

NORTH COUNTRY NOTES

ISSUED BY THE

CLINTON COUNTY HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION

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Shirley L. Koester, Editor

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The Next Meeting

will be **Thursday**, September 9, 1999, at 7:30 p.m. in the Plattsburgh Room in the College Center of Plattsburgh State University. David Curtis Skaggs, Professor Emeritus of History, Bowling Green State University, and principal co-author of *A Signal Victory: The Lake Erie Campaign, 1812-1813*, (published by the Naval Institute Press, 1997). This work was a History Book Club alternate selection and winner of the North American Society for Oceanic History's prize as the best book on naval history for 1997. His talk entitled "Before Plattsburgh: Thomas Macdonough's Preparation for Command", will focus on the early years of Thomas Macdonough.

Professor Skaggs' current project is a book tentatively titled, *Freshwater Commodores: Thomas Macdonough, Oliver Hazard Perry and the Fighting Tradition in the U.S. Navy*.

This program is jointly sponsored by Clinton County Historical Association and the History Department of Plattsburgh State University. It is made possible with public funds from the New York State Council on the Arts, a state agency, and also by the Institute of Museum and Library Sciences, a federal agency serving the public by strengthening museums and libraries. It is free and open to the public.

Letter from the Day Family Papers Collection

Mount Pleasant Sept 21/66 (1866)

Dear Jimmie

Yours to me, of Sept came to hand in due time. I intended to have answered immediately, but have delayed until now, in fact I cant find time. Except evenings and then I am to tired to write, for I suppose the girls keep you posted in all the matters things here, so that saves my writing so often. This is Friday, and it is the first day I have seen the sun since last Saturday, it has been Rain Rain Every Day it has been cold Equinoxal Storm, and (?) of last night with a pretty good Jack Frost this morning. Pretty early I think, for frosttime. the 12th day of this month, I came in to Dinner and not a Grass hopper to be seen, in about an hour or so I went out and the air was filled with them and the ground covered, and they have stayed ever since and Eat up, Every green thing. The fields look as dry as though fire had gone through them. I had 20 acres of winter wheat, up and green and firm, and now it is as bare as a housefloor. Not a spear to be seen. They have stript all of the corn leaves, and anything else that was green. I have a piece of Buck-wheat, and they have Eat up Every spear of it. And they are as thick as Ever today. I think they will Eat us out of house and home. They have Eat everything in the garden even the tomatoes.

We are all well as usual for now. Except for Millie who fails and has got to be a dreadful trial to take care of. Remember me to Grandma, and I suppose that she is the only one that wishes to know anything about me write often and I will write sometime when I can.

Yours as Ever
Father

MEMBERSHIP

Recently we sent out renewal letters to those of you whose membership was due to lapse. Please take the time to send in your membership dues, so that we may retain you on our mailing list to receive *North Country Notes* and *The Antiquarian*.

FROM THE COLLECTION

The following early 'recipe' is from a vintage cookbook in the collection entitled, *Champlain Valley Book of Recipes*

Baked Fish

Mrs. Gen. Arnold

For a medium sized fish: -- Stuff it with bread crumbs, a little pork made very fine, sweethebs, or spices to your taste, one egg, salt and pepper. Place the fish in your pan, with nearly one pint of water to keep it moist. Put a little flour and butter on the fish, to brown it nicely.

Battle of Plattsburgh Weekend – Sept 9 – 12

' The celebration this year promises to be "bigger and better!" Admittance to events is through purchase of souvenir buttons, available at various locations around the county, including here at the museum at 48 Court St. Adult buttons: \$3. and Children 12 and under \$2. We will have a special display for the event plus once again, the interpreters from the Chateau Ramezay will be on hand, on Saturday, to demonstrate period skills and crafts and provide a glimpse of early settlement north of the border.

ANNUAL DINNER AND MEETING

October 23, 1999 is the date for the annual meeting of the association. There will be more details in the next issue of *North Country Notes*. We are seeking donated, interesting articles for the silent auction. Please call the museum or stop by with your treasures.

New Items in the Museum Shop

"Chronicles of Lake Champlain: Journeys in War and Peace", by Russell P. Bellico Through carefully selecte eyewitnesses, he brings the reader through successive epochs in the history of Lake Champlain.(Price: \$29.00 plus Tx.\$2.24, Shipping and handling: \$4.00)

"Women Who Kept The Lights: An illustrated history of female lighthouse keepers," by Mary Louise Clifford and J. Candace Clifford. This book includes a chapter on Emma Tabberrah, who kept the Cumberland Head Light between 1904-1919.(Price: \$19.95 plus Tx. \$1.40 plus Shipping and handling: \$4.00)

We would be glad to mail a list of available titles to you please
call the museum at: 518 561-0340

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