

NORTH COUNTRY NOTES

Issued Monthly by the Clinton County Historical Association

48 Court Street, Plattsburgh NY 12901, 518-561-0340

No. 311 PRESIDENT: Mark A. McCullough EDITOR: Helen W. Allan July/August 1994

VALCOUR ISLAND LIGHTHOUSE

Another season has begun at the Valcour Island Lighthouse. CCHA inaugurated 1994 activities on behalf of the lighthouse by submitting a request for funds to New York State's Environmental Quality Bond Act historic preservation program. The funds, if granted, will mean that substantial restoration of the building's deteriorated interior elements can take place in 1995. The Historical Association will match State funding from the endowment fund which was created in 1987 for preservation of the lighthouse.

Good news for the lighthouse arrived in June with an award of \$1,000 from the Lake Champlain Partnership Program. The funds will allow the Association to repair a significant amount of broken glass in the light chamber and complete other important stabilization work on the structure. An earlier grant from the L.C.P.P. funded preparation of a nomination to the National Register of Historic Places, resulting in the listing of the lighthouse in 1993.

Thanks to Art Cohn of the Lake Champlain Maritime Museum, we have obtained copies of materials in the National Archives which broaden our knowledge of the early history of the lighthouse, including official reports that ground was broken for the structure in 1873. The light shone for the first time as the spring shipping season began in 1874. The documents confirm also that Valcour Island lay within one of the 18th c. land grants acquired by Zephaniah Platt.

This year's Open House at the lighthouse is scheduled for Saturday, August 20 (storm date, Aug. 21). Capt. Frank Pabst offers his narrated cruise to the island on the M.V. Juniper for those who require transportation. Call the Juniper Boat Dock (561-8970) for information and reservations. Please note that the boat excursion price does not include admission to the lighthouse: \$2.00, adults and \$1.00, children. In the event of stormy weather, call 561-2915 on Saturday morning for an update.

Lighthouse Committee chairman Bradley Knapp says he hopes to see a record attendance at the lighthouse Open House this year and reminds us that the fascinating structure also offers an unparalleled view of Lake Champlain.

1994 SUMMER FUNDRAISER WAS A HUGE SUCCESS

CCHA's first Antiques Show & Sale coupled with a Vintage Car Meet was so successful that plans are already underway for next year's fundraiser for the museum. Although the weather was hot, humid and sticky on Saturday, July 9, large crowds attended the event. Sunday's blue skies and moderate heat attracted even larger crowds and many more vintage cars. The grounds of Clinton Community College and its large physical education building were ideal locations for the twin events, with plenty of parking, food and entertainment. Canvassed for their reactions, Bernieta Schumacher (chairwoman of the organizing committee), Randy Beach and Craig Koste (Vintage Cars and Antiques Show chairmen, respectively) voiced great enthusiasm for the results. They are convinced that the event will grow into one of the largest summer productions in Clinton County.

Lest it be thought that the events of July 9 and 10 were organized without the human factor playing an important role, we wish to recognize individuals, businesses and clubs who participated in the Historical Association's fundraiser. Thanks go to the Sweet Adelines, Friends of the Theatre, Kiwanis A.M. and Plattsburgh Air Force Base for their voluntary contributions. Listed below are many names of people who donated time and labor to ensure a successful event.

Sponsors of the Vintage Car Meet

Bill McBride Chevrolet	Livingston Motor Sales	Bryan LaPier Motors
McGee's Auto Sales	D.C. Auto Parts	PMS Motor Service
Knight Acura	Dannemora Ford	Phil's Chevrolet, Inc.
Dannemora Auto Parts	M.A.Jerry	Clinton Auto Parts
	Durocher Auto Sales	

Silent Auction Donors

Francis Wright, Craig Koste, Fred Smith, Sally & Kit Booth, Helen & John Ianelli, Bruce Butterfield, Mary Manchester, Louise & John Tanner, Ruth Ladue, Bill Laundry, Julie Davies, Marjorie Broadwell, Marjorie Denette, Peg & Wayne Byrne, Stella & Harold Boire, Shirley & Phil Gordon, Mary Angela & Phil Mason, Ruth & Harold Smith, Elsie & Allan Everest, Diane & Chris Turner, Regina Slatkin, Ruth & Gerald Dominy, Janet & Jim Murnane, Nancy Frederick, Helen & Derek Allan, Lois & Randy Beach, Barbara & Don Benjamin, Sheila & Wayne Dumont, Doris & Jim McKee, and Jean & Dean Raymond.

Volunteers at the Antique Show/Sale and Vintage Car Meet

Betty Baldwin; Ron Bardon; Roger & Belinda Barrett; Randy, Lois, Randall Beach & Rachel; Maurice Devereaux; Alfreda Guay; Roger, Judy & James Heintz; Keith Herkalo; Pete & Patty Hubbell; Jim, Susan & Jeff Judkins; Brad Knapp; Craig Koste; Bill Laundry; Martha & Roland Lockwood; Paulette, Brandy & Casey Marsteller; Rose Matthews; Mark, Deena & Shawn McCullough; Jim & Doris McKee; Tom & Cathy Murnane; Ann Novoselec; Celine Paquette; Mary Ann Poston; Frank & Bernieta Schumacher; Leona Seaver; Barb Sequin; Lois Sheats; Fred Smith; Bob St. John; David & Andrew Stortz; Laura Tetreault; Chris & Diane Turner; Frieda Walker; Dick Ward; Connie Wheeler, and Bill & Lynn Woythaler.

Winners of the Drawing

Florence Matott.....	Champlain Outlets gift certificate, donated by Rose Matthews.
Barbara Murray.....	Gallon of maple syrup, donated by Randy Beach.
Robin Brown.....	Northern Car Wash tickets, donated by Bernieta Schumacher.
Janet Saunders.....	Charlie's Northland gift certificate, donated by Dorice Clark.
Janet McFetridge.....	Winter scene lithograph, donated by David Stortz.
Derek Schueler.....	Yarborough Square flower pot, donated by Bill Woythaler.
Celine Paquette.....	Windows on the Bay gift certificate, donated by Diane Turner.
Phyllis Wells.....	1890 Harper's Bazaar cover, donated by Fred Smith.
Ruth Copeland.....	Anthony's Restaurant gift certificate, donated by Ann Hasting.
Bernice Jennings.....	Windows on the Bay gift certificate, donated by Jack Myers.
Peg O'Connell	CCHA year's membership, donated by Brad Knapp.
Fred Smith	Valcour Lodge gift certificate, donated by Martha Lockwood.
Louise Sorrell	D&H Restaurant gift certificate, donated by Keith Herkalo.
Nancy McGaulley.....	General Trading Co. gift certificate, donated by Bill Laundry.
Jay Frank	D&H Restaurant gift certificate, donated by Mark McCullough.
Vin Caporale	Anchorage Restaurant gift certificate, donated by Celine Paquette.

NEW YORK STATE COUNCIL ON THE ARTS GRANT

CCHA has been awarded a grant of \$4,793 in multi-year general operating support. The public funds are designated for the ongoing programs and activities of the Association and its museum.

NEW DISCUSSION SERIES

A free American history discussion series is presented this fall at the Plattsburgh Public Library. BECOMING AMERICAN consists of one discussion from 7 until 9 p.m. every other Wednesday from September 28 to November 23. This series concerns the impact of immigration on those arriving in their new land, and the people who were born and raised there. Dr. Laurence Soroka, history professor from SUNY-Plattsburgh, is presenting this five-part program. Books and videos pertaining to the series are available for loan at the library. The Friends of the Library are serving refreshments. BECOMING AMERICAN is presented in partnership with the Clinton County Historical Association. This series is made possible by major grants from the National Endowment for the Humanities and the New York Council for the Humanities. For further information, call (518) 563-0921; contact person, Susan Elizabeth Pinsley.

SERIES SCHEDULE

<u>Date</u>	<u>Book or video to be discussed</u>
Sept. 28th	<i>Out of This Furnace</i> : book by Thomas Bell
Oct. 12th	<i>Breadgivers</i> : book by Anzia Yezierska
Oct. 26th	<i>Hunger of Memory</i> : book by Richard Rodriguez
Nov. 9th	<i>The Joy Luck Club</i> : book by Amy Tan
Nov. 23rd	<i>Mississippi Masala</i> : video by Mira Nair

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RECENT ACQUISITIONS

A summer exhibit in the museum highlights acquisitions which occurred during the past few years. It also includes a permanent loan from the Plattsburgh Public Library of a miniature portrait of William Gilliland. The portrait appeared recently in the Press-Republican as an illustration for an article on Gilliland, an 18th settler on the New York side of the Champlain Valley. Joining Will's embroidered waistcoat and shoe buckles given earlier by Lucille Gilliland Holm, the portrait is a wonderfully evocative image of the man who achieved so much and lost so much in the turbulent early years of North Country settlement.

The exhibit includes an exquisite piece of 18th c. calligraphy given by Allan Everest; the programme for a Plattsburgh Boys Band concert, by Charles Raymond; a WW I uniform, by Joan Conway; a Currier & Ives lithograph, by Frank Morrison; a wood traffic sign from Hotel Champlain, by Joan FitzPatrick; an Ellenburg plate by Bill Laundry; a photograph of Mrs. Moss Kent Platt, by Peg Byrne; a programme for a PHS testimonial dinner, by Grace Allen; a Plattsburgh fireman's badge, by Phil Gordon; a photograph of a Plattsburgh Barracks boxing team, by Dick Ward; an 18th c. history of the American Revolution, by Harold Boire; a Town of Peru indenture, by Mary Howell; a Hotel Champlain dish, by Doris McKee; a Customs House sign, by Bob Fitzgerald; a Plattsburgh souvenir plate, by Derek Allan; a Trinity Church cook book, by Jack Myers, and an Ausable Chasm dish, by Muriel Baber. Also on display in the exhibit is a 1787 deed granting land to Zephaniah Platt which the Association was able to purchase for the museum earlier this year. Soon to be on display is a fine bottle made at the Redford Crown Glass Works donated by Saily Warren. All of the objects described here have direct relevance to Clinton County in some way, conforming to the museum's collections policy which was refined and adopted by the Board of Directors in 1993.

The Association thanks all other benefactors whose gifts continue to underwrite the museum and the Association's education programs. The support of the FitzPatrick family, Mrs. Martha Bier and Mr. & Mrs. Harold Boire has enabled the Association since 1992 to establish an endowment fund for the museum and to occupy one of the most gracious structures in downtown Plattsburgh.

Funding at the state level is also critical. CCHA has received public funds from the New York State Council on the Arts since 1975, monies that have underwritten exhibitions, publications, cataloging, collections management, conservation, and education programs.