

# NORTH COUNTRY NOTES

ISSUED OCCASIONALLY BY THE

CLINTON COUNTY HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION

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No. 25

Allan S. Everest and Charles W. McLellan, Editors

Feb. 1966

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## *The Next Meeting*

will be held on Monday evening, Feb. 7, 1966, at 8:00 o'clock in the Association Rooms over the Plattsburgh Public Library. The speaker will be Dr. Eugene Link of the staff at State University College, who will talk on "The Bartons of Willsboro and Plattsburgh".

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## ASSOCIATION OFFICERS FOR 1966

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## OLD COUNTY PLACE NAMES

Nip City (West Plattsburgh), so called because a certain Huldah Fordham put on airs and minced and nipped around. People began to call her Nip, so the name "Nip's City", shortened to "Nip City". (Orrin Spaulding, 1886)

Cadyville, named for Heman and Cyrus Cady, who built a forge there in 1833. (John H. Myers, 1894)

Gougeville (Elsinore) was named by Ira Lamson, who built the first dam there for A. C. Moore and R. A. Gilman. Lamson declared the inhabitants had cheated him, and he named the place in 1851. (John H. Myers, 1894)

Irish Settlement Road in Schuyler Falls was so named because it was settled by Irishmen, of whom the first was Christopher Sherlock, who settled there about 1824. (Mrs. Margaret Sherlock Casey, 1897)

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When Harvey Weston of Mason Street, Morrisonville, was presumably on his deathbed, he had his family call in two old acquaintances, William Weaver of Beckwith Street and Richard Emory of Morrisonville. Arranging one man on each side of his bed, he lay back with a sigh and said, "At last I can die as Christ did—with a thief on each side."

(Roy Vaughan, Morrisonville)

## *Baseball Championship In 1901*

At the turn of the century the town of Plattsburgh had a baseball team in an organization called the Northern New York League. In those days "base ball" was still spelled as two words. Four other towns included in the league were Malone, Canton, Potsdam and Ogdensburg. During the summer of 1901 a championship that was rightfully Plattsburgh's was almost taken away.

The season began on a pleasant note for the team and the fans at Clinton Park, where the home games were played. It was a humid July 3 and the opposition was furnished by the Ogdensburg team. The crowd of about 500 watched a band march around the diamond before the game. The contest itself was very one-sided with Plattsburgh winning 24 to 8 after 7 innings. It was called at that time because of the heat and the fact that everyone was hungry.

As the season progressed the race became a contest between Malone and Plattsburgh. Throughout a good part of the summer the Malone Hop Pickers, as they were called, held the lead. Plattsburgh lost a couple of key games to them early, but at the end of August Malone began to slip and Plattsburgh took advantage of the opportunity. By August 29 the situation had come to the point where a scheduled game between the two teams at Clinton Park would be a decisive one.

The largest crowd of the season turned out and about 400 of the 3,000 people present were from Malone. They watched Plattsburgh win 7 to 6. The city band showed up as the Malone team left and played Chopin's funeral march, which the Malone players did not exactly appreciate. The next day Plattsburgh defeated Ogdensburg 8 to 5 and virtually clinched the championship.

The pennant was supposedly Plattsburgh's, but early in September the following table was printed in the **Malone Palladium** representing that town's claim to the pennant:

	Played	Won	Lost	Pct.
Malone	23	16	7	.696
Plattsburgh	22*	15	6	.682
Potsdam	19	9	10	.474
Canton	21*	7	12	.333
Ogdensburg	19	4	15	.211

The percentage is found by dividing the number of games played into the number of games won. Malone credited itself with a game against Ogdensburg that had never been played, but which the Hop Pickers claimed was forfeited to them. **The Palladium** placed a star next to the number of games played by Plattsburgh and Canton because of a game that had been played to a draw by the two teams. Even though it was not counted in either the won or lost column of Plattsburgh they counted it against them in total games played. Plattsburgh actually had played 21 games that counted and not 22. Its percentage should have been found by dividing by 21 and not 22 as the **Palladium** did. Plattsburgh also should have had the right to claim two games that Potsdam had failed to play with them if Malone was going to claim the one game it had not played with Ogdensburg. Since Plattsburgh did not claim these games Malone had no right to claim the Ogdensburg game. Actually, then, the true standings between

Plattsburgh and Malone were as follows:

	Played	Won	Lost	Pct.
Plattsburgh	21	15	6	.714
Malone	22	15	7	.682

The dispute was referred to Spaulding and Company, which was to provide the pennant. The company referred the problem to the publishers of **Base Ball Guide**. On October 15 the Plattsburgh team received word of its championship. The pennant was displayed amid the firing of rockets, the exploding of fire-crackers and the glare of red fire. The city band furnished music and Mr. Charles Vert gave an address reviewing the baseball season. Plattsburgh had finally received its pennant, but not without a struggle, on and off the field!

## *The Businessmen's Camp*

It was in the summer of 1915 that Plattsburgh was privileged to have many millionaires, political leaders, and famous men within its limits. Thirteen hundred blue bloods played soldier for thirty days at Plattsburgh.

President Wilson wanted Americans to be neutral in the war that broke out in 1914, but neutrality was difficult. Major General Leonard Wood felt that it was inevitable that the United States would participate in the war. After the sinking of the *Lusitania* the American public began to think of military preparedness. When General Wood was asked to hold a summer camp for business and professional men who wanted military training, he agreed to hold one at Plattsburgh if only twenty-five men enrolled.

Applications were sent to a selected group of businessmen, bankers, lawyers, doctors, college professors and sportsmen. Response was slow at first, but after Wood made an address at the Harvard Club of New York in June applications came back quickly. By August tenth, 1,300 were on hand for the Camp's opening. No funds came from the War Department. The recruits paid thirty dollars each to participate in the training and donations were welcomed.

The "Business Men's Special" left August 9, 1915 from Grand Central Station for Plattsburgh. Officially, these somewhat overweight men, most of them in their late thirties and early forties, were motivated by patriotism and a spirit of self-sacrifice. Actually, they felt they were off to a great adventure. Some political figures that came were John Purroy Mitchell, the mayor of New York, and his police commissioner, Arthur Woods; Pennsylvania's U. S. senator-to-be, George Wharton Pepper; and Dudley Field Malone, the collector of the Port of New York.

At the Camp the men participated in drills, mock battles, parades, and other military actions. Yet an article from a German newspaper and repeated in the **Plattsburgh Daily Press** ran as follows:

The war has given a new summer sport to the sons of millionaires as well, as their fathers in New York, namely, the sport of playing the game of soldier. Up on the idyllic Lake Champlain, near Plattsburgh, in the State of New York, live these gentlemen who in politics and in business play an important role, and there on camp are ordinary soldiers, receiving four weeks' instruction from officers of the regular army.

The businessmen did not really benefit individually from their military training. In a military sense, the effect of the initial 1915 Plattsburgh camp was negligible, the lessons learned there almost useless to those who later saw active service in the first World War. Nevertheless, Plattsburgh as an idea was large and compelling, surviving long after the war in the Citizen's Military Training Camps and the summer encampments of the Reserve Officer's Training Corps.

Virginia Barden, SUC

## *The Junior Plattsburgh Training Camp*

While the United States was at war with Germany in 1917-1918, a unique experiment was conducted at Point au Roche. Two years earlier the Plattsburgh Barracks had been the scene of another pioneering venturing—the commissioning of second lieutenants after a short but intensive course. The new program at Point au Roche had a different objective and a different age group.

In July and August 1917, a course of military and technical training was offered to boys between 14 and 20 years of age. Its purpose was to help students to remain in preparatory schools and colleges during wartime and to prepare some for examinations for the officers' Reserve Corps. It was conducted by regular army officers aided by a corps of West Point cadets, all under the managing direction of General Edward C. O'Brien of Clinton County. In its first year it attracted cadets from 65 educational institutions in 15 states.

Before the 1918 season arrived, the camp was reincorporated under New York law and \$100,000 in shares sold, many of them locally, at \$100 a share. It obtained from Secretary of War Baker and Secretary of the Navy Daniels designation as "an establishment qualified to maintain a junior division organized for

instruction in military tactics and related subjects." Again it was conducted by officers of the army and navy, but assisted by Canadian and British officers who had been discharged for minor disabilities, and by technical experts from industry and universities. One radio instructor was dismissed for pro-German tendencies. Machinery was leased or borrowed from private industries across the country.

Two sessions were held in 1918, one from June 25 to September 1 and attended by 600 cadets between the ages of 17 and 45, the other from September 2 to October 15 and somewhat smaller. Since each cadet paid \$200 for maintenance and training, it tended to attract boys from monied families. The camps were conducted under a strict military regimen, with uniforms, chevrons to designate rank, and cadet officers. Grade cards for each cadet recorded his performance and behavior in his courses. When violation of rules occurred, courts-martial were conducted and sentences imposed, including dismissal from camp. The usual charge was of "conduct to the prejudice of good order and military discipline," but this covered such specifics as defying a guard, profanity, disobedience of a cadet officer, and absence without leave. The absent J. M. Studebaker III was finally discovered at the Hotel Champlain but was apparently able to give satisfactory reasons for his departure.

After the war the buildings and the farmhouse formed the nucleus of the private Camps Red Wing and Red Cloud under the direction of members of the Lamborn family. The camps are now discontinued and the entire property is for sale.

(Archives at SUC Library)

### RIDDLE OF THE MONTH

Where was North Africa in Clinton County, and how did it get its name? Send your answer to Allan Everest, 26 South Catherine St., Plattsburgh. The correct answer with the earliest post-mark will be published in the next bulletin.

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