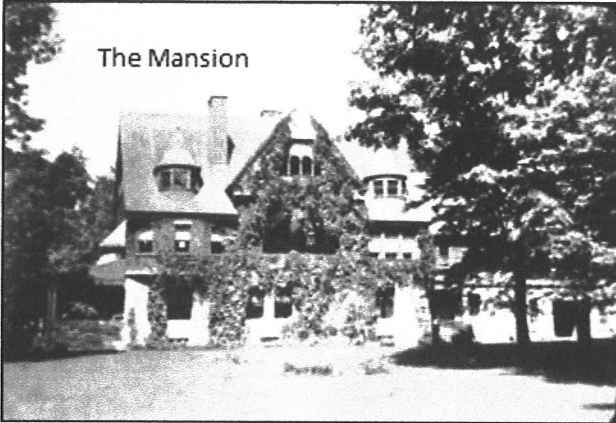


Florissante The Mansion – The Lyon-Merriam Legacy

4036 Lyons Falls Road, Lyons Falls, New York 13368

On Sunday, December 5, 1886, the palatial residence of the late Hon. Lyman R. Lyon (1806-1869) at Lyons Falls, Lewis County, NY was destroyed by a fire that originated in a defective flue. The three-story structure built of cut stone was one of the most elegant in the area and cost about \$60,000 when built ca. 15 years ago.¹



The property was owned by Lyman's three daughters, Mrs. C. Collins (Florence) Merriam, Mrs. William S. (Julia) deCamp, and Mrs. Francis (Mary L.) Fisher of Cincinnati. His widow, Mary B. Northrup-Lyon was home at the time of the fire along with two of her daughters, Florence and Julia and their children.² George Seymour began the work in October 1887 tearing down the massive stone walls of the mansion after it was determined that they were

found to be "worthless." Mrs. (Florence) Merriam purchased the property and was expected to rebuild.³ Construction of her new residence she called **Florissante, which meant "flourishing or flowering,"** began in the summer of 1889. According to her granddaughter, Florence chose this name for a street she lived on at one time in Geneva, Switzerland.⁴

Significance of the Lyon Family in Lewis County's History

Lyman Rasselas Lyon's father, Caleb Lyon Jr. (1761–1835), came to Lewis County around 1823 and established a grist mill on the banks of the Moose River in a settlement known as Lyonsdale. Over time, he acquired thousands of acres of timberland in the region, served his district in the NYS Assembly, and was influential in developing the Black River Canal, a transportation artery to Rome, NY and a feeder to the Erie Canal.⁵ Lyman R. Lyon continued his father's significant contributions to the history of the region. He engaged extensively in the timber and tannery industries, employed hundreds of workers, and was elected to the NYS Assembly in 1859. High Falls, Lewis County, was renamed Lyons Falls in his honor. During the Civil War, too old for military service, he provided a rifle to every soldier in his community. By the time of his death in 1869, he was the largest landowner in Lewis County and parts of northern Herkimer County.⁶

¹ The Syracuse Standard, Thursday, December 9, 1886, p. 2.

² Rome Daily Sentinel, Tuesday, December 7, 1886.

³ Utica Morning Herald, "Lewis County," October 24, 1887.

⁴ Rome Daily Sentinel, February 20, 1953. Sarah Merriam-Trube was the owner of Florissante at this time, the granddaughter of Florence's son Lyman L. Merriam. Sarah and her mother Delia Merriam operated a fancy tea house at Florissante in the 1930s-1950s and also an antique business. Sarah was well known in the area for her artistic painting and sculpturing abilities and knowledge of antique clothing. She was a highly respect actress and set designer for a local theater guild for many years. In Geneva, Switzerland, the street is spelled Florissant.

⁵ Hough, Benjamin Franklin, "A History of Lewis County, in the State of New York," pub. Munsell & Rowland, 1860, p. 109. See also: National Register Nomination in 2007 for "The Pines," the extant mansion-estate of Lyman R. Lyon's sister Mrs. Francis (Laura Lyon) Segar built adjacent to the Florissante property in the mid-1860s.

⁶ Ancestry.com. *North America, Family Histories, 1500-2000* [database on-line]. Provo, UT, USA: Ancestry.com Operations, Inc., 2016.

Construction of Florissante (1889-1890)

According to a newspaper account in October 1887, the burned ruins of the Lyon homestead was purchased by Mrs. Florence Merriam, the youngest child of Lyman R. Lyon and his wife Mary B. Northrup-Lyon. Although the family only carried an \$8,000 insurance policy on the building, most of the first-floor furnishings and valuable works of art that lined the great hall of the Lyon's baronial home had been salvaged.⁷

Florence Isabelle Lyon was born June 26, 1851 at Lyons Falls. Florence received an extensive education both in New York and abroad. Lyman's widow Mary and their three daughters Florence, Mary, and Julia inherited large tracts of valuable forest lands.

On June 28, 1876, Florence married Charles Collins Merriam (1850-1931) of New York City and nearby Locust Grove on Leyden Hill. His father Clinton L. Merriam had served the district in Congress from 1871-1875. They divided their time between New York City, foreign travel, and Lyons Falls during the first decade of their marriage. C. Collins Merriam was a lawyer, an attorney for the Lyon estate, listed his occupation at Lyons Falls in 1892 as a farmer, and was also a real estate developer.⁸



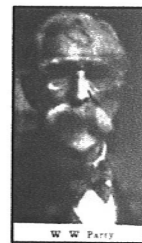
Three Lyon Sisters: Florence Merriam, Mary Fisher,
Julia deCamp

Source: Lewis Co. Historical Assoc.

During this time period, Florence gave birth to five children: Lyman Lyon Merriam (1877-1936), Robert McBurney Merriam (1879-1880), Clinton Nathaniel Merriam (1880-1881), Carolyn Augusta Merriam (1884-1952), and Helen Lyon Merriam (1891-1942).⁹ Now with a growing family and several servants – Florence decided to build a new home on top of the footprint of the original Lyon mansion. Her choice for a contractor was the firm of Parry & Jones of Rome, New York.

Parry & Jones Masonry & Brick Manufacturing Company

The two partners in this estimable firm were **Watkyn William Parry** (1856-1945) and **William G. Jones**. Watkyn was the son of a Rome master builder, John J. Parry (1829-1879). John J. Parry's family immigrated in the early 1800s from Wales. He went into the construction business in the 1850s in Rome, NY. For nearly 10 years John served as the County Treasurer and was elected to the NYS Assembly from his district in 1871. His health declined while in Albany and at the end of his term, John took his wife and



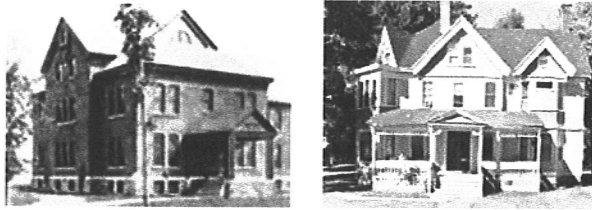
⁷ Utica Weekly Herald, "Central New York," December 7, 1886, p. 1. Lowville Journal and Republican, "The Loan Exhibition," April, 1890. Florence & Collins Merriam loaned part of their extensive art collection (paintings, photographs, curiosities, 2 valuable Peking vases etc.) to the Baptist students exhibit at the Roscoe Opera House in Lowville, NY. The items had been collected from the Merriam's travels to Norway, Sweden, Turkey, Egypt, Palestine, and India.

⁸ 1880 & 1900 Federal Census for Lyons Falls, Lewis County, NY; 1892 NYS Census for Lyonsdale, Lewis County, NY.

⁹ Wildwood Cemetery stone, Lyon Falls lists Florence & Collins Merriam five children. The 1880 Census lists Robert as a 6-month-old infant, but oddly, in the 1900 Census – Florence noted she had 4 children, 3 surviving.

son Watkyn on a two-year trip on the continent. At the time of his death in 1879, Mr. Parry owned many dwellings in the city, lime kilns, plaster works, a lumber mill and a brick yard.¹⁰

A year after his father's death, Watkyn was listed in the 1880 census as a brick manufacturer. The Rome City directory for 1889-1890 noted he was an **architect, builder & brick manufacturer** with an office at 112 W. Dominick St., Rome, NY.¹¹ Among the projects Parry & Jones worked on in Rome in the 1880s were several mill buildings, the school for the deaf and mute on No. Madison St., a temperance hotel and numerous private residences. In 1887, they won the contract for the masonry and brick work for the new Rome hospital on East Garden St. In September of 1888, Watkyn took time out to marry Miss Augusta "Gussie" Buck of New York and within a few years he built a stately family residence for her on No. George St. that still stands today.



1887 Rome City Hospital on Garden St. (left) – W. W. Parry residence at 803 No. George St, Rome, NY

Preparations for building the Merriam mansion at Lyons Falls began in June 1889. Although Watkyn owned a brick works, a Watertown newspaper reported in July 1889 that contractor Parry of Rome had purchased from H. Houghton of Carthage *"the brick for the rebuilding of the old Lyman R. Lyon mansion at Lyons Falls."*¹² **Hiram Houghton (1839-1916)** was a Civil War veteran who served in Co. I with the 2nd NY Voluntary Cavalry. He was the first man to volunteer from Jefferson County. Houghton's bricks helped to rebuild Carthage after a devastating fire burned 110 buildings there in 1884.¹³



William G. Jones

"William G. Jones of 819 No. George street has gone to Lyons Falls, Lewis County for a few weeks," reported the Rome Sentinel on December 12, 1889. William G. Jones (1853-1928) came to this country from North Wales in 1870. A short time later, Jones moved to Rome and learned the masonry trade from Watkyn's father John J. Parry.¹⁴ Several days after going to Lyons Falls in December 1889, William was called home by the death of his daughter, 3-year-old Anna Ruth Jones from diphtheria croup.¹⁵ Work continued on the Merriam mansion throughout the winter with the assistance of a Rome master carpenter - **Richard A. Putnam**.

¹⁰ Rome Sentinel, January 28, 1879. Obituary of John J. Parry at age 52 in Rome, NY. John's work included private residents, churches, railroad shops and round houses, mill buildings in New York Mills, store blocks in Rome and Camden, the Normal school in Geneseo and large buildings at the college in Hamilton, NY.

¹¹ Watkyn W. Parry, age 24, lived with his mother 46yo Carolyn C. Parry and two sisters; 22yo & 19yo Angenette (Anna J.) and Eleanor in the 1880 Census. Rome City Directory in 1889-1890 online at ancestry.com.

¹² Watertown Daily Times, "Carthage," July 3, 1889. Mr. Houghton was also furnishing brick for the new Baptist church in Constableville, NY.

¹³ Watertown Daily Times, October 8, 1916; Obituary for Hiram Houghton, age 77 in Carthage, survived by his wife Helen and five children.

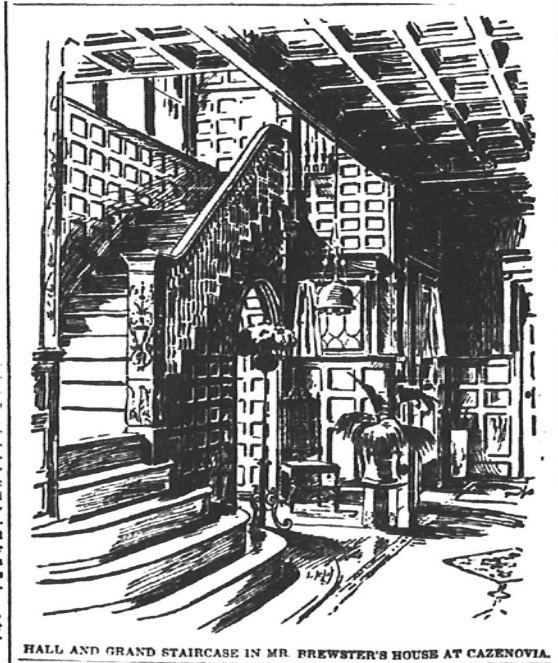
¹⁴ Rome Sentinel, "William G. Jones, Mason and Contractor, Esteemed Citizen for Over 50 Years, Dies at Home," July 19, 1928; Obituary for William G. Jones who worked with Watkyn W. Parry until 3 years before his death when they sold their interest to the Beach Lumber Co. Construction projects credited to Parry & Jones included: the new Brass and Copper bldg., St. Peter's Rectory, St. John's Lutheran Church and rectory, the Columbus, Liberty and Barringer schools, the Rome Sentinel bldg., Rome Savings Bank and others. He was the oldest living member of the Welsh Presbyterian Church in Rome. He was survived by his wife Catherine Pugh-Jones and three children.

¹⁵ Rome Daily Sentinel, December 16, 1889.

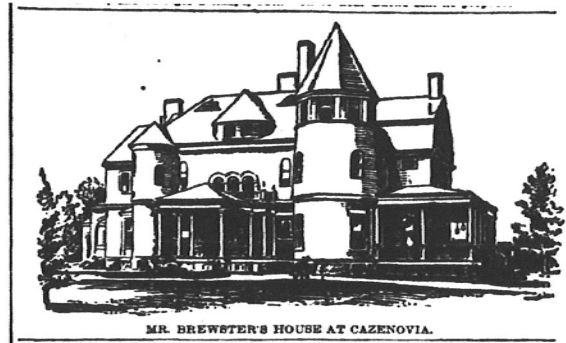
Master Carpenter Richard A. Putnam (1834-1910)

Richard Alexander Putnam was born in Steuben, NY, the son of a tanner, Richard R. Putnam. At an early age, he learned the carpentry trade which led to a very successful building and contracting business in Rome, NY. He was especially known for his extraordinary carpentry skills and had previously worked with Parry & Jones on several projects including the Williams Bros. knitting mills in 1886.¹⁶

On October 22, 1889, the Rome Sentinel newspaper reported, "*R. A. Putnam of this city went to Lyons Falls today where he is engaged in building a large house. Mr. Putnam has for some months been at work on a similar contract at Cazenovia.*" The big project in Cazenovia was a million-dollar summer home for Standard Oil executive Benjamin F. Brewster.¹⁷



HALL AND GRAND STAIRCASE IN MR. BREWSTER'S HOUSE AT CAZENOVIA.



MR. BREWSTER'S HOUSE AT CAZENOVIA.

A New York newspaper article in 1894 featured the summer homes of William and John Rockefeller at Tarrytown and the Benjamin Brewster house at Cazenovia. The story included a sketch of interior woodwork created by Richard A. Putnam and his crew for the elaborate entrance hall and grand staircase in the Brewster cottage.¹⁸

Several Italian woodcarvers from Rome helped R. A. Putnam on the Brewster cottage. He also employed a half-dozen men to work on the Merriam mansion during the winter of 1889-1890.¹⁹ Florence Lyon-Merriam returned to Lyons Falls in late April 1890 but found that her new residence was not yet ready for occupancy. All modern

¹⁶ Rome Daily Sentinel, "What the Carpenters and Masons Find to Do," July 24, 1886.

¹⁷ Rome Semi-Weekly Sentinel, April 3, 1889; G. V. Selden & Co. have sub-let to R. A. Putnam the contract to build a \$30,000 dwelling house for Hon. Benj. Brewster, at Cazenovia. It will take him about three months. Rome Daily Sentinel, "Richard A. Putnam Dead," July 23, 1910, p. 2; His obituary specifically noted Richard's work on the Merriam residence at Lyons Falls and the Brewster Cottage at Cazenovia and the photo of him in this document.

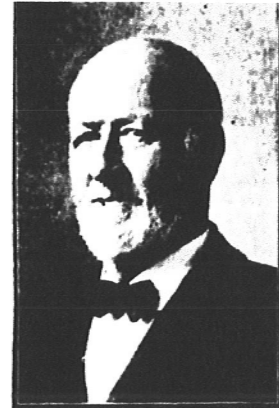
¹⁸ New York Weekly Press, June 1894; The summer cottages of William & John Rockefeller in Tarrytown described along with sketches and a description of the summer cottage of Benjamin Brewster who owned a summer cottage "Scrooby" in Cazenovia, New York. Known as Brewster Inn today on the shoreline of Cazenovia Lake, the mansion is a high-end destination for weddings venues, banquets, and its sumptuous lodging and cuisine.

¹⁹ Rome Semi-Weekly Citizen, July 10, 1889; "*J. (James) Poncioni and K. Konpsf, two ITALIAN wood carvers, are at work at G. V. Shelden & Co.'s mill, doing some very handsome work in mahogany and quartered oak for the ornamentation of the Brewster house in Cazenovia.*" Rome Semi-Weekly Citizen, August 10, 1890; This article notes that R. A. Putnam had not done much work in Rome during the past year except at Lyons Falls where he still had six workers at the Merriam mansion. He also had five workers employed on several new projects in Rome in the summer of 1890 that included a Queen Anne for Prof. O. C. Harrington on Stanwix Street and the parsonage of the First M. E. Church.

conveniences were being installed including both gas and electricity for the lighting fixtures.²⁰ A local newspaper reported on September 1, 1890 that *"Mr. and Mrs. C. C. Merriam are settled in their new home."*²¹ Florence had a great appreciation for all the laborers who created her magnificent residence but none more so than her master carpenter Richard A. Putnam. The first social event she hosted at Florissante was the wedding on September 5, 1890 for Richard's son Frank L. Putnam to Marie F. Jordan of Montbéliard, France.²²



Florissante Mansion ca. 1890
Lewis County Historical Society



Richard A. Putnam.

In October 1891, Florence gave birth at Florissante to their fifth and final child, Helen Lyon Merriam. That same year, Florence buried her mother Mary Brimsmade Northrup-Lyon in the family plot in Wildwood Cemetery, Lyons Falls. Florissante became the Collin and Florence Merriam's primary residence over the next several decades where they hosted wedding receptions, funerals, and large family reunions.



Florence & C. Collins Merriam (left) with William Hubbell Fisher & Mary Lyon-Fisher
on the bridge between Florissante & The Pines

²⁰ Lowville Journal and Republican, April 24, 1890. Florence's widowed mother Mary Lyon lived in the 2nd Lyon family residence "The Pines" connected eventually to Florissante by a wooden boardwalk. Before her own residence was completed Florence stayed with her mother and other Lyon-Fisher family members in this residence. The Pines was nominated and placed on the National Register of Historic Places in 2007 and is currently a private residence.

²¹ Lowville Journal and Republican, September 1, 1890.

²² Rome Semi-Weekly Citizen, "Putnam-Jordan," September 10, 1890.

Florence Lyon-Merriam was the youngest child born to Lyman R. Lyon and his wife Mary B. Northrup-Lyon and the last surviving sibling. By 1930, heart trouble limited her activities especially her daily walks about the estate. After a two-day illness, she died at her beloved Florissante homestead on Sunday, August 2, 1931.²³ Two months after the death of his wife, Charles Collins Merriam died at the age of 80 from pneumonia at Florissante. Both were buried in Wildwood Cemetery at Lyons Falls.²⁴

The Merriam descendants continued to own Florissante for the next three decades. For many years, it had been the retreat for Florence's son Lyman Lyon Merriam (1877-1936) and his family. After graduating in 1900 from Stevens Institute with a degree in civil engineering, Lyman helped with the construction of the first tunnels built under the Hudson River, then worked for sixteen years for the Gould Paper Co. in Lyons Falls. In 1903, Lyman married Delia Brandreth in Ossining, NY whose family owned a large wilderness estate in Northern Herkimer County. Lyman died suddenly of a heart attack at the age of 58 in February 1936 while at a business meeting in New York City.²⁵

That summer in July 1936, Lyman's widow Delia Brandreth-Merriam (1875-1953) and her widowed daughter Sarah Merriam-Trube (1904-1990) opened up Florissante to the public as a fancy tea house. Sarah married Carl Edward Trube at Florissante in August of 1927. Carl was born on February 22, 1901 in New York City. He was burned to death from an explosion on March 13, 1930 in Ossining at the age of 29 while testing an airplane engine in his garage. Sarah had just given birth to their son Merriam Trube several months before Carl's death.²⁶

Following in the footsteps of Florence Lyon-Merriam, both women became deeply involved in church activities and social groups in Lyons Falls. Sarah, who had traveled extensively in Europe, was well-known for her artistic and sculpturing abilities. She contributed her acting talents to the local Players Guild, created authentic stage settings and provided scores of period costumes for their productions from her personal collections.²⁷ Yet in the 1940s, they held several antique and furniture auctions at Florissante, acknowledging in an October 1945 sale that they had plans to sell the estate.²⁸

FLORISSANTE

*The Lyon Homestead one-half mile from
Lyons Falls village on the Brantingham
road.*

Real English Tea

*with
Old Fashioned Preserves
and Fruit Cake
35c*

Served every afternoon, including Sunday

SARAH M. TRUBE DELIA B. MERRIAM

Rome Daily Sentinel, July 6, 1936 ad for Florissante Tea House

²³ Boonville Herald, August 6, 1931; Obit Florence Lyon Merriam, daughter of Lyman R. Lyon and his wife Mary Brinsmade Northrup-Lyon.

²⁴ Rome Daily Sentinel, "Charles Merriam Expires at Home," October 28, 1931.

²⁵ Ossining Citizen Daily Register, "Merriam Succumbs at Office," February 6, 1936; Lyman L. Merriam was the vice-president of the Alcock Company in charge of manufacturing. After a funeral in NYC, his body was taken to Lyons Falls for burial. Lyman was survived by his wife Delia and three daughters.

²⁶ Lowville Journal and Republican, "Carl E. Trube Fatally Burned," March 20, 1930.

²⁷ Rome Daily Sentinel, February 20, 1953. Sarah Merriam-Trube had taught art at the Central School in Lewis County, taught modeling clay classes at Munson Williams Institute in Utica, and stenciling classes at the Lyons Falls High School. She was a highly respected actress and set designer for a local theater guild for many years. In one production, she played the role of Auntie Zeb, the negro house servant of Harriet Beecher-Stowe.

²⁸ Rome Daily Sentinel, "Auction Sale," August 22, 1941, and Rome Sentinel, "Auction at Florissante," October 13, 1945. This auction included refinished and unfinished furniture as well as antiques and items from their foreign travel collections.

Rome newspaper ads for Auctions at Florissante in 1941 (left) and 1945

**AUCTION SALE
ANTIQUES
PARTIAL STOCK
FLORISSANTE,
LYONS FALLS, N. Y.**
½ mile off Route 12 at Paper Mill
SATURDAY, AUGUST 23
at 12:30 p. m.

We will sell at Public Auction from our barn, the bulk of our stock consisting of all unfinished furniture, chairs, tables, beds, stands, corner cupboards, china, pattern glass, wooden and iron articles, lamps, some finished furniture, pictures, and other articles too numerous to mention.

**BY OUR ORDER
SARAH TRUBE
and
DELIA MERRIAM.**

**AUCTION
AT "FLORISSANTE"**
One-half mile from the Gould
Paper Mill on the Brantingham
Road, Lyons Falls, N. Y.
MONDAY, OCT. 15
AT 10 A. M.

As we are selling our residence, we shall sell by Auction as much of the following antique and modern furniture as possible in one day: Marble top furniture, 2 Empire sideboards, large oak dining table, old English oak carved settle, large roll top office desk, overstuffed chairs, several arm chairs, 4 mahogany dining chairs, large antique desk with bookcase, Mahogany horsehair rocker, folding bed, black walnut bedroom suite, odd mirrors, beds in pairs and single, extra springs, several desks, mahogany marble top table, antique clocks, china tea set, cocktail sets, Eskimo kayak, Norwegian racing skis, cribs, pedestal tables, settees, fall leaf tables (large and small), colored glass, pattern glass, lamps, candlesticks, bric-a-brac, and hundreds of other articles. Some furniture refinished—some in the rough.

Florissante was not sold in 1945. Delia Brandreth-Merriam died there in June 1953 survived by her three daughters: Sarah Merriam-Trube at Lyons Falls, Florence Merriam-Youngberg of San Francisco, and Clara Merriam-Houck of New York City.²⁹ Sarah continued to operate an antique business at Florissante though she often spent winters in Florida or with family members in California. In November 1960, she closed up the mansion and went to spend the winter with her sisters in California.

It was a permanent move for Sarah Trube. A flyer was printed up in 1960 for the sale of the 16-room manor house along with 600 acres that included a 10-room farmhouse and several outbuildings. The asking price was \$80,000. In August of 1961, a 3-day auction took place at Florissante that brought in hundreds of people including dealers from half a dozen states. The auction was conducted by two individuals from Tennessee who had purchase the entire contents of the homestead. The sale net \$60,000 and many items were family heirlooms handed down from generation to generation of the Lyman R. Lyon family.³⁰

Sarah Merriam-Trube had kept the home fires burning at Florissante for three decades. She became the primary caretaker of her mother Delia during her last years, but she was not the sole beneficiary of her mother's estate. She shared that distinction with her two sisters and all three decided to make California their primary residence.³¹ All of the grandchildren had scattered elsewhere and did not have the time or desire to make Florissante their seasonal retreat. The Lyon-Merriam association with Florissante came to an end in 1964 when Peter Wiles from Syracuse bought the property with the intent to open a ski house, conference center and golf course.³²

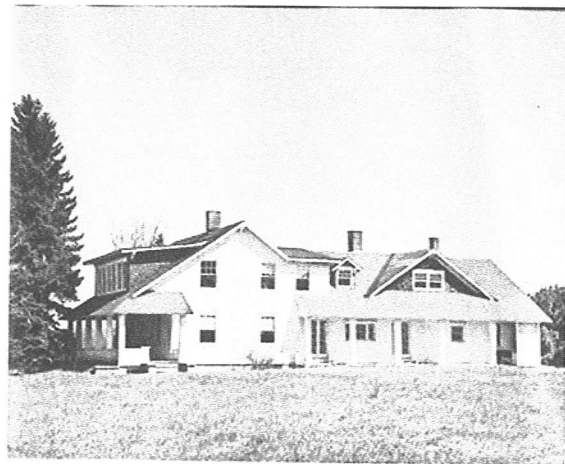
²⁹ Rome Daily Sentinel, "Area Deaths," June 10, 1953; Delia Merriam was also survived by three grandsons, including Lt. Merriam Trube stationed in California at the time of his grandmother's death.

³⁰ Lowville Journal and Republican, "Antiques Net \$60,000," August 31, 1961, pp. 1 & 6;

³¹ Sarah Merriam-Trube died in California in 1990 and is buried with her husband Carl at Sleepy Hallow Cemetery.

³² Marcellus Observer, December 3, 1964; Peter Wiles family at their ski house at Lyons Falls. Lowville Journal and Republican, "Estate Sold At Lyons Falls," January 7, 1965; Peter Wiles of Syracuse, owner of four golf courses, bought Florissante according to a newspaper account in January 1965. He was the grandson of furniture maker Gustav Stickley. In addition to golf courses, he operated tour boats on Skaneateles Lake until his death in 1995.

1960 Flyer for the Sale of Florissante



16-ROOM MANOR HOUSE AND 600 ACRES

LYONS FALLS, LEWIS COUNTY, NEW YORK

• PREVIEWS LISTING NO. 30039-B

The 16-room stone and shingle house, which is the heart of this estate, is magnificent in construction and proportions. On a splendid elm-shaded lawn, it sets back about 300 feet from a paved county road which crosses the property. Black River, just beyond, borders the estate for about 3,000 feet. The location, near Route 12, is 45 miles north of Utica. The land consists of approximately 600 acres in rolling pastures, cultivated fields, reforested pines and woodland, and affords trout fishing and hunting within its boundaries. A horse barn and shop are back of the house. A group of buildings within the farm consists of a 10-room house with garage and a 5-room cottage with barn attached. The property is offered for sale to settle an estate.

This fine property has exceptional advantages for a variety of purposes. It is very suitable for a retirement home or religious retreat, and would be ideal for use as a boys' camp. Two large residences provide many bedrooms, and are heated for year 'round occupancy. The large acreage includes a level playing field and low land with a vigorous stream through it to make a lake. There is an abundant water supply, enough for a swimming pool in addition to the small pool now on the grounds. Extensive frontage on county road and river provide a potential for subdivision or development.

RESIDENCE: 16 Rooms (7 master bedrooms, 2 baths, 3 svts' rooms, bath). English style, stone and shingle. Built 1886. Stone foundation; composition shingle roof. Native black cherry and oak floors. Trunk lift from basement to attic. Fireplaces in 9 rooms. Coal-fired water heater. Spring water (never failing), reservoir on hill, gravity flow. Electricity. Telephone.

FIRST FLOOR: Front Porch (14'x72'). Front and side entrance

halls, brick fireplace. Library (18'x25'), cherry fireplace. Parlor. Study with fireplace. 2 large Bedrooms, fireplaces, connecting Bath. Dining Room (18'x22'), fireplace. Butler's Pantry. Lavatory. Rear stairs. Double Kitchen, gas and wood ranges, electric refrigerator. 2 Pantries. Laundry. **SECOND FLOOR:** Center Hall. Music Room, fireplace. 5 master Bedrooms, 2 with fireplaces. Balcony. 2 Bathrooms. 3 Bedrooms in rear. **THIRD FLOOR:** 3 bay dormers, 2 balconies. **BASEMENT:**

CARPENTER SHOP (20'x25'). GARAGE for 2 cars below.

BARN (40'x85'), pine sheathing, double sealed. 3 horse stalls, 2 box stalls.

CAMP COTTAGE: 2 rooms in old barn.

FARMHOUSE 66' long. Stone and clapboard. 10 Rooms, Bath. Coal hot water heat. Garage.

MEN'S QUARTERS: Kitchen, 4 Bedrooms, Bath.

BARN (attached to men's quarters), 20'x50', 2 story.

PROPERTY: Approx. 600 Acres. 250 acres tillable, 50 acres reforested, 300 acres woodland. 3,750' frontage, both sides of road. 3,000' frontage on river. Rolling land, sloping to river. Trout brook. Extensive lawn, large elms. Circular fountain, 20' basin, stream through lawn. Perennial garden. Pine woods.

LOCATION: Lyons Falls, Lewis County, New York. On Black River. On paved county road off Route 12, 45 miles north of Utica. 1 mile to town. Snow Ridge at Turin, 5 miles. Watertown, 40 miles. Rome, 45 miles. New York City, 250 miles.

Offering is subject to errors, omissions, price sale, change or withdrawal without notice, and approval of purchaser by owner.

OFFERED AT \$80,000

OWNER: Merriam Estate, c/o Mrs. K. M. Houck, 425 E. 56th St., New York 28, N.Y. Tel.: ATwater 9-5616.

PROPERTY: Lyons Falls, Lewis County, N.Y.

INSPECTION: Through owner on property. May through Sept., Tel.: Lyons Falls 1861. Otherwise, William Butts, caretaker, c/o Post Office, Lyons Falls, N.Y.

OFFICE DIRECTIONS: Cross the two bridges at Paper Mill; bear left along river 1 mile.

Owner authorizes one commission of 5% of the selling price to the selling broker.

NTG.: Free and Clear

No. 30039-B

TAXES: Approx. \$990

595

PREVIEWS INCORPORATED • The National Real Estate Clearing House
49 EAST 53rd STREET, NEW YORK 22, N. Y. PLaza 2-2550

New York • Boston • Philadelphia • Palm Beach • Chicago • Denver
Fort Worth • Los Angeles • San Francisco • Paris • London

1961 – Lowville Journal and Republican, "Antiques Net \$60,000," August 31, 1961, pp. 1 & 6;

Antiques Net \$60,000

Antique dealers from half a dozen states, and hundreds of others including many lookers-on, attended one of the biggest auctions in the history of Lewis County, the three-day sale of the Lyman R. Lyons estate at Lyons Falls last weekend.

Bidders dumped nearly \$60,000 into the auction kitty for rare items in an estate valued at \$80,000 or more.

Bidding on the famous collection of over 400 dolls brought \$8,000 alone. The hand carved Abraham Lincoln doll with a pre-auction value of \$500 drew only \$100. The Lincoln doll was one of two presented to two sisters in Rochester during Lincoln's campaign for the presidency.

The Bryant firm of Birmingham.
(Continued on Page 6)

\$60,000 Auction

(Continued from Page 1)

ham, Ala., dealers in antiques, purchased 63 pieces for a total of \$2,800. Oriental rugs went for \$600 to \$900, while an early American pencil post bed sold for \$400 and a Hepplewhite chest drew \$300. Maps of the Lyons estate sold for \$90 and \$125.

A solid bronze candle and a bronze matching clock brought \$200, two Chinese urns, \$250, a chest of Chinese silver, \$60, and a carved amber Indian head, \$150.

Bids ranged from \$2 to \$600 for old trunks, mirrors, cut glass vases, silver candle holders, antique oil lamps, cut glass lamps, an antique jewel case, ten hanger chandeliers, antique chairs, French chinaware and an obsolete museum piece telescope.

The items up for bidding were family heirlooms and antiques passed from generation to generation in the family and last owned by Sarah Trube, the great-granddaughter of Lyman Lyons, now in California.

now in California.

The contents of the house had been sold to Herbert Wilbur, of Latham, and W. Clements, Tennessee, antique dealers who conducted the auction.

Many of the most prominent antique dealers of New York City and neighboring states attended.

The town of Lyons was named for Caleb Lyons, agent for John Greig, founder of the town of Greig. The auction was held at the Lyman R. Lyons house which was constructed after the original stone Lyons family homestead was destroyed by fire.

The Lyons estate was the site of the famous "Big Barn," basis for a novel of the same name by Walter D. Edmonds. The barn, believed to have been the largest ever constructed in this country, was torn down years ago.



Florissante Today – Owned Once Again by a Descendant of Lyman R. Lyon – Stuart deCamp