



Clinton County Historical Association and Museum

North Country Notes

Spring 2004
Number 393

Museum on the Move

This issue of North Country Notes is several months overdue. As you may be aware, CCHA is fully engaged in moving our collection from 48 Court Street – the Museum’s home for more than a decade – to the historic Saily Warren House on Cumberland Avenue here in Plattsburgh. It may not surprise you to learn that in the course of packing, boxing, and moving the collection, we have discovered and rediscovered a number of fascinating items. One of the most interesting, the Moore carpet from Champlain, is highlighted in this issue.

Even as we move the collection from Court Street to Cumberland Avenue, our search for a permanent home continues. We view being on the grounds of the Old Base as an important asset and believe that by working in concert with other historical and cultural institutions, CCHA can help create a campus-style destination that will significantly advance all of our abilities to deliver upon our respective missions.

We envision our organization playing a significant role in building a worthy cultural destination on the grounds of the Old Base. This campus would be the location of a number of historical and cultural organizations, related organizations working together for a shared benefit. Clinton County, Plattsburgh, and the Old Base deserve no less.



April Program: Edwin R. Scollon *The Valcour Bay Research Project*

Monday, April 5, first floor meeting room
Clinton County Government Center

137 Margaret Street

Refreshments 7:00 p.m., Program 7:30 p.m.

Please join us Monday, April 5, at the Clinton County Government Center when Ed Scollon will share his first-hand experience of working on an important underwater historic site. Ed’s discovery in 1999 of a cannon from the Battle of Valcour triggered the beginning of the Valcour Bay Research Project, a cooperative multi-year effort between a dedicated team of volunteer divers and the Maritime Research Institute of the Lake Champlain Maritime Museum to preserve and systematically map the submerged battlefield.

Clinton County Historical Association

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The Saily Warren House, 3 Cumberland Avenue, Plattsburgh



The Adirondack Hickory Open, July 23, 2004

The Adirondack Hickory Open will be played on Friday, July 23 at Bluff Point Golf and Country Club and will feature Randy Jensen heading a field of players preparing for the National Hickory the next week. The Bluff Point course is the third oldest resort golf course in the United States, and from its inception in the 1890s has laid claim to being the oldest golf course in continual operation.

The event will be played to rules in place in 1916, the date the course was overhauled by famed architect A.W. Tillinghast. The course's open, links style layout, and stunning prospect overlooking Lake Champlain is sure to please the heritage golfing enthusiast and is all for a good cause; all proceeds will benefit the Clinton County Historical Association.

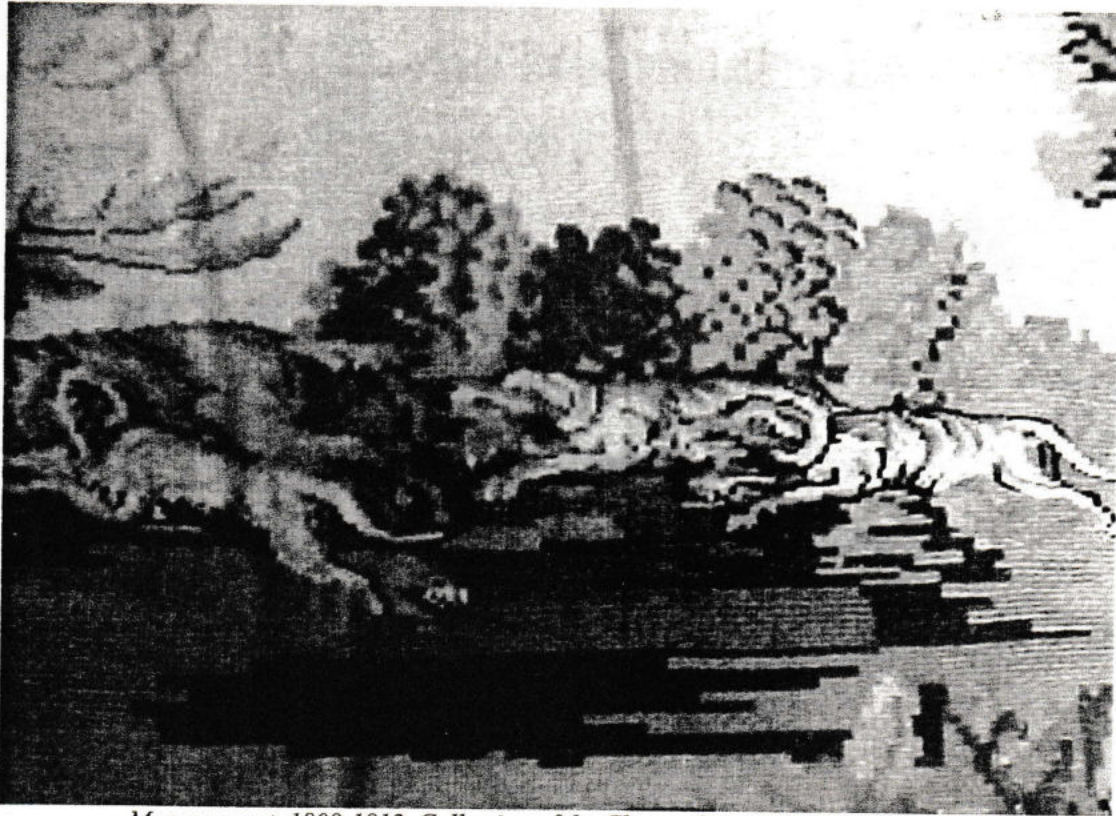
Kick-off Lecture: The Hotel Champlain and the History of Golf in the Adirondacks. A lecture on the history of the Hotel Champlain and the history of the golf course will be held on Thursday evening, July 22, at 7:00 p.m.

Tournament Dress Code. We ask for your help in adding to the fun of the tournament atmosphere by sporting attire that best reflects golfing clothing from the 1890s to the 1920s. As an added incentive towards sartorial propriety, *any ties at the end of stroke play will be decided in favor of that competitor with the most historically accurate attire as judged at the end of play by the tournament committee.*

Help is Needed. We will be asking members for donations of "wooden-shafted" clubs (pre-1930s), volunteers to sew Knickers for the tournament committee; volunteers for registration on the day of the tournament; and assistance selling sponsorships to local area businesses.

For additional information, or to register for the Adirondack Hickory Open, please contact:
Matthew Dodds, Adirondack Suite, 1807 House, 1722 Lake Shore Road, Chazy, NY 12921
518 846-8381 (h) or 802 862-2400 (109) (w)

Heirloom Carpet



Moore carpet, 1808-1812, Collection of the Clinton County Historical Museum

(From The Plattsburgh Republican
Historical Department, July 4, 1908)

A CLINTON COUNTY HEIRLOOM

There is in one of the old homes of Chazy a piece of needlework of no less unique quality than a carpet hand embroidered and nearly a hundred years old, and still in use and in excellent preservation.

This carpet was made by the young daughters of Judge Pliny Moore for the drawing-room of his home in Champlain, where it remained from 1812 to 1825. Then on the death of Mrs. Moore it was bequeathed to her eldest daughter, Mrs. J. C. Hubbell, who in turn gave it to her daughter, Mrs. Martha A. Mygatt, in whose house at Chazy it now is.

The wool for the crewels was sheared from Judge Moore's sheep, it was carded and spun in his house and dyed with stuffs that grew on his land, the beautiful browns and greens only faded to the softer tones that artists strive for and time only knows how to paint.

At our request, Mrs. Mygatt has written out as follows the story of the carpet, and we are hoping to have other papers from her relative to matters of interest in this vicinity of which observation and memory through an extended term of years have given her intimate knowledge.

Mrs. Mygatt, it is of interest to add, celebrated her ninety-second birthday on June 24.

HOW THE CARPET CAME ABOUT.

I am requested to write a history of our embroidered carpet which was begun just a hundred years ago.

The plan of making the carpet was projected by my grandmother, Martha Corbin Moore, wife of Judge Pliny Moore, of Champlain, who was a man of means and had large possessions in land. My grandmother was a woman of wonderful energy and executive ability and was very ambitious for her daughters, my mother, Ann, (baptized Anna), and Sophia, and determined that they should have a good education and be learned in the knowledge then taught. So she decided to send them to Montreal to the Catholic convent to study the French language, and be instructed in all the craft prevailing, especially needlework embroidery. I have heard my mother say that she learned twenty-eight different stitches, and when she saw any new foreign stitches she would say, "I can do that."

To such good purpose were my mother's studies in French that she spoke the language like a native, and in her husband's business transactions with the Canadians, (in 1812 she married Julius C. Hubbell, the first man of law in Chazy,) she always acted as interpreter.

(My grandparents had a family of seven children, four sons and three daughters, Ann, my mother, Sophia, who married Thomas Whiteside, and Matilda, the youngest and very beautiful I am told. They all grew up to maturity and their descendants are numerous.)

After my mother and aunt came back from the convent, having learned all the nuns could teach, they must get to work on many things. At that time no woven carpets were brought as far north as Canada, so my grandmother, whose energy and perseverance were unailing, conceived the

idea of embroidering a carpet for the drawing-room, which was about twenty feet square. Although every article to be used was raised on my grandfather's estate, from the wool on the sheep through the process of manufacture, to the coloring of the soft flexible yarn for the embroidery shading in the greys, browns and greens; there was no canvas suitable to be obtained at home, it being necessary to have strong texture, with firm square mesh to make a perfect cross-stitch, and so the material was sent for from Montreal.



Pliny Moore House in Champlain, 1829, Collection of the Clinton County Historical Museum

A frame was made of planed boards and when the canvas arrived it was tacked to the edges and the workers planned their pattern, the center being in squares about eighteen inches across set diagonally, divided by six-inch bands of brown roses, pointed with a little black and white, enclosing centers of green, the whole worked in beautiful even cross-stitches.

Thus the carpet was begun by the young ladies, as they were called, including a cousin, Harriet Hicks, whom grandfather had adopted and whom we were taught to call "Aunt Harriett."

That embroidery frame was a very attractive place, and was seldom free from visitors, young gentlemen, among whom was my father, J.C. Hubbell, and Thomas

Whiteside, whom my aunt Sophia married, and a number of army officers.



Moore carpet, Collection of the Clinton County Historical Museum

After the main breadths of the carpet were done, the workers were perplexed for a border, when one day there came along a peddler who had some cotton handkerchiefs stamped with a border of shells, a great variety, though very small, but my mother who possessed the artistic talent in a high degree enlarged them from the tiniest size to eight to ten inches, perfect copies of beautiful shells, and with a suitable border they were put to the embroidery needle, and executed in shades of grey and brown,

The smaller Moore carpet, referred to by Martha Mygatt as the "fire-place rug," will be on display at the Saily Warren House this summer. Come see for yourself this Clinton County heirloom.

New Members

Jane Alexander; An Shen Whole Health; Emmy Bodrogi; Russell Bordeau; John Boule; Brown Funeral Home; Joseph and Joan Burke; Craig Church; Donald Davison; Dick and Meg Dodds; Joseph Donnery; Roger and Angela Forrence; Garth and Betty

white, black and green. All this was done by my mother, and formed the finishing of the carpet, a wonder in showing the result of industry and perseverance combined with artistic skill. Four years were occupied in the making, the carpet having been begun in 1808 and completed in 1812.

The lining of the carpet was woven on a loom in my grandmother's kitchen, and now holds good and strong, made from flax grown on my grandfather's estate and brought to perfection in a fine firm fabric almost as heavy as sailcloth.

This wonderful carpet is now on a large upper room and is well taken care of, being carefully protected by rugs. It is always open to inspection and we are proud to display such a remarkable piece of needlework.

There is also a stair-carpet of the same design and workmanship in the house of Mrs. Thomas Whiteside at Champlain. The fire-place rug, 6x2 feet, made for the carpet, had a similar border, but narrower, the center design being two hounds in pursuit of a deer. The rug was given by Mrs. Hubbell to her second daughter, Mrs. Seymour.

I would mention that all of my mother's granddaughters have inherited her talent for artistic needlework.

MARTHA A. MYGATT.

Chazy, June 19, 1908.

Gallagher; Gerald and Margaret Garrand; Phil and MaryAnn Green; Charles and Ruth Hagar; Daniel Harpp and Jeanne Clark; William and Jane Kelting; Gary Kroll and Natalie Peck; James Latinville; Sharon Lewis; Emilie Mitchell; Henry Morlock; Bill and

Scarlet McBride; Kevin and Michele Peryer; Plumbers and Pipefitters, U.A. Local 773; Michael Racine; Kevin Roser; Timothy Saint-Maxens; Lawrence Shanley; Charles Smith; The Smith Companies, Ltd.; Merritt and Joan

Spear; David and Roberta Sullivan; Amy Valentine; Gary VanCour; Benjamin Vilbert and Olivia O'Donnell; Alan and Jackie Walker; Leon and Marie Winterkorn.

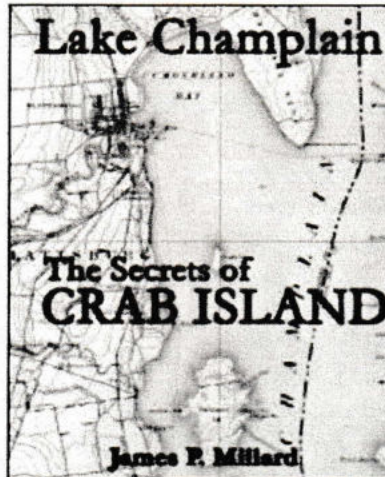
Renewed Members

Agency Insurance Brokers; Doris Akey; Joe and Janet Alexander; Derek and Helen Allan; America's Historic Lakes; Larry and Stasia Arcarese; Ara Asadourian; Jim and Anne Bailey; Bailey/Howe Library; George Barnett; Clifton Barrette; C. Randall Beach; Thomas Beach; Bonnie Black; Howard Black; David and Carol Bodah; Edward Bohin; Allan and Isabel Bombard; Alan and Jennifer Booth; Bob and Helen Booth; Kit and Sally Booth; Matt and Judy Booth; Elizabeth Botten; Thomas Braga; George Brewer; Mary Brown; Ellsworth and Dorothy Buchanan; Carolyn Burakowski; Margaret Byrne; Jim Cayea; David and Kathleen Champagne; Jane Claffey; Ralph Clark; Penny Clute; Shirley Coffey; Iris Collins; Herbert and Irene Cottrell; James and Caroline Dawson; Conrad and Vreni deBeaufort; Janet Deeb; A.B. deGrandpre; Lawrence Deno; Nelson and Carolyn Disco; Cheryl Dodds; Philip and Anne Doherty; Gerald and Ruth Dominy; Barbara Dorrance; Ernest and Mary Dossin; Donna Drumm; Harvey and Joan Duchin; Maribeth Dunajski; Bernard Duquette; Joan Duquette; Nancy Duquette-Smith; Ellen Eager; Steven Engelhart and Karen Roy; Laurie Feinberg; Wallace and Cecily Feldman; Fitzpatrick Associates; John Flanzer; Mary Fogarty; Mason and Joan Forrence; Jay Frank; Friends of the North Country; Leona Gadway; Leon and Marie Gennett; Averill Geus; Maurica Gilbert and Noel Sowley; Maurice and Gina Gilbert; Rod and Dodie Giltz; G. William Glidden; Mr. and Mrs. Irving Goldman; Joyce Grover; Alfreda Guay; Krishan and Charlotte Gulati; Robert Haley; Arthur and Anne Handly; Frank and Jane Hamilton; Dennis Haslow; Rebecca Hayes; H. Joseph Heath; Robert Heins; Judith Heintz; June Heming; Charles Herlihy; Samuel and Ellen Heyman; Patricia Higgins; Bart and Maryanna Holm; Larry and Sally House; John and Helen Ianelli; Arnold and Theresa Jensen; Raymond and Lola

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