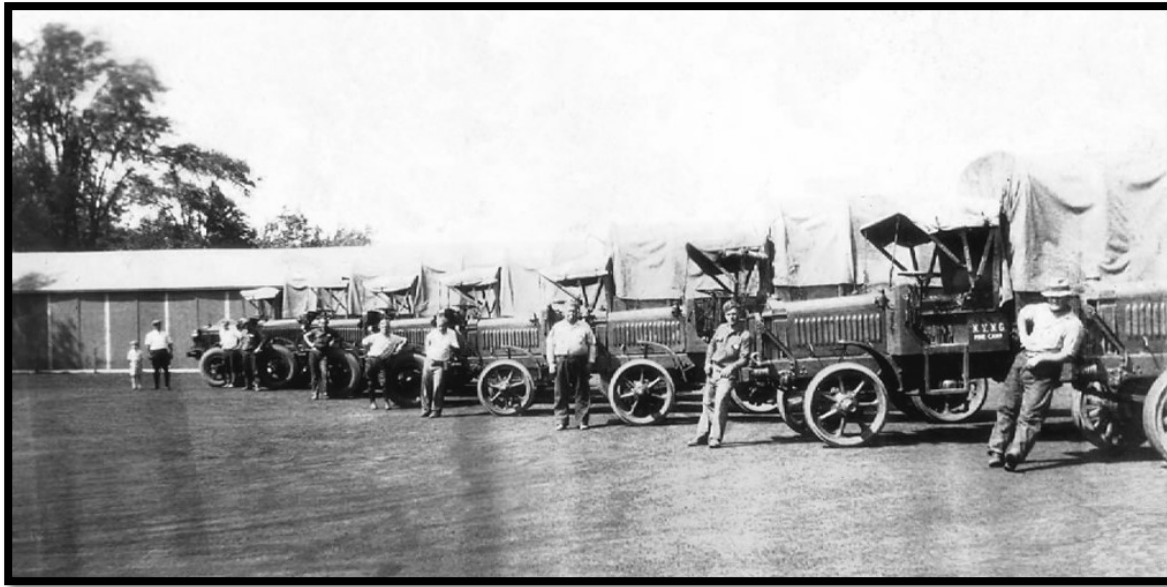
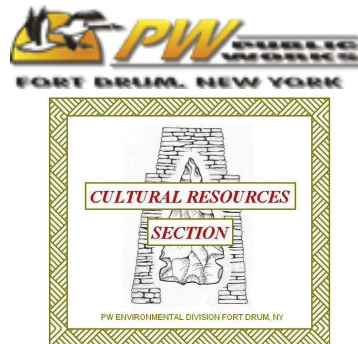


Historic Industry of Fort Drum Tour



Photograph circa 1930s of supply trucks for local Civilian Conservation Corps Camps.

Disclaimer: This booklet was published on 4/19/2018 as a compilation of recorded histories from the Fort Drum Cultural Resources Program for educational purposes. Written and compiled by Heather Wagner, CSU-CEMML Fort Drum, NY.







Forest management on Fort Drum today is focused on shaping the “missionscape” to support military maneuvers and managing a variety of habitats for wildlife in a sustainable fashion. Early successional forest management focusing on short lived fast growing tree species such as aspen, black cherry and ash is critical requirements for wildlife such as grouse and woodcock.

This area is being managed in clear cut blocks with a different patch cut every 12-15 years to create a mosaic of different age and size classes. This variety, in close proximity, is needed to provide food, cover and mating habitat necessary for the roughed grouse. As the agriculture in the northeast continues to decline and young forests start to turn into old forests these types of harvests, with regular disturbances, are important to keep these habitats flourishing. Areas managed like this are also excellent places for bird watchers and hunters a like to enjoy. It is critical for the land manager of today to make wise management decisions to create multiple forest types that are robust and resilient to ensure the Army will always have healthy landscape to train on.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The US Army and Fort Drum is committed to good stewardship of Fort Drum lands, including preservation of its cultural resources; the ancestral places, homesteads, and historic districts. The lost homes of our past inhabitants now serve, in part, to educate our Soldiers about the sacred and ancient places they will be encountering abroad. However, it is the descendants who make a preservation program complete. The Fort Drum Cultural Resources team first wishes to thank all of the Native Americans and inhabitants of the Lost Villages and their families who have shared their time, thoughts, memories, and images over the past twenty years. Your generosity and interest have made our responsibilities a joy.

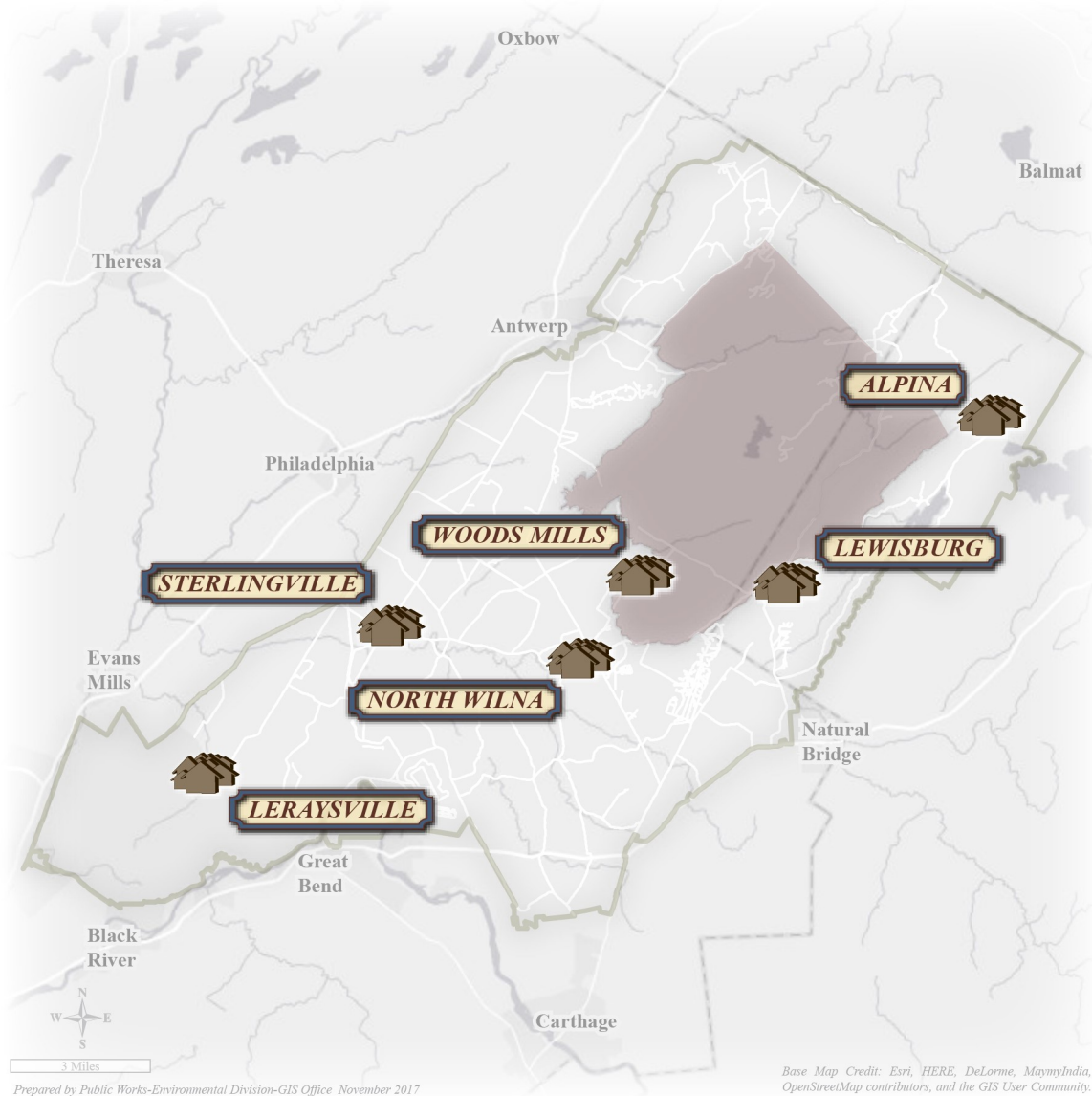
All of our archeological and historic tours would not be possible without Jim Moore and his team at the Directorate of Plans, Training, Mobilization, and Security, and Sean Johnson and his team at Directorate of Public Works, Roads and Grounds. Rylan Walker and his experienced and gracious bus drivers are deserving of our thanks as well.

The Fort Drum Public Affairs Office has provided the coordination making this trip possible by reaching out to all of you and thinking of the details to make the trip as comfortable and enjoyable as we can.

Sincere thanks to the Natural Resources staff for assisting as tour guides, sharing how they manage natural resources today and providing for the enhancement and conservation of our training lands today and for tomorrow.

Our special thanks go to MG and Mrs. Walter Piatt, Division Commander, BG and Mrs. Patrick Donahoe, Deputy Commanding General, and to Colonel and Mrs. Dean Harrison, Garrison Commander, who have welcomed the community to share in the treasure of our history and heritage at Fort Drum.

*Dr. Laurie W. Rush
& the Cultural Resources team*



Location of the Five National Register of Historic Place listed village properties, plus the crossroads community of North Wilna, Fort Drum, NY.

Gates Cheese Factory

This area is identified by the label “Cheese Factory” on the 1864 Beers’ *Atlas of Jefferson County* but not on subsequent area maps. In a 5³ 4² map it is noted as belonging to a J. Gates and in the 1941 tax map prior to the land being purchased for the military installation it is owned by A. and L. Datoush.

This site has an extensive laid stone barn foundation with an interesting piping that allowed cool cistern water to travel throughout the foundation that may perhaps indicate a cooling mechanism from its days as a cheese factory. Historically cheese factories would have dotted the rural northern New York landscape.

Making cheese was an effective way to preserve milk which was very perishable. A typical farmstead cheese producer would skim off the cream to make butter and then use the rest of the milk for making cheese. From the collection of supplies by oxcart, to the milking of the cows, to the hauling of the milk, to the churning of the butter and the pressing of the cheese, cheese making was difficult, time consuming and hard work to do as a home industry.

In 1851, Jesse William set up what is considered the first cheese factory in America in Rome, New York. It wasn’t until the end of the Civil War, for a variety of reasons, that agricultural emphasis shifted from predominately growing crops to dairy farming and cheese making. In addition farmers saw the value of working together and pooling their resources into a centralized cheese processing facility to convert their milk to cheese and other dairy products. In many instances the cheese factory was built on one of their farms. Cheese factories were very lucrative for the local economy. In fact, until the turn of the twentieth century New York was the top producing cheese state in the nation.

The ruins remain today as a reminder of the historic and modern importance of how the dairy industry shapes northern New York.



Fort Drum History & the 1941 Expansion

Camp Hughes

Col. Philip Reade, as regimental commander of the 23rd U.S. Infantry at Madison Barracks, was a driving force behind Camp Hughes' selection and success. Reade realized that developments in modern military weapons such as bolt action rifles, machine guns, and rapid firing artillery pieces had exceeded the capability of the U.S. Army to train at Sackets Harbor. He then coordinated with local North Country leaders and the Watertown Chamber of Commerce to look for a new training area. The area in Felts Mills, immediately north of the Black River, was chosen. Between Aug. 31 and Sept. 7, 1907, the New York National Guard established a temporary tent encampment, which they called Camp Hughes. Camp Hughes was named for Charles E. Hughes, who was then the governor of New York. Since that summer, U.S. Army Soldiers have trained annually at that site.

Pine Camp

The following year in 1908, Brigadier General Frederick Dent Grant, the oldest son of President Ulysses S. Grant, led thousands of Soldiers back to the area north of Black River, known locally as Pine Plains. Grant commanded 2,000 Regular Army Soldiers and 8,000 militia men from throughout the Northeast. He found Pine Plains to be an ideal place to train troops and money was allocated to purchase the land and summer training continued there through the years. The camp at Pine Plains formally opened on June 11, 1908, and training continued throughout the summer.

The camp's first introduction to the national spotlight came in 1935 when the largest peacetime maneuvers were held on Pine Plains and surrounding farmlands. Thirty-six thousand five hundred Soldiers came from throughout the Northeast to take part in the exercise. Some Soldiers travelled by trains, which arrived in town every 15 minutes, coming from as far away as Buffalo and New York City. For 36 hours, young men from offices, factories, and farms marched, attacked and defended in tactical exercises on the stretch of land the Army had leased for its war games. The maneuvers were judged to be most successful, and the War Department purchased another 9,000 acres of land.

With the outbreak of World War II, the area then known as Pine Camp was selected for a major expansion when an additional 75,000 acres of land were purchased. With that purchase, 525 local families were displaced. Five entire villages were eliminated, while others were reduced from one-third to one-half their size. Three thousand buildings, including 24 schools, six churches and a post office, were abandoned.

Introduction

The Euro-American settlement of “northern New York” came after the end of the American Revolution. For most New York State historians northern New York or the North Country consists of the counties of Lewis, Jefferson, St. Lawrence, Franklin and Clinton. The Fort Drum military installation is located within this area, lying mainly in Jefferson and Lewis counties with St. Lawrence County on its north-eastern boundary. Settlement in the early 19th century came into this area for many reasons but all have the common connection that they came in to utilize the area’s vast natural resources.

At the start of the 19th century very little was known about northern New York. Maps from that era show the St. Lawrence River and Lake Champlain drawn with a degree of accuracy but the interior of northern New York is lacking details. On an undated map (thought by many scholars to have been drawn about 1791) this area was simply labelled “Coughsagrage or Beaver Hunting Country of the Six Nations” with the following explanation, *“Through this tract of land runs a chain of mountains which from Lake Champlain on the one side and the River St. Lawrence on the other side shew (sic) their tops always white with snow, but althou (sic) this one unfavorable circumstance has hitherto secured it from the claws of the Harpy Land Jobbers yet no doubt it is as fertile as the Land on the East side of the Land and will in future furnish a comfortable retreat for many an Industrious Families.”*

The earliest map to give the rivers and lakes of this area any degree of accuracy is the official survey maps done in 1791 for the Macomb purchase. That year American land speculator Alexander Macomb purchased 1,920,000 acres that encompassed all of Jefferson and Lewis counties, and most of St. Lawrence and Franklin counties (except the tract known as Penet’s Square). This land commonly referred to as the Macomb purchase was divided into six lots, known as the Great Lots or Great Tracts. In a very short period of time Macomb went bankrupt, leaving his partner William Constable to sell off the land.

To determine the sale value of the land William Constable employed surveyor John Campbell to survey the Macomb purchase land in 1795. This survey recorded the dominant tree species in each lot, an interesting and telling note. He was not merely observing and recording the natural environment but was instead basing the value of the land on the type of forest it contained. Historians and Natural Resources managers use

June 13, 1909 these crystals were placed on display at the New York State Museum in Albany, New York. The “Sterlingbush Calcite Cave*” reconstruction was, for many years, one of the most popular exhibits. (**The name is a source of confusion for many. At the time the neighboring village was known as Lewisburg but historically it had been Sterlingbush and prior to that Louisberg. Historians conjecture that the museum named it to honor Miss Pauline Sterling who championed its preservation.*) The display at the museum stood the test of time for nearly 70 years while it was on display. The display, taken down in 1979 when the New York State Museum was moved to new buildings, remains one of the most requested exhibits to reestablish.

In 1931, the quarry suddenly filled with water during mining operations and was shut down. In 2008, the Lewis County Sheriff’s Department dive team made a special trip to Quarry Pond to refine their skills by searching the bottom of a once thriving quarry now filled with water. While diving, members of the team located the system of railroad tracks and a railroad car that were used during the days of the lime quarry. They also located a flywheel for a steam shovel and even a 1953 Chevy.

Today, Quarry Pond’s deep cold spring fed water is perfect for rainbow trout. Every May, rainbow trout obtained from the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation Fish Hatchery are stocked for angler’s enjoyment.



Photograph of unknown woman on the spoils pile by the kilns at the Lewisburg quarry. Lewisburg, NY. Date unknown.

surprised to see an opening on the face of the cliff. Curiosity overtook the miners and they scaled the wall gasping in disbelief when they saw what lied in the cavern opening. It is best described in the History of Lewis County (Bowen 1970) as, “Brilliant flashes of rose and amethyst blinded him momentarily as the reflected rays of sunlight bounced back upon him from the crystals within.” The cavern would be found to contain huge, beautifully formed crystals in shades of pale lavender and pinks, which some refer to as the “Rose Grotto”.



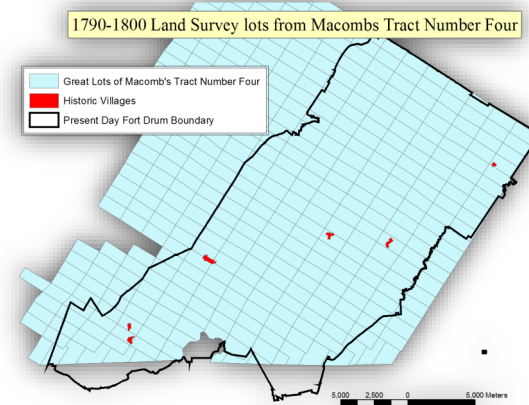
Photograph courtesy of the New York State Museum. This photograph was taken in the Lewisburg quarry shortly after the cave discovery in the fall of 1906. Note the pocket that contained the calcite crystals, located on the left side of the photograph, approximately midway between the quarry floor and the top of the quarry face.

The calcite cave was unique for the size and quality of the crystals found. To save the crystals from destruction at the active mining operation, Miss Pauline Sterling, a descendant of iron king James Sterling, contacted the “State Department of Mines” (which was in fact the New York State Museum). State assistant geologist at that time Chris A. Hartnagel came to look. He was amazed to see the giant calcite crystals, one of which was three feet seven inches by three feet one and one half inches by one foot and one half inches by one foot six inches and weighed over a half a ton. The cave was forty feet from the surface level and twenty feet above the quarry floor. The cavern was 10 feet in width, 5 feet in height and extended some twenty feet into the rock before narrowing again to 4 feet square where it continued for an additional 20 feet. Hartnagel noted was evidently unusual and worthy of presentation. The location of the find in an active mind facilitated the removal of the crystals.

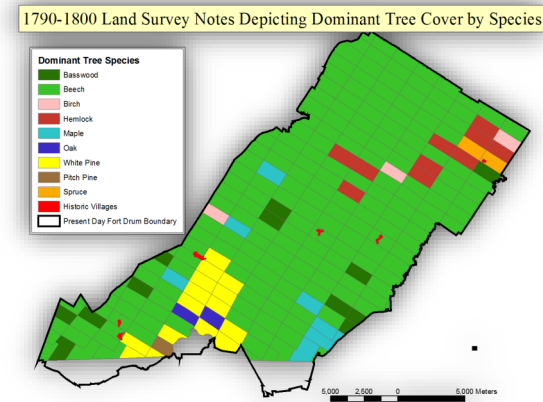


Artist rendition of the Sterlingbush Calcite Cave reconstructions (Clarke 1918)

The removal and packing of the caverns contents took museum staff members six weeks to accomplish. It is estimated that 14 tons of crystals were removed and packed in 80 barrels, 14 kegs and 22 boxes.



To determine the sale value of the land, William Constable employed a surveyor known as John Campbell to survey the land in 1795. This map shows the extent of the lots surveyed by Campbell as they relate to the present Fort Drum boundaries. For reference the red areas are the five historic villages on Fort Drum.



John Campbell's 1795 survey map data recording dominant tree species as it relates to Fort Drum.

this information to determine what the “virgin forests” of Fort Drum were prior to Euro-American settlement.

The end of the American Revolution marked the beginning of the westward settlement migration but until the end of the 18th century into the start of the 19th century northern New York was still an unexplored wilderness. Starting in the 1790s James LeRay de Chaumont, son of Jacques Donatien LeRay de Chaumont the “French Father of the American Revolution” began to be interested in land speculation in his adopted country of America. Eventually James would become involved in the Castorland Land Company and the Antwerp Company, led by William Constable, which heavily invested in the Great lots Tracts IV, V and VI. James would own at peak 600,000 acres of northern New York.

In 1807, James commissioned the construction of a home near LeRaysville, New York and by the next year began building roads to enhance the areas attraction for settlers that he hoped would buy land from him. James LeRay de Chaumont is often referred to as the “Father of the North Country” because of his commitment to the areas infrastructure. LeRay donated land and materials for roads, canals, churches, schools and businesses in most of the villages and towns in the tri-county area.

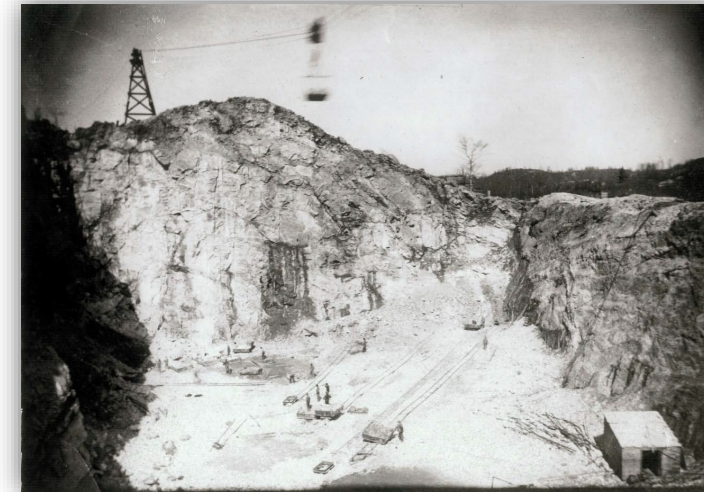
James and his son Vincent used the “virgin forests of oak, elm, beech, hickory and basswood [that] waited to provide wood for cabins and mills . . .” as a major selling point in inducing land sales and settlement. In a newspaper advertisement for land dated 19 October 1836 Vincent wrote “there is a large quantity of valuable timber that is necessary for building on the farm and a reasonable addition is made in the price of the land.”

Undoubtedly, it was the quantity and quality of the area's forests and the areas many rivers, streams and lake at a time when there was a main dependence on water as a source for transportation and power that attracted settlers to the area with the promise of possibility and independence. It was the very forests, land and water that shaped this area that would also shape the people, businesses, towns and villages. In turn the increased human occupation of the landscape would change the natural resources forever too.



The old-growth virgin forest that Euro-American settlers would have encountered would have looked something like this. It would have been very dense with a great variety in tree diameters. There wouldn't have been very much growth on the forest floor due to the density of the trees blocking the sun. It would have taken a disturbance such as a tree being blown over or dying for new trees to grow.

Quarry Pond



Photograph courtesy of the Town of Diana, Lewis County History Office. Lime quarry, Lewisburg, New York.

Land annexed by Fort Drum in 1941 included a defunct limestone quarry filled with water. Known as Quarry Pond, the site is part of a larger group of archeological sites known as the Quarry Pond Complex that also contains industrial ruins, early lime kilns, and a railroad berm and grade. The complex first furnished limestone for flux used in an iron blast furnace in Lewisburg. The ruins of three lime kilns are extant near the pond. In time advances in iron production made the Lewisburg iron furnace obsolete. However, the process of

quarrying for limestone deposits remained a source of profit by providing limestone to be used by sulfite mills in paper production (like at the Deferiet paper mills) or by the steel industry.

It is not usually the mining history or process that draws the interest of history buffs but rather a find made while mining that proves to live on in memory. By fall of 1906, the mine had been excavated to a depth of sixty feet, leaving a high perpendicular wall towered over workers. A typical mining technique of that time was to use steam drills to bore holes into the soft rock, and then fill the holes with explosives. Upon detonation the rock would be broken down into smaller pieces, loaded onto flatcars by means of a steam-powered shovel and sent down three miles to the processing plant in Natural Bridge. However on a fall day of that year the miners were started to hear the grinding sound of sliding rock and scurried to safety in the nick of time. As one miner gazed up the wall he was



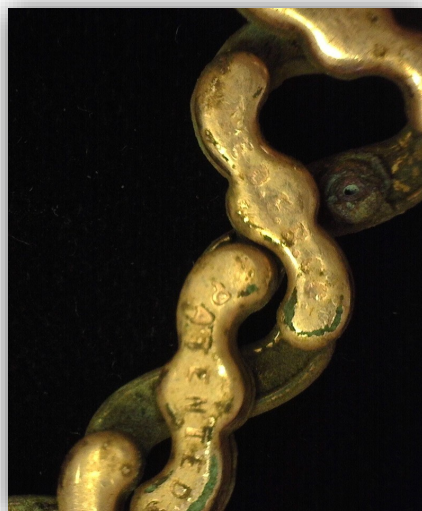
Lewisburg iron blast furnace circa 1900. Postcard

Interesting Artifact at a Historic Homestead



Just off FUSA Boulevard used to lie a small homestead, the stone foundation of which still lies in the woods today. In 2017, the Fort Drum Cultural Resources survey team undertook archaeological Phase 1B investigations prior to a timber harvest sale.

Most of the shovel tests produced typical historic material, mainly in the form of assorted whiteware, glass, and nails. A notable find among the artifacts in this shovel test was several links of a gold expansion bracelet. On the backs of two links was inscribed "Patented" and "DBF Co." This refers to the D.F. Briggs Company, a jewelry manufacturer. The bracelet links belong to a piece of popular jewelry that became known as a sweetheart bracelet because it was often given to loved ones as a keepsake by soldiers going to war. The manner in which the company name was written dates the links as pre-1922, potentially associating it with World War I (<http://danielleoliviatefftwrites.com/found-in-the-jewelry-box-blog/how-old-is-that-expandable-sweetheart-bracelet-in-your-jewelry-box>). Such an interesting find that a young soldier gave to his beloved before it was Fort Drum.



Perhaps the bracelet once looked like the one above. (Left) Artifact found, 50x magnification to see the patent inscription.



Fort Drum Cultural Resources refers to this location as the Wiechard farmstead. There are over fourteen foundations and/or features here that may include any of the following: a residence, garage, and barn foundations, a possible mill as suggested by its location adjacent to a stream, outbuildings like chicken coops, milk houses, milk cooler, a grain silo, as well as, unidentified buildings. One of the more interesting ruins is a ramp-like feature nearby with stacked stone on the sides and one end that descended into the creek. Its purpose is not clear but it may represent some type of spring house.

History records the property as notably having a brick house was in this settlement, said to have been the first building of this material in Jefferson County. This was probably built by David Wiechard with his wife Margaret. David was born in Germany on 3 May 1762 and died on 26 December 1844. He and Margaret had two sons John C. Wiechard and Peter W. Wiechard both of whom are recorded in census records and in the 1866 Childs' Business Directory of Jefferson County as masons at the Slocum's Mills settlement, perhaps a skill learned from their father?

The Wiechard family mentioned above are buried in the family plot at the Fairview Cemetery in Carthage, NY.

Slocum's Mills

In the early 19th century, hamlets and settlements often formed near a source of reliable water power. This is especially the case with Slocum's Mills where water-powered industries like a powder mill, grist mill, sawmill, woolen mill and carding mill proliferated over time.

Harnessing water power to run these mills was essential to the development of small town industry and economy and as such, these mills often were indispensable to the community. Mills purchased and processed the products of local farmers and loggers from which they produced products that were sold locally and exported outside town limits.

In particular the grist mill and sawmill at Slocum's Mills are indicative of the dozens of these types of mills that historically flourished across the Fort Drum landscape.

Historically land on Fort Drum was both used to grow the "grist" for the mill, wheat, corn, barley, buckwheat and other grains, and to operate grist mills themselves. Fort Drum's landscape has the geographic advantage of lots of arable farmland and a variety of aquatic resources which powered the grindstones in the grist mills.

Grist Mill or corn mill refers to any mill that grinds grain. Generally a local mill was where farmers brought their own grain and received back ground meal or flour, minus a percentage called the "miller's toll". Using historic local newspapers it seems that the miller's toll in the early to mid-19th century in this area remained at a fairly competitive level rate of 1/16th percent. During this period local farmers could easily transport their grain to their local grist mill and the surrounding communities were dependent on these local mills since bread was a staple part of their diet.

One mile north of the Village of LeRaysville, settlement and development commenced in 1819 by a Mr. Desjardines (perhaps one of the Desjardines Brothers, the elder Simone was a surveyor employed by LeRay during his original North Country Castorland land purchase) a talented young chemist, whom James LeRay de Chaumont had sent from France for the purpose of erecting a new powder mill enterprise. Desjardines was a pupil of the Polytechnic School of Paris and discovered a new process of manufacturing the explosive. The powder proved to be of an inferior quality but was used for blasting purposes. This business did not last long and a grist mill was built in this area at the same time, both businesses reliant on the power harnessed from the Pleasant Creek tributary.

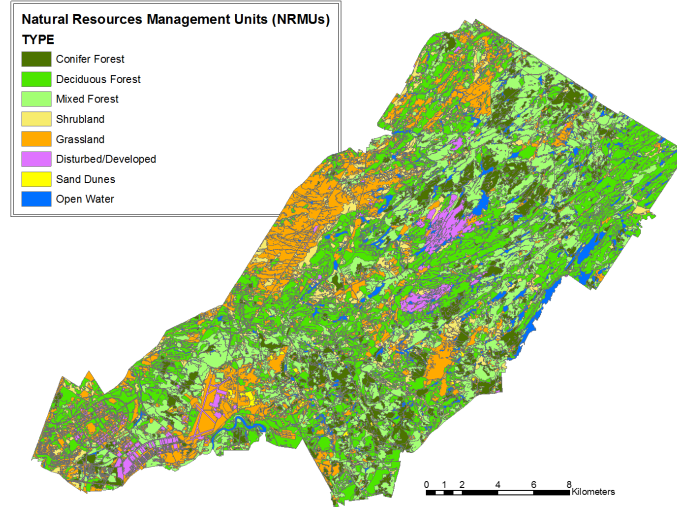


Photo probable circa 1910-20. Oral histories record this as Braman's Mill located within a mile of Woods Mills, NY. This sawmill in photographs does not appear to be water powered but looks like it may have used steam or coal to power it. No archaeological remains of this mill have been found.

75% of the installation is forested. These years without agriculture have allowed fallow fields to turn into forested stands. Also, some conifer plantings that have occurred over the years have controlled erosion also helping to reshape the landscape.



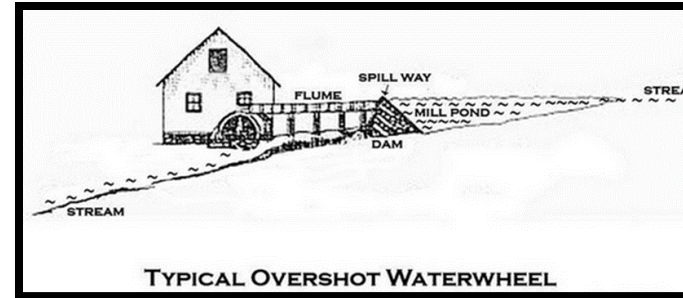
Undated, pre 1940. Logging at Woods Mills, NY.



If we fast-forward to today, after 60+ years of government ownership, the landscape has made another large shift. This is a land cover classification of the current Fort Drum landscape. As you can see approximately 75% of the installation is now forested. Sixty years without agriculture has allowed old fields to turn into young forest stands. Also some conifer plantings over the years to control erosion, have helped to reshape the landscape.



Photo probable circa 1910-20. Oral histories record this as being a wood processing site between Woods Mills, NY and Nauwoo, NY. Probably a firewood processing site.



TYPICAL OVERSHOT WATERWHEEL

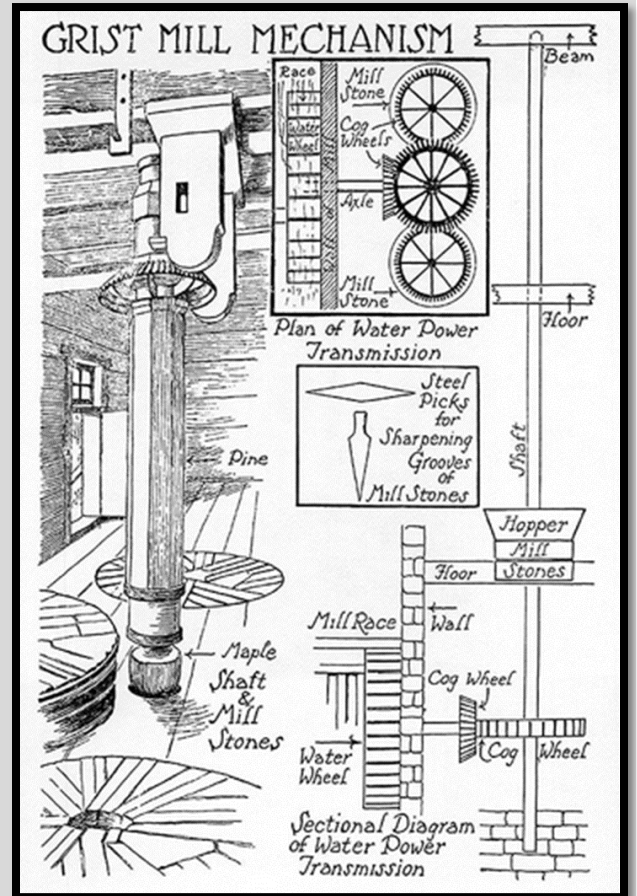
a water wheel to make it turn. In most watermills the water wheel was mounted vertically, i.e., edge-on, in the water, but in some cases horizontally (the tub wheel and so-called Norse wheel).

In most wheel-driven mills, a large gear-wheel called the pit wheel is mounted on the same axle as the water wheel and this drives a smaller gear-wheel, the wallower, on a main driveshaft running vertically from the bottom to the top of the building. This system of gearing ensures that the main shaft turns faster than the water wheel, which typically rotates at around 10 rpm.

The millstones themselves turn at around 120 rpm. They are laid one on top of the other. The bottom stone, called the *bed*, is fixed to the floor, while the top stone, the runner, is mounted on a separate spindle, driven by the main shaft. A wheel called the stone nut connects the runner's spindle to the main shaft, and this can be moved out of the way to disconnect the stone and stop it turning, leaving the main shaft turning to drive other machinery. This might include driving a mechanical sieve to refine the flour, or turning a wooden drum to wind up a chain used to hoist sacks of grain to the top of the mill house. The distance between the stones can be varied to produce the grade of flour required; moving the stones closer together produces finer flour.

How 19th century Grist Mills Work:

Classical mill designs are usually water-powered, and this is true for Fort Drum's gristmills. In a watermill a sluice gate is opened to allow water to flow onto, or under,



This grist mill was purported to have contained the first burr stones brought to the Town of LeRay all the way from France. The first miller was a Frenchman named Bidrot, who is recorded as having produced excellent flour. Shortly thereafter the powder mill was converted to a potato starch factory.

Slocum's Mills, also known as Slocumville or Slocum Mills, was a hamlet that received its name from Samuel G. Slocum, one of the early and prominent settlers of the locality and his son Caleb Slocum, Civil War veteran and prominent area businessman. Slocum's Mills had a number of businesses under Caleb Slocum which comprised of a saw mill, grist mill, and carding mill/woolen factory and a store operated by his father Samuel G. Slocum. The businesses closed about 1884.

Caleb Slocum has been remembered in local histories for his valor and patriotism for his part in the U.S. Civil War. He enlisted with the 35th Regiment, New York Volunteer Infantry, Company A, popularly known as the "Jefferson County Regiment".

"Caleb Slocum, . . . is a LeRaysville boy, son of Samuel G. Slocum, who came into LeRay about 1814, from Dartmouth, Mass. The elder Slocum was a miller and clothier, and at an early date he built a grist mill and cloth-dressing works on Pleasant Creek at what has long been known as Slocum's Mills. . . Samuel G. Slocum was a member of the Society of Friends, and Caleb was reared in that faith, educated in the common schools, helping his father until he reached his majority. About that time Fort Sumter was fired upon, and Caleb was one of the very first to enlist, joining Co. A as a private soldier, but afterwards promoted to a lieutenancy for bravery in battle. As we have said, he was a member of the Society of Friends by what they designate a "birthright,; and when it was known that he had enlisted, one of the most faithful and revered of that body (Daniel Childs) started on foot for Watertown to try and dissuade Caleb from any resort to warfare. He walked the streets of Watertown all night, and finding Caleb in the morning, used all the argument in his power to induce him to remain steadfast in the Friends' faith, that is, opposed to war. Caleb was stubborn, however, and patriotism prevailed over faith – so the Friends quietly dropped Caleb from their fellowship, and this incipient soldier went with his company to fight his way upward into prominence. Probably no man in the 35th had more friends than young Slocum, for he early showed great courage, judgement and fearlessness. He always had a smile for a friend, and his wholesome, persistent good nature was worth more than medicine to keep up the boy's spirits amidst dismal surroundings. His memory is enshrined in the hearts of Co.A as one of its noblest braves, an honor to the company and to the regiment. His is yet in the prime of life, and holds a position under the State in caring for two of the great dams that store up the waters of Black River in the Western Adirondacks." ---- The Growth of a Century: As Illustrated in the History of Jefferson County, New York by John Haddock

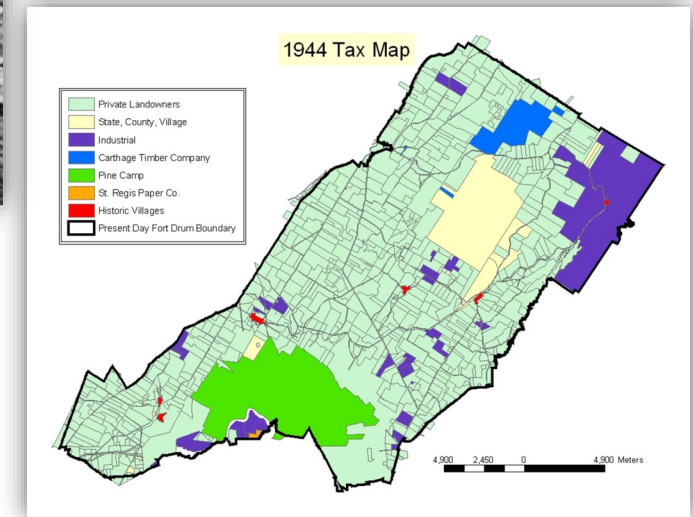


Braman's Mill floating harvested logs down the Indian River. Photo undated.

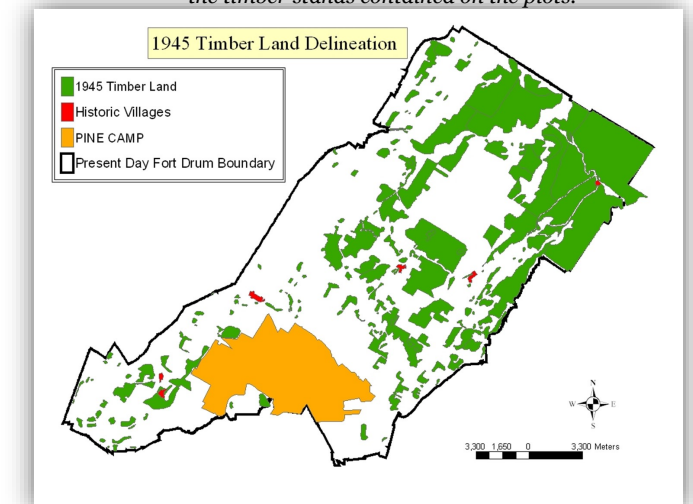
industry. Braman's Mill, which once existed between North Wilna and Woods Mills, was a very large sawmill and lumber processing site that had a significant economic impact on the local populace. Softwood logs harvested in the area during the winter by horse and buck saw then transported in the spring down the Indian River in massive drives to area mills. History has very little to say about this mill, how long it lasted or how many people it employed. It may have been a temporary, short term mill that only existed for a few years during a large timber harvest operation. Perhaps it was related to Braman's Mill in nearby Carthage, New York.

Oral histories, associated historical photographs and land use date help paint a clearer picture of the land use patterns in the early 20th century.

If we fast forward to today, after 80 years of government ownership, the landscape has made another large shift. This is the land cover classification of the current Fort Drum landscape. Now approximately



Large tracts of the Northern end of Fort Drum was owned by industries and timber companies who used the land for the timber stands contained on the plots.



Just before the major purchase of the rest of the installation in 1945, the once heavily forested landscape was reduced to this. This is an actual forest reconnaissance done by the government prior to the purchase assessing the amount and potential value of the forest to be acquired. The north east corner of the present day installation is so heavily forested due to the extreme amount of exposed rock outcrops and wetlands found there. It was also under industrial ownership which limited agriculture.

Figert Road Sawmill

19th century sawmills in the Fort Drum area were almost exclusively a “sash-type” sawmill, also known as “up down” sawmills. In order to use the abundant forests, the plentiful rivers and streams of northern New York and the growing need for building materials there were hundreds of sawmills built around the area on almost any body of water that could power a mill. Some of these may have only been in use for less than a year while others persisted for more than a century.

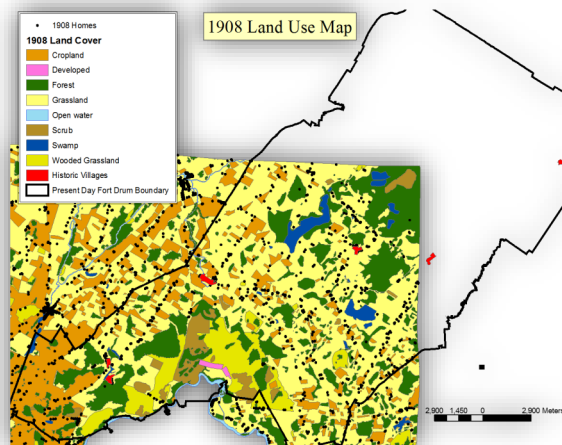
Fort Drum was historically home to a great number of sawmills on many of the rivers and tributaries that travel through the installation. Most of the 19th century sawmills on Fort Drum were probably of the sash-type. They were a water-powered vertical saw with a single straight blade and a wooded log carriage “sash” set in a heavy wooden frame.

Throughout most of the 19th century extending into the early 20th century, the timber and wood-using industries flourished with the expansion and development of the area.

During this time significant changes occurred across our forested landscape due to the increased human demands on the forest. Maps from 1908 depict the huge change that 100 years of Euro-American occupation have on the landscape. Not only was the forest used for timber but until the 1840s Americans still relied upon wood for 95% of their heat. Rural communities, like those in northern New York continue to rely on wood in disproportionate numbers compared to other areas of the United States.

Much of the five villages that once existed on Fort Drum relied heavily on the timber

*This map, showing land cover in 1908, depicts the huge change that the landscape underwent in 100 years of Euro-American occupation. You can see the forest makes up a small portion of the landscape. The change to Euro-American settlement meant that the forest was cut down to raise livestock and plant more crops. The timber removed went into building homes, became fuel to provide heat through the long winters and being crafted into the thousands of other everyday items that were made from wood. William Cronon, in his book *Changes in the Land*, estimated that a typical New England household would have to cut more than an acre of forest per year for use as firewood.*



Lt. Caleb Slocum, post Civil War. Caleb Slocum is buried on the Fort Drum Military Reservation at the Quaker Cemetery near the former village of LeRaysville, now known as the Remington Pond Recreation Area.

Great Bend, New York



Maggart Paper Company, Mill, Great Bend NY

Great Bend is a small hamlet in the extreme northern part of the Town of Champion on the southern side of the Black River, and was so named in allusion to the somewhat unnatural course of the stream at that particular point. In this locality Egbert Ten Eyck and Olney Pearce were among the earliest settlers, and to them is also given the credit of having made the first improvements here, laying the foundation for the hamlet by constructing a darn across the river, the work being done in 1806 by Mr. Tubbs, also an early resident. A saw mill was built the

same year which was carried away by high water, but was at once replaced. Henry G. Gardner built the second mill. A distillery was erected in 1809, and by still other improvements and milling enterprises built between 1815 and 1824 by Watson & Gates and Charles E. Clark, Great Bend became a place of considerable importance even in the early history of the town. However, the village suffered seriously by a destructive fire March 5, 1840 but the industries that burned were soon replaced with others more substantial and modern.

Great Bend's location on the Black River drew various mills looking to utilize inexpensive and plentiful waterpower. Such corporations included the Sherman Paper Company and the Great Bend Paper Company, which was incorporated in September 1868 to manufacture straw wrapping papers and strawboard.

As we cross the bridge you will see the Trinity Chapel on the left, now owned by the 4 River Valleys Historical Society. The Chapel was built in 1875 due to the efforts of Mary Bradford Sterling Clark on a plot of land donated by her husband George Clark. It is Gothic in design and retains its century old beauty and furnishings.



Trinity Chapel, Great Bend, New York.

The white steeple ahead is of the Methodist church. F.W. Woolworth, of five-and-dime fame, endowed a church here in honor of his parents on September 15, 1915.

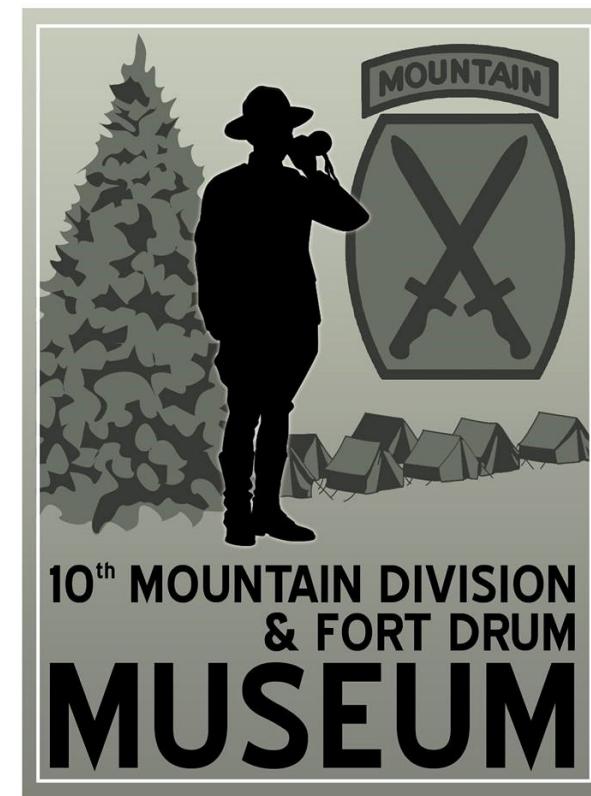
10th Mountain Division & Fort Drum Museum

The 10th Mountain Division & Fort Drum Museum, located in the Heritage Center, tells the story of the base as well as the 10th Mountain Division through artifacts, informational boards, and interactive multimedia. Artifacts on exhibit range from the early military history of the North Country to the founding of Camp Hughes in 1907, which would eventually become Fort Drum, to the "Coveted Rock of Somalia" and Operations Enduring Freedom and Iraqi Freedom. The Museum is free and open to Soldiers and civilians.

The Museum holds an archive of photography and documents, as well as outdoor exhibits and additional artifacts not currently on display. Upon request, the Museum is able to provide group tours, host special functions (such as promotion ceremonies) and allow access to the print archive to military members researching unit history.

Address: Heritage Center, Building 10502
South Riva Ridge Loop
Fort Drum, NY 13602
Phone: 315-774-0355

Find them on Facebook at:
[www.facebook.com/
FortDrumMuseum/](https://www.facebook.com/FortDrumMuseum/)



Historic Sugarbush

Maple sap/syrup processing sites like this one are interesting archaeological sites for historians to examine. They are simultaneously reminiscent of simpler local traditions, a way to examine the continued changes technology brought to rural America, evidence of multi-generational human occupational use of the landscape and a current snapshot of how a unique regional forest-based food production continues to be socially and economically important to North Country residents today and in the future.

Sugar maple stands, like this historic sugarbush, are actually some of the most valuable areas of standing timber on Fort Drum today due to the historic management strategy of keeping the largest, best growing maple trees that are needed for maple syrup production while cutting other species out.

The forests across Fort Drum are managed by the Natural Resources Forest Management Program in a sustainable manner to support the varied training scenarios that are needed by the Soldiers training today and into the future. The forest management program also manages for wildlife and water quality while producing forest products.



Newspaper advertisement clipping probably from a Jefferson County, NY newspaper, c.1939.

Deferiet Paper Mill

Deferiet, an island on the Black River, about 13 miles from Watertown was originally founded by French émigré Jenika de Ferriet. It became a mill town in 1899 when the land was acquired by the St. Regis Paper Company, which employed immigrants of Italian and Polish extraction.

St. Regis Paper was established in 1899 by George Sherman and David Anderson. In 1901, construction of a mill in Deferiet, New York, was completed. At the time it was built to be the most modern paper mill in the United States and, when finished, it was the largest mill in the area. The walls of the mill were made of concrete, of which very few other buildings at the time were constructed. The achievements of the mill were not only an immense hydraulic canal, a group of gigantic mill buildings, but the village itself was built to serve as a company town for the mill's employees complete with a new school house, store, public hall, and hotel.

The mill encompassed a 645-acre tract of land on the Black River where the river forms a reverse "S". The plan was to build a 4400-ft canal to harness a gradual 45 foot drop in the water level here in order to use the water to generate power for two paper machines (third machine was installed in 1907). The wood resources of the area made Deferiet an excellent area for papermaking.

By 1922 the village was company owned with 1500 residents in the company-owned houses and apartment buildings. (The company sold these homes in the 1960s.)

During its peak production years in the mid-20th Century, the mill employed around 900 people. St. Regis manufactured several different types of paper at its Deferiet mill, but its main product through most of the mill's existence was newsprint. In 1984, the mill was acquired by Champion-International. After fifteen years of slowing business and layoffs, Champion sold the mill to the Deferiet Paper Company. The mill closed in 2004, and in 2011, it was demolished.



Rte. 3A Forestry Management for Wildlife

In 2014, after two years of planning, the environmental restoration of the approximately 350-acre area began in order to restore the sandplain grasslands habitat that have been deemed a significant community by the state Department of Environmental Conservation's New York Natural Heritage Program and to protect the species that call it home.

In the past 25 years, the development of forests, invasive grass species and development have threatened the grasslands, which are characterized by grasses less than a foot tall and scattered trees. In the 19th and early 20th century this land was cleared for farmland, then after the government purchase of the land in the 1940s the landscape reverted to a sandplain grassland habitat. At that time this habitat extended all the way west to the Wheeler Sack Army Airfield. This area was chosen to restore since the development around the airfield has taken away some of this unique habitat.

The grassland habitat is home to vegetation like common hair grass, reindeer lichen and Blue Ridge sedge, along with animals like the grasshopper sparrow, black swallowtail butterfly and the protected upland sandpiper.

Restoration work began when logging crews came in and cut down the trees covering 90 acres of the focus area. In addition to protecting the critical grasses, the removal of the trees will move potential predators for the smaller protected birds settling in the grasslands. Crews worked in deep snow to prevent the heavy logging vehicles from shredding the delicate vegetation below. The area now receives an annual mow in the late

summer to discourage trees from sprouting.

Today, this restoration is complete and we have documented breeding pairs of upland sandpipers. This area has also been restored for the Army's "Birds". You can drive by regularly and see them hard at work sling loading artillery.

Soldiers from the 10th Mountain Division's 3rd Battalion, 6th field Artillery Regiment conduct sling loads of M777A2 Howitzers on CH-47 Chinooks.

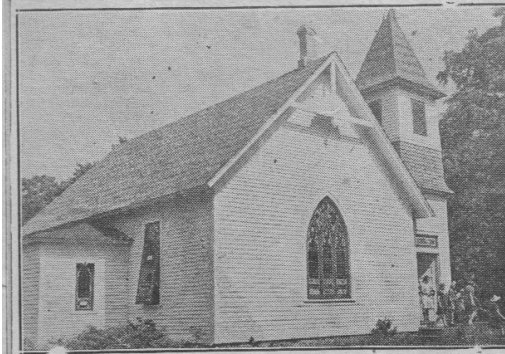


North Wilna Church To Be Reconstructed

Church of the Nazarene Purchases Structure from Methodist Conference—Building Material Moved from Original Site, Now Government Property, to Thompson Estate, Spring Street — Ground Broken Preparatory To Re-erection of Church

Apr. 23

Parishioners of the Church of the Nazarene, under the direction of their pastor, Rev. John L. Vaughn, have begun building operations for a new church to be erected on the recently purchased lot of the L. D. Thompson estate in Spring street. Volunteer workmen are now engaged in preparing a foundation on which is to be reconstructed a church purchased at North Wilna from the Methodist conference. The property on which the North Wilna church stood was recently taken over by the federal government in the Pine Camp expansion program.



Although the church cannot be reproduced exactly in its original form due to the area of the new site, the plan will be changed only slightly. The size of the building will be increased a few feet in width and depth, making a breadth of 32 feet and length of 50 feet. The altar and choir loft will be situated at the rear of the auditorium, and the bell tower will be attached to the roof instead of located over the entrance hall as previously.

There will be five Sunday school rooms in the basement which with folding center doors will also supply room for young people's meetings.

Carthage residents, former parishioners of the North Wilna church, have been grateful to learn that all of the memorial stained glass windows will be reset. Families represented in these memorials are John and Matilda Kelley, parents of the late Attorney W. W. Kelley, Watson Stephen and Sophia Lewis, settlers of the Lewis homestead in 1812. Mr. and Mrs. F. Swind, Mr. and Mrs. Alonzo Sampson, Mr. and Mrs. L. G. Dodge and W. W. Lamb and family, all of whom were early settlers in the North Wilna community and active supporters of the church.

Organization of the Carthage Church of the Nazarene began in December, 1940, and at present has 30 full members and several in a probationary class. The pastors salary is paid in free will offerings, with no social activities held for that purpose.

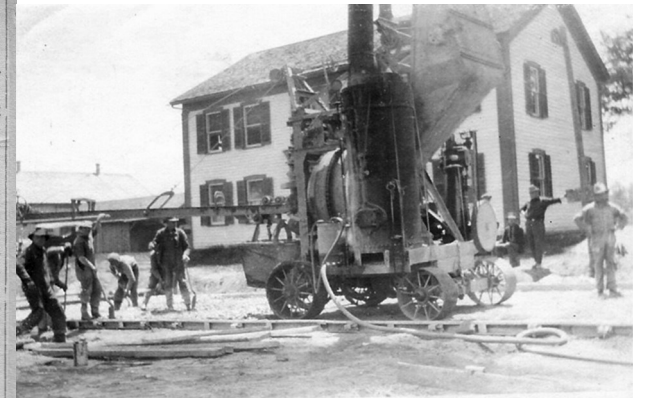
which had been originally purchased from Sheriblah Gibbs.

The North Wilna church saw its most progressive period during the pastorate of Rev. B. J. Fults, now pastor of a Methodist church in Arkport. He came to this vicinity in 1900 and served the parish for eight years during which time the church was remodelled into a building of modern design. Remodelling maps drawn by Mrs. Kate R. Lewis, now residing at 323 North Washington street, were used as plans for the work.

Through the efforts of Rev. and Mrs. Fults and with the whole-hearted cooperation of the parishioners, the expenditures of \$1,500 for remodeling were met and the church was entirely free from debt at the time of the dedication.

One of the most outstanding events in which the North Wilna church participated was the famed Old Home Day celebration held annually since 1918, and attended by residents from many miles distant. The celebration was instituted by the late Henry H. Lewis, who was church organist, and at whose homestead the Old Home Day anniversaries were held. Rev. and Mrs. Fults have attended these gatherings and assisted in the program for several successive summers.

Pulaski, April 23.—Harold Giebel of Mexico, gave instructions on handling incendiary bombs at a meeting of over 250 people Tues-



(Above) undated photograph of roadwork occurring in North Wilna, NY.



(Above) undated photograph, probably c. 1930s of North Wilna, NY.

North Wilna

Mentioned only in passing in history accounts, North Wilna was recorded as a small crossroads hamlet in the Town of Wilna. For such an inconsequential sounding area, newspaper clippings from the first half of the 20th century and oral histories remember this community differently. The 1866 Child's Business Directory of Jefferson County lists North Wilna as containing two saw mills, two shingle mills, a mason, a post office, a hotel, a blacksmith, a church, a lathe mill, a grist mill, a cooper and a planning mill.

Henry Lewis, a pioneer, settled in North Wilna in 1800. There he built a log house for his family. Henry's first wife Polly Jackson and five of their children were born in Rensselaer County. Three more children were born in Wilna, one being the first white child recorded born within the present limits of the town. Members of the Lewis family lived in North Wilna for the next 140 years until the land was taken by eminent domain in the 1940s.

Lewis Homestead at North Wilna In Pine Camp Expansion Area

Henry Lewis, 80 Saturday, Must Pack Up

North Wilna—Saturday held a special significance for Henry H. Lewis, last surviving member of one of this township's pioneer families. It was his 80th birthday, but it was also his last birthday observed at the "Old Homestead" in North Wilna.

The Lewis homestead, nearly 140 years old, the home of Mr. Lewis' birth and his entire lifetime, lies in part of the area to be included in the Pine Camp expansion, and Mr. and Mrs. Lewis, with a deep, poignant sense of history, are being urged to move into Carthage.

A large birthday cake in pink and white was presented by Mrs. Warren Hubbard of Philadelphia.

Mr. Lewis was born April 23, 1811, and of five and seven children. His father's grant passed to Henry and Polly Jackson Lewis, in 1859 journeyed north from Carthage along a stage trail which later became the Old Pine Camp road and stage route. They purchased a tract of land from the late Mrs. Gordon Crowder, and here built their log house. A few years later they moved to North Wilna.

The tavern later was conducted by their son, Stephen, and his wife, Susan Lewis. Old Henry is the father of three sons, Silvio was interested in the farm lands rather than the hotel, and the Lewis homestead, now the home of the present Henry H. Lewis, is a remnant of more than a century of occupancy by the Lewis family.

Henry H. Lewis attended the district school and later for several years at Antwerp. He became a teacher in the district schools and studied music and also taught that department. He was organist and musical director in the North Wilna Methodist Protestant church for several years.

North Wilna. In 1920 he married Kate Randall of Lewisport, N. Y., and devoted his later years to the farm lands and to the cultivation of fruits and vegetables.

Mr. Lewis, always has been keenly interested in the various problems of the community and in all its civic, social and church activities. He has looked forward to his return to North Wilna's annual Old Home day, for which his remembrance of old times, likely to become a thing of the past because of the annexation of the section as part of the military reservation, and Henry Lewis will be left with only his memories.

A shower of 112 cards was received by H. H. Lewis Saturday when he observed his 80th birthday. Among those who did not stay were Mr. and Mrs. F. A. Cannon, Mrs. H. Storch, Warren town; Miss Missa Place, Stamford; Mrs. W. S. Hubbard and Glenn Hubbard, Philadelphia; Miss Elizabeth Dickson, Miss Geneva Main, St. and Mrs. Clarence North and Mrs. Anna Adkins of Carthage.

MISS MILDRED ROBINSON AND FLOYD CROWDER WED

Carthage, May 7.—Miss Mildred Robinson and Floyd Crowder were married Saturday at 8:30 p. m. at the home of Gordon Crowder, 545 West End avenue. The ceremony was performed by Rev. William K. Bradshaw, pastor of the First Methodist church. Attendees were Mrs. Jessie Crowder and Gordon Crowder.

WOODS

Woods — Mrs. W. S. Vartan and daughter, Irene, spent the week-end in Potsdam at the home of Mrs. Zetta Fulton, where they stayed while attending Normal school.

Mr. and Mrs. Ray Moore and family have moved from this vicinity.

Mr. and Mrs. Carlton Lyon moved to their river.

Brooks Tooley and family have moved into Frederick Woods' tenant house.



Gas Station, store and home in North Wilna, New York.

Lake School Road Cemetery

Using cemeteries like this one, we teach local school children how to use a cemetery as a primary research source for local history.

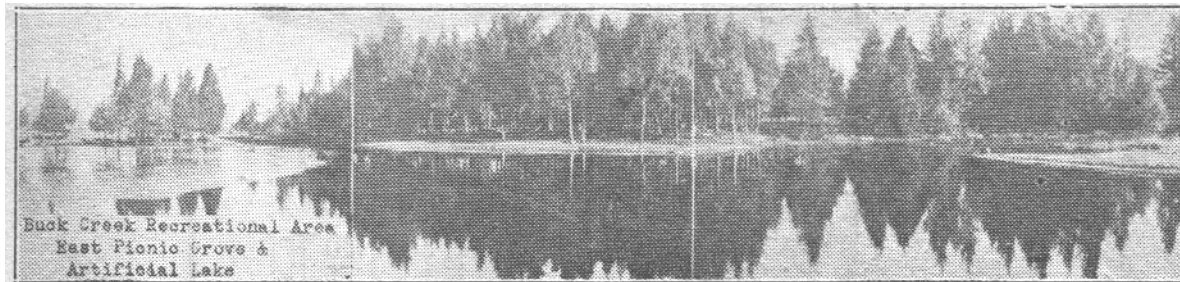
One thing we ask them to do is go on a scavenger hunt and find items on the list below.

- Angel
- An American Flag
- The letter "X"
- A obelisk
- 5 crosses
- Your birthday- month and day
- A bird or dove
- Civil War Veteran
- A flower
- A heart
- The letter "Q"
- Someone who lived to be over 90 years old
- Someone who was alive for less than a year
- Moss or lichen
- A hand
- An urn shape
- A footstone
- A star
- A broken gravestone
- A lamb
- A crown
- A harp
- Clasped hands
- 5 "Mother" engravings
- The word "little"
- A prayer
- Word "Wife"
- The year 1900

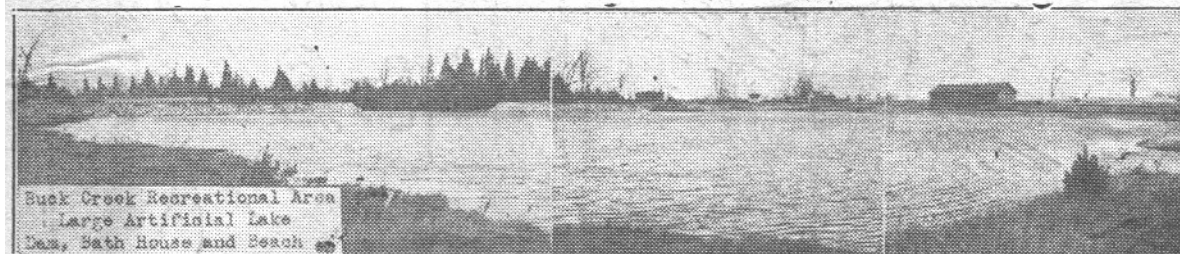
Bucks Creek Area Park

When Franklin Delano Roosevelt (FDR) became president in 1933, the entire nation was in a state of turmoil never seen before or since. It was the height of the Great Depression: unemployment was at 25%, croplands were failing, and millions of families were going hungry. But it was also more than even the financial crises, it was a time of a national environmental crisis also. Forest fires were frequent and severe, forest pests and diseases were out of control, imprudent plowing of fragile eco-systems like grasslands was rampant, over-grazing of land, overcutting of forest lands and soil exhaustion that led to severe erosion issues and stream siltation were serious environmental issues. To add to that, use of automobiles was on the rise and the American public demanded more access and opportunity to enjoy the environment.

To combat both the economic and environmental crises, FDR within his first one hundred days of his presidency signed the Emergency Conservation Work Act creating the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC), a national work program which gave men ages 17 to 28 unskilled labor jobs in infrastructure. The young men were paid \$30 a month, \$25 of which had to go home to their families. These young men were truly a force for nature since by the end of the program nine years later, over three million men from all fifty states had



Buck Creek Recreational Area
East Picnic Grove &
Artificial Lake



Buck Creek Recreational Area
Large Artificial Lake
Dam, Bath House and Beach



The pavilion built by CCC workers at Bucks Creek Area Park. Today only the steps and foundation are visible.

made significant improvements to the nation's road system, planted three billion trees, and built thousands of facilities in state parks.

The CCC would prove to be one of the most successful and enduring of FDR's New Deal initiatives. The program had a major impact on New York's state parks by creating the foundation of New York's incredible

state park system with many of their structures remaining today.

The Buck Creek Area Park is based around an artificial lake, located about ten miles from Carthage, featured a sand beach, bath house, pavilion, 100 car parking lot, over 30 picnic tables, horseshoe pitching courts and a baseball field.

On the day of its dedication, July 3, 1935 over 5,000 people visited the park. Col. Raymond E. Lee, commandant at Madison Barracks oversaw the CCC team who built the infrastructure at the park. Col. Lee addressed the crowd at the dedication by saying how amazed he was at the turn out and expressed the hope that the park would become an area recreational center.

The Buck Creek Area Park would be taken by eminent domain in the 1940s expansion of Fort Drum. Today the area is an angling site which is known for its bass fishing. The Natural Resources program has adopted this area and is slowly restoring it to its former glory. A trail network has been developed and is maintained around the pond, a fishing pier and floating bridge have also been installed. Most recently a footbridge was constructed by the natural resources staff to cross the stream below the dam. This bridge was built with timbers sawn from trees cut on Fort Drum.

(Right) This was the bridge built by the CCC at Bucks Creek Park. Today's bridge was built by the Natural Resources team lead by Forester Rodger Voss and Wetlands Biologist Jason Murray.

