

James Gale Tyler - Maritime Artist

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FAMOUS MARINE ARTIST WAS OSWEGO NATIVE

James Gale Tyler, 65, well known marine artist, died last Thursday at his home at Pelham of heart disease following an illness of three months.

Mr. Tyler was a native of Oswego, N. Y. His best known works were "The Abandoning of the Jeannette," "The Constitution," and "The Mayflower." He was a direct descendant of Governor Bradford of the Mayflower.

SANDY CREEK, N. Y., FEBRUARY 5, 1931

FAMOUS MARINE ARTIST WAS OSWEGO NATIVE

James Gale Tyler was born in Oswego, New York in 1855. Tyler began painting in 1870, using the Oswego Harbor and canal as some of his subject matter. Tyler later went to New York City where he studied with A. Cary Smith for a few months. However, Tyler is considered a self-taught artist. He is known as a marine artist.

There are two of his paintings at the Richardson Bates House Museum in the city of Oswego; one of the Oswego Harbor, and the other of a storm at sea. One of his larger paintings depicting the "Mayflower" is on display at the Mayflower Hotel in Washington, D.C.

Exhibit features Pulaskians

Portraits of Mr. and Mrs. Silas Lyman are the focus of a current exhibition by the Oswego County Historical Society at the Richardson-Bates House, 135 East Third Street, Oswego.

Silas Lyman, Jr., and his wife, Cynthia, were life-long residents of the Pulaski area. Their offspring traveled to Ohio and subsequently settled in Nebraska. The portraits were a recent gift to the Society from Mrs. Silas B. Lyman, of Hastings, Nebraska, whose late husband was a grandson of the couple.

The portraits, oil-on-canvas, are signed and dated, "JGT-1875". While the signature has not yet been confirmed, it may well prove to be that of James Gale Tyler, noted Oswego artist, born in the city in 1855. Portraits by Tyler have been suggested to exist, but as yet he is known only through his marine paintings.

The exhibition also includes portraits of Thomas and Thomson Kingsford, proprietors of the famed Kingsford Starch Company; a portrait on wood of Alvin Bronson, which may also be the work of an Oswego artist, Thomas H. Wentworth; Vesta Whitcomb Walker, from the town of Oswego, the mother of Dr. Mary E. Walker; and other county figures.

Open Wednesday, Saturday, and Sunday from 1-5 p.m., the exhibition will continue through July 1.

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The Pulaski Democrat., June 19, 1974, page 5.

Historical Society Receives Grant

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Nine of the works are

pictures of boats by James Gale Tyler. Tyler was born in Oswego in 1855; he became famous in the New York City area as a marine painter. The Tyler pictures are of boats with local significance.

The T.S. Mott, the Jno' T. Mott, and the Alanson Sumner were built by

George Goble of Oswego.

The Coquette was built in Canada and purchased by local ship owner Morgan Wheeler. The Delos DeWolf was built by Lee and Lamoree of Oswego.

The C.P. Morey, the George S. Dodge, and the Morse all operated out of Oswego.

The Pulaski Democrat,
February 20, 1989, Page 1

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Questions based on further research:

1. We know that James Gale Tyler was born in Oswego County. At the age of 15, he went to study with a very well known artist in New York City. Who was this artist and what was his usually his subject matter?
2. James Gale Tyler usually painted maritime themes. Look at the subject matter below. What is the most impressive object in the painting?
3. What mood was James Gale Tyler trying to evoke from the viewer?
4. Look at his other paintings. What is common about his work? What is different?
5. Why do you think so many of his paintings were copied by others and sold as “originals”?
6. What is appealing to you about his work? What don't you like about his work?



James Gale Tyler: New York Yacht Club racing boats in New York Harbor; oil on canvas; 1884. This image is in the public domain in its country of origin and other countries and areas where the copyright term is the author's life plus 80 years or less.