

PONDERING THE PAST

September 2003

The Parish Town Historical Society participates as Parish Celebrates 200 years of Settlement

The Parish Bicentennial Committee hosted the celebrations of 200 years of settlement.

The Parish Methodist Church hosted a roast pork dinner at the Parish Fire station on Friday, May 23. Followed by a walk across the street, New York dignitaries joined the local government officials in commencing the historic events with speeches and proclamations read at the Parish Elementary School. All of this was followed with entertainment by the Fort Drum 10th Mountain Division

Band.

The PTHS kicked off the events the following day by serving a pancake breakfast at the Parish Fire Station from 7 to 10 AM.

In the afternoon, there were games for the children that were inside the Parish Fire Station due to weather. The parade was canceled because of rain, but the joyful DJ'd Karaoke dance took place at the Parish Fire Station.

On Sunday morning an ecumenical church service was held

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Upcoming Parish Town Historical Society

Sept. 13 — 8 AM
*Summer Trip
Upper Canada Village*

Oct. 8 — 7 PM
*2004 Calendar Sponsors Honored
Pot Luck Dinner*

Nov. 12 — 7 PM
*Mills & Petrie Memorial Gymnasium
One Room School House Memories to
be shared at meeting*

Dec. 10th— 7 PM
*Mills & Petrie Memorial Gymnasium
Christmas Party*

Summer Trip: Upper Canada Village

The Parish Town Historical Society will be heading north for their summer trip to Upper Canada Village. Come and join us. Discover the colorful characters from the past as they bring to life the daily aspects of life in a mid-19th century rural community - Upper Canada Village!

Upon entering the Village, one is struck by bustling activity.

Costumed interpreters welcome visitors, walk the streets or travel by stagecoach. They perform a variety of activities such as printing, bread making, and cheese making as well as various farm and domestic chores, and are eager to demonstrate or chat about their roles in a 19th century society.

There is constant activity to

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**When and where was the first
town meeting held? Who was
elected to serve for their town?
Find answer on page 3**

Summer Trip: Upper Canada Village

(Continued from page 1)

see and learn from at Upper Canada Village; from the spinning of wool in a log home, to the grinding of wheat into flour in a steam powered mill. Tradesmen demonstrate their skills by forging iron, shaping and soldering tinware, crafting furniture, shoeing horses and more. Throughout



the Village costumed interpreters are busy in homes, shops and on the streets, tending to livestock in the barns and farmyards. Even the flowers and vegetation in Village gardens along with the crops and fruit trees in the fields add to the picture of a living community.

Take a ride through the Village on a horse-drawn Wagon, and return by water via the Tow Scow. Take the Miniature Train to Heritage Park and the Queen Elizabeth Gardens. There is always something interesting going on in the Children's Activity Centre. Finally, dress up in period costumes at the Photography Studio leave Upper Canada Village with a perfect souvenir.

Expect a day full of activities at the Upper Canada Village. The PTHS will meet at the former "Talk of the Town Café" parking lot for an 8 AM departure. The admission to the park will be \$ for adults and \$ for children. Additional costs: lunch at park and dinner on return trip.

Parish Town Seal

Rescheduled
Presentation on
Rural Cemeteries

The Parish Town Historical Society participates as Parish Celebrates 200 years of Settlement

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at the Parish Fire Station. There was an ecumenical choir of adults and children. Each of the local churches were represented. The service was followed by a covered dish dinner. The Parish Methodist Church hosted a homemade ice cream social. Verna Henderson provided a delicious birthday cake for Parish.

The APW Elite Choir provided

entertainment for the afternoon along with the Parish Majorettes offering two floor routines.

The first Tuesday of May 1828, at the Parishville school-house.

Officers elected: Paul Allen, supervisor; John Becker, town clerk; Stutely Palmer, T. Nutting, and Marks Edick, assessors; Isam Simons, collector; Denison B Palmer, Isaac B Mead and Charles Gardner, inspectors f schools; George Earles, Peter Edick, Squire Palmer and Chancey Whitney, constables; Benajah Whitney, Joseph Maybee, and Jacob Mead, pound-masters; John Becker, sealer of weights and measures.

Memorial Day Speech, May 2003

While looking through one of the town scrapbooks, I found a newspaper article from 1888. This article describes the Wednesday May 30th 1888 Decoration Day celebration, as Memorial Day was known then. Edwin Palmer was chosen to point out the graves at the Parish Cemetery and AC Coan at the Bidwell Cemetery. Citizens met at the Town Hall at 9:30 am for a procession that marched to Bidwell Cemetery for the service. A free lunch of hardtack, pork, beans and coffee was served at the Town Hall upon their return. Then at 1:30 they reformed the procession and marched to this cemetery for the services.

Parish has never forgotten its veterans. In the Town Historian's files I have programs from past Memorial Days. Many of these programs were donated to the Town by Owen LaForce, a WWII veteran who loved this cemetery and this town.

On the 1920 program there is a section describing the formation of the Parish War Chest Association which purchased the three bronze tablets for Veterans Park honoring the men who served in the Civil War, Spanish American War and WW1.

In 1945 the Memorial Day Ceremony was held here on a Wednesday with

Richard Popp reciting the Gettysburg address.

In 1952 the services were conducted by Commander Frank Karboski and the Russell Horning Post 601.

Memorial Day honors the people from Parish who enlisted and left home to preserve our way of life. Dr. Tobias J. Green, our local physician, enlisted in the Civil War where he served as a surgeon. Another Parish citizen, Major Meltzar T. Richards served one tour in the Civil War and then reenlisted to organize the 24th Cavalry and though severely wounded during the battle of Petersburg he still led his regiment during battle. With his left arm useless at his side and the reigns of his horse in his teeth he remained at the head of his regiment for the remainder of that day. His arm was still in a sling when he was fatally wounded during fighting on April 5th 1865. Three days later Lee surrendered.

It has always been difficult to send our citizens off to war. In her diary of 1902, Parish resident Edith Edick tells of a blizzard on Saturday February 8 when she writes of a train, stalled by the storm, carrying a regiment of soldiers. "Why don't they settle that war instead of taking the lives of

so many of our brave and noble boys. How many hearts are aching tonight all over the land and mother's weeping for sons that will never return"

Parish has never forgotten its veterans: That's why we're here today. On December 4th 1947, in Washington DC, Honorable Hadwin C.Fuller, our Congressman and a resident of Parish, spoke in the House of Representatives on the topic of Community life in a small town and I quote "after age and experience have tempered the impetuosity of youth reason tells us that the happiest place to live for most people in this great democracy is in a small town"

This is a small town and we all know at least one of the names on the monuments in Veterans Park. Many families have more than one family member on the plaque. Take time this afternoon to go and visit the Park by the Methodist Church and read the names. You'll recognize families that still live here.

60's Hits

If you're younger than 40 - you might not get these! Ask your parents or grandparents! Some of the aging rock stars of the '60's are re-releasing updated versions of their original hits.

Herman's Hermits - "Mrs. Brown, You've Got A Lovely Walker"

The Bee Gees - "How Can You Mend A Broken Hip"

The Temptations - "Papa's Got A Kidney Stone"

Ringo Starr - "I Get By With A Little Help From Depends"

Marvin Gaye - "I Heard It Through The Grape Nuts"

Procol Harem - "A Whiter Shade Of Hair"

Johnny Nash - "I Can't See Clearly Now"

Leo Sayer - "You Make Me Feel Like Nappin'"

ABBA - "Denture Queen"

Paul Simon - "Fifty Ways To Lose Your Liver"

Roberta Flack - "The First Time I Ever Forgot Your Face"

Commodores - "Once, Twice, Three Times To The Bathroom"

Bobby Darin - "Splish, Splash, I Was Havin' A Flash"

THE NEWSLETTER DEADLINE

Please, submit information for your newsletter!

Deadlines-

Jan. 23 for February issue

Apr. 23 for May issue

Aug 23 for September issue

Nov.. 23 for December issue

Always looking for suggestions.

Searching . . .

I'm writing to you in an effort to obtain either birth or death certificates for my grandmother and her brother. They are: Evalyn Isabella Skinner Chateau Born Nov. 20, 1865 Died July 13, 1930 Married William "E." Chateau Jan 4, 1888 Born Oct 17, 1858 Died April 1, 1920 She was a teacher and midwife and had 3 children, Charles Edmond, Born Oct. 24, 1888, Died June 26, 1937 in Phoenix, Ariz. Evalyn Amelia Chateau Gibbs Born Oct. 27, 1890, Died July 18, 1982 Irma Lucille Chateau Born Oct. 21, 1896 Died May 21, 1900. Her brother is John Hiram Skinner Born April 15, 1867 Died April 26, 1943 in Colosse, NY Married Lillie Matthieu on French St., Colosse, N.Y. Aunt Lil was born Oct 25 _____ and died in Mexico, NY July 1957. Their parents were Amelia Julia Sampson (Skinner) and William Henry Avery Skinner. She was born April 25, 1841 and died Aug 8, 1875. He was born Sept 23, 1839 and died in Wisconsin in 1917 at the Soldier's & Sailors Home. They married in 1860-61 If I am contacting the wrong person in Parish for this information, please hand this request on to the proper party. I understand there is a charge for obtaining these documents. Please let me know the cost and I will mail you my check. If the Society is able to accept credit cards, please let me know, if this is an easier way to handle the payment. My sincere THANK YOU for your efforts on

my behalf. Ellie Beltz Mrs. Eleanor (Chateau Gibbs) Beltz 110 Trails End Court Lancaster, Pa. 17603 (717)399-4014 Hello again..... I just re-read your request for Parish history. My mother was EVALYN AMELIA CHATEAU. She lived in the house on the corner, across the street from the park where the cannon is located & about a block from the Methodist Church. Her mother was a teacher/midwife, EVALYN SKINNER CHATEAU. Her father, WILLIAM CHEATEAU, made Master for Great Lakes ships at the age of 17. He would never require his sailors to do anything he himself would not do. During a fierce storm, he needed to sight land and climbed up the rigging. Just as he was about to climb into the crow's nest, the ship pitched and he was throw to the deck below, very seriously injured. They told him he would never walk again. But before he died, with the use of 2 canes, he used to walk down the railroad tracks to Colosse (the train only ran about once a week) where my Mother and Father lived after they married in June 1917. Then My Father would bring him back to Parish in his automobile. (I might add, Dad was the first to own an automobile in that area.) After Grampa Chateau was injured, they settled in Parish. He needed a livelyhood. Telephones had been invented and the first switchboard in the Parish area, enabling neighbor to

telephone their neighbor, was located in their living room. Mother and Dad later moved to Parish, across the corner from her folks. This was where 2 of my brothers and 2 of my sisters were born. I have some pictures that were taken around these houses. My mother did quite a bit of singing at church as well as entertainment for various organization. Some of it was done out at Mexico Point. The last time I was there, the lake shoreline was almost up to the monument, which when she sang there, was in the middle of the park. I've emailed my cousin, Dorothea Lines, in Oregon. She is the daughter of Charles, my mother's older brother. She may be writing to you with her memories of Parish. If I come across any of the pictures, I will try & make a few copies and send them on to you. Have a really great day..... Ellie Beltz

Photo taken from intersection of Main and Railroad Streets. View looking toward West Amboy

P.D. Edick was my great uncle; his wife, Christina, was my grandmother's sister (Mrs. Del Crim)

Ethel Edick, P.D. Edick's daughter, taught 1st and 2nd grade at Parish for fifty years. Cousin of Bill A. Crim

The 1916 photo of P. D. Edick store:

P.D. Edick was one of the founders of the Parish Pleasant Lawn

Cemetery.

P. D. Edick built the building with his name on it; he sold gasoline, boots and shoes, groceries, clothing and in the back of the store he had a funeral business.

Loyal MacNeal, born in Parish, told me a story about W. B. Harter funeral home and P. D. Edick. The man went to W. B. Harter about a funeral for a family member; Harter's price was too high so he went over to P. D. Edick's funeral

home. P.D. Edick quoted him a price for the funeral that was higher than the Harter funeral home price.

The man said I am going back to the Harter Funeral home, his price is better than yours; P. D. Edick is rumored to have said, I am going to give you a fee funeral and you can go over to the Harter Funeral home and ask Mr. Harter if he can beat my price.

Parish High Memories

A letter received from
Rev. Arden W. Coe (class of 1928)
2160 Bleecker St. Apt. A-111
Utica, NY 13501-1732
(315) 733-2951

July 16, 2003

Mary Lou Miller Guindon
President, Parish-APW Alumni Association
2885 East Main Street
Parish, NY 13131

Dear Mary Lou.

A tardy but sincere thank you for your letter and the booklet and

program of the Banquet June 7, 2003.

Until a few days prior to the meeting I had planned to attend, but a series of family events changed my plans; the hospitalization and admission to a Nursing Home of my wife Mary; the death of my son's Mother in Law; and the death of my daughter's Father in Law. My wife is still in the Nursing Home. In anticipation of attending I did write down a few recollections and enclosing the first draft. As a self taught typist with aging hands I apologize for the typing but hopefully you can read

the content which probably HAS NO HISTORIC VALUE. Because the event is past I did not hire anyone to retype it.

The material you sent me is very well done and represents a great amount of research and work. I congratulate you and the planning committee. I also congratulate you on finding a picture of the Class of 1928. I shall treasure the material you sent me for whatever years I have left and share them with my family.

I qualify as one of the older Alumni. I will be 92 next February. I served churches in Utica, Palmyra and Scarsdale in New York State, and New Haven, CT. I served in the Air Force during World War II and

Parish High Memories

during my Palmyra Pastorate, as chaplain at the Veterans Hospital, Canandaigua New York. I have degrees from Syracuse University, Union Theological Seminary and a certificate in Business Administration from Purdue University. I also served as Asst. Vice President for Customer Service in a small Insurance Company's home office in Philadelphia, PA. I have a son, daughter, six grandchildren and five great grandchildren.

I hope that I have the privilege of meeting you again. Best wishes APW-Parish and its Alumni-Alumnae. Sincerely,

Arden W. Coe

Memories of APW Central School (Parish) Arden Coe 1928

The 75th anniversary of the class of 1928, then Parish High School, is an important milestone for me as a member of the class. The years have taken their toll. Distance and other interests have sent us in different directions. My recollection is that there were fifteen members of the class and four are still in the "land of the living," Gail Durgee McSweeney, Gerald Brosnan, Jack Sternberg and myself.

My memories go back to the two story wooden building, long gone, where I completed the 7th and 8th grades as well as the high school years. My first six grades were completed in a one-room school in Hastings, three

miles from Parish. The front entrance to the Parish building had a class room to the left and one to the right. boys stairs on the right, girls stairs on the left. Classroom to the lefts was for grades 7 and 8; behind it was the kindergarten room; to the right was the room for the 4th, 5th and 6th grades; behind that was the Primary room for grades 1, 2, 3. The second floor had a raised dias for the Faculty and Principal, Carl Early; Theodore Durgee, commercial subjects and Mathematics; Marion Jones, English and History; Celia Abbott, Latin and French; back of the study Hall was a room for science to the left and a general class room to the right. The study hall was the scene of many activities including the office for selling of magazines such as Saturday Evening Post, Country Gentlemen, and Ladies Home Journal to raise money for the spring trip to Washington, Philadelphia and New York City. In my senior year this study hall devoted more to watching the new building being built than it was to study. The class of 1928 was the first class where the graduation ceremonies were held in this building. I understand this building was replaced by Parish Elementary School after centralization.

During my high school years baseball and basketball teams were organized or reactivated. For two years the league was Parish, Pulaski, Sandy Creek, Bellville, Mexico, Central Square.

For the other two years it was Parish, Central Square, Cleveland, Phoenix, Mexico and Pulaski. Many student activities began to be organized.

The girls had a once a month luncheon club. Each one brought a dish and they ate together. The name selected was "The Club" (The Hearty Eaters)." The boys organized touch football, and softball. I was never an athlete, but followed the activities with great interest. My limited participation was the second squad in basketball and running a few races of a mile or two duration; a faint look at the future with Marathons and cross country.

It is an honor to be part of the Parish tradition and to know that Eastern Oswego County, through Altmar, Parish and Williamstown is devoted to education and the development of well rounded persons who have contributed to our nation and our world.

Arden Coe
Class of 1928

The American Flag ~

Do you know that at military funerals, the 21 gun salute actually stands for the sum of the numbers in the year 1776?

I hope you have noticed the honor guard pays meticulous attention to correctly folding the American flag 13 times? You probably thought it was to symbolize the original 13 colonies, but we learn something new every day!

Be surprised at the following only because "they" quit teaching this around 1955 in public schools... some of you out there might remember.

The 1st fold of our flag is a symbol of life.

The 2nd fold is a symbol of our belief in eternal life.

The 3rd fold is made in honor and remembrance of the veterans departing our ranks who gave a portion of their lives for the defense of our country to attain peace throughout the world.

The 4th fold represents our weaker nature, for as American citizens trusting in God, it is to Him we turn in times of peace as well as in time of war for His divine guidance.

The 5th fold is a tribute to our country, for in the words of Stephen Decatur, "Our Country, in dealing with other countries, may she always be right; but it is still our country, right or wrong."

The 6th fold is for where our hearts lie. It is with our hearts that, "We pledge allegiance to the flag of the United States Of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one Nation under God, indivisible, with Liberty and Justice for all."

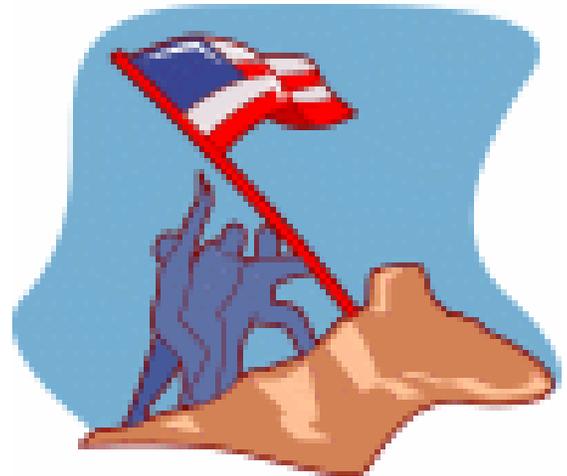
The 7th fold is a tribute to our Armed Forces, for it is through the Armed Forces that we protect our country and our flag against all her enemies, whether they be found within or without the boundaries of our republic.

The 8th fold is a tribute to the one who entered into the valley of the shadow of death, that we might see the light of day.

The 9th fold is a tribute to womanhood, and Mothers. For it has been through their faith, their love, loyalty and devotion that the character of the men and women who have made this country great has been molded.

The 10th fold is a tribute to the fathers, for they, too, have given their sons and daughters for the defense of our country since they were first born.

The 11th fold represents the lower portion of the seal of King David and King Solomon and glorifies in the Hebrews' eyes, the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob.



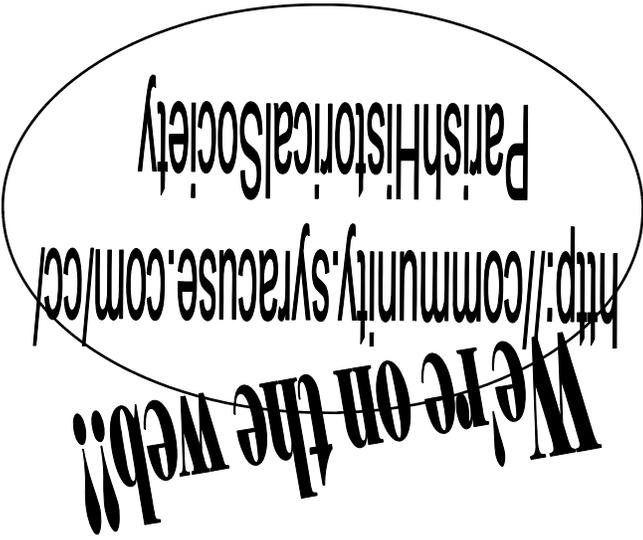
The 12th fold represents an emblem of eternity and glorifies, in the Christians' eyes, God the Father, the Son and Holy Spirit.

The 13th fold, or when the flag is completely folded, the stars are uppermost reminding us of our nation's motto, "In God We Trust."

After the flag is completely folded and tucked in, it takes on the appearance of a cocked hat, ever reminding us of the soldiers who served under General George Washington, and the sailors and marines who served under Captain John Paul Jones, who were followed by their comrades and shipmates in the Armed Forces of the United States, preserving for us the rights, privileges and freedoms we enjoy today.

There are some traditions and ways of doing things that have deep meaning. In the future, you'll see flags folded and now you will know why.

"GOD BLESS OUR TROOPS"



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Parish Town Historical Society
Newsletter

Parish Town Historical Society
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2003
~ 200 years of settlement ~
Parish was and is the Place!

Parish Town Historical Society
2003-04 Officers
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