

- Hamlet of Beaver Falls
- Hamlet of Belfort
- Hamlet of Indian River
- Hamlet of Naumburg
- Village of Croghan
- Beartown
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- Jerden (Jordon) Falls
- Long Pond
- Prussian Settlement
- Sisterfield

Highlighting Town of Croghan History

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Whatever Happened to Rene J. Brodeur? (The Conclusion of the Burns Murder Case)

Whatever happened to the man who was sentenced on February 4, 1913 in Lewis County court to a term of 20 years to life for the murder charge, second degree of Patrick Burns, town of Croghan farmer? He served his time in Auburn. His perfect obedience earned him a five year reduction in the original sentence and he was paroled from the institution January 16, 1928.

Four years after his release, he died as a result of bullet wounds received February 9, 1932 while attempting to escape arrest in Portland, Oregon.

According to officials at Auburn, it was believed that Brodeur led a model life until they learned on February 9, that he had gone "bad."

Portland police reported that Brodeur was attempting to escape arrest at the hands of several police officers when they opened fire on him, one of the bullets striking him in the neck. He had been sought for attacking a small girl.

Brodeur was wanted by West Orange, N.J. authorities for assault and robbery in connection with a \$5,000 bond and jewel theft. He also had a record in Buffalo.

Thus ends the story of Rene J Brodeur.

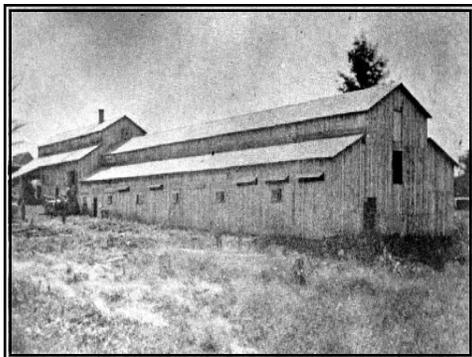
(Source: *JOURNAL AND REPUBLICAN*, February 19, 1932)

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Special points of interest:

- The conclusion of the Burns murder.
- Picture of a building that no longer exists.
- Country schools.
- Electric Line coming to Beaver Falls.
- Meeting bears in Jerden Falls



A Time Gone By

The tannery was located near the Beaver River behind the Sienkiewicz home and near the former Beaverite Mill. At the tannery a process was performed to convert hides or skins into leather.

Today all that remains of the tannery is the waterwheel, which is buried. The shaft and stone walls are still visible

A Beaver Falls Dog serves in World War II

Dogs have served a purpose in finding bombs, guide dogs and yes, seeing action in war time. "Muffie," a German-Shepherd messenger dog, donated by Mr. Everett E. Jones, Beaver Falls, in October, 1943, to the Army's K-9 Corps, was discharged from Fort Robinson, Nebraska after action on the Fifth Army front in northern Italy. She was personally trained and handled by T/5 Robert E. Quigley, Shelbina, Mo.

In a letter received by Mr. Jones, Technician Quigley tells of their experiences together.

"Since September, 1944, the platoon saw almost continuous action some of the most rugged terrain in Italy," wrote Technician Quigley. "Many of the mountains in this sector are 3,000 to 4,000 feet high, covered with snow. In one instance, German shells had knocked out all telephone communications between a platoon headquarters and a forward observation post. "Muffie" made seven trips to the O.P. and back during the day carrying messages in her collar. The mile-run was under direct enemy observation where a man wouldn't have had a chance in the world of getting through by daylight. It never took her more than four and one-half minutes to go either way." Technician Quigley feels that he owes his own life and the lives of eight other men to the alertness of the dog.

"Muffie" has been constantly with Quigley and has shared his food, slept in the same fox hole and shared the same dangers with him, so naturally has a deep affection for him. Because of this, he would like to provide a home for "Muffie" for the rest of her life.

Mr. Jones transferred ownership of "Muffie" to Quigley so that they would be in civilian life together.

(Source: WATERTOWN DAILY TIMES, November 1945)

Country School Corner



In the next few months we will be briefly highlighting the country schools that were located in the Town of Croghan. There were 23 country schools, but they were not all open at the same time due to movement of the population from unproductive farmland to more populated areas. One of these schools was the Texas Road School, District #23. All that is left of this school is concrete steps with the words "S. Built, 1916". This school was located in the Carthage School District. This district was created February 11, 1884 and was taken partly from District # 11. In 1935, there were no more pupils, the school was closed. In 1937 the district was dissolved "on the grounds that there are no longer any residents in the district and there is no longer any need for a school in this district." Today on the section of the Texas Road that the school would have received its students, there are no houses. It is basically state land today. Several of the teachers that taught in this school were: 1912-13, Annie Sweeney; 1913-15, Vera Dionne; 1915-16, Amelia C. Pate; 1919-20, Vera Johnson; 1920-21, Mrs. Charles J. Bush; 1921-22, Dora E. Lanphear; 1922-23, Bernadine Laree; 1923-24, Norma Fanning; 1924-25, Blanche H. Clark; 1925-26, Martha Schultz; 1926-28 Kathleen Connelly; 1928-30, Grace Bintz; 1930-31, Theresa Pound; 1931-34, Susanne B. Gill; 1934-35, Frances Shinbourne. *(Source: Thirty-Two into One; The Schools that Became the Carthage Central School District.)*

REAL TEDDY BEARS



Would you like to meet a bear
and cubs in the woods?

In May 1907 two Jerden Falls men met with an adventure while on their way up the Oswegatchie to fish for trout. They had gone but a short way from their homes and were seated on a log resting. While seated there, they saw a small animal emerge from the bushes which fringed the river bank, and walk fearlessly about. One of them approached nearer to it, and to his surprise discovered it to be a cub. It was easily captured and placed in the basket which they carried. He then went home for his gun, fearing that bruin herself might be close by. Nor was he mistaken. Upon returning he and his companion instituted a search, in which bruin and two more cubs were discovered. A conflict ensued, in which the old bear escaped, but the two cubs were taken. All thoughts of fishing were abandoned for the day. They bore the three cubs home, where it is supposed they will soon be given their freedom. The victims of such a novel adventure were Joseph Moshier and George Howland and it is reported that Mr. Moshier had his hand badly lacerated during the escapade.

(Source: *THE CARTHAGE REPUBLICAN*, May 29, 1907)

Town of Croghan Tidbits

- In the August 1910 issue of *JOURNAL AND REPUBLICAN*, the Wetmore Electric Company of Lowville commenced work on a new concrete dam at Belfort to take the place of the present wooden dam, and which, when completed, will greatly increase the power. The new dam will be 240 feet long and 22 feet high, and will cost from \$8,000 to \$10,000. John Moren, of Lowville, has charge of the construction work.
- In the September 1910 issue of *JOURNAL AND REPUBLICAN*, states that since the supplying of power to the J.P. Lewis Company plant at Beaver Falls by the Wetmore Electric Company there has been considerable variation on the lighting circuit in Lowville, and the service has not been as satisfactory as it should be. However, the company will soon overcome the trouble and the house and commercial lighting will be made as good as ever. A new independent line is being built from the plant at Belfort to Beaver Falls, a distance of seven miles to be connected with a separate dynamo, and when this is completed the annoying fluctuation in light will be overcome. The company has an abundance of power with which to operate the additional dynamo. It will require to or three weeks to make the change.
- *THE CARTHAGE REPUBLICAN*, Jerden Falls, reported in May 1907 that C. Yousey has six milking machines installed in his barn on the farm, doing away with the "hired help" problem which is troubling many farmers.

"History must
stay open, it is
all humanity." --
William Carlos
Williams,
American author
and poet (1883-
1963)

- The Arlington hotel, with Strife & Martin as proprietors, formally opened in November 1912 with a grand ball.

Town of Croghan Historian's Office

Town of Croghan Historian,
Jack Sweeney
Deputy Town of Croghan
Historian, Mary Sweeney

On April 5, 2010 the Town of
Croghan will start its 169th
year of existence as a town.

The Town of Croghan Historian's Office is located at the Town of Croghan Municipal Office, Beaver Falls. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact us at our home phone: (315) 346-6201 or by email: jsweeney@ridgeviewtel.us

We do not have regular office hours but we are available by appointment.

The Town of Croghan has a web site. It is www.townofcroghan.com

If there is something you would be interested in seeing in "Highlighting Town of Croghan History", please let us know. Thank you.

From the Town of Croghan Historian's Desk

This is the third newsletter from the Town of Croghan Historian's Office. We will be publishing another newsletter this year and will be available in June 2010. You can obtain a newsletter from the Town of Croghan Municipal Office, Beaver Falls, New York; Beaver Falls Library and Croghan library. Also, a copy can be downloaded from the Town of Croghan website: www.townofcroghan.com.

Country School Corner will be in future newsletters covering the 23 schools located in the Town of Croghan. If you have any memories or you have attended of a country school and would like to share your thoughts, please feel free to let us know so they can be recorded for future generations.

This newsletter finds the conclusion to the Burns Murder that took place on Beech Ridge Road. The house that the murder took place is no longer standing and is just a memory.

When electricity came to our area, it was a major luxury with some ups and downs before the flickering was no more. Today when our lights flicker, it may mean that we will lose power for just a few seconds or several hours.

Enjoy living tomorrow's history today!

Jack and Mary Sweeney