

NORTH COUNTRY NOTES

Issued Monthly By The Clinton County Historical Association

No. 267 PRESIDENT: Ralph P. Hubbell EDITOR: Helen W. Allan July/August, 1990

CCHA'S SUMMER FUNDRAISER

Preliminary figures indicate that our 1990 flea market and related events were the most successful to date. The weather could not been more cooperative, sending thousands of people flocking to join the fun in downtown Plattsburgh. The Mayor's Cup Sailing Race provided a beautiful vista in Cumberland Bay, and those who climbed the Macdonough Monument enjoyed that view of the lake. Needless to say, the event could not have taken place without the help of many volunteers.

The Coke wagon, which kept hunger at bay for hundreds of browsers, was staffed by Mark Bennett, James Carlin, Joann & Erinn Perry, Martha & Roland Lockwood. CCHA is grateful for the cooperation of Coca-Cola.

CCHA's flea stall was managed by Julie Davies, Julie & Suzanne Robinson, Ruth Hecht, Allan Everest, Lois Sheats, Ruth Fitzgerald, Margaret Aubrey, Lynn & Bill Woythaler. Fleas were priced by Fran Wright, Craig Koste and Dick Ward.

Popcorn and cotton candy were sold by Randy, Lois and Randall Beach and Steve Gilbert. Erin Hastings also helped to staff events.

Jim Bailey has become almost synonymous with the Macdonough Monument. He and his wife Anne spent the day insuring the safety of climbers of the obelisk.

In the Museum our docents for the day were Ursula Myers, Eddie Brunet, Laura Allen and Ruth Patterson.

There was the erection and dismantling of the Kent-Delord House tent (thanks a million, KDH, it kept us cool). The tent people were Pete Hubbell plus 3 family members, Mark McCullough (who also acted as a troubleshooter on Saturday morning), Derek Allan, Joann Perry, Roland and Jason Lockwood, and assorted friendly passersby.

Thanks to everyone who participated and for the wonderful fundraising response from CCHA members.

CIVIL WAR EXHIBIT

Among other upcoming changes in the main gallery is a redesigned Civil War exhibit. It brings to mind a copy of the Plattsburgh Express & Sentinel, April 22, 1865 which is currently offered for sale on consignment in the Museum Shop. The newspaper reported the grief of Plattsburgh residents when the terrible news of President Lincoln's assassination was telegraphed from Washington a week earlier. On the 22nd it printed the following item:

'RELIGIOUS SERVICES'

It having been announced that the funeral services of President Lincoln would take place at Washington, on Wednesday, and that it was desired that religious services should be held in the churches throughout the country, on the same day, measures were immediately taken to comply with the request in this village. The Presbyterian church was appropriately draped in black cloth, arranged in festoons around the galleries and pulpit. In front of, and attached to the latter, was a brightly shining silver cross surrounded by a wreath of evergreens which attracted much attention. The whole made an imposing appearance, and was highly creditable to those who were instrumented in perfecting the arrangements.

The sermon preached by Rev. Mr. BULKLEY, the pastor, was founded on the 15th and 16th verses, of the 5th Chapter of the book of Lamentations, which read as follows: "The joy of our heart is ceased; our dance is turned into mourning." "The crown is fallen from our head; woe unto us, that we have sinned."

The subject was a very appropriate one, since we were in the very height of our rejoicings over the recent victories when the death of Mr. Lincoln was announced. The speaker handled his subject most ably, and was listened to with marked attention throughout his discourse, by at least five hundred persons.

Services were also held in the Episcopal and the Peristrome church, and we understand that all three of the clergymen preached from the same text. Whether this was accidental or agreed upon by the Rev. gentlemen, we are not informed, but it is generally understood that it was accidental. Their discourses were highly spoke of by those who heard them, and were listened to by good audiences. These churches were also properly decorated for the occasion.

Throughout the day places of business were closed and everything wore the aspect of the Sabbath. There was no distinction in this respect between Republicans and Democrats, all being alike deeply impressed with solemnities that the occasion called forth.

Ed. note: As Allan S. Everest reminds us in Briefly Told, the Presbyterian Church burned down in the general downtown conflagration of 1867; the present church was dedicated in 1873. The breakaway Peristrome Church came to an end and was demolished. The spire of Trinity Episcopal Church was removed for safety reasons, but the church in which a memorial service to Abraham Lincoln was conducted still graces Plattsburgh.

In the June issue of Notes we reported the acquisition of an important document relating to a 1795 deed of land in Clinton County. Longtime member Fuller Allen offered to assist in entering the contents into our Macintosh computer and this was duly done. We now await Mr. Allen's further research which will reveal the exact location of the property in question.

Recent acquisitions also include 1964 Battle of Plattsburgh Sesqui-centennial memorabilia from Frank & Gail Kemp; a baptismal gown and other infants' clothing from Juanita Baker; music books from the Hull family, Saranac, given by Martha Bier; an original oil painting of Davis Pond in Macomb Reservation by Bess Hutchinson, given by James & Edna Hutchinson, and signed copies of the Centennial histories Bright With Promise (SUNY Plattsburgh) and the Bluff Point Golf & Country Club. The City of Plattsburgh's Water & Sewer Dept. contributed a section of electric trolley rail from the Plattsburgh Traction Co., excavated on July 19 at the intersection of Macdonough and Hamilton Streets.

DATES TO REMEMBER:

Saturday, August 25 has been chosen for an Open House at the Valcour Island Lighthouse. The structure will be open from noon until 4:00 p.m. and visitors will be offered a guided tour. A donation of \$2.00 for adults and \$1.00 for children will be applied to the lighthouse endowment fund. As happened last year, transportation to the island will be offered by Capt. Frank Pabst of the MV Juniper. Reservations can be made by calling the Juniper at 561-8970.

CCHA's annual banquet will be held at the Barnstead Restaurant in Keeseville on Saturday, October 28. Our speaker is Steven Engelhart and his topic is the history of the Keeseville bridges. More details in the September issue of Notes.

PUBLICATIONS

Editor Allan S. Everest reports that the 1990 issue of the Antiquarian is now at the printer and is being prepared for an October publication date.

There was no award of the Emily McMasters Writing Prize this year due to lack of response to the competition.

CCHA has received notification from the New York State Council on the Arts of a general operating support award in the amount of \$4,800. We have also received a CAP award for assessment of the museum's collections, administered by the Institute of Museum Services and the National Institute for Conservation of Cultural properties.

In early August, a century ago, Dr. David S. Kellogg of Plattsburgh visited the author William D. Howells who was a guest at the Witherill Hotel. He invited Mr. Howells to inspect his collection of Indian relics (sold in 1909 to Amherst College where it still reposes) and War of 1812 artifacts. The two families struck up a friendship during the next few days' excursions, including a tea party at the Kellogg house where Mrs. Howells was allowed to use the doctor's prized 'Battle-of-Plattsburgh' plate, 'a thing not done before.' We assume that this plate was a piece of Staffordshire china similar to the 'Commodore Macdonough's Victory' collection in the museum.

*** City Historian Jim Bailey is seeking information about a proposed "Historical Society of Clinton & Essex Counties" which received a provisional charter from the University of the State of New York, perhaps dating from the 1920s. Several well known names are associated with it, including John P. Myers, Maria J.B. Tuttle, Warren Harkness, Henry Harmon Noble, Thomas F. Conway and Elmer Botsford. If anyone can shed light on that embryonic historical society, it would be helpful to NYS Senior Historian Ed Winslow who wants to assign a date to the document.

NORTH COUNTRY NOTES

Clinton County Historical Assn.

Box 332

Plattsburgh, N.Y. 12901

518-561-0340

U.S. POSTAGE
NON-PROFIT ORG.
PAID
PLATTSBURGH, NY
PERMIT NO. 185