

North Country Notes

No. 390

Feb, Mar, Apr 2003

Inside this issue:

Roots and Queries 2
A new column
By Richard Ducharme

History Mystery #1 2
E.S. Martin House

A chat with the new 3
CCHA Webmaster

History Mystery #2 3
Protectory Boys

Monday, April 7, 2003

Hallie Bond,

Curator of Collections and Boats
at the Adirondack Museum

Boats and Boating in the Adirondacks

Sleek, smooth and almost silent. The Adirondack Guide-boat on the waterways amid the mountains of the wild northern forests. Could there be a more elegant or beautiful sight?

Slip into 2003's long-awaited spring season with the Clinton County Historical Association on April 7th when we host Hallie E. Bond, author of *Boats and Boating in the Adirondacks*. Curator of Collections and Boats at the Adirondack Museum, she spent eight years writing her book which includes

beautiful antique photographs

The Adirondack Museum houses 195 boats. Along with the guideboats, there are the open canoes, sailing canoes, Whitehalls, St. Lawrence skiffs, rowboats, shells, sailboats, ice-boats, logging boats, duck boats, paddle boats and boats powered by steam, naphtha and gasoline. The author has written about all of them.

Monday April 7th, 2003.

Refreshments at **7 pm**, Lecture at **7:30 pm**. Location: Clinton County Government Center.

Points of Interest

- Speaker on 4/7/03
Hallie Bond , p. 1
- Speaker on 5/9/03 -
Dr. David Starbuck p. 1
- Speaker on 5/10/03
Dr. David Starbuck - p. 1
- New Genealogical
Query Column, p. 2
- CCHA Financial Report
Available for review after
2/19/03, 48 Court St.
- New! Historical Queries
p. 2 and p. 5
- How do you like the new
format for North Country
Notes? Email
susanledges@westelcom.com
especially to help!

The Great Warpath Lecture Series

Friday evening, May 9th; Saturday morning, May 10th

Dr. David Starbuck

Set these dates aside now for two lectures with slides by noted archaeologist and author of *The Great Warpath* and *Massacre at Fort William Henry*, Dr. David Starbuck who will share results of his excavations at Fort William Henry and Fort Independence. More information to follow in the May-June-July issue of North Country Notes which will be mailed in late April 2003.

Roots and Queries

By Richard Ducharme

Are you baffled by missing clues in your family history? In the back of your mind is the notion that somebody may have done this research and knows exactly what you want to know.

Roots & Queries, a new addition to *North Country Notes* could help you find your answers. While it is not in our scope to do research projects for you, there is a possibility that a reader may answer your question, or respond with a vital link in your search. *North Country Notes* has a knowledgeable readership of people interested in family history. I am convinced that these readers are eager to share their knowledge and to gain access to your information as well.

If you respond, I will print your response— or part of it— with your name and your town. In addition, I will privately provide contact information between you and the person posting the query. Even if there is no response to a query in the short term, I will keep it on file in case someone discovers the answer at some future time. We may have the opportunity of posting queries and responses on the Website of the Clinton County Historical Association— which would give your question world-wide exposure.

Another possibility for the column is inclusion of the fascinating history of place and family names in the North Country. The important thing right now is that we have a beginning, and

over time this column can evolve according to reader responses and requests.

Following is a query of my own, and the answer has long remained a mystery.

Query: Who were the parents of Mary A. Smith?

Mary A. Smith was born in Ellenburgh 6 May 1836. Family lore says that she was a "bound out" child; that her family came from Kirkcudbright, Scotland on Solway Firth; and that her father owned a considerable amount of land near Ellenburgh Center. She married Joseph Reid (Reed) in Dannemora in 1856 in the Methodist Church. However, church records for that period were destroyed in a fire. Her death certificate, 26 October 1923, is signed by her son, Henry, and lists Mary's mother as unknown and her father as a Smith, with no first name given. It is likely that Henry did not know his grandparents. They may have died when Mary was young, accounting for her "bound out" circumstance.

Send your queries and responses to Richard Ducharme, *Roots and Queries*, *North Country Notes*, P.O.B. 3021, Champlain, New York, 12919. Home phone: 450-247-3193. Or send your queries and responses to m.a.ducharme@rocler.qc.ca

"...and the answer has long remained a mystery."

History Mystery #1: The E.S. Martin House

Submitted by
Mary Anne Ducharme

In the 1876 bound collection of a magazine called *Ladies Repository*, published by Nelson and Phillips in New York, there are two articles about Plattsburgh by "E.S. Martin." Does anyone know the identity of this author? I assume it is a woman. In one article, the author relates details of the Battle of Plattsburgh. But the article is indirect in references to specific people, seemingly a style trait of women writers of the time who were coy or shy about revealing personal information. Here are some clues about her identity, along with questions a modern reader would really want to know!

1. A few years after the War of 1812, she was born in Plattsburgh in a house built near 1800. It was fastened together with "wrought nails" according to "the ancient chronicle of the town." (What chronicle is she referring to?) (Continued on p. 6)

A Chat with the CCHA Webmaster

Great news at CCHA: We're on the Web!

www.clintoncountyhistorical.org

If you haven't discovered the **new website** for the Clinton County Historical Association, it's time to give yourself a treat. **Mr. Craig Allen**, a Trustee of the Board, has graciously volunteered to usher us into the 21st Century. His heartfelt love of our local history is clearly evident in his work. The world beckons us.

Craig has volunteered many hours of his time to create our own website. Below he answers questions for our membership about his project.

Question: CCHA has been able to communicate with members through newsletters, the telephone, programs and visits to the museum. Why bother with a website?

A website provides an organization such as ours accessibility to a variety of individuals 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. Many people seldom have the time to make or take calls, read newsletters, attend programs, or visit museum collections in today's full-scheduled life. More often than not, similar organizations are following the trend of making their particular information web-accessible. The potential to educate people outside our local area is incredibly huge with an informative website. Those who like what they see and learn, may come here to experience one of the many great places to visit within Clinton County, taking the next step beyond the virtual. The more exposure that our community and organization has, the greater the chances for local tourist dollars and potential CCHA support through new membership. It is important to consider that supporters of organizations such as ours, need not be local. The web site offers a great way to reach out.

Ideally, the web site should keep CCHA members abreast of current happenings within the Association. Those seeking information about our upcoming programs, recent acquisitions, personnel changes, new exhibits, etc. can

discover these and other informative items at a time that is convenient for them. Eventually, the convenience of an online membership renewal system would be a real plus to our existing and future membership base. Many of our current members are people who travel to warmer climates when the North Country weather turns cold. The website offers these individuals a way to keep in touch with what is going on back home.

Question: Why go on the worldwide web? Does anyone outside Clinton County care about our local history?

The answer seems quite obvious. Clinton County has within its boundaries nearly 400 years of accumulated history, stressing here that this is strictly post European contact. The Native American pre-history of the area can easily be traced back several thousand years. The Internet provides anyone with moderate inclination an avenue for discovery, be it student, historian, genealogist, or casual web surfer. Clinton County, without argument, has a substantial wealth of rich history and we as residents, or caretakers if you will, should welcome the opportunity to share that information with those in search of the same. The favorable conditions to increase tourism to the area are greatly enhanced by a web presence. It helps create an image that Clinton County is a destination, and that the Clinton County Historical Association and Museum just one of the many stops along the way.

Clinton County Historical Association and Museum just one of the many stops along the way. (Continued from p. 3)

In the year 1609, 150 years of French occupation began with the exploratory voyages of Samuel de Champlain. Undeniable tenants with a myriad of French translations of Indian monikers hung on numerous area landmarks that survive today and speak of the former presence of both parties here.

The PAFB example alone is justification enough for a web site.

The very beginnings of our great country can be traced back to portions of this area with participants of the French and Indian Wars passing

through it, back and forth fashion on numerous occasions. A contest where the element of surprise in the dense wilderness became the adventurer's dream or his worst nightmare. A few seeds of the American Revolution were strewn about the county with much blood shed here in our backyards for what then represented merely an idea called Liberty.

The British invasion during the War of 1812 passed through many local townships within the county and ended in Plattsburgh on September 11th 1814 with Macdonough's decisive naval victory on Lake Champlain's Plattsburgh Bay, the results of which sent the British home with their tail between their legs and helped teach the world that the young American country was a force to be reckoned with.

A continued military presence that existed here for decades later, ending most recently in 1995, with the Plattsburgh Air Force Base finally closing up shop. The PAFB example alone is justification enough for a web site. Think of the thousands of men, women and children from all over the United States, who passed through this area over the course of nearly 40 years and now possess many fond recollections in the form of memories that they took back home with them. Many of them took the time to learn of the local history in their newly found sur-

roundings.

Did I mention the thousands of college students too? These are just a few of the larger more popular examples. There were innovative industries established here, Presidents who came to visit, grand hotels that were situated overlooking incredible vistas. The railroads, the Underground Railroads! The manufacturing of nails, glass, cars, boats. I could go on for hours... Interestingly enough, its the smaller details that make the telling of the tales so rich. It is revealed in local names, in standing landmarks, in the genealogies of local families whose ancestors lives were so intertwined with the larger examples of historical events that occurred. Many of these remain yet untold, hidden by subsequent generations perhaps taken with them to new destinations, pieces of the puzzle for now stored away in old attic trunks. The CCHA web site may one day help open doors previously not known to exist.

How much is this going to cost CCHA? Can we afford it?

Web development for the Clinton County Historical Association currently rests on the shoulders of one individual who

Really, the question today is Can we afford not to?

is volunteering his time free of charge. Affordability of our web presence is broken down simply: a nominal charge for web site hosting with a local Internet Service Provider, the package includes a yearly domain registration fee. Overall, its a considerably cheaper alternative to the variety of advertising mediums available and has certain benefits over expensive, often times, discarded mass mailing/advertising mediums available and has certain benefits over expensive often times discarded mass mailing options. Really, the question today is can we afford not to?

Can an inexperienced computer user help with the website?

Oh definitely! There are several opportunities available. Anyone can become a contributing editor with perhaps a few pictures and a bit of researched and well written, (preferably formatted) material. These articles can be about almost anything that is local and historically relevant. The web site is new and therefore open to new ideas to reflect the needs of its potential viewers and current and future Association members.

A portion of the site is broken down into the townships within the County with hopes of generating content that is specific to each town. Material to fill these pages would certainly be most welcomed. This concept gives local people a chance to share our rich heritage with others both within and also outside our area.

An obvious benefit would be the potential for outsiders researching their family genealogy where their search leads them back to family roots here in Clinton County. What a great chance to learn about the area in which one's ancestors lived. Many families roots trace right back here to Clinton County.

How can an experienced computer user help with the website?

As the web site grows, so too will its need for individuals to help maintain it. Nothing ter-

ribly complicated. It may just be something simple like organizing some particular information to be presented on the web site or assuming responsibility for handling an email account. The only requirements would be a computer, and a minimal amount of spare time. A volunteer or two in the very near future would be most welcomed, particularly for the handling of correspondence. This task would amount simply to just answering or redirecting email to someone else who can provide requested information. There currently is an abundance of already written materials that would serve the web site well in having solid content for others to stumble upon as a result of simple search engine queries. That material merely needs to be entered into a computer by a volunteer with a modest amount of time and basic typing skills.

In either case, possessing advanced computer skills or not, it gives Association members an opportunity for active participation in their organization. A chance to share the pride felt in their hearts for the community in which they reside, and provide needed assistance to an organization in which they belong.

If anyone is interested in contributing material or helping out in anyway, they may contact the Association at: info@clintoncountyhistorical.org or send snail mail to: Clinton County Historical Association Attn: Webmaster, 48 Court Street, Plattsburgh, NY 12901

History Mystery #2: *The Great Catholic Protectory*

Submitted by
Mr. Daniel Ladue

I am looking for people in the North Country who may have some information about "*The Great Catholic Protectory*" that existed in New York City at the turn of the last century.

Many of the boys who trained there were sent to Clinton County to work on farms. Specifically, but not exclusively, I am seeking to interview men, who would now be in their 80s or 90s, who were trained in agricultural skills at Lincoln Hall, the Protectory's Westchester County campus. I am also seeking to interview the children, relatives or friends of these men or anyone else who may have information about this system."

Please contact Dan Ladue at the following addresses:

Voice mail: 565-3140 Email: protectoryboys@yahoo.com Address: PO Box 2453, Plattsburgh, NY 12901

Welcome Aboard New Members!!

Champagne, Ms. K.	Giambruno, Mr. R.	LaRose, Ms. C.	Rock, Mrs. & Mrs. D.
Coryer, Mrs. L.	Gordon, Mr. & Mrs. W.	Lemay, Mr. & Mrs. E.	Ryan, Mr. & Mrs. J.
deBeaufort, Mrs. V.	Haslow, Mr. D.	Moody, Mr. M.	Smith, Mr. & Mrs. G.
Drumm, Ms. D.	Hogan, Mr. M.	Morton, Ms. M.	Williams, Mr. R.
EMCO Aid Association	Keever, Dr. R.	Northway Motel	Ziemer, Mr. & Mrs. G..
Faulkner, Mr. D.	Lake Champlain Pools	Peru Middle School	

Local Businesses Renew CCHA Memberships

Arnie's Restaurant
Fitzpatrick Associates
Heritage Printing
Kinneston Associates
Murname Building Contractors

Other Continued Support of CCHA

Allen County Public Library
American Antiquarian Society
Bailey Howe Library of UVM
DAR Library
Farmer's Museum
Friends of the North Country
New York Library Serials Collection
Northern NY American Canadian Genealogical Society
St. Lawrence University
Town of Plattsburgh Historian

(History Mystery #1: The E.S. Martin House, continued from p. 2)

2. She acquired her information from "channels" including an unnamed widow of 85 years, and from a pamphlet written by a relative, Judge Palmer. It was in her father's homestead (who is he?) described this way: "it was of more architectural pretension and commodious size than any other in the village") in which Generals Provost (sic Prevost) and Rottenburg and staff selected as their headquarters. She describes it as featuring a "wide, long, hospitable hall, without a vestibule entrance, flanked by two great reception-rooms." She describes the basement as under "immense beams of wood" where emancipated slave servants once lived. (Fascinating! Who knows more about this?) Prevost kept his bivouac in the cellar which was of solid masonry. It was safer there because the house was exposed to sharp-shooters from the opposite shore of the Saranac. A British ensign was killed in a main floor pantry of the house where he was helping himself to something to eat. It is said that the bloodstain where the soldier fell could never be completely erased.
3. Two years before E. S. Martin was born, the former "master of the household" died. He was General Smith, commander of the 29th regiment which had defended Fort Moreau. She gives a second-hand account of his funeral, and that a detachment of soldiers was drawn from work on a "new road" (what road?) to fire three volleys. (What else is known about this General Smith?)
4. The grounds on which the house stood were gradually obliterated after the war. The property was characterized by an extensive lawn shaded by elms, and a terraced garden with a nearby brook. Even though the house had been pierced by bullets and balls fired from the American works during the weige, and it was vandalized after the war by local people, it was still in excellent condition when it was demolished in 1860. It made way for the post-office block that she describes in 1876 as "imposing." (Does anyone have further information about the house described, or this post-office? Exactly where was it located? Are there any drawings or steel engravings of it? Is it mentioned in other historical accounts of the battle?)

Any information you have that would help me with the above questions would be appreciated. Please send to Mary Anne Ducharme, History Mystery #1, North Country Notes, P.O.B. 3021, Champlain, NY 12919. Home phone: 450-247-3913. Or email: M.A.Ducharme@rocler.qc.ca

Thank You for Your Continued Support

Akey, Mrs. D.	Dorrance, Mr& Mrs A.	Kavanaugh, Ms. M.	Pawlewicz, Maj. V.
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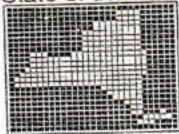
"Preserving Our Past for the Future"

Clinton County Historical Association

Clinton County Historical Association
48 Court Street
Plattsburgh, NY 12901

These programs are made possible with public funds from the New York State Council on the Arts, a state agency

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