



Clinton County Historical Association and Museum

# North Country Notes

Fall 2005  
Number 397

## Bluff Point Lighthouse Update

By Linda Harwood

CCHA had a very successful year at the Lighthouse. The Lighthouse was open four Sunday afternoons during the winter, the Sunday of Memorial Day weekend, and every Sunday from the weekend of July 4<sup>th</sup> thru Labor Day weekend. We expect to follow the same schedule in 2006. Over 700 visitors came through the Lighthouse including 200 who crossed on the ice and 50 who came over for a very beautiful wedding on a sunny day this summer.

Charles Cogan, whose father was the first private owner of the Lighthouse in the 1930s, donated the original spyglass to CCHA. He and his wife toured the Lighthouse this fall recalling memories of his childhood there.

Derek Allan donated 80 prints of a watercolor he had done of the Lighthouse and granted CCHA permission to use that image on a t-shirt. We sold over 90 t-shirts with that image this summer.

Local artists Fred Arce, Harold Boyle, and Glen Drapeau displayed their photography of Valcour Island at the Lighthouse this summer. Massachusetts's artist Paul Garnett donated a Giclee print titled "The Battle of Valcour Island" to the Lighthouse collection.

NYDEC donated confiscated camping equipment for a fund raising event to benefit the Lighthouse.

CCHA recently signed an Adopt A Natural Resource Agreement with NYDEC, which clarifies CCHA's and NYDEC's responsibilities for the Lighthouse.



The highlight event of this year was the relighting ceremony at the Lighthouse. In November of 2004 the US Coast Guard installed the light back in the Lighthouse for the first time in 131 years. On June 11<sup>th</sup>, 2005 we had a very successful relighting ceremony in cooperation with NYDEC and the US Coast Guard. Over 110 people attended the ceremony.

This year two stories about the Bluff Point Lighthouse appeared in the Lighthouse Digest and a new story on [www.lighthousefriends.com](http://www.lighthousefriends.com). These are national publications.

The Lighthouse Committee was fortunate to again have a very energetic and dedicated group of volunteers and docents this year.

We would like to thank the Bill Rowe, Sally Goddard, Lindsey LaMarche, Fred and Heather Finn, Mike Kulik, Herman and Diane Drollette, Peter and Claudia Hornby, Roger and Linda Harwood, Anthony Tyrell of NYDEC, and the folks from the Department of Corrections at Moriah Shock Camp for their untiring efforts to restore the Lighthouse. Channel 3, Channel 5, and Hometown Cable covered the event.

Our docents this year were Fred and Heather Finn, Scott Johnson, Nancy Olsen, Marilyn Smith, Peter and Claudia Hornby, Betsy Lynch, Herman and Diane Drollette, Mike Kulik, Jennifer Colver, Joan Clark, Roger and Linda Harwood, Elizabeth Cummings and daughters, and Matt Boire. We are always looking for docents if you would like to help out.

The *Weatherwax* provides public transportation to the Lighthouse and carries our docents free of charge. Contact Captain Frank 561-5771.

## *The Searing Furnace of Battle* by William Glidden

April 12, 2006, will mark the 145th anniversary of the opening of the American Civil War. The Civil War, America's great 19th century convulsion, began with stirring and antiquated, romantic illusions of warfare. The conflict soon slid the nation into an abyss. The searing furnace of battle soon shattered illusions with appalling casualties.

On the 16th of April 1861, Governor Edwin D. Morgan, governor of New York, who would influence in large measure the state's attitude toward the Civil War, passed a bill calling forth up to 30,000 for a 2 year term. Each regiment would be called with a roster of 780 (10 companies/regiment).

On the afternoon of the 16th, Pliny Moore, grandson of the frontier settler, Pliny Moore, and of General Benjamin Mooers,



**Abraham Lincoln at Antietam**

became the first to take action in Plattsburgh. Moore called upon Franklin Palmer, and suggested that steps be taken to raise a company of volunteers. They agreed on the proposition, and printed and circulated the following notice in Plattsburgh and surrounding towns.

## Citizens Take Notice

*The citizens of Plattsburgh are requested to meet at the Court House, Wednesday evening, the 17th, to take into consideration the matter of immediate action in sustaining the Constitution and the laws of our country. Also for the purpose of forming a volunteer company in this town, to be attached to a regiment organized in the county. A general attendance is requested.*

Judge Lemuel Stetson, who had been a delegate from the district to the Democratic Convention which met in Charlestown, South Carolina, and later at Baltimore, Maryland, in 1860, presided over the first Union meeting. Franklin Palmer proposed that steps be taken to organize a company under the call of the President, and produced a paper pledging those who should sign it to volunteer. He signed it first and thirty-four others added their names. These men then retired to another room in the Court House and chose Franklin Palmer, CPT; Royal Corbin, 1st Lt; Pliny Moore, 2nd Lt. Later enlistments increased the number to a full complement of noncommissioned officers, musicians and sixty-four privates.

On the 25th, Colonel Putnam Laurence, of the state militia and grandfather of present Clinton County Historian, Addie Shields, inspected and presided at the elections of the officers. The next day the company of volunteers took the night boat for Whitehall, and then the railroad to Albany, arrived on the 27th, and were accepted on the 30th of April.

A second company, with John L. Stetson, commanding; Ransom M. Pierson, 1st Lt; and Charles H. Bentley, 2nd Lt; with a full complement of noncommissioned officers, musicians and sixty-four privates, followed and were accepted in Albany on the 7th of May 1861.

As the various companies arrived in Albany from Clinton County, they waited until all had arrived and then formed on May 15, 1861, the 16th Regiment (The First Northern

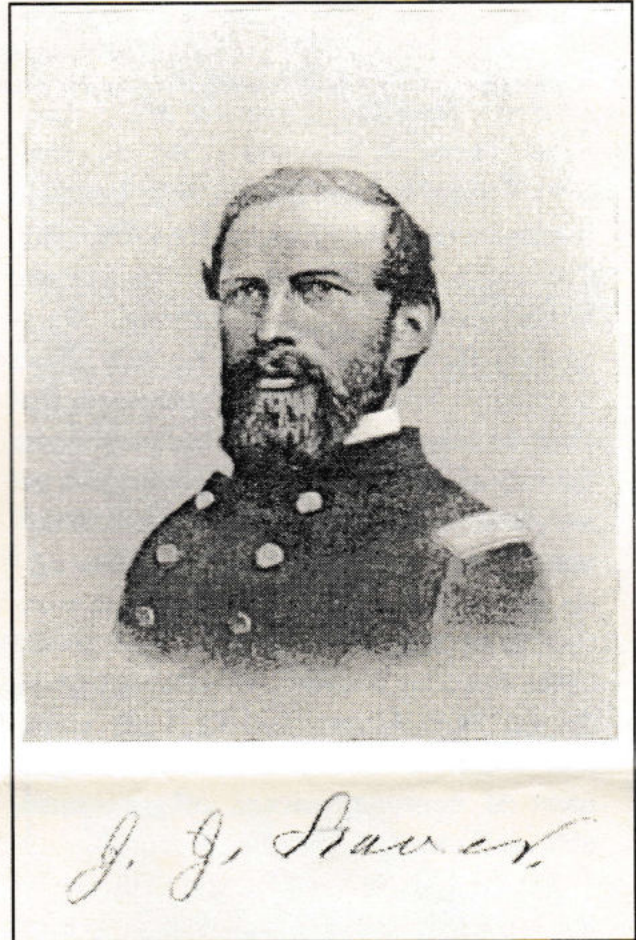
New York), commanded by Colonel Thomas A. Davies. The 16th left New York on June 27th, and arrived in Washington, DC, on June 29th.

The men of the 16th entered into their first actions at Fairfax Court House on 17 July and on 21 July at Bull Run. They entered the Battle of Bull Run as a unit of the 2nd Brigade (Colonel Thomas A. Davies), 5th Division (Colonel Dixon S. Miles), Army of Northeastern Virginia (Brigadier General Irwin McDowell). The battle began favorably. However with the arrival of fresh Confederate troops, the day turned into one of defeat for the Union army. Not knowing the meaning of bugle sounds on the battlefield, two companies of the 16th were almost trapped by the advance of the Confederates. Receiving word at the last moment, the companies rejoined their command as the Confederates moved to strike the Union left flank. They had just merged with Colonel Davies' brigade line, when a force under Confederate General D. R. Jones, consisting of the 1st South Carolina, the 17th and 18th Mississippi, Miller's artillery battery and Flood's troop of cavalry, attacked the brigade, opening a brisk fire at short range. The Confederates were repelled by artillery fire. The 16th would engage the Mississippians, again, in May of 1863 at Chancellorsville.

*Plan on visiting our upcoming exhibit on veteran Franklin Palmer and the Civil War including his journal, letters, documents and photographs.*

## 16th NY Volunteer Infantry Regiment

“It would not do, however, to close this chapter without some mention of the patriotism and loyalty shown by our citizens during the late Civil war. In less than two weeks after the first shot was fired upon Fort Sumpter (sic), a company of one hundred men were enlisted and mustered in at Albany, and only a week later a second company was formed. Shortly after, all the Northern New York troops were organized as the 16th Regiment N.Y.S. V., and in June, 1861, the regiment was forwarded to the front, joining the Army of the Potomac, and was engaged in the battle of Bull Run, winning a creditable record in this, its first engagement. Following this, were several minor engagements in 1862, and in July of that year, they were engaged in the battle of Malvern Hill, and subsequently at Crampton’s Gap, Antietam, Fredericksburg, and Chancellorville. The regiment was disbanded in May 1863, its term of enlistment having expired. The 96th Regiment N.Y. S.V. was organized in Plattsburgh and mustered into service in March 1862, and the 118th Regiment in August of that same year. Both joined the Army of the Potomac and marched to Richmond participating in the famous engagements which marked the advance of the Federal army.”



Col. Joel J. Seaver

from *The Souvenir Industrial Edition of Plattsburgh 1897, Lansing & Son*

### From the Journal of Franklin Palmer 16th NY Volunteer Infantry Regiment

“To my son, Franklin Hall Palmer, I give this short history of a body of men assembled together, voluntarily, to battle in a just cause, the defence (sic) of one's country; and I enjoin him to be ever ready to take up arms in such a cause, believing, as I do, that the only justifiable war is a war in defence (sic) of ones country and ones legal rights-”

Franklin Palmer, sometime after 1899

***Lt. Col. Franklin Palmer served from September 29, 1862 until May 22, 1863 when the unit was disbanded.***

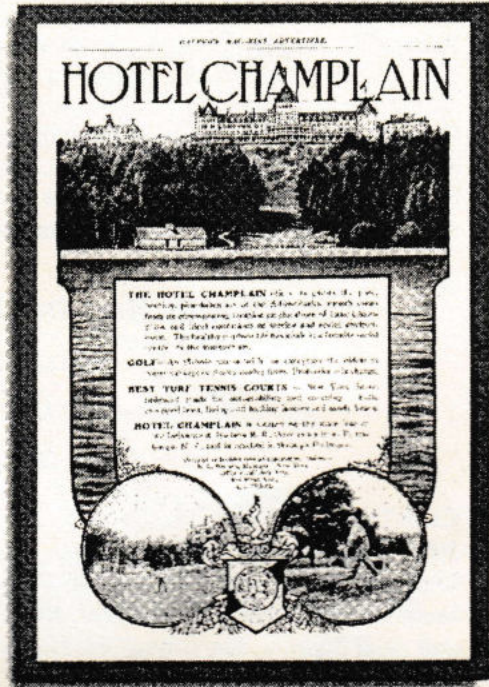
# Adirondack Hickory Open Fundraiser

## *A Bold Stroke for Local History*

The second annual Adirondack Hickory Open was held on July 29th and 30th at Bluff Point Golf and Country Club, America's oldest publicly – accessible golf course, as a fundraising event to benefit CCHA. With returning champion Randy Jensen of Nebraska, *the Tiger Woods of Hickory Golf*, on hand we wound back the clock to 1916 rules using period equipment for two days of historic golf. Randy was the winner this year as well.

The awards ceremony was on the overlook behind Clinton Community College, the site of the former Hotel Champlain, providing an historic backdrop for our event.

The gross fee and sponsor revenues were over \$15,000. We wish to especially thank our main tournament sponsor, **Dan Bosley, Keeseville Pharmacy.**



## Annual Meeting Trinity Church Undercroft

The Annual Meeting of the membership was Saturday, November 5th from 1 pm until 4 pm. It was held again this year at the Trinity Church in downtown Plattsburgh. The Reverend John Sorensen treated us to a history of the Church premises and a look at prior remodeling work as well as the current roof restoration process. There was a report by the President and the Treasurer and an update on Building 610 and the Lighthouse. The Class of 2008 was elected: William Rowe III, William Glidden, Matthew Boire, Paul Leduc III, and William Laundry.

Our docent, Ken Wray, was given a plaque in recognition of his 11 years of dedicated service in the preservation and presentation of the history of Clinton County.

## Budget Cuts

Due to our income projections and cash position, the Board of Trustees reduced the position of Director to half time effective October 1, 2005. Dr John Krueger, our Executive Director since May 2003, has resigned and the Board will soon begin the search for a new Director with the primary focus to be fund raising.

## **Many Thanks to our Silent Auction Sponsors For the Adirondack Hickory Open**

Rambach's Bakery, Excellus Healthcare, Hara Salon and Spa, Champlain Centres, General Trading Company, DULUX Paint Centers of Plattsburgh, Light's Jewelers and Gemologists, Play it Again Sports, Continental Connection, First Plattsburgh FCU, Mahoney-Notify Plus, Ultrawave, Old Lantern Gun Shop, Glens Falls National Bank, Momot Trailer Sales and Blue Haven Campground, Ausable Chasm, Yarborough Square, Payson & Stoughton Jewelers, Studley Printing, North Country Spring Water, Mangia Restaurant, Foster's Tents, GTI Landscaping, Butcher Block Restaurant, Bluff Point Golf and Country Club, The Grand Onion, and Amerigas. Thanks also to Champlain Peterbilt and Clinton Community College

## **Thank You to Our New and Renewed Members, Sponsors, Donors and Golfers From April 16 through September 15, 2005 *(not including current campaign)***

CLINTON COUNTY, the Town of Beekmantown, John and Dorothy Barton, Roger Bigelow, Ron Everleth, Mary Ann and Joseph Flora, Suzanne Fountain, Elise Higgins-Gauthier, Maurica Gilbert and Noel Sowley, Joy Glover, H. Nicholas Muller, Tom Higgins, Patrick Kennedy, Carole and Carole Klein, Carol Klepper, Sharon Lewis, Mary McDowell, Noel and Debbie Stewart, J. Temple, Constance Wheeler, Adirondack Mountain Club-Algonquin Chap., D. Allen, Pamela Brow, Dr. and Mrs. Edgar Burde, William Manning, Al Rascoe, Garrand Toyota, Richard Harris, John Hopper, John Kennedy, Ted Kopec, J. Peter Martin, Richard McDonough, Timothy, Tom and Colin St. Maxens, Brian Siplo, Suburban Energy, Mark Sudol of WPTZ, Eric Wolke, Roger Kennedy of A & M Development, Bill Rowe of Adirondack Mall, James Bailey, Brown Funeral Home, Dannemora FCU, George Moore Trucking & Equipment, Glens Falls National Bank, Keeseville Pharmacy, Lake Champlain Cardiology Associates, Lee Appliance, Lewis, Rogers and Meconi, Meyer Drug, Kenneth Mousseau, Ground Force 1 Limousine, Plattsburgh Professional Firefighters, Sam's Club, Sowley Management, Inc., Sebastien Daudelin, Mike Kelly, Ron and Carol Allen, B. Arno, Ara Asadourian, Thomas C. Beach, Jr., Marie Beemer, Roger and Christine Bigelow, Bill McBride Chevrolet, Dr. John Boule, Champlain National Bank, Virginia Chase, Craig Church, Ralph Clark, Penelope Clute, Ken and Mary Coleman, William Conway, David and Maureen Dame, Dr. James Dawson, Janet Deeb,, Dr. A. B. DeGrandpre, Monsi-

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*(Please forgive us if we missed you in listing our supporters).*

## New in the Gift Shop

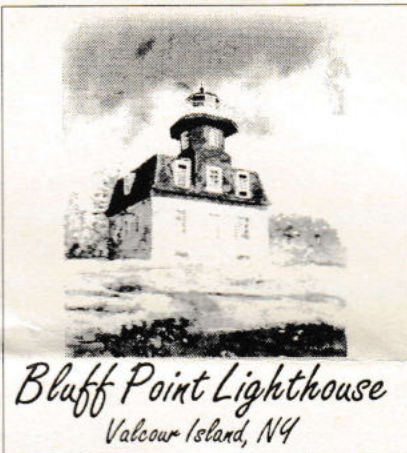
Lighthouses of Lake Champlain,  
2<sup>nd</sup> Edition by George Clifford

Cannons & Anchors  
By Frank Pabst

The Battle of Plattsburgh Question &  
Answer Book  
By Lawrence P. Gooley

Fort Montgomery: Through the years  
By Jim Millard

Lighthouse Prints by Derek Allan



Clinton County Historical Association

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## From the Cookbook of Mrs. Elizabeth S. R. Saily *Christmas 1860*

### A Recipe for Soap

Cleanse your grease over the fire and strain it through a cloth into a barrel. To 15 lbs clean grease, take 20 lbs potash. Dissolve the potash in water over the fire by boiling moderately. Add only as much water as will dissolve the potash. This quantity will make one barrel of soap.

*Potash was America's first industrial chemical, and up until the 1860's the United States was one of the leading producers in the world.*

## CCHA SEASONAL COOKBOOK SALE

Our cookbook, *Tasteful Traditions*, is on sale now for the holidays. It makes a perfect present for the cook on your list at and it supports the Museum at the same time.  
Normally \$14.95, now \$13.00 or two for \$22.00

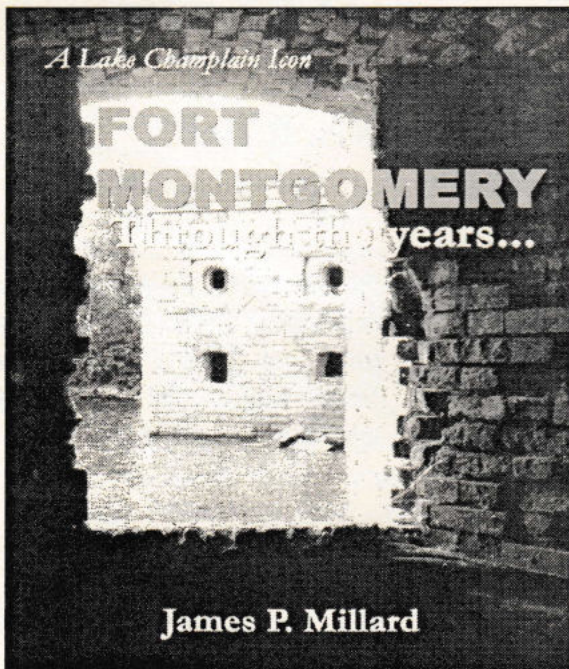
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