

THE

HAGUE CHRONICLE

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HAGUE, N.Y.

HAGUE - 1865

The War between the States was started with the attack on Fort Sumter on April 12, 1861 and ended with the surrender of General Lee at Appomattox Courthouse on April 9, 1865. Although the war itself never reached this far north, Hague made its contribution just as did all other northern towns and villages.

According to the federal census of 1860 the population of Hague was 708; in 1870 it was 637. The state census of 1865 listed 659 residents of the town. Of these, 42 men were in the military service. An additional 13 had been in service but had been discharged prior to June 1, 1865 as wounded, etc. Twelve servicemen died from their wounds or disease between April 1861 and June 1865. Among these was Alvin Shattuck, 24, and Orrin Walker, 35, who are said to have died of starvation presumably in a Confederate prison camp in Salisbury, North Carolina. Six of the deceased were married; all were volunteers and all held the rank of private. Thus, there appears to have been a contribution of 67 men from the town to the northern army.

The population of Hague in 1865 listed 30 persons 65 years of age and older, about 5% of the population. Three were over eighty: Sophia Baker, 81; William Johnson, 86; and Sally Balcom, 86. There were 107 farms with 180 farmers. In addition to the occupations listed in the previous census, the town now claimed two shoemakers, a carriage maker, and a 32 year old man was listed as having no occupation. Average monthly pay (including board) of farm laborers through the summer months was \$40.

The lumber business flourished during this period with Stephen Hoyt and Samuel Ackerman being most interested.

In the year ending June 1, 1865 only two marriages were performed - Joseph Myatt married Sophia Newton, 14 years of age, and Stanley Bevins took Mary A. Spencer to be his wife. There were five deaths; Lucy Elethorpe, 94, died of "old age"; Uriah Balcom and Truman A. Walker of Typhoid fever, Betsy R. Bevins of "Consumption" and Cynthia Newton of diptheria.

Of 109 heads of families, 86 were not born in Warren County. The New England states, mostly Vermont, contributed 39; seven had migrated from Ireland, six from Canada, and three came from England. The remainder came from surrounding counties, principally Washington and Essex.

The town boasted of one church, the Union Church Society, which had a capacity of 200 and an average attendance of 30. The church included several denominations but had no minister.

Supervisors were apparently elected annually with H.H. Harrison serving two terms, and Lewis Burgess, W. A. G. Arthur, and William M. Marshall serving one term each between 1860 and 1865.

The census enumerator described the harvest of 1864 in the following paragraph: "Crops of all kinds except potatoes suffered severely from drought last year. Of grass(?) there was only about two thirds the ordinary yield. Wheat, oats and rye were almost a total failure in some parts of the town while in other parts they

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quite over half. Of corn there was not much, if any, more than half the ordinary yield..."

With the war now over, the enumerator was asked for his opinions on a number of items. The questions with answers were: 1. How did the war affect debt between individuals? "It was very much diminished the amount of indebtedness". 2. What effect did it have on credit? "People pay as they go". 3. Has it tended to promote prompt payment? "It has". 4. How has it influenced the amount of crime? "Less during the war than before". 5. How has it influenced pauperism? "No paupers here!" 6. What changes in social conditions have you observed since 1860? "People generally are in better pecuniary circumstances than they were before the war. Being out of debt and owning the land they occupy, the increase in taxation made necessary by the war can be borne without distress".

Some of these questions might appropriately be asked today.

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U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS

A reader has sent us an item from the Roanoke Times of September 5 concerning action taken by the State of Virginia to have the action of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers in taking over jurisdiction of Smith Mountain Lake in Virginia declared unlawful and unconstitutional. The suit, brought by Virginia's Attorney General, argues that the Army's actions are "arbitrary, capricious, an abuse of administrative discretion, in excess of constitutional authority and,

asks for a temporary injunction to remove the corps from the lake until the case reaches a final settlement in the courts.

Jurisdiction over the lake by the Army is based on provisions of the Federal Rivers and Harbors Appropriation Act of 1899. Pursuant to provisions of this act, the Army put Smith Mountain Lake on its list of navigable waters of the United States in August 1965 but no further action was taken until April of this year when the Corps assumed regulatory control and instituted a permit program. This action, the suit claims, imposes an unconstitutional and unlawful burden on property owners at the lake by requiring them before beginning any construction or other activity to bear the expense and delay imposed by the Corps.

The outcome of this litigation should have some bearing on efforts to get the Corps out of Lake George.

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SCHOOL BOARD MEETING

The regular meeting of the School Board was held on September 8th with all members present.

Board members congratulated Mrs. Shirley Bly on her marriage the previous Saturday to Mr. Tom Smith of Brookwood Park Campsite.

The request of Mr. and Mrs. Macaulay to have their two sons transported to and from St. Mary's School in Ticonderoga, was approved.

The New York State School Board Members Convention will be held at Rochester on October 18-21. Mrs. Frasier will be the voting delegate although all members of the Board have indicated they will attend.

The Board approved a field trip on October 14 to Adirondack Community College in observance of "Know Your Government Week". Mr. Strumm will be in charge.

change a field trip to the State Bank Albany at Ticonderoga for a group studying money and banking.

Mrs. Edna Bolger has recently been retained as a remedial reading teacher. She will be working half days. The project is being underwritten by federal revenue grants.

Carolyn Craven is the new Home Economics teacher. Her services are being provided through BOCES.

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MRS. MERLE ANDERSON

Mrs. Merle Anderson died on September 8 at Moses Ludington Hospital in Ticonderoga. She was 80 years of age.

Mrs. Anderson was a member of the Senior Citizens of Glens Falls and a long time member of the Hague Home Bureau Federation. She was well known throughout the area for her paintings of local scenery.

She is survived by five sons, Harold Spring of Plymouth, N.C.; Merrill Spring of Del City, Okla.; Leroy Spring of Elnora; Carl Spring of Fullerton, Cal.; and Robert Spring of Crown Point; two daughters, Mrs. Betty Beaudin of Ticonderoga and Mrs. Frances Clifton of Hague; 28 grandchildren, several great-grandchildren, three sisters and several nieces and nephews.

A mass of Christian Burial was conducted at St. Mary's Church in Ticonderoga on September 11 with burial following at Mount Hope Cemetery.

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THE WEATHER

The summer vacation season is behind us; fall is not far ahead. Everyone is asking whether winter will be tough or not. If the actions of the animals are any indication, there is an early winter ahead. Chipmunks and squirrels are moving about in an absolute frenzy. But as the radio-

have weather, whether or not".

As of possible interest to those of our readers who have left or will be leaving "God's Country" for a warmer climate or to year-round homes elsewhere, we will provide daily high and low temperatures for each month together with the amount of precipitation. Our temperatures will be recorded near the lake and will probably register higher or lower than temperature readings in other parts of the town.

Date	High	Low	Precip.
Sept. 1	68	52	Trace R
2	64	58	.2" R
3	62	57	
4	70	55	
5	71	56	
6	70	59	.2" R
7	71	54	
8	72	56	.15" R
9	66	52	
10	66	49	
11	72	54	
12	72	53	.6" R
13	59	50	Trace R
14	58	45	
15	60	43	
16	63	46	Trace R
17	60	56	.2" R
18	64	54	Trace R
19	62	59	1.1" R
20	69	62	.7" R
21	69	60	
22	67	54	
23	62	56	.2" R
24	58	54	.5" R

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SCHOOL TAX RATES

In a recent issue of the Hague School Newsletter, the statement is made that "the rate will be for the Town of Hague, \$15.61 per thousand of assessed valuation and for the Town of Ticonderoga, \$97.05 per thousand of assessed valuation". A number of people have asked us what the reference to the rate for the Town of Ticonderoga means.

At the outset it should be explained that a part of the Town of

District and a part of the Town of Ticonderoga is in the Hague School District. Assessed valuations for an entire town are determined by the town assessors without regard to school districts. Thus, the Hague assessors determine assessed valuations on Hague property located in the Ticonderoga School District and Ticonderoga assessors determine assessed valuations on Ticonderoga property located in the Hague School District.

Assessed valuations in Ticonderoga are about 15% of true value while assessed valuations in Hague are about 97% of true value.

School tax rates, therefore, for the current year are as follows: On Ticonderoga property located in the Ticonderoga School District - \$66.13; on Ticonderoga property located in the Hague School District - \$97.05; on Hague property located in the Hague School District - \$15.61; and on Hague property located in the Ticonderoga School District - \$10.63.

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THE ELECTION

In the Republican Primary election held on September 9, James McKee defeated William B. Lambert by a vote of 62 to 35.

The line-up for local offices to be voted on in November, now appears to be:

<u>Democrat</u>	<u>Republican</u>
	<u>Supervisor</u>
William K. DeLarm	Clinton Frasier
	<u>Supt. of Highways</u>
One	Daniel Belden
	<u>Town Clerk</u>
ody Cole	Mary A. Scripture
	<u>Councilman (4 yrs.)</u>
orman A. Strumm	William A. Cobb
	<u>Councilman (2 yrs.)</u>
erving Fitzgerald	Aaron Middleton
	<u>Town Justice</u>
harles F. Fitzgerald	Emil Seerup
	<u>Assessor (4 yrs.)</u>
omas E. Stull	James McKee
	<u>Assessor (2 yrs.)</u>

It is anticipated that there will be independent candidates for several of the offices.

Registration days will be held at the town hall on October 4th from 10 A.M. to 8 P.M. and on October 6th from 2 P.M. to 8 P.M. The voting machine will be open for inspection and instruction on October 30 and 31 and November 1 from 7 P.M. to 8:30 P.M. and on November 3 from 7 to 7:30 P.M. The election will be held on November 4th with the polls open from 6 A.M. to 9 P.M.

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SILVER BAY ASSOCIATION

The Silver Bay Association has now become a year-round resident. Heretofore, the offices and staff of the Association moved to Glens Falls at the end of the summer season where they remained until spring. Now, the Glens Falls office has been closed and the Silver Bay office will be open year-round.

Conferences this year have been booked through early November. Plans are being formulated for a winter program for the latter part of the winter season. Conferences will begin again in the spring.

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TOWN BOARD MEETING

A regular meeting of the Hague Town Board was held on September 9 with all members except Aaron Middleton present.

The supervisor read a letter of commendation from the Lake George Commission for the beautiful floral display which the town has maintained at the intersection of Routes 9N and 8 all summer. Mr. Clifton West who had undertaken this assignment for the town, was singled out for praise.

The supervisor advised that a letter had been sent to Trailways Bus Company asking for its cooperation in keeping down the speed of its buses through the Silver Bay area to re-

Response has been received.

Letter from the Pine Cove Association asking the town to consider year-round police protection and establishment of an identification system for personal property as a possible deterrent to thievery, was read by the supervisor. The current budget does not provide for year-round police protection and this item was tabled for the present. It was felt that all residents could put their own identifying mark on items of personal property which would make them easily identifiable in the event of theft and subsequent recovery and that this could be done without involving the town. However, the matter will be studied further.

Mr. Meola and several highschool students attended the meeting to urge action on the ski-tow. It was reported that about 600 feet of runway has been cleared and that more clearing was required. This will be done by the Highway Department as their own load permits. The poles, wheels and engine have been procured by gift or otherwise and are now available. All that is needed is the rope and the man-power to install the lift. Every effort is being made to have the tow in operation before the snow arrives. If you are interested in seeing the area, proceed to the town landfill and turn right at the storage shed. The run will parallel the highway.

The location of the Sabbath Day Point Road was again discussed and this time it appears that an agreement has finally been reached. The new road will be located alongside Sabbath Day Association common property and proceed along the boundary of Frank Carney's property to Route 100N. As a part of the agreement, the Sabbath Day Association will pay to have the roadway surveyed and provide a survey map, Frank and Jack Carney will provide necessary fill and the town will haul the fill and construct the road.

Mr. Meola inquired as to the status of the library proposal. After

motion to determine the attitude of the townspeople by arranging for an opinion poll to be conducted at the time of the general election in November.

A number of complaints concerning the use of the landfill by persons not residing in the town were discussed. The supervisor announced that all residents should obtain decals for their cars or trucks to identify them as residents. The decals are available at the town hall.

The old landfill continues to be available for deposit of junk cars. When a sufficient number are available, the town will call in the car crushing company and have them taken away.

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HOME BUREAU FEDERATION

Mohican Chapter of Home Bureau opened its fall schedule with a meeting on September 16 to plan its program for the coming year. A number of crafts were displayed and a vote taken as to which ones will be undertaken this year.

Meetings will be held on the first and third Tuesday at 10 A.M. in the Hague Baptist Church Annex. Anyone wishing to join is welcome.

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HAGUE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

About fifteen members of the Hague Historical Society journeyed to Vermont on September 20 where they visited the Sheldon Museum in Middlebury in the morning and Wilson Castle near Rutland in the afternoon.

The Sheldon Museum is literally a treasury of the manner of life of a typical New England community in the 1800's. The building itself was built in 1829 by Mr. Eben Judd. It is constructed of brick, braced with massive hand hewn beams and heated by fireplaces of black marble from a nearby quarry. After it passed

keeper of a country store, church organizer, and town clerk, moved into the house in 1875 with vanloads of obsolete pianos, a dozen grandfather clocks, odd chairs by the score, many books and pictures and other furnishings. In 1882 a thirty foot sign was erected across the front of the house reading "Sheldon Art Museum, Archaeological and Historical Society" and thus the first incorporated village museum in the country was opened.

Sheldon spent the rest of his life collecting and binding books and laying out the museum. He died in 1907 at the age of 86. The museum is currently maintained by the local Historical Society.

About forty miles south is the magnificent Wilson Castle complete with furniture and artifacts gathered from many parts of the world. The castle was conceived in 1867 and was seven and one-half years in the building. While on a trip to England, Dr. Johnson, a well-known Vermont physician, met, wooed and wed an Englishwoman of nobility and considerable wealth and together they combed England for stain glass windows, fireplaces and other items, all of which were brought to the United States and built into the castle. Erected on a hill-top on 115 acres of beautiful Vermont farmland, the castle, set with English brick and marble, is dominated by nineteen proscenium arches and shadowed by a towering turret and parapet. The cas-

tle is said to have cost 1.3 million dollars.

The castle passed through a number of hands and in 1939 it was purchased by Col. Herbert L. Wilson, who in a long career in the U.S. Army, collected a considerable number of art objects.

While acting as military attache to the U.S. Embassy in Rome, Wilson, by profession an electrical engineer, assisted the Italian government with the installation of a radio transmitter, and in appreciation for his services, was given the chair formerly occupied by Pope Pius the XI. A beautiful lamp, a gift from Madame Chiang Kai-Shek, together with the papal chair are fittingly displayed in the main room, together with other statuary, ornate Chinese scrolls, and oriental rugs.

Thirteen years ago the castle was opened to the public and is now operated by the Wilson Foundation, a non-profit organization. The colonel, who is now 78 years of age, continues to live in the castle with Mrs. Wilson, graciously greeted some of the visitors and expressed his pleasure in sharing his treasures with us.

The theme of the Historical Society for this season is "Our Heritage in the Bi-centennial year". The October 15 program will be given by Mr. and Mrs. Zeese and will deal with the Hudson River and its role in our history. Visitors are welcome.

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