

APPENDIX I (Explanation of Text References) PART I

Page Column

- 7 m.2 The first building was an open shed ...
These first shelters are described in some accounts as log lean-tos covered with brush, and in others as flat-roofed sheds covered with board troughs like a sugar shack. They were located along Brainard Creek near where it flows into the Oswegatchie at the lowest point on Austin Street. The creek now flows through a flume and cannot be seen. Soon these families bought separate farms on which they built, first log cabins, then frame or brick houses. Isaac Austin stayed on the original site along the river where Austin St. is: Pardon Babcock bought the acres that now contain Riverside Cemetery; Willard Smith at first located down the river from Austin's and later on the Richville Road; Eleazar Nichols went toward Little Bow.
- 7 b. 2 The first four-sided building ... Joel Keys lived on the Hailesboro Road in the vicinity of Riverside Cemetery, as nearly as can be ascertained.
- 8 b. 1 Shortened the route to Antwerp . . .
Originally the settlers followed the road along the river, the Johnstown Road. The shortened route started as a trail through Somerville. probably just about where Route 11 is now. By 1840 it was a road and later became a plank road.
- 9 t.2 The three islands in the river, where the successive bridges have been built, was one reason for choosing the site for settlement. The island on the east side was a hundred feet out from the bank, necessitating a pier. The westernmost island has been engulfed by fill and the other two are covered with water behind the dam.
- 9 1. 2 A toilsome journey to Cooper's Falls ...
Usually logs and grain were hauled overland to Little Bow, then rafted to Cooper's Falls. The finished products returned by the same route in reverse.
- 10 t.1 Willard Smith, one of the four founders, first came in the 1805 surveying party. Later his father. Aholiab and three brothers. "Benjamin of Little Bow", Rufus and Stephen followed. Willard eventually settled on what was later the George M. Dodds farm a short distance north of town on Route 11. Benjamin was killed by a faU suffered while building the brick house, still standing, near Little Bow corners. He had an army of descendants. some of whom are buried in the adjacent cemetery. Stephen settled on what became the Henry B. Holbrook farm, later purchased by Amasa Corbin, four miles out on the Richville Road. Rufus owned the farm later occupied by Levi Smith, a prosperous farmer, who

married Lydia Holbrook and built the home on South Street now occupied by Dr. Richard Scranton.

- 10 b. 2 Gouverneur Morris spent three weeks as the guest of Isaac Austin in Gouverneur in 1808. Mr. David Dill, who has made an extensive study of the Morris papers, many of which have only recently come into the possession of the Library of Congress, believes that Morris himself visited Gouverneur only twice, in 1808 and 1815. A man of wealth and refinement, he did not enjoy the primitive living conditions of the early settlers and, if he could choose, would go to Morristown and stay with the Fords where he found comfortable accommodations and congenial company. The signature of Gouverneur Morris on documents after 1816, the year Morris died, is that of his son.
- 11 t. 2 1809 ... to open a district school ...
Some local historians state that the first building, used for about a year, was a small log hut built to house the men erecting the bridge. The one mentioned here was the first built specifically as a school.
- 11 b. 2 The first slave brought to town ... The 1905 Centennial History notes three slaves in Gouverneur: Dr. Townsend's Jenny, Dr. Spencer's George, and a man belonging to Benjamin Leavitt. In 1810 there were five slaves in St. Lawrence County and well over 14,000 in the state. Slavery was not prohibited in New York State until 1827.
- 14 t.1 Porter's Inn ... At the corner of West Main and Mill Streets above the river, where the Ruderman building, recently purchased by Harron's Electric, stands.
- 14 t.1 Fosgate's Four Corners ... Where West Main St., the Johnstown Road and Hailesboro Street come together. The exact site of the school is not known.
- 14 m.1 John Brown's Store ... On the east side of the river in the first block above Wall Street where the Red Brick Tavern was located.
- 14 b.t Mrs. Pardon Babcock . . . Riverside Cemetery is on part of the Pardon Babcock farm. The Daniel Austin farm was on lower Grove Street. Mrs. Babcock thus rowed upriver, around the bend and across to the Grove Street side.
- 14 m.2 Church's Mills ... At Wegatchie. Harvey Van Buren's residence was on the Johnstown Road.
- 15 b.2 First baptism ... Baptisms took place in the river at the outlet of Brainard Creek.

- 16 t.1 A plain frame church ... The Baptist churches have always been on the same site as the present one (which burned in 1976 and is about to be rebuilt.)
- 17 t.2 The Block House was approximately in Clinton Street about in front of where Kaplan's and Totum Market (formerly A&P) are now.
- 17 t.2 F.M. Holbrook was the son of Henry Holbrook who married Rebecca, daughter of Isaac Austin. The Holbrooks, like the Dodges, were prominent in the life of the town for three generations. covering most of the 19th century, only to disappear without a trace we can now discover. F. M. Holbrook, at the age of 82, wrote a monograph for the 1905 Centennial History but neither he nor his children returned to Gouverneur.
- 17 m.2 "Wally" McKean spent some years in the west during frontier days and returned with tall tales about the Sioux and Chippewa whom he came to know quite well and whose language he understood.
- 18 m.1 John Garrett was born in England and came to America as a soldier in the British army. He deserted in Connecticut, narrowly escaping capture by the British, joined the Revolutionary forces and came eventually to New York. He married twice and is said to have had three or more children. One daughter married Willard Smith and another James Barnes. A head stone in his memory was placed in the G.A.R. plot in Riverside cemetery.
- 18 b.2 The houses of Drs. Townsend and Spencer ... When Dr. Townsend came to Cambray as agent of Gouverneur Morris, he took up a farm and built a house on the Johnstown road, about two miles from the village at the top of the hill across the creek known as Townsend Creek. Mrs. Parker refers to it as the Wallace McKean farm. Since .11 doctors in those days had to have a source of income more reliable than their medical practices, Dr. Townsend took in travelers and ran a small tavern.
- Dr. Spencer bought Dr. Townsend's house on the Johnstown road and continued to operate it as an inn and tavern through the War of 1812. Dr. Townsend built the house pictured on p. 29, then, later, the hotel on p. 39.
- 19 b.1 In the days of homespun, the woven fabric. usually woolen, was taken to the fulling mill to be "fulled", i.e., treated with heat and pressure to shrink and thicken it ready for cutting and sewing.

- 21 1&2 Rockwell Barnes was a millwright and builder who came to Gouverneur in 1808. A master builder to whom a difficult job was a challenge, he was a man of tremendous activity and enterprise who pushed any undertaking he once started until it was finished. In 1838 he purchased the site of Morris' old mills at Natural Dam and built a sawmill, barn, house, storehouse and bridge which later became the property of Weston, Dean and Aldrich.
- 21 t.2 The first frame barn is said to have been on the Kearney road, this side of the bridge. Though the bounds of the Kearney farm are unclear, the Kearney tract of which it was probably a part, was a huge parcel of land owned by the father of General Philip Kearney, of Mexican and Civil War fame. It was originally three-quarters of a mile wide and extended nearly twenty miles from Gouverneur to the St. Lawrence River. Several early farms on the Johnstown and Gravel roads were part of it, including those of William Herring, Sr. and James Bowne.
- 23 1&2 The burying ground: the two acre plot granted by Gouverneur Morris in 1808 included a substantial amount of land inside John, William, Church and South streets, in back of the Presbyterian church. The present Riverside cemetery is the thirty-plus acres purchased from the Pardon Babcock farm.
- 29 t.2 Harvey D. Smith was considered by many of his own generation and the two that followed to be Gouverneur's most distinguished citizen of the nineteenth century. He opened a drug store after his arrival from Vermont in 1824. He was special county judge, member of the Assembly and county surrogate judge. He was famous for settlement of disputes without recourse to law.
- 29 1&2 A substantial and elegant Academic building . . . this building, opened in 1834, was at the upper end of the park on the opposite side of Grove St. from the school building familiar in modern times. It was owned by stockholders and charged tuition, as did all academies at that time. The school became the Gouverneur Wesleyan Seminary under the Methodist church in 1836 and burned in 1839.
- 30 m.1 A few rods north of the old ground ... this second building (1841) was across Grove Street. The Methodist church withdrew in 1849 but the school still operated as a private academy with some funds from state and village until the Union Free School district was formed in 1887. The third building, the one familiar to most people, replaced the second in 1895, was the high school until the opening of the Dean High School in 1915, then became the East Side Elementary school until it was demolished in the 1950's.

- 33 t.2 The Second Congregational church. . . stood where the Methodist church is now. It was moved to Park Street, used as a meeting hall and opera house until 1873 when the Roman Catholic congregation bought it and remodeled it. It burned in the January 1875 fire.
- 35 m.2 Dr. Franklin B. Hough. distinguished historian of northern New York, was the author of a History of St. Lawrence and Franklin counties. recently republished by the St. Lawrence county Historical Society.
- 37 b.2 The first Fair Grounds were within the block bounded by Gordon. Rock Island. Main and Barney streets, leased from the Averills.
- 38 b.2 A word about the Parkers. James Parker was an early settler of Gouverneur and seems to have been unrelated to the other Parkers. His son. Sabin, may be remembered by older people as he lived to be a very old man. Captain George Parker was a newspaper man and the father of B.G. and Helen I. Parker both of whom were prominently connected with the old Free Press. B.G. Parker married Miss Dora Pike and lived in the house that is now the nucleus of the Parker motel on East Main St. Miss Helen I. Parker lived in the house on William Street that was later the residence of Mr. and Mrs. Prescott Loomis. Mrs. Parker. author of this History, was the wife of Cornelius A. Parker and the mother of C. Arthur Parker. both local attorneys. Their home was the house on Grove Street beyond the old Methodist parsonage. In later years there was another attorney, George W. Parker. of Macomb. whose daughter. Deborah. was the wife of Earl Mead.
- 48 m.2 Abel Godard's wife. Helen. was a sister of Hiram Herring. The First National Bank was recently merged with the National Bank of Northern New York.
- 48 t.2 Roman Catholic Society of St. James ... this was the building on Park Street. just back of the Main Street corner block.
- 48 m.2 This fire was on Wednesday. January 13 (not January 15). See Gouverneur Times, Friday. January 15. 1875.
The VanBuren Hotel. near the center of the long Main Street block where the Watertown Mattress store is now, just about divided the two great fires. Without attempting to count or identify buildings. it can be said in general that the 1875 fire burned most of the end toward Park Street from the hotel and the 1877 fire most of the end toward Clinton Street. The Fuller block is on the corner of Park and the Egert block on the corner of Clinton.
The Van Buren house had two fires. in 1881 and again in 1893. After the second. it was rebuilt completely as the St. Lawrence Inn.

- 52 m.2 The first fire company was a bucket brigade organized about 1859. The second, organized in 1868 was the Gouverneur Hose Company No. 1, complete with red shirts, hats and belts. They had a hose cart pulled by hand and, on Main Street only, could use the new village water line. The third company (1878) built the fire house and purchased the LaFrance steamer in 1880.
- 57 b.1 The reaction of the clergy to the "state of public morals" is shown in a sermon delivered by the Rev. M.J. Conklin in 1876 in which he said that the Saturday night gatherings downtown exhibited so much "profanity and drunkenness, with brawling and fighting ... that Saturday night was made hideous in the extreme and that often these orgies were continued until the dawning of God's hallowed day of rest."
- 62 t.t Two important Gouverneur citizens in the pioneer lumber firm of Weston, Dean and Aldrich were Orison Dean and Newton Aldrich. This company was succeeded by Aldrich, Dean and Aldrich and eventually by the Aldrich Paper Company. Newton Aldrich, besides his lumber and paper interests, acquired a substantial holding in the Bank of Gouverneur. In 1900 he made a gift of the building which houses the present library. Orison Dean's widow, Mrs. Myra Dean, and his daughters, the Misses Jennie and Cora Dean, were responsible for numerous benefactions - the Presbyterian manse (now the museum of the Historical Association), the organ of the Presbyterian Church, the bronze eagle on the arch, and the original building of Gouverneur High School, among them.
- 66 1 The Whitney family was connected with the marble industry well into the 20th century. N. E. Whitney and J. H. Sawyer began a retail marble business in 1865, taken over later by Mr. Whitney and his son, D.J. Whitney. The latter sold out after his father's death to George Parker who resold it in 1871 to D.J. Whitney and his brother T. J. Subsequently the business was bought by two younger brothers, A.S. and P.R. Whitney. Later D.J. Whitney operated the business alone for a time, eventually being joined by J. E. McAllister in what was known as the Gouverneur Marble and Whitney Granite Co. New York interests later took over some of the local marble business, retaining the Whitneys to operate it. In 1881 T. J. Whitney, with the backing of a number of local businessmen, organized the Whitney

Marble Company and began operation on the McKean property where work was continued under successive managers until the quarries closed down in the 1930's. Many other sites around Gouverneur were explored by other interests and some of them put into operation. The finest Gouverneur marble was used as trim for buildings and foundation for monuments. Marble of lesser quality went into the foundations of buildings and bridges or was used for sidewalks. At one time the word

"Whitney" meant, among dealers, a specific type of Gouverneur marble. There were other families besides the Whitneys connected with marble, notably the Scholtons, Eckmanns and Hamptons. But by 1940 the marble industry in Gouverneur was a thing of the past. New and less expensive styles of building made no use of marble, and the Great Depression was the final blow.

68 m.l A.J. McDonald was for many years connected with the local talc industry.