

REMINISCENCES OF BY-GONE DAYS

Doings of People and Condition of Crops in Fulton County Towns.

At an early hour Thursday morning the writer of the following article, in company with a friend, started from the city of Johnstown for a ride through the towns of Johnstown, Blecker and Caroga, and reports as follows:

After traveling some four miles over solid bottom and drifting sand we arrived at the Smith farm, where, it is said, a firm will soon commence extracting gold from the native soil. About twenty-five years ago, some eighty rods east from the Smith farm, Matthew McQuade was burned to death in his own dwelling. The house, which was entirely destroyed, has never been rebuilt. That locality was once quite a thriving glove center, containing several glove shops and various skin mills. But the shops are a thing of the past, the mills have succumbed to the hand of Father Time, and the manufacturers have removed from that locality and some of them, together with many of their employes, are numbered with the dead.

In that locality stands the little white church, which was erected some forty years ago, in which no regular service has been held this summer. A short distance from the place of worship, stands the residence once occupied by ex-Sheriff John E. Leavitt of

standing six feet two and one half inches in his shoes.

Half an hour after leaving Peters' mill we were passing the school house at Fisher's Corners, where the last term of school was taught by William Hoga-boom of Johnstown. On farther we passed the house where ex-Supervisor Samuel Foster resided for a great many years. He was also a justice of the peace and a local preacher. The writer heard him preach about half a century ago, and has attended donations at his place, north of Caroga lake, forty years ago. He is now between ninety and one hundred years of age, and resides with his daughter in Gloversville.

We soon reached Frank Hill's grocery, and the Caroga Lake house, kept by E. J. Vrooman. Across the way from the hotel is located the cemetery, where in reposes the remains of Negro Robert, who was accidentally shot at Canada lake many years ago. Tradition saith that he was murdered and that his body was sunk at midnight in "Nigger lake," and that since that time no pond lilies have grown in that body of water. But all such published statements are perfectly silly, as can be proven by living witnesses.

We then passed down to Postmaster Frank Sherman's store. Mr. and Mrs. Sherman were said to be in Gloversville on account of the illness of her mother, Mrs. William Hine. Mr. Sherman has a steamer which runs on Caroga lake.

At Sherman's store we met Supervisor Joseph Sherman of Caroga, who with his family is spending the summer

James B. Rhodes, who was one of the three original Abolitionists in the town of Johnstown.

After passing Camp Price and the ruins of another hotel we descended the Klipp Hill, where we found the Coon school house, in which Hon. Daniel Hays received his education. It is located three miles west from Gloversville.  
R. L. JEFFERS.

~~EVASIVE REPLY MADE.~~

Li Hung Chang's Actions Unquestionably Sinister.

GOODNOW'S IMPORTANT NEWS

Commander of Chinese Troops Ordered  
Hao Ting Manango—Secretary Hay  
Leaves For Vacation and Assistant  
Lee Is Now in Charge  
of State Department.

WASHINGTON, Aug. 4 — Another move was made yesterday in the diplomatic situation by the return of an evasive answer by Li Hung Chang to Secretary Hay's peremptory demand of Aug. 1 to be put in communication with the foreign ministers at Peking. Li's answer is not final and leaves the matter open diplomatically. But Li's

Obtained with blanket permission from the Leader Herald by former Town Historian Tor Shekerjian. Please note that certain terminology of the day was considered offensive by many even at the time of original publishing and today, would be cause for public excoriation. It's important to recognize that terms used at the time of publication were acceptable and for the purpose of bringing history forward, I did not expunge or otherwise edit them out. As you read this travelog, you will note names that are recognizable today. And while so doing, please think about the places named in this article. It's a fascinating view of our area. You must read these pages by following the numbered headings of their respective columns. Otherwise, the reading will make no sense.

Johnstown. Near by once stood Jesse Smith's grist mill, which was burned in the winter some forty-five years ago. It was there the indignant deacon administered corporeal punishment to the minister's son for swimming in his mill-pond. Near there stand the three imposing new county buildings which are being constructed for the benefit of God's unfortunates.

On the northward, upon the top of the hill, we passed the old school house where the late ex-Mayor John E. Burdick of Johnstown spent quite a portion of his boyhood.

In the valley to the east, Bull Run appeared about the same as when it was first named, after the fight of the two Irishmen. We found the hotel at Bull Run was kept by Chauncey Jackson. Passing northerly the roadside and fields were found well supplied with beautiful golden-rod.

We next toiled up the Bleecker mountain, where thirty-five or forty years ago a well known Johnstown man, now dead, came near losing his life, by being thrown from a load of wood, which was being brought down that steep declivity by a runaway team.

We next turned to the right and drove in to Mountain lake, which is now equipped with many boats. On its shore we found a commodious hotel, swings, picnic tables, hotel barn, etc. In the barn can be seen the bark canoe seen the bark canoe once owned by the late Nicholas Stoner, the celebrated hunter, trapper and Indian fighter. The hotel is kept by Garret Dopp. Wednesday the following named persons were registered at the hotel: Mr. and Mrs. R. P. Anibal and daughter of Johnstown; L. G. Backner, Boston; J. E. Otis, Omaha; Miss Dorn, Troy; and John P. Beach, Mrs. L. G. Perkins, Miss Ortell, Miss Lambrisk, all of Gloversville. Landlord Dopp was found absent, but Landlady Dopp invited us to tarry for dinner and also kindly presented us with a beautiful cluster of

at that place. He is looking well, but remarked that "misfortunes appeared to accumulat." His daughter, Minnie, 27 years of age, who was taken ill in February, is now lying in a critical condition at Caroga lake, with but slight hopes of her recovery. She is attended by Dr. McWayne of Rockwood.

After passing the ruins of Supervisor Sherman's hotel, we arrived at Vrooman's hotel on the east side of Caroga lake, in time for a fine dinner, which we ate with a relish. A large party of young people from Little Falls, who are enjoying that resort for a week, were seated at the dinner table. The hotel boarders are Mr. and Mrs. Hambridge, A. C. McIntyre, Mrs. Andrew Biecker, Mr. and Mrs. Giles Vrooman, Jacob DeBeer and family of ten, of Johnstown; and Miss Jennie Finch, Mr. and Mrs. George Hunter and child, A. C. Filmer, Mrs. Frank Alvord and child, all of Gloversville. The familiar form of Garrett Vrooman, formerly of Johnstown, looking well for his years, was seen flitting about the premises. Vrooman's toboggan slide is quite largely patronized by guests from Canada lake. Last Sunday 135 guests took dinner at Vrooman's hotel, and to-day (Saturday) 28 employes of Ireland Bros. of Johnstown dined at the same place. Several guests will soon arrive from Schenectady and Springfield, Mass. Eli Cool and other gentlemen from Johnstown were found enjoying themselves on Vrooman's piazza, and many ladies were seen strolling on the sandy beach.

William Yerdon of Fort Plain erected a fine cottage at Caroga lake last fall. He is a director of the Fulton, Montgomery and Herkimer county insurance company.

Dr. Robert Palmer and family of Gloversville arrived at Caroga lake Wednesday, where they are occupying a cottage for the present month.

William Johnson and family of Palatine Bridge are occupying a cottage at Caroga lake. He is president of the

pond lilies.

We next came to Bleecker village, where we discovered ex-Supervisor Hiram Vandenburg's steam saw mill to be running at full blast and that Brainard & Shaffer were the proprietors of the general store.

We then turned to the left, and driving over one of the best roads in the county, we soon passed the post office and also the office of Town Clerk Lewis Longfritz. On we went, beholding several Jersey cows quietly feeding in the green pastures, on past many neatly painted farm houses, the Lutheran church, the ruins of the Amidon hotel, which was burned a couple of years ago. We soon arrived at the hotel which is owned and kept by G. H. Buseck. The hotel, which is a large, roomy structure, is the place where the elections in Bleecker are held. By the way, the town of Bleecker contains four fine churches and but a single hotel. Across the way from Buseck's hotel is located Francis Unger's grocery. There ex-Supervisor John Unger, who is a brother of the proprietor of the store, was found, looking well and enjoying good health. He remarked that his seventy hens had produced between January 1, 1900, and the last day of July, 5,905 eggs, besides raising 150 fine chickens. He also stated that his potatoes, grown in his garden, were "like his fists," and required slicing before cooking. Many farmers were cutting their grass, which yields about one-half an average crop in the town of Bleecker. Potatoes are looking very fine, apples and blackberries are seen in all directions, and oats are much taller than are seen about Johnstown.

Again turning to the left, we soon found ourselves at the residence of ex-supervisor John M. Peters, Jr. Allow me to state that John, who is well known to be a hustler, was found in his new steam saw mill, which commenced to be operated the first of June. His mill is stocked with twelve thousand logs and all his lumber, both hard

Mohawk Valley Stone company.

Seven cottages, two hotels and two stores are now found about Caroga lake. Anything from a needle to a load of hay can be procured at the stores.

Huckleberries are very plenty at Caroga lake, where Garry Snell and many others from Ephratah were procuring large amounts of the valuable pie timber, Thursday.

Many fish are being caught in Caroga lake, and deer are also plentiful in that locality, one of those animals having recently passed through Frank Sherman's oat field, northeast side of the lake.

Three cottages, and also a club room belonging to the fire ladders of Gloverville, are now standing on the shores of East Caroga lake. The Rampan club of Johnstown have also purchased a lot at the east end of this lake, on which they will soon erect a club house.

Forty dollars per month is now being paid choppers to work in the lumber woods.

We next passed on to Newkirk's, where Francisco's mill will start up the coming week, having a large stock of logs to cut. That hamlet is on the decline and several ruins were seen.

Between Newkirk's and the farm once owned by the late Thomas Bradley, one new dwelling was being constructed.

We then passed down the hill to the place once occupied by John Bradt's saw mill. Many years ago his mill-pond was filled with refuse from Garret Newkirk's tannery and a hard fought law-suit ensued.

A little farther on we came to Counselman's store. The proprietor remarked that the present administration had removed the postoffice from there to Bradtville.

We next passed the old Squire Morey place, where courts were once held, and then came to the yellow North Bush church, which was erected and equipped by the assistance of Postmaster Durey of Johnstown and Hon. Daniel

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and logs and all his lumber, both hard and soft, will be shipped to Utica, under contract. His mill, which contains three circle saws, is now covered by a temporary roof, which will be replaced by a shingle or metal roof as soon as the present stock of logs is exhausted. As the mill requires greater capacity, the proprietor has already purchased a new boiler, which will be placed in position in the near future. When completed, his new mill will be 50x70 feet square, two stories in height, and one of the best in the county. The state game commissioners and fishermen generally should feel very kindly toward Mr. Peters for the pains he is taking to not pollute the stream with saw dust. His is the only mill in the county that is equipped with the required arrangement. By the use of a conductor and water the sawdust is carried some distance from the mill, where it is deposited. About a month ago one of Mr. Peters' employes broke his arm while working in the mill. It is believed that Peters' mill excels all others in the county, in giving employment to tall men. Four of the employes are, each, more than six feet in height, one

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Durey of Johnstown and Hon. Daniel Hays of Gloversville.

Across the way from the church is located the old cemetery, where several years ago body snatchers operated. Near by stands the school house where ex-Sheriff Palmer of Gloversville, received his education.

We next crossed Caroga creek and arrived in the town of Johnstown, where we found a new grocery kept by P. M. Thompson.

A mile or two farther east we came to the farm once owned and occupied by the late Robert Palmer, father of ex-Sheriff Palmer of Gloversville. There Archibald Palmer of Gloversville, with a gang of men, was found engaged in haying. He remarked that his crop would be about ten loads short of the average.

We next viewed the locality once inhabited by money diggers, where fifty years ago a girl was tarred and feathered, and then came to the ruins of Gago's grocery. Across the way lives Solomon Gago, more than ninety years of age and totally blind.

Three-fourths of a mile farther east we passed the residence of the late

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