New York having been a presidential backwater for so many years, it’s exciting to have candidates visit our state,” in the words of state senator George Amedore. As an historical note, should frontrunners Clinton and Trump prevail, the next president will come to New York for the 4th time since 1944. This is not, of course, to cast aspersions on Bernie Sanders, born in Brooklyn, or Ted Cruz, delivered just across the border in Canada. (His mother was a citizen.)

New York’s two-party system means that the 40,000 registered Ulster County voters who either choose no party or one of the minor parties will be excluded from the April 19 primary. Democrats allow their members not only to vote on presidential candidates but also on delegates to their national convention. Republicans can vote for candidates; delegates will be chosen by party bosses next month.

I predict a higher turnout on the Democratic side and not only because Democrats outnumber Republicans in Ulster by about 12,000. They add to their plurality every year.

I can’t help but notice the clear distinctions between Democrats Hillary Clinton and Sanders, as demonstrated at respective rallies last weekend in Kingston.

Clinton, a two-term senator from New York, represents the establishment and is represented by the establishment. Who else but Clinton could draw to the same room archrivals Mike Hein and Kevin Coughlin, both of whom would need to forge unity over the establishment calls for strike me as hollow.

Curmudgeonly Bernie Sanders and his youthful followers appeal to my rebellious side. His candidacy has added fervor and participation to what the establishment calls for reform strike me as hollow.

That number has been battered down to just three survivors.

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