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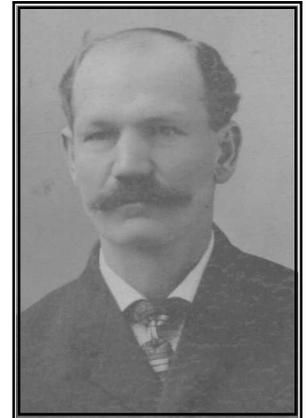- Long Pond
- Prussian Settlement
- Sisterfield

Inside this issue:

Mark your calendar!
Archives Day
October 9, 2010
11:00 am - 4:00 pm
Town of Croghan Municipal Office's Meeting Room

HIGHLIGHTING TOWN OF CROGHAN HISTORY

Respected Man of the Town and County

A respected man of the Town of Croghan and Lewis County was Clarence E. Putman, son of Aaron J.D. Putman and Margaret Smith Putman. He was born at Bent Settlement (now known as Indian River) on August 31, 1860. The family lived a short time in New Bremen but moved back to Indian River in 1867. Clarence attended school in New Bremen for a short time and then attended school in the Indian River school district.

At the age of 19, Clarence went to work for Theodore Brant (Brandt) to learn the carpenter trade. He was paid $19 a month. He worked there for about one and a half years and then went to work as a builder and contractor.

Clarence E. Putman

On November 1, 1890 Mr. Putman was employed by the Beaver River Lumber Company as general woods foreman. In 1897, he became general woods foreman for the Carthage Lumber Company that operated a large saw mill at Carthage. He remained with them until they finished operations in 1910. In the spring of 1906, Mr. Putman took over the management of the sash and blind factory at Lowville, then owned by Frank Monnat, and remained there one year.

In the fall of 1899 he was elected supervisor of the Town of Croghan and he held this office from 1900 to 1908. He resigned April 2, 1909 and was appointed Lewis County Superintendent of Highways, a position he held for twelve years. In June 1922, he was elected county president of the old Dairymen's League of Lewis County Dairymen's League, Inc., a position held until other business prevented him from serving longer.

In the spring of 1938 he was appointed assessor of the town of Croghan, a position he held for twelve years and the last ten years as chairman of the board.

Clarence Putman also worked with Mr. Brownell and with his

Country School Corner

In this newsletter we will be briefly highlighting the country school located on the Beartown Road, District No. 13. This country school was located in the Carthage School District.

The Beartown Schoolhouse is located on the Beartown Road. At the rear of the school is a large swamp. At one time the area was dotted with homes and small farms, enough school-age children to warrant a creation of a school district. By order of Wayne Clark, school commissioner, a district was formed on May 19, 1862 and was given the number 11. This was changed to 13 in 1869. The first schoolhouse was of log construction and was located across the road from the present building.

Beartown School

The old log cabin burned down and a new building-the present one-was constructed. The new school was built on the lands of Frank Breezee, but he never gave the district a deed to the lot. Drinking water was obtained from a spring nearby. A woodshed was built on the rear of the schoolhouse. Every year the young men of the community watched for the arrival of the new teacher with interest, particularly if she came from outside the bounds of their known territory. If she was young and pretty, these fellows would suddenly have a revival of interest in their education. The situation became desperate one year when pupils as old as 22 were attending. The trustees finally managed to have them barred from attending, so that the teacher could spend the proper amount of time with the younger children.

The Texas Road School District 23 (which was mentioned in the last newsletter) was dissolved in 1937 and part of it was annexed to District No. 13 This did not add, however, the one thing that the Beartown School needed most, pupils. It had been slowly dying from the lack of pupils for several years, and finally in 1938-39 there was only one left - Robert Breezee, the last one to attend the Beartown School. The school was never closed; rather it did not operate because there were no pupils to attend. This status was maintained until the time of centralization in 1954.

Teachers before 1914: Hazel Kelly, Jeannette Stevens, Etta Stevens, Miss Gonya, Calvin Turner, Katherine Turner, Hattie M. Clearwater, Flora Copp, Lizzie Branagan, and Anna Murray

The roll of teachers beginning in 1914: 1914-15 Hazel Ramsey; 1916-17 Ruby Canfield; 1917-18 Emma S. Peck; 1918-19 Vera M. Johnston; 1919-20 Vada Carncross; 1920-22 Lena Belcher; 1922-24 Estelle Clark; 1924-25 Monica Whitford; 1925-27 Clarice Gates; 1927-28 Mercedes Shampine, Florence Arnold; 1928-29 Clarice Gates; 1929-30 Doris Seeley; 1930-31 Inez M. Rowley; 1931-32 Alice Young, Frances Walker; 1932-33 Marion Leonard; 1933-35 Doris Johnson; 1935-39 Ruth Ryan.

Beartown Country School has been a school and a home but today is slowly succumbing to natural causes. Eventually it will be a memory to those who remember District No. 13.

(Source: Thirty-Two into One; The Schools that Became the Carthage Central School District.)

From the Farmhouse Kitchen

On those hot, hazy, humid summer days, the men cutting, raking and putting hay in the barn worked hard. The women made sure that the men had something to drink to quench their thirst. It could be cold water from the spring or well, lemonade or switchel, which is also known as haymaker's drink. The recipes for switchel vary but this is one recipe:

Switchel

1/2 cup vinegar   1 tablespoon molasses   4 tablespoons sugar

1 1/2 quarts water   1 tsp. ground ginger.

Mix well. Serve cold.

Some recipes call for raw eggs to be added to the switchel mixture but today it is not advisable due to salmonella. This recipe has been replaced by soft drink, Gatorade, Vitamin Water, etc.

(If you have an old recipe you would like to share in this section, please let us know.)

1909 Road Report for Town of Croghan

In the first annual report of C.E. Putman, County Superintendent of Highways of Lewis County, he included the individual reports from the towns. The Town of Croghan report is as follows:

"The town raised $2,991.88 for highway purposes and received $2,692.69 state aid, which was insufficient. The town Superintendent's estimate calls for $4,200, that will entitle the town to $4,200 state aid.

There were four bridges built this season, all with concrete abutments and concrete floors. There were several concrete sluices built, and about 2 1/4 miles of stone road built, which is very good. The voids in the firsts and seconds being filled with coarse sand and rolled. There are 168 2-16 miles of road in the town. The brush is nearly all cut." (Source: JOURNAL AND REPUBLICAN, December 9, 1909)

Note: Today there are approximately 120 miles of road in the Town of Croghan. Throughout the years roads have been abandoned due to no one living on them. Some of the roads would be Steam Mill Road, Mount Tom Road, part of the Branagan Road, etc.

PICTORIAL HIGHLIGHTS

Basselin Cemetery , Croghan, New York.

The cemetery is sandwiched between the former E.M. Marilley Store and the old Opera House, now home to the Croghan Free Library on Main Street. The Basselin Cemetery is a private cemetery. Those buried there are:

Anna Basselin 1824-1900

Dominque Basselin 1825-1862

Florence Ager Basselin 1871-1906

Theodore B. Basselin 1851-1914

L. Rouchel 1845-1922

Mary A. Rouchell 1816-1893.

According to a 1939 article in the BLACK RIVER DEMOCRAT, this plot was the old Catholic Cemetery until the land of the Croghan-Belfort road was purchased, which is now St. Stephen's Cemetery. The bodies from the old cemetery were taken to be buried in the present St. Stephen's Cemetery.

In 1881, when the new church of St. Stephen's parish was erected, the late Hon. T. B. Basselin purchased the old church and adjoining cemetery ground. It is now where the library and Basselin's private cemetery is located.

PICTORIAL HIGHLIGHTS

Two views of St. Stephen's Church, Croghan, New York. The date of the pictures are unknown.

ST. STEPHENS CHURCH CROGHAN, N.Y.

Town of Croghan Historian, Jack Sweeney

Deputy Town of Croghan Historian, Mary Sweeney

History is always repeating itself, but each time the price goes up.-- Anonymous.

The Town of Croghan Historian's Office is located at the Town of Croghan Municipal Office, 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 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 a special topic you would like to see in this newsletter or if we have made an error, please let us know. Thank you.

Respected Man of the Town and County cont.

son, James, and with S.S. Snell, a civil engineer of Lowville as a surveyor. He surveyed or re-established lines around at least 50,000 acres of land in the town of Croghan and has done work in many other towns in Lewis county, besides considerable work in Herkimer, Jefferson and St. Lawrence counties.

Clarence Putman died in March 1954 at the age of 94 leaving a legacy to his family, community, county and state. He certainly was a respected man in his time.

ARCHIVES DAY

WHEN: Saturday, October 9, 2010

WHERE: Town of Croghan Meeting Room

9882 State Route 126, Beaver Falls, NY

TIME: 11:00 am - 4:00 pm

WHAT: There will be a display on Beaver Falls, part of which will be shown at the Beaver Falls Olde Tyme Day, August 14, 2010. There will also be other displays.

Everyone is invited to attend.