19th Century Yorker Yankee Village Museum Provides Memorable Experience for Young & Old

Waltensburg has its reconstruction of Colonial Governor's living in high style. But here you can relive the more down-to-earth past of your own great-gra-gra-grandparents as they prospered this Upstate Finger Lakes wilderness in the 19th Century.

A visit to the reconstructed village of Irelandville, on the south three miles north of Watkins Glen, takes you back a century in time and provides a memorable experience for young and old alike. Twenty-three existing buildings, either originally built on this site or re-erected from nearby abandoned towns, form a unique setting for one of the finest American collections in existence.

Began Over 25 Years Ago
It all began over 25 years ago when college educators Dr. and Mrs. Larry Freeman bought the

"Vacationers may visit the Yorker Yankee Village at Old Irelandville from 9 a.m. to 10 p.m. weekdays and from 12 to 8 p.m. Sundays. The Village is closed Mondays. Admission charge is $1.00."

John Ireland Manor House for a summer home. Long time Americans enthusiasts, they greatly acquired much of the surrounding property to house their hobby and the books they wrote about early life, costumes, music books, glass china, etc. Finally the operation became so vast that the Freeman decided to give up their main jobs of psychology teaching and lecture circuit work to make the break to full-time development of their old village restoration.

Now, some years later and without any national advertisements, it is said by all lovers of the old quaint, nostalgic to those few midway through the century, the Village will attempt to think of themselves as "curio-dians showing the present how the past was lived." Visitors may tour them occasionally at their work of preservation. But the thing that remains for all visitors is the memory of an hour or a day spent with a less hurried deep-rooted age.

The Manor House
The Manor House itself is considered one of the purest instances of early republican architecture left in New York State. While the house is equipped for modern living, nothing has been done to alter its original lines.

The double parlors are furnished in the early Victorian manner, with open back French sets, and ladies chairs flanking the fireplace, pier mirrors and silk framed portraits. Rittenhouse curtains and rare oil lamps. The same motif carries throughout the house. The north wing of the building has been turned into rooms and offices for "Century House," the publishing firm that Dr. Freeman founded in 1941 and that has since become outstanding in the field of "Americanism."

Furnished With Antiques
The entire four floors of the tavern are filled with antiques and crafts. Entering through the basement tap-room, the visitor finds the brine fireplace at the end of the room, adjoined by the old bar. The postoffice box is still preserved as are some of the shelves from the old store. The old kitchen opens off one side of the tap-room and on the other side, wide doors lead to a sunken garden and terrace. The authentic furnishings and the many antique collections found in the tavern are guaranteed to hold the visitor spellbound.

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