

The New Berlin Gazette

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The Edmeston Local, South New Berlin Bee, Morris Chronicle and Gilbertsville Journal consolidated with The New Berlin Gazette, February 1, 1968.

Since 1970, the number of divorces in New York State has more than doubled, while marriages within the State have declined by 11 percent.

A report recently published by the State Health Department cites these and other trends in marriage and dissolution of marriage in New York. The report focuses on Upstate New York patterns from 1968-1977, but traces statewide trends as far back as the turn of the century.

The dramatic increase in the divorce rate - from 1.5 divorces per 1,000 population in 1970 to 3.6 in 1979 - can partly be attributed to a 1966 State divorce law which introduced additional legal grounds for decree, making it easier to obtain a divorce in New York State.

The 11 percent decline in the number of marriages between 1970 and 1979 - from a crude rate of 8.9 to 8.0 - is typical of the many fluctuations over the years, according to the report. The marriage rate is influenced by various factors, including economic conditions, war and the size and sex ratio of the marriageable population.

Upstate New York marriage and divorce trends from 1968-1977 were similar to those statewide. Marriages Upstate increased steadily until 1970, from a crude rate per 1,000 of 7.9 to 8.2, then began a continual decline to 7.5 in 1977.

Other Upstate New York trends for the 1968-1977 period cited in the Health Department report included the following: June and August were the most popular months for marriages. January, February and March were the least popular.

Marriages generally occurred at older ages in 1977 than in 1968. The median age for brides increased from 23.1 years in 1977. For grooms the median age increased from 23.5 to 25.3 years. This includes all marriages. The median ages of males and females for first marriages each increased by approximately one year between 1968 and 1977.

One in five persons who wed from 1968-1977 had been married before; from 1973-1977, one in four persons marrying had previously been wed. Among 1968 marriages approximately 84% were first marriages for both brides and grooms. This dropped to 75% for brides and 72% for grooms in 1977.

Youthful marriages - first marriages of a bride under age 20 and a groom under 21 - decreased from 10,998 in 1968 to 7,332 in 1977. The percentage of youthful marriages among all first marriages decreased from 17.6% in 1968 to 14.4% in 1977.

Among divorcing couples the median duration of marriage declined from 9.5 years in 1968 to 8.5 years in 1977, although it fluctuated in the interim.

Marriage and divorce rates for New York State have closely paralleled national trends over the last decade. The marriage rate in the United States gradually declined from 10.6 in 1970 to 10.1 in 1977 (per 1,000 population) then began a steady increase to 10.7 in 1979. The New

York State pattern is similar; the State crude marriage rate fell from 8.9 in 1970 to 7.5 in 1977, and increased to 8.0 in 1979. National divorce rate has continually increased since the turn of the century, as did the State rate, rising from 0.5 in 1890 and 3.5 in 1970 to 5.3 in 1979.

WEST BURLINGTON

Claudine E. Zinninger, Cor.

Mr. Donald Fairbanks of Norwich was a visitor of Mr. and Mrs. Carl Harrington, Monday.

The Bible study group met at the home of Mrs. Lisle Dutton, Tuesday afternoon with ten present.

Mrs. Claudine Zinninger and Virgil attended the graduation and reception of Miss Melanie Valencia in Windsor, Saturday afternoon.

Mrs. Hilda Young of Syracuse spent the weekend with her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Adrain Holdridge. Mr. Adrain Young was also a guest on Sunday.

Mr. and Mrs. Dale Bennett and Mr. and Mrs. Gordon Bennett of Burlington Flats held open house Sunday afternoon at the Dale Bennett home for their children, Tracy and Thomas Bennett who graduated Sunday from the Edmeston Central School. Several from town attended the very lovely affair.

Mrs. Lisle Dutton entertained the Women's Missionary Society of Burlington for their monthly meeting Thursday evening. There were ten present.

Mrs. Dorothy West attended the graduation of her grandnephew, David Meollette in Mohawk, Saturday afternoon.

Mrs. Dorothy West in company with Mrs. Evelyn Blowers of Burlington Flats attended the senior citizens council meeting in Oneonta, Friday afternoon.

Kevin McCumber returned home Friday from the hospital and will be in a body cast to his waist for four to six weeks.

Mr. and Mrs. Robert Schwenk were Father's day dinner guests of Mr. and Mrs. Norman McCumber at Crystal Lake, Sunday.

Mr. and Mrs. James Bunn of Norwich, Mr. and Mrs. Timothy Davis and son, Jeffrey of Edmeston, Mr. and Mrs. Jerry Haney and Mr. and Mrs. Manfred Brandofsky of Fly Creek enjoyed a picnic at Mr. and Mrs. Robert Schwenk at Crystal Lake, Friday evening.

Several from town attended the graduation at the Edmeston Central School, Sunday afternoon.

GARRATTSVILLE

Mr. Richard Turnbull, Cor.

Mr. and Mrs. Robert George attended the wedding of her niece, Mary Timmer and Timothy Dobler on June 13 at St. Matthew's Church, Laurens, and the reception at Willy's Tavern.

Mr. and Mrs. Orrin Belden of Gilbertsville, Mr. and Mrs. Rolland Goodspeed and Mr. and Mrs. Glenn Saunders and Mrs. Skaneateles on Sunday, June 14, for the dinner cruise on Skaneateles Lake.

Mr. and Mrs. James Simons of Edwardsburg, Mich., called at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Richard Turnbull. They were spending a few days visiting relatives in the area including his mother, Mrs. Emma Simons at the Oneonta Nursing Home and sister, Mrs. Shirley Beach at Garden View Manor, Otego.

Although skies were cloudy on Sunday, June 14, the Fire Department members and their families numbering about seventy-five enjoyed their annual picnic at the pavilion. The Diftwoods furnished music for dancing and listening while others played softball.

Mr. and Mrs. Lysle Gibbons of Naples, called on Mr. and Mrs. Harold Lasher, Mrs. Grace Wilson and Stuart Rockwell at the Oneonta Nursing Home on Thursday. Mrs. Gibbons was the former Frieda Schmuck.

Mr. and Mrs. John Turnbull, Sharon and Vivian, Mr. and Mrs. Stephen Winters and Mrs. George Turnbull attended the graduation of Nancy Turnbull at Fonda-Fultonville Central School and a party afterwards at her home in Tribes Hill on Saturday afternoon.

Monday is an awful way to spend one-seventh of your life.

Youthful marriages - first marriages of a bride under age 20 and a groom under 21 - decreased from 10,998 in 1968 to 7,332 in 1977. The percentage of youthful marriages among all first marriages decreased from 17.6% in 1968 to 14.4% in 1977.

Among divorcing couples the median duration of marriage declined from 9.5 years in 1968 to 8.5 years in 1977, although it fluctuated in the interim.

EDMESTON

Edmeston Farmers Lodge No. 553, F. & A. M. will attend church services at the Second Baptist Church, Sunday, June 28 at 11:00 a. m.

Earl Jason Wilkinson is a patient in the Chenango Memorial Hospital, Norwich.

Mrs. Laurie Moore (Ward) was an honored guest at a baby shower in Index. Hostesses were Mrs. Norma Volk, Miss Melody Volk and Mrs. Karen Knapp.

Recent guests of Mr. and Mrs. Milton Ward were Mr. and Mrs. Ronald Bouchard and family of Houston, Texas and Mrs. Rita Vennan of Spokane, Washington.

Mr. and Mrs. Milton Ward will be attending the Ward-Wright wedding and reception at Union College Chapel in Schenectady. Mr. Brian Ward is also attending as best man in the wedding party.

SNB Horseshoe Club

Table with 2 columns: Name, Won, Lost. Includes Morse & Bliss Const. 18 6, Potter Tire 16 8, Contel 14 10, No. 3 14 10, Prudential Insurance 13 7, N. E. Rec. Lines 12 8, Phillips San. Service 12 12, Barry 12 12, Kelly Produce 12 12, Guilford Auto Repair 11 1/2 12 1/2, Harms Inn 9 7, Carols Horses 9 7, Gordons Garage 12 16, Sherburne Inn 7 17, Chenango Tool 6 18, No. 16 2 10.

High games: E. Conant 88 and 89, H. Backus 87.

Fragments of History

New Lisbon Township as gleaned from various sources by Hilda Watrous.

Garratt Family: Land Transactions II

(This and the previous column based on findings in the deed and mortgage books in the County Clerk's Office, Cooperstown, N. Y.)

During 1811 William Garratt purchased land of Samuel and Hannah Horton, including the "old remains of a grist mill there"; he made a property purchase of the estate of Thomas Fisher as well as Burlington land of members of the Matson family. He released his right to the Cherry Valley property to a resident there and also sold New Lisbon land to John Bell.

Samuel and Irene Warner, in 1812, sold to John Garratt - a farmer in Burlington - the remains of the 1805 conveyance machine house. In the following year William and his wife Abigail sold their Morris Patent acreage to Moss Kent, a Congressman. During 1814 William sold land in Cooperstown village to Cooper, son of Judge Cooper. In 1820 the couple sold New Lisbon land to a prominent Albany merchant and manufacturer as well as property to the Union Cotton Manufacturing Company. They sold their holding in Truxton and conveyed New Lisbon and Burlington properties to various men in New York City - probably either to pay off debts or to gain capital for their move to Kingston, Canada.

In 1828 they sold 979 acres (Johnson-Garratt farm land) as well as Morris and Hillington Patent property, to John Edgar Mowatt of New York City. This appears to be that offered at auction in 1827. Excepted were part of the 3 acre burial ground, water used by the mills and dam and a 2 acre piece of land "on the opposite side of the road and on the spot where an old log house stands". What sentiment held them to that old log house? Garratt property conveyances thereafter were those of other

Whether you're a natural food buff or just want to save cooking energy, consider the advantages of dairy products. You can pour a glass of icy cold milk, cut off a chunk of cheese, scoop ice cream or spoon yogurt and cottage cheese. No cooking needed!

WELCH Livestock Market, Inc. Located on Route 8 Between New Berlin and West Edmeston

AUCTION EVERY MONDAY 12:30 P.M. DAILY CALF MARKET 8 A. M. - 12:30 P. M. PHONE Leonardsville 315/855-4162 or New Berlin 607/847-8059 HOWARD MATTICE, Mgr.

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The Sherburne Music Theater Society Presents ITS ANNUAL MEETING "THE KA-BONG SHOW" Sunday, June 28, 1981 - 7:00 P.M. Earlville Opera House Come and Join the Fun!

ALBANY REPORT

Garratts. In 1837 John and his wife Lois sold New Lisbon land to Orra Harris. In 1842 Robert C. Garratt sold to Harris a mill seat on the Butternut Creek within Harris' farm. Robert also sold to John W. Garratt, son of John and Lois, that same year, land adjoining Harris and Dan Mather lands, including a saw mill and machinery of a clothing works. In 1843 John W. and his wife Amanda sold to Roswell Randall an acre of New Lisbon land including a water powered clothes works, and carding and spinning machines, and also the privilege of water to run said works 9 months in every twelve. The Garratts were to have the water in February, March and April. There is a reference in this conveyance to a mill dam and a large flume 14 feet wide. (Reservation of the water rights for the Garratts in the months of peak flow, plus their right to surplus waters after other months, raises the question as to whether there may have been two clothiers works very close together).

In the 1850s-1870s an expansion of the hammer factory (originally at Garrattville's four corners) was located near the iron bridge across the Butternut Creek near the New Lisbon-Burlington Town lines. This was also near Ora Harris' lands. Was it built on the site of an earlier clothes works? Richard Wells, who originally owned so much of New Lisbon had been a director of "The United Company Philadelphia for Promoting American Manufactures", organized in 1775. Did he buy the 900 acres in present day New Lisbon for such a purpose? The Garratts seemed to fulfill that vision for New Lisbon for a time.

The Morris Chronicle, March 23, 1868, carried this obituary: "Robert C. Garratt was born in Garrattville, town of New Lisbon, September 7, 1821, and died at Mound City, Kansas, March 13, 1898, in the seventy-seventh year of his age. His father was one of the first settlers in the town of New Lisbon, and the village of Garrattville was named for the family. Robert C. was a merchant in Garrattville; in 1859 he went to California where he remained eight years, and then went with his brother, John W., to Kansas. In 1860 he married Mrs. Catherine Hawkes of New Lisbon. She died a year later."

In 1856 the heirs of John Garratt, brother of William, sold 160 acres of the old Garratt farm to Joseph O. Cone for \$3300. This was the farm conveyed in 1790 by John Johnson to John Garratt. The following were the heirs: Peter J. Davison and wife Nancy (daughter in-law of John), Julia A. Skinner, Harriet E. Mather (wife of Ezra Mather), Byron Marks (grandson), Lucia M. Marks, Harriet E. Marks, and Pauline Garratt (daughter of John, she was the last of the Garratts in the New Lisbon/Burlington area).

The next columns will deal with the lives of some of the Garratts after they left New Lisbon township.

ALBANY REPORT

By Clarence Rappleyea

The New York State Consumer Protection Board recently produced a publication which may be of interest to residents of Madison, Delaware and Chenango counties.

The publication, "Getting Ready for Retirement", provides a step-by-step guide to help people financially prepare for retirement. The booklet is for people from all walks of life to plan as comfortable a retirement as possible during these troubled economic times.

The single most important piece of advice in the booklet may well be: plan ahead. In this regard, it offers a detailed formula which may be used to estimate how much money an individual or couple will need in retirement. This simple formula estimates the total retirement income needed, the effects of inflation, the anticipated assistance from Social Security and pension plans, and the amount of personal savings needed for retirement.

Most importantly, the formula also gives an idea of the amount an individual should set aside each year in preparing for his or her "golden years".

The guide, "Getting Ready for Retirement" also explains the advantages of Keogh Plans for self-employed persons and Individual Retirement Accounts (IRAs) for employees whose companies do not have pension plans. In many cases Keogh Plans or IRAs may be preferable to conventional retirement investments.

The 1981-82 New York State budget contains a provision which would exclude from adjusted gross income the first \$20,000 of pension income for state income tax purposes effective January 1, 1982. This provision, which I strongly supported, puts all pensioners on par with state pensioners.

Furthermore, I am supporting legislation sponsored by Assemblyman James Emery which would increase the pension supplement to certain retirees of three statewide retirement systems. This type of legislation, which was vetoed by Governor Carey last year, would affect the ability of those living on fixed incomes to meet their expenses.

Many people in Madison, Chenango, and Delaware counties

have spoken or written to me regarding these topics. The Consumer Protection Board's booklet can help people prepare secure retirements and avoid the hardships which inadequate income can cause.

If you are interested in obtaining a copy of "Getting Ready for Retirement", send 69 cents in postage stamps to: Retirement, Consumer Protection Board, 2 World Trade Center, Room 2525, New York, N. Y. 10047.

On a related topic, I was pleased to see that a federally-funded capitol grant program to help organizations provide transportation services for the elderly is expected to continue next year.

Rural transportation for the elderly is a major concern to me, and I know this program has provided vehicles and radio equipment to many organizations in New York State using federal funds. Any private, non-profit groups interested in this program should write to: Kenneth Shiate, Director of Transportation, State Campus, Albany, N. Y. 12232. Additional information on the program and application procedures will be provided.

Pointing out that New York State's veteran population totals 2.5 million, the New York State Division of Veterans' Affairs

urges all individuals who believe they are eligible for benefits to seek the professional advice and expert assistance of State Veterans Counselors. The Division points out that they are especially anxious to counsel widows and the spouses of seriously ill veterans.

It is a lamentable fact that many widows with dependent children and the wives of veterans who are rendered unemployable as the result of a catastrophic illness are often unaware that they may be eligible for a variety of benefits. The Division stresses that the laws, rules and regulations determining entitlement to veterans' benefits are extremely complex and that each claim must be analyzed on an individual basis.

Highly trained State Veterans Counselors, operating from counseling centers listed in telephone directories under "New York State", are available to represent veterans and their families in the preparation, presentation and prosecution of claims for benefits.

Detailed information on the full range of veterans' benefits and personalized counseling may be obtained at the local counseling center of the New York State Division of Veterans' Affairs, located at 20 South Broad Street, Norwich, New York 13815.

Hugh T. Rice, State Veterans Counselor, New York State Division of Veterans' Affairs, cautions that failure to meet payments for a VA guaranteed home loan can produce serious consequences.

First and foremost, default on GI home loan payments may lead to foreclosure and loss of the veteran's home. In addition, if the government is required to pay a claim as a result of failure to repay the loan, the veteran will become indebted to the government for the amount of the loan.

If a veteran encounters unexpected financial problems, his first step should be to discuss his situation with the bank or lending institution holding the mortgage. In most instances, a mutually satisfactory arrangement can be worked out and the veteran's equity in the property will be protected.

State Veterans Counselors in the employ of Veterans' Affairs are fully conversant with all phases of the GI home loan program, and are available to provide expert advice and assistance.

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ROCK & ROLL at the TUMBLING T Featuring "Freeport" on Thursday, June 25 9 to 1

A reminder about the value of electricity

You can keep your family's food fresh all month for the cost of hamburger.



Your refrigerator/freezer will keep your family's food cold and fresh for more than four weeks... yet the electricity used will cost less than ten pounds of ground chuck. (\$11.40 for the electricity, \$16.80 for the meat.)

But your electric cost will be higher if your refrigerator door doesn't seal airtight. If you can slide a piece of paper through the crack, adjust the latch or replace the seal. And for more tips, get a free folder from your NYSEG office.

FREE: New "Energy Sense" folders at your NYSEG office.

We want you to get your energy's worth. NYSEG New York State Electric & Gas Corporation