History made in this area

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

Nearby Fort Edward, 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 Ballard. During Revolutionary days Madame Riedesel, wife of an officer, cured 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 monuments of pioneer Saratogians.

THE WALWORTH Memorial Museum, also in the Casino, contains replicas of the rooms in the Colonial home of Reuben Hyde Walworth, chancelor 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 1961 and moved to the building it now occupies in 1986. 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-Revolutionary days, when Jacobus Barbye opened a tavern there. This property was later acquired by Spencer and Katrina Track and now serves as a retreat for artists, musicians and authors invited by the Yaddo Corporation.

THE HISTORY of the area is dwarled in years by the Petri- fi ed Gardens to the west of Saratoga Springs. Here are found Crockpots which are thousands of years old. Ritchie Park, designated last year as a National Landmark, is privately owned, and Lesher 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 Knob at Schuylerville are laced 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 Jumeil 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. Horrie A. Levengston, 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 local civic group.

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