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## Gaines bicentennial calendar

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In last week's column I plugged the Cobblestone Society's newest publication "Launched In Life" as an economical Christmas gift. This week I'd also like to promote another new release, which is the Gaines Bicentennial Calendar for 2009.

This attractive calendar, illustrated with 14 historic pictures, is now on sale for \$3 at the Gaines Town Hall and Swan Library in Albion. It has been published by the Town of Gaines under the direction of Town Historian Delia Robinson.

Highlights in Gaines history are denoted throughout the calendar on the specific days of occurrence. For example, the noted Frederick Douglas spoke at the Gaines Church on Aug. 28, 1853.

Also published in the calendar is a statement by the town historian which is as follows:

"Why 2009 is our Bicentennial.

"This calendar notes that the first settler came on March 3, 1807, and that the New York State Legislature officially created the Town of Gaines on Feb. 14, 1816. So then why is 2009 our Bicentennial year?

"In 1909 there was a meeting of the descendants of some of the first settlers in Gaines. They felt that

1809 was the year to choose as the real start of the town. In that year, at least 20 families chose land here, in what was to be the Town of Gaines, as their new home. They chose 1909 as the year to commemorate those settlers, their ancestors.

"Therefore, the next generations chose to honor this decision and celebrated the Sesquicentennial in 1959, the Jubilee, or 175th anniversary, in 1984 and thus, this year as the Bicentennial in 2009."

As mentioned before the calendar is illustrated with old photos. The one shown here is for February. It was taken in 1939 and shows Stanley Swierczinski, front, and Nahum Lattin, rear, butchering a pig. They were neighbors on the Gaines Basin Road and often helped each other when it was necessary to have more hands.

Back then, no one had a



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freezer, so butchering was done in the cold weather and meats, such as pork, were often smoked in smoke houses. This picture is indicative of the fact that farm families were producing their own food. They not only shared in neighborly help but also often traded goods with one another.