

History of the Town of Henderson, 1806-2006

By Debbie Quick (2006) Reviewed by Shawn Doyle

This volume compiled by Debbie Quick and the research staff at the Historical Association of South Jefferson (HASJEFF) is the latest in that esteemed organizations efforts to celebrate the “rolling anniversaries” of the townships in their coverage area. In 2003 Debbie and the HASJEFF staff compiled a very useful book on the town of Ellisburg to coincide with that bicentennial celebration. In 2004 a book on the Town of Adams was unveiled. When asked what is next on the horizon, Debbie reports that a book on the Town of Rodman is being researched for future publication.

The format favored by Debbie leans heavily on the files of the Jefferson County Journal. HASJeff has a complete set of the Journal, which has covered the general region of HASJEFF for over 150 years. The paper has always had a dedicated coverage of their circulation region, which is unique in that its headquarters has always been in Adams. Sandy Creek researchers should note that the Journal coverage often overlapped into northern Oswego County.

Extensive use of the family files at the Steele House headquarters of the Society has also benefited the Henderson book as a genealogically valuable tome. Debbie and the HASJEFF staff continue to add to the growing databases maintained on regional families. A growing part of the organizations files are on computer, and close working relationships with neighboring towns and historical societies has benefited the growth of these wonderful files.

Henderson is a rural and agrarian town, but significantly it is also a lakeshore town. The Journal files cited often refer to shipwrecks along the shore, the importance of the fishery to the early economy, and also the settlement of the now abandoned off shore islands.

Many photographs are used throughout the book to bring the region to life and to show the communities as they once were. As in the case of so many of our past settlements, fire and the ravages of time have removed some significant landmarks, yet as a drive through Henderson today reveals, it is a wonderful land of varied vistas. One of this writer’s favored local poems is featured in this book “The Road to Henderson” by Phila Butler Bowman best evokes this opinion.

The spiral bound, 240-page book is available through either the Historical Association of South Jefferson, 19 East Church St., Adams, NY 13302 or Half-Shire Historical Society, P.O. 73, Richland, NY 13144. The cost is \$25 on site, \$27 by mail.

TUG HILL LITERARY REVIEW

SPRING 2006

~Alma Maters past and present across Tug Hill

“A collection of original poetry, prose and book reviews by writers past and present from the greater Tug Hill Region”

Compiled and edited by

Shawn Doyle, George Widrig and Debbie Quick

A joint project by **Half-Shire Historical Society** and
The Historical Association of South Jefferson

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Our little quarterly has now reached the milestone of “one year old.” We are pleased with the comments received throughout this, our first year, and we look forward to the future.

In this spring issue we have sought to collect school songs or “Alma Maters” from across the Tug Hill region. We begin with the Crimson and the Blue from Pulaski, written by Arthur Fremont Rider in 1901. This Alma Mater like many included, is based on a major college anthem. We were later surprised to discover that the Redfield Union School song is based on Pulaski’s school song, the school colors simply changed.

Our good friends Margaret Kastler and Mary Lou Guindon provided the Alma Maters for their respective schools; Sandy Creek and A-P-W. Both are very active in their respective alumni associations.

Debbie Quick researched the Jefferson County Alma Maters, and found them in all sizes. Readers will remember the author of the Belleville hymn, Phila Bowman Butler, from our last issue where we featured one of her poems on Henderson.

In researching the Lewis County school songs we initially met with some difficulty. However, after contacting Jack & Mary Sweeney of Croghan, we were set upon the right path and afforded tremendous advice and assistance. Jack is the Historian for Croghan, while Mary serves as an officer of the Lewis County Historical Society. Our fruitful email correspondence has also unearthed several other great poems for future issues!

We were fortunate in our eBay bidding to acquire a nice photo of the historic Lowville Academy (founded in 1808) to grace our cover. We also turned to our good friends in Glenfield, Superintendent Frank, and Cheryl House for the South Lewis Central School anthem.

For Camden Central Schools we accessed that alumni association’s very valuable web site, and took a copy of that. We are indebted to Cindy Damsky of Adirondack Central School’s Boonville office who took time out to locate and send a copy of their school song. Along with the Vice Principal of Carthage, who assisted us with his school song.

All inside photos are from the Half-Shire collection.

We hope our readers appreciate these selections, any school we have missed we will cover in our spring 2007 issue.

The Editors encourage our readers to continue sending in submissions. Also, please let us know what you enjoy seeing more of. In our next issues we will return to themes of logging, and also epitaphs.

Shawn Patrick Doyle
George O. Widrig
Debbie C. Quick

Camden Central School Alma Mater

Music and Verse composed by Stanley Kent, Class of 1930

*Guarded by the tow’ring maples
Under heaven’s skies so blue,
Stands our dear old Alma Mater
With its distant hills in view.*

*Camden High School, Camden High,
To thee our praises e’er we’ll sing,
Of thy glorious fame and honor,
Ever shall our voices ring.*

*Many happy years we’ve spent here
Sheltered by thy noble walls.
And where e’er on earth we wander,
Back to thee our memory calls.*

*Alma Mater, Camden High,
Sing we thy praises in this lay
Ne’er from thee, dear Camden High School,
Let our hearts be turned away.*

*Here both lessons and athletics,
We have learned for many years,
That when life’s great tasks assail us,
We shall have no doubts or fears.*

*So to thee we lift the chorus,
Speed it onward with the breeze,
Of our much loved Alma Mater
Never shall our praises cease.*

Adams High School Alma Mater

*Dear Adams High School, our own Alma Mater,
So high and so fine in the making of men.
We love you, dear High School; we love and revere you,
As great in the training of soul as of pen.*

*Your place on the hilltop portrays well your value,
In the lives and the aims of the towns all around.
Your strong red brick building, imposing and handsome,
Resembles your teachings and precepts so sound.*

*May Adams High School, our own Alma Mater,
Ever continue to do her good work,
To encourage good sportsmen as well as good scholars
And never one part of her fine creed to shirk.*



Adams High School, 1911

Pulaski Academy & Central School Alma Mater *The Crimson and the Blue*

*Words by Arthur Fremont Rider, class of '01. The tune was taken from
Princeton's "Orange and the Black".*

*There are those who long have favored the violet's blue shade,
And others who will ever, to the crimson rose be staid;
We will place them both together, and never shall we rue,
Those years we stood defenders of the Crimson and the Blue*

*Through the time we spend in study, midst the scenes we know so well,
As the mystic charm to knowledge we vainly seek to spell;
Or we win athletic victories and the friendships made renew,
Still we work for old Pulaski, and the Crimson and the Blue.*

*When the cares of life o'er take us, mingling fast our locks with gray,
Should our dearest hopes betray us, false fortunes fall away;
Still we'll banish care and sadness for the mem'ries that we knew,
And recall those days of gladness 'neath the Crimson and the Blue.*

*We have studied 'neath thine ensign, we have strove beneath thy flag,
And our hearts will e're be with thee, though the years may fleet or lag,
We will ever be thy guardian, ever keep thy memory true
And we'll ever fly the banner with the Crimson and the Blue.*

*All the pleasure that we cherish, soon will pass for'er way
And the mem'ries of our school days, sink beneath the shadows gray.
Yet there's one thing we'll remember, all the years we yet pass through,
'Tis the thought of old Pulaski and the Crimson and the Blue.*



Pulaski Academy & Union School, 1936

Copenhagen Alma Mater

Based on "Amici" (Friends) also known as "Aura Leigh" this tune was originally adapted by Cornell University for their school song. The author of these words is unknown.

*Near the banks of fair Deer River
Rippling toward the sea,
Proudly stands our Alma Mater
We sing praise to thee.*

Chorus:

*Lift the chorus ever onward,
Noble friend so true
Hail to thee, our Alma Mater
May we honor you.*

*In your halls of higher learning
Working every day,
Always striving ever upward
On life's rugged way.*

(Repeat chorus)

*As we turn our footprints forward,
On the path of life
Mem'ries dear of Alma Mater
Help us in the strife.*

(Repeat chorus)



Altmar-Parish-Williamstown Alma Mater

Consolidation of these three town school districts began in 1956, the first class graduated in 1960. Virginia Simmons Nellis, '52 valedictorian wrote this song.

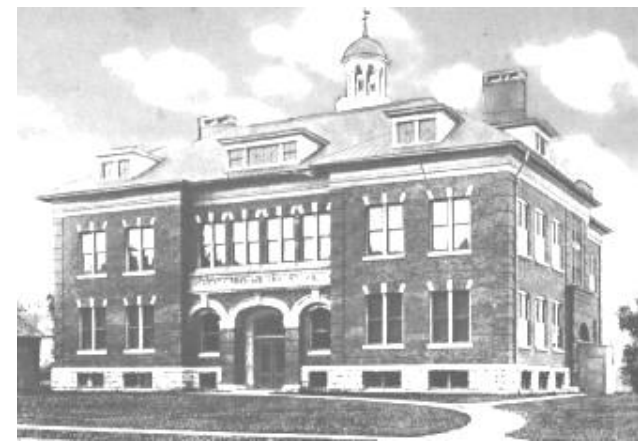
*Where the golden sunset mellow
Tints the western sky,
Proudly stands our alma mater
A-P-W High.*

*Sing the chorus, lift it upward,
In her praises vie,
Hail to thee our Alma Mater,
A-P-W High.*

Carthage Central School Alma Mater

*In Black River valley stands our Alma Mater dear;
Her loyal sons and daughters are faithful through the years.
Carthage, we love thee. We hail thee so true.
We pledge our loyalty, our hearts in gratitude to you.*

*Comets reign forever, victories are fairly won,
The scarlet silver banner soars proudly in the sun.
Sing Alma Mater, Raise voices to the sky,
Long live dear Carthage Central, her praises never die.*



Carthage Central School

Adams Center Central School Alma Mater
The Blue and Gold

*To Central High School dear,
Gaily we're singing,
Blended in loyalty,
Our voices ringing.
True hearts will bring to thee,
Boundless devotion,
And it will ever be
Deep as the ocean.*

Chorus:

*Gold as the rising sun,
Blue as the azure sky,
Colors that we'll hold in memory,
Lead us to victory.
Sing for the gold and blue,
To them we'll e'er be true,
Colors that we'll always honor,
Cheer for old Central.*

*In all our striving,
Keep e'er before us,
Mem'ries of Central High,
Her banner o'er us.
And when we play the game,
Give each endeavor,
For Alma Maters's fame,
Cherish it ever.*

(Repeat chorus)

Mannsville Central School Alma Mater

*Dear Central High School
We thy children bring to thee,
Our best ambitions, love and charity.
In thy halls of learning
We will strive to do our best,
As we search for knowledge
Preparing for life's test.*

Chorus:

*Central, Dear Central,
Loyal hearts pledge faith to thee.
Central, Alma Mater,
True we will always be.*

*Dear to thy students,
Central High, thy name we'll hold,
Proud of thy glory
By us all foretold.
Though we soon might leave thee,
Our thoughts will return
And throughout our lives
For guidance yearn.*

(Repeat chorus)

Parish Academy Alma Mater

This was the old Parish song prior to the APW consolidation

*From North and South,
And East and West,
Let all her children come,
And honor her we love best
Our Parish dearest home.*

*Oh Parish Alma Mater
They name shall honored be,
For far away though we may stray,
We'll e're be true to thee.*

Union Academy of Belleville Alma Mater

*By Phila Butler Bowman
Sung to the tune of "The Little Old Log Cabin in the Lane"*

*There's a place we call Old Union—
A spot our hearts hold dear.
Though our feet in paths afar from her may roam;
There's a hand outstretched to point us
To ways of truth and right,
There's a loving voice that calls her children home.*

Chorus:

*Then hail to thee, Old Union,
Though we be far or near,
Our hearts will cry, "Thou art our mother yet!"
Thy loving precepts ever
Inspire our souls to right;
We may leave thee, but we never can forget.*

*Here, within the mind's fair garden,
We learned to sow the seed
That shall spring to fruitage 'neath our eager eyes.
Here we laid foundations lowly,
Beneath thy watchful eye,
For the temples that immortal shall arise.*

(Repeat chorus)

*Thy children now are scattered,
Along a thousand ways,
But their voices ring with gladness at thy name,
And heart to heart gives token,
Wherever they may meet,
And the eyes will kindle with a sudden flame.*

(Repeat chorus)

Sandy Creek Central School Alma Mater

Also based on "Amici" (Friends) or "Aura Leigh" this was originally adapted by Cornell University for their school song. Sandy Creek words date to before 1929

*Alma Mater's children gather,
From a near and far.
Coast to coast her sway extended
High her guiding star.*

Chorus:

*Lift the chorus, sing her praises,
Proud her name we speak:
Hail to thee our Alma Mater,
Hail of Sandy Creek.*

*By devoted love encompassed,
Steadfast, firm, and true;
See her colors proudly waving,
Hail the white and blue.*

(Repeat chorus)

*White of purity the symbol
Shining bright and clear,
Blue of truth the radiant emblem,
Lo we hold them dear.*

(Repeat chorus)



Sandy Creek High School, c1910

Redfield Union School Alma Mater

Sung to the tune of Princeton's "Orange and the Black"

*There are those who long have favored the violet's blue shade,
And others who will ever to the orange hue be staid;
We will place them both together, and never shall be rue,
Those years we stood defenders of the orange and the blue.*

*Through the time we spent in study, midst the scenes we know so well;
As the mystic charm of knowledge, we vainly seek to spell,
Or we win athletic victories, and the friendships made renew;
Still we work for Redfield High School and the orange and the blue.*

*All the pleasures that we cherish soon will pass forever away,
And the mem'ries of our school days, sink beneath the shadows gray;
Yet there's one thing we'll remember, all the years we yet pass through,
'Tis the thought of dear old Redfield and the orange and the blue*



Balcom District, South Redfield

South Lewis Central School Alma Mater

Based on "Amici" (Friends) or "Aura Leigh" this was originally adapted by Cornell University for their school song. Author of these words is unknown. South Lewis is located in Turin, NY.

*High above the rolling valleys
On a hilltop proud and grand;
In a sphere of living knowledge,
Our alma mater stately stands.*

*As we pause along life's journey
And recall the years gone by;
We will raise our voices singing,
Hail to thee South Lewis High*

West Leyden Central School Alma Mater

This school was consolidated in 1971 as part of Adirondack Central. This Alma Mater was also likely based on "Amici" (Friends) or "Aura Leigh" which was originally adapted by Cornell University for their school song

*Gather near with a cheer and singing,
Make your voices loud and strong,
Till the mountain tops are ringing,
West Leyden's praise in song.*

*The Central School shall ever,
In truth and knowledge rule,
Of all the Leydens, West is best,
Let's cheer our central school.
Rah! Rah! Rah!*

Lowville Academy Alma Mater

Lowville Academy was founded in 1808

*Where Black River meets the hill,
In a valley peaceful still
Stands a school we all cherish,
To her glory we now sing.*

*Alma Mater praise we bring
May our memories ever cling
To the days, the friends of Lowville
Alma Mater here's to you.*

Adirondack Central School Alma Mater

*(Adirondack Central was formed in 1971 as a consolidation of Boonville,
Forestport and West Leydon schools)*

*Adirondack our Alma Mater we'll cheer for thee,
We'll climb the ladder on to victory.
Let the doors be open for the green and white
For our Alma Mater we'll always fight.*



Boonville High School, 1920s

Beaver River Alma Mater

*By Grace Lewis Cornwall
Written between 1910 and 1925*

*There's a land of rushing waters,
Where once a forest grew.
And the dark trees trailed their branches
In the river's dusky hue.
There the Beavers built their houses
In confidence serene;
And the sunset was the orange,
and the forest was the green.*

*The forests long have vanished,
And the beaver's day is o'er.
But we work as hard as they did,
And achieve a whole lot more.
We are now the busy beavers
In rivalry most keen;
To win unfading glory
For the orange and the green.*

*There are other schools far larger.
That have won an endless fame.
But there's none that's working harder,
To gain a place and name.
Here's to the school we all love,
We will keep its honor clean.
We'll be forever loyal
To the orange and the green.*

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Alma Maters past and present from across Tug Hill



Above: Lowville Academy, c1910

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