

NORTH COUNTRY NOTES

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CLINTON COUNTY HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION

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Shirley L. Koester, Editor

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The Next Meeting

will be April 3, 2000 in the first floor meeting room at the Government Center, 137 Margaret Street, Plattsburgh, at 7:30 PM. Professor John Moravek, Geography Department of the State University of New York at Plattsburgh, will present the "human side" of the historical evolution of the iron mining industry in the Saranac Valley. Attention will be given to the changing ethnic patterns of the population settling in the area and working in the mining operations of Dannemora and Lyon Mountain.

SPRING CAME TODAY

Spring left green footprints

On our hills,

Unloosed the music

Found in all the rills;

Gave to the very wind

A voice that sings

To flowers – blessed life;

To souls – bright wings.

by Julia Gardephe Simmons

From *Rhymes From a Rural School*.

Mrs. Simmons lived and taught school in upper New York State all her life –specifically North Troy, Hudson and Rouses Point.

The following will is representative of early wills, when there was not much property to bequeath, but since household items and the tools to sustain life were at a premium, every article was valued and careful consideration was given to provide for heirs. The surprising thing in this will is that articles of clothing were not willed, since they usually would have been enumerated in addition to real property and tools. Although this will is not dated, it is a safe assumption, that is middle to late 1800's.

This may certify to whom it may concern that it is my wish as if this were my last will and testamony (should read testament) that Sally my Wife may have the premises where we now live the land and buildings northern of the road leading or running by the same except Joel's shop and she is to have utencels she thinks necessary for carrying on the sugar works. & likewise half of the hog-house & pen & one fourth part of the corn house both Standing southward of the road and also the ___ boxes such like thing as she thinks she has need of both within and in the house & she may have all or any part of the furniture clothing and or bedding or any other property & stuff in the house she thinks she has or may have need of with sixteen bushels of good wheat, five bushels of corn and five of rye to be put in the chamber of the house for her use & she is to have her choice one horse one cow a sett of harness for our horse a single waggon a cutter a single sleigh & ___ with hay to keep the horse & cow two years & she is to have the use of my ship this year and a pound of wool a ___ yearly afterward & one fourth part & one fourth part of the debts now due to me the boys to collect them, all as is above stated to remain hers for her use and benefit remaining my widow. Joel is to have the [property] south of the aforesaid road the land & buildings thereon except such as is above named for his mother which he may redeem by agreeing with her and providing her with such accomodations northward of the road as shall be equal thereto. Then the price of spruce and hemlock that is fit for sawing on the Howard ~~farm~~ lot is

Philip's & the spruce and hemlock on the Humphrey place-lott fit for sawing and the pine logs that are now cut ___ are Philip's. Then runs a line east from the bord fence cutting of the piece of land lying between Henry & Abner the same as Philip's then what remains the land with the wood timbers & buildings remain to be divided equally between Henry & Philip to make their parts equal to what I gave Joel down where he lives & if either of you then are dissatisfied with my divisions or if you cannot agree on a division if the upper lott I have chosen with Mr. ___ [Kily?] & Elisha Allen to settle all disputes or difficulties that may arise concerning the law or other property. Next I give to Philip my pleasure sleigh and whiffletrees belonging thereto & to equal that I give to Henry my Rifle ten dollars & fifty cents in other stuff & to Joel my Franklin stove & the pipes which he has at his house with ten dollars and fifty cents in other stuff . Then what remains horses lotts cows carriages harness farming tools hay grains debts due to me or any other property or stuff that is I wish to be equally divided between my three sons Henry Philip & Joel ___ is to have my cooking stove & a choice of my hogs any thing to the contrary notwithstanding.

John Signor

This will was the gift of Mrs. Martha Bier to the Clinton County Historical Association. Such gifts are invaluable in the interpretation of past periods of our history.

MEMBERSHIP

Please take a moment to renew your membership. The association depends on the membership to preserve the collection and promote the history of Clinton County. If you do not know when your membership expires, please call the museum at: 518 561-0340.

SHOP

“Captain Thomas Macdonough: Delaware Born Hero of the Battle of Lake Champlain” by Virginia Mason Burdick. Price: \$10.95 plus .77 TX and \$3.50 shipping and handling. Sorry! No discount on this book.

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