OSBORN’S BRIDGE

(Also sometimes spelled Osborne or Osborn Bridge)

According to “History of Fulton County” (1892) by Washington Frothingham and F. W. Beers “History of Montgomery/Fulton Co. (1878) the area was named Osborn’s Bridge.

Where is it, or where was it?

Before the Great Sacandaga Lake came about through the flooding of the valley and construction of the Conklingville Dam, there were a number of small communities that were soon to be inundated by the flooding waters. Osborn’s Bridge was one of these communities. It was located about half way between Northville and Fish House. Today many boaters pass by it and don’t have any idea that there once existed a beautiful village, housing many people, a general store, 2 blacksmiths, a church, a schoolhouse, chair factory, post office, meat market, hop-raising, cooperage, and a wagon and sleigh making shop. There were big farms raising corn, barley and wheat. There was a 25 acre stand of butternut trees and of course cows grazing in the meadows.

The first inhabitants were of course Indians. The settlement was made shortly after the close of the Revolutionary War by a few New Englanders prior to the year 1800. Abram Denton and Calvin Osborn were the principal men who settled there and owned much of the land. They became very prominent in the community.

Osborn built a temporary floating bridge over the river where they had been fording the river, he named it Osborn’s Bridge, thus the name of the community got it’s name.

In 1830, John Patterson moved there from Kinderhook. He built the first store in the hamlet. In 1840 he built the covered, wooden bridge that stood until the valley was lost to the building of the dam at Conklingville.

This section of the country was also noted for the large lumbering business. A tiny steamboat plied up and down the river carrying loads of bark. Logs were floated down past the village toward the pulp mills, which employed river drivers and other lumberman jobs.

Other names associated with Osborn’s Bridge were: The first settlers being Shoecraft, Coleman, Foote, Scribner, King, Meade, Brown, Esseltyne and a few others.

Zina Cook a prosperous man who was a lumberman, trapper, butcher, and owner of a beautiful large house. (owned later by Frank Langr.. See picture)

John Flynn and James Van Ness: Lawyers
Seth Cook, general store
G. H. Wilbur owner of the general store after Cook.
Frank Langr; Butcher/meat and poultry distributor.
Teacher: Floyd Brownell

House first owned by Zina Cook then later by Frank Langr. You can find bricks from the chimney of this house today when the water is low enough.

Today many people travel out to where the little village once stood. Some arrive by 4 wheelers, some by 4 wheel drive truck, and some stop by on their boat. I have kayaked out there. You will find old stone walls, stone foundations, old bricks, and odds and ends of broken pottery, hinges, maybe part of a shoe, etc. The water from the Sacandaga must be very low to drive out there.
1868 map
MRS. GRACE GRANT
Did you know that through the efforts of Mrs. Grant, when the NCS was built in 1933, the auditorium was built separately from the gymnasium? She made a trip to Vestal NY high school where they had a separate auditorium and made the recommendation to the North-