday after firing for some time without much effect. They took it at the point of the bayonet. You will get a more full account in the paper I sent you. It is almost impossible to say how many Canadians were killed. You cannot get 2 reports alike. It is generally believed that a greater number was killed than is reported not only of Canadians but soldiers to. The soldiers made quite a booty taking every thing in the shape of silver spoons, watches, etc. that came in their way.

The Royals returned to Montreal last Thursday bringing with them 33 prisoners, and the Liberty pole taken at St. Charles. On Thursday also about 9 companies under the command of Col. Gore with a detachment of artillery went down to Sorel, to march through St Denis. Reports have been received that the place was almost deserted and they went on their march without any opposition. They burned the buildings out of which the people fled, at the previous attack. The troops marched on to St. Hyacinthe where it is said some of the leaders had fled to, and are expected back tomorrow. They have found the body of Lieut Weir of the 32 who was taken prisoner & killed. His body was covered with a pile of stones.

The people about 30 miles north of St. Eustache & Grand Brule have been preparing for a revolt this some time. Last week they stopped the mail and sent the mail carrier back to town. Travellers have been stopped, searched and some made prisoners. They go around to the farmers who are opposed to them and take their cattle, grain etc to support their army, and numbers have left their homes and come into town for protection. A detachment will be sent there in a few days which will probably disperse the rebels, and put an end to our Civil War.

There are a great many opinions upon the subject but a great many think that the greatest part of our troubles are over, and I think but few will be inclined to follow the example of St Denis and St Charles. It is to be lamented that things have gone so far, that a few political leaders should have been the means of thus bringing misery and bloodshed upon our once happy country. They have led the poor ig-

norant country people (who do not actually know their grievances) to believe they were oppressed, have tried to frighten government by threats & warlike preparations, but in the hour of trial these leaders fly for safety and leave their poor deluded followers to suffer the consequences.

We do not feel much afraid here at present. Our town is quiet, & business far to much so. I do not think the Canadians will ever be able to take Montreal. These disturbances will do a great deal of injury to the country. It will be long before it will be restored to its former state. Many of the country merchants have allready left the country, leaving the merchants in town to take up their notes and get paid the best way they can. Business is about at a stand. The country people are afraid to come to town, which also makes the markets high. I am afraid but few of our American friends will visit us this winter but if they should they will meet with a good market for their provisions. I do not think the mail has been stopped except in the direction I mentioned, neither am I aware of many having left the country, especially Montreal. I expect the principal part of those that left went from St. Charles or from that direction. Our banks have sent some of their specie to Quebec as a matter of precaution. The notes of the Montreal, City & Peoples Bank I think you may take with safety, but I would not take any other Montreal paper money. The citizens have formed themselves into companys for to protect the town and meet to drill every day.

Yours truly                      George Hagar

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### MEMBERSHIP TIME

Members and friends are reminded that that time of year has arrived again to rejoin the Association. Remittances should be sent to the Treasurer, Mr. John Caramia, at 75 Court Street, Plattsburgh.

No. 81 - January, 1972

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Issued by the  
CLINTON COUNTY HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION

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David K. Martin, Secretary  
West Chazy, New York

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