

- Hamlet of Beaver Falls
- Hamlet of Belfort
- Hamlet of Indian River
- Hamlet of Naumburg
- Village of Croghan
- Beartown
- Forest City
- French Settlement
- Gooville
- Jerden (Jordan) Falls
- Long Pong
- Prussian Settlement
- Sisterfield

Highlighting the Town of Croghan History

Volume 5, Issue 1

January-June 2013

GEORGE CROGHAN

The Town of Croghan was named after George Croghan, but who was this man? George Croghan may never have visited this township or the State of New York. He was born in Locust Grove, Kentucky near the Falls of the Ohio on November 15, 1791.

His father was Major William Croghan who left Ireland at an early period of his life and was appointed an officer in the Revolutionary Army. His mother was the daughter of John Clark, Esq. of Virginia. One of George Croghan's uncles was William Clark who along with Captain Lewis explored the land in the Louisiana Purchase.

In 1808, he left Kentucky for the purpose of attending William and Mary College. He graduated from this institution with a Bachelor of Arts degree on July 4, 1810. He then commenced studying law at this college.

In the fall of 1811 he volunteered his services for a campaign up the Wabash. A short time before the action at Tippecanoe, he was appointed aid-de-camp in General Harrison's headquarters. Because of his services on the Wabash expedition, he was appointed a captain in the provisional army, which was organized in 1812. In August of that year he marched with General Winchester's Kentucky detachment, which was to relieve General Hull in Canada. Both before and after the attack on Fort Wayne, the ground occupied by Captain Croghan was easily noticed because of judicious fortifications erected in his areas.

Captain Croghan commanded Fort Defiance and then joined General Harrison at Maumee Rapids before the erection of Fort Meigs. General Harrison relied on Captain Croghan's defenses during the difficult siege of Fort Meigs by the British. (to be continued)

(Source: Pamphlet "George Croghan" prepared by the Staff of the Public Library of Fort Wayne and Allen County -1953)

Inside this issue:

George Croghan	1
A letter Reminiscing about Fishing (continued)	2
Louis Keck	3
Dr. Edward Anderson, M.D.	3
Churches in the Town of Croghan	4,5
From the Town of Croghan Historian's Desk	6

A LETTER REMINISING ABOUT FISHING (Continued)

In the last newsletter, most of the letter from Edward M. Anderson, M.D., Fulton, New York, to Jarvis Tebido was published. The rest of the letter follows:)

“One day Jockey Keck, the Old Bear, asked me to go up to your place and get his rifle and cartridges. I went up there and got the gun. He asked about cartridges and I told him there were not there. At this time he was almost 80 and had had one shock. He wanted me to go into the woods some 15 miles where he proposed to kill a deer and live on deer meat and trout for 10 days. I advised him not to go but he got mad and went alone but he never came back. Two years later Sam Yousey found his skeleton and rifle up on Roaring Brook. Jockey had hung his shirt on an alder and part of it was still there. Sam put the skull and bones in a pack basket and later all that was left of Old Bear was buried at Belfort. He had hunted these animals for almost 70 years and they got him in the end.

“Jarvis you are the only man I know who can say he shot an elk in New York State.”

Jarvis, I am 75 years old and it is hard for me to drive. If I was like my son I could drive up there and back easy in a day but I can't do it. Since that operation I am not so ambitious as I was. I will say this. If possible I will try to get up there and see you.

You mind what the Doctor says and help the nurses all you can. Everything you eat and drink will help you. Drink plenty of water.

Jarvis enclosed find \$1.00 for some cigarettes.

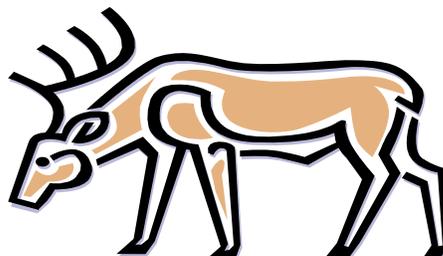
One thing I forgot. Jarvis you are the only man I know who can say he shot an elk in New York State. I think it safe to mention this as your father told me about it and you could not be convicted on hear say. Mrs. Hynes said she used to see that elk and then it came up missing. I think my snow shoes have thongs made of that hide and they are as good as when you made them.

Jarvis, you have been a good man all your life and though you may not realize it, useful and helpful to all men.

I send you my kindest regards and good wishes.

Sincerely,

Edward M. Anderson M.D.”



Louis Keck
(1863-1930)

According to JOURNAL & REPUBLICAN article that appeared in July 31, 1930 issue a search party of 12 men was beating the woods near Crooked lake searching for Louis Keck, 75. Later in the week 50 or more lumberjacks and others joined in the search. Keck had been missing for two weeks.

“The old guide, who has been staying at Keib’s sugar camp on the Fish creek road, set out alone two weeks ago Monday for Silver Mine camp, a distance of three miles. Monday it was learned that he had not arrived. The searching party discovered his trail through the woods and followed the tracks from a point near Crooked lake. The caretaker at Crooked lake said he had noticed the tracks a week ago, and that he had heard seven or eight shots fired in the woods about five days ago. Fisherman at Long pond said they heard a single shot fired Sunday night.” JOURNAL & REPUBLICAN November 6, 1930 issue states that “ the remains of Louis Keck, who has been missing since last July, were found on Monday, following a search which made on Sunday, after some hunters who were hunting in the section of Roaring brook, came upon a pack basket containing clothing and a pair of rubbers that Mr. Keck had worn when he started out on his ill-fated trip from Belfort. Sam Yousey, a member of the searching party, found the remains of Mr. Keck about 200 feet from where the basket and rubbers were found. The remains were brought to the Nortz undertakers parlors, where an inquest was held on Monday night.” The coroner’s verdict was that death was due to a possible heart attack or starvation and exposure. The funeral was held at St. Vincent de Paul’s church at Belfort with interment in the church’s cemetery.

DR. EDWARD M. ANDERSON
(1876-1961)

Who was Doctor Anderson who wrote the letter to Jarvis Tebido? In his obituary in the Fulton Patriot, dated May 25, 1961, it stated that Dr. Edward M. Anderson, 84, was among the oldest up-state physicians. He grew up in Auburn and Dr. Anderson practiced medicine in Fulton more than 50 years and served as public school physician 35 years resigning in 1948. He had served on the Board of Visitors at Rome State School 20 years and for eight years was president of the board. Dr. Anderson graduated from Williams College in 1900 and the University of Michigan medical school in 1904. He interned at Emergency Hospital, Buffalo and then established practice in Fulton. He had three daughters and one son.

He is buried in St. Vincent DePaul Cemetery, Belfort along with his wife Hazel R. Gardner Anderson (1885-1977) and Sarah Jean Anderson (1950-1968).

CHURCHES IN THE TOWN OF CROGHAN

Churches play an important part of our culture, heritage and social activity. At one time there were active churches in every hamlet and village in the Town of Croghan. In the Village of Croghan there was a Methodist Church and St. Stephens Church, which is still an active church. In the hamlet of Indian River there was a Methodist Church and a Catholic Church. In Jerden Falls, the Catholic church held services in the school house until the Catholic Church in Indian River was built. In the hamlet of Naumburg, there were several churches and today the Methodist Church, Naumburg Mennonite and Pine Grove Mennonite remain. In the hamlet of Beaver Falls, there is the Methodist Church, Salem Christian Fellowship Church and New Life Fellowship Church.. Today there is no active church in the hamlet of Belfort but at one time there was a Methodist Church and St. Vincent de Paul Roman Catholic Church.



Salem Evangelical Church, now known as Salem Christian Fellowship Church, is located in the hamlet of Beaver Falls. Behind the church is the cemetery. To the left of the picture is the former Tafel home which was torn down. The four spheres at the top of bell tower refer to the gospels--Mathew, Mark, Luke and John. The entry way to the church has changed. This picture would be circa 1950's.



St. Anthony of Padua Catholic Church is located in the hamlet of Indian River. The church was dedicated in July 1896. The church was sold August 1994 and is now a store. Just down the road was located the Methodist Episcopal Church, which burned. There is very little information about this church. Today there are no active churches in the hamlet. The residents go to churches located in the area.



The Methodist Church located in the hamlet of Naumburg. This picture is taken circa 1980's

Town of Croghan Historian's Office

Town of Croghan was formed April 5, 1841 from the Town of Diana and Town of Watson.

"History is the record of an encounter between character and circumstances." -- Donald Creighton, Canadian historian (1902-1979)

The Town of Croghan Historians Office is located at the Town of Croghan Municipal Office, 9882 State Route 126, Beaver Falls, New York. If you have any questions or additions to the articles in this newsletter, please feel free to contact us at our home phone:

(315) 346-6201

This and previous newsletters can also be downloaded from Town of Croghan web site:
www.townofcroghan.com

If there is a special topic you would like to see in a newsletter or if we have made an error, please let us know.

Thank you.

Mary and Jack Sweeney

From the Town of Croghan Historian's Desk

In this newsletter we have started looking at the churches not only through pictures but will be doing a brief history of them in future issues. The Historian's Office had an inquiry about the Methodist Church in Indian River. If anyone has information on this church, we would like to hear about as well as the owner of the land where the church stood. Also, if there was a picture of the church, it would be appreciated. This is one way of keeping history alive through pictures and what it was like.

Also, we have continued with the letter from Dr. Anderson. It is amazing what one can learn from a letter and how it leads to other questions. We again thank Kevin for sharing this letter with the Historian's Office. Who was Jockey Keck? We think that Louis Keck is the man in question and the perils of being lost in the woods. Being an Adirondack guide he must have experienced some beautiful as well as dangerous situations.

FROM THE FARMHOUSE KITCHEN will not appear in this article but will return in the next newsletter

We are beginning a brief history of the man who the Town of Croghan was named after. He led an interesting life. We are going to write about some of his exploits.

May you gain some appreciation for our Town's history, as well as history in general.