Guide to the Marjorie L. Porter Collection of Ballads and Lore

73.2

Special Collections
Benjamin F. Feinberg Library
State University of New York College at Plattsburgh
2 Draper Avenue
Plattsburgh, NY 12901

Revised by Debra Kimok
July 2019

Audio Materials Index
By Dr. Timothy Clukey

Title: Marjorie L. Porter Collection of Ballads and Lore
I.D.: 73.2
Creator: Marjorie Lansing Porter
Collection Size: 12 linear feet
Acquisition Information: Materials donated by Marjorie Lansing Porter and Sean McNamara Rosemeyer
Language of Material: English
Access Restrictions: None
Location: Special Collections, SUNY College at Plattsburgh
(518) 564-5206
Preferred Citation: Marjorie L. Porter Collection of Ballads and Lore [Box #, Folder #], Special Collections, SUNY College at Plattsburgh.

Subject Headings:
Porter, Marjorie Lansing, 1891-1973
Adirondack Folklore
Clinton County (N.Y.)—History
Clinton County (N.Y.)—Social Life and Customs
Essex County (N. Y.)—History
Essex County (N. Y.)—Social Life and Customs
Plattsburgh Barracks (N.Y.)

See Also: Online Index to Marjorie L. Porter Photographic Materials:

See Also: Online Index to Marjorie L. Porter Audio Materials

Includes hundreds of folk songs, ballads, and interviews with senior citizens of the North Country and Adirondack Region recorded between 1941 and 1967 (primarily during the 1940s and 1950s). Listen to these recordings in Special Collections at SUNY Plattsburgh.

See Also: Collection 2013.3: Sean McNamara Rosemeyer Collection on Marjorie Lansing Porter and Related Families
Biographical Note

Helen Margarett (Marjorie) Lansing Porter was born on August 21, 1891 in Port Henry, New York to Charles Wendell Lansing and Helen Margarett Prescott. She graduated from the Plattsburgh Normal School in 1912 and for parts of her career she served as the historian for the city of Plattsburgh and both Essex and Clinton counties, N.Y., researching and writing prolifically about Champlain Valley/Adirondack history. Mrs. Porter was the first Clinton County Historian, beginning in 1944 and serving until the end of 1952 and from January 1953 until July 1954.

Mrs. Porter inherited and edited the Essex County Republican, the newspaper founded by her great grandfather, Wendell Lansing, in 1839. The Lansing family also owned the Plattsburgh Sentinel, edited by her grandfather, Abram Lansing. She also for some time edited the North Countryman and Essex County News newspapers and with G. Glyndon Cole, the periodical, North Country Life/York State Tradition.

In addition, Mrs. Porter presented historical programs for locally and for radio stations throughout New York State.

In 1941 Mrs. Porter began “collecting” oral histories and traditional folk songs of the Champlain Valley region, recording senior citizens talking, singing, and playing the fiddle into a Soundscriber recorder. She donated these and other historical materials and photographs to the North Country Historical Research Center (now Special Collections, Feinberg Library, SUNY Plattsburgh).

She was involved in the U.S. Work Progress Administration’s Federal Writers Project, for which she wrote her 1942 publication, History and Guide: Keeseville-Chesterfield-Ausable.

She also collected historic artifacts in a barn in Green Lawn, later moved to her “Red Barn Museum,” which in 1955 became part of the new Adirondack History Center Museum in Elizabethtown (http://www.adkhistorycenter.org/).

Mrs. Porter was married and divorced twice—first to Howard Guy Millington in 1912, with whom she had three children, Helen (1913), John (1915), and Mary Elizabeth (1918), and then to Homer Porter in 1922, with whom she had two more children, David (1922) and Philip (1924).

She died on April 14, 1973, at the age of 82.

Scope Note

The original donation by Marjorie L. Porter consists of manuscripts of published books, newspaper stories, and magazine articles; voluminous notes and clippings on North Country, N. Y. history and folklore; Soundscriber (and reel-to-reel copies) recordings of reminiscences and folk songs narrated and/or sung by senior citizens of the Adirondacks and the Champlain
Valley for Mrs. Porter (456 interviews); photographs and prints; letters received by Mrs. Porter; letters and documents collected by her; and miscellaneous personal memorabilia.

Mrs. Porter’s work has long been recognized as significant for regional history and folklore and has been consulted hundreds of times since it came to SUNY Plattsburgh Special Collections. Even prior to the donation, as early as 1959, a folk operetta, “The Ballad of Lieutenant Korby,” based on Porter’s historical research and using songs from her collection, was written and produced by Robert Feregen and SUNY Plattsburgh professor of music, Dr. George Yokum, and presented in Hawkins Hall on the Plattsburgh campus.

During 2011-2012, SUNY Plattsburgh Communications Professor Timothy Clukey digitized all of the recordings and created an index to them—the mp3 files are available on a computer audio station in Feinberg Library’s Special Collections. See the link to the online index on the first page of this guide.

Additional materials were donated in later years by Marjorie Lansing Porter's granddaughter, Sean McNamara Rosemeyer and added to this collection. Much of the material formed the creation of a new collection: The Sean Guide to the Sean McNamara Rosemeyer Collection on Marjorie Lansing Porter and Related Families, 2013.3.

In the article copied below, Marjorie Lansing Porter described her collection as it existed in 1953, when it was kept at her home at 100 Rugar Street in Plattsburgh, NY.


_English Folklore Quarterly_, vol. IX, no. 1, Spring 1953, pp. 56-58.

The material, gathered over a period of about 12 years, is filed under such headings as stories of Joe Call, the Lewis giant; of Lorenzo Dow, early itinerant preacher; of the Lake Champlain sea serpent; of famous guides, hunters, trappers, stage drivers, hotel keepers, surveyors, boatmen, etc. Tall tales are included in the collection as well as old beliefs, sayings, place names, folk medicines, and data on early industries.

The Ballads are British (“Child”) ballads, Irish and French ballads, songs of the lumber camps and the iron mines, as well as verses memorializing incidents in the early history of the North Country, such as “Allen’s Bear Fight Up In Keene,” the Chronicles of Black Brook, “The Chateaugay Thaw,” the Tale of Alexander Larabee, and “Poet” Ray’s effusions—a true “back to the soil” collection inasmuch as it has been made possible through the generous contributions of “our folks.” These men and women, several of whom have sung 100 songs each, are telling the story of the North Country, each in his own way and from his own experience, for recording, that their grandchildren and great-grandchildren may benefit.

Among the people whose ballads are in the Porter collection, Mrs. Lily Delorme of Cadyville on the Saranac river, “Grandma Delorme,” was the first to share her rich treasure of song. A mental picture of this slight, pioneer woman, as she sat rocking, interspersing singing with comments on her girlhood days and the times of her forbears, is a pleasant one. It was the spirit of her Revolutionary-soldier-grandfather which possessed her as she heard the news of the Pearl Harbor disaster in December, 1941, and it was the fervor to whom
freedom is dear which impelled her to exclaim, aged 76, “Oh, if I could only help some way!” She could sing no more that day—“The Unquiet Grave,” “Earl Brand,” “The Three Crows,” “John of Hazelgreen,” “Barbara Allen,” “The Famous Wedding,” and dozens of other favorite ballads passed on to her by her mother, her uncle, her grandfather, and others, all York state pioneers, had to wait till she had regained her customary serenity. Now, she has been gathered to her fathers—perhaps has joined her aged grandfather, Gideon Baker, with whom, as a child, she so often picked blueberries on Adirondack ledges and whose know—now in the turning out of “essence of smoke” she admired to share.

Still present too, is the spirit of that sweet old man, “Yankee” John Galusha, who at the age of 91 was eager to sing—and sing again—that his repertoire of ballads might be enjoyed by others, and lest he reproach himself he had failed to give his best. He lies beside his wife, his companion of over half a century, in the remote wind-swept Irishtown burying ground, Minerva (Essex County), close by the woods and waters he knew and loved so well. When Yankee sang “The Dying Sergeant,” one saw ragged ranks of Revolutionary soldiers marching—marching—fife and drum calling—the brave flag of the Colonies flying!

Grandma Fifield, descendant of Vermont Chittendents; Peter Wells, descendant of French-Canadian habitants; Amos Blood, stone mason supreme, father of 14 and grandson of a Yankee who was with Ethan Allen at the taking of Fort Ticonderoga; Pete Parrott of Redford, home of Redford Glass, whose singing talent is shared by his son and daughter, as Grandma Delorme’s treasure is possessed by her son and daughter; Johnny Sausville, gentle, brown-eyed fiddler, whose love of music comes out in haunting ballads of his own composition—all North Country music makers, as their friends and neighbors are history makers. “Philly” Fitzpatrick of the Patent, gifted Irish yarner of the soft voice and far-off gaze, one generation behind his renowned wrestling relatives; Abram Kilburne, a mine of entertaining data, chuckling at some of his recollections; Eugene Washburn, last of his line in the Ausable valley; Will Robinson, 92-year-old son of a gunsmith of parts and owner of the Robinson patent on a rifle in 1874; Jim Farrell, pink-cheeked, white-haired and smiling at the age of 99, who reminds one he is “giving some good stuff” as he tells of iron mining, charcoal making and river driving in the Adirondacks—way back when—

Here truly, are our folks, and here in this collection, they live and will live—on.
Series List

73.2a: Manuscripts and related notes of published books, newspapers, and magazine articles, and stage productions

73.2b: Notes and clippings

73.2c: Published versions of Mrs. Porter’s writings

73.2f: Miscellaneous material including maps, printed programs etc.

73.2g: Marjorie Lansing Porter Correspondence (Rockwell Kent, Ray Bender, Noah John Rondeau, Pete Seeger, and many others) (2 boxes)

73.2h Deeds, Agreements, Wills, and Letters, 1832-1906, Collected by Porter

73.2i Scrapbooks containing advertising cards, and clippings from newspapers of the 1860s, 1870s and 1880s (4 boxes)

73.2j Book length manuscripts of a fictionalized account of William Gilliland, written by Charles W. Lansing, Mrs. Porter’s father

73.2k Marjorie Lansing Porter Family-Related Materials

73.2L Paper Indexes to Audio Materials

Container List

73.2a Manuscripts and related notes of published books, newspapers, and magazine articles, and stage productions

Box 1

Box/Folder

1/1 Lem Merrill
1/2 - 1/5 Old Plattsburgh

1/5/1 “Captions for Pix”
1/5/2 References
1/5/3 Index, Plattsburgh: 1785-1815-1902
1/5/4 Plattsburgh Town Records, excerpts from 1785 and 1798
1/5/5 Monuments
1/5/6 Soldiers and Sailors of the War of 1812
1/5/7 Soldiers’ and Sailors’ Graves in Plattsburgh
1/5/8 Ballads for Barracks History Section
Ballads, Songs, and Poems of the War of 1812, with some notes

- Siege of Plattsburgh
- The Noble Lads of Canada
- Ballad of Plattsburgh Bay
- Embarkation of the Green Mountain Boys
- Sparkling Champlain
- Advent of the White Man
- Battle of Plattsburgh
- Ausable Chasm
- Essex-On-Champlain
- The Wreck of the Champlain
- Life in the Adirondacks
- To the Ausable River
- Mount Marcy
- Isle of the Dead
- Battle of Plattsburgh and Victory on Lake Champlain
- Yankee Doodle, or, The Lexington March
- Saratoga
- The Jesuit Priest
- Battle of Bennington
- Ballad of Schenectady
- The Green Mountain Boys
- The Common Soldier
- Sheldon Durkee
- Farewell to Peace
- The Battle of Lake Champlain
- A Pardon Coming Too Late, James Bird
- The Phantom Post
- Unidentified Poem
- Unidentified Poem
- Letter and Notes concerning the origin and writer of the Star Spangled Banner and its relationship to the Battle of Plattsburgh
- “An Address Delivered Before the Vermont Association of Chicago, January 17th, 1877, by John Mattocks, Song on Page 10

Plattsburgh Barracks

Marjorie L. Porter Material on North County. Undated mimeograph list of her publications and manuscripts.

Box 2

Box/Folder

- Essex County Notes
- Clinton County Almanac
- Ballad Collecting, Lore, Stories
  - Characteristics of the Ballad
- Ballad Collecting – Recording (See also photograph 1160 in Collection 2013.3
- A Woman is a Sometimes Thing
- The Ballad Story (1956)
- Let’s See – The Adirondacks
- Here We Are – Upstate Things ‘N Stuff (April 9, 1968)
- Up in the Adirondacks
- Folk Songs
- The Day of the Spank
- Home Again
- The Rabbit Council
- John Brown’s Body

Box 3

Box/Folder

3/1 – 3/2  Here We Are—Upstate Things and Stuff (1966-1970)
3/3    I’ll Tell You a Story
3/4    Articles published in Panorama Magazine
3/5    More about Pioneers

Box 4

Box/Folder

4/1    Tour guides
4/2    Plattsburgh guide
4/3    History of Keeseville

Box 5  Miscellaneous newspaper articles

Box 6

Box/Folder

6/1    Another Country Heard From
6/2 – 6/3  Biographical sketches
6/4    Biographical sketches – Clinton County
6/5    Biographical sketches – Franklin County

Box 7

Box/Folder

7/1    Work Projects Administration of NYS (Guidelines)
7/2 – 7/4  History and Guide: Keeseville- Chesterfield- AuSable
Box 8: Encyclopedia Series

Box 9

Box/Folder

9/1 Redford Glass
9/2 Radio talks
9/3 Dear Editor
9/4 Vignettes
9/5 Dawn Valcour Community
9/6 Adirondack Iron
9/7 Split Rock Story

Box 10

Box/Folder

10/1 Muskets to Missiles
10/2 Champlain Story
10/3 Ballad of Lieutenant Korby

73.2b Notes and Clippings

Box 1

Box/Folder

1/1 Town of Essex
1/2 Town of Chesterfield
1/3 Town of Jay
1/4 Town of Westport
1/5 Elizabethtown
1/6 Elizabethtown

Box 2

Box/Folder

2/1 Schroon Lake
2/2 Port Henry
2/3 Lewis
2/4 North Hudson
2/5 Willsboro
2/6 Crown Point
2/7 North Elba
2/8 Keene
Box 3  Ticonderoga
See also Broadsides--Box 3 oversize folder

Box 4

See also Broadsides--Box 4 oversize folder

Box/Folder

4/1  Chazy
4/2  AuSable
4/3  Champlain
4/4  Ellenburg
4/5  Mooers
4/6  Dannemora
4/7  Peru
4/8  Keeseville
4/9  Keeseville biographical notes
(some people appear in more than one place in this file)

Blaisdell, Dr. Jacob
Cord, Jacob Douglas
Lansing, Abram
Keese, Richard
Purmort, John
Simmons, George A.
Dodge, Daniel
Forsyth, Hon. James (Forsaith)
Ayres, Samuel G.
Anson, Grant W.
McGuire, Michael
Stow, Gardiner
Wills, Mrs. Frances W.
Hayes, Mrs. Elizabeth (Betsy)
Smith, Samuel K.
Colvin, Charles
Stranahan, Charles H.
McGuire, Thomas
McGuire, Mrs. Julia
Bushe, Mrs. Louis
Heaxt, John
Keeler, Caroline Cornelia
Keeler, Samuel
McLean, Philip V. N.
Arthur, Elkanah
Knowles, Ira D.
Fletcher, Jehiel
Wills, James H.
Pope, Lothrop
Pope, Seth
Bonville, Peter
Whitcomb, Mrs. Rhoda
Lambert, Jennie Whitney
Baber, Willard Hines
Wolcott, Oliver A.
Tanguay, Eva
Mooney, Walworth Merritt
Appleyard, Joshua
Colvin, Daniel
Lewis, Jonathan W.
Willard, Jacob P.
Matthews, Heman C.
Pope, Dr. Willis G.
Garfield, Edmund Holden
Ames, Samuel
Keese, James
Witherspoon, Rev. Andrew
Mattocks, Rev. John
Kingsland, Edmund
Kingsland, Nelson
Spear, Paschal
Arthur, Fanny Keese
Pine, Mrs. Artalissa
Place, Worden
Laflam, Joseph
Rowe, Sylvester
Kingsland, Abraham Bussing
Bigelow, Austin
Ricketson, Stephen
Whitney, Samuel
Arthur, Platt
Forsyth, Robert
Fowler, Clara Jacox
Grinnell, Smith
Goulding, Mrs. Polly
Boardman, Mrs. Mary
Bigelow, Mrs. Mary Irish
Powers, Major
Barber, Charles Benjamin, M.D.
Hallock, Emily
Mills, James
Reynolds, Joseph W.
Arbuckle, Thomas Linsay
Gardiner, Dr. A.F.
Ricketson, Abednego
Higby, Elihu
Osborn, David
Havens, Simon
Baggs, William
Barker, Ruth
Beardsley, Jehiel
Arthur, Mrs. Elkanah
Mosher, John
Irish, Fanny Keese
Hallock, Peter
Mills, Benjamin
Forsyth, Sabrina Ramsay
Winter, Mrs. Sally
York, Rev. Robert
Harkness, Col. Nehemiah
Hallock, Mrs. Phebe
Rowe, Norman
Whitney, Norman
Mills, James H.
Farnham, Nancy Ferris
Webb, Ira
Cochran, John
Holcombe, M. B., M.D.
Jackson, Catherine Green
Durand, Lois Barnes
Arnold, Elisha
Ferris, Sally
Haff, Rev. Abram
Eells (Wells?), John
Wells, Joshua
Adgate, Judge Matthew
Shaffer, Mrs. Jane
Shaffer, George
Whitney, Luther
Finch, Hon. Martin
Prescott, Charles H. (Harttrey)
Mould, Willis
Mould, Henry M. (Munroe)
Weston, Dr. Aden
Gay, Lucius D.
Adgate, Martin
Andrews, Aaron C.
Peabody, Oliver, Major
Morris, Charles (Deacon)
McLean, William V. R.
Hoyle, Robert, Lt. Col., M.P.P.
Barnes, Deacon Marcus
Whitcomb, Preston Singletary
Keese, William
Keese, Richard 2nd
Boynton, Nathaniel Culver
Prescott, Rufus Alfred
Baber, James Alfred
McAlon, Pierce
Rakes, Victor F., M.D.
Thayer, Gilbert
Keeler, Sarah E.
DeGroat, Nelson E.
Prime, Peter Wilbur
Peterson, Carl Frederick
Evans, John H.
Straight, Dr. Charles Winter
Tallmadge, Henry Orton, M.D.
Harned, Norman R.
Turner, Clifford E.
Severance, D. Karl J.
Hopkins, Dr. Frank M.
Barton, Caleb D.
Aldrich, Noble Wallace

Box 5 Mining and Iron Industry

Box 6 Lumbering

Box 7

Box/Folder

7/1 Adirondack guides
7/2 Hunters and trappers
7/3 Camp Poke-O-Moonshine
7/4 Adirondack Park Agency
7/5 Conservation and forestry
7/6 Geology
7/7 Newspapers
7/8 Roads
7/9 Redford Glass
7/10 Stephen K. Smith
7/11 Northern New York Economic Conditions
7/12 Boats and shipping on Lake Champlain
7/13 Samuel de Champlain
7/14 Irving Bacheller
7/15 Victoria Woodhull
7/16 Redford
7/17 Indians
7/18 Underground Railroad

Box 8

Box/Folder

8/1 John Brown
8/2 Alonzo and Melissa
8/3 Eleazer Williams
8/4 Battle of Valcour
8/5 Kent-Delord House
8/6 Railroads
Box 9
Box/Folder
9/1 Churches
9/2 Churches – Essex County
9/3 Churches – Clinton County
9/4 First Presbyterian Church, Plattsburgh
9/5 White church, Crown Point

Box 10
Box/Folder
10/1 Battle of Plattsburgh
10/2 Louis Joseph Papineau
10/3 Louis Riel
10/4 Civil War
10/5 Whitehall
10/6 Bishop Genealogy
10/7 John Bird Burnham – bibliography
10/8 Manley family
10/9 Plattsburgh town records (copy)
10/10 Samuel Bridge (copy); Traver Van Vliet (copy); Lone Mt. Diary (copy); Unknown writer (copy)
10/11 Thomas Haynes’ memorandum

Box 11  Miscellaneous notes and clippings

Box 12  Notes and clippings pertaining to artists
Box/Folder
12/1 Rockwell Kent
12/2 Edna West Teall
12/3 Rembrandt Peale
12/4 Ruth G. Mould
12/5 William Henry Jackson
12/6 Alexander Lawrie
12/7 Other artists

Box 13  Folklore
Box/Folder
13/1 Place names
13/2 Water witching
13/3 Sea serpent
13/4 Passenger Pigeons
13/5 Mining
13/6 Traditional crafts
Outline for projected book “Adirondack Portfolio”

Folklore Lee Knight

Miscellaneous folklore

**Box 14**

Box/Folder

Noted men and women
North Country Chronicle
Miscellaneous
Notes and Clippings on Folk Music

**73.2c** Published versions of Mrs. Porter’s writings

**Box 1** More about Pioneers

**Box 2** Newspaper Articles

Box/Folder

See Clinton County First
Our Folks: North Country Portfolio
Clinton County Almanac

**Box 3** Essex County Notes

**Box 4** Miscellaneous newspaper articles

Adirondack lore treat for visitors
Scouting New York State’s early Americana
War of 1812 period marked by confusion and outstanding service of prominent citizens
History of the town of AuSable
History of the town of AuSable
Early surveyors assisted in setting up county, town lines in Plattsburgh area
Up on Convey Hill
The Champlain Valley --- steeped in history
Early surveyors helped lay out what is now Clinton County
News items tell story of Chazy
Champlain Valley history rich in fact, fiction from days of Indians
Victuals in the “buttry”
Plattsburgh once had stage coach service
Neighbors across the lake
Lake Champlain lighthouses
Lake Champlain lighthouses
John Brown’s body lies in North Elba Town
Much done in work in history
Essex, Clinton graveyards hold heroes (sic) of Revolution
Many beautiful vistas to see before snow
Winter in the Adirondacks

Spring at hand, “living earth” puts on robe of many colors

Black Brook takes name from stream

His goal was to preserve timberlands for a park

Chinese nursery rhymes please young, old alike

Travelers enjoyed old time taverns

Redford may be called the Quebec of Clinton

Old mountain road led to brick kilns

Lake Champlain a key in war, peace of nation

School bells ring loud in history of community

Fair at Essex has long history

Taking the short cut to VT. During the “dead of winter”

Teddy Roosevelt got the news here

Sense of history required to assess region’s origins

North Country heritage ties Vermont to New York

Traver Van Vliet tells own story

Adirondack grandeur holds as winter weather sets in

Old lamplighter of long, long ago

Summer vagabond’s plight when this century was young

Essex County sites listed

Apple’s importance to area dates back to 18th century

Lodgings awaited travelers through Adirondack byways

Clinton, Essex have had distinguished leaders

Clay pipes manufactured at Rouses Point, Westport

Famous Tahawus Club series by pioneer photographer

Many painters came to the Adirondacks

North Country charm continues to attract artists

Town of Essex “has a mind” in addition to rich heritage

Prison site ideal one

Beginning of phone service

Historic plums in Essex pie

Saranac log drives were hard

Lumbering long has been prime in the North Country

Lumbering history goes back to 1700s

Early Adirondack settlers had to cut own “travel ways”

Point- O- Rocks key landmark for area’s railroad history

The first train in Keeseville

Rail era recalled in Champlain area

Travel in Adirondacks prompts dozen of yarns

Interesting stories on houses

Thompson place has roots going back 150 years

It’s not all sweetness in building houses

Plattsburgh’s Witherill a historic landmark

Iron played major Essex County role

Iron one of treasures of Adirondack region

Deserted Standish roared when iron age boomed here

Rocks, Rocks, Rocks

Death recalls importance of area’s iron ore industry

Peru had an early blast furnace

North Country foundries flourished in late 1800s
Ghost Towns return to life as old timers “remember when”
People, personalities relate human saga of Essex County
When mining was No. Country’s big industry
Curiosity, history coincide
Iron still the big word sown around Port Henry
Forges grew up near rivers
Iron industry here like house that Jack built
Cloudsplitter watches history
North Country iron industry flourished
Essex firm made horse nails
“Moriah” may be biblical
Essex peaceful sanctuary to long-time residents
Giant bell recalls old firm
On forges in the wilderness
First Dannemora prisoners helped iron economy
When AuSable River powered valley industry
Sociology figures greatly in North Country history
More questions about our area
Many Clinton changes noted
“Neighbor” still carries same fine old meaning
Tours make summer nice
Many generations cheated by poor use of resources
“Vermont” soaked 150 years
Essex iron ties renewed from Witherbee’s booklet
Northeastern corner of state remains an undiscovered area
Future of Adirondacks questions for long time
Planes replace fire towers
Hard fight for suffragettes
St. John’s, Que., played neighborly role with US
History of many towns linked to Lake Champlain
Story of North Country challenge of interpretation
Diary tells of migration
Finds area history fascinating study
Great AuSable influential in growth of Keeseville
Dannemora Prison dates back to 1845
Myriad publications tell the North Country story
Wise use renews forests
Census taking in the 1840s
Conflict took terrible toll from young men of North Country
E’town museum’s old press first was used in Keeseville
Adirondack rocks millions of years old
Area folk ballad recorded
Fascinating stories abound about No. Country
Kinship bridges U.S. – Canada border
Essex heritage ties to treasure
History gaining importance as lore become big business
When spring cleaning really was a chore
Springtime in Adirondacks
Baking bread important part of early North Country life
Last century’s swim togas rarely mentioned in public
Daniel Boynton of North Jay had a long memory
The facts about Essex County
Vocabularies spell the times
North Country liberty poles
Front ST. in Keeseville contains historic sites
Behind the Adirondack front
Odds and ends about Clinton County towns
Area has some real blizzards in 1890s
Our area wonderland
Pious instruction was the aim of North Country epitaphs
North Country features stern winter beauty
Early settlers kept account of happenings
Doc Carlin had the answer to assortment of things
Solon of long ago tells how it was in Washington
Stowerville ghost hamlet
Fascinating story behind towns
Towns in Clinton County have romantic story
Vermonters settled Ellenburg
Area about Keeseville can boast some real history
Let’s tour streets of old-time Keeseville to meet familiar names
18 townships in Essex
Historic scenes listed for region
Lost town revisited
Places to check as weather clears
John Brown returns to North Country
North Country churches fought slavery
Adirondack boys in many bloody battles

Box 5  Miscellaneous newspaper and periodical articles

Champlain Valley Tour Offers Preview of Festival Year
Up on Convey Hill
Glenmore School
Grandma Fifield’s garden interesting
Historical viewpoint
History of Plattsburgh Barracks
Bluff Point, South of City, is focal point for history of this area
Keevseville a century ago
Essex iron ties renewed from Witherbee’s booklet
Discovering bits of history in your own neighborhood
Recalling Valcour encounter
Artifacts recall life of Champlain
Westport has special story
Spiritual, farming advice
Many doctors came north
Keevseville plays role in history
Stevenson wintered up here, willed youngsters a birthday
Loyalist pioneer first settled area around Hemmingford
Pioneer family was active
Quarterly details area lore
5/21 Another anniversary coming for Battle of Plattsburgh
5/22 Delord portrayed in oils and letters
5/23 Adirondacks guide roster studded with longevity
5/24 Papineau War bought turmoil to the Northeast
5/25 New Yorker wrote 30 novels
5/26 Adventure and characters in North Country history
5/27 Northeast corner becomes major area for exploration
5/28 'A- going to be a battle'
5/29 Industrial raised near Ti
5/30 Where are the treasures of long ago Plattsburgh
5/31 Essex, Clinton graveyards hold heroes of Revolution
5/32 Old-timer's anecdotes enriched area history
5/33 Kent- Delord House archives reveal famed history
5/34 Keese family plays large role in area history
5/35 From the Historical viewpoint
5/36 Valcour battle anniversary significant to Saranac area
5/37 In the local spirit of 1776
5/38 Battle of Plattsburgh relived
5/39 Papineau War brought turmoil to the Northeast
5/40 Valcour's name a mystery
5/41 When rebels raided north
5/42 "Ironshoes"
5/43 Boats always plied the lake
5/44 Lord Howe's burial place remains historical mystery
5/45 Franklin Falls spot of renown
5/46 Name research on Ticonderoga
5/47 Old journal tells story of Sax Trip
5/48 Watson were Port Kent
5/49 John Cheney's exploits told in many books
5/50 Adirondack guides of old gained respect for loyalty
5/51 Old 'medicine' sales meant waving 'red flags' for public
5/52 Franklin Falls was rebuilt quickly
5/53 Takes a lot of digging to find out about Simmons
5/54 If Canadian sympathizers foresaw 1970s, then what?
5/55 Watson ancestors lauded
5/56 The mystifying story of Benedict Arnold
5/57 Old roads give rare views
5/58 Benedict Arnold was a hero
5/59 The fabulous Smith Weed
5/60 Westport has historic setting
5/61 Hats a rummage sale can recall other years
5/62 Brown site deserves exploration
5/63 A diary reflects period of writing
5/64 Dick Shutts of Indian Point and the good old days
5/65 On-site research of North Country's ghost towns
5/66 Pigeons 'shut out the sun'
5/67 Vacation magic word for area
5/68 Beauty in outdoor scene
5/69 Crown Point has deep roots in history of North Country
5/70 'Foreign correspondence' elbow local news aside
19

5/71 Winchester won back in 1837
5/72 Age of Wood peaked a hundred years ago
5/73 E’town museum’s old press first used in Keeseville
5/74 Take look at K’ville
5/75 The Forest Fire of 1908
5/76 “Crazy Dow”
5/77 “Crazy Dow”
5/78 Split Rock Historical Lore
5/79 Split Rock Historical Lore
5/80 Mrs. Porter relates story of the Irish Glen
5/81 Looking Back
5/82 Time for Adirondack jaunt
5/83 In North Country they lift their eyes ‘unto the hills’
5/84 Diaries tell story of early life in Valley
5/85 Flocks of pigeons over St. Lawrence
5/86 Civil War letters got to the heart of the era
5/87 Arnold defeated but gains time for Americans
5/88 Finding cannons telescopes history
5/89 Lake Champlain key route in past, present development
5/90 Some Hessians stayed here
5/91 No end of incidents after tornado hit in mid-1870s
5/92 Adirondack guides of old gained respect for loyalty
5/93 Keeseville offers a lot
5/94 Port Kent a natural spot for emerging lake traffic
5/95 Great AuSable influential in growth of Keeseville
5/96 Contributions to pigeon lore
5/97 History of Keeseville both varied and interesting
5/98 What measure is time when in the Adirondacks?
5/99 Prospect Hill observation Point
5/100 Fair at Essex has long history
5/101 Bill Smith’s hair…. A real North Country tradition
5/102 How did pioneers get to Northern New York
5/103 Quebec traditions recalled
5/104 View is one of classic beauty on road below Schroon River
5/105 Each town in county has special feature
5/106 Area promotion ‘inevitable’
5/107 Arsenal Inn has history that goes back to 1811
5/108 Valley native ascends Whiteface Mt.
5/109 ‘Saranac’ label on many things
5/110 Alice- like Peru alters size
5/111 Tells local story on canvas with oils
5/112 North Country art works finally receiving acclaim
5/113 Many area attractions await influx for Expo 67
5/114 History of Split Rock
5/115 That’s a pleasure in pathless woods
5/116 1609 to 1959 A Lake with History
5/117 Where the Rivers flow North and South
5/118 Let’s take a look at Keeseville back through the years
5/119 Church dedicated on Dec. 25, 1816
5/120 Split Rock Historical Lore
Crown Point yields vignettes to the historian
Saranac Lake noted as health center
Public demands trails
Going to school before buses
City- Montreal railroad formed 169 years ago
Reading papers in old Port Henry
Pioneer schools had gamut of tax dollar problems
Lake Champlain was merciful
Religion in our heritage
Settlers' old roads are still rewarding
Steam boating on lake
Scenic beauty on Lake Champlain
Champlain Valley history rich in fact, fiction from days of Indians
Champlain Canal gave lift to business
Transplanted New Englanders form church
Church discipline serious
Lake settled by people from New Hampshire, Valley
Old Lake Champlain has always had her moods
Canal brings about changes in Lake Champlain commerce
Earlier day Essex and Clinton County newspapers
From trail to Northway 178 years
Lake found in 1642
Curiosity ingredient opens Champlain Valley
Navigation season about to open
Recent law spells out rules for scenic trails
Remember heroes of war
Yankee notions
Plattsburgh Bank set up with $300,000 in 1871
Rembrandt Hall boasts famed curved stairway
Planning for Adirondacks began in state 100 years ago
Saving vignettes for winter
Highway maps good guide to little known sites
Boreas range of Adirondacks most beautiful during fall
E'town History tied to Iron
Ideas blossomed in area in 1890s
The craftsman of yore
Historical viewpoint
Life in summary Adirondacks worth the hazards

Miscellaneous Material Including Maps, Printed Programs, Local History Memorabilia, etc.
73.2g  Marjorie Lansing Porter Correspondence (Rockwell Kent, Ray Bender, Noah John Rondeau, Pete Seeger, and many others)

73.2h  Deeds, Agreements, Wills, and Letters, 1832-1906, Collected by Porter

Box 1  Aaron Dean Fletcher

Box/Folder

1/1  Will, estate papers, letters, etc.
1/2  Notes and articles on Fletcher

Box 2  Arnold Papers

2/1  Indentures, agreements and other documents
2/2  Receipts, chattel mortgages, acknowledgements, orders to pay
2/3  Letters
2/4  Invoices and statements

Box 3

Box/Folder

3/1  Whitney papers
3/2  Merriam papers
3/3  Anson letters and documents (copies)
3/4  Ellen Walker correspondence, 1844-1850
3/5  Miscellaneous letters, 1861-1960

73.2i  Scrapbooks containing advertising cards and clippings from newspapers of the 1860s, 1870s, and 1880s

73.2j  Book-length manuscript of a fictionalized account of William Gilliland, written by Mrs. Porter’s father, Charles W. Lansing

73.2k  Marjorie Lansing Porter Family-Related Material

Box 1  Genealogies

73.2L  Paper Indexes to Audio Materials

Box 1  Indexes to songs and singers