

# Nick Stoner Highway Completed in Fulton Co.

In one of the most historically interesting sections of New York State roamed Major Nicholas Stoner, a warrior of the American Revolution. After the war, he became one of New York's leading trappers, and left a trail of his adventures from Johnstown, to Canada. After many years of planning a new highway, through this virgin woodland, Route 10 has recently been completed and will be known as the Nick Stoner Trail, in tribute to this great American pioneer.

Stoner was not only exposed to eight years of gruelling war, in which he saw his father scalped by Indians, but he also shared in the dangers of the War of 1812. His knowledge of the most fertile part of the Adirondacks, now called Fulton County, led him through the paths of both hostile and friendly Indians who used the trails and waterways for bringing their furs from Canada to the Mohawk River trading posts.

A monument was erected in his honor at the Nick Stoner Golf Course, Town of Caroga, and now the Nick Stoner Trail has been established to memorialize his forest life, in which it

usual term for woods in the frontier of New York) from New York City by his father, Henry Stoner, who resolved to move to the Johnstown settlements situated about 10 miles northeast of the Village of Johnstown, and the same distance northwest from Amsterdam.

At the time of Stoner's arrival, Johnstown was to become known abroad, since it was the residence of the Baronet, Sir William Johnson (after whom it was called), who was an Indian agent for the Six Nations, and as a military man of repute, was notorious in what was then Western New York.

Johnson, after establishing himself at his Hall in Johnstown, no doubt lived in greater affluence, or more in the style of European noblemen of that day, than ever did any other citizen of New York. Johnson Hall is one of the many interesting historical sites to see in Fulton County.

Today, The Great Sacandaga (as it was named by recent New York State legislation), is a man-made lake, more than 25 miles long, with 300 miles of shore line, and controls the flood waters of the lowlands in the Adirondack Park. The fishing in

the United States record for Great Northern Pike (46 lbs. & 2 ozs.), but daily catches of bass walleyes, and perch are quite customary. Many of the streams leading into the lake still are favorite trout fishing grounds. Although The Great Sacandaga is on the Adirondack Trail, it is considered part of Nick Stoner's forest life, because he set his traps from there to the many lakes north and west.

TODAY THERE ARE more than 7000 boats on The Great Sacandaga, and it is one of the favorite lakes for water skiing, power boating and sailing. There are many marinas with launching ramps. Rooming accommodations are plentiful, with many new motels in addition to camps available for renting, as well as trailer courts and a beautiful, spacious New York State campsite at Northampton Beach.

Adirondack Park, on the northern end of The Great Sacandaga, across from the Village of Northville, has long been a famous vacation spot.

A new arterial highway, numbered Route 30A, on the map, easily takes the touring family from Johnstown through the glove manufacturing center of the world, Gloversville, to the

most scenic uncongested route to the North and Canada.

From Johnstown or Gloversville, Routes 10A or 29A may be chosen as access routes for the circle tour of Fulton County. This takes you into the Adirondack State Park through Caroga Lake, Canada Lake, Pine Lake,

Piseco Lake, over to Lake Pleasant and back to Route 30, which returns directly to the New York State Thruway. Along the trail are many campsites, picnic areas, amusement places and rooming accommodations. Four golf courses in the area are opened.

come up  
to the  
"Big Horn"  
COUNTRY

The Indians  
Discovered it...  
We've Made  
it Easier

has been said he moved with the caution of a trapper and the stillness of a panther.

**THE RECENTLY OPENED** Route 10 enables automobiles to traverse the forest that Stoner and his fellow trappers trekked through on foot, or by water. Pack horses were often employed to carry provisions to the hunters' canoes, which were usually moored in some little eddy, concealed from the St. Regis Indians.

History records one hunting season when Stoner was exploring the headwaters of the Grasse River, which empties into the St. Lawrence. Near the head of the Grasse River he met a French Canadian hunter whose wife was Indian. The hunter and his wife wanted to go as far south as Johnstown, and Stoner traced a map of the most feasible route for them upon a piece of birch bark. It is this route that has been dedicated as the Nick Stoner Trail. The opening of Route 10 now completes the most scenic circle tour in New York State. Tourists can travel the Nick Stoner Trail and the Adirondack Trail Route 30 on well-paved highways from Amsterdam, Fonda or Canajoharie, leaving the Thruway at Exits 27, 28, or 29. For those who prefer travelling off the express highways, Routes 10 and 30 can easily be reached from several other good roads.

Fulton County boasts 44 lakes, excellent swimming, boating and fishing, but surrounding the vacation playgrounds are majestic woods and mountains with which Mother Nature has so richly endowed the most accessible part of Northern New York. Fulton County plays an important part in early American history and many visit the area for the historic sites.

STONER WHO HELPED THE

the Albany area. The fishing is still excellent in these waters, the Great Sacandaga holds

the world, Gloversville, on to Mayfield, where it meets Route 30, the Adirondack Trail, the



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