

Clinton County Historical Association and Museum

North Country Notes

Spring 2005
Number 395

“Museum a key to area future”

This simple declarative statement was the title of The Plattsburgh Press-Republican's *Viewpoint* the Sunday after Thanksgiving. After reviewing the rich history for which Clinton County is known, the author pointed out that the “center of any area’s history has to be its local museum, with interests not only focusing on stunning historic examples like the Battle of Plattsburgh but also on the average people who lived in the community, the people who made the community come to life.” CCHA was credited for having “collected innumerable artifacts” and having “fought the difficulty of several moves” only to face an uncertain future. *Viewpoint* concluded as strongly as it began: “Whether financially or with volunteer support, we as a county have the ability – the duty – to do whatever we can to make sure our history speaks to future generations as well as it has spoken to us in the past.”

Although Charles Dickens never visited Clinton County, he could have been describing last year’s experience of moving the Museum from Court Street to the banks of the Saranac River when he wrote: “It was the best of times, it was the worst of times, it was the age of wisdom, it was the age of foolishness....it was the spring of hope, it was the winter of despair, we had everything before us, we had nothing before us....” 2005 will be a very important year for CCHA. We are open for operation at the Saily Warren House at 3 Cumberland Avenue but we do not have the space necessary to interpret and display our artifacts and treasures. Our financial difficulties mentioned in the last issue have diminished but not disappeared. It truly is the best of times and the worst of times. Thank you for your continuing support.



**March Program: Jim Millard
Rediscovering “Fort Blunder” and
Fort Montgomery, Rouses Point**

Monday, March 7
Lake Forest Activity Room
Lake Forest Drive, off Route 9
Plattsburgh
Refreshments 7:00 p.m.
Program 7:30 p.m.

CCHA member Jim Millard is the publisher of the America’s Historic Lakes website. He is also the author of *The Secrets of Crab Island* and the soon to be published *Following Fort Blunder: The Story of Fort Montgomery, Rouses Point New York*. Please join us as Jim shares the results of his research and gives us an exciting tour of the fort unavailable anywhere else.

Clinton County Historical Association

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The Saily Warren House, 3 Cumberland Avenue, Plattsburgh



Bluff Point Lighthouse Shines!

After an absence of seventy-four years, a Coast Guard crew officially restored the light to the Bluff Point Lighthouse at 4:08 p.m. on November 16, 2004. The Bluff Point Lighthouse, the only Lake Champlain lighthouse on the National Register of Historic Places, is lovingly cared for by a dedicated group of volunteers including, among others, Linda and Roger Harwood, Ann Thurber, Claudia and Peter Hornby, Herman Drollette, and Heather and Fred Finn. Over the course of the last several years, volunteers have completely renovated the interior. We hope to have the Bluff Point Lighthouse open to the public on the Sunday before Memorial Day and every Sunday from July 4 weekend through the Sunday of Labor Day weekend. You can get more information about visiting the lighthouse or volunteering by calling the Museum.

Adirondack Hickory Open, July 29-31



This year's expanded Adirondack Hickory Open will be played on Saturday and Sunday, July 30 and 31, at Bluff Point Golf and Country Club, the third oldest resort golf course in the United States.

Friday will be an unofficial optional practice day for people wanting to "warm up" with hickory clubs. We ask for your help in adding to atmosphere by sporting attire that best reflects golfing clothing from the 1890s to the 1920s. Details will be forthcoming.

Clinton County Personality: King Hendrick 1755 – 2005

He was known by many names: Theyanoguin, Tiyanoga, He Holds the Door Open, Hendrick, and King Hendrick, among others. Warrior, preacher, and Mohawk sachem, he was the most skilled Iroquois diplomat of the first half of the eighteenth century. He played a role second to none in military exploits in the Champlain Valley. The diplomatic skills he demonstrated were at least the equal of any European statesman. This September will mark the 250th

anniversary of his death at the Battle of Lake George.

Hendrick was actually a Mahican born in Massachusetts about 1680. As a young boy he migrated to Mohawk country, where he was adopted by the wolf clan. Godfrey Dellius, the Dutch Reformed minister of Albany, converted him to Christianity, but religious conversion did not insure his blind allegiance.

Hendrick visited New France in 1697, and the following year he accused Delliuss of fraudulently getting his signature on a deed, a title eventually declared invalid by the governor of New York.

Hendrick traveled to London in 1710 to appeal to Queen Anne for help against the French and for resident Protestant missionaries. His request for religious instruction resulted in the queen's establishing a chapel at Fort Hunter in Mohawk country west of Schenectady. Two years after the chapel opened its doors, New York Governor Robert Hunter described Hendrick as "a very turbulent subtle fellow," who since his return from London "has given us more trouble than all the other Indians."

Queen Anne's War officially came to an end with the signing of the Treaty of Utrecht in April 1713. Utrecht was the first in a series of treaties that restored peace after more than two decades of war. Since the treaty failed to clearly define the southern boundary of New France, both Great Britain and France could (and did) continue to lay claim to Lake Champlain.

The thirty years between the Treaty of Utrecht and the outbreak of King George's War constituted a generation of peace in the Champlain Valley. French, Iroquois, and English resumed prewar pastimes and attended to matters of trade, religion, and diplomacy.

In the fall of 1722 Hendrick and six Mohawk companions journeyed to Boston to mediate between French Indians and English colonists. An observer characterized him as "a polite gentleman baptized, a zealous Christian. [He] speaks pretty good English and [is] scarcely distinguishable from an Englishman but by his tawny complexion."

Well-traveled and bilingual Indians like Hendrick were unusual; most interpreters were white men who had mastered an Indian language, rather than Indians who had mastered Dutch, French, or English.

King George II presented him with a court suite - an elaborate green coat fringed with gold and a cocked hat - during Hendrick's second visit to England in 1740. Four years later, the peripatetic sachem was in Boston, where a Scottish gentleman called him "a bold, intrepid fellow."

News arrived in June 1744 that France and England were back at war. In England's North American possessions, this latest conflict was known as King George's War. The outbreak of war generated a flurry of movement and military activity in English, French, and Indian towns and villages. New Yorkers were not at all anxious to take an active part, while the Iroquois showed no desire to engage in offensive military operations against Canada.

New York Governor George Clinton sensibly turned to William Johnson for assistance in defending the northern frontier. In 1738, the 23-year-old Johnson had arrived in New York to manage the estate his uncle had acquired near Fort Hunter in the Mohawk Valley. The young Irishman soon parlayed his opportunity into an extraordinary career. Johnson purchased some land for himself on the Mohawk River about forty miles from Albany. He settled Irish and Palatine German families on his estate, operated a storehouse and trading posts, and developed a relationship of trust and respect with the Iroquois.

In the summer of 1746 Clinton appointed Johnson provincial Indian agent and ordered him to raise warriors to carry the war to Canada. Johnson's principal activity was sending out scalping parties of Mohawks against the French and their Indian allies.

Hendrick journeyed to Montreal on a diplomatic mission in November with a delegation of eight Mohawks. Governor Beauharnois showered them with gifts, but French generosity did not prevent the Mohawks from attacking fifteen French carpenters on Isle La Motte on their way home. This trip marked Hendrick's own entry into King George's War.

Hendrick, now in his mid-sixties, led a war party of thirty-two Mohawk braves and four Dutchmen northward in May 1747 to strike at the settlements near Montreal. His war party ended in disaster when it was ambushed in mid-June. Barely escaping his pursuers, Hendrick abandoned his canoe and fled "into the depths of the forest."

The Treaty of Aix-la-Chapelle formally concluded King George's War on October 18, 1748. Although the war was declared a draw, and disputed boundaries were left in dispute, it was clear that the French had won King George's War on the Lake Champlain frontier.

An important conference convened in Albany in the summer of 1754 to promote united action against the French and to prop up the sagging alliance with the Iroquois. William Johnson, a member of the New York delegation, advocated increased expenditure for garrisons among the Indians at strategic points and called for a regular policy of paying Indians for their services.

The venerable Hendrick, spokesman for the more than 200 Iroquois in attendance, denounced both the French and the British for their encroachments on Indian lands. Hendrick realized that the survival of his people was not possible without the support of one of the two European powers, and his solution to the dilemma was to side with Britain, although he deplored that country's reluctance to act against the French.



The brave old Hendrick, the great Sachem or Chief of the Mohawk Indians

Hendrick was killed near the southern end of Lake George on September 8, 1755 during the encounter known as "The Bloody Morning Scout." He was riding at the head of the column, mounted on a horse loaned to him by William Johnson. When the horse was shot from under him, the Mohawk chief was left helpless. Trapped under his horse, he was bayoneted when the French grenadiers advanced.

When this memorial print was published in London in 1755, Hendrick was probably – along with Benjamin Franklin, his fellow negotiator at the Albany Congress – the best-known North American on the European stage. This Mahican leader, adopted by the Mohawks and then allied with British imperial interests, was such an international figure that his speeches were published immediately by newspapers and magazines in London.

FUNDRAISING EVENT: **ANYTHING GOES**
Swing with Zip City and the North Country Horns, March 5



Join us at the American Legion, Post 20, 162 Quarry Road March 5 from 7 to 10 for an evening of cocktails, blues, swing, and old favorites. Hors d'oeuvres and soft drinks are included; cash bar will be available. Admission is \$39.50 of which \$30.00 is tax deductible. All proceeds to benefit the Museum. Enjoy great music by *Zip City* and the *North Country Horns* while helping CCHA. Call 651-0340 to reserve tickets by check.

Because of the generosity of the County of Clinton and the following friends and organizations, CCHA will continue its vital work of preserving and interpreting Clinton County's heritage for future generations. Your gifts mean a great deal to us. Thank you.

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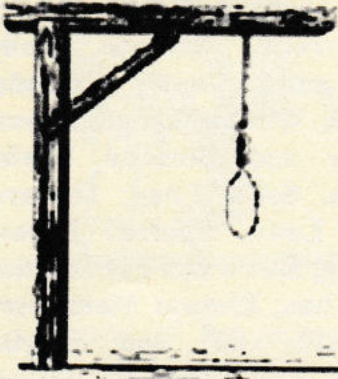
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Current to January 24, 2005.



**April Program: Judge
Penny Clute**

***Peggy Facto, Hanged in
Plattsburgh in 1825,
Murderess or Victim?***

Monday, April 4
Clinton County
Government Center
First Floor Meeting Room
Plattsburgh
Refreshments 7:00 p.m.
Program 7:30 p.m.

Please join us as Judge Penny Clute shares the results of her research and gives us a close look at the

1825 conviction of Peggy Facto for the murder of her illegitimate newborn infant. Peggy Facto was the only woman ever executed in Clinton County.

*The People
s
Peggy Facto*



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