

NNHS NEWS LETTER

Northville Northampton Historical Society

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Editor
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OSBORN'S BRIDGE

(Also sometimes spelled Osborne or Osborn Bridge)

According to "History of Fulton County" (1892) by Washington Frothingham and F. W. Beers "History of Montgomery/Fulton Co. (1878) the area was named Osborn's Bridge .

Where is it, or where was it?

Before the Great Sacandaga Lake came about through the flooding of the valley and construction of the Conklingville Dam, there were a number of small communities that were soon to be inundated by the flooding waters. Osborn's Bridge was one of these communities. It was located about half way between Northville and Fish House. Today many boaters pass by it and don't have any idea that there once existed a beautiful village, housing many people, a general store, 2 blacksmiths, a church, a schoolhouse, chair factory, post office, meat market, hop-raising, cooperage, and a wagon and sleigh making shop. There were big farms raising corn, barley and wheat. There was a 25 acre stand of butternut trees and of course cows grazing in the meadows.

The first inhabitants were of course Indians. The settlement was made shortly after the close of the Revolutionary War by a few New Englanders prior to the year 1800. Abram Denton and Calvin Osborn were the principal men who settled there and owned much of the land. They became very prominent in the community.

Osborn built a temporary floating bridge over the river where they had been fording the river, he named it Osborn's Bridge, thus the name of the community got it's name.

In 1830, John Patterson moved there from Kinderhook. He built the first store in the hamlet. In 1840 he built the covered, wooden bridge that stood until the valley was lost to the building of the dam at Conklingville.

This section of the country was also noted for the large lumbering business. A tiny steamboat plied up and down the river carrying loads of bark. Logs were floated down past the village toward the pulp mills, which employed river drivers and other lumberman jobs.



Bridge across Sacandaga River at Osborn Bridge, N.Y.

MUSEUM NOTES

Another successful year/summer at the museum. We are now closing it up. Many items have been stored away to be saved from "critters". The shutters are now closed. The poster display will be brought inside the Municipal building to keep it from getting moisture between each poster. Hopefully this winter more posters will be constructed to add to the already historical pictures and information .

Other names associated with Osborn's Bridge were: The first settlers being Shoecraft, Coleman, Foote, Scribner, King, Meade, Brown, Esseltynne and a few others.

Zina Cook a prosperous man who was a lumberman, trapper, butcher, and owner of a beautiful large house. (owned later by Frank Langr.. See picture)

John Flynn and James Van Ness: Lawyers

Seth Cook, general store
G. H. Wilbur owner of the general store after Cook.

Frank Langr; Butcher/meat and poultry distributor.



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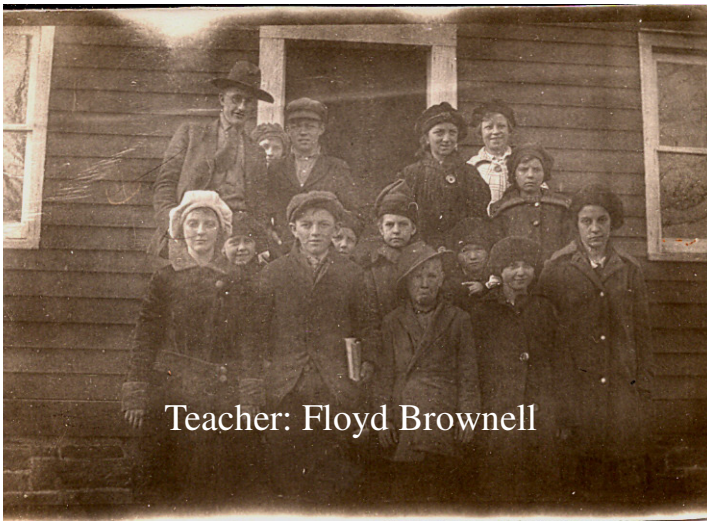
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WILBUR E. FLINN,

Manufacturer of the

Steinbach Rocking, Rolling and Reclining Chair.



Teacher: Floyd Brownell



House first owned by Zina Cook then later by Frank Langr. You can find bricks from the chimney of this house today when the water is low enough.



OSBORN'S BRIDGE TODAY



Today many people travel out to where the little village once stood. Some arrive by 4 wheelers, some by 4 wheel drive truck, and some stop by on their boat. I have kayaked out there. You will find old stone walls, stone foundations, old bricks, and odds and ends of broken pottery, hinges, maybe part of a shoe, etc. The water from the Sacandaga must be very low to drive out there.

1868 map

1868 map

Northville Chamber Backs Brownell in Bid For Horseshoe Championship

Tommy Brownell's worries over financing another bid at the world championship in horseshoe pitching are over.

Yesterday he was informed by the Northville Chamber of Commerce that they will sponsor his trip to the championships to be held in Salt Lake City, Utah, Aug. 13 through 21.

Several factors entered into the desire of the Northville business group to defray the estimated \$350 expense involved.

First, Northville is a town of sportsmen.

Secondly, Northville is gratified that Tommy put on a demonstration at the community's 75th anniversary last year.

Thirdly, Tommy is no stranger to the community as he has relatives there.

Naturally, the 26-year-old former state champion is happy that he now can make the trip. He feels more than ever, now, that this is "my year."

In the 1946 national tourney, Brownell finished 11th. The next year he was ninth, and last Summer was fifth. In his bid last year he defeated the national champ in a match, and two other former champions, but lost ground against weaker opponents.

And if Tommy succeeds in August, it is a good bet that his first exhibition will be for his friends in Northville.



MRS. GRACE GRANT

Did you know that through the efforts of Mrs. Grant, when the NCS was built in 1933, the auditorium was built separately from the gymnasium? She made a trip to Vestal NY high school where they had a separate auditorium and made the recommendation to the North-

Aug 19 1972 Mrs. Grant, Northville, Dies at 98

NORTHVILLE — Mrs. Grace T. Grant, 98, prominent in the civic and educational affairs of Northville for many years, died yesterday afternoon at her Bridge Street home, Northville. She was the widow of Dr. J. Edward Grant.

She was born in Bat-chellerville on Nov. 18, 1873, a daughter of David A. Torrey and Mary Gillespie Torrey.

After receiving her education she taught for several years in Patchogue, L.I., and New York City. She had resided in Northville since 1908.

Mrs. Grant served four terms totaling 15 years on the Northville board of education and was on the board when the present Northville Central School was erected.

She was a past vice president of the New York State Congress of Parents and Teachers. In Northville, she served as chairman of the Red Cross effort in the village for many years.

During World War I and World War 2 she headed the sale of war bonds in the area and was cited by the federal government for her efforts.

She also served on the board of directors of the Fulton County Children's Committee for many years. Mrs. Grant was a past matron and life member of Juanita chapter, Order of the Eastern Star at Northville. She was a member of the United Presbyterian Church at Northville.

Her husband died March 13, 1955.

Survivors include two daughters, Mrs. Mary G. Abrams of Ft. Lauderdale, Fla., and Mrs. Helen G. Backus of Buffalo, also three grandchildren and nine grandchildren.

COMMENTS ON THE OCTOBER ISSUE

Re: Van Arnam's Garage and John Gifford

Hi, another great issue. I remember my grandmother Mrs. Winne taking her car to the garage (Van Arnams) when I was little. Those guys always took good care of her dark green 1952 Chevy Bel Air 4 Dr. Sedan and it always got us where we needed to go. We used to get our gas there and they used to put on snow tires for her every year.

I remember John and Mary Gifford very well. They lived next door to my grandmother. John used to cut my grandmothers fields and deliver firewood at the big house down in Gifford's Valley. We'd ride on the tractor and help pile hay on the truck to haul off. John did lots of handyman chores for my grandmother and Mary cooked for her and took care of things around the house for all of us when we visited in the summer. Fine people! My grandmother could not have done what she needed to do to keep the place up so she relied heavily on them. Great memories of years past.

Yeah, too bad the garage had to go but it had served its purpose for many years. My Dad, Warren Meter and his family used them as well when he was growing up there.

Mel Meter

Thanks for another great newsletter and all the memories. Our family of 4 (Norma, Shod, Roxy and me) lived in the upstairs apartment for 10 years at Van Arnam's Garage. (1950 - 1960). My Dad "Shod" Harold Smith, worked in the garage so it was fun as a kid being involved or should I say "allowed" to be around the busy place. Getting to ride in the tow truck with my Dad was great. If it wasn't for the gas customers at the garage our "lemonade" stand with Mike and Carol Scheer across the street in front of Lawton's grocery store would have never existed. Again thanks for the memories.

Mark Smith



Sam's Popcorn Wagon. NNHS may be able to purchase this. We have been talking to the owner. We are patiently waiting for the owner to decide if she wants to sell for sure.