

NORTH COUNTRY NOTES

Issued Monthly by the Clinton County Historical Association

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NOVEMBER PROGRAM: A SPECIAL TOUR

In honor of the reopening of the museum in CCHA's new home at 48 Court Street, Plattsburgh, the November meeting will be dedicated to this eagerly anticipated event. The program, instead of taking place at the County Government Building, will be held at 48 Court Street and will feature a gallery talk on the special objects that are now on display. Highlights include the exhibition celebrating the Peru bicentennial and the display of objects depicting the history of 48 Court Street and of George Dodds and his family, owners of the building for 80 years.

Come and see old friends as well: the Redford glass and Staffordshire china collections, the portrait collection including likenesses of Levi and Eliza Platt, Robert Platt and Abel and Maria Knapp, the crazy quilt, the needlework rug made by Judge Pliny Moore's daughters in 1811, and of course, the diorama of the battles of Valcour Island and Plattsburgh, back on display again.

Because of the limited space and special nature of the November program, attendance must be by membership only. However, for those non-members who would like to attend, memberships will be available that evening. An annual membership is only \$15 and includes free admission to the museum, a 10% discount on publications sold in the shop, a free copy of CCHA's annual publication *The Antiquarian*, and of course, a free subscription to the monthly newsletter, *North Country Notes*.

NEW TAVERN

On the Military road,

18 Miles West of Plattsburgh

(From the Plattsburgh Republican, Oct. 12, 1822)

THE subscriber takes this method of informing the public that he has opened a *TAVERN* on the Military Turnpike leading from Plattsburgh to Franklin County.—He is situate 18 miles from the village of Plattsburgh and 22 from Chateaugay Four Corners. He is erecting an addition to his present house which will add greatly to the comfort of his customers.—Water is as convenient to the Shed for every purpose of a traveller, as could be wished. He intends constantly to keep on hand a good assortment of Liquors. &c. good hay and oats. His stables are warm and commodious. A beautiful stream of water meanders round the house, and affords abundance of delicious Trout. The subscriber expects by his good attention to merit a share of the public patronage. *Chazy, Aug. 10, 1822.*

BENJ. H. MOOERS

A DOLL HOUSE TO BENEFIT CCHA

Who can resist a doll house—the diminutive rooms filled with incredibly detailed miniature furnishings? CCHA has just acquired a Victorian-style beauty, and it's destined to go to some fortunate home in time for the December holidays. The occasion is CCHA's first annual doll house drawing. The prize is a three-story doll-sized domicile with a mansard roof, a turret, and a commodious porch, all done with incredible gingerbread detailing, constructed by Rand Hill Builders, Inc. Inside, it is wallpapered, carpeted, supplied with miniature electric light fixtures, and fully furnished, Victorian-style, with a living room, two bedrooms, a kitchen, bath and attic. (The construction and furnishing of the doll house was made possible by the generosity of local businesses and members of the CCHA board and staff.) Tickets for the drawing are \$1 each, \$5 for six. All proceeds benefit CCHA and the museum.

The doll house may be seen and tickets purchased at the following locations:

Oct. 19-23—Clinton County Historical Museum, 48 Court St., Plattsburgh

Oct. 26-Nov. 1—Gregory Supply, Tom Miller Rd., Plattsburgh

Nov. 2-8—Maynard's Decorating Center, 67 S. Peru St., Plattsburgh

Nov. 9-15—Champlain Valley Electric Supply, Hammond La., Plattsburgh

Nov. 16-22—Chazy Hardware, Route 9, Chazy

Nov. 30-Dec. 6—Linney's True Value Hardware, Cornelia St., Plattsburgh

Dec. 7-13—Ray's Appliance Sales and Service, 105 Lake St., Rouses Point

Dec. 14-18—Gregory Supply, Tom Miller Rd., Plattsburgh

Tickets are also available at the Clinton County Historical Museum, 48 Court St., Plattsburgh.

The drawing will take place at 4 p.m., Friday, December 18 at Gregory Supply Building Center, Tom Miller Rd., Plattsburgh. You need not be present to win. Don't miss the opportunity to buy your tickets, benefit CCHA and the museum, and give yourself a chance to brighten your holidays with a doll house.

THE BRITISH INVASION, PART II

(The following is a continuation of the eyewitness account of the British foray into Plattsburgh, published in The Weekly Messenger, Boston, September 3, 1813. Part I appeared last month.)

The enemy left the town on Sunday the 1st inst. with some little precipitancy, leaving a good many of the state cannon shot in the arsenal yard and on the shore. Immediately after, the militia reoccupied the town; at that time they had not accumulated to more than 400 men. On Monday, Gen. Wright, from Essex county, arrived with about 600 fine-looking, well-armed, athletic young men; but too late. During the stay of the enemy, we got something like 40 of their men, 6 of whom were prisoners, and the rest deserters: but what is of much greater consequence, we discovered, through the carelessness of Col Murray, a treasonable correspondence that will prove fatal to some.

The evening after they left us, a small boat in their rear, with a few seamen, landed at Point-au-Roche, and one of them attempted to abuse a woman, who resisted effectually, and wounded the

villain. He is a prisoner, and sent to Gen. Hampton. Enormities of a similar nature have not been attempted in any other instance. They returned over the line the 2d. In our goal...[portion of text illegible]...late Pike's, and an untried felon from Essex, the former under sentence of death for murder: they both solicited for deliverance, but were to expiate their crimes pursuant to the laws. The execution of the murderer took place the 6th inst.

During the whole of this affair, there has been less of distress and calamity than could reasonably have been expected. But as it was, there was enough to make the heart bleed; particularly in the flight of the women and children, late in the day, in a hard rain, and some of the women on foot, with their children in their arms and bundles on their backs; not knowing whither to fly or where to find shelter: expecting the tragedy of Hampton* to be repeated; with no means of defence, no hope of succour from an arm of flesh. "*We left them with our God*", and thanks to his name, not *one* has been lost.

The conduct of Gen. Mooers deserves the thanks of his country. Had he possessed adequate means, I have no doubt they would have been applied, but circumstanced as he was, his prudence has saved us from much deeper distress.

Thus, sir, I have given you a detail of facts which may be relied on. For the magnitude of the enterprize, it is very barren of anecdote. Some may reflect that I appear as an apologist for the enemy. I am so used to calumnies and persecution, that I little regard them. "*Pro patria semper*" is my motto; and I shall stick to it thro' life.

*It is but justice here to remark, that we have the authority of several members of congress, whose situation enabled them to ascertain the facts, and the public declaration of respectable individuals of both parties, who were at or near the place at the time, for saying, that the stories which have been so industriously circulated respecting the outrages committed by the enemy at Hampton, are for the most part infamous fabrications.— [*Ed Gazette*]

The Enemy slumbereth nor sleepeth

BURLINGTON, AUG. 27.—By information which may be relied upon, we learn that the enemy have at St. Johns, two sets of carpenters fitting up and arming the water craft, which they took on Lake Champlain at their time of their late expedition in our waters. One set of hands work during the day light, the other by candle light through the night. They have a brig, building at Missisquoi bay; she is in a state of forwardness, and is to carry twenty guns.

We may expect another visit from them in the course of ten or twelve days. We understand the Canadians are volunteering their services on condition that they may plunder.

NEW ARRIVAL IN MUSEUM SHOP

Just in time for the opening of the museum, the shop has in stock a supply of new notecards. This elegant stationery features a detailed architect's drawing of the front facade of 48 Court Street, printed on heavy cream-colored stock. The notecards are available in packages of 10 with matching envelopes for \$5 per package.

PROMINENT CITIZENS OF PERU

Charles S. Mason (1884-1919)

During his relatively brief lifetime, Charles S. Mason played a major role in the life of the Peru community. The third of six sons of Albert and Elizabeth Moore Mason, Charles was one of the owners and operators of the well-known lumber and building firm, A. Mason and Sons, located in Peru.

Charles Mason was a member and deacon of the Congregational Church of Peru and president of the Christian Endeavor Society of the church. He was one of the organizers and a trustee of the Peru Free Library and was county chairman for the Library Association in the United War Campaign. Through his efforts, books and county newspapers were sent to Peru residents in military service during World War I. Charles Mason was remembered for his tireless service on behalf of the U.S. and Allied forces during the war. He was chairman of the Red Cross drive in Peru, in which the town more than doubled its quota, and took an active part in the town's highly successful Liberty Loan campaigns. He was also fuel administrator for Peru.

Professionally, Charles Mason was an involved member of the Lumbermen's Association and was one of the principal speakers at that organization's convention in Buffalo in 1919. It was shortly after attending that event that he contracted a severe cold which developed into influenza, followed by pneumonia. He died on February 7, 1919, the week after his 35th birthday.

(This account is taken from material supplied by Virginia Mason Burdick, the daughter of Charles S. Mason. It is the second of three profiles of Peru residents which will appear in North Country Notes during an exhibition at the museum celebrating the bicentennial of the Village of Peru.)

OPENING TIMES

Just a reminder—museum hours at 48 Court Street are Friday through Tuesday, 1-4 p.m. The galleries are closed Wednesdays and Thursdays, but the museum shop is open.

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