

## **BYRON**

**Cleveland M. Gillette** (1863-1937) of South Byron was a veteran of the 1898 Alaska Gold Rush. He was one of the first Western New Yorkers to set out for the Yukon in quest for gold. It was in 1897, a year before the frenzied days of '98 that he and a group of local men adventured to Sulphur Creek region, located 42 miles from Dawson. Mr. Gillette was credited with being one of the few to return from the trek with "pay dirt". He never divulged the profits of his gold quest but is reported to have said: "enough that I won't have to work very hard the rest of my life". He owned three farms in the Town of Byron and was a member of several fraternal organizations.

Taken from: Daily News obituary dated July 26, 1937 / page 4

**Charles D. Hiscock** (1909-1987) was born in Byron and during World War II he received a Bronze Star, the New York Conspicuous Service Award and three battle stars for his service. He served as the Genesee County Clerk from 1949-1963. In 1959 he discovered one of the richest late-Ice Age sites in North America. On his farm was the largest find of mastodon bones in the United States. The site is the only location east of the Mississippi River and north of Florida that provides concrete evidence linking early human activities with Mastodons. Formal digging began in 1983 due to financial backing from the Smith Foundation of Buffalo. Each summer the Buffalo Museum of Science coordinates teams of scientist and volunteers to dig. In addition to Mastodon bones, they have found bones from antelope, giant beaver, caribou, deer, elk, moose, and birds, including the California Condor. Mr. Hiscock donated all objects found at the site and the site property to the Buffalo Museum of Science for scientific study.

Submitted by: Susan L. Conklin, County Historian