Guide to the Phyllis Wells Collection on
Clinton County Churches and Other Clinton County History

2011.1

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

By
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February 2013

Title: Phyllis Wells Collection on Clinton County Churches and Other Clinton County History
ID: 2011.1
Extent: 3.75 linear feet manuscripts, 1 videocassette, 750 photographs
Language of Material: English
Access Restrictions: None
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Location: Special Collections, SUNY College at Plattsburgh
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Acquisition Information: Donated by Phyllis Wells
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Subject Headings:
Churches—New York (State)—Clinton County
Clinton County (N.Y.)--history
Biographical Note

Phyllis L. Wells (1929-2012) was born in Riverhead, N.Y. She graduated from the State University of New York (SUNY) at Geneseo with a bachelor’s degree in library science and from SUNY Plattsburgh with a Master of Science in Elementary Education in 1957.

She taught at Schoharie Central School, N.Y. from 1952-1953 and Berlin Central School, N.Y. from 1953-1955, worked for the Clinton-Essex Library System in Plattsburgh, N.Y. from 1955-1957, and was a librarian at the Benjamin F. Feinberg Library at SUNY Plattsburgh from 1957-1987. She was a member of the First Presbyterian Church of Plattsburgh and was their church librarian and assistant historian. Ms. Wells was also a member of the Clinton County Historical Association, being awarded their McMaster’s prize for local history writing in 1981 for her paper titled “Reverend Francis B. Hall and the Peristrome Presbyterian Church of Plattsburgh.”

Ms. Wells researched Clinton County history extensively for many years, focusing primarily on the history of Clinton County Churches. At the time of her death, she had a lengthy draft of a book on this subject almost completed. She also wrote articles for various publications, including North Country Notes; PULSE, the newsletter of the First Presbyterian Church of Plattsburgh; Courier, newsletter of the New York State Covered Bridge Society; York State Tradition; and the Antiquarian.

She completed her Subject Index to the Clinton County Portion of Duane Hamilton Hurd’s History of Clinton and Franklin Counties, N.Y. in 2003, donating all of the proceeds from the sale of the Index to SUNY Plattsburgh’s Special Collections.

Ms. Wells designated $470,000 from her estate to SUNY Plattsburgh, three quarter of which was to support the Phyllis Wells Endowed Scholarship for students and the rest to support SUNY Plattsburgh’s Special Collections work on the preservation of rare and archival materials related to the North Country and the College Archives. At that time, this was the second largest gift ever given to the college by an alumna.

Scope of the Collection

The manuscript collection is housed in nine Hollinger boxes, occupying 3.75 linear feet. The collection also includes one slide show on videocassette and over 800 photographs. See a description of the photographs in this collection in the Series Three section of this guide.

Of special interest in this collection is the extensive collection of Ms. Wells’ research on the history of churches in Clinton County.

Multiple other local history topics are also covered in this collection (See Series One) through pamphlets and newspaper clippings Ms. Wells collected and her own research notes on those subjects.
Ms. Wells created many bibliographies to guide other researchers to published materials on various subjects—those bibliographies are also part of this collection. The collection is divided into four series:

- **Series One**: Miscellaneous Clinton County History
- **Series Two**: Clinton County Church History Materials
- **Series Three**: Photographs
- **Series Four**: Slide Show on Videocassette—“Pictorial History of the First Presbyterian Church, Plattsburgh, N.Y., 1997”

**Container List**

**Series One: Miscellaneous Clinton County History**

**Box 1**

Box/Folder

1/1 Town of Ausable  
1/2 Town of Champlain  
1/3 Churubusco  
1/4 Town of Clinton  
1/5 Town of Dannemora  
1/6 Redford  
1/7 Rouses Point  
1/8 Lookback Newspaper Clippings  
1/9 Newspaper Pictures  
1/10 Catholic Summer School  
1/11 Champlain College, Plattsburgh, N.Y.  
1/12 Clinton Community College, Plattsburgh, N.Y.  
1/13 Crab Island  
1/14 Ghost Towns  
1/15 Iron Mines and Mining  
1/16 Point Au Roche State Park  
1/17 Post Offices  
1/18 Clinton County General History  
1/19 Clinton County Historical Markers  
1/20 Village Name References  
1/21 Canadian Settlement  
1/22 Covered Bridges  
1/23 Clinton County Maps (primarily photocopies)  
1/24 Valcour Island Bibliography
Series Two: Clinton County Church History Materials

Box 2

Box/Folder

2/1 General Religion
2/2 Diocese of Ogdensburg
2/3 Clergy Association
2/4 Churches Slide Show—Lists of materials used in the slide show
2/5 Church Buildings No Longer Used as Churches
2/6 Secular Uses of Churches
2/7 Catholic Schools, Bibliographic Material and Research Notes
2/8 Catholic Schools, Newspaper Clippings
2/9 Catholic Schools, Supplements to the Press-Republican
2/10 Beekmantown School of Religion
2/11 Schools, Non-Catholic
2/12 Churches, Jehovah’s Witness
2/13 Churches, Lutheran
2/14 Churches, Methodist
2/15 Churches, Presbyterian
2/16 Churches, Protestant
2/17 Churches, Wesleyan
2/18 Churches, Maps
2/19 Churches, Bibliographic Material
2/20 Churches, Bibliographic Material

Box 3

Box/Folder

3/1 Lists of Churches in Clinton County
3/2 Lists of Churches and Religious Organizations in Clinton County
3/3 Lists of Churches by Denomination in Clinton County
3/4 Churches, Clinton County, Bibliographic Material and Research Notes
3/5 Churches, Clinton County, Bibliographic Material and Research Notes
3/6 Churches, Clinton County, Information from Gazetteers
3/7 Churches, Clinton County, Newspaper Clippings
3/8 Churches, Clinton County, Fires, Lists and Research Notes
3/9 Churches, Clinton County, Fires, Bibliographic Material
3/10 Churches, Defunct, Lists and Research Notes
3/11 Churches, Defunct, Bibliographic Material
Box 4

Box/Folder

4/1 Adirondack Mission
4/2 Churches, Altona, Catholic
4/3 Churches, Altona, French Baptist
4/4 Churches, Altona, Ganienkah Longhouse
4/5 Churches, Altona, Holiness
4/6 Churches, Altona, Nazarene
4/7 Churches, Arnold Hill, Catholic
4/8 Churches, Ausable Chasm, Union
4/9 Churches, Beekmantown
4/10 Churches, Beekmantown
4/11 Churches, Beekmantown, Baptist
4/12 Churches, Beekmantown, Catholic
4/13 Churches, Beekmantown, Methodist
4/14 Churches, Beekmantown, Presbyterian
4/15 Churches, Black Brook
4/16 Churches, Cadyville, Bible Church
4/17 Churches, Cadyville, Catholic
4/18 Churches, Canaan Hill, Holiness
4/19 Churches, Canann Hill, Methodist
4/20 Churches, Cannon’s Corners, Methodist
4/21 Churches, Champlain, Assembly of God
4/22 Churches, Champlain, Baptist
4/23 Churches, Champlain, Catholic, St. Mary’s
4/24 Churches, Champlain, Episcopal
4/25 Churches, Champlain, Holiness
4/26 Churches, Champlain, Living Water Baptist
4/27 Churches, Champlain, Methodist, Three Steeples
4/28 Churches, Champlain, North Country Bible Chapel
4/29 Churches, Champlain, Presbyterian
4/30 Churches, Town of Chazy
4/31 Churches, Chazy, Baptist
4/32 Churches, Chazy, Christian
4/33 Churches, Chazy, Episcopal
4/34 Churches, Chazy, Nazarene
4/35 Churches, Chazy, Presbyterian
4/36 Churches, Chazy, Catholic, Sacred Heart
4/37 Churches, Chazy, Universalist
4/38 Churches, Chazy, Wesleyan
4/39 Churches, Churubusco, Catholic
4/40 Churches, Churubusco, Methodist
Box 5

Box/Folder

5/1 Churches, Town if Clinton, Methodist
5/2 Churches, Clinton Mills, Methodist
5/3 Churches, Clintonville, Catholic
5/4 Churches, Clintonville, Methodist
5/5 Churches, Clintonville, Presbyterian
5/6 Churches, Coopersville, St. Joseph’s, Newspaper Clippings
5/7 Churches, Coopersville, St. Joseph’s
5/8 Churches, Cumberland Head, General Information
5/9 Churches, Cumberland Head Chapel
5/10 Churches, Cumberland Head, St. Mary’s of the Lake
5/11 Churches, Dannemora, Methodist
5/12 Churches, Dannemora, St. Dismas
5/13 Churches, Dannemora, St. Joseph’s
5/14 Churches, East Beekmantown, Methodist
5/15 Churches, Ellenburg, Catholic
5/16 Churches, Ellenburg, Methodist
5/17 Churches, Ellenburg, Presbyterian
5/18 Churches, Ellenburg, Tower of Trudell
5/19 Churches, Ellenburg Center, Episcopal
5/20 Churches, Ellenburg Center, Methodist
5/21 Churches, Ellenburg Center, Wesleyan Methodist
5/22 Churches, Ellenburg Depot, Baptist
5/23 Churches, Ellenburg Depot, Methodist
5/24 Churches, Ellenburg Depot, Nazarene
5/25 Churches, Harkness, Methodist
5/26 Churches, High Banks, Adventist
5/27 Churches, Jay, Baptist
5/28 Churches, Jericho, St. Alexis
5/29 Churches, Keeseville, Baptist
5/30 Churches, Keeseville, Immaculate Conception
5/31 Churches, Keeseville, Independent Baptist
5/32 Churches, Keeseville, Nazarene
5/33 Churches, Keeseville, Presbyterian
5/34 Churches, Keeseville, St. John’s
5/35 Churches, Laphams Mills, Salvation Army
5/36 Churches, Lyon Mountain
5/37 Churches, Lyon Mountain, Catholic
5/38 Churches, Lyon Mountain, Methodist
5/39 Churches, Merrill, Bible Mission
5/40 Churches, Merrill, Episcopal
Box 6

6/1 Churches, Mooers
6/2 Churches, Mooers, Baptist
6/3 Churches, Mooers, Holiness
6/4 Churches, Mooers, Methodist
6/5 Churches, Mooers, Presbyterian
6/6 Churches, Mooers, Catholic, St. Joseph’s
6/7 Churches, Mooers, Wesleyan
6/8 Churches, Mooers Forks, Catholic
6/9 Churches, Mooers Forks, Episcopal
6/10 Churches, Mooers Forks, Methodist
6/11 Churches, Morrisonville, Baptist
6/12 Churches, Morrisonville, Catholic
6/13 Churches, Morrisonville, Community
6/14 Churches, Morrisonville, Maranatha Christian Church
6/15 Churches, New Sweden, Presbyterian
6/16 Churches, Norrisville, Methodist
6/17 Churches, Peasleeville, Methodist
6/18 Churches, Perry’s Mills, Methodist
6/19 Churches, Point au Roche, Methodist
6/20 Churches, Peru, Catholic
6/21 Churches, Peru, Church of God
6/22 Churches, Peru, Community
6/23 Churches, Peru, Quakers, The Union
6/24 Churches, Peru, Universalist

Box 7

Box/Folder

7/1 Churches, Plattsburgh (City)
7/2 Churches, Plattsburgh (Town)
7/3 Churches, Plattsburgh, Air Force Base, Old Chapel
7/4 Churches, Plattsburgh, Assembly of God
7/5 Churches, Plattsburgh, Bible Baptist
7/6 Churches, Plattsburgh, Born Again Baptist
7/7 Churches, Plattsburgh, Christian Science
7/8 Churches, Plattsburgh, Church of God
7/9 Churches, Plattsburgh, Community Baptist
7/10 Churches, Plattsburgh, First Baptist
7/11 Churches, Plattsburgh, First Presbyterian
7/12 Churches, Plattsburgh, Grace Fellowship
7/13 Churches, Plattsburgh, Jewish, Orthodox
7/14 Churches, Plattsburgh, Catholic, John 23

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7/15 Churches, Plattsburgh, Lutheran
7/16 Churches, Plattsburgh, Methodist
7/17 Churches, Plattsburgh, Millerites
7/18 Churches, Plattsburgh, New Jerusalem Baptist
7/19 Churches, Plattsburgh, Our Lady of Victory
7/20 Churches, Plattsburgh, Peristrome Presbyterian

Box 8

Box/Folder

8/1 Churches, Plattsburgh, Catholic, St. John the Baptist
8/2 Churches, Plattsburgh, Catholic, St. John the Baptist, Weekly Bulletins
8/3 Churches, Plattsburgh, Catholic, St. Peter’s
8/4 Churches, Plattsburgh, Catholic, St. Peter’s Newspaper Clippings
8/5 Churches, Plattsburgh, Catholic, St. Peter’s Weekly Bulletin
8/6 Churches, Plattsburgh, Catholic, St. Mary’s Ecumenical
8/7 Churches, Plattsburgh, Sharron Woods Baptist
8/8 Churches, Plattsburgh, Jewish, Temple Beth Israel
8/9 Churches, Plattsburgh, The Lighthouse
8/10 Churches, Plattsburgh, Unitarian
8/11 Churches, Plattsburgh, United Methodist
8/12 Churches, Plattsburgh, Universalist
8/13 Churches, Plattsburgh, Victory Temple
8/14 Churches, Plattsburgh, Wesleyan

Box 9

Box/Folder

9/1 Churches, Redford, Catholic
9/2 Churches, Redford, Methodist
9/3 Churches, Redford, Presbyterian
9/4 Churches, Robinson, Methodist
9/5 Churches, Rouses Point, Baptist
9/6 Churches, Rouses Point, Catholic
9/7 Churches, Rouses Point, Episcopal
9/8 Churches, Rouses Point, Methodist
9/9 Churches, Rouses Point, Presbyterian
9/10 Churches, Saranac, Baptist
9/11 Churches, Saranac, Methodist
9/12 Churches, Schuyler Falls, Methodist
9/13 Churches, Schuyler Falls, Living Water
9/14 Churches, Schuyler Falls, Episcopal
Lists of Churches and Religious Organizations in Essex County

Lists of Churches and Religious Organizations in Franklin County

Series Three: Photographs

Located in Special Collections Photograph Collections

This collection consists of approximately 750 photographs, nearly all of which were taken by Phyllis Wells, former librarian at SUNY Plattsburgh. There are also 43 color negatives (35 mm) and 46 postcards. Most of the photos were taken from the 1970s to the 1990s. A major focus of the collection was historic markers, churches, and variety of locales within Clinton County, but a large number also pertain to Essex and Franklin Counties. For Clinton County, Ms. Wells tended to identify her photos by their association with specific townships, as summarized below. Series numbers have been assigned as indicated.

CLINTON COUNTY:

1 Town of Altona (15 photos): Robinson’s Tavern, French Baptist Cemetery, etc.

2 Town of Ausable (44 photos and 14 postcards): historic markers, Keeseville and Harkness area, Ausable Chasm, ice storm damage of 1998, etc.

3 Town of Beekmantown (10 photos): historic markers, Point au Roche lighthouse, etc.
4 Town of Black Brook (20 photos): Clintonville pine barrens, dam at Union Falls, Ausable Forks paper mill ruins, etc.

5 Town of Champlain (71 photos): historic markers, Champlain Monument, Fort Montgomery, Anchorage Inn 1990 fire, etc.

6 Town of Chazy (42 photos): Chazy Central School, William H. Miner Center, etc.

7 Town of Clinton (1 photo): wind tower

8 Town of Dannemora (18 photos): Dannemora historical markers, Clinton Correctional Facility, iron ore tailings at old Republic Steel works at Lyon Mountain

9 Town of Ellenburg (3 photos): Ellenburg Methodist Church, Merrill aerial photo

10 Town of Mooers (33 photos): historic markers, Gadway Preserve pine barrens, Wood’s Falls area

11 Town of Peru (20 photos): historic markers, 1998 ice storm damage at Ausable Point State Park, St. Patrick’s Church

12 Town of Plattsburgh (46 photos and 7 postcards): historic markers, Cumberland Head burial ground, Route 9 Lake Shore Road, Treadwell Cemetery, 1998 ice storm damage at Port Kent, St. James Church at Cadyville, St. Mary’s Church on Cumberland Head

13 City of Plattsburgh (212 photos photos and 9 postcards): historic markers, houses, buildings, 1998 ice storm debris at Crete Center and City Beach, headstones in Riverside Cemetery with a focus on the War of 1812 graves, buildings at SUNY Plattsburgh, Plattsburgh Air Force Base buildings

14 Town of Saranac (26 photos): historic markers, Standish, etc.

15 Town of Schuyler Falls (16 photos): historic markers, buildings, Methodist Episcopal Church

16 ESSEX COUNTY (150 photos and 16 postcards): Jay and the historic covered bridge (including its restoration in 1997), 1998 ice storm flooding at Port Kent, Lake Placid, Uihlein Mercy Center

17 FRANKLIN COUNTY (15 photos): Wilder Homestead near Malone, Vermontville fields and mountains, Lower Chateaugay Lake

18 JEFFERSON COUNTY (3 photos): Watertown area historic markers

19 ST. LAWRENCE COUNTY (1 photo): War of 1812 historic marker
20 Unidentified (2 photos): house, chapel/church

Series Four: Slide Show on Videocassette

“Pictorial History of the First Presbyterian Church, Plattsburgh, N.Y., 1997”