

NORTH COUNTRY NOTES

Issued Monthly by the Clinton County Historical Association

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FEBRUARY PROGRAM: USING AN HISTORICAL ARCHIVE

Clinton County is fortunate to have a good collection of local, county and regional historical materials in Special Collections at SUNY Plattsburgh's Feinberg Library. This archive of periodicals, pamphlets, file clippings, maps, manuscripts and books is a valuable resource. It is also extensive enough to require some guidance for its users. CCHA's February program will provide this guidance, in the form of Special Collections librarian Joseph Swinyer, who will describe the types of material available in the collection, as well as methods of access to other historical archives. Mr. Swinyer will also be glad to answer specific questions from the audience. This month's CCHA meeting will take place on Monday, February 1, at 7:30 p.m. in the public meeting room of the County Government Center, Plattsburgh. The meeting is free and open to the public.

DOLL HOUSE WINNER

On December 18 the drawing for the winner of the doll house was held at Gregory Supply Co. in Plattsburgh. Robert Hammerslag of Whallonsburg was chosen to take home the turreted Victorian-style doll house and its six rooms of miniature furnishings. CCHA extends its congratulations to Mr. Hammerslag and his family and wishes them many hours of enjoyment with their new acquisition.

The doll house drawing raised more than \$2,000 for the County Historical Museum. CCHA would like to thank the businesses and individuals who contributed to its success: Gregory Supply Building Center, Champlain Valley Electric Supply, Blair and Webber Photography, Ray's Appliance Sales and Service, Rand Hill Builders, Chazy Hardware, Adams Glass, Maynard's Decorating Center, Git "N Go Duty Free Shops, Linney's True Value Hardware, The Dollhouse Shoppe and members of the CCHA board and staff.

THE SMALL EGG RECORD BEATEN

(Taken from a local newspaper clipping, date and identity unknown.)

Mr. Lewis of Schuyler Falls, of the firm of Lewis & Ricketson, has shown us a nest of four hen's eggs, from the hennery of Willard Eells, Peru, which, altogether, weigh only fourteen drams (seven eighths of an ounce, avoirdupois) the smallest of which is fresh-laid, being thirteen sixteenths of an inch long and weighing just sixty grains, one eighth of an ounce, and the largest just an inch long. Three of these eggs were laid this season and one last. When this record is beaten no doubt Mr. Eell's flock will be willing to try again.

MILESTONES:1842-1992

(A quick look at the past 150 years, featuring both national and local events)

- 1842 Shutdown of the Redford Crown Glass Works at Redford, N.Y. The company would reopen, but on a limited scale with little capital.
- 1844 Samuel F.B. Morse sent the first public telegram from Washington to Baltimore.
- 1845 Ransom Cook, first warden of Clinton Prison, constructed buildings at Dannemora, using convict labor.
- 1860 Pony Express riders delivered mail from St. Joseph, Mo. to Sacramento, Cal. in 8-10 days.
- 1867 Fire destroyed much of downtown Plattsburgh (for the second time).
- 1875 The first train from Albany arrived in Plattsburgh.
- 1876 Alexander Graham Bell's invention of the telephone was patented.
- 1879 Thomas Edison produced electric light at Menlo Park, N.J.
- 1882 Clinton County's first telephone exchange opened in Plattsburgh.
- 1896 A trolley line was introduced in Plattsburgh by the Plattsburgh Traction Co.
- 1900 The Lozier Motor Co. commenced operations in Plattsburgh.
- 1907 The first electric dishwasher was demonstrated at Madison Square Garden, New York.
- 1910 The fabulous Hotel Champlain at Bluff Point burned to the ground. A replacement building was ready for the next summer season.
- 1911 A self-starter for autos was invented and produced by Chalmers Motor Co.
- 1912 Fire devastated Champlain and destroyed the Pliny Moore home. It was rebuilt to the exact specifications.
- 1915 The first Business Men's Training Camp was held at the Plattsburgh Barracks as WWI demonstrated U.S. lack of military preparedness.
- 1919 Albert Einstein's theory of relativity was accepted.
- 1920 Women gained the vote when the 19th Amendment was passed. Prohibition became law, resulting in rum-running in the North Country.

- 1921 Much of the village of Peru was wiped out by fire.
- 1926 The Macdonough Monument in Plattsburgh was dedicated.
- 1927 Herbert Hoover was the first president to give a televised speech.
- 1929 Fire destroyed the State Normal School in Plattsburgh.
- 1933 Prohibition was repealed, ending an exciting chapter in North Country history.
- 1938 The first pure turbo jet plane was test flown. An air mail delivery was made to Plattsburgh for the first time. Nylon, a synthetic material, was developed.
- 1939 Fifty thousand U.S. soldiers plus materiel took over Clinton County for military maneuvers, observed by representatives of many countries including Germany and Japan.
- 1946 The first computer was unveiled, a product of secret WWII research and development by "back-room boys".
- 1953 Champlain College, on the Plattsburgh Barracks site, was closed. Plattsburgh Air Force Base was established.
- 1954 The two-year Teachers' Training College became State University College at Plattsburgh.
- 1957 The "Sputnik" satellite was launched into space by the Soviet Union.
- 1960 The laser beam was developed in California.
- 1967 The Adirondack Northway was completed from Albany to the Canadian border. The last iron mine closed at Lyon Mountain.
- 1969 Neil Armstrong and Edwin Aldrin II walked on the moon. Clinton Community College opened its doors to students in the former Hotel Champlain building.
- 1973 Clinton County Historical Museum opened in City Hall.
- 1977 Lake Champlain Transportation Co. began to operate a year-round ferry between Plattsburgh and Grand Isle, Vt.
- 1987 The Champlain Centre North mall opened in Plattsburgh.
- 1990 End of the Cold War. Fall of the Berlin Wall.
- 1992 Clinton County Historical Museum reopened at its new location at 48 Court Street., Plattsburgh.

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NEW IN THE MUSEUM SHOP

The holiday season brought some new arrivals in the museum shop, including the book *La Corne St. Luc—His Flame*, a comprehensive account by the late Koert D. Burnham and CCHA member David K. Martin of the de La Corne de Chaptes family, which played a prominent role in the history of Quebec. Special attention is given to Luc de La Corne, who was active in the latter part of the 18th century and became enmeshed in a series of important historical events of French and English Canada and Revolutionary America. This 196-page hardcover book, published in 1991, is illustrated, with a bibliography and index. It is priced at \$19.

The shop has a few autographed copies among its supply of Allan Everest's recently issued book on Point au Fer, a publication made possible by the generosity of Eugene J. Zurlo of Concord, Mass.

Also in the shop is a quantity of new consignment items, suitable for collectors or for gift-giving. Included is an assortment of animal prints by local artist Rennie Fenwick, an original colored drawing by North Country cartoonist Sid Couchey, a violet-patterned china cream and sugar set, several china cups and saucers, a Carnival glass vase, a pressed glass ashtray and a pair of sherry glasses, ruby glass and clear glass bowls, an "Adirondack Inn" lustreware pitcher, and a "U.S. Battleship Maine" milk glass plate. The shop has a new supply of "48 Court Street" notepaper.

THE "GRIP-PE" OF WINTER

(The following appropriately seasonal material and reasonable advice was taken from a local newspaper, probably the Plattsburgh Republican, about 1890.)

"The 'Grip-pe' of winter has been reaching out its icy hand over this hamlet and sending the metre down the scale to the twenties during the past week and a common influenza or cold prevailing at this particular season and juncture seems to warrant apprehension that a rapacious Russian clutch is seizing upon every sneezing denizen of this village to carry them off to the unknown. It seems passing strange that we should at this day become so gullible as to bolt all this Franco-Russian bosh and humbug. That physical care on the part of all, healthy and diseased alike, should be employed, is apparent to everyone. Extremes of temperature should be avoided, especially by the aged and those who are afflicted with pulmonary diseases, but it does not follow that we should gulp down all this newspaper charlatanism."