

NORTH COUNTRY NOTES

ISSUED BY THE

CLINTON COUNTY HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION

No. 358

Shirley L. Koester, Editor

Dec 1998

The Next Meeting

Will be December 7, 1998, at 137 Margaret Street, Plattsburgh, in the First Floor Meeting Room of the Government Center, at 7:30 p.m. The program will be presented by Professor John J. Duffy from Isle LaMotte. Professor Duffy is the editor of the two volume collection of transcribed letters written to and from Ethan, Ira and Levi Allen, recently published by University Press of New England. This correspondence spans the period from the settlement period of the frontier to the establishment of the republic. This program is made possible with public funds from The New York State Council on the Arts, a state agency and also The Institute of Museum and Library Services, a federal agency serving the public by strengthening museum and libraries. It is free and open to the public.

Election of Board Members

At the Annual Meeting of the Association, November 14, 1998, the Nominating Committee presented for vote, a slate of names to fill the five expiring terms on the Association's Board of Directors. Elected were: William Rowe, III, Cornelia Forrence, Cecily Feldman, James Lindgren and Mary Brown. Nominations were opened to the floor, receiving none, the motion was made for the secretary to cast one vote for the slate presented.

The McMasters Prize For The Writing of History

March 1, 1999 is the deadline for submission of papers for the McMasters writing prize. This is the 25th year for this competition established in honor of Emily McMasters, long time friend and supporter of The Clinton County Historical Association. This prize rewards exemplary writing on the theme of North Country History. Authors need not be residents of the North Country to enter. For more information please call the CCHA Office: 518 561-0340.

The Lady Dentist From Ellenburg

Born in a log cabin in Ellenburg in 1833 and orphaned at the age of 10 years, Lucy Hobbs entered Franklin Academy in Malone. She became a qualified school teacher in 1849. After ten years of teaching, she decided to study medicine, only to find doors closed to her. In 1861, she applied to the Ohio College of Dental Surgery. She was denied entrance by a resolution barring women and anyone of African descent.

In 1865, the newly formed Iowa Dental Society admitted Miss. L. B. Hobbs and she became the first woman in the history of the profession to be accepted by a state dental society. She received the degree, Doctor of Dental Surgery on February 21, 1866, becoming the first woman in the world to achieve a degree from an accredited dental college. At that time there were only three such dental colleges in North America.

In 1998, to coincide with the 150th anniversary of The First Women's Rights Conference, held in the summer of 1848 in the Wesleyan Chapel in Seneca Falls, New York, county

historians were invited by the chairman of the Executive Commission appointed by Governor Pataki, to nominate a significant woman in their county to receive recognition as a *Woman of Achievement*. Clinton County Historian, Addie L. Shields nominated Lucy Hobbs Taylor for this honor.

On November 22, 1998, a New York State Historic Marker honoring Lucy Hobbs Taylor was dedicated in her memory at a ceremony at the United Methodist Church, Ellenburg Center, New York.

Dr. Geraldine Napierski, Professor of the Dental College of the University of Buffalo and Past President of the American Association of Women Dentists was guest speaker .

Since 1983, the scholarship given by the AAWD has been known as the "Lucy Hobbs Taylor Award, " recognizing the pioneering spirit of this early resident of Ellenburg, New York.

Photo Project

The NYSCA funded project to develop the photographic collection donated by Mr. And Mrs. George Brewer is proceeding on schedule.

Susan E. Lezon, a professional conservator has developed approximately 900 negatives along with prints . There is one year remaining in this project, at which time it is projected that we will be able to make these images available for individuals and researchers at a nominal charge.

We are currently preparing to catalog this collection in preparation for the demand for both family portraits and scenic views of Clinton County including the towns and villages and events.

Holiday Shopping

Bette Mero has chosen many interesting views of early Clinton County history to be included in this year's pictoria calendar! They are available at the Museum (561-0340) or at: The Cornerstone Bookstore, Margaret Street; Harrison's Pharmacy, Rouses Point, The Town of Champlain Garage, Clerk's Office; Gumma's Restaurant, and The CVPH Gift Shop, in Plattsburgh.. Price: \$5.00 plus .35 TX= \$5.35 (plus shipping \$1.70)

Books!!!!

We have many titles available for those history minded friends (and you) in the Museum Shop. We encourage you to give a gift membership in the association, bringing the monthly publication and the annual journal to your friends and at the same time helping us to preserve our history.

CLINTON COUNTY HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION
48 Court Street
Plattsburgh, New York 12901

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Mail this completed application and check to: **Clinton County Historical Association**
48 Court Street
Plattsburgh, New York 12901