

# NORTH COUNTRY NOTES

ISSUED BY THE

CLINTON COUNTY HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION

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No. 367

Shirley L. Koester, Editor

Oct 1999

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## *The Annual Meeting*

is scheduled for October 23, 1999 at the Angell Ballroom, in the Angell College Center of the State University College at Plattsburgh. Cocktail hour at 6:00; Dinner at 7:00; with the program at 8:00 p.m. A silent auction will be part of the evening's activities.

The program will be presented by Ms. Peter G. Rose, author, columnist and lecturer on the topic of the history of Dutch and early foodways of colonial America. She is the author of *The Sensible Cook: Dutch Foodways in the Old and the New World*. She has written numerous articles published in *Gourmet Magazine*, *The New York Times*, and *Early American Life*, among many others. She has appeared as lecturer before diverse groups worldwide, including historical societies, universities and museums.

Ms. Rose is a member of the *Speakers in the Humanities Program of the New York Council for the Humanities*, sponsors of this portion of the program, which is free and open to the public.

Attendees may make a reservation for the special theme dinner to follow the program by calling the museum at: 561-0340. The menu is designed to augment the program and the cost per person is \$25.00. Please make your reservation for dinner by October 15.

This program is made possible with public funds from the New York State council on the Arts, a state agency and also by the Institute of Museum and Library Sciences, a federal agency serving the public by strengthening museums and libraries.

## **Election of Board Members**

A slate of nominees to fill the five Board of Trustees positions, for the class of 2002 will be presented for vote at the annual meeting of the membership.

## **Museum Exhibits**

A special exhibit at the Museum at 48 Court Street of artifacts from the period of the War of 1812 will remain in place until October 30<sup>th</sup>. This exhibit also includes three fine examples of hand-oven blue and white coverlets from Clinton County families.

## **Fur Trade in the Champlain Valley**

This exhibit includes items from the Saily Collection, the Booth family and the Savage family. John Jacob Astor established the American Fur Company in 1808. He was a frequent guest of Peter Saily.

## **Battle of Plattsburgh Weekend 1999**

With over 300 visitors, the museum was very busy. Events included interpretation of early life offered by the volunteers from the Chateau Ramezay Museum in Montreal, a hammered dulcimer recital by Plattsburgh's Stan Ransom, and a tableau of the British hospital by the British Wives Club of Plattsburgh and wounded soldiers, Caitlin Saunders and Tiffany Rawson. The Girl Scouts of Troops served as hostess. Many other volunteers contributed to make this weekend a success. Thank you all.

## **Adirondack Firearm Company Exhibit**

The museum was the recipient of a Robinson rifle, a gift from the William Manion family of Plattsburgh. This rifle was manufactured in 1872, by Orville Robinson, founder of The Adirondack Firearms Company. Robinson, a resident of Upper Jay, New York and John Danforth Willkinson, a native of Keeseville, were business partners, operating the firm in Plattsburgh between 1870 and 1874. Information regarding this Plattsburgh based business may be found in an article entitled, *Wilkinson, Gunsmith*, by Clarence M. Anderson, in the 1998 issue

of *The Antiquarian*, available through our museum shop. We are eager to compile more data regarding this local firm and these men, can you help us?

***“Recollections of Benjamin Mooers  
gathered together and compiled by himself in MS at  
Plattsburgh in 1822 – he having settled in that borough in  
1783.”***

“1776 This year the militia were called out, and a company was formed in Haverill about June 1<sup>st</sup> – which I joined as a private for 5 months, under Capt. Eaton, Edward Wigglesworth, Colonel. Dr. Brickett commanded the Brigade = which joined the Army under General Gates at Ticonderoga in June of this year. Our army that Spring had been compelled to retreat out of Canada and had made their stand at Ticonderoga.”

“After we arrived General Arnold was defeated on the Lake and his fleet dispersed – principally burnt or otherwise destroyed.”

“In June – 76 General Arnold, after the retreat of our American Army from Canada and making its encampment at Ticonderoga, was given the command of our fleet on lake Champlain, which was not a large one. He ventured about as far North as Cumberland Head. One night the wind being favorable from the north, he took his station between the West side of Valcour Island and the Main Land. While lying there at anchor, the enemy with his fleet, passed on the other side of the Island, on the south side and blocked him in. The Enemy being an over match, yet unable to beat up, the two fleets Lay in full view of each other, had it been daylight. As it was our American Vessels in the darkness of the night, and having a favorable wind, passed through the British fleet unnoticed, nor were the sloops of war discovered by John Bull’s navy, until daylight and then at a long distance in retreat.”

“This information I had from James Fleury a pilot on board one of the British Vessels.”

## **New Items in the Museum Shop**

***Dangerous Journeys 1757***, a story of the Frontier during the French and Indian Wars, by Parish Wells. This is a reprint of the book first published in 1940 (51 pages). (Price: \$7.00 plus \$.49 Tx. + \$3.00 Shipping and handling). Mr. Wells research papers are on deposit at St. Lawrence University, Canton, New York.

For a list of available titles please call: 518 561-0340

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Plattsburgh, New York 12901

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**CLINTON COUNTY HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION  
ANNUAL DINNER  
Angell College Center**

**Saturday, October 23, 1999**

Cash Bar 6:00 PM, Dinner 7:00 PM

**Program: 8:00 PM**

**Speaker: Peter G. Rose**

**Program: Bread and Sappaen:**

**Foodways of the Dutch and Iroquois**

*Menu: Colonial Cuisine*  
**from our Dutch and Iroquois roots**

**This event will include an Antiques Silent Auction**  
**(items to be auctioned will be on view beginning at 6:00 PM)**  
**For further information, telephone: 561-0340.**

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**DINNER RESERVATION FORM**

Please return to CCHA, 48 Court Street, Plattsburgh, NY, 12901

Please reserve \_\_\_\_\_ dinners at \$25.00 each \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Optional contribution to support CCHA programs \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Total enclosed \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Make checks payable to Clinton County Historical Association

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

**Reservations must be received by Friday, October 15, 1999**