

NORTH COUNTRY NOTES

Issued Monthly By The Clinton County Historical Association

No. 265 PRESIDENT: Ralph P. Hubbell EDITOR: Helen W. Allan May 1990

MAY PROGRAM

The physical appearance of Plattsburgh, New York is the topic of the Historical Association's next program scheduled for May 7 at 7:30 p.m. in the community meeting room of the Clinton County Government Center. Our speaker is Dr. James Lindgren of SUNY Plattsburgh's history department whose slide/lecture is entitled "Plattsburgh's History in Clapboard and Brick." Dr. Lindgren will discuss the architecture of the city, placing it in an historical context. CCHA members will recall that the Association administered an historical and architectural survey of the city in 1978 which resulted in nominations to the National Register of Historic Places a few years later. The survey has been valuable to both the city and the private sector in determining the historical/architectural value of buildings. The program is open to the public.

As we go to press with this issue (mid-April), the weather outside is indeed frightful. Summer is promised, however, and CCHA is planning its annual giant flea market in Trinity Park on Saturday, July 7. Last year some members expressed disappointment that we no longer presented a flea stall of our own. We'd like to try it again this year, but only if members and friends can deliver donated collectibles and antiques to City Hall on Friday evening or early Saturday. This is unavoidable because we no longer have space to store items ahead of time. Call ahead if you cannot deliver your contribution; perhaps another CCHA member will volunteer to pick it up. It's especially important to get donations in early on Friday evening so that the pricing committee does not have to spend the night at the museum. This is our major summer fundraiser and it's a big day in downtown Plattsburgh. Won't you help to make it a success?

Titbit: On July 7, 1909, during the Champlain Tercentenary celebrations, President Taft was honored with a reception at Cliff Haven, a luncheon at the Smith M. Weed home, and a 21-gun salute at the Plattsburgh Barracks. Guests included representatives from France, Great Britain and Canada. In the evening the Indian pageant on the Saranac, a fireworks display and a banquet for 500 guests at Hotel Champlain closed an auspicious and eventful day.

" THE MUSICAL UNION: ITS MISSION

The object of this little sheet is to bring the great subject of music and musical conventions more prominently before the people. The necessity of some kind of amusement seems to be part of the economy of nature. We believe that Musical Associations, Conventions, Jubilees, &c., which are becoming so justly popular, marks an advanced stage in American civilisation, and are calculated to displace many forms of amusement which are liable to lead to some form of dissipation, and to demoralize the tastes and aspirations of the community.

All the tendencies of musical conventions are to educate, refine and christianize the people. As Shakspeare, Milton, Burns, Sir Walter Scott, /Dickens and other great authors become the companions of a refined and educated community, so the immortal productions of Handel, Hayden, Beethoven, Mozart and Mendelssohn, and other great composers, are the inspiration of modern musical conventions - such as we are to have in Keeseville next week. The results cannot be otherwise than beneficial.

We are social beings. We like to share our enjoyments with others. The social character of these musical gatherings is of the highest order, and we would advise all who desire to have a few days of unalloyed enjoyment, pressed down and running over, to attend the forthcoming musical convention.

WHAT A MUSICAL CONVENTION DID FOR KEESEVILLE

One year ago this month a Musical Convention was held at Adirondack Hall, Keeseville, under the auspices of the Champlain Valley Musical Association. There was a large class of singers, and a good audience; but the success of performances was very much marred by the want of a suitable public hall, a fact which the enterprising citizens of Keeseville keenly realized. And they resolved at once to build a hall of which they need not be ashamed, and, in fact, one that should be an honor to the place.

Well have they succeeded in their purposes; for they now have one of the most perfect halls outside of the cities, in the State. A building is erected expressly for the purpose and very appropriately it is named "Association Hall." In this new hall the Musical Convention and Concert will be held on the 26th and 27th of this month. It possesses superior facilities for an occasion of this kind.

If the forthcoming Convention shall be followed by as good results as its predecessor, it will be a public blessing. We feel that the Musical Association of Keeseville has a particular claim on the friends, patrons and admirers of Association Hall, and shall expect that all such will give this Convention a liberal encouragement and support."

(From the MUSICAL UNION , Keeseville, N.Y., February 17, 1874, in the museum's collections)

*** Won't you please make sure this is not your final issue of "North Country Notes"? Mailing costs make it difficult for CCHA to continue sending issues to unrenewed members.

A BIT OF ARMY HUMOR

"ETIQUETTE FOR OFFICERS OF THE POST, AS A NURSE SEES IT"

Dear Editor:- I thought at this time, when the subject of Rank for Nurses is being widely discussed, you would be interested in seeing the following Rules for Etiquette which I cut from an Army Post magazine:

With humble apologies to the very few to whom this does not apply:

1. Officers should always enter the car first, especially when there is a group of nurses waiting.
2. On rainy days inside seats are reserved for officers. The nurses enjoy the rain.
3. Ward surgeons are to have no conversation with the nurses in charge, all communications to be written and left on desk.
4. Never offer a graduate nurse a chair, they do enjoy standing.
5. When addressing a nurse, put your feet on the desk, lean back and be comfortable. They are getting used to it.
6. When nothing else to do, take a trip up the ward and look for dirt, you will find it.
7. When an operation is to be performed, never notify the operating room, it might be ready.
8. Never do dressings in the morning. The nurses enjoy doing them in the afternoon.
9. When addressing nurse in charge of the ward, never call her by name, just yell 'Nurse' and see what happens.
10. Never ask a nurse about her patients, she might be able to give you some information.
11. If in doubt about the use of the two little words 'please' and 'thank you', consult Webster, as these words are apparently becoming obsolete in the Army.
12. If you see any candy on the desk, help yourself, but don't ever bring any.
13. Whenever possible, all cigarette ashes and butts are to be scattered around the desk, as it almost makes us feel at home.
14. When all is said and done, and you come to the end of a busy day, bid the nurse 'Good night', even if it hurts at first.
15. Co-operation is needed. Any suggestions, rules or regulations for graduate nurses will cheerfully received and acted upon if possible.

From HOME AGAIN"

Ed. note: This gem of irony comes from the PLATTSBURGH REFLEX, a Plattsburgh Barracks publication dated May 10, 1919.

Researcher Julie Robinson is now at work on CCHA's project funded by the New York State Council on the Arts entitled "FIRE! The History of Conflagrations, Their Causes and Control in Clinton County." Call us at 561-0340 if you have information to share.

SUNY PLATTSBURGH CENTENNIAL EXHIBIT

Due to the Association's loss of office space in City Hall and the resulting need to create work stations in the museum's foyer and small gallery, the college exhibit has been unavoidably delayed for a month. This development will seriously handicap the museum's 1990 projects which were already underway when the Association was notified that it would be evicted from its office space. Under difficult conditions the staff will continue to carry out the Association's programmatic commitments. The museum's service to the public during the nearly twenty years it has occupied space in City Hall needs no reiteration. Countless school children and adults have visited the museum and experienced the benefits of interpretive exhibits funded in part by New York State taxpayers' dollars. CCHA members need no reminder of the historical value of the museum's collections which represent the heritage of the people of Clinton County. Visitors come from far and wide to view a matchless collection of Redford glass collected by Mrs. Eva Boire of Mooers and given to the museum by Mr. & Mrs. Harold Boire; the collection of paintings, maps and prints depicting the battle of Plattsburgh in 1814 are enhanced by a recent acquisition of General Alexander Macomb's presentation dress sword; the photographic collection currently being catalogued and stored archivally represents a treasure that is frequently used and enjoyed by Clinton County residents, and furniture, china, textiles - all were carefully acquired and guarded over the years. Such is the material culture of the North Country which deserves the best possible housing and treatment that our efforts can give it. The responsibility is one we all should share.

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