

NORTH COUNTRY NOTES

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CLINTON COUNTY HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION

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Mary Brown, Editor

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The Next Meeting

In deference to preparations for and celebration of the Battle of Plattsburgh Commemoration, September 7 - 11, there will be no monthly meeting for August or September. Our next meeting will be the Annual Meeting held Saturday, October 28, 2000, time and location to be announced.

Battle of Plattsburgh Commemoration Weekend September 7 - 11, 2000

Battle of Plattsburgh Commemorative Buttons will be available for purchase at the Museum in mid-August. Costs are \$4.00 for adults, \$2.00 for children 12 and under, with a maximum of \$10.00 per family unit. The Button admits the bearer to all events except the Costume Ball, Biathlon and Juniper Boat Tours.

Special events commemorating the Battle of Plattsburgh will begin on Thursday, September 7 with a memorial service at 5 p.m., in Riverside Cemetery at the grave of Captain Downie and other British casualties of the Battle. Friday, September 8, will feature the arrival of re-enactors, Adirondack Brass and Fireworks!!

A large variety of family activities and events are featured on Saturday, September 9. There will be a Biathlon, a Kids' parade, classic boat show, and the Glengarry Pipes and Drums from Ontario.

On Sunday there are planned tactical demonstrations, the Aiken's Volunteers Fife and Drum Corps, a symphony concert and more kids' activities.

Events come to a close on Monday, September 11, with a memorial service at Crab Island, the burial site of many of the Battle casualties.

The Museum, along with the Kent Delord House Museum and encampment, the Battle of Plattsburgh Interpretive Center and the Macdonough Monument, will be open throughout the weekend.

Thank You, Shirley!

The Board accepted, with regret, Shirley Koester's resignation as Executive Director. We are grateful to Shirley for all she did during her 2 ½ years. Her first love was the curatorial work, organizing the inventory, and preserving our collections. She also did a great deal to encourage school group visits and to secure new items for the Association.

While Shirley was a member of the CCHA Board of Trustees, the State designated us as custodians of the Confiance Anchor. Shirley did a great deal of work to get the anchor preserved and arrange for its display at City Hall in September.

She also enjoyed working on the Saily-Warren house project and has laid the groundwork for our eventual move there.

FAREWELL AND BEST WISHES SHIRLEY!

Museum Exhibit

A selection of the museum's collection of hats is currently shown in a special exhibit. Included in the exhibit are many varieties of hats dating from the early 1800's, the fine Quaker or Society of Friends bonnets, from the Keese (descended in the Mason family) and Arnold families, members of "the Union" in Peru, New York, to more modern versions, the 1960's netted floral hats. There are samples of various types of hair ornaments, from the simple tortoiseshell comb to the faceted metal clips. Head gear for the gentleman includes top hats, derbies, and a straw boater.

Membership News

Has your membership expired? Are you unsure if you have renewed for the current year? As the Association has moved to a system of sending out renewal notices on a monthly basis, there have been a few questions on how to check on your membership status.

Instead of sending out one membership-wide renewal letter during the spring months, renewal letters are sent out at the beginning of the month that you joined the Association. If you think that you

joined in late winter, spring, or early summer and did not receive a letter or received one and misplaced it, you can check to see if your membership is current by calling the office at 561-0340 on Tuesday thru Friday from 12:00p.m. until 4:00p.m. and we will check our database for you.

With all of the exciting events coming in the future, you will want to be among those "in the know."

McMasters Prize for the Writing of History Announced for 2000

Underground Railroad Researcher Awarded McMasters Prize

Plattsburgh, NY – Underground Railroad researcher and writer Tom Calarco of Schenectady, NY was selected as this year's recipient of the McMasters Prize for History Writing. His paper, "A Man's a Man for 'a That: The Underground Railroad in Clinton County," detailed the history of the legendary network there, included a map, and identified county abolitionists and stations along the route. It demonstrated that anti-slavery sympathies in the county were statistically stronger than in any county in the state. It will appear in the Association's journal, *The Antiquarian*, in November.

Calarco, whose interest in the Underground Railroad began nine years ago, has been involved in several research projects on the topic during the last three years. Eventually he hopes to complete a book that will map out the network from New York City to Canada.

In the 1960's, Emily McMasters (1890 – 1972), Curator of the Clinton County Historical Society in Plattsburgh, NY was corresponding with Anna L. Curtis of New York City relating and recording the Underground Railroad sites in Clinton County with the then current works of Henrietta Buckmaster, Wm. Still, Wm. Siebert and Benjamin Drew of Canada. Her recordings became the basis of a later survey, complete with maps, accomplished in 1981 with the title, *THE JOHN TOWNSEND ADDOMS HOMESTEAD, Comstock Road, Clinton County and A Study of Slavery and the Underground Railroad as it Pertains to Clinton County* by Addie L. Shields, Clinton County Historian, Mary L. Fogarty and Gordon Pollard, Associate Professor of Anthropology SUNY, Plattsburgh.

The Museum Shop

The Museum Shop has had very brisk sales of the two new titles carried in our Shop: *The Historical Review of the Town of Mooers, Bicentennial Edition 1776 – 1976 Revised Millenium Edition 1999* for \$10.00 plus \$0.70 tax and \$3.50 for shipping and handling and *A History of the Town of Chazy, Clinton County, New York* for \$30.00 plus \$2.10 tax and \$5.00 for shipping and handling. This is a courtesy service that the CCHA is providing to the towns, so these two titles will not be discounted.

For the local area history buff, we now have copies of *The Chateaugay Lakes, Upper Middle and Lower* by Mr. and Mrs. Herman Whalen. This book is offered at \$15.00 plus \$1.05 tax and \$3.00 for shipping and handling. The authors and their book were featured in the *Press Republican* in 1999.

Are you interested in volunteering in the Museum on September 9th or September 10th? We are asking for volunteers between the hours of 11:00 a.m. until 4:00 p.m. to act as docents and keep the Shop running. If you are interested, please call the Museum at 561-0340 between 12 – 4 p.m. or please leave a message.

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