

NNHS NEWS LETTER

Northville Northampton Historical Society

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Editor
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URANIUM IN NORTHVILLE ? MAYBE

MUSEUM

The 2022 season for the museum closes the end of October.

As usual we had visitors from all over the United States and some foreign countries. Over 400 visitors were amazed at the history of our little town and village.

Our faithful museum guides, Gloria, Linda, and Skip never missed a beat. We trained a new guide that will be a full time guide next year.

New articles were added to our collection. Be sure and visit us next summer.

Search for Uranium Spreads Out Upstate

Prospectors Lured From Distant Areas; Hunters Cover All Roads and Byways

By **SHIRLEY ARMSTRONG** 1955
Times-Union Staff Writer

Excitement mounted yesterday in the Adirondack foothill region of Sacandaga Reservoir, where a uranium strike has roused hopes of fame and fortune, as the search for the precious ore fanned out over a 25-mile radius in Fulton County and stretched eager fingers toward neighboring counties of Northern New York.

The influx of amateur prospectors from as far distant as New York City continued, the tick of geiger counters was practically audible in the sultry air, and while there was no stampede for the nearest claim office, a spirit of competition began to assert itself.

Lending added credence to the theory that the discovery may lead to commercial uranium mining in the state was the arrival of a Canadian Mining Company president. He was reported to have flown to the area yesterday to survey the situation by personal observation.

The Sunday search for wealth in "them thar hills" began at the crack of dawn in Northville and neighboring communities of the resort area, which awoke from its Winter hiber-

nation about two weeks earlier than usual this year. The more ardent prospectors among area natives and ambitious out-of-towners set forth about 5 A. M., pausing to fortify themselves with breakfast in neighborhood diners, such as the Sugar Bowl restaurant in the center of Northville.

SWAP STORIES

There, for the second consecutive morning, wee-small-hours business boomed as hordes of jean-clad, booted men descended to read The Times-Union's most recent account of developments and swap stories of their own progress the day before. There was, incidentally, an indication of wariness as discussions showed a marked reluctance to specify locations

As the morning wore on a general exodus into the mountains surrounding the village was apparent. The search was not concentrated in any particular spot. Here and there a car or jeep could be seen struggling along a tiny, one-lane dirt road leading, perhaps to nowhere, perhaps to the coveted "big payoff."

"These little roads have been luring quite a few folks in the past couple of weeks," said Bob Tremblay, proprietor of a bait store in Northville and himself a hopeful prospector. "One fellow drove so far into a muddy road that his car sank in up to the hubcaps, but that didn't bother him. He just picked up his geiger counter and wandered across the field. Probably some farmer pulled the car out later."

FARRELL LAND HAS URANIUM

Geiger Counter Tests Prove Successful

By C. R. ROSEBERRY
Times-Union Staff Writer

It appears that Anthony B. Farrell, the millionaire "angel" of Broadway, former Albany industrialist, could add uranium mining to his interests if he so

The Sacandaga uranium deposits have showed up on Farrell's private wilderness preserve, "Akwissasne", located on

a mountainside above the reservoir in the Town of Edinburg, Saratoga County. His domain between 15,000 and 20,000 acres is adjacent to the recent discoveries of Zuilo, McDonnell and Lavery.

Geiger-counter exploration definitely proved the existence of uranium on the Farrell property, according to Robert MacArthur, general manager of the Ramsey Chain Co. in Manhattan, one of the many companies, of which Farrell is president and treasurer.

ELABORATE LODGE

Farrell maintains an elaborate lodge on "Akwissasne", where he relaxes away from his New York theatrical activities. He was there last weekend looking over his uranium possibilities.

Close associates say that Farrell is more interested in maintaining the wild and unspoiled character of his Adirondack domain than in developing the uranium, but that he is keeping an eye on what happens to the neighboring "strike", and has an open mind as to its possible utilization. He is permitting a lumbering operation at the present time on the property, as a forest-management measure.

Farrell bought up the tract some 25 years ago, and picked its name, "Akwissasne", by doing some library research into Indian words. The name means "place where the partridge drums".

In 2005, Jim Kinney of the *Saratogian* interviewed William Kelly, state geologist and chief of the New York State Geological Survey, who said the reason all the mining ventures ultimately failed is the same reason there's no danger from what's in the ground: there are no large deposits, and the ore "is only about 1 percent uranium." *Saratogian*

The Department of Interior's county-by-county assessment, 2018, said there were no "known large uranium deposits in the Adirondacks." On the possibility that extensive, undiscovered ore beds existed, their conclusion was, "... anomalously high concentrations of uranium are found in pegmatites and in magnetite deposits in the Adirondacks.... It may be that the small uranium occurrences are indicative of vein-type or strata-bound uranium concentrations at depth. It is thought, however, that there is a lack of large uranium concentrations in the Adirondacks." *Adirondack Almanac 2018*

Northville Tid-Bits

ALPINE INN, 10-rm. hotel for sale, open year round, bar and dining room, doing good business. On Route 30, between Northville and Wells. Owner would like to go back to Florida to live. Northville 222-W-2. 1954

NORTHVILLE, N. Y.—For Sale—Barbershop, complete. \$1,100. Tourist 3 cottages and 12 acres land. Many others. Contact H. 10-R. Home, \$20,000. Wheeler, Northville 1954

NORTHVILLE, modern camp on lake near Northville; large trees; bathing beach; boat dock; 2 bedrooms; screened porch; furnished; large lot; tool house. Quick sale, \$10,000 terms. Tracy H. Howard, Northville. 1964

L. O. Murphy left the first of the week for Northville, where he will be in the employ of Palmer and Allen as an apprentice to the trade of plumber, 1904

The Big House Behind the Hedges

by Patsy Graff Suydam

I grew up in Northville, on the “Little Lake.” A few houses away there was a home with high hedges, beautiful lawns, sculpted landscaping, and a clay tennis court. The house today doesn’t reflect its former grandeur. It belonged to Mrs. Grace Brownell Rogers, who later became Mrs. Grace Brownell Felter. She was my childhood friend.



Grace Rogers must have been close to 60 when I knew her. Slender, with up-swept hair, she was glamorous, welcoming, and generous. I liked walking with her as she strolled down the lawn to the lake where there was a large weeping willow. She would be wearing an elegant afternoon dress and in high heels. As we walked down the lawn to the lake, she held a silk parasol over her head.

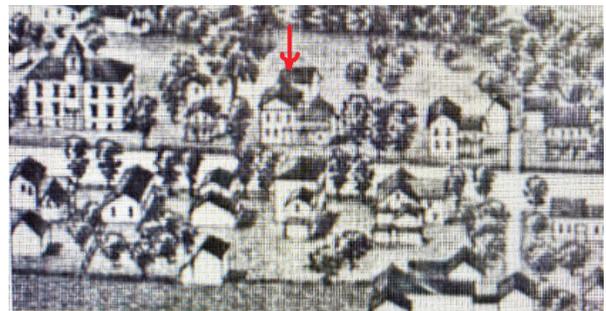
In the house I was drawn to a miniature, colorfully plumed bird that popped out singing from a gold music box. I can still picture it on the grand piano. Everything in the home was, in a word, grand.

I recently had occasion to recall Grace Rogers. My recollections were memories from childhood, so I decided to learn more about her.

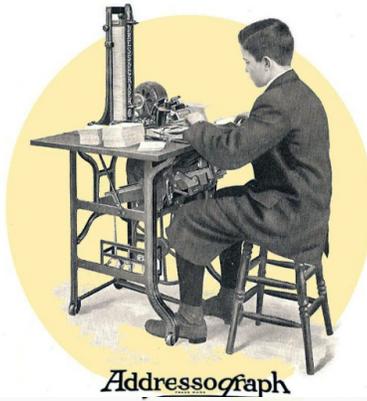
Grace Marion Brownell was born in 1892, a daughter of Edinburg residents Isaac, and Jennie Brownell. Isaac operated the Northville Hotel in the early part of the 20th century.

Newspapers from that time indicate that the Northville Hotel could be a raucous place. I read accounts of fights, guns, shootings, and the death of one patron who expired after consuming 27 glasses of alcohol. Imagine the counting. That didn’t sound at all like a place for the Mrs. Rogers I knew.

I learned that Grace Brownell lived in New York City and made several trips to Europe in her 20’s. In 1922, she married a Canadian, Joseph Egerton Rogers. The Rogers purchased the property for their Northville home in 1928 adding more parcels in subsequent years. A smaller house, constructed in 1860, was originally on the site. It is shown in an 1890 lithograph. The village school is at the left.



Between 1930 and 1940 improvements were made which doubled the home’s size. The original 1860 home became the left wing of the new home. Now there were two wings, three massive chimneys and five marble fireplaces. A garage was built to house a Rolls Royce, and there was an equally stylish apartment above. They also built a home next to them, a smaller version of their own home. In 2008 the Felter house was determined eligible for Designated Landmark and National Register status.



Addressograph

In fifteen seconds the Addressograph is ready for use. With both hands free for feeding, the operator can easily print fifty to sixty typewritten addresses per minute, 3,000 per hour, each address neat, business-like and positively accurate.

Joseph Rogers became president of Addressograph-Multigraph Corporation in 1924. The Addressograph was a simple machine that enabled the user to address envelopes, cards, statements, payroll forms; anything and everything, while maintaining an average rate of 3,000 an hour. For decades it was the standard machine for imprinting military dog tags.

The device was revolutionary. Instead of hand-printed addresses, mass mailings from Sears catalogs to political flyers, could be handled with efficiency. A less desirable consequence was that it created an avenue for junk mail. It also made millions of dollars.

When Grace died in 1969 the bulk of her estate consisted of 137,422 shares of Addressograph-Multigraph stock which, at the time, was valued at \$9.8 million.

Today that might be about \$80 million.

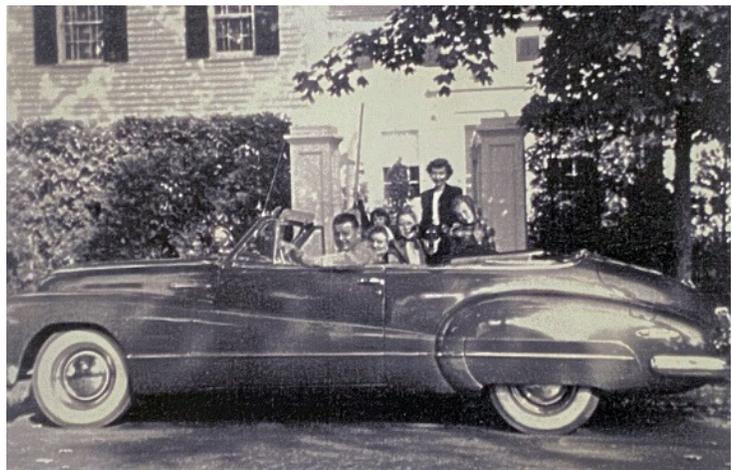
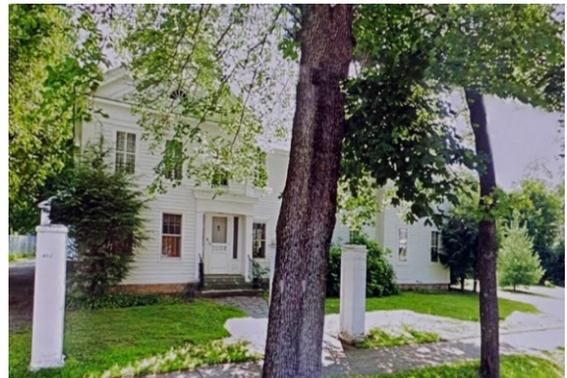
The house went to her husband, Ray Felter, who died 6 months after Grace. The color photo is of the home as it looks today. The black and white photo was taken in front of the home next to the Rogers, and shows my family, neighbor Beverly Weir, and our beloved dog all in our new Buick convertible. Standing is homeowner Jean Connelly and daughter Jill. Years ago, the hedges were a continuous line in front of both homes. Many owners later all hedges are gone, and I think some of the special aura as well.

Grace created a foundation which gave \$10,000 annually to Littauer Hospital, Johnstown Hospital, and Bassett Hospital in Cooperstown. Her giving also funded a wide array of academic scholarships.

Part of her estate was left to FMCC, endowing scholarships that are even now being awarded. The college has said that the endowment created by the Grace Felter foundation is still "very healthy." The portrait of her in this article hangs in the FMCC Administrative Services Board Room.

At Grace's death, a Leader-Herald editorial opinion wrote:

Residents of the Tri-County Area, and undoubtedly for a sector much larger in size, owe a debt of gratitude to Mrs. Grace Brownell Felter, who died last week, and to her surviving husband, Raymond, for their contributions to humanity over a period of years.



More generosity of this nature is needed during these troubled times.