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Sixth Publication
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Oswego Historical Society



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WINTER PROGRAM

1942

November 17—"Highlights of the Courts, Bench and Bar of Oswego County," Mr. Harry C. Mizen, Past President Oswego County Bar Association.

December 9—"Oswego County—A Research Project," Dr. W. F. Galpin, Professor of American History at Syracuse University.

1943

January 12—"The Oswego State Normal and Training School, An Interpretation," Dr. Richard K. Piez, former head of Department of Psychology, Oswego State Normal School.

February 16—"Oswego County Glass," Miss Frances Eggleston of Oswego.

March 16—Second of Series of Papers on Oswego County Writers, "Ned Lee—His Life and Times," Dr. Lida S. Penfield, former head of the English Department, Oswego State Teachers College.

April 13—"Oswego County Painters," Mr. Daniel A. Williams of Oswego

May 18—"Oswego County's Contribution to the World of Music," Mr. James Lally, director Oswego Rotary Singers and director Choir of St. Mary's Church, Oswego.

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OUR ROLL OF HONOR



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Forces of the United States.**

Lieut. Lloyd L. Allen, Fulton, U. S. Navy.

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Capt. John M. Gill, Oswego, U. S. Navy.

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“LEST WE FORGET”



DR. LIDA S. PENFIELD

A member of the "Committee of Thirty" named in April, 1924, to bring about the reorganization of the Oswego Historical Society upon a more secure basis, Miss Penfield has since continued vigilant in the interests of this Society. In 1925 she served as a member of the Committee of Three which arranged for the presentation of the memorable pageant, sponsored by this Society, to mark the 200th anniversary of continuous activity by white men at Oswego. Miss Penfield directed the rehearsals for the pageant, witnessed by more than 20,000 people, on the Fort Ontario Parade Ground on July 5. The net proceeds, in excess of \$1,500, were given to Oswego Hospital. Through the years Dr. Penfield has contributed many noteworthy papers to the programs of this Society, including a series upon "Writers of Oswego County" now in progress. In 1942 both Dr. Penfield and our Society were honored through her appointment by Dr. Arthur Pound, New York State Historian, to represent the State of New York upon an Interstate Committee which contemplates a series of state celebrations opening in 1945 to mark the 150th anniversary of the surrender to United States authority of the border forts (of which Fort Ontario at Oswego, was one) held by Great Britain for thirteen years after the close of the American Revolution. In recognition of Dr. Penfield's long and unselfish service rendered to this society and her distinguished contributions to its work, Oswego Historical Society, through formal action by its Board of Managers, appreciatively dedicates this volume to her.

TWO ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATIONS IN THE OFFING

Another anniversary observance, tentatively set for 1946, of the same event the centennial observance of which in July, 1896, brought Oswego Historical Society into being, recalls to mind that July 15, 1946, will mark both the 150th anniversary of the delivery of Fort Ontario at Oswego into the hands of the United States as the last of the English forts within the confines of the United States to be yielded by the British thirteen years after the close of the Revolutionary War, and the 50th anniversary of the foundation of our Society. It was the projected celebration in 1896 of the centennial anniversary of the transfer of Fort Ontario from English to American control which resulted in the establishment and incorporation of Oswego Historical Society in that year. The Society has functioned as a County Historical Society since that time.

Transfer of Fort Ontario and the other "western forts" retained by England at the close of the Revolution was finally provided for by the treaty which John Jay negotiated with England in 1795. The task of completing detailed arrangements for the formal transfer of the forts to American occupation was assigned to General Anthony Wayne, *then fresh from his victorious conflicts with the Indians in Ohio and the Northwest Territory.* In completing these arrangements, "Mad Anthony," the hero of Stoney Point in the Revolution, came to Oswego and Fort Ontario to confer with the British commandant. They agreed upon details to be carried out to effect the transfer. On July 15, 1796, the actual control of Fort Ontario was passed by the English garrison to the United States. General Wayne was not present, however, for the ceremonies attendant upon this transfer which were carried out in a most friendly and decorous manner.

Plans for the observance of the 150th anniversary of the transfer of control of the "Western Forts" from England to the United States are now being formulated by an Interstate Commission to take place in 1945 and 1946. Oswego County Historical Society has been honored by having Dr. Lida S. Penfield, one of its members, named to represent the State of New York upon that commission. It is hoped that one of the celebrations which will be sponsored by the commission may take place in Oswego, and that it possibly may take the form of a pageant.

The Pageant of New York

(Illustrated Talk Given Before Members of Oswego County Historical Society at Oswego, January 13, 1942, by Arthur Pound, New York State Historian.)

Selections from what is eventually intended to be a gigantic album of 50,000 photographs, gathered from all parts of the Empire State by skilled photographers in the employ of the state, were exhibited by means of slides and enlarged photographs at the Tanner Memorial, Oswego, Tuesday evening January 13, 1942, by Arthur Pound, state historian, to members of the Oswego County Historical Society gathered in the annual meeting. So great was the interest displayed in the pictures that on request Mr. Pound consented to leave the photographs in Oswego for two weeks so that they could be exhibited the first week at the Gerrit Smith Public Library and during the second week at the Oswego State Normal school. They were also displayed at the Oswego High school for several days.

Thus far intensified effort at the gathering of the photographs of the historic shrines of the state has been confined largely to three counties, centering around Albany. Mr. Pound told his audience which followed him with close attention during the hour of his illustrated discourse, but the work will be extended elsewhere in the state as rapidly as possible.

In Oswego county only a few views have thus far been taken, the George Scriba mansion at Constantia dating from about 1795 being among these. But Mr. Pound stated that in the spring he hoped to send a staff photographer into the county to take additional pictures. He invited the co-operation of the Historical Society in suggesting suitable scenes, old residences, forts, old

canal locks and the like of which views should be preserved.

Yankee Doodle House

Among the pictures exhibited by Mr. Pound was the "Yankee Doodle House" at Rensselaer, N. Y., near Albany, where there yet stands near the Hudson river a house built in 1642 or 1643 by the Dutch Patroon Arendt Van Curler, or his agent, for the occupancy of Domine Megapolensis, first minister of the first church in Albany. Later it became the residence of one branch of the Van Rensselaer family. It was while he was at this house, then known as Fort Crailo (the Dutch for Crow's Nest), Dr. Richard Shurkburch, a surgeon in the English army, wrote in 1758 the words to "Yankee Doodle" which became so popular among the American patriots of the Revolutionary war period. The words were set to the music of an old folk song familiar in Europe. In the yard of the house, Shurkburch sat, surrounded by fellow officers in the British army, as he rehearsed them, lustily singing the new words for the old tune.

Gerrit Smith Mansion

Among the pictures was a replica of an oil painting of Gerrit Smith, among whose benefactions was the Gerrit Smith Public Library of Oswego, was shown as it hung in the living room of the home near Peterboro of Gerrit Smith Miller, a descendant. (Gerrit Smith was the son of Peter Smith who had been a partner in the fur business of the founder of the Astor family.) The latter house has since been destroyed by fire. Other buildings in Central New York at Skaneateles, Pompey, and Syra-

cuse were presented in the pictures.

One of the most interesting of the pictures was that of the frame Leonard house near Pompey. Here lived the Leonard who became the grandfather of Winston Churchill, wartime premier of Britain. The house is now used as a private garage. Jennie Leonard became the American wife of Lord Randolph Churchill, one of the most powerful figures in England of his time. The boyhood home of Grover Cleveland in Fayetteville, the Chancellor Day house, built by Judge Andrews in Syracuse, the home of Bishop Hobart in Geneva, founder of Hobart College, the house on the scenic highway near Sandy Creek, which was occupied as a hospital for caring for the British wounded in the Battle of Big Sandy, were among others portrayed.

Among other places "visited" were: the General Phillip Schuyler mansion at Albany where Burgoyne was entertained during the Revolution while being held as a prisoner of war after his surrender at Saratoga; (this house burned by the British before Saratoga was afterwards rebuilt by funds subscribed by the members of the captured British Army as a mark of the regard which they came to have for Schuyler.) Washington's Headquarters at Newburg which he occupied longer than any of the many other headquarters that he occupied from time to time during the Revolution; the Citizen Genet house where Genet long resided; President Martin Van Buren's residence.

Gates Still Unrecompensed

The Anne Schuyler house, built in 1680, where the Mrs. Grant, who was the authoress of "The Memoirs of an American Lady" was a guest for two years shortly before she wrote her memoirs. (Some of the memoirs dealt with the old fort at Oswego where

Mrs. Grant was entertained in the home of the family of a British officer who was her relative.) The house, which was the first house built upon the first successful farm in Rensselaerwyck, and the Philipse mansion in the lower Hudson river valley in which lived a daughter, Mary, who traditionally was once courted by George Washington were among other exhibits.

The Van Scoyk mansion at Cohoes which was occupied as the headquarters of the Northern Army during the Revolution was next visited. When this headquarters was turned over by General Philip Schuyler to his successor, General Gates, the latter advanced \$10,000 of his personal funds to supply deficiencies in the American army's needs. This amount, according to General Gates descendants, has never been repaid. The house is now occupied by the Cohoes Historical Society as its headquarters. The restored blockhouse which was Gates headquarters at Saratoga, the country house at Saratoga of Madam Eliza Jumel who married Aaron Burr, the monument on Saratoga battlefield which has a replica of only the foot of Benedict Arnold which was struck by a bullet during the battle was shown, it having been thought at the time of its erection that because of Arnold's later treason it would be inappropriate to erect a monument to him, although military men give the credit for the winning of the battle at Saratoga, listed among the "fifteen decisive battles of the world," to Arnold.

Ethan Allen Misquoted

At the "stop" at Fort Ticonderoga where Ethan Allen is reputed in books familiar to all school boys to have replied to the British officer who answered his knock at the gate of the fort in the dead of the night to demand its surrender and who inquired "in whose name?" the fort's surrender was sought: "In

the name of Jehovah and the Continental Congress', Mr. Pound related that last summer he had been told by a descendant of Ethan Allen that the latter returned home after the surrender and wrote out the account of the incident which has come down through history as he thought it "sounded well." Whereas as a matter of fact what actually had happened according to Allen's relative, was that Allen's men broke in the door of the fort and revealed a British officer in a half stooping posture in passageway that lead to the door, with defensive weapons in hand and to him Allen exclaimed: "Come out of there you damned old rat."

Pictures of the restored fort at Ticonderoga and of the Headquarters House of the New York State Historical Association at the same village were shown, the latter being a duplication of John Hancock's house in Boston at the time of the Revolution.

At Ironville, Essex County, the "tourists" saw a marker erected over the grave of the horse of the 5th N. Y. Cavalry, which Col. J. A. Penfield rode through 10 severe battles of the Civil War including Gettysburg. When the Colonel was taken prisoner and sent to Libby prison at Richmond, the horse escaped capture and was brought back to Northern New York to die. The headstone lists the battles in which the horse participated.

The Jane McCrea house was "visited." Here lived the American girl, engaged to one of Burgoyne's officers, who on a journey to visit that officer at the home of a mutual friend, was taken prisoner by a party of Burgoyne's Indians, tortured and scalped with resulting repercussions throughout the country which injured the British cause by rousing the populace against Burgoyne and his methods.

Famous Homes In Jefferson

Famous homes nearer to Oswego county that were "visited"

were the Gouverneur Morris house in Jefferson County, the LeRay de Chaumont house, the owner of which had loaned money to the United States government and finally accepted land in payment when other efforts at collection had failed. Chaumont also built the "Vincent house" at Cape Vincent for his son, Vincent. The La Farge house where a long line of writers and other talented folks have at some time or other lived, the Joseph Bonaparte house and the Col. Eleazer Williams' house on the St. Regis Indian reservation were also "exhibited." It was Williams who led the Iroquois to their new home in Northern Wisconsin after a large part of them were dispossessed of their homes and lands in New York State.)

The British headquarters at Plattsburgh, occupied during the War of 1812 was shown. This house was long occupied by Chancellor Kent. A picture of Ballston Spa in 1815 was projected, the view showing a curious "open-air jail" or pen, an early side-walk etc. Old "South College," built by Ramay and some of the old buildings at Union College in Schenectady were exhibited. The father of President Franklin D. Roosevelt and the grandfather of Winston Churchill, the present British premier, both attended Union College. The old St. George Episcopal church at Schenectady and Guy Park Manor at Amsterdam were "visited". The latter built by Sir William Johnson for his son, is owned by the State of New York has been furnished by the Daughters of the American Revolution.

The William Johnson house, built in 1748, occupied both as a residence and fortress, the strongest fort between Schenectady and Oswego, during the French and Indian War period, was shown. This is now the home of the Montgomery Historical Society. "Johnson Hall", built near Johnstown in 1763, and the last of the

homes occupied by Sir William Johnson, was shown in an excellent state of preservation. The Court House which Johnson caused to be built at Johnstown in 1772 when Tryon county was set up was next "visited." It is still used for holding sessions of court. The Pallatine church at Stone Arabia was visited. At this place lived Isaac Paris, a merchant, who after the Battle of Oriskany sent wagonloads of food to patriot sufferers from that battle and accompanying raid with the understanding that they were to have a year in which to repay him. The grateful recipients searched the woods for gingseng, then very valuable, to repay him and named the village "Parisville" in his honor.

Oriskany Revolution's Bloodiest Battle

The Herkimer house where General Nicholas Herkimer died 10 days after the Battle of Oriskany in which he was wounded in the leg was shown. "The leg, amputated, had been buried by two boys" Mr. Pond related, "When the general learned that he was probably to die he sent for the two boys and jocosely suggested to them that they disinter the leg 'so that it may be buried with the rest of me'". General Herkimer's brother, Hans Yost Herkimer, was a Tory, and fought with the British, a fact with which General Herkimer was sometimes taunted although of his own loyalty to the American cause there could be no question. The Oriskany Battlefield, where Herkimer was wounded, was visited. Here was fought the bloodiest battle of the Revolution in proportion to the number of troops involved, the killed and wounded numbering 50 per cent of the forces engaged. Herkimer's militia was matched against British regulars, Butler's "Rangers" and Johnson's "Greens" in this battle.

The church at Fort Herkimer which figures in the historical

novel "Drums Along the Mohawk" was visited. It was to carry news of the British and Indian invasion of the Susquehanna valley that Adam Helmer ran 42 miles in a single day from the Susquehanna to this church. The novel does not correctly interpret Helmer's character, Mr. Pond said, in that it portrays him as a sort of a rake whereas he was in fact at the time he made the run, a man 42 years old, an officer of the old church at Fort Herkimer used as a fort and the respected head of a family. Of three men who started on the run to give warning Helmer was the only one to get through, the other two giving up their lives to enable him to continue.

During the wars in the Mohawk Valley most buildings of stone or brick became forts as well as residences, churches or what not. There was a long line of these forts running through the valley. In the 13 wars in which the colonies became involved, New York participated in all and its territory was a battle ground for six of these.

The James Duane house was "visited." Duane, the first mayor of New York after the Revolution, is credited with having been the first to suggest the name of "Empire State" for New York. The Campbell house at Cherry Valley from which Mrs. Campbell, the wife of Colonel Campbell and her children were carried away prisoners to Fort Niagara after the Cherry Valley raid, a log house built in Schoharie in 1720, still standing, and the old stone fort-church at Schoharie were next "visited." At Coopers-town the statue of Uncas, "the Last of the Mohicans" as described in Cooper's tales was observed and the Council Rock on Otsego Lake.

A Replica of a powder horn carved at Ft. Stanwix by "Chris" Hutton, an officer in the 3rd New York Regiment, during the Revolutionary siege of that fort was

shown as were early specimens of glass made in Montgomery county.

St. George's Episcopal church at Schenectady, the Glenn Sanders house at Saratoga built in 1713, the homestead of Col. John and Walter Butler, the Tory officer who operated out of Fort Niagara during the Revolution, were depicted. The Butler house was never painted. It is still standing. Fort Klock, earlier a stone

residence, was shown. Like most substantially built homes in the Mohawk Valley during the Revolution, it became a fort. The Stone church at Pompey which was constructed before Syracuse came into being was shown along with the Governor Horace White house in Syracuse. The baptismal house of Grover Cleveland, later President of the United States, was shown in Fayetteville.



The History of the First Fresh Water Port in the United States

(Paper Read Before Oswego County Historical Society, February 24, 1942, by Dr. John W. O'Connor, Deputy Collector of United States Customs, at Oswego.)

From the cold, grey dawn of recorded history, down through the ages that have given us to-night; through the wars and famines, the dynasties and empires, the kings and saints and sinners, there runs a thread that ties us inevitably to the past. A golden thread embroidered upon the garment of time. A thread that passes through and around the pages of history, binding irrevocably together the days that are to come with the eras that have passed.

From that day, so long ago, when the first intrepid, little band of Phoenicians sent the prow of their battered vessel foaming gaily through the Gates of Hercules, and with only the North Star to guide them, brought their small cargo of Oriental spices and Babylonian pottery to a haven beneath the chalk cliffs of Dover, all Culture, all Progress, all Advancement in Civilization has been disseminated throughout the world, on the waterways of the world. And to those brave souls, who in every age, have gone down to the sea in ships, this paper is dedicated, because they, too, have made Oswego.

Four Great Periods of Port Development

In order that three hundred years of port activity in Oswego may be compressed into a few short paragraphs, it is necessary that the descriptive materials used be selective rather than exhaustive in nature. Since the time the Iroquois Indians were banished from the vicinity of Montreal by hostile tribes, and built a new village at the mouth

of the Oswego River, there have been four great periods of development. The fur trading era began when the first Dutch settlers at Fort Orange (Albany) strove unsuccessfully to wrest from the hands of the French Traders the monopoly the latter had established upon the shores of Lake Ontario. The second great period might be called the Salt Era which ushered in the gradual development of river and canal traffic throughout the nation, a period of extreme economic changes which brought about the establishment of Oswego as the foremost fresh water port in the country. A period of ship-building and commerce, during the latter years of which, great fleets of sailing vessels plied in and out of Oswego harbor, carrying westward in their holds, the salt, sugar and rum, the powder, cloth and manufactured goods needed to feed the growing demands of the settlers of the West. This period was followed by the Lumber Era which was the most prosperous in Oswego's history, a period which made a subtle change in Oswego's commerce. The trek to the West had subsided. The vast spaces and open country had become settled and self-sufficient. The railroads were reaching parts of the continent which had never been served by waterborne commerce, but the ringing of a thousand axes in the dense pine forests along the shores of the Great Lakes, were being echoed every day in Oswego harbor, and millions of board feet of lumber were being unloaded from entire fleets of lake vessels; were being planed

and processed in Oswego's mills; were being transhipped by scow and barge to the markets of the East. And finally, the Coal Era which is still in process of growth.

Coal Exports Doubled in 1941

The batteaux and keel boats have been largely replaced by motor ships and tankers, but the port of Oswego has once again raised her head above tariff walls and depressions, and is fast regaining the important position she once held—"The Gateway to the Atlantic"—for during the navigation season of 1941, there were nearly 500 direct entrances and clearances of vessels to foreign ports, and from Oswego nearly 1,000,000 tons of coal were exported, a quantity twice as large as had been shipped in any previous season.

The geographical setting of Oswego has been the most important factor in its development since the earliest days of its history. The first map of North America was published in 1569, and all subsequent maps showed the Oswego River flowing into Lake Ontario, and forming a natural harbor. Even the earliest explorers realized the value of an all water route connecting the French settlements along the St Lawrence with the Dutch settlement of New Amsterdam at the mouth of the Hudson. The natural canoe route of the Indians had always been along the southern shore of the lake, since the northern shore abounded in shoals, rocks and islands. Consequently, the advantages of Oswego's location were immediately recognized by the early traders.

The Fur Trading Era

Recent archeological evidence shows that the Fur-trading Era was roughly divided into three sections: the Dutch from 1610 to 1650; the French from 1650

to 1700; the English from 1700 to 1775. However there seems to be no documentary evidence covering the Dutch influence. That the French not only traded at Oswego in the Seventeenth Century, but also distinctly claimed and utilized the territory is amply supported by documents. In 1680 the English traders from Albany had begun to make annual trading expeditions to the mouth of the Oswego River, but the French had already established definite trading posts all along the shores of the Great Lakes, and were not inclined to give up to the English a port so important as Oswego.

So it happens, that at the beginning of the Eighteenth Century, we find Oswego a center of conflict between three groups who alternately claimed the right to navigate the Oswego River and utilize its natural advantages: The French who claimed it politically, not because they needed it, but because they feared that the English would be able to penetrate westward by way of Oswego, and threaten the main stream of their trade; the Iroquois, whose home it was, and who used it practically, playing one faction against the other; and the English who saw in Oswego a key position which they must possess if they hoped to dominate the western fur trade and hold the Iroquois to the English cause.

The importance of the Fur Trade to the colonists of that period must not be minimized. Then, as now, foreign exchange played no small part in the relationship between Europe and the Colonies. The farmers, trappers, and small tradesmen here were obliged to depend upon Europe for nearly all the manufactured goods they required, as well as for the few items of luxury they allowed themselves. In a land where the streams and forests abounded in fur-bearing

animals, it was only natural that the pelts of these animals should be used as a medium of exchange with a luxury loving Europe.

Thus, through the years, the struggle for supremacy over a seemingly unimportant spot on the map was being waged between the French and the English. At first, all the advantages seemed to be in the hands of main outlet to the sea, the St. Lawrence River. They controlled the lands surrounding the Great Lakes. But the English had become friendly with the Iroquois. They had learned that they, too, could possess an all water route into the interior, with only a few easy portages to bar their way. Furthermore, they were willing to pay high prices for the fox and otter, the beaver and muskrat, the raccoon and mink that were so much in demand in Europe.

The fur trade at Oswego was primarily an exchange of beaver pelts for rum. Rum, produced by slave labor in the West Indies, was a much cheaper product of exchange than French brandy, and perhaps just as potent. At any rate, when the Indians from the West began to realize that a fully loaded canoe would bring nearly twice the quantity of "fire-water", or other exchange material, at Oswego, as a similarly loaded canoe would bring at Niagara, they quickly deserted the French controlled trading posts, and year after year, came in ever increasing numbers to the nearest British outpost of trade, Oswego.

Canoes Brought 1400 Pelt Packs A Year

The value of fur pelts at Oswego during the Eighteenth Century was extremely high. The canoes used by the Indians from the West were usually about 33 feet in length, and, when fully loaded, carried seven packs of

peltry, each pack valued at that time at approximately fifteen pounds sterling. About 200 loaded canoes traded into Oswego during each season so that the total value at that time was about \$100,000.

As the volume of business increased at Oswego, there was a consequent diminution of trade at the French ports of Niagara and Frontenac. It finally became necessary for the French Government to take up the unexpired leases held by individuals and operate these posts at a loss. So important an issue had the trading post of Oswego become in French politics, that at the outbreak of the Seven Years War, one of the first objectives of the French under Montcalm was the destruction of the dockyards and partly completed forts at Oswego.

In 1755, the British, realizing that only by fortifying Oswego, and building here a fleet could they ever hope to attack Niagara and cut off the French settlements in Louisiana and the West, belatedly set to work on these projects, using, for the most part, contract labor. The first naval vessel ever built by the British on fresh water was launched here in that year, and appropriately named the "Oswego". But before the entire program could be carried out, Montcalm attacked with 3000 French and Indians, and completely destroyed ships and dockyards, forts and civilian establishments. This was a severe blow to the British cause, especially since the Iroquois, always so necessarily a part of the British fur trade, had become ardent admirers of the French and their leader. However, nearly two years passed before the British were in a position to again use Oswego. New docks were built and new vessels launched at the mouth of the river. Within the next few years, various expeditions were made against the

French from this port, and vessels built at Oswego were largely instrumental in the ultimate capture of Fort Frontenac and Montreal.

British Dominance Killed Oswego Fur Trade

However, this war and the resultant treaty of peace completely changed the status of Oswego as a port. With the acquisition of Canada by the British, fur trading here became almost non-existent. No longer the sole outpost of English safety and trade, it was reduced, for a time to a low level of commercial importance. Some trade with the Iroquois was retained, but the main stream of cargo bearing canoes, now passed it by, to be unloaded at the more important markets of Niagara, Toronto and Montreal. Ship-building was continued and Fort Ontario alone of the three forts which fell to Montcalm, was rebuilt, but the commerce that had grown so steadily at Oswego for nearly 150 years gradually subsided, and during the American Revolution, ceased entirely.

British occupation of Oswego, as well as of many other frontier points on the Great Lakes continued for many years after the Surrender at Yorktown. The many restrictions placed upon American trade during this period were not alleviated until the British finally yielded Fort Ontario to the United States and retired to Canada in 1796.

Loyalists Pass Through To Canada

During the years of military occupation of Oswego by the British a new type of trade was inaugurated. No American vessels were allowed to pass through the port if they carried any cargo produced in the United States other than grain, flour, cattle or provisions, and no commodities of any kind could be imported into the United States through Oswego. All American

traders were stopped at Fort Ontario, and their goods confiscated. During this period, Oswego became a main outlet for Loyalist migration to new settlements in what is now the Province of Ontario in Canada. It is estimated that over 7,000 British sympathisers passed through Oswego in the years immediately following the Revolution, enroute to Canada taking along with them such of their worldly possessions as they could carry.

While the British occupation of Oswego was still at its height, a new industry began to develop on the banks of the Onondaga River. At first, purely local in character, mainly because of trade restrictions at Fort Ontario, it soon outgrew its swaddling clothes, and by the time the British finally relinquished the Fort to the Americans on July 14, 1796, the Salt Industry was ready to take its place as a very necessary cog in America's wheel of Commerce.

The exportation of Salt, in the years that followed the dawn of the new Republic, was symbolic of the growth and expansion of a small disintegrated people into a vast, cohesive nation. Born out of the necessity of war that effectively shut us off from the European markets, only 600 bushels were produced during its first year, but as the tide of civilization moved westward, as the ever-changing frontiers were pushed back by the swelling throng of immigrants, so also did New York State's first great industry expand. Every mule pack, every knapsack, every vessel sailing out of Oswego harbor was supplied with salt as a commodity of prime necessity. In the first few years of the Nineteenth Century, over 600,000 bushels were exported from Oswego alone.

Oswego In 1804

The following poetical description of Oswego in 1804, was writ-

ten by a traveler in these parts,
and amusingly outlines the
changes the new industry had
wrought.

Those struggling huts that on
the left appear,

Where fence, or field, or cultur-
ed garden green, ..

Or blessed plough, or spade were
never seen,

Is old Oswego, once renowned in
trade.

Where numerous tribes their an-
nual visits paid,

From distant wilds, the beaver's
rich retreat,

For one whole moon they trudg-
ed with weary feet.

Piled their rich furs within the
crowded store,

Replaced their packs, and plod-
ded back for more.

But time and war have banished
all their trains,

And naught but potash, salt and
rum remains.

The boisterous boatman, drunk
but twice a day,

Begs of the landlord, but forgets
to pay,

Pledges his salt, a cask for every
quart,

Pleased thus for poison with his
pay to part.

From morn to night here noise
and riot reign,

From night to morn 'tis noise
and roar again.

Pole Boats Replace Canoes

The mode and speed of trans-
portation had changed very lit-
tle during the Fur Trade Era.
Canoes were ideal in a region
of frequent portages, and dan-
gerous rapids, and since the
loads were relatively light, the
early traders emulated their In-
dian friends and learned to use
the canoe to their best advan-
tage. But as the traffic expand-
ed, the necessity for a safer, less
costly means of transportation
became evident. Gradually the
canoe was replaced on the water
route from Albany by the "pole
boat". This was a wooden ves-
sel, usually about thirty feet in

length, capable of being pro-
pelled in less than a foot of
water. This type, in turn, gave
way to the "keel boat" which
was the direct ancestor of the
modern canal boat. Seventy-
five feet in length and built of
planked pine, it was protected
throughout its length by a stout
wooden keel, four inches square,
which took the shock from any
submerged obstruction. This
type of vessel was capable of
carrying over five tons of cargo.

The first United States Tariff
Act was signed by President
Washington on July 4, 1789,
sixty-five days after he took the
oath of office. Alexander Ham-
ilton, Secretary of the Treasury,
under the authority granted by
that Act, set up Customs Col-
lection Districts along the At-
lantic seaboard, and from that
time on, a substantial portion
of Government income has been
derived from duties on imported
materials. The passage of this
Act effectively stopped for all
time the violent quarrels between
the States over tariff boundaries.
The individual State laws, which
had previously required the pay-
ment of duties on merchandise
moving from one state to an-
other, were repealed, and the
mandated policy of a protective
tariff has been administered ever
since by the Secretary of the
Treasury.

Oswego Made Port Of Entry In 1799

During the years of British
occupation, no attempt was made
to administer the new tariff act
along the northern frontier. But,
when in 1796, the last British
outpost had been evacuated from
the southern shores of the Great
Lakes, legislation was introduced
into Congress to revise the origi-
nal bill. Consequently the sec-
ond Tariff Act was passed in
1799. Under this Act, duty sched-
ules were slightly changed, the
boundaries of the United States
were outlined, and a new Cus-

toms Collection District was established. The honor of being the headquarters port of this district, the first port of entry in the United States west of the Atlantic seaboard, was given—to Oswego.

From this time on, lake shipping in and out of Oswego developed steadily. It had become recognized as the most important port on the newly opened water route to the West, the route over which thousands of immigrants and emigrants passed. An average of 150 complete trips per year were being made between Oswego and Niagara by vessels admeasuring between forty and one hundred gross tons. The open boats, used exclusively at the turn of the century, were gradually supplanted by larger sailing vessels, as the Americans began to realize the important factors of speed, comfort and cost in lake navigation.

First Commercial Ship Built

The first commercial sailing vessel built at Oswego was a schooner of ninety tons, named "Fair American." It was launched in 1804, and was later sold to the United States Government for use in the War of 1812. From 1807 to 1817 there were twenty-three known sailing vessels built in Oswego harbor. In 1810, out of the sixty sailing vessels then trading on Lake Ontario, thirty-one of them were registered in Oswego. While it is true that anticipation of war with Great Britain was partly responsible for the impetus in shipbuilding, it is of interest to note that increased lake traffic expansion put these vessels to immediate use, and for many years after the war of 1812, schooners built at Oswego during this period continued to carry the greater share of Lake Ontario Commerce.

The first of many governmental set-backs to be experienced in Oswego came with the passage

of the Jeffersonian Embargo Act on December 20, 1807. This Act was aimed primarily at British trade, but Oswego, as the shipping center for salt, potash and general merchandise to Canada was so adversely affected that by July 1808, local opposition had reached almost the height of armed insurrection. The Collector of Customs here was forcibly prevented from enforcing Federal Regulations, and was obliged to request Governor Tompkins to order out the militia.

Shortly after this episode, the government designated Oswego as its official naval base on Lake Ontario, purchased all available and desirable vessels on the lake and moved to Sackett's Harbor. The fact that naval supplies were stored here, and transferred to ships to be delivered to Sackett's Harbor, was the principal reason that lead to the British attack on Oswego on May 6, 1814 and the capture of its port.

Oswego Center of Shipbuilding

Economically and commercially, the growth of the United States in the years that followed the War of 1812 was a phenomenon unparalleled in world history. The steamboat was invented, and immediately every harbor in the country became a shipyard. The Erie Canal was opened and immediately every inland city made plans for an all water connection with the Seaboard. The first railroad was built and immediately each cross-road hamlet pooled its meager resources in its dream of becoming a shipping center. And in this dream of Greatness, Oswego, too, played its part. Already recognized as a shipbuilding center, the community continued to expand the industry until it reached its peak in 1847, when twenty-six vessels slid down the weighs here into Lake Ontario to carry Oswego's message of commercial superiority to the world beyond its shores.

Oswego Canal Opened

The opening of the Erie Canal proved a severe political blow to Oswego's businessmen, and a legislative victory for the producers of Western New York. Using every legal subterfuge available, these champions of localization had convinced the Governor and the Legislature that the all-water route through Oswego, which had adequately served two hundred years of traffic, should be abandoned in favor of a route that would directly connect Buffalo and Rochester with Albany. For only a few years, however, was Oswego in eclipse. Realizing that the completion of the Erie Canal would divert the greater share of commercial traffic from Oswego to Buffalo, several local civic leaders formed the Oswego Canal Corporation for the purpose of improving the waterway from Onondaga Lake to Lake Ontario. Within a few years, the State was persuaded to take over the work begun by this corporation, and on April 28, 1829 the Oswego Canal was completed and formally opened to connect with the Erie Canal at Three Rivers.

Welland Canal Gives Great Stimulus

The following year, the Welland Canal was completed, and on August 4, 1830, the first vessel cleared from Cleveland to Oswego. This combination of events probably had more to do with the development of port activity here than any other event in its entire history. By opening up a cheaper and more rapid route for carrying passengers and freight from the seaboard to the interior Great Lakes region, this new canal established a larger market for all products. By the consequent lowering of transportation costs, the way was paved for the production of additional commodities whose market had been limited previously.

As evidence of the enormous commercial expansion that the port of Oswego enjoyed during the next several years, the records show that from 1830 to 1836, canal tolls increased from \$3,673 to \$53,677. The number of vessels annually arriving in port rose from 546 to 2,004 in the same period. The enrolled tonnage at the port increased from 521 tons in 1830 to 21,079 in 1848. The direct entrances and clearances jumped from 6,910 tons in 1830 to 188,919 tons in 1848. The total value of lake business in 1830 was \$277,000, but in 1848 it had reached \$18,166,907.

Salt Shipments Subsided After 1858

Throughout this period, salt continued to maintain first place as the most important commodity handled, and rose from 300,000 bushels exported in 1830 to over 2,000,000 bushels in 1848. The peculiar position of salt as an item of trade at Oswego deserves brief explanation. Prior to 1860, the more bulky goods handled here were from the West, and consisted principally of grain and lumber, characterized by large bulk and low value. Goods shipped westward were, on the other hand, less bulky and of higher value. Consequently, sailing vessels, and later steamers, making the western trip, often travelled in ballast. So that, while the records show that nearly 5,000,000 bushels of salt were shipped in the year 1858, the peak year, it must be remembered that most of it was carried as pure ballast. The actual cost of transporting a barrel of salt from Oswego to Chicago in 1859 was only eight cents. Even seasoned shippers were at a loss to explain the paradox that allowed a pound of Onondaga salt to be sold cheaper in the Chicago market than in Cazenovia, a town only twenty miles from the salt works. However, after 1860, the business

slowly declined, and in 1873 ceased altogether. The discovery of new salt deposits in Canada, Michigan and West Virginia, together with changed technique in manufacture finally terminated a business that had for many years been a profitable item of commerce at Oswego.

Rise of the Lumber Period

For many years the commercial face of Oswego had been gradually maturing as lumber began to assume more and more importance in the business index of the port. The lumber trade here was by no means, a new one. The tree growth of the section was early noted for its density and variety. In Colonial days, much of the pine had been cut and shipped to England where it had been utilized in the manufacture of masts and spars. Lumber continued to be a thriving local business as late as 1860, but the chief lumber trade at the port throughout its development, was a matter of importation.

Posts, staves and squared timbers were the principal items received, and nearly all the lumber brought into Oswego had been cut and shipped from the vast forests along the northern shores of Lake Ontario. Although modern methods of mechanization have been successfully applied to the lumbering industry, it is curious to note that the actual manner of shipping has not been materially changed since those early days. The vessels in the trade were ordinarily brought to anchor offshore, where the timber and staves had been collected for shipment. The timbers were then floated out to the vessels and the staves brought out in scows. Upon arrival at Oswego, the vessels were unloaded directly into canal boats for further shipment, or deposited at the

local lumber mills for further processing.

Freight Rates to West Cheap

Another case that illustrates the importance of lower rates on shipments to the West, was evidenced in the local lumber trade in the period prior to the Civil War. Much of the lumber brought into the port was consigned to local sawmills, where it was sawed, grooved, and fitted for laying, by machinery. Because of the low western freight rates, it was considered more feasible to reship most of the processed lumber to the western ports. A thousand board feet of lumber could be shipped to Chicago for three dollars, a distance by water of 1100 miles, whereas it would have cost four dollars to send the same quantity to Albany, a carry of only 200 miles by canal boat.

The records show that the lumber trade at Oswego increased tremendously from 1840 to 1870. Some conception of this growth may be gained from the following figures:

1840—19,560,997 Board Feet.

1850—67,586,985 Board Feet.

1860—190,402,228 Board Feet.

1870—284,539,533 Board Feet.

The best single index to Lake Commerce over a period of years is the figure which represents the tonnage of all vessels entering and clearing in the district. From 952,926 gross tons entered and cleared in 1848, the figure increased to 1,693,486 gross tons in 1870. During the same period the tonnage of all vessels enrolled in the Oswego District increased from 21,079 gross tons to 100,040 gross tons.

Largest Flour Mill Built Here in 1860

It was during this period, too, that the grain trade was born. With the opening of the prairie lands in the West after 1830, and improvements in water transportation facilities, great quantities

of wheat, corn, barley, oats and peas were shipped into Oswego from the areas bordering upon the Great Lakes, and the trade reached its peak in 1856, when 18,646,955 bushels were received. As flour milling expanded, a larger proportion of the wheat was ground, and the balance shipped by way of the canal for eastern domestic markets, and for exportation to Europe. The number of flour mills increased from seven in 1841 to twenty in 1870. In the 1850s Oswego ranked with Baltimore, Rochester and St. Louis as the most important flouring centers of the United States, and for a few years of that decade, it surpassed Rochester "the Flour City" in total production. The largest flour mill in the country was built in Oswego in 1860. It had a capacity of 300,000 barrels a year. The volume of business naturally fluctuated with the size of the wheat crops, and the demands of European markets. During the late 1840's, unsettled conditions in Europe and the famine in Ireland made such demands upon the local facilities that the mills were kept in operation night and day. On the other hand in 1860, a huge grain crop, and a declining market, caused all the mills and elevators to be filled, and twenty-five loaded vessels were forced to winter in the harbor.

Reciprocity Early Boosted Canadian Trade

One highly important factor in the tremendous expansion of Lake Commerce at Oswego during this period, a factor that has been almost completely forgotten in the intervening years, was the Reciprocity Treaty with Canada in 1855. After the repeal of the British Corn Laws in 1846, and the general relaxation of European trade barriers which followed, there gradually grew up in the political minds of the

United States and Canada, a tendency toward Free Trade.

Into this controversy, the citizens of Oswego entered with exceptional enthusiasm. Since it was considered essential that the interests of Oswego's merchants be properly presented to the legislators, and the movement for reciprocity be kept alive, Alvin Bronson was sent to Washington as a lobbyist in December 1852. It was largely through his efforts and the cooperation of Gerrit Smith, then the newly elected Congressman from this district, that the Treaty was passed and signed on June 5, 1854.

The agreement covered all fishing, trading and navigation rights for a period of ten years. Oswego's interest in the document was based upon the chapter devoted to trading rights. In effect, this chapter proclaimed that the natural products of the two countries should be admitted free of duty into each country respectively. The product covered by this general rule were specifically enumerated, and included extractive raw material of agriculture, lumbering, mining and fishing.

The immediate impact of the Treaty upon business in Oswego was very favorable. The first full year of operation showed an increase in foreign trade value of over \$9,000,000, and during the life of the Treaty, which was repealed in 1866, Oswego experienced peak years in the following classifications: 1—Greatest tonnage moved on the Oswego Canal. 2—The greatest quantity of salt exported. 3—The greatest quantity of grain received. 4—The greatest quantity of grain moved on the Canal.

Government Lost Revenues Through Treaty

But the picture disclosed by these figures does not give a detailed outline of the true effects of the Treaty. While it is true that more merchandise moved in

and out of Oswego harbor during this time than during any other period; while it is true that this remarkable increase in business took place during a major depression, followed by Civil War, nevertheless, the true index of port activity shows that instead of the decrease in business predicted by the exponents of the Treaty, to follow its termination the foreign trade in Oswego continued to grow.

Direct entrances and clearances of vessels in foreign trade maintained a steady increase up until 1873, and the money value of imports also continued to grow. Since most of the articles imported during this time were free of duty, there naturally had been a decline in Customs revenue. The net revenue recorded at the Custom House for the year 1854 was \$160,669. Two years later, after one year of Reciprocity, the revenue had dropped to \$4,275. In 1866, after the termination of the treaty, the revenue had increased to \$969,365, so that it is estimated that the Federal Government lost approximately \$5,000,000 in revenue during the eleven years the Treaty was in effect.

Lake Trade Fell Away After 1870

From this time on, the story is one of discouragement and regret. Oswego had seemingly reached its zenith as a Port. For sixty years, beginning in 1870, there was a gradual but nevertheless, persistent decline in port activity. In general, the recession was very marked during the years from 1870 to 1874. Conditions remained quite static from 1875 to 1894, when a further drop began that carried Oswego down from its heights as one of the most important shipping points in the country, to the level it had reached in 1930, an obscure port of entry, hugging the banks of Lake Ontario.

The story of a bridge of ships across the harbor was only a memory carried in the hearts of a few that cared. The last bushel of Onondaga salt had passed through the port in 1873. A century of promiscuous cutting had denuded the timberlands in the Lake Ontario watershed, and the last entry of Canadian lumber was made in 1928. The twenty flour mills that had dotted the Oswego landscape in 1870 had disappeared. Some had burned, more had been absorbed by the larger corporations that had been attracted to the western milling centers by better transportation facilities and improved methods of manufacture. Only the coal business remained active. By some perversity of fate, it happened that one of the factors that had ruined Oswego as a port, the competition of the railroad, was in a large measure responsible for the continued increase in the exportation of coal.

The causes underlying the decline of port activity could not be due to the business cycle, since the years of prosperity during the period were nearly as many as the years of depression. The true reasons were complex and deep-seated, but collectively may be summarized in the statement that Oswego's position as a port had been undermined by fundamental outside changes. Superficially, it must be noted that the port of Oswego had lost its natural advantages as a gateway to commerce. However the direct and indirect causes should be evaluated more definitely.

Fundamental Changes Affected Port

During the Colonial period, and later, during the salt era, the mouth of the Oswego river had occupied a kind of monopolistic position as a point where transportation routes converged. A large part of all water borne trade from the eastern seaboard was routed through the portals of Oswego. Its only rival, for

many years, was the St. Lawrence route, but as the years passed by, other more advantageous routes at first threatened, then affected, and finally nearly destroyed the position Oswego had attained.

Consideration must be given also to certain other elements that directly affected port activity. One of these was the failure on the part of the federal government to complete the improvements of the Great Lakes. As late as 1935, the United States Army engineers recommended the Oswego route to the seaboard as being more economical, yet years of agitation on the part of local representatives for the building of the often proposed Niagara Ship Canal, which would enable upper lake vessels to trade in Oswego, brought no result. Furthermore, the tariff policy of the United States during this period, with its inherent elements of protection, was clearly a negative factor in Oswego's trade. Canadian goods were kept out of the United States, and in retaliation, American goods were heavily taxed in Canada.

Perhaps the greatest single, short-term, positive cause of port decline was the successive removal of Erie Canal tolls, which had the natural effect of building up Lake Erie ports at the expense of those on Lake Ontario. Prior to the removal of the tolls, boats passing through the Erie Canal paid low tolls, while those using the Welland Canal from Lake Erie and the waters of Lake Ontario and Oswego escaped these. Also, because the Welland Canal had reached its capacity in the 1860's, and because the average size of vessels on the Great Lakes increased more rapidly than locking facilities were improved upon that Canal, Lake Ontario shipping was gradually choked off from the main stream of Great Lakes commerce. During the same period, Canada, realizing the disadvantages ac-

cruing from shipping its products "in bond" through the United States to Europe, had improved the St. Lawrence waterway by the construction of six short canals. These improvements gradually diverted much of the western and Canadian traffic from Oswego to Montreal.

Fully as important as the foregoing causes to the loss of volume tonnage to the Port of Oswego was the perfection of a new technique in transportation to which Oswego had not been able to adapt itself. The continued success of the railroads as freight and passenger carriers, finally destroyed the advantages that Oswego had formerly enjoyed as a transshipment point for waterborne traffic. From the earliest days of the railroads, most of the successful companies had built their roads from the Atlantic seaboard to the West, and the principal eastern cities, New York, Boston, Philadelphia and Baltimore, had financially aided in the construction of railroads that would provide direct connection with the upper Great Lake ports of Chicago, Cleveland, Erie and Buffalo. Although the citizens of Oswego also contributed financially to various projected railroads which would follow a direct route to the coast, none of these projects materialized.

Changes in Transshipment Methods

One final factor contributing toward the decline of the port must be considered. In the years that followed the invention of the steamboat, many changes had been made in the field of transportation. Oswego's prime had been reached in a period when vessels were small, and cargoes were transferred by manual devices from one kind of carrier to another. It began to decline when transfer utilities were no longer in demand, and when larger vessels, carrying larger cargoes, loaded and unloaded by machinery traveled longer and

longer distances without breaking cargo.

Many attempts were made during this time, on the part of Oswego's civic and business leaders to stem the tide of destruction, but each sincere effort was minimized by conditions beyond their control. Fired by civic pride, absolutely convinced that the navigation advantages, indigenous to Oswego, still held great commercial possibilities, if properly utilized, these unselfish leaders gave willingly of their time and money in futile efforts to restore their community to a semblance of its former greatness.

Effects of McKinley Tariff

Nearly all the lumber received at Oswego after 1870 came from Canada. In the peak year of 1873 there were 298,881,000 board feet imported. Even though the lumbering areas were moving westward, Oswego, because of its position as the nearest lake port to the seaboard, and because of low transportation costs, continued to retain its place as the foremost lumber distributing center in the United States. This trend continued until the passage of the so-called McKinley Tariff Act in 1890. The tariff policy of the United States had always given a certain measure of protection to American producers and manufacturers against inferior and less costly competitive products of foreign countries. This was the first tariff act designed primarily to protect the American farmers and producers of raw materials, and was strongly favored by the general public.

However, since under the terms of this act the duties on wood and manufactures of wood were increased to 35 per cent ad valorem, there developed a gradual tendency on the part of Canadian producers to fabricate their own lumber products, and export them directly through Montreal, rather than to submit to the prohibitive duties prevailing across the lake.

It was this same act that sealed the doom of Oswego's thriving grain trade. The total quantity of all grains received in 1870 was 13,389,547 bushels. Many malhouses were established in Oswego during this period using barley imported from Canada in their manufacturing processes. Imposition of the high McKinley triff rates caused mid-western growers to take up growing barley and the malting business of Oswego was gradually lost to the midwest. At one time there was 13 malt-houses operating in Oswego. By 1900, importation of grains at Oswego had virtually ceased. The mark-up of duties from a uniform ten cents per bushel to an amount as high as forty-five cents a bushel left Oswego's elevators empty, and dissipated its dream of becoming the leading grain market in the East.

Coal Exports Rise Steadily

The exportation of coal remained the one business index of port activity which showed consistent improvement. Certain regions in Pennsylvania enjoyed a complete monopoly of the Anthracite Coal industry, so that the source of supply was singular and not subject to change. Therefore, although in the course of time, other routes were established, Oswego was able to retain its natural advantages. But by becoming a port primarily devoted to exportation, rather than to importation, the balance of trade had been disrupted. In the peak year of 1870, there had been collected in the port of Oswego, a total of \$1,112,352 in customs revenue. In the early 1930's, this figure had dropped amazingly to less than \$1,000. The records show that during these same years the exportation of coal had increased from 54,526 tons in 1870 to nearly 1,000,000 in 1941. Since the importance of a port is tabulated by the Federal Government on the basis of its revenue, perhaps it was only natural that

when the Reorganization Act was passed in 1913, Oswego was demoted as a distinct Customs District, and attached to the District of Rochester as a port of entry.

Thus, another blow had fallen. After over one hundred years of leadership, headquarters during that time to the vast territory of Central New York, maintaining sub-ports at Syracuse and Utica, Oswego too was labeled a sub-port, and its destiny ruled thereafter by its rival in the West.

Port Activity Increasing Since 1931

But the gloomy picture has faded, and in its place there hangs a mirror which reflects the brightness of the future. With the opening of the new Welland Ship Canal in 1931, the period of commercial isolation for Oswego is over. During the last ten years, the largest vessels of the upper Great Lakes have been in and out of Oswego Harbor many times. The grain trade that had been lost to Buffalo has again become an important factor in port activity. Realizing that the opening of the Welland Canal must inevitably bring about a revival in the grain business in Oswego, the State of New York, in 1924, erected a million bushel elevator, designed to accommodate the largest lake vessels afloat, and providing also for transshipment of grain by way of the Oswego Canal.

In anticipation of the expected revival of business, the citizens of Oswego created a Harbor and Dock Commission in 1923, which was authorized to "promote and regulate the commerce of the city of Oswego, and its harbor." As a result of these changed conditions, and revival of interest, Oswego has again become an important transshipment point for vast quantities of grain. In the year 1940, several of the largest steamers on the lakes, carrying

as much as 400,000 bushels each, were docked and unloaded at the State Elevator. The total quantity received during that one year was over 10,000,000 bushels.

New Type Of Shipping Vessel

The exportation of salt, which had for so many years, been the chief article of commerce, has never been revived, but the loss of this in-transit business is no longer a burden. In the year 1923 a new type of vessel made its first appearance on the canal. With a gross tonnage of over 1500 tons, the vessels were really power driven barges, capable of navigating the Great Lakes as well as the canal. Since the vessels could be fully loaded at the point of debarkation, and proceed directly, without breaking cargo, to the port of destination, it at once became apparent to shippers that the saving in time and transportation costs had opened up an entirely new field in water borne commerce. Consequently, newer and larger units were built, and the great quantities of gasoline, kerosene, raw and refined sugar, molasses, sulphur, chemicals and wood pulp that have passed through the port in recent years have aided materially in establishing a new era of prosperity.

On this note of cheerfulness we bring to a close this history of the development of the Port of Oswego. We have skimmed swiftly over the surface of three hundred years, touching lightly as we passed, only the high points of events that have made our journey possible. We have watched Oswego expand from a few straggling Indian tents into a thriving, modern city, and reflected in this expansion, we have seen the parallel growth of a mighty nation. We have witnessed the course of change that gradually developed new techniques in transportation and trade, and noticed how these successive changes were, from time

to time, intimately related to the economic and political affairs of Europe, as well as America. We have been given a glimpse of much of the westward movement of the American population as it streamed through the gateway of the harbor. Decades later, we have seen the products of those people passing eastward to the seaboard.

Throughout these years of events and changes marching along with the procession of progress, were the men of Oswego—business men—men motivated by hopes and fears; men struggling largely for gain in an era of almost no governmental interference; and especially those other men, who stood in the limelight for a short time as representatives of the Government, who as patriotic citizens, accepted the appointment of Collector of Customs, often at a great sacrifice of time and business interests.

On March 3, 1803, President Jefferson appointed Joel Burt as the first Collector for this District. During his tenure of office, he occupied quarters in the same building that housed the Post Office at that time, a store operated on West First Street by William Dolloway. Mr. Burt served as Collector until June 11, 1811, and was succeeded by Nathan Sage. Mr. Sage moved the Custom House to his own home on West First Street, and held office until May 31, 1826. John Grant, Jr. was appointed on that date, and moved the office to his home on West Seneca street. When George H. McWhorter took the oath of office on May 1, 1834, upon the retirement of Mr. Grant, he opened a new Custom House in a building which occupied the corner of West Seneca and Water streets. Mr. McWhorter was succeeded by Thomas H. Bond on August 2, 1841 and the Custom House occupied the same premises during his short term.

Upon the death of Mr. Bond on May 23, 1843, George H. McWhorter was again appointed collector, and served until June 4, 1849.

Jacob Richardson was the next collector, and shortly after his appointment, he moved the office to a new building in Water Street. In this new location, the Burckle Building, the Collector of Customs office was retained until the new Federal Building was erected on the corner of West First and Oneida Streets. Mr. Richardson was succeeded in office by Enoch B. Talcott on May 28, 1853, who served until March 31, 1858, and was in turn succeeded by Orville Robinson on that date. While Mr. Robinson was Collector, the Custom House made its final move to its present location in the Federal Building on October 5, 1858.

John B. Higgins succeeded Mr. Robinson on April 1, 1860 and served until September 30, 1861. Charles A. Perkins was Collector from October 1, 1861 until August 31, 1864; Andrew VanDyke from September 1, 1864 to March 31, 1869; Charles C. P. Clark from April 1, 1869 to April 30, 1871; Elias Root from May 1, 1871 to July 9 1877; Daniel G. Fort from July 10, 1877 to January 13, 1882; John J. Lamoree from January 14, 1882 to July 31, 1885; Isaac B. Poucher from July 31, 1885 to July 31, 1889; Henry H. Lyman from August 1, 1889 to December 1, 1893; W. J. Bulger from December 1, 1893 to March 31, 1897; James Cooper from April 1, 1897 to April 1, 1910, and John S. Parsons from April 2, 1910 to March 3, 1913.

Upon the passage of the Reorganization Act of 1913, Oswego lost its status as a Collection District, and the succession of Collectors appointed by the President came to an end. Charles A. Bentley, who had held the Civil Service office of

Special Deputy under Mr. Parsons was immediately sworn in as Deputy Collector of Customs in Charge, and held that office until the Civil Service age limit forced him to retire on July 1, 1932. Upon the retirement of Mr. Bentley, Benjamin P. Legg was designated to take his place, and held office until his untimely death on October 15, 1939. After Mr. Legg's death, the present incumbent, John W. O'Connor, was appointed in his place.

A history can never be completed. Since it is really a study of the future in retrospect, it must necessarily go on into the future, and what that future will be can only be assumed

from the records of the past. Perhaps the nostalgic dream of a bridge of ships across the harbor may never again be fulfilled. Perhaps the hopes of men, long dead, may never be realized. But we are now entering an era of modern, technological methods, and Oswego, by utilizing these methods, and by building upon the stout structure of its past, may yet attain the heights that yesterday were only dreams.

The stage of the Future is set. The Props and Scenery of a thousand Futures that have passed are all in place. The actors are standing in the wings, waiting for their cues. The lights are dimmed. The Curtain rises. The Play must go on.



Morgan Robertson And His Sea Stories

(Paper Given Before Oswego County Historical Society at Oswego, March 10, 1942, by Dr. Lida S. Penfield, Former Head of the English Department of Oswego State Teachers College)

At the time of the recent World's Fair in New York City, each county of the state was asked to contribute an account of artists native to the area. Commander John M. Gill prepared an excellent report on the writers of Oswego County which was printed in the "Post-Standard." If the war had not summoned Commander Gill to service, he would have been the one to record for the Oswego Historical Society at greater length, the life and work of Morgan Robertson in the series of papers planned by this society to give honor to the writers and other artists of Oswego.

"Gathering No Moss," published in the Saturday Evening Post, March 28, 1914, is the title Morgan Robertson gave to the story which he wrote of his own life. Full of ups and downs and roundabouts, that life ranged from sailing the Great Lakes, circumnavigating the globe, cow-punching in Texas, learning the goldsmith's art, diamond setting, and clock repairing, through the disheartening and valiant struggle to earn a living, hand-to-mouth, in New York City, through threatened blindness and nervous breakdown. Always on the move, never completely bogged down, forever dabbling and experimenting — small wonder that he thought of himself as a rolling stone. As for moss, what had he accumulated? Certainly, little money, few possessions, no establishment, but friends, yes, many of them, maybe even a few enemies, for good measure, and a rich treasure of experience.

His Books Made Him Friends

His books made friends for him. Those stories of the sea, so

vigorous, so salty with humour, so direct in action, so skilled in seamanship, found favor with those who enjoy a well spun yarn, whether they go down to the sea in ships, or stay ashore.

Charles Lee Lewis, instructor at Annapolis Naval Academy, writing about Morgan Robertson in the Dictionary of American Biography (vol. xvi. p. 27), thus catalogs the stories:

"His stories deal with sailing ships, steam vessels and the long steel men-of-war. They treat of mutiny and bloody fights, shipwreck and rescue, brutality, shanghaiing, courage and wild daring, telepathy, hypnotism, dual personality, and extraordinary inventions."

Booth Tarkington, in McClure's Magazine (October, 1915, p. 90), wrote: "His stories are bully, his sea foamy, and his men have hair on their chests." Joseph Conrad wrote to Robertson:

"Indeed, my dear sir, you are a first rate seaman—one can see that with half an eye."

Stories Surprised Oswego Friends

In the earlier years, his success with his stories was a surprise to his friends in Oswego. Nothing about him was bookish. Of medium height, broad shouldered, stockily built, of dark complexion, with a "rough" voice, he is better remembered here as a sailor than as a writer. In company, sometimes, he would be lost in a brown study, and then break his silence with voicing a novel idea or a practical joke. He usually wore the square-cut marine reefer jacket. From five-dollar gold pieces he fashioned buttons for his coat and appeared one autumn in Oswego all a-glitter, to the astonishment, es-

pecially of the young ladies. As the winter of his stay lengthened, the buttons gradually disappeared from the jacket, returned, it was surmised, to circulation by the owner.

His Uncle Dubbed Him a "Fool"

One winter, between voyages, he settled down to learn the jeweler's business with a Mr. Barnes, who had a jewelry store on West First street, about where Thomas F. Hennessey now has his drug store. He made his home with his uncle, Mr. Moses P. Neal. Wishing to express his appreciation for that hospitality, he insisted upon installing cathedral chimes, a complete set of them, in the clock that stood on the shelf in the Neal sitting room. So loud and so long were the hour changes rung by the resonant chimes that the exasperated uncle thus vented his wrath: "I always thought he was a fool, and now he has made himself a monument for it with that clock."

Apparently Morgan didn't particularly mind being called a fool, but he was ready for the man who called him (as some were occasional) tempted to call him) crazy. "Crazy am I? crazy?" "What'll you bet that I can't prove that I am sane and not crazy?" With the wager made, Morgan would triumphantly produce his legal discharge from Bellevue Hospital as the document in evidence and laughingly gather up the stakes.

Everyone who knew him seems to cherish a good story about him, as a sailor, as an original, as a master hand and unique.

An obituary not always gives a true picture of a man, but the tribute that appeared in the "Oswego Palladium," March 25, 1915, the day following Robertson's death is so sincere, from the nickname of his boyhood, "Morg" to the last picturesque detail of his cabin in a studio, that we know it was written by the hand of a

friend. The Palladium obituary notice follows:

"MORG. ROBERTSON DIES SUDDENLY"

**"End Came at Atlantic City
Yesterday Afternoon.**

**"Famous Writer of Sea Stories,
an Oswego Boy, Passed Away
Standing Up in His Room at a
Hotel—Born in This City in 1861"**

**"ATLANTIC CITY, N. J.,
March 25—Morgan Robertson,** the author, was found dead in his hotel room here yesterday afternoon. A half-filled bottle of paraldehyde, a sedative, was found on his bureau. County Physician Leonard said, however, that this medicine had nothing to do with his death, which was caused by heart trouble.

"Mr. Robertson came here a few days ago suffering from a nervous collapse. He spent most of his time on the beach and on the boardwalk. The change of air was apparently having a good effect upon him.

"He went to his room shortly before noon to lie down and asked that a bellboy call him in time for luncheon.

"A rap at his door at one o'clock failed to bring a response. The boy opened the door and found him leaning lifeless across the bureau.

—
"Mr. Robertson was born in this city on September 30, 1861, and was the son of the late Captain Andrew Robertson and Ruth Glassford, the former a well-known master of lake-going vessels. Back in the seventies, when a boy in his teens, 'Morg.' Robertson knew every stitch of canvas and line on the fore-and-aft canallers and barkentines that made Oswego a port of call. He had made frequent trips with his father on the lakes during the long summer vacation days and could steer his trick with the best of the men when the weather wasn't too heavy. But he yearned for greater experience and when Captain Davis, sailing a

clipper ship out of Boston in the China trade, offered him a passage as a cabin-boy he accepted gladly and sailed away into China trade. He was then sixteen years old. It was several years before he came back. He developed a dislike for Captain Davis who he found was not like the free and easy skippers of the lakes, whom he knew and who had made much of him because he was Captain Andy's boy.

Wearied of Sailor's Life

"During his sailing days on salt water he picked up navigation, made many ports active in the world's commerce, was shipwrecked and had many adventures. When he returned he was a full-fledged sailorman, but the life to him had become distasteful. All of the glamour had been expelled by his personal contact and experience and he frequently said to acquaintances that he was through with the seas. However, there was no man who had a better knowledge of ships or sailing and the accurate knowledge he had picked up made his stories of deep-sea life all the more interesting and claimed the attention of those who recognized them as the true reflection of a writer who was fully acquainted with his subject.

"While afloat Mr. Robertson became an adept as a worker in gold. He made handsome watch chains with anchors and snatch-blocks, through which ran the finest of gold wrought chains. Some of those are still extant among his old friends in this city. When he decided to quit sailing he went to New York expecting to be able to get a position in one of the large jewelry manufacturing concerns, but there was nothing doing in that line. One day he read an advertisement of Tiffany that he wanted diamond-setters. Mr. Robertson had never set a diamond in his life, but he thought he could get away with the job so he applied and got the place. The superintendent quick-

ly saw that he had never set diamonds and told him so. Mr. Robertson admitted that it was his first experience and said that the reason he applied was that he must get a place to work. The superintendent liked his talk and appearance and Mr. Robertson was continued in a position setting other stones and eventually became one of Tiffany's most expert diamond setters, thus obtaining a knowledge of diamonds possessed by few. He continued in the vocation until 1894, when his sight failed.

Inspiration Came From Kipling Story

"In 1896 while he was in New York a friend handed him one of Rudyard Kipling's sea stories and told him to read it. He did and that night he began and finished his first short story, writing on a washtub until dawn. He called it 'The Destruction of the Unfit.' He submitted it to a newspaper syndicate, where it was refused because of its length. It was then sent to a magazine and after a long delay was accepted for \$25. During the year that followed Mr. Robertson wrote and sold about twenty short stories of the sea. Since then not a year and perhaps not a month passed in which one or more of his sea pieces did not appear.

"His first book was 'A Tale of a Halo.' It was a good seller and then a suggestion was made to him that he specialize in sea stories. He did and while he never proved a Clark Russell, he wrote many interesting stories, of which the following were some of the best 'Where Angels Fear to Tread,' published first in Atlantic Monthly; 'Salvage' in the Century; 'The Brain of the Battleship,' 'The Wigwag Message,' 'Between the Millstones,' 'The Battle of the Monsters', all in Saturday Evening Post; 'The Trade Wind', Collier's; 'From the Royal Yard Down', Ainslee's; 'Needs Must When the Devil Drives' and 'When Greek Meets

Greek', McClure's; 'Primordial', Harper's.

"The Wreck of the Titan," written about a year before the sinking of the steamer Titanic, was regarded after the accident as almost a prophecy; telling how such an accident were possible by collision with an iceberg, and it was reprinted in many magazine editions of Sunday newspapers.

"A few months ago Mr. Robertson's last story was published. It told of the fate of the writer of sea stories when he became written out. After that friends took his affairs in charge and an edition deluxe of his stories was printed and had a large sale. Several magazines have given them as premiums.

"It was several years since Mr. Robertson visited Oswego and few of his friends here are acquainted with his latter day affairs. He was married in 1894 to Alice M. Doyle, of New York, and their home had been at 149 West Thirty-fifth street. His only brother, William Robertson, is connected with the operating department of the Nickel Plate Railroad, with headquarters in Cleveland, and a sister, Mrs. Alice Sheldon, lives in Ashtabula or Cleveland. Mrs. Morgan Wheeler, of West Fifth street, was Mr. Robertson's aunt and Mrs. E. B. Mott is his cousin. Friends here have not yet been told of the funeral arrangements.

Invented a Periscope

"Besides his being a sailor, a diamond setter and an author, Mr. Robertson was an inventor, having devised in 1905 an improved periscope for submarines which was bought by the Holland Torpedo Boat Company. This invention grew out of an imaginary instrument used for the embellishment of a submarine story.

"Robertson's studio in New York was fitted like a ship's cabin, with all the comforts of sleeping room, diningroom, kitchen, bathroom, library and den.

On one side of a draped couch he had a cushioned window seat, under a port-hole. His bathtub could be covered and used as a table. In one corner was a gas range on which he could make coffee and other light repasts when immersed in his work. The room was papered with illustrations of his stories."

Author's Edition of Eight Volumes

The published volumes of Robertson's stories include: "A Tale of a Halo" (1894); "Spun Yarn" (1898); "Futility" (1898); "Where Angels Fear to Tread" (1899); "Masters of Men" (1901); "Sinful Peck" (1903); "Down to the Sea" (1905); "Land Ho!" (1905); "Chivalry," a play (1913).

In 1914 an author's edition gathered into a uniform edition, the tales Mr. Robertson selected for his complete edition, comprising eight volumes. The titles were in part a repetition of those borne by earlier printings of single volumes. In all there were included two long tales, "Masters of Men" and "Sinful Peck," each allotted a volume. In the remaining six volumes there were sixty-three of the more than two hundred stories he is said to have written. In this edition the titles were "The Wreck of the Titan or Futility," "Where Angels Fear to Tread," "Down to the Sea," "Three Laws and the Golden Rule", in which were included four of the stories from "Spun Yarn", "The Grain Ship", "Over the Border", "Sinful Peck" and "Masters of Men."

Story of "Masters of Men"

"Masters of Men" is dedicated, "To my wife, a good woman." It is the story of Dick Halpin, a red-haired and freckled orphan lad, who joins the navy, a few years before the Spanish-American war. The boy goes through the rigorous training on ship-board, rising step by step to be signal man. By reason of Dick's gallant service in action at the blockade of Santiago, he wins a

commission. Bronson, Halpin's sponsor and himself in service, gives the keynote of the story: "It's a tough life, and makes a machine of a fellow." A hilarious section of the story tells how young Halpin brings home with him a dozen shipmates to help him pay back a grudge against a group of hateful schoolmates. As the fight mounts to a climax, the citizens bring out the fire department to drown the fracas. "Masters of Men" was made into a movie. It was played in Oswego at the Orpheum theater. Mr. Charles P. Gilmore, who managed that theater, remembers the picture but cannot supply the date of its showing.

"Sinful Peck," the second full length tale, is built around a practical joke played as the result of an election bet when Bryan ran for President. Peck, the loser, must ship for a year as sailor, or forfeit \$10,000 to Seldom Helward. A group of old shipmates, now successful men of Cleveland, Ohio, go to New York to give "Sinful" a fitting send-off. At the dinner given the night before "Sinful" is to sail, he drugs the other guests and has them, unconscious as they are, shanghaied to his ship. The adventures that follow run the gamut of stirring mutiny, pirates, storms, rescues, hairbreath escapes, and fights aplenty.

Oswego Sailors As Characters

"Sinful Peck" and his friends first appeared in the short story, "Where Angels Fear to Tread," one of Robertson's early tales, and especially interesting to us because the lively group of lake or "fresh water" sailors who sign up with a merchant ship, the "Almena," a square rigger, of course, outward bound, round the Horn for Callao, are all from Oswego, N. Y. They are all "well-fed, well-paid, self-respecting citizens" who sign up using their nicknames. These nicknames are authentic. The late John S. Parsons of Oswego knew the real

names of the men who answered to them on the lake front. Here they are as Morgan Robertson fitted made-up names to the nicknames: Tosser Galvin, Senator Sands, Turkey Twain, Big Pig Monahan, Jump Black, Gunner Meagher, Moccasy Bill, Yampaw Gallagher, Ghost O'Brien, Sinful Peck, Sorry Welch, Poopdeck Cahill, Seldom Helward, Yorker Jimson, Shiner O'Toole, General Lannigan. The fun of the story is that sailors on the Great Lakes are better men than salt water sailors. They are used to better treatment. Their awakening to the realities of seafaring is startling. These Oswego men "would rather fight than eat." There is a fort at Oswego (the story dates back to the early 1880's), and whenever a company of soldiers becomes unmanageable, the War Department transfers them to Oswego—and they are well-behaved, well-licked soldiers when they leave. "An Oswego sailor loves a row." How these Oswego sailors get the upper hand and escape, even from the police in New York harbor, makes lively reading.

Pirate Stories in One Group

One of the figures invented is the lovable old Finnegan, on the battleship *Argyll*. In Robertson's stories the kindly rascal is like Mulvaney, the soldier in Kipling's stories. He appears in "The Brain of the Battleship" and several other tales.

Another group of stories deals with a pirate ship, Captain Swarth and Angel Todd, the first mate.

One of the physicians in Oswego, I am told, thinks the finest story Robertson wrote is "The Battle of the Monsters" because of its imaginative and original presentation, in a day (1888-1900) when the facts were known to few outside the laboratory, of the struggle in the blood-stream of germs—the germs of hydrophobia and cholera are conquered by the leucocytes, showing

that Robertson dramatized Metchnikoff's theory, based on microscopic examination of blood, of fighting leucocytes.

To another reader—a business man, there is the greatest thrill in "The Closing of the Circuit," included in the volume "Down to the Sea." This is the story of a boy, born blind, brought up in ignorance of his lack of sight. How he runs away to sea and regains his sight by shock is the action. The thrill lies in the vivid realism of the scene where the boy gradually is aware of the miracles of vision.

Many a man owes an hour of relaxation to the magic of the forthright, manly, sea stories of Morgan Robertson.

In preparing this study I have been helped by many. Old friends of Morgan Robertson have shared their personal knowledge of him. Mr. Fred P. Wright gave me the use of his filed material about Morgan Robertson. Mrs. Caroline Hahner at the State Normal School and Miss Forward at the City Library have given me valued aid.



The Rise of the "Fourth Estate" in Oswego County---Part II

(Paper Read Before Oswego County Historical Society at Oswego, April 14, 1942, by Its President, Edwin M. Waterbury, of the Oswego Palladium-Times.)

The first daily newspaper to be published in Oswego County was the "Oswego Daily Advertiser" brought out early in 1845 by Daniel Ayer. Its forerunner had been the "Oswego County Whig" established at Oswego, January 1, 1837 by A. Jones & Co., with Richard Oliphant, the well known printer of Oswego, as editor. Jones sold out his interests to Oliphant on May 9, 1837, and the latter continued the publication, at first in association with Daniel Ayer, but after the end of the year 1837 as an individual enterprise, although Ayer continued in the employ of Oliphant for sometime thereafter.

Richard Oliphant's "Whig"

Oliphant was one of the earliest commercial printers to locate in Oswego, and one of the ablest. He had had previous experience in the newspaper field and speedily made a success of the "Whig" both as a newspaper and an organ of the Whig party in Oswego County. Oliphant had been born in London, England, January 23, 1801. When he was 12 years old he came to America and settled in Auburn where he began learning the printer's trade under Thurlow Weed, the later distinguished Albany newspaper editor. He is said to have set in the year 1823 the first type ever to have been set in Syracuse, but he returned to Auburn in the same year and established the "Auburn Free Press." He sold out his interests in this publication in 1829 to his brother, Henry, came to Oswego and settled permanently. From that time on until his death, March 8, 1862, he was actively and prominently

identified with the publishing and printing industry of Oswego County. He was the first owner, I have been informed, of the dwelling now known as the Tanner Memorial.

September 27, 1844 Oliphant disposed of his interest in the "Whig" to his erstwhile partner and associate in the same enterprise, Daniel Ayer. The latter continued to publish the "Whig" as a weekly for some years, but in 1845 he also began publishing from the same newspaper office the "Oswego Daily Advertiser", the county's first daily which became eventually the progenitor of the "Oswego Daily Times" published continuously thereafter for a period of 80 years until it became one of the oldest daily newspapers in the State of New York. In 1925 there was a consolidation effected between the "Oswego Daily Times" and the "Oswego Daily Palladium" under the name of the "Oswego Palladium Times" which has preserved and kept active the names not only of the County's two most venerable newspapers but also the names of two of the oldest newspapers in the State of New York.

Just as the "Palladium" has had a continuous history of publication since it was founded in 1819 with only a few slight variations in the form of its name down to the time of its merger with the "Oswego Daily Times" in 1925, the succession of papers which has come to be identified with the name "Times", but with more variations through the years in the particular form of its name, has enjoyed continuity of publication since Jones & Co., brought out in 1837 the first issue

of the "Oswego County Whig" of which the "Oswego Daily Advertiser", the "Oswego Daily Commercial Times" and the others in the succession of "Times" papers became the lineal successors.

The "Whig", first published weekly on Tuesdays and at later times on Wednesday and Saturdays, was a 4-page newspaper of 7 twenty-three inch columns, well written, well edited and well printed in the manner of Richard Oliphant, and his early associate, Daniel Ayer. Several bound volumes of the "Whig" are preserved in the Gerrit Smith Public Library of Oswego.

"Whig" Proclaimed Coming Of Propellers

It was the columns of the "Whig" which Captain J. VanCleve chose to carry the advertisement which appeared March 17, 1841 over VanCleve's name to announce that he had taken over the agency for "Ericsson's Propellers" and become a joint proprietor with Ericsson, the inventor, in such propellers as should be built for service "on the North American Lakes". It was this connection of Captain VanCleve's and the results obtained from this advertisement which appeared weekly in the "Whig" for many weeks that led to the construction at Oswego in that same year of the "Vandalia" and her launching as the first propeller to ply the Great Lakes on which she was in regular operation the next season between Oswego and Chicago while other propellers were being built in the Doolittle ship yard at Oswego.

Oliphant's "Whig" of Saturday, November 27, 1841, carried the following local item:

Ericsson Propellers

The new and elegant schooner Vandalia, to which is attached the above invention, built at this port the past summer by our enterprising fellow citizens, Messrs Bronson & Crocker, Mr. Doolittle and Captain J. VanCleve has just made her first

trip and has more than realized the most sanguine expectations of her owners and friends. The practicability of the application of the propellers for lake navigation has been fully tested, this vessel having been out in some of our roughest weather. Last Thursday she entered our harbor in fine style at the rate of 7 or 8 knots per hour, without any assistance but her propellers.

Another item of interest from the columns of the "Whig" of October 29, 1841 referring to the first church building to be erected in Oswego where it stood in the present "West Park" follows:

Incendiarism

"On Sunday night last between the hours of 11 and 12 o'clock the First Presbyterian Church was discovered to be on fire; and from the fact that those who arrived on the ground first, discovered a hole cut in one of the doors in order to shove back a bolt and thus gain entrance and no fire had been had on or about the premises for several weeks, not a doubt remains that it was the act of an incendiary.

"The house was being enlarged and otherwise improved and was nearly ready to be occupied. The building was entirely destroyed, and as the night was the most stormy we had had this fall, nothing but a change of wind and a fall of snow prevented the destruction of an immense amount of other property. Loss about \$5,000 without any insurance."

The "Whig" announces that a "citizen's meeting" was held on the following Monday evening to devise ways and means for the apprehension of the "offender", the incendiary who had set fire to the church. T. S. Morgan, former assemblyman and Alvin Bronson's partner in the milling business, was chairman and Thomas Beckman and George Seeley, secretaries. Resolutions were adopted requesting the village board to offer a reward of

\$50.00 for the apprehension and conviction of persons concerned and a committee of five was named "to assist the police in their efforts."

"The bell", the "Whig" continued, "although it fell with the burning structure from a height which led all to fear it was destroyed, is uninjured. It is seldom that we perpetrate doggerel; but this bell was for a long time our only one and has become identified with the history of our village." There is added a poem concerning the bell which may be the same as that which hangs in the belfry of the "Old First" Presbyterian church today although of this there is no proof.

"An incident of peculiar interest we should mention in connection with the fire", concludes the "Whig": The schooner Essex was out—owing to the darkness and snow of the night, was unable to discover our light house, and must have in all probability been lost but for the light of the fire which brought her safely to port."

Comparatively little is now available as to the early life of Daniel Ayer. He had grown up, probably, in or near the City of Rochester. His father died while he was yet young, and his mother had married as her second husband a man named Brigham. The latter also died leaving a family of children of whom one was Thaddeus S. Brigham who was later to be long and prominently identified with newspaper publishing in Oswego County. Ayer took T. S. Brigham into his own home to provide for him and taught him the printing trade in the plants of Ayer's various newspapers.

Ayer First In Pulaski

Daniel Ayer appeared in Pulaski in 1836 and purchased from James Geddes the type and equipment which had been used to print the "Pulaski Banner", the first newspaper to be published

in Oswego County outside of Oswego, that newspaper, founded in April 1830, having suspended publication in 1834 after having had several ownerships in the interim. Ayer used the "Banner's" equipment to establish the "Pulaski Advocate". In 1838 Mr. Ayer sold the "Advocate" to John L. and Asa C. Dickinson who had purchased the "Port Ontario Aurora" from E. J. Van Cleave in 1837. The Dickinsons moved the "Aurora" to Pulaski and consolidated it with the "Advocate" under the name of the "Advocate and Aurora". In 1840 Daniel Ayer again became owner of this publication when he dropped the name "Aurora" and the paper became known as the "Advocate" once again. In July 1842 Mr. Ayer, not finding the paper profitable, discontinued its publication.

From Pulaski Mr. Ayer removed to Fulton where on August 20 1842 he established the "Fulton Mirror". A few months later Ayer merged the "Fulton Sun" which had been founded in 1841 with his "Mirror" under the name of "The Fulton Sun and Mirror". After publishing weekly this newspaper until 1844, Ayer sold the Fulton paper to Spencer Munroe who soon discontinued it.

Ayer Returns To Oswego

When Ayer came to Oswego from Fulton in 1844 to purchase on September 27, from Richard Oliphant, "The Oswego County Whig," he was not, as we have previously learned, a stranger either at the "Whig" office or to Oliphant. For in May 1837, Ayer had joined with Oliphant in the purchase of the "Whig", established in Oswego in January of that same year, by A. Jones and Company whose interests Oliphant and Ayer purchased on May 9. Ayer had continued as a partner with Oliphant in this venture until the end of 1837 when he had sold out his interests to Oliphant in order to devote his attention to the "Pulaski

Banner" which he had previously established as an individual enterprise. Ayer, after selling his Pulaski "Banner" in 1838 had come to Oswego and resided here for about two years while working with Oliphant on the "Whig".

Location Of First Daily's Office

When Ayer took over from Oliphant the sole ownership of the "Whig" in September 1844, that newspaper office was located at No. 3 Phoenix Buildings at the Southwest corner of West First and Taurus (now Seneca) streets. The site today is a vacant lot, a building which formerly stood at that location as the successor of the earlier Phoenix Buildings, having been razed following a fire a decade or more ago. A manuscript of a paper read by the late G. C. McWhorter before the members of the Fortnightly Club half a century ago said "the Phoenix Buildings were a row of brick buildings extending (along West First street) from Seneca street South about three fourths of the way to Cayuga Street." The address was at the time of Ayer's purchase, also that of the Oliphant printing establishment. Ayer continued to issue the "Whig" from the same address, possibly from an office located on the second floor of the building. (Oliphant had issued the Oswego "Free Press" at least as early as January 1, 1834, from the same address). Here the "Whig" office was yet located when Ayer began publishing there early in 1845 the "Oswego Daily Advertiser", the first daily to be published in Oswego.

The "Oswego Daily Advertiser"

This newspaper consisted of four pages of seven columns each. The columns were both wider (two and one-half inches) and longer (twenty-three inches) than newspaper columns generally are today. The paper was well printed, and for its time, especially attractively arranged. Its banner proclaimed that the

"Advertiser" was "printed and published by Daniel Ayer at No. 3 Phoenix Buildings". Its mast-head set forth: "The Oswego Daily Advertiser" is printed at the Whig office at \$5.00 per annum in advance, \$3.00 for 6 months".

Among the more note-worthy articles appearing in one of the early issues were a "letter from William H. Seward to the Anti-Slavery Convention in Cincinnati", dated from Auburn, May 20, 1845; (Seward, former governor, who was to become Lincoln's Secretary of State and the man who negotiated the purchase of Alaska for the United States, was occasionally appearing in Oswego County Courts at this period;) "Bonaparte's Opinion of Christ"; Sam Patch's "Impressions on Seeing the Great Lakes — Contrast between the American and Canadian Sides", "Great Indian Council" at which "eleven of the wild tribes were represented but the Commanches and Pawnees refused to meet with them"; a report from the U. S. Sloop of War, St. Mary's, recently arrived at Galveston from Vera Cruz in which it is reported that the "Mexican Congress had adjourned for a short time without having taken any decisive steps towards resistance of annexation (of Texas to the United States) or made any preparations for war with the United States." Under a heading "Coast of Africa" appears an account of the murder of an officer and eight men of the "Wasp", (a British Man of War) by the crew of a slaver. Another article described the Free Trade Bazaar at Convent Garden in London at which were offered for sale among other things, silver knee-buckles which had been worn by Benjamin Franklin, a silver stock-buckle which had been worn by General George Washington and two autograph letters of General Washington, the text of one of which was printed in the "Ad-

vertiser". Other articles included correspondence from Washington relating to the then troubled relations with Mexico, one giving an account of the hardships met with by Dutch, Welsh and English emigrants "Now on their way from New York to the Interior", "Death From Tobacco", "Napoleon and French Industry".

The only specimen of what newspapers of today would describe as a "feature" offering in the Daily Advertiser was a "release" of "Mrs. Caudle's Curtain Lectures", a feature which continued to appear in daily and weekly newspapers in the United States until well after the turn of the next century. The occasion of this particular installment arose when "Caudle while walking with his wife, has been bowed to by a younger and even prettier woman than Mrs. Caudle". The characteristic text is quite entertaining.

Among the local news items set forth in the columns of the "Advertiser" were the following:

New Mail Route Opened

The mail is now carried daily between Oswego and Ogdensburg and Oswego and Lewiston by the steamboats. This arrangement, has been long needed and extends important accommodations to the public. Way mails are taken to the intermediate ports on the lake where the boats touch. The lake mails close at the office in this village at half past seven o'clock in the morning. We learn from the "New York Express" that the contract for carrying the mail on this route has been completed with the Lake Ontario Steamboat Company.

Clapsaddle vs. Brewster

Circuit Court—The evidence in this cause was brought to a close at 4 o'clock P. M. on Monday, and went to acquit the defendant of the mal-practice charged in the management in the plaintiff's broken thigh

bone. The Hon. William H. Seward then addressed the court and jury on the part of the defense till the evening recess after which he spoke till 10 o'clock in the evening, making altogether a speech of five hours, and a most able and triumphant argument. A. Z. McCarty, Esq., followed on the part of the plaintiff and spoke for three hours with eloquence and ability. The Honorable O. Robinson then gave in a speech of an hour the finishing strokes to the plaintiff's cause. The case was submitted to the jury on Tuesday morning by Judge Gridley, in a clear comprehensive presentation of the evidence and the law governing the case, which made decidedly in favor of the defendant.

The jury were unable to agree, and so informed the court in the afternoon. The Judge sent them out a second time, and they brought in a verdict of \$200 for the plaintiff to the astonishment of every one who heard the cause tried. The court adjourned after laborious session of nine days going through with the civil calendar of 49 causes which were disposed of in various ways. The cause of Clapsaddle vs. Brewster occupied more than one third of the session.

A Large Ox

The beef of Mr. Oliver's Ox which weighed 1817 lbs dressed, was exhibited in the market yesterday, and attracted a great many people to treat themselves with at least a look. It is small boned and thick meat and would grace any market. It is now selling at one shilling per pound.

Fire on Her Maiden Voyage

The Propeller Syracuse, Captain Williams, left here last evening for Chicago with over 100 passengers and merchandise. She stops at Rochester and will complete her load there, after touching at Pultneyville and Sodus.

***This is the second trip of the Syracuse from this port up. Her first trip was a successful one and she performed remarkably well. A slight accident happened while on her return upon Lake Michigan, which has been greatly exaggerated by the accounts of it. Some wood piled too close to the chimney took fire which communicated with, and burnt a little of the adjoining deck, before the fire could be extinguished. But the damage is very slight and nobody was hurt or lost.

Grateful Editor

We acknowledge with heart felt thanks, the receipt from Col. U. G. White, of a basket of most delicious Siberian Cherries, with a polite note, asking the Editor's acceptance. Such unmerited notice, is calculated to elevate one's self respect and make him think better of his profession.

Alert Reporter or Sleepy Editor?

An Oswego correspondent of the "Rochester Democrat" writes that "A sad affair occurred on Wednesday. A child was sent to a neighboring drug store for salts—by mistake saltpetre was put up. A young lady 16 years old, took the dose, and died a horrid death." This is probably true but new to us.

New Postage Law Increases Mail

All accounts concur in representing that the new law works admirably. In New York***the clerks in the post office had a busy time of it stamping and mailing letters. About five times the hitherto usual daily number of letters were 'taken up and done for' and the money receipts were probably as great as before or greater.***The postage on letters received at one of the (New York) banks was ninety five cents; the same letters, at the old rates would have cost five dollars and a half. The number mailed in Rochester on the

first day was 984. There is some increase in this village, the extent of which we have not ascertained.

The following letter to the "Advertiser" appears as a contribution:

For the Oswego Daily Advertiser

"The New York Truth Teller" of the 21st ult., contains an anonymous communication apparently written by a traveler dated Oswego June 5, 1845.

The writer must be very ignorant of facts concerned with the former Ordinances of your village or his bigoted ire would subside until better informed as to the party that oppressed the "poor men".

The following is an extract—"Last year the Whigs were in office, and every animal caught biting the grass outside its own fence was impounded for trespass on the city property—this year the Democrats rule, and poor men are permitted to keep their little stock unmolested. Why don't the Whigs be sometimes generous?"

It is fresh in the recollections of the Irishmen of Oswego, that during the "rule" of locofocoism in the year 1839 not only "every animal biting the grass was impounded for trespass", but the geese belonging to the poor, helpless widows were impounded by the notorious "Demijohn" Burns, whose untiring perseverance, and judicious arrangement day and night, in the superintendence of the swine and geese "pens" for their safe keeping, met the cordial approbation of the very liberal Democratic President Mr. Prall. Being a citizen of Oswego at the time, and knowing the too frequent turmoil of the poor women and children, in contending with the arbitrary poundmaster, (Burns), respecting the impounding of their geese, compels me to notice the article in the "Truth Teller".

DAVID M. NAGLE

Albany, July 1, 1845

The comment of the Editor of the "Daily Advertiser" upon the foregoing "letter to the editor" follows:

"Animals biting grass", and especially cows, have always we believe, been lawful commoners in the village of Oswego, under all sorts of administrations. A few years since the locos appointed a poundmaster in East Oswego, who boxed up and drove off cattle from the country, advertised and sold them without the knowledge of the owners, under a village Ordinance and ran away with the avails, another loco poundmaster in West Oswego, shut up a drove of hogs landed from a vessel, before the owner had time to drive them off, and refused to surrender them on order of the Village President. To regain possession the owner was compelled to replevy them. Such are the prominent features of our local history in relation to "animals", out of which the "Truth Teller's" New York demagogues can make what capital they please."

Strawberries

The veteran Capt. Nat Johnson has sent us some very superior strawberries in size and quality, from his Bloomingdale Garden. The captain is a man of commanding form, and noble bearing.

Immigration

On Tuesday of last week the Health Officer of the port of New York boarded vessels having on board 2687 steerage passengers! Of these 832 were Dutch and 1,755 from Great Britain and Ireland. The arrivals at New York on Monday and Tuesday were upwards of 3,000! — "This is a great country", but how long will it take to fill us up at this rate? The arrival of 1,500 per day in New York, and as many others at the other ports of the United States and Canada, will enorm-

ously increase Uncle Sam's interesting and miscellaneous family.

Texas Annexed

By yesterday's mail, we get the proceedings of the Texan Congress on June 21st, accepting unanimously, the terms of annexation offered by the government of the United States.

ANOTHER THIRD OF QUEBEC DESTROYED BY FIRE

Montreal Gazette Office

Tuesday Noon July 1, 1845

The steamer Queen which arrived shortly before eleven this morning, has brought us the painful intelligence of another disastrous Fire at Quebec, approaching in magnitude and value of property destroyed, to the calamity which has so recently called forth our sympathy. The extra we publish this morning contains the most copious details of this melancholy event we have been able to procure:

From our own correspondent

Monday, 30th June 1845.

It pleased the Almighty in his wisdom, to devastate our city on the 28th of last month, and it has again seen fit to Him to visit us with a scourge. On Saturday evening last, about eleven o'clock, a fire broke out in the back premises of M. Texsier, Notary, St. John Suburbs, which spread with unrelenting fury until nine o'clock the next morning, and which in its course consumed about 1300 dwellings, and, at the least, rendered homeless 6,000 persons! This in addition to the last fire be it understood. Human aid was to no avail. Water could not be obtained to any extent, and even when had was of little avail, owing to the rapid progress of the destructive element.

About thirty streets are now in ruins from this fire alone x x x The loss of life has not on this occasion been great. One man was killed by the blasting of a house by his own imprudence. Two oth-

ers have been reduced to a shapeless mass of cinders. Four or five persons died this day; two children, who were removed while sick, with fever; and two grown persons, who, it is said, died from the effects of fright.

Memorial Services For Andrew Jackson

Funeral ceremonies in honor of Gen. Jackson, took place in Albany on Monday. Although it rained and the day was unfavorable, the military were out, and the procession was large and imposing. The public offices and many of the stores were closed, and all classes seemed to have united in doing homage to the memory of the General. John Van Buren delivered the oration at the Capitol.

Died

In this town on the 26th ult. Catherine, daughter of Jacob I. Fort, aged 19 years.

In this village, on the 3rd inst. of consumption, Almira Fitch, aged 23 years.

In Scriba, June 26, Mrs. Rhoda, wife of Deacon Erastus Kellog, aged 69.

This news was being published in Oswego before the days of the telephone and of the telegraph. News from a distance was being largely received by letter mail, or through the means of "exchanges," ie—other newspapers with which the "Advertiser" exchanged complementary copies. Hence it was unavoidable that even the new daily newspaper was offering its readers first opportunity to learn of the Quebec fire several days after the event and of Texas action on annexation ten days after the action was taken. Nevertheless the "Daily Advertiser" carried nearly three quarters of a column of European news as received in Boston where the steamer Acadia arrived from Liverpool in 13 days bringing European

newspapers and fresh dispatches which announced that "the Maynooth Grant bill" had passed the House of Lords in London by larger majorities than it received in the House of Commons, despite the fact 10,075 petitions were filed against it containing 1,282,201 names. The bill awaited only the Royal consent to make it law. The French Legislature was somewhat concerned by the news of the pending annexation of Texas. There were further items about the cotton and corn markets; the importation into the United States, duty free, of leather "and casks of shoe pegs". Quotations appear from the Liverpool food market. "Accounts from Beyrout represent affairs in Syria as in a deplorable state. A civil war, and one of extermination, was raging in the mountains between the Druses and Christians".

Fulton Academy

The annual exhibition of this institution will take place at the Presbyterian Church in Fulton on Wednesday the 9th of July next. Services to commence at 10½ in the forenoon and recommence at half past one in the afternoon. No exercises in the evening. An address to the Alumni is expected from one of the first graduates, in accordance with the unanimous choice of the present members. Also a poem in introduction is somewhat expected from one of the old students, to conclude with an address of the Principal, if time permit.

The advertisements in the "Advertiser" are interesting. The Oswego and Chicago Line of Sailing Vessels plying between Oswego, Milwaukee, Racine, Southport, Chicago and Intermediate ports was putting up a valiant fight to hold business for the sailing craft in competition with the new Oswego and Chicago Steam Propeller Line established three years before.

The sailing craft with their masters were listed as follows: Brig "Hampton", G. F. Shattuck, master; Brig "Empire", J. W. Tuttle, master; Schooner "Poto-mac", John Davis, master; Schooner "Roscoe", George Chalmers, master; Schooner "Cuba", W. H. Manwaring, master. "These vessels are all new, substantial and of the first class" read the line's advertisement, "fitted up with large and commodious cabins, of superior finish, for the accommodation of families emigrating to the west." The line connected directly with New York by Oswego Line of Lake Boats via the Oswego and Erie canals. Henry Fitzhugh & Co. of Oswego and James Peck & Co. of Chicago were the owners.

De Lux Travel In 1845

Propellers operating between Oswego and Chicago that season with the same ports of call as those made by the sailing vessels were the "Racine" with Rufus Hawkins as master; "New York", T. Cornwell, master; "Vandalia", J. S. Warner, master; "Chicago", W. L. Pierce, master; "Oswego", D. H. Davis, master; "Syracuse", William Williams, master. "All have commodious cabins handsomely fitted up, which have been altered with special reference to the accommodation of families, and the Steerage sufficiently enlarged to furnish 75 passengers with good, comfortable berths between decks, avoiding the necessity of carrying any in the hold." Prices for passage and freight to Chicago from Oswego was set forth as follows: Cabin passage and found \$14.00; cabin passage not found \$10.00; Steerage, not found, \$6.00; Furniture and luggage, per barrel, \$1.00; two horses \$7.00; one horse wagons, \$6.00. The barrel bulk was estimated at 7 cubic feet. Four chairs were called one barrel; children between 2 and 12 years of age were half price. One half a barrel bulk of furniture or luggage is allowed

each full passenger, free; no charge is made for the freight of the bedding used by the steerage or deck passengers on their passage. A cooking stove "not exposed to the weather" was available for the use of those who wished to board themselves. Luggage was carried on the promenade deck at the risk of the passengers, so far as weather factors were concerned, at 75 cents for each barrel bulk. Doolittle, Mills & Co. of Oswego, were part owners of the "Racine" "New York", "Vandalia" and "Oswego" and Bronson & Crocker of Oswego were proprietors of the "Chicago".

Odd Lines Carried By Advertisers

Among the other advertisers whose "copy" appeared in the "Daily Advertiser" in its first few issues were J. Seeley, dry goods, oil cloth and paper hanging; James Sloan, bookseller and stationer in the Woodruff block; J. Wilger & Co, tan bark and sole leather; J. Bickford, looking glasses; Cooley & Crane "fuel saving, airtight railway and Troy Airtight Cooking stoves"; C. Severance, acutioneer; Mead & Carrington and C. & E. Canfield, druggists. A new firm of M. Harmon & Son is announced as Herman M. Harmon was taken into the business of his father then on April 1, located on West First but moved on April 19, to East Bridge street "one door from the corner and immediately adjoining the Commercial Bank". Luman Carpenter was a jeweler and book seller "on East Bridge street, nearly opposite the Oswego Hotel."

J. U. Lester repaired, he advertised "mariners compasses, accordions and other musical instruments". A. B. Merriam announced that he would carry on "The Hardware Store" in the old stand of Merriam & Prall in West Oswego; T. S. Lyons & Co. announced a new boot and shoe and hat shop at 2 Phoenix Buildings, "next

door to the 'Daily Advertiser' ". James Cochran announced that he would buy or sell sawed pine lumber and shingles at his dock in East Oswego. Dr. J. H. Allen, was a physician and surgeon with offices over S. Bently's store in East Oswego. James Platt, soon to become the first mayor of the city, was selling Marine Insurance. Cooley & Crane were selling provisions, dry goods, clover and timothy seed, they announced in a series of scattered advertisements. N. Millis was conducting his "Mammoth Boot & Shoe Store", underneath the sign of a gigantic boot suspended above the doorway to his store and featured in all his advertising. J. W. P. Allen was a surveyor, land agent and justice of the peace with offices in the Granite Buildings, East Oswego. Mrs. Stanley, just returned from New York, offered "genteel and fashionable millinery for sale cheap". Although they were druggists, the new firm of C. and E. Canfield, father and son, also announced that they sold "choice family groceries, sugar, tea, coffee, molasses, allspice, pepper, ginger, starch, citron, currants, shelled almonds, clover seed" and a few other articles on the side, not to mention "cider vinegar". Sutton & Co., sold merinos, hosiery, muslins, cloths, cassimeres, sattinets, vestings, mole-skins, shawls, cravats, Bombazines and gents scarfs.

J. M. Casey Was Practicing Law

J. D. Briggs sold groceries, provisions, hardware, cutlery, crockery, tin and wooden ware, earthen and stone ware, domestic goods, sheetings, shirtings, jeans, blue drillings and "fashionable cloth for summer wear." "As he does not wish (like many others)" the advertiser concludes "to puff, he would most respectfully invite the attention of all and they can judge for themselves." Mrs. Van Hoevenbergh has received her "spring supply of bonnets direct from New York consisting of Leghorn, Tuscan, Florence braids,

Neapolitans etc." Benjamin W. Ford was a watchmaker and engraver with his place of business nearly opposite the Commercial Bank building.

Giles & Wright were attorneys and solicitors at Cayuga and West First streets. Daniel H. Marsh and James Brown were lawyers, but not partners. John Fort had just established a new grocery store the preceding November on West Seneca street, one door up from First, where he also sold "fish, willow and wooden ware". John M. Casey, to become Oswego's first city clerk three years later, was now a justice of the peace and practicing law in the Woodruff Block.

J. M. Smith & Co. were operating a clothing store and also selling cloths for men's clothing, featuring broad cloths, fancy vestings, cassimeres and ready made clothing. They also made clothing to order at their store in West First street. Duer & Babock had been appointed the preceding April to represent the Mutual Life Insurance Company of New York in selling insurance; both men were to attain much prominence in Oswego's later life. Mead & Carrington were druggists succeeding P. H. Hard. Henry Adriance was selling books and magazines.

Moving Towards First Railroad

The Oswego and Syracuse Railroad was offering \$350,000 in stock to raise funds with which to build from Oswego to Syracuse the first rail line to reach Oswego. Shares \$50.00 each, one dollar down at time of signing up. Among the "commissioners" named for the road were: Alvin Bronson, David P. Brewster, Luther Wright, Sylvester Doolittle, Henry Fitzhugh, Thomas McCarthy, James R. Lawrence, George F. Falley, Philip Hart, Jr., Otis Bigelow, Ashbel Kellogg, John Wilkinson and B. Davis Noxon.

T. E. Grant was "always doing fancy dying yet living". A. G. Talcott was a jeweler, T. Ostrander,

a carpenter, John Tibbits and William Nichols, cabinet makers. R. C. Reales had a new cabinet shop. Pulaski's "Temperance House" kept in Jefferson street by Ira Allen solicited patronage.

Brothers Founded Seven County Papers

Two sons, borne by the same Rochester mother, were responsible for the establishment, or the nurturing through the formative periods of their existence, of seven Oswego County newspapers besides having interests in several other papers outside the limits of Oswego County. As Mrs. Ayer she gave birth to Daniel Ayer who founded the Pulaski "Advocate" in 1836 and the Fulton "Mirror" in 1842, besides having been associated with Richard Oliphant's "Whig" in Oswego during a part of the interim. Then in 1844 Daniel Ayer bought the "Whig" and in 1845 published from the same office the "Oswego Daily Advertiser."

As Mrs. Brigham, this mother, also gave birth to Thaddeus S. Brigham, who learned his trade as a printer under his half-brother, Daniel Ayer, in Oswego and elsewhere and eventually began founding Oswego County newspapers himself. Thaddeus Brigham with John A. Place of Oswego purchased the Fulton "Patriot" a few months after the paper established by Daniel Ayer as the Fulton "Mirror" merged first with the "Sun" as the "Sun and Mirror" and then under the management of M. C. Hough became the "Patriot".

In 1860 after disposing of the "Patriot", T. S. Brigham with another half-brother, William Ayer, of Oswego, went to Little Falls, N. Y., where they purchased in March 1861 the paper which had been the first to be established at Little Falls in 1821, then called "The People's Friend", but the name of which had later been changed (about 1831) to the "Mohawk Courier". Brigham and William Ayer continued to con-

duct the "Courier" until January 1, 1864 when they sold the paper to Jean R. Stebbins, then proprietor of the Little Falls "Journal" who consolidated the two papers under the name of the "Journal and Courier".

T. S. Brigham and William Ayer came at once to Oswego after disposing of the "Mohawk Courier" at Little Falls, and a month later Mr. Brigham, in association with others, established the "Oswego Commercial Advertiser" as a new daily, evening paper in Oswego. Less than two decades later, Brigham was to establish the "Morning Express" in Oswego—but we are getting ahead of our story.

Daniel Ayer Died in Little Falls

Daniel Ayer, after establishing the "Daily Advertiser" in Oswego in 1845 continued to publish the "Oswego County Whig" and the "Advertiser" until 1847. Where he spent the next 11 years of his life I have been unable to learn, but in 1858 he was in Little Falls as local editor and business manager of the Little Falls "Journal" which had been established at Herkimer in 1849 as the "Herkimer County Journal" and later removed to Little Falls. Benton's History of Herkimer County records: "Mr. Ayer injured his health by his arduous labor and died Jan. 1, 1861. On the 18th of the same month the establishment was purchased of Mr. Ayer's widow by Jean R. Stebbins. The paper was discontinued a few years ago."

On retiring from the "Daily Advertiser" and the weekly "Whig" in 1847 Daniel Ayer transferred both to C. D. Brigham. Because of the latter's surname, I am inclined to believe that he, too, was probably a relative of Daniel and William Ayer and of Thaddeus S. Brigham although just what that relationship was, if it existed in fact, we are today quite uncertain. C. D. Brigham may have been Daniel Ayer's step-brother whose father had married the widowed

Mrs. Ayer to become the father of Thaddeus Brigham; or he may have been an uncle by marriage of the Ayer brothers and Thaddeus Brigham, or possibly even another Brigham half-brother of the Ayer brothers, and an older brother of Thaddeus S. Brigham.

Mrs. Anthony Salladin of 94 West Cayuga street, Oswego, a niece of Daniel Ayer and of T. S. Brigham, as well, and a member of our Historical Society, is unable to recall exactly the status of C. D. Brigham's conjectured relationship to her uncles. Efforts to trace C. D. Brigham after he left Oswego, following a residence of about two years, have been unavailing. Records of the First Presbyterian Church of Oswego show that a Mrs. Brigham, unfortunately not further identified, although her first name may possibly have been Cornelia, joined that church by letter December 1, 1847 from the Baptist Church at Lockport, N. Y. (This date is probably soon after that on which C. D. Brigham made his first appearance in Oswego.) The Oswego church dismissed her in 1849 to a church at Troy, N. Y. This was probably about the time C. D. Brigham severed his business connection with the Oswego newspapers of which he was the titular head, at least, for about two years. On the other hand the Oswego directory of 1853 lists a Mrs. Brigham, a widow, as living on East 10th street. Perhaps she was the widow of C. D. Brigham and he may have died in Oswego. No one today that I could locate had knowledge of the facts.

Brigham Gives Paper New Name

When C. D. Brigham took over the "Advertiser", an evening newspaper and the "Oswego County Whig", a weekly, from Daniel Ayer in 1847, he changed the names of both papers shortly afterwards, the daily to the

"Times"" and the weekly to the "Oswego Commercial Times". He continued to publish both newspapers as supporters of the cause of the Whig party of the period.

J. N. Brown Joins "Times"

Friday June 30, 1848 the name of C. D. Brigham as sole owner of the "Daily Commercial Times" as he had been at the time Oswego became a city earlier that year, disappeared from the masthead of the paper to be replaced by the firm name of Brigham & Brown as the owners of the paper. The Brown was James N. Brown, a lawyer, who had recently come from Utica to Oswego. He became business manager of the paper while Mr. Brigham continued as editor. An editorial column announcement advised that Mr. Brown was entering the business and improvements in the paper were promised. Monday, September 18, the paper announced that James N. Brown had become "sole proprietor" and that there would be no change in editorial management, C. D. Brigham continuing as editor. Brown also took over and continued the weekly edition of the paper. Shortly afterwards he made the daily a morning paper, the first morning daily to be published in the county.

In April 1848 the "Oswego Commercial Times" was a four page evening daily newspaper with seven columns to a page. It was being printed in "the Woodruff block, corner West First and Cayuga, opposite Welland House, upstairs", the location now occupied by the Salvation Army's main building. The front pages consisted mostly of advertising matter, with an occasional bit of poetry or an essay upon some special subject. The back page was largely given over to legal advertisements and to patent medicine advertising. Page 2 carried the editorials and some general news matter. On page 3 would appear a small amount of telegraph news, and such local news as was carried. Deaths and

marriages were reported as regularly then as now, although in briefer form, but apparently births were too frequent or supposed to be of too little importance to be recorded. A considerable number of years had yet to pass before the newspapers of Oswego would begin recording births.

First City Council Session

In the "Commercial Times", issue of April 11, 1848, Editor C. D. Brigham recorded: "The first Common Council elected under the Oswego City Charter were sworn into office this morning. The Board of Trustees (of the retiring village government) which by the terms of the charter were required to meet and declare who were elected, having finished that business, Mr. President (D.C.) Littlejohn declared the Board dissolved and the keys of office were handed over to their successors—our City Fathers. The Mayor, (James Platt) having taken the oath of office, administered by Mr. Justice Whitney, the aldermen were then sworn in by the Mayor.

"The Mayor explained that as he had just received from the Village Board the documents needed to enable him to comply with the charter's requirements that he report to the aldermen on the financial and general affairs of the city he would take another occasion to make such statement.

"We congratulate our citizens that our Common Council is composed of practical, capable men who will apply themselves faithfully to the discharge of the important duties imposed on them. They come into office with much to be done and with a determination to do it in a manner that will be best for the permanent welfare of the city."

In the same issue there appears the call for the Whig district convention for the "West Assembly District" of Oswego County to which the town and wards

were invited to send five delegates each to meet in Fulton, April 25, to appoint delegates to represent the 23rd district in the Whig National Convention." The call was signed by H. Fitzhugh, chairman of district committee.

The Red Vessel Line advertised runs between Oswego and several Lake Erie ports. Facilities "to ship to every port on Lake Ontario by the American strs. "Lady of the Lake", "Rochester" and "Clinton" and Canadian strs "Thomas", "Transit", "England", "Ireland" and "Queen Victoria".

Seek Location For Recorder's Court

The Common Council of the new city had met with the following present: Mayor, James Platt; and Alderman Hunter Crane, G. Mollison, S. H. Lathrop, Robert Oliver, George S. Alvord, John Boigeol, Samuel R. Taylor and W. S. Malcom. In "executive session" James M. Casey was elected City Clerk and Nehemiah Dodge, Marshall. The "Oswego Commercial Times" was designated to publish the official notices of the city. On motion by Alderman Lathrop a committee authorized named "to procure a room for the Council's meetings, was instructed to report what may be necessary to be done to prepare a room for the Recorder's Court and also Supreme Court when in session in the City."

It was announced that the steamer "Genesee Chief" would run throughout the season between Oswego and Chicago; that the fare by stage to Rome over the plank road was \$2.00; that fresh oysters had just been received and were for sale at the Washington Saloon; that Mead & Carrington's drug store was at No. 2, Woodruff Block.

Telegraph News Items: "New York 3 P. M. Congress—In Senate Hale presented abolition petition and also one that Congress should prohibit slavery and monarchy on this continent—It was referred to the Senate Com. on

Foreign Relations. A message from the president to the Senate reporting the number killed, wounded and died of disease in the Mexican War.

"In House motions made to suspend the rules in order to permit the taking up of the Senate Joint Resolution of sympathy for the French people" (The proclamation of the French Republic had just been made.)

New York Markets quotations as of 3 P. M. were set forth as follows: "Flour, \$6.25 to \$6.50 a barrel; it is not easy to get 6.37½ for Genesee"; Rye 75c bu; oats 46 to 48c per bu.; Pork 300 lbs. prime \$8.25; lard 6 3-4 lb; Ashes, steady; Wheat, something off \$1.40 bu.

Among the advertisers in this issue were China Hall, the (old) Welland, Penfield, Lyon and Co., Cooper & Barbour, forwarders and commission merchants, dealers in ship chandlery and groceries, salt water lime and plaster, Water St., West Oswego, C. C. Cooper and T. Barbour; William P. Irwin, Cheney Ames and Hunter Ames, and James Sloan, had offices in the Woodruff Building, First Street.

Plank Road Projected

Notice is given of the election of directors of a company which projects a plank road to be constructed "from Oswego to the guide board near the residence of Simon C. Place in the town of Oswego, thence by two branches one to the village of Hannibalville in the town of Hannibal and the other to the village of Sterling Centre in the town of Sterling in the County of Cayuga", the meeting to be held at the Public House of J. McCoy in the Town of Oswego the 10th day April next. Signatures attached to the call included Wm. J. Pardee, A. Wooster, William Lewis, Jr., N. Cary, L. Babcock, F. T. Carrington, Thomas Skelton, J. Richardson, Wm Keville, J. C. Wright, J. B. Sprague, Myron Pardee.

Horace Greeley's Oswego Visit

From the January 1, 1850 issue of the "Daily Commercial Times" we learn that Horace Greeley, famed editor of the New York Tribune, will "lecture tomorrow evening at Franklin Hall in this city." Next day the paper contained no reference to Greeley's appearance except that the County Agricultural Society had postponed its annual meeting scheduled for the night before "by reason of Mr. Greeley's visit." The second day later, however, there was a news item about three inches in length referring to Greeley's address on "Self Culture" which he had given in "Franklin Hall, formerly the Tabernacle" (The "Tabernacle" stood in West 2nd street on the Vulcan Iron Works property about where the new "Oswego Theater" now stands; fire destroyed the building in March 1867) The paper said: "Mr. Greeley delivered one of the finest lectures we have ever listened to. It was characterized by good sense, profound thought and contained good advice for the rising generation."

Greeley was the house guest of Mayor D. C. Littlejohn while here.

This same issue also carried seven and three-quarter columns of hand set matter containing the annual message of Governor Hamilton Fish. It also included an editorial on the governor's message. However, it contained no telegraph news. The reason for this lack seems to have been that through the dull, winter months when commerce was inactive the newspaper dropped its telegraphic news report probably because of its great expense; for we read in the April 11, 1850 issue: "With the opening of April, and also the business season, we commence the publication of our usual telegraphic dispatches. They are of great importance to our business men, and yet a heavy item of expense for which there is not usually here any increased compensation."

Just before this announcement appeared the paper had announced on April 2, 1850: "To the public — We, the undersigned, have this day formed a co-partnership under the name of Brown & Rowe as proprietors and publishers of this paper." James N. Brown, Nathan M. Rowe. The name of Winthrop P. Atwill appeared at the top of the newspaper's masthead as editor, C. D. Brigham's name as editor having disappeared from the masthead late in the year 1848.

"Othello" was announced in the same issue to be given by a traveling cast of players at Franklin Hall Friday evening June 28 "at 7½". Admission 25 cents.

Ship 900,000 Barrels Of Flour By Water

The paper announces lumber exports from Oswego in 1849 were 48,316,000 board feet as compared with 31,000,000 feet in 1848. Flour exports "by canal and coastwise including 80,000 barrels shipped from Oswego Falls, 900,000 barrels.

In its early days issued as an evening newspaper, "the Commercial Times" was in 1852 being issued as a morning newspaper, perhaps because of the fact that the "Palladium" daily which had been launched in 1850 by Beman Brockway was then published in the morning field. Telegraph news for newspapers in the era from 1848 onwards for a period of a few years while the new means of communication was being thoroughly developed and perfected seems not to have been always dependable. April 11, 1848 under its heading "Telegraph" the paper records "No report—Interruption between Albany and New York". Also, seemingly, the editor must have had some unpleasant experience at the hands of some irate subscriber who complained of the reliability of the telegraph news for in 1852 we find the following notice appearing in small type directly under the "Telegraph"

heading: "Reported expressly for the Daily Times by the Morse Line. We wish it distinctly understood that we are not responsible for authenticity of any item published under our telegraphic head."

Amusements Of The 1850's

An advertisement appearing in the "Times" May 22, 1850 proclaims: "Last Night of Mr. Winchell at Academy Hall. This evening commencing at 8. Admission 25 cents. Also "Raymond & Co. and Van Amburgh's Long Established Menageries" are announced to appear in Oswego Wednesday, May 29, at Fulton, May 23 and Mexico, May 30. Among the features announced are a polar bear, 14 lions, rhinoceroses and "the beautiful elephant, Tippoo Sultan".

Oswego's Golden Age

The far-sighted James N. Brown, when he became publisher of the "Commercial Times" in 1848 by purchase from C. D. Brigham, undoubtedly foresaw that Oswego with 6,000 population in 1848, and only just having become a city in that same year, was entering upon an era of growth and expansion which would make the ownership of the "Commercial Times" newspapers desirable from a business standpoint. As matters turned out, Oswego was just entering the "golden-age" of its prosperity. It was to see its greatest period of growth and development in the next decade, which was to witness such events as the establishment of the Kingsford starch industry and the opening of the Oswego and Syracuse Railroad in 1848, the organization of the City School System, creation of Oswego Orphan Asylum in 1853, the establishment of the City Bank in 1850, the Marine Bank in 1856, the Lake Ontario Bank in 1857 and the Oswego City Savings Bank in 1859; the erection of the Federal Building in 1856-7, the Gerrit Smith Public Library in 1856, the establishment in 1853

by Talcott and Underhill of the industry now known as the Ames Iron Works, the rebuilding in 1853 of the flour mills and grain elevators on the East Side burned on July 5th of that year, bringing the elevating capacity of the Oswego elevators to 50,000 bushels an hour and the storage capacity to 2,500,000 bushels and the capacity of the 17 flour mills to 10,000 barrels daily. Christ church was erected in 1854-1857, the Church of the Evangelist in 1852, First Methodist church in 1850, St. Mary's church in 1849; Congregational church 1857; East Methodist (Trinity) church 1850; three ship building yards were flourishing, and the port of Oswego was receiving from 50,000,000 to 60,000,000 board feet of lumber a year with the figure rising in 1860 to over 108,000,000 feet. There were over 100 steamers, vessels etc, exclusive of barges, owned in Oswego in 1852. The value of lake trade in Oswego rose from \$8,000,000 in 1845 to \$50,000,000 in 1856. In 1852 wharves and docks extended over an area one mile long. In 1860 4,664 vessels entered the port carrying 1,018,309 tons. Imports of wheat rose from 3,642,683 bushels in 1848 to 6,525,309 in 1852. In the decade between 1850 and 1860 the population of Oswego doubled.

J. N. Brown Active For 20 Years

During the period of about 20 years that he was active in Oswego's life James N. Brown had other interests than the "Times" newspapers with which he was connected in divers capacities throughout most of that period. He was elected alderman from the Third Ward of Oswego in 1852 and through successive re-elections he served in that capacity through 1855. Later he was appointed collector at Oswego for the canal, a state office. In 1859 when he was recalled for the final time from other affairs to take charge of the "Times"

during the Civil War period, he was a steamship agent with an office at the foot of East Seneca Street. His home was at 106 West Third Street. When he finally retired from the "Times" in 1865, he continued his home here for something over a year thereafter. He then left Oswego. I have been unable to trace his later life.

"Times" Office in 1848

Prior to the time that Mr. Brown first became owner of the "Times", in 1848 the paper which Daniel Ayer had bought from Richard Oliphant in 1844, the "Whig", had been removed from No. 3 Phoenix Buildings where the Oliphant printing enterprises had been located some time prior to 1831 and where Ayer, still continuing publication of the paper at Oliphant's address, had produced the first issues of the "Oswego Daily Advertiser" early in 1845, to the Woodruff Block at the southeast corner of West First and Cayuga streets. The building extended back from First street east to Water street, and the "Times" was being published on the second floor of this stone building when Brown became identified with the paper. The removal to this location had been accomplished sometime after 1845, and probably in 1847, either by Daniel Ayer himself while he was still owner, or by C. D. Brigham to whom Ayer had sold his interests in 1847. An advertisement published by the "Oswego Daily and Weekly Commercial Times" in Oswego's first city directory, issued in 1852, gives the location of the newspaper office in that year as "West Cayuga and Water streets in the large stone building opposite Mollison & Hastings Forwarding House". Still standing in 1942, this building is now owned by the Salvation Army by which it used to provide sleeping quarters for transients. The "Times" papers, under some variations as to name, continued to occupy this location in the Woodruff Block until 1860.

In 1852 Mr. Brown as publisher was issuing the "Daily Commercial Times" on a steam-driven Hoe printing press "capable of 2,000 impressions an hour", as the newspaper's directory advertisement announced. "The press and engine", it was added, were "located on the first floor of the building, with the business office on the second floor along with the 'Commercial Reading Room' and the third floor devoted to the printing and job printing department." (The "reading room" provided newspapers and magazines of the period for the perusal of interested parties in return for an annual fee paid to the newspaper for the privilege.)

People's Journal Founded

In 1849, a year after Brown had purchased the "Commercial Advertiser and Times" the "People's Journal", a weekly newspaper had been founded on Oswego's East Side by (Emmet) O'Leary & Dean. Leroy A. Winchester had purchased the paper in 1850, and in 1851 had resold it to Sumner & Poucher, C. S. Sumner, a printer then residing at 92 West Third street, and Thaddeus Poucher of 75 West Fifth street. Sumner had at one time been associated with Beman Brockway in the "Palladium". In 1851 Sumner & Poucher started publication of the "Oswego Daily News" in connection with their weekly. In 1852 L. A. Winchester repurchased the "People's Journal" from Sumner & Poucher and changed the name of the "Daily News" once more, this time to that of the "Daily Journal."

Times And Journal Appears

The "Commercial Times" was sold February 17, 1854 by James N. Brown to Winchester & Ferguson, who merged the paper with the "Daily Journal", under the name of the "Oswego Times and Journal", the weekly publication "The People's Journal" being suspended although the weekly "Times" was continued. The daily continued to be

published in the evening field, and was very similar in its format and appearance to the "Commercial Times". It carried telegraph news as had the "Commercial Times" from its earliest days which followed soon after the perfection of the telegraph by Morse in 1844. Ira D. Brown, who had been associated with J. N. Brown in the "Commercial Times" as editor became editor of the "Times & Journal." Associated with Leroy A. Winchester in the ownership of the newly merged newspaper was Thomas Ferguson who previously had been employed by J. N. Brown for several years as a printer on the "Commercial Times".

In a signed statement appearing at the top of the editorial column of the first issue of the "Times & Journal" under that name J. N. Brown says that he is "entering retirement after nearly six years as publisher of the 'Daily Commercial Times' under arrangements that have been perfected". He speaks a good word for the new owners, referring to Mr. Winchester "as a young man with perseverance and mechanical skill" who has published the "Journal" for two years and stating that Thomas Ferguson had been employed by Brown for five years. Brown states that he is retiring to give his attention to the settlement of other affairs that have been pressing him for six years.

Hull Is New Editor

The new owners announce that Chester Hull and who had been one of the founders and editors of the "Oswego Commercial Herald" in 1837 and who at different periods had been previously connected with both the "Commercial Times" and the "Journal" would be the new editor. (Hull was later to be the author of an excellent short "History of Oswego" published in 1862 as a feature of A. D. Brigham's Oswego Directory. Mr. Hull's son "Chet" Hull, Jr. was City Editor of the "Advertiser and Times" in the late

60's. He himself was the first librarian of the Gerrit Smith Public Library.) Simultaneously the paper came out in a spic and span new type dress, much to the improvement of its appearance.

Prior to the sale by J. N. Brown of the "Commercial Times" to Winchester & Fergusson, Brown had been making use only of the name "Oswego Daily Times" in the masthead of his newspaper which was referred to in the ordinary parlance of the period only as the "Times" and not by its complete name. July 1, 1852 Brown had admitted to some degree of ownership in the property William B. Buckhout, later a commission merchant and merchant miller of Oswego, and the ownership of the paper was set forth as James N. Brown & Co. Buckhout, the editor, was living at 65 West Third Street. January 4, 1854 the name of Mr. Buckhout as editor disappeared from the masthead of the paper and the name of James N. Brown once more appears alone as publisher and proprietor until transfer of ownership to Winchester & Ferguson was made the following month.

The "Times and Journal" was published by Leroy A. Winchester and Thomas Ferguson, after this firm had purchased the "Oswego Daily Times" from James N. Brown in 1854, at the former office of the "Times" at the southwest corner of West Cayuga and Water streets "in the large stone building opposite the Doolittle Block."

Daily Journal Published on East Side

The "People's Journal" prior to this time had been printed in an office in the "Granite Block" on East Bridge Street, "opposite the City Hotel". The first named paper had been started in March 1849 by O'Leary and Dean, but before the year closed the control had passed to C. S. Sumner & Co. Sometime during 1849 C. S. Sumner & Co., established

"The Oswego Daily Journal" which was prepared and printed in the same office as the "People's Journal", the weekly publication associated with the "Daily Journal". Winthrop Atwill was the editor of both newspapers. The eight column papers put out by the "Oswego Daily Journal" and the "People's Journal" were probably the first eight column papers to be printed in Oswego county. After these papers were absorbed by others there was to be a lapse of nearly 75 years before eight column papers again became familiar through the adoption by the "Oswego Daily Times" of this format in 1923.

Johnson's "History of Oswego County" states that L. A. Winchester became the owner of the "Journal" papers in 1850, and that Sumner & Poucher again took them over in 1851 when they changed the name of the daily publication from the "Journal" to the "Oswego Daily News". In 1852 Winchester was again the owner of the papers and restored the name "Daily Journal" to the daily publication, continuing the designation of the "People's Journal" for the weekly. The papers bore these names when on February 17, 1854 L. A. Winchester formed a partnership with Thomas Ferguson to buy the "Oswego Daily Times" and the weekly "Times" from James N. Brown, the name of the resulting daily publication being changed to the "Oswego Times and Journal". The daily dropped the "and Journal" portion of its name July 21, 1856 and it was known thereafter for several years merely as "Oswego Daily Times".

The edition of the "People's Journal" bearing date of January 2, 1850 announces:

New Line of Steamers

The Jenny Lind, the first of the new line of steamers, designed to run between Detroit, Oswego and Ogdensburg, has just been contracted for at Buf-

falo. She will be 142 feet long and 26 feet in breadth and made capable of passing the Welland Canal. She will be ready for navigation in May and will facilitate intercourse between Detroit and Oswego.

Merry Christmas—Its Observances

The day in this city was ushered in by merry peals from the new chime of bells in the tower of St. Paul's Catholic Church on the East side. They were rung often during the day. The tone of each of them is unlike, but all are in harmony. During the day, the various Churches of the Episcopal and Catholic denominations were opened and filled with attentive worshippers. They were decorated with appropriate ornaments, and the services were suited to the season. After the religious exercises, the day was given up to festive entertainments and social greetings.

The same paper advised that at a meeting of the Common Council held on December 26, 1849 Alderman Cooper had offered a motion to provide "an additional section (No. 11) of Chap. 8 of the ordinances restraining animals from running at large "which was adopted". Said section limits the operation of the 10th section to that part of the City lying north of Utica street, and between 3d st. on the east and 3d street on the west side of the river. "A resolution was also adopted limiting the number of Commissioners of Deeds to be appointed in the city to four. The aldermen then elected Daniel H. Marsh, Charles Rhodes, John L. Lake and Robert Simpson as such commissioners."

Winchester & Furguson published the "Times and Journal" for three and one half years, changing the name of the paper once again during the latter part of their ownership to that of the

"Oswego Daily Times". During the latter years of their control Ira D. Brown was the editor of the newspaper. It was this Brown who was to be recalled several years later to become again editor of the paper, then under a new ownership, but with the nation facing the crisis brought on by Civil War.

The "Times" was a seven-column, four-page paper during the mid-1850's. Both its front and back pages were made up solidly of advertising, all editorial comment and news matter being carried on the two inside pages. Much space was devoted in the news columns to marine news, canal clearances and the news of trade and commerce with half a column devoted to dispatches received by "magnetic telegraph". "The 'Oswego Daily Times' is the only paper in Oswego that receives the daily news and market reports by telegraph", the paper boasted. It also claimed a circulation "double that of any other daily in the city."

Riverside Cemetery Opened

Riverside Cemetery had only recently been created and a notice in the advertising columns of the edition of June 15, 1857 advised: N. B. Everts, Esq., has been appointed superintendent of the above named cemetery, and persons wishing to purchase lots will find him in attendance on the grounds at all hours during the day. x x x The Cemetery is situated on the East Bank of the Oswego River just south of the corporate limits of the city. x x x The cooperation of our citizens will enable the Oswego Rural Cemetery Association to make this take rank with the most beautiful of the Rural Cemeteries of our State." The notice was signed by John C. Churchill as secretary.

Other items in the same issue read:

The Theatre

We hear but one opinion expressed by our intelligent citizens

concerning the play of Pizzarro, on Saturday evening, and that is that in every part it was the best piece of acting ever seen in Oswego. Aside from the excellence of Mr. Eddy as a tragedian, the stock company is better than that of one half those in New York city.

A TERRIBLE WHIRLWIND

Probable Loss of Life

Buildings Unroofed—Trees Up-
turned Shovels and Tree Tops
Flying Through the Air

IMMENSE LOSS OF PROPERTY

The Comet Supposed To Have
Struck! !

During the prodigious storm of rain which deluged the earth on Saturday afternoon, one of the most remarkable and destructive whirlwinds we have ever heard of visited the section of country lying to the southwest of this city in the town of Oswego. From actual observations made yesterday upon the spot, together with information, we obtained from the most reliable authority, we give a brief statement of the affair.

The tornado commenced at a point five miles southwest of the city near the residence of Mr. Peter Simmons. During the storm two large clouds were observed rushing together with immense force; the noise of their collision resembled the report of a cannon. The wind seems to have leaped from the clouds, and descending towards the earth, the entire roof of a barn belonging to Mr. Simmons was taken off and the fragments, boards, shingles and pieces of rafters, strewed along for the distance of one and a quarter miles.

The whirlwind next struck the dwelling house of Mr. James Cole, tore out the gable end and

took up the building, actually turning it half around on the foundation! Incredible as this appears, it is strictly true and the front door of the house which formerly opened toward the street now opens into a lot adjoining the yard. Mr. and Mrs. Cole were absent at the time leaving the two children in the house. They found their children unharmed except from fright.

The orchard of Mr. Oliver Foster was next in course. This was completely prostrated, some of the trees taken up and tossed hither and thither at the sport of the destroyer, and tops of trees sent flying through the air at great distances. x x x

A German teamster named Martin Schwader in the employ of Mr. Furniss who owns a saw-mill in that region was loading staves in a wagon, Mr. Furniss helping him when the attention of the two men was attracted by a singular noise. Looking upwards they saw a common barn shovel flying through the air over their heads about 30 feet from the ground and swirling around in a most singular manner. Naturally enough their eyes were riveted upon this remarkable phenomenon and the next instant a maple tree standing nearly its length from the wagon, was caught up by the wind and the top of it thrown across the wagon, knocking the teamster down and throwing Mr. Furniss to the ground. The top of the tree was cut away and the unfortunate German found lying bleeding from the head upon the staves and insensible. It is thought he can not survive.

After this bloody exploit the tornado sped on to the wood-lot of about 10 acres owned by Gilbert & Penfield. Throughout the whole ten acres there is not a tree left standing, while their tops were broken off and carried through the air to an incredible distance. Mr. Gilbert perceiving the devastation and every movable thing flying about through

the air, rushed to the house and called upon the family to come out as soon as possible "For the comet has struck and your time upon Earth is short". He is probably considerably astonished to find himself upon this sublunary sphere today, after having fully made up his mind to leave it for—he knew not where.

The whirlwind next attacked two barns belonging to Mr. Henry Rowe, and utterly destroyed both. One of them was carried bodily for about four rods where it fell to the earth a heap of ruins. The other barn was broken in pieces and strewn about in all directions. Mr. Rowe also appears to have been struck with the same idea concerning this remarkable phenomenon. Mounting his horse, he rode to Fitch's Corners and hurriedly inquired of those he met if they did not believe the Comet had struck. Considering the fact of these wonderful occurrences happening on the 13th of June—the day set by a German astronomer for the destruction of the earth—it is not to be wondered at that a somewhat credulous man should entertain this idea, placed in these singular and appalling circumstances.

Beyond the barns of Mr. Rowe the course of this whirlwind is marked distinctly to the Oswego river, by upturned trees, here and there, through orchards and woodlots but after getting about a mile East of Mr. Rowe's residence its principal fury seems to have been spent, and its traces disappeared entirely upon reaching the river.

Such is a brief but truthful account of a whirlwind which we do not believe ever had its equal on this globe for fury and prodigious power, and which stretched over a section of about five miles, marking its course with destruction to everything that came in its way. The loss of property can not be less than \$25,000.

Under date of August 31, 1857 there appeared the following items in the "Times":

Guards Visit Fulton

The Oswego Guards and the German Military Company departed for the encampment at Fulton by the twelve o'clock train. We doubt not that their appearance upon the ground will do credit to the city. The Oswego & Syracuse Railroad will during the present week take visitors to the Fulton Encampment at half the usual fare.

Funeral of Mrs Cochrane

The burial of Mrs. Cochrane took place yesterday. There is seldom seen in our streets a larger funeral cortege than that which accompanied her remains to their last resting place. An impressive discourse was delivered upon the occasion by the Rev. Mr. Schuyler.

How Folks Entertained Themselves

In an amusement way, matters seem to have been looking up in Oswego at this time for the advertising columns of the "Times" reported that: "Jordan's New Theater" will offer on the evening of August 31, a play "The Miller's Maid" to conclude with the "Immortal Toodles". Price of admission was 50 cents for the dress circle, 25 cents for the parquette; Private Boxes \$3.00. Doors open at 7½; curtain rises at 8 o'clock. On the same evening at Doolittle Hall a "Grand Exhibition of Fancy and Philosophical Glass Working, Spinning & Blowing" was to take place. It was announced: "A steam engine made entirely from glass will be kept in operation during each exhibition."

Tarbell Buys "Times"

Winchester & Ferguson sold their "Oswego Daily Times" Sep-

tember 3, 1857 to Jonathan Tarbell who came to Oswego as a stranger at that time, but who soon took hold of the paper with such a vigorous hand that his arrival augured well for its future. His plans for further upbuilding the paper, however, were to be unduly cut short a few years later by the threatened development of the Civil War by him wholly unanticipated when he first came to Oswego.

Tarbell came from the town of Moriah in Essex County, N. Y., where he had been born in 1820 as the son of Daniel Tarbell, a native of Vermont, who had moved into New York State and acquired large holdings of land, and was operating a large saw mill at Moriah. Jonathan Tarbell had been trained for the law, and he was a member of the state bar when he appeared in Oswego at the age of 36 years as the new owner of the "Times". He brought with him his bride, Eugenie, aged 32, also a native of Vermont, and their three-year-old son, Frederick. They took up their residence at 33 West Mohawk street.

Tarbell Makes Brown Editor

The new publisher soon employed James N. Brown, the former publisher of the "Commercial Times" as editor of the "Daily Times" as the paper was named during the greater part of the period of the Tarbell ownership. The paper showed marked improvement, both in its appearance and content matter under the new ownership. It began to carry more "display" advertising than it had formerly, and adopted a style of make-up that was more "modern" for the period. Especially was this true of the headings placed on the "stories." "Letters to the editor" began to be published with some frequency. In 1858 the "Times" proclaimed in a notice appearing directly under the "standing-head" which designated its telegraphic news department in the paper, "Latest

News by Magnetic Telegraph"; 'The Oswego Daily Times' is the only paper in Oswego that receives daily news and market reports by telegraph."

George W. Fosdick was announced as circulation manager of the paper January 5, 1858, as the successor of C. S. Sumner whose acquaintance we have previously made as a one-time part owner of the "Palladium" during Beman Brockway's first year of ownership and later on as one of the owners of the "People's Journal" and the "Oswego Daily Journal."

March 22, 1858, the paper resumed one of its former names as "Oswego Commercial Times" simultaneously decking itself out in a new type "dress" which still further improved the appearance of the paper. The new type was slightly larger and afforded more white space between the lines, thereby improving its legibility. In commenting upon the changes in his editorial column Mr. Tarbell expressed the hope that the business men would indicate their appreciation of the improvements by according the paper a larger financial support through their advertising.

Two items of maritime interest taken from the columns of the "Oswego Commercial Times" of September 20 and 22, 1858, follow:

Arrival Of Barque Chieftan From Liverpool, England

"The American barque 'Chieftan', B. S. Wolvin, master, which left Liverpool on the 27th of July, for the lakes, arrived in this port early yesterday morning with 291 tons of salt. The 'Chieftan' was forty one days in her passage from Liverpool to Quebec, and 56 days through to Oswego, including detention at Montreal some five days." Half a column of entries from the "Chieftan's" log followed in the newspaper.

Quickest Sailing Trip On Record

Captain James Caldwell of the brig "H. E. Mussey" has made

the quickest sailing passage ever effected from Cleveland to this port, having made from port to port in 57 hours. The "Flight" made her passage in 60 hours. The brig "Isabel" also made it in the same time, and the schooner "Medbury" made her first trip in 59 hours. Thus the "H. E. Mussey" owned by Mr. Dickinson of Cleveland and sailed by Captain Caldwell, now bears off the palm by fully two hours and he says he can do it again.

Says the "Commercial Times" of Nov. 8, 1860:

Business

So large a fleet of sail and canal craft as is collected today never was seen in Oswego Harbor before. The port really presents the appearance of a section of the New York docks. . . . The receipts of grain and lumber for the past three days have been immense, yet our facilities do not appear to be overwhelmed and steady and rapid transshipment is progressing. . . . The general business of Oswego was never in a more prosperous condition.

In its issue of December 3, 1860, the "Commercial Times" says:

Washington Block Burned

"At a few minutes before 2 o'clock this (Monday) morning fire broke out in the Washington Block (formerly the Stitt Block) on West First Street north of the Post Office which was first discovered in the stairway between the stores of H. and W. Adriance. Dr. Murdock who slept in his office on the ground floor was the first to discover the fire. The alarm was quickly sounded and the fire department was soon on the ground. And in less than half an hour the walls of the Stitt Block fell in with a tremendous crash. The north wall toppled over upon the Lawrence Hotel, crashing through the roof with tremendous force. Three or

four persons in the building . . . escaped. The firemen worked under great hardships without water and the flames spread to the building at the corner of First and Oneida streets owned by John Thurman and occupied by M. D. West as a cabinet-ware and picture frame factory." Losses aggregating \$47,850 fell upon the following: H. Adriance bookstore and bindery; W. H. Adriance book store; Oswego County Bible Society; Mrs. Lawrence and Joseph Owen (Lawrence Hotel); Butler Gale & Co., druggists; M. D. West cabinet-ware rooms; James Thurman, Dr. Murdock, Charles Keller, tools; J. M. Casey, law office; S. R. Town, billiard saloon; J. S. Dunning, George Maennecke, tobacconist; Russell & Quackenbush; Thomas Aiken, saloon; J. J. Brown, umbrella maker.

Tarbell Made Brigadier General

Jonathan Tarbell August 23, 1860 sold the "Commercial Times" to James N. Brown, who had been his editor, and who had retired from the ownership of the paper only in 1854. While early histories of the county intimate that the approach of the Civil War had much to do with the hastening the change in ownership, judging from the fact that Mr. Tarbell continued as a resident of Oswego for nearly a year after the sale was completed this assertion is robbed of something of its likelihood. Apparently he did not include with the sale the job printing equipment which had belonged to the paper, for an advertisement appearing in a city directory of the period indicates that this remained in the office quarters which the newspaper soon vacated and was used there for some time in an exclusively job printing shop conducted at least under Tarbell's name at the old West Cayuga and Water Street newspaper address. However, in May, 1861, Tarbell took an active part in the enlistment in Oswego County of companies which became a part of the 24th

Regiment of New York Volunteer Infantry. He became major of this regiment which was "mustered in" at Elmira May 16, 1861 after having left Oswego a few days before that time.

Tarbell "made-good" as a soldier as well as a newspaper publisher. He subsequently was transferred from the 24th Regiment to the 91st Regiment of New York Volunteers of which he became the colonel and in which he served till the end of the war. He was breveted a brigadier general at that time.

Tarbell Judge Of Mississippi's Highest Court

"After the war Tarbell settled in Scott County, Mississippi, where he took up intensively the active practice of his profession as a lawyer. In early life he had been admitted to the bar in New York State but he had practiced but a short time in his native State if, indeed, he practiced here at all. Of his life in Mississippi, Dunbar Rowland says in his "Mississippi," comprising Sketches of Counties, Towns, Events, Institutions and Persons arranged in Cyclopedic Form, in Vol. III at Page 764:

"In 1869 he was appointed probate judge by Gen. Ames, and a justice of the supreme court by Governor Alcorn in 1870. 'He was a man of fair ability and extraordinary industry, a ready and voluminous writer,' says Garner. Senator Lamar wrote that he was esteemed in Mississippi as an upright judge and his reputation for integrity was unquestioned. After the action of the legislature in 1876 providing for age retirement, he resigned and removed to Washington, D. C., where he died."

Vol. II of the same work says on Pages 449-50: "The constitution of 1869 created, as did the constitution of 1817, a 'Supreme Court,' of three judges. The power to select these judges and all others was again delegated; but to the Governor, by and with the

advice and consent of the senate, not to the legislature, as in 1817-32. The term of the supreme judges was to be nine years, but to begin with, to secure individual alternation, the terms were respectively, three, six and nine years. The terms of the Supreme Court were to be held at the seat of government twice a year. Governor Alcorn's appointees were H. F. Simrall and Ephraim G. Peyton, old citizens of the State, and Jonathan Tarbell, a Union soldier from New York who had settled after the war in Scott County. Peyton and Tarbell were the only Republicans who have ever been appointed to the supreme bench. The justices were installed in office May 10, 1870, in the presence of the two houses of the legislature, and Judge Simrall drew for the term of nine years, Peyton for three, and Tarbell for six years. They were sworn in by Governor Alcorn. Peyton was made chief justice. He was reappointed for a full term of nine years from May 11, 1873, at the close of his three year term. . . . J. A. P. Campbell was appointed in place of Jonathan Tarbell, whose six year term expired, May 10, 1876."

Hardy's "Recollections of Reconstruction" as published by the Mississippi Historical Society says in Vol. IV, Page 120:

"Judge Tarbell had read law when a young man, and was admitted to the bar in the State of New York, but had never practiced his profession. He was about fifty years of age, and was a man of fair literary attainments and of splendid physique, and whilst ignorant of the law, made a very good judge; he was impartial and courteous to officers of the court and members of the bar, and was personally esteemed. He was afterward appointed by General Ames a justice of the State Supreme Court. His opinions are noted for their great length and the numerous citations on both sides of the case."

Deputy Controller of Treasury

After retiring from the Supreme Court Bench of Mississippi, Judge Tarbell removed to Washington, D. C., where he became First Deputy Controller of the Treasury, a position he filled for a number of years. His Washington home was at 627 T St. where he died on March 13, 1888. His widow removed to Somerville, Mass. where she died in 1922.

Again in control as owner of the "Commercial Times", James N. Brown moved the newspaper's office March 5, 1860, from the location at the Southwest corner of West Cayuga and Water Sts. where it had been for more than a decade, to the location at 170 West First street, next door South of the Lake Ontario Bank where it was to remain throughout the period of the Civil War. This was then a recently erected one-story brick building which in 1866 was to be purchased by the "Oswego Palladium" and by it occupied continuously thereafter down to present-day times. Brown gave the name "Oswego Weekly Times" to the weekly edition of the "Commercial Times", which he continued to publish.

Ira Brown who had been editor of the "Times and Journal" for a period under Winchester & Ferguson, and later of the "Daily Times" under Tarbell had left Oswego in October 1857 without expectation of returning. Once more in control of the newspaper, however, James N. Brown recalled him as editor under the belief that Ira Brown possessed the qualifications which were necessary to give the newspaper a strong editorial direction during the turbulent period which it was then apparent to every one lay directly ahead. The new editor came out with a strong editorial in support of Lincoln and Hamlin, the Republican nominees for the presidency and vice-presidency of the United States on the day that he resumed his connection with the paper once more.

On the day the attack on Fort Sumter began April 12, 1861—Sumter began—April 12, 1861—lowing which appeared under the editorial column heading of the "Commercial Times":

"THE FIGHT COMMENCED"

"Grim visaged war is upon us. Our dispatches today disclose the fact that the rebel authorities have assumed the responsibility of opening a causeless, senseless warfare upon the government of the United States. The days of bullying are passed. The slaveholders who for the past 10 years have kept this otherwise peaceful, country in a constant uproar, have at last proceeded to the dire extremity of war, inaugurating a struggle which will end with the overthrow of their cherished institution and their own discomfiture.

"Men of the North! Are you ready to accept the issue? The noble government of our fathers is assailed with armed force. Will you in this hour forget whose sons you are, whose inheritance you possess? The rebel confederacy who have thus begun the war have not the means of carrying on a successful struggle against the 20 million people of the Free States who have exhausted every means of consultation and peace. The die is cast—. Let party differences be thrown to the winds. Perish disension when our country is in peril! All together let us stand ready to accept the consequences and to do our devoir like men in whose minds yet linger the recollection of Bunker Hill, Yorktown and Saratoga. To arms! Down with the rebel flag — up with the good old banner which our fathers have carried in triumph on the road to glory!

The "Times" first telegraphic dispatch upon the opening of the attack on Fort Sumter as printed April 12, 1861 follows:

TELEGRAPHIC COMMUNICATIONS SOUTHWARD CUT OFF THIS MORNING

Washington, April 12,—Only one wire is working south and that badly. There is not a word of any kind from any point thus far today.

(The above information naturally creates the impression that hostilities have commenced or are momentarily expected in Charleston Harbor. It would probably be the policy of the rebels to cut off communications until the struggle is over. Editor Times.)

A New York dispatch says the New York Herald's Washington correspondent said: "Volunteers will be stationed at the bridge across the Potomac to defend it against an invading force."

A Washington dispatch announced the Confederate Commissioners were leaving Washington after Secretary Seward had again refused to receive them in their diplomatic character. The commissioners left Washington today bound for the Confederate Capital at Montgomery.

On April 13, 1861, the "Commercial Times" in its news columns proclaimed the opening of the war as follows:

WAR! WAR! !

The Conflict Commenced

Assault on Fort Sumpter

Its Gallant Defence

Charleston, April 13.—The cannonading is going on fiercely today from all points—from the vessels outside and all along our course. Fort Sumpter is on fire.

Charleston — At intervals of 20 minutes firing was kept up all night at Fort Sumpter.

Major Anderson ceased firing from Fort Sumpter at 6 o'clock this morning. All night he was

engaged in repairing damage and protecting the barbette guns. He commenced to return fire at 7 o'clock this morning.

Fort Sumpter seems to be greatly disabled. The battery on Cummings Point does Fort Sumpter great damage.

At 9 o'clock this morning a dense smoke poured out from Fort Sumpter. The federal flag at half mast signalled distress.

The shells from Fort Moultrie, and the batteries on Morris Island fall into Major Anderson's stronghold thick and fast, and they can be seen in their course from the Charleston battery.

A Washington dispatch stated: "The President received the news calmly and with confident feeling that he had done his duty in the matter."

War Extras Issued

In the excitement of the hour the "Commercial Times", an evening newspaper, began putting out a morning edition as well. It was the morning edition of April 15, that announced the fall of Fort Sumter, its evacuation, the call of President Lincoln for 75,000 volunteers to put down the rebellion and the reaction to the news in various cities and states of the north. Senator Douglas who had been Lincoln's opponent in the election of 1860 had called at the White House, the newspaper, reported to assure the president of his support "in the exercise of all constitutional means to save the Union".

In the same issue the "Commercial Times" announced: "The rush at our office for extras this morning exceeded anything we supposed possible. In case we receive anything of importance hereafter in our morning telegraphic report, we shall issue extras at 11 A. M., thus anticipating some five hours our regular afternoon edition which contains the latest news by telegraph up to 3 o'clock P. M. Our neighbor, the "Palladium", proposes to is-

sue extras at about 9 o'clock in the evening in case important intelligence is received. By this arrangement of the two offices, our citizens will be supplied with the war news at the earliest possible hour."

A "card", also in the April 15. issue: All citizens in favor of the Union and the enforcement of the laws, and those willing to show their devotion thereto, if needs be, upon the field of battle, will oblige the subscriber by calling upon him and examining a paper which he has, which will explain itself. No one but able-bodied young men are desired to be seen.

Levi Beardsley

Beneath the "card" the editor remarks: (We understand the object of Mr. Beardsley is to form a company which will be tendered to the government for the defense of Washington.)

Battle of Gettysburg Opens

"A Battle Near Gettysburg" the evening issue of the "Commercial Times" proclaimed July 2, 1863, as the second day of one of the greatest battles of all time was drawing to a close. Here follows the dispatch:

Near Gettysburg, July 1, — There was a heavy engagement since morning today between the rebels under Longstreet and Hill and the 1st and 11th Corps under Reynolds and Meade.

Portions of the fight have been very severe, and attended with heavy loss. Thus far the enemy has been successfully resisted. The 3rd and 12th corps are now coming up.

I regret to say that Major General Reynolds has been mortally wounded and has since died.

Editorially on the same day Editor Ira Brown discussed the struggle which he believes has begun for the control of Pennsylvania. The "Commercial Times" published as usual on July 3, the news dispatches of the day continuing favorable, as the fighting went on, for the supporters

of the Union. Editorially the paper screeched "Victory! Victory!! for the first three days operations" and urged "On to Richmond".

Not even the details of the great, bloody battle in which an Oswego regiment (the 147th with Adjutant Dudley Farling, former "Palladium" publisher in 1854 participating) was sharing, was seemingly of sufficient interest to cause the printers of Oswego to forego the prospect of a Fourth of July holiday for the morrow, however, as the newspaper announces: "In order to give our compositors an opportunity to celebrate Gen. Mead's victory, we shall publish no paper tomorrow."

As the "Fourth" was on Saturday and no paper was issued on Sunday, it was not until Monday, July 6, that the Oswegonians of that day had further opportunity to read the aftermath of Gettysburg in the home-town newspaper. Nearly all the news columns of the four page paper that day were devoted to the news of the battle, Lee's flight to the south with Meade supposedly in pursuit. There was no mention at all in any of the dispatches published in the "Times" of Pickett's spectacular charge with the "flower of the Confederate army" to register "the high water mark of the Confederacy".

Paper Summarized History's Verdict

Editorially the paper correctly summarizes the verdict of history that the three day battle was "the greatest of modern times." In the same paper Mayor L. A. G. B. Grant issued a call for "a citizens' meeting at the City Hall at 7½ this evening to take measures as may be necessary for the benefit and relief of wounded officers and privates of the 147th Regiment." (The Oswego Regiment that took part in the Battle of Gettysburg upon the field of which a monument today stands to commemorate the part that Oswego had in this battle). "The

time and occasion will be a sufficient justification for urging a general attendance", the mayor's message concluded.

Just a month after the battle at Gettysburg had closed, the nationwide draft to fill the depleted ranks of the defenders of the Union got under way at Oswego. While the draft had previously been the occasion of rioting for many days in New York city and elsewhere in the nation which resulted in great destruction of lives and property, it was not accompanied by disturbances of any kind in Oswego, although the air was full of rumors before the drawings began so that there was a company of soldiers stationed on the second floor of "the Grant Block" where the drawings were to take place as preliminaries got underway. (This is the same Grant block which stands today at the southeast corner of West First and Bridge streets.) Says the "Commercial Times" of August 4, 1864:

THE DRAFT

It was announced that the draft in this city would begin at 2 P. M. At 1:30 o'clock the crowd began to assemble which soon increased in proportions thronging the streets in front of the Grant Block in which Provost Marshall Scott has his office.

At 1:30 o'clock a detachment of the Invalid Corps, numbering 37 men under the command of 1st Sergt. George H. Hawley, marched up the stairs and took their position in the main hall, adjoining the Provost Marshall.

The enrollment Board consists of Addison L. Scott, Oswego, Provost Marshall, James B. Murdock, Oswego, surgeon, and Daniel Mitchell, De Ruyter, Madison County, commissioner.

Mr. John D. Taylor, a man well known in this city, was selected to draw the names from the wheel. Mr. Taylor is entirely blind, and hence there can be no suspicion of unfairness in the matter of the drawing.

At 2 o'clock the Marshall's office was filled with men, among them representatives of all parties, including several prominent Democrats. x x x All these gentlemen had an opportunity of witnessing the drawing, and we believe, all concur that it was conducted with perfect fairness.

Seated by the table when the drawing took place were Bartholomew Lynch, Capt. J. D. O'Brian, Dr. Robert Scott, James Bickford, Senator Joseph Owen, William Randall Avery of Madison County, C. C. Petty, John Andrews, L. Garson, Captain Dykeman and Captain Morris, U. S. A., Michael Hennessey, H. C. Benedict and others. Besides the officials already named were Major Townsend, Chief of Police Hawkins, Collector Perkins, Dept. Pro. Marsh. Cozzens and the clerks of the Marshall.

At five minutes past two the wheel was placed in position by the Pro. Marshall which was the sign for considerable agitation in the crowd. The Provost Marshall then proceeded to read the order for the draft in this district for 2,068 men and 50 per cent in addition from Abraham Lincoln, president of the United States. The 50 percent added makes the whole number to be drawn 3,102.

For the First district (first and third wards) the number is 310; for the second district (second ward), 117; for the third district, (fourth ward), 89; 1137 names on slips of pasteboard, being the names enrolled in the first district were then placed in the wheel from which 310 were to be drawn.

County Met Quota With 5000 To Spare

The blind man was then blindfolded, according to law, and took his position. The wheel revolved and the drawing commenced. The name of Theodore W. Brown, a soldier with one leg, was received with cheers. (Then follows a list of the names of those drafted in the first district.)

History records that Oswego County sent 12,500 men into the war to save the Union out of its population of 76,000 at the time of the war. There was an excess of 5000 men above her quota for the entire period of the war.

War's End Found Times Hard In Oswego

As the war worked toward its close, hard times were being experienced in Oswego County with so many of its young men in arms and absent from homes, farms and normal occupations. The "Palladium's" daily edition was still in suspension, although the weekly edition was appearing regularly. The "Commercial Times" had adopted a new format, undoubtedly as a measure of necessary economy. Early in 1864 the number of columns had been reduced from eight to six, and columns had been shortened four inches in length. Whereas earlier the names of James N. Brown as publisher, Ira D. Brown, as editors and W. C. Stillman, as commercial editor had graced the newspaper's masthead in March, 1865, all names except that of James N. Brown, the proprietor had disappeared therefrom. The paper was supporting the campaign in progress that year: Abraham Lincoln for re-election to the presidency and Andrew Johnson for the vice-presidency.

Another factor in the difficult times which the "Commercial Times" was apparently encountering, was undoubtedly the advent of a new competitor in the evening daily field when on February 1, 1864, Thaddeus S. Brigham, of whom we have heard before as a half-brother of Daniel Ayer, the founder in 1845 of the "Oswego Daily Advertiser," Oswego's first newspaper, brought out "Oswego Commercial Advertiser" as a new daily. The old paper and the new girded their loins for a struggle. Soon the situation was to be further complicated by the action of the "Palladium" in resuming issuance of its daily edi-

tions once more in the morning field in which it had previously published. For a year or more the spirited competition for support and newspaper dominance was to continue.

All of the Oswego newspapers brought out special editions announcing the assassination of President Lincoln. The "Commercial Times" in its "extra" of April 15, 1865, announced to its readers Lincoln's assassination in the following manner:

PRESIDENT LINCOLN ASSASSINATED

He was shot while in
the Theater last
Night

SECRETARY SEWARD STABBED AND EX- PECTED TO DIE

Mr. Seward's Son also
Stabbed

HIS RECOVERY CONSIDER- ED DOUBTFUL

ARREST OF THE AS- SASSINS

Washington, Apr. 15—1:30 A.M.
To Maj. Gen. Dix, New York:

This evening about 9:30 p. m. at Ford's Theatre, the President while setting (sic) in his private box, with Mrs. Lincoln, Mrs. Harris and, Mrs. Rathbone, was shot by an assassin, who suddenly entered the box and approached behind the President. The assassin then leaped upon the stage and brandishing a long dagger or knife, made his escape in the rear of the theatre.

The pistol ball entered the back of the President's head, and penetrated nearly through the head.

The wound is mortal. The President has been insensible ever since it was inflicted, and is now dying.

About the same hour an assassin, whether the same or not is unknown, entered Mr. Seward's apartment and under the pre-

tense of having a prescription was shown to the Secretary's sick chamber. The assassin immediately rushed to the bed, and inflicted two or three stabs in the face.

The recovery of Secretary Seward is doubtful. Gen. Grant and wife were advertised to be at the Theatre this evening, but he started for Burlington at six o'clock.

It is hoped the wounds may not be mortal. My apprehension is that they will be fatal.

The nurse alarmed Frederick Seward, who was in an adjoining room. He hastened to the door of his father's room, when he met the assassin, who inflicted one or more dangerous wounds on him.

War Department, April 15—4.10 A. M.

To Major General Dix:

The President continues unconscious, and is sinking.

Secretary Seward yet remains without change.

Frederick Seward's skull is fractured in two places, besides a severe cut upon the head.

The attendant is still alive, but hopeless.

Major Seward's wounds are not dangerous.

LATER

War Department April 15—8 a. m., 1865.

To Maj. Gen. Dix:

Abraham Lincoln died this morning at twenty-two minutes after seven.

E. M. Stanton

Secretary of War

It is now ascertained with reasonable certainty that two assassins were engaged in the horrible crime. Wilkes Booth being the one that shot the President, and the other, a companion of his, whose name is not known, but whose description is so clear that he can hardly escape.

It appears from a letter found in Booth's trunk that the murder was planned before the 4th of March, but fell through then because the accomplice backed out until Richmond could be heard from.

Booth and his accomplice were at the livery stable at 6 o'clock last evening, and left there with their horses about 10 o'clock or shortly before that hour.

It would seem that they had for several days been seeking their chance, but for some unknown reason it was not carried into effect until last night.

One of them evidently made his way to Baltimore, the other has not been traced.

(Signed) E. M. Stanton
Sec'y of War

It was in the period immediately following the close of the Civil War that men began to be affiliated with both the "Commercial Advertiser and Times" and the "Palladium" who are remembered by many persons yet living. With the former in 1866 besides Proprietor Brigham were John A. Place as general editor who was to continue active in newspaper work in Oswego until after the turn of the next century, Henry C. Stillman, commercial editor, who had been with the "Commercial Times" during its last days under that name, Benjamin E. Wells, city editor and Andrew J. Lewis, circulation manager. Clark Morrison & Co. had succeeded to the direction of the "Palladium" a year before. Mr. Morrison was to continue actively with the "Palladium," and its successor, the "Palladium-Times," until 1931. Associated with him on the "Palladium" in 1866 were Wilson W. Cockell, George W. Blair, John A. Barry as city editor and John Fitzgerald as circulation manager.

Brigham Re-enters Oswego Newspaper Field

After receiving his training as a printer in Oswego under his half brother, Daniel Ayer, and his relative, C. D. Brigham, who succeeded Ayer in control of the "Commercial Times" to which Ayer's "Daily Advertiser" had changed its name in 1847, Thaddeus Brigham had removed in

1848 from Oswego to Fulton where he worked for J. A. Place as owner of the "Patriot" and later owned and published "The Patriot" from 1854 until 1861 when he located in Little Falls as publisher of the "Mohawk Courier." Associated with Brigham in the Little Falls enterprise had been his half brother, William Ayer of Oswego, the father of Mrs. Anthony Salladin, of Oswego, a member of our Historical Society. In January 1864, Messrs. Brigham and Ayer, disposed of the "Mohawk Courier" and came to Oswego. Here T. S. Brigham had already determined to establish a new evening newspaper. He was soon joined here by John A. Place, with whom he had earlier been associated with on a Fulton newspaper and it was arranged that Mr. Place should become editor of the new publication. (Mr. Place had earlier been a resident of Oswego, but had gone to Fulton in 1848 to publish a newspaper). The new paper known as the "Commercial Advertiser" was first published February 1, 1864, with T. S. Brigham as publisher and Mr. Place as editor. The "Advertiser" became a staunch supporter of Republican principles. It was issued as an afternoon paper.

Place's Lincoln Comment

The column rules of the "Commercial Advertiser," Thaddeus Brigham's and John A. Place's new daily established the year before, were "turned" on Saturday evening April 15, 1865. (Turning over of the column rules results in a flat, broad-sided surface being brought into such a position that an exceptionally heavy, black "rule" separates all the columns. In former days this procedure was resorted to by newspapers whenever they wished to give a graphic demonstration to their readers of grief which the editors and publishers were supposedly inwardly experiencing.) Editorially the "Advertiser" speaking through Editor Place's pen said: "We have no

heart to approach this subject. The nation is in sack cloth and ashes, so sudden, so terrific is the calamity that has befallen us that the people can not realize fully the horrible fact. President Lincoln the wisest of rulers, the safest of guides in our great troubles, the best of gentlemen and the most inoffensive of men, struck down by the hands of an assassin! ! Our blood boils at the contemplation. Oh God, has not this nation yet sufficiently atoned for the great Sin of Slavery, that this great affliction has come upon us?"

J. N. Brown Leaves Oswego

Two days later, April 17, the "Commercial Times" sets forth the act that would soon bring into existence the Oswego State Normal School as a wholly supported state institution. Then, less than two weeks later, April 28, 1865, beneath a proclamation by President Andrew Johnson which appears at the newspaper's masthead announcing Thursday, May 25, "as a day upon which people should assemble in their respective places of worship wherever in the United States the flag of the country may be respected, as a day of humiliation and mourning in memory of the good man (Lincoln) who has been removed, so that all may be occupied at the same time in contemplation of his virtues and sorrow for his sudden, violent end," James N. Brown, three times an owner of a daily newspaper identified with the "Times" succession during the previous 20 years, announces over his own signature:

"Having disposed of the printing material and title of the "Commercial Times" to T. S. Brigham, the publication of this paper will be discontinued tomorrow and be consolidated with the 'Commercial Advertiser.' Our patrons will on Monday next be served with the "Commercial Times and Advertiser."

With the foregoing announcement, James N. Brown left the Oswego newspaper field never

again to return to it. He was canal collector of the port of Oswego at the time, and probably devoted himself to the duties of his office thereafter for a time. Then he apparently left Oswego. His home here was at 106 West Third street. His name does not appear in the Oswego directories issued after 1866. I have not been able to trace his subsequent life.

Palladium Moves To Permanent Home

The "Commercial Times" had been published throughout the period of the Civil War in the one story, brick block then at 170 West First street, next door (south) of the Lake Ontario Bank. With the sale of the paper to T. S. Brigham, its equipment was soon removed to the building at 200 West First street "opposite the Jefferson Block" where the "Commercial Advertiser" had been publishing since its establishment by T. S. Brigham in February 1864. Upon the vacating of the building at 170 West First street through the merging of the "Commercial Times," the "Palladium" moved in 1865 from 202 West First Street (the Dowdle Block) into the building at 170 West First Street which it has continued to occupy ever since, although the street number later was changed to 176. The original one - story brick block in a few years became a two-story block when a second story was added on the same foundation after Clark Morrison, Sr., became connected with the "Palladium." The "Palladium's" quarters were further augmented by the later construction of other buildings upon the rear of its lot.

The "Commercial Advertiser" was a seven-column, four - page newspaper with a page size 28 x 42 inches. It was well printed on a steam-driven press, which was one of three presses in its plant driven by steam-power. The paper sold at three cents a copy or 12 cents a week.

On April 29, 1865, two weeks after Lincoln's assassination, T.

S. Brigham, announced in his new newspaper:

"Times" and "Advertiser" Merged

The proprietor of the "Commercial Advertiser" having purchased the good will, subscription list, and all materials of the "Oswego Commercial Times" establishment, the two papers will be merged in one, and issued from the "Commercial Advertiser's" office, 200 West First Street, on and after Monday May 1, 1865. The words "and Times" were added to the "Commercial Advertiser" to form the name of the merged publication in the first issue of May 1, 1865. The newspaper adopted the format of the former "Commercial Advertiser." The paper continued to publish in the afternoon field under the name of "The Commercial Advertiser and Times." The name of T. S. Brigham appeared at the masthead as "proprietor" followed by that of A. J. Lewis as circulation manager.

Among the advertisements appearing in this issue was that of Robert Gordon, dry-goods, father of Donald S. Gordon, treasurer of our Society. U. Z. Maltby (later to be one of the founders of the present jewelry house known as the Maltby-Campbell Company) was announced in the advertising columns before 1870 as "general engraver, late with D. Valentine, Syracuse, now with J. Wendell's, 5 Grant Block, visiting cards, silverware, jewelry, door, pew and carriage plates."

Advertisers of 1864

Among the advertisers whose copy appeared Feb. 11, 1864, in the then new "Advertiser" were Delos Gary and Mack & Webb, attorneys; Dr. E. Potter, Doctor Godley, artificial teeth; Dr. A. Van Dyke "over E. P. Burt's carpet store"; Dr. A. Pool "over Buckhout & Barnes Hat Store"; D. B. Northrup, druggist; J. Bickford & Son, furniture mfrs; Wm. H. Herick, "general produce commission merchants", O. M. Bond, wholesale lumber; Randall &

Fonda, "Union Mills"; Perham & Walbridge, city undertakers "over Marshall's Variety Store"; the "American", "New Welland" and "Hamilton" Hotels; Z. D. Stevens, architect; M. P. Neal, "fashionable tailor"; Littlejohn, Dane & Co., "forwarding merchants"; John H. Osborn, baker; Ott & Shur, meat market; Robinson's Billiard Room, Jefferson Block; A. G. Cook, wholesale coal; George H. Hees and L. D. Pool, book stores; Austin's Gallery, "good pictures"; Northwestern Insurance Company, William Kilts, groceries.

The "Advertiser" carried in the same issue about one and one-half columns of "telegraph news" mostly devoted to "Rebel accounts of Sherman's operations" with dispatches dated from Atlanta, Ga., and Charleston, S. C. "Morning" and "afternoon" dispatches received by United States Telegraph were printed in parallel columns.

Local news items in the issue included the following:

Soldiers Get The Vote

"At yesterday's election Oswego's (then) four wards voted on the proposal to amend the State Constitution so as to permit soldiers to vote 1157 "for" to 73 "against".

"Wm. H. Phillips, the new champion of temperance, now in Syracuse, is soon to visit Oswego."

"The new members of the Police department find their "posish" (sic) thus far a sinecure. As we write they have not yet been called upon to make a single arrest."

"The Y. M. C. A. committee were reported as "negotiating" with Henry Ward Beecher to come as one of a series of "Y" lecturers who were to be heard for \$1.50 for the course." Sponsors for the series were given as Ira D. Brown (the "Commercial Times" editor) W. F. Preston, L.

E. Goulding, L. B. Poucher, E. D. Weller, Morris Place.

The front page of this issue, besides advertisements carried two columns of text devoted to a fiction story "The Duchesse's Adventure".

Says the "Advertiser and Times" Nov. 2, 1867:

Water, Water, Everywhere

"On the first of November, according to the promise of the contractor, water was let into our streets from the Reservoirs for the first time. The test was a little too much for the mains which burst in several places and the water was shut off. The breaks have been repaired, and the water was let in again this morning. Hose was attached to the hydrant at the corner of West First and Bridge and a sort of 'specimen brick' of the new works was shown "with 100 feet and 1½ nozzle a powerful stream was thrown over the Grant Block in several directions. The reservoirs, we understand, were but partly filled this morning, and of course the 'specimen brick' was hardly a fair one, but on-lookers were satisfied that the flames henceforth will have no business in Oswego."

Thaddeus Brigham built in 1869 the business block at 211-213 West First street which is at present occupied by the George W. Bush drug store, now owned by Donald Burnside, and by Alfred Bros. Upon the completion of this double block the "Commercial Advertiser and Times" removed to the new block from its previous location at 200 West First Street.

In those days the "Advertiser and Times" was a folio sheet of four-page newspaper. The entire staff consisted of the editor, city editor, and commercial editor. The latter "covered" the lake commerce and marine news which, because of the dominance of shipping and milling in Oswego's business life at that period, was

then one of the most important departments of a daily newspaper in Oswego. The foreman of the composing room took care of the telegraph news which was not very extensive.

Men On "Advertiser and Times" Staff

Among the men who were employed by Thaddeus Brigham and John A. Place on the "Commercial Advertiser" when Messrs. Brigham and Place, who had earlier been associated together in newspaper work elsewhere, united their efforts to produce the "Advertiser" on Feb. 1, 1864, was a group of men who also remained with the paper when it became the "Commercial Advertiser and Times" in 1865 through merger with the "Commercial Times." One of these according to Fred A. Dixon, native born Oswegonian, a nephew of Thaddeus Brigham, whose service with the merged paper began about this time, was Dudley Farling who had at one time during the 1850's been one of the owners of the "Oswego Palladium." Another mentioned by Mr. Dixon in a manuscript, composed in 1923 but never published was Melvin C. Crombie who opened the books for the Oswego Publishing Company when it was organized to take over the paper in 1873 after it had merged with the "Oswego Daily Press" and was issued under the name of the "Oswego Daily Times." (Mr. Crombie later became treasurer of the Oswego City Savings Bank). Captain H. C. Thompson who was for a few years superintendent of the paper's composing room, was a third. Major Farling, a native of Ithaca, had enlisted in Oswego, and served through the Civil War, and after the war had returned to Oswego. He later joined the "Times," being connected with its business office.

Publisher Brigham had charge of the business and finances of the "Commercial Advertiser and Times," the advertising, job print-

ing and collections with the assistance of a bookkeeper and a "city circulator," the latter having charge of the carrier boys and newsboys, and making collections for the daily paper from the subscribers. The newspaper also published a weekly edition which enjoyed a large circulation in rural Oswego County.

The "Advertiser and Times" had a prosperous career as prosperity in the newspaper business was rated in those days. It became, especially under the editorship of Mr. Place, a very important factor in Republican political affairs. Mr. Place exercised so large a personal influence in the councils of the Republican leaders of the county at the period that oftentimes his influence was decisive when differences arose in the party.

The Boylston Meteor Hoax

The city editor of the "Advertiser and Times" for some years was Chester H. Hull, Jr. (probably a son of that early editor of the "Oswego Commercial Herald" who had also become the first librarian of the Gerrit Smith Public Library) a young man who had a genius and penchant for creating extraordinary stories upon very slight foundation of fact, probably finding it the easier to do that, owing to the limited scope of news and lack of editorial help to gather it in his time, which was an age when "faking" was more common and less severely regarded by newspapers than now. It was "Chet" Hull who conceived and perpetrated the "Boylston meteor" hoax, quite the most famed in the history of Oswego County journalism. Hull had studied deeply the lore of meteors and prepared well for launching the story in the "Advertiser and Times" of the falling of a wonderful meteor out in the wilds of Boylston, then the most inaccessible region of Oswego County. Hull collected at the Vulcan Iron Works Foundry in Oswego large and presumably correctly appear-

ing fragments for his meteor—at least they satisfied all the demands of the credulous and even of those who pretended to know something about meteors. The result was that a party of scientific men organized an expedition at Utica and moved into the town of Boyston to the scene of the alleged location of the meteor concerning which Hull had been writing columns in the "Advertiser" in the meantime. Needless to say the scientists returned to Utica without confirmation of Hull's story.

"Hull frequently injected into the columns of the newspaper stories charged with wit and humor and which, though having more or less foundation in fact, could not be verified in all their details" wrote in 1923 Fred A. Dixon, nephew of Daniel Ayer and T. S. Brigham whose personal recollection of newspaper workers in Oswego ran back to the days when Hull was active here in connection with his account of the Boyston meteor hoax. "Hull was superseded in 1870 by Chester S. Lord," the Dixon manuscript continues, "and soon afterwards Hull went to San Francisco where as correspondent of the 'New York World' in that city he sent over the press wires a wonderful story of an Arctic exploration expedition projected by 'Monsieur Louis Pavy' who, as it turned out, never saw any ice except in the bottom of a glass in San Francisco bars."

Oswego Entertains Canadian Press

Oswego was host to members of the Canadian Associated Press together with a number of representative men from the Dominion of Canada on July 22, 1869, a number of distinguished citizens of New York state also being in attendance. A dinner was served at 5 o'clock in the afternoon, and this was followed by a ball in the evening at "the Rink," as the former skating rink, located on the north side of West Bridge

street, just west of Third street, had come to be known. The staffs of both the "Commercial Advertiser and Times" and of the "Palladium" were represented on the reception committee which was made up of the Mayor and Common Council, officers of the Board of Trade and members of the Oswego press. The following composed the invitation committee which issued formal invitations for the dinner and ball: Hon. A. S. Page, John A. Place, R. F. Sage, O. W. Clary, W. H. Herrick, Delos De Wolf, H. S. Kearny, Henry Gleason, A. B. Randall, W. R. Hosmer, F. O. Clarke, George B. Sloan, H. A. Brown, B. Doolittle, John T. Mott, B. E. Wells, B. Hagaman, Charles H. Smyth, W. A. Rundell, John K. Post and O. H. Hastings.

An "explanatory card" accompanied the invitations directing the gentlemen who received the invitations and who purposed "attending the dinner and ball, or either, to purchase tickets at the drug store of C. H. Butler & Co., No. 176 West First Street, on or before Tuesday evening, July 20th." The price of the tickets for both the dinner and ball was \$5.00 while the charge for the ball alone was \$3.00 "by order of finance committee." The committee for the International Press Ball whose names were signed at the bottom of the formal invitations printed in gold lettering was: W. R. Hosmer, M. B. Clarke, R. F. Sage, James Sloan, Jr., O. W. Clary, Henry Gleason.

Canadian Visitors Made Welcome

"For some weeks extensive preparations have been going on in this city for the reception and entertainment of the Associated Press of Canada on their homeward tour from their annual meeting at Cobourg" said the "Oswego Commercial Advertiser and Times" of July 23, 1869, in describing the visit to Oswego of the party of distinguished Canadians. "The delegates, traveling via Rochester, Syracuse and Os-

wego, numbering 70 editors and publishers and their ladies—in all 120 persons—left Rochester by special train at 8:30 yesterday morning, arriving at Syracuse at 11:20 where they were handsomely welcomed and hospitably entertained at the Syracuse House. At Syracuse they were met by T. S. Brigham, Esq., of the 'Oswego Advertiser and Times' and at 12:20 the party, accompanied by representatives of the Syracuse press, Hon. Charles P. Clark, mayor of Syracuse, and J. Tillinghast, General Superintendent of the New York Central R. R., left by special train on the Oswego & Syracuse Railroad for Oswego, arriving here at 1:30. An immense crowd, among which we noted many of our leading and most respectable citizens, had gathered at the depot where our guests were met by the Reception Committee with carriages and escorted to the various hotels to which they had been assigned by Mr. Brigham."

Among the visitors there was a representative from nearly every newspaper, daily and weekly, of the Province of Ontario. The newspaper published a list of them and the newspapers they represented. Besides the newspaper representatives of the Toronto, Kingston and other Canadian cities along the north shore of the lake there were representatives from Cobourg, Brockville, Hamilton, Pembroke, Belleville, St. Thomas, Whitby, Georgetown, Perth, Thorald, Bradford, Morrisburg, Peterboro, Guelph, Napanee, Oshawa and many other Ontario cities and towns. The visitors were taken on a two hour drive to points about the city, and then returned to their hotels.

Four Hundred Attend Banquet

"The Committee on Decorations," the newspaper's account continued, "had turned the rink into a place of enchantment, the decorations being of the most magnificent description. The arches were heavily wreathed

with evergreen, also the windows and other portions of the building. The braces and gas pipes were newly painted, and the Rink appeared as though it had passed under a fairy's wand. Over the front of the dressing room on a ground of scarlet, in immense letters, stood forth the motto 'The Press—the Preserver of Liberty.' The stay rods and arches were beautifully hung with flags, the ensigns of 17 foreign nationalities appearing in the maze of colors. The Stars and Stripes and the Cross of St. George were liberally displayed from all parts of the immense building. . . . Beautifully arranged in an arch was the word 'Welcome.' Along the front of the orchestra box, about midway of the building, was the inscription 'Jacques Cartier—Hendrick Hudson.' The floor had been made as smooth as possible, and in the midst of all the decorative splendor the tables had been spread for the entertainment of the guests by the popular caterer, H. Munger of the 'International.' There were four tables, each provided with seats for 100 persons.

Handsome bouquets and centre-pieces were placed at proper intervals and a small bouquet had been deposited in each goblet. The bill of fare was extensive and embraced a choice variety of dishes.

Distinguished Guests Give Responses

"At 5 o'clock the guests began to assemble and shortly afterward the banquet commenced. His Honor, Mayor Page, presided with Senator Nye of Nevada at his right and Comptroller Allen at his left. Hon. D. C. Littlejohn presided at the table on the left of the mayor's and John C. Churchill and Hon. John A. Place at those on the right. Rev. Dr. Beach said grace after which Mayor Page delivered the address of welcome."

There were eleven formal toasts which followed the banquet. There follows a list of them and

the names of those who offered them:

1. "His Excellency, the President of the United States," Hon. John C. Churchill.

2. "Her Majesty, the Queen of Great Britain and Ireland," Mr. McDougal of Berlin, Ont.

3. "Our Guests, a Peaceful Invasion of Northmen," Mr. Buckingham, president of the Associated Press of Canada.

4. "The Press—the Advance Guard of Civilization," A. B. Getty, Esq.

5. "The New Dominion," John Hocking.

6. "The Empire State," Comptroller Allen.

7. "The Mother of Her Country," Albertus Perry, Esq.

8. "Reciprocal Trade," Daniel G. Fort.

9. "International Commerce," D. C. Littlejohn.

10. "The United States and Canada—may they be united in Friendship until they are united in Fact," T. C. Richardson.

11. "The Ladies—theirs is the Old Dominion—First in Arts and Arms," General Nye.

"About 9 o'clock the guests for the Grand Ball began to arrive," continued the newspaper, "and soon a large and brilliant company was assembled. The guests as they made their appearance were presented to Mayor Page and the Reception Committee." The music was furnished "by a full and excellent orchestra under the direction of Mr. Charles Andelfinger.

Event Established New Scale Of Magnificence

"We would fain relinquish the task of describing it. To those who were not present, we despair of conveying any idea of the scene. Many, in fact, all of the toilets were elegant, and it is agreed on all hands that Oswego has never before enjoyed a scene of equal magnificence.

"At 12 o'clock the members of the Associated Press of Canada took their departure on the steamer Norseman for Kings-

ton, Belleville, and Picton and were attended by the good wishes of the people of Oswego.

"Of the county press, we noticed among the guests the Messrs. Bennett of the 'Fulton Patriot' and Mr. Humphries of the 'Mexico Independent'. Of the Syracuse Press, William Summers, and Frank Marsh of the 'Standard,' Mr. Horton of the 'Journal.' Of the Rochester Press, R. B. Randall of the 'Union,' H. B. Tracey of the 'Chronicle,' Mr. Hill of the 'Watertown Reunion' was also present."

Editor John A. Place also said in the "Advertiser and Times" editorial columns that same date: "We feel as though we ought at this time to congratulate the people of Oswego upon the success of the occasion. We have been present on some occasions in the larger cities of the state which were universally pronounced brilliant, but it was the opinion last evening, not of our own citizens merely, but of our best informed guests that the occasion, reception, banquet and ball had never been exceeded in brilliancy in this state."

Of those who were at different times interested with Messrs. Brigham and Place in the publication of the "Commercial Advertiser and Times" some of our older residents will remember E. H. Purdy who came here from Oneida, purchased an interest in the business and was for two years foreman of the paper; Zachariah Wilson who followed and who conducted the job department at the time the "Advertiser and Times" was doing all the job printing of the New York and Oswego Midland Railroad (the original name of the N. Y., Ontario & Western R. R.); C. H. Kohler who operated a book bindery on the second floor of the 'Advertiser and Times' building.

"Oswego Daily Press" Established

On April 14, 1870 the first issue of the "Oswego Daily Press"

was published from an office located at 114 East First street "in the Beattie Block", the location which was in later years occupied by the A. D. McIntyre garage and more recently by Hadcock Bros. garage. The "Press" was the second daily to be published on the East Side in all Oswego's history, the first having been the "Daily Journal" which had been printed on East Bridge street in the Granite Block back in the early 1850s.

The new daily was sponsored by the Oswego Printing Company the stock of which was owned by a group of Republican politicians who were bent upon opposing another group of Republicans then in power in the county. The "Press" had as its business manager, John Fuller. F. A. Crandall was its managing editor and Benjamin E. Wells, who had become prominent in Oswego journalistic circles as the City Editor of the "Commercial Advertiser and Times" between 1865 and 1870, was City Editor. In later years, Mr. Crandall, a very competent newspaper man, became managing editor of the "Buffalo Courier".

A copy of the "Press" bearing date of June 23, 1871 indicates that newspaper was highly departmentalized, a plan which enabled it—because it was restricted to four pages to an issue by reason of its press equipment—to present considerably more news each day than would have been the case, had each of the items carried its own head letters. Some department headings that appeared in the issue referred to were: Religious, Commercial, Reports of the Passage of Vessels, Business Matters, Political Affairs, Foreign Advices, Lake Imports, Oswego Canal Movements, Sporting Items, Musical Notes, Law Proceedings, Court Notes, County Towns, Neighboring Counties. Under each of these headings one, and frequently several different items of news appeared.

The "Press" was an afternoon paper issued daily except Sundays at 4 P. M. It also had a weekly edition issued on Wednesdays. Both were 7 column papers. One of the advertisements appearing in the issue of June 23, 1871 was a notice to contractors inviting bids to be filed by July 5, 1871 for constructing the Lake Ontario Shore Railroad "between the City of Oswego and the West line of Wayne County, a distance of about 50 miles." The advertisement was signed by Gilbert Mollison as president of the road which was finally built and became eventually a part of the R. W. & O. system.

Items From The "Press"

On the same day the Board of Trade met and took action on the death of L. A. G. B. Grant, former mayor, adopting appropriate resolutions, on motion of O. H. Hastings with President Hagaman presiding.

The same issue also stated that Rev. John F. Lowrey of St. John's church "had accepted the invitation of the Committee on Orator and Reader in connection with the forthcoming Fourth of July celebration to deliver the address on that occasion." The newspaper commented favorably upon this action in its editorial columns.

Under the heading "Personals" the "Press" said: "Mrs. Emma G. Bowers, the Oswego County Woman Lecturer, is preparing a lecture for the coming Fall and Winter about the Heroines of Romance. She has been invited to deliver it in several localities."

In an advertisement the Oswego City Savings Bank, Luther Wright, president, announced that it was paying six per cent interest upon deposits.

Under the heading of "Sporting Items" this appeared: "The Leatherstocking Club are going on with their preparations for a great picnic to include fly-casting and trap shooting on the grounds of the Richland Trout Ponds. 500 pigeons have been ordered for the

shoot, and such arrangements are being effected as to make it pretty certain that it will be the most popular and immense affair of the season."

Other items mentioned the fact that "The clock which will be put in the new City Hall will require to be wound up but once in eight days. They say it will be a fine piece of mechanism". "Dr. Macfarlane is going to move his office to the building he has bought—south half of the 'Advertiser' block, West 1st Street."

A Colorful Figure

The president of the company which brought forth the "Press" was Charles North, a native of Ireland, who had come to Oswego in 1844 as foreman of the tannery that had been operating since 1840 in the village. Through several changes in ownership he had remained as one of the proprietors of this business which in 1866 had come under the ownership of William O. Hubbard and Mr. North under the firm name of Hubbard & North. The tannery was turning out 200 tons of fine leather a year. Mr. North had served the city of Oswego as alderman, city treasurer and mayor in 1868 before venturing into the newspaper business. (Thereafter he served as assemblyman in 1878, presidential elector in 1880 and mayor again in 1886 and 1887). He was the maternal grandfather of Mrs. Helen Mitchell of 166 East Fourth Street, Oswego, supervisor of writing in the Oswego City Schools, and the great-grandfather of Weir P. Mitchell and Richard Clare Mitchell of Oswego. Mr. North was connected by marriage with William N. McCarthy and Mrs. Josephine Penfield, now living in Oswego and with the late Albert F. McCarthy. His home was at 212 East Seventh Street where he died in February 1892. It is said of Mr. North that he was fond of hunting, of his hounds and of the high hat which he in-

variably wore upon all occasions. He owned 22 hounds, and it is related that he sometimes went into the woods with all of them accompanying him, still wearing the high hat. He frequently emerged gameless but with a sense of satisfaction from his walk through the woods in which his dogs seemed to share. In winter-time it was a not infrequent sight for Mayor North to be seen working in his shirt sleeves shoveling his sidewalks free of snow with his head still surmounted by his hat of distinction.

Political War Develops

At the time the "Press" appeared, Republican politics in Oswego county was deeply disturbed by factionalism. The "Advertiser" of Brigham was the organ of the "regulars" and the "Press" became the organ of the opposition who were at the time out of office, which faction soon came to be known locally as "the jungle". There were prominent Republicans in both factions and each had its quota of ardent supporters. As was the custom in those days, newspapers representing these opposing factions engaged in bitter warfare of words, characterized by personalities exchanged in their columns as applied by rival editors to each other as well as to the severe criticism of the prominent members of the opposing faction. The warfare between the "regulars" and the "Jungle", once under way, was to continue for three years.

I have been unable to locate the bound files of the "Press" if, indeed, there are any in existence. However, the paper had at least one claim to distinction—it was the first newspaper in Oswego to be served regularly by the New York Associated Press, the forerunner of the mighty newsgathering organization of today, which had been established in New York in 1848, the year in which Oswego became a city. In 1873 the

"Press" had a circulation of 4000 copies. Francis A. Crandall, its editor, was also, superintendent of the plant and secretary of the publishing company. His home was at 18 West Fourth street. He left Oswego after the "Press" discontinued publication to become associated with the Erie, Pa., "Gazette" before going to Buffalo to become managing editor of the "Buffalo Courier".

In 1873 the warring Republican leaders who had been backing the "Commercial Advertiser" and the "Press" respectively, got together and decided to bury the hatchet. The Oswego Publishing Company was organized, in which both Republican political factions were represented, and it took over both old newspaper properties. The names of both the "Advertiser" and the "Press" were dropped and the new newspaper brought out at the former "Advertiser" plant, February 1, 1873 as the "Oswego Daily Times".

Chester S. Lord Starts Career

Chester S. Lord, who has been mentioned as having been in 1870 the successor of 'Chet' Hull as city editor of the "Oswego Commercial Advertiser and Times" came to Oswego as a young man from Jefferson county, and joined the staff of the 'Advertiser and Times' as his first newspaper employment. So far as is known locally, he was not related to John H. Lord, Jr. who had been one of the founders of the "Palladium" although the latter, too, a former resident of Albany, had come to Oswego in 1819 from Jefferson county.

Mr. Lord afterwards served as a member of the Board of Regents of the University of the State of New York. For 12 years he was to be chancellor of the University. In that capacity he visited the Oswego State Normal School in 1921, his final visit to Oswego. At that time he called at the "Oswego Daily Times" office to pay a fraternal call, finding at that time Fred A. Dixon,

who had worked with him on the paper in 1870, still with the "Times."

Paper In New Building

By October 1, 1870 the "Commercial Advertiser and Times" was occupying the new home that had been built for it by T. S. Brigham at 211 West First street (the present Alfred Bros.-Bush Drug Store location). The paper's masthead on that date proclaimed for the first time that the paper was owned by "T. S. Brigham & Co.", and the names of J. A. Place and E. H. Purdy appeared below as those now associated with Mr. Brigham in the ownership. The name of Mr. Purdy was dropped, however, in the latter part of 1871.

February 1, 1872 the "and Times" was dropped from the newspaper's name which now became once more merely the "Commercial Advertiser", the name T. S. Brigham had given the new publication he established in 1864. The ownership was then set forth as T. S. Brigham & Co., with John A. Place and Z. G. Wilson, constituting the "& Co.". Mr. Wilson had recently come to Oswego from Washington, D. C., where he had been connected as superintendent with a division of the Federal Bureau of Printing and Engraving. He had learned his trade in New York City. He acquired a third interest in the newspaper. Although he was introduced to the "discriminating public" of Oswego with considerable bombast in the columns of the paper, his connection therewith seems to have continued only a few months as his name had been dropped from the paper's masthead before January 30, 1873.

Lord Lived 14 Years At Fulton

The younger years of Chester S. Lord had been spent in Oswego County at Fulton where he lived 14 years before removing to Adams, Jefferson County, when his father, the Rev. Edward Lord, was called from the pastorate of

the Presbyterian Church at Fulton to become pastor of the church at Adams. The father was a descendant of Thomas Lord who came to America in 1635 and settled in Old Lyme, Conn. His mother, was a lineal descendant of Roger Williams, the founder of the Rhode Island settlement, and she had other distinguished ancestry.

In connection with a biography of Chester S. Lord written by Barnett Fine and published in serial form in "Editor and Publisher", New York City, starting with April 22, 1933 and concluding on July 15, in the same year Mr. Lord in the first instalment is quoted: "I was born in Seneca County, spent my pre-teen boyhood in Oswego County, my youth in Jefferson County, studied for college entrance in Herkimer County, went to college (Hamilton) in Oneida County, returned to Oswego for the beginning of my newspaper work and a few years later I had a brief but illuminating experience as a newspaper editor and proprietor in Onondaga County."

Rev. Edward Lord left Romulus, N. Y. for Fulton soon after Chester's birth there on March 18, 1850. At Fulton "Chet" lived for 14 years while his father was pastor there. For a period of one year the elder Lord was on leave of absence serving as a military chaplain with the 110th Regiment of New York Volunteers in Louisiana. "Happy and care free days, spent in hunting and fishing", Mr. Lord afterwards described his boyhood days in Fulton.

Lord Given To Pranks As A Lad

"Young Lord fully upheld the tradition that the minister's son is not a model of perfection", writes Mr. Fine in his account of 'Chet' Lord's boyhood in Fulton. "Filled with mischievous pranks the humor and good nature of this lad bubbled forth in full measure. The lively fun and sparkling sense of humor that

was later to make the 'Sun' renowned wherever newspapermen gathered, manifested themselves early in the Fultonian. The 'village cut-up', he was called and not without reason.

"One day after the elder Lord had patriotically joined the colors and had gone to Louisiana to take his place as a chaplain in the army, a delegation of leading citizens of the town (Fulton) marched into the home of Mrs. Lord. Solemnly they greeted the temporary widow, wishing her good morning and acting ill at ease. Suspecting the worse, Mrs. Lord stiffened. Then between stammers and hemming the spokesman, a deacon in Pastor Lord's church, spoke his piece. And, in fact, Chester sorely needed a father. Maybe they could act in that capacity? A little judicial chastisement now and then, when the occasion arose?

"Mrs. Lord's eyes flashed fire. Her son needed a crowd of old deacons forsooth! Majestically she arose. Shaking with anger she cried 'Get out of this house!' Then she moved toward the door, opened it and waited like a proud queen. Ruffled and filled with consternation, the visitors departed. Never again did they suggest that a father was needed. Today Mr. Lord admits that probably the village deacons had more than one leg to stand upon.

"During the war the price of all sorts of pelts and skins mounted sky-high. The soldiers needed every bit of material that could be found. Young Chet discovered that he could sell skins for 50 cents each. Now 50 cents looks large and desirable at the age of 12. During the next few months the neighbors were puzzled and mystified over two seemingly unrelated incidents. One: cat after cat disappeared from home and barn. Housewives missed their furry pets. Farmers complained that mice were returning to the oat bins. Item two: Chester Lord had an abnormally large amount

of money about him. In fact the young man seemed to have struck a gold mine.

"Presently the neighbors put two and two together, and the guilty culprit was apprehended. In fact they caught the minister's son red-handed at his crimes, pounced upon him in the process of skinning one of their pet pussies. It was after this cat discovery that the deacons decided that the youngster needed the admonition of a father.

"Unable to molest cats any longer, our hero did the next best thing. He turned to pigs! At that time Fulton boasted of Falley Seminary, run by Prof. John P. Griffin. About 400 lads between the ages of 12 and 14 were in attendance, a majority were from out of town and many boarded with the villagers. Prof. Griffin was both eccentric and fiery tempered. One day before the entire Latin class he said 'Lord, you're a blockhead'.

"Chet told his mother the story. The next morning Mrs. Lord appeared before Prof. Griffin. After the tongue-lashing that the professor received appellations such as 'blockhead' were heard less often.

The Pig Prank At Falley

"And now for the pigs. Brooding over his many injustices at the hands of this capable albeit excitable instructor, Chester vowed a memorable vengeance. He had an idea. Swearing his classmates to secrecy, he revealed his plan. His pals agreed. A short time later a group of boys met at the cross roads huddling together. In their midst struggled a squealing pig. Despite the animal's vehement objections, the boys continuously made their way towards the Seminary building, and then up, up until they reached the top floor. Opening the door they deposited the hog in the center of the room and then dashed away.

"The next morning sounds of grunting and squealing came from the Seminary. The boys

went to their classes, evidently inaware of the commotion. Prof. Griffin was far from calm. Turning fiery red, his facial muscles twitching with anger, he sprang up the stairs two at a time. Reaching the top floor, he threw open the door where he discovered the innocent pig, still puzzled and bewildered at his unaccustomed surroundings. Evidently he longed for his mud-bath. One look at the pig and Griffin let out a mighty roar. Without a moment's hesitation, he picked up the animal and hurled it out the window."

"Old residents will remember the excitement occasioned by the episode", Mr. Lord relates. "The prankish students who had carried up the pig congratulated themselves that they were not around else they would have been flung out likewise'!"

Recalled Fulton In Civil War

As a boy during the Civil War in Fulton Chester organized a "recruiting band". He played the fife, the group often gathered on the street corners to play martial music with the hope of encouraging the young men to go to the recruiting station to enlist. Chester tried himself to enlist with two companions, but he gave his correct age of 14 years and was rejected. His two companions added three years to their actual years and were accepted.

"When I think of Fulton I seem to recall events connected with the Civil War", Mr. Fine recounts in his series that Mr. Lord told him many years later.

The town was a hot bed of politics in those days and the war aroused violent disputes in which almost everybody participated. Directly after the first battle the community was almost equally divided into four factions: the Peace - Democrats called 'copperheads' who wanted the war stopped on any terms; the Peace-Republicans, milder in their demands who wanted to stop fighting first and talk it over afterwards in the hope of settling

the dispute; the War-Republicans or 'Unionists' who were for fighting to the finish at whatever cost of life, property or money, and the War-Democrats who while disposed to continue fighting, were angry at the conduct of the war and of the Lincoln administration.'"

Lord Family Leaves Fulton

Before the war was over, the Lord family had left Fulton for Adams. The elder Lord after a year's service had resumed his pulpit. Fired with new zeal for the Union cause as the result of his army experience on the first Sunday after his return, he preached a strong sermon on the war in which he demanded from his auditors support of Lincoln. Two minutes later one of the members of his congregation arose and slowly stalked from the church. Fifteen men, in all, left before the sermon was terminated. The affronted members of the congregation later demanded and received the resignation of Pastor Lord. He soon accepted the call to Adams.

In talking in later life of his hunting and fishing days as a boy in Oswego County Mr. Lord recalled "I frequently caught black bass at Minetto and at Phoenix that weighed 4 lbs each, but rarely were any taken at Fulton that weighed more than 2½ pounds and I used to wonder why. In the lake we frequently took Oswego bass weighing six pounds and pickerel up to 12 pounds."

Terminating his studies at Hamilton before graduation, Lord returned to Adams. He contributed a few items to the "Adams Journal" and then asked for a job, but found that the paper did not require the services of a permanent reporter. Undismayed, the young man, came to Oswego and applied at the office of the "Oswego Commercial Advertiser and Times", then commonly referred to as the "Advertiser", for a job. That was all he wanted, and he had no ambitions for early

ownership of the newspaper as he had had when first he had tried to make a connection with the "Adams Journal".

"Would \$10 a week be enough?", came the answer to his application to John A. Place, the editor.

"Yes", the youth replied, it would.

Then came the answer, "take your coat off and get to work". He did.

"Two other papers were in operation in Oswego", continues the Fine account of Lord's first days as a newspaperman in Oswego, "the 'Press', and the 'Palladium'. The age of personal journalism had not yet been displaced by the age of amalgamation and combination. Young Lord received the title of Associate Editor on the 'Advertiser'. Besides covering the important news items of the community, the new man was expected to contribute his full share of editorial and feature items.

"That did not bother him. What did smash his idealistic conception of a newspaperman's life, however, were the physical surroundings. He had pictured a newspaper office as being elegantly furnished with soft arm chairs, oriental rugs and roll-top desks. Now that he had become an editor, surely the honors attending such a position would be heaped upon him, crown and all.

His New "Office" Gave Lord A Jolt

"Disappointment was in store for him. John A Place, editor of the paper, showed his associate his editorial sanctum. In lieu of desk, he was given a pine table, sans drawers, sans roll-top and with a rough-surfaced top in the bargain. Two low wooden screen partitions, placed at right angles to the wall, might, by some stretch of the imagination, be labeled an office. On the top of the pine table rested a huge stack of copy paper, cut into some semblance of squares, several

pencils chewed at one end and dull at the other, lay beside the paper. A heavy pot of ill-smelling printer's paste, really a mixture of flour, water and gum, occupied the center of the table; into the top was thrust a heavy paint brush, its handle sticky and wet, the cynosure of a swarm of hungry flies, hovering and buzzing merrily above the tasty meal.

"The new man stared at his private office. Surely, not a great deal to become excited about. Where were all the volumes of history, travel, economics that every editor must have? This was not at all what he had anticipated. But the worst was yet to come. Lord entered the 'Advertiser' office about noon. What was he to do?

"Cover the horse races this afternoon."

Horse Race First Assignment

"That was his first assignment, and a more up-set and bewildered newspaper man never existed. Being the son of a clergyman, Young Lord had never been allowed to witness such Satanic sports. Besides, whether through volition or circumstance, he had never become interested in horse racing. Fishing and hunting were his delights—but what to do next? Just as he picked up his hat, ready to die for dear old 'Advertiser', an idea came to him. Picking up a recent issue of the 'New York Herald' on file in the city room, he discovered a detailed report of a metropolitan horse race. Written by an expert sports reporter, it contained every thing and proved to be an excellent model to follow.

"The young reporter cut out the article, and repeatedly referred to it as the races progressed. Through the 'Herald' story he learned that the report of a horse race should contain an account of the crowd, the gowns worn by the ladies, the betting odds, summaries of the races, distinguished spectators and similar routine

matter, familiar to every reporter. After the races Lord went back to his cubby-hole office, and with the article before him, wrote an account of the afternoon's proceedings.

"The report proved to be entirely satisfactory to the editor. The new man was accepted as a regular reporter. But, Mr. Lord later confessed, with the exception of the names and figures, the article he wrote was a cheap imitation of the 'Herald' story. He does not recommend this process of reporting to instructors of the profession.

"In addition to covering races and church meetings, Chet, as he was familiarly called around the office, had to furnish nearly all the material for the editorial page. At the age of 20 he wrote editorials on the conduct of the Franco-Prussian War, then destroying the peace of Europe, reproved Bismarck for diplomatic indelicacies, advised the warring nations as to terms of peace and gravely instructed Congress and the President of the United States how to handle problems of reconstruction following the Civil War.

"And all for \$10 a week!" Mr. Lord marvels today, adding, "Not by any exaltation of the intellect can you imagine the consternation with which I now read these articles."

Life Of Oswego Reporters In '70s

"Life in a newspaper office in the 1870's was pleasing enough, not being troubled with banging type-writers, glaring electric lights or telephone re-writes. Speed and dead-lines were not very important. All writing had to be done by pencil, and every story had to be turned in personally. Thus if an assignment took place in the outskirts of the village, the reporter had to walk to his job—or, perhaps, if important enough, hire a hansom—and then walk back. No matter how exclusive or exciting the event, there was no possible method of rushing it back to the office.

"After a leisurely day's work Chet would reach under his pine table and draw forth a piccolo. Then with lively martial tunes, the amateur musician and great music-lover would entertain his fellow workers. The 'Advertiser' office rang out many an evening with the piping notes of "Marching Through Georgia", followed by enthusiastic applause from the reporters who happened to be in the office at the time. Besides playing the piccolo, Chet became renowned in the village as a presentable piano player. He organized a group of kindred souls about him and soon became the centre and leading spirit of a coeterie of opera enthusiasts who gathered in the music store of *Oliver Peck.

"While reporting horse races and censuring the crowned-heads of Europe took considerable time. Chet still found time to visit Adams. The 'attractive girl in the pink dress' awaited him. Now he did not have to run back in the evening at top-speed for fear of being locked out. He was an independent newspaperman making \$10 a week, and saving a portion of it for future delights. By this time his friends knew of his love for Kitty Bates, and frequently teased him about it. On one occasion in September 1871 the 'Adams Journal' printed in its columns:

"A Goak"

"Because C. S. Lord, the local editor of the 'Oswego Advertiser' took a short vacation, the local editor of the 'Palladium' of Oswego, thought he 'smelt a mice' and accordingly published the following: 'The desk of the local "Advertiser" office today is occupied by a sub. The "Advertiser's" Lord has gone for an angel. He will commit matrimony in

spite of his friends. Hoping that the best of luck may attend him in his philanthropic effort, we remain, as ever, his most faithful well-wisher.'

"On his return friend Lord republished the item and said: 'We did not go for an angel, we went to angle and had good luck, too.' And we judge from further comment that on his desk he found a fine collection of presents such as a cradle, rubber rings, bottles with mysterious stoppers and the like. He says they are more suggestive than practical."

The "Fulton Patriot" contained the formal announcement of the wedding as follows:

Married

Lord-Bates at the Presbyterian Church in Adams, N. Y. October 18th 1871 by Rev. Edward Lord, Chester S. Lord of Oswego to Kate M. Bates of Adams. Jefferson papers please copy.

The wedding took place at 6:30 o'clock in the evening, and after an eastern trip, Editor Lord and his bride returned to Oswego to make their home.

Newspaper Salaries In 1870s

"Ten dollars a week even in 1871 was hardly enough for a family of two," Mr. Fine's biography of Lord continues. "And so using his increased expenses as an opening wedge, Mr. Lord persuaded the editor to raise his salary to \$15. That satisfied the Lord family temporarily. But as several months passed and the spring of 1872 blossomed forth, the head of the family became restless once again. Fifteen dollars wasn't much money, and what were the chances of getting more? His editorial chief, John A. Place, carried off \$25 each week. The editor of the 'Palladium,' John Barry, got the same amount. Clark Morrison was making \$17 and Ben Wells, the city Editor of the 'Oswego Press' was getting \$15.00. The prospects for financial independence paled and vanished. Twenty five dollars a

*Oliver Peck's music store was located in the other half of the same business building as the "Advertiser" office at 213 West First street, according to the Oswego City Directory of 1872-74 which further describes its location as "in the Advertiser Block, opposite the new City Hall."

week appeared to be the maximum salary a newspaperman could make in Oswego."

In consequence of this situation, Lord talked the matter over with his young wife and decided to stick to the newspaper business but to seek a new field in which there should be greater opportunity for financial advancement. "New York—that's the town for newspapermen," he told his wife, when she asked him where he would go."

Lord Seeks Metropolitan Job

One of the owners of the "Advertiser" had formerly worked on the "New York Tribune" and knew Amos Cummings, managing editor of the "New York Sun." With a letter of introduction in his pocket addressed to Cummings and a leave of absence from the "Advertiser" office, Lord went to New York late in February 1872 ostensibly on the ground of visiting a sick grandmother but actually to seek a job. What the prospects could be, he could only guess.

"New York in 1872 was the journalist's mecca," says Fine's biography of Lord. "Subways sky-scrappers, electric lights, telephones, automobiles, type-writers all belonged to the future," continues the Fine narrative. "Papers flourished. Park Row was just coming into its own. The 'New York Daily News,' the 'World,' Greeley's 'Tribune,' Dana's 'Sun,' Bennett's 'Herald,' Raymond's 'Times,' vied with each other for favor of the public.

"The wind swept fiercely down Fulton street (New York) early on a February morning as the Oswego stranger ploughed through the snow looking for the corner of Nassau and Spruce streets, searching for a faded, red-brick building with an unobtrusive sign 'The Sun' tacked over the front door. The eager stranger, unaware of cold or snow, sought out this sign. To him it was haven, a sanctuary. He stepped within and then up a circular flight of

iron stairs, leading to the third floor where all actual editorial work on the paper was done. As the young visitor climbed the spiral, he had little premonition that for the next 41 years these steps would bear the measured treads of his steps."

Lord presented his letter of introduction to Amos Cummings, the managing editor of the "Sun." After listening to a discouraging talk from Cummings as to the prospects for him in New York, Lord was given a job on trial for six months at \$10.00 a week with a promise of a regular job thereafter if he made good. This was \$5.00 a week less than he was receiving in Oswego, but if success came the chances for promotion were immeasurably greater. Lord took the job, returned to Oswego to complete his week's work on the "Advertiser," arranged for his wife to go to the home of her parents until he should send for her to come to New York, and put his affairs in order preparatory to leaving Oswego.

Oswego Lord's Turning Point

"I have always regarded that decision (to go to New York) as the most fortunate episode in my life," said Mr. Lord towards the close of his career. "I have never regretted it. If I had stayed in Oswego, I would have gone to gradual decay."

"Mr. Lord broke the news of his departure to his Oswego colleagues," continues the Fine biography. "The editor wished him god-speed, although he acknowledged that he would miss his editorial colleague. He would have to search a long time, he intimated, to find a man capable of taking Bismarck to task, as neatly as did friend Chester; nor would it be easy to replace a man who could write three-column feature stories with such ease and charm. Verily Oswego was about to lose a good man.

"The other Oswego papers complimented their opponent's good luck. That was the way of

personal journalism, and the newspaper columns were often as informal as the Broadway columnists are today. Said the "Palladium" under a caption:

"Going To The Sun"

"Mr. Chester S. Lord who for the past two years has filled the position of local editor on the 'Tiser, retires for the purpose of accepting a position on the 'New York Sun' in the reportorial corps. We wish the gentleman success and trust that the redhot sheet may not wither his prospects, but rather quicken the growth of the journalistic germ which he has in him. 'Chet' remains in town till Saturday. In the meantime bouquets will be received at 'Tizer office."

And the "Oswego Press" echoed:

"Mr. C. S. Lord, local editor of the 'Oswego Advertiser' will leave the city on Saturday having made an engagement on the 'New York Sun.' Mr. Lord has made lots of personal friends during his sojourn in Oswego. He is a clever fellow, and we wish him prosperity and success."

A few years after he left Oswego, Mr. Lord who attained probably the greatest distinction in his chosen field of labor yet attained by a member of his profession hailing from Oswego County, became the managing editor of the "Sun". After spending 41 years in the old building, he spent many more in the new "Sun" building that replaced it. He was with the "Sun" as managing editor for 50 years. While the "Sun" was under his direction the paper was long known as "the newspaperman's newspaper." Members of the craft believed that it was the leading exponent of the art of newspaper making. The old "Morning Sun" filled a niche peculiarly its own while Lord was at the helm. The paper was suspended some years after his retirement, and only the evening "Sun" continues today.

The newly merged paper, under the name "The Oswego Daily Times" which succeeded the former "Advertiser" and the former "Press" in 1873, was published at 211 West First Street in the Brigham Block where the "Advertiser" had been published for several years. It was identified as "New Series Vol. 1, No. 1" and was designed to sell at \$8.00 a year or 18 cents a week. It had the format of the old "Advertiser." Thaddeus Brigham remained for one year as publisher and then retired to his farm and country residence at Fruit Valley. F. A. Crandall of the "Press" remained for one year as an editor of the new "Daily Times," but with J. A. Place of the former "Advertiser" continuing as the principal editor of the new publication with which he was yet to serve for nearly 30 years. Lewis Shell was the business manager.

Officers of the "Oswego Publishing Company," which published the paper were active Republican politicians of the day: Elias Root, president of the National Marine Bank and collector of the port of Oswego; Benjamin Doolittle, mill and elevator owner after whose family the old "Doolittle House" which stood on the site of the present Hotel Pontiac was named and who had been one of the chief stockholders of the "Press," Thompson Kingsford, head of the Kingsford starch factory and his secretary and legal adviser, W. W. Scribner. Mr. Doolittle was president, Mr. Scribner secretary and Mr. Root chairman of the executive committee of the Publishing Company.

The "Daily Times" first issue contained the following:

A Word At Beginning

"The appearance of the 'Oswego Times' in place of the 'Oswego Advertiser' and the 'Oswego Press' marks the reunion of the Republican party of Oswego City and County after the long and fierce feuds of recent years. . . . It is meant to make a newspaper

which will be apart from and above all factional disputes, all sectional discords.

But it is not proposed that the "Times" shall be merely and solely a party journal. It is intended to be a newspaper in as broad a sense as that much abused designation, as the size and wideness of its field will admit. The "Times" can afford to be more of a newspaper than any of its Oswego predecessors, for the consolidation brings to it a much larger circulation, and in every way a much larger and more profitable business than ever came to an Oswego newspaper before. It therefore can and will employ a larger staff of editors and reporters, and print more and better digested matter than any preceeding Oswego paper. . .

"The 'Oswego Times' is owned and published by the Oswego Publishing Company, a corporation having a paid-up capital of \$40,000 and managed by the following gentlemen as a Board of Directors: Benjamin Doolittle, president, Elias Root, John C. Churchill, Thomson Kingsford, George B. Sloan, Thomas S. Mott and Alonzo H. Failing. Under such auspices the 'Oswego Times' is given to the public.

"It will be a prime object with the present managers to promote the commercial, manufacturing and general interests of the City and County of Oswego."

John A. Place was the new company's first treasurer; Frederick Thompson business manager. Mr. Place was also editor, Fred A. Dixon, city editor and Henry Stillman, commercial editor.

The "Times" continued as a four page paper, 8 columns to a page. It brought out two editions daily, the final one at 5 P. M. With its second issue it began carrying telegraphic news.

Hard Times Come To Oswego

Soon after the advent of the "Oswego Publishing Company" in the newspaper business in Oswe-

go, "hard times" developed throughout the country following "Black Friday." Between 1873 and 1880 four commercial banks in Oswego went into liquidation, unable to stand the strain. (The two National Banks, more recently established, and the Savings Banks weathered the storm.) As may be imagined those years between 1873 and 1880 were "bad years" for the newspaper business as well as for almost every other kind of business in Oswego except the bankruptcy courts and the lawyers of the period.

Prominent Figures With "Times"

Among the men who were employed on the "Advertiser and Times" under Messers Brigham and Place, or later by the "Times" after the Oswego Publishing Company took over the newspaper in 1873 was Major Dudley Farling who had previously been (in 1853-54) one of the publishers of the "Palladium," Captain M. C. Thompson, a job printer and superintendent of the newspaper's plant for some years, Melvin C. Crombie who opened the books of the Oswego Publishing Company and who afterwards became treasurer of the Oswego City Savings Bank, Lavandie L. Sherman who succeeded Crombie and was business manager of the "Times" from 1873 to 1890 when he purchased an interest in the "Palladium."

Col. James S. Goodrich came to Oswego from Auburn to become city editor of the newspaper, but he was taken ill a year or more later and died of pneumonia; E. J. Gibson was managing editor of the "Times" for about three years and afterwards owned a bookstore in Oswego until he sold it and went to Philadelphia, Pa. to take a position with the "Press" in that city which later made him its Washington correspondent. (He was a brother of Mrs. N. W. Nutting of Oswego.) George C. Bragdon came from the Watertown "Times" about 1880 to take over editorial duties during a part of the period that John A. Place

was in Albany serving as auditor of the New York State Canal Department; William M. McNall served on the "Times" staff and simultaneously was a custom's inspector under Elias Root, then collector of the port of Oswego and principal owner of the stock of the "Times"; Henry C. Stillman was commercial and financial editor of the "Times" for many years.

Telephone Great Aid To Press

It was during the period of the late 1870s that an important new tool to assist in the task of gathering the news was introduced into Oswego as the result of Alexander Graham Bell's invention of the telephone in 1874-76. The first telephone ever used in Oswego had been installed by Martin Joyce for Dr. A. W. Milne in the fall of 1877 to connect the doctor's office with his home which stood a mile away, the wires being run over the intervening house tops. Service was soon afterwards established between Penfield, Lyon & Company's office and mill and between the office and grain elevator of Irwin & Sloan. In 1879 the first telephone exchange was set up in Oswego by a Mr. Carson with about sixty subscribers among whom were the "Oswego Times" with 'phone "8" and the "Oswego Palladium" with the 'phone number "26," both of which numbers have continued in use in the newspaper offices to this day, along with some others, later assigned to the Oswego newspapers.

It was not until 1883 that the first telephone toll line was built out of the Oswego exchange to connect Fulton and Oswego. In 1891 a toll line to Syracuse was set up and another to Clyde, the Empire State Telephone Company then becoming the corporate name of the company.

The first manager of the telephone exchange with whom the Oswego newspaper men had to deal was named Pierce, but he was shortly succeeded by Martin Joyce who continued as manager

of the Empire State, the Central New York and the New York telephone companies until 1910 when he retired.

The Empire State Company subsequently changed its name to that of the Central New York Telephone Company and in 1909 it was taken over by the New York Telephone Company which has continued operations in Oswego since that time. An independent company known as the Ontario Telephone Company with Frederick A. Emerick of Oswego as its president had been organized in 1898, but this company had been acquired in 1906 by the Central New York Telephone Company so that its former lines soon passed under the control of the New York Telephone Company. Today the thousands of residential and business telephones in the territory served by the Oswego newspapers, and elsewhere throughout the state and nation, have greatly simplified and expedited the task of the reporter in gathering news. By comparison the old time methods of news gathering seem irksome indeed.

Newsprint Paves Way For Larger Newspapers

In the early 1870s the newspapers of Oswego were still being printed on rag paper, but as the result of a serious shortage of paper suitable for printing newspapers which had begun to make itself felt towards the end of the Civil War, forcing some newspapers to suspend when the cost of rag paper rose to 24 cents a pound, efforts were soon started to develop another and less expensive source of supply of print paper for newspaper use. In the summer of 1866 Theodore Steinway, then head of the piano manufacturing firm, was discussing the paper shortage with his friends Albrecht and Rudolph Pagenstecher, recently come to the United States from Germany, and learned that wood was being used successfully in Germany for the making of paper. Steinway sug-

gested that a profit might be made if the process could be introduced to this country. Rudolph Pagenstecher was sent over to Germany to investigate the matter. He returned in December of that same year with two paper making machines invented by Heinrich Voelter for making paper from wood pulp.

In the meantime the Pagenstechers had interested Wellington Smith of the Smith Paper Company of Lee, Mass., in the matter. Smith had arranged matters so that an abandoned sabinet mill in the nearby village of Curtisville (now Interlaken) could be purchased with its water power rights for \$11,000 for the experimental manufacture of newsprint. Berkshire County, Mass., at that time was the center of the paper making industry of the country. Its hills were covered with poplar and spruce. The paper making machines from Germany were installed in the old mill by Frederick Wurtzbach, 29 years old, who had brought them from Germany. On March 16, 1867, 75 years ago this year, the wood pulp was hauled from the Curtisville mill in the dead of the night to the Smith Paper Company plant in Lee where two days later the first "newsprint" made in the world was produced. Gradually the amount of wood pulp in the paper was increased until a standard product made largely from woodpulp was developed. Soon James Gordon Bennett's "New York Herald" was using the product, and thereafter its use spread rapidly, paving the way because of its lower cost for the newspapers of a larger number of pages that we know of today.

'Times' Plant Moves To New Location

Largely as the result of the depressed business conditions in the country following 1873 which had their repercussions in Oswego in the failure of four commercial banks, the "Oswego Daily Times" found itself under the necessity of

moving to less expensive quarters in 1879 when it moved its office from 211 West First Street, where it had been located for a decade, to the southwest corner of West Second and Bridge streets where it occupied a part of the Vulcan Iron Works property and received steam power for the operation of its presses from the foundry's boiler. In the new location the business office occupied a small room on the first floor of the building while the composing room and editorial rooms, and the press rooms were located on the floor above.

It was while the "Times" was occupying this new location in 1884 that a distressing accident occurred. A door, still observable today, opened at the second floor level of the building on its West Second street side. Above it was suspended from a projecting beam a block and tackle which was used in handling freight and in lowering the printed newspapers to the business office on the street level where they would be given out to the carrier boys. On this occasion, John Sadler, aged 11, one of the carrier boys, son of the late Mr. and Mrs. Edward Sadler, had opened this door and seized the rope with the intention of swinging himself back and forth thereon as he had observed other boys do. As he swung out his grip failed precipitating him to the paved walk below with such force that he was killed. John was a brother of James F. Sadler, now of 96 Ellen street.

J. B. Alexander Assumes Control

It was during the period of the business depression in the late 70's that John B. Alexander, a lawyer in Oswego and a son-in-law of John A. Place who for more than 15 years last past had been managing editor of the "Advertiser" and its successor "The Daily Times," began expanding his interest in the "Times" through purchases of stock in the company which published it. By 1879 Mr. Alexander had succeeded

his father-in-law as the principal stockholder and assumed the responsibilities which went therewith. Thereafter most of his time and attention was given to the newspaper.

Mr. Alexander succeeded Benjamin Doolittle as president of the Oswego Publishing Company shortly before the "Times" had removed in 1879 to its new location at the southwest corner of West Second and Bridge Streets.

Brigham's Brings Out "Morning Express"

In 1881, Thaddeus S. Brigham, who had gone into retirement at his Fruit Valley rural homestead in 1874, a year after the "Advertiser" which he had founded in 1864 in collaboration with John A. Place had been acquired by the Oswego Publishing Company to be issued thereafter under the name of the "Oswego Daily Times", decided to emerge from his horticultural surroundings to try his hand a second time at establishing a daily newspaper in Oswego. Here he had come nearly 45 years before to learn his trade as a printer with his half brother, Daniel Ayer, founder of the "Oswego Daily Advertiser" in 1845, Oswego's first daily newspaper, and C. D. Brigham, who had bought that first daily from Daniel Ayer in 1847 and changed its name to the "Oswego Daily Commercial Times."

In 1852 T. S. Brigham left Oswego for Fulton where he published, first in association with John A. Place and later (1854) on his own account, the "Fulton Patriot", for several years and then removed to Little Falls in 1861 to conduct the "Mohawk Courier". Selling this in 1864 he had returned to Oswego and established the "Commercial Advertiser." After conducting this for nearly a decade and purchasing and consolidating with it the "Commercial Times" in 1865, he sold his interests in 1873 to the Oswego Publishing Company, owners of the "Oswego Daily Times" and went into retirement.

J. B. Guilford First Express Editor

August 1, 1881 Brigham brought out at the printing office located in his own building at 211 West First Street which had been vacated two years before by the "Oswego Daily Times", the "Oswego Morning Express". The editor was J. B. Guilford who, the paper's first edition announced, had been with the Albany "Journal" for seven years. A. P. Potter who was the city editor, formerly had been with the Utica "Herald" and the Syracuse "Standard". The night editor was M. R. Ketcheson. (Later in its career Daniel G. Fort was for a time one of its editors.) In a signed statement in the first number of the "Morning Express" Mr. Brigham said:

"The Express is no experiment with untrained hands. Forty five years ago we began printing in this city, and since then have spent most of our life in a printing office, either as a compositor or publisher. Twenty seven years ago we began the Fulton 'Patriot' and left it eight years later to take charge of the 'Mohawk Courier.' At that time the 'Fulton Patriot' had a larger circulation and wielded a greater influence than any paper published in this county. From 1864 to 1873 we spent in this city as publisher of a daily paper, (The 'Commercial Advertiser') and our people know how well we succeeded."

The new paper carried the dispatches of the "National Associated Press" in its columns. It consisted of four pages of seven columns. The paper was more modern in its appearance, and contained more local news than most of its predecessors. The "heads" which appeared upon its longer "stories" indicated the presence on the staff of men who had prior experience with their tasks in larger fields. In the politics of the period the "Express" supported the "half-breeds" while

the "Times" championed the "stalwarts".

"Express" Proved Shortlived

Despite its good points, however, this final one of Mr. Brigham's newspaper ventures was comparatively shortlived. Its last issue (Vol. II, No. 88) came out November 6, 1882. The paper was merged next day with the "Times" and under the name of "Oswego Times and Express," published from the "Times" plant at West Second and Bridge street. In the "Times" issue of Nov. 9, 1883, Mr. Brigham came out with his "swan song", more than two columns long, in which he paid tribute to the "Express" subscribers and his associates on that paper. On July 1, 1887 the "and Express" was dropped from the name of the paper which resumed that of the "Oswego Daily Times" which it continued to use thereafter uninterruptedly until the merger was accomplished in 1925 between the "Times" and the "Palladium".

On December 4, 1886 the "Times and Express" had reduced the number of its columns to a page to six and also reduced its page size. This was about the time it occupied the new building at 170 West First street which it had purchased and remodeled for its permanent occupancy.

John A. Barry who was editor of the "Oswego Palladium" for a period of more than 20 years that ended in 1889 when he resigned and disposed of his stock interest in the "Palladium" to Clark Morrison, Sr., had a son, William J. Barry, who also entered newspaper work, but as an employee of the "Times" rather than in the "Palladium" office where he would have worked alongside his father. William Barry became in 1880 one of the editors of the "Times" and for three years he remained in this position, in close association with John A. Place and John B. Alexander. William P. Barry, now a farmer in the town of Hannibal, a son of Wil-

liam J. Barry, recalls that when he was a young man that it was his father's desire that he, too, should become identified with the "Times" editorial department, but the young man had ideas of his own as to what he wished to do with his life, and did not act in accordance with his father's expressed wish. All further thought of the son along that line was put to an end when William J. Barry died in 1883 while still comparatively a young man.

From the columns of "Times and Express" of August 22, 1885:

The Street Railway

This morning the first shipment of cars for use on the Oswego Street Railway arrived and preparations were going on through the day for running the cars on Monday when there is no doubt the cars will be well patronized, especially as Barnum's Circus will be in town that day. The superintendent is going right along with the work just as if there was no trouble with the R. W. & O. and D. L. & W. railroads and that the R. W. & O. has no right to stop them. It is extremely probable that such arrangements will be made that the cars will run the entire length of the road within a very short time. There is considerable feeling, especially on the East Side, on account of the opposition of the railroad company and they insist that the street railway has a better right to run through the streets than the R. W. & O.

Just before noon today the cars were moved to East Cayuga street by means of the tackle used at Ames Iron Works and drawn through Cayuga street and Second street to the railroad in front of Kingston's store and placed on the track. The cars are three in number and are are handsomely finished and attracted a good deal of attention.

It was reported on the streets this afternoon that an injunction had been served on the street railroad people restraining them

from crossing the tracks of the R. W. O. road. Mr. S. M. Coon of Rhodes, Coon & Higgins, denied that such an injunction had been secured.

The "Times and Express" of Monday, August 24, 1885 said in continuing its account of the operation of the first street railway in Oswego:

A large crowd assembled at 4:30 (Saturday night) to see the first car start off. Three cars went together having on board the directors and a number of invited guests. The cars were run steadily through the evening and were liberally patronized by persons who wanted to say they went over the road on the first day. As the cars are of the bob-tail pattern on which the driver (these were horse cars) acts as conductor, it took all the officials' time to keep off the boys who swarmed around like bees and jumped aboard the moment the driver's back was turned.

Promptly at 12 o'clock Saturday night Supt. (James) O'Connor was on hand with a force of men and the moment the hour struck began the work of putting the rails and making a crossing over the R. W. & O. road at the Midland depot. As everything was ready it was short work and as soon as the track was down and a car run across the track the (street) railway company consider they have possession. The work was done on Sunday in order to prevent the Rome company from getting an injunction.

(The horse car road represented an investment of \$20,000. It was not till 1890 that the company increased its capital stock to \$125,000 and replaced the horses with electricity as a motive power.)

"Times" Buys Former Bank Building

The situation of the "Times" at the West Second and Bridge

street location was not well adapted to the business of publishing and distributing a daily newspaper, and for some time J. B. Alexander had been casting about for a better location with the idea of erecting a new building which would provide suitable facilities for the newspaper and its commercial printing department. Finally Mr. Alexander determined that his company should purchase the old Lake Ontario National Bank Building where the bank had been located from 1856 until it was liquidated about 1880, and reconstruct that building for the occupancy of the "Times." Acting on that decision, the Oswego Publishing Company purchased from Howard G. White the former bank building at 174 West First street and occupied it in 1885 after reconstruction operations had been completed.

By coincidence the first private owner of the lot on which the building stood had been John H. Lord, Jr., founder in 1819 of the "Palladium." Lord bought the lot June 8, 1832 from the State of New York. He sold it in 1836 for \$4500.00 to the president and directors of the Oswego Bank. The "Times" became the 10th owner of the property.

The bank building at the time of its purchase by the "Times" had quite a different appearance than it presents today. The approach to the main floor of the building was up a flight of steps which led to an entrance several feet above the street level, between lofty columns which gave the building a facade not unlike that of the old Federal sub-treasury building which to the delight of tourists and visitors, still stands in Wall Street, New York. The pillars and the steps were removed, and the floor at the front of the building dropped to the street level before the newspaper occupied the building. The "balcony" portion of the newspaper's business office of today, however, is at the same level

As It Appeared In 1866
Oswego's "Newspaper Row" of Today



Former Lake Ontario National Bank Building Converted in 1886
to "Times" Newspaper Office. At Left Appears the "Palladium"
Building As It Appeared About 1866

as the main floor of the earlier bank building.

Fire Damages New Plant

Fire visited the "Times-Express" new office at 174 West First street Sunday morning, February 13, 1887, at 9:45 o'clock. The blaze was in the "folding room."

By the time the firemen arrived, smoke was pouring out of the rear of the building in dense volumes. The firemen directed their efforts to the North side of the building on which side the fire had originated. The narrow alleyway presented an inconvenient place for the firemen to work and the material in the North room and the adjoining one South (the stock room) was very combustible. The flames spread rapidly.

The folding and stock rooms were gutted. The fire worked through the second story floor to the job pressroom and made a thorough wreck of that department. The presses were damaged seriously, perhaps beyond repair. The newspaper pressroom escaped with less damage.

"The office today little resembles the cosy quarters into which we moved a little over a year ago," said the "Times" of February 14. "Walls saturated with water and begrimed with smoke and floors covered with charred debris give the various departments an ancient appearance about as horrible to us as they would be to a thrifty housewife.

"Fortunately the office possesses an annex in the material purchased with the 'Morning Express' and this combined with cases we are able to utilize from the material that has been in service on the 'Times-Express' enables us to issue the paper as usual. We are indebted to the 'Palladium' for the press work."

Total insurance carried on the machinery, stock and fixtures was \$12,900.00 and on the building \$4,500.00. The loss awaited the ar-

rival of experts from press building factories to be determined.

Senator Sloan Acquires An Interest

George George B. Sloan, former state senator and prominent citizen of Oswego, a man of wide acquaintance and much influence throughout the state, who had been the principal backer of the "Morning Express" during its brief career, after its demise became financially interested in "The Times and Express." He became a frequent contributor to its editorial columns during the succeeding 20 years during which Mr. Sloan became very active and prominent in the political affairs not only of the City and County of Oswego, but those of the state at large.

In 1890 "The Daily Times" consisted of four pages, each of eight columns 23½ inches long and 2¼ inches wide. It carried telegraph news, but in limited quantities. Most of its news, outside of that developing in its own city and county, came to it in the form of what was known in newspaper circles of the period as "boiler plate." This was news set up in type form in a distant metropolitan center, (Buffalo in the case of the "Times") reproduced by the Western Newspaper Union or the American Press Association, in plate form, and shipped daily by express in wooden boxes of a size sufficient to hold enough columns of plate to fill one page of the newspaper, to many newspapers published in small cities, surrounding the larger city where the plates were made up. In the home newspaper office the plates were used to provide a page of "world news" for each day's edition. It was easier to get the "boiler plate" into Oswego in time for the day's edition and the printed papers "out" to subscribers in those days than would be the case now for the reason, as the "Times" advertising columns of 1890 disclose, that the three railroads entering Oswego then

operated 24 passenger trains into Oswego in each 24 hour period—and as many out—as contrasted with three trains in and three out over two railroads as provided for the convenience of the traveling public today.

Paper Issued Under Handicaps

During the period the "Times and Express" was being printed at the Vulcan Iron Works location, and later after it had moved to its own building at 174 West First street, it was still being printed by a hand-fed press, a slow and laborious process, which also rendered it necessary for each copy of the paper to be run twice through the press before it was ready for the reader. In the late morning the double sheets would be fed into the press and two of the four pages which still comprised the maximum size of the edition which could readily be handled with the equipment would be printed. In the mid-afternoon, the process would be repeated, and the other two pages of "late news" would be printed. Large circulations were still not feasible because of the slowness of this process.

But the practice had its advantages for the period, and under the conditions that then obtained in the newspaper office, where money and needed equipment were both very scarce. One of the old compositors whose connection with the "Times" extended over a period of 20 years or more following 1880, recalls that during this period that the type used for the "headings" in the newspaper was so scarce that one of the young women compositors was usually held on duty during the noon hour that, as soon as the press had stopped running on the first or morning "run," the two pages of type could be returned from the press to the composing room that she might extract the head type from the two pages already printed and replace it in the cases so that it would be ready for use by the compositors

in making up the two remaining pages needed for the afternoon's run. There would not be sufficient head type in the office to care for both "runs" if this precaution had not been exercised.

At one time when there was a long list of names to be set in the tax sale notice for the paper, there were so many "Williams" in the list that the available supply of capital "W's" was soon exhausted. To meet this emergency the resourceful young women, thereafter, changed from "William" to "Bill" these names, and as there happened to be a plentiful supply of "B" in the type cases they found a remedy for this situation through this expedient.

Employees Paid In "Scrip"

The young women compositors were accustomed to bring their lunches to the office, and they usually ate their luncheons together in the plant, but some times they took them out to nearby restaurants where they could get a hot bowl of soup or a hot beverage to accompany the food that they had brought. The pay for the long hours then worked in each day seems small as compared with today's standards. After working a six day week of 54 hours—sometimes even 60 hours—the total to be expected in the pay envelope was not more than \$7.50 for the week—\$6.00, if but a short hour week had been worked. That is—that is what the girls could expect to receive if they were fortunate enough to get all that was coming to them. On many pay days they did not attain this desired status. For frequently, because of the shortage of ready money in the newspaper's till they were given only a part of the wages earned during the week, or a part in cash and the remainder in orders, issued by the newspaper to its advertisers who owed it money, directing the advertiser to issue merchandise to the employee in some specific amount, charg-

ing the amount against the "Times" which would later give the advertiser credit upon his bill for the amount. This practice was in very common use in the newspaper office at this period.

Printing Press "Money"

At an earlier date the "Times" had issued "scrip" to its employees which was honored by local merchants and passed for money. Some of the "scrip" was elaborately printed with a cut of a printing press, ornamenting the "scrip" conspicuously. It was signed by an officer of the newspaper company and differed from the later orders issued to be "traded out" with advertisers in that they were printed for specific round sum amounts such as multiples of the dollar, or fifty cents or some other such amount. They were never issued for odd amounts. How long these were in use, I do not know, but they were in use in the 70's and possibly the early 80's.

Wednesday, April 20, 1887, the "Times and Express" dropped the "Express" portion of the newspaper's name and the former name of the "Oswego Daily Times" was resumed. Simultaneously in a front page editorial announcement the newspaper drew attention to changes which were being put into effect that day as follows:

THE TIMES

"Sometime since the publishers of the 'Times-Express' determined to enlarge the paper and in its enlarged form to have it appear in a complete new dress and improved in every respect. The consummation of that purpose was delayed for several weeks' time by the fire on the 13th of February which destroyed our press-rooms and committed havoc generally with the entire establishment.

"Today we are enabled to present the paper enlarged and improved and printed entirely upon new type. Early in January we added to the establishment a new

fast press so that now the "Times" establishment is much better equipped for the publication of a paper which will better satisfy its publishers and be more creditable to Oswego, than any which has ever before existed in this city. x x x

"As a newspaper, locally, we can only say that the paper will be kept fully abreast of the demands of the times. Our franchise in the Associated Press covers everything it has to offer in the way of news facilities and our local department will lose nothing of its well-earned reputation for enterprise and success."

The paper was at this time enlarged to 8 columns, 23¼ inches long and 2½ inches wide. Its appearance was very materially improved. The number of pages used in an edition, however, remained as formerly at four.

In another column of the same issue appeared a telegraphic dispatch from Annapolis, Md. which read as follows:

Lieut. J. W. Danenhower A Suicide

"Lieut. John W. Danenhower, of arctic fame, was discovered at 10 o'clock this morning dead in his quarters at the Naval Academy with a bullet hole in his right temple. He was found lying on a rug near the fireplace with a tag tied to his buttonhole saying 'Send to my brother at Washington'.

"Although he had had mental troubles since he returned from the arctic regions, what immediately led to his suicide is thought to have been the recent grounding of the "Constellation" (a war ship) on its way to Norfolk which he had charge of, and for which, it is supposed, he had a fear of being court-martialled. Furthermore he was very intimate with young Robert W. Gatewood, who recently committed suicide on the Carolina and whom he saw in death. It is supposed that this death suggested the mode to him. His wife, formerly,

Miss Sloan is away with her parents. Lieut. Danenhower leaves two children. He was about 30 years old and an intelligent and polished officer".

Mrs. Danenhower, the daughter of Senator George B. Sloan, was at the time visiting at the home of her parents in Oswego. It was while he was a guest in the Sloan home, after his narrow escape with his life in the polar expedition, when he came here to give a lecture on the ill-fated voyage of the "Jeanette" that Lieut. Danenhower became acquainted with the charming Oswego young lady who became his wife.

Peculiarities In New Building

Having been built for banking purposes exclusively, the building at 174 West First street when first it was purchased by the "Times and Express" was not well adapted for the purpose of the newspaper. The change in floor levels made at the front of the building when the bank steps were removed and a new level for the business office established at nearly the street level had made it necessary for a stair case to be ascended at the rear of the business office to reach the former first floor level of the former bank at which level a part of the offices and most of the manufacturing processes were still maintained. Patrick Fitzgibbons who in 1886 was assisting the "Times" in the moving operations attendant upon its shift from the West Second street location to its new home described correctly and succinctly one of the strange anomalies of the new location when he blurted out in a rich brogue "This is the Gawd Dahmdest building I ever saw — if you want to go down cellar, you go up stairs". This situation still obtains today, unless one enters the cellar by the outside street entrance or uses the interior elevator.

The front portion of the third floor of the building was added in connection with the reconstruction operations undertaken at this time.

Old "Times" Employees

Fred Cook, a native of Oswego who learned his trade as a newspaper pressman at the Oliphant printing plant in Oswego, later became a pressman for the "Times" while it was located at the West Second and Bridge street location in the early 1880s. Later he left and went to Auburn to work. Today, approaching his 80th year he is yet active as the superintendent of the pressroom of the Auburn "Citizen-Advertiser".

William Wylie who was also a pressman at the West Second street plant, continued in that capacity for a number of years when the First street building was occupied. Fred Roden, later a mail carrier attached to the Oswego Post-Office, was a compositor. In the business office at the period was H. C. (Ki) Cornish whose daughter later married Harry Skerrit, now a prominent Syracuse City Judge who grew up in Oswego Town. Also attached to the business office was Henry E. Turner, for many years a circulator and collector for the newspaper who occasionally used to bring his little son to the newspaper office with him where, lifted up on a table or chair, the youngster would sing or recite, for the entertainment of the girls employed in the office. That fair-haired boy was the man we know in the Historical Society today as Dr. R. C. Turner.

In the early 1890s the "Times" editorial staff included, besides John A. Place and John B. Alexander, the principal owners, Benjamin R. Ketcheson who was city editor and also an editorial writer. Mr. Ketcheson, a product of the old school of printer-editors was a most versatile man who could execute well almost any

task that could be assigned to him in the newspaper's plant or its editorial rooms. Fred A. Dixon was the telegraph editor and a columnist. Charles Dunning Clark was a reporter, who also wrote "on the side" the Beadle "dime-novels" as a means of adding to his earning power. These were published for the entertainment of an avid public which impatiently awaited their periodic appearance. Clarence S. Martin, a grandson of Mr. Ketcheson, was a "cub" reporter. After Mr. Clark died, Mr. Martin was the only reporter left on the staff for a time who was available for outside work. Later in the decade Nelson Mead, son of the Rev. Philip Nelson Meade, who was then the rector of Christ Church, Oswego, became a reporter on the "Times" and also handled the telegraph news. In later years he became a city editor of the "New York Tribune." Newton McMillan joined the staff of the "Times" in 1898 and remained for a year or more before entering upon a private publishing venture.

In this same period D. H. Tiffit who had risen to a captaincy in the Oswego National Guard company was foreman of the commercial printing department of the "Times", a position he filled for more than 20 years.

Of the death of Thaddeus S. Brigham at his home in Fruit Valley on the evening of August 8, 1890, the "Oswego Daily Times" of the following day says in part:

Thaddeus S. Brigham

"Thaddeus S. Brigham was born in Rochester, N. Y., December 12, 1826 and was consequently in the 64th year of his age. He lost his father at an early age and became a member of the family of his half-brother, the late Daniel Ayer, with whom many of his younger years were spent and with whom he learned the printing business. Mr. Ayer published the 'Pulaski Advocate' from 1836

to 1840 and the 'Fulton Mirror' in 1842, during which time his half-brother was with him attending school and learning the trade. Later Mr. Ayer purchased the 'Oswego County Whig' of the late Richard Oliphant and commenced publishing the first daily ever issued in Oswego, it being the origin of the present 'Oswego Times'. It was published by Mr. Ayer some two or three years and was then known as the 'Oswego Daily Advertiser'. During those years Mr. Brigham worked upon the paper for his half-brother as a printer. Subsequently he worked at his trade in the 'Times' office until 1854 when he purchased the 'Fulton Patriot' which he published for six years, and was at one time in the publication of that paper associated with Hon. Richard H. Sanford and also George E. Williams.

"Closing up his business in Fulton, he went to Little Falls about 1860 to settle up the affairs of his half-brother, Daniel Ayer, who had been the proprietor of the 'Herkimer Journal' and died there. While there he purchased the 'Mohawk Courier' which in partnership with his half-brother, Mr. William Ayer, now of this city, he published for about three years.

"In February 1864, associated with J. A. Place, Mr. Brigham commenced the publication of the 'Oswego Daily Commercial Advertiser' which during the year was merged with the 'Daily Times' into one paper, with which he remained connected as Publisher until the organization of the Oswego Publishing Company in 1873, which ended his connection with the publishing business in Oswego except as Publisher of the 'Daily Express' which after two years was also merged in the 'Daily Times'.

"Several years since Mr. Brigham purchased a place in Union Village (Fruit Valley) where he erected a tasty and convenient brick residence and put the place under a high state of cultivation.

Founder of Many Oswego
County Newspapers



Thaddeus S. Brigham As He Appeared Near the End of His Life
Seated Outside His Fruit Valley Home

The land, when he took it, was rough and uncultivated, and is now covered with thrifty orcharding and a fine garden, with greenhouses, etc., thus showing what a change a few years of care and cultivation can produce.

"During his later years in Union Village, Mr. Brigham, so far as public affairs are concerned, had led a somewhat retired life. He at one time took a lively interest in the Oswego Town Agricultural Society and during the time of its prosperity was for several years its President. He was also Supervisor of the Town for two years and took an active part in the affairs of the Board and made an efficient and influential representative of the interests of his Town.

"In early life Mr. Brigham married Miss Mary O'Farrell, the daughter of Rev. F. A. O'Farrell, at one time a well-known citizen of Oswego. She died in Union Village several years since. Of Mr. Brigham's family only three survive: Mrs. Mary Taylor of Portland, Oregon, Mrs. Fred W. Stewart and Mrs. William R. Nesbitt of this city. He was half-brother of Mr. William Ayer and Mrs. A. M. Richards of this city and the Uncle of Mr. Fred a Dixon of the 'Times'."

T. S. Brigham built and successively lived in two houses at Fruit Valley. The home now occupied by Daniel H. Conway, son of Oswego's former mayor of the name, was the first Brigham home. Thereafter he built the brick house now occupied by the Joseph W. Dickinson family which stands on the east side of the Southwest Oswego-Oswego state highway.

Many Girls Set Type

In the early 1900s the day of machine set type in newspaper composing rooms had not yet arrived so far as Oswego was concerned. All type, both for advertising and news matter, was being set in the Oswego newspaper

offices by the slow and laborious process of hand-setting. For this purpose, besides many men who learned the compositors' trade, both Oswego newspapers of the period, "The Times" and the "Palladium" hired and trained young women to set type. There were from a dozen to 25 of these young women employed simultaneously in each of the newspaper offices. They reported for duty customarily at 7:30 o'clock in the morning, and sat on high stools at their type cases throughout the day. Their duties were not over for the day when the paper was "put to bed"; for they had to remain at their posts and "throw in"—redistribute to the proper compartments in the type cases—the type that had been used in that day's edition that it might be ready for reuse the next day.

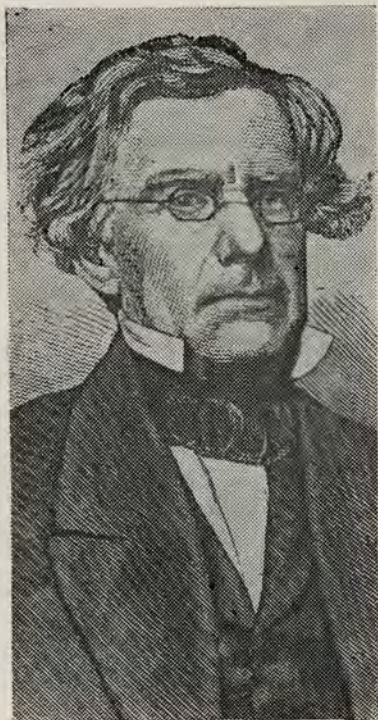
In the "Times" office Jules F. Menegay was foreman of the composing room at this time, and E. Gardner Legg who met a tragic death in an automobile accident while on a vacation trip August 17, 1935 at which time he was foreman of the "Palladium-Times" advertising "alley," was the office "devil"; both these men entered the "Times" plant as printers when yet in their early teens and remained with its successor, the "Palladium Times" for the rest of their lives.

As the first composing machines were not introduced into the newspaper offices of Oswego until 1913 when each of the two local papers installed one, it is not surprising that there are still employed by the "Palladium-Times" three young women who as girls were employed as hand-compositors in the "Times" office before the typesetting machines were installed. One of them informs me, speaking of the "Times" editors of the period:

Reminiscences of Old Compositor

"Mr. Place was very quiet and reserved—a man of few words who was quite a favorite with the

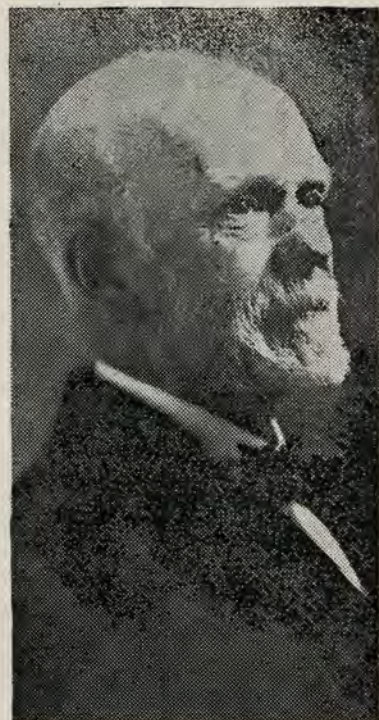
Prominently Identified With "Times" Newspapers



RICHARD OLIPHANT
First Editor of Oswego "Whig"
in 1837



JOHN A. PLACE
Director of "Times" Editorial
Policies From 1865 to 1895



JOHN B. ALEXANDER
Principal Owner of "Times"
from 1870 to 1922

girls then employed in the composing room. Mr. Alexander was of a more nervous type. He would sit in a swivel chair in the editorial office, rocking it back and forth incessantly while engaged in deep thought and at his work of writing his editorials in long hand with a stubby pencil, such as he always used. This habit made his writing appear somewhat cramped and hard to read when it fell to my lot to transpose it into type a few minutes later.

"His editorials written, I recall that Mr. Alexander, wearing the little black skull-cap, which he always wore in the office to cover his bald head in the later years of his life, would walk up and down the composing room between the aisle of type cases at which the young women compositors sat at work singing to himself in sotto voice 'In the Sweet Bye and Bye.' Frequently he would stop at a type case and exchange a few words pleasantly with one of the girls.

"At this time I recall that Miss Lillian McCullough, an Oswego Normal School graduate who made her home with the Alexander family at the time, was the telegraph editor of the paper. Newton MacMillan who was an editorial writer on the 'Times' for a period later left and started a small paper 'the Pathfinder' which ran only for a short time.

Office "Devils" Earn Later Fame

"Among others who I recall from those days in the 'Times' office are Fred Lewis, once the office 'devil' who became an actor in New York city. He returned on one occasion playing the leading role in a play known as 'Ghosts' which was given at the Richardson Theater in Oswego. He was greeted by a packed house. I recall that he was a brother of Dr. William Lewis who lived on the East Side. Edward Buttmer, who also was a 'devil' in the 'Times,' and later a carrier boy, is now the Rev. Edward Buttmer, pastor of a Roman Catholic church at Solvay.

Clara Garlock, a type-setter, became a professional contralto singer. She was a sister of George Garlock, the mail carrier. Another compositor was Agnes Dore who became in religion Sister Mary Irma and taught in St. Paul's school in Oswego. She belonged to the Order of St. Joseph in Rochester where her death occurred in February 1941. She was formerly head of a boy's school at Pittsford and was at one time connected with Nazareth College."

"Palladium's" Tribute To John A. Place

The Oswego Daily "Palladium" of Monday, October 6, 1902, said: "The Hon. John A. Place, one of the founders of the present Oswego Daily 'Times,' and a prominent citizen of the county, died at the home of his son-in-law, Postmaster John B. Alexander, 14 Bronson Street, Saturday evening at 6:30 o'clock. Although he had been an invalid for the past seven years, his death was sudden and came as a shock to his family.

"Mr. Place was first taken sick with a fainting spell in the "Times" office in 1895, and although he was afterwards able to be about he soon gave up all active work. In 1898 he was obliged to take to his bed and since then was a helpless invalid. Saturday afternoon he had a sinking spell, but the family thought he would rally from it as he has from many others, but instead, he became unconscious and passed away.

"Mr. Place was born at Foster, R. I., in 1822, a son of the late Samuel Place. His parents moved to Manchester, Connecticut, and when Mr. Place was ten years old they came (in 1832) to this city, where they stopped for a short time, and then located on the Pitkin farm in Oswego Town, on the road connecting the Boulevard with Fruit Valley. He was educated in the district schools and also attended school in this city. When sixteen years old he

entered the 'Palladium' office and learned the trade of a printer, under John Carpenter and later under the late Beman Brockway, founder of the 'Watertown Times.' Afterwards he taught school in the country and later in this city. When he was twenty-six years old he gave up school teaching, and in 1848 went to Fulton and bought the 'Patriot,' which he turned into a Free Soil organ. At that time the Democrats and Whigs were bitterly contesting the 'free soil' question and Mr. Place was a Democrat. In 1851 he married Miss Julia Lewis, of this city. Mr. Place conducted the 'Patriot' until 1854, and at that time commenced his political career, which continued until 1894. In 1856 he was appointed School Commissioner of this (the Oswego County) district, to fill the vacancy caused by the resignation of the Rev. Theodore M. Bishop, of Fulton. He served out the unexpired term and was elected for another term. He was one of the founders of the Oswego Falls Agricultural Society in 1858 and the first Secretary. In 1863 he went to Little Falls and helped T. S. Brigham to close up a paper which he was conducting there, and in 1864 Mr. Place and Mr. Brigham came to this city and started the 'Oswego Commercial Advertiser,' which is the 'Oswego Times' of today.

"In 1954-55, when the Republican party was organized, Mr. Place was one of the most active advocates of the principles of that party in this county and attended the first meeting and since then has been most active in its politics. When the 'Commercial Advertiser' was started (in 1864) Mr. Place was its editor. As a writer he was strong and convincing. He advocated the principles of the Republican party in a manner which made him famous throughout the State. For two terms previous to 1867 he was Librarian of the Assembly at Albany. In 1867 he was nominated from this city and elected to the

Assembly, where he served one term. In 1873 he was appointed Postmaster and served until 1877. In 1890 he was again appointed and served until 1894. On May 20th, 1880, under Governor Cornell, he was appointed Canal Auditor, which position he held until March 1st, 1883."

It was during Mr. Place's first term as postmaster that free delivery of mail in Oswego was set up through his efforts; Oswego was then the smallest city in the state to enjoy this service now so general. His appointment as canal commissioner in 1880 by Governor Alonzo B. Cornell carried with it membership in the commission which was constructing the new state capitol building. Mr. Place served as treasurer of the commission. Mr. Place was appointed in 1894 a member of the Local Board of the Oswego State Normal School.

When in 1873 the "Oswego Commercial Advertiser" and the "Oswego Press" were consolidated, Mr. Place who had been editor-in-chief, of the former since its establishment in 1864, continued as editor of the resulting publication which was known as the "Oswego Times." From this time forward down until approximately 1895 he continued active as the editor of the "Times" in the ownership of which he was associated with his son-in-law, John B. Alexander, for the last 25 years of his long, active and honorable newspaper life.

Ruby B. Hart Did Much For The "Times"

At the time of the death of John A. Place, John B. Alexander, his son-in-law, who was the principal stockholder in the Oswego Times Company and its president, was postmaster of Oswego. Despite the fact that Mr. Alexander served four full terms as postmaster and did not finally retire from the office until 1915, the period was one in which the "Times" made great progress, especially from the stand-point of

the improvement of its mechanical equipment, its building and its product. In active charge of the "Times" business affairs during this period was Ruby B. Hart. In the editorial department of the paper Mr. Alexander was represented by his son, Henry H. Alexander, Fred A. Dixon and the late Fred J. Meagher, but J. B. Alexander continued in control as editor-in-chief until his final retirement in 1922.

Also in the business office of the "Times" at this period were Miss Sarah Moore, a sister of Miss Olive Moore, now employed in the office of the New York Telephone Company in Oswego. Miss Sarah Moore is now a nun attached to a Troy convent. The bookkeeper at the "Times" office was then Miss Beulah Kelly, now the wife of R. D. Cady of Oswego.

Ruby B. Hart became identified with the "Times" in 1904, having a financial interest in the company and accomplishing a great deal in the direction of modernizing the newspaper's plant in the period of 14 years during which he was identified with it as business manager. He also served as secretary of the company. Except for a brief period when he worked as an automobile salesman in Oswego, he continued actively with the newspaper until his death in Oswego, October 13, 1918 at the time of the serious influenza epidemic which swept the city in that year. His widow, Mrs. Isabella K. Hart, is now a member of the faculty of the Oswego State Teachers' College.

Workers Relate Neighborly Relations

The "Times and Express's" last move in 1886 had placed it as the next door neighbor to its "esteemed contemporary" of so many years, the "Palladium". As neighbors the two papers continued to carry on for the next 40 years until they were finally brought together by a newspaper "marriage" in 1925. Many are the tales that are yet told in the "Pal-

ladium-Times" office today, as they have been handed down by the older to the younger generations of newspaper workers of the events and "goings-on" in the old newspaper offices of earlier days.

In the early 1900s the newspaper presses in both the "Times" and the "Palladium" offices were yet driven by steam power and each newspaper plant had its own steam boiler and engine to generate the power to run not only the newspaper presses but all plant machinery. To enable the two newspapers to help one another out in those not infrequent emergencies when there was a failure of steam or mechanical power in one or the other of the newspaper offices, it was arranged between J. B. Alexander and Clark Morrison, Sr., that a steam pipe line should be run between the two buildings, equipped with shut off valves. The arrangement was such that whenever the power failed in either office, the plant in working condition would first be used to produce energy to get its own paper out, then the valves would be so operated as to supply the other press room with power to produce the other newspaper.

There existed as late as 1926 in the dark pressroom of the "Times" what had once been an outside window which opened into the tap-room of the Delmonico cafe, conducted next door to the north by the late Edward Driscoll. On warm summer days in earlier years, this window, the story runs, would be raised surreptitiously and the Delmonico bartender would pass through to thirsty "Times" employes grouped in semi-darkness about the window foaming glasses of beer, the while, in blissful ignorance, the owner of the "Times" J. B. Alexander, who never let slip an opportunity to wield a trenchant pen in the cause of total abstinence or prohibition, might be taking his customary afternoon nap in his small private office, separated from the scene by only a narrow partition. The window

was finally bricked up at the suggestion of fire authorities in 1926, much to the disgust of some of the printers.

Slow Presses In Early Days

At this stage of its development (the first decade of the 20th century) the "Times" was being printed by a single cylinder Cottrell press installed soon after its new building was occupied in 1886. As the paper was now printing eight pages in its editions as compared with four-page editions which had been the maximum number of pages carried by the paper for about 40 years after its establishment as the first daily in Oswego, this meant that the pages had to be sent through the press twice in order to complete a single edition. In other words two "runs" were necessary to produce a single paper. The first "run" came in the early afternoon when four pages were printed. Two hours later there followed another "run" in which the remaining four pages were printed. When this later "run" was made a detachable "folder" which was not used during the first "run" was placed in position to function, and as the papers came off the press during the final "run" they were passed through the "folder" which folded the papers into the size to which they were delivered to the carrier boys or to the mailing room.

The press "crew" for this type of press consisted of two men, one of whom fed the paper into the press while the pressman saw to it that the mechanism continued to function properly at all times. The press was as yet being driven by steam power so that it was necessary to have a boiler room and engine in the newspaper plant. William Wylie who was the "Times" pressman when the newspaper moved from the Vulcan Iron Works property to the new location at 174 West First street in 1886, was succeeded by John Jenks who joined the "Times" force about 1902. It was

to the latter that the task fell of operating the 12-page flat bed press which about 1913 was installed in the "Times" plant, one of the most difficult newspaper presses to run satisfactorily, that has been built. Jenks was succeeded by Earl Manwarring, and the latter by George C. Miller, who was shifted to other duties about 1920 so that the newspaper pressroom duties were transferred to Arthur C. Taylor who is yet in the employ of the "Palladium-Times" press room.

Younger Men Join "Times" Staff

In the first decade of the 20th Century, the "Times" lost John A. Place its venerable editor who had served it from the last years of the Civil War, but it gained the services of a number of young men who were to help upbuild it in the next two decades. Included among these were John M. Hurley who joined the staff in 1905, Henry H. Alexander, son of John B. Alexander, who joined the staff upon completion of his studies at Colgate University in 1906 and soon took over the duties of telegraph editor as well as continuing as a local reporter and Fred J. Meagher who was now city editor.

John M. Hurley had begun his newspaper career as a "cub reporter" on the "Palladium" in 1900 and 1901, soon after graduation from the Oswego High School. In the latter year he went to Geneva to become associated with the "Review," a paper then but recently established in that city and which was destined to be but short-lived. After two months with the "Review" Mr. Hurley joined the staff of the well-established "Geneva Times" under W. A. Gracey and Charles H. Congdon, the latter later to become the business manager of the "Watertown Times" with which he continued for many years. Returning to Oswego in 1903, Mr. Hurley became identified with the "Oswego Bulletin," a weekly specializing in news of especial inter-

est to labor, first as manager and then as editor. In 1905 Mr. Hurley joined the staff of the "Times" to remain until he was appointed City Clerk of Oswego in 1918 by Mayor John Fitzgibbons. He served in that office during a part of the term of Mayor M. P. Neal and then on August 1, 1922 became telegraph editor and City Hall reporter of the "Palladium."

Others on the reportorial staff of the "Times" in the first decade of the new century included John H. Burns, now recently deceased, who later became a major in the United States army; Robert Pettigrue, now in charge of the state employment office in Oswego. John M. Gill joined the staff in 1911 as a reporter and special writer, continuing until 1915.

In the next decade (1910-1920) Maurice Culkin, a brother of our present congressman, Hon. Francis D. Culkin, became a reporter on the "Times." Joseph May, now the Rev. Joseph May of Utica, head of Catholic Charities in the Syracuse diocese was a reporter and telegraph editor. When Luther Mott of Oswego was elected to congress in 1912, F. J. Meagher resigned the city editorship of the "Times" to become his private secretary. Thereupon Henry H. Alexander became city editor of the "Times" and John M. Hurley took over the former's work as telegraph editor.

Meagher Again City Editor

When Fred J. Meagher resigned his position as secretary with Representative Luther W. Mott to accept at Albany a New York State appointment in 1915, John M. Gill left the "Times" to become Mr. Mott's secretary. After a period of service at Washington that was cut short by America's entrance into the World War and Mr. Gill's call to active service in the United States Navy as a member of the Oswego Naval Militia unit, Mr. Gill served in the Navy until the close of the war. Thereupon he

returned to Oswego and once again became a member of the "Times" staff in 1919 as a reporter and special writer. He served until November 1, 1922 when he resigned to take a position with the "Syracuse Journal." Early in 1923, he returned to Oswego to join the staff of the "Oswego Palladium" in which newspaper he was also soon to acquire a financial interest.

James P. Slattery who for many years had been on the staff of the "Palladium" and who had served for a period of 30 years as its city editor, had left the "Palladium" in 1918 to join the "Times" which made him city editor. He took over the duties which H. H. Alexander had been performing until he was called into active service as head of the Oswego Naval Militia unit in 1917 when he had been temporarily succeeded in the "Times" office by Maurice Culkin.

Mr. Slattery continued as city editor of the "Times" until 1924 when he resigned and was succeeded by Fred J. Meagher who had then recently returned to Oswego from Albany. After a three year period of service as a local correspondent of the "Syracuse Journal," Mr. Slattery retired from further newspaper work. His death occurred in Oswego November 30, 1928 at the age of 67 years.

During much of the period that Mr. Slattery had been city editor of the "Times," Vincent Terrott served on the paper as a reporter. He continued in that capacity until 1925 when he resigned to accept a position in Geneva.

Hart Re-Equips Composing Room

In 1909 in order to bring new capital into the company for the purpose of modernizing its plant the "Oswego Publishing Company" was reorganized as the "Oswego Times Company." John B. Alexander continued in the new company as majority stockholder and president of the company. Henry

H. Alexander was vice-president, and Ruby B. Hart secretary-treasurer. Mr. Hart, who had joined the newspaper's business force about five years earlier, had already done much with J. B. Alexander's approval and co-operation to upbuild and strengthen the paper on its mechanical and business sides. It was he who persuaded the management to undertake the reconstruction of the "Times" building in 1909. He followed this up by bringing about the installation of new and modern machinery in both the newspaper and job printing departments of the business. When he entered the business, all type was still being set by hand. When death removed him some 13 years later machines had largely replaced hand composition except in the setting of some types of display advertising. While each type-setting machine could accomplish in an eight hour day the work formerly performed by seven hand compositors in the same period, there were more workers in the "Times" office in 1918 after the machines had been installed than there had ever been before in its history.

The first composing machine to enter the "Times" plant, a Linotype, had been installed in 1913. This paved the way, by speeding up the production of composition and lessening its cost, for the introduction of a larger newspaper, with 50 per cent more pages, on an average, to each edition than formerly had been possible. A new newspaper printing press was soon to follow—a Duplex flat bed press of 12 page capacity, the largest newspaper flat-bed press which had been built up to that time and with a page capacity that has never been surpassed for a flat bed newspaper press. Twelve - page papers with seven columns to a page and with column lengths of 21 inches now became common with a potential capacity of 24 pages for a single edition whenever demands made by advertisers or news made an

increase in size necessary or desirable. The new press was installed about 1913 and from that time forward the "Times" began to take on a more metropolitan appearance.

Changes In Official Personnel

Associated with Mr. Hart in the business office of the "Times" at this period were George Oliver and John H. Templeman in the accounting department, Jason E. Steinberg in the circulation department, and A. A. Burrows in the collection department. Mr. Hart resigned in 1915, and for two years was engaged as an automobile salesman in Oswego. During this period L. P. Taylor, a stock-holder but not an employee, served as secretary and as a director of the company, but Mr. Hart resumed his former position as secretary and treasurer and a director of the company upon his return to the "Times" in May 1917.

On Nov. 2, 1918 the directors of the "Times" Company met and elected Fred A. Dixon as secretary and treasurer of the company to succeed Mr. Hart who had died on October 13, 1918 during the severe epidemic of influenza which was then rampant in the community. Mr. Dixon and Armin G. Kessler, the latter a son-in-law of John B. Alexander, were elected directors and continued to serve until 1922 when a change in the control of the company was to come.

In the early 1920s the editorial staff of the "Times" consisted of John B. Alexander as editor-in-chief, although Fred A. Dixon was writing some of the editorials; Henry H. Alexander, telegraph editor; James P. Slattery, city editor; John M. Gill was the "star reporter" with Joseph May and Vincent Terrott as reporters; Fred A. Dixon, proof reader. Although there were type-writers provided for the use of the editorial department members, most of the staff members, from preference, were still writing their

copy in long-hand. This was not advantageous from the standpoint of the composing machine operators, but it was difficult for some of the older writers to adapt themselves to new methods.

J. B. Alexander Sells "Times" Stock

John B. Alexander sold June 1, 1922 all the common stock of the Oswego Times Company to Edwin M. Waterbury of Corning, N. Y. and to Clifford L. Snowden of Bridgton, N. J. Waterbury had been for nearly 20 years connected with the "Evening Leader" in Corning and Snowden had been the recent publisher of the Bridgton, N. J. "News." Announcement of the sale was not made in the columns of the "Times" until June 17, in the case of Mr. Snowden's purchase, and not until the following September in the case of Mr. Waterbury's. Mr. Snowden took over for the time being the duties of general manager of the newspaper with Messrs. J. B. and H. H. Alexander yet holding nominally their former positions with the company.

This arrangement continued until September 7, when Mr. Waterbury, who had just arrived to take up his residence in Oswego, assumed an active connection with the newspaper, and succeeded H. H. Alexander as a director while C. L. Snowden succeeded A. G. Kessler in the same capacity. Waterbury became president of the Times Company and editor of the "Times" newspapers with Snowden as secretary, treasurer and business manager. J. B. Alexander continued as vice-president and a director of the company as a matter of courtesy and convenience, although he had parted with all financial holdings in the company and performed no active work. He went into retirement after about 52 continuous years of service with the "Times." He was 81 years old at the time of his retirement, yet was mentally active and keen.

Alexander Aided Hughes In Upward Rise

Mr. Alexander at the close of his long and active newspaper career in 1922 took pleasure and pride in the fact that his newspaper had been the first in the state to advocate the nomination for governor by the Republican party of Charles E. Hughes. (Hughes in his youth resided in Oswego while his father was pastor of the West Baptist church in the late 1860s in which period the present church building was completed). Mr. Hughes, a lawyer in New York city at the time Mr. Alexander put forth the "Times" suggestion had then but recently been brought into prominence as counsel of a legislative investigation of New York State insurance companies which brought startling revelations and created widespread demands for new laws more effectually controlling the companies. Mr. Hughes was nominated and elected and eventually became the candidate of his party for president of the United States. Subsequently he long served as a member and as Chief Justice of the United States Supreme Court.

Mr. Alexander also found satisfaction in the fact that "Oswego Daily Times" had been highly instrumental in bringing about the nomination and election of the late Thaddeus C. Sweet of Phoenix to the State Assembly, thereby paving the way to the latter's long legislative career in the course of which he served six terms as speaker of the Assembly and was later sent to represent the district, of which Oswego County is a part, in Congress.

John B. Alexander died March 19, 1925 at his home at 14 Bronson street, Oswego, following an illness which had continued from November 14, 1924 when he suffered a stroke. His condition had been considered serious for a week before his death. From the obituary notice which appeared in the "Oswego Daily Times" of

that date we quote in part as follows:

Death of J. B. Alexander

"When the Civil War broke out, Mr. Alexander was teaching school in Wisconsin. He enlisted in a Wisconsin regiment as a private. Soon thereafter he was promoted as a sergeant for gallantry on the field of battle. He served with the regiment through the siege of Vicksburg, but soon afterwards developed a serious illness and was discharged from the service. He returned to Oswego where his health gradually improved to the point where he was able to re-enter the University of Michigan where he took up the study of law. He was graduated in law in 1868. He returned at once to Oswego and engaged in the practice of his profession here.

"John Barclay Alexander was born in Constantia, Oswego County, February 28, 1841, the son of the late Samuel R. and Mary Ann (Ryan) Alexander. John B. Alexander's mother, Mary Ann Ryan, was a daughter of Roger Ryan and Mary Dyer, the latter being a daughter of Captain Dyer who took part in the Boston Tea Party of pre-Revolution days. Her family was a prominent one in the Massachusetts colony.

"Samuel Alexander had come to Oswego County from the State of New Hampshire. He was a lumberman, and owned and operated a large mill at Gayville, Oswego County. In 1849 Samuel R. Alexander moved his family to what then was known as 'Unionville' but which more latterly has been known as 'Fruit Valley' which is located two miles West of Oswego. There the family took up its residence on a splendid farm property known today as the Karpinski farm. The family removed to this vicinity in order to procure better educational advantages for the Alexander children than were available at Constantia. Samuel R. Alexander became one of the pioneer fruit farmers of this

region. He was one of the first to engage in fruit growing upon a large scale. In this work he met with marked success.

"The Alexander family moved from Fruit Valley to Oswego Center after a few years, and there established their family homestead on the Rathbun road, which property still continues to be known by the Alexander name.

Attended Cobble Stone School

"As a lad John Alexander attended the "cobble stone" school house which still stands (on the Rural Cemetery Road) near the farm which was the early family home. Later he attended the Oswego city schools. Upon the completion of his course there he entered the Collegiate Institute at Baraboo, Wis. He had completed his studies there and entered the University of Michigan at Ann Arbor, Mich., just as the Civil War broke out. He left the university and returned to Baraboo to enlist with some of his former school mates in Company F of the 23rd Regiment of Wisconsin Volunteers.

Served At Vicksburg

"Mr. Alexander served actively for two years with his regiment. He took part in the famous Vicksburg campaign, and the fighting at Yazoo and along the Red River, seeing service in Texas, Arkansas and Louisiana. Developing enteric fever, he was discharged from the service and he returned to Oswego it being assumed at the time that he would probably never recover. Gradually, however, his health was restored to him and he was spared for the long and highly useful career that was to follow.

"His health finally restored, he returned to the University of Michigan where he entered the law school of the University. Completing his work there, he returned to Oswego in the late '60s and entered the law office of the late Edwin Allen which was in the same location as the present law offices of Morehouse &

Morehouse in the Grant Block. D. P. Morehouse, Sr. was at this time a law student in the same office. There developed a friendship between the two young law students which was to ripen and endure for years.

"After completing his law studies, Mr. Alexander opened an office in the Grant Block and he continued the practice of his profession there until he finally abandoned in 1879 the active practice of his profession in order to devote his attention to newspaper work in which he had taken an increasing interest during the late '60s and early '70s largely as the result of his deep interest in political affairs coupled with the fact that his father-in-law, John A. Place, was then one of the editors and owners of the 'Oswego Times.'

Associate Of Place And Brigham

"John A. Place and Thaddeus S. Brigham had come to Oswego in 1864 to engage in newspaper work. They started the Oswego 'Commercial Advertiser.' Mr. Place was the editor of the paper. This newspaper became a staunch supporter of Republican principles. In the succeeding year the 'Commercial Advertiser' was united with the 'Oswego Commercial Times,' the name of the resulting paper becoming the 'Oswego Commercial Advertiser and Times' with Messrs. Place and Brigham in control. In 1873 the 'Commercial Advertiser' assumed the name of the 'Oswego Daily Times' and since that period the paper has enjoyed the name of the 'Times' uninterruptedly, although for a short time it was known as 'The Times and Morning Express' in the early '80s.

"The newspaper with which Messrs. Brigham and Place became connected when their publication was merged therewith in 1865 was the lineal descendant of the 'Oswego Daily Advertiser' founded in Oswego in 1845 by Daniel Ayer as the first daily newspaper in Oswego. The

'Times' thence traces its lineage back to this newspaper of 1845.

"Fred A. Dixon, yet a member of 'The Times' staff after 54 years' connection with this newspaper, is a nephew of Daniel Ayer. Mr. Dixon was for many years closely associated with Messrs. Alexander and Place in the publication of the 'Times.'

"For some time prior to 1879 John B. Alexander had gradually been making purchases of stock in the 'Oswego Publishing Company' which had been formed in 1873 to publish the 'Times' after a newspaper merger of that year which had united the 'Commercial Advertiser' and the 'Oswego Press.' By 1879 he had become the major stock holder and he became permanently and actively identified in the direction of the policies of the paper. He continued to hold the controlling interest through the life of this company and its successor, the 'Oswego Times Company', formed in 1909 as the result of the reorganization of the company accomplished at that time for the purpose of increasing the capital of the company publishing the 'Times.'

"When Mr. Alexander first came into control of the 'Oswego Daily Times' its office was located in the building at the southwest corner of Bridge and West Second streets then known as 'The old Vulcan Iron Works' property. The business office occupied small space on the ground floor with the editorial offices and composing rooms on the second floor. But as these quarters were not conveniently adapted to the business and they had been occupied in the late '70s only as a makeshift, Mr. Alexander began casting about for a more desirable home for the 'Times.' The result was the purchase of the location at 174 West First street, formerly occupied by the Lake Ontario National Bank, and its reconstruction into the present home of the 'Times.' This building was

occupied in 1886. It was reconstructed and enlarged in 1909 when the publishing company was reorganized.

"From the time Mr. Alexander entered into association with John A. Place, his father-in-law, in the publishing of the 'Times,' this business relationship continued until the death of Mr. Place in 1902. Their newspaper was known for its stalwart Republicanism, and it came to be recognized as a power politically.

"For more than 50 years Mr. Alexander wielded a wide influence in the affairs of the Republican party and in the community in which he resided."

New Owners Seek Improved Paper

Early moves of the new owners of the "Times" in 1922 were directed at the improvement of the quality of the content matter of the newspaper and an increase in its quantity. An editor and four new reporters (Miss Margaret Benz, Miss Florence Danio, Miss Ann Hennessey and Clarence E. Meyer) were added to the news staff. For the first time in an Oswego newspaper a daily cartoon as an editorial page feature began appearing in the "Times" on June 21; pages of news pictures began to be used several times weekly and an application was immediately filed for the election of the newspaper to membership in the Associated Press to improve its telegraphic news service. This was followed by the election of the newspaper to membership. On Nov. 4, 1922 Associated Press reports began appearing regularly in the "Times," marking the first step away from the policy under which the two local dailies, both published in the evening newspaper field, had for many years been sharing the same telegraphic news report as provided by the United Press.

First attempts to provide illustrations to accompany the news had been made by Benjamin

Franklin in his "Pennsylvania Gazette" back in 1754. War with France was threatening and to give added strength to his appeal for a united common defense by the British colonies in America, Franklin inserted in his publication a wood-cut of a snake cut into eight parts each of which represented one of the colonies. The caption "Join or Die" dramatized the need of the hour. When the "Boston massacre" occurred in 1770 Paul Revere made an engraving of five coffins to illustrate the Boston "Gazette's" account of the funerals of the victims.

The First Cartoons

Since the first cartoons were used to backup expression of editorial opinion, editors tended to regard illustrations solely as an editorial medium. James Gordon Bennett's "New York Herald" was probably the first to use a real news illustration. In 1835 he published a picture of the old Merchants' Exchange in New York which had been destroyed in the great fire in that year. Presses of that day were poorly adapted for reproducing rough illustrations and often identities could be revealed only by consulting the accompanying printed head line. When the "Herald" used a drawing which purported to depict a scene at Andrew Jackson's funeral in 1845, rival newspapers immediately charged that the same picture had already done duty for Queen Victoria's coronation, the funeral of President William Henry Harrison and the Croton Water celebration. This was the same year in which Oswego's first daily newspaper had been established.

Under date of November 14, 1922, a front-page announcement spread over three columns of the "Times" read:

Oswego Times Elected To The Associated Press

The "Oswego Times" has been elected a member of the Associated Press, the world's greatest

newsgathering and distributing agency. Henceforth the dispatches of the Associated Press will appear daily in the "Times." No other newspaper published in Oswego County holds an Associated Press franchise, the policy being to admit but one newspaper in each field to the privilege of membership.

The "Times" takes pardonable pride in announcing to its readers that it has been elected to membership in the Associated Press. This newsgathering agency, world-wide in scope, and serving most of the principal newspapers of the American Continent, expended \$5,500,000 last year alone for the collection and distribution of news throughout the world. Soon the entire product of this agency will be available each evening for "Times" readers.

Oswego Times Company

(In 1941 the Associated Press under war-time conditions expended over \$12,000,000 in collecting the news of the world. This was, of course, exclusive of distribution costs).

Simultaneously improvements were attempted in other departments of the "Times." The local advertising staff was reorganized and strengthened as was the circulation department of the newspaper. The business offices were rearranged and reconstructed. Two new composing machines were purchased and the newspaper's production equipment otherwise improved.

In 1923 Fred J. Meagher joined the "Times" staff once more as a city editor and columnist. Henry H. Alexander was with the paper through the winter of 1923-24. Miss Margaret Benz was made telegraph editor and Miss Florence Danio, society editor.

C. T. and Frederick Leighton Buy Snowden Interest

Early in 1923 the health of C. L. Snowden failed. Oswego's climate was more rigorous than that to which he had been accustomed.

After spending some time in a sanitarium without his condition showing material improvement, he sold his interest in the Oswego Times Company in April 1923 to Clarence T. Leighton of the editorial staff of the "Buffalo Evening News" and to Frederick Leighton, then superintendent of Oswego city schools.*

April 21, 1923 C. T. Leighton was elected a director and secretary and treasurer of the "Times" Company to succeed C. L. Snowden. He was also made editor of the "Times", E. M. Waterbury continuing as president of the company and taking over the duties of publisher and business manager of the "Times" newspapers.

Rotary Press Installed In 1925

Soon after the Messrs. Leighton entered the Times Company the latter placed in 1924 an order with the Duplex Printing Press Company for delivery early in 1925 of a 20-page press of tubular type with a rated speed of 32,500 copies an hour. Unlike its predecessors in Oswego this press was to be of the rotary cylinder type with each newspaper page stereotyped, and printed from a cylindrical plate instead of directly from the type itself reposing in "forms" on the flat "bed" of the press, as had been the case, with the single exception of a few months trial 20 years earlier of another type of press by the "Palladium," with the previous newspaper presses in Oswego for more than 100 years.

*After spending some time in the south recuperating his health Mr. Snowden purchased a newspaper in Covington, Ga., which he conducted until the time of his death which occurred at Covington several years later. Mr. Snowden had formerly been a Congregational minister in Portland, Me., and elsewhere before taking up newspaper work. He had begun writing editorials in Portland newspapers while still in the ministry. He held the earned degree of Doctor of Philosophy from the University of Chicago. Before going to Portland he had lived on the Pacific Coast.

Work upon the installation of this press started in February 1925, but by the time the work had been completed in April 1925 the "Times" and the "Palladium," next door neighbors for 40 years, had determined to consolidate their physical plants, their resources and their energies to the end of endeavoring to give Oswego the best daily newspaper which the community would support. The cogs of the new press turned for the first time on April 21, 1925 to produce the first issue of the "Oswego Palladium-Times" as the new paper was to be known.

Many Workers With Paper For Years

The "Palladium-Times" continued to employ under the new arrangement all of the men and women who had been with either of the predecessor newspapers for a considerable period of years, all the men who were married, and many of the single young men and women as well. Those of its employes who started their service with the initial issue of the "Palladium-Times" and who are still on the pay-roll today include: George Herron, Frank Fitzgerald, James Doyle, Fred P. Flaherty, Richard E. Glynn, George C. Miller, John M. Hurley, Fred J. Dubuque, Arthur C. Taylor, Jason E. Steinburg, John H. Templeman, C. L. Sherrill, Edward J. Shea, Percy Payne, Herman Schneider, Byron J. Manor, Earl Crandall, Peter Philbert, Fred C. Bowers, Russell Gill, James T. Galloway, Howard Halligan, Harold Coleman, Sidney H. Clark, Clark Morrison, Jr., John M. Gill, Clarence T. Leighton, Edwin M. Waterbury, Mrs. Mathias O'Toole, Miss Josephine Pidgeon, Miss Mary Tully, Miss Florence J. Mack, Miss Irene Crimmins.

The new corporation which was formed to serve the newspaper was known as "Palladium-Times, Inc." Clark Morrison, Sr., was president, Clark Morrison, Jr. and

Clarence T. Leighton, vice-presidents, Edwin M. Waterbury, treasurer and John M. Gill, secretary. The same men constituted its board of directors. All were active newspaper workers employed in the daily production of the paper. All the common stock of the corporation was held by men active in the business.

In its first issue, Tuesday, April 21, 1925, the "Palladium-Times" carried just under its "masthead" the following editorial:

THE PALLADIUM-TIMES

"The Oswego Palladium-Times starts today, with no promises of what it will achieve but in the sincere hope that it will accomplish many things that will work for the benefit of the community.

"From our observation few third-class cities in New York State have had better newspapers than the 'Palladium' and the 'Times', which join to make the new newspaper. They have covered the local field thoroughly. There will be no let-up in the endeavor to continue this thorough news gathering, and with the added facilities and greater strength of the combined paper, we are confident we will be able to enlarge our field and thus increase the trading territory and general prosperity of the city. We hope also to add interesting features and departments and generally make the newspaper more attractive and valuable, if possible.

"We want the citizens of Oswego and vicinity to feel that this is their newspaper. When they have anything to say, we want them to know that our columns are open to them. Too often there seems to be a feeling that if the editors of a newspaper feel one way or another on a subject, their columns are closed to all who oppose them. We want to stress at this time, however, the point that this is not the case with this newspaper. We shall welcome temperate discussion, on its merits, on any question that may

arise, no matter what may be the opinion of the directors of the newspaper on the same issue.

"We hope to have in the 'Palladium-Times' a newspaper in which the people will have confidence, one of which our citizens will be proud, and which will prove an asset to the city, and to the residents of our adjoining territory, not only in Oswego County, but in Cayuga and Wayne Counties, who, as a result of better means of communication, are becoming more and more our friends and neighbors."

First Staff Of New Paper

The "Palladium-Times" first editorial staff in 1925 included: Clark Morrison, Sr., editor in chief; John M. Gill, managing editor; Clarence T. Leighton, associate editor and telegraph editor; Clark Morrison, Jr., news and city editor; Fred J. Meagher, columnist; John M. Hurley, court reporter; J. Russell Gill, sports editor; Miss Josephine Pidgeon, society editor; George McCullough, Miss Florence P. Danio, reporters; Fred A. Dixon, James Doyle, proof readers. Maurice Casey was the Associated Press operator in charge of the Morse wire.

In the business department of the newspaper were: E. M. Waterbury, publisher and business manager; Jason E. Steinburg, circulation manager; Richard E. Glynn, local advertising manager; Charles S. Walsh, manager national advertising; John H. Templeman, chief accountant; John D. McGrath, bookkeeper; Miss Florence J. Mack, cashier; A. A. Burrows, collector; Miss Mary Dalia and Carl Wells, clerks.

Jules F. Menegay and Fred P. Flaherty were foremen in the composing room; E. Gardner Legg, foreman of the advertising alley; Fred J. Dubuque, press room foreman; Edward J. Shea, mechanical superintendent and George C. Miller, superintendent of the commercial printing de-

partment. Thomas A. Cloutier joined the circulation and advertising staffs soon after the consolidation of the "Palladium" and the "Times"

The new paper had a circulation exceeding 10,000 copies from its start. With the enlarged staff and increased mechanical facilities which the pooling of efforts made possible, the paper grew steadily in size, in popular favor and in advertising support. Its content matter was very materially increased, the best of the features of both preceding papers being retained and new ones added. There were many improvements in typography and makeup. Many correspondents were added to serve the enlarged area which the newspaper immediately began to serve more intensively.

Expansion Required Addition First Year

New methods and ways of accomplishing old practices resulted in a gradual increase in the number of employes until soon the consolidated paper was employing more people than both predecessor papers had simultaneously employed. More room for both machinery and employes soon became necessary. The third story which had been added to the former bank building in 1885 and 1886 when the "Times" acquired it ran back from the street only half the depth of the lot. Soon (in 1927) an addition of brick and steel carried it back to the maximum lot depth. The added space was all thrown into the newspaper's composing room where a battery of ten type-setting machines was soon housed.

The business offices of the newspaper were soon reconstructed, rearranged and enlarged. When it began to be apparent that still more floor space was required to provide for the convenient conduct of the business more connecting doorways with the "Palladium" building, at first largely unused immediately fol-

Former "Times" Building In 1941



Former "Times" Building As It Appears Today After Having Been Remodeled as the Palladium-Times Building

lowing the consolidation, were established. The stereotyping foundry was removed from the "Times" building to the former "Palladium" press room. Steam heat was provided in the "Palladium" building throughout. Room was provided for the newspaper's "morgue" in the "Palladium" building. Here, too, the advertising sales and service room soon found quarters with expanded facilities in the former editorial room of the "Palladium."

A little later a "conveyor" was run through an opening made in the building walls to carry the folded and automatically counted newspapers directly from the press into the "Palladium" building where a new mailing room, and waiting room for carrier and newsboys had been created out of what had been the "Palladium's" press room in the days immediately following the Civil War. The former business office of the "Pall" provided facilities for the handling of the newsboys accounts and records.

In 1929 the "Palladium-Times" Commercial Printing department purchased from Richard J. Schuler the old established J. M. Schuler & Co. ruling and bookbinding business in Oswego and located it on the second floor of the "Pall" building in the former composing room of that newspaper. With the completion of this change the last remaining unutilized room in the "Palladium" building had come into active use once more, the Commercial Printing Department having earlier occupied the former "Palladium" advertising alley for the installation of additional mechanical equipment.

Later yet the former "Times" basement mailing room was reconstructed into storage space for news print rolls. At the same time the old brick vault of the "Lake Ontario National Bank" which had remained in the basement of the "Times" building for more than 40 years after the latter had been occupied by the

newspaper office, was razed to provide still further storage space for newsprint. The former telegraph room, for which there was no longer use since the installation of "printer" machines for transmitting wire news was torn out at the front of the third floor of the building and the space added to the "city room," or headquarters from which the local news is gathered.

Branch Offices Opened In Fulton And Pulaski

In order to improve its news coverage and to facilitate the handling of circulation, advertising and other details in connection with its business, the "Palladium-Times" opened in 1926 branch offices in Fulton and at Pulaski. Each of these branches was manned by a staff of three or more workers and out of each worked circulators and advertising men in the surrounding areas. These branches are yet maintained. The Fulton office is at 17 South First Street, with Thomas A. Cloutier as branch manager and H. Francis Hartnett in charge of news collection. The Pulaski office is in charge of Henry H. Alexander, son of John B. Alexander who was long head of the "Oswego Times Company" and grandson of John A. Place whose newspaper activity in Oswego county began more than a decade before the Civil War and continued until 1902. H. H. Alexander had joined the "Palladium-Times" organization in 1931 after regaining his health which for a period of years had been undermined so that he required hospitalization and complete rest from active work. After selling his stock in the Times Company in 1920, H. H. Alexander had engaged in several lines of business in Oswego in the next decade. He had operated an automobile sales agency and garage for several years before his health failed.

The 20-page press which had published the first editions of the "Palladium-Times" provided fa-

cilities for eight columns of 12 ems each on each page instead of the seven columns of 13 ems each which had been possible upon the former flat bed presses in the old newspaper plants. The practical effect of this was to provide as much printing space in 16 pages from the new press as would have been provided in 18 pages of a newspaper printed by the presses formerly in use. Nevertheless the expanded press capacity about four years later proved inadequate, and soon another 4-page unit had to be built into the new press to give a 24-page capacity (equivalent to 27 pages on the former presses). When the new unit had been added it became possible for the newspaper to print an edition of 48 pages in a single day.

Newspaper Strives In Public Service

Simultaneously improvement of the newspaper's public service was being striven for along with improvement of its physical plant. The newspaper gave the fullest possible information to its readers as to the issues involved in such local campaigns as the move for the provision of modern school facilities with the result that the voters determined at a special city election July 6, 1927 that two new schools, the Kingsford Park and the Fitzhugh Park Junior High schools should be built. A similar policy was followed in relation to the question as to whether or not Oswego should, after necessary heavy bonding, go into the power business in developing the city-owned water power and distributing electricity, or whether it would be wiser for the city to lease its undeveloped power, without investment, to the highest bidder, with the power rights and hydro-electric plant to revert to the city at the end of 25 years. The voters determined the matter by an overwhelming vote in favor of leasing at the special election of February 10, 1927.

Teletype Machines Installed In 1928

The tide of news received by telegraph at the "Palladium-Times" office had continued to rise for years. Facilities had been improved and Morse's "magnetic" telegraph clicked into and out of virtually every town in the country. Methods, however, were largely the same in 1925 as they had been in 1845 when the first daily newspaper had begun to function in Oswego County. Day after day sending operators took dispatches and translated them into the dash-dot of the code, and telegraph keys sent the signals out along the press circuit from Albany to Oswego and into the other 34 afternoon newspaper offices served by "the New York State wire" from Albany each publication day at the rate of 25 to 35 words a minute. Receiving operators located in the newspaper offices, usually in sound-proof rooms built in one corner of the editorial rooms, translated the code symbols back into words, copying the stories down on typewriters in successive jerks.

Now changes were at hand. Charles L. Krum, a Chicago cold storage engineer, and his son, Howard, had been working to perfect an automatic machine which would send the printed word by wire at greater speed and without the use of code. They called their machine the Morkum telegraph-printer, coining the word "Morkum" by combining the inventor's name with the first syllable of the last name of Joy Morton, a Chicagoan, who was financing the development of the invention. Kent Cooper, general manager of the Associated Press and engineers of the traffic department, tested the machine, found that it worked satisfactorily and without developing operating troubles so that it could transmit news at the rate of 60 words a minute, nearly double the speed that was obtainable by the Morse wires. Soon the process was started of installing

Morkum machines in all newspaper offices served by the Associated Press. Years were required before the task was complete and the last of the Morse wires done away with. In the "Palladium-Times" office the change over from the Morse wire to the Morkum printers was accomplished April 2, 1928.

When the Associated Press inaugurated its feature service, illustrated, for members shortly after 1926, the "Palladium-Times" was the first newspaper to subscribe for it, this newspaper was advised at the time by letter from the head of the service. Eventually all but 78 members of the publisher-owned, co-operative newsgathering service took on the service which marked the first attempt on the part of the A.P. to advance its service to members beyond the stage of the mere gathering and forwarding of news.

Newspaper Aids Forward Movement

Throughout the years the "Palladium-Times", has given continuous and strong editorial support for the development of Oswego's port facilities, and those movements which had for their purpose the upbuilding of Oswego's commerce, its industry and its retail trade with the result that when the enlarged Welland Canal was completed in the late 1920s Oswego's new harbor was also ready, thanks to appropriations provided for its construction through the assiduous efforts of Congressman Francis D. Culkin, reenforced by Oswego's Harbor and Dock Commission.

Alas, however, when the enlarged Welland canal was opened, and the improved harbor was also ready, the country was entering the world's greatest depression so that the full measure of the benefits of these changes to Oswego's commerce could not then be realized. The results of the last few years, however, have been such as to leave little room for

doubt that new records for the volume of the commerce to be handled through the Port of Oswego are directly ahead.

In consequence of new concepts of public duty and public policy which, editorially, the "Palladium-Times" has shared in fostering, during the past decade or more, Oswego has taken tremendous strides ahead, even in the midst of discouraging conditions, resulting from unemployment, the depression and difficulties which have beset industry, commerce and trade everywhere not to mention the new difficulties which have come through the World War. Such splendid new manufacturing plants as the St. Regis and Taggart plants and the new Niagara Hudson power plant have come to us to make permanent contributions to our industrial life. Some industries, it is true, have been lost to us in this same period, but such losses have been due to circumstances beyond the power of a united, co-operating community to avoid.

In no corresponding era in Oswego's history have so many miles of pavement been constructed, so many miles of water mains and sewers been built and so many other important public works undertaken and carried through as were carried through in the decade between 1930 and 1940. In all of this period of forward-looking improvement the "Palladium-Times", its owners and editors believe, has sought to do its part in fostering an increased measure of public spirit in the community.

Fred Dixon Died In Environment He Loved

The first of nearly a dozen old-time Oswego newspaper-workers who continued in the employ of the "Palladium-Times" in 1925, men whose records of employment with the old Oswego papers exceed or approach the half-century mark, to pass on was Fred A. Dixon who dropped dead on the composing room floor a

few moments after he had re-entered the building after going out for his lunch-hour. That was on April 29, 1929, when Mr. Dixon was 80 years old. He had been employed by the "Times" and its various predecessors from which it was lineally descended for almost 60 years. He was a nephew of Daniel Ayer who in 1845 had founded Oswego County's first daily, the "Advertiser" which soon changed its name to the "Commercial Times". He was also the nephew of Thaddeus S. Brigham, half brother of Ayer, who founded with John A. Place the "Commercial Advertiser" in 1864, and the "Morning Express" in 1881 both of which later united with the "Times" newspapers. Mr. Dixon had been employed, continuously but in various capacities upon the "Commercial Advertiser and Times", the "Oswego Daily Times", the "Times and Express" and the "Palladium - Times". Earlier he had been successively reporter, city editor, telegraph editor, editorial writer of the Oswego Daily Times. At the end of his career he was proof-reader of the "Palladium-Times." He had also been circulation manager, and business manager of the "Commercial Advertiser and Times". As a close personal friend of J. B. Alexander he had served the Oswego Times Company as vice-president, secretary and a director, although he never was a large stockholder. He had a state-wide reputation as a checker and chess player. He had been born in Oswego, Dec. 4, 1849.

Fred J. Meagher Assiduous Worker

Fred J. Meagher, whose death occurred unexpectedly at his home Wednesday afternoon, January 9, 1929, had been at work at the "Palladium-Times" office as usual on Tuesday, but he had been taken ill while attending a dinner that evening. He went to his home, and was believed to be improving until he suffered an attack of apoplexy shortly before his death. He had been born

in Oswego, educated in the city schools. His first newspaper work had been done as a reporter on the "Palladium". Shortly afterwards he had joined the "Times" staff under John B. Alexander, and had soon risen to the position of City Editor which he filled with much ability. After his service with Representative Luther W. Mott of Oswego at Washington as the latter's first secretary, he accepted an appointment in 1915 as examiner in the office of State Comptroller in New York City. When the State Tax Department was formed he became, under Mark Graves, publicity director for the department. In 1921 he filled a similar position with the State Board of Estimate and Control at Albany. In October 1923 he returned to the "Times" as News Editor. After the "Times" and the "Palladium" were consolidated he conducted a column "Politics and Other Chat" for the "Palladium-Times" which was a popular feature with the paper's readers. While he helped many other persons to attain public office, the only local public office he would ever accept was an appointment as secretary of the Municipal Civil Service Commission under Mayor Benjamin Baker when Luther Mott was chairman of the commission. From Mr. Meagher's obituary notice in the "Palladium-Times" I quote:

"Mr. Meagher, perhaps, better and more familiarly known as 'Patsy' by hundred of friends and acquaintances, was of a jovial, cheery nature and possessed of a sunny disposition, was a delightful companion, a conversationalist, who sprinkled his discussion with wit and humor, and, always a close follower of current events, general and local, there was no more entertaining man with whom to talk at any or all times than Fred Meagher. He liked sociability, liked to be with and among men, and the gathering where he was, could be counted upon to be most interesting".

Two Meet Accidental Deaths

Two of the most capable printers in the "Palladium-Times" organization lost their lives in automobile accidents within a decade of the establishment of the consolidated newspaper.

William Lynch, machinist-operator in the commercial printing department, was killed, with two others, May 14, 1929, when an automobile in which the trio had started for Wolcott on a business trip left the highway at a sharp curve on the Beach Oswego highway, a short distance west of the Oswego State Normal school campus and went over the edge of a steep bank and into Lake Ontario. Lynch's body was found floating on the surface of the lake a short time later, and during the day the bodies of his two companions were recovered.

E. Gardner Legg, foreman of the "Palladium-Times" "ad alley" who had been employed previously by the "Oswego Times" for nearly 40 years as an expert printer, "ad" compositor and make-up man, was killed August 17, 1935 near Rome, N. Y., when an automobile in which he was riding as a guest while on a vacation trip, collided with another car moving in the opposite direction. His neck was broken as he was thrown from the car. He had been a former alderman of Oswego.

Alonzo Chetney and Joseph A. Hanley, both of whom had learned their trade as hand compositors in the "Palladium" office, but changed their work to composing machine operators with the advent of composing machines in that newspaper's office, died of natural causes while still in the employ of the "Palladium-Times". Mr. Chetney died Sept 7, 1933 and Mr. Hanley's death took place, Nov. 20, 1939.

J. F. Menegay Served 68 Years

Retired on a pension March 31, 1938, Jules F. Menegay who had spent 68 years of his life in the newspaper offices of Oswego, died

April 1, 1938 after having served 13 years as foreman of the "Palladium-Times" composing room and for nearly half a century before that time as foreman of the "Oswego Daily Times". From the announcement of his retirement as March 30, 1938 I take the following excerpt:

"From four pages, the limit in size of the newspaper he knew when in July 1872 he started his newspaper career, he saw newspapers go to more than 24 pages in single issues in his home city and machines replace handset composition, as well as the many other mechanical changes that have come in what is, perhaps, the longest continuous career in newspaper work in New York State of any man active and still connected with the profession.

"Starting as an apprentice in the old 'Oswego Press' a few years after the Civil War, Mr. Menegay was a member of the Mechanical Department of the paper, which, after a number of consolidations, became known as the 'Oswego Daily Times' until its merger with the 'Oswego Palladium' in 1925 and continued as head of the Composing Room through thirteen years of the 'Oswego Palladium-Times'.

"Days of hand-set type and the flat-bed press passed, to be superseded by the Linotype and huge cylinder presses, with their accompanying stereotyping departments. Today, Mr. Menegay recalls vividly the various steps in the transition and recounts many of the interesting phases of the so-called 'romance of the newspaper game'.

"The days when a 'pi-ed' form was a tragedy are no more. In those days when a loosely locked or defective form fell apart and spilled, hours of arduous hand-setting on the floor, it was almost impossible to reset the page in its original form. Now there are no more 'pi-ed' forms. If anything should happen to a plate, it is immediately recast, with the loss of only a few minutes.

"In looking back on this phase of a composing room foreman's worries, Mr. Menegay tells how a good many years ago when the first telegraph page of the 'Times' was being loaded onto the office elevator, it slipped down between the elevator and the floor to the bottom of the shaft. It could not be retrieved and so Clark Morrison, Publisher of the 'Oswego Palladium,' was asked for the loan of his front page. That night the 'Times' appeared with the front page of the 'Palladium.'

"In those days of two local newspapers operating side by side, it was also part of professional courtesy to loan the use of one's press for the printing of the rival's paper in the event trouble developed with other mechanism.

"When Mr. Menegay went to work for 'The Press' in 1872, it was located in East First Street where the J. S. Ayers Auto Sales Room is now (116 E. 1st St.). F. A. Crandall was Editor of 'The Press' with John Butler as Associate Editor, Ben Wells, afterwards connected with the 'Palladium' and later for many years with the 'Syracuse Herald,' was City Editor. Josh Williams was foreman of the press room. In 1873 'The Press' consolidated with the 'Oswego Daily Times' which was then located in West First Street where later the Schuler Book Store and now Alfred Brothers conducted business. T. S. Brigham was the (nominal) proprietor of 'The Times' at that period with John A. Place being associated with him (the business being owned by the Oswego Publishing Co. in which many prominent Oswego Republicans held stock.) At that time Colonel Goodrich of Auburn was City Editor. Dudley Farling and E. J. Gibson were also connected with the paper. The latter became a widely known Washington correspondent and later head of the Census Bureau.

Oil Lamps Lighted Composing Room

"When the 'Oswego Daily Times' later removed to the Vulcan Iron Works' site at the Southwest corner of West Second and Bridge Streets, Mr. Menegay recalls that the top floor was used as a Composing Room. Oil lamps were used for light. At one time the roof leaked badly and the lighting facilities were so poor that it was necessary to lease a building North of Bridge Street, where type was set and the forms then brought up to the Iron Works property.

"J. B. Alexander became majority stock-holder of the paper and in 1885 purchased the final location of the 'Times' in West First Street where the editorial, business and mechanical departments of the 'Oswego Palladium-Times' are now situated. The building had formerly housed the Lake Ontario, or Luther Wright, Bank, as it was known.

"During the days when the type on the 'Times' and its preliminary newspapers was hand-set, from 10 to 25 persons were employed in the painstaking job of type-setting. When the Linotype was introduced the 'Times' and the 'Palladium' each purchased one. For a time, type was set both by hand and by machine, Mr. Menegay recalled, until finally the Linotypes came to be used exclusively, save for some of the advertising work.

"At one time, the 'Times' was visited by a disastrous fire and for about six weeks thereafter the paper was printed at the 'Palladium' plant.

"A number of years ago while Mr. Menegay was in charge of the Composing Room of the 'Times,' one entire edition, news stories and advertising was put out by the women of the city, to raise a fund to purchase the lot on which the Y. M. C. A. was later built. Mrs. J. B. Alexander and Mrs. S. M. Coon were in charge. The edition was issued on the 4th of July and was a huge

success with about \$2,500.00 being realized.

"By his own request, the occasion of his retirement was as unostentatious as his work through the years and while associates desired to have some commemoration of the event, Mr. Mene-gay preferred not, for as he and his associates realized there probably will come from time to time in the future when his services at the imposing stones will be demanded to insure the paper properly has been put "to bed".

Depression Brought Many Changes

As the business depression which had its onset in the fall of 1929 made itself severely felt by the American railroads as the result of the steady shrinking of the volume of both passenger and freight traffic, the railroads sought to cut down the staggering operating losses they were sustaining, by withdrawing passenger service, and sometimes freight service as well, from those branches and leased lines which were not operating at a profit. In a short time the New York Ontario & Western Railroad which in the 1920s had operated three passenger trains daily into Oswego and three out, discontinued the operation of all passenger trains. Soon afterwards the Ontario Division of the New York Central, with headquarters in Oswego, which had previously been reducing the number of its passenger trains serving the Oswego County public, accelerated the process with the result that direct operation of passenger trains between Oswego and Rochester was finally abolished entirely. Trains between Oswego and Syracuse were cut to one daily in each direction, and finally the four passenger trains operating in each direction each week-day between Oswego, Rome and Utica, were reduced to one train in each direction daily. Evening train service out of Oswego on the Lackawanna was not

available. The few automobile bus lines which had earlier operated between Oswego and Fair Haven, and between Oswego and Maple View, had failed of continuance for lack of patronage. The inter-urban electric line between Oswego and Syracuse was staggering to its end by reason of high costs and falling revenues. All these circumstances, collectively taken, made a sorrowful picture, for a vigorous newspaper bent upon maintaining and extending the sphere of its circulation and influence. It meant that mail service which would carry newspapers to surrounding cities and towns in time for delivery, through the post offices or by carrier boy, on the night of publication was virtually non-existent. Some other means of getting the newspapers into city, village and rural homes had to be found if these homes were to continue to receive the "Palladium - Times" by supper time each night, as was the newspaper's aim.

Automobile Delivery Replaces Trains

A start had been made in an experimental way by the "Palladium-Times" in 1926 at serving by automobile subscribers residing in villages and hamlets in "Palladium - Times" circulation area who could not be reached by mail the night of publication in time for delivery to be made that night to subscribers. It had been demonstrated that while this type of delivery service was more expensive to maintain than was service provided by mail, rail and electric lines, or buses, where available, that it could be maintained successfully. And that, too, even in the depths of the winter, thanks to the expanding efforts then being made by city, town and county authorities to open and keep open, the roads for automobile traffic in winter. As rail service grew constantly less adequate and more infrequent, it became doubly necessary that the highways be kept open for vehicular

traffic. The result was that the "Palladium-Times" circulation department established more automobile truck-delivery routes, and extended those already established to reach other points. By the time rail, bus and electric line service had ceased to function in such a manner as to be of much service to the newspaper for prompt delivery of copies to subscribers homes, the newspaper had 16 truck routes in operation each night. Most of these were based out of Oswego, but there were others based out of Mexico, Maple View, Pulaski, Fulton and Hannibal. Collectively they traveled almost 1,000 miles each night, delivering bundles of papers to carriers, cross road stores, newsstands, gas stations, post-offices and to homes enroute. This service has since been maintained and expanded.

Early Use Of Illustrations

While "Frank Leslie's Illustrated Newspaper" had been founded in 1855 as the first illustrated weekly in the United States and had been followed two years later by "Harper's Weekly," serving a similar field, most daily newspapers yet considered illustrated news as foreign to their activities. It was not until 1873 when the New York "Daily Graphic" appeared that an American daily attempted to make use of daily illustrations. These were black and white line drawings only, for no practical process had yet been developed for making half-tone reproductions.

However, it was Stephen H. Horgan, a photographer employed by the "Graphic," who made the experiments which led to publication of the first half-tone photograph in an American newspaper on March 14, 1880. Joseph Pulitzer who acquired the "New York World" in 1883 employed two artists and began using news pictures with beneficial results on circulation. Soon the "Chicago Daily News" began using them, but pictures did not come into

general use by the daily newspapers until some time later. Today the "Associated Press" photographs and forwards by cable, telephone and the rails news-photos and photo-mats to those of its members who desire this service. It is this feature of its service which makes it possible for Associated Press newspaper readers to view in today's paper, the havoc wrought by bombings or flames in London or Darwin last night.

Engraving Plant Came In 1938

The "Palladium-Times" signed the contract for the first newspaper engraving plant to be installed in Oswego County March 12, 1938. A month later the plant had been set up and was in operation in quarters provided for it in the former "Palladium" ad alley, and soon the production of "spot-news" pictures for illustrating the news events of the day in the paper's circulation territory was being given constantly increasing attention.

Whereas less than 20 years ago a battery of four, or at the most five, composing machines was thought to be adequate for supplying all legitimate needs of the Oswego daily papers, today 12 such machines, and in addition a monotype caster and material maker, are found necessary to produce the type required to set the news and the advertisements carried in the average day's edition. Twenty years ago the average number of pages carried daily by the Oswego papers was 12, today the average is 16 with today's pages containing 12½ per cent more column space per page than the newspapers of 20 years ago provided.

Changes Come In Staff

While the major portion of the "Palladium-Times" editorial staff personnel is the same today as it was in April 1925, there have, of course, been changes due to deaths and resignations. George McCullough left the 1925 staff to enter Syracuse University, and

upon graduation took a position with the "Syracuse Post Standard" by which he is yet employed. Miss Caroline Jones who joined the staff about 1926 left following her marriage to Charles L. Rowe and later was killed in an automobile accident near Albany; Miss Florence Danio, shifted from the editorial department of the paper to the business office, and left the newspaper upon her marriage in 1936 to Robert Griffin. F. J. Meagher in 1929 and Clark Morrison, Sr., in 1930 were removed from the staff by death.

The staff as it exists in 1942 in the editorial department includes: Clark Morrison, Jr., News Editor; John M. Gill, Managing Editor (on leave for active service as a commander in the U. S. Navy); Clarence T. Leighton, Associate and City Editor; Mrs. Elmer Lov-eridge, Telegraph Editor; John M. Hurley, Court Reporter; J. Russell Gill, Sports Editor; Jackson Higbee, State Editor; Miss Josephine Pidgeon, Society Editor; Edgar Hobbie, Miss Marion Burke, Miss Elizabeth Burroughs, J. Francis Hartnett, Henry H. Alexander, reporters; Miss Elizabeth Kraft, proof reader.*

E. M. Waterbury is business manager with department heads in the departments of the business offices as follows: Advertising, Sidney Lerman; Classified Advertising Mgr. Charles Smallbach; Merchandising and General Advertising, Thomas A. Cloutier; Circulation, Jason E. Steinburg; Chief Accountant, Miss E. B. Dalgaard; Cashier, Miss Florence S. Mack.

The Superintendent of the Commercial Printing Department, is George C. Miller; Composing Room Foreman, Edward J. Shea;

Mechanical Superintendent, Edward J. Shea; Foreman of "Ad" Alley, Howard A. Halligan; Press Room Foreman, Fred J. Dubuque; Engraver, J. Harold Coleman.

War Brings Heavy Problems

When the "Times" and the "Palladium" were merged as the "Palladium-Times" in 1925 the two semi-weekly editions of both predecessor papers were continued each with its distinct editorial direction and control, but under the same business management. The "Times" continued as Republican in politics and the "Palladium" as Democratic. They are yet published on Tuesdays and Fridays of each week.

Entrance of the United States late in 1941 into "The War of Survival" brought many new and puzzling problems to American newspapers, and especially to those published in the smaller cities, at a time when most of them were not yet free of hampering consequences which had accompanied and followed the long depression which continued through the 1930s. Through enlistments in the armed forces of the country and the operation of the draft act, many of them were soon faced with a shortage of employes in an industry which requires six years or more to train properly its highly skilled employes. Wages, taxes and the cost of all raw materials entering into the production of newspapers rose rapidly. Not only were increases in the cost of newsprint threatened, following increases of nearly 50 per cent which had already taken place in the late 1930s above the depression lows, but government action to force a decreased consumption of newsprint was being threatened. This at a time when the American public was more greedily reading the war news in the newspapers, and newspaper circulations were rising to greater heights, than at any previous time in history.

Modern newspaper plants are highly mechanized and it soon be-

*Frederick Leighton who was one of the principal stockholders of the "Oswego Daily Times" in 1925, continued as a substantial stockholder in Palladium-Times, Inc., following the newspaper merger in that year. For years he served as assistant secretary of the corporation until his death came at his home in Oswego, June 2, 1942, after a brief illness.

came apparent that many metals needed to provide repair parts for newspaper machinery, or otherwise used in the production of newspapers were to be made very scarce by the war. Almost immediately their use began to be restricted. Tin, lead, antimony, copper, brass, steel and other metals are highly necessary in various processes of the newspaper plant. Their use was greatly restricted soon after the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor, although newspapers were given a "priority rating" for making necessary purchases which followed soon after the rating given industries engaged in providing war materials. Some of the chemicals that go into the manufacture of ink were either cut off through the loss of the East Indies as sources of supply, or because these chemicals were needed for war uses. Use of "toner" in ink was finally forbidden entirely.

Restrictions placed upon the use of rubber hit the newspapers almost immediately as most of them had been making wide use of automobiles in distributing their product. But rubber is also used in the making of press blankets, printing press rollers and in many other ways about the newspaper offices. New trucks and automobiles to permit the continuation of normal functions could not be purchased. Parts needed for repairs instead of being delivered over night as formerly sometimes required weeks for special manufacture and delivery.

Bundling wire, rope, and twine used in wrapping up bundles of newspapers became difficult to get, high in price, and their use restricted in some instances. Cork in the form of molding blankets became very difficult to acquire if it could be purchased at all. Rubber bands, paper clips, erasers and other small articles much used in a newspaper office could be purchased only in very limited quantities, if at all. Anti-freeze mixtures for use in the newspaper

delivery trucks during the winter months were difficult to procure at any price, and the information came that none at all would be available another year.

Because of difficulty in procuring tires, gasoline and oil the automobile delivery system of newspapers began to be operated with great difficulty. Some delivery routes had to be abandoned entirely. Soon the government was urging that delivery routes be cut down as to total length by at least 25 per cent as compared with the preceding year to produce savings in rubber and gasoline.

All these conditions forced the making of many changes in the methods of doing things upon the newspaper. Changes once made frequently had to be altered again almost overnight because of ever-changing conditions and rulings.

War's Necessities Reduce Advertising Sources

Mention has been made of but a few of the problems which faced, and yet face, newspaper managements as result of the war's developments. But costly and annoying as were many of these, they were, most of them, but of small consequence as compared with another development which grew out of the war. Advertising is the life-blood of the modern newspaper, and advertising volume, especially in the "general" or "national" advertising field began to slump alarmingly by the time the war was a month old through the enforced necessity on the part of the government in prohibiting the sale entirely, or greatly restricting the sale, of many products hitherto widely advertised in the newspapers, which of themselves were required by the government exclusively for the prosecution of the war, or the manufacture of which required use of scarce materials which had to be conserved for war uses only. Automobiles, trucks, tires, tubes were among the first to feel the effects of the

necessary government policies in restricting or prohibiting the sale of scarce materials. With their markets lost, most manufacturers of these products greatly restricted the use of advertising with the result that newspaper advertising revenues fell seriously. Restrictions upon the manufacture or sale of electric appliances, plumbing supplies, building materials, gasoline and a wide variety of articles made of metals or other scarce materials soon followed through government action. Each change generally adversely affected the advertising policies of the manufacturers. The customers of the latter, the retail merchants, deprived of these products to offer for sale soon had less to advertise and had to turn to other lines of goods to keep up their sales volumes. The manufacturers of many food products hitherto packaged in tin, had to experiment with other forms of containers for their wares and their goods could not be advertised until the new containers were perfected.

In the face of falling revenues and rising costs of production, hundreds of newspapers throughout the country found it necessary to increase their circulation and advertising rates in order to remain solvent and continue publishing. This necessity faced alike newspapers published in the large cities as well as in the small cities and with the country weeklies. Many hundreds more of newspapers will undoubtedly have to increase their rates within the present year if they are to avoid suspension.

Help With War Tasks

Beset with problems, as they are, the newspapers have gone loyally forward, giving freely of their space and energies to support of the successful prosecution of the war asking and expecting little in return. The space contributed by the home-town newspaper to forwarding the work of the Red Cross, the Civilian Defense

organizations, the sale of defense stamps and bonds, broadcasting the arrangements for the registration under the draft and in facilitating the work of recruiting offices, the draft boards, and announcing the procedures to be followed by civilians in the various rationings of automobiles, trucks, tires, sugar, gasoline and whatnot, would aggregate in value, if charged for at advertising rates, hundreds of dollars, in most instances, every week. Realizing the importance of their part in building up and maintaining the public morale in the war-period, the newspapers of America, almost without exception, are doing their best to forward the national purposes unselfishly and well.

In conclusion I wish to take this opportunity to express my thankful appreciation to all persons who have assisted me in any way in gathering facts, information and material which have made the preparation of this paper possible, with especial thanks to the following: Gerard E. Jensen of Connecticut College, New London, Conn.; Prof. Richard James Hurley of the Department of Library Science, Catholic University of America, Washington, D. C.; Kent W. Cooper, general manager and L. P. Hall, traffic chief of the Associated Press; P. M. Hamer, Chief of the Reference Division of National Archives, Washington, D. C.; William D. McCain, director of the Department of Archives and History of the State of Mississippi; Dr. Edwin F. Stewart of Fair Haven, N. J.; Mrs. Lorrie Stewart, Falconer, N. Y.; Mrs. Armin G. Kessler, Buffalo; Mrs. Lydia Edwards Karpinski, Mrs. Kate Klock, Mrs. Helen P. Mitchell, Mrs. Elizabeth Greve, Oswego; Major Clarence S. Martin, Albany; Mrs. Edwin Dimock, New London, Conn.; Charles A. Miller of Utica, N. Y.; Henry H. Alexander, Pulaski; K. T. Crowley of the Little Falls, N. Y. "Times"; the Hon. Francis D. Culkin, representative in Congress; W. C. Gumaer, Frank

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Jensen's "The Life and Letters of Henry Cuyler Bunner"; McMurtie's "History of Printing in the United States"; Child's "Gazetteer and Business Directory of Oswego County 1866-67"; Fitzgerald's "Directory of Oswego for 1864-65"; Unpublished Manuscript left by late Fred A. Dixon of Oswego; Files of the "Oswego Palladium," the "Oswego County Whig," the "Oswego Daily Commercial Times," the "Oswego Daily Times," the "Oswego Commercial Advertiser," the "Oswego Morning Express," the "Oswego Herald," the "Oswego Times and Express," and the "Oswego Palladium-Times," "Editor and Publisher" (New York); "History of Oswego" by Chester Hull, former editor of the "Oswego Commercial Herald" and first librarian of the Gerrit Smith Public Library; "History of Fulton and Oswego Falls" by Amos G. Hull; Dunbar Rowland's "Mississippi"; Hardy's "Recollections of Reconstruction," published by the Mississippi Historical Society.



Eleazar Williams

(Paper Read Before Oswego Historical Society at Fulton, May 12, 1942, by
Dr. T. Wood Clarke of Utica, Author and Historian.)

In the mid-winter of the year 1704, at the height of Queen Anne's War, a body of French and Indians under the command of Hertel de Rouville made a night raid on the town of Deerfield, Mass., burned the houses and led many of the inhabitants back to Canada as prisoners. Among these was Rev. John Williams, the village pastor. While the clergyman was released at the end of the war and returned to his home, his daughter, Eunice, was retained at Caughnawaga, married an Indian and adopted Indian costume and customs. Though she several times visited her relatives in New England she always insisted on returning to her life among the aborigines. Her grandson, Thomas Williams, or Te-ho-ra-gwa-ne-gen, was a chief of the Caughnawagas of the Canadian border.

During the American Revolution Thomas Williams accompanied Sir John Johnson on his raids into the Mohawk valley. In the War of 1812, however, he sided with the Americans. He married an Indian wife. They had twelve children, including Eleazar Williams.

In 1800 Thomas Williams took two of his sons, John and Eleazar, to New England to be educated by one of his Williams' cousins, Nathaniel Ely of Longmeadow, Massachusetts. John remained with Mr. Ely for a few years, Eleazar until Mr. Ely's death, in 1808. During these eight years in Longmeadow the neighbors were much impressed by the racial and mental differences between the two boys. While John was a typical Indian in appearance, Eleazar seemed more like a white boy; while

John was wild and unruly, Eleazar was quiet and gentle; while John made but little headway with his books, Eleazar became an omnivorous reader and an excellent student; and while John, after a few years, begged his father to take him back to the Indian life at Caughnawaga, Eleazar was supremely happy in the refined atmosphere that surrounded the New England Williamses.

Eleazar Williams Converts Oneida Indians

In the War of 1812 Eleazar was active on the American side. In his writings he speaks of himself as "Col. E. Williams", and says he was "General Superintendent of the Northern Indian Department". War Department records do not mention such a commission. He was probably in a semi-official position as a leader of Indian scouts.

When peace returned Eleazar Williams retired from military service and turned his thoughts to the ministry. Though he had been brought up a Roman Catholic in Canada and educated under Congregational ministers in New England partly at the expense of the Congregational Board of Missions with the object in view of his becoming a Congregational missionary to the Indians, Eleazar, probably due to the influence of the Rev. Mr. Butler of Albany and of Bishop John Henry Hobart of New York, resolved to join the ministry of the Protestant Episcopal Church. May 15, 1815, he was confirmed by Bishop Hobart in St. John's Church in New York City. Bishop Hobart was much impressed by the intelligence and

earnestness of the young man, and, in 1816, appointed him a catechist and lay missionary to the Oneida Indians at Oneida Castle.

Previous missionaries, unable to speak the Oneida language and thus being obliged to preach through interpreters, had had but little influence on the religious convictions of the Oneidas. Williams, a natural born orator, who could speak their language better than he could English, affected them greatly and his work found immediate success.

When Williams went to Oneida Castle there were two parties among the Oneidas, apparently both political and religious. The Christian party were those who had been baptized through the influence of Samuel Kirkland many years before. They were, however, half-hearted in their allegiance to Christian doctrines. The other, or unbaptized members of the tribe, were known as "the Pagan party." The Christian party at once flocked to Mr. Williams' services, and within a year the entire Pagan party is said to have been converted as well. If Williams had never accomplished anything else, this wholesale conversion of practically an entire Indian nation to Christianity would prove him to be a man of ability beyond ordinary.

Williams Translates Prayer Book Into Mohawk

Bishop Hobart visited the Oneidas in 1818 for the first time and found there a neat chapel almost completed through the efforts of Williams. In this chapel he confirmed 89 Indians, all instructed by Mr. Williams. The following year the chapel was completed and consecrated under the name of St. Peter's Church. In 1840 this church building was sold to the Unitarian Society, Vernon, New York, and moved

to that village. It is now the Town Hall of Vernon.

At this period of his life Eleazar Williams' whole heart and soul seems to have been centered upon the spiritual welfare of the Indians. During his four years residence at Oneida Castle he devoted much time to literary work and during that period translated into the Mohawk language the Gospels, the Book of Common Prayer and a hymn book. Though Williams was a layman at that time Bishop Hobart allowed him to wear a surplice when reading the service, and to have a surpliced boys' choir of Indian lads. Mr. Williams, with powdered hair, wearing his surplice, and preceded by his vested choir of red-skinned children, made a deep impression upon the ceremony-loving Oneidas.

When Mr. Williams began his work among the Indians, civilization was encroaching upon the domain of the Oneidas. The towns of Utica and Rome were becoming active centers of trade. Villages and farming settlements were springing up all over Oneida County. The Erie Canal was being agitated, and the whites looked with envious eyes upon the rich lands of the Oneidas.

Leads Oneidas To Wisconsin

The Federal Government, convinced of the necessity of moving the Oneidas west, asked Eleazar Williams to take charge of the migration. After conferring with President Monroe and Secretary Calhoun Williams made a trip to the west and picked out the shores of Green Bay in Wisconsin as a suitable place to which to move his charges. The Wisconsin Indians agreed to the plan and ceded to the Oneidas a strip of land five miles wide on the Fox River.

When part of the Oneida Nation moved to Green Bay Williams went with them. There he built a church and a school. The

latter was presided over by his secretary, Albert G. Ellis. Williams married a half-breed girl, named Madeline Jourdan. The Menomonees gave her a dower of five thousand acres of land on the Fox River upon which Mr. Williams settled. His wife lived on this property until her death in 1886.

After his ordination as deacon by Bishop Hobart at Oneida Castle Williams returned to Green Bay and resumed his duties, both as spiritual head of the mission, and as secular champion as well. He devoted much of his time during the next few years to his missionary duties and to travel in the interest of the Indians. He endeavored, through government grants and private aid, to build schools and colleges for the Menomonees and the Oneidas, but he was more of an idealist than a politician and not only did many of his plans fail, but his neighbors accused him of being untrue to them because of his inability to fulfill all the promises which his dreams had conjured up. Tiring of the dissention and strife incumbent upon his position, he resigned from his mission in 1831 and retired to his farm on Fox River. He continued his interest, however, in Indians affairs, and he frequently journeyed to his old homes at Oneida Castle, at St. Regis and at Caughnawaga. He visited his Williams cousins in New England and made frequent trips to Washington to discuss affairs with the Indian Department. In time he became recognized as one of the outstanding authorities on Indian affairs in America.

Conference With Prince de Joinville

While he was at the St. Regis Indian Reservation in northern New York in 1841 attempting to found a Protestant school, he received word from his New York city representative, Thomas Ogden, that the Prince de Joinville,

the son of King Louis Philippe of France, was going to Green Bay and wished to see him. He hastened west, met the prince, and had the memorable conference which, a few years later, caused his name to be emblazoned far and wide and made him for a few years one of the most talked of men in America. The meeting eventually brought him thousands of admirers as well as many virulent detractors. The result of this conference was kept strictly a secret for a number of years, but in 1849 rumors began to spread. These aroused the interest of an Episcopal clergyman, Rev. John H. Hanson, who followed up clues, gathered circumstantial evidence, searched through documents, and finally published, in Putnam's Magazine, in 1853, his startling article entitled, "Have We A Bourbon Among Us?" This was followed two years later by his book, "The Lost Prince". For several years the newspapers were filled with claims and counter-claims, proofs and refutations, laudations and calumnies, in which Eleazar Williams was pictured as a martyred saint, an unscrupulous mountebank and a harmless lunatic, and one of the greatest mysteries in American history became public property.

Louis Charles, Dauphin of France

But let us go on to the Rev. Mr. Hanson's story:

The story of the imprisonment of the family of Louis XVI in the Temple in Paris and of their execution are matters of history. The terrible abuse meted out to their son, Louis Charles, dauphin of France, is well known. The brutality of the jailer, Simon, the filth of his surroundings, the forcing of liquor on the innocent child, the latter's gradual degeneration and, finally, his death form one of the blackest pages in the history of the French Revolution. On one occasion Simon in his rage tore a towel from

the wall and beat the child with it. A nail came away with the towel and made two deep cuts in the boy's face, one over the left eye, the other on the side of the nose. Following Simon's resignation the young uncrowned king suffered months of terrible neglect. Then in succession the Prince had three jailers, Laurent, Gomin and Lasne who, though they apparently wished to lighten the burdens of the little prince, were prevented from doing much by the restrictions which were put upon them by their superiors.

Charged Dessault Was Poisoned

Three years of confinement and abuse accompanied by the suffering and degradation to which the dauphin had been submitted had changed the loveable child to a physical and mental wreck. His body become emaciated to the last degree, covered with sores and tumor masses, and his mind so nearly blank that he did not speak for months at a time. His physical condition grew worse and M. Dessault, a medical man of unquestioned probity, formerly physician to the royal family, was summoned. He saw the dauphin first on May 6, 1795. He said that there was a slight taint of scrofula, but that his chief trouble was starvation and unsanitary living, and that if he were removed to the country he would recover. This was not allowed. Dessault continued to attend the Prince until May 30, when the physician died very suddenly under circumstances so suspicious that his assistant asserted he had been poisoned. During the period that Dessault was caring for the prince a commission visited the prince and reported to the convention that he was idiotic, emaciated and had tumors on both knees, both wrists and both elbows.

The commissioner in charge of the Temple, where the French royal family were held prisoners,

was changed daily as a matter of precaution. On the day of Dessault's death, May 31, 1795, the commissioner was M. Bellanger, an artist, who had been a member of the suite of the Duc de Provence, the brother of the imprisoned King. Contrary to the prescribed rules he awaited the physician in the dauphin's room. He spent the entire day with the doctor showing the latter some of his own drawings and making a portrait of the Prince.

For five days after Dr. Dessault's death the dauphin received no medical care. On June 5, M. Pelletan, chief surgeon of the Grand Hospital of Humanity, was ordered to attend him. He asked for counsel and M. Dumangin was appointed to assist him. Neither of the physicians had ever seen the dauphin. Three days later the child died. A careful autopsy was performed, the report of which shows that he was suffering from a chronic tuberculous peritonitis and had a tumor mass filled with pus on the inner side of the right knee and another on the left wrist. The child was buried in the cemetery of l'Eglise St. Marguerite.

Was Child Who Died The Dauphin?

But was this child who died in the Temple truly the dauphin? On this question there has always been so much doubt that forty different people arose in various parts of the world and claimed to be Louis Charles, king of France.

The Rev. Mr. Hanson was one of those who believed the dauphin did not die. He called attention to certain facts which he considered significant. In the first place, on May 31 M. Bellanger, a protege of the Duc de Provence, spent the entire day with the child. That day the physician of the royal family, M. Dessault, who knew the dauphin well, was poisoned. Five days later two physicians who had never seen the dauphin were called in and three days later certified to

his death. Whereas three weeks before M. Dessault had stated that the scrofulous, or tuberculous, condition of the dauphin was slight, at the autopsy the child was found to have been suffering from a long standing tuberculous peritonitis, and that, while the commissions had reported tumor masses on both knees, both wrists and both elbows, the autopsy report shows only swelling on the left knee and right wrist. Another interesting point is that, whereas the dauphin seemed very dull mentally and did not speak for months, the child who died in the Temple during his last week, though much more weak physically than previously, was bright and alert mentally and became chatty with his guardians.

The day the child died in the Temple, a police bulletin issued in Paris, had stated that a member of the royal family had made his escape from the Temple, and that an order had been issued for the detention of all vehicles containing children traveling through France.

From these foregoing facts, Mr. Hanson deduces that the real dauphin was smuggled out of the Temple by M. Bellanger, and that another child dying of tuberculosis was substituted in his place.

Possible Motives For Fraud?

As to who would have profited by the removal of the dauphin there are various possibilities. The government, finding that the prince was not dying fast enough to suit the men in its control, in order to report him dead, might have disposed of him and put a dying child in his place. Royalists may have removed him with the hope of returning him later to the throne.

The theory which Mr. Hanson propounds is at least interesting. On the death of Louis XVI, his brother, the Duc de Provence, declared the dauphin King under the title of Louis XVII, and himself Regent. At the

time of the supposed death of the dauphin, Robespierre had fallen, the Revolution was beginning to totter but Napoleon had not yet appeared on the scene. In case the Bourbons should be reinstated the dauphin, a poor sick, imbecile boy, would be the only stumbling block to the Duc de Provence becoming king of France. Why should not this useless child who, in spite of cruelty, starvation and disease, refused to die, be secretly smuggled away and hidden and another child allowed to die in his stead?

Years later, when this same Duc de Provence sat on the throne of France as Louis XVIII, the bodies of Louis XVI, Marie Antoinette and Madame Elizabeth were disinterred and reburied in great state. That of the child in St. Marguerite's was left unheeded and unmarked. Prayers were said daily in the churches for the soul of Louis XVI, Marie Antoinette, Madame Elizabeth and the elder brother who died at Versailles. No prayers were said for the child whom the reigning monarch had himself declared to be Louis XVII of France. Did the king refrain from having prayers said for the soul of the dauphin because he knew that it still inhabited a living body? Who can tell?

Who Was "Jardin's" Child?

To return to the scraps of circumstantial evidence collected many years later by Mr. Hanson. There appeared in Albany in 1795 a family of French refugees who called themselves M. and Madame Jardin, with two children known as M. Louis and Mademoiselle Louise. A general impression was at Albany that M. Jardin was not the husband of Madame, as he had more the manner of a high class attendant in the service of a lady of rank. She was said to have been a lady-in-waiting to Queen Marie Antoinette. The boy, though but ten years old and distinctly backward mentally, was treated as the important member of the party. This family, after a

short stay, disappeared as mysteriously as it arrived.

Shortly afterwards two French gentlemen, one a Catholic priest, with a sickly imbecile boy, came to Ticonderoga. Years later an Oneida chieftain, Skenandough, a descendant of the great Skenadoah, made an affidavit to the effect that he had talked with this boy in the French language. At that time the Caughnawaga chieftain, Thomas Williams, was camping on Lake George while on a hunting trip. Skenandough also swore that a few days after the visit to Ticonderoga, he again saw the sickly French boy and recognized him. This time, however, he was one of the children at the camp of Thomas Williams, and he was called Eleazar.

Investigations among the parish records at Caughnawaga subsequently made showed records of both birth and baptism of the eleven other children of Thomas Williams, but no such record could be found for the boy Eleazar. This strange lad was brought up as an Indian, learned their ways and their language, but was mentally very backward as to contemporaneous matters. In regard to his past life his memory was held to have been a complete blank.

Eleazar's Mentality Restored By Blow?

A few years later, while on another hunting trip to Lake George, the boy Eleazar, when in swimming, dove off a high rock, hit his head on another rock in the lake and was picked up unconscious. After he regained consciousness it was evident that the blow that he had received on the head had had a salutary effect. His intelligence increased rapidly so that he became of normal mentality. In Skenandough's affidavit he states that he was present on the occasion of the accident.

Shortly after Eleazar's recovery from the accident two strangers, one an elegantly dressed Frenchman, came to Thomas Williams hunting camp. Eleazar was

called in from his canoe on the lake to see him. The Frenchman embraced the youth tenderly. The next day the two men came again to the camp and examined Eleazar's legs and arms carefully. The Frenchman was so overcome he was moved to tears.

It was after this incident that Thomas Williams returned to Caughnawaga and began to make his plans to take two of his boys to New England to leave them there to be educated.

Williams' Vague Recollections Of Other Days

During his years in New England the boy Eleazar, used to confide in a cousin hazy memories of a past involving troops maneuvering in a garden, brilliantly lighted rooms, beautiful buildings, dignified ceremonies, and one incident especially of sitting leaning against a beautiful lady dressed in gorgeous clothing. These were at the time all considered to be the dreams of an imaginative boy, as in his previous life as Lazau Williams, the half-breed of Caughnawaga, he could never have had the opportunity to see such things. To Eleazar they signified nothing more than vague dreams.

On one occasion, in later years, upon being shown some engravings in Newport, Eleazar suddenly became greatly excited and exclaimed, "Good God I know that face. It has haunted me through life." The picture proved to be that of Simon, the jailer, at the Temple who had so badly mistreated the young dauphin intrusted to his care.

At a reception in New York in 1817 when the subject of the dauphin's death in the Temple was being discussed, M. Genet, the ambassador of France to the United States, is quoted as having said that the dauphin did not die in the Temple at all, but was alive and well at that time and was living in the State of New York, and that M. LeRay de Chaumont knew all about it.

Statements Attributed To Royal Family

There lived in New Orleans after the year 1810 a Mrs. Brown whose first husband had been M. Joseph Debois, secretary to the Count d'Artois, afterwards Charles X of France. During the life of her first husband she had lived with the exiled royal family at Holyrood and became a friend of the dauphin's sister, then the Duchess d'Angouleme. For a number of years Mrs. Brown is reported to have been in the habit of saying to her friends in New Orleans that the dauphin had been brought to America and placed among Indians. When she was interviewed by Mr. Hanson she said that one day, when she was alone with the Duchessed'Angouleme, she asked if it were true that the dauphin had been carried away to safety. The duchesse replied that she was assured her brother was safe in America.

Mrs. Brown said that all the members of the royal family were well acquainted with the facts of the dauphin's preservation, but nothing had been done by them to find him as they were convinced he was incompetent to reign. Mrs. Brown also said that she had heard it said that a royalist named Bellanger had been the chief agent in removing him from the Temple, and that the dauphin in America had adopted the name of Williams.

After the death of Madame Royale, Duchesse d'Angouleme, General LaRoche Jacquelin stated that on her deathbed she called him to her and said, "General, I have a fact, a very solemn fact to reveal to you. It is the testament of a dying woman. My brother is not dead; it has been the nightmare of my life . . . Promise me to take the necessary steps to trace him . . . for France will not be happy nor at peace until he is on the throne of his fathers."

Williams In Early Life Ignorant Of Claim

Of all of this, however, Eleazer Williams, the half-bred missionary, was sublimely ignorant, though, from remarks made to him by curious visiting Frenchmen, he had at times wondered whether he were really the son of Thomas Williams. He suspected at times that he was the son of some French refugee. In 1841, however, the Prince de Joinville made his memorable visit to Green Bay.

Eleven years after Louis Philippe of the younger, or Orleans, branch of the House of Bourbon, became king of France in the year 1841, his third son, the Prince de Joinville, made a visit to the United States. While being entertained in New York he is said to have inquired whether there was such a person known as Eleazer Williams among the Indians in the northern part of New York. He was referred to Mr. Ogden, Mr. Williams' business representative in New York, who wrote to the missionary at Hogansburg, causing the latter to drop his work at hand and return to Green Bay to meet the prince.

The meeting between Eleazer Williams and the Prince de Joinville, as described by the missionary to Mr. Hanson, is given in great detail in the latter's article, "Have We A Bourbon Among Us?"

The Interview With De Joinville

On his trip home Williams was at Mackinac when the prince's ship arrived and was on the dock to see the reception of the distinguished Frenchman. While the latter was seeing the sights of Mackinac, Captain John Shook came to Eleazer and told him the Prince de Joinville, on the trip west from Buffalo, had been making inquiries from him concerning a Rev. Mr. Williams. Mr. Williams boarded the same ship for Green Bay that bore the prince and his party.

That afternoon Captain Shook came to him once more and informed Williams that the prince wished to have an interview with him. Williams acquiesced, and a few minutes later the captain returned with the prince. Mr. Williams' description of the meeting, as reported by Mr. Hanson, is worthy of exact quotation: "I was sitting at the time on a barrel. The Prince not only started with evident and involuntary surprise when he saw me, but there was great agitation on his face and manner—a slight paleness and a quivering of the lip—which I could not help remarking at the time . . . He then shook me earnestly and respectfully by the hand and drew me immediately into conversation. The attention which he paid to me seemed to astonish, not only myself and the passengers, but also the Prince's retinue." The prince invited Williams to dine at his table, but the latter bashfully refused. After dinner the prince kept Williams with him for many hours and talked with him at length about Indian affairs, the early French explorers, the life and death of Louis XVI, and the great debt the United States owed him for the aid given during the American Revolution.

On his arrival at Green Bay, the prince invited Mr. Williams to stay with him at the Astor House. When Williams declined on the ground that he must see his family, the prince asked him to return in the evening. This Mr. Williams did, and upon his arrival the prince's entire suite were dismissed and Mr. Williams was closeted alone with the prince. After requesting a promise of secrecy, which Mr. Williams accorded with the proviso that the promise would not hold if keeping the secret would prove prejudicial or harmful to others, the prince said:

Williams Told His Father Was King Of France

"You have been accustomed, sir, to consider yourself a native of this country; but you are not. You are of foreign descent; you were born in Europe, sir, and however incredible it may at first seem to you, I have to tell you that you are the son of a king. There ought to be much consolation to you to know this fact. You have suffered a great deal, and have been brought very low, but you have not suffered more, or been more degraded than my father, who was long in exile and poverty in this country; but there is this difference between him and you, that he was all along aware of his high birth, whereas you have been spared the knowledge of your origin."

When asked by Williams for further information as to the facts of his birth and position the prince said that "it was necessary that a certain process should be gone through in order to guard the interests of all parties concerned." The prince then laid a parchment upon the table and requested that he sign it. He also produced what he described as the royal seal of France. The document itself was in parallel columns, one in French, the other in English and its purport was "a solemn abdication of the crown of France in favor of Louis Philippe by Louis Charles, the son of Louis XVI who was styled Louis XVII, king of France and Navaree," with all the accompanying names and titles of honor according to the custom of the old French monarchy, together with a minute specification in legal phraseology of the conditions and consideration and provisos under which the abdication was made.

Williams Refuses To Sign Away Any "Rights"

These conditions were, in brief, "that a princely establishment should be secured to me

either in this country or France, at my option, and that Louis Philippe would pledge himself on his part to secure the restoration, or an equivalent of it, of all the private property of the royal family rightfully belonging to me which had been confiscated in France during the Revolution, or in any way got into other hands." Williams refused to sign the paper saying if he had any such rights it would be unfair to his family to relinquish them. Williams saw the prince again the next day and bade him farewell, the prince saying, "Though we part, I hope we part friends."

Some months later a box of books for the Williams missionary library arrived at Green Bay as a present from Louis Philippe. Four years later a package was left at Sheboygan addressed to Eleazar Williams. On opening it he found a portrait of a man, wrapped in many layers of French newspaper. The name of the sender was not enclosed. Upon being asked whose portrait it was, Mr. Williams replied, "They say it is my father," and would say no more.

From this incident arose the legend that the picture was one of Louis XVI. Though the likeness bears no resemblance to that monarch on being renovated it was found to be a very fine painting by the French artist Ingres. It has recently been purchased by the Green Bay Public Museum at a price of \$2500.00, and today hangs in that institution.

As Williams had been pledged to a provisional secrecy, and as he feared that the Prince de Joinville had made a mistake in identity, he kept silent as to the details of his conference with de Joinville for a number of years, but his acquaintances noticed that he appeared at times excited and at others dreamy in a manner they had never before noted.

Bellanger Confessed His Part in Plot?

However, there appeared in a New Orleans newspaper in 1848 an account of the death of a French gentleman named Bellanger who was said to have confessed on his deathbed that he was the person who brought the dauphin to this country and placed him among the Indians of Northern New York.

It was this New Orleans dispatch and others which followed it from various parts of the country, all pointing to Eleazar Williams as being Louis XVII of France, that aroused the interest of Rev. John H. Hanson. After hunting up Mr. Williams and obtaining from him his story and spending several years hunting up further circumstantial evidence, Mr. Hanson published his two magazine articles, thereby precipitating what developed into one of the most bitter controversies in the history of America.

Wisconsin Rejected Williams' Claims

The proverb that a prophet is never without honor save in his own country was never better exemplified than in the case of Eleazar Williams. On the publication of Hanson's articles with their wealth of circumstantial evidence pointing to the royal lineage of the Indian missionary, the tendency in the Eastern United States was for people to accept it at its face value. Mr. Williams was sought after, fêted, dined, and addressed as Your Majesty in New York and other Eastern cities. In Wisconsin, however, where he had spent so many years of his life, his kingly claims were the subject of scoffs and jeers. Most of the articles which tended to undermine his claim to royal birth emanated from that state. The nation became divided into two parties, his partisans and his detractors.

Among his partisans and admirers were numbered some of

the leading members of the Episcopal Church in New York. Rev. Dr. Hawks found him "uniformly amiable and gentle in manner and to all appearances a truly pious man," who "is not able to invent a complicated mass of circumstantial evidence to sustain a fabricated story." The Rev. Mr. Hanson speaks of him as being a mild, reticent, gentle, honest man of the highest ideals, to whom the publicity aroused by the question of his identity was distasteful. John Ogden of New York, the son of the missionary's legal advisor, said that "he has known Mr. Williams intimately many years and places the fullest confidence in his integrity and simplicity of character."

On the other hand his detractors, especially among his Wisconsin neighbors, had a very different opinion of him. The Honorable John Y. Smith, who knew him for years in Green Bay, speaks of him as a "fat, lazy, good-for-nothing Indian, but cunning, crafty, fruitful in expedients to raise the wind and unscrupulous about the means of accomplishing it."

Draper's Estimate of Williams

In 1879 Lyman C. Draper, at that time corresponding secretary of the Wisconsin Historical Society, concluded an article on Eleazar Williams by saying, "Williams was visionary and of a braggadocio character, always concocting schemes; and when one came to naught, he was fertile in inventing others. So when the idea of an Indian republic measurably failed . . . he naturally turned his attention to some new project—something that would pander to his love of notoriety. There was little prospect of Louis XVII rising up to confront him so he concluded to play the part of a king, and have a brief strut upon the public stage . . . He seemed to be happy in the dauphinship invention so long as it flattered his vanity and love of notoriety, gave

him good dinners, and afforded him opportunities to display his powers of conversation. He aped greatness, but accomplished nothing. Had he possessed integrity of character and discarded his impracticable fancies he might have proved a blessing to the Indian race. But his life was a comparative failure if we may judge by the limited fruits of his splendid opportunities."

Williams a Bourbon In Appearance

One of the strongest arguments in favor of Eleazar Williams having been Louis XVII was a resemblance to the members of the Bourbon family that was held to have been extraordinary. Even some of those most opposed to his claims acknowledged this resemblance. Both in New England and at Caughnawaga various observers have said that Eleazar did not look the least like the other members of Thomas Williams' family.

Mr. Hanson, in describing his first meeting with him, said, "He is an intelligent, noble-looking old man with no trace, however slight, of the Indian about him except what may be fully accounted for by his long residence among Indians . . ., but he has the port and presence of a European gentleman of high rank, . . . a fair, high, ample, intellectual but receding forehead; a slight aquiline but rather small nose; a long Austrian lip, the expression of which is of exceeding sweetness when in repose; full fleshy cheeks, but not high cheek bones . . ., small hands and feet, and dark hair sprinkled with gray as fine in texture as silk. I should never have taken him for an Indian."

As he advanced in years his resemblance to the Bourbons became more and more marked so that French people were often startled at the resemblance. The Duke of Wurtemberg, seeing him officiating in St. John's Church in Brooklyn on one of his many

visits there, not knowing his name, became quite excited and said that there was no question the priest was a member of the Bourbon family.

Guiseppe Fagnani, the eminent artist, who had painted most of the crowned heads of Europe, and in the missionary's later years painted Eleazar Williams himself, on seeing him for the first time at a reception in New York and on being asked whether he thought he was a Bourbon said, "I do not think he is, I know."

After painting Williams' portrait Fagnani wrote to Mr. Hanson: "In painting the portrait of Mr. Williams, I noticed many of the peculiar characteristics which are developed in a greater or less degree in most of the princes of the House of Bourbon whose portraits I have taken. When I first saw Mr. Williams I was more particularly impressed with his resemblance to the portraits of Louis XVI and Louis XVIII, and the Bourbonic outline of face and head. As I conversed with him I noticed several physiognomical details which rendered the resemblance to the family more striking. The upper part of his face is decidedly of a Bourbon cast, while the mouth and the lower part resemble the House of Hapsburg. I also noticed to my surprise that many of his gestures were similar to those peculiar to the Bourbon race. It leaves no doubt in my mind that Mr. Williams and the dauphin are the same person."

Neighbors Saw Williams As An Indian

On the other hand, let us see what his Wisconsin neighbors said. John Y. Smith, in describing him said, "Williams would have passed for a pure Indian with just a suspicion of African in his complexion and features."

Governor Cass of Michigan said of Eleazar Williams, "I have

known him as an Indian half-breed of the St. Regis band . . . no man acquainted with our aboriginal race and who has seen Mr. Williams can for a moment doubt his descent from that race. His color, his features and the conformation of his face, testify to his origin. They present the very appearance which everywhere marks the half-breed Indian."

Scars On Williams' Body Significant?

Marks and scars on the body are always of value in establishing identity. In the reports from the Temple it was stated that the dauphin had swellings and sores on the knees, wrists and elbows. These portions of Eleazar Williams' body were deeply scarred in a manner to suggest old sores in those localities. Some opponents of the Bourbon theory said that these were caused by running about the rocks of Caughnawaga as a child dressed only in a shirt. Others accused him of producing the scars by means of acid to aid in his deception. If the latter were the case the deception must have been planned for many years, as the scars were pronounced as "undoubtedly of long standing." Under examination Williams' face, revealed scars that may have corresponded to the cuts which reports from the Temple said had been caused by Simon beating the dauphin with a towel containing a nail.

During the time of the greatest publicity and excitement over Williams' descent, the Rev. F. Vinton, assistant rector of Trinity Church in New York, received a communication from a Mrs. Marguerite Deboit, of the household of the Count de Provence and the Duchesse d'Angouleme which said that once, in discussing the Naundorf claim with the duchesse, the latter said: "When my brother should be discovered, if he were yet alive, there would be found on the back of his shoulder the mark of a lancet in

the shape of a crescent which was made there by the surgeon at the time of the inoculation of the dauphin for the purpose of identification." Mr. Vinton took this letter to Mr. Hanson. They examined Mr. Williams' back and found such a scar. They also found a scar on his arm of small-pox inoculation, a procedure common in France before the Revolution, which had been performed upon the dauphin, but not practiced among the New York State Indians.

Absence Of Baptismal Records

There was much controversy over the testimony of Mary Anne, the widow of Thomas Williams, as to whether Eleazar was her child. The lack of record of his birth was explained in two ways. At one time it was said that he was very sickly when born and thus a special baptism was performed which was not recorded. This would hardly seem to accord with the care of the Catholic Church in such matters. The other was that Eleazar was born when his father and mother were away on a hunting trip on Lake George and that he was baptized by a Catholic priest at Whitehall, New York, and that thus no record was kept at Caughnawaga.

Inquiry at the two Catholic churches at Whitehall elicits the facts that these churches were organized in 1868 and the records of neither one date back far enough to confirm the accuracy of the statement as to Eleazar having been baptized at Whitehall. Furthermore, the Rev. John J. Wynne, S. J., editor of the Catholic Encyclopedia, informs me that there never was a Jesuit mission at Whitehall. These facts would appear to refute statements as to the alleged baptism at that place.

Statement Of Williams' Indian Mother

Immediately following the publication of Mr. Hanson's articles,

an interested person visited Mary Anne Williams, then nearly one hundred years old, and in the presence of Father Marcoux, the parish priest, procured from her an affidavit saying distinctly that Eleazar was her own son. On investigation Mr. Hanson found that this affidavit was written in English, a language which the squaw did not understand. A second affidavit was taken in the Mohawk language in which she referred to Eleazar as her adopted son. This was taken in Eleazar's presence, and years later a draft of it bearing many corrections was found among Eleazar's papers showing that he wrote it himself. Alfred Fulton of Hogsburg, who took the affidavit, heard Williams and his companion discussing the word meaning "adopted," and he was himself of the opinion that the squaw did not know the meaning of the word and did not mean to say that Eleazar was her adopted son.

Accusations of lying and cheating flowed freely from champions of both sides to the dispute as the result of these affidavits. Affidavits obtained from two old Caughnawaga Indians set forth the fact that they had known Eleazar Williams in Caughnawaga from the time he was three years of age. A squaw said she attended his birth. If these affidavits can be believed, the whole structure of Eleazar's royal claim must fall. But can these Indians' affidavits be taken seriously? Mr. Hanson believed that the Indians were all under the control of the Catholic priest, Father Marcoux, who was present when the first affidavit of the mother was taken and that she and the other Indians had been instructed to say what they did, as the priest hated Eleazar for becoming a Protestant and the clergy were violently opposed to the possibility of a Protestant clergyman becoming king of Catholic France.

De Joinville's Secretary Denied Entire Story

When Mr. Hanson's first article was published a copy was sent to the Prince de Joinville. His secretary immediately wrote denying the whole story. The secretary's letter said that on the trip from Mackinac to Green Bay the prince had met a passenger whose face he thought he recognized in the picture in the magazine, but whose name had entirely escaped the prince's memory. He remembered talking with him at length about the early French history of the region but completely denied the story of the conference in the Green Bay hotel or any conversation connecting Eleazar with Louis XVII.

Hanson Rejected Prince's Denial

How much faith can be put in this denial is a question. In the first place as de Joinville had failed to get Mr. Williams to sign the paper of abdication, it might have precipitated a revolution in France or even a European war for him to have acknowledged Eleazar as the one whose abdication was necessary in order to establish the right of his own branch of the Bourbon family to the throne. Also, whereas from the secretary's letter, it would appear that the prince had met Eleazar accidentally and could not recall his name, Mr. Hanson procured abundant proof that he inquired in New York for Eleazar Williams and got his address from Mr. Ogden. Furthermore Mr. Hanson received letters from Captain Shook and from several of the passengers on the trip from Buffalo to the effect that on several occasions he had expressed anxiety to meet Williams and have an interview with him.

While proponents of the dauphin theory considered the prince's inquiries in regard to Eleazar Williams to be strong evidence of the royal birth of the missionary, opponents explained them away by saying that Mr.

Williams was an acknowledged authority on Indian and early French history, and that the prince's whole purpose in meeting him was to attain historical knowledge of the district. The prince was supposed to be following the trail of Marquette. In going to Green Bay, however, he detoured from this trail, and it is hard to find any excuse for his going to this small frontier town unless it were especially to see Williams.

In 1846 George Sumner met at Brestone of the officers who accompanied the prince to Green Bay, who said that there was something very singular in the American trip of the prince who went out of his way to meet an old man among the Indians, who had very much of a Bourbon aspect, and who was spoken of as the son of Louis XVI.

Charge Williams With Acting

The evident shock which Williams is reported to have received upon the sight of the picture of Simon, the jailer, when it was shown to him in Newport, and his saying that that face had haunted his life are frequently cited by his proponents. His opponents, however, point out that on at least two other occasions he received a similar shock upon seeing pictures of the same person. They think it was a clever bit of acting.

Both parties to the controversy make much of the deathbed confession of M. Bellanger, that he had brought the dauphin to America and left him among the Indians. If the report of the alleged confession was authentic, it certainly tends to favor Eleazar's claim. However, the Rev. Mr. Robertson, who succeeded Eleazar Williams at Hogsburg and went over his papers, reported that he found a copy of the Bellanger confession written in Mr. Williams' handwriting and that he believes that Mr. Williams himself sent this notice to the paper in order to start the agitation.

Eastman Says Story Was His Own Plot

The most damning evidence of all, however, appears as an addendum to Mr. Smith's article in the Wisconsin Historical Collection in 1872. This contains a statement from Colonel H. E. Eastman, at one time mayor of Green Bay. Colonel Eastman states that he was the originator of the idea and the story of Williams being the Lost Prince, conceived and written in leisure days while he was engaged in reading French history and had become much interested in the misfortunes of the Bourbons, but never intended as anything more than a romance, which he might sometime publish. That at the same time he had some business relations with Williams, and became quite intimate with him; and this circumstance led him to adopt Williams as the hero of the tale he had concerned. Finding that Williams was amused and flattered by the idea, he lent him his manuscripts from time to time to read at his leisure. Eastman afterwards learned that Williams had them all copied. This, Mr. Eastman thinks, was in the summer of 1847 and the winter of 1847-48.

Eastman's Charge Of "Fake" Long Delayed

Busy times came on in the spring of 1848, and Colonel Eastman says he thought no more of his romance. He adds: "You were none of you so much astonished as I was when I went into Burley Follett's book store at Green Bay one day in 1853 and bought a number of Putnam's Magazine containing the startling discovery of the mislaid dauphin in my own language, all but the affidavits and other special proofs which I never had any purpose of procuring. My facts were drawn entirely from imagination." Among his imaginary facts Colonel Eastman mentioned the evidence which was given out as having been found Williams pretended to have deriv-

ed from other sources, which he said were pure fictions of the Eastman romance. However, Eastman made no mention of his alleged authorship at the time he read Mr. Hanson's magazine article, but delayed making it public until seventeen years later which was twelve years after both Mr. Williams and Mr. Hanson were in their graves.

After the Eastman statement was made public several people came forward and stated that Eleazar Williams had told them in confidence the story of his interview with the Prince de Joinville several years prior to the date on which Eastman had said he himself had made up the story. Mr. Eastman is said to have been the agent of interests in Boston who took advantage of Williams' financial stress and succeeded in obtaining possession of Williams' Green Bay property at a fraction of its value.

Mr. Williams' journal and papers were studied with great care after his death. His proponents pointed to the leaves of his journal describing de Joinville's visit. His enemies claimed these were written long afterwards and inserted, the leaves being loosely sewed together. His enemies claimed that most of the evidence obtained came from Mr. Williams' memory, and, they believed, from his imagination. Other facts seemingly equally strongly corroborative, however, were collected by Hanson in a manner which entirely precluded the possibility of collusion. Williams was accused of writing articles about himself in the third person and sending them under fictitious names to papers and magazines, and there is some evidence that he did this. A Mr. Haskins in Buffalo said that Eleazar told him that he was the dauphin in that city two years before that revelation was later claimed by Williams to have been made to him by the prince. On the other hand, Haskins did not give his version of the matter, until fifteen years later. Mr.

Williams visited Buffalo nearly every year at that period of his life and it would be hard to remember accurately a date after so many years. It may be that the tale was told after, not before, the prince's visit.

Congress Rejected Williams' Claim

For several years the controversy as to the authenticity of Williams' claim raged and then the interest dropped nearly as rapidly as it began. Williams was reinstated in the church and given a parish at Hogsburg, N. Y. His admirers built him an attractive house in the style of a French chateau. He laid his claims before Congress in the hopes that this country would endeavor to obtain recognition for him from the French government and possibly a pension. The American public in general, however, seems to have accepted the testimony of the first affidavit of the old squaw who was known as Williams' mother, and the letter from the Prince de Joinville as being the correct solution of the problem. Williams was branded as an imposter, and Congress threw out his claims. He never returned to Green Bay and never again saw his wife and son. The last few years of his life he lived in comparative seclusion at Hogsburg. He died and was buried there on the 28th day of August 1858. The last chapter of the story was then supposed to have been written.

Discussion Revived In This Century

About the beginning of the present century, however, interest as to the fate of the dauphin was again aroused. In 1893 a book was published in England taking up the claims of the numerous pretenders to having been the "lost dauphin" who had cropped up in various parts of the world. The author's conclusion was that Williams' claims were true. In the first decade of the twentieth

century in Bloomfield's "The Oneidas" and in Crawford's "The Romance of Old New England Churches" the story was again told in full. It is interesting to note that in these later articles but one side of the question is given. The alleged proofs of Eleazar's royal descent are stated at length and the claims of the opposition are either ignored or refuted.

In the early days of the twentieth century also Mary Catherwood wrote her novel "Lazare," the foundation of which was the story of Eleazar Williams. Shortly afterwards a dramatization of this novel was put on the stage with Otis Skinner in the title role. Both the novel and the play made no pretense of following facts, the author having given her imagination full sway in inventing exciting experiences for her hero on both sides of the Atlantic Ocean.

Wisconsin Views Now More Kindly

In 1905 the first kind word on the subject so far as Williams was concerned to emanate from Wisconsin came in the form of a book, "Prince or Creole," by Publius V. Lawson. This gives the full history of the dauphin and of Eleazar Williams, refutes the arguments of the Wisconsin detractors of Williams' and states definitely the author's belief that of Eleazar Williams was Louis XVII.

In 1921 Deborah Beaumont Martin, President of the Green Bay Historical Museum, concluded her address, delivered on the one hundredth anniversary of the arrival of Eleazar Williams in Green Bay, with these words: "The name of Eleazar Williams and the story of his pretensions to royalty have been tossed hither and yon through Europe and America and much incorrect tradition has been attached to the romantic tale of his life. Wisconsin should treasure the memory and mementoes of this unusual

man, for, despite ridicule and obliquy heaped upon him by contemporaries and co-workers with him in mission fields, Williams possessed a personality and characteristics that render him a distinguished figure, not only because of his good work among the Indians at Oneida Castle but also as the agent appointed by the government for the removal of the New York tribes to their permanent home in Wisconsin. If he were the great grandchild of Eunice Williams, a link in the tragic story of the Deerfield massacre, his life is no less interesting than if we accept the testimony of many reliable witnesses that he was of French rather than Indian ancestry. His claim to being Louis XVII was never pushed by him to any great extent, but is more fully sustained than any other of the quondum pretenders to the throne of the Bourbons. The death of the little dauphin in the Temple prison at Paris has never been definitely proved, and it might well be argued that the adopted child of Thomas Williams and his wife, whose name never appeared on the church register, was in reality that veritable 'Lost Prince' hero of many a fairy legend . . ."

"What mysterious motive impelled Prince de Joinville on his hurried trip to the United States, in 1841, to visit so inaccessible a point as Green Bay were it not to interview a certain missionary, 'Priest Williams,' whom he met by appointment on the pier at Mackinac and with whom he was much in conversation as they journeyed westward? In the book narrating his travels in the United States de Joinville carefully avoids mention of his meeting with Eleazar, although he tells of Mackinac and how 'Our good ship Columbus got to Green Bay at last.'

". . . Why this absolute silence on one of the most interesting episodes in his American trip? Some thirty years ago, indeed, when the story of Williams' royal pretensions had well nigh been forgotten and when the minister had slept his long sleep in the Hogsburg graveyard for near a quarter century, a baby grandchild of the missionary died in far away Wisconsin. Immediately, official papers were received from France requesting that signed affidavits of the child's death be returned to that government, proof that close watch was still kept on the descendants of the pretender."



A Few High Lights of the Courts, Bench and Bar of Oswego County

(Paper Read Before Oswego Historical Society at Oswego, November 17, 1942, by Harry C. Mizen, Former President Oswego County Bar Association.)

The history of the bench and bar of Oswego County begins in 1816 when it was established with courts of record. To that time the portion lying west of the Oswego River was a part of Onondaga County and that lying east of the river a part of Oneida County. A better understanding of the rivalry, reasons and causes that gave rise to the establishment of our county as one of the few two-shire counties of the state with two jury districts and two court houses may be had if we first consider briefly settlements, distances and transportation as they existed in 1816.

Shortly after George Scriba purchased in 1794 the large tract of land, now commonly called Scriba's Patent, settlements were under way at Rotterdam (now Constantia) and Vera Cruz (now Texas). Scriba's dream was to found a city on the shores of Lake Ontario at the mouth of Little Salmon Creek. In aid of this dream a road was cut through the forests and constructed from Rotterdam to Vera Cruz in the hope, and with the expectation, that it would supplant the Oneida and Oswego Rivers as a transportation route between Oneida Lake and Lake Ontario. In 1800 a few straggling settlers had established homes along the Oswego River including a few residents at what is now the city of Oswego. About 1800 there was a large influx of immigration from Connecticut to the town of Redfield along the Salmon River. By 1816 there

were fast growing settlements in the present towns of Volney, Granby, Mexico, Richland and Redfield as well as elsewhere. The settlement at Oswego by that time had far out distanced all others in population, wealth and leadership. It was a busy commercial port of entry with a collector of customs. The distances between the settlements in the eastern and western ends were most formidable, especially to those who were compelled to travel. Modern transportation by automobile and airplane was not then even a dream. Canals, plank roads, stage routes and railroads were yet in the distant future. Highways were winding dirt roads, paths and trails cut through the forests. The swiftest means of transportation was the rider and his horse.

How Two Shire County Came

Such were the conditions that confronted the six thousand odd inhabitants residing within the limits of the proposed new county. Naturally there was keen rivalry between the various settlements for the selection of their settlement as a seat of the new county government. Oswego was very near the west end of the proposed county and the settlement at Redfield was in like situation at the eastern end. Pulaski enjoyed a more central location. Without question a large majority of the people were opposed to locating the county seat at either the far western or eastern end of the county. At that period it was customary for the Legislature,

when it created a new county, to appoint three commissioners from other counties to select a county seat. Oswego's inhabitants early took notice of this fact and realized that if a law was passed establishing a county with only one county seat, the commissioners undoubtedly would select a more central location. The answer to the problem clearly was, two county seats. Confronted with this situation Oswego joined forces with Pulaski, confidently believing, as it later developed, that both would be the beneficiaries. Dr. Walter Colton, a resident of Oswego, then drew up a bill which divided the county into two jury districts with a court house in each district. One was designated the Western District, the other the Eastern District. The then towns of Richland, Redfield, Williams-town and Constantia were assigned to the Eastern District and Hannibal, Volney, Scriba and New Haven to the Western District. Parley Keyes and Ethel Bronson of Jefferson County and Stephen Bates of Ontario County were named commissioners to select the sites for the new court houses. Dr. Colton personally visited Albany and urged the passage of his bill and with the aid of the principal inhabitants at both ends of the proposed county secured its passage by the Legislature in March 1816. The commissioners soon met and designated Oswego and Pulaski as county seats and sites for the court houses.

It is of interest to note at this point that the county remained a two-shire county with two jury districts until 1902 when the latter were abolished by an act of the Legislature. Much of the credit for the abolishment of the archaic jury districts is due to two lawyers, Wardwell G. Robinson and David P. Morehouse, the latter the father of our now resident Supreme Court Justice, Hon.

D. Page Morehouse, Jr., who drafted the necessary legislation and successfully urged its passage by the Legislature and approval by the governor. The county's two court houses, however, linger on notwithstanding the fact that the early conditions which made two necessary have long since ceased to exist.

First Courts and Judges

The new law established a court of Common Pleas and a court of General Sessions with three terms to be held alternately in the respective jury districts. Until sites had been selected and court houses erected the sessions of the courts were held at such places as the judges selected.

Barnet Mooney of Granby was the first judge of the Court of Common Pleas and Peter D. Hugunin of Oswego, Edmund Hawkes of Oswego Town, Daniel Hawkes, Jr., of Hannibal, Smith Dunlap of Sandy Creek, Henry Williams of Williamstown and David Easton of New Haven were the first Associate Judges. Elias Brewster of Mexico was the first Surrogate, John S. Davis of Pulaski the first Sheriff and John Adams of Oswego Town the first County Clerk, all of whom were appointed to office in 1816. Later James F. Wright of Oswego became the first district attorney by appointment in 1820, William F. Allen of Oswego the first resident Supreme Court Justice by election in 1846 and Orla H. Whitney of Mexico the first County Judge by election in the same year. The first Recorder of the Oswego City Recorder's Court established in 1848 was Orvill J. Harmon.

The first session of the Court of Common Pleas was convened in the school house at Oswego. Associate Judge Peter D. Hugunin in the absence of Judge Mooney presided with Associate Judges Edmund Hawkes and Daniel Hawkes, Jr., as side judges. John Grant, Jr., and Theodore Popple, lawyers practicing at Os-

wego, attended the first session, together with several practicing attorneys from outside the village. Two law students, John Fisher and Henry White, appeared before the court and after due examination were admitted to practice as attorneys of Common Pleas. There was no civil litigation to be disposed of and no prisoners to be tried so Judge Hugunin then adjourned the court sine die. The second term of this court convened at the school house in Pulaski February 4th, 1817. Judge Mooney presided with Associate Judges Hugunin and Dunlap as side judges. James F. Wright, a law student from Oswego was admitted to practice at this session. The record does not disclose the civil litigation disposed of and the prisoners tried. The new law also provided that the supreme court justices need not hold Circuit Terms of the Supreme Court in the new county until they found it necessary, and none were convened until August 20th, 1823 when Hon. Nathan Williams, one of the justices, convened a Circuit Term and tried four civil and three criminal cases.

The Court Houses

In the summer of 1818 the erection of court houses at Pulaski and Oswego was commenced. The Pulaski court house was a substantial brick structure designed as a court house with a jail in the basement. It was materially enlarged and improved in 1858 and a brick two story annex was added in 1887. Its use as a jail has long since been discontinued but its use by the courts has been continuous and it stands today fronting on Pulaski's public square a substantial, commodious structure as originally built and enlarged.

The first court house erected in Oswego was a wooden structure of modest dimensions which soon proved inadequate for the growing needs of the courts. Its use as a court house was abandoned in 1848. The Board of Education then rented it to house

Junior School No. 5 and Senior School No. 3. When the Fourth Ward School was completed in 1857 this use was discontinued. It was then moved, with the consent of the Board of Supervisors, from the site of the present court house to a lot owned by the Church of the Evangelist and became a part of the church edifice. It is interesting to note that Isaac B. Poucher, later principal of the Oswego State Normal School, was the principal of Senior School No. 3 at the time it was housed in the old court house.

From the abandonment in 1848 to the completion of the present court house in the fall of 1860 the Supreme Court held its sessions in the Supreme Court room in the old City Hall and later in Mead's Hall on East Bridge Street. The incorporation of the city in 1848 elevated the village Market Hall (erected in 1835) to the dignity of a City Hall. One of the first acts of the Common Council at its organization meeting April 11, 1848 was the receipt of an official communication from Supreme Court Justice Allen regarding the use of the south room of the City Hall as a court room and the appointment of a committee to prepare suitable rooms in the City Hall for the use of the Recorder's Court and also the Supreme Court. During a portion of the period of abandonment the Board of Supervisors rented an office in the City Hall for the use of the sheriff.

Judges Ask County To Act

The continued failure of the Board to take action for the construction of a new Court House adequate for use of the courts, finally aroused the General Term of the Supreme Court to action, so much so that on July 11, 1857 at a session held in the Supreme Court room it made the following unique and drastic order and caused it to be served upon the district attorney, John C. Churchill:

"State of New York—In Supreme Court—

"At a General Term of the Supreme Court of the State of New York held at the court room in the City of Oswego on the 11th day of July, 1857.

"Present:—Hons. F. W. Hubbard, Daniel Pratt, W. J. Bacon, W. F. Allen, Justices.

"In the Matter of the Neglect of the Board of Supervisors to Provide Suitable Court Rooms.

"Ordered, that the district attorney of the County of Oswego be charged with the duty of officially bringing to the notice of the Board of Supervisors of said county at their next annual meeting that no provision is made by the county for holding the courts required by law to be held at the City of Oswego, and that proper and suitable rooms for the accommodation of the court cannot be procured from time to time, and requesting them to take action and make appropriate provision in the premises."

Mr. Churchill as directed by the order appeared before the Board at a session held at the Case House in the city of Fulton November 19, 1857 and after presenting the order stated that the county was very much in need of a suitable building for the courts; that the county had increased in wealth and population since the old court house was abandoned in 1848 and it was now much better able to erect a new and suitable building. The public buildings of a county, he further pointed out, were an index to its public spirit and as Oswego County was one of the four counties of the State outside the city of New York entitled to a State Senator, the position it occupied would seem to indicate that some effort should be made to make the county's public buildings correspond with its political strength.

The Board took no action at this session. However at a spe-

cial session held July 1st, 1858 it authorized its clerk to lease Mead's Hall on East Bridge Street for the use of all the courts at an annual rental of \$600.00 and at the annual session in the fall appropriated \$30,000.00 for a new court house at Oswego and \$5,000.00 for the enlargement and repair of the Court House at Pulaski. It also directed its clerk to continue the lease of Mead's Hall until such time as the new court house would be ready for occupancy.

Oswego Court House Built In 1860

Construction was commenced in 1859 and completed in the fall of 1860. That the supervisors of 1857-1860 still retained a good opinion of the judges and lawyers of the county, notwithstanding the drastic manner in which the General Term and, its judges had taken them to task in 1857 for their neglect is evidenced by the fact that the furnishings of the new Court House included a law library for their use and sixty spittoons for their convenience. In the late 1880's the increasing needs of the courts necessitated a further enlargement of the Court House at Oswego, particularly jury accommodations, but as in 1848-57 the board of supervisors failed to act. John C. Churchill, who as district attorney in 1857 was called upon by the General Term to present its order to the board had by this time become a Supreme Court Justice. Fortified by favorable action and commendation of the Oswego County Bar Association on February 5th, 1891 he made an order directing the Sheriff of the County to enlarge the court house in accordance with the Association's recommendations. The improvement consisted of raising the two wings on the west and east sides of the court house for use as jury rooms and repairs and alterations to other parts of the building.

New Courts Under The Constitution of 1846

The Constitution of 1846 materially altered the State's judicial system. It abolished the former Supreme Court and established a new court bearing the same name. The justices thereafter were to be elected by the people instead of appointed by the Governor. The new court was divided into Special Terms, Circuits, General Terms and Courts of Oyer and Terminer. Special terms were held by a single justice without a jury. Circuit Terms and Courts of Oyer and Terminer were held by a single justice with a jury. The former tried civil cases and the latter criminal cases. General Terms held by three Supreme Court Justices heard and decided appeals from judgments and decisions of the Special and Circuit Terms, Courts of Oyer and Terminer, as well as other courts of the state. These alterations and changes in the state's judicial system brought to Oswego County a new court, the General Term and its first resident Supreme Court Justice William F. Allen who was elected in May 1847. Judge Allen continued to serve as a Supreme Court Justice until 1863. In 1854 and 1862 he served as a judge of the Court of Appeals by designation of the governor. Retiring from the bench he removed to New York City in 1864 where he practiced his profession until he assumed the office of Comptroller of the state to which he was elected in 1867. He resigned this office in 1870 when he was elected an Associate Judge of the Court of Appeals and served with distinction until his death in 1878.

Judge Churchill who for many years was an active practitioner in the trial courts over which Judge Allen presided, as well as the appellate courts of which he was a member. leaves the following tribute in his "Landmarks of Oswego County": "Judge Allen

was a man of unflagging industry; ever faithful to his clients; possessed great legal learning, in the use of which he was modest and unassuming; and exhibited all of the qualities to be desired in a judge of the highest courts."

The Judiciary Act of 1847 provided that at least one term of the newly established General Term should be held annually in counties having a population of more than forty thousand. The first term of this court for Oswego County was held in the city of Oswego in May 1848, undoubtedly in the Supreme Court room in the first City Hall. The three justices composing the court were Daniel Pratt, Presiding Justice, Philo Gridley and William F. Allen. The court heard and decided numerous appeals and handed down seven written opinions which are published in Volume 3 of Barbour's Reports at Pages 50 to 88. It held its final session in Oswego in July 1863.

County Has Produced Many Distinguished Judges

The roll of Justices of the Supreme Court selected by the voters from the bar of Oswego County is a distinguished one; William F. Allen, John C. Churchill and D. Page Morehouse, Jr., of Oswego; Irving G. Hubbs and Clavton I. Miller of Pulaski and Maurice L. Wright of Mexico.

Justices Allen and Hubbs both served on the Trial and Appellate bench, the former as member and presiding judge of the old General Term; the latter as associate and presiding Justice of the Appellate Division of the Fourth Judicial Department. Judge Allen after his service on the Supreme Court bench had ended and Judge Hubbs, during his term of service, were elected by the People of the State Associate Judges of the Court of Appeals, the former in 1870 and the latter in 1928. The opinions which they wrote for the highest Courts of the State, preserved for all time in Barbour's,

the Appellate Division and Court of Appeals reports all afford abundant evidence of their untiring industry and deep devotion to the administration of true and equal justice for all, litigants and attorneys alike. Justices Churchill, Wright and Miller served with equal distinction on the Trial Bench now occupied by Justice Morehouse who is rapidly gaining equal distinction.

For a time Oswego County had the unusual distinction for a non-metropolitan county of having two Supreme Court Justices, Judge Hubbs and Judge Miller, both of whom were called to the bench from the small but outstanding bar of the enterprising Village of Pulaski. Judge Hubbs enjoys the unique distinction of having put an end to the old saying "Few die but none resign" by his voluntary retirement from office prior to the expiration of the term for which the people elected him. Both now reside at Pulaski, returned members of the bar, respected by all the people for their distinguished public service.

County Clerk's Office

From 1816 to 1852 the county was without a permanent Clerk's office, with the result that the records which had accumulated in considerable quantities were transferred from one place to another with the election of a new County Clerk once in every three years. To remedy this situation the Common Council of Oswego in May 1851, appropriated pursuant to an act of the Legislature \$2,000 to construct a clerk's office at the City of Oswego. When the building was completed in 1852, the City conveyed the building to the County. The original clerk's office was a small brick structure which stood at the northwest corner of East or Washington Park. In 1895 the original structure was replaced with a modern office building which has since been twice improved and enlarged into the present well appointed and commodious building.

Amusing Incidents Of Early Years

The rivalry and strife engendered in 1816 by the selection of Oswego and Pulaski as sites for the two Court Houses of Oswego County lingered on for some years and every now and then broke out in some form at annual sessions of the Board of Supervisors. In November 1855 a special committee made a report recommending that the Legislature be requested to divide the county into two counties, one to comprise the western jury district to be known as the County of Oswego; the other the eastern jury district to be known as Salmon River County. The report was adopted by a favorable vote of fifteen to nine but needless to say was soon forgotten.

The Supervisors of the 1850's had a great yearning for hotels as places of assembly. Notwithstanding the fact that the law required them to assemble at the clerk's office in Oswego, they quickly surmounted this obstacle by so convening and then adjourning to one of the many excellent flourishing hotels of the county. In 1854 the Board met and adjourned to the hotel of E. B. Ely in Mexico; in 1855 to the Pulaski House in Pulaski; in 1856 to the Hamilton House in Oswego; in 1857 to the Case House in Fulton; in 1858 to the Salmon River House in Pulaski; in 1859 to the Munger House in Oswego; in 1860 to the Case House in Fulton and in 1861 to the Munger House in Oswego. At the conclusion of each session the members solemnly and officially thanked their hosts and departed with memories long to be cherished.

The following piece of ancient literature culled from the Board's Proceedings of 1857 is typical of the high regard members had for hotels and their proprietors and thanks they extended to them, "Resolved that Mr. Skinner, our host of the Case House, has shown himself a most excellent provider for the 'inner man' in his ample accommodation

dealt out in courteous and gentlemanly manner, and that our thanks are due and are hereby tendered to him for the manner in which he has provided for the wants of this Board during its present session." (The Case house in Fulton was a predecessor of the Lewis house of today, conducted in the same building).

When Official Travel Cost Little

In 1852 Henry Fitzhugh and De-witt C. Littlejohn proposed to fill in the lands under water lying immediately in front of Fort Ontario and erect piers, wharves and other structures. The Federal government immediately manifested interest in the proposed improvements, so much so that on March 17th, 1852 Col. Wright, the commanding officer at Fort Ontario, notified the Common Council that he had received instructions from the Secretary of War to enjoin the proposed project. To adjust this controversy the City of Oswego entered into an agreement with the War Department to the effect that the proposed piers, wharves and structures should be constructed so as not to interfere with the line of fire from the Fort and that the military might use them without cost, if necessary, in time of war. During the course of negotiations it became necessary for Daniel H. Marsh, the City Attorney, to go to Washington and confer with the Secretary of War. On his return he submitted a most unique expense account which the Common Council promptly paid by resolution as follows: "Resolved that the City Attorney have an order for \$25.00 for expenses in going to Washington on business connected with the east harbor improvement." It is to be hoped that no taxpayer of this day will suffer a stroke of apoplexy brought on by a comparison of the cost of a trip to Washington in 1852 as compared with the cost of a like trip in 1942.

Oswego County's roll of lawyers who have rendered outstanding, worthwhile service is a long one.

One characteristic of the early pioneer lawyer is worthy of more than passing notice, for he did not hold to the modern doctrine, now all too prevalent, that it was beneath his dignity and standing at the bar to serve in minor office. Judge Allen commenced his public career as a village trustee and Judge Churchill as a school trustee. Congressman William Duer, David P. Brewster and A. P. Grant all commenced their public service as village trustees. Congressman and Mayor Leander Babcock emulated the example of John Quincy Adams, our fifth President, by commencing his public career as district attorney and ending it as alderman. The long distinguished public service of Orville Robinson commenced as town clerk of the Town of Mexico and later proved no handicap to his election to the offices of Member of Assembly, Speaker of the Assembly, District Attorney, Surrogate, Recorder of the City of Oswego, Member of Congress and or to his designation for the Presidential appointment office of U. S. Collector of Customs at Oswego. The roll is still incomplete but these will suffice.

Early Lawyers And Their Service

Another characteristic of the early lawyer was the public spirited service he rendered outside his office and the Court room. A. P. Grant was an organizer of the Oswego Rural Cemetery Association (Riverside) and its first president, an incorporator of the Lake Ontario Bank and a director and secretary of the Oswego & Syracuse Railroad, Oswego's first railroad, now a part of the Delaware, Lackawanna & Western system. Samuel B. Ludlow was a secretary of the Northwestern Insurance Company, an organizer of the Oswego Gas Light Company and a founder of the Congregational Church. Charles Rhodes was a vice president of the Oswego Water Works and a director of the First National Bank. He also devoted no inconsiderable time to the study of engineering and hydraulics

which stood him ably in hand in the management and control of the affairs of the Oswego Hydraulic Canal. George N. Burt and Max B. Richardson were instrumental in organizing the People's Electric Light and Power Company, now a part of the Central New York Power Corporation system, while A. P. Grant and Daniel H. Marsh took time out to help found the Oswego Orphan Asylum. Many yet remain worthy of mention; but time forbids.

A Celebrated Libel Trial

On the morning of September 10, 1861, a stranger on alighting from the stage coach in front of the Salmon River House at Pulaski (the iron horse was yet to come) would have discerned excited knots of citizens assembled in doorways and at street corners. Elbowing his way through the throng in the lobby to the desk he would have been informed that accommodations were at a premium and he would have to seek shelter elsewhere. The cause of all this was the trial at the Pulaski Court House of the action brought by Oswego County's respected Assemblyman and Speaker of the Assembly De Witt C. Littlejohn against Horace Greeley, the great editor and publisher of the "New York Tribune" to recover the sum of \$25,000.00 for an alleged libel uttered and published in the issue of September 26, 1860.

When the court convened dignified William J. Bacon of Utica was on the bench. Peter H. Morrison of Williamstown, Samuel Balcom of Redfield, Lewis Smith, Daniel B. Daring, George C. Parker of Constantia, Myron Stevens of Orwell, John R. Mitchell of Parish, Nelson White, L. Wood of Richland, William Scripture, Walter Pierce of Sandy Creek and Henry Mendell of Amboy were in the jury box. Mr. Littlejohn was seated at the right of the court in front of the rail

supported by his attorneys and counsel, Messrs. Marsh, Webb and Churchill of Oswego, Foster of Rome and Sedgwick of Syracuse, with Mr. Greeley at the court's left supported by his attorneys and counsel, Messrs. Williams of New York, Porter and Cagger of Albany and Grant and Allen of Oswego. The trial consumed three days including two night sessions and ended in a disagreement, the jury standing nine for a verdict for the defendant Greeley, two for nominal and one for large damages for the plaintiff.

Greeley Attacked Littlejohn In Campaign

Viewed at this distance it is difficult to account for the public interest which this case aroused in the Village of Pulaski, the County of Oswego and the State, and the throngs which crowded the Court House and village with strange faces. Far more serious libels had been published before and have been published since. During the 1860 session of the Legislature of which Littlejohn was a member and over which he presided as Speaker of the Assembly, it granted numerous franchises to railroads in the City of New York. These grants aroused Greeley, as well as a large portion of the public, to great ire and wrath, with the result that the "Tribune" from time to time carried in its columns the charge that the 1860 Legislature was corrupt, that certain members acted under corrupt influences and that the legislation was in fact, or was believed to be injurious to the public, designed to advance private interests. Littlejohn came up for re-election in the fall of 1860. During the campaign under date of September 26 the following news item was published in the "Tribune:"

"A correspondent earnestly inquires our opinion concerning the nomination for members of the Legislature of D. C. Littlejohn at Oswego and Austin Meyers at Syracuse. On this subject our opinion has been so often expressed that it cannot be in doubt. Both these persons were prominent in the corrupt legislation of last winter. Accordingly both of them ought now to be defeated. Or, if they must be sent back to pursue their career at Albany it should not be the work of Republican voters."

The publication of this article in turn so aroused the ire and wrath of Littlejohn as to cause him to sue Greeley for the sum of \$25,000.00 for libel. Greeley answered and alleged that the article was published with good motives and justifiable ends, that the legislation was corrupt legislation, that the 1860 Legislature in passing the same was aided and prompted thereto by improper influences that were brought to bear upon diverse members, and that he would so prove on the trial in his defense and in mitigation of damages.

Few Witnesses Called

At the outset of the trial Judge Bacon promptly ruled that the published article imputed a charge of personal corruption, was libelous *per se* as a matter of law and was not privileged as to the editor of a public journal. Later when Greeley undertook his defense Judge Bacon ruled and excluded from the consideration of the jury as a defense all evidence that showed, or tended to show, that the 1860 Legislature was reported to be, or was believed to be corrupt, that certain members acted under corrupt influences and that the franchises granted the railroads were in fact, or were at

least believed to be, injurious to the public interest, designed only to advance private interests. Greeley, of course, was wholly unable to prove that Littlejohn personally was corrupt or that he had been bribed. The court's ruling therefore knocked all the props from underneath the only defense Greeley had.

The trial consisted almost wholly of the opening and closing addresses of counsel to the jury, the rulings of the court and subtle legal arguments of counsel directed to the court but slyly aimed at the jurors in the jury box. Greeley's counsel swore only two witnesses, Frederick A. Conklin, a resident of New York City, and the defendant who testified in brief that he had known Littlejohn personally for twenty years, harbored no unkind feelings or malice toward him and believed the article to be true at the time of its publication.

Considering the nature of the libel and Greeley's utter lack of defense, due to the court's adverse ruling, it is remarkable even when viewed at this distance that he was not mulched by the jury in substantial damages. A stranger from afar he was exceedingly fortunate in having the trial take place at Pulaski in the eastern jury district, for he was thus assured that none of Littlejohn's friends and neighbors in his home city, Oswego, would enter the jury box.

Ten lawyers were engaged in the litigation and trial, three of whom later gained distinction on the bench: Judge Churchill of Oswego, Judge Foster of Rome and Judge Porter of Albany, the former as Supreme Court Justices and the latter as an Associate Judge of the Court of Appeals. This is a record which has seldom, if ever, been equaled or exceeded.

A complete record of the proceedings of the trial was recorded

by reporter John L. Crosby which later Greeley published and circulated in a fifty-six page pamphlet entitled "The Littlejohn Libel Suit." Undoubtedly this in no way tended to smoothe the ruffled feathers of Assemblyman Littlejohn.

Thanks are due to Miss Lida S. Penfield who some years ago picked up in a Boston Book Shop an original copy of the pamphlet which she kindly loaned to me and which has been of material benefit in the writing of this paper.



Oswego County---A Research Project

(Paper Read Before Oswego Historical Society at Fulton, Wednesday Evening, December 9, 1942, by Dr. W. F. Galpin, Professor of American History in the Maxwell Graduate School of Citizenship and Public Affairs of Syracuse University.)

When I received the invitation to address your society, sound judgment and good reason at once argued against acceptance. What, I asked myself, do I know about Oswego's history that is not already well known by you? Little, if anything, came the ready and correct answer. And so I was on the point of declining your kind invitation when I recalled that I had known your Vice-President, Mr. Faust, for a number of years. To say "no" to a friend, is always a delicate and difficult thing to do, and believing that Mr. Faust must have thought that I might have something worth while saying, I cast about in my mind for a likely topic and finally hit upon the one you have heard announced. What I intend doing, therefore, is to point out through the medium of several selected illustrations, certain aspects of Oswego's history that might well be considered subjects suitable for research. For it is only through research that a people's history may be established. The task is not an easy one and the rewards are few and far between. Far more simple is it to trust tradition and the tales of old men and women, upon which so much of our county histories have been built. And when you repeat what others have said and what the rest readily accept, you offend no one and gain prestige and applause. To question the accepted version, however, requires courage, patience and skill, but until one tests the rumor with the fact, no one can expect to have true and reliable history.

Now according to a statute of the State of New York, Oswego County was established March 1, 1816, from portions of Oneida and Onondaga Counties. Oneida furnished land that once had been included in Scriba's and Macomb's Patents, except for the original plat of Oswego City which was sold in small lots by the State, one of the purchasers being Gerrit Smith of Peterboro, New York. Onondaga supplied the Township of Hannibal and some thirty-three lots of Lysander, all of which at one time had been part and parcel of the historic Military Tract. Two other statutes, selected at random, inform us that the Town of Granby was formed from Hannibal in April, 1818, and that in 1836 additional territory was gained from Oswego. Other statutes would reveal the boundary changes of other towns. These facts, to repeat, may be found in the State Laws; they also may be found in Hough's Gazetteer of the State of New York, published in 1872. The latter, however, is a secondary source and should not be cited as an authority for this county or any county. The one and only authority consistent with historical canons, is the primary source, the Statutes themselves.

Statutes Best Define Boundaries

But let us dip into Hough's work a little more deeply. The apparent conclusion is that Hough's description of the boundary changes of the various towns within your county is complete and accurate up to 1872;

and they may well be, for time did not permit my checking with the primary sources. However, from a sample testing of certain towns in counties to the south, made a few years ago, errors—slight in nature, let it be added, but errors none the less—were discovered. The only way to establish positively the boundaries of your town is to comb the statutes beginning with the act of March 1, 1816. Possibly, this has been done; if so, I congratulate you for having accomplished what few counties have done; if not, I suggest it as a subject for investigation.

What, however, of any changes that may have taken place since Hough's volume appeared? Is there any secondary work to which one may turn, and if there is, does it cite primary sources as proof of these changes? Once again, I admit complete ignorance, but judging from research in an adjoining county, I would not be surprised to find, first, that no such secondary work exists, and second, that changes have taken place. And these changes, as well as those made before 1872, must be known before one is in a position to evaluate town and county history correctly.

Origin of "Conquest" And "Victory"

Again, what of Oswego's history prior to 1816, when it was a part of Onondaga and Oneida counties? Much of this is doubtless well known and reliably established. Any school boy of Fulton or Oswego can recite the deeds of Champlain, the march of St. Leger, the heroic epic of Fort Oswego, and scores of other events and personalities. But what of other matters? For example how did Hannibal vote in the state and national elections before 1816, yes even before the founding of Onondaga when the latter was part of Herkimer? And how did the citizens of that

town react to the prospect of journeying by horse drawn vehicles to far away Onondaga Hill to transact necessary legal business? I know that the citizens of Tully thought the location of the Court House at Onondaga Hill quite a serious grievance, and that it constituted one of the chief and most effective arguments for the separation of Cortland County from Onondaga in 1807. At that time, Onondaga leaders were decidedly opposed to the creation of Cortland. Were they in 1816 when Oswego was founded, and what were the sentiments of Oneida? Or what of the changes of town boundaries? Did the citizens of Oswego, for example, take kindly to the loss of territory when Granby was enlarged in 1836? In Cayuga County, the town of Cato fought strenuously against a separatist movement; all, however, to no avail, and the seceders amply reflected their elation by naming two of the new towns, Conquest and Victory.

Gerrit Smith's Influence

Again, reference has been made to Gerrit Smith's holdings in Oswego City—a fact generally well known. But how many have actually studied Smith's influence on that community? Some, I am sure, have read Dr. Zerker's admirable study of the Port of Oswego and will, therefore, recall that the author gained a large part of his primary material from the Gerrit Smith Miller Papers, now preserved at the Syracuse University Library. And let me add in passing that these papers fairly echo with references to Oswego's history. For instance, scan those letters as to Smith's repeated investments in the abortive Oswego and Utica Railroad—\$25,000 was lost in this unsuccessful venture. Nearly as much was staked in the Oswego and Syracuse, this time with more pleasing results. Less happy was the outcome of his invest-

ment in the Oswego and Midland, or even the Lake Ontario Shore road. Finally, there is the fascinating story of Smith's interest in the Boston and Oswego road.

Activities of Tankie and Marshall

Other letters throw light upon the political activities of Dr. A. H. Tankie of Oswego, who in 1858 stumped the county in favor of Smith's ill-fated campaign for the governorship. Then there are the letters of Joseph T. Marshall, also of Oswego, who succeeded in touching Smith's heart and in tapping the latter's purse to promote the "Verse a Day" scheme for converting France to evangelical religion. Marshall, indeed, was able to visit England and France and wrote back glorious reports of his war against the forces of evil. How this crusade ultimately ended is not known, for the letters suddenly stop in the summer of 1832 "with the French people still unsaved, Satan's throne intact and all Europe left to wallow miserably in sin."

Letters from James Cochrane and Henry Fitzhugh, relatives of Smith and residents of Oswego, also throw considerable light upon local politics, religion, land matters and upon the development of the port of Oswego. Then there are the usual begging letters, such as that from Joseph Turnet of the Oswego Baptist Society, which was anxious to erect a new church edifice—and Smith generously came forward with a sizable donation. Another from Lewellyn Jones, who unable to convince John B. Edwards that even a bank president at times may be financially embarrassed, wrote Smith asking for an extension of time on a debt he owed the latter. Again, Judge William F. Allen, writing in 1852, asks Smith if he would be willing to lease the stone cottage in East Oswego to a group desirous of establishing an orphan's home. As another illustration, there is

an interesting letter from Asa S. Wing of Mexico, New York, relative to political meetings at Central Square, Parish, Pulaski, and New Haven in 1852.

In all of these activities and transactions, Smith leaned heavily upon the advice and counsel of his good friend and agent, John B. Edwards, whose letters, numbering several thousand, today slumber peacefully on the shelves of the Syracuse University Library. From these one reads the story of Smith's initial investment in village property east of the river, and of his acquiring stock in the Oswego Canal Company. The first of these cost Smith \$14,000, but within three years it was currently reported that the property had increased in value to a hundred thousand dollars. So pleased was Smith that he plunged more deeply into Oswego land, especially during the winter of wild speculation, 1835-1836. With property values advancing fifty and even seventy-five per cent, Smith's potential wealth in Oswego was reported to be close to a million dollars.

Role Of John B. Edwards

But what of Edwards himself? Well, Dr. Harlow, in his recent biography of Smith, from which some of the material for this paper has been borrowed, writes: "Edwards was an excellent manager and a shrewd judge of real estate, and in addition to a loyal, devoted friend. His efforts were almost indispensable in the maintenance of Smith's income." Edwards, had however, a keener appreciation of Oswego and the needs of its citizens than did Smith. This was well illustrated during the summer of 1837 when an economic depression—they called it a panic—settled upon the entire country. Smith was decidedly in favor of curtailing improvements, of calling in negotiable paper, and of reducing wages. Edwards, on the other hand, felt that it was "charity to employ and pay the poor labor-

ers at this time," and he continued to pay the high wage of seventy-five cents a day long after Smith had advised a drastic reduction.

Edwards As Reciprocity Advocate

Another slant on Edwards is to be found in the role he played in Smith's successful race for Congress in 1850. Although Smith ran as an independent candidate, his pronounced anti-slavery views, his past gifts to this or that church organization, his espousal of the temperance movement, and a score of other affairs, were bound to evoke considerable support in your county. But what swung Oswego into line was the local belief and confidence that Smith, the wealthiest man in Oswego, would do much to promote the proposed reciprocity treaty with Canada—which would mean so much to Oswego. And no one believed this more than Edwards who was anxious beyond words to advance the fortunes of his village.

Writing to Smith, Edwards said, "If elected, you can probably do a great deal for Oswego and for this country and will be of some help to the world in striking off tariff." And during the course of the heated campaign, Edwards did all he could. Time after time, he personally called upon voters and was partly responsible for the splendid vote Oswego gave its favored son and benefactor. Surely, you will agree with me that it is high time some one of you should examine the Smith papers, and above all, to depict the life of John B. Edwards.

At the same time, would it not be equally interesting and valuable to find out what Oswego looked like in 1850? In this respect a primary source of great value are the Federal Censuses, frequently ignored by local historians except in the field of genealogy. To illustrate the prime importance of this source, let us take a brief look at the census of 1850. Here one finds

that the total population of Oswego County amounted to 61,983, of which 12,104 were residents of Oswego City. The county, therefore, was largely rural. In these areas as well as in the urban centers, schooling of a kind was generally provided for all children. Most of the 264 schools, then reported in the county, had libraries; 30,000 volumes, we are told, being upon the shelves. In addition, there was one public library, presumably at Oswego, with some 400 volumes. Then there were several Sunday school libraries. Bolstered by these libraries and schools, the intellectual standing of the county was relatively as good as that of her neighbors to the South. Only some two thousand persons, out of the county's entire population, were listed as being unable to read or write. And most of these two thousand were foreign born adults.

Revelations Lie In Census Statistics

Now these facts are of decided interest in respect to 1850 Oswego. But their interest and value do not stop there. By comparing these records with the decennial reports that followed, one finds revealed a vast panorama of historical development. For example, the total population continued to increase until by 1870 it was but sixty short of being 78,000. A decade later, it was approximately the same, but during the next twenty years it dropped by 1.4 per cent. In 1910, however, it had climbed slightly, the total population being about ten thousand more than in 1850. Today, I believe, it is about 71,000. During these years, the rural population has steadily declined. At present the distribution between urban and rural is approximately the same, whereas in 1850, the ratio was about 6 to 1 in favor of the rural. Truly, a remarkable change has taken place in the population trends of Oswego County since 1850. Pre-

cisely what caused this change, I would not presume to state. Certain obvious forces, such as an increase or decrease in the birth and death rates, and greater industrialization at Oswego and Fulton, come quickly to mind. But until all of the factors have been carefully searched for and evaluated, nothing like a complete story can be told.

Evaluation Of Great Importance

This little matter of "evaluation" deserves more than a passing comment since evaluation, that is, interpretation of the source or fact, is the most difficult task confronting the historian. It is true, for example, that research has established the fact that Caesar crossed the Rubicon. Important as the fact is, the most important aspect is completely concealed, namely what significance can be attributed to that fact. The "what of it," therefore, is the end and all of historical research. It has been said that evaluation is a difficult task; it is equally a highly dangerous task. To illustrate, a casual glance at any one of the Federal Censuses since 1820 will show that the greater share of the residents of Oswego County have always been native whites. Since "native" commonly implies "birth," one may rush to the conclusion that the 71,000 (round figures) native whites of Oswego in 1910 were all born in that county. Actually only some 48,000 were, and of these an appreciable per cent were of foreign born parents. And judged by the standards, let us say of the Daughters of the American Revolution, only a very small per cent can be classed as native whites as of 1776. Now I do not wish to be misunderstood. I am casting no reflection upon the thousands of your citizens who in the past, as today, were and are of foreign birth. They glory in their American citizenship and birth and today are more than willing to give that last full measure of devotion to their beloved country. On the

other hand, let us remember that, in using the Federal Census, the term native white does not mean native born white. Indeed, the census goes on to make this distinction; nevertheless, I have seen adults as well as college students ignore this distinction and draw hasty and faulty conclusions as to the nativity of whites in a given community.

To return, however, to the census of 1850 where one may also discover the religious behaviors of your ancestors. At that time Oswego County had all of 72 church edifices with a total seating capacity of close to 28,000. Thus if all of the residents of the county, some 61,000, were to have done the unheard of thing, namely attended divine worship on a given Sunday, they could not possibly have been crowded into the churches. Some may have bemoaned this fact in 1850, but I am sure that you and I will agree that this situation was far different than what I know to be the case in another county, where the seating capacity greatly exceeded the total population. Oswego, at least, did not allow religious enthusiasm to blind good judgment and reason.

What Census Reveals As To Religious Activities

Among the different faiths then present in Oswego County the Methodist led with 21 edifices. The Baptists were second with 15, and the Presbyterian, third, with 13. The Congregational, Episcopal, and Union tied for fourth with 5 each. Following came the Roman Catholic with 4, the Christian with 2, and the Lutheran and Universalist with 1 each. No other organizations were reported as having edifices, though there must have been communicants of other faiths. Subsequent censuses do not always include religious statistics, hence the value of this source for religious activities is less than for other topics. To round out the history of religious life, one must have access to

other sources such as the newspapers, annual church publications, ecclesiastical records and the like.

County Agriculture In 1850

Another interesting feature of Oswego County, as illustrated by the census of 1850, is the agricultural life of that age. The cash value of farms and farm land, including improved and unimproved acreage, so we are told, amounted to over \$8,000,000. Machines, tools and equipment were valued at \$423,000, while live stock equalled \$1,196,493. Oswego County, it seems, specialized in dairying activities; over 21,000 milch cows producing more than 2,000,000 pounds of butter and more than 1,300,000 pounds of cheese per year. Some 35,000 sheep yielded over 100,000 pounds of wool. Indian corn ranked first among the cereals grown, with oats a close second, wheat far behind as third, and rye a very poor fourth. Considerable attention was given to the raising of potatoes and close to 200,000 pounds of maple sugar was manufactured. Enough, however, has been said relative to the census as a source of local history.

Another research possibility that is most fascinating and one bound to bring reward relates to the physical appearance of either Oswego, Fulton or any urban community as of some prior date. As one walks the street of a given village or city, one invariably notices this or that old building. If historically minded, one wants to know when the building was erected, by whom and for what purpose, and as the facts are slowly gathered, a drama of great importance may unfold itself. I am now doing this for Syracuse as of the year 1851 and am finding it a most delightful task. Edward's store becomes the Old Globe Hotel, and Rust's cellar of choice wines, champagnes, whiskeys, and gins in what today is the **Empire House*

**Destroyed by fire December 30, 1942.*

should arouse the thirst of those who enjoy human frailties or possibly the dander of those who frown upon the followers of Bacchus. Now I am certain that your cities and villages have as much to offer the research student, and in all probability the sources exist in great number.

History Lurks In Odd Places

Your city chamberlains or village treasurers ought to be able to furnish the assessors rolls of a particular year, and from the engineer's office should come many valuable maps. And as you scan the rolls of taxpayers, you will open a great store box packed with material for the genealogist. From the maps you will be able to locate the various streets, their names (many of which I dare say have been changed), the extent to which these streets were then opened, the presence of sewers, the existence of transportation lines, such as the stage-coach, plank-road, railroad, and canal, and a number of other interesting things too numerous to mention. Much of present day Fulton and Oswego was, I assume, at one time given over to farm land, and the location of these areas, now given over to city blocks, is of prime importance in tracing any community's history. The County Clerk's office is crowded with maps, deeds, mortgages and the like, and from the same office one may obtain the records of early ecclesiastical organizations. Nor should one ignore the Supervisors' office which is well stocked with material. In addition to these official sources, there are the city directories, the local newspapers, publications of various societies—most of which should be either in your public library or at the home of the Oswego Historical Society.

A historical society is, of course, the very life center of all research and investigation. Few of these county organizations

have been so blessed by gifts, as is the case of the Rochester Society, to allow extensive research and publication. On the other hand, there is nothing to prevent any society from preparing for that day when a Santa Claus does make his appearance. What I have in mind is now being undertaken by the Cornell University Library which is actively engaged in the location and preservation of all types and kinds of sources for Central New York. Now we of Onondaga and you of Oswego may do our part either in aiding them or in developing a collection of our own. Such a campaign would doubtless bring to light much material of little importance; on the other hand, it should produce much of great significance. To illustrate, what of pictures of your forgotten buildings, streets, roads, and the like? The camera, I understand, was not in use before the middle of the 1840's, but from then on the number of views become increasingly numerous. Just recently, I discovered at the State Engineer's Office in the Old Weigh Lock Building in Syracuse, a large collection of plates and pictures depicting scenes and views along the Oswego and Erie Canals.

Finally, what of newspapers—one of the most valuable sources for local history? We of Onondaga share our limited collection with the Public and University Library, but I have an idea, possibly one might call it a hunch, that were a thorough canvass to be made, especially in the homes of families whose history extends back an appreciable time, valuable additions might be made to existing collections.

And now I must close this rambling and I fear rather uninteresting paper. It is evident that I came not as one qualified to tell of some phase of Oswego's history—I hope that I have not posed as one telling what ought to be done. My sole purpose, as stated earlier, was to try and point out certain fields wherein local research might be undertaken. Better selections could have been made, I am sure. At the same time, I trust that some of you may have been stimulated to greater efforts. For just as it is true that our national history will not be written until our state histories have been corrected, so our state history will never be complete until you and I, representative of county and local history, have done our part.



Necrology

AVERY SKINNER WRIGHT

February 21, 1942

FREDERICK LEIGHTON

June 2, 1942

REV. TIMOTHY F. HOWARD

August 5, 1942

OSWEGO CITY LIBRARY

