

WOLF HOLLOW  
GLENVILLE'S NOTABLE SCENIC FEATURE

By

Percy M. Van Epps

(Town and County Historian)

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"View nature through, and from the round  
Of things to sense reveal'd,  
Contend 'tis thine alike to sound  
Th' abyss of things concealed"  
---John Mason Good (1837)



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PORTAL OF THE "COAL MINE"  
A GLOOMY CORRIDOR PENETRATING FAR  
UNDER THE GLENVILLE HILLS  
(PHOTO BY BARNETT FOWLER)

## FOREWORD

The Town of Glenville, Schenectady County, besides the distinction of having the first settlement of white men north of the Mohawk River (1658), can also be proud of the fact that within her borders she has a scenic spot, provided by Dame Nature, unique and unequalled anywhere in the entire Mohawk Region. Encompassed in a small area flanked by the massive Kinaquariones, very near the western border of the town, there is a peculiar and notable wealth of interest not only for the geologist, the paleontologist, the botanist, but also for those who love to delve in historic lore.

This unique combination of interesting features can be found in the gorge of the Wolf Hollow, thus named nearly two centuries ago while the area was yet the haunt of the Wolf, the bear and other wild denizens of the primitive forest that covered the entire watershed of the Mohawk. Deeply gashed and worn through the river's bordering hills this justly famed scenic place owes its origin to a titanic convulsion which geologists tell us occurred many million years ago; a buckling and deep-seated fracture of the earth's crustal rocks, leaving a rent whose course has been traced even to the foothills of the Adirondacks, and which left the rock strata of the region dislocated and displaced hundreds of feet from their normal position as laid down in the seas of past geologic ages. The disturbed and uplifted sides of this great rent were afterward planed and leveled by the irresistible grind of the Labradorian glacier, that great and thick blanket of ice that covered nearly

the entire area of our state. Following the waning of the ice the ravine of the Wolf Hollow was widened and deepened by post-glacial streams, and by the slow but persistent erosion of the little brook, Chaughtanoonda, which today as it has done for ages chatters and babbles over its rocky bed throughout the whole length of the Hollow.

The following paper is an attempt to sketch and portray some of the salient features of this charmed region whose spell has allured me for full threescore and ten years.

Glenville, N.Y.  
January, 1939

Percy M. Van Epps

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## WOLF HOLLOW

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Going from Schenectady, up the Mohawk Valley by rail or automobile, one shortly approaches and goes between prominent twin summits, the "Gateway of the Valley." To the north the Glenville Hills, whose highest summit is nearly 1100 feet above sea level. Directly opposite and some 200 feet higher, across the river, is the steep wooded slopes of the Yan-ta-puch-a-berg, a composite name, Dutch and Indian, meaning "John, ear of corn hill." Between these opposing summits, a nearly, sea-level gap through the eastern rocky backbone of the Continent, passes continuously a large proportion of the travel and commerce of our country, to and from the coastal region and the interior.

Westward these twin summits, at a slightly lower elevation, continue nearly unbroken for about fifty miles. To the north there is however, one notable break in their continuity. This we find at a point just ten miles west of Schenectady. Here the Glenville hills are cut through from their summit to nearly the level of the river, much as though sliced by a giant cleaver. This great slash leads to the ravine of the Wolf Hollow through which courses a little brook, the Chaughtanoonda, draining a part of the hinterland north of the hills.

The Wolf Hollow, in addition to its scenic beauty, and its distinctive flora, in early Colonial days was the scene of a notable conflict between warring Indian nations, as we shall see. But its most noticeable feature is its peculiar geological exposures, showing Dame Nature's methods in remodeling old Earth's

outer crust. A Mecca for the student of geology, its rock exposures and its fossiliferous limestone beds have been visited and studied by scientists from far and near.

Long ago, some 150 million years, scientists say, or about the middle of the Mesozoic era, when giant and ungainly reptiles lived and fought in the shallow seas and on such dry land as then existed, while winged and toothed dragon-like reptiles soared above, Dame Nature was very busy readjusting the surface contour of our northeastern states. Up in northern Maine volcanoes were spewing and spreading hot lava over vast areas; further inland a great and deep-seated wrinkling took place in the surface rocks leaving a deep trough from the St. Lawrence to the sea at Manhattan. This was invaded by the sea for a time, leaving, as the region was elevated, a great trough now occupied by Lake Champlain and the Hudson River. Still further inland, mountain building was under way, the Alleghanies were slowly being pushed up. During this turmoil, which undoubtedly was accompanied with cataclysmic earthquakes, a series of deep-seated rents and displacements of the surface rocks took place in our Mohawk region. These particular fractures, known to the geologists as "faults," extended nearly at right angles across the valley of the Mohawk, roughly parallel to each other and nearly equidistant, the greatest of these, known as the Hoffmans Ferry Fault, was the primal cause of our Wolf Hollow. Its course has been traced and studied, from the valley of the Mohawk, at Hoffmans, northward to Luzerne on the upper Hudson. The vertical displacement of the rock strata wherein this great fracture occurred is known to be well over a thousand feet.



MILLIONS OF YEARS AGO DAME NATURE WROUGHT, UPHEAVING AND REMOULDING  
OUR MOHAWK REGION. THEN LIVED TYRANNOSAURUS REX (KING OF TYRANTS).  
RAVENOUS FLESH-EATING BEASTS OFTEN 35 FEET LONG AND ARMED WITH SIX<sup>2</sup>  
INCH TEETH. THEIR FOSSIL REMAINS ARE FOUND IN MONTANA AND WYOMING

FROM A MURAL BY CHARLES A. KNIGHT  
(COURTESY FIELD MUSEUM NATURAL HISTORY, CHICAGO)

The actual line of the fracture, a clean-cut break, plainly to be seen in the Wolf Hollow, shows a massive wall face of dolomite on the one side, while opposite and but a few feet away are the broken edges of the slates and shales whose normal position before the fracture was hundreds of feet higher. When the break occurred and the eastern wall began to sink -- a process which may have extended through centuries -- the sinking layers of slate began to curl up as they scraped and dragged against the harder wall of dolomite, remaining in that position today.

While the ravine along the course of the great fault cutting through the Glenville Hills, topographically begins at the Kinaquariones on the north bank of the Mohawk, thence extending northward nearly two miles, yet that part of this notable feature of the Mohawk Valley, known to the public as the "Wolf Hollow" actually begins one-half mile north from the river. Here the public highway enters the gorge and here stands a marker erected by the Education Department of our State. Beside this road, which extends the entire mile-length of the ravine, first on one side, then the other, runs a little stream, the "Chaugh-ta-noon-da" of the Indians, a word said to mean, stony houses or stony places.

Entering the Hollow, its wooded sides soon grow higher and steeper and shortly one approaches a precipice directly ahead rising from a tumbled mass of jagged rocks great and small, the wastage of untold ages, fallen from the cliffs above. This wall-face of dolomite, its summit fringed with wind-swept trees, seems to bar further progress, but on nearer approach we find



the road and its companion stream turns sharply to the right. Here is the actual line of the great earth fracture, the towering cliff before us is the broken edge of the thick-bedded layers of dolomite. On the other side their former continuation lie buried many hundreds of feet under the massive beds of slate and shale whose jagged fractured edges project from the eastern slope of the ravine. A striking revelation of the tremendous energy released in building or reshaping continents.

-VanEpps  
JOHNNYS SPRING

AN AMBUSCADE

Just across the little brook, shaded by a group of hemlocks, is Johnnys Spring, a never-failing pool of clear water flowing from the lichen-clad talus of the overshadowing Cliff. Its source, deep-seated, is plainly from beneath one of the lower layers of the dolomite. Here, between the towering cliffs with the jumbled rocks at their feet, on the one side and the jagged projecting slates on the other -- a "cragged pass," as records Pierron, the Jesuit missionary then stationed at Gandawague, the palisaded town of the Turtle Clan of the Mohawks -- was the place where, in August, 1669, the Mohawk warriors ambushed an invading army of allied Algonkins from eastern Massachusetts, which had futilely besieged the Mohawk town and were now in full retreat. Making, wrote Pierron, "a wide detour," the Mohawk braves led by their wily chief, Kryn, scrambled down the rocky, wooded sides of the Hollow. Here, ahead of the retreating Algonkin, they lay concealed behind rocks and trees, where on the approach of their foe, they were able to take deadly aim.

Decimated and baffled, the invaders, with the Mohawks closely following, now doubled on their course, only to find another party of the Mohawks stationed at the river end of the ravine, and at once a day-long battle ensued, in which, writes Gookin, the historian of Massachusetts Bay, the Algonkin lost not only their "principle Sachem," Wampatuck, but also fifty of their chiefs.

Skirting the wooded base of the cliff, south of the spring, here entered the ravine, a well-beaten path of the redman; a cross-country path from the Mohawk region to the Atlantic seaboard trod by wave after wave of Algonkin nations, ancient dwellers in this region.

Leaving the place of the ambushade, with its interesting geological exposures, one follows the pleasant road which here closely skirts the steep western side of the ravine. Up this wooded slope, so steep that it is difficult to climb, the yellow moccasin flower, *cypridium pubescens*, can be found in its season, and sharp eyes may possibly spy an example of the rare Showy Lady's Slipper, the *Cypridium reginea*, sometimes known as Whip-poor-will's Shoe, the largest and most beautiful of our native orchids. This queen of our wild flowers is now protected by State Law, and should not be disturbed.

#### A SALTED MINE

Just ahead and to the right of the road, across the stream, a gloomy portal will soon be noticed, the mouth of a tunnel penetrating the black shales which here outcrop. This is locally known as the "Coal Mine," though the only coal found

in its depths came from Pennsylvania. This futile attempt to find coal, in rock strata laid down millions of years before the Carboniferous period, was made in 1850's. The mine is said to have been "salted" by jokers, thus for a time encouraging the deluded owner into continuing his fruitless search. A large and long lead pipe used as a syphon to drain the mine, which was not removed when the tunnel was abandoned and afterwards became flooded, no doubt led to the story locally current and believed, that a certain wise one knew of a deposit of native lead in the Hollow, to which he was wont to resort for lead for his bullet mould. Deep-seated earth fractures, like the one to which our Wolf Hollow owes its origin, in certain regions, have, however, sometimes been the artery through which mineralized waters have risen from unknown depths to finally deposit their metallic content nearer the surface. Indeed, this very Hoffmans Ferry fault, or one of its branch fractures, has been suggested by more than one geologist as the possible source of the mineralization of the famous springs at Saratoga.

Beyond the Coal Mine the course of the highway and its accompanying brook closely follows the line of the great fault for nearly half a mile. Then with a long curve it swerves to the right in a branch dislocation of the rock layers. The northward continuation of the great earth fracture with its cliffs can be seen, and has been traced and studied by the geologists, for nearly fifty miles. Finally, emerging from the Hollow, an extensive vista at once opens: We have penetrated the Mohawk's bordering hills through the great cut provided by Dame Nature

and before us, is an ever-widening and comparatively level expanse of farm and forest stretching far eastward, until it merges in the Saratoga plains bordering the upper Hudson valley, while beyond, if the day is clear, rises the serrated line of the Green Mountains in Vermont. Cutting directly across this expanse ran the much-used primitive path whose course we have followed through the ravine behind us; its location well-marked to the archaeologist by a chain of fishing camps, sites of hunter's lodges, and a profusion of relics of the chase and primitive culture strewn along its course.

#### FIRST WAGON ROAD IN THE HOLLOW

As related, a great and long-used Indian path ran through Wolf Hollow, whereby the Algonkin who lived in our Mohawk region for long ages before the entry of the Iroquois, escaped climbing the steep Glenville Hills on their journeys from the river valley to their kin eastward, yet the first white settlers of upper Glenville had for years only the present hill road available to reach the river with teams and wagons. This handicap finally led to agitation which resulted in a survey, soon followed by the building of the road through the Hollow. About this time quarries in the limestone beds one mile west of the village of Glenville were opened, wherein many men--over one hundred, it is said--were engaged in quarrying and shaping stone used in bridges and locks on the Erie Canal at the time that waterway was first widened and deepened. This industry, new to Glenville, had much to do with the opening of the road through the Hollow, for it was soon seen that an easier and safer road was needed to haul the big blocks of stone cut from

the quarry to the river, rather than over the hill road which closely skirts the eastern brink of the Hollow, with its long and steep ascent.

Even with the easy gradient of the new road built through the Hollow, accidents yet happened, upsets occurred dumping huge squared stones into the bed of the stream, where on account of their size and the lack of equipment to reload them they were allowed to lie. Some such may still be seen in this situation.

Incidentally, the stone cut and taken from this quarry proved to be of an inferior quality, nearly worthless for the use to which it was put, being a highly fossiliferous limestone that rapidly weathered away. The countless included fossil bivalve shells, forming the major part of the mass, each individual shell a line of weakness, caused final disintegration of the stone. When first quarried and cut the stone no doubt had a good appearance, but the dressed blocks soon began to ~~waste~~ finally becoming unsightly, crumbling masses of shelly limestone. This is shown today by the stones left by the roadside, as told above.

It is said that the route as planned by the first survey of the new road, closely followed the west bank of the stream, from the lower end of the Hollow, to the Mohawk Turnpike. This course would have given an easy gradient for its full length and here, skirting the lee of the wooded western slope, sheltered from the winds and snow banks of winter, was the natural continuation of the road, rather than its present course with its very steep grades as it approaches Hoffmans. Interested land-owners

are said in some way to have brought about this change in plan. Furthermore, the same change, and brought about in the same way, was made in the extension of the road at the upper or north end of the Hollow. It is unfortunate that the road was not built along the entire course as first planned, for then it would have had an easy grade from the crossroad at the quarry site all the way to the Mohawk River, closely following the actual line of the great Hoffmans Ferry fault.

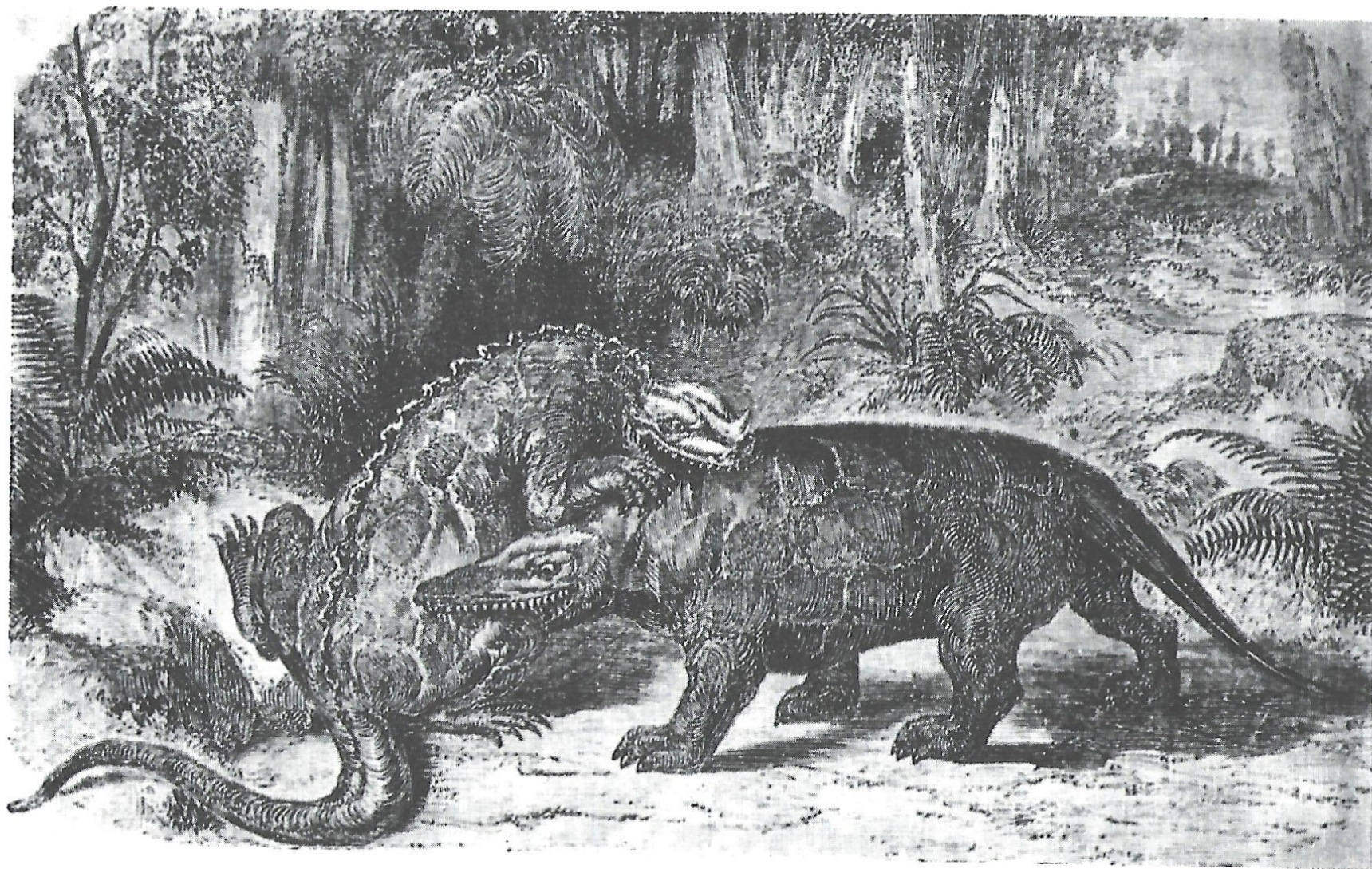
ANIMALS THAT LIVED HERE  
MILLIONS OF YEARS AGO

In certain parts of Wolf Hollow interesting fossils may be found, petrified remains of animals that lived in the seas of Ordovician time, a former period in old Earth's life history that lasted some 75 million years, so geologists tell us. The thick dolomite beds, forming the greater part of the rock mass exposed on the western side of the ravine, are of a still earlier period, known as the Cambrian. These beds, however, show little or no trace of fossil life forms. It is, therefore, to the slates, shales, and limestone exposures, all classed as Ordovician, that we must look for these interesting mementos of ancient life forms, principally to the limestone strata.

In certain layers of the black shale, outcropping near the mouth of the Coal Mine, a curious fossil has been found, known as graptolites, so named from two Greek words meaning "written" and "stony" as they somewhat resemble certain forms of ancient writing. Graptolites, as though they were penciled on the thin

slabs of stone, show delicate fern-like fronds. These were arms or tentacles which were pendant from a central disk-like form that floated on the surface of the sea. Graptolites first appeared in the Cambrian Period, reached their climax in the Ordovician and lived but a short time thereafter, as geologic history goes. For this reason they have been called "time-markers," as they enable the student of geology to easily identify rocks of this particular era of the geologic scale, no matter in what distant part of the world he may find them.

Crowning the thick dolomite beds, near the brink of the Hollow, for its entire length, though only exposed in certain places, is a deposit about fourteen feet thick of shelly, fossiliferous rock-layers known to our State geologists as the "Amsterdam limestone." This strata abounds in fossils, like the graptolite, found in the shales on the opposite side of the ravine, all belonging to the Ordovician Period; a name given to the period from a province in ancient Wales where these rocks prominently appear, in which lived a Celtic tribe, the "Ordovices." Visiting these limestone outcrops, one can easily find many fossil forms of the life that abounded so plentifully in the Ordovician Seas; brachiopods of different species; trilobites, corals, and many kinds of bryozoans -- odd forms of marine life often found in colonies showing beautiful and intricate lace-like patterns. At a certain place on the limestone exposure, near the north end of the Hollow, there has been found a peculiar form of bryozoans which bears the high-sounding name "Prasopora Simulatrix." Perfect examples of these resemble in shape the buttons of young mushrooms, being convex on their



IN THE WEIRD FORESTS OF MESOZOIC TIME STRANGE AND  
MONSTROUS BEASTS ROAMED AND FOUGHT. IN THIS PERIOD  
OCCURRED THE EARTH FRACTURE OF THE WOLF HOLLOW

(COURTESY D. APPLETON-CENTURY COMPANY)



upper surface and concave beneath. Broken specimens show their inner structure, a mass of small parallel filaments closely knit together. This unique fossil life form was classed with the corals by the early paleontologists, but is now regarded as a bryozoan. Here, too, one may find detached sections of crinoid stems, those strange organisms osometimes called "Lilies of the Sea;" a living animal with long, pliant and slender plant-like stems and a head somewhat like a flower, yet withal firmly rooted to the sea bottom. First appearing, so far as yet known, in the Ordovician Period, some 300 million years ago, a few crinoidal forms still live in certain seas. The hollow stem joints of this fossil, often found in the weatheredwastage of limestone areas, were sometimes used as beads by the Indians. Used for the same purpose in certain parts of England, they were known as "St.Cuthbert's beads."

In certain places these limestone beds seem entirely composed of a thick jumbled mass of crinoidal remains; part of their flower-like heads, fragments of roots, short lengths of stems together with countless numbers of their unjointed bead-like sections, as though they had all been swept together in a great bank on the bottom of the shallow sea of that ancient period; perhaps by a sudden change of current or the result of a storm. Wrote Hugh Miller, the Scotch geologist, in one of his classics printed just a century ago: - "The peculiar encrinites" (crinoids) "of the group rose in miniature forests, and spread forth their sentient petals by millions and tens of millions amid the waters."

From the particular parts of the limestone exposures along the margin of the great fault, showing massed crinoidal remains, as described, small blocks have been cut, squared and polished, making handsome paper weights, finely showing the included fossils.

HOW DID THE  
"HOLLOW"  
GET ITS NAME?

In concluding this paper reference will be made to the query sometimes heard: Why was the Wolf Hollow thus named? Was it because this deep ravine was once a favorite haunt of wolves, or did some pioneer settler there perform a feat of valor in an encounter with a wolf, like the historic battle Israel Putnam had in the Wolf's den? Near the top of the dolomite precipice shadowing Johnnys Spring there is a rock crevice, not a true cave, locally known as the "Bears Den." Perhaps this was once occupied by wolves. No story, however, has yet been handed down of an encounter like Putnam's at this place. Nevertheless the hill region of Glenville in Colonial days was infested not only with wolves but also with bears, and occasionally a panther was seen. While the flat lands along the Mohawk had been settled for nearly a century and the north part of the town for half that time, yet the hill lands of Glenville comprising nearly a third of the area of the town, remained unsurveyed, unsettled and with no public roads, until late in the 1820's. Wolves still infested this wild area in 1828, and it must be remembered that the Wolf Hollow for its whole length was the distinct western boundary of this uncleared hill area. In the cragged cliffs



BESIDE THE PLEASANT ROAD RUNS THE  
LITTLE BROOK, CHAUGHTANOONDA,  
BABBLING OVER ITS ROCKY BED  
(PHOTO BY EARL C. IVES)

found at each end of the Hollow, wolves may have had their dens.

That the Wolf Hollow bore that name as early as 1782, appears from an account given in Grose's "Centennial History of Ballston" (1907) of the massacre of the Gonzalez family in April of that year, by a predatory band of St. Regis Indians. Joseph Gonzalez, coming from Dutchess County, purchased in 1770 a tract of 1500 acres lying in the extreme southwestern part of Saratoga County, closely adjoining the boundary of the township of Schenectady. In the evening of this tragic day for the Gonzalez family Lieut. Teunis Swart, apprised of the raid by David and Joseph, the younger sons of Gonzalez, who had escaped the fury of the Indians, set out from his palisaded block house at Tinker Hill on the banks of the Mohawk, a few miles west of Schenectady, for the Gonzalez home in the then wilderness. Swart was accompanied only by the boy, David, then but eighteen years old, his militia-men, summoned, cowardly refusing to go to the scene of the massacre until morning. Going up the river, to the Kinaquariones, their route northward--the shortest way to the ravaged Gonzalez home--led, says Grose, "through the swamp and gloomy forest of what then and now is known as Wolf Hollow."

The swamp, mentioned by Grose, encountered by Lieut. Swart and his brave companion, the boy, David, on that sorrowful night journey through the woods, would have been beyond the Wolf Hollow. Here ran a path of the red man which they undoubtedly followed and which would have avoided or skirted a swampy tract.

General John S. Clark of Auburn, N.Y., who has made a study of the primitive paths of the Mohawk region, writes; "Three trails led southward from Jessup's Landing, -- one almost an air-line to Kinaquariones." This latter path diverged from the ancient Algonkian path threading the Wolf Hollow at its upper or northern end. Thence northward it undoubtedly closely followed the crest or margin of the great earth fracture, its natural and easy location. In its course this path would have passed very near the log house of Gonzalez.

Incidentally, according to Gen. Clark, this path from the Kinaquariones, via Wolf Hollow, to the upper Hudson, was that taken by Kateri Tekakwitha, the Lily<sup>?</sup> of the Mohawks, on her flight to Canada in 1667 when facing persecution from her pagan relatives for her acceptance of the doctrines of the Jesuit fathers then stationed among her people; a flight planned and successfully carried out by a chieftain of the Mohawks, an Oneida by birth, named "Hot Ashes," who also was a convert of the French missionaries.

#### SEEING THE HOLLOW FROM ABOVE

The visitor at the Wolf Hollow, in order to see and fully realize the depth and extent of this great rent in Earth's surface, should climb the rugged western slope of the ravine at a point just a little way beyond, or north, from Johnny's Spring. Here a little search will disclose the trace of an old-time road, a "dugway," that diagonally ascends from the Hollow's main road to the crest of the cliff above. This perilous hillside road was made and used by woodmen many years ago. Probably

used in the winter time only when sleighs loaded with cordwood, their runners well wrapped with chains, could be safely dragged from woodland above to the level road leading to the river. Cutting and hauling cordwood, fuel for the locomotives of the Utica and Schenectady Railway and for its successor, the New York Central, before coal began to be used, was for nearly three decades a profitable industry for the farmers of the hill regions of Glenville and even for those of more remote sections.

Once found, this old dugway, now (due to slides and erosion) impassable for teams, will enable the pedestrian to gain the Hollow's crest with ease. Here will be found an open pasture field from which, a little way beyond, rises a still higher summit. This very steep cleared slope should next be taken. The geologist of the party noting the black, crumbling shale outcropping in the gullied slope will pronounce this as belonging to the Canajoharie group, and he will say that the eminence is but an isolated outlier of the Ordovician shales which once covered much of the region but whose easterly continuation, due to the ancient cataclysm, now lies buried under many hundred feet of later formations.

#### FINEST VIEW-POINT IN THE MOHAWK VALLEY

At the exact crown of the eminence, standing in attractive grounds is a substantial farmhouse -- "Alti - View," the hospitable home of Mina and Mrs. Van Epps. Arriving at this point the visitor will look back over the climb he has made with wonder and amazement at the view here revealed. Directly before him, seemingly at his very feet, lies the great pass of the Wolf Hollow slashed through the hills of Glenville almost to

their base, its course marked by a line of green -- the very tops of the tall evergreens lining the sides of the ravine. From this unequalled vantage point he will now see and realize the changes brought about in the contour and topography of the region by the cataclysmic disturbance of the long-ago Mesozoic time that with irresistible power rent and dislocated the thick and solid crustal layers of Mother Earth, leaving a line of weakness afterward worn and deepened by post-glacial torrents -- a process continued to this very day by the slow but persistent erosion of the little brook Chaughtanoonda which courses throughout the whole extent of the Hollow.

Looking directly across the river valley one sees the dark wooded course of the gully of the Sandsea Kill, a turbulent stream coming to the Mohawk from the hills of Rotterdam and Princetown. Its channel closely follows the southern continuation of the great earth fracture of the Wolf Hollow, which, however, seems to have extended but a short distance south of the river, fading out under the enormous deposits of Silurian and Devonian time southward., The greatest depth of this fracture and consequent displacement of strata seems to have been in the area of the Wolf Hollow and somewhat northward. Its vertical displacement here has been variously estimated at from 1000 to 1200 feet. The fracture, here deep-seated, probably extends through the whole thickness of the dolomite and very likely deep into the primary Cambrian strata below. A well, one-half mile south of the Mohawk, drilled almost on the actual line of fracture, has yielded inflammable gas in volume and pressure suf-



LOOKING EAST FROM ALTI-VISTA  
ROTTERDAM IN THE MIDDLE FOREGROUND  
SCHENECTADY BEYOND. IN THE DISTANCE IS  
THE DIM LINE OF THE BERKSHIRES  
(PHOTO BY C. M. VANDER VEER)



ficient to heat the kitchen range of its owner for some five or six years past and is still flowing. It has been suggested that this Hoffmans fault may have opened a way of escape for the gas and mineralized water of the well mentioned, from deep-seated rock layers being metamorphosed and chemically changed under pressure and heat.

#### LOOKING THROUGH THE GATEWAY

From Alti-view, apart from its excellent outlook over the extent of the Wolf Hollow, there is before one, stretching through the Gateway of the Valley and over the broad Mohawk-Hudson flood plain, deposited in glacial times by the mighty Iro-Mohawk, an unequalled panoramic vista extending even to the far-away blue line of the Berkshires in western Massachusetts. Between the summits of the Glenville range of hills and the higher Yantapuchaberg in Rotterdam, winds the canalized Mohawk unwillingly held back from its normal flow by ponderous dams of steel impounding a succession of lake-like pools. In the foreground bordering the river lies the whole area of the "Seventh Flat," as it was called, first settled in the 1690's. Ages ago its river margin was an extensive workshop of the Algonkin, where flint weapons and implements were deftly flaked from material brought from distant quarries,. Here the soil is still well sprinkled with chips and spalls of flint cast aside by the red artisan. Through this rich flat land runs the Mohawk Turnpike, incorporated under that name in the year 1800, today alive with an endless stream of trucks and automobiles. Also the great four-track New York Central Railroad. And, too, one

can trace the course of the recently-abandoned electric railway between Schenectady and Gloversville.

Directly across the river from this viewpoint is the hamlet of Pattersonville, a station on the West Shore Railroad, and two miles to the east nestled at the foot of the Yantapuchaberg lies Rotterdam Junction, the western terminus of the Boston and Maine Railroad and the connecting point of that railway with the West Shore.

Far down the valley, looking beyond its opposing summits, one can see the innumerable roofs of Schenectady and the extensive buildings of the General Electric Company, and if the day is clear the towering State Office Building in Albany can readily be seen. Far away in the background sharp eyes will discern a long, blue serrated reach of the Berkshires.

Looking west from this place the prospect is equally good: The City of Amsterdam lies in the middle foreground. Beyond, to the left we can see the mountains of Sharon and Cherry Valley and northward the dark and rugged Mayfield range west of Gloversville. Beyond are two lone peaks, Sheely, and Pine in the Canada Lake region.

The unique viewpoint of the Wolf Hollow and lower Mohawk region herein described can easily be reached by automobile from Schenectady or Scotia by following the Sacandaga Road for eight miles to its intersection with the concrete road leading to the village of Glenville, continuing on this latter highway, through Glenville and two miles beyond to the end of the concrete, the Schenectady County line. Thence directly southward for a half-mile to a private road leading left.

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