

# NORTH COUNTRY NOTES

ISSUED MONTHLY EXCEPT SUMMER BY THE  
CLINTON COUNTY HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION

No. 89

Allan S. Everest and Charles W. McLellan, Editors.

December, 1972

## *The December Meeting*

*of the Historical Association will be held on Monday evening, December 4th, at 8 o'clock in the auditorium of the Plattsburgh Public Library. The program will consist of a talk with slides by Dr. Allan Everest of State University College on the subject of "Buildings Worth Saving in Clinton and Essex Counties." Dr. Everest's new Book, "Our North Country Heritage," sponsored by the Association, has recently appeared on the book stands, and his slides include many of the buildings presented in that publication.*

*The public is cordially invited.*

## OUR FRIENDS THE ENEMY

In 1807 the threat of active warfare between the United States and Great Britain seemed so imminent that feverish preparations were being made for such an eventuality on both sides of our border.

Still, a sort of "friendly-enemy" relationship continued throughout this trying period, as is shown in the following letter (slightly condensed) from Simon Z. Watson in Montreal to Judge Pliny Moore in Champlain. It also indicates that the question of "amnesty" for deserters from the military services was as real then as it is today. From the McLellan Collection.

Montreal 1st Sept'r 1807

Dear Sir:

Lately there were three Soldiers belonging to the newly raised Canadian Regiment posted . . . on the Hemmingford Road for the purpose of detecting deserters; information has lately arrived here that those Men have quit their post and gone . . . on your side of the Province Line, for the purpose of obtaining work. Indeed it is said they are or have been in your Village, and at this busy season of the year yourself may have employ'd them.

Should this be the case, I am requested by the Officers of that Regiment to beg of you to inform those Men that if they will return to their post or here to their duty, that not the smallest notice will be taken of their delinquency. They are not yet considered as deserters nor will they be until the next Return day which will be on the 24th of this Month, they having been reported present on the 24th Ultimo. Besides their pass as you will see is indefinite as to time. The Names of these Men are Grant, Treadall and Senoy.

The gentlemen of the Regiment not having the Honor of a personal Acquaintance with you asked me to write you on the Subject, begging that you will have the goodness to speak to those Men, and interest yourself in this affair as far as your situation and propriety will permit.

I beg respectful Compliments to Mrs. Moore and your amiable Family, and have the Honor to be Respectfully

Dear Sir your Friend and most humble  
and obedient Servant  
S. Z. Watson

## Case of Labour

(The following is a trial held by the Presbyterian Church of Mooers, and called in the records a "Case of Labour." The records are in the custody of Charles Chandler of Mooers and were made available to the "Notes" by R. J. Gettens of Mooers and Washington, D.C.)

21 May 1829. At a regular Church-meeting opened with prayer the following was brought before the Church,

"To the Congregational Church in Mooers, greeting, Brethren in Christ, about a year ago, one of the brethren of said Church, vis. David Southwick Jr. gave the complainant occasion to take the first & second steps agreeable to the Discipline of said Church without any satisfaction. The burden of the complaint is, that the offending brother has been guilty of lying." Signed by Luke S. Blackman, also by "David Studley & Joseph Pratt, Associates." Signing as *associates* the church considered as equivalent to a "certificate recommending such a course."

The Church appointed a meeting to be held on Saturday commencing at 2 o'clock p.m. 30 May 1829, at the school house near Mr. Blackmans, to take up the said case of labour. Closed with prayer.

May 30, 1829 Church meeting opened with prayer. "After a full hearing of both parties, the question was proposed for the decision of the church"; but instead of deciding it on the spot, a vote was passed, that the minds of the members of the church then present, should be given to the moderator in writing on, or before, Saturday 6 June 1829, to be made known to the church the Sabbath next following. Closed with prayer.

7 June 1829. According to the minds of the members of the church, which have been expressed to the moderator in writing, brother David Southwick Jr. is Guilty.

23 July. At a regular meeting opened with prayer, the Church proceeded to the reconsideration of the question at the request of the accused, and after a "full rehearing of both parties," decided as before, that brother D. Southwick Jr. is guilty. Closed with prayer.

31 July. The Church sent brother D. Southwick Jr. a letter of admonition.

1 Oct. 1829. Sent brother David Southwick Jr. a second letter of admonition.

6 Dec. 1829. A satisfactory confession having been made by Mr. D. Southwick Jr. of the crime of which he was by the Church once and again pronounced guilty, the letter of his excommunication was this day read publicly.

18 July 1830. At the close of publick worship Joseph Churchill Esq. and Rev. S. Marsh were chosen by the Church to meet Luke S. Blackmun and David Southwick Jr. and the witnesses in the above case of labour, and take down the testimony in writing. This was done 22 July 1830.

29 July 1830 At a regular meeting opened with prayer, the Church resolved, That the following testimony be recorded as the substance of what was laid before them in the case of labour with Mr. David Southwick Jr. Closed with prayer. "Stephen Welding, after being sworn, deposeth and saith, that Luke S. Blackmun" was at his house, and he heard David Southwick Jr. tell the said: Blackmun, "that he David Southwick Jr. was mistaken about the cattle being in the wheat; for Stephen says they were not." He further deposeth and saith, that there were not any cattle in the wheat at the time in question"; and further saith not. Signed by "Stephen Welding," "Sworn and subscribed before me this 22 day of July 1830. Joseph Churchill Justice peace."

"Jude S. Blackmun, after being sworn, deposeth and saith, that David Southwick Jr. came to Mr. Blackmun's barn, and the Deponent said to the said David Southwick that I have understood that you have acknowledged, at Mr. Welders, to my father, that you were mistaken about the cattle being in the wheat. The Deponent further saith, that the said David Southwick Jr. said "he did not acknowledge that the cattle were not in for they were in," further saith not. Signed by "Jude S. Blackmun," "Sworn before me this 22 day of July 1830. Joseph Churchill Justice peace."

"Josiah Blackmun, after being sworn, deposeth and saith, that he heard David Southwick Jr. say, "that he was not mistaken; for Stephen Welding had acknowledged to him, that the cattle were in"; and further saith not. Signed by "Joseph Blackmun. Sworn and subscribed before me this 22 day of July 1830. Joseph Churchill Justice peace."

"Ebeneser Smith, after being sworn, deposeth and saith, that his testimony agreed with Josiah Blackmun at the time of trial; further saith, that I was called on, because

David Southwick Jr. had denied Josiahs testimony," and further saith not. Signed by Ebenezer Smith, Sworn and subscribed before me this 22 day of July 1830. Joseph Churchill Justice peace." This testimony was transcribed 30 July 1830 as it was read before the Church by Samuel Marsh Moderator.

Note of explanation. Josiah Blackmun heard the conversation at the barn between Jude S. Blackmun and David Southwick Jr. Josiah confirmed his brother's testimony. Jude S. Blackmun did not hear all that David Southwick Jr. said to Josiah Blackmun. At the time of trial Josiah's testimony being denied, Mr. Smith testified, that David Southwick had made a statement to him, that agreed with Josiah's testimony. Stephen Welding's testimony respecting what David Southwick Jr. said to Luke S. Blackmun here stands above; not because another credible witness could not be produced to confirm it; but because his testimony was not so questioned, or directly, or indirectly denied, as to require another witness. Mr. Southwick's advocate (Mr. Smedley) pleaded, that the acknowledgement to Mr. Luke S. Blackmun was conditional, the condition resting on Stephen Welding's assertion that the cattle were not in the wheat. The testimony of the witness was near to David Southwick Jr. 22 July 1830 immediately after it was written, as he did not arrive in season to hear the witnesses. The testimony was read to him in the presence of Samuel Marsh by Joseph Churchill Esq. in order that Mr. Southwick might have an opportunity to enter on the records of the church anything that appeared in his favor at the time of trial. The alleged acknowledgement of Stephen Welding, "that the cattle were in," referred to in Josiah Blackmun's testimony, and confirmed by Mr. Smith, was thus explained at the trial; Mr. Wright drove a cow out of the wheat field in the spring; but the explanation was by no means considered as invalidating the testimony. It did not appear that Mr. Southwick claimed anything for damage done by the cow that was driven out by Mr. Wright. 1 August 1830, all the foregoing beginning with "Case of labour," having been read before the Church alone, was adopted by the Church at the close of publick worship.

Samuel Marsh Moderator

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## A Church Tries to Pay its Pastor

*(In tribute to the 175th anniversary of the First Presbyterian Church, we print a subscription list of 1811, intended to settle the young church's indebtedness to its first pastor, Rev. Frederick Halsey, who retired in 1810. There is no evidence that the subscription was ever completed. From the Kent-Delord Collection at the College Library, and discovered by Mrs. Elsie Everest.)*

Believing that it is the duty of every well wisher to mankind to aid the cause of religion; and for that purpose to make use of every laudable exertion to effect the settlement of a . . . calculated to conciliate and reunite the Society in which he lives. But considering that the Presbyterian Society in the Town of Plattsburgh are peculiarly situated at this time on account that the Reverend Mr. Halsey (against whom as a man and a Christian the most barefaced calumniator can ought say) has for many years been with them as their Pastor that his nominal salary during that time has been very small and a great part of which remains unpaid; and he through a desire of accommodation having offered as we are informed to accept of the sum of five hundred dollars as a full compensation for his services which is thought to be much less than what is really due to him if an accurate and honest settlement was made, which we are thoroughly convinced ought to take place and be paid to the last cent — And believing the Reverend Mr. Dunlap now with us to be a young man of superior talents and real piety — One who would be an ornament to the Place and an instrument in the hands of Divine Providence of doing great good among us.

Therefore we the subscribers whose names are hereunto written in order to remove and Difficulty on account of the unsettled business between the Congregation and Mr. Halsey and in consideration of the services rendered by him while he remained the minister of said congregation. Do promise and agree to pay to the trustees of the first Presbyterian Congregation in the Town of Plattsburgh the sums annexed to our several names to be applied to the sole and only use of paying off and discharging the sum now due and in arrears to the Reverend Frederick Halsey and that if a sufficient sum shall be raised by this subscription to satisfy the said arrears and the interest equitably due thereon that then on the payment thereof the said Mr. Halsey shall give up all claims on the Congregation and all subscriptions and everything relating thereto shall be discharged and annulled — and it is hereby understood that if a sufficient sum shall not be hereto subscribed to satisfy the said Mr. Halsey that then this subscription shall be considered and held as null and void — Dated at Plattsburgh the 25th day of March 1811.

Thomas Tredwell	\$10.00
John Dominy	2.00

## RUNAWAY WIFE

(The following letter addressed to Judge Pliny Moore in Champlain from a friend in Canada is given exactly as written, including the spelling. It is dated February 2, 1807 and is found in The McLellan Collection.)

Dear Sir:

The Barrer Joseph Laviolet is in pursute of his wife who has eloped his bed and borde, say teaken his bed with her with a number of other things. Should he meet with her in your quarter Iwill teake is as a favour if you will give him your assistance to recover her back as he is fool aknuf to teake her again.

The Vagabond that is with her has left his wife and the woman has left three young Children.

You will please give my best Respects to Mrs. More and famaly and excuse the liberty I have teaken.

I am Dear Sir Your Obd't Serv't

John Chesser

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## RIDDLE OF THE MONTH

Old riddle: October 13, 1775 is the date that the Continental Congress officially created the U.S. Navy, of which Whitehall claims to be its birthplace. October 11, 1776 was the day of the Battle of Valcour and September 11, 1814 the Battle of Plattsburgh.

New riddle: How did Plattsburgh citizens pay for their farewell luncheon for President Monroe in 1817?

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Issued by the

CLINTON COUNTY HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION

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West Chazy, New York

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