

NORTH COUNTRY NOTES

ISSUED BY THE

CLINTON COUNTY HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION

No. 353

David Kendall Martin, Editor

May 1998

The Next Meeting

will be held on Monday, May 4, 1998 at 7:30 p.m. in the first-floor meeting room of the Clinton County Government Center, 137 Margaret Street, Plattsburgh. The topic will be "*Setting the Records Straight*," presented by Keith Herkalo, Plattsburgh City Clerk. The Village of Plattsburgh was founded in 1815. Until now, there was a large gap in records between that time and 1859. It has taken seven years, after extensive and eventful research Keith has succeeded in finding the missing village records! This program is made possible with public funds from the New York State Council on the Arts, a state agency. We are also grateful for the support of The Institute of Museum and Library Service, a Federal agency serving the public by strengthening museum and libraries. This program is free and open to the public.

In honor of Allan Everest

We would like to invite the members of the association and friends of Allan Everest to join us at the Museum at 48 Court Street on May 24, 1998 at 3:00 p.m., for the dedication of a plaque in his memory, in appreciation for his untiring efforts towards the preservation of the history of Clinton County. There will be a reception following the dedication. Please RSVP the office at: 561-0340, if you will be attending.

New Publication Available

Lake Champlain Key to Liberty, by Ralph Nading Hill, with epilogue by Art Cohn - the story of the people of the Champlain Valley, past to present. (\$24.95 +Tx., and \$3.00 shipping).

EARMY ELLENBURG LETTERS

The Association has been given photocopies and transcriptions of five letters found in the old Sanborn house in Chardon, Ohio. The letters give a glimpse of life in Ellenburg, NY, in the 1840's & 50's. We plan to publish these letters in subsequent issues of North Country Notes. The letters were submitted by a descendant of the Hammond family, Virginia Turner of 6107 Lawton Avenue, Oakland, CA 94618-1860. She would appreciate hearing from anyone with information on the family of Benjamin Franklin Woods of Champlain. B.F. Woods was married in 1838 at Noyan, Quebec, to Mary Bloomfield Hammond. We are always grateful to receive Clinton County material and to Virginia Turner for sharing these letters. The letters were written by Stoughton Hammond (1808-1893) and his wife, Sarah L. Hinds (1814-1876), apparently to Stoughton's brother Hezekiah Hammond and his wife who had settled in Ohio.

Letter I

Ellenburgh March the 22 1846

Dear brother and sister Hammond, we received the letter from yew last f and with much pleasur read and anser it but halv not hurd from yew sence am tird of wating for you to write and shal take the liberty to again inform you of our helth which is verry good at present and I suppose that Irena is the first in your mind as yew look over these lines so she shal be the first yew shal hear from but I shal halv to tel you of A fit of sickness she was taken the last of februarye I thout with worms and A cold but it proved to be the lung fever and the information in the bowels and head set in with it which caused a hard fit of sickness sum of the time we thout she could not live we did all we could for her and employed the most skilful that this town afforded but was so much alarmed about hur that we sent to Chataqua for Dotcer Fanswith he is caled the most skilful man we halv about hear She was by spels out of hur head the school seamd (to) be most in hur mind and she would scream out for Miss Rasey the teacher she cald for hur so much that she cum hear and staid 4 or 5 nites and took care of hur when she got sothat she could walk a few stepps she was so pleased as you ever saw A child when that first lurnt to walk she is very smart now has rode out wounce and the greatest trouble is to halv me cook as fast as she can eat y cannot think how much trouble I had while she was sick I thout that if she was my one child I could give hur up if the lord caled for hur for then there would be none to morn hur loss more deeply then myself nor none to think per haps that I had done wrong or thay could halv dun differrent or to sumit

up in A few words I new what your fellings must bee if I should be under the necessity of writing to yew that she was gon and yew could see hur face no more but all this seams to halv bin borrowed trouble for the lord orderd it otherways but which of us may never be laid on a sick bed or perhaps caled to bid adieu to this world and all the friends that so much divide our minds from god we cannot tel but it is A fact that we all no that the time will come when this world can now longer be our home then we shal no the reality of that religeon that we profess I fear that we shal halv to morn that we halv not bin more faithful in the surves of our god for my part I feel that I am not half as faithful as becomes the followers of our lord and saviour but I hope this is not the case with yew I feel verry anxious to hear from you and hope you will not delay writing tel us al the news how all the folks that we are acquainted with is about give my love to al that may enquire me tel us when you think yew shal visit us what the weather has bin thare this winter we halv had A verry pleasant winter hear we did not freeze til Dec then the snow came on and we halv had first rate slaying til the first of March then A thaw commensed that swep of the snow and it is verr fine wether but rather dry for the sap to run verry well I think we halv dun better hear than I thout we could with all things considerd Yew no it was allmost like begining A new Lucinda was quite scornful to not write to me in your letter but I think she will in the next and tel us how that girl gits along Irena often sais I wonder if tinas baby haint got to be all most as large as she is and she wishes thay would come and fech hur out hear to see hur I commensed sowing this fall and sowed the fore part of the winter but found that it hurt my head so that I must give it up again but I earnt twenty one dollers but my head got so bad that I had to hire one weak work and 9 days when sis was sick I halv tride to halv Irena tel me what to write to you--she sais tel yew that thay did not send hur tip and yew must come and fech him to hur but I must close to leve room for Stoughton to write yours with respect Sarah H.

A new exhibit at the museum

Opens May 31, 1998

'FROM GENERATION TO GENERATION'

Through the generosity of individuals, Temple Beth Israel Congregants and a New York State Council on the Arts grant, Clinton County Historical Association presents a view of Jewish life in Clinton County. A reception will be held from 3 p.m. to 5 p.m. on that day. The public is invited.

This exhibit is made possible with public funds from the New York State Council on the Arts and The Institute of Museum and Library Services, a Federal agency serving the public ,strengthening museum and libraries.

From the Archives.....

In 1825 the following persons were licensed to keep inns in this town, each paying \$5, with the exception of McCreedy Gilman, Johathan Bunker, and D. L. Fouquet, who were required to pay \$6: Mrs. William Thorn, John Bunker, R. Ferris, J. McCreedy, Rufus A. Gilman, Johnathan Bunker, John Gale, Jr., J. Hiland, John Roberts (3d), Moses Hoit, Douglas L. Fouquet, John Gilman, Henry Vaughan.

THE 5th ANNUAL CAR SHOW AND CRAFT FESTIVAL will take place on June 14, 1998, from 9 a.m. - 5 p.m., on the Historic Old Base Gymnasium and Parade Oval, Plattsburgh, NY. Please call the office at: 518 561-0340 for details or to register for either event. There will be horse drawn carriage rides, music, presentation of awards for car entries, refreshments available, and much more.

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