

Fort Ann Through History



Sir Francis Nicholson by Michael Dahl



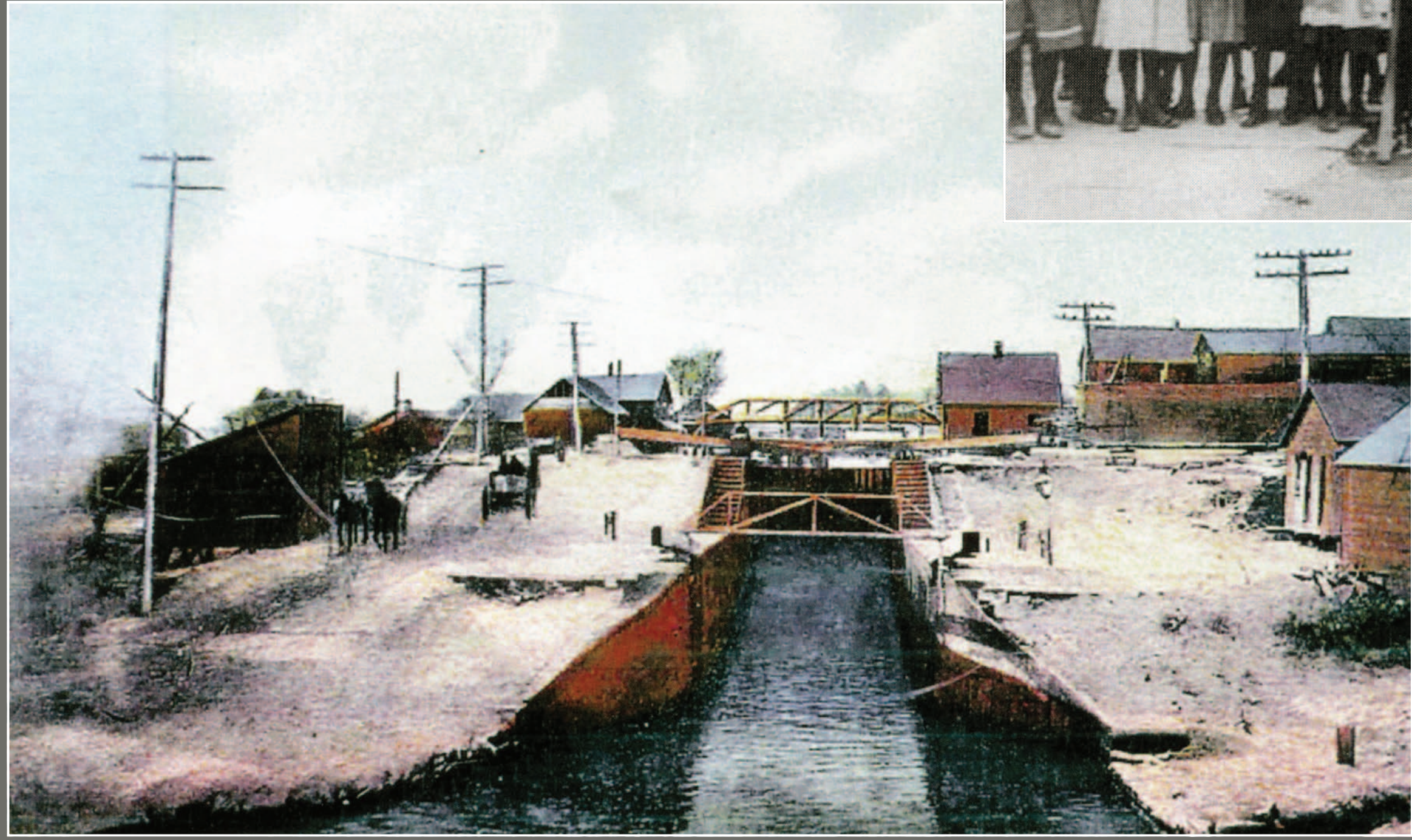
Kane's Falls Mill



Queen's Well



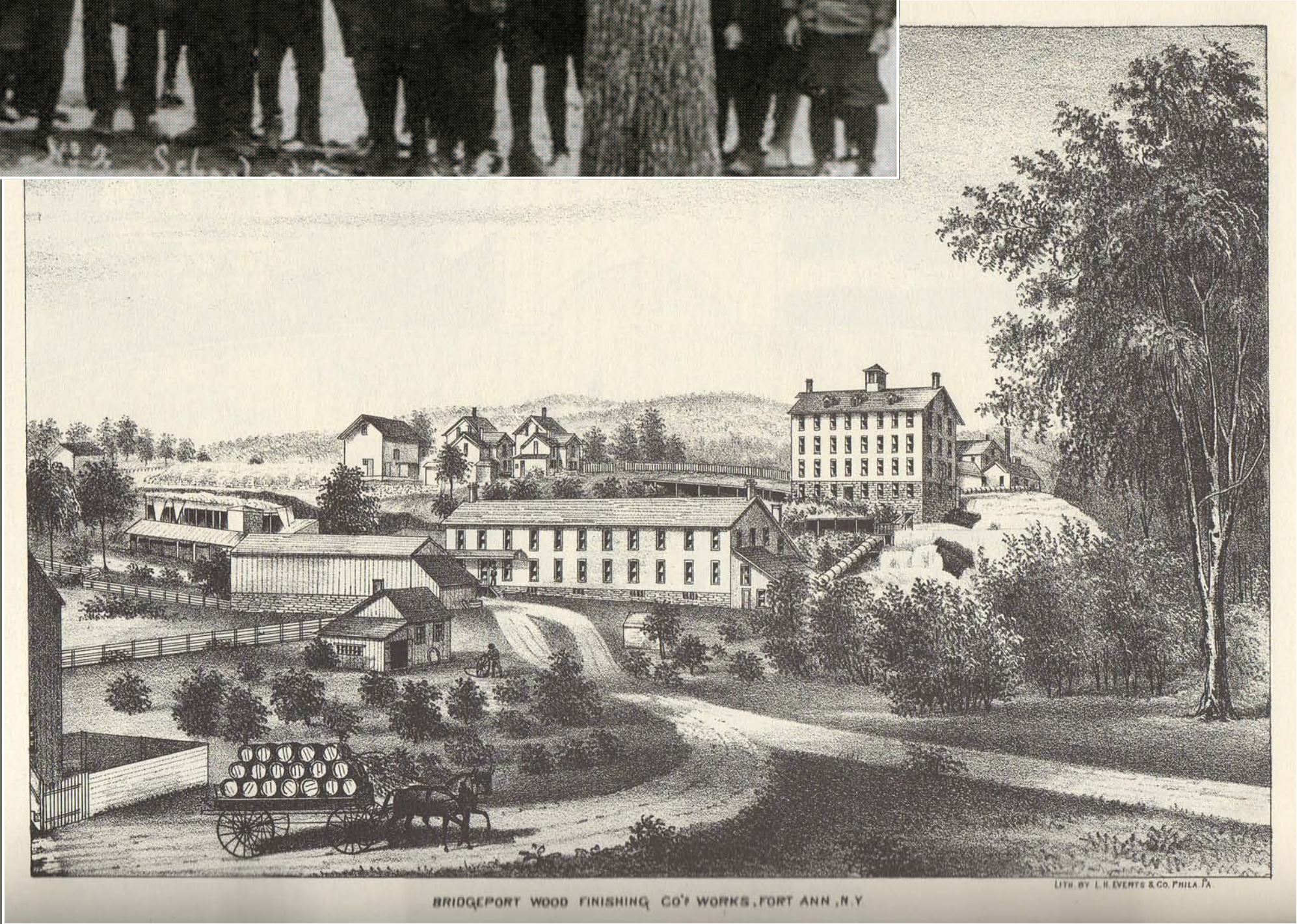
Battle Hill plaque



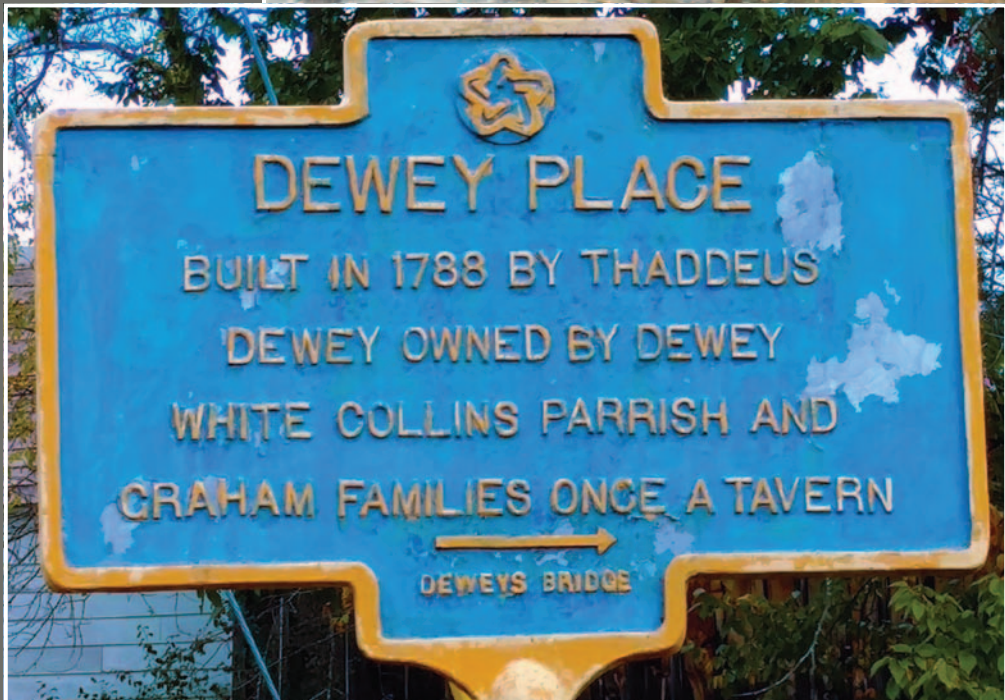
Upper locks



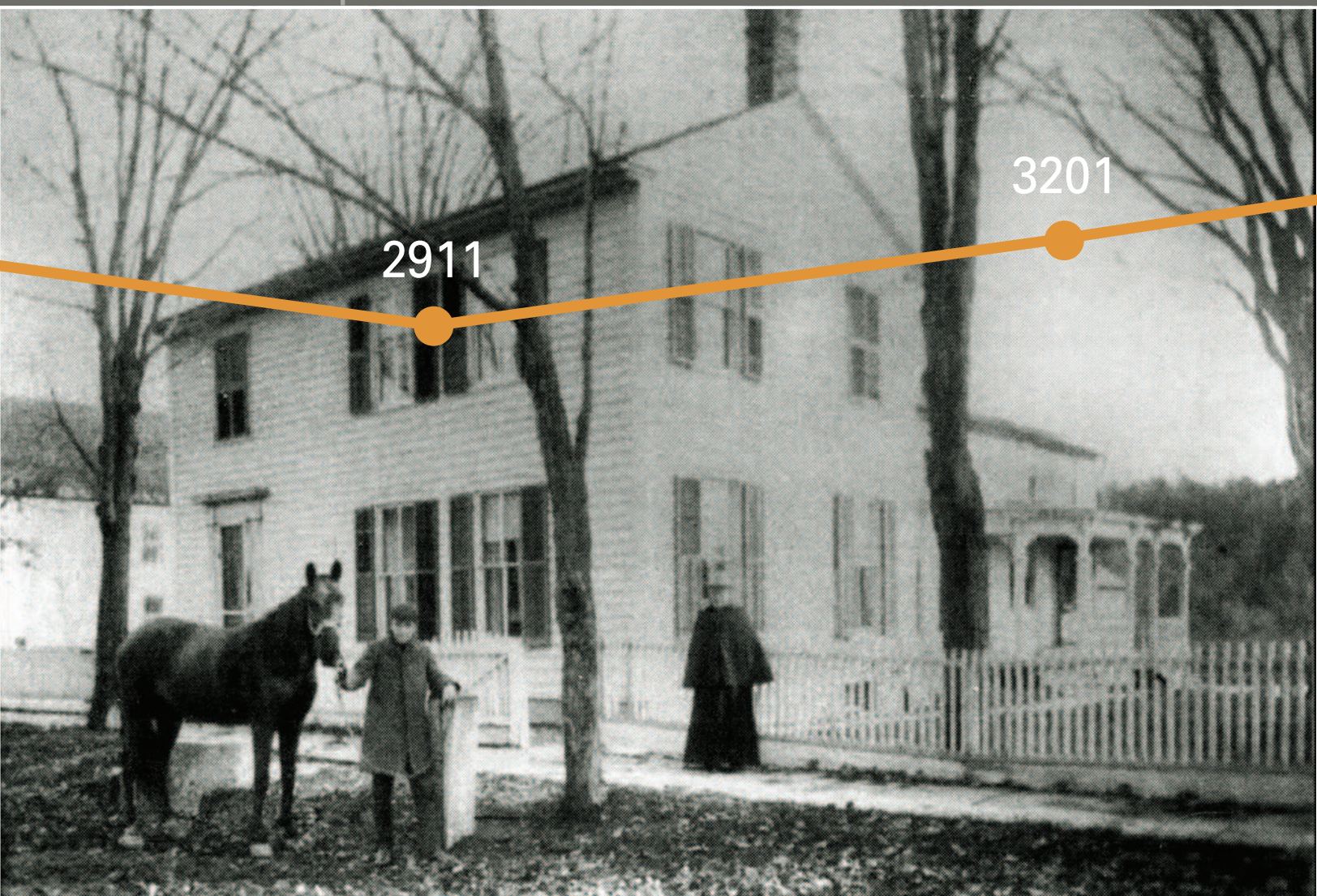
Fort Ann Union Free School



Bridgeport Wood Finishing Company



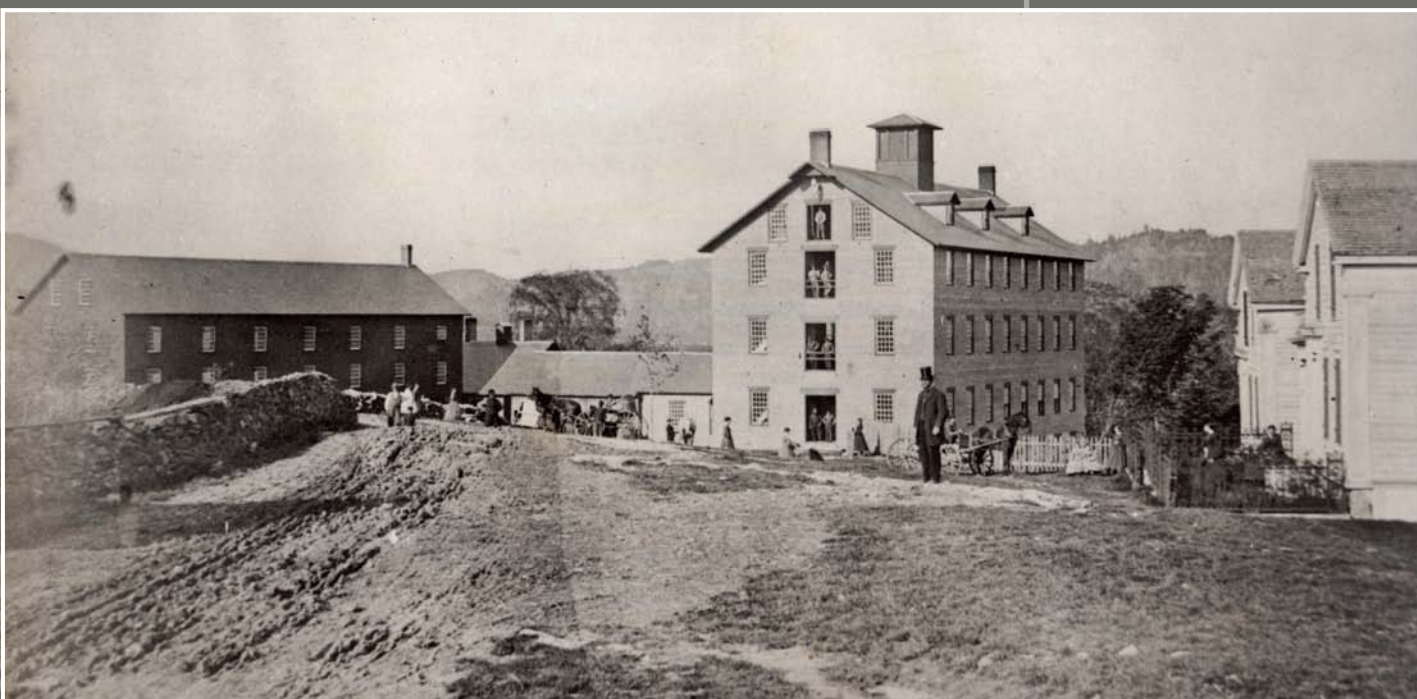
Dewey Place



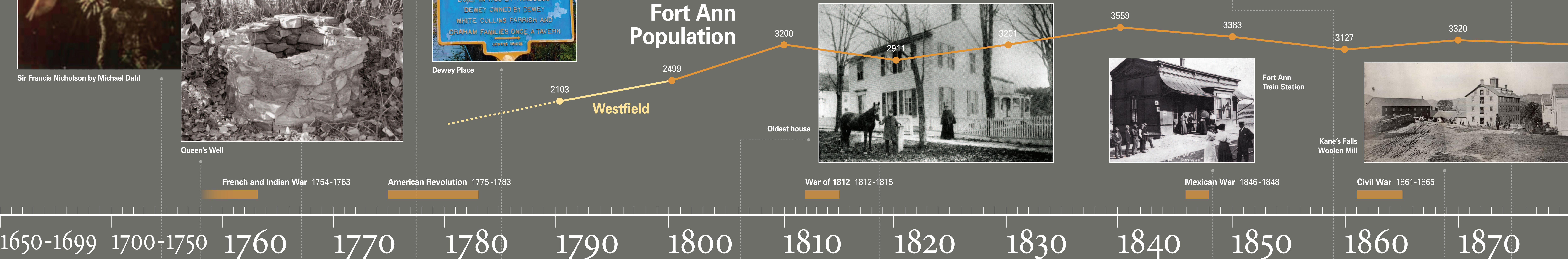
Oldest house



Fort Ann Train Station



Kane's Falls Woolen Mill



1689

Chevalier DeCalleries builds a small French fort in South Bay called "The Pickets."

1690

Englishman Fitz John Winthrop's expedition camps in Fort Anne.

1692

Winthrop builds the first fort at Fort Anne and calls it the "Stone Fort."

1709

Francis Nicholson builds Fort Schuyler and burns it when he departs.

1711

Francis Nicholson rebuilds the Queen's Fort on the ruins of Fort Schuyler.

1758

Queen's Well is dug in the village, after 1,000 British soldiers die drinking from Wood Creek.

1763

Blockhouse and sawmill are built at Cheshire's Mills, now Kane's Falls.

1764

King George III grants an artillery patent of 24,000 acres to 24 British officers.

1769

Mud Fort is built at Fort Anne.

1773

Colonel George Wray builds the Wray Farm.

1776

Planks from Cheshire's Mills are used to build ships in Skenesborough, now Whitehall, for the U.S. Navy.

1777

Dog Heaven, a cliff on Diameter Mountain, is the site of a bloody battle between the British and the settlers.

1778

Captain Adiel Sherwood rebuilds the fort at Fort Anne, the last of Fort Anne's five forts.

1786

Town of Westfield is founded.

1788

The settlement of Dewey's Bridge is founded by Thaddeus Dewey.

1789

First known church in the area, the First Baptist Church of East Westfield, is established.

1790

Colonel George Wray owns seven slaves, according to the first federal census.

1791

Colonel George Wray lays out the village streets, naming them in honor of his family: George, Catherine, and Ann.

1792

Ephraim Griswold settles Griswold's Mills in western Westfield, name later changes to Tripoli.

1797

First post office is established in Fort Ann.

1800

House is built in Westfield; the oldest house that remains in Fort Ann today.

1808

Town of Westfield changes name to Town of Fort Ann.

1810

Second Baptist Church of Fort Anne is established.

1815

First grist mill is built by Steven Palmer at Johnny Cake Corners, a hamlet later named West Fort Ann.

1816

Due to volcanic eruptions in the summer months, clouds of ash made the air so cold that Halfway Brook freezes.

1819

Champlain Canal between Fort Edward and Whitehall is completed.

1820

Fort Ann Village is incorporated.

1823

Presbyterian Church is established.

1825

Mount Hope furnace begins producing iron.

1827

Fort Ann Village Union Church is built, serving Baptist and Methodist congregations.

1830

Iron ore is made into anchors at Griswold's Mills.

1834

First church in West Fort Ann erected on Joe Green Road; later became the Grange Hall.

1840

Comstock Community Church is established.

1845

Van Wormer's Village (Van Wormertown) changes name to West Fort Ann.

1847

St. Ann's Catholic Church is established.

1848

First train goes through Fort Ann.

1850

Wray Farm is a stop on the Underground Railroad for fleeing slaves.

1859

Washington County Fair is held in Fort Ann.

1860

U.S. Cavalry marches through the village.

1865

Kane's Falls Woolen Mill begins operations.

1866

The Smith brothers inherit lozenge company.

1870

Bridgeport Wood Finishing Company is built at Kane's Falls.

1874

Baptist Church is erected.

1875

Fire destroys six stores, a harness shop, a bank, and a house in village.

1876

Patent issued for quartz coating for wood manufacturing at Bridgeport Wood Finishing Company.

1689

Chevalier DeCalleries builds a small French fort in South Bay called "The Pickets."

1690

Englishman Fitz John Winthrop's expedition camps in Fort Anne.

1692

Winthrop builds the first fort at Fort Anne and calls it the "Stone Fort."

1709

Francis Nicholson builds Fort Schuyler and burns it when he departs.

1711

Francis Nicholson rebuilds the Queen's Fort on the ruins of Fort Schuyler.

1758

Queen's Well is dug in the village, after 1,000 British soldiers die drinking from Wood Creek.

1763

Blockhouse and sawmill are built at Cheshire's Mills, now Kane's Falls.

1764

King George III grants an artillery patent of 24,000 acres to 24 British officers.

1769

Mud Fort is built at Fort Anne.

1773

Colonel George Wray builds the Wray Farm.

1776

Planks from Cheshire's Mills are used to build ships in Skenesborough, now Whitehall, for the U.S. Navy.

1777

Dog Heaven, a cliff on Diameter Mountain, is the site of a bloody battle between the British and the settlers.

1778

Captain Adiel Sherwood rebuilds the fort at Fort Anne, the last of Fort Anne's five forts.

1786

Town of Westfield is founded.

1788

The settlement of Dewey's Bridge is founded by Thaddeus Dewey.

1789

First known church in the area, the First Baptist Church of East Westfield, is established.

1790

Colonel George Wray owns seven slaves, according to the first federal census.

1791

Colonel George Wray lays out the village streets, naming them in honor of his family: George, Catherine, and Ann.

1792

Ephraim Griswold settles Griswold's Mills in western Westfield, name later changes to Tripoli.

1797

First post office is established in Fort Ann.

1800

House is built in Westfield; the oldest house that remains in Fort Ann today.

1808

Town of Westfield changes name to Town of Fort Ann.

1810

Second Baptist Church of Fort Anne is established.

1815

First grist mill is built by Steven Palmer at Johnny Cake Corners, a hamlet later named West Fort Ann.

1816

Due to volcanic eruptions in the summer months, clouds of ash made the air so cold that Halfway Brook freezes.

1819

Champlain Canal between Fort Edward and Whitehall is completed.

1820

Fort Ann Village is incorporated.

1823

Presbyterian Church is established.

1825

Mount Hope furnace begins producing iron.

1827

Fort Ann Village Union Church is built, serving Baptist and Methodist congregations.

1830

Iron ore is made into anchors at Griswold's Mills.

1834

First church in West Fort Ann erected on Joe Green Road; later became the Grange Hall.

1840

Comstock Community Church is established.

1845

Van Wormer's Village (Van Wormertown) changes name to West Fort Ann.

1847

St. Ann's Catholic Church is established.

1848

First train goes through Fort Ann.

1850

Wray Farm is a stop on the Underground Railroad for fleeing slaves.

1859

Washington County Fair is held in Fort Ann.

1860

U.S. Cavalry marches through the village.

1865

Kane's Falls Woolen Mill begins operations.

1866

The Smith brothers inherit lozenge company.

1870

Bridgeport Wood Finishing Company is built at Kane's Falls.

1874

Baptist Church is erected.

1875

Fire destroys six stores, a harness shop, a bank, and a house in village.

1876

Patent issued for quartz coating for wood manufacturing at Bridgeport Wood Finishing Company.

Fort Sign

Wray slave house

Mount Hope furnace

Borden's milk processing plant



Parade



Bee's Dude Ranch



West Fort Ann
United Methodist
Church



Old Stone House Library



Civilian Conservation Corps



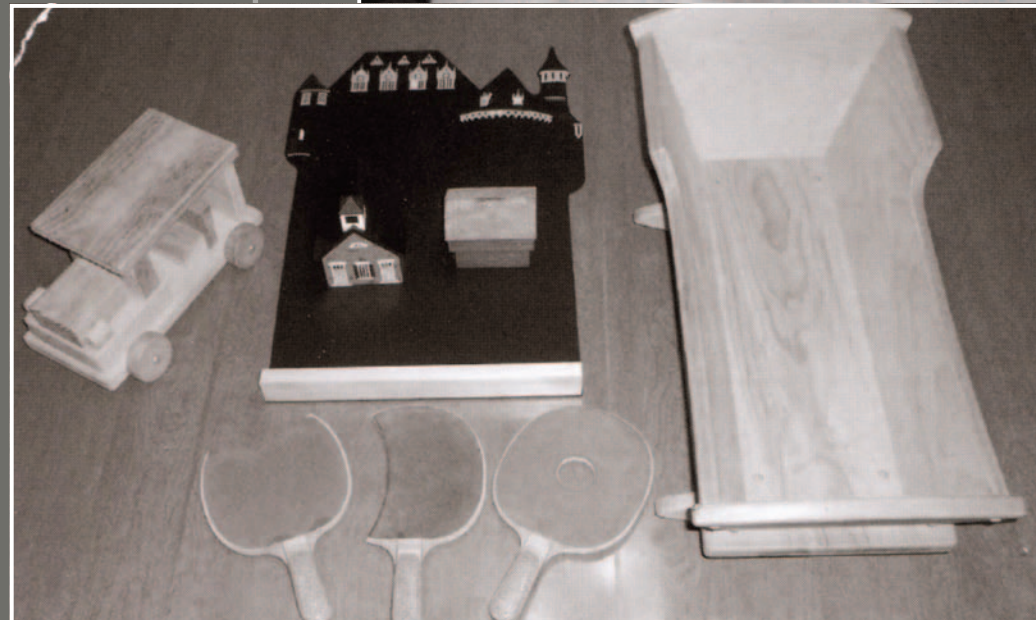
Fort Anne Museum of History



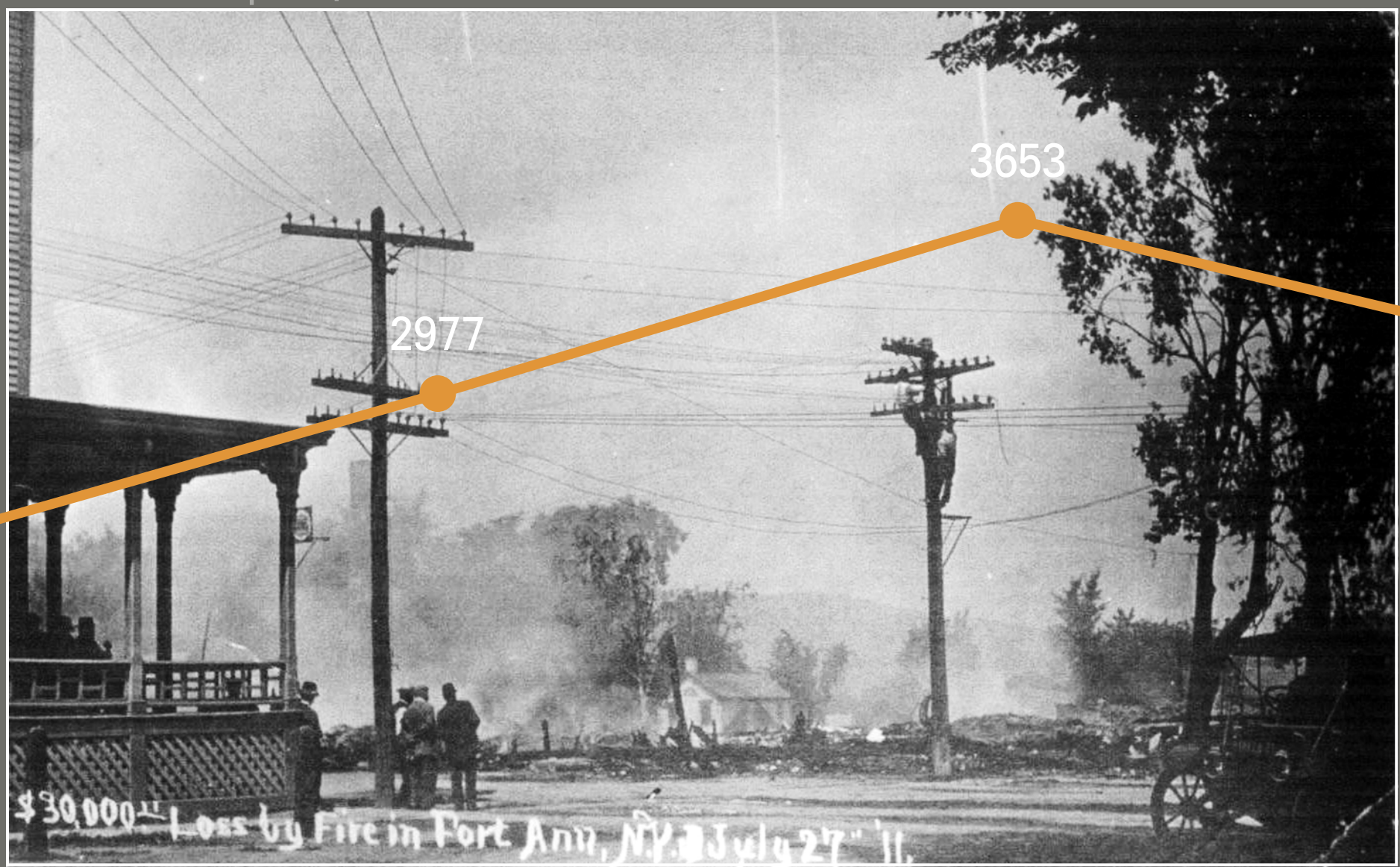
Blockhouse replica



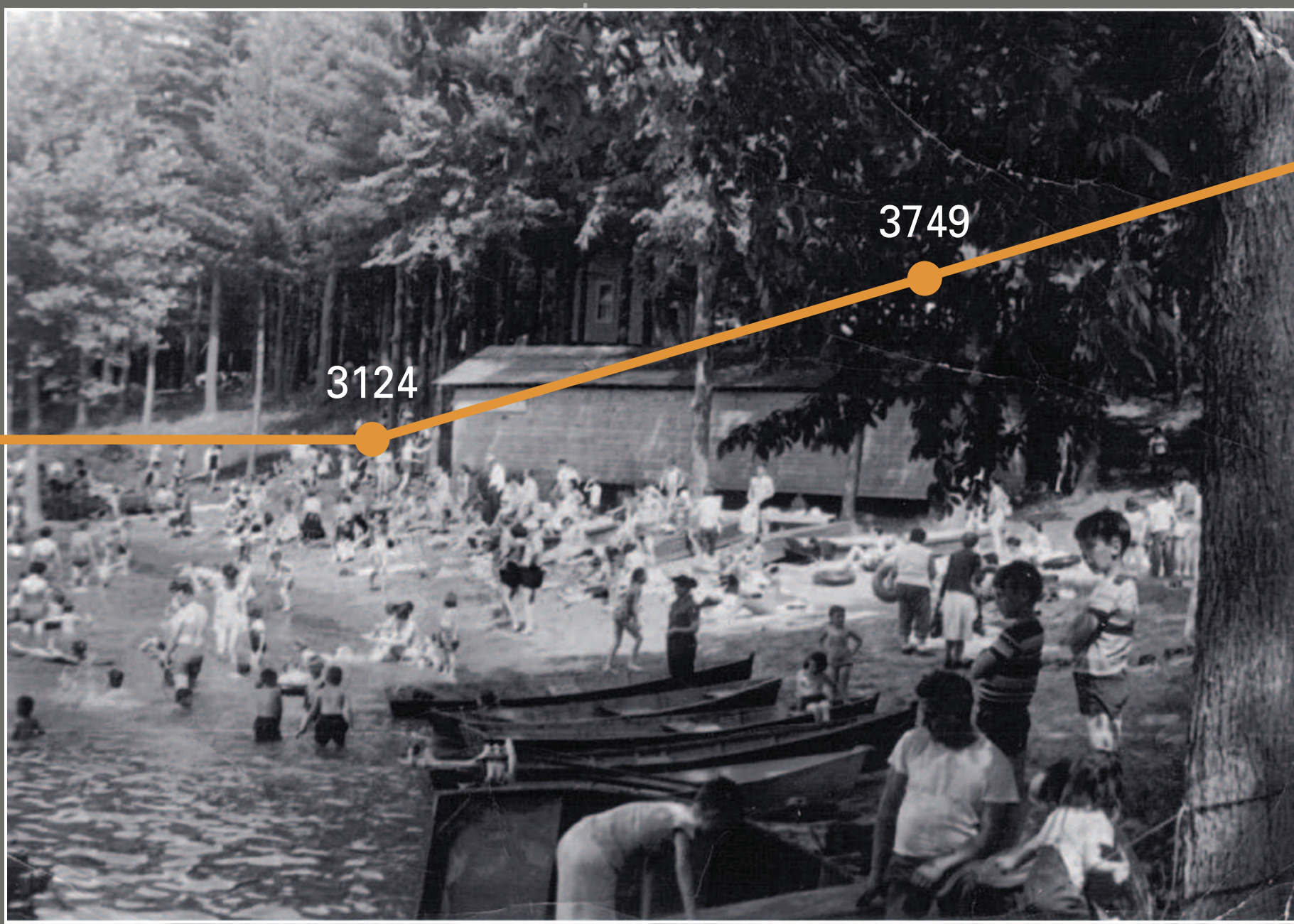
First Fort Ann High School graduation class



Products from Haviland
Manufacturing



Great fire of 1911



Hadlock Pond



Heritage parade

3260

2696

2263

2236

2357

3653

2977

3122

3124

3749

4425

6368

6417

6190

6214

Spanish-American War 1898

World War I 1914-1918

World War II 1939-1945

Korean War 1950-1953

Vietnam War 1960-1975

Persian Gulf War 1990-1991

Iraq War 2003-2011

1880

1890

1900

1910

1920

1930

1940

1950

1960

1970

1980

1990

2000

2010

1885

Haviland Manufacturing Co. opens for business, making wooden toys.



Early fire-fighting equipment later used in the fire of 1911.

Looking north on George Street



1892

Edward Wall builds knitting mill in village.

1895

Second Advent Church is established in Hogtown.

1896

West Fort Ann United Methodist Church is established.

1897

Eugene Ashley builds hydroelectric power plant at Kane's Falls.

The village organizes its first fire company.

1899

First class graduates from Fort Ann High School.

1900

Kane's Falls Electric Co. brings electricity to the town.

1904

Pilot Knob Association forms to establish a post office with boat dock.

1905

Borden Milk Processing Plant opens.

1911

Fire of unknown origin destroys business section of the village.

Great Meadow Prison opens.

1912

Copeland's, one of only two bars in the state to also contain a package store, opens.

1915

Champlain Barge Canal is completed.

1916

Raymond W. Harvey Post 703 receives charter and is named for first soldier from Fort Ann killed in WWI.

1920

Wakpomee Boy Scout Camp is founded.

1921

Girl Scout troop is organized.

1922

George Knapp donates the Old Stone House Library to the town.

1927

150th anniversary of the Battle of Fort Anne.

1928

Sheldon House Hotel, spared by the great fire of 1911, burns down.

1930

Sheldon-Pierce Boat Co., builders of unique Sea Sled racing boats, opens.

1931

Bones of Revolutionary War soldiers unearthed at Battle Hill during Route 4 construction.

1933

Civilian Conservation Corps arrives to eradicate the gypsy moth, an invasive species, and blister rust, a tree disease.

1939

Camp Little Notch is established for Girl Scouts.

Fort Ann Central School building is constructed.

1940

Boy Scout Troop 46 forms.

1941-44

Watchtower for spotting enemy planes stands at edge of village.

1943

Fort Ann Volunteer Fire Company is incorporated.

1948

Pilot Knob Fire Department is founded.

1950

Fort Anne Museum of History opens at Charles and George streets.

Hadlock Pond Association is founded.

1959

Baptist Church and Methodist Church congregations join to become the United Protestant Church.

1963

Bee's Dude Ranch draws crowds with live music, great food, and drinks.

1967

West Fort Ann Volunteer Fire Company forms.

1960

Hydro-electric plant at Kane's Falls burns.

1961

Fort Ann Rescue Squad forms.

1962

Hillbilly Heaven, a famous square dancing and country music venue, opens in Fort Ann.

1976

Bicentennial celebration is held.

1978

Cornerstone Bible Church is established.

1970

Niagara Mohawk Power Corporation removes Kane's Falls dam.

1972

Queen Anne Senior Citizens form.

1973

Glens Falls National Bank opens branch in blockhouse replica.

1984

Rick & Carol's Countryside Inn begins hosting many country and western stars in West Fort Ann.

1985

Current post office is being built in village.

1987

Hillbilly Heaven burns. In its heyday, it attracted famous country singers such as Willie Nelson and Dottie West.

1991

First "Christmas in the Country" open house artisan tour is held in Fort Ann.

1993

Pilot Knob residents hold first "history night" to create a community history.

1999

Fort Ann celebrates first "Heritage Days."

2005

Hadlock Pond Dam Breach causes massive flooding.

2007

Fort Ann Historical Society publishes book *Fort Ann: 300 Years of History*.

2012

Rockslide closes Route 4 north of Kelsey's Pond.

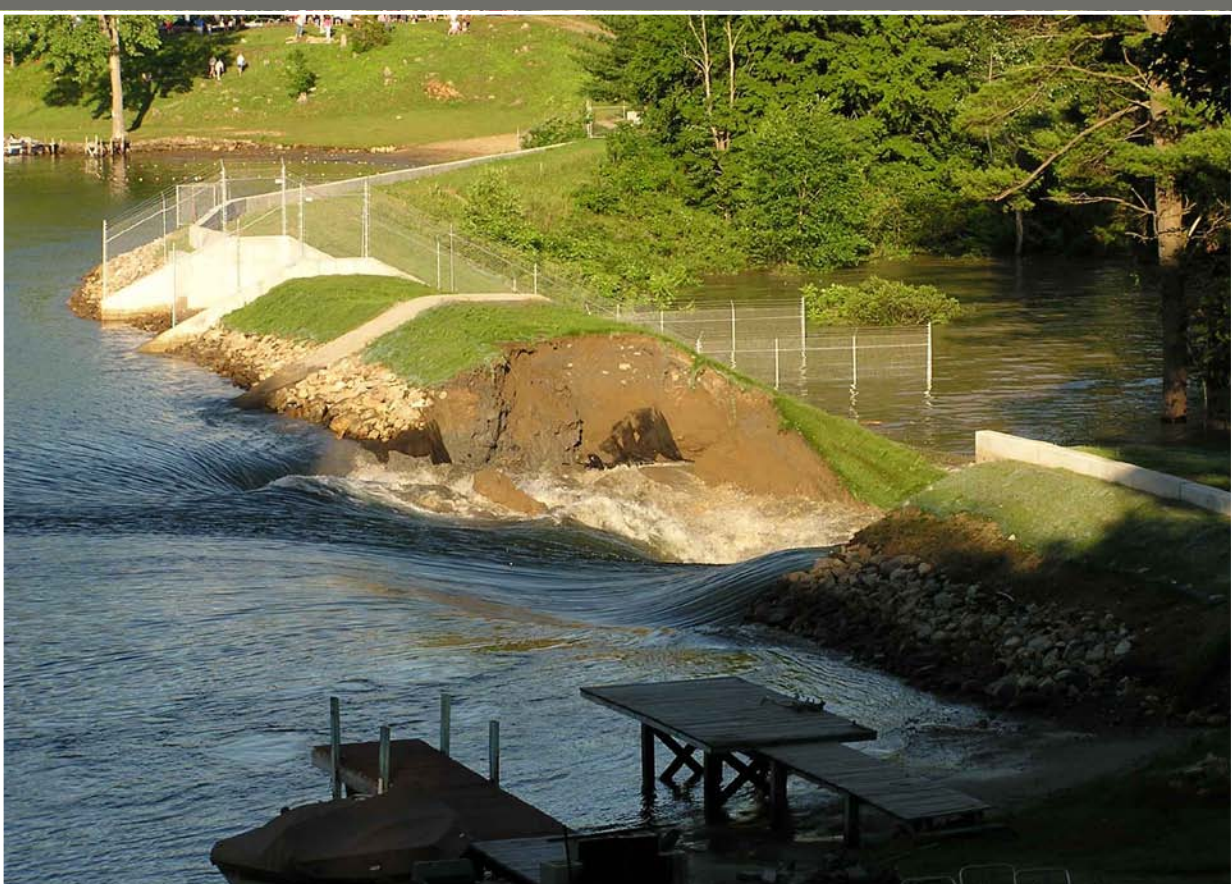
Old Stone House Library is placed on State and National Historic registers.

2013

Boys' baseball and girls' softball teams win state championships.

Fort Anne Antiques building, formerly Moore's Market, is demolished.

Waterfront park on the canal is completed.



Hadlock Pond Dam Breach