

# NORTH COUNTRY NOTES

Issued Monthly by the Clinton County Historical Association

48 Court St., Plattsburgh NY 12901, 518-561-0340

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## **JUNE PROGRAM: MEMBERS-ONLY PREVIEW**

A long-awaited opening takes place on Saturday, June 12 when the Plattsburgh Firefighters Association opens its museum in the Horicon Hose building on Cornelia Street, Plattsburgh, facing Montcalm Avenue. Before that important event happens, however, the firemen have graciously agreed to give CCHA members a preview of their new museum. The collections on view will include a 1931 LaFrance pumper and a 1934 Dodge used as an ambulance, both vehicles restored to their former state. Many years of collecting fire equipment and memorabilia by the firemen will provide a wealth of artifacts to be enjoyed by young and old alike.

Our tour of the fire museum will take place on Monday, June 7 at 7:30 p.m. in place of CCHA's regular June program. Please meet at the fire museum instead of the County Government Center.

## **FLEA MARKET DONATIONS SOUGHT**

It's summertime and that means it's time for CCHA's annual flea market. Scheduled for Saturday, July 10 (rain date, July 11), the flea market will take place as usual in Trinity Park and the adjacent grounds of City Hall from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

As usual, we ask CCHA members and friends to donate items from their attics and cellars for our unique stall where there's always something for everyone—and a lot more besides. This is your chance to dispose of the objects you just don't want or need anymore. YOU may think they are hideous or unusable; SOMEONE else may view them as thrilling "finds".

Here's the good news! Now that we have a commodious basement at 48 Court Street, we are in a position to receive your contributions right away. You don't have to wait till the week of the flea market. Just give us a call at 561-0340 and we will help unload your contribution. If you are spring cleaning now, you can get rid of your unwanted things immediately.

CCHA's flea market is its principal summer fundraiser. Now in its sixteenth year, it's a downtown Plattsburgh tradition that provides fun and interest for everyone. Please help us to make it even more successful this year by contributing to our stall. The Association has assumed a major financial responsibility in moving to its new location and it needs your help more than ever. Thanks in anticipation.

It's an exciting event on July 10. Why not sign up as a volunteer and join the CCHA team!

## UPDATE ON THE LIGHTHOUSE

Due to the unusually high level of Lake Champlain, work on the Valcour Island lighthouse will be somewhat delayed this year. But we hope to get the shutters off the building by June and start the annual clean-up operation.

This is an important year for the lighthouse, a building that was under construction just 120 years ago in 1873. Our expectation is high that in 1993 the lighthouse will be nominated to the National Register of Historic Places, making it eligible for state or federal funding if those monies should become available in the future. CCHA member Julie Robinson has been working on the project for several months and has submitted her final report to the New York State Office of Historic Preservation.

Open House at the lighthouse is scheduled for Saturday, August 21 (storm date, August 22). Watch for further details in the next issue of *Notes*. If you haven't visited the lighthouse, this is the year to do it!

## SHOP TALK

Looking for just the right gift for a person interested in local history? Check out our latest batch of prints in the Museum Shop. You'll find an 1859 image of Gen. Alexander Macomb astride his horse at the Battle of Plattsburgh, an 1856 cover of *Ballou's Pictorial* featuring 'Macdonough's Victory on Lake Champlain', views of the lake from Plattsburgh to St. Albans (1 item), and an 1870 U.S. Coast Survey of Lake Champlain nicely contained in a 14"x10" sheet.

## "CITY'S FIRE HORSES SOLD ON SATURDAY"

### "'Jim' and 'Harry' Bought by W. Plattsburgh Man"

Chief Seymour, Dick Norris, Charley Riley, Vic Seymour and the rest of the local fire fighters will bid good-bye to their pals, "Jim" and "Harry", the horses who have long been the idol of the Plattsburgh Fire Department.

For the team of horses which Chief Seymour's boys have declared were unequalled in the North Country, have been sold. The sale was made on Saturday. A resident of West Plattsburgh offered \$330 for the pair, Mayor Cross said yesterday, and the deal was negotiated.

The sum of \$20 was posted to bind the contract, and the remainder will be paid today, when the horses who have answered many an alarm will leave the fire station for a place on a farm.

The sum offered, \$330, was \$5 higher than the highest bid received a few weeks ago when the question of selling the horses was taken up at the Common Council session, Mayor Cross stated yesterday.

*We thank John Ladue for providing a copy of the April 20, 1925 issue of the Plattsburgh Daily Republican, in which this tidbit appeared plus the "1000 Youths" article on page 3.*

# 1000 YOUTHS ALREADY FOR PLATTSBURG

Figure Over Double This Time Last Year

OVER 50 P.C. FILLED

## Largest Number of Boys Yet Enrolled From Northern New York Counties

NEW YORK, April 19.—With one thousand youths of northern New York already accepted for the Plattsburg citizens' camps, enrollment in the Second Army Corps Area has more than doubled the figure reached at this time last year, Major-General Charles P. Summerall announced at Governors Island today, following a report of Reserve officers of the 98th New York Division who have volunteered to help fill the C.M.T.C quota for their home localities.

This is the largest number of boys yet enrolled from the northern counties and completes more than fifty per cent of the vacancies allotted to the 98th Division sector. From the total of six thousand candidates authorized for the Second Corps Area, 1,850 have been set aside by General Summerall as the quota for the 98th Division area, which includes all counties in New York State north of the Dutchess-Ulster-Sullivan line. More than two thousand other applications have been received at Governors Island, the announcement said. The 77th Division Sector, comprising the Metropolitan area, has sent 1,045, and the 78th Division area, embracing New Jersey and Delaware, 970.

So enthusiastic has been the response to the call of Plattsburg that authorization from the War Department for increases in all quotas throughout the corps area is practically assured. For the past four years, the General said, New York has taken over additional vacancies from other corps areas where the demand has not been so great.

Young men between 17 and 24 who measure up to the mental and physical standards set by the War Department are urged by General Summerall to apply for enrollment before May 25, the new date now set for the closing of the campaign.

Owing to the popularity of the Plattsburg camp site, there are to be two encampments this year, one opening July 1, and the other, August 3. Both will continue in operation thirty days. These will be for first-year students and for advanced candidates in the Infantry course.

The regular C.M.T.C season will begin August 3 and will also be for thirty days, with training in the Basic and Infantry courses at Plattsburg; the Coast Artillery at Fort Hancock, N.J., the Field Artillery at Madison Barracks, N. Y., Engineer course at Fort Du Pont, Del., the Cavalry at Fort Ethan Allen, Vt., and the Signal Corps at Camp Vail, N.J.

Athletics this year will come in for more attention than ever before, according to arrangements now under way. Coaches and experienced instructors in all sports are to be called to duty from among Reserve officers who have been prominent in athletics. Because of their importance in teaching coordination, poise and self-control, games are to be supervised as carefully as any other training activity of the camps.

Living in the great outdoors under the most favorable conditions of outdoor life, these youngsters thrill to the joy of living and bubble over with enthusiasm. Every feature that makes summer camps popular with sturdy young manhood is present at Plattsburg and other camps.

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### THE BOTTLES OF PLATTSBURGH

Just about everything you wanted to know about bottles—at least those connected with Plattsburgh—is contained in a new book published by CCHA. The book, entitled *Bottles and Business in Plattsburgh, New York*, was researched and written by Gordon Pollard, professor of anthropology at SUNY Plattsburgh. Subtitled *100 Years of Embossed Bottles as Historical Artifacts*, it is a comprehensive study of all the embossed bottles used by Plattsburgh businesses from the late 1860s to the early 1960s.

The book, the result of three years of exhaustive research, is the first study of its kind. It documents approximately 230 different types of bottles used by 130 Plattsburgh businesses over the course of the 100-year period. The book is divided into chapters according to the type of business which used the bottles: bottling companies (beer, whiskey and soft drinks), drugstores and dairies. Within each chapter is a checklist of businesses and dates, description of bottle variations and company associations, guide to bottle dating, listing of the bottle manufacturers and descriptions of each business. All bottles and markings are illustrated by scale drawings.

The bottle research was originally begun to assist in the identification of archeological sites, Professor Pollard explained, but it gradually grew into a major project of its own. He points out that the history of bottles reflects the mercantile activity of this community and that *Bottles and Business in Plattsburgh, New York* should be a valuable resource for people with a variety of interests: bottle collectors, of course, but also students of history, economic history and the history of technology.

The publication date for *Bottles and Business* is June 1. You may reserve a copy of this 370-page softcover volume at the special pre-publication price by sending your name and address and a check for \$16.23 (\$15 plus \$1.23 NYS sales tax) to CCHA at 48 Court St, Plattsburgh NY 12901. You may pick up your book in the shop after June 1. If you would like the book mailed to you, please add \$2.50 for shipping. (Out-of-state purchasers do not need to include sales tax.) After June 1, the price for *Bottles and Business* will be \$17 plus \$1.37 sales tax for New York State residents. We will continue to ship mail orders for an additional \$2.50.