

Brief Fort History of Oswego

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AN EXCELLENT TALK

REMINISCENCES OF OSWEGO, BY
MR. GEORGE McWHORTER.

Read Before the Fortnightly Club
Last Evening—It Contained Much
That Was Interesting—Its Length
Precludes its Publication in Full—
Should be Preserved in Pamphlet.

At the Fortnightly Club last evening Mr. George McWhorter read a very interesting paper on "Reminiscences of Oswego." It was largely historical and very lengthy.

In 1654 French explorers first reached Oswego, and Frontenac passed through in 1685. In 1696 a Jesuit mission was established here for the conversion of the Indians. In 1727 the English built a fort here on the East side of the river and subsequently another named Fort George on the West side. Montcalm had a map made of Oswego in 1756. There were then three forts, Ontario and Oswego on the East and George on the West of the river. The place was taken by Montcalm in 1756 and in 1757 the English retook the place and rebuilt Fort Oswego.

During the Revolution Oswego was the starting point of British and Indian expeditions against the American settlements. In 1779 St. Leger started from here to go to Albany by way of the Mohawk valley and assist Burgoyne. He came back again the same year.

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The Daily Palladium, April 10, 1895, page 3.

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The war of 1812 severely injured Oswego. In 1814 Sir James Yeo captured Oswego, but did not hold it. In 1816 Oswego county was laid off from Oneida and Onondaga counties. In 1817 the Oswego Gazette was established, and two years later, in 1819, the Oswego PALLADIUM was started. In 1822 the town bridge was built and had a toll-gate in the center. The Court-house was built in 1821, and in 1824 the hydraulic canal was built. When the Erie canal was built a canal was called for from Syracuse to Oswego and the hydraulic canal was at first used for the purposes of navigation. In 1827 the harbor was started and about this time a light-house was built near the fort.

In 1828 Oswego was incorporated and a map was made in 1831. The village suffered severely by the boom of 1835-1836 and the panic of 1837.

In 1850 the Oswego & Syracuse railroad was built and Oswego took her position as a place of importance on the lake.

Mr. McWhorter's paper was one of the best ever read before the club and it is to be regretted that a want of space forbids its fuller consideration here. It should be printed in pamphlet form and placed within reach of all of Oswego's citizens.

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