

Markers reflect that—

History made in this area

By BLANCHE ROBBINS

Indian artifacts, cannon balls, solid old houses and markers reflect the fact that history has been made in this area.

The name Saratoga calls to mind the battle that was the turning point of the American Revolution, and Lake George has Fort William Henry and Fort Ticonderoga as reminders of military action.

The site of the Battle of Saratoga has become the Saratoga National Historical Park, which is administered by the National Park Service of the U.S. Department of the Interior.

A VISITOR'S Center built a few years ago is open all year, and the Neilson House and the Freeman House are open in the summer. Park roads are usually open until the end of November, weather permitting.

The Schuyler House, country home of General Philip Schuyler, at Schuylerville, is open during the summer, and members of the Old Saratoga Historical Society serve as hostesses and tour guides.

The British burned Schuyler's home, and the present structure was erected in 1777 soon after Burgoyne's surrender.

British Army engineers designed Fort William Henry at Lake George in 1755, and, using their plans, archaeologists and engineers have completed about 90 per cent of the restoration which began in 1952. Tours are conducted during the summer, and the visitor can see scenes of a soldier's life in the French Indian War period.

A reproduction of an Iroquois village is adjacent to the fortress.

A RESTORATION of Fort Ticonderoga is located on the stream connecting Lake George and Lake Champlain. The original fort was built in 1755.

At Bolton Landing on the west shore of Lake George stands the St. Isaac Jogues Shrine. The French missionary, the first white man to see the lake named it Lac St. Sacrament. The British later renamed this beautiful body of water in honor of the English monarch.

The Marcella Sembrich Memorial Studio is also at Bolton Landing. Adirondack Museum at Blue Mountain Lake has more than 20 buildings containing exhibits related to the history and development of the

GLENS FALLS has the Hyde

Collection, where there are paintings by Degas, Rembrandt, Picasso, Braque, Rubens, Van Dyck and Renoir. This museum is open year-around.

Nearby Fort Edward has the Old Fort House, which has historic exhibits, dioramas and antique furniture, and the Fort Edward Art Association, which features exhibits, workshops and programs.

This area is depicted in the novels of James Fenimore Cooper. Cooper's Cave at Glens Falls is still existent, but it is not open to the public because of hazards in this site on the Hudson River.

Farther north at Lake Placid are located the home and grave of John Brown, the noted abolitionist.

RECOGNITION of the Battle of Saratoga is given at Schuylerville by the towering monument, which honors the accomplishments of Schuyler; Gates and Morgan at the battle. A fourth niche is empty to recall that Benedict Arnold, who is credited with winning the battle, later betrayed his country.

The Marshall House at Schuylerville is now the home of Mrs. T. Kenneth Bullard. During Revolutionary days Madame Riedesel, wife of an officer, cared for wounded soldiers on the British side.

Saratoga Springs has three museums. The Saratoga Historical Museum in the Casino in Congress Park highlights regional history, early Saratoga Springs with its famous hotels and mementos of pioneer Saratogians.

THE WALWORTH Memorial Museum, also in the Casino, contains replicas of the rooms in the Colonial home of Reuben Hyde Walworth, chancellor of the last Court of Chancery of New York State, a court he conducted from 1828 to 1847. The first completely American made piano is exhibited in this museum.

The National Museum of Racing opened in the Casino in 1951 and was moved to the building it now occupies in 1955. It has an outstanding collection of equine art and many racing mementos. Racing's National Hall of Fame is also in this building.

The race course, across from the museum, is more than 100 years old, and the harness association is just over 25 years old.

Yaddo, to the east of the race course, dates back to post-Revolution days, when Jacobus Barhyte opened a tavern there. This property was later acquired by Spencer and Katrina

Trask and now serves as a retreat for artist, musicians and authors invited by the Yaddo Corporation.

THE HISTORY of the area is dwarfed in years by the Petrified Gardens to the west of Saratoga Springs. Here are found Cryptozoons which are thousands of years old. Ritchie Park, designated last year as a National Landmark, is privately owned, and Lester Park, a sort of roadside display of this geologic wonder, is state-owned. Both are open to the public with a fee charged at the privately maintained one.

The geology of the area is extremely interesting. The dolomite to the West of Saratoga Springs and Stark's Knobb at Schuylerville are listed in guides. It is to a geologic fault that the area owes the mineral springs of Saratoga Springs and Ballston Spa.

It was to one of these springs, the High Rock, that Indians brought Sir William Johnson from nearby Johnstown, and the story is that the mineral water cured him of his leg wounds.

There is much architecture of note throughout the area.

IN SARATOGA SPRINGS the houses on Franklin Square

are lauded by architectural experts. The Batcheller house, a French chateau type, is of interest. The home of Madame Jumei is a private residence owned by Dr. and Mrs. Leo Hoge.

Near the new Skidmore campus is the former home of singer Chauncy Olcott and his wife. Now the home of Mrs. Harrie A. Levenson, it still has the thatched cottage in the garden, which is a replica of Olcott's mother's home in Ireland.

The stone Bryan House is one of the earliest area homes.

In addition to military history, religious and reform history has been made in Saratoga County. Round Lake, a community which is observing its centennial this year, started as a Methodist camp meeting ground, and the first temperance society in the United States was formed in the Town of Moreau.

SKIDMORE was started on the site of Temple Grove, a school of which Dr. Charles Ferdinand Dowd, coordinator of Standard Time, was the principal.

Waterford has an Historical Museum and Cultural Center, and it received an award from Gov. Rockefeller this spring for saving from destruction the Hugh White Homestead, which has stood in the village for 138 years.

Destined for destruction to make way for a commercial project, the house was preserved through the efforts of a

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FORT William Henry ramparts overlook the the southern tip of Lake George at Lake George Village.