

NORTH COUNTRY NOTES

ISSUED OCCASIONALLY BY THE

CLINTON COUNTY HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION

No. 7

Allan S. Everest and Charles W. McLellan, Editors

Jan. 1962

The Next Meeting

will be held on Monday evening, Jan. 8, 1962, at 8:00 o'clock, in the Association Rooms over the Plattsburgh Public Library. This is the Annual Business Meeting, at which the election of officers will be held. The program will consist of a talk on "GAME BIRDS AND ANIMALS OF THE NORTH COUNTRY" by MR. EDWARD E. GARDEPHE, formerly an employee of the State Conservation Department and now a student at the State College. The public is cordially invited.

An important item of business before this meeting will be the proposal to amend Article III—Dues, Section 1, of the By-Laws to read:

The annual membership fee for all members except honorary members shall include:

Individual	-	\$ 2.00
Sustaining or Family	-	5.00
Contributing	-	10.00
Patron	-	25.00

Aunt Betsey's Strengthening Plaster

Used by pioneers for two hundred years.

Rosin.....	3 lbs.
Burgundy Pitch.....	6 ozs.
White Pine Turpentine.....	4 ozs.
Beeswax.....	4 ozs.
Tallow.....	½ oz.
Hartshorn.....	½ oz.
British Oil.....	½ oz.
Cedar Oil.....	½ oz.
Balsam Oil.....	½ oz.
Camphor Gum.....	½ oz.

DIRECTIONS

Boil all together. Then turn out into a tub of cold water. It will come to the top. Then pull it to make it light. Cut into sticks. It hardens and will keep indefinitely.

To use: Put cloth or brown stiff paper on hot griddle. Rub stick of plaster over it and it will melt. Apply while hot.

As given by Miss Minnie Stoughton

A Trip to Plattsburgh in 1806

The following is an excerpt from the diary of Dr. Michael Freligh's trip from Schenectady to Plattsburgh in June 1806. His two brothers lived in the North Country. Elizabeth Freligh, and later her half-sister Margaret, married Moss Kent Platt. The diary has been edited by Howard I. Becker of Rexford, New York, and made available to us through the kindness of Dr. Warder H. Cadbury of the Adirondack Museum at Blue Mountain Lake. Some punctuation has been added.

Thursday morning 21st started on the ferry [at Shelburne] at 10 minutes before six A. M. and arrived in Willsboro at the mouth of Gillilands Creek at 1/2 after nine. pursued my journey thro Willsboro mountain which is 12 miles across to Bosworth's tavern situated at the foot of [blank]. this rout presents one of the most rocky barren mountains inhospitable trails with which I am acquainted—and yet notwithstanding it is interspersed with settlements stamped however with poverty and solitary gloom. from the foot of the mountain which lies in the town of Chesterfield I proceeded on my rout to Plattsburgh, the country interspersed with immense tracts of white, yellow and pitch pine forest—the land sandy and light. next to Chesterfield lies the town of Peru inhabited by people generally from Dutchess county—in the center of the town is a beautiful settlement of the society called friends or Quakers—before you come to the settlement you pass the river Sable over which is an extensive bridge—the land in the vicinity of the friends settlement which is known by the name of 'the union' are generally rich and productive, the timber Beach Maple Birch Oak and here and there a ridge of white pine. the soil however appears less favorable for vegetation than the lands on the east side of the lake—there is too much mixture of gravel and sand—there is a meeting house for friends pleasantly situated—a store, tavern and several mechanics' shops. from this settlement you pass into one of the most beautiful and luxuriant tracts of land in this northern country. the soil is composed of black loom covered with the most lofty forests of Beach Maple Birch Oak etc. this is perhaps 3 miles over and ends in an extensive tract of pine plain which continues til you arrive in Plattsburgh which is 19 1/2 miles on the middle road from the foot of Willsboros' mountain—in this rout you pass the little Sable and Salmon creek or river the latter of which derives its name from the immense quantities of Salmon which appear in the creek.

Plattsburgh lies on Cumberland Bay at the entrance of the river Saranac into the lake—it consists of about 30 or 40 houses divided into three divisions in consequence of the inequality of the ground and the course of the river—it has a very handsome court house a grist mill an iron works a carding machine for wool—a nailery which cuts and heads the nails entirely by machinery—several stores, and commands a beautiful prospect of the lake. it is a place of considerable trade and is inhabited by a set of hospital people—there is also here an established minister of the presbyterian order who preaches in the court house.

For Your Reading Pleasure

Reprints of an article from *Weatherwise* for August 1961 titled "THE GREAT WINDFALL OF 1845 IN NEW YORK STATE" are offered to members through the courtesy of the author at twenty-five cents. They will be available at the next meeting. The author, Albert Fowler, wrote the book *Cranberry Lake 1845-1959*, and has relatives in Plattsburgh. The Great Windfall was a violent storm across northern New York, including Clinton County.

William Gilliland

In the spring of 1765, William Gilliland arrived on the shores of Lake Champlain and attempted to found a baronial empire like those on the Hudson River. He owned land on Cumberland Head, which is on the outskirts of Plattsburgh.

The story of what happened to Gilliland and his land can be found in books, but the way he got a lot of his land is a controversial issue.

The books say that he bought the land. My grandmother, who is a close relation of Gilliland's, told me that the land was given to him. It seems that he and a young lady of English nobility were in love, but her parents did not approve of him. They therefore gave him some land in America and sent him over here to cultivate it. This would also get him away from their daughter, who had to remain in England.

My information comes from my grandmother, Mrs. William Ratigan, of North Creek. She remembers her grandfather telling this story about William Gilliland, who was his uncle.

Submitted by Mary Ratigan, Sophomore, State College

A Sharp Trick

Thirty men of Company D. First Artillery, Capt. D. Slosson, of Plattsburgh Barracks, left for South Carolina, Thursday evening, Oct. 19th, under orders from the War Department to assist in the plan of carrying that State for Hayes and Wheeler at the point of the bayonet if necessary. *These 30 men who have been ordered away are all Democrats, while the six who remain are Republicans.* It is hardly possible this is a mere coincidence, or anything less than a sharp Republican Ring trick to kill Democratic votes, but we apprehend it will prove to be one of these cases in which sharpness overshoots itself.

From the October 21, 1876, issue of the PLATTSBURGH REPUBLICAN, a staunchly Democratic paper. Submitted by Julie Babykin, Senior, State College.

House Rules

As printed on the cover of the programs of the Plattsburgh Theatre in its presentation of stock companies at the turn of the century.

The patrons of the house are requested to report to the Manager any incivilities on the part of any attache.

Ladies' Toilet and Waiting Rooms will be found on the right of Foyer.

Gent's Toilet and Smoking Rooms will be found on the left of Foyer.

Any article found in the Theatre should be handed to the Manager or in at the Box Office.

Whistling, stamping and soiling the floor is strictly prohibited.

The ushers and police are requested to enforce this rule.

Clinton County Place Names

Beekmantown was named for William Beekman, the patentee.

Champlain was called Moorsfield-on-River Chazy before 1788.

Coopersville, named for Ebenezer Cooper, was first called Corbeau.

Ellenburgh was named after Ellen Murray, the daughter of one of the proprietors.

Ingraham received this name about 1853, after a popular naval officer. As early as 1795 it was called Samson's.

More Plattsburgh Town Records

The first highlights the fact that until 1823 no one voted for governor or state senator without a hundred-pound freehold; and to vote for assemblyman or congressman, ownership of property worth 20 pounds or 40 shillings annual lease of property. County Historian's records.

Plattsburgh December 2, 1807

By Returns made by Michael V. Roberts appointed to Take the Census of Said Town there appears to be Three Hundred and Ninety Eight Lawfull Electors to witt. Two Hundred and thirty Four possessed of a freehold of one hundred Pounds, Sixteen of Twenty Pounds one hundred and Forty Eight of Forty Shillings.

Town meeting March 5th, 1823

Voted. That the town raise double the amt. the State allows for the Support of the Common Schools.

Voted. That the Town raise Two Hundred and Fifty Dollars for the Support of Roads & Bridges.

Voted. That the Poor masters are authorised to collect Poor monies Loaned out.

Voted. That a Lawfull Fence shall be four & a half feet high.

Voted. That the owner of any Ram running at large after the 10th day of August in each year till the 20th day of November shall Pay Five Dollars Fine for the benefit of the Poor.

Voted. That any Boar over three months old, that is permitted to run at large, at any time may be cut by any one at the risk of the owner.

Voted. That the owner of any Stud Horse one year old or older running at large at any time shall forfeit five Dollars Fine for the benefit of the Poor.

Voted. That no Sheep nor Hogs shall be commoners at any season of the year.

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