

# NORTH-COUNTRY NOTES

ISSUED MONTHLY EXCEPT SUMMER BY THE

CLINTON COUNTY HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION

No. 65

Allan S. Everest and Charles W. McLellan, Editors

May 1970

## *The May Meeting*

May 4, 1970—The meeting will be held in the auditorium of the Plattsburgh Public Library at 8:00 P. M.

The subject of the evening will be an illustrated talk on "Frederick Remington and the Remington Museum." The speaker is Mr. Coy L. Ludwig, Director of the Remington Art Memorial Museum at Ogdensburg.

Our Annual Outing will be held in June. This year it will be a tour of the "Ghost Towns" of Clinton and Essex Counties, under the guidance of Miss Connie Pope, Acquisition Librarian of the Feinberg Library at the State University College of Plattsburgh.

The public, as always, is cordially invited to attend all meetings of the Association.

## SPEAKERS BUREAU

Does your group or organization need a speaker for an historical program? Our Association is loaded with experts (at least we think we are) who are ready at the drop of a hat to entertain you with a talk on some aspect of Clinton County or regional history. Tell your Rotary, Kiwanis, Bridge Club, Lodge, Chapter, PTA, Civic Group, Fraternity, Church Group, etc., about us. For information, ask any of our officers.

## ADDRESSES! ADDRESSES! ADDRESSES!

A major feature of our present membership campaign is to get in touch with former Clinton Countyites who have moved elsewhere. "Absence makes the heart grow fonder." Your relatives and friends would doubtless like to see a copy of these North Country Notes. It will be sent them if you furnish the names, addresses and ZIP. Send the names to Mrs. C. W. McLellan, Champlain, N. Y. 12919, our Membership Chairman (this is to avoid duplication). Check your address book, Christmas Card list, etc. And please do it NOW—and please don't think someone won't be interested—the chances are that they will be. Out-of county names ONLY.

## EDITORIALS

From "The Champlain Counselor," December 2, 1892

The almost entire cessation of traffic over the country roads in this section, during the last month, emphasizes the claim which we have repeatedly put forth, that the condition of the highways is responsible for great loss to the farmers and tradesmen. Good roads would save a large percentage of the time of men and horses, in the increased rapidity of passage and the increased size of loads. Road reform is one of the crying needs of the times, and the same energy that is put into politics, if applied to this end, would bring it about.

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The regular and frequent terms of the courts, and the records of their proceedings, must impress the thoughtful mind with the idea that a great deal of money is wasted in unnecessary litigation, and that the taxpayers are compelled to bear a large part of the burden.

## DOCTOR WILLIAM BEAUMONT

(The discovery of the following letter from Dr. William Beaumont in the Kent-Delord Collection at the Feinberg Library adds much to our knowledge of the doctor as a human personality; his fame as a medical researcher is, of course, world-wide. It was while at Michilimackinac that he later made his studies on the gastric juices and the physiology of digestion.)

Michilimackinac Sept. 1820

Dr Sir

I presume to address you because I **partially promised** to write you. That I shall give you much satisfaction, is quite foreign from my expectations. Whatever occurs to my mind I shall communicate—should it happen to be interesting, I hope you will enjoy enough to compensate you for the impatience you will suffer in perusing the more indifferent parts.

I can truly say to you that I had a most delightful journey to this place, where I arrived on the 16th of June, in company with **The Rev.d Dr Morse**, the American Geographer, his son, Maj. Gen.l Macomb, Col. J. E. Wool, & (&) several other Gentlemen from Detroit, passengers in the Steam Boat, on her first trip to Mackinac for 1820. I have also the satisfaction to say that I am highly pleased with my **post**, & its Commander, **Capt B K Pierce**, Corps Art.y.

I would not exchange stations with any subordinate medical officer in the Army. It is a most delightful situation—serene, romantic & healthy—blessed with soil & climate sufficiently congenial to vegetation to furnish fruits, flowers & vegetables of luxuriant growth, excellent quality & in ample abundance for all the comforts & delicacies of living.

We are deficient in nothing here, that you have in Platts.h, excepting political contentions; & we have one **great advantage**—that is, **money is much more plenty & easier to be obtained**. Our society is not so numerous as yours, but it is agreeable peculiarly various, from the very many travellers who are constantly passing through or visiting this place, either from motives of curiosity or business. Scarcely a week passes, but that we have more or less distinguished personages here.

**The Rev. Dr Morse** spent 3 or 4 weeks with us & made headqtrns in our Garrison. Gen.l Macomb & Col Wool remained 4 or 5 days. **Gen.l Scott, Cols Eustis & House**, came in the Steam Boat on her last trip to this place & left here on the 20th of Augt. **Col Smith** of 3d Regt & Lady have visited & spent some time here.

The Commissioners for surveying the Boundry line, & their suits, are in this vicinity this season, & frequently honor us with their company. **Governor Cass** & suit are expected here in a day or two, on their return from the "**Scientific expedition**." Some of the company have already arrived.

Indeed we do not lack opportunity for exercising all the fashionable etiquette of the times. We have plenty of **Balls, Routs, Dinners & Tea-parties**, to prevent that usual ennui of life so commonly attendant on the more obscure scenes of idleness & ease. We have all sorts of amusements (except card-playing, which I believe is not practiced on the Island; at least I have not seen it); **hunting, fishing & fowling** in great variety; **Billiards, Backgammon & Chess, Riding, Sailing & Walking** are the common diversions of the place, and they are all enjoyed in the highest & most harmonious state of pleasurable perfection.

I have very little to do in the Garrison, there being few or none at all sick. I have considerable practice in the Village, which affords me a handsome perquisite.

We occasionally have, by way of diversion, a little **Dirking or Knifing** here. A few nights since, **Capt Knapp**, Commandant of the Revenue Dept. of this Territory, was stabbed by a Citizen, a trader of the British N. W. Fur Comp.y. A trifling dispute arose in which some harsh words passed, but immediately subsided, all was supposed to be settled. But in a short time after, as the Capt. was going from the Tavern to his Vessel, he was met by this Citizen (Rolette by name) who without words or ceremony stabbed him in the abdomen with an Indian scalping knife, which he had coolly & deliberately gone to his own house & obtained from one of his Indians, after the supposed reconciliation, for the express purpose of stabbing him.

It was in the night, & I was called about 12 ock, found the Capt. almost exhausted with the loss of blood. I made out to check it however, but his life was despaired of for several days. The assassin fled, but was pursued & taken before he could get off the Island, & confined in jail to await trial in Dec.r next.

I frequently hear from Col Snelling & family—he is now at Prairie-du-chine, shortly to go to St. Peter's; he and family are well, as I am told by a Gentleman of Gov. Cass' suit, who saw him a week or two since at the Prairie.

The same Gent.n also saw Lt Tallcot, who had just arrived there with some other officers of the 6th & Rifle Reg.t from Council Bluffs. Their business had been

to mark out a road or trail across the Country. They were all well, in good spirits and soon to return from whence they came, by way of St. Louis.

Maj.r Pet.r Mulenburg is also at the Práirie. Lt Mackey is with the Governor, will be here in a day or two. **Platt. Green** is at **St. Peters**, in health, fine spirits, & much esteem'd, was actually married in July last to Miss Goodin, Daughter of Capt Goodin, 5th Regt. All this I have authentically from one of the Governors Suit, who has seen Platt within a month.

I have seen Mrs Hunt (**Julia Herrick**). I called on her at Fort Gratiot as I came up the river. She stopped with us as she passed with her husband, in a detachment of the 3rd Reg.t to Green Bay, in the month of July. She was well, in good spirits, & had a fine boy. They are stationed at the Bay. Please have the goodness to mention what I have said of Platt, to Old Mr. Green's family, & of Julia to Mrs. Herrick.

My best respects to all my friends, & in a particular manner to Aunt D . . . . & Mrs Delord & accept them yourself from, Dr Sir,

Your very respectful friend  
& mo ob. Serv--

Wm Beaumont

Hon.l Judge Delord  
Plattsburgh, N. Y.

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### MORE ON THE NEW SWEDEN CEMETERY

Mr. Henry G. Rogers in Ausable Forks adds some interesting comments on this cemetery and community, as given in our March issue.

"I was very much interested as usual in the last copy of the "North Country Notes," but am wondering a bit about the accuracy of the article on the New Sweden Cemetery.

"Of course I knew the old cemetery all my life. The road built to bring ore from the Arnold Hill mines to New Sweden passed close to one side of the cemetery, and was abandoned when the railroad made a deep cut across it in 1876.

"The name "New Sweden" came from the fact that quite a number of Swedish immigrants were brought in to work for the Company.

"The forge and other works were situated directly across the river from the present highway, and I always heard were completely wiped out by the big freshet of 1857. That freshet destroyed the different companies forges at Clintonville, New Sweden, AuSable Forks, and Jay, in each case the dam remaining unharmed but the river washing around the end of the dam.

"The whole operation at New Sweden was never rebuilt, Mr. McLean and Mr. Hartwell, the chief owners, moving to Plattsburgh. Mr. Hartwell apparently prospered as he built the big stone dwelling house on the south side of Brinkerhoff Street.

"I have often wondered if this Mr. Pierce was the same who cleared the first land at the forks of the river. I could never find out back of the buying of all this property by my grandfather and his brother from two men, Burt and Van der Waraker, who probably bought from Pierce.

"Your article says there were two forges, I never knew of but one, and can't see where these could possibly have placed another forge anywhere near that village; also am wondering where the information of the date of 1860 for the forges in New Sweden was obtained, as I am very sure all that property was destroyed by the freshet of 1857.

"I believe two of the original houses are still standing; one was occupied by Mr. McLean, but the one occupied by Mr. Hartwell burned some years ago.

"All these little forges had two fires. Is this why "two forges" were recorded?

"Regarding the freshet, my father told me that at its height a house came floating down, having a man and woman on its roof. As it neared the New Sweden dam floated near enough to the shore to allow the man to seize a tree limb and reach shore, but the woman was drowned.

"Just below the AuSable Forks dam and near the river bank was a two-family stone house. When the river broke around the end of the dam, it went around between the village and the building, and the village people watched as the water gradually cut nearer and finally washed the house away, drowning the six people in it."

(Editorial note: The information as given in the March "Notes" was obtained from Hurd's "History of Clinton and Franklin Counties" and from French's "Gazetteer of the State of New York (1860)." Additions and corrections such as these from Mr. Rogers are most gratefully appreciated.)

## RIDDLE OF THE MONTH

Answer to April riddle: General Wade Hampton was in command of the American forces on the Northern Frontier at the time of Murray's Raid on Plattsburgh, July-August 1813.

New Riddle: Churubusco is much in the news today. What was another name for the community, when the Ogdensburg and Lake Champlain Railroad was established?

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### THE THEW GRAVEYARD — PERU

This small graveyard is shown on Beers' 1869 Atlas in School District No. 5, Town of Peru. Although enclosed by wire fencing, when copied in 1940 it was entirely neglected and overgrown. The roads leading to it are indicated on the map, but are now almost obliterated.

Twelve stones were found, under three surnames: Lobdell, Smith and Thew.

Rev. Jared Lobdell, died 1846, aged 79, and his wife Betsey, died 1858 in her 90th year.

Helen M. Smith, born in 1831 and died in 1891.

Daniel Thew and his three wives: Lecta, Eunice and Betsy. Daniel died in 1870, aged 78; Lecta in 1842, aged 50; Eunice in 1848, aged 56; and Betsy Lobdell Thew in 1894, in her 84th year.

Also buried here is Hannah P., wife of Robert Thew, who died in 1852, aged 33 years; and their two daughters, Hellen (1844, aged one year) and Melinda E. (1842, also only one year).

Also two other Thew children: Eliza Jane, daughter of Gilbert and Jane Thew (1844, aged just a few days less than two years), and Electa A., daughter of Garret and Maryetta Thew (1858, aged four years).

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65 MAY '70

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Issued by the

CLINTON COUNTY HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION

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David K. Martin, Secretary  
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