

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

The first Croghan Town Clerk was Abraham Fox.

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Highlighting Town of Croghan History

Volume 1, Issue 2

July-December 2009

Beech Ridge Murder continued

FARRINGTON'S APPREHENSION

After the murder of Patrick Burns, who had lived on the farm for 60 years, a search was made for the man who presumed to have murdered Burns. A loaded gun (the magazine contained 14 cartridges) was found near the Castorland passenger train station. The gun was identified by a hunting license issued to William Burns inserted in the stock. No one seemed to notice Farrington go from the Burns farm to Castorland. L.E. Beyer and Barney Ellis of Castorland stated that they saw a man boarding the 6:35 p.m. train for Utica. The man made a motion of throwing something from the train and the witnesses heard a noise of an object hitting the rails, which may have been the gun. The man's destination was New York City.

After several months, there was a lead in the capture of Roy Farrington. In the December 4, 1912 issue of the **CARTHAGE REPUBLICAN TRIBUNE** it states that the apprehension of Roy Farrington, alias Rene Quinette, alias Brodethers, suspected of the murder of Patrick Burns was made. He was found in Holyoke, Massachusetts. The police were led to Holyoke because William Burns, one of the sons of the victim, found a letter in a wood pile near the farmhouse where the murder was committed, addressed to a party in Holyoke, Massachusetts written by Farrington. When the information was received, a telegraph was immediately sent to the authorities in that city to be on the lookout for Farrington. The authorities in Holyoke captured Farrington and William Burns left for Massachusetts to identify the man. Farrington was brought to Lowville where he went on trial. A reward of \$500 was offered by the Burns family for the capture of the farmhand but it is expected that the amount of the reward will be deferred due to the fact that William, the son, furnished much of the information to apprehend Farrington.

FREE

THE TRIAL OF ROY FARRINGTON (Rene Brodeur)

Roy Farrington's real name was Rene Brodeur. He was charged with murder in the first degree in killing Patrick Burns on September 6, 1912. He was arraigned before Justice E. S. K. Merrell in Supreme Court, Lowville in December 1912. He entered a plea of not guilty. The newspaper article stated that he seemed perfectly at ease and familiar with the workings of a court. The reporter stated that as the district attorney read the indictment against Brodeur, "the latter smiled and curled his lip at some of the passages. He never was embarrassed at any moment."

Brodeur had a police record extending back eleven years. He was first arrested at the age of nine years and had been arrested for petty offenses since then. Brodeur was 20 years old and described as weighing about 125 pounds, five feet six inches tall and smooth faced. It is believed he is of French extraction.

The trial was held in February 1913 and was opened at a special term of Supreme Court at the Court House with Justice E. S. K. Merrell presiding. When Brodeur was taken to the Court House he was smoking and smiled almost continually, seemingly being in good spirits.

Court convened at 10 and the drawing of the jury began. Attorney Frank Bowman, for the prisoner, then announced that his client wished to change his plea of not guilty to guilty of a lesser crime. A conference was held with District Attorney Perry G. Williams and a plea of second degree murder was accepted.

When asked if he had anything to say before sentence was pronounced, Brodeur said that he wanted to be sentenced immediately. The court imposed a sentence of life imprisonment, which may be ended at the end of 20 years, providing his behavior is good. As Brodeur left the court room he asked for another cigar and with a smile on his face, he lighted it. He served time at Auburn.

Whatever happened to Brodeur? Did he spend the rest of his life in prison or was he released after 20 years? The answer to the questions will appear in the next newsletter.

Source: CARTHAGE REPUBLICAN TRIBUNE 1912 and 1913

PICTORIAL SECTION



Left - At one time hotels were located all over the town. This hotel was on Snipe Island, Naumburg. Little is known about this hotel except that it was called Island Hotel.

Right - Boarding house that was located at Jerden Falls - 1920.



Boarding House Jerden Falls N.Y. 1920

One Women's Story

When the men and women go to war, the family left behind tries to conduct family life the best they can. This is a story of one woman who went to work in the Town of Croghan during the Civil War. "When Henry Eugene Simmons enlisted in 1862 as a soldier in defense of the Union in Company D, Tenth New York Heavy Artillery for three years, he left behind a wife with four small children to care for. They had a farm in the Natural Bridge area that was near the Town of Croghan.

"Being proud, she was determined that she would receive no aid from the town, and went into the woods in the town of Croghan, where she peeled bark for tanning, and chopped wood, being aided by her eldest son, then eleven years of age. The absence of men in the Army made wages high, and she was able to earn more than a livelihood for herself and children. With the aid of the wages, which her husband sent home she purchased twenty-five acres of land, and when the soldier returned he found his family installed in a log house, which she had build on the place. This was replaced in time by a frame house and the property was subsequently sold."

(This article is from GENELOGICAL AND FAMILY HISTORY by the late R. Oakes, published 1905, pages 496-497.)

TOWN OF CROGHAN TIDBITS

The following are from Long Ago series of WATERTOWN DAILY TIMES:

May 27, 1864

Mr. Mundy of this village, bought on Friday 2,500 pounds of maple sugar at 18 cents per pound, which was just a wagon box even full of cakes about the size of a large tile. Two thousand trees in the Town of Croghan, Lewis County were tapped and made 8,000 pounds of sugar, which brought the owner \$1,440--a very respectable harvest for a few weeks' labor these times.

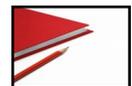
February 16, 1884

The new opera house at Croghan will be opened next Thursday night with a grand ball.

December 18, 1885

The saw mill owned by Louis V. Bisha, near the Oswegatchie River above Belfort, burned to the ground Tuesday.

Country School Corner



Country schools were located around the town where families settled. An article dated April 28, 1927, JOURNAL AND REPUBLICAN reports about the small number of children in two of the schools in the Town of Croghan.

"In school district No. 21-B, town of Croghan, known as the Peter Yousey district, Long Pond, three pupils are registered, all being children of Mr. Yousey. The school is conducted in a summer camp owned by Mr. Yousey. The teacher, Miss Grace Burke, boards in the home of Mr. Yousey, and up until just recently Mr. Yousey was the trustee of the district. At the present time John Lyndecker is the trustee. The ages of the children of the school are ten years, seven years and twelve years.

Another school of like nature is that of district 2, town of Croghan, where Jacob Kempney is trustee, and where the only children in the school, four in number, belong to Mr. Kempney, and the teacher, Mrs. Kathleen McDonald, boards in the Kempney home. Both of these schools twenty years ago were flourishing country schools, but due to the fact that the forests in this region have been cut away and the rural farms abandoned, there are few pupils."

Town of Croghan Historian's Office

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"While we read history we make
history." --George William Curtis,
American author-editor (1824-1892)

Town of Croghan was
established April 5, 1841
from the Town of Wat-
son and Town of Diana.

ARCHIVES DAY

The Town of Croghan Historian's Office, Town of
Croghan Municipal Office, Route 126, Beaver
Falls invites you to attend Archives Day on Sat-
urday, October 24, 2009 from 11:00 am to 4:00
pm. Stop by and see what is available. There
will be several displays, pictures and a slide
show. Everyone is invited to attend.

Mark your Calendar - October 24, 2009.

From the Town of Croghan Historian's Desk

This is the second newsletter from the Town of Croghan Historian's Office. Right now we plan to have two a year. The newsletters will be available at the Town of Croghan Municipal Office, Route 126, Beaver Falls, New York, Beaver Falls Library and Croghan Library.

This newsletter continues with the apprehension and trial of Roy Farrington or rather Rene Brodeur. Whatever happened to him will be revealed in the next newsletter.

Hotels and boarding houses were common in years past to accommodate those who came in this area to work and those traveling through. The boarding house at Jerden Falls no longer exists and the Island Hotel may have been converted to a home on Snipe Island as we have no proof of what happened at this time. There are many mysteries and unanswered questions in our history as there is a need to record events for posterity.

When men and women go to war, we often forget the hardships being faced by the families who stay at home as well as those serving their country. Through our family history stories we hear what happens. It could be trying to get food on the table for the family to eat, running the farm, the elements of weather, wild life in the area, etc. If you have any stories to share, please feel free to let us know so that they can be recorded and placed in the Town of Croghan Historian's file for future generations to read about. Their stories need to be preserved.

Country School Corner will appear in future newsletters recording some of the happenings that occurred.

Congratulations to Carthage Rod and Gun Club for observing 100 years of existence this year!

If you have any additions, comments or suggestions for future articles, please feel free to call (315) 346-6201 or email (jsweeney@ridgeviewtel.us). If you would like to visit the Historian's Office, please call for a time that is convenient for everyone. Thank you.

Enjoy living tomorrow's history today!

Jack and Mary Sweeney
