

HERITAGE TRAIL

IN

Chateaugay

New York

“The Mother Town of Franklin County”

**A Resource for Self-Guided
Driving & Walking Tours
of Local Historic Markers & Sites**



Michael J. Jarvis

**Chateaugay Historical Society
2025**

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About This Book

With so many noteworthy sites existing in Chateaugay that help tell the story of its fascinating history, the Chateaugay Historical Society felt that a guidebook would greatly enhance any visitor's (or residents') learning experience. This booklet not only identifies each specific location but also provides additional information about each site or historic building, complete with text, photos and illustrations.

This guidebook highlights the varied and interesting history found throughout our Town and is available in two formats. By scanning the QR code on any of the historic markers, access to an electronic copy of this guide on one's smart phone or tablet is enabled. Or, if preferred, you may purchase a full-color book, containing all the same information that appears in the QR version and follow a route with a hard copy in hand. The printed and bound 130-page book is complete with maps, photos and illustrations, and is available at the Archival Center on the second floor of the Town Hall.

This guidebook allows for a self-driving tour of all 30 historic markers and 4 additional unmarked sites that are found throughout the Town and Village of Chateaugay. We have also included 18 notable structures and locations within the Village limits. These 18 features were originally included in a recent walking tour of the Village co-sponsored by the Adirondack Architectural Heritage (AARCH) group and the Chateaugay Historical Society. In addition, we have added all 14 of our local cemeteries and burial grounds, which are located throughout the Town and Village.

In all, the 66 locations described in the guidebook can be enjoyed from either the comfort of one's vehicle or living room, since the information contained in the booklet fully explains the significance of each location, complete with text, photos, maps and other images.

Any GPS coordinates provided in this book were determined using Google Maps.

The map of the Village of Chateaugay, found on page 8, also lends itself to a self-guided walking tour of the village. One may enjoy the 15 historic markers and plaques and the 17 historic buildings that are within the Village limits, while strolling along our quiet streets. With parking available curbside on Main Street, in various parking lots, or at Chateaugay Central School on River Street (only when classes are not in session, please), a walking tour may begin at several different starting points.

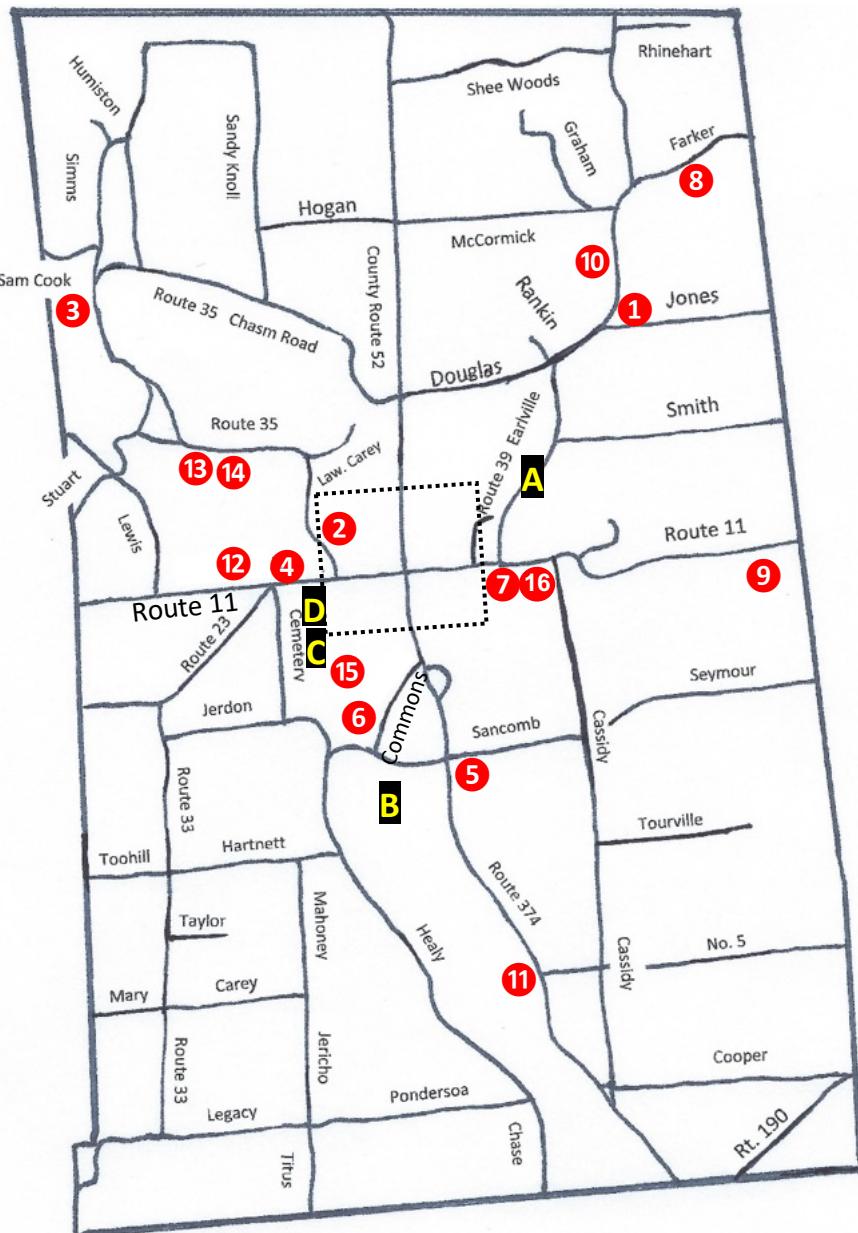
A reminder: there is an etiquette to be observed as you take your tour. While we have attempted to place our markers on town or village rights-of-way, most of the actual sites you will be visiting are on private property. It is necessary that you respect the privacy of the property owners and remain in public areas while enjoying our community's history. Trespassing is unlawful.

The electronic version of this booklet contains hyperlinks for ease of navigation between pages of this booklet. There are links from the Table of Contents and map site lists to the detailed site descriptions. Additionally, there is a link on the bottom of each detailed site description to navigate back to the map site list section of this booklet.

Thank you for your interest in Chateaugay and its amazing past.

Map of Historic Markers in the Town of Chateaugay

(The dotted line denotes the approximate village boundaries. Markers are in Red, additional sites in yellow/black)



1. [Fort Hickory](#)
2. [Beman Homestead and Kiosk](#)
3. [Blockhouse](#)
4. [Douglass Hollow](#)
5. [First Creamery](#)
6. [High Falls Pulp and Paper](#)
7. [Nathan Beman Gravesite](#)
8. [Orville Gibson Birthplace](#)
9. [Vernal's Tavern](#)
10. [Jacob Smith Home](#)
11. [Halfway House](#)
12. [Plank House/Tavern](#)
13. [Chasm House](#)
14. [Chateaugay Chasm](#)
15. [Railroad Earthen Overpass](#)
16. [Benjamin Roberts Gravesite](#)

Additional Sites:

- A. [Starch Mill on the Marble River](#)
- B. [Chateaugay Pulp and Paper Mill](#)
- C. [Globe Grist Mill](#)
- D. [Covered "Red" Bridge](#)

Historic Markers Outside the Village

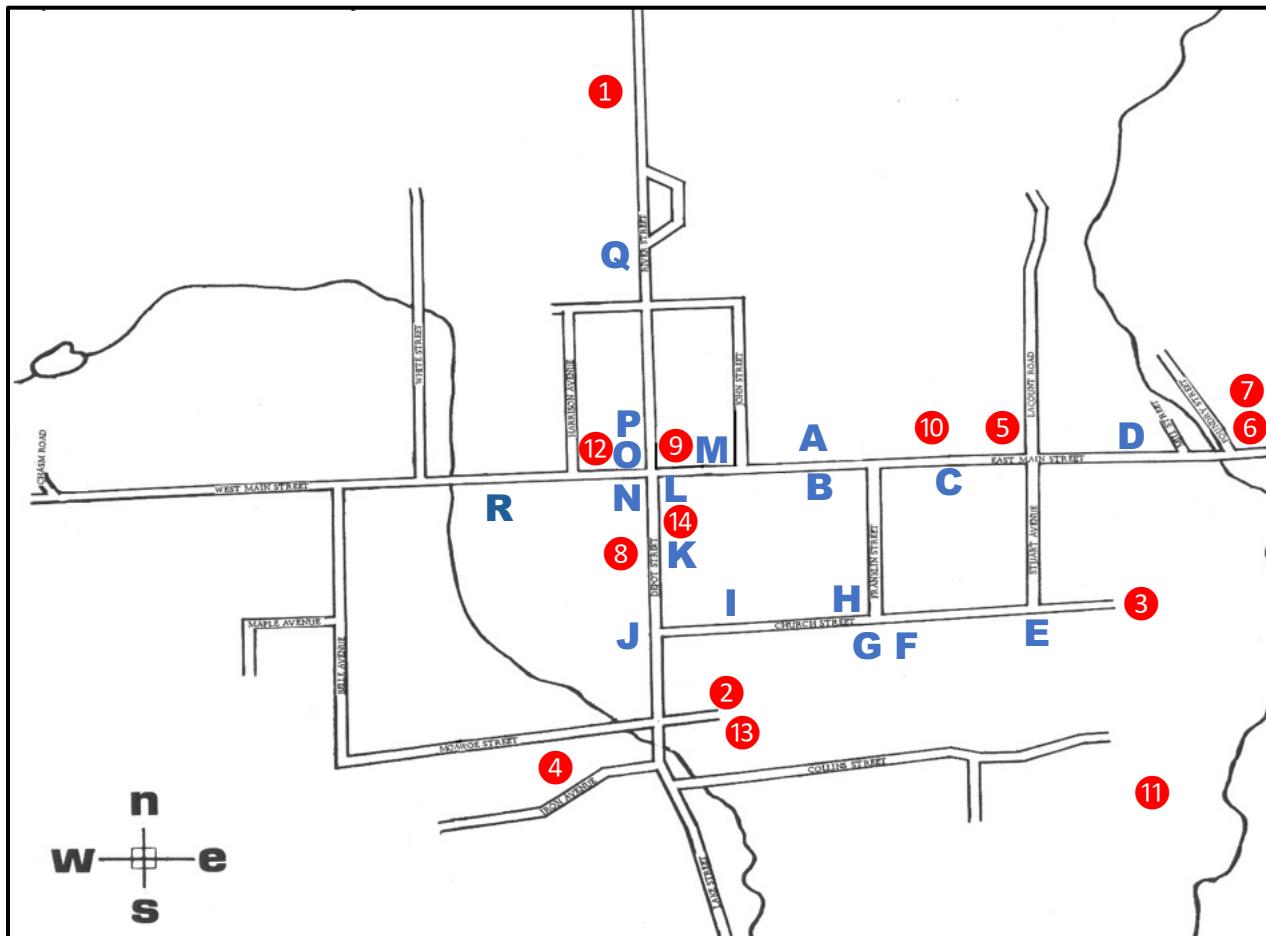
1. [Fort Hickory](#)
2. [Beman Homestead and Kiosk](#)
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15. [Railroad Earthen Overpass](#)
16. [Benjamin Roberts Gravesite](#)

Additional Sites

- A. [Starch Mill on the Marble River](#)
- B. [Chateaugay Pulp and Paper Co.](#)
- C. [Globe Grist Mill](#)
- D. [Covered “Red” Bridge](#)

Map of Historic Locations within the Village of Chateaugay

Historic Markers are identified by the Red Numbers and Notable Structures by the Blue Letters



- | | |
|---|---|
| 1. Roberts Homestead | A. Town Hall |
| 2. Bailey House | B. Lumberyard |
| 3. Chateaugay Academy | C. Presbyterian Church |
| 4. Chateaugay Excelsior Mill | D. Beman Home |
| 5. 1813 Skirmish | E. Funeral Home |
| 6. First Foundry | F. Doige Home |
| 7. Tannery | G. Episcopal Church |
| 8. 1812 Soldier Burial Site (Depot St.) | H. Fireman's Memorial Park |
| 9. Beman/Masonic Block | I. Methodist Church |
| 10. Col. Thomas Smith Home | J. Levi Peake Home |
| 11. Chateaugay Fairgrounds | K. Farnsworth/Van Vechten Home |
| 12. Sprague Building | L. Jackson Block |
| 13. Railroad Depot | M. Anderson Block |
| 14. Union House | N. Hotel |
| | O. Former Bank Building |
| | P. McCoy Milling and Feed Store |
| | Q. Fitzpatrick Home |
| | R. St. Patrick's Church |

Historic Locations Within the Village

One may choose to drive to these 32 locations within the village, but it is also very convenient to choose a starting point to park and then visit each of these sites on a walking tour.

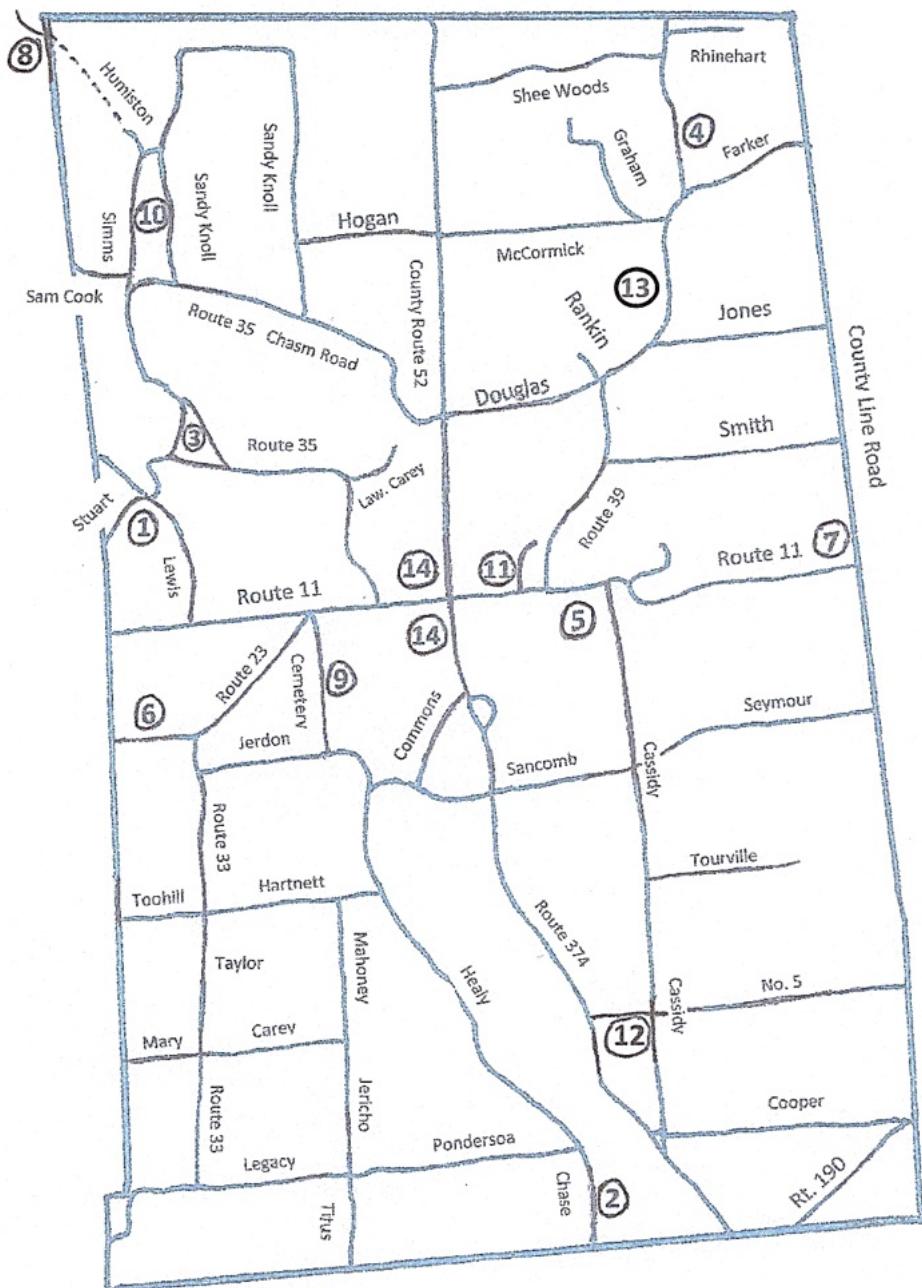
VILLAGE MARKERS:

1. [Roberts Homestead](#)
2. [Bailey House](#)
3. [Chateaugay Academy](#)
4. [Chateaugay Excelsior Mills](#)
5. [1813 Skirmish](#)
6. [First Foundry](#)
7. [Tannery](#)
8. [1812 Soldier Burial Site \(Depot St.\)](#)
9. [Beman/Masonic Block](#)
10. [Col. Thomas Smith Home](#)
11. [Chateaugay Fairgrounds](#)
12. [Sprague Building](#)
13. [Railroad Depot](#)
14. [Union House](#)

ADDITIONAL VILLAGE SITES:

- A. Town Hall
- B. Lumberyard
- C. Presbyterian Church
- D. Beman Home
- E. Funeral Home
- F. Doige Home
- G. Episcopal Church
- H. Firemen's Memorial Park
- I. Methodist Church
- J. Levi Peake House
- K. Farnsworth/Van Vechten Home
- L. Jackson Block
- M. Anderson Block
- N. Hotel
- O. Former Bank Building
- P. McCoy Milling and Feed Store
- Q. Fitzpatrick Home
- R. St. Patrick's Church

Map of Cemeteries and Burial Grounds in the Town of Chateaugay



1. [Atwater Cemetery](#)
2. [Bigelow Cemetery](#)
3. [Brayton Hollow Cemetery](#)
4. [Earlyville Cemetery](#)
5. [East Side Cemetery](#)
6. [Elliott / Rust Graves](#)
7. [Hilliker Graveyard](#)
8. [Mitchell Family Graveyard](#)
9. [St. Patrick's Cemetery](#)
10. [Sandy Knoll Cemetery](#)
11. [Smith / Green Cemetery](#)
12. [No. 5 Road Cemetery](#)
13. [Wills / Collins Cemetery](#)
14. [War of 1812 Burial Grounds](#)

There are Fourteen Cemeteries and Burial Grounds
Within the Town of Chateaugay

Atwater Cemetery

Bigelow Cemetery

Brayton Hollow Cemetery

Earlville Cemetery

East Side Cemetery

Elliott / Rust Graves

Hilliker Graveyard

Mitchell Family Graveyard

The Mitchell Family Graveyard is listed in various on-line databases as being in the Town of Chateaugay. However, it is located just over Chateaugay's northwest town line in the Township of Burke, as shown on the map on the previous page. It is included in this listing in the interest of completeness but is not actually a Chateaugay cemetery.

St. Patrick's Cemetery

Sandy Knoll Union Cemetery

Smith Cemetery

Unnamed (No. 5 Road) Cemetery

Wills / Collins Cemetery

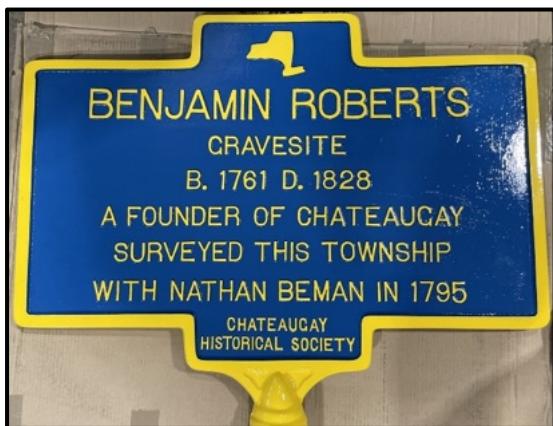
War of 1812 Burial Grounds

Outside the Village

Benjamin Roberts Gravesite

Address: 7780 US Route 11

Coordinates: 44.927199, -74.067494



Benjamin Roberts was born in Amenia, New York to John and Susannah Mayhew Roberts. He was a member of the "Green Mountain Boys" during the Revolutionary War. He fought under Col. Ira Allen and Capt. Thomas Barney. He was 14 years old when he joined the military. He fought with his brothers and father at the Battle of Bennington.

Following the war in 1783, he married Anna Weller (1768–1846) in Ferrisburg, Vermont. They would have ten children: seven sons and three daughters.

Roberts was one of the men in the party that surveyed Townships Nos. 6 and 7 in the Old Military Tract in 1795. Both Roberts and his brother-in-law, Nathan Beman, were on the survey crew. They were both impressed with the area and decided to settle here the following year.

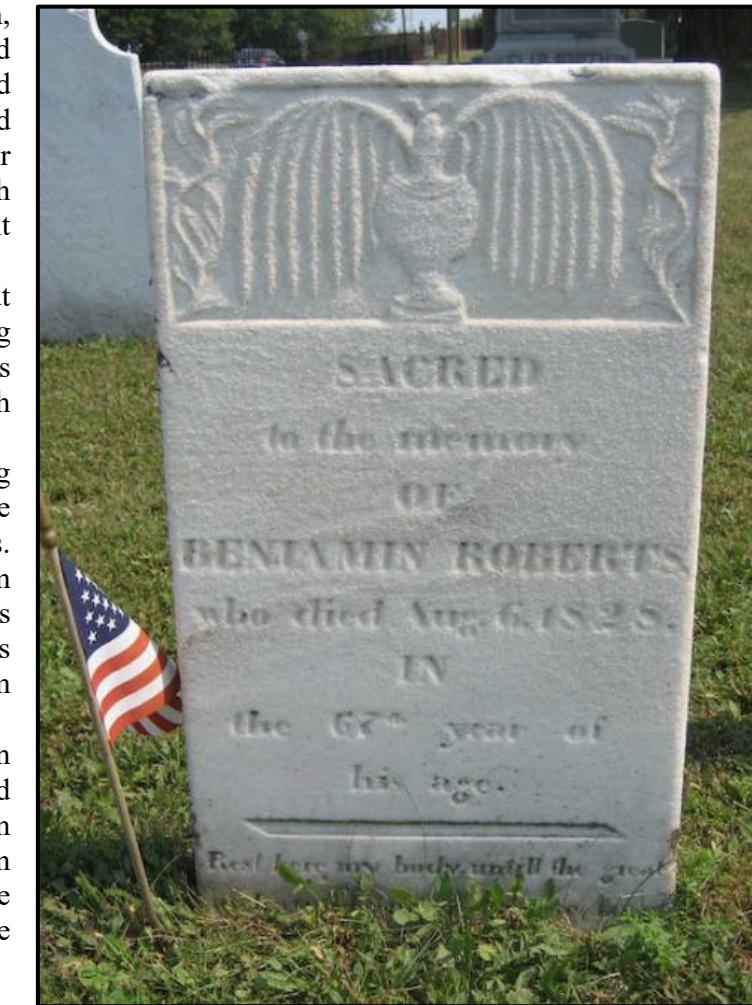
Roberts was the first of the two to return, arriving here in the late spring with a hired man. They constructed a crude, unroofed shelter and made maple sugar. They returned to the Plattsburgh area, and once the weather broke, he returned with his family to establish his homestead. He became the first permanent settler in Franklin County.

Nathan Beman followed close behind but spent the late spring and summer making several trips to Plattsburgh for needed tools and supplies, before returning in early fall with his family.

The Roberts family made the trip along the faint path to Chateaugay on foot with one oxen laden with household items and supplies. They had four children with them, William was ten and Samuel was eight, Eliakim was three and John only one. Both younger boys were carried by their parents all the way from Plattsburgh during the five-day trip.

The Roberts family remained in Chateaugay for only a few years. They had relocated to the present-day Town of Clinton by 1810. Benjamin operated the first tavern in "Churubusco" (which was then within the Town of Mooers) nearly 20 years, until he passed away in 1828.

He is buried here in East Side Cemetery.



For further information, please see Chateaugay Historical Society Newsletter 2025: Vol. XIX, Issue #1

➤ [Back to Outside Village/Town Map](#)

Blockhouse

Address: 747 County Road 35 (Chasm Road)

Coordinates: 44.9566386, -74.1287356



could use the small gun ports found on all four sides to hold off attackers quite safely and easily.

The local blockhouse was located on high ground on the west side of the Chateaugay River overlooking the confluence of it and the Marble River, affording the defenders safety and security.

This site made strategic sense as its elevated vantage point allowed for surveillance of the travel along the Chateaugay River to and from the north (the other main access to Canada being along the “Montreal Road” through Earlville).

Throughout 1812 and 1813, both regular troops and local militia were posted in this outpost. Captain David Erwin and his company of local militia were also assigned there during the fall of 1813.

The narrow “road” north passed by the blockhouse as it wound through the deep woods and rough terrain. This was the route used by the American troops late in October as Major General Wade Hampton left Chateaugay with about 4,000 men to invade Canada. They engaged the enemy at Allen’s Corners, Quebec in the Battle of Chateauguay.

The blockhouse was destroyed by fire by early 1814. It could have been burned by the Americans to deny the British the opportunity to destroy it. The blockhouse’s exact fate was unrecorded.

This substantial defensive structure was constructed by local citizens led by Gates Hoit during the summer of 1812. It was an actual fortification, most likely resembling other blockhouses built during the war and differing from the abattis configuration of Fort Hickory.

Blockhouses were a very commonly used defensive fortification during the War of 1812. When constructed of heavy hewn timbers, it could withstand musket shots and smaller cannon fire indefinitely. With the protection that the thick walls afforded, the defending troops



This drawing was published in the Chateaugay Record in 1983. It was created by a Montreal lithographer in 1888. Although this is labeled the “Chateaugay Blockhouse”, it is intended to represent the fortification built in Chateauguay, Quebec, NOT the blockhouse built near the Chasm Road, here in Chateaugay, NY. There are no known descriptions of the local blockhouse. This drawing shows a commonly used style from the War of 1812. The Chateaugay, NY fortification may have resembled this depiction.

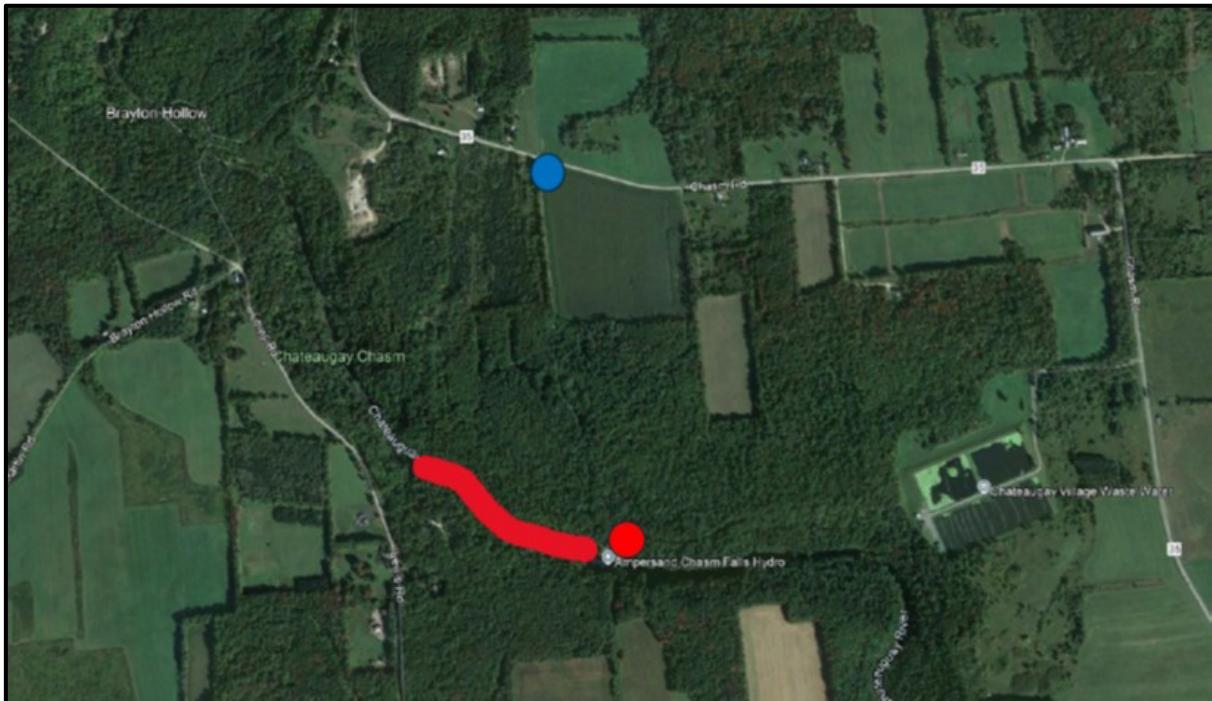
For more information see Chateaugay Historical Society Newsletter 2013: Vol. VII, Issue #3

➤ [Back to Outside Village/Town Map](#)

Chateaugay Chasm & the Chasm House Hotel

Address: 412 County Highway 35

Coordinates: 44.940504, -74.114450



The blue dot serves as a reference point for the Chasm and the Chasm House locations. The red dot shows the position of the Chasm House, and the line is the route of the deep and narrow chasm. You must remain at the blue dot reference point on the Chasm Road. There is no public access via this now private right-of-way. Trespassing is unlawful.

When the chasm was developed as a geological wonder in the late 1800s, it was considered a rival of Ausable Chasm. Its subsequent growth as a tourist attraction of the time and the construction of a large hotel, complete with all amenities, brought significant attention to Chateaugay as a tourist destination.

At one point, there were discussions about building a rail spur from the depot in the village, directly to the Chasm House. However, it never came to fruition.

Access to the Chasm and the hotel was via the original road that wound its way from what is now US Route 11, along the bank of the Chateaugay River. That first road has long since been unused and is now overgrown and barely discernible.

The map on the next page shows the original road's winding route atop the steep banks of the river and certainly adds context to the story of the Chasm.

The land on each side of the river was still heavily forested when the Chasm property development began. It was billed as a "natural wonder to be enjoyed in a wooded, secluded setting", according to an early visitor writing in the *Chateaugay Record*.

(continued)

Original Road to the Chasm



The route shown above in yellow, was the original road to the border with Canada. It was along this old travel route that the Chasm property was developed, and the Chasm House hotel was built.

The present-day Chasm Road, farther away from the river, had been laid out before the Chasm's heyday. But the old road was still able to be travelled and was used for access to the Chasm property.

To reach the Chasm and the hotel, one travelled through the still-present, thick woods, making the experience seem even more remote and alluring.

Following this introduction are specific pages for both the Chasm House hotel and the Chasm itself, with more in-depth information about each.

As noted in the map caption on the previous page, the Chasm is now on private property. **The access road leading to the Chasm that you see beyond the markers is not a public roadway. Do not venture past this point. Trespassing is unlawful.**

➤ [Back to Outside Village/Town Map](#)

Chasm House

Address: 412 County Highway 35

Coordinates: 44.940504, -74.114450



made to enlarge that first smaller accommodation.

A news article in the *Plattsburgh Sentinel* on July 27, 1883 stated that: *Last season a public house was erected at the head of the chasm which it was supposed would meet all the requirements of the place, but it has been found necessary to enlarge, and this season it has been entirely overhauled and more than doubled in its capacity, and it will soon be opened for summer boarders.*

Construction began to add to the main building and to construct a third floor. Two two-story wings were also being built to increase and upgrade guest rooms and other amenities. The remodeled building would now have 25 guest rooms, an office, a billiard room, both ladies' and gentlemen's reception rooms, a large dining room that could seat 100 guests, a large kitchen, a carving room, and a laundry. It would become the largest hotel in Chateaugay.

There was a large piazza-style porch around three sides of the building, a balcony on the second floor and a two-story observatory atop the main section of the building.

The hotel operated throughout the years the Chateaugay Chasm was a major area attraction. It was lost in a great fire on June 5, 1907.

In its heyday, it was a must-see stop on the Rutland Railroad line.



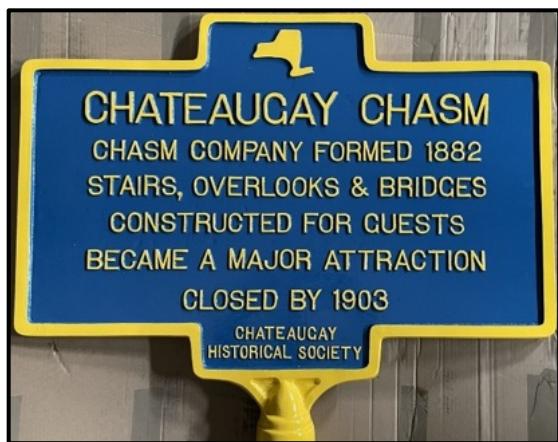
For further information, please see Chateaugay Historical Society Newsletter 2008: Vol. II, Issue #3

➤ [Back to Outside Village/Town Map](#)

Chateaugay Chasm

Address: 412 County Highway 35

Coordinates: 44.940504, -74.114450



By 1882, development at the Chasm had begun. The Chateaugay Chasm Company was formed. In short order, access roads and the Chasm House were being built.

Also in 1882, a reporter for the *Plattsburgh Sentinel* visited the Chasm and wrote a lengthy article describing the area in great detail. He affixed names to the various geological features. Among them: Little Falls, the Palisades, the Buttress, Cascade Falls, Rainbow Basin, the Wonderful Cave, Giant Gorge, the Pioneer's Crossing, Point Lookout, the Cow

Catcher, Deer's Leap, the Outlet, and Castle Rock.

Regular public use of the grounds was underway by 1883. The Ogdensburg and Lake Champlain Railroad promoted the Chasm in its advertisement in the *Chateaugay Record* during May of that year.

The 1885 season saw a brisk tourist trade. Three thousand five hundred people had visited by the middle of August. On a single Saturday later that month, 750 were admitted. The lure of this grand geological wonder was growing. The community was benefiting from the increased business in town.

In 1889, Edwin R. Wallace wrote his well-regarded book, *Descriptive Guide to the Adirondacks*. His account of the Chasm clearly showed his awe and how profoundly he was impressed with what he observed. He described the geological features in detail and labeled them with his own grand names: Cathedral Rock, the Bastille, the Niches of Jupiter, Vulcan's Cave, Rainbow Basin, Giant Gorge, Pulpit Rock, Pioneer Crossing, Table Rock or Point Lookout, Spartan Pass and Rainbow Falls.

The Chasm was often compared to Ausable Chasm and continued to be a major tourist attraction until 1902-03, when the Chasm Power Company was formed and development of the Chasm as a power generating plant began with the construction of a dam.

For further information, please see Chateaugay Historical Society Newsletter 2008: Vol. II, Issue #3

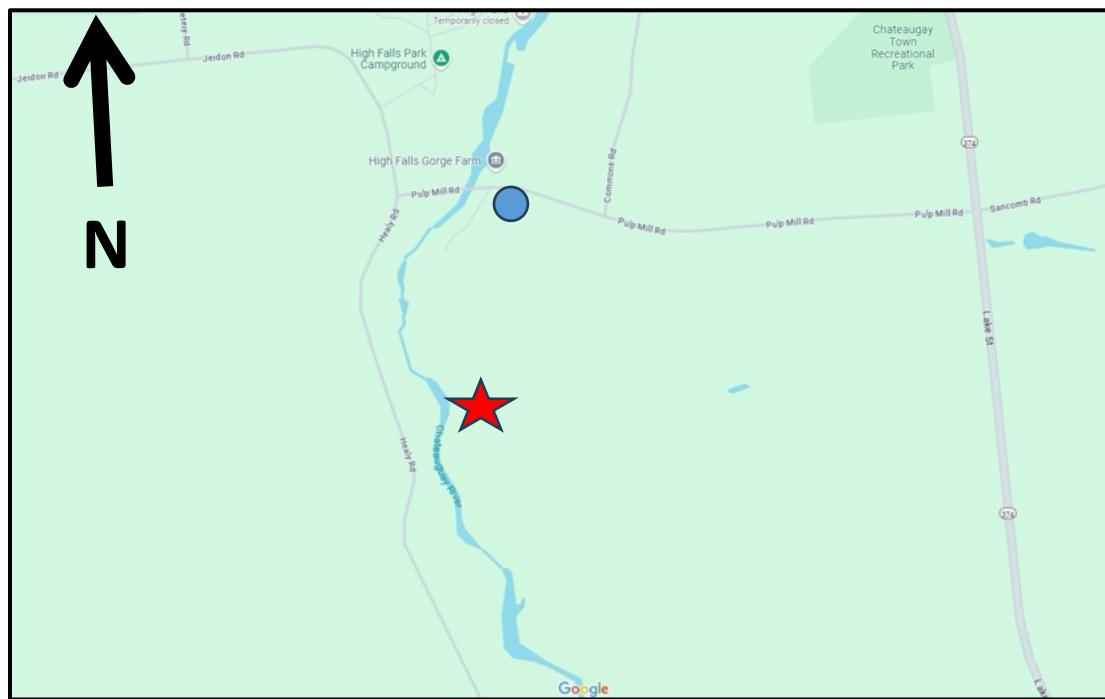
➤ [Back to Outside Village/Town Map](#)



Chateaugay Pulp and Paper Co.

Address: 31 Pulp Mill Road

Coordinates: 44.906482, -74.087281



The red star on the map shows the general location of the Chateaugay Pulp and Paper Co. As you travel west on the Pulp Mill Road from Rt. 374, the blue dot would be on the south side of the road at the LaPlante Road (private) intersection. The pulp mill sat upriver on property that was formerly Erastus Mead's Sawmill. You must remain at the blue dot reference point at the intersection of the LaPlante Road and the Pulp Mill Road. There is no public access to the actual Chateaugay Pulp Co. mill site as this is now private property. Trespassing is unlawful.

In 1892, Bruce Bort and Alexander Johnston announced the purchase of 1300 acres of timberland, which included the old Erastus Mead sawmill site along the Chateaugay River. Construction was soon underway for a 50-foot x 100-foot mill. In addition, plans for a dam were drafted.

By November of the following year, the first shipment of wood pulp was shipped from the mill. It was around this time that Bruce Bort left the business and other members of the Johnston family became involved. The Pulp operation became still another Johnston family held business: Chateaugay Waterworks, Johnston Lumberyard, and extensive timber-land holdings.

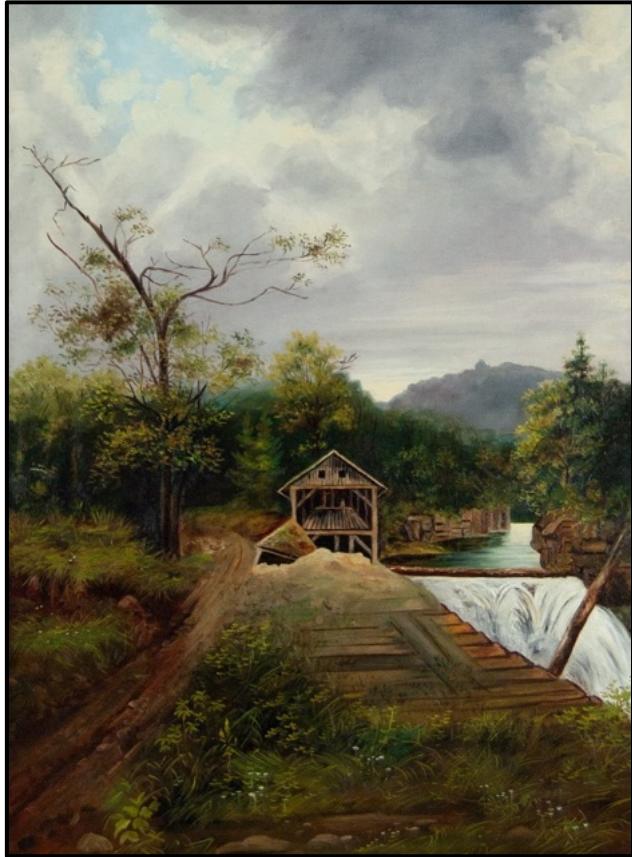
With business doing well, the mid-1890s became a time of exploring ways to make the operation even larger and more profitable than it was. The idea of a paper mill being constructed adjacent to the pulp operation was discussed. Plans were explored for building a RR spur from the railyard in the Village to the mill. Another alternative would connect to the spur that had already been run to the neighboring High Falls Pulp and Paper Co. However, this idea never came to pass.

Disaster struck on November 6, 1896 when the mill was destroyed in a fire. However, within four months, the entire operation had been rebuilt and was producing pulp once again.

The mill continued to operate over the next decade with an average of 60 to 90 employees and production of 30 to 45 tons of pulp per day.

Another fire struck the business on August 31, 1909, when it once again was completely destroyed. As with the previous blaze, reconstruction plans got underway immediately. By March 25th of the following year, the plant was back in full operation.

The Johnstons continued the business for the next 27 years, finally closing in 1937. Chateaugay Pulp and Paper Co. had been a major local employer for 45 years.



To the left is a photo of a J.W. Gray oil painting in the Chateaugay Historical Society's collection. It is a view of Erastus Mead's sawmill on the Chateaugay River, the eventual site of the Chateaugay Pulp and Paper Co. mill.



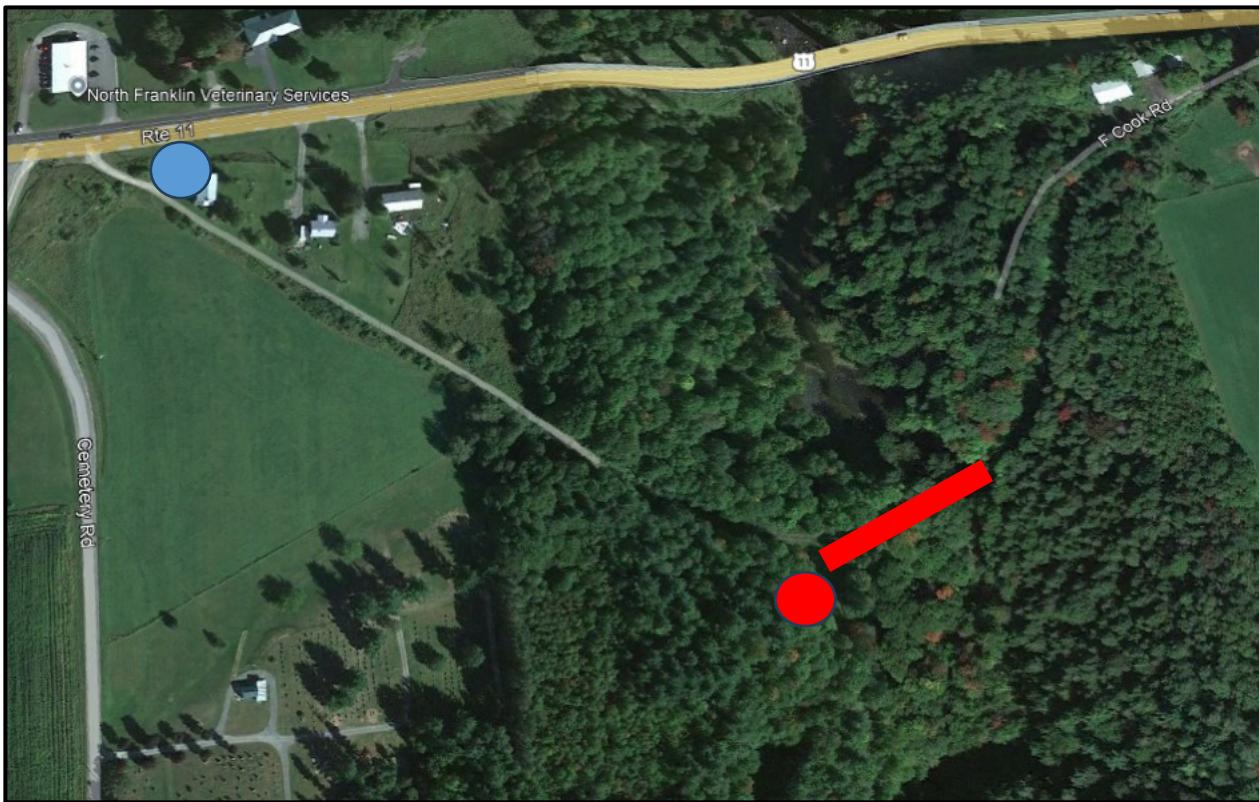
Above is a Charles Derby photo of the rebuilt Chateaugay Pulp Co. operation in the 1920s.

➤ [Back to Outside Village/Town Map](#)

Covered “Red” Bridge

Address: 6164 US Route 11

Coordinates: 44.924961, -74.099391



The blue dot serves as a reference point for locating the Red Bridge location. The red rectangle is the bridge at the end of this now private road. You must remain at the blue dot reference point, on Route 11. There is no public access via this private old road. Trespassing is unlawful.

In 1843, this bridge was constructed south of the Douglass Hollow bridge from the western cliffs to the east side of the river. It was a more substantial structure than the Douglass Mill Bridge down at the bottom of the hollow and eliminated some of the difficulties inherent in the narrow and winding approaches to that smaller bridge. Built by George Divoll, the new span was a covered bridge 117 feet long and 16 feet wide. Its distinctive coat of paint led to its local name; the “Red Bridge”.



(continued)

As noted earlier, John Bort built a multi-storied structure that would later be known as the Globe Mill on the west side of the river south of the Douglass mills, on the western approach to the Red Bridge, in 1868.

By 1899, the Red Bridge was given extensive repairs as 56 years of traffic and weather had taken their toll. However, it soon was very clear that the entire structure needed more than simply being repaired. Just two years later, the wooden span was replaced with an iron-frame structure.

The Globe Mill, which had been closed and allowed to fall into a state of disrepair, was demolished. That same year, the adjacent bridge's travel surface and approaches were re-planked.

Ten years after the re-planking, the Red Bridge, also known locally as the Globe Mill Bridge, was deemed "unsafe" and closed in 1927. As in the past, the Douglass Mill Bridge, down at the river, served as the detour for the Route 11 traffic. It became clear to both local and state authorities that the volume of vehicular traffic had grown to the point that a new, more substantial bridge was needed across the river. The Globe Mill span was immediately rehabilitated with new steel and supports to allow it to be used again.

In 1928, with most of the traffic using the rehabbed Globe Mill span, construction of a new bridge on Route 11 began. It would be almost 675 feet long and about 100 feet above the River.

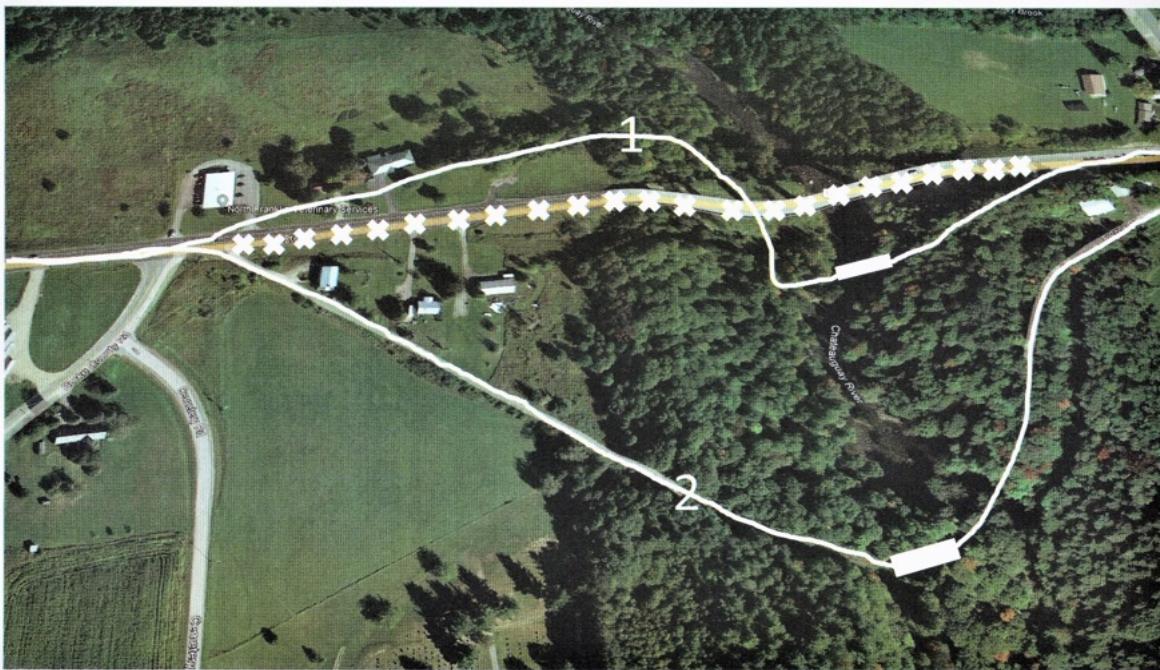
Two years later, in 1930, the new Route 11 bridge was complete. The main traffic volume going across the Globe Mill Bridge ended. For the next three years, all three bridges over the Chateaugay River were open and available for traffic. Very few vehicles opted to use the Globe Mill bridge or the small Douglass Hollow bridge down by the River. Over the next few years, the smaller river crossings disappeared. In 1933, the Town of Chateaugay formally abandoned the Globe Mill Bridge Road as a public highway. The next year, the Douglass Mill Bridge down at the river was demolished, and the winding access roads to it on the east and west riverbanks were abandoned and removed. Finally in 1940, the former Red Bridge was demolished, and the new US Route 11 bridge became the sole route across the Chateaugay River west of the village. That ended the 97-year history of the Covered Red Bridge in its various forms.



This view looks north from the earthen RR overpass. The Globe Mill and Red Bridge are seen.

(continued)

Original Roads and Bridges Across the Chateaugay River



The map above shows the roads and bridges built across the Chateaugay River in the 1800s. The road with the "1" was first constructed before 1810. It wound down the west riverbank to the "Douglass Hollow Bridge", possibly constructed by William Bailey when he built a grist mill there. The road shown as number "2" was built in 1843 when the "Red Bridge" was built by George Devos. This wooden covered bridge would serve as the "gateway" to Chateaugay as travelers came from the west. The part of present Route 11, which was built to cross the river in the 1930s, is shown by a line of X's.



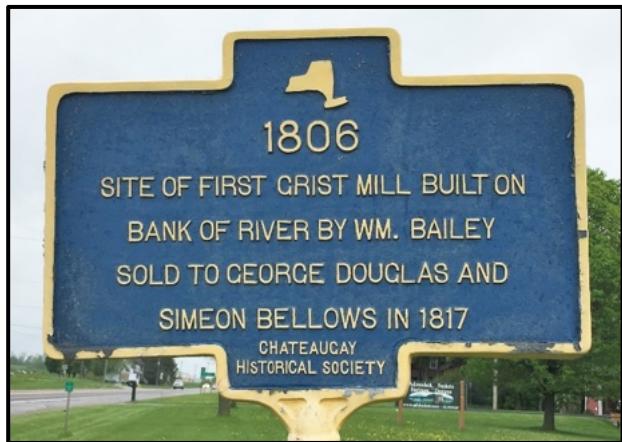
This view looks south towards the covered bridge and the Globe Mill from the bridge down in Douglass Hollow.

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Douglass Hollow

Address: 6164-6170 US-Route 11

Coordinates: 44.925458, -74.097333



Beginning shortly after Chateaugay's founding, Douglass Hollow became the site of many early industries, and the small bridge at the hollow floor would become the primary Chateaugay River crossing for travelers heading west.

The first mill to appear down in the hollow was built just eight years after the first settlers arrived in Chateaugay. William Bailey, a large landowner/speculator, built a grist mill at the bottom of the ravine, along the river. While other mills had appeared in the eight years since the arrival of the Roberts and Beman families, this was the first mill operation of any kind to be in this deep hollow, just west of the rapidly growing Four Corners.

The original east and west banks were somewhat less steep than they are today. The descent to the bottom and the climb out could still be very treacherous in those early days, but the "valley" appears much wider than it does today after modern road construction has changed the "lay of the land".



The photo above shows the width of the original Hollow. The original grist mill is in the center, with a carding mill to the right, and a dwelling to the left. The narrow dirt road leads from the house to the top of the hill. The covered bridge and the large Globe Mill are seen in the background (top right corner).

(continued)

Over the years, many water-powered businesses were built there. Grist mills, sawmills, and a wool carding mill all operated in the Hollow as did Chateaugay's very first electrical generating plant, around the turn of the last century.



The image on the left shows the bridge across the Chateaugay River, the grist mill and the Douglass home on the left.

The photo below is of the grist mill, shown from the west. This building would eventually become the first electric generating plant in town.



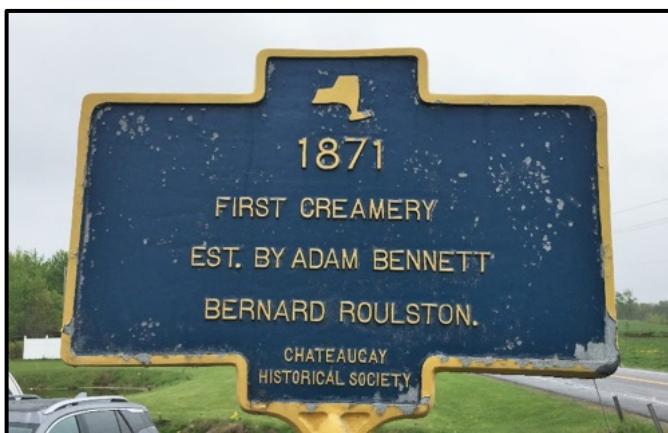
For more information see Chateaugay Historical Society Newsletter 2010: Vol. IV, Issue #1

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First Creamery

Address: 7192 State Route 374

Coordinates: 44.905585, -74.071796



In 1870, a small cheese factory in nearby Bangor began producing butter in addition to its cheese.

Chateaugay resident, A.M. Bennett was intrigued by this news. Accompanied by his neighbor, D.S. Coonley, he visited the operation and soon decided to begin a butter-making business in Chateaugay.

By the following spring, Bennett and his business associate, Coonley, began butter production. This was a departure from the

already-existing creamery/cheese operations which made a variety of dairy-based goods. Although colloquially referred to as a creamery, the new Chateaugay factory was a true buttery. No other products were produced there beyond the tubs of butter.

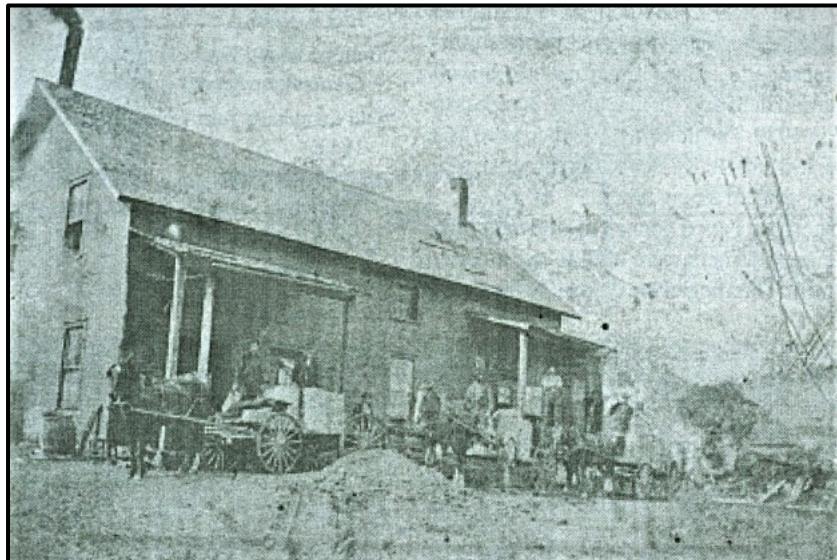
Bennett first powered his churning using a sheep-driven treadmill but soon built a boiler to produce steam for power, and the business quickly grew.

As word of the operation's butter production spread, people began visiting to learn about the business. Soon butter operations were cropping up in the surrounding area.

Bennett would become known as somewhat of a pioneer in the establishment of the butter industry in New York State. In 1871, when his business began production, it was only "the second establishment of its kind in America, and possibly the world", according to his obituary in 1921. He also built the Electric Creamery Co. at the railroad yard in 1903.

Adam Miller Bennett was an enterprising local businessman who was involved in the High Falls Pulp and Paper Co., a feed store, a general store, a bulk potato brokerage, the Chateaugay Excelsior Co., the First National Bank of Chateaugay (as a member of the Board of Directors), and the Banner House at Chateaugay Lake which he built with Smith Kirby.

Upon his retirement from the butter business, his son-in-law, B.O. Roulston continued to operate it until 1909.



The old butter factory around 1909.

For more information see Chateaugay Historical Society Newsletter 2009: Vol. III, Issue #2

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Fort Hickory

Address: 8 Smith Road

Coordinates: 44.956227, -74.046690



This site was a military encampment located 2.7mi (4.3km) northeast of the Four Corners. It was occupied by U.S. soldiers under the command of General Wade Hampton as they prepared for the invasion of Canada in 1813 that resulted in the Battle of Chateaugay, Que. It was named after Gen. Hampton's nickname of "Old Hickory". It was also sometimes called Camp Douglas or Fort Douglas, as the land where it was located was provided by an early settler, Peleg Douglas.

Fort Hickory was most likely not an actual blockhouse, but an abattis, which is a fortification made by felling trees. The tree crowns are allowed to intertwine forming a nearly impenetrable barrier against enemy forces.

Sometimes, the tree crowns would be pruned and the branch ends sharpened. The more trees piled and entangled, the better the cover for the defending troops. However, the exact construction details of Fort Hickory are unknown.

Since this fortification was next to the main road leading into Canada (sometimes referred to as the "Montreal Road"), its strategic position allowed the Americans an ideal vantage point from which to protect this flank of our township.

Adding to the security that the Fort provided was a security piquet or sentry outpost at Jacob Smith's homestead, just to the north.

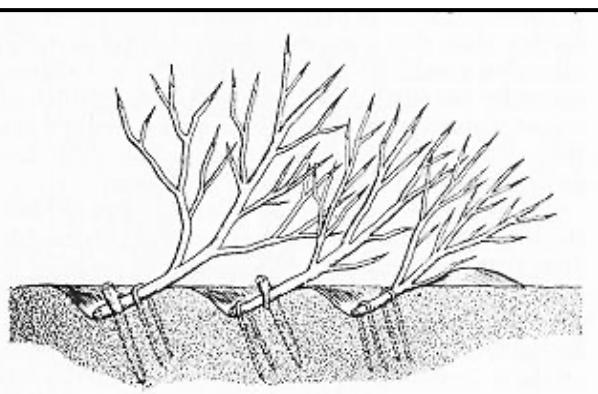
Lt. Col. Lewis Hardenburgh was the commanding officer here, under General Wade Hampton.

Samuel Hollenbeck is credited with the single-handed defense of this fortification by the historic marker on this site, which was installed by the State Education Department in 1932.

In reality, the actual circumstances appear much different. Hollenbeck was Sergeant of the Guard at Smith's Tavern, located at the Four Corners. In that capacity, he had access to all military intelligence and supposedly would "sell his country out in a minute". The story of his single-handed defense was most likely promoted by him as he reportedly had "great faculty for telling big stories", according to local author, John A. Bilow.

He lived in Earlville and could pass the sentries at Jacob Smith's and the abattis at will. It was perfect for his involvement in his somewhat suspicious activities. He allowed two British sympathizers, Jacob and David Manning, to escape into Canada and provided them with information on American troop strength and battle plans just prior to General Hampton's invasion of Canada along the Chateaugay River.

By the end of 1813, Fort Hickory had been destroyed – it was likely burned by the British.



Example of tree placement in an abattis

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Globe Grist Mill

Address: 6164 US Route 11

Coordinates: 44.924961, -74.099391

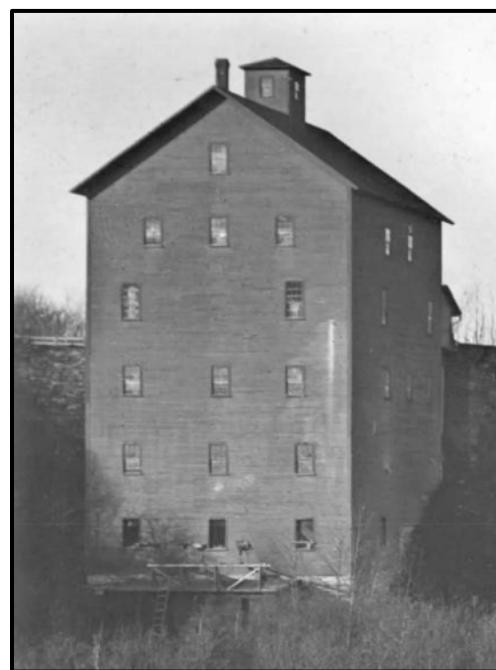


The blue dot serves as a reference point for locating the Globe Mill location. The red dot is the mill on the right side of this now private road, high on the riverbank. You must remain at the blue dot reference point, on Route 11. There is no public access via this now private old road. Trespassing is unlawful.

In 1868, John Bort built a multi-storied structure that would later be known as the Globe Mill on the west side of the river south of the mills in Douglass Hollow, on the western approach to the Red Bridge.

Just a few years later, Bort sold the mill to Eli B. Smith, who named the business the “Globe Mill”. Like Bort, Eli Smith proved to be a short-term owner of the mill operation. In 1874, the Globe Mill was purchased by William W. Scriver and John W. Roberts. The men were brothers-in-law. Scriver’s wife, Lucy, was John Roberts’ sister. Lucy and John’s great grandfather was Benjamin Roberts, one of the founders of Chateaugay.

For the next 20 years, the Globe Mill was considered among the preeminent grist operations in the county. Various grinds, depending on the grain type, were available, and the large size of the operation allowed for the fast and efficient filling of all types of orders.



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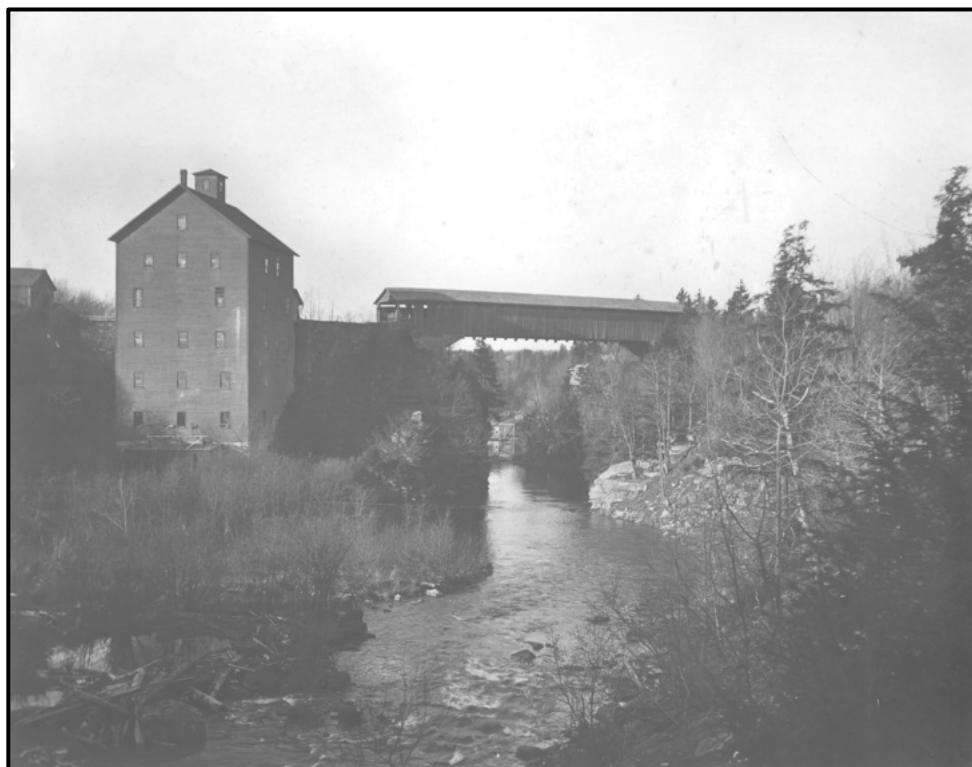
29

In 1896, the mill and surrounding properties were purchased by James Mitchell of Burke. After completing several repairs and upgrades, Mitchell hired Ernest A. McCoy to manage and run the mill operation. Mitchell only owned the property for a year, passing away in 1897.

Upon his death, the mill and property were purchased by Dr. John Ashbel Johnson and his wife, Lucy Matilda Badger Johnson. Dr. Johnson was a physician with a long-time practice in the Chateaugay Lake area. An unusual feature of the Johnson ownership was that the spouses were both listed as owners. They conducted business as "J.A. & L.M. Johnson". Mrs. Johnson appeared to have had an equal voice in decisions regarding the mill. They hired John S. Buchanan to manage the milling processes. They owned the properties for the next fourteen years. This would be the last extended and profitable operation of the mill.

Following the death of J.A. Johnson in 1911, the mill operation was closed and the property sat empty and unused for a few years. Thomas J. Fitzpatrick and E.A. McCoy purchased the mill, the residence immediately west of the mill and the surrounding acreage from the Johnson estate in 1914, but they did not reopen the milling operation. Just two years later, Fitzpatrick and McCoy sold all the property's acreage. Separate from that sale, Dr. L.P. Sprague purchased the Globe Mill building and the adjacent dwelling with plans to tear them down and use the lumber to build a large barn on his farm in the north part of town. Dr. J.S. Van Vechten and W.T. Thayer purchased the water rights. All of the machinery in the mill building was scrapped.

The next year, 1917, the seven-story Globe Mill's demolition was completed. That same year, the adjacent covered bridge's travel surface and approaches were re-planked. The image that greeted travelers as they made their way into Chateaugay via that bridge had been changed dramatically. No longer did that imposing mill building rise out of the bank of the Chateaugay River to sit on the immediate right of the entrance to the covered bridge. The history of the Globe Mill operation, which had spanned almost 50 years, came to an end.

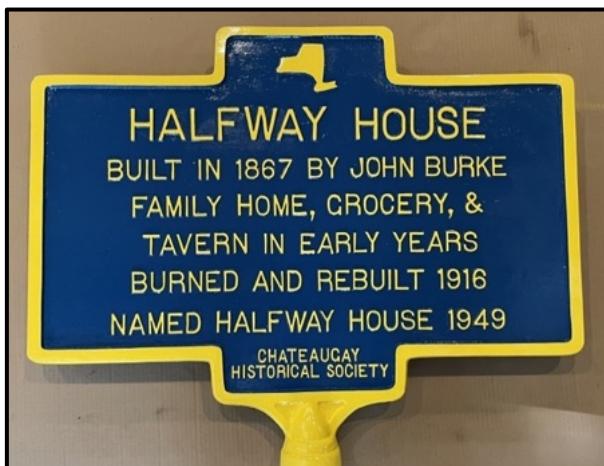


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Halfway House

Address: 6085 State Route 374

Coordinates: 44.882217, -74.056546



House. The exchange point, behind Mr. Burke's store, was a small barn that provided shelter and food for the horses.

Over the years, ownership changed many times. Thomas and Agnes Burke Baker, George Prespare, Henry Quilia, were all proprietors through 1916, when the building burned. The lot sat vacant for several years. It was purchased by Patrick and Anna Hennessey who had a new building put up on the site of the former Halfway House. They eventually sold to Harry M. Dailey and his wife who remodeled and expanded the facility and renamed it the "Dailey Inn".

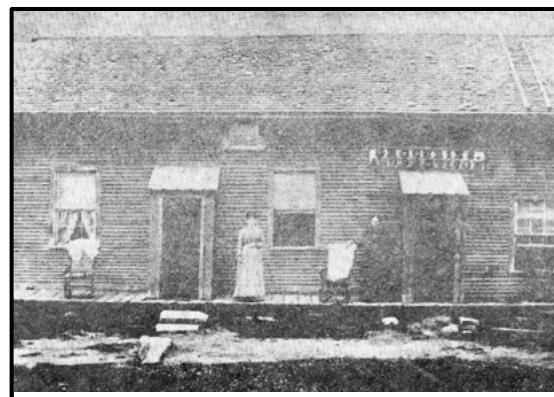
Supposedly during Prohibition, some of the stair treads were hinged to hide liquor bottles. With the end of Prohibition came the end of having to hide it.



The Dailey Inn in 1934

The original Halfway House was built in 1867 by John Burke, a Civil War veteran, and was located on the plank road (now Route 374) that connected the Forge (the outlet of Lower Chateaugay Lake) and the Rutland RR freight yard in Chateaugay.

The iron ore was brought to the Forge from Lyon Mountain by barges. Horses then brought the ore from the Forge to a point three miles north where the horses were exchanged for a fresh team and the trip continued for the additional three miles to the freight yard, thus the name; Halfway



The original Halfway House – Pre-1900

From the Daileys, the property passed to the Schillers (who changed the name back to the Halfway House), the Woodliffs, Ray and Theresa Carter, Jim and Rita Ryan, and the Tallmans. The property was then unused for a time when it was purchased and completely remodeled by Richie and Paula King. Their stewardship of the property was followed by Daniel LaClair, who closed it following a fire. The property is now owned by Cortney LaBarre Harkleroad and is in full operation, true to its long tradition as a gathering place.

For more information see Chateaugay Historical Society Newsletter 2009: Vol. V, Issue #2

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High Falls Pulp & Paper Co.

Address: 19 Commons Road

Coordinates: 44.90731, -74.08410



river-level mill, an elevator was built to carry the finished pulp up to the waiting rail cars which sat on a dedicated track siding that connected the mill operation to the main track in the village. This elevator solved the problem of the fully loaded trucks being unable to make it up the steep grade to the road.

The logs would be pulverized by hydraulic powered grindstones, then drained, sifted, rolled and dried. The rough sheets of paper stock were then bound into bales and shipped out to various paper mills to be used to make a much finer grade paper.

In 1906, the company added a paper making operation. The dam height was raised to enable the generation of more power, and the mill complex was expanded. The company was renamed the High Falls Pulp and Paper Company.

In 1917, the entire operation was sold to *New York World*, a newspaper published in New York City.

Unfortunately, disaster struck in 1918 when the mill was destroyed by fire. The estimated loss was \$250,000 and 125 employees lost their jobs. The mill was rebuilt, the dam was raised again for more power capabilities, and a more substantial elevator was constructed. The mill's output following the rebuild was newsprint.

In 1925, the mill was sold to International Paper Co. (IP) which operated it into the 1930s. In 1936, IP closed the entire operation and sent the machinery, etc. to other plants.

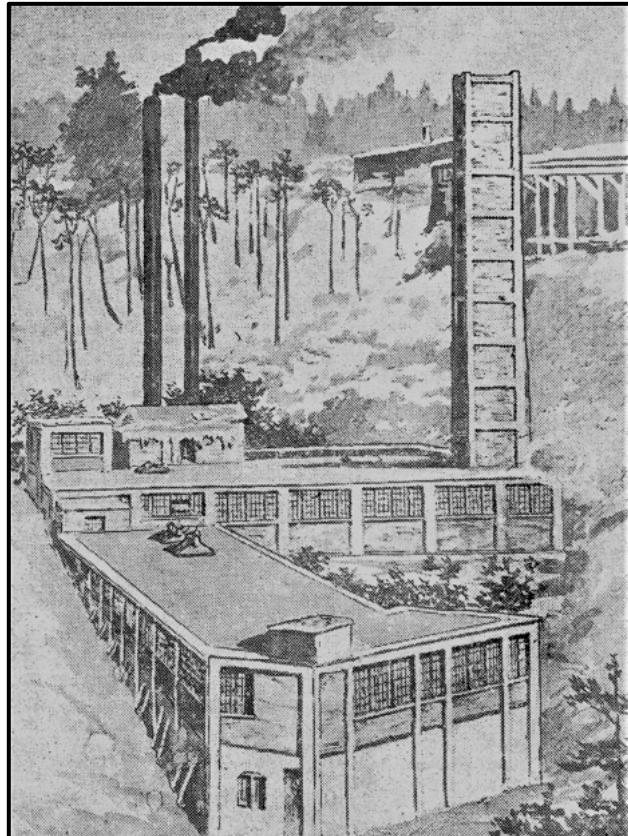
The 41-year history of the High Falls Pulp and Paper plant came to an end.

For more information see Chateaugay Historical Society Newsletter 2009: Vol. III, Issue #3

In 1895, two Plattsburgh businessmen and local entrepreneurs, Adam Bennett and Daniel Coonley, formed the High Falls Pulp Company.

A dam was constructed at the top of the falls and a mill was built down at the water level. A penstock to carry water from behind the dam to the mill was constructed. Also built was a chute that took logs that had been floated down from Chateaugay Lake from the mill pond behind the dam down to the pulp operation. The mill stood 115 feet below the top of the dam.

Due to the steep bank from the road to the



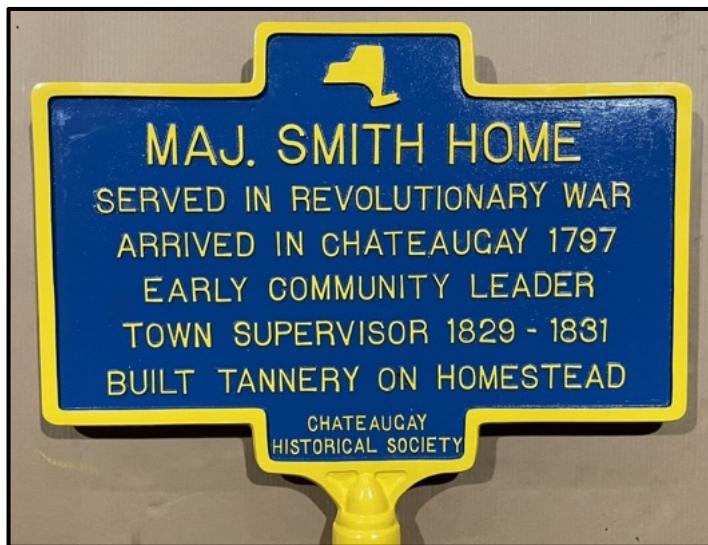
The mill as it appeared after being rebuilt following the 1918 fire.

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Jacob Smith Home

Address: 621 Earlville Road

Coordinates: 44.964697, -74.047537



in Sunderland, VT, and Salmon in South Hero, VT. This family was well traveled.

Jacob enlisted in the Revolutionary War in May of 1775 in the Vermont Militia, in the company commanded by Captain Gideon Brownson in Colonel Warner's regiment for two years and saw service in the Battle of Hubbardton, Battle of Bennington in 1777 and the Battle of Saratoga, and the surrender of British General John Burgoyne. In the spring of 1778, he was transferred to Col. Samuel Merricks Regiment and served for eighteen months when he was discharged.

According to a statement made by Jesse Down of Poultney, VT in 1828, Jacob was cited as a Lieutenant and was also at the taking of Fort Defiance and Crown Point. He was granted a pension of \$15.74 semiannually for his services in the Revolution.

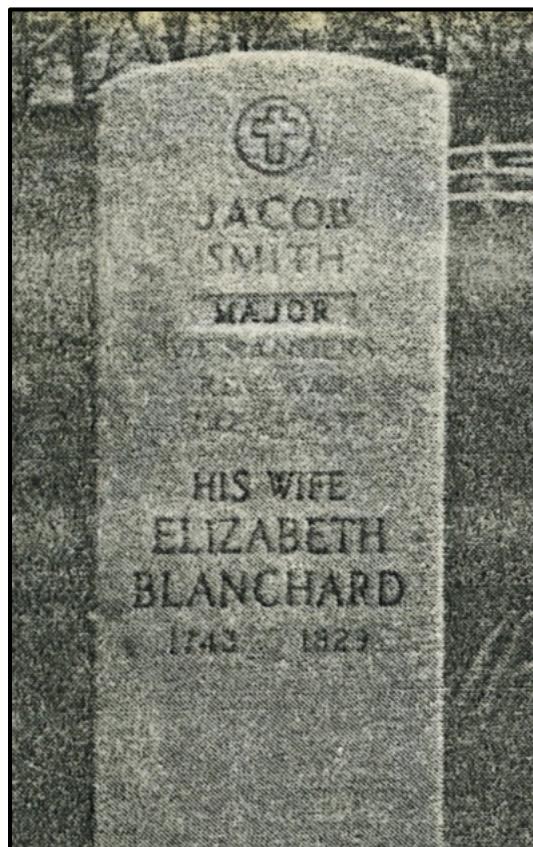
Smith was a selectman in South Hero, VT and was also known as Major according to the census of 1790. Upon moving to Chateaugay in 1797, he established the first tannery in Franklin County on his farm on the Earlville Road, in the Northeastern part of town. He also served as the Supervisor of the Town of Chateaugay.

For the next 100 years, his descendants were men of affairs in the town. Thomas was a Colonel in the War of 1812 and owned a Tavern. Salmon was a town justice. His grandsons Eli B. and Henry B. were wealthy merchants, businessmen and politicians. (*This biographical summary courtesy of John A. Bilow*)

The image on the following page shows the structures that developed around the old Smith homestead over the years.

Jacob Smith was one of the earliest settlers in Chateaugay, arriving in 1797, the year after Nathan Beman and Benjamin Roberts had arrived with their families

He was born in East Haven, CT on July 7, 1742, the son of Thomas Smith and Eunice Russell. Smith married Elizabeth Blanchard, December 27, 1772. They had eight children; Eunice, Ruth, Thomas, Stephen, Jacob, Eli, Amaziah, and Salmon. Ruth was born in Shutesbury, Mass., Thomas at Shelburne, VT, Stephen in Arlington, VT, Jacob, Eli and Amaziah



Early Buildings in the Area Around the Old Jacob Smith Homestead on the Present-Day Earlville Road



A. Jacob Smith House **B.** Wills Bros. General Store **C.** District #3 Schoolhouse **D.** W.L. Collins Butter Factory (Maple Street Creamery)

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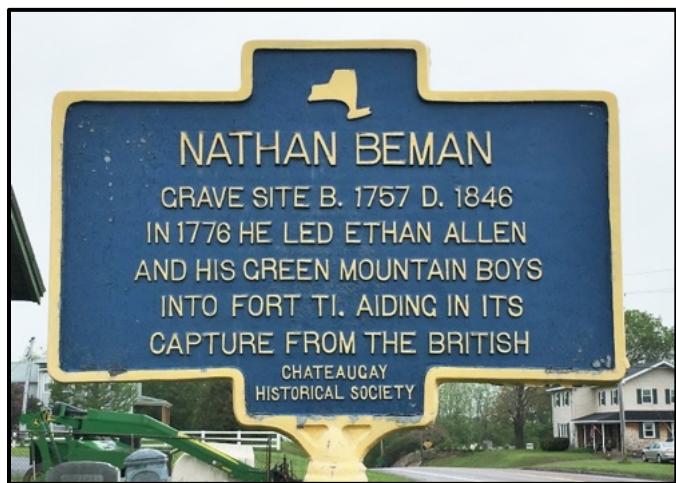
This photograph is of the Wills Bros. General Store (referred to on page 34). It was located on the Earlville Road just to the north of where Jacob Smith's homestead farmhouse had been. It was built by Charles C. Douglas and later purchased by Thomas and David Wills in 1908. They operated the store until 1918 when they sold it. During the Wills brothers' time as operators, the store also contained the Post Office for Earlville (then briefly called "Omega"). This postal location would be discontinued when Rural Free Delivery from the Chateaugay Post Office began.

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Nathan Beman Gravesite

Address: 7780 US Route 11

Coordinates: 44.927199, -74.067494



Nathan Beman's role as a founder of our community is only one part of his event-filled and historic life. He was born in Connecticut in 1757. When he was a young lad, his family moved to Shoreham, Vermont where his father, Samuel, opened a tavern in their farmhouse. This was one of the first taverns in the Larrabee Point area.

Their new home was on the shores of Lake Champlain, and young Nathan used that opportunity to explore the New York side as well as the territory around his home.

Because of his familiarity with the New York shoreline, gained through his boyhood jaunts, he was chosen as the guide for Colonels Ethan Allen and Benedict Arnold when they captured Fort Ticonderoga on May 10, 1775. The stealthy attack on the fort was carried out under the cover of darkness and a guide familiar with the lay of the land around the fort was essential. At 4:00 AM, the successful takeover was completed. This historic event has been depicted in a painting by Alonzo Chappel.

His father, Samuel, had since moved across the lake to Plattsburgh and had become active in local politics. In 1786, he was one of the Commissioners of Highways in Clinton County. Perhaps because of his father's apparent good fortune on the New York side, Nathan moved his growing family to Cumberland Head in the early 1790s.

In 1795, Beman was in the employ of land developers and assigned the task of participating in a survey of the land in Township Number 7. The survey was to be conducted by Cochran and Ransom, assisted by Benjamin Roberts of Ferrisburgh, Vermont and Samuel Beman and his son, Nathan, of Plattsburgh, New York. The elder Beman was, by this time, sixty-five years of age and hardly about to leave Plattsburgh to trek across the wilderness in a surveying expedition. His main role, it would seem, was simply to secure the assignment for his son and Roberts.

By June of 1796, both returned with their families and a handful of other settlers and began the arduous task of clearing the land and building their permanent homesteads. Chateaugay's history had begun.

Beman remained in Chateaugay until shortly before his death in 1846 at the age of 89. He is buried in East Side Cemetery.

*For more information see Chateaugay Historical Society Newsletter 2007: Vol. I, Issue #1
and Chateaugay Historical Society Newsletter 2025: Vol. XIX, Issue #1*

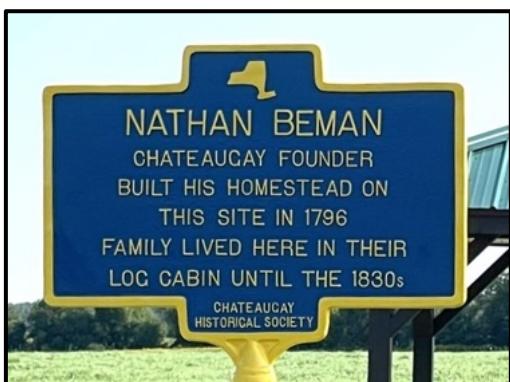
➤ [Back to Outside Village/Town Map](#)



Nathan Beman Homestead

Address: 428 County Route 35 (Chasm Road)

Coordinates: 44.92949, -74.09335



Chateaugay was first explored by the survey party sent to plot Township No. 7 (the land the Town of Chateaugay currently occupies) in 1795. Prior to this survey party, the only footsteps that trod this land were Native American hunting parties and a few brave souls who passed through the territory trading with the Indians.

Included in the 1795 survey party were Chateaugay's founders: Benjamin Roberts, of Ferrisburgh, Vermont and Nathan Beman, then living in Plattsburgh.

This land was 40 miles northwest of Plattsburgh and accessible via a narrow footpath through the woods. These two men were so very impressed with the land while surveying that their conversations soon led both to decide to return the next year to settle permanently.

In February of 1796, Benjamin Roberts and one hired man made their way to what is now Chateaugay. They followed the path blazed by the survey team during the year before. Leaving Plattsburgh, the two men had ventured about five miles when they passed the last few isolated early homesteads (in the western portion of present-day Beekmantown) and plunged into the "Shatagee Woods" heading north and west. They returned to Plattsburgh in April, having made maple sugar in what would later be named Chateaugay.

By late 1796, the Roberts and the Bemans had established primitive homesteads. The building of these first homes, Benjamin Roberts along the Marble River and Nathan Beman here (nearer the Bailey Brook and the Chateaugay River), marked the founding of the settlement first called "Four Corners". As the land was heavily forested and no sawmills had yet been built, these first homes were no doubt constructed of round or hewn logs.

Within two years, about 150 souls had followed those two first families and were clearing land and establishing homes here in a wild and oftentimes inhospitable and deeply wooded frontier. These early years were difficult and fraught with dangers.

The main objective of these earliest settlers was simple: survival. Growing their food, clearing land, foraging and hunting in the vast stands of maple, beech, elm, ash, hemlock, basswood, pine and spruce occupied nearly all their time.

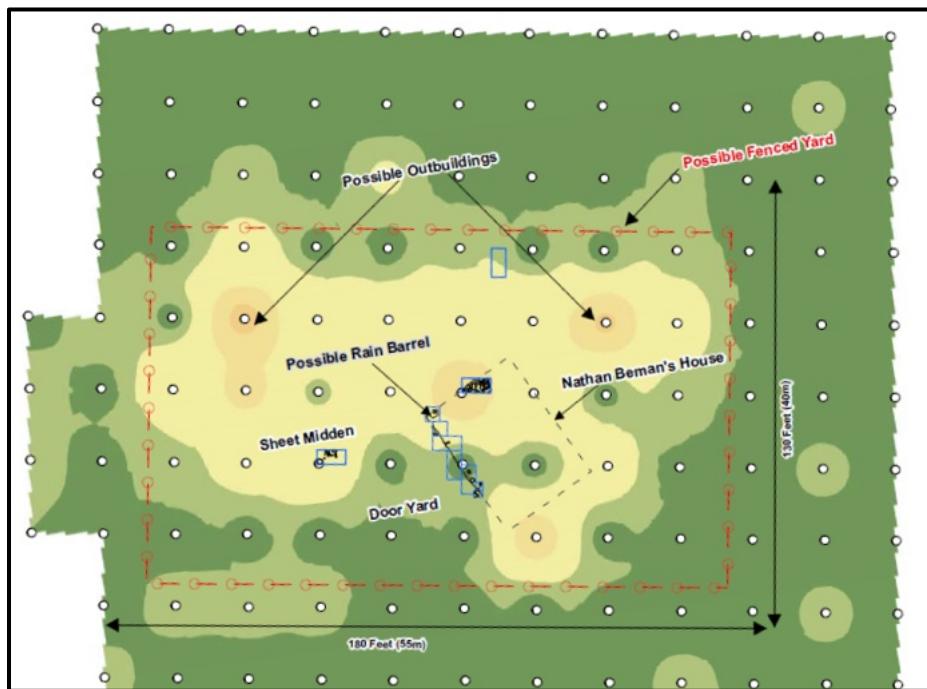
With survival the main concern, activities centered on securing food for family and livestock. Grasses were collected for livestock feed during the long, cold winters. Using oxen, the land was slowly cleared for crops. The Bemans owned a milk cow, sheep and poultry and one or two oxen. They relied on root crops. Potatoes and/or turnips were most often the first crop successfully grown. The archeological evidence from the sheet midden (area where household trash and food scraps were dumped) indicates the Beman's diet consisted mostly of beef, pork, mutton, fowl, and wild game and fish. Hunting and foraging for wild foods could also take significant amounts of a family's time.

The Beman family lived what can be termed a "subsistence farming" lifestyle. They did not keep livestock beyond a cow, and one or possibly two, oxen and did not grow any large-scale crops. Neither

(continued)

Beman nor his fellow founder and brother-in-law, Benjamin Roberts, chose farming as a means to secure a comfortable living. Instead, both would eventually open taverns.

From the artifact deposits, it became clear that the family homestead inhabited a compact space, the cabin only measured 22 X 31 feet in size, likely within a fenced in area.



This illustration shows the layout of the homestead. It is from the Hartgen Archaeological Associates final report entitled: Out of the Frying Pan into the Fire.

The cabin structure had some glass windows, a shallow stone foundation, a dirt floor, and a loft area probably provided sleeping space. The location of a traditional root cellar and outhouse were not revealed in the limited excavation. The cabin also had a solidly built stone and mortar fireplace and chimney, located on the northwest wall.

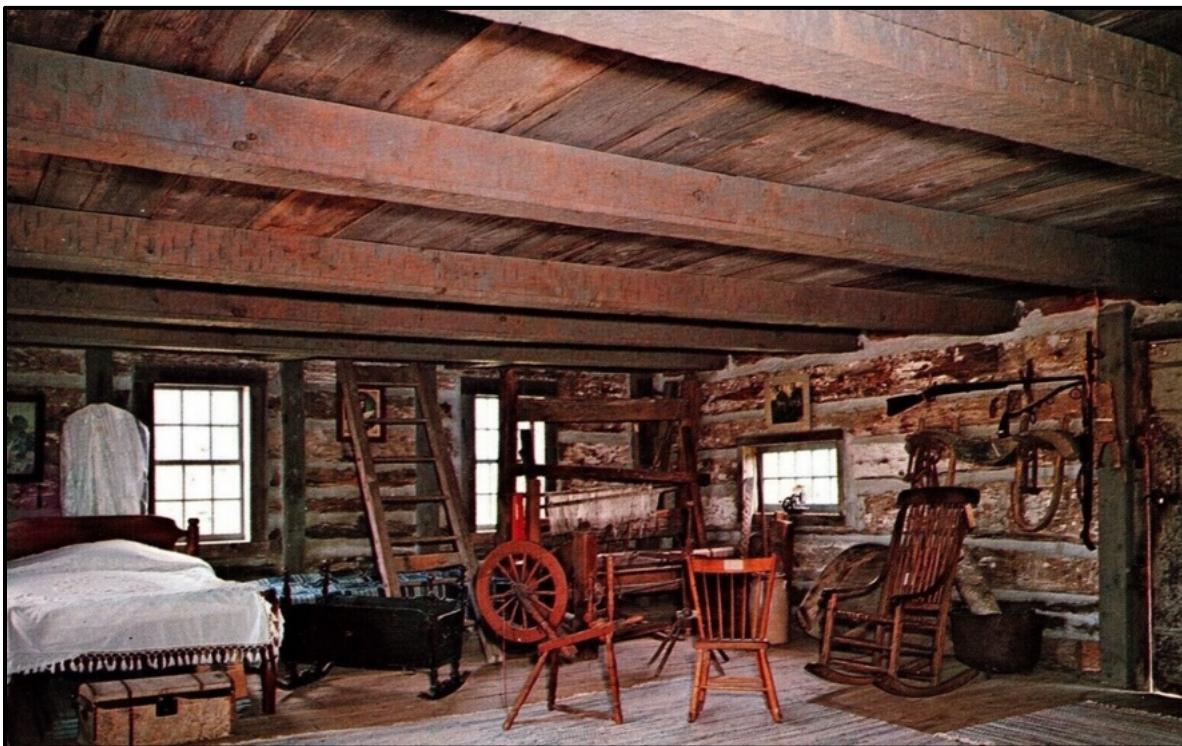
Furniture was sparse. Carrying large pieces from Plattsburgh was impossible along the narrow horse and oxcart path that connected Chateaugay to the eastern communities. The first beds, tables, chairs, etc. in these very early homes were crude and fashioned with an axe, knife or adz. Over time, better furniture pieces would have replaced the rudimentary early furnishings.

The photos that follow are Google images of the Hyde cabin in Grand Isle Vermont. This cabin was felt to be an accurate representation of the Beman structure by the



(continued)

archaeological team that conducted the survey of the homestead. The following images provide a sense of what day-to-day life was like for the Beman family.



(continued)

By 1806, Nathan Beman was granted a license for a “Public Inn and Tavern”. There was no evidence unearthed in the homestead excavation to support a tavern having been run there. The family had a second home on Main Street, near the Four Corners, where the tavern was located.

The family lived in the Main Street building while the tavern/inn operated and remained after it closed. In 1814, their tavern building was burned after it was ransacked by the British, and the family moved back to the smaller, recently empty homestead cabin.

In June 1840, when Nathan and Jemima were in their eighties, they moved from their small homestead cabin to Malone with their son Aaron. By 1846, both had died. The homestead cabin was abandoned and empty and was eventually sold in 1872.

What we know of homestead life resulted from an archaeological excavation done in 2003-04. A wide variety of artifacts were unearthed. Their analysis reveals a simple lifestyle with little disposable income. The mismatched ceramic fragments bore this out. The glass pieces found consisted of window glass, bottles, and drinking glasses. Flatware unearthed included a pewter spoon and a two tined fork.

Miscellaneous items found included a lamp chimney and glass beads. No items of bone, no glass or porcelain buttons, and no jewelry items were found, indicating a simple and far-from-affluent lifestyle. Among the personal items found were clay pipe fragments and metal buttons.

A bayonet frog was also unearthed. This metal holder was clipped onto a soldier’s belt and held a rifle bayonet resting in its leather scabbard at the ready. Nathan Beman served for eleven days in 1814 during the War of 1812.

The sheet midden (area where household trash was dumped) also revealed pig, cow and sheep bones. Additionally, a variety of building materials, like brick, nails, window glass and plaster mortar were uncovered. The midden also contained a well-worn garden hoe blade, an ox shoe, and pieces of scrap metal that had been worked, reworked, and reworked again.

At the conclusion of the excavation, the data was collected, interpreted, organized, and reports were written. The perimeter of the Nathan Beman Archeological Preserve was established and marked.

In March of 2008, the “Phase II Site Evaluation” was published detailing the entire archaeological survey and placing the Beman family in proper historical context.

In July 2009, survey team leader, J. William Bouchard, produced “Archeology at the Nathan Beman Homestead – Out of the Frying Pan into the Fire” which included sections on historical background and the archaeology done at the site. It also had an extensive bibliography.

Since this site is associated with a veteran of both the American Revolution and the War of 1812, the Nathan Beman Homestead is eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places.

For more information see Chateaugay Historical Society Newsletter 2025: Vol. XIX, Issue #1

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Orville Gibson Birthplace

Address: 987 Farquher Road

Coordinates: 44.9759776, -74.0347319



potatoes.

Orville was the youngest of five children born to John W. Gibson and Emma (Nichols) Gibson. By 1890, he had settled in Kalamazoo, Michigan and had taken up the hobby of making musical instruments. Kalamazoo was a hotbed for local musicians at the time, with a pair of fine city military bands and a bevy of local dance bands and orchestras.

In addition to his full-time job as a shoe salesman, he helped organize local stage productions and often performed with a variety of musical ensembles. The years to come soon revealed yet another side of Gibson's creative genius.

In January 1888, Orville put the finishing touches on a "unique musical instrument" he had been working on in his spare time. Unlike the more familiar eight-string mandolins (eight strings tuned in pairs) and standard six string guitars (six strings tuned individually), Gibson's so-called "mandolin-guitar" was a nine-string instrument with its three bottom (treble) strings tuned like a standard guitar, plus six additional top strings, probably tuned in pairs. According to the reporter who saw it, the instrument "played very easily and its effect in accompaniments is very fine".

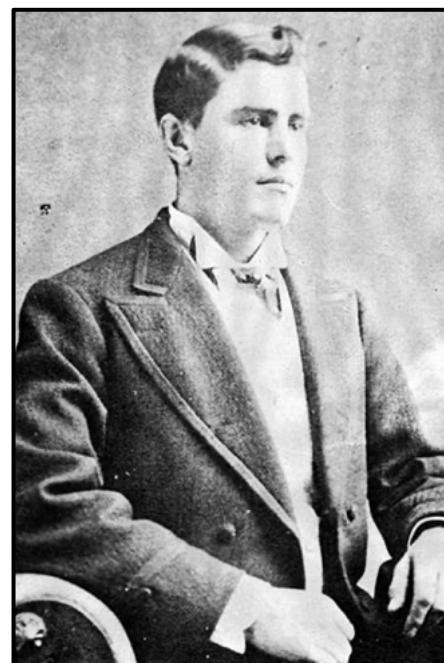
In November 1892, Gibson revealed a "most valuable and pure toned guitar, which was made entirely by himself". The guitar was quite large, nearly twice the size of a standard guitar, and valued at \$100 (roughly \$2,800 today), with a face made of spruce, the back of cedar, and a sycamore fingerboard. According to the *Kalamazoo Gazette*, Gibson's guitar "surpasses anything seen in this city... an expert piece of workmanship."

After many successful years of manufacturing and inventing stringed instruments, Orville Gibson passed away in a hospital in Ogdensburg, NY in 1918.

For further information see: Chateaugay Historical Society newsletters from 2022: Vol. XVI, Issue 3 and Vol. XVI, Issue 4.

Born in May 1856, Orville Gibson grew up on a 60-acre farm northeast of the village of Chateaugay in Franklin County, New York. The home was in an area known as "Earlvile", just a mile or so south of the Canadian border.

The Gibson household was typical of many family farms in the northeastern United States at the time; a simple home with a barn full of hay, a couple of horses, a few cows, some sheep, a pig, and probably a chicken or two scurrying around the dooryard. Orville's father, John Gibson, worked a 41-acre section of the farm, where he grew wheat, corn, oats, and



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Plank House/Tavern

Address: 6163 US Route 11

Coordinates: 44.925257, -74.098632



rise to the second floor (if the house has two stories) much like a stockade wall would look.

The work involved in plank construction was significant. The planks were installed green, often as soon as they were hauled from the sawmill. That meant they were extremely heavy and cumbersome to handle. Plank thickness ranged from one inch to four inches. Width was determined by the size of the tree being used. Some planks found in these houses were two feet wide. Although the trees were extraordinarily tall, the length of the planks used in house construction was determined by the weight of the plank and the workforce available during construction.

For example, green, freshly cut hemlock weighs more than four pounds a board foot. If a plank was eighteen inches wide, four inches thick and eighteen feet long, it would weigh at least 225 pounds. It would take a sizeable work crew and sufficient experience with plank construction to be able to handle and make use of a piece of timber that size and weight.

As noted above, some houses were built of horizontal planks right up to the roofline, others were of vertical planks, and some were of vertical planks for the first floor and horizontal for the second, as this one is. Wood pegs were used to keep the long edges from warping or twisting as they dried and wherever floor joists met the plank walls.

This building also served as a tavern and inn during Chateaugay's earliest years. Evidence of that is seen in each of the upstairs bedrooms, which originally had stove pipe safes in the walls, in order that each room's small wood stove could be piped into one of the building's chimneys. There was also a "two-holer" outhouse attached to a shed at the end of the building. In addition, the original kitchen fireplace had a large open hearth for cooking.

For further information, please see Chateaugay Historical Society newsletter 2020: Vol. XIV, Issue #4

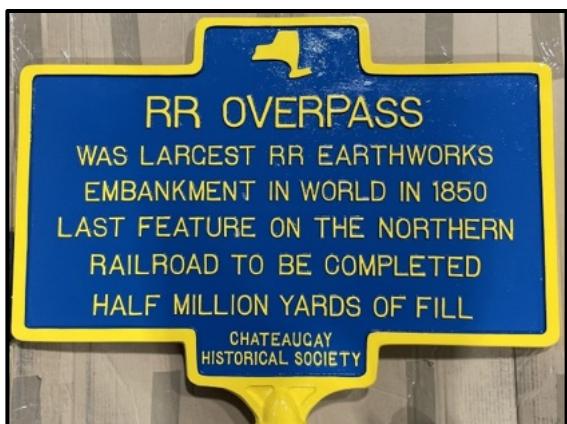
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Railroad Overpass

Address: 300 Cemetery Road

Coordinates: 44.920504, -74.098531



During the construction of the Northern Railroad (later the Ogdensburg Lake Champlain RR and still later the Rutland RR), the largest and most intensive task was to cross the Chateaugay River. It was decided to build a masonry tunnel to channel the river and to span the river gorge with earthen fill. This part of the project took so long that it delayed the opening of the rail line.

Much of the needed fill came from the nearby town of Churubusco. It was loaded onto rail cars there and unloaded by hand at the local depot and brought to the overpass site in horse-drawn wagons

and shoveled into place by hand. At the time, the chief engineer, Charles L. Schlatter, estimated that the 400,000 cubic yards of fill needed to bring the rail bed up to the proper height was equivalent to taking a sixteen-acre farm and removing all of its earth to a depth of sixteen feet! This was truly an amazing project resulting from engineering expertise and herculean physical efforts.

Construction of the stone tunnel to carry the Chateaugay River through the earthen overpass was completed rather quickly. The sheer enormity of the task of bringing in all the fill, slowed the completion date and this became the last feature of the railroad line to be completed.

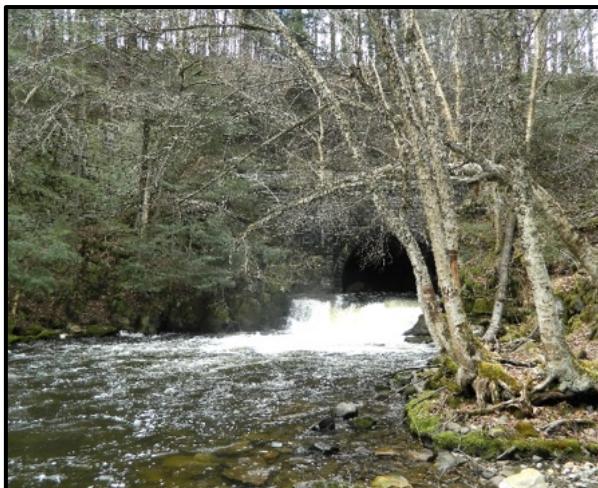
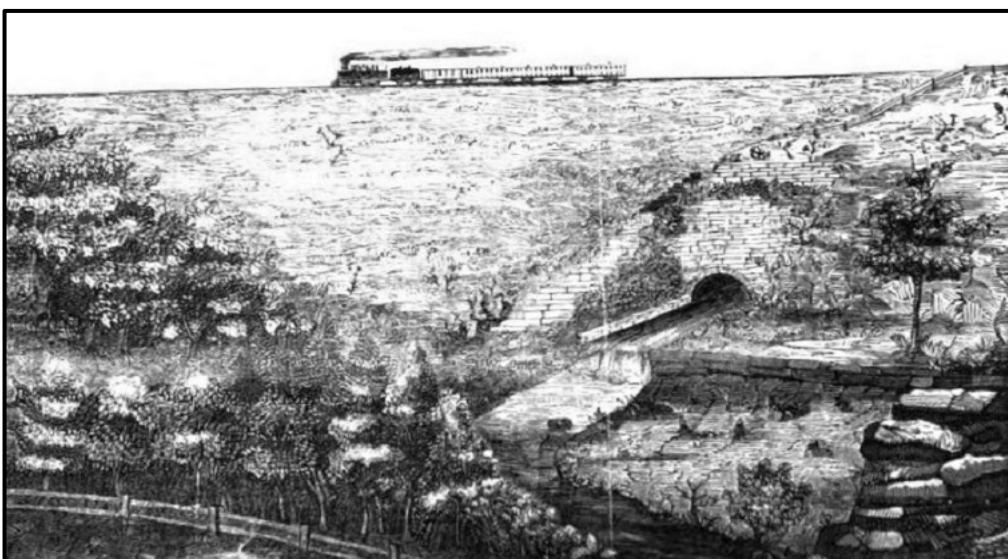


Photo on the right is of the north side of the stone tunnel.



The image to the left is from Hough's 1853 history of St. Lawrence and Franklin Counties.

It shows the overpass somewhat out-of-scale but does represent the earthen structure.

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Starch Mill on the Marble River

Address: 149 Co Highway 39

Coordinates: 44.936276, -74.062647



By the mid-1800s, potato starch had many uses in the growing cotton textile industry in the U.S. Chateaugay's soil was ideal for growing potatoes and several starch mills operated locally.

This starch mill was first built by Thomas Bennett around 1850. About 1870, he sold it to Adams and Jenkins, who operated it as partners for a short time. It was solely owned and operated by William F. Jenkins from 1871 to 1891, when he sold it to G.H. Main and John Percy. Main's interest in the operation was soon bought out by Nathan Beman (the grandson of Chateaugay's founder, Nathan Beman). It appears that Beman was a silent partner as John and Elizabeth Percy were listed as operators until 1893. They ceased operations that year and the mill never operated again.

Charles R. Green bought the vacant starch mill and five acres around it in 1910. The factory building was torn down the same year.

The farm at the top of the hill was owned by Alanson Green and later by Walter and Adelaide Silver. The farm obscured by the trees was owned by Charles Green and later by Matthew Sheehan, James and Marilyn Jones and Neil and Shirley Cook. The farm on the very top right was owned by P. Bennett and later by Spencer and Linda Dumont.

The mill dam can be seen to the center right with the penstock running to the mill building. At the center bottom was a spring covered by a pumphouse that sent water up the hill to the farms there.

The child in the buggy is believed to be Gordon Russell Green, son of C.R. Green. The man at the watering trough and the two women standing by the fence are unidentified, but the man and one of the ladies could well be Gordon Green's parents: Charles Russell Green and Cynthia Hawthorne Green. Gordon R. Green would eventually become the president of the First National Bank of Chateaugay.

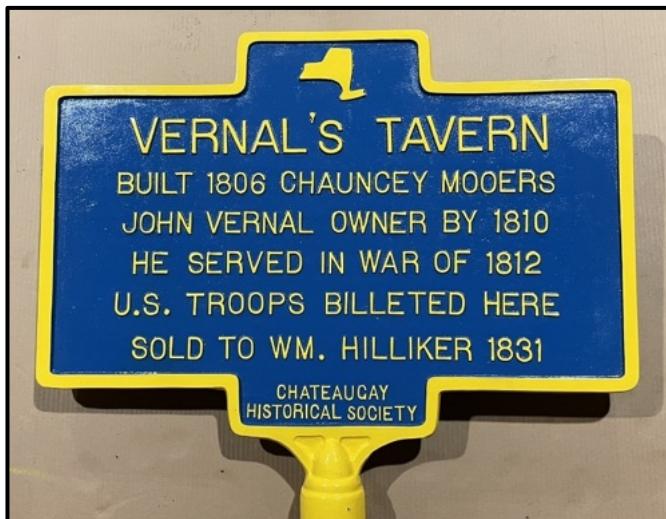
This Holmes Studio photo was taken around 1890.

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Vernal's Tavern

Address: 8250 US Route 11

Coordinates: 44.9329651, -74.0109360



recorded license for this inn was issued by the town of Chateaugay to Chauncey Mooers in 1806. By 1810, it had been purchased and operated by Vernal who was issued a license that year at the cost of \$3. The tavern was a notable stop on the road to and from Plattsburgh.

During his early years of ownership, John Vernal also served as a Private in Captain David Erwin's Company in the War of 1812.

Also, during the War of 1812, U.S. Army General Izzard headquartered at the tavern for a time in 1813 when U.S. Army troops were encamped here in preparation for the invasion into Canada which ultimately became the disastrous Battle of Chateaugay in Quebec.

In his book, A War of 1812 Death Register, Jack Bilow related a humorous anecdote involving the Vernal Tavern. This was also set during that war... *On January 20, 1814, some of the soldiers were leaving winter camp at Chateaugay, New York to go to Plattsburgh. Mr. Ira Potter was at the Vernal hotel exactly three miles east of Chateaugay on Route 11 when his team of horses and sleigh was confiscated by Capt. McFeeelys 23rd U.S. Inf., Potter was pressed to drive the team, and in the process, they unloaded the sleigh of its contents. When Mr. Potter returned, he found a hogshead of rum had rolled off against a log and fractured, a stave releasing fifty dollars of rum on the ground.*

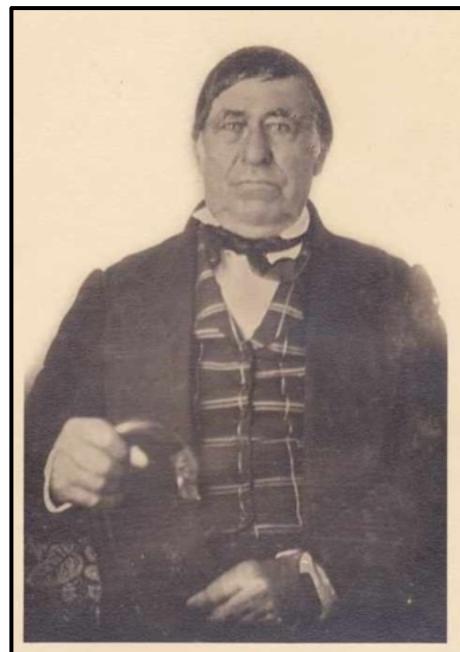
Now anyone from Chateaugay could tell you that to break a stave in a barrel while unloading it would at least make a large sound and anyone unloading it would know it happened...

Vernal eventually sold to William Hilliker in 1831 and moved to Vermont where he died. Hilliker operated it for many years as a tavern and, later, as the Hilliker Hotel.

John Vernal was born on 10 July 1775, in the Hudson Valley of New York State. In 1797, he married Sophia Spooner in Monkton, Vermont. They would become the parents of at least seven sons and four daughters.

The Vernals came to Chateaugay sometime after 1800. He supposedly owned one of the earlier mills in town but details of that are unconfirmed.

John Vernal operated a tavern about three miles east of Chateaugay. The first



John Vernal 1775-1857

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Inside the Village

Anderson Block

Address: 173 East Main Street



Following a devastating East Main Street fire in 1893, property owners quickly moved to rebuild. Most chose to use brick.

However, Mrs. R.W. Anderson, who owned this property decided to ensure that her storefront would stand out from all the other rebuilds. She had it faced with Gouverneur marble. Mrs. Anderson was determined to make this building a true showplace.

She engaged a Malone architect, G.S. Goff, who had designed many notable structures in the area. Much

attention was paid to both the interior and exterior design details, materials and finishes.

The second story rooms were floored and trimmed in whitewood which was finished in oil and shellac. Some spaces were business suites and others were apartments.

Extensive stained-glass panels were installed throughout the block's southern exposure.



The photos that follow show some of the details incorporated into the building's design. A stained-glass panel is shown above. A view of the ceiling finishes in one of the storefronts, and a look at the stained-glass array looking out from a storefront are shown on the next page.

(continued)



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Bailey House

Address: 43 Depot Street

Coordinates: 44.92405 -74.07888



offered land here for sale. His intention was to sell off that acreage to incoming pioneer settlers.

William Bailey is also the only known person to ever own slaves in Chateaugay. History records that two enslaved people resided on his farm when he lived here.

In addition to his land speculation, he was also a businessman and entrepreneur. He built the first grist mill in Douglass Hollow and built a forge on the Chateaugay River near High Falls, south of what would become the Village of Chateaugay.

Three of his ten children were born in Chateaugay. The oldest of the three, son Theodorus Bailey, was born in this house.

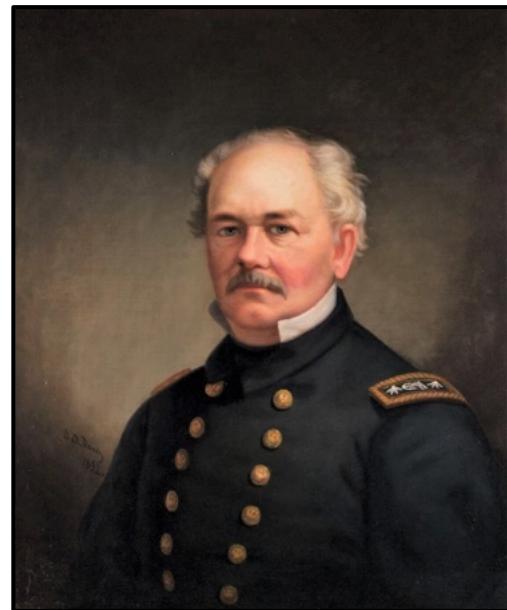
Theodorus entered the Navy as a midshipman on 1 January 1818 as a 12-year-old. By the time he was 14, he had sailed around the world. He eventually retired as an Admiral after 48 years and 10 months of service.

The Bailey family moved back to Plattsburgh after approximately five years in Chateaugay. William had been elected as a member of the NYS Assembly representing Clinton County in 1805 and as Clinton County Judge in 1806. Shortly after Franklin County was established in 1808, he relocated the family back to Plattsburgh, in Clinton County.

The portrait shown on the right is of Admiral Theodorus Bailey. It currently hangs in the Chateaugay American Legion Post on West Main Street.

This is the oldest building in the village.

It was originally the farmhouse of the William Bailey family. Judge Bailey moved here from Plattsburgh before 1805 and was one of the largest landholders in the town. While he lived here for several years, and worked his land as a farm, he was also a land broker and real-estate speculator. He had purchased hundreds of acres when New York State had



For further information, please see Chateaugay Historical Society Newsletter 2009: Vol. III, Issue #1

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Beman Home

Address: 216 East Main Street



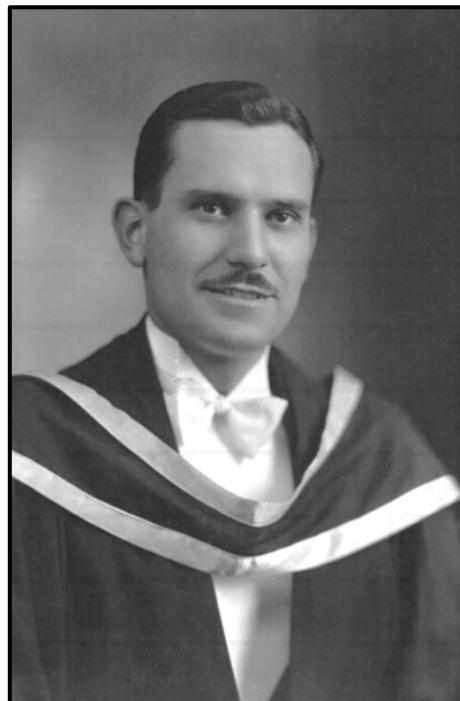
This house was built by the Beman family and eventually became the home of the grandson and namesake of one of Chateaugay's founders, Nathan Beman. A note of clarification here – there are two Nathan Bemens. The elder, (1759-1846), was one of our town's founders and the second, (1829-1910) was the

elder's grandson and namesake. The younger Nathan married Helen Hilliker. He was an entrepreneur in Chateaugay for many years.

This house was later owned by his son, Frank W. Beman. Frank was involved in the local hardware and plumbing business before relocating to Leadville, Colorado to do the same. He later returned to Chateaugay and lived in this home until his death in 1946.

Following Beman's death, it was the home of Dr. John E. McIntosh and his family. "Dr. Mac" as he was known locally, also kept his medical office here. Upon moving into the house, a section of the home was renovated and served as his medical office until his sudden death in July 1962.

Also of note, a 14-star flag, originally the property of Revolutionary War veteran Nathan Beman, was found in the attic of this house in 1961. It was one of only three fourteen-star flags known to exist. It marked the admission of Vermont into the Union in 1791. It eventually passed into the hands of a dealer in antiquities who sold it at auction for over \$24,000. It now is part of a private collection.



Top – The Beman Home today

Left – The 14-star flag found in the attic of the home.

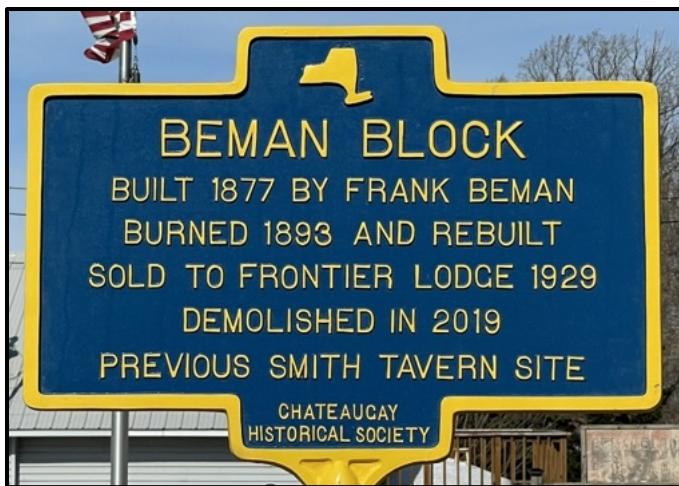
Right – Dr. John McIntosh

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Beman/Masonic Block

Address: 1 East Main Street

Coordinates: 44.926618, -74.079493



Masonic Jewels and other regalia were taken. [The full account of this theft is told in newsletter, Vol. 5, Issue 1; "*Freemasonry in Chateaugay, New York*" by John Martin.]

After Colonel Smith, it was run by various proprietors. It eventually came to be known as the Franklin House.

In 1856, it was purchased by Nathan Beman, the grandson and namesake of one of Chateaugay's first settlers. In mid-1876, he replaced all of the small stores with a single four-story block. Upon its completion during the summer of 1877, it was hailed as "...one of the finest blocks in town and reflects great credit upon its owner."

On January 10, 1893, with the thermometer reading almost thirty degrees below and a gale force wind blowing, a fire started in Sheldon's Drugstore that quickly consumed the entire village block between River and John Streets. Every building between the two streets was completely destroyed. The fire was so intense that the ruins still smoked and smoldered a month later. [The full story of this fire and its path of destruction appeared in newsletter, Vol. 1, Issue 1; "*The Chateaugay Block Fire of 1893*" by Mary Humiston.]

Within days of the fire, plans were immediately discussed by local businessmen and a concerted effort was mounted to rebuild the entire Main Street block as quickly as possible. Within a year, most of the destroyed buildings had been replaced. The swift action by the business community led to a strong sense of optimism about the future economic health of Chateaugay. Most were convinced that a "boom" was underway, and that sense of optimism was the subject of several news articles and columns in local and area newspapers at the time.

The present Beman /Masonic Block was the first building on the River St. to John St. block to be fully reconstructed after that devastating January 1893 fire. At three stories, it was the tallest downtown building at the time (the Bank had not yet been built).

There were also some references to it as a four-story structure. Since the roadbed of River Street was lower in 1893 than it is now, the commercial space on the basement level was quite filled with natural light. Originally, there were three windows along the west wall in addition to the entry door. Hence, the three stories at the Main Street level and the lower level on River Street, led to the "four story" references. Over the years as the streets were rebuilt, the level of River Street rose, and the windows were bricked over as the sidewalk went higher up the building's outer west wall.

The building was fully rented or leased when it was eventually sold by the Beman family (Helen Hilliker Beman and Nathan Beman had died in 1906 and 1914, respectively.) to its former tenants, the local Masonic Lodge.

(continued)

The Masons purchased the building in 1929, and owned it for almost seventy years. Then, in the late 1990s, the local Masonic Lodge sold the building and eventually relocated their meeting place to the Presbyterian Church on East Main Street.

The block later passed through several owners. All of the units and storefronts gradually emptied, and the building needed more and more major repairs. The block's condition continued to dramatically deteriorate to the point where it was deemed unsafe and unsalvageable. It was demolished in 2019. In its former footprint is an open-air "Citizens' Park".



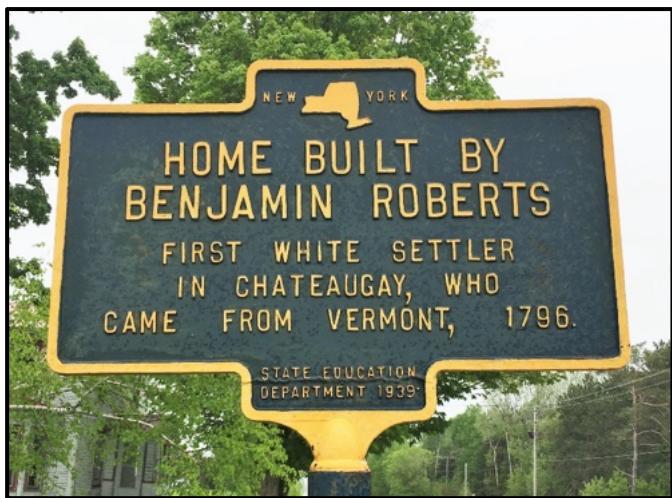
The top image is of the block Beman owned prior to the reconstruction of 1876. It is delineated with a red bracket. The image below is the building built after the fire in 1893. This was the structure that was often referred to as the "Beman/Masonic" block. It was demolished in 2019.



For further information, please see Chateaugay Historical Society Newsletter 2019: Vol. XIII. Issue #1

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Benjamin Roberts Homestead



Address: 107 County Route 52

Coordinates: 44.93395, -74.08085

Upon their arrival in Chateaugay in the early summer of 1796, the family quickly did the necessary repairs to the crude “cabin” erected during the spring visit to make maple sugar. It was roofed and outfitted for the family’s day-to-day life.

The first few years here, the main outdoor tasks were clearing land, planting crops and keeping the family safe and secure.

This was still very much an unbroken wilderness, filled with potential dangers and challenges. While here in the spring when he

made maple sugar, Roberts and his hired man had been visited by a Native American who had traded with them. Their end of the bargain was a quantity of dried moose meat. The forest was still the home to mountain lions, or “panthers” as they were called then. Potential threats seemed to be everywhere.

Having been in Chateaugay since late spring/early summer, Roberts’ wife, the former Anna Weller, was overjoyed with the arrival of the Beman family in late summer. Anna had been the only woman here for several months and the arrival of her sister-in-law, Jemima Roberts Beman was a cause for some celebration. Nathan and Jemima had arrived with their six children: Samuel 13, John 11, Sally 10, Susan 9, Phoebe 1, and newborn Aaron. Life seemed much better and fuller with more family here. With the two home steads only about a mile apart, the sense of isolation was very much lessened.

The two older Roberts boys, William, 10, and Samuel, 8, worked right beside their father clearing and planting. Eliakin and John, only 3 and 1 respectively, required care and supervision while their parents and brothers labored to establish their homestead and make it as comfortable as possible.

In 1799, son Alanson Roberts was born. He was the first child to be born in Chateaugay (still commonly referred to then as “Four Corners”). The only other child of Benjamin and Anna to be born in Chateaugay was Harriet in 1802.

By 1810, Benjamin moved his family to what was then the Town of Mooers and opened a tavern on the turnpike from Plattsburgh. The tavern sat within what would eventually become the Town of Clinton, west of the soon-to-be-established town line with Ellenburg. The family remained there for nearly 20 years, until the death of Benjamin in 1828.

Although the family’s time in Chateaugay was short, they still played a major role in establishing the settlement and helping it to grow in those earliest years.

Even though most of the children grew up in the Town of Clinton, most eventually moved to Chateaugay and played major roles in the development of this community. Sons Alanson and Theodorus operated hotels. Alanson built the earliest version of what would become the Chateaugay Hotel, and Theodorus built and ran the Union House when it sat on East Main Street. Grandsons, Jefferson and Milton, were also prominent business leaders.

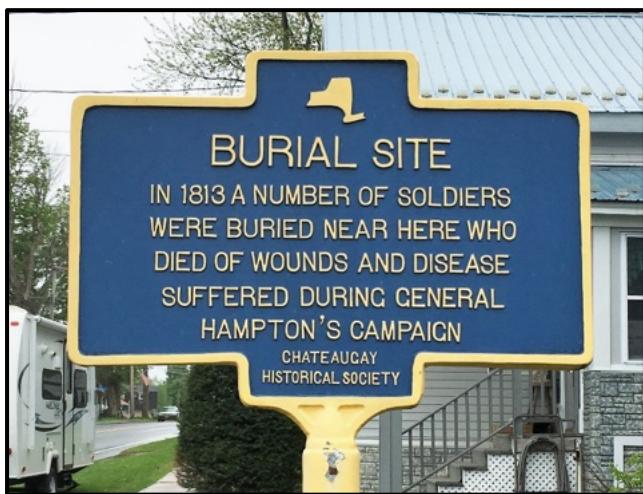
For further information, please see Chateaugay Historical Society Newsletter 2025: Vol. XIX, Issue #1

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Burial Site – War of 1812 Soldiers

Address: 43 Depot Street

Coordinates: 44.92566, -74.07984



During the fall of 1813, the U.S. Army had an encampment of between 5,000 and 6,000 troops in Chateaugay (then called “Four Corners”) in preparation of the incursion into Canada that would become known as the “Battle of Chateauguay” (Quebec).

Over the course of their time stationed here, many soldiers succumbed to disease and exposure to the elements. Additionally, there were casualties during the hostilities in Canada and their bodies were brought back as the Army retreated from Quebec.

It is believed that more than one hundred soldiers during the War of 1812 were buried locally. Approximately fifty were supposedly interred on the “Old Thomas Eaton Farm.” This property is located west of Depot Street and south of St. Patrick’s Church.

Approximately the same number are believed to have been buried on the “Old Johnston Farm,” more recently owned by Stewart Swanston and then by Donovan Rogers. None of the soldiers’ graves in either location are marked or recorded but various artifacts (uniform buttons, buckles, etc.) have occasionally been unearthed over the years. The vast majority of the one hundred or so soldiers interred here in 1812-1814, remain unidentified either by name or by exact burial location.

However, research through the years, has uncovered the names of six individuals who died here and are buried somewhere in Chateaugay. They were Richard Philpot Wentworth from New Hampshire – died of “fever”, Daniel Olds from Underhill, Vermont – died in battle, Major Hains French from Vermont – died of pneumonia, Lt. William Nash – died during the skirmish on the Boardman Brook, Lt. Thomas Cogswell of Vermont – killed in battle, and Dennis Lane – died during the skirmish on the Boardman Brook.

Major Hains French was a veteran of the American Revolution who was called back into service during the War of 1812. His health was compromised even as he re-entered the Army. While in Chateaugay, he became ill and died of pneumonia. He was laid to rest here with military honors, presumably in either of the areas where military burials were taking place. Some “Hains” family genealogical sites list him as buried with his wife in Wisconsin. However, the available records indicate that he is, indeed, buried here and that his name on the monument in Wisconsin is simply a memorial.

Richard P. Wentworth was one of the many casualties, not of battle, but of the sickness that ravaged the troops stationed here during the fall of 1813.

The information regarding Thomas Cogswell and Daniel Olds was gleaned from their family genealogies. Presumably, they were among the casualties suffered during the ill-fated Battle of Chateauguay in Canada, when Major General Wade Hampton invaded north of the border in a poorly planned, and even more poorly executed, campaign during October 1813. Their remains, and those of the other American dead, were brought back to Chateaugay and were interred here.

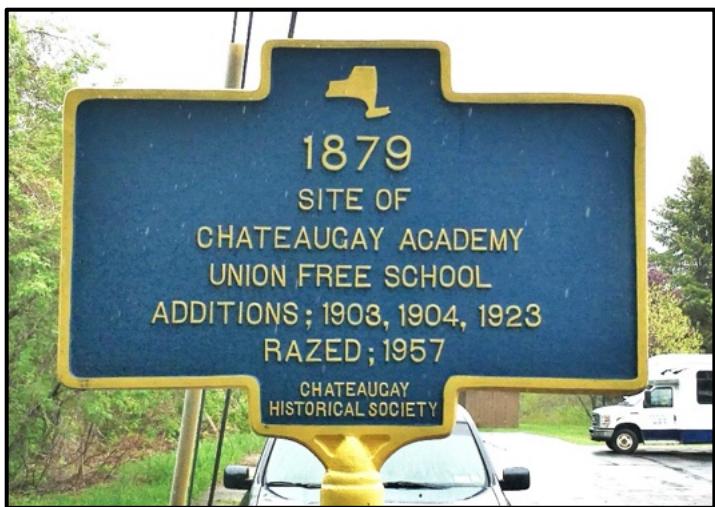
For further information, please see Chateaugay Historical Society Newsletter 2010: Vol. IV. Issue #3

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Chateaugay Academy

Address: East End of Church Street

Coordinates: 44.925507, -74.071647



In 1866, the Union Free School District No. 1 was organized. Eleven years later, in 1877, a committee was appointed to recommend ideas for a new school building in the village that could house the elementary grades of District No. 1 (which were in the soon-to-be Fire Station at the corner of Franklin and Church Streets) and all of the high school students from the Town's 17 district schools. In 1878, the district voted to buy a site at the end of Church Street and erect a new building.

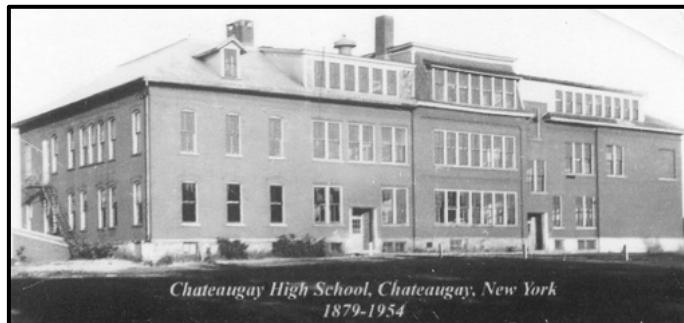
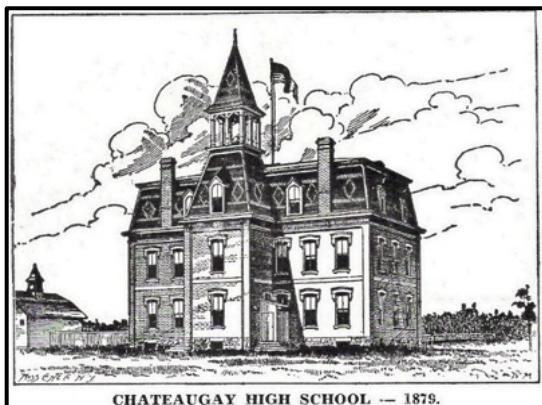
As plans unfolded, the property part of the plan was taken care of when Eli. B. Smith donated land for the new building at the end of Church Street. In 1879, the Board of Education voted to establish an academic department for the high school.

Working with Plattsburgh architect Benjamin Wood Haynes (he would later be the designer of the Chasm House Hotel), the Board of Education soon had plans for a new building.

According to the *Malone Palladium*: *The new academy is one of the finest three-story, mansard-roofed buildings in Northern New York and is furnished with all modern improvements that make the classrooms pleasant and attractive. The building and its adjacent grounds are situated southeast, of the village, apart from the din of business, and command a view grand and extensive.*

The new Academy building opened on September 8, 1879, with a full academic department. Enrollment grew steadily. The building was remodeled and/or physically expanded four different times throughout its 75-year history. Each renovation upgraded the academic offerings and the physical plant.

The old building fell silent in the fall of 1954, when the new centralized building opened on River Street. Below are images of the original Academy building and how it appeared when it closed.

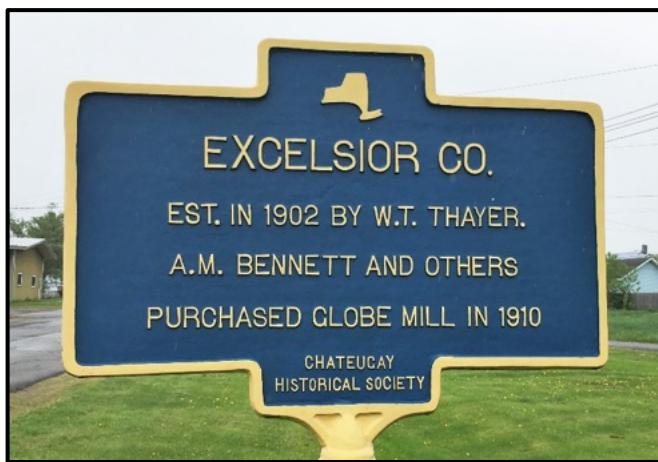


➤ [Back to Village Map](#)

Chateaugay Excelsior Mills

Address: Iron Avenue

Coordinates: 44.925404, -74.072773



The marker shown here actually serves to note the three different excelsior mills that existed in Chateaugay from 1902 through 1924. The Chateaugay, Star, and Globe Excelsior mills were all clustered around the railroad yard.

Excelsior was used as a packing material. It was made from selected softwoods split or cut into thin strips, so they could cushion goods for shipping.

Because of the weight of the excelsior

bales and the sheer volume of production, each of Chateaugay's three mills had a railroad spur that ran right next to the building. This made loading bales onto freight cars easier and faster. The storage rooms at the mills were built to be the same height as the floor of the rail cars, speeding up the boxcar loading process. Excelsior production was so rapid and the demand so great that each of the mills shipped bales every two days or so.

Excelsior production was a rather straight-forward, mechanical operation. Unlike at the pulp and paper making plants, no vats, chemicals, nor "cooking" times were required. Logs destined for the excelsior operations were delivered and stacked in the yards adjacent to the mills. The logs had to be no more than six feet long, relatively straight grained and free from major defects like knots or cracks. The bark was peeled and the logs dried for up to six months and then put through the cutting machines, baled and shipped.

The local mill record for a day's production was set by Star Excelsior. In a 10 hour shift, one crew produced over 11,000 pounds of Excelsior.

Excelsior Mill Locations on a Present-Day Google Earth View

1. Star Excelsior
2. Chateaugay Excelsior
3. Globe Excelsior



*The red dotted line shows the street extension that existed in 1912.
The yellow star marks the location of the Excelsior historic marker.*

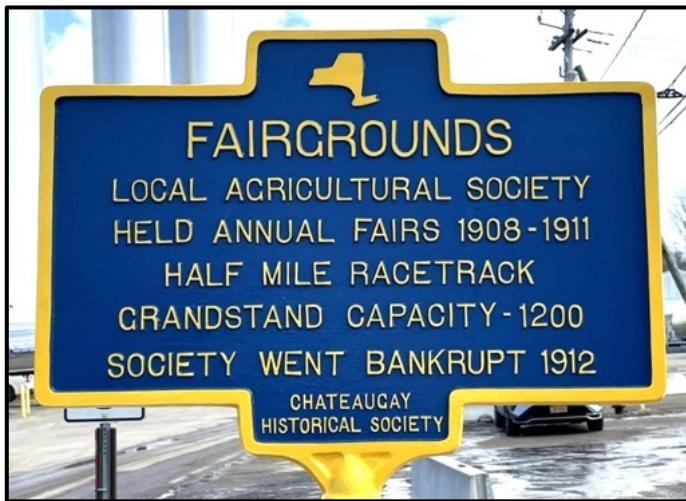
For further information, please see Chateaugay Historical Society Newsletter 2018: Vol. XII, Issue #3

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Chateaugay Fairgrounds

Address: End of Collins Street

Coordinates: 44.923712, -74.075672



In 1906, it was announced that the long proposed but unfulfilled dream of a local agricultural society was finally happening. With the formation of the Chateaugay Agricultural Society, plans were immediately developed for a well-equipped, multi-purpose fairground. A 20-acre plot of land was purchased from the Spellman farm located at the end of Collins Street. A half mile racetrack was laid out by an area surveyor named Mann, who had plotted out a track on the former athletic grounds on River Street some 12 years earlier.

By 1907, the track was completed, and the first harness races were held. A baseball diamond was also built in the track infield. With the new facility rapidly taking shape on Collins Street, racing activity and baseball games were transitioning from the old River Street facilities to the new fairgrounds.

Development and construction of the Collins Street facility continued unabated. The first actual, locally hosted, annual fair was conducted to overflow crowds in September of 1907. Barns and exhibit buildings were still being erected. Horse-racing events were regularly held in addition to the other events that were offered during the week-long event.

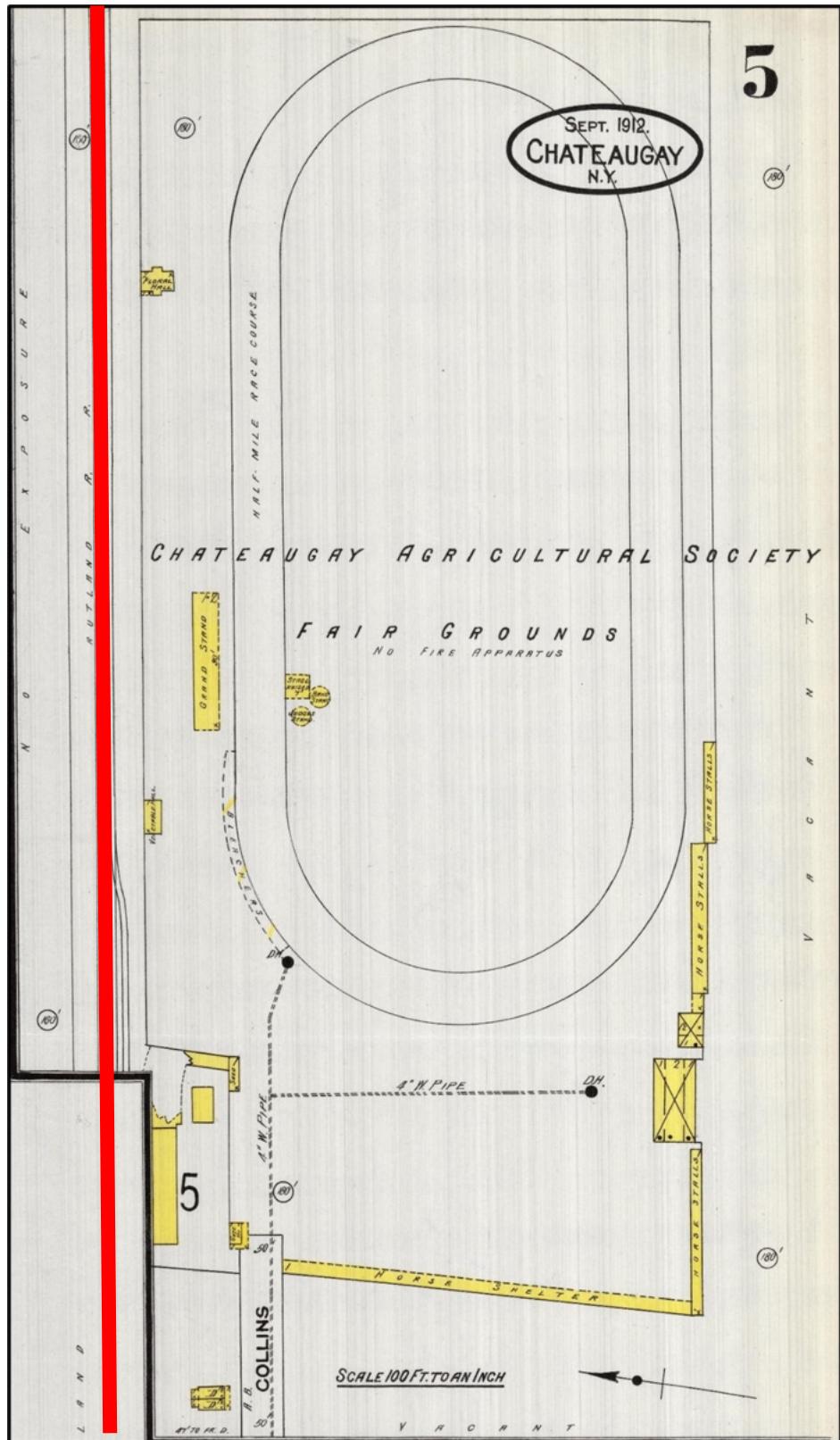
The next year, a grandstand was purchased from a fairground in New Hampshire. It was disassembled, loaded onto train cars and brought to Chateaugay where it was rebuilt along the north boundary of the fairground's property. The covered grandstand was 100 feet long and had seating for 1,200 spectators. The grandstand capacity was almost twice the seats which would be available in the soon-to-be-constructed Town Hall on East Main Street.

The large grandstand fit right between the Rutland Railroad tracks to the north and the straightaway of the horse track on the fairgrounds.

The Chateaugay Agricultural Society operated from 1907 until its bankruptcy in 1912. Over those years, four annual fairs were staged. Horse-racing programs were regularly offered and were all well attended and highly popular events. The Society had added many more horse barns than other livestock buildings to the grounds; so, there were plenty of available stable facilities for horsemen to board their animals year-round. Winter racing was also held each year after the track was iced and made ready. Racing sleighs replaced sulkies and the large crowds, bundled against the cold, cheered on their favorites from the grandstand and the newly constructed bleachers.

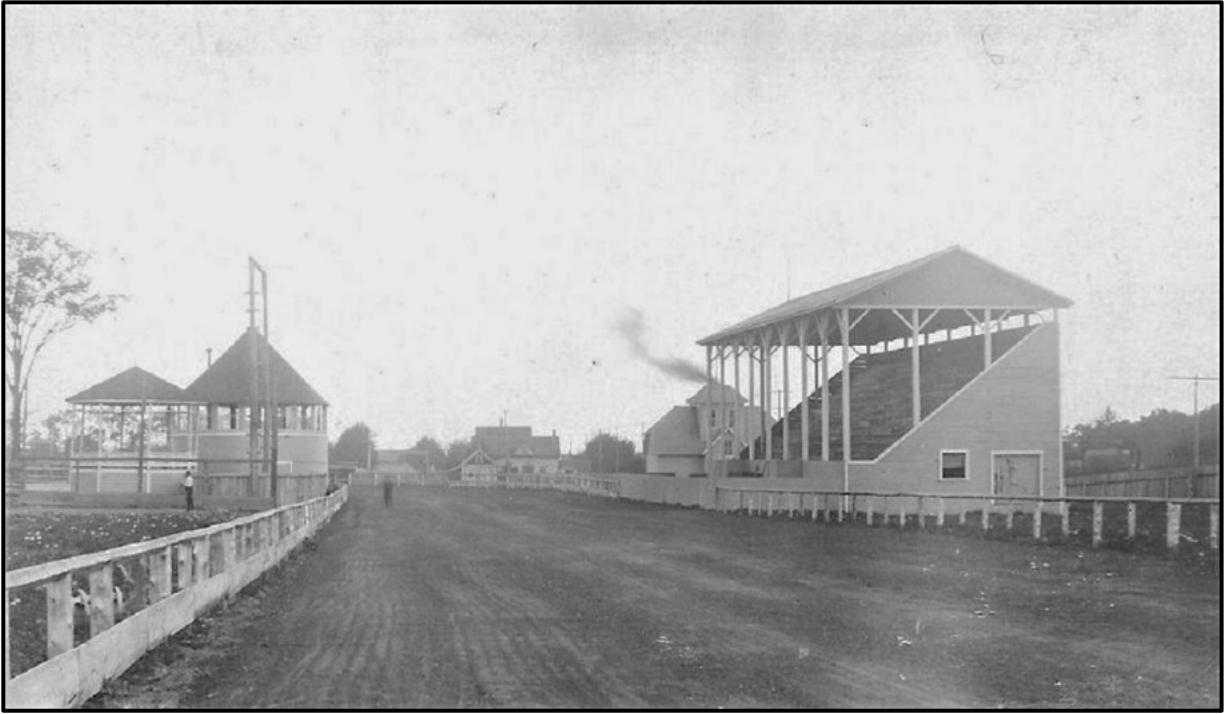
Following the bankruptcy and dissolution of the Agricultural Society in 1912, the racetrack was leased out to several different individuals and local harness racing continued for the next few years, but by about 1920, the racetrack had fallen into disrepair and the years of local horseracing ended. The racetrack was soon dismantled, leaving the baseball diamond in what had been the track infield.

(continued)

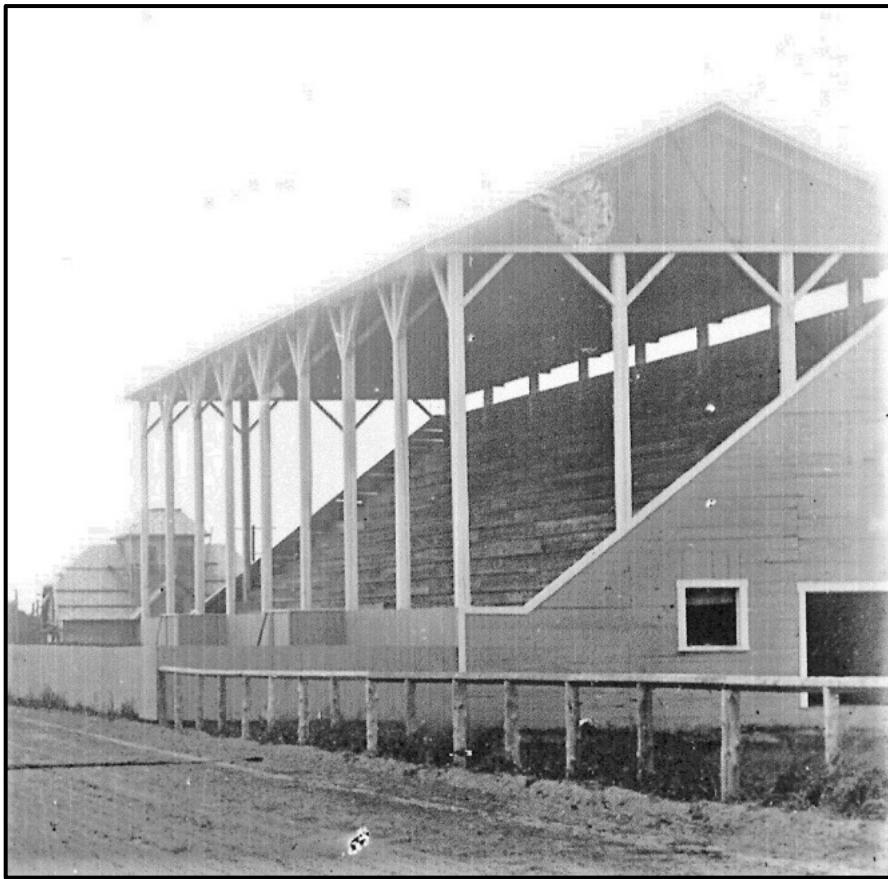


This map is from the Sanborn Insurance Company. It shows the complete layout of the fairgrounds at the end of Collins Street. The red line on the map marks the railroad tracks running east/west, just to the north of the fairground's property.

(continued)



The photo above looks west along the racetrack. The first Floral Hall can be seen in the background beyond the grandstand.



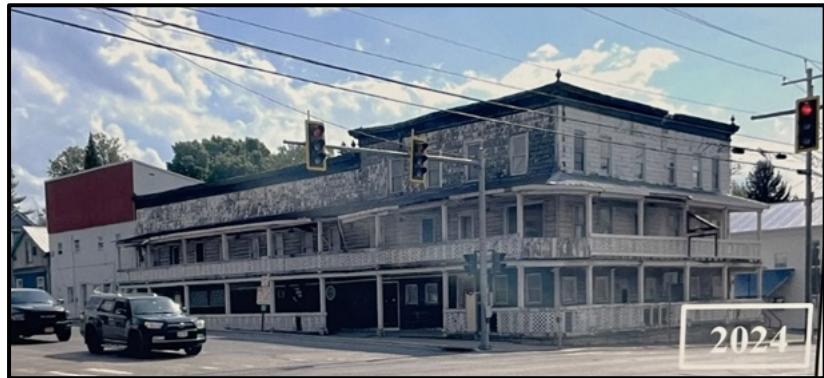
This closeup of the grandstand shows its construction details.

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Chateaugay Hotel

Address: 2 Depot Street

The history of this hotel on the Four Corners is long and involved but most interesting. To address that past here is most easily done by providing a timeline of dates, names, and various owners/operators. The source noted on the bottom of the last page of this section provides an in-depth and thorough history of the building and its long past.



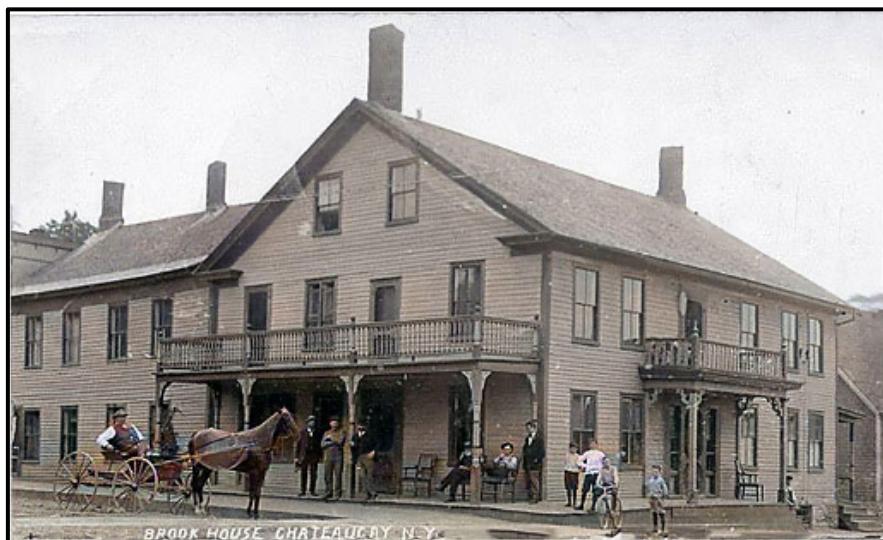
Hotel Chateaugay Timeline

Exact details of the building(s) on this corner prior to 1837 are undocumented

Bef. 1800	Roberts Inn a very early log structure said to be on the corner
1805-1806	James Ormsbee said to have had a “Pioneer Store” on the same corner
1806-1836	Details unknown – no verifiable surviving records are available
1837-1877	Roberts House built by John and Alanson Roberts – 1 st framed building
1877-1880	Ladd’s Hotel owned and run by Timothy B. Ladd
1880-1887	Ladd’s owned and run by George Ladd
1887-1912	Brooks House – proprietor was Luke H. Brooks
1913-1940	The Chateau – operated by Thomas H. Dwyer
1941-1953	Hotel Chateaugay - operated by Tim Hanna
1953-1966	Hotel Chateaugay - operated by Bob Reed
1967-1974	Hotel Chateaugay - operated by Rex Thompson
1974-1981	Hotel Chateaugay - operated by Gary and Sandy McCray
1982-1983	Westerner – operated by Art and Pat Dromgoole
1983-1986	Chateaugay Hotel and Tavern – operated by Jennie Gessler Dowd
1986-2009	Chateaugay Hotel – operated by Barb and Dale LaBare
2009-2014	Jericho Joe’s Roadhouse – Joe and Denise Wanser
2014-present	Vacant

(continued)

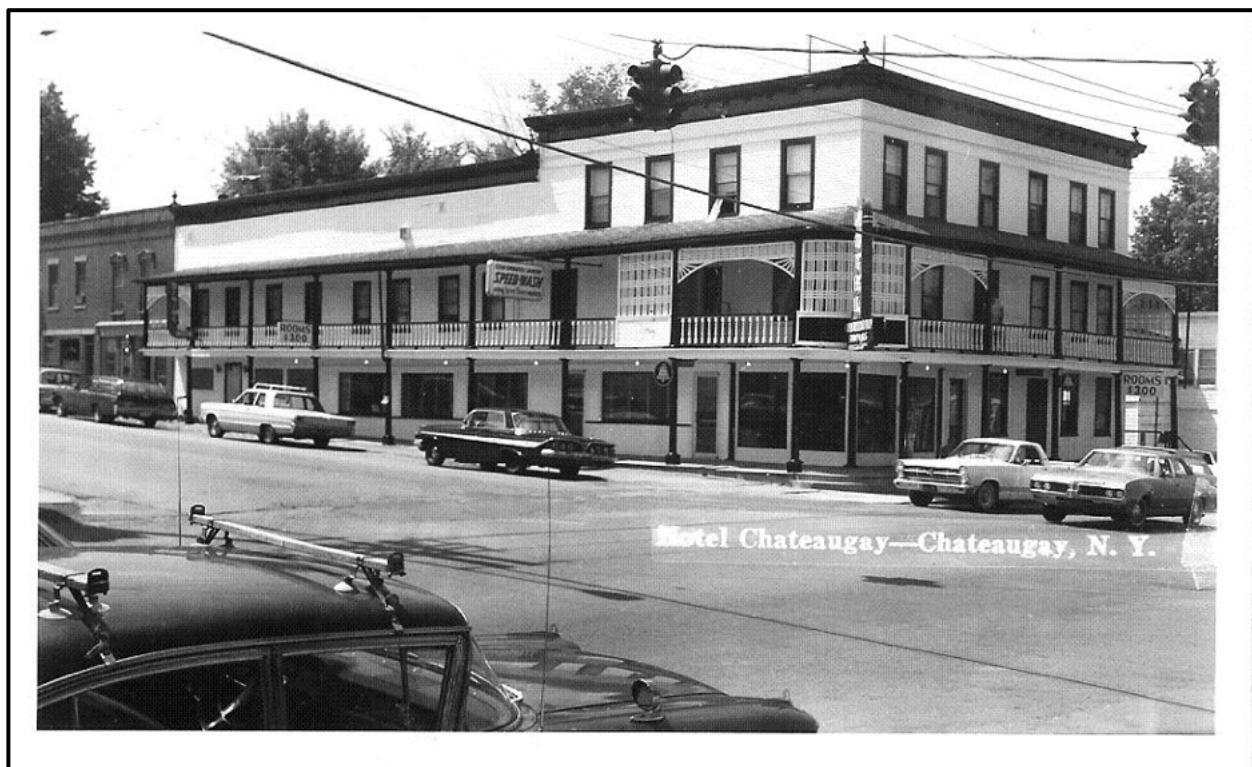
Below are views of the Roberts/Brooks House – one from the 1880s and one from the 1890s (both black & white and colorized versions)



(continued)

61

Below: the "Chateau" in the 1920s and the "Hotel Chateaugay" in the early 1960s



For further information, please see Chateaugay Historical Society Newsletter 2013: Vol. VII. Issue 4

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Chateaugay's First Foundry



businessman, in addition to being a licensed attorney.

In 1861, he built a forge and foundry at the end of the street across the brook from the tannery. The street would soon be named "Foundry Street", a name it still carries today. Keeler met with great success as business grew every year.

However, he was a man of many interests and always looked for new opportunities to use his business acumen. In 1865, he was approached by Philyer L. Lyman and Samuel E. Moore as prospective buyers for the forge and foundry operation. Keeler agreed to hold the mortgage.

The new owners continued the foundry operation and quickly added a machine shop and a carding mill to process wool. Business activity at the end of the street increased markedly.

Whether the new owners lacked business skills or couldn't operate the three different companies efficiently is uncertain, but after five years, in 1870, Lyman and Moore defaulted on their mortgage. Keeler found himself once again the owner of the forge and foundry along with a machine shop and carding mill. He operated all three businesses for the next year.

On November 24, 1871, a fire broke out in the attached buildings that housed the forge, foundry and the machine shop. The blaze quickly spread to the carding mill and soon it all burned to the ground.

Although the forge and foundry were not in operation for a long period, many of the pieces produced there made their way to homes and businesses in town. For example, one of the stoves cast in his foundry sat in the office area of the Union House on Depot Street for 37 years. It was finally removed and replaced in 1902.

The ultimate fate of his foundry molds and other machinery is unknown. Presumably they were all destroyed in the blaze that leveled the foundry building in 1871.

E.A. Keeler was a man of many business and managerial talents. He was one of the earliest principals of the iron ore mine which was on the hill behind the Banner House at Chateaugay Lake.

He was also very involved in other local businesses and organizations. He worked as a railroad engineer and later he was the surveyor chosen to plot the route of a proposed rail line from Chateaugay Village to the Lower Lake 1873. Unfortunately, this line never came to pass, although it was a topic of discussion for several years, especially after the construction of the Chateaugay Railway that ran from Lyon Mountain to Plattsburgh in 1879.

He also served as a local judge, was a member of the local Fire Department, and served both as Village Trustee and as Village President (Mayor).

Keeler died in 1888 at the age of 57. He is buried in Smith Cemetery.

Address: Intersection of Foundry & East Main Sts.

Coordinates: 44.927125, -74.070642

This marker is located on East Main St. at the south end of Foundry Street. The actual foundry site was at the north end of Foundry Street and is inaccessible.

Edgar A. (E.A.) Keeler was born in Vermont in 1823. He came to Chateaugay during the 1840s and married Mary M. Coonley in 1848. They raised their family in their home in the Village. He remained here for the rest of his life.

He was an energetic and enterprising

businessman, in addition to being a licensed attorney.

In 1861, he built a forge and foundry at the end of the street across the brook from the tannery. The street would soon be named "Foundry Street", a name it still carries today. Keeler met with great success as business grew every year.

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For further information, please see Chateaugay Historical Society Newsletter 2024: Vol. XVIII. Issue #3

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Col. Thomas Smith Home

Address: 213 East Main Street

Coordinates: 44.926938, -74.075838



were still log structures. A stone home would not only be costly but would be the first such construction in town.

He planned the home in the popular Federal Style. This architectural style has been described as “the growing sign of prosperity that reflected the growing wealth in the young United States.”

As the print on the next page shows, the house had the exterior features of the style: raised foundation, symmetrical design, matching chimneys, and double-hung windows with shutters.

The interior was also in the Federal Style. The home was two rooms deep. It had a central staircase with railing construction that continued onto the second floor. It had a curved wall which was a somewhat common feature incorporated into Federal Style homes. The woodwork throughout the house showed architectural detail and each room was fully trimmed out. The kitchen and servants’ quarters were on the lower level.

This house was unique in that a three-story home was extremely rare in the area in 1818. Also, records seem to indicate that the household servants were paid employees, not enslaved people. All of the local grocery stores were informed that any deliveries were to be made to the lower-level entrances, not to the family’s living areas.

The servant quarters were far from stark. There were two exterior doors and several windows. The framed walls were all lath and plaster, and the area was painted and wallpapered. The space was divided into living space on the west side, and the kitchen area with ovens in the east half. Upstairs, the interior detail on the living levels was far from utilitarian. It was well-appointed and comfortable. The curved wall which enclosed the front hall was purely a design feature.

The home was constructed of local cut stone. The exterior walls were about twelve inches thick. While the interior walls were all framed with milled lumber, the earliest years of the home

Just prior to 1820, while Colonel Smith was tending his business enterprises, he decided that he should build a substantial home for his family. Purchasing property on the north side of what would come to be called East Main Street, he set about planning to construct a stone home.

His plans are particularly noteworthy in that there were few wood-framed homes in Chateaugay at that time, let alone any masonry ones. In fact, most local homes



Thomas Smith House today

had only the mortared stone for the exterior walls. This meant it was probably quite hard to heat as the thermal mass of the stone was a poor insulator in colder weather, and the frigid winter temperatures would cause the stone walls to radiate cold into the interior spaces.

Behind the house were the barns, the privy and the well house.

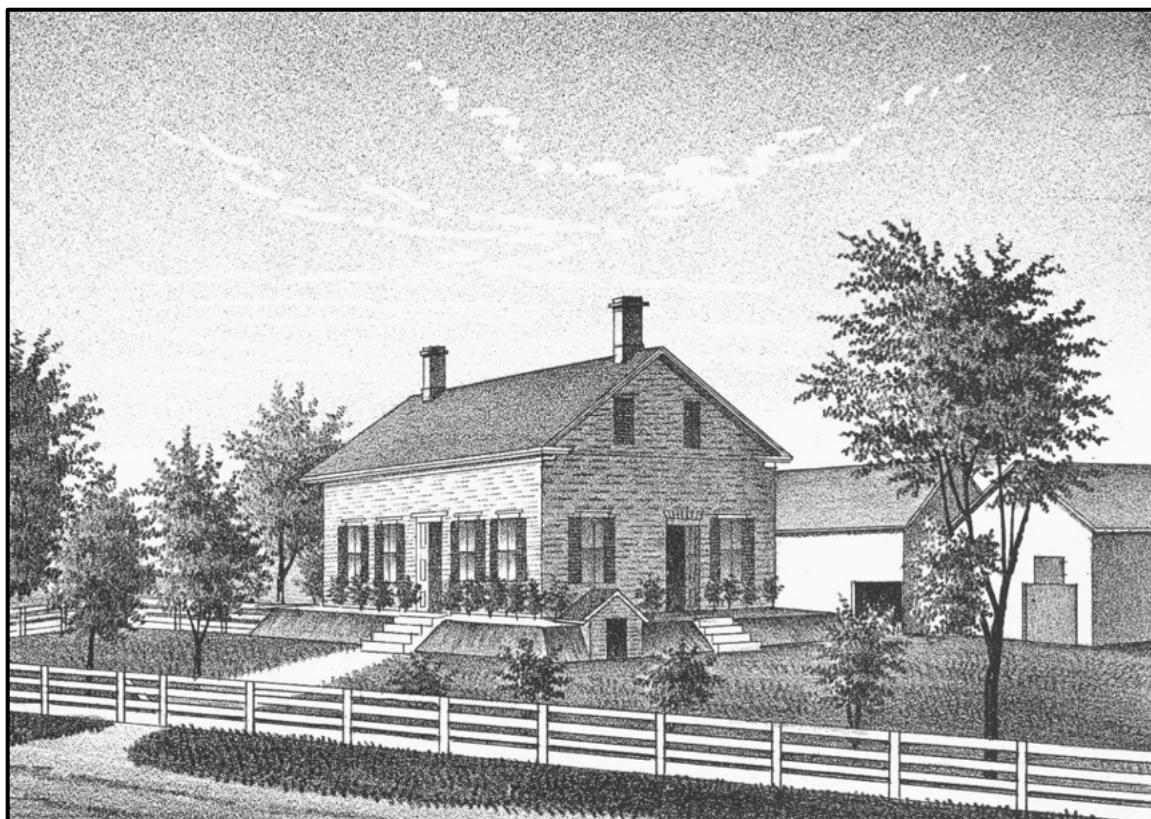
The home quickly became Chateaugay's showpiece. Col. Smith's vision for a grand home was realized in every sense.

The Smiths moved into the house with their seven children. Their final two would be born in the new home. As the years went by, the children grew and left the house to build their own lives, and the Col. kept very busy with his businesses.

Sally Boardman Smith died in 1830. Thomas continued to live in the house with his two youngest children. Sometime during the early 1830s, his son, Eli, and his family moved back in, probably to help to see to Thomas and the youngest children. Eli and his family were living in the Smith house in 1836 when Eli's son, Oliver, was born there.

Colonel Smith passed away in 1840, and sometime later, the house passed to its second owner, Willard Smith Alvord. Although some exterior features were added over the years, the house retains much of its original design features today.

Only four families have owned this home since 1820.



This print shows the Thomas Smith house as it was originally. A roof dormer and front porch have been added and the grading around the front and near side of the house has been raised.

From: Hurd 1880

For further information, please see Chateaugay Historical Society Newsletter 2022: Vol. XVI. Issue #1

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Doige Home

Address: 22 Church Street



William Doige was born in Maine and came to Chateaugay as a young man in 1908 to be the telegraph operator at the RR passenger depot. His career with the railroad would span some 20 years.

In 1910, he married Mary Collins, and in 1913, they welcomed their only daughter, Catherine.

As a young man, he quickly assimilated into the local community. He played on the local town-team baseball squad, serving as a heavy-hitting catcher. He became involved in local politics as a member of the Republican Party. Over the years, he served as Town Clerk, Town Supervisor, Chairman of the Franklin County Board of Supervisors, and County Chairman of the Republican Committee.

He was elected to represent Franklin County in the New York State Assembly, a post he held for 12 years. He chose to retire from public office in 1950.

Throughout his time in Chateaugay, he remained active in various community organizations. He was a member of the Chateaugay Methodist Church, a 50-year member and past master of Frontier Lodge #517 F. & A. M. and was a charter member of the Chateaugay Rotary Club.

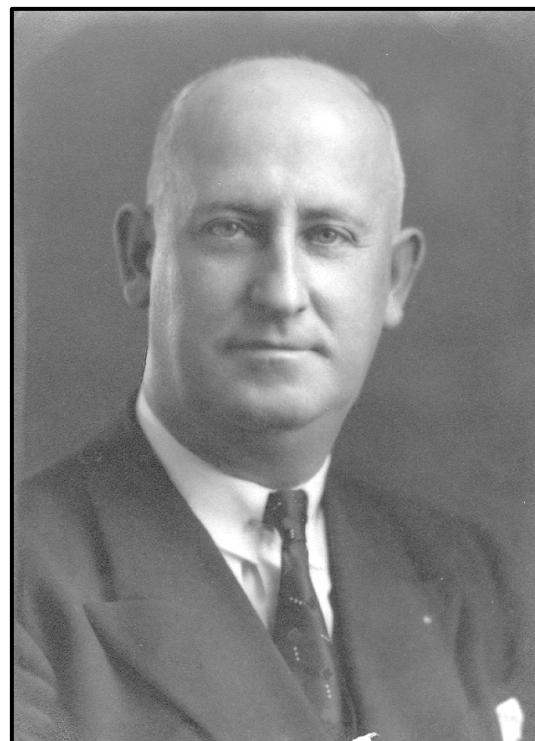
William L. Doige passed away at home on November 17, 1962. He left his wife and daughter. Mrs. Mary Collins Doige died in 1966.

Catherine Doige returned to Chateaugay after graduating from Syracuse University. She was the organist at St. Patrick's Church for many years and taught piano to generations of Chateaugay children.

She lived in the family home until her death at the age of 101, in 2015.

As noted on the Episcopal Church page, this house was built by Willard L. Collins after he sold the former Episcopal Church next door to William Ryan in 1897. It later became the home of local political leader and NYS Assemblyman William L. Doige, Collins' son-in-law.

Willard Leslie Collins was a well-known and respected local merchant and farmer. Upon his passing in 1918, this became the home of William L. Doige, his wife, the former Mary Collins, and their daughter, Catherine.



William L. Doige



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Episcopal Church

Address: 20 Church Street



The first plan to establish an Episcopal community was during the 1830s, but only a few services were held and the attempt faded before 1840. That small congregation was never named.

The second try began in 1849 when St. Peter's Church was formed. Unfortunately, regular participation was very problematic, and member numbers fell. St. Peter's was disbanded before 1855 and Episcopalians in Chateaugay were forced to attend services in other local churches or to travel to St. Mark's in Malone.

The third attempt to establish a local Episcopal Church began in 1869. Establishment was approved by the regional Episcopal leadership, and the new church was named St. John's. The new congregation began with high hopes. Upon the church's formation, services were held in the Baptist Church on nearby Franklin Street.

A lot was purchased on Church Street. The foundation was laid in 1875. The plan was for it to become the home for St. John's Episcopal Church. This was the third attempt at founding a local Episcopal congregation in town.

Despite inconsistent participation, the congregation's leaders kept planning for the construction of the church building on this property. Work was underway when the financial problems started. The church mortgage lapsed while the building was far from completion.

The unfinished structure was purchased by Willard L. Collins who completed it as a family home. The original 1875 footprint was not changed. The interior was simply redesigned for family living as opposed to it being a large open space for worship. Collins eventually sold the home to William Ryan and built a new home in the vacant lot next door.

By 1891, the short history of St. John's Episcopal Church in Chateaugay came to an end. Membership had declined to the point that it was impossible to continue. The church was permanently disbanded.

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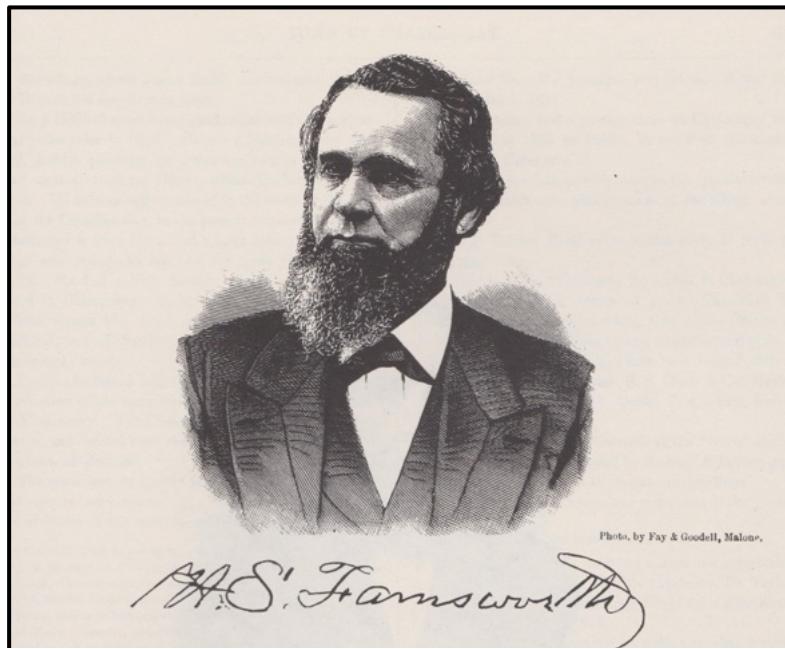
Farnsworth/Van Vechten House

Address: 23 Depot Street



practiced with Drs. Carpenter, Ransom and Phelps.

In addition to his medical practice, Van Vechten was also a stockholder in High Falls Pulp and Paper Co., a stockholder and president of the Chasm Power Co., as well as a stockholder and vice-president of the First National Bank of Chateaugay.



This photo of Dr. H.S. Farnsworth is from: History of Clinton and Franklin Counties, New York with Illustrations and Biographical Sketches by Dwayne Hamilton Hurd 1880 J.W. Lewis and Co. Philadelphia

This home was built in 1873 by Dr. Hial S. Farnsworth, who practiced medicine in Chateaugay for twenty years, beginning in 1872.

The home was designed to be spacious and ornate. The interior trim and the all-cedar exterior being two of the building's notable features.

Dr. Farnsworth also served as Town Supervisor and President of the Chateaugay Waterworks Company. He died in 1892.

The home was later purchased by Dr. and Mrs. John S. Van Vechten, another Chateaugay physician. He practiced locally from 1883 until 1918, and at different times,

Ironically, neither of the doctors had large families that could have taken advantage of the space and comfort this spacious home would have provided. The Farnsworth's surviving sons both died as children. The Van Vechtens were childless.

Following the death of Dr. Van Vechten in 1923 and his wife's remarriage, the home was owned by several, including: M.R. Brown, Francis T. and Mary Hyland Ryan, and Gerald Hyland.

During the years of these more recent owners, it was most always a two-family home.

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Firemen's Memorial Park

Address: Corner of Church and Franklin Streets



The history of the property dates to 1880. That year the E.B. Smith Hose Co. No. 2 was formed. The corner lot and a building on the corner of Church and Franklin Streets were purchased and donated to the firemen by Eli B. Smith, who was instrumental in the Hose Co.'s organization. His only stipulation was that the land could only be used for Fire Department purposes. The former school building on the property had previously housed the village school until the new Academy was built at the east end of Church Street in 1879. With Smith's purchase, it became the village firehouse.

This location at the corner of Church and Franklin was ideally located near the center of the village and large enough to hold all the fire department's equipment. The building also had an apartment upstairs.

An alarm bell was mounted on the roof of the new station. There was a tower at the rear of the building that was used for hose drying. The canvas hoses at that time needed to be dried after every fire so they were hung on hooks and raised into the tower to drain and dry.

In 1926, a new fire station on Main Street was constructed and the old fire station on Church Street was left vacant and later torn down in 1936.

This park was built by the members of Protection Hose Co. No. 7 in honor of all firemen. It was outfitted with a large stone monument and a bronze plaque which listed the names of the current members of the Hose Co. No. 7 in 1937. The park was completed in the spring of 1938.

Members of Protection Hose Co. No.7

Chief DeForest E. Adams

Assistant Chief Elmer E. Hobbs

James B. Adams

John C. Higgins

Lester E. Adams

Clarence W. Humiston

Gerald D. Barnes

Gerald J. Hyland

William G. Barnes

Jerry O. Keefe

Henry A. Cook

Lawrence W. King

Robert E. Franklin

Ray G. Lucia

Jerome V. Green

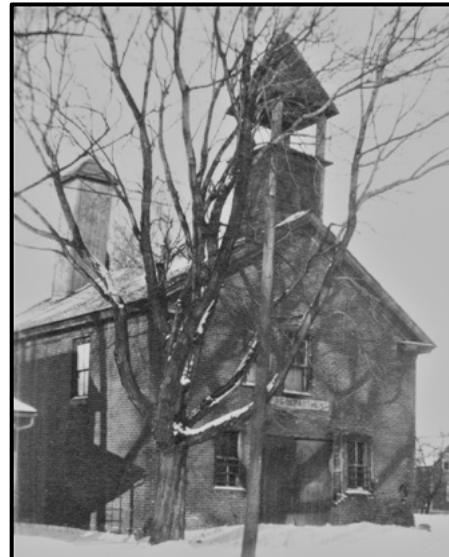
Herbert H. McCoy

J. Arthur Hammond

Edward D. Murray

Smith B. Hammond

Robert W. Oliver



The Fire Station in 1920

For more information see Chateaugay Historical Society Newsletter 2013: Vol. VII, Issue #2

➤ [Back to Village Map](#)

Fitzpatrick Home

Address: 35 River Street



This house was constructed beginning in 1921 by Thomas J. Fitzpatrick. The exterior stone came from the Crippen Quarry in neighboring Burke. It was originally intended to be used in the construction of St. Patrick's Church, but the building committee rejected the stone because they did not like the color. Fitzpatrick supposedly purchased the stone from the church.

Thomas J. Fitzpatrick was a native of Plattsburgh. He came to Chateaugay after earning his law degree from Albany Law School. He built up a substantial law practice in Chateaugay and the surrounding area.

He was very involved in the community, serving as Clerk of the Village Board, he was on the Chateaugay Board of Education, and was a director of the First National Bank of Chateaugay. He was also a member of Protection Hose Company No. 7 and the Chateaugay Rotary Club.

When he passed away in 1933, his funeral in St. Patrick's Church found the building at full capacity.

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Former Bank Building

Address: 151 West Main Street



The first bank in town was formed in 1887 and named the Bank of Chateaugay. It was in a small storefront to the south of the Chateaugay Hotel, on Depot Street.

During the early 1890s, the small mercantile establishment on the west corner of West Main and River Streets burned. The store was not rebuilt, and the bank was able to purchase the lot with the intention of erecting a larger more substantial bank building.

In July of 1895, the new building was finished. The bank operation used just the front half of the first floor. The north half of that floor and the second floor were rented to businesses or other professionals, such as doctors and dentists. The open third floor became a meeting place for some of the community's fraternal organizations.

In 1907, with the charter for the Bank of Chateaugay due to expire, the bank directors made the locally controversial decision to reorganize the operation under the National Banking System. The First National Bank of

Chateaugay became official on September 26, 1907.

In 1923, discussions began about the use of the building's spaces and suggested remodeling. In January 1925, the bank operations moved to the Town Hall during the finalized renovation plan. Later that year, in July, the banking activities moved back into its newly renovated spaces.

In 1961, the banking operation grew again. Included in the remodeling that modernized the bank's lobby and teller stations, came a move into the second floor. No longer would the bank rent that space to other businesses.

In the mid-1960s, the Chateaugay bank was acquired by Farmers National Bank of Malone.

In 1982, building renovations included new windows, a redesign of the lobby area and the addition of a drive-up window on the west side of the bank. That same year, Farmers Bank merged with Key Bank.

On May 24, 2019, Key Bank officially closed the Chateaugay office. The staff was reassigned to other Key Bank branches.



The Bank of Chateaugay c.1900

For further information, please see Chateaugay Historical Society Newsletter 2014: Vol. VIII. Issue 3

➤ [Back to Village Map](#)

Funeral Home

Address: 36 Church Street



This home was built before 1875 by James Mitchell and was later owned by George Boomhower.

Local baker, Felix Picard lived in the house in the early 1920s. In 1924, he moved his bakery from its downtown location to his home. The building was large enough to accommodate both his family and the baking operation. He kept the bakery business in this building for several years.

A few years ago, the Historical Society received a donation of some bread pans, embossed with the words, "Chateaugay Bakery." They were found wedged between the roof rafters in the attic.

In 1936, the building was sold to the "Chateaugay Undertaking Establishment." The home was remodeled to provide consultation space, casket display, a procedure room, and storage. In those days, most wakes were held at home. There was no need for wake space in the new configuration. With the addition of a storage shed in the back for further storage, all the firm's services were together in a single location.

In 1941, the firm became known as the "Chateaugay Funeral Home, Inc." with E.A. Thompson, Robert Franklin and Henry A. Cook (who had been manager of the operation since 1928) as owners. Upon Cook's death in 1958, his share was purchased by John Higgins.

With retirements and unexpected deaths, the ownership changed somewhat, and in 1971, E.F. "Pete" Drown and Richard Rabideau bought the business. Robert Franklin was the manager until his retirement in 1980. At that point, Terry Rabideau ran the business from 1980 through 1994. Following his untimely death, Hubert Wilcox took over, becoming owner soon after. Today, Mr. Wilcox and his daughter, Emily Hanley, own the business, still at this location.

*For further information, please see Chateaugay Historical Society Newsletter 2010: Vol. IV. Issue 3
and Newsletter 2011: Vol. V, Issue 3*

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Jackson Block

Address: 2-6 East Main Street



This commercial block was built in 1876 by a local druggist, R.A. Jackson, after the Union House hotel, which originally sat on this property, was moved around the corner so that the building fronted towards Depot Street.

Once the hotel had been moved, Jackson set about preparing the site for new construction. He planned to build a state-of-the-art apothecary in the new block. According to the description that was published in the *Malone Palladium*:

The sales room is a beauty, finished in ash

and black walnut, handsomely oiled and varnished, and the office is a model in convenience. The compounding room in the rear is also well arranged and nicely finished. Mr. Jackson has a large and well-selected stock of goods and is constantly making additions to it. At the time, it was referred to as the “best drug store in Franklin County.”

R.A. Jackson was especially well regarded by the citizens of Chateaugay. When he passed away in 1887, at the age of 41, he and his wife were managing the Chasm House hotel. His funeral service was conducted there with 1,000 people in attendance. There were 208 horse and buggy teams in the funeral procession that made its way to East Side Cemetery for his burial.

The adjoining block, on the remaining portion of the original Union House lot, was constructed by James Mitchell at the same time. Mitchell used his storefront for a mercantile and dry goods business.

Mitchell owned the adjacent block for only a few years. Upon his death, Edwin Smith purchased it and owned it, with his daughter, Ella, until 1947.

In the years that have followed the Jackson drug store and the Mitchell storefront, there have been many other businesses. Among those in the Jackson side have been McKenna’s Drug Store,

Ed Cook Pharmacy, Soda Land, the Corner Restaurant, Legacy’s Restaurant, Mills’ Restaurant, Leonard’s Restaurant, and Hometown Family Chiropractic. Among those in the Mitchell side have been Chic-Toggs Clothing, Ethel’s Harvest Room, and Write One.

On the following page is a 1920 photo of the Jackson block from the Depot Street side.

For further information, please see Chateaugay Historical Society Newsletter 2022: Vol. XVI, Issue 1 and Chateaugay Historical Society Newsletter 2013: Vol. VII, Issue 1

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NORTHERN DRUG HOUSE,
CORNER MAIN AND DEPOT STREETS
R. A. JACKSON, PROPRIETOR.

PERFUMES.
SPONGES.
BRUSHES &
TOILET GOODS.
PROPRIETARY, &
OFFICINAL
MEDICINES
OF ALL KINDS.
PRESCRIPTIONS CAREFULLY PREPARED AT MODERATE PRICES.
Full Line Trusses, Shoulder Braces and Supporters.

Chateaugay Record – August 12, 1881



McKenna and Boucher Rexall drug store on the corner of Main and Depot streets. It is now the location of Mills Restaurant. Most stores had awnings with their name on them, besides the business name on their windows. Photo from the McKenna collection.

Photo dated - 1920

Johnston's Lumberyard

Address: 194 East Main Street



The Lumberyard building in 1999

This building was constructed by D.W. Davies sometime between the mid-1850s and the early 1860s and began as a carriage making shop. He continued the business into the 1890s. In 1894, he held an auction sale of all the tools, inventory and furnishings, and followed with a mortgage sale three years later.

The purchaser of the property was well-known local businessman, William Johnston Jr. He paid \$1800

for the carriage shop and a lot on River Street. Johnston had also recently purchased the wagon and carriage making business of his uncle, Alexander Johnston.

William Johnston Jr. began his own business back in 1881. As his company grew through sales and acquisitions, his business approach differed from Davies and his uncle, in that he began buying carriages, sleighs, and wagons. He would then repaint them according to the buyer's wishes and sell them. In effect, he became more of a carriage dealer, rather than a manufacturer.

Following the purchase of the Davies location, he moved his business into the East Main Street building. The expanse of sheds behind the street front building were used to store lumber prior to its sale. The expansive timber holdings of the family had led to a developing lumber business, which was growing rapidly. As he settled into his new, larger space, his horse-drawn conveyances, the associated lines (harnesses, etc.), and the lumber business flourished.

Following Johnston's untimely death in 1908, his siblings stepped up to run the business. The family already had several business interests in the local area. Soon, the lumberyard was the main office and headquarters for not only what would become known as "Johnston Bros. & Co." but for Chateaugay Pulp and Paper Company, and the Chateaugay Water Works, municipal water supply for the Village.

The lumber business, Johnston Bros. & Co., continued, run by the Johnston siblings: Nellie, Allie, Olin, their brother Clifford Johnston, and their sister Sarah Johnston McGibbon. Following the deaths of her sisters and brothers, it became the sole property of Sarah McGibbon, who ran it with her son, Walter, serving as supervisor and manager. The 90-year history of this Johnston family business came to an end when it was announced in April of 1971, that Clarence "Junior" Gillette had purchased the operation.

In 1978, Gillette sold to Fred and Grace Russ, and "Russtique Antiques" moved into the building. From 1991 through 1998, Jackie Hoy conducted "The J.L. Pottery and Collectibles" on the first floor. In 1998, Diana Dumont, the building's owner, opened "Annabelle's Attic", which later became "Carriage House Antiques". In 2000, Sandy and Ray Boulanger opened "For Any Occasion" collectible and antique shop. They operated there until 2003. Today, the building contains an apartment.

(continued)



Above – Johnston's Lumber in 1911. Note the life-sized horse model on the second-floor balcony. It was used to display harnesses and other tack. **Below** – The lumber sheds in the rear in 1952.



For further information, please see Chateaugay Historical Society Newsletter 2021: Vol. XV, Issue 1

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Levi Peake House

Address: 36 Depot Street



The first home on this property was owned by A.L. Collins (uncle to the Willard Collins, referred to earlier). That home was moved to the rear of the lot when the property was purchased by prominent merchant, Levi Peake, who came to Chateaugay in 1872. The building shown here was completed in 1895. It was designed and constructed with a host of

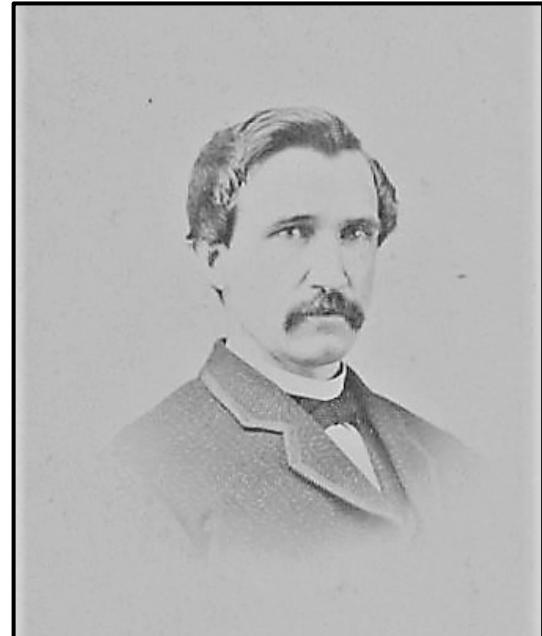
unique features and structural elements that made it a showpiece and, in some ways, ahead of its time. It had cherry trim throughout, coal-fired steam boiler for the heating system and was fully wired for electricity. As the *Chateaugay Record* described it: "The structure is one of the handsomest in town and makes a home fit for a prince."

The home suffered extensive damage in a February 1934 fire. The blaze began on the second floor and quickly spread to the roof. Fire, smoke and water damage resulted throughout the entire building. The home was owned at the time by the Van Aiken family, Dedrick Van Aiken being Mr. Peake's grandson. Restorative repairs were made immediately, with special care taken to replicate the house's original design and décor details as closely as possible.

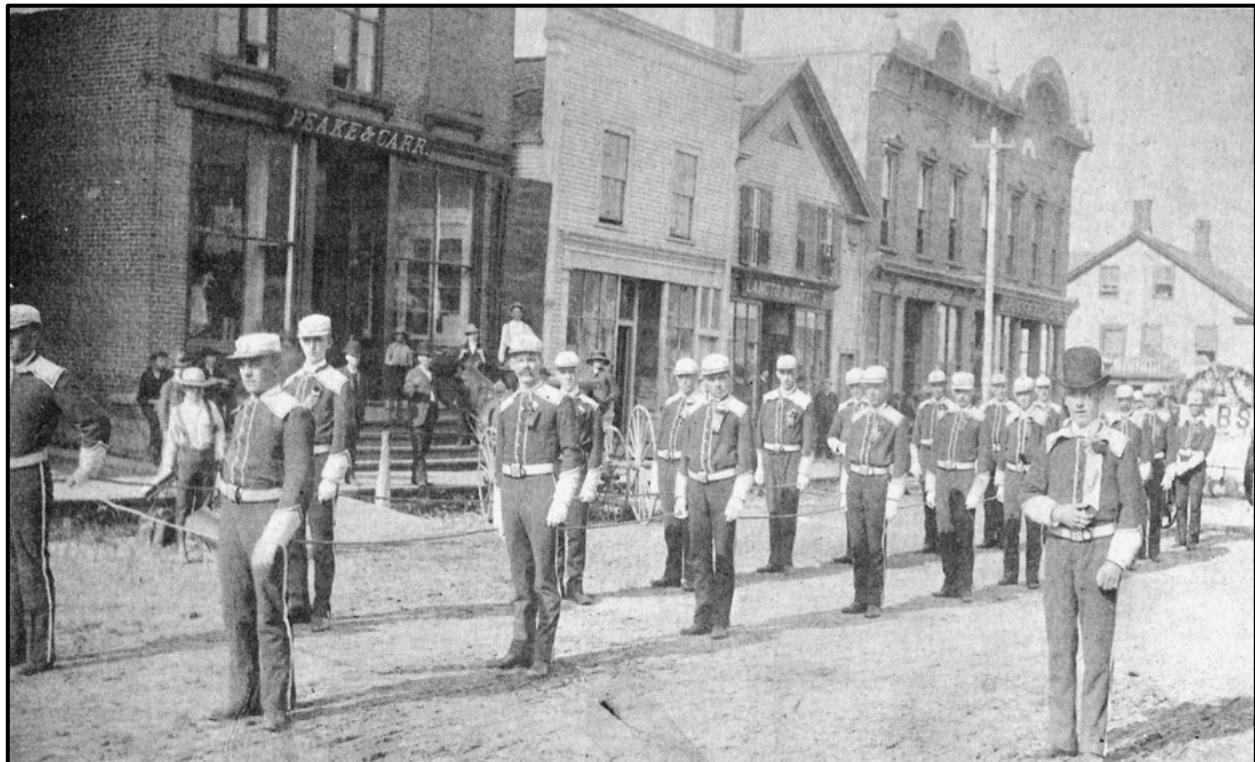
The Peake house was later owned by Ernest Flynn, from 1949 through the late 1970s. The present owners have resided there since that time.

Peake was a prominent local merchant whose retail career spanned some fifty years. He owned a commercial block on the south side of East Main Street.

From 1873 until 1893, he was in a partnership called "Peake and Carr". Upon the death of his partner, George Carr, he operated as "Levi Peake" but soon entered another partnership with John S. Sharpe. Their business, "Peake and Sharpe" existed from 1895 to 1923. It then became "Peake and Co.", with Peake's daughter and grandson purchasing Sharpe's share. The Peake business was permanently closed in 1935. Following that closure, several other businesses were located in that building on East Main St. Among them were the Grand Union, Shaw's 5 & 10, Alix's Variety Store, Write One and Backus Realty. The two photos on the next page show Levi Peake's commercial building in 1888 and in the 1930s.



Levi Peake 1833-1927



This 1888 photo shows a parade on East Main Street. Assembled in the foreground is the E.B. Smith Hose Co. No. 7. Note the Peake and Carr store in the background.



*This image from the 1930s shows the Grand Union in the former Peake building
For further information, please see Chateaugay Historical Society Newsletter 2021: Vol. XV. Issue 3*

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McCoy Milling and Feed Store

Address: 1 River Street



village construction as was the interior. It was especially finished and ornate when compared to most feed stores of that era. The photo below shows the appearance of the interior: beaded wall paneling, tin ceilings, trim details in the sales counter and on the stair railings.

The business operated under several names while still in the McCoy family including: E.A. McCoy, McCoy and Son (when Herbert McCoy Sr. joined the business), and McCoy Milling following E.A. McCoy's death.

The business closed in the late 1960s and an antique business now operates in the building.

In 1915, a block fire destroyed all the buildings from the bank to Harrison Avenue and spilled over and caused destruction down into River Street.

E.A. McCoy responded to the loss of his feed store immediately to the north of the bank building by contracting with C.E. Castle, a Massena-based contractor. Castle had worked on the Town Hall construction a few years earlier. He guaranteed he could complete the new structure in six weeks.

This new structure replaced the smaller wood framed building that had previously housed the feed business.

The exterior brick was unique to



(continued)



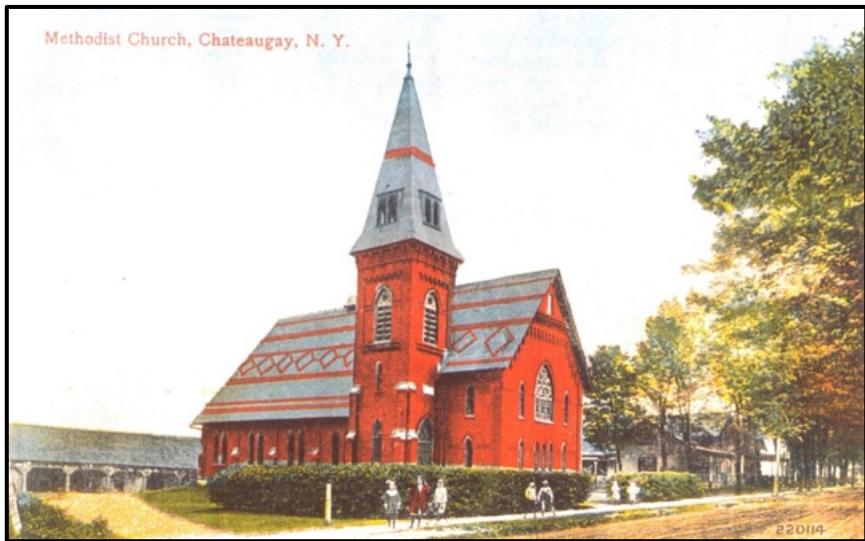
Above is the sign on the feed store's north wall. Below is a view of the feed mixing area in the new building.



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Methodist Church

Address: 5 Church Street



The land for this church was donated to the local Methodist congregation by Mrs. Milton E. Roberts, the granddaughter of Chateaugay founder Benjamin Roberts.

The first church on this site was a wooden structure which was constructed in 1854. Two years later, it was badly damaged in the Tornado of 1856. It was soon repaired and continued to be used until the early 1880s.

At that time, it was decided to build a new and more substantial house of worship. The old wooden church was purchased by C.J. Morgan, a local businessman, who tore it down for the materials. With the property cleared of the old building, construction of the new church began in May of 1882. Six months later, the new church was dedicated on December 7. The total cost was approximately \$12,000.

Over the next number of years, further improvements were made to the new structure. In 1885, a pipe organ was purchased from a Massena church and installed. An 804-pound bell was installed in the belfry in 1889. In 1896, a patterned wood ceiling was built, and electric lights were installed throughout.

In 1957, a fire, believed to have started in the electrical wiring adjacent to the furnace, caused considerable damage. Repairs were carried out immediately and services resumed.

Today, this is the oldest church standing in Chateaugay, predating the constructions of the Presbyterian Church in 1902 and St. Patrick's in the 1920s. It currently serves the congregations of Chateaugay and Earlville.

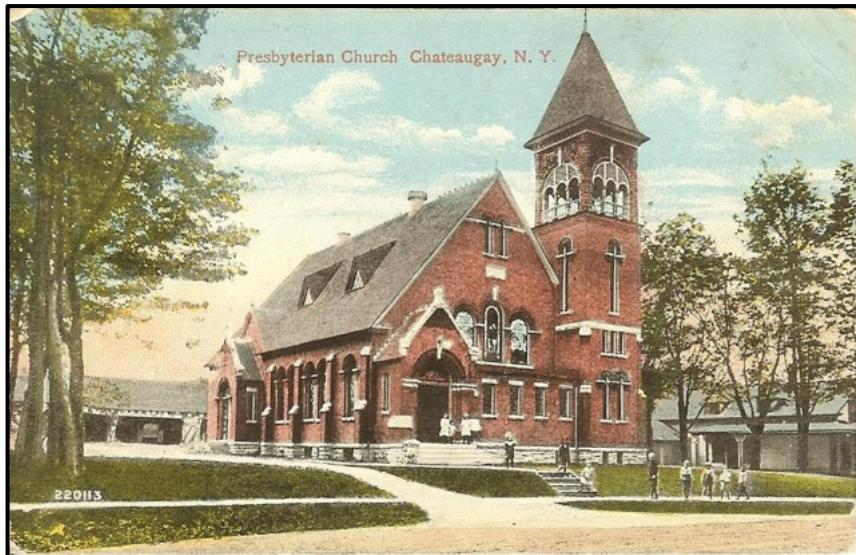


For further information, please see Chateaugay Historical Society Newsletter 2008: Vol. II. Issue 1

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Presbyterian Church

Address: 216 East Main Street



This second church stood until the early 1900s. At that time, age and a growing congregation made a newer, larger structure a necessity. The new church was completed for \$14,000. It was dedicated on April 12, 1903. The stained-glass panels were made by the renowned Horwood family of Ogdensburg.

A large organ was purchased in 1920, and that same year, the interior of the building was redecorated. In 1933, an addition was built at the rear of the building. The new space included a kitchen, classroom, dining room, and some much-

needed storage spaces.

In 1937, the Presbyterian Churches of Chateaugay, Burke Center and North Burke were united under one pastorate.

Currently, the Chateaugay Masonic Lodge meets in rooms at the back of the Church.

Top – The present Church shortly after its completion in 1903.

Left – The Church around 1900

Right – Stained Glass Panel donated by William Johnston

The very first Presbyterian Church in Chateaugay was a wooden structure. Construction was begun in 1828. It was 37 X 53 feet in size and cost \$697.42.

It was severely damaged in the Tornado of 1856. The roof was blown off and the frame was badly damaged. The congregation voted to repair the framing and enclose it with brick.

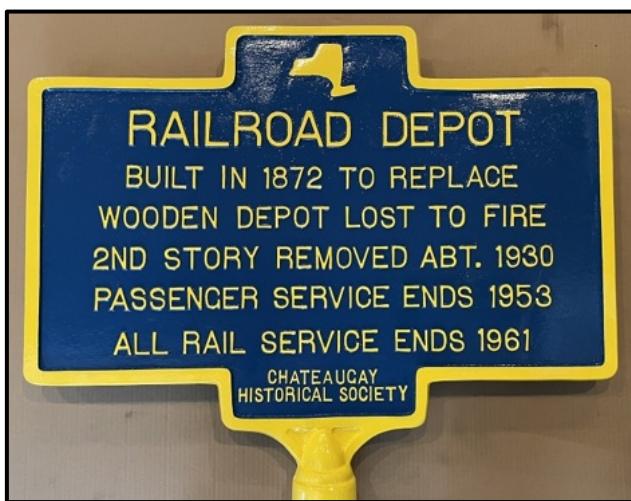


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Railroad Passenger Depot

Address: 43 Depot Street

Coordinates: 44.92407 -74.07888



The original passenger depot in Chateaugay was situated across from what is now Depot Street, west of the intersection. When it burned down in 1871, following a burglary, plans were immediately made to rebuild. However, the depot would be moved east of Depot Street to the present location.

There was an urgency to the rebuild as Chateaugay was considered one of the “most important stations on the whole line of the railroad.”

The new plans called for a large building, 60 feet in length. There were to be three rooms: a waiting room, a restaurant with beer and whiskey

available, and an office. The building was to be Romanesque in style and built of brick with a cellar. There was also a restroom and a baggage area. On the second floor, there would be “living rooms” or lounges. There was also an attic. The building was completed in February 1872. Electricity would not be installed until 1902.

By 1912, the depot had been in use for 40 years and extensive renovations were planned. An older, unused passenger coach was pulled onto a rail siding to serve as a temporary depot while the renovations took place. The interior was completely redesigned. The office space was doubled. Passenger amenities were addressed. There was now a hot water heater, a sanitary drinking fountain, new bathrooms, new floors, new seats, and better lighting. The company was so invested in doing the best possible job with the renovations that they spent twice the amount quoted in the original estimate.

The next, and last, major change at the local passenger depot took place when the second floor was removed from the building during the early 1930s. The reason for the major design change was the decreasing volume of passenger traffic, which made the second floor unneeded.

The passenger depot was in full operation until 1953. On June 26th, the last passenger train passed through Chateaugay. The Rutland Railroad had been experiencing a drop in revenue and several labor issues. Discontinuation of passenger service up and down the entire Rutland line resulted as the company tried to address the financial issues.

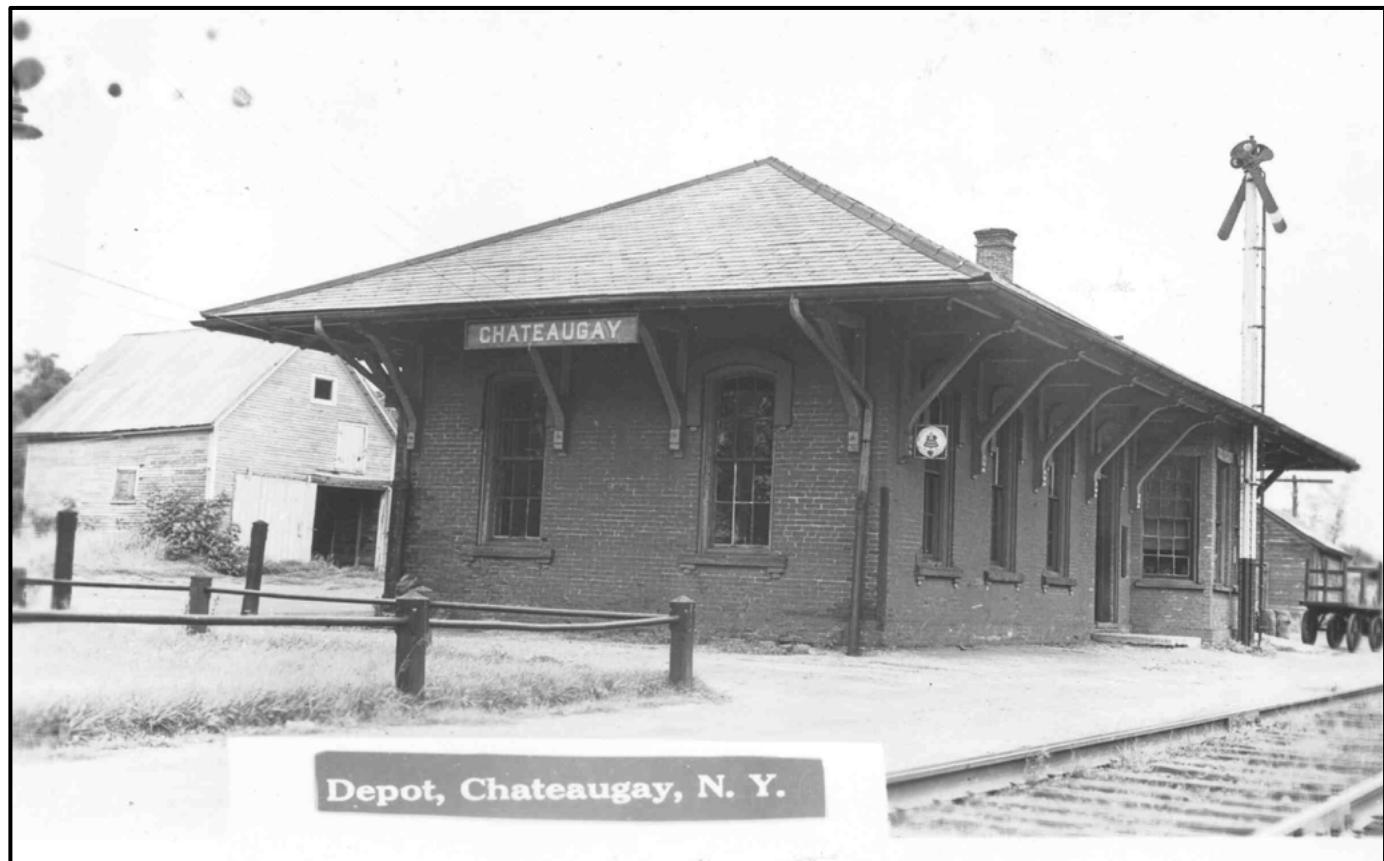
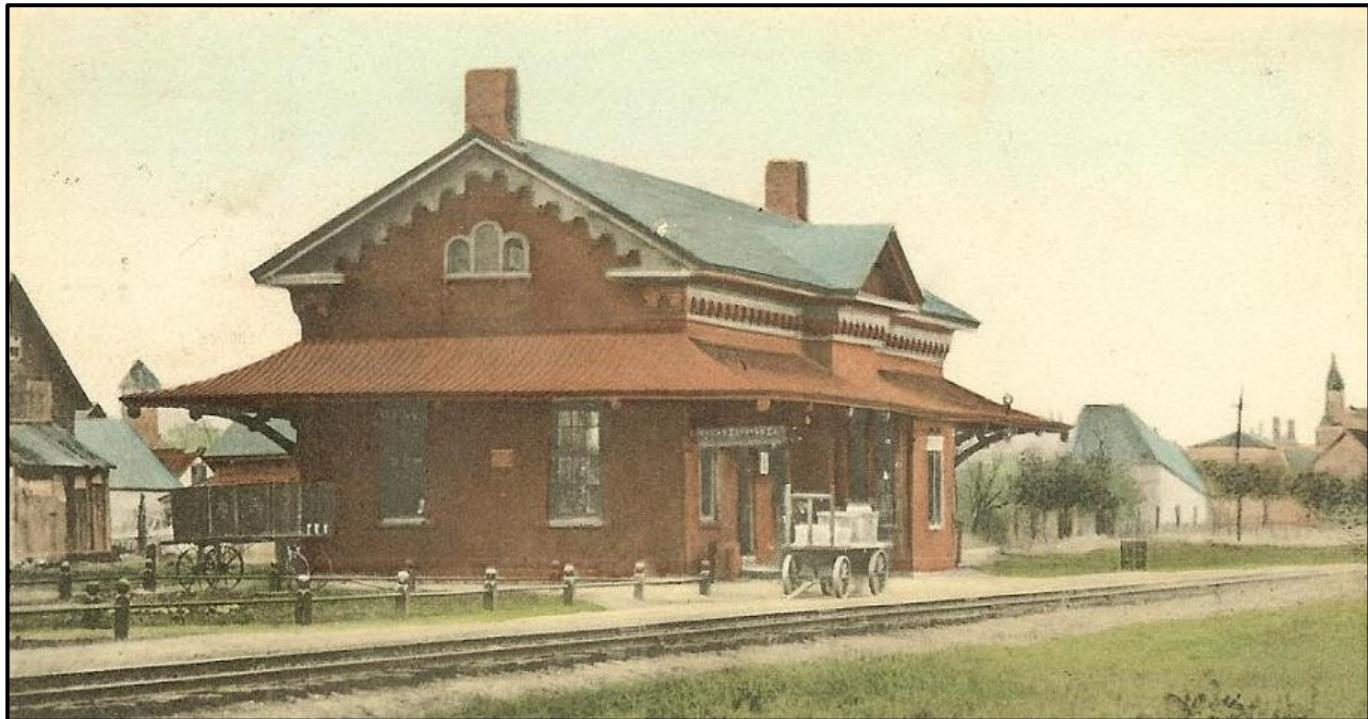
However, the end of the railroad was fast approaching. The passenger depot was still used as freight service continued, but the volume of traffic and rate of use were both affected.

One year later, in 1954, the Rutland’s express freight service ended. This was an expedited service to deliver freight faster than usual to compete with the rapidly growing trucking over the roads. By abandoning the faster delivery, the Rutland was almost “throwing in the towel” in the fight to survive.

The inevitable finally arrived in 1961, when the freight service also ceased. The last loaded freight train rolled through Chateaugay on September 25th. Following that, an occasional train might rumble through town, but by and large, any scheduled service was over. On June 4, 1965, the last train came through Chateaugay as the operational shutdown was completed, the rail line never to be used again.

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The photos below show the passenger depot in 1908, with the original second floor and in the 1940s with the second floor removed.

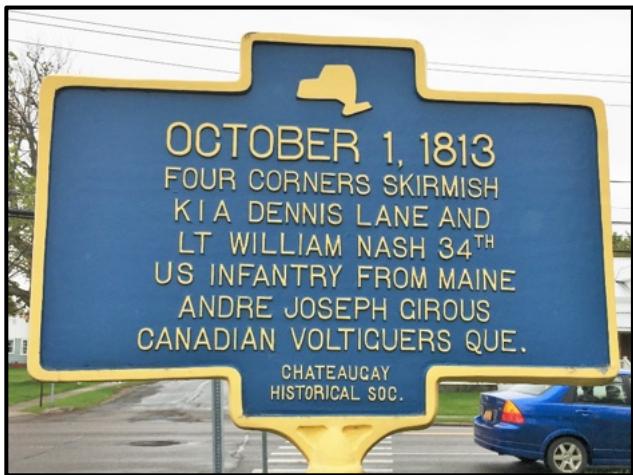


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Skirmish of 1813

Address: North End of Lacount Street

Coordinates: 44.925404, -74.072773



According to Jack Bilow, in his 1984 book Chateaugay in the War of 1812, Lt. Colonel DeSalaberry proceeded through the woods to Chateaugay, then along the Marble River bank to a point east of the present Chateaugay Central School property. He may have used the Smith Road, causing the construction of the works at Fort Hickory. His force consisted of one hundred fifty Voltigeurs, a light company of Canadian fencibles and about one hundred Indians under Captain Gaucher. The Canadians arrived unobserved until one of the Indians discharged his gun by mistake. DeSalaberry immediately collected fifty Voltigeurs and a group of Indians and attacked. This camp was under the command of Colonels Josiah Snelling and John Ellis Wool, consisting of approximately eight hundred men.

Colonel Snelling attacked with vigor. He struck the enemy's flank and drove them to the skirt of the woods. Here the skirmishing continued, with DeSalaberry and Captains Duchesnay and Gaucher, until dark. Lieutenant William Nash of the United States Infantry was killed, along with an unknown private. Also, two U.S. soldiers were captured while one escaped and the other was released. The Canadian loss was not known. Although the Americans won this skirmish, it had a demoralizing effect on the average soldier by reviving his dread of Indians. The Indians continued to lurk about and frequently fire at the sentries as long as the American Army stayed at Chateaugay. Meanwhile, Blockhouses were completed in Chateaugay. One, three miles northeast of the town opposite Brayton Hollow on the west side of the Chateaugay River. The other Blockhouse was known as Fort Hickory. Fort Hickory was not really a fort. It was an encampment with several trees knocked down around it. This was for the protection of the soldiers. In official correspondence, it was known as Camp Douglas. The name Fort Hickory was given to it for General Wade Hampton and not General Andrew Jackson, as reported in most histories. Hampton was apparently considered as tough as hickory, "on the men."

This was the only battle action fought within the Township of Chateaugay during the entire war. Two Americans were killed: Private Dennis Lane and Lt. William Nash. Nash, being a Mason, was buried with full "Masonic Honors," presumably with the participation of the local Rainbow Masonic Lodge #206 that met regularly in Colonel Thomas Smith's tavern at the Four Corners.

This was not considered a major, strategic military action for either side.

For further information, please see Chateaugay Historical Society Newsletter 2013: Vol. VII, Issue #3

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Sprague Building

Address: 141 East Main Street

Coordinates: 44.926686, -74.080517



In 1917, Clarence W. Sprague purchased a building on the east corner of Harrison Avenue and West Main Street. He cleared the property and built a building 36-foot x 100-foot. His plan was to operate an automobile dealership and a repair garage on the first floor and lease out the second floor to other businesses.

Upon completion, the first floor was the new home to the “Sprague Automobile Company” and the “Sprague Garage.” At that point, the second floor was not leased.

In October of 1918, he leased the second-floor space to St. Patrick’s Church for \$40 per month. The St. Patrick’s congregation had been without a building since July 1916, when the church on West Main Street had burned following a lightning strike. For the first eighteen months following the fire, St. Patrick’s Parish had rented space for regular Masses from Tobin and Quinlin, alternating with their business’s movies and other activities.

The opportunity to lease a space that had no other tenants was quickly seized upon. An altar was built on the north wall, chairs were purchased, an altar rail was installed, and a choir loft was built. The space became known as “St. Patrick’s Chapel”. The Church would remain in the rented space until late 1924, when the new Church just across the street was complete enough for Masses. The inaugural Mass was held on December 24, 1924. Midnight Mass for Christmas seemed appropriate as the first service. The congregation removed the Parish furnishings, etc. from the Sprague building.

Following the end of the St. Patrick’s lease for the second floor, Mr. Sprague made plans for a new manufacturing company to move into town. The Columbia Arms Company was slated to use the space for firearms manufacturing, but the venture never materialized as hoped.

Meanwhile, on the first floor, several individuals had leased the garage space during the 1920s and ‘30s. The second floor was frequently used as a meeting space for community organizations. The Grange, 4-H, and other groups found it a convenient space.

Clarence Sprague began to experience a period of failing health around 1928 and was not actively involved in any of the businesses in the building from that point.

In 1938, the newly formed Chateaugay Cooperative Marketing Association bought the building and began renovations to turn it into a milk plant. On April 8th of that year, the first shipments of milk were processed by the new Co-op.

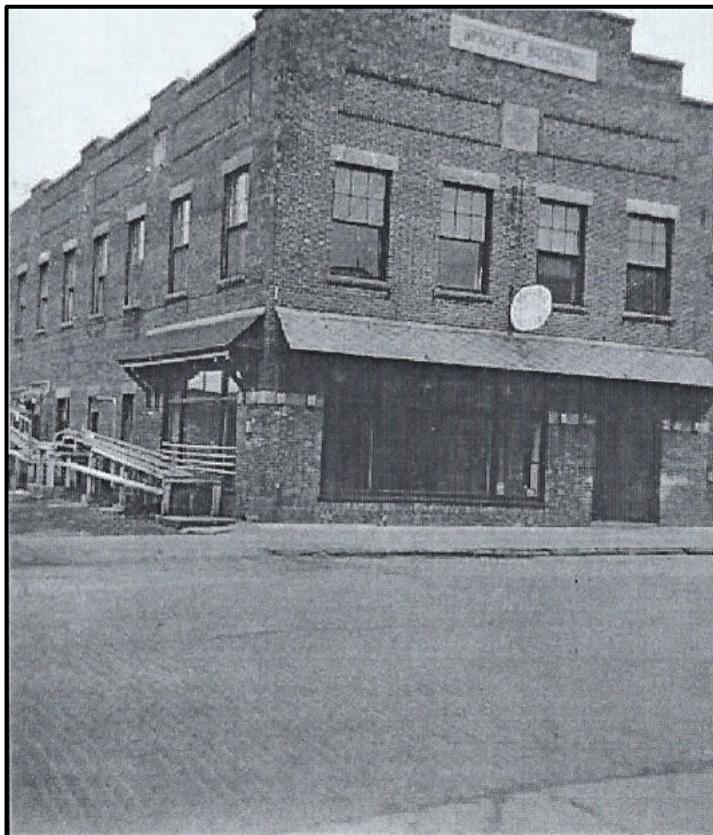
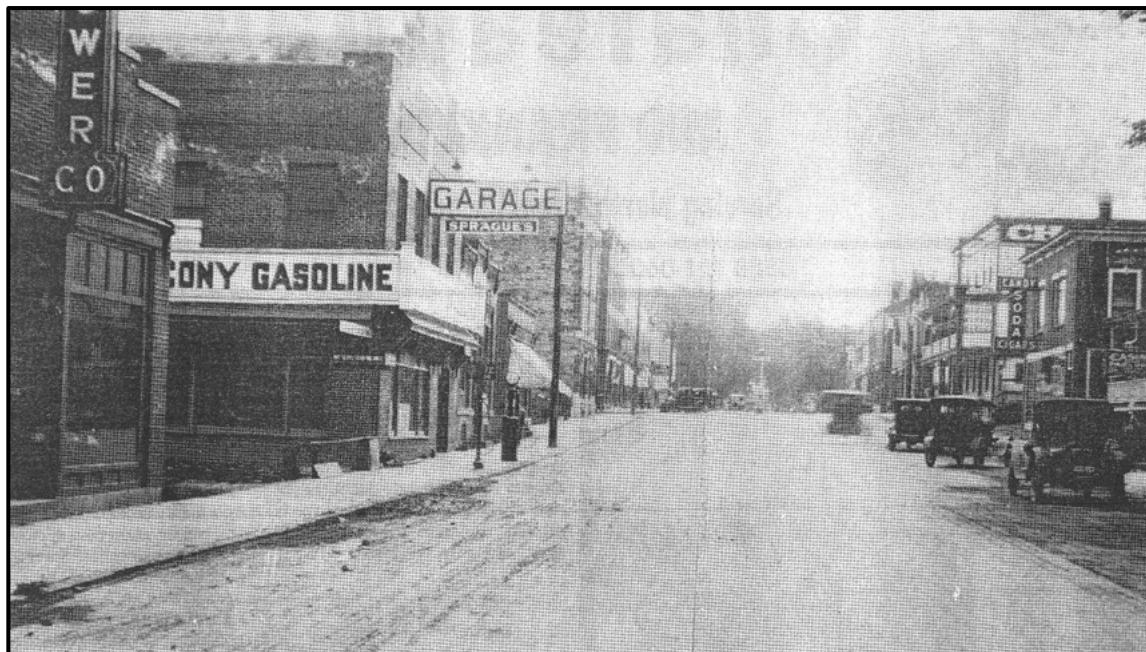
Around this same time, Clarence W. Sprague passed away following ten years of declining health.

(continued)

The Co-op remained in the building until 1950 when it bought the Sheffield operations at the end of Collins Street and moved to that larger facility.

The former Sprague building sat mostly vacant for the next few decades. It had several owners, but the space was either unused or served as storage.

In 1986, it was demolished after occupying that street corner for almost 70 years.

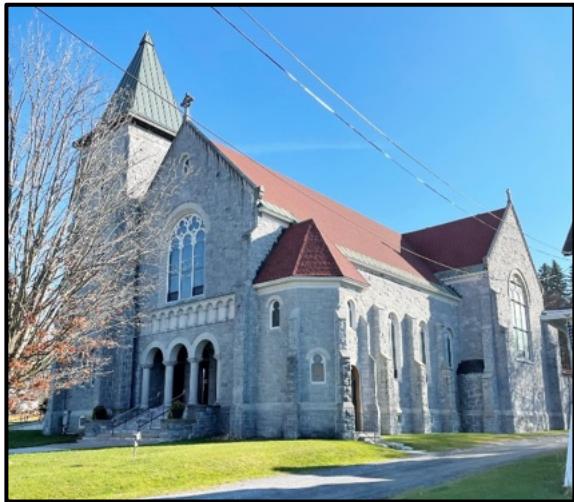


Top image: The Sprague Garage in 1920

Left image: the building as a milk plant in 1939

St. Patrick's Church

Address: 132 West Main Street



This is the third St. Patrick's church in the village. The other two were farther west on Main Street. The first was destroyed by the Tornado of 1856. The second burned following a lightning strike in 1916.

The cornerstone for this present building was laid in 1923. It is built of Gouverneur marble. The first service celebrated in the yet-to-be-completed church was Midnight Mass on December 24, 1924.

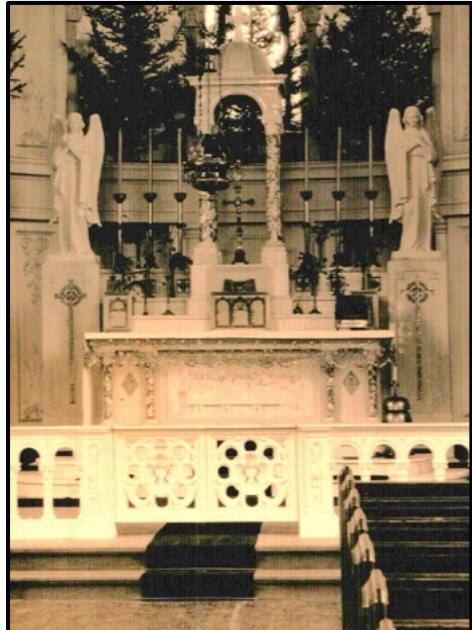
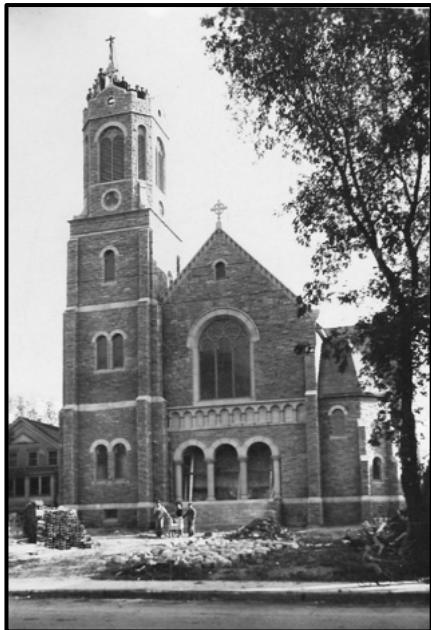
Construction would not be complete until the 1930s. Among the projects completed following

that first mass in 1924 were: hardwood flooring, new pew installation, installation of new high altar and altar rail and the installation of the pipe organ. The high altar and communion rail were made of Italian White Carrara marble.

Extensive interior renovations were undertaken in the late 1970's, following Vatican II guidelines. The majority of the changes involved the altar and the area around it.

In another major change, due to continued water damage, the original bell tower was replaced with a copper clad steeple in 1986. This stopped the water infiltration at the base of the original bell tower.

Below are photos of the completed exterior in 1924 and one of the original high altar.



For further information, please see: Chateaugay Historical Society Newsletter 2008: Vol. II. Issue 4

and Chateaugay Historical Society Newsletter 2009: Vol. III, Issue 2

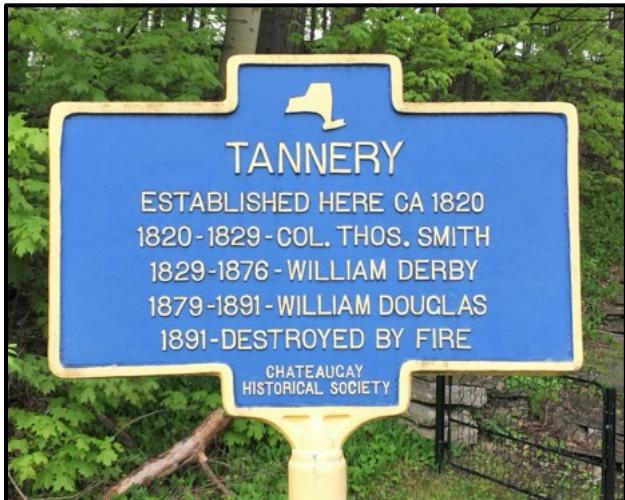
Rosemary Green, (2024) The Building of St. Patrick's Church 1916-1936

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Tannery

Address: Intersection of Foundry & East Main Sts.

Coordinates: 44.927125, -74.070642



This marker is located on East Main St. at the south end of Foundry Street. The actual tannery site was on the west side of Mill Street, a short distance to the west of the historic marker. The tannery location is on private property and is inaccessible.

Around 1820, Col. Thomas Smith built a small tannery operation on the west bank of the Boardman Brook, just north of the road.

Smith sold his small tannery to William V. Derby in 1829. Derby immediately enlarged the operation and made it a true commercial enterprise.

He would operate it until the early 1850s, when he was joined in the growing business by his son, Henry W. Derby. Sometime in the 1860s, they rented the whole operation to a "Clark and Co." who ran it until 1876, when the Derbys decided to sell and move to Delaware. The sale was made for \$3000.

The new owners were Hiram A. and William S. Douglas, a father and son. The tannery was considerably larger than the small operation Col. Smith had established. The Derbys had expanded to a 40-foot X 70-foot 2-story building that could tan 120 hides a week.

W.S. Douglas immediately decided to expand the business even further. He bought out his father, tore down the old Derby building and immediately built an immense new structure. It was longer, wider and taller than the older building, standing five stories high.

At the same time the new tannery building was going up, Douglas also had a large tenement house built just across the brook, to accommodate some of his employees. However, he was not done building. In 1887, he built a brick boiler room, to separate most of the machinery from the actual tanning operation. The entire tannery plant was steam powered. The next year, Douglas expanded the footprint and the height of the tannery once again.

The largest of all the businesses to ever operate in Tannery Hollow, east of the Four Corners, the tannery was now housed in the largest building in the hollow. It was now a massive structure; 225 feet long, 28 feet wide and seven stories high. Matching the height of the Globe grist mill on the Chateaugay River, it was the tallest building ever erected in Chateaugay and had become the largest tannery in New York State by the late 1880s; both in physical size and production. The new operation and its 100-man work force tanned 1200 hides each week.

Douglas, who had known very little about the tanning business when he and his father became owners, learned quickly and turned the smaller, original business into a much larger, very successful enterprise. The return on his original purchase price was astronomical. The expanded tannery's annual leather output was between \$250,000 and \$300,000 (equivalent to between \$8.2 and \$9.2 million today) in 1888. It produced grained and glove leather along with a variety of split leather options.

(continued)

It should be noted that the Douglas Tannery also employed a number of curriers, who made the tanned leather even stronger, more supple or flexible and sometimes waterproof. They finished the leather, dressing and dyeing it to prepare it for burnishing or polishing. The leather sides that received these final treatments were sent to specialty leather trades such as harness makers, shoemakers, saddle shops or glove makers.

When it burned to the ground on May 10, 1891, it employed over 100 men and used over 3,000 cords of hemlock bark to tan its constant influx of hides. The fire was discovered by the night watchman at about 2am. He later stated that he had seen nothing wrong when he made his rounds just an hour earlier.

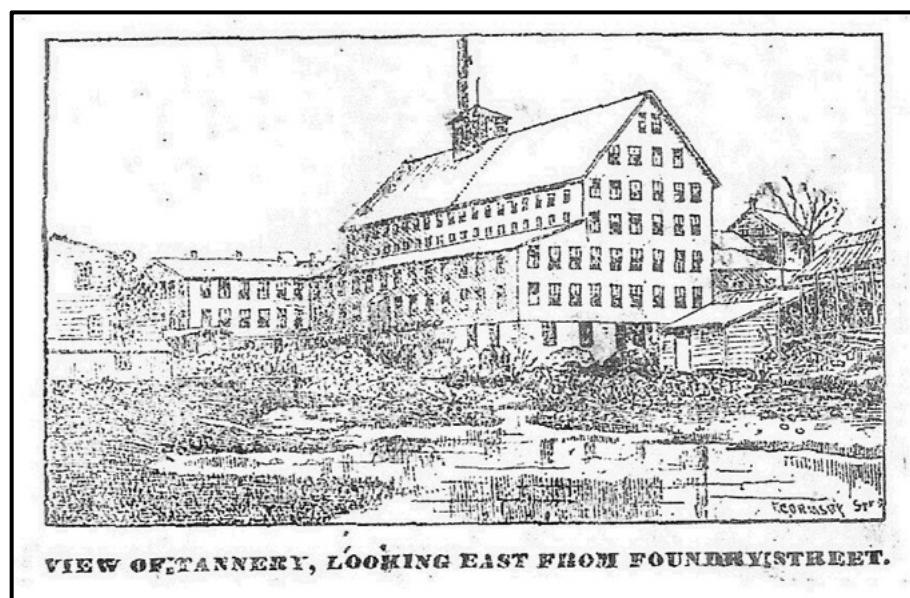
The fire spread quickly, the sparks and embers threatening several surrounding structures. A machine shop, two personal residences and Douglas' large tenement house also burned to the ground. An eyewitness account stated:

The scenes witnessed on the east side of the brook were heart rending at times, as the shrill shrieks of frenzied women and the cries of children and the shouts of men for aid in saving their homes all filled the air. Fortunately, their cries and prayers prevailed and most of them have just reason to be thankful as we write that they are not homeless and that their household treasures have been saved through the labors of sympathizing people who lent their assistance in that direction.

At 4am all that remained of the great tannery and of the industry that had furnished employment to hundreds of men through the years, disbursing annually hundreds of thousands of dollars, was a mass of smoldering ruins and the labor and energy of the man who had fought so valiantly to build it up had gone for naught. What a destroyer the fire fiend is, sweeping away as in a breath, the labors of a lifetime as it were.

The fire department remained on the ground until morning to prevent the flames from spreading in any direction.

Although the tannery was the largest industry in the hollow, the other businesses also employed a significant number of local men and had positive impacts on the local economy.



For further information, please see Chateaugay Historical Society Newsletter 2007: Vol. I. Issue #1 and Chateaugay Historical Society Newsletter 2024: Vol. XVIII. Issue #3

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Town Hall

Address: 191 East Main Street



Built following a bequest from prominent local businessman, William Johnston Jr., the Chateaugay Town Hall was constructed in 1911. It contained municipal offices and a grand opera house.

The basement level contained jail cells, called the “local lock-up”, the heating plant and a large coal bin. Under the theater were facilities for that part of the building.

All patrons entering the Opera House were met by a grand and impressive sight. The facility was called “one of the most elaborate and up-to-date playhouses in Northern New York”. The first feature to make an impression on visitors was the stage. Almost 60 feet wide and 26 feet deep, it was amply sized to accommodate all types of productions; from small music recitals to large, multi-set musical theater and vaudeville productions. A large, ornate proscenium arch above the stage framed the area and added to the elegance of the space. All of the approximately 325 main floor seats were arranged as they would be in an amphitheater, curved rows of seats that each afforded an excellent view of the stage. The seating was equally divided into front and rear sections by an ornate, white railing that curved across the hall. The wooden seats nearest the stage were for kids to use during movies. The seats on the other side of the railing were upholstered. If youngsters were caught sneaking into the plush seats during a movie, they would be shooed back to the front section by the ushers.

Additional seating for about 175 people was also available in the horseshoe shaped balcony at the rear of the hall. A white railing graced the front edge of the gallery space, echoing the same design as the rail that divided the house floor seating.

Overlooking the regular seating and the stage floor were four loge boxes (also called “party boxes”). They were built out from the side walls of the auditorium, two on each side, and located at the outside ends of the railing that separated the main floor seating.

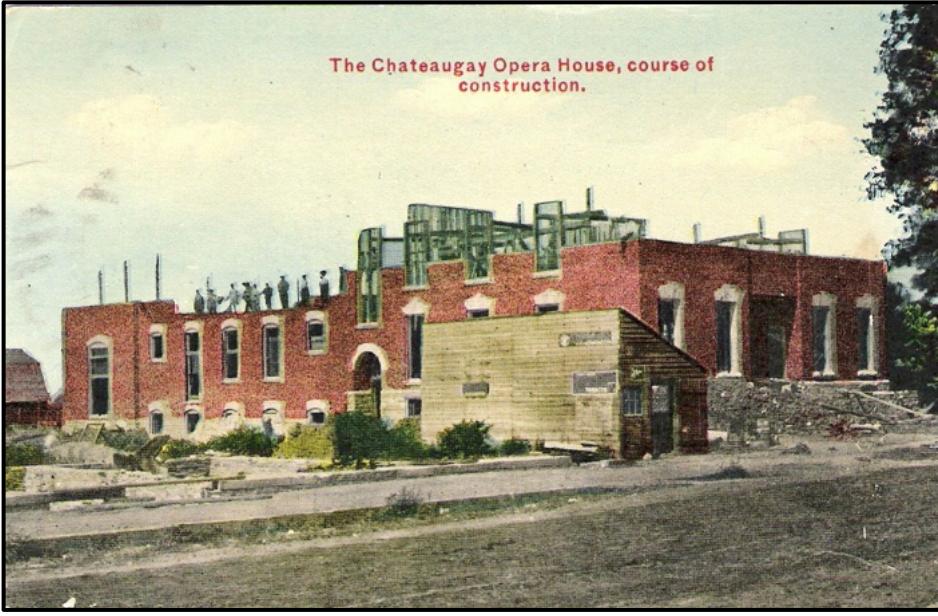
The second floor was taken up by the theater balcony and its foyer and the main “assembly room” or town hall. The main features of the hall were its hardwood floor and stunning tin paneled ceiling. Within this 54 x 54 space were dressing/washrooms and a rostrum.

Unfortunately, it was gutted by a devastating fire in 1940.

Within a year it was fully rebuilt and included office space, a theater and a bowling alley below the theater.

In recent years, it has been fully renovated to provide new office spaces and local justice court facilities. The theater has new seating, new sound and lighting systems and digital projection capability. The large space on the second floor now contains a community meeting room as well as space for the Chateaugay Historical Society, its collection and Archival Center.

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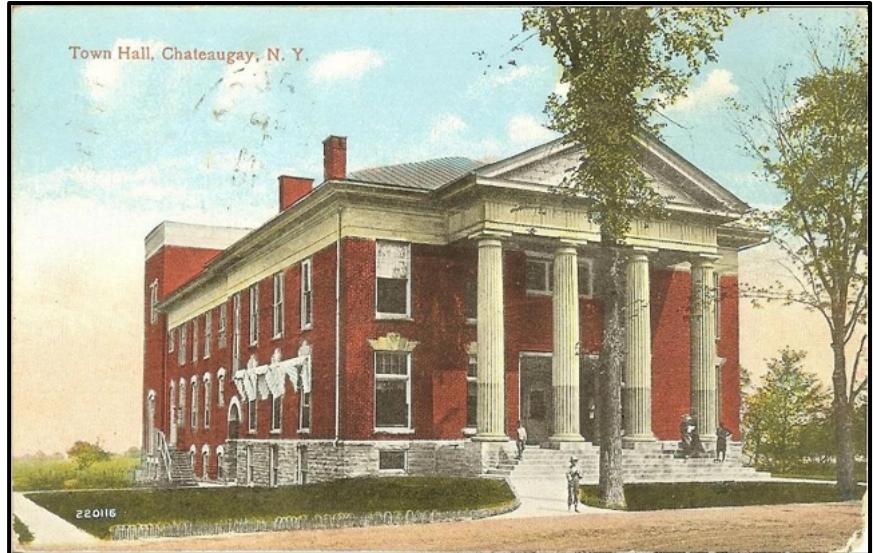


Top to Bottom:

The Town Hall under construction in 1911

The completed building in 1925

The ruins the morning after the 1940 fire



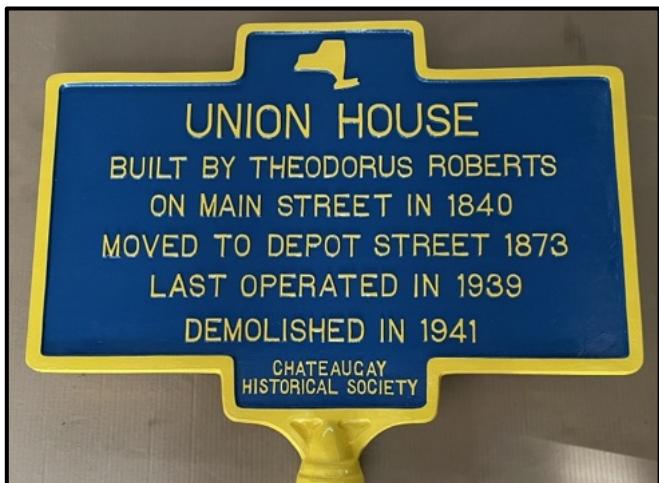
For further information, please see Chateaugay Historical Society Newsletter 2011: Vol. V. Special Issue

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Union House

Address: 15 Depot Street

Coordinates: 44.92613 -74.07939



build a new storefront on the corner property. Using a system of screw jacks, rollers, block and tackle assemblies and teams of horses, the large building was lifted from its foundation and gently moved around the corner.



This photo shows the hotel comfortably settled into its Depot Street location. Trees had been planted along the street and were flourishing. In the lower left, the three men are standing around the entrance to a barber shop that occupied the lower level. Various folks enjoy the veranda and front entrance stoop as the photo was taken. Note the Bell Telephone sign next to the door. In the early days of telephone service, hotels were often among the first places in a town to have a phone installed. This Henry Beach photo was taken in 1911.

(continued)

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Over the years, it was variously known as the Union House, Hatch House and Roberts Hotel. Among the proprietors were: Theodorus Roberts, Alanson Roberts, Timothy B. Ladd, Melvin A. Knappen, Hoel S. Farnsworth, Silas W. Hatch, John Duffin, Robert Simpson, and Alfred W. Duckett.

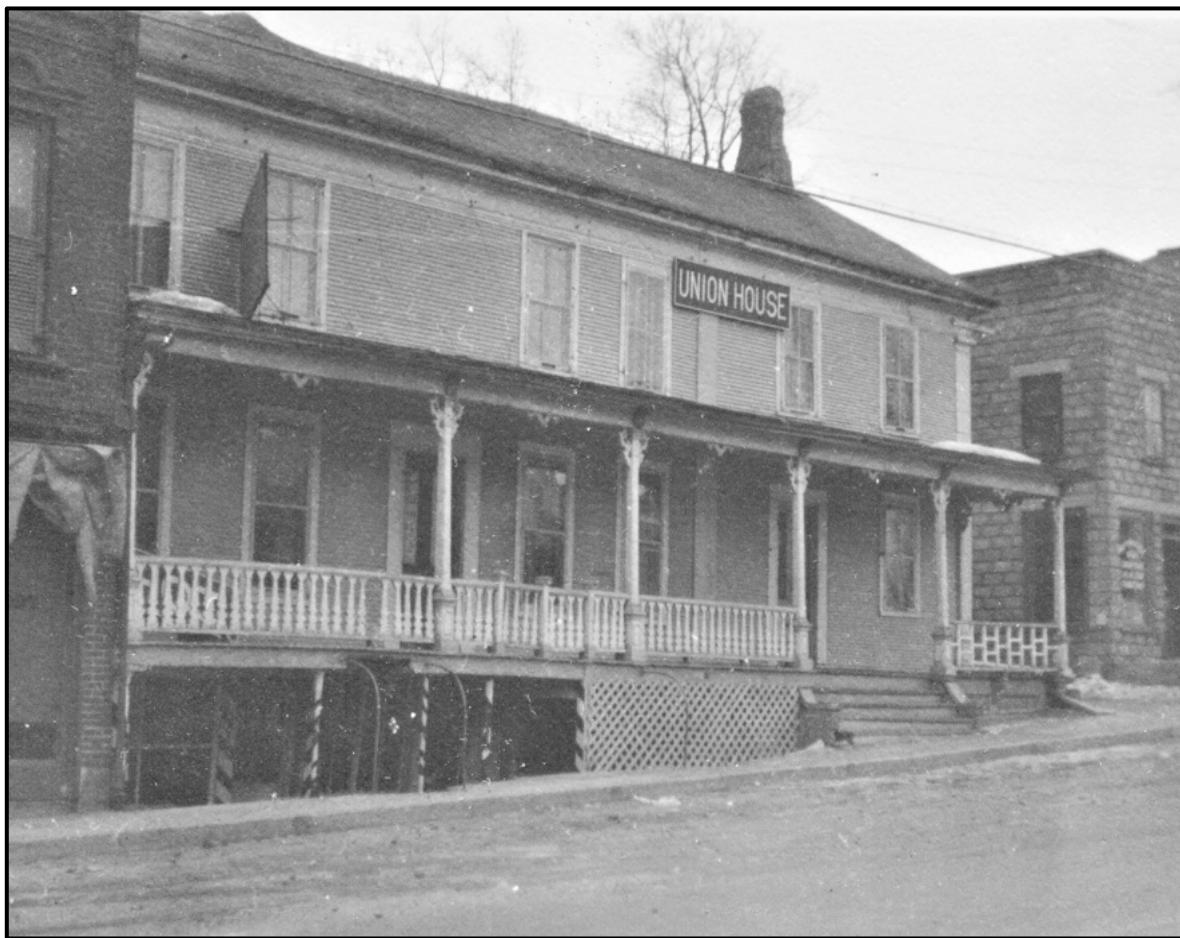
The hostelry delivered excellent fare in a relaxed, but refined setting. The Union House became the destination of choice for many civic and fraternal organizations for meetings and events. It became the site of uncounted banquets and formal dinners over the years, drawing groups from all over the surrounding area.

Livery service was provided to and from the railroad passenger depot, and no effort was spared to provide convenience and comfort for its patrons.

Among the noted visitors over the years were: General Ulysses S. Grant, retail giant R. M. Macy, famed circus man P. T. Barnum, and Theodore Roosevelt, who gave a speech from the steps of the hotel as a Bull Moose party candidate for President in 1912.

The last operator was Alfred W. Duckett, who ran it until his death in 1939. Following his demise, the property sat vacant for two years. In 1941, John Sprague tore down the empty, decaying hotel to build the Chateaugay Dairy. The dairy building was eventually remodeled in later years and a private home now sits on the property.

The Historical Society has a register from the hotel as well as a silver punch bowl set which was used in the dining room.



This photo shows the Union House in the mid-1930s.

For further information, please see Chateaugay Historical Society Newsletter 2009: Vol. III. Issue #3

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Chateaugay Cemeteries and Burial Grounds

Atwater Cemetery

Coordinates: N 44° 56.230' W 074° 07.555'

DIRECTIONS: Cemetery is located behind the old Atwater home (now owned by the Martin family) on a pine knoll. About 1.5 miles west of the village of Chateaugay from US Route 11 turn north onto the Lewis Road. Approximately 1 mile down the road turn onto the Martin Road at the Y. The cemetery is on the knoll beyond the Martin home and is not visible from the road. **This cemetery is on private property. Ask owner permission to enter.**



Atwater Cemetery

This is a closed cemetery, no longer accepting burials. It is located on private property off the Lewis Road. It began as the Atwater family cemetery, adjacent to the Atwater home. There are seven stones still standing. Records show that eight people are buried there. The earliest recorded burial was that of Dolly Atwater who died in 1841 at the age of nineteen. The last burial was Mrs. Tamson Atwater who was seventy-nine years old when she died in 1872.

For further Information on Local Cemeteries:

https://nnytombstoneproject.nygenweb.net/franklin/franklin_index.html

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Bigelow Cemetery

Coordinates: N 44° 52.321' W 074° 03.098'

DIRECTIONS: Located on the Chase Road, 1.3 miles north of the intersection with Route 24. It is on the east side of the road just after you cross a small bridge. **This is a closed cemetery and no longer accepts burials.**



This small plot is on the Chase Road. There are thirteen gravestones, mostly within a galvanized pipe fence which was erected after the cemetery was no longer used. Most of the stones are upright, although some are broken or lying on the ground. There are some with ornate designs and others are just rectangular with carved information. This cemetery contains burials from four families: Bigelow, Reynolds, King, and Genaway. The earliest burial was for four-year-old Abraham E. Reynolds in 1841. The last interment was for Hiram Bigelow in 1879.

This cemetery was recently cleared of brush by the local 4-H club.

For further Information on Local Cemeteries:

https://nnytombstoneproject.nygenweb.net/franklin/franklin_index.html

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Brayton Hollow Cemetery

Coordinates: N 44° 56.532' W 074° 07.277'

DIRECTIONS: Heading west from the Chateaugay Village on Route 11, turn north onto County Route 35 for 2.1 miles. Just past the Chateaugay Fish & Game Club, there will be a small dirt road on your left (northwest). The cemetery is on a knoll on the east side of the dirt road.



This has sometimes been referred to as the Chasm Road Cemetery. It is located off County Route 35 and no longer accepts burials. It is intermittently maintained by the Highway Department, and the brush and grass are trimmed. It is surrounded by a wire fence. There were twenty-six stones still evident when it was photographed in 2020. The earliest burial was of Lieutenant David Beach, a veteran of the American Revolution. He died at the age of seventy-three in 1828. He was a member of the Society of the Cincinnati, an organization made up of American officers who had served in the Revolutionary War. George Washington served as the Society's first President-General.

Also buried here are three of the young people who tragically drowned in the Brayton Hollow mill pond in 1851: Garrett & Seprona Percy (brother and sister) and Eunice Daly. The other two victims were Mary Crippen, who is buried in Barnam Cemetery in Burke and James Ayers, who is buried in East Side.

For further Information on Local Cemeteries:

https://nnytombstoneproject.nygenweb.net/franklin/franklin_index.html

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Earlville

Coordinates: N 44° 58.434' W 074° 02.620'

DIRECTIONS: From Route 11 in Chateaugay, drive north on County Route 39 for 3.6 miles. Then turn north on Earlville Road for .1 mile.



Earlville (once known as “Omega” when it had its own Post Office and referred to locally as “Slab City”) was one of the earliest settlements in the Town of Chateaugay and this cemetery has some very early burials. The land for the cemetery was given by Bethel Bromley in 1855, although the land had been used for burials for many years prior to that. The donation was made with the stipulation that the gift was for the express purpose of a burial ground.

The first meeting of the incorporated Earlville Cemetery Association was June 3, 1930. This Cemetery has a map with lots laid out with family names, not who is buried in the lot. This is an active cemetery, still accepting interments, and is owned and run by a Cemetery Association. It is regularly maintained and well-manicured.

The earliest recorded burial here is Silas Whipple who died in 1836.

For further Information on Local Cemeteries:

https://nnytombstoneproject.nygenweb.net/franklin/franklin_index.html

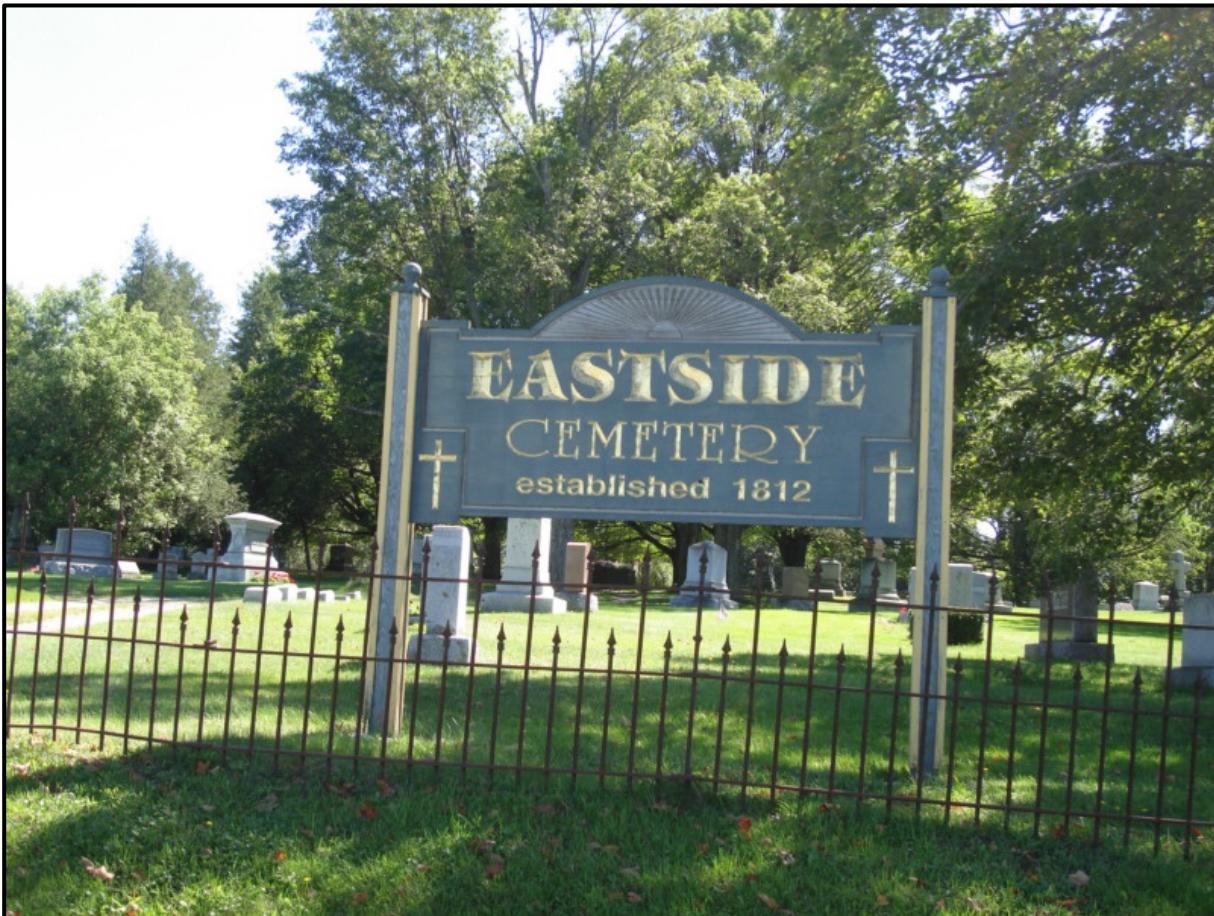
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East Side Cemetery

Coordinates: N 44 55.594' W 074 03.937'

DIRECTIONS: This cemetery is located on Rt. 11, east of Chateaugay.



The second of the four active cemeteries in town, East Side is one of the largest. It is composed of two plots of land. The first is on the western side of the present cemetery; the area behind and west of the vault was the site of the earliest burials. From the first burial there in October 1810, when three-year-old Adam Gwin was laid to rest, until 1887 when more adjacent land to the east was purchased, this was referred to in the newspaper as the Old Cemetery.

The dates and details of the early references to this “Old Cemetery” are murky, at best. At some point, it was also referred to as Evergreen Cemetery, a term that appears to have been used even after the acreage to the east was added. Eventually, it was incorporated into “East Side Cemetery,” its present name.

The Old Cemetery expanded in July of 1887 when A.D. Boomhower of Churubusco and Bruce C. Bort of Chateaugay purchased seven acres of land directly to the east of the Old Cemetery and made plans to clear, landscape and lay out a new cemetery section and add the second plot of land to the original grounds. In May 1888, Boomhower and Bort had a water fountain installed in the middle of the cemetery for beauty and to provide water. It no longer functions as a fountain and is planted with flowers during the summer.

(continued)

The Old Cemetery was folded into the new section, and the new entity was called Evergreen Cemetery. It would remain known as that until the present name, “East Side,” was adopted.

From that first burial in 1810, 147 recorded burials had occurred in the original area by the time the second plot of acreage was added to the Old Cemetery in 1887.

There is a map of this cemetery which is divided into Sections A-H. It was drawn by Frank Adams in 1888.

In the early 1900s, the Town Assessors published an annual listing of the tax-exempt properties in Chateaugay. By studying these reports in the *Chateaugay Record*, it was possible to narrow down the timeframe of when the “Old Cemetery” and the Boomhower/Bort parcels were incorporated as East Side Cemetery. From 1905 through 1910, the new plot was listed with Boomhower and Bort as owners and was identified as Evergreen Cemetery.

The cemetery’s next name change appeared in a July 1911 listing in the *Chateaugay Record*. Then, the owner was noted as the “East Side Cemetery Association,” and that name appeared in all the subsequent listings. Sometime between July 1910 and July 1911, the Association was formed and the cemetery was renamed when it joined a state-wide cemetery registry. There was already an Evergreen Cemetery listed, prompting the name change to East Side Cemetery

Today, East Side is still owned and run by this same Association.

For further Information on Local Cemeteries:

https://nnytombstoneproject.nygenweb.net/franklin/franklin_index.html

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Elliot/Rust Graves

Coordinates: N 44° 54.738' W 074° 07.592'

DIRECTIONS: From the Fire Department in Burke Village, head east 2.3 miles on Franklin County Route 23. The cemetery is on the north side of the road. **The graves are located on private property. Do not trespass. Ask owner permission to enter.**



This plot most likely began as a family cemetery. It is exceptional as some of the graves there were marked with carved headstones. Today, only two stones are visible. They mark the 1883 grave of Robert Rust and that of Clinton Elliot, dated 1916. Any other gravesites that may be located there are either unmarked, the gravestones have fallen and are covered over, or the stones have been removed. This plot is located on private property on the north side of County Route 23, about halfway between Chateaugay and Burke Village. Burials no longer occur here.

For further Information on Local Cemeteries:

https://nnytombstoneproject.nygenweb.net/franklin/franklin_index.html

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Hilliker Graveyard

Coordinates: N 44° 55.993' W 074° 01.048'

DIRECTIONS: This small family cemetery is located on the County Line Road in the town of Chateaugay. **It is located on private property. Do not trespass.**



This small family cemetery is located on private property on the west side of the County Line Road, north of Route 11 and east of Chateaugay. This cemetery was visited, transcribed and photographed in 1941 and 2004.

It was originally reported to have been delineated by a wire fence, which has since fallen down and disappeared. The earliest discernible grave is that of 28 year old Phoebe Douglas in 1820. The final burial appears to be of George Hilliker, 74, on March 11, 1869.

Only a few stones now have discernible markings – most are unreadable. It is heavily overgrown, and many of the stones are broken and half buried by the advancing sod, leaves and the brush cover on the ground. Particularly noteworthy is that one of the stones that has fallen from its base is an obelisk that is about five feet tall. There is no readable information on either the base or the obelisk. Many of the surviving markers are of thin, soft stone that have weathered greatly since being put in place.

The Hilliker family lived on Route 11, east of the village, and operated a hotel on the south side of Route 11 at one time. This family plot is in complete disrepair and is inaccessible. A transcriptions of the graves found here, from early visits by researchers, is available on the website listed below.

For further Information on Local Cemeteries:

https://nnytombstoneproject.nygenweb.net/franklin/franklin_index.html

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Mitchell Family Graveyard

Coordinates: 44.991257, -74.146366 (approx.)

DIRECTIONS: This cemetery is located just south of the Canadian Border, about 2 miles north of Cooks Mills, on a road running parallel to and east of the Chateaugay River. It is bordered by wrought iron fence and a stone wall, is completely overgrown, and is about 100 feet into an old field.



This small plot is on private property and is inaccessible. Do not trespass.

An additional warning regarding this remote graveyard – it is heavily infested with ticks, in addition to being on private property and very difficult to find.

The eight burials in this plot were recorded by a researcher in 1949 and are on the website listed below.

This family graveyard is included here only because an on-line search for Chateaugay Cemeteries will list it as being in Chateaugay. In reality, it is just west of the Chateaugay Town Line and in the township of Burke. We have included it here to avoid any confusion when accessing the on-line database and the references to it being in Chateaugay. Only members of the Mitchell family are buried here. Burial dates range from 1848 to 1912.

For further Information on Local Cemeteries:

https://nnytombstoneproject.nygenweb.net/franklin/franklin_index.html

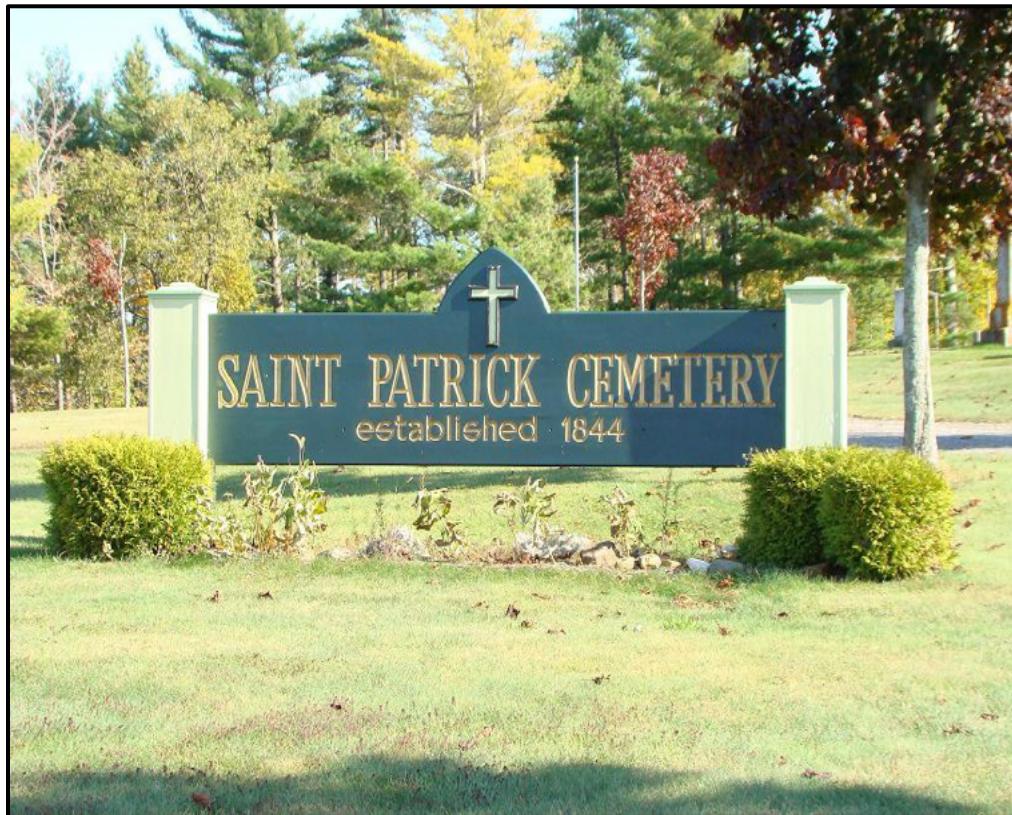
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St. Patrick's Cemetery

Coordinates: 44.921715, -74.098145

DIRECTIONS: This cemetery is located on the Cemetery Road, off Route 11 on the west side of the Chateaugay River.



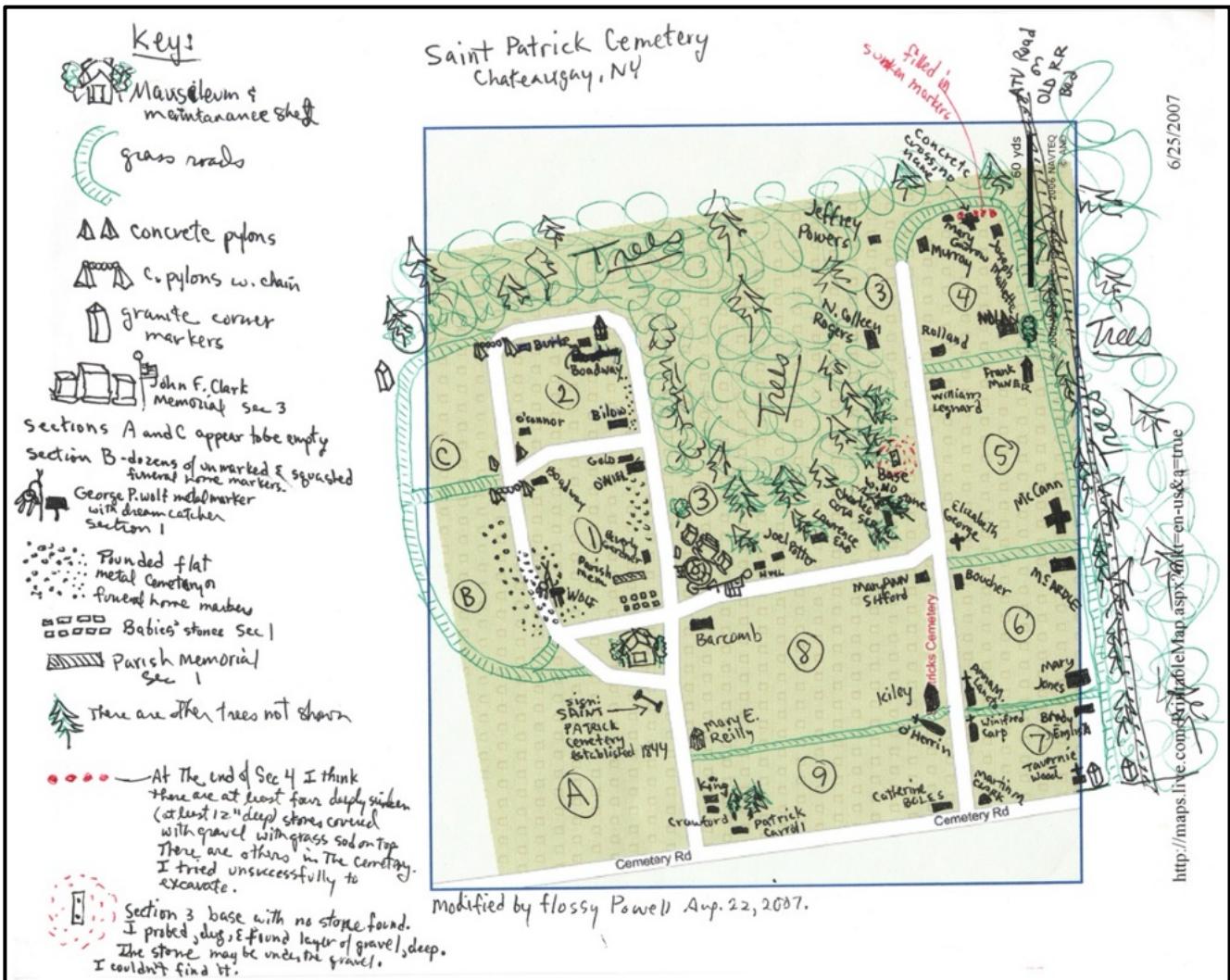
This is the third of the still-active cemeteries in town. It has been charted and mapped and is divided into nine sections by those doing cemetery recordings.

The earliest headstone, according to all available cemetery transcriptions, marks the grave of 15-year-old Margaret Mullin and is dated February 18, 1845. The second oldest grave is that of Ellen McCaffrey, who died in September of the same year at the age of 25.

It is owned and maintained by the Church of St. Patrick, which is located on West Main Street in the village.

Chateaugay's Catholic populace was served by occasional visits of itinerant priests until 1844 when the Diocese of Ogdensburg gave permission to Fr. James Keveny of Hogansburg, who had the Chateaugay area as part of his responsibilities, to purchase local land for a church and a cemetery. The land purchased for formal Catholic burials in 1844 was the site of the present cemetery.

(continued)



For further Information on Local Cemeteries:

https://nnytombstoneproject.nygenweb.net/franklin/franklin_index.html

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St. Patrick's Parish records, including burials, is also on-line at:

<https://genealogytrails.com/ny/franklin/churches.html>

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Sandy Knoll Cemetery

Coordinates: N 44° 58.361' W 074° 07.511'

DIRECTIONS: From Route 11 in Chateaugay, turn north on Route 52 for 1.4 miles. Then turn west on Route 35 for 2.4 miles. The cemetery is located .8 miles north of the intersection of Rte. 35 and Sandy Knoll Road.



This is the fourth still-active cemetery in Chateaugay. It is located on the west side of the Sandy Knoll Road, to the north of the Chasm Road (County Route 35). It is owned and operated by a cemetery association.

This resting place was first known as the “Greenville Union Burial Ground”. The first recorded burial there was William Johnston on August 8, 1847. (A caution to local cemetery researchers – one of the on-line cemetery listings contains information that the extended family of Abram Atwater is buried in this cemetery. That is an error. All of the Atwaters are buried in the aforementioned Atwater Cemetery off the Lewis Road.)

Many of the early burials here were of people who came here from Clarenceville, Quebec. They had first migrated up along Lake Champlain to Quebec from the Troy, New York area following the Revolutionary War years. Many of these burials are of entire families.

A very early map of this burial ground still exists today.

In May of 1924, this cemetery was incorporated as the “Sandy Knoll Cemetery.” Although it was still legally the Greenville Union Cemetery up to that point, the use of the old name had largely been discarded, and the “Sandy Knoll” name was most used and became the plot’s official name with the incorporation.

For further Information on Local Cemeteries:

https://nnytombstoneproject.nygenweb.net/franklin/franklin_index.html

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Smith Cemetery

Coordinates: N 44° 55.647' W 074° 04.149'

DIRECTIONS: This cemetery is located on the north side Route 11, east of Chateaugay Village.



This closed burial ground no longer accepts burials. It is located on the north side of Route 11 at the top of the hill just east of Tannery Hollow. Surrounded by a (now repaired) low stone wall, it was, at one time, among the most neglected of all the local cemeteries.

Much of the data regarding the graves here comes from the McLellan visits of 1954 and 1955 and from the extensive research done by CHS Trustee, Phyllis Thompson.

The first burial appears to be that of Caleb Seabury on August 26, 1845. By the time this cemetery opened, there had been just over forty-five burials in the “Old Cemetery”, just across Route 11. By the time the Boomhower/Bort purchase of land was added to the “Old Cemetery” and the present East Side Cemetery began to take shape in 1887, burials had been taking place in Smith Cemetery (or Greenwood Cemetery) for over forty years.

By the 1930s, the only burials taking place in the Smith Cemetery were those who already owned family plots. For example, the last five interments in Smith were: Mrs. Hannah Phelps Dominy, Dr. Robert Davies, Mrs. Jessie Davies Farnham, Mrs. Maggie Davies Bryant and Mrs. Gertrude Roberts Martin in 1939, 1941, 1943, 1950, and 1951 respectively.

Upkeep in this cemetery in recent years has been done by civic-minded citizens or, more recently, by Town work crews. In fact, the Town has discussed the reconditioning of the entire plot and the possibility of having a cemetery consultant assess the condition of the headstones and recommend what action, if any, should be taken to stabilize both the gravestones and the cemetery in general. This project is being pursued, and a cemetery restoration company has been contacted.

For further Information on Local Cemeteries:

https://nnytombstoneproject.nygenweb.net/franklin/franklin_index.html

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Unnamed (No. 5 Rd.) Cemetery

Coordinates: 44.882854, -74.046932

DIRECTIONS: From the Four Corners in Chateaugay, turn south on Route 374 for about 3 miles. Then turn left onto the No. 5 Road, across from Ye Olde Halfway House and proceed to the south corner of Cassidy Road. The stones are visible from both roads. Physical Address: 871 No. 5 Road.



This very small cemetery is on the corner of the No. 5 Road and the Cassidy Road and is referred to in the on-line databases as the “Unnamed Cemetery,” but it is locally referred to as the “No. 5 Road Cemetery”. **This is a closed cemetery and no longer accepts burials.**

This burial plot contains less than ten headstones. Most have fallen, some still visible and some covered over by the sod. Two are upright stones that have no carved information. There is also one very short stub of field stone and another of sandstone that is broken off, and there are two carved headstones. When Historical Society Trustee, Phyllis Thompson, visited this cemetery several years ago, there were five flat stones on the ground which had no names visible.

The carved stones mark the graves of Calista Signor (aged 1 year and 3 months), who died on September 5, 1848, and Orin Harran (aged 1 year), who died on April 25, 1850.

An early Circuit Riders book notes that the families that held services in that immediate area were buried there.

For further Information on Local Cemeteries:

https://nnytombstoneproject.nygenweb.net/franklin/franklin_index.html

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Wills/Collins Cemetery

Coordinates: N 44° 57.949' W 074° 02.846'

DIRECTIONS: This private cemetery is located approximately 3 miles north of Chateaugay on County Road #39 at Earlville. It is on the west side of the road, located behind a family farm. **This cemetery is on private property. Do not trespass. Ask for owner permission to proceed.**



This cemetery is directly connected to the founding of Chateaugay. It is on property originally owned by Major Jacob Smith who arrived here in 1797, the year after the very first settlers came in 1796. Smith built a homestead on what is now County Route 39 (the Earlville Road) and quickly built a small tannery as well. The cemetery had its origins as a burial ground for family members and residents of the immediate area.

The cemetery now sits on private property and only accepts infrequent family burials. There are around 80 headstones there that represent only around 15 families.

The earliest burials noted on the existing gravestones are of Walter Wright, dated June 26, 1829, and Elizabeth Blanchard Smith (wife of Major Smith). Her stone is dated Sept. 17, 1829.

For further Information on Local Cemeteries:

https://nnytombstoneproject.nygenweb.net/franklin/franklin_index.html

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War of 1812 Burial Grounds

[SEE PAGE 54 FOR MORE DETAILS](#)

During the fall of 1813, the U.S. Army had an encampment of between 5,000 and 6,000 troops in Chateaugay (then called “Four Corners”) in preparation of the incursion into Canada that would become known as the “Battle of Chateaugay” (Quebec).

Over the course of their time stationed here, many soldiers succumbed to disease and exposure to the elements. Additionally, there were casualties during the hostilities in Canada and their bodies were brought back to Chateaugay as the Army retreated from Quebec.

It is believed that more than one hundred soldiers during the War of 1812 were buried locally. Approximately fifty were supposedly interred on the “Old Thomas Eaton Farm.” This property is located west of Depot Street and south of St. Patrick’s Church. There is an historical marker located on Depot Street which denotes this burial ground.

Approximately the same number are believed to have been buried on the “Old Johnston Farm,” more recently owned by Stewart Swanston and then by Donovan Rogers. This property is located off West Main Street, at the north end of White Street. None of the soldiers’ graves in either location are marked or recorded but various artifacts (uniform buttons, buckles, etc.) have occasionally been unearthed over the years.

The vast majority of the one hundred or so soldiers interred here in 1812-1814, remain unidentified either by name or by exact burial location.

However, research through the years, has uncovered the names of six individuals who died here and are buried somewhere in Chateaugay. They were Richard Philpot Wentworth from New Hampshire – died of “fever”, Daniel Olds from Underhill, Vermont – died in battle, Major Hains French from Vermont – died of pneumonia, Lt. William Nash – died during the skirmish on the Boardman Brook, Lt. Thomas Cogswell of Vermont – killed in battle, and Dennis Lane – died during the skirmish on the Boardman Brook.

Major Hains French was a veteran of the American Revolution who was called back into service during the War of 1812. His health was compromised even as he re-entered the Army. While in Chateaugay, he became ill and died of pneumonia. He was laid to rest here with military honors, presumably in either of the areas where military burials were taking place. Some “Hains” family genealogical sites list him as buried with his wife in Wisconsin. However, the available records indicate that he is, indeed, buried here and that his name on the monument in Wisconsin is simply a memorial to him.

Lt. William Nash and Private Dennis Lane were killed during the Chateaugay Skirmish that took place just north of the village on October 13, 1813. As noted in the historical record, both were buried here. Nash, being a Mason, was buried with full “Masonic Honors,” presumably with the participation of the local Rainbow Masonic Lodge #206 that met regularly in Colonel Thomas Smith’s tavern at the Four Corners.

Richard P. Wentworth was one of the many casualties, not of battle, but of the sickness that ravaged the troops stationed here during the fall of 1813.

The information regarding Thomas Cogswell and Daniel Olds was gleaned from their family genealogies. Presumably, they were among the casualties suffered during the ill-fated Battle of Chateaugay in Canada, when Major General Wade Hampton invaded north of the border in a poorly planned and even more poorly executed campaign during October of 1813. Their remains, and those of the other American dead, were brought back to Chateaugay and were interred here.

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Chateaugay Historical Society

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Email: chs@chateaugayhistory.org for details.

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