

Schuylerville of Central Importance in History of Saratoga County

Saratoga Battle Monument Completed in 1877 At Total Cost of \$125,000

Oct. 17, 1876, the 75th anniversary of the surrender of General Burgoyne to General Gates, John A. Corey, George Storer and other patriotic gentlemen met in the old Schuyler mansion in Schuylerville and discussed the preliminary steps necessary to the organization of a society which should have in view the erection of a battle monument on the site of the famous battle of Saratoga.

As a result, in 1880 Hamilton Fish, Hon. Seymour, John A. Corey, Peter Gansevoort and others organized the Saratoga Monument Association under a perpetual charter of the State of New York whose object was the erection of a fitting memorial on the site of Burgoyne's surrender.

The original board consisted of the following permanent trustees or directors: Colonel George Storer, William Wilson and Henry Holmes of Saratoga, Hon. James M. Martin, John A. Corey and James M. Cook of Saratoga Springs, LeRoy Mowry and A. C. Tofft of Washington County, Peter Gansevoort, Albany, Hamilton Fish, New York, Philip Schuyler, Westchester County, George W. Hilebeck, Brooklyn, and Hon. Horatio Seymour, Utica. In 1880 Mr. Hilebeck died and Benson J. Lossing, the historian, was elected to fill his place. Most of the above were the charter members of the organization.

AN ACCOUNT of the Civil War the work of the association, was interrupted, however, in 1872, operations were resumed. In 1871 the Legislature voted an appropriation of \$30,000, with a proviso that the proposed monument should cost not less than \$200,000 nor more than \$300,000. As work was delayed this appropriation elapsed and it was not until 1877, when the association, by popular subscription raised sufficient money to proceed with the work on Oct. 17, 1877, the 100th anniversary of the surrender of General Burgoyne, with appropriate ceremonies.

The Grand Lodge of the State of New York, P. and A. M., conducted the ceremonies, and the cornerstone was laid by the Grand Master of the Grand Lodge J. J. Crouch. A procession two miles long and 40,000 attended the exercises. A brilliant military spectacle representing the surrender of Burgoyne's army concluded the exercises.

THE MONUMENT was built after a design submitted by J. C. Markham. The association obtained two appropriations—\$15,000 and \$10,000—from the State Legislature through the efforts of Charles S. Lester and Delcous R. Potter; \$30,000 from Congress through the efforts of Hon. John H. Starn, and finally \$40,000 more from Congress through the efforts of Hon. Ed-

COUNTY ORGANIZED 180 YEARS AGO

Old Reynolds Home Once Stage Tavern

One of the historic old places in the town of Moreau is the Austin L. Reynolds homestead located on an eminence on the Gansevoort-South Glens Falls state road at a crossroad known as Reynolds Corner.

The place dates about 1800 at which members of the family have no definite information of the date of erection. It was once a tavern in the old stage days when Old Moreau was the first station, Reynolds Tavern the second and Old Griswold the third stop.

THE BUILDING is practically in its original state except where repairs have been made in the past. A store building formerly stood in the yard which was used as a store and postoffice by the family for many years. It since has been moved back and now serves as a dwelling.

The present Austin L. Reynolds is the third of the family to bear the name. The family is noted for furnishing supervisors for the town of Moreau. The great grandfather of the present Austin served in 1803, 1805 and 1808. His son served 10 years between 1808 and 1807 while the father of the present Austin served from 1809 to 1813 inclusive.

From 1822 until last year, Austin of the present day was in the Board and he is a candidate again this year.

Ward Wemple, M. C., Hon. John H. Starn, Algonquin S. Sullivan, S. S. Cox and George William Curtis, a total of 385,000.

The entire cost of the structure was about \$125,000. The monument which is of rock-faced New London granite and is 154 feet high stands on a block nearly 300 feet above and overlooks the Hudson River. In its base there is a room 14 feet square with entrance on each side. From this room a bronze staircase leads to the top from which is seen a panoramic view of the entire country.

Over the entrance gables rise to a height of 42 feet and at each corner of the monument at a height of about 20 feet a granite eagle with half-folded wings, muting about seven feet across the back, was placed. The cornice of each of the doors and windows are decorated by pillars of polished black granite from Maine with carved capitals. There are 40 pillars.

FOUR ORNAMENTAL bronze cannon taken from the English at the time of surrender are on the corners of the platform. Of the large niches in the four gables three are filled with appropriate groups of sculpture representing the three generals, Schuyler, Gates and Morgan, the fourth being vacant for Arnold. The staircase consists of 130 steps.

The interior walls are decorated with plaques representing historical scenes of the Revolutionary war by lightning, necessitating costly repairs.

John Gallagher, present caretaker, has been visiting from all parts of the world.

THE SARATOGIAN

MONDAY, AUGUST 16, 1884.

Baroness Riedesel Sheltered Here in 1777



The Marshall House, known now as the Madame Riedesel House, was built by Peter Lansing of Albany in 1771. In this house the Baroness Riedesel and her children and wounded officers found refuge during the six days of the siege of Burgoyne.

Temperance Movement Born in County

At Clark's Corners two miles north of Gansevoort on the Glens Falls road is located a marker with this inscription:

"This spot was organized in 1808, by Dr. Billy Clark and others, the first temperance society in the county. This table was erected in June, 1808 in connection with the County Temperance Convention. Committee of promotion: Rev. J. H. Durkee, chairman; Rev. C. J. Taft, secretary; William T. Wardwell, Alfred L. Maxwell, Capt. Henry M. Randall, John McKee, Leo Hoag, Charles E. Robinson."

The marker consists of a stone, with a bronze tablet set in it and is located in the school yard at Clark's Corners, which place is named in honor of Billy J. Clark. The first meeting actually was held at Mowsey Tavern across the road. Earl Mowsey has in his possession an old account of the first meeting with a list of signers including Doctor Clark.

Dr. N. Bedortha, one of the first physicians to conduct a medical center here in Saratoga, died in 1883.

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about a mile north of the store where the Kirby homestead, another historic place.

Gen. Burgoyne Surrendered In Schuylerville

For many years the village of Schuylerville was thought to have been the actual scene of the surrender of General John Burgoyne to General Horatio Gates, and although there is no absolute proof of this, the articles of capitulation were signed under the convention elm on South Broad street near the Beach armistice place.

The field where British army laid down its arms is located at North Field Park which now is in possession of the village.

Present Wagon Wheel Was Prior Homestead

The Gen. John Prior homestead now is known as The Wagon Wheel. It is located one-half mile from the road to Gansevoort. It was General Prior's home as early as 1802. It was sold in 1860 to Dennis Kamsky, later sold to John Farrell, and again to Fred Spencer, who left it to George Spencer, present owner.

Gen. John Prior was a military rank in 1815 Major, 96th Regiment in April 8, 1816; Lieut. Colonel of the 96th Regiment, May 12, 1816; and Colonel of 9th Brigade. A resignation of his superior officer ranked him that of a Brigadier General.

He was a member of Assembly 1815-1822.

Appointed Judge of Common Pleas and of General Session, and re-elected member of the Court of Oyer & Terminer.

He died August 11, 1884, aged 70 years.

FIRST COUNTY FAIR 100 YEARS AGO

Elijah Parks Built Early Moreau Home

The town of Moreau was formed from Northumberland March 28, 1841. It was annexed to Corinth in 1845. It lies on the great bend of the Hudson at the northeast corner of the county. The west part of the town is occupied by the rocky and precipitous peaks of the Palmetto mountains. The central seat of the town is unindented and broken by the narrow ravines and small streams. The town contains twenty-three thousand six hundred and fifty-six acres of land.

AMONG the earliest and most prominent settlers in this town, as early as 1766, was Elijah Parks, from Salisbury, Conn. He purchased 800 acres of land at So. Glens Falls, and built a dwelling house, afterward known as the "Old Castle." In the time of the Revolution the Parks family was attacked by the Tories and sent to the British army. He was obliged to seek his protection at the garret of Port Edward.

At So. Glens Falls is a tract of land containing about 2,000 acres, known as the Glen Palace. This tract was granted to John Glen, of Schenectady, in 1770. After the Revolution, Glen occupied the place for several years. To this tract Pleas and of General Session, and re-elected member of the Court of Oyer & Terminer.

He died August 11, 1884, aged 70 years.

John and Jeannie McCrea, Of Revolutionary Fame Lived in Northumberland

Skull of Spy Still Kept In Old Mansion

On the grounds of the present Schuylerville High School, the skull of a spy, was found, and was kept in the old mansion.

Lovelace was hanged on the limb of an oak tree on brink of a gravel hill at a short distance south of the Park Creek bridge and was underneath it in a sitting posture. John Storer saw him hanged and buried and told his son, George, all about it.

When the Waterford and Whitehall turnpikes were built this gravel hill was partly dug away. George Storer was present and watched until Lovelace's remains were unearthed when he appreciated the skull. This gruesome relic is still kept in the Schuyler Mansion.

Late Greenfield Woman Escaped from Indians

In the dim obscurity of a rural cemetery lies the body of Panny Schofield, died Dec. 12, 1876, aged 71.

As a young woman she was captured by a band of Indians and carried many miles from home. She succeeded in making her escape and returned alone through the wilderness to live to a great age at her home in Greenfield.

The Rev. E. Clowes Chorley was named curate at Bethesda Episcopal Church May 7, 1907.

Glen cut a road from Schenectady through Saratoga Springs. The place was first called "Wing's Falls," but about the year 1788 Mr. Glen purchased of Mr. Wills, who had settled on the other side of the river, in what is now Warren county, the right to give the Falls his own name.

Among others who settled before the Revolution were John and Henry Beckley, Nathan and Lydus Durkee, and Ephraim Croshaw, who with members of the Parks family, during the war, were carried by the Tories and Indians to Canada.

A SHORT TIME before the Revolution the Widow Jones, with six sons, came to Moreau from New Jersey, and settled on what is now known as the Rogers place, nearly opposite Port Edward. Two of her sons, David and Solomon, remained with the widow; the others settled at Moss Street, above Sandy Hill. One of the sons, who remained with the widow, was David, who was killed by the Tories, near the McCrea, killed by Indians.

The town of Northumberland was formed from Saratoga, March 16, 1786. A part of Hadley was taken off in 1803. The town of Moreau was taken off in 1805, and within 1815 it lies upon the Hudson, north of the center of the county. It is a level and undulating, and broken by deep ravines. This town contains 19,641 acres.

As early as the year 1705 James British, a native of Scotland, settled in this town, about one mile and a half west of the Port Hill, toward Bacon Hill. Hugh Monro also settled in this town in 1716, but adhering to the royal cause, left for Canada during the war of the Revolution.

AMONG OTHERS who were in the town before the Revolution were a Mr. Graham and Archibald McNeil. The Vandewater family and the Payne family, consisting of five brothers, Isaac B. Noah, Samuel, John and Benjamin, also settled before the war. In 1772 three brothers, Wyzant, John and Cornelius Vandenberg, and Peter Winney, their brother-in-law, settled on a farm of one thousand six hundred acres. The McCrea family, in which John and Jeannie are the ones particularly mentioned, settled on the river, in the Paysage neighborhood, before the war.

After the war James McCready, John Tarnum, Philip G. Voth, Richard Rutt, Lethrop Pope, Joseph Palmer, and Samuel Lewis, the father of Prof. Taylor Lewis, of Schenectady, settled in the town. At about the close of the war General Peter Gansevoort bought the old Monro property, sold by the town under the act of confiscation, and thenceforward his name and family became identified with all that section of the country.

Among other settlers after the war were: James Gamble, James Cramer, Ebenezer Bacon, founder of "Bacon Hill," Reed Lewis, Bryant Walcott and Mr. Smith.

Caused Homestead Built by Pioneer

The David Cress homestead is the home of the pioneer settler of the Freshkill Colony which came to Charlton in 1775, although this house could not have been the first dwelling he established, when he bought his tract of forest land.

The old home was one today has a large fire place and brick oven in the kitchen. Another feature is the front door of double doors built in two sections, the upper half opening apart from the lower. It is located northeast of the village.

The Metropolitan Theater, formerly the Pavilion Theater, at Pavilion Spring, Lake Arrow, was opened July 20, 1883, by Thomas Moryl, manager.

SCHUYLERVILLE, N. Y.

SARATOGA 1777

America's Most Historic Village

SCHUYLERVILLE, N. Y. is truly America's most historic village, yet there are countless persons whose knowledge of its shrines can only be imagined from the history they learned in youth.

VISIT SCHUYLERVILLE. You'll enjoy the peaceful surroundings, the comfortable hotel or other stopping places, the municipal beach, a game of golf or tennis, good food and a friendly welcome wherever you go.

IN AND AROUND SCHUYLERVILLE MANY MARKERS INDICATE HISTORIC SITES . . . HERE YOU MAY SEE

THE IMPOSING SARATOGA MONUMENT, completed in 1883, from which one may enjoy a gorgeous view of the surrounding terrain.

THE CONVENTION ELM, near Broadway and Burgoyne Street, under which Burgoyne signed the "Articles of Convention" leading to the surrender.

BURGONYNE'S ARTILLERY PARK, opposite High School, Spring Street.

FIELD OF GROUNDED

ARMS, where the British Army stacked its arms, which on Ferry Street across the Canal Bridge.

SCHUYLER MANSION, near Fish Creek Bridge. Rebuilt by Gen. Philip Schuyler after Burgoyne had fired its predecessor during his retreat from the Battle. Here Gen. Schuyler entertained Generals Washington and Lafayette, Alexander Hamilton, Gov. George Clinton and other eminent guests.

THE MARSHALL HOUSE,

which sheltered Baroness Riedesel and her children during the Battle, although it was struck by eleven American balls. It is about a mile north of Broadway, on an elevation.

BRITISH CAMP GROUNDS, looking north from the corner of Burgoyne and Pearl Streets, which were occupied by several companies of British and German troops.

SITE OF CONTINENTAL BARRACKS, a series of four or five low buildings now occupied

by a new High School. Here the spy Lovelace was tried and sentenced to be hanged.

BRITISH RIVER CROSSING, East over the Canal Bridge from the Marshall House is an iron bridge over the Hudson. Just north of it may be seen approaches constructed by Burgoyne's Army to give access to its bridge of boats.

SITE OF SURRENDER. About a fifth of a mile down the river road from the Schuyler Mansion is an iron marker in-

dicating the place where Burgoyne handed his sword to Gates.

STARK'S KNOB, an eminence about two miles north of Schuylerville, fortified by Gen. Stark, prevented a British retreat after the Battle.

MORGAN'S BREASTWORKS. On a knoll covered by trees, about 330 yards northwest of the Monument are remains of earthenworks thrown up by Col. Morgan.