

Schenectady County Historical Society Newsletter

Volume 34 - Number 7-8 - March-April 1998

32 Washington Avenue, Schenectady, New York 12305, (518) 374-0263

FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK - Bob Sager

I am happy to report that our increase in dues has helped close our budget gap. The recent drive to match the state grant for the Mabee Farm was also a big success. Thanks, all of you who helped in this effort. Next we need to erect our two Dutch barns; that will require substantial funding.

This spring the museum will have a World War I and World War II exhibit; our April meeting will also carry on this theme. Mrs. Maddaus reports that we lack books on both these wars, particularly World War I, so contributions would be welcome.

Recently the contents of my great aunt Minnie Putman's house were dispersed after the family had lived there for 90 plus years. Grandson George Putman contacted me to report that in a cedar chest in the basement there was a WWI Army uniform that he understood was my father's. I presented the uniform to Mrs. Mordecai and you may see it in our exhibit, moth holes and all. Jo cleaned out the pockets and pulled out a June 27, 1919 program of the exercises held at Bellevue Reformed Church for returning service men. I'll bet that Pop wore his uniform to the exercises, stuck the program in his pocket and never wore the uniform again -- so there it reposed for nearly 80 years.

We still need volunteers -- docents and library assistants. Don't be shy.

The auxiliary continues to be an active group with about 130 members. They have monthly programs with speakers and good attendance. Any member of the society may become a member of the auxiliary for a small additional amount.

Attendance has been good at our regular monthly meetings but there's room more more and we'd love to see you. My thanks to staff, volunteers, board members and all of you who make our society the big success it is these days.

Come on down any time.

- Bob Sager -

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Saturday, March 14, 1998

1:30 Refreshments

2:00 Program: Broommaking

Tuesday, March 17, 1998

7:30 PM

Board of Trustees Meeting

Wednesday, March 25

1:15 PM

Auxiliary Program: Kenya

Presenter: Frederick Grimm

Saturday, April 18, 1998

(Note change of regular date)

1:30 PM Refreshments

2:00 Program:

World War II Recollected

Presenter: Panel of Members

Tuesday, April 21, 1998

7:30 PM

Board of Trustees Meeting

Wednesday, April 22

1:15 PM

Auxiliary Program: Stories of Yesteryear

Presenter: Larry Hart

Society Hours - Monday-Friday 1:00 to 5:00 PM, Second Saturday each month 9:00 AM to 1:00 PM

Tours by appointment

Phone (518) 374-0263

The Newsletter is published six times a year. Deadlines are the second Monday of June, August, October, December, February, and April. Please submit material as early as possible.

PROGRAM

March 14

Before there was Alco, before there was General Electric, before Thomas Edison was even born, there were brooms. Brooms, an ancient technology, predate recorded history. And Schenectady was noted far and wide for its broom manufactory. This was due in great measure to the Schenectady area being ideal for the growing of broom corn. So it is altogether fitting that we have a program on broommaking - an interactive program, at that. So come and join in this very different program.

April 18

(Note date change; our regular date would have been the day before Easter when many of us go out of town to join relatives for the holiday.)

Recollections of World War II. This program is a must. Many members of the Society remember living through World War II, either as a participant or as a child. A number of members of the Society plus a couple of community people will share their experiences with us, some as actual combatants, others as active support on the Home front. If you have pictures or objects to share, bring them along. Jo Mordecai is creating an exhibit to highlight this theme. Don't miss it.

MUSEUM NEWS

Jo Morecai, Coordinator of Exhibits

WORLD WARS I AND II

The exhibit for March, April and May will feature all aspects of the two wars. I am interested in displaying all kinds of souvenirs: gas ration coupons, saving bonds, Nazi and Japanese artifacts, etc. Also I would appreciate it

if I could borrow photographs of members or their loved ones in their uniforms - both wars if possible. Looking for Army, Navy, Air Corps, Marines, Nurses, Doctors, Coast Guards, etc. Please contact Jo Mordecai, Coordinator, 374-0263

FROM YOUR HOUSE TO OUR HOUSE

Donor: Robert Sager -- A World War I American Army uniform; heavy overcoat, shirt, laced breeches and jacket. All belonged to the Putman family.

Donor: Betty Lou Phillips -- A bottle of liniment from the Lange and Rapp Pharmacy - 639 State Street. Labeled "Poison".

Donor: Alicia Hermance -- An unusual pitcher of Dutch origin, about 213 years old, bronze lustre. Belonged to Alice Antiek Kannelje

Donor: Wayne Harvey -- Three Colonial costumes to be used by staff for tours -- made by Wayne's mother, Mrs. Margaret Gokay; also two vacuum cleaners: Sears Roebuck and Electrolux, circa 1920

COOKIES!

Grandma Kinum's Dutch New Year's Cakes or Cookies

Mrs. Mary Scheible, a member of our auxiliary recently gave me her grandmother's cherished recipe for Dutch holiday treats. Her grandmother, Mrs. Andrew Kinum, nee Mary Fagel, came to Schenectady from Hille, Germany, with her family around 1871 when she was 17. She worked for the Van Slyck family until she married Andrew Kinum, in 1875. All through her married life she baked these New Year "cakes" using Dutch wooden cookie molds like those in our collection (we even have one made by Christopher Yates!).

Next Christmas I hope to make the cookies to be sampled by the schoolchildren who visit us during the holidays. Thank you, Mary Scheible, for sharing part of your heritage.

Grandma Kinum's New Year Cookies

(Half Recipe)

3/4 lb. lard (not vegetable shortening)

3/4 lb. butter (not sweet butter)

2 lb. confectioner's sugar, sifted

2 tsp. soda

2 1/2 qts. all-purpose flour, sifted

1 1/4 - 1 1/2 c. ice water

1/2 tsp. salt

Cream lard and butter together; cream in the sugar and salt. Dissolve the soda in 1 cup of the water. Soda dissolves better in warm water, so use some of the cup as warm, then chill with ice to make 1 cup. Add flour and the water-soda mixture alternately to the creamed mixture. Add as little water as possible - this is a judgment call. Dough will be fairly stiff, like bread dough. Chill overnight in the refrigerator until ready to roll out the cookies. Dough will keep for a week or more.

Flour a pastry cloth and the cloth sleeve of a rolling pin well. Break off just enough chilled dough to roll out once. Roll to about one millimeter in thickness, cut into seasonal shapes and place on an ungreased cookie sheet. Return leavings from the cutting board back to the refrigerator to chill thoroughly before rolling again. Decorate

the cookies with colored sugar.

Bake 6 minutes at 350 degrees F. Rotate cookie sheet after 3 minutes to ensure uniform brownness. Cookies rise to about 1 1/2 millimeters.

Note: For decorating cookies buy from a health food store turbinado sugar or parl sugar (German or Scandinavian). This is large-grained granulated sugar. Color with your own food coloring.

[AD]

A Schenectady Reprint

A HISTORY OF THE SCHENECTADY PATENT IN THE DUTCH AND ENGLISH TIMES; BEING CONTRIBUTIONS TOWARD A HISTORY OF THE LOWER MOHAWK VALLEY

By Prof. Jonathan Pearson, A. M. Albany, 1883

Hardcover - \$54.00, softcover - \$44.00, s & h included

Schenectady County Historical Society

32 Washington Ave., Schenectady, NY 12305

[end AD]

THE MABEE FARM [picture]

John van Schaick

The year-end Jan Mabee Farm fund drive slightly exceeded its goal of \$25,000. Here's how it happened.

An anonymous donor had pledged \$5,000 to be matched dollar-for-dollar by donors, both dollars to be matched one for one by the State Parks Department grant. What a way to expand a charitable gift!

As the money began to come in, George Franchere, the previous owner of the property and its donor, volunteered to put up an additional \$5,000 to match further contributions. By the end of January here's how things stood.

Cash received and in hand: \$12,107.

Matching money in hand: \$10,000.

Pledges (including GE match): \$ 5,137.

TOTAL: \$27,244.

By any measure, that's over the top! Special thanks to the Coggeshalls, \$1,500; K. Rozendaal, \$1,000; C. Kindl, \$1,000; A. Bull, \$963 (in stock); Trustco Bank, \$1,000; and J. Widdemer, \$500. And thanks again to all who gave generously in lesser amounts. We all count.

With the success of the fund drive we completed the contracts with John G. Waite Associates, a nationally known firm of preservation architects based in Albany, to produce an Historic Structure Report. The contract price of \$15,000 is only possible because Rob Petito, Jr., a member of the firm and a member of the Mabee Farm Committee, has agreed to volunteer his time. Otherwise, the Society's cost would have been double that agreed to.

The success of the fund drive also made it possible to contract further with Waite Associates to perform a paint

chip study of all three buildings, a necessary preliminary which is covered 50% by the State Parks Department grant. Now the work of planning continues until the spring.

NEW HISTORIAN

Scott Haefner, formerly our junior archivist, has been appointed Historian of the Town of Rotterdam. His office is at the Jan Mabee Farm and he may be reached there at 887-5073.

THANK YOU!

Thank you to Bill Milton for all his extra time checking us out on the new computer (not to mention his efforts to help us get it in the first place).

LIBRARY POTPOURRI [picture]

by Elsie M. Maddaus, Archivist and Librarian

OUR NEXT CELEBRATION

In 1798 -

the 11th amendment was ratified

the Alien and Sedition laws were passed

there was a yellow fever epidemic in Philadelphia

AND

Schenectady was incorporated as a city March 26, 1798

It was the third incorporated city in the state and consisted in area twelve miles in length and eight miles in breadth. The Common Council consisted of a Mayor and a Board of Aldermen.

At its first meeting following the granting of the charter, the City Council decreed some odd but interesting laws and regulations, according to one publication. Members of the Council were required to uncover their heads on entering the Council Chamber and were subject to fines from 25 cents to \$3 for failing to attend a meeting.

Anyone who enticed or permitted a student to gamble or play billiards was subject to a stiff fine. Theatrical exhibitions, wire dancing, puppet shows, feats of horsemanship were strictly forbidden. Every householder was required to keep a leather fire bucket beside every fireplace. Pigs were required to wear rings in their noses to prevent them rooting up the streets.

Such was Schenectady when the city began 200 years ago.

We hear that a committee is planning events to celebrate the incorporation of the city, so watch your newspapers. We at Grems-Doolittle Library will have a historical display in our exhibit case the end of March and the month of April.

If you have noticed that our library windows have looked more colorful recently, the new colored vases and other glass objects are the gift of Wayne Harvey from his mother's house. When the afternoon sun shines through the reds, blues and greens, it can't help but lift the spirit.

And another recent gift was from Don Keefer - a three-hole punch. Our old one had lost its punch! Also, the library computer is sporting a new cover.

ADDITIONAL GIFTS AND DONORS

Donor: Rene Elliot

Bible Records of the Rowan Family

Donor: Helen Quirini

Story of Local 301 and Helen Quirini and G. E.

Donor: Mary Zemeck

Several books, booklets and newspapers

Donor: John W. Van Laak

Local Pharmacy Photos, Mortar and Pestle

Donor: Nancy Lester

Ledgers, Photo Albums and other items

Donor: Charles H. Cosgrove, author

History of the 134th New York Regiment

Donor: Henry R. Kelly

Ancestry and Descendants of Conrad Esselstine

Donor: Charmaine Fallon

Warranty Deed, 917 Delamont Avenue

Donor: Henry R. Kelly

Set - 9 vol. Schoonmaker Family

Donor: Malinda Myers

History of Lampkin-Millner & Related Families

Donor: Louise Waterman

***Guns on the Heights* by M. W. Veeder**

Donor: M. Mangan

Photos and Misc. from Alonzo Paige Walton Family

MURPHY'S LAWS AS APPLIED TO Genealogy

- 1. You never asked your father about his family when he was alive because you weren't interested in Genealogy then.**
- 2. The relative who had all the family photographs gave them to her daughter, who has no interest in Genealogy and no inclination to share.**
- 3. Ink fades and paper deteriorates at a rate inversely proportional to the value of the data recorded.**
- 4. When at last, after much hard work you have solved the mystery you have been working on for two years, your aunt says, "I could have told you that."**
- 5. John, son of Thomas, the immigrant whom your relatives claim is the family progenitor, died on board ship at age 10.**
- 6. The public ceremony in which your distinguished ancestor participated (at which the platform collapsed under him) turned out to be a hanging.**

BROUGHTON FUND REVISITED

We love having new members. It does mean, however, that we occasionally have to bring new people up to date on items that older members already know about. This time we call your attention to the Broughton Fund, our \$50,000 legacy from the William Gundry Broughton Charitable Foundation, which has provided the Grems-Doolittle Library with funds for its many different needs. The fund is unrestricted "other than it be used by or for the new library." The income from the Broughton Fund has made it possible to purchase additional filing cabinets, appropriate software for the library computer, historical books and many other items appropriate to a well-appointed genealogical and biological library.

Our latest purchase from the Broughton Fund is a custom made book case which will hold all our collection of

census records. This will put the census in an easily accessed place, and open up other library shelves.

We think that if you make it a point to visit the libraries of other historical societies around the country you will find that our Grems-Doolittle library stands out in comparison to most of them. Gifts such as the Broughton Fund go far to help us achieve such a high professional level.

BUMPER STICKER SIGHTED RECENTLY: "Spending my Children's Inheritance on Genealogy"

EDUCATION COMMITTEE

The committee approved donating \$50 to the "Eastern Mohawk History Day" for Sixth through Twelfth graders. Presentation of awards will be made on March 7 at the Schenectady Museum. Barbara Wylie had agreed to act as a judge.

Frank Taormina received study guides from Henry Mueller, Niskayuna School District Social Studies Director, based on the monographs forwarded to him by the committee. The two papers were "Creation of the Schenectady Patent" by Frank Taormina, and "The Mabee Farm Slave Quarters: a View of Slavery in New York" by Barbara Wylie. These study guides fit very well into the new emphasis by the Board of Regents on document-based study by students.

Next meeting: 18 February at 7:00 PM.

AMONG OURSELVES

Those of us who have frequented the Society at 32 Washington Avenue have an abiding affection for Mandy Grems. Her continuing concern and her generosity have been a major part of the revitalization that in recent years brought us the Grems-Doolittle Library and the "new" kitchen among other things.

Born in Canastota, New York, July 5, 1913, in many ways Mandy was a liberated woman before her time. A math major in college, she was one of the pioneers in computer research at General Electric during the '30's and '40's. An articulate woman, she was sent by GE all over the country and to Europe to explain new technologies to other companies. In retirement she has worked tirelessly for libraries and for her beloved historical society.

In recent months Mandy has not been coming to the library as often as in the old days. She did not like to cross Erie Boulevard (who does?).

Now she has a new address. We're sure she'd love to hear from you -- cards, letters, whatever. Here it is: Mandalay Grems/Marjorie Doyle Rockwell Center/421 West Columbia Street/Cohoes, New York 12047.

HANDICAPPED ACCESS

There is an elevator between the entrance vestibule at the back entrance, and the main floor. If you are on wheels, walker, or cane, enter through the parking space entrance and our staff will be happy to help you with the elevator

Mission Statement: Grems-Doolittle Library

The Grems-Doolittle library is a reference library whose purpose is "To gather, preserve, display and make available for study, books, manuscripts, papers, photographs and other records and materials relating to the early and current history of Schenectady County and of the surrounding area." The collection includes many histories and genealogies.

Because it is a reference library, none of the material is permitted to leave the building so that it will be accessible to researchers at all times.

OFFICERS

President - Robert Sager

Vice President - Derek Sayers

Secretary - Ann Karl

Treasurer - Frank Taormina

Assistant Treasurer - Ruth Ann Evans

STAFF

Museum Exhibits - Jo Mordecai

Archivist & Librarian - Elsie Maddaus

Office Manager - Johanna Woldring

EDITOR

Sally van Schaick

Historical material and comments, including letters to the editor, are welcome and may be submitted to the editor

NOTABLE SCHENECTADIANS

(Herewith the final selection from the Journal of Allen Heyer Jackson. We defy the reader to find any description of the travails of a sea journey which surpasses this account in terror and detail.)

On Bord Ship Pacific St. Geo. Channel Thursday, October 1, 1818

...Went on bord the Ship at 10 AM ... & left Liverpool with a fine breeze ... We have 13 Passengers in the Steerage which makes a comfortable but crowded society. On bord Ship Pacific at sea Thursday Oct 8th, 1818.

We begin to look cheerful ... after a serious storm of six days ... death has stared us in the face for six days ... while the Passengers were looking at each other with a palid countenance marked with fear ... some praying the Capt. to set them on shore others offering thousands of Pounds but all in vain even if the Capt. had been so disposed ... We had the land in view most of the time to add to the anxiety ...

On bord Ship Pacific at sea Friday Oct. 9th, 1818.

A fine day with a smart breeze. ... the sea is more smooth than usual all Passengers enjoying themselves on Deck ... and Mr. Buckley is playing the base vile to add to the Pleasure. ... all the pleasures we experience here is that of eating and drinking, ... Which is of the best and served in the best sea stile that is in a small room in which is twenty two beds. a table is of no use for you must hold everything in your hands or have them turned over in your laps however the anticipated pleasure of seeing New York and my friends counterbalance all storms, troubles, sore bones &c ...

On bord Ship Pacific at sea Saturday Oct. 10th, 1818.

A stormy day ... we are obliged to stay in the cabin the sea being so verry rough, it is dificult even staying there without holding fast the wind has blown a gale with Squalls which still continue ... with a rough sea ... as I said yesterday anticipated pleasure counterbalances all-- this evening we had a singing Party with Whiskey toddy- it

is the custom at sea on Saturday Evenings to drink to Sweethearts and wives . . with a little assistance from the Whiskey cask we made ourselves : "as happy as happy could be" not withstanding the howling tempest . . . We have got accustomed to the storm and now suppose ourselves safe. . 11 PM a sea fight on deck between two saylors a bloody face and a reprimand was the consequence.

On bord Ship Pacific at sea Sunday Oct. 11th, 1818.

A stormy day with heavy winds and squalls from the NW 1/2W course W. Progress 4 K.. . We could not stay upon deck without getting wet which some of us concluded to do rather than stay below and inhale the vapours of a closed cabin with nineteen persons therein . . . we got drenched, but that is nothing for I have not been dry since I came out excepting in bed- the helmsman presented a dreadful face to the passengers this morning, he was one of the boxers last night. they commenced the attack on the Maintop Yard while reefing the sail, the mate ordered them below they then clinched upon the Quarter deck, the Mate laid the end of the Mizen topsail haliards

ON BORD Ship Pacific at sea Wednesday Oct. 14th, 1818.

A stormy day with a tremendous hurrycane from the W. ship lying too 1 AM Pointed the yards and got all ready for a hurrycane. lashed all taught even the bales 2 AM storm increasing with the sea running verry high every swell washing the deck. 3 AM Passengers verry much alarmed tumbling about the cabin half dressed with nearly a foot of water on the cabin floor. dreadful I never heard the Wind howl like this. 4 AM all hands concluded for a final departure- the foremast is sprung. the main staysail (new canvas) is carried away with a dreadful crash. now the saylors are obliged to leave the deck for fear of being washed overbord and the ship left to the mercy of the sea lying too under bare Poles and Mizen topsail. the Passengers and crew setting below look at each other with a countenance marked with fear. not a word spoke but all expecting that the next wave will close the scene by either dashing us to pieces or engulfing us

7 AM storm abates. 10 AM hopes of life appear. 11 AM opened hatches and ventured upon deck. found nearly all our pigs, sheep and poultry drowned every person on bord Capt. and all acknowledge it to be the hardest storm they ever experienced and that they had given all up as lost. . . . we tossed upon the most Mountainous swell Probably ever experienced. 10 PM set top sail and set sail.

ON BORD Ship Pacific at sea Thursday Oct. 15th, 1818.

A stormy day with fresh winds from the W. Course SW Progress 6 K with a tremendous sea against us. the saylors are employed in repairing damages. the foremast we think will answer until we get to New York . . . I wish it was in my power to describe the hurrycane of yesterday . . . the wind blew so that it was impossible to stand without holding fast and the sea rolling Mountains high with the white angry tops threatening us with a deluge and the black tempestious clouds informing us that its rage was not vented . . . fearing the next wave will prove our destruction, but at last the wind abates. . .

ON BORD Ship Pacific at sea Friday Oct 16th, 1818.

. . . We have a fine breeze with top Gallant sails set but we are making no headway- the fact is that the wind must change shortly or we shall be in a dreadful situation before we get to New York for want of Provision as most of our livestock were drowned in the storm and our water supply low and bad - We trust into fortune this afternoon one of the saylors was attacked verry violently with the Pluresy no Person on bord would consent to bleed him rather that he should suffer I consented to Perform as well as I could, as I had bled before with safety I had confidence fortunately I performed with safety and much relieved the Patient by which act I have gained the thanks of the crew and name of Surgeon.

ON BORD Ship Pacific at sea Thursday Oct. 22nd, 1818

. . While at dinner today the ship pitched a lee lurch which threw all the dinner off the tables consisting of soup, beef, potatoes &c into the laps and bosoms of those that sat at the leeward. I was unfortunate enough to receive a basin of soup in my face and Neck

. . . We proceeded well all Peace and happiness on bord untill 5 PM when we were visited verry suddenly with a tremendous hurricane so that we had scarcely time to take in sail. the first thing was a terrible water spout off the leebow it was a beautiful but awful and dangerous sight. it was the size of a hogshead it went into the air with the same motion that dust is carried up by a whirlwind. Presently it came down in a hard shower- . .

ON BORD Ship Pacific at sea Wednesday Oct. 28th 1818.

A cloudy but dry day with light winds . . . we are enjoying ourselves on deck and contemplating on the beauties of a raging sea. . . the foam and spray is beautiful and when the sunshines the spray forms a rainbow so that you may see five thousand rainbows at one sight add that to the foaming billows, unbounded ocean, blue sky and smiling saylors, My God what can be a more beautiful "SEA" sight

- 2 PM the wind died away and became perfectly calm. we tried several experiments upon a corked bottle. one bottle we corked and sealed. We sunk it about 50 fathoms under water. When drawed up the Cork was forced into the bottle, bottle filled with water and the cork pressed in its Place again. another was sent down and when brought up the cork was out and bottle filled in the first Place the force of the water will either burst the bottle or drive in the cork but why the cork should be drawn out again I can give no reason excepting it be that the cork being Porous and the bulk partly composed of air consequently When a great depth under water the Pressure forces the air out of the cork. when it becomes much smaller and being a light substance it floats out the bottle.

ON BORD Ship Pacific at sea Thursday Oct. 29th, 1818.

We begin to suffer for good water, the Water is verry bad, our Meat is principally salt and verry good however I hope we may soon be in a situation to get better water. last night Mr. Myers and Pine had a quarrel at the card table about there seat which was verry disagreeable the Morning the Capt. threw the cards all overbord. all amusement is stopped.

ON BORD Ship Pacific at sea Saturday Oct. 31st, 1818.

. . . saw several birds Ducks &c in the course of the day 10 AM saw a ship on the same tack with us. We came up opposite her 2 PM she reported herself to be the Regent of Whitby from Liverpool bound to St. Johns she is 49 days from Liverpool she experienced several heavy gales especially the one we experienced on the 25th Inst. in which she lost her Main top Mast and was obliged to cut away her boats, next day she passed a ship bottom upwards . . . I expect hundreds experienced the same fate.

ON BORD Ship Pacific at sea Sunday November 1st, 1818.

10 AM the wind died away and became almost calm . . . the air pure, the sky serene, the sea smooth and calm, while the Ducks, Gulls, Porposes &c playing about us as if they were enjoying the Pleasures of the day after a tempestuous Month, the name of which I shall never forget "OCTOBER" Oh dreadful sound, in that month I have suffered everything but death. How sweet November makes its appearance with a calm and serene aspect I hail it with joy and hope for better days.

ON BORD Ship Pacific at sea Wednesday Nov. 4th, 1818.

What a difference last Passage I crossed the Atlantic in twentyone days, and I dont know but I shall be twenty-one weeks this Passage. . .today us were Put upon allowance of water. we are allowed three bottles a day out of

that comes our soap, tea, coffee, shaving water &c which leaves about one bottle to drink which I find sufficient as yet, but I expect it will be two bottles in a few days. however I believe I can do with one bottle. . .

ON BORD Ship Pacific at sea Thursday Nov. 5th, 1818.

the Water is so bad it is almost impossible to drink it even if we had thousands of pipes . . . we have to put it in a tumbler and let it stand untill the thick substance settles then pour the water off to another vessel even then we cannot drink it without putting a little vinegar or spirits with it to destroy the disagreeable taste, in the second place the word and idea of being put upon allowance be it ever so great Plays the devil with a persons Mind, he thinks he is agoing to perish immediately, he takes his bottle of water and corks it up in his trunk there he keeps it safer than ever he did Gold, in fact what is its value it is not to be bought, here the first time in my life I find Money of no use . . .

ON BORD Ship Pacific at sea Saturday Nov. 7th, 1818.

we are more than two hundred Miles nearer New York than we were yesterday this time We suppose ourselves today at Noon about five hundred Miles from New York, if this Wind continues we shall be in that ever blessed City by next Tuesday. I long once more to place my feet on that happy and peaceable land which I think I shall never leave again, but there live and die contented. . . .

ON BORD Ship Pacific at sea Sunday Nov. 8th, 1818.

all the Charts on bord all tell us that we are in great danger of running on the shoals. I wish myself 500 Miles from land again. All sail taken in excepting the mizen staysail and closed reef foresail. Gale increasing and blows a hurrycane at midnight.

ON BORD Ship Pacific at sea Tuesday Nov. 10th, 1818.

A stormy and tremendous day. With Gale upon Gale and squall succeeding Squall from the SW Course N. Progress 2K the Gale continues but begins to loose its strength in the evening. . . . We suppose ourselves off Halifax and surrounded by shoals and currents. . . / We sounded several times in the course of the day No bottom. every eye is stretched out of its socket with fearful apprehension in search of land and breakers.

I will give you a description of the cabin for the three last days, here you see by the light of a Lamp . . . the Passengers are sitting in there births with Misery and fear marked in there countenances the Cabin floor covered with Water, trunks and clothes floating. Nothing to eat but sea buiskits . . .

ON BORD Ship Pacific at sea Wednesday Nov. 11th 1818.

. . . we are not far from the land we suppose Cape Sable in the mouth of the bay of Funday, a great number of Whale and Porpose were playing about us all the morning - . . . we hope for & expect a fair Wind tomorrow, the Capt. has six beautiful gold fish in a Globe that he was carrying to New York they were suspended under the skylight, verry unfortunately a swell unshipped the light and filled the globe with salt water which killed the fish - it was the most dangerous and lengthy storm we have had, it was the most dangerous because we were near the land and surrounded by shoals, expecting every Moment to strike a rock. . .

ON BORD Ship Pacific at sea Thursday Nov. 12th, 1818.

. . . Thank God we are once more under way, we may see New York yet, this week, We have but one small pig left for fresh provisions. . . this morning we were visited by a land small bird he lit upon our Main top sail yard and staid with us all day. . . We sounded 11 AM and found bottom in 65 fathom water on St. Georges bank. . . Thank God we passed that d___dnable destructive shoal of Nantucket in safety about Midnight - Now know ye, that

since we are west of those cursed rocks and within 200 Miles of New York, that I consider myself safe and allmost sure of attending Church in New York on Sunday.

ON BORD Ship Pacific at sea Friday Nov. 13th, 1818.

A beautiful clear morning . . . it is a head wind for New York, however the idea of being West of Nantucket Shoals and within one hundred and sixty Miles from New York makes me quite contented and happy at the Idea of seeing that ever again. . . the Passengers are engaged packing up there baggage, preparing for smugling small artifacts &c the Commercial laws of New York are verry strict. We are prohibited from landing anything excepting our own wearing apparel, in fact not even toys or Prints for your friends or for yourself excepting your Clothes, no books, no jewels or articles of any kind without paying heavy duty from fifteen to thirty percent. this morning we collected small articles such as we did not want throwed them in one pile of old and new boots, shoes, books, razors, Pistols &c &c &c then we appointed Capt. Williams Auctioneer. he sot them up one article at a time and sold them. some sold low others double that they cost, it afforded great sport. We are drove to many experiments to kill time. I assure you it is a serious task to be confined in bord ship for six or seven weeks . . .

The End of the Journal

(Allen Heyer Jackson was in his early twenties when he made this trip. While he was not a polished writer, still he had an eye for significant detail. We enjoyed his vibrant republican spirit and his innocent judgments on the people he encountered. We wondered if he ever ventured forth on the high seas after that horrendous voyage home.(He did!) Would he ever forget October 14th? One wonders why anyone would travel on the high seas during October and November in 1818. Kitty Gibson and Bill Milton have a remarkable ancestor in Allen Heyer Jackson..)

This page updated 5/12/98

