

# NORTH COUNTRY NOTES

Issued Monthly By The Clinton County Historical Association

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## SEPTEMBER PROGRAM

CCHA's new program series opens with an illustrated presentation entitled "The Restoration Of The Carriage Barn At The Kent-Delord House." Our speakers are Jeffrey Kelley, director of the KDH museum, and Pat Tallon, the contractor for the restoration. This program will tell us of the painstaking work that has gone into the restoration of one of the oldest surviving structures in Clinton County and the vicissitudes of finding funding for preservation projects.

The meeting will be held in the County Government Center on Monday, Sept. 10 at 7:30 p.m. The public is welcome to attend. Refreshments will be served by the program committee.

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Please note that CCHA's annual banquet is scheduled on Saturday, October 27 at the Barnstead Restaurant in Keeseville. Details will appear in the October issue of Notes.

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A quote from the Plattsburgh Republican, March 24, 1863:

"Daniel Dustin of Redford is one of the very few survivors who witnessed the Battle of Plattsburgh from Cumberland Head. 'I...saw the (British) fleet beyond Long Point coming up, under full sail before the north wind,- the most splendid sight I ever saw. Right in front of us, not far off lay our best ship (Saratoga), and the rest were ranged off towards Crab Island. All our vessels' sails (were) snugly furled. Soon the British fleet rounded the Head, their big ship leading, and then they had to beat to windward to their position nearly opposite our lines, the British sails being all flying when the action commenced. Then our ships opened a terrible fire, which they continued so rapidly that sometimes we could not see our flag ship on account of the

cont'd on p.2

## VALCOUR ISLAND LIGHTHOUSE

During the Open House event held at the lighthouse on Saturday, August 25, a dedicatory plaque was unveiled. Inscribed on it are the names of donors who gave \$500.00 or more to the lighthouse endowment fund, a restricted fund which provides annual income for maintenance of the structure. Names listed are as follows:

Dr. & Mrs. David B. McDowell  
Mr. & Mrs. William J.H. Manning, Jr., in memory of William J.H. Manning  
Mr. & Mrs. Wayne H. Byrne  
Mr. & Mrs. J. William Woythaler  
Dr. James Ellsworth Cavanagh & Dr. James E. Cavanagh, Jr., dedicated to James E. Cavanagh & Marjorie C. Cavanagh  
E. Saily Warren, in memory of Frederick Saily Warren & M. Rhoda Warren  
Mr. & Mrs. Roger Forrence  
Mr. & Mrs. Roy E. Perry, in memory of George Copeland  
Mr. & Mrs. James McKee, Jr.  
Antony Von Elbe  
John A. & Anne H. Weeks, dedicated to Dana & Mary Weeks  
Dr. & Mrs. Kjell Dahlen  
Mr. & Mrs. Robert C. Smith  
Mrs. Jean L. Harney, in memory of Thomas Harrington Harney  
Peter S. Paine  
Mrs. Paula Grant, in memory of Kenneth H. Grant

Names will be added to the plaque as major contributions are received. The endowment fund continues to grow and donors receive a beautiful color print of the lighthouse for their minimum gift of \$100.00.

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Cont'd from p.1: Plattsburgh Republican, March 24, 1883, "Interesting Personal Reminiscences of the Battle of Plattsburgh"

smoke of her guns. The action lasted two hours. I could see cannon balls glance on the water, throwing up the spray, and when the flag went down on the enemy's big ship.

The next day I came over to Plattsburgh and it was a desolate looking place enough - court house burned, with all Bridge Street, and mangled bodies of soldiers visible, one soldier, in a red coat, lying half buried. The planks of the bridge were all taken up, and piled into breastworks on the east side, behind which, I heard them say, our men stood and picked the enemy off as they attempted to cross the bare string pieces."

SEPTEMBER 11, 1814

The forthcoming 176th anniversary of the Battle of Plattsburgh reminds us of a summer visit paid this year by Sir Christopher and Lady Prevost. The great-great-grandson of Sir George Prevost, commander of the British forces during the battle, Sir Christopher and his wife were entertained by CCHA members who also helped them to research pertinent aspects of his ancestor's defeat at Plattsburgh by a much smaller army. Sir Christopher expressed regret at missing last year's important celebration when, if it had been possible, he might have met the great-grandson of Commodore Thomas Macdonough, plus a descendant of General Alexander Macomb, completing a triumvirate of descendants of the men who directed destiny on September 11, 1814. Other descendants of Macdonough also attended the ceremony.

In his book The War of 1812 In The Champlain Valley, Allan S. Everest devotes attention to the unfortunate conclusion of Prevost's military career. "The postwar life of Gov. Gen. (of Canada) Sir George Prevost is...one of the tragedies of the time." Prevost was summoned back to Britain for either a hearing or an actual court martial, but he died a month before it could take place on February 5, 1816. He was only forty-eight years of age. Lady Prevost sought vindication of her husband's conduct of the war in North America, but was rewarded only by the re-design of the family's coat of arms. "In this very restrained manner, Prevost's government posthumously recognized his services to the empire" (Everest). Apparently, Prevost's private papers were lost, thus making it unlikely that any further light could be shed on the events and giving the last word to his opponents. It was a sad end for a man who had been appointed Governor General of Canada because of his skill in diplomacy demonstrated in the West Indies and Nova Scotia, his fluent command of French and his ability to deal with the problems of restive French and Indians in British Canada.

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Correction: In the July/August issue of Notes we reported that an original painting of Davis Pond, given to the museum by James and Edna Hutchinson, was by Bess Hutchinson. In fact, the artist was Daniel F. Bigelow and the owner was Bess Hutchinson. Since then, Mr. & Mrs. Hutchinson have given two further Bigelow works of art to the museum. One is of Cumberland Head, by D.F. Bigelow, and the other is of Hilliard Brook at Schuyler Falls, by Folger Bigelow. Both pictures are painted in oil.

Daniel F. Bigelow of Peru (1823-1910) was well known as a local Adirondack landscape artist who painted many North Country scenes. The paternal grandfather of Caroline Gregorovius, whose father was Louis Bigelow, Daniel Bigelow passed on his artistic talent to his son Folger and to his daughter whose medium was watercolor. CCHA hopes to be able to feature several Bigelow works of art in a museum exhibition scheduled to coincide with the Bicentennial of the village of Peru.

This summer's benefit for the museum was extremely successful, thanks to an enthusiastic response from CCHA members. Lucky winners of the prizes donated by the Board of Directors were as follows:

	Donor	Winner
Dinner (2) at Etoile du Valet	Bob Fitzgerald	Karen Hickey
Canada goose carving	David Stortz	Hans Hirsch
Framed print of Valcour Lighthouse	Joann Perry	Gary Baker
Sterling silver marcasite & carnelian bracelet	Hecht's Antiques	Patrick O'Connor
Gallon maple syrup	Randy Beach	Jane Llewellyn
Marquetry double photograph frame	Bill Woythaler	Edward Bohin
Battle of Plattsburgh plate	Mark McCullough	Susan McHardy
Brunch at Ruth Cliff Manor, Isle la Motte	Pete Hubbell	Patti Hubbell
Framed print of London skyline	Lois Sheats	Jim Tuomey
Key Bank savings bond	Mark Bennett	Stephen Martin
Set of "Discover the Adirondacks"	Jim Dawson	Harold Brohinsky
Framed prints of historic American scenes	Allan Everest	Ed Murphy, Sr.
Dried flower wreath	Peartree Designs	Everett Fuller
Framed antique print	Julie Davies	Jonathan Allen
Valcour Lodge Restaurant gift certificate	Martha Lockwood	Thomas Beach
Dinner (2) Royal Savage Inn	Helen Allan	Bob Donaldson

Stephen Martin won "The War of 1812 in the Champlain Valley"; Tracey Brennan: a visit to the Valcour Island Lighthouse; Mary Ellen Dengler: "The History of Clinton & Franklin Counties"; Linda McGuire: a Clinton County Bicentennial tote bag, and Hilda Oliver: a round trip on the Cumberland Head ferry. Mystery prizes were won by Shirley Carter, Nancy Church and June Weiskotton.

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