

Jaffrey-Columbus, Ohio-Jaffrey 24-29 April 2007

Tuesday 24 April 2007. I set out ultimately for Columbus, Ohio, this morning. A nice day, the only real one of the trip. Drove to Brattleboro and then west across Vermont through Bennington then northwest on back roads through Cambridge (a very interesting looking town; a nice place to live), and on to Saratoga Springs. After passing into New York I passed the entrance to the Battle of Bennington historic site and drove to the top of a hill where there were historic signs. So it turns out that despite its tall monument, the Battle of Bennington was fought not in Bennington but on a rural hilltop in New York.

I had lunch in Sartatoga. Nothing about its Main Street which is quite nice seemed familiar to me. I had gone there often while at Dartmouth. Drove up the northern part of Main Street, which is lined by fabulous period mansions, to near the end of the road where the new campus of Skidmore is. Drove around the loop road to have a look.

Continued west on secondary roads, through Johnstown, south to Canajoharie and across the Mohawk River and the NY Thruway. Went along Route 80, along the lake north of Cooperstown, lovely countryside. Approaching Cooperstown I was the Farmers Museum on the right and stopped and did a quick tour. Our family had paid a visit many years ago. A nice museum. Drove around Cooperstown a bit—some lovely houses and a nice compact downtown.

Headed west and north to Route 20, through Cazenovia (attractive lakeside town) to Interstate 81, north to the suburbs of Syracuse where I found 2400 Euclid Avenue, the home of David Stam. Arrived about 6 or so.

David (a former librarian who I had first met in New York at the exhibit he and his wife, Deirdre, staged at the Grolier Club, welcomed me. We had a look around and a drink and soon went not far away to a restaurant and had a good steak dinner. To bed soon after returning because of an early start,

Wednesday 25 April 2007. Up early to greet a overcast and later rainy day. After breakfast we were off at 7 or so heading west on the NY Thruway. Drove all morning, into Pennsylvania, then Ohio. Headed south with a detour to Hudson to see Lincoln Ellsworth's gravesite (in the rain) and then to pay a visit to Emory and Tara Prior who live in Hudson. Emery has a Jaffrey connection and has been kind to the VIS, so I thought a hour spent with them would be an hour well spent. They have a nice house close to the downtown. Emery has a large collection of antique music boxes, some of which were played for us. We had a nice lunch and soon were on our way again, south to Columbus.

We drove to the Wexner Center at Ohio State University, parking ion the nearby parking garage, to attend the opening talk on the Byrd Polar Research Center/American Polar Society conference on the IGY and IPY. The talk was at 4:30 and we made it a few minutes after it began. There was a reception in the Glenn Building next door afterwards. After that we drove to the Holiday Inn and checked in.

We had a drink in our room and went downstairs looking for someone top go out to dinner with. Finding none, we went up the road to the Varsity Club for something to eat,

getting there just after the grill closed. So back to the hotel. Some food in the bar and a drink and some conversation with some colleagues. And then to bed.

Thursday 26 April 2007. Breakfast at the Holiday Inn. The room was filled with overweight people! By bus to Scott Hall, a mile or so away where the conference was held. The whole time was pretty much the same as previous conferences. All the sessions were held in the lecture hall. The refreshments were very caloric and uninspired. The big advance this time was an actual attendance list which I had been pushing for.

The theme of this conference was the IGY (International Geophysical Year) and the IPY (International Polar Year). So lots of talks on both. This was the largest attendance at least since the 'Polar Pioneers' one some years back. Probably 100.

At the end of the sessions David, I and Rai Goerlier went over the Archives building for a tour.

On Friday night, David, I, Merlyn Paine and Charles Lagerbom went out to dinner at the Columbus Fish Market, about a mile or so from the hotel. Excellent restaurant.

Friday 27 April 2007. The second day of the conference. More of the same. After a drink in the room at the end of the day, we went to the Banquet. I set up my Byrd powerpoint show which ran during the reception and the dinner. The after dinner talk was a disaster. A bureaucrat who spoke too long with a powerpoint talk with lots of charts.

Some after-dinner drinks in the bar.

Saturday 28 April 2007. After breakfast David and I checked out and got on our way. Weather still overcast with occasional rain. North on the Interstate, through Pennsylvania and into New York. At Rochester we got off the Thruway and drove east on Route 5 along the top of the Finger Lakes. Canandaigua, Seneca Falls, Auburn (drove by the Seward House which David is involved with), Skaneateles (very attractive) and soon back in Syracuse, culminating with a drive around the Syracuse University campus.

Had a drink or two and talked about books and Antarctica. For dinner went up the road to a storefront pub which was doing a land office business. Had a good tuna steak.

Sunday 29 April 2007. I was off after breakfast, going east of the Thruway as far as Albany, north to Troy and then east along Route 2. (This western section of Route 2 I don't think I've ever travelled on before.) Ended up at Interstate 91 and went north to Northfield and back home via Fitzwilliam.

A total trip of 1,566 miles.