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of the

Oswego Historical Society

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[All elective officers are ex-officio members of the Board of Managers which funtcions as the Executive Committee of the Society.]

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November 16—"Oswego's First City Hall," Miss Marion Mahar of the History Department of the Oswego State Teachers College.

1944

January 11—"General Bradstreet's Expedition Through the Oswego River Valley in 1758 Against Fort Frontenac," Dr. W. Seward Salisbury of the Department of Social Studies of the Oswego State Teachers College.

February 15—"Life and Work of Henry Cuyler Bunner, Native of Oswego, Editor and Author," Dr. Lida S. Penfield, former Head of the English Department of the English Department of the Oswego State Teachers College. (This will be the Fourth of a Series of Papers on Oswego County Writers Being Given by Dr. Penfield.)

March 21—"Oswego County During the 'Patriot War,'" Edwin M. Waterbury of the "Oswego Palladium-Times."

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RALPH MILLIGAN FAUST

Coming to Oswego in 1926 soon after earning his degree of Master of Arts at Syracuse University, from which he had been graduated in 1925 as a Bachelor of Arts, Ralph Milligan Faust joined the faculty of the Oswego High School as instructor in Civics. As a youth in his native Camden, N. J., he had early manifested a keen interest in matters historical. He had not been long in Oswego when he acquired a deep and enduring interest in its rich historical background and began delving into many of its phases which had not previously received adequate treatment by local or visiting historians. Becoming a member of the Oswego Historical Society, Mr. Faust was thrown into close association with Dr. James G. Riggs, then its president, and the spark of zeal for local history which he had earlier displayed was fanned into flame through the influence of the older historian. Thus it came about in 1934 when the late Dr. Alexander C. Flick, New York State Historian, invited Dr. Riggs to write a chapter for his "History of New York State," upon which Dr. Flick was then at work, that Dr. Riggs accepted on the condition that Mr. Faust should be associated with him in the preparation of the chapter, which was later published as a part of Volume VI devoted to "The Age of Reform," with Chapter 10, "New York Becomes the Empire State," accredited to the two Oswegonians. In the same year Mr. Faust's "Story of Oswego" was published in book form. So generally excellent was the work that it was immediately adopted as the standard text book on local history for the Oswego public schools. It developed such popular appeal that within a few months the edition was completely sold out, and there developed a strong demand, unfortunately not yet met, for a revised and enlarged edition of the work.

In 1929 Mr. Faust became the first principal of the newly created Kingsford Park Junior High School. The pageantry, soon introduced into the student entertainments at the schools, began to attract the attention of the parents of the students, was but another outcropping of the natural interest and genius of the principal in matters historical, which was to have a later further manifestation in 1938 in the pageant produced at Kingsford Park School on the evenings of May 25-26 in connection with the Bi--Centennial of Sir William Johnson. The pageant, written by Mr. Faust, in association with Miss Ruth Raby, also of the school faculty, had been sponsored by Oswego Historical Society as Oswego's contribution to the Johnson observance. Its episodes dealt with phases of Oswego County history with which Johnson was identified.

When the Oswego Historical Society was reorganized early in 1937 some months after the death of Dr. Riggs who had long headed the society, Mr. Faust was one of the group of members who took the initial steps that resulted in the reorganization. He was elected a vice-president of the Society at that time and immediately afterwards was appointed chairman of its program committee, a position he has since filled to the committees have on several occasions importuned him to accept its presidency he has to committee have on several occasions importuned him to accept its presidency he has to date declined to serve the society in that capacity for which he is so richly endowed by his talents.

Besides serving our society as an officer, a member of its board and as chairman and member of some of its most important committees, Mr. Faust was honored in 1939 by election as vice-president of the Central New York Association of Local Historians. He is considered by our own society as the unofficial Historian of Oswego County.

In Recognition of Mr. Faust's long and distinguished services to this society and to the cause of better local history, Oswego Historical Society, through formal action by its Board of Managers, appreciatively dedicates this volume to him.

OUR ROLL OF HONOR

Members of Oswego County Historical Society

Now With Armed Forces of United States

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

Capt. Francis L. Carroll, Oswego, U. S. Army Medical.

Corp. Phelps Carter, Oswego, U. S. Army.

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Lieut. Benjamin J. Racusin, Oswego, U. S. Army.

Fred B. Scoville, Oswego, Special Service, U. S. Army.

John J. Waterbury, Oswego, U. S. Navy.

A CONSTRUCTIVE ACCOMPISHMENT

As the Society's year closes, fruition has been brought to a project for the accomplishment of which its officers have been working for the past three years and in relation to which the Society itself took formal action at its October 1943 meeting in urging that the Mayor and Common Council of the City of Oswego consent that the bound files of the Oswego newspapers, long stored in an inaccessible location at the base of the clock tower in the City Hall, be transferred to the custody of the Oswego Public Library. This consent was formally given at a meeting of the Common Council in November. With the full collaboration of the directing board of the Public Library, the Oswego Department of Education, the Department of Public Works, Mayor John J. Scanlon and the members of the Board of Aldermen with the Oswego Historical Society, the volumes have now been transferred to the Public Library, housed there in proper protective cabinets in a section of the second floor of the Library which has been set apart to receive them.

The volumes are now being checked, cataloged and otherwise prepared so that they may at an early date become available for consultation and use by city officers, historians and other adults having appropriate reasons for desiring to consult the priceless old volumes under the rules and safeguards the Library management will establish. Added to the volumes of the "Palladium," dating back to 1819, the "Oswego County Whig," dating from 1837, and the Whig's lineal successor, the "Oswego Daily Advertiser," established in 1845 and since uninterruptedly published as an Oswego daily newspaper, although under a variation of names, for nearly 100 years down to the present period, the collective group constitutes one of the most complete and venerable groupings of newspapers, published in a single city, to be found anywhere in up-state New York. (After June 1847 the name "Times" was usually a component part of the daily's name in varying styles and combinations.)

There are 280 volumes of bound files which composed the city's collection of the files of the Oswego newspapers which had been in process of being assembled since Oswego became a city in 1848. Besides the volumes of the "Palladium" and the "Times" newspapers, there are a few volumes of other Oswego newspapers, published after 1848, which had shorter lives. These include the "Press," published in the early 1870s and the "Morning Express," published in the 1880s. There is also included a complete file of the "Palladium-Times," dating from 1925 down to the present year. As a contribution to the preservation and extension of this valuable collection of newspaper files, Palladium-Times, Inc., of Oswego, has agreed to provide at its own expense future bound volumes of its files to be added to the collection of which the Public Library has now become the repository.

With the exception of a few volumes missing from the preserved files of both the two old newspapers between 1845, when new managements and new ownerships assumed control of both old Oswego newspapers, and 1850, there will be a file of at least one Oswego paper available in the collection for every year starting with 1819 and continuing down until the present period. (The "Times" file is complete from 1848 when Oswego became a city.) Excluding duplicated copies, there will be in the Library's enlarged collection about 325 volumes of files of old Oswego publications. The collection has been well described as "priceless."

The fact that the several groupings of old Oswego newspapers have now, for the first time, been brought together under one roof, under proper conditions for their care and continued usefulness, to afford to students of history a continuous succession of Oswego newspapers covering a period of 125 years, may well give our Society basis for some slight pride and great satisfaction that it has assumed a position of leadership in the various moves which have brought about this desirable end. It is to be hoped that other collections of newspaper files from other localities in the county, where they may become available, may soon find their way into the possession of other public libraries in the county.

The Oswego State Normal and Training School, An Interpretation

(Paper Read Before Oswego County Historical Society at Oswego, January 12, 1943, by Dr. Richard K. Piez, Former Head of Department of Psychology, Oswego State Normal School.)

Quoting the Hon. E. J. Harmon of Oswego: "In 1848 E. A. Sheldon, then a young man, found himself in Oswego, in one of those strange pauses in life which, to the outer eye, seem accidental, but are in reality the sources and springs of life's greatest work.

"He was induced to canvass the city, especially among the neglected poor, and found some 2500 young people and adults who could not read."

Result, the organization on October 31, 1848, of the Orphan and Free School Association whose object was the intellectual and moral improvement of such poor and orphan children in this city as were not otherwise provided for in these respects. Against his own inclinations Sheldon was prevailed upon to become the teacher of a class of underprivileged children soon dubbed as the "Ragged School." For this work he asked a salary of $275 for the year but at the suggestion of the Hon. Judge Churchill it was made $300.

Moves To Make All Schools Free

Quoting from Sheldon's autobiography: "Opened the Orphan and Free School on the 14th of January 1849 with 70 scholars. Have now on my list (Jan. 20) over 140 wild boys and girls who had never been inside a school room and who knew no better how to behave as pupils than I did as teacher.

"Like many philanthropic enterprises an enthusiastic beginning finds, after a time, a waning. The effort to raise money to meet the various expenses of the school and the necessities of the poor, began to abate, and general interest to cease. As I saw these tendencies, I urged upon the members of our committee the importance of making all the public schools of the city free."

At this time the schools had been under the old district school system. There were twelve school districts in the city. Each district had its own local officers, elected annually by the people of the district. Each district was a separate establishment similar to the present rural district before the era of consolidation. The consolidation of the twelve school districts of the city units, into one with a single governing board encountered much opposition, based on sectarian prejudices, greater expense and the reluctance of the districts to surrender their autonomy.

Enabling Legislation Passed

In 1852-3, sponsored by the Hon. D. C. Littlejohn of Oswego in the Assembly and the Hon. Robert C. Platt in the Senate, a bill for the consolidation of the twelve districts was passed. Under this act the new board of education, consisting of Leander Babcock, A. C. Matteson, D. C. Golden, Wm. H. Goit, Wm. F. Mason, A. B. Coe, John C. Churchill and O. J. Harmon, began to function May 11, 1853. The board elected E. A. Sheldon as its secretary and superintendent of schools. He returned from Syracuse where during the previous two years he had been superintendent of schools and began the work of reorganizing, not only the public schools, but public sentiment as well.

After some months of careful planning E. A. Sheldon proceeded to redistrict the city dividing it into twelve primary districts for children in the 1st, 2d and 3d grades; four junior districts for 4th, 5th and 6th grade children and two senior districts for 7th, 8th and 9th grade children. He also planned a four year high school course. He mapped out a definite course of study for each year.

Sheldon Reconstructs School Program

The weeding out of incompetent teachers proved a delicate task but was accomplished by the inauguration of a carefully guarded impartial system of examinations. Selection of teachers he based on evidence of knowledge and ability.

Buildings were renovated and up to date furniture installed.

The result as stated by E. A. Sheldon himself "A more perfect system of educational machinery had never been constructed."

When, at the end of the first year, he could show that notwithstanding extensive improvements, the expenditures were only $266 greater than during the preceding year, most of the active oppositions to the new order disappeared.

Supported by a competent and friendly Board of Education, E. A. Sheldon entered upon the second year of administering the Free Public Schools of Oswego. He started a number of classes for pupils who worked during the summer but were idle in the winter. Because they wanted particularly to know more arithmetic, they were called "Arithmetic Schools." Instruction was also given in reading, penmanship, spelling and geography. In addition, he started evening classes for boys employed during the day.

A very significant innovation was the establishment of an "Ungraded School", intended for the retarded pupil who could not progress with the regular classes and became increasingly uncomfortable in classes with younger children, more or less listless and unresponsive. These pupils, he grouped into an unclassified school. Years later when child-study, especially the researches of Binet , Goddard, and others had established the fact that most cases of retardation are due to mental deficiency, the unclassified schools became the present day "Special Classes."

Teachers Met For Discussion

Regular teachers' meetings for the discussion of school problems, organization, classification, instruction and discipline, principles of education and methods of teaching, were inaugurated. A rigid system of examinations was put in operation. Quoting E. A. Sheldon: "I carried a straightjacket system of close classification to its highest point of perfection, accompanied by a course of study as precise, definite, and exacting as it is possible to make, tested by complete and exhaustive examinations which left us room for doubt as to the thoroughness of the work done."

Promotions from grade to grade were based on these examinations. The most serious embarrassment at this time was the need of greater school accommodations. The school population had already doubled. The private schools had vanished with the presence of the new system. Some 500 children away from home in private schools were brought back by the new system. During this year, new schools were added and needed facilities installed.

If I seem to have dwelt at too great length upon the advent and organization of the Oswego Public Schools, it is because the origin of the Oswego State Normal and Training School is rooted in Sheldon's work in the Public Schools. Viewed against the

educational ideology of the period, Sheldon could truthfully declare that "A more perfect system of educational machinery has never been constructed."

At the time of the beginning of the Oswego Public Schools, instruction aimed at rote learning; memorizing of words and facts was identified with knowledge. Did not Sir Francis Bacon affirm that "Knowledge is power"? The fact that knowledge is sterile unless inspired by intelligence was overlooked and the knowledge thus acquired by memoriter learning was but remotely related to the daily life of pupils and thus school knowledge and life knowledge were more or less separate identities.

Discipline Repressed Individual

Discipline aimed to repress. "Children should be seen, not heard." The best disciplined group of children was so quiet that one could hear a pin drop. Corporal punishment was the order of the day, in school and out. "Spare the rod and spoil the child." The harsh discipline was a natural concommittant of the unnatural memoriter learning. As for the facts taught, the less said the better. A comparison of many elementary "Courses of Study" of the period leads one to believe that many school superintendents who, by the way, were not career educators, used the scissors and paste pot more frequently than the pen.

A good teacher of this period had of necessity to be a "born teacher" for the training of teachers was decidedly sketchy. Specific training in the art of teaching was conspicuously absent. He or she might be a high school graduate; very few had the advantages of higher institutional training. Nor were teachers—career teachers. The young women might—and usually were rescued from pedagogical drudgery by young Lochinvar while the occasional young man's school teaching was only a prelude to entry upon some profession.

Aimed to Make Pupils Think

And so E. A. Sheldon had organized what seemed the perfect public school system. But in his own words, "Notwithstanding all perfection of organization there was something wanting to give life, spirit, soul to the school system. As a machine it was perfect. But, it lacked vitality. This I felt strongly, but how to remedy the defect, I did not know. I realized that our work was too formal, too much of a memorizing process. We wanted something that would wake up the pupils, set them to thinking, observing, reasoning. I decided that our school work must be more objective. But there were no facilities for carrying on objective work. We wanted collections of objects of all sorts, illustrations, more reading matter suited to the ages of children, charts of color, and forms, objects for teaching arithmetic, natural history."

In September, 1859, he found many of the facilities he had been wishing for in Toronto. These were collections of objects, pictures, color charts, reading charts, and books for teachers prepared by the Home and Colonial Training Institution, London. He made out a new course of study for the primary schools employing the Toronto material. With the approval of the Board, it was put in operation the following year. A new era had begun. "Important changes were inaugurated that were to be destined to revolutionize methods of teaching, not only in Oswego, but in the whole country." This was the first effort to introduce systematic objective work into all subjects and through all grades of the public schools.

Trained in Objective Teaching

The training of teachers for this objective teaching was done

at Saturday meetings at which E. A. Sheldon laid out work for the following week, discussed principles and methods with them and then saw that the work was properly carried out in the classroom. As soon as some of the teachers were well trained, they left for more lucrative positions elsewhere. He proposed to the board that he should establish a city training school for the training of primary teachers. The board assented and he outlined a plan which admitted graduates of high school or equivalent scholastic training to a one-year course of strictly professional training, one half the time to be given to theory and the other half to teaching under criticism. As teacher for conducting the training school, he was able to secure Miss Margaret E. M. Jones of the Home and Colonial school in London who assumed her duties in May, 1861. At the end of the period for which Miss Jones was employed, Mr. Sheldon was prevailed upon to become principal of the training school.

Prominent Educators Approved

February 11, 1862, a group of prominent educators met in Oswego to examine the principles and practices of the new system of primary instruction. After careful examination and discussion, they gave the new departure their unqualified approval, stating: "That its underlying principles are sound; that the methods of instruction merit and receive our hearty approval and that they recommend the introduction of the system wherever practicable."

The Board of Education in 1864 reports as follows:

In the two years since its establishment, this training school has been of great value to us in preparing teachers for our schools. It has done much to elevate standards of teaching and increase the efficiency of our schools. Many teachers of experience and established reputation coming from distant parts of the state and from adjoining states have sought its advantages. Applications for teachers trained in this school have been beyond our ability to supply. Our own schools have been supplied from the same source. By an act of the legislature, the training school was thereafter placed under the control of the state superintendent, the state providing for its support. For the instruction of each student to the number of 50, the State allows fifty dollars.

Normal School Incorporated in 1865

From this point, the transition was easy to the final act of incorporation in 1865 of the Oswego State Normal and Training School. The city agreed to furnish the building and the state provided the funds for maintenance. The former United States Hotel on West Seneca Street—acquired and remodelled by the city—housed the 500 city children which made up the practice school and also the teachers in training. Mr. Sheldon continued as Secretary of the Board of Education and principal of the Normal and Training School until 1869 when he resigned the former position and devoted himself entirely to the task of teacher training. After its incorporation by the state, the school was placed in charge of a Local Board of Managers—originally consisting of thirteen members and later reduced to seven. The Local Board administered the financial affairs, had the responsibility for the building and grounds. It also adopted courses of study and appointed teachers to the faculty, subject to the approval of the Superintendent of Public Instruction.

School Buildings Enlarged

The school rapidly increased in popularity and numbers and soon outgrew the capacity of the building. In 1878, the state ap-

propriated funds to enlarge. In 1880, additional funds were available until the original building had been much enlarged and improved. This building continued in use until a modern and more commodious one was completed in 1911. After that time, the high school department was discontinued. Previously the department was operated to enable students not prepared in certain subjects to make up their academic deficiencies. From 1894 onward, the classical department was abolished, notwithstanding the disagreement of principals and other school officials. The adoption by the State Education Department of the minimum course for entrance to Normal Schools made the high school department in the Normal School practically superfluous.

Up to this point, I have briefly outlined the origin of the Oswego Training School and its development into the Normal school. With the more important aspect of the development, I have yet to deal. I am referring to what Mr. Sheldon termed the life, the spirit, the soul of this institution and its influence upon educational thought and practice throughout the country and far beyond its boundaries.

Education Adapted to Child

Mr. Sheldon's contribution to child education is not merely the introduction of object teaching or objective methods of teaching in the elementary school. These new techniques attracted wide attention and were widely adopted. Their introduction by Mr. Sheldon was merely one evidence of the basic motive that actuated his entire educational career.

This motive may thus be stated: The educational machinery, courses of study, methods of teaching should be adapted to the nature, needs and capacities of children instead of trying to adapt children to the educational machinery. The obvious corollary to this proposition is that teachers must be trained to teach in accordance with the natural laws of child development. Such is the keynote o the Normal School. This is the creed consciously or unconsciously incorporated in the thoughts and activities of the members of the Normal School. Both students and faculty, for these two supplemented each other as co-workers in a great cause. This underlying creed may not have been explicitly stated by some but it was always present by implication in the course of study, in the attitude of the faculty, and in the actual teaching.

Sheldon's Work Brought Educational Renaissance

E. A. Sheldon's innovation in Oswego was the beginning of a renaissance of elementary education. Many school officers had been aware of the inadequacy of rote learning, but like Sheldon did not know what to do about it. The success of objective teaching gave a new direction to educational thought and gave impetus to a new era of investigation, discussion and changes of which the end is not yet. Sheldon was familiar with all the new educational issues. While he was proud of being the founder of the first teacher training school and of the reform in teaching through objective methods, he was keenly alive to the new contributions to education. He studied the new issues as they arose and developed his educational policy accordingly. He was indefatigable in keeping track of new contributions and determining their validity. I have reason to know that nearly at the end of his life he spent a month in the hot summer season in Chicago studying a new method of teaching arithmetic only to conclude that we taught arithmetic better at home.

In the small town of Burgdorf, Pestalozzi at the age of fifty-five had his first opportun-

ity of teaching a class of boys and putting into practice his intuitive conceptions concerning the improvement of the method of teaching the subjects of the curriculum. His basic innovation, named by him, "learning by looking at things," (Anschaungs-Untericht) is learning through vision, or "looking at", as opposed to the then practiced oral learning, (Learning by rote). Pestalozzi formulated a few principles of instruction such as "ideas before words; things before ideas; from the concrete to the abstract". His method was objective. It was not necessarily object teaching, it was a method especially apt in the teaching of arithmetic, geography, nature study. He used charts, diagrams and pictures.

Sheldon an Intuitionist

E. A. Sheldon, like Pestalozzi, was an intuitionist. He felt that his first educational machine did not get results in terms of understanding on the part of the pupils. He saw the lack of spontaneous response to the rote learning of many things of which they did not know the meaning. He also saw that an objective approach was needed. But he did not definitely know what he could do until he found this collection of aids to objective teaching prepared by the Home and Colonial School of London.

Quoting Hermen Krusi:

"Miss M. E. M. Jones' teaching was essentially based on principles, which owe their chief advocacy and application to the educational reformer, Pestalozzi. The more exclusive attention to object lesson as a separate branch of study was of English origin and has since (1888) been greatly modified. Yet it was this new feature in particular, which struck casual observers as worthy of attention and unitation, and a practical way to change the usual word—or book-method—for for one in which the real object be studied and thus establish a connection between the subjects taught in school and the exigencies of life. More accurate observers, however, found that objective teaching in its broadest sense was the germ from which better methods of teaching number, language, geography, etc., could be derived.

It was to be expected that the name of Sheldon and the Oswego Normal school would be identified with object teaching because of the publication of Sheldon's "Lessons on Objects." (Scribner's 1862)

Pestalozzi's Influence

One should not associate Pestalozzi with the technique of object teaching. Objective teaching and object teaching are not identical in aim or procedure. One aims at understanding; the other aims at first-hand knowledge of objects. Although inspired by the teaching of Miss Jones of the Home and Colonial School, "Lessons on Objects" is exclusively a Sheldonian creation and originated in the Oswego training class. Because of their respective emphasis upon the objective method of teaching and of object teaching, the work of Krusi complemented the work of Sheldon with most happy and profitable results.

Krusi joined the teaching staff of the training class in 1867, at the end of Miss Jones' engagement. He was born in Yverdon in Switzerland, where his father had been a member of the faculty of the teacher training seminary directed by Pestalozzi. The senior Herman Krusi became principal of Normal School in Gais, conducted on Pestalozzian lines. The junior Krusi received his early education in his father's school. He was particularly fitted by birth and early environment for furthering the cause of objective teaching and for the important part he afterward took in the movement which led to the reformation of methods of instruction in the United States. Herman Krusi had been

a teacher in the Home and Colonial School in London and after his emigration to the United States was a teacher in a Normal School in Lancaster, Massachusetts, and Institute lecturer. Krusi was not a specialist. His catholic tastes and his wide acquaintance with a wide range of subjects made it possible for him to teach many subjects which he did most effectively, always following the objective treatment. One illustration: —In his class in geometry, he used no texbook but required original solutions or proofs of propositions. His habitual approach to the subject matter studied, encouraged observation or determination of facts, independent thinking, and reasoned-out conclusions. The habits of approach to and treatment had a far-reaching influence upon the men and women who went afield in the educational world and are to be credited with many of the reforms made in the schools of the country.

Froebel's Kindergartens

One cannot proceed to the next outstanding addition to the Normal School without examining the work of Friedrich Froebel whose work and philosophy were destined to have considerable influence on child training procedures in the United States rather than in his own country. Circumstances combined to compel him to teach a group of young children. It was good fortune for the children and himself. An intuitionist like Pestalozzi, seeing the utter futility of repressive control, he had an inspiration. "Why not let the children learn through their spontaneous activity? Why not direct this activity into productive channels instead of inhibiting it?" And thus was born a new procedure in education—education through the activity of the learner. The means he employed were social plays and constructive plays. He wrote songs suited to the children. He had them sing about, and imitate the actions of the artisans of the community. He invented group games and plays. His occupational activities he called "gifts". (Gaben). They were not intended to be used in fruitless handling. It is interesting to note that the children acquired information concerning color, size, form, number, etc., without formal instruction. The first gift consisted of three worsted balls, red, yellow, blue. They could be employed in many ways and the children learned physical facts about them without actually being taught these facts. The second gift consisted of a cube, a sphere, a cylinder. Another of the cube bisected in three directions resulting in 8 smaller cubes, providing a source of information about form, counting, etc. The lethargic group of small victims condemned to the regular school of the period became a group of happy, smiling, active children. And this institution he named the Kindergarten.

Froebel's revolutionary doctrine of education through activity found a wide acceptance in the United States. Kindergartens gradually were added to many school systems. The Oswego Normal and Training School as far back as 1882 established a Kindergarten and placed it under the able direction of Mrs. C. A. Burr. Her successor, Miss Amanda P. Funelle, who had done remarkably effective work in disseminating the spirit and method of object teaching in the Albany Normal School, the City Training School of Indianapolis, and the Detroit Normal and Training School. "The great idea of the Oswego Normal School is not Pestalozzianism, but freedom —rational freedom—the freedom of true selfactivity through self control." To one of this conviction, Froebel's doctrine appealed strongly. She devoted herself to the study of Froebel's education-

al philosophy and the conduct of the Kindergarten. She assumed charge of the Kindergarten department in the Oswego Normal School retiring from this work in 1911. The primary and the Kindergarten Course, as well as a course for those wishing to devote themselves exclusively to Kindergarten work, was incorporated in the curriculum during her incumbency. It might be noted in passing, ours was the first Normal School to include the Kindergarten in its program.

Henry Straight's Work In Oswego

Henry H. Straight began a course in object lessons in science while principal of the public schools at Galena, Ohio. In 1876 he joined the faculty of the Normal School as teacher of the Natural Sciences. Dissection in the biological branches and experimental laboratory work in the physical sciences were notable innovations at this period. In 1882, philosophy of education was added to his courses. Mr. Straight made some important contributions to the cause of elementary education of which at least one deserves special mention.

In the twenty years after the introduction of objective teaching, interest in the improvement of teaching had swept the educational circles. Scheme succeeded scheme, some ephemeral, others holding the attention for longer periods of time. The course of study was enriched until there were more subjects than the daily session could accommodate. Thinking of the child, one wondered "how one little head could hold it all." In the catalogs, the enriched curriculum made a brave show. In the minds of children it produced chaos. How to get all the subject matter "over to the children" without sacrificing any of it? The answer seemed to be found in what was known as the correlation of the subjects of the curriculum. Correlate a number of subjects by selecting a "core". Some advocated history as the core, others literature, still others insisted on geography. I can remember but one voice crying in the wilderness "Make the child's life and mind—the core."

Parker's Tribute To Straight

Henry Straight took great interest in this discussion and was an active participant in the attempts to solve this problem. He chose geography as the core because it dealt with every division of knowledge. Another exponent of the "geography core", was Col. Francis Parker, principal of the Cook County, Ill. Normal School. While the disputations among the wise educators were still in full swing, Straight joined Col. Parker in the Cook County School. Col. Parker some time later published a book entitled "Geography" which dealt with this problem of correlating subjects of the cirriculum, with geography.

Col. Parker is quoted: "I published the book but Straight's name should be on the title page." Of course these projected correlations failed. They were destined to fail because they were concerned with collections or groups of knowledge arranged in "air and water tight compartments." They took no cognizance of the child and that he had to develop his systems of knowledge from what he learned through his own activity of the interrelation between himself and the things outside of himself. Psychology as an empirical and scientific study apart from philosophy of which it had been a very small chapter had yet to be born. But I am anticipating. The sterility of all proposals for correlating subjects of the curriculum eventually led to their abandonment and another discussion entered the spotlight. The evaluation of the subject of study was undertaken by the conservative exponents of formal discipline and the progressive utilitarians. What knowledge is most worth? Herbert Spencer (Education) answered the question in terms of science rather

than the ancient classics. I never heard Mr. Sheldon express himself on this subject. He was more concerned with the child than with subjects. He wanted children to be happy in their school life. He wanted them to learn about the things that lay within the compass of their own lives. From this as a nucleus they could branch out into various fields of recorded knowledge according to their interests and inclinations. He found his program reasonably successful. He was like William James and later John Dewey, a pragmatist. His program worked—so it was right.

Dr. Mary Lee's Influence

Dr. Mary Lee was sent to the Oswego Normal School by the Superintendent of Public Instruction of Connecticut in 1862 to learn objective methods. After being graduated from the Michigan University, Medical Department, in 1872. She entered the Oswego Normal School to teach physiology, have general oversight over the health of the pupils. After an absence of two years, she returned to Oswego, in 1882, to teach the closely related subjects of biology, physiology, physical culture, and methods of teaching. Dr. Lee sums up the underlying principle of her work: "I worked, not so much to give information, as to influence life." She succeeded. It should be noted here that she is one of the first to insist that knowledge in itself has no value unless it functions in the life of the pupil. That instruction alone is not education. Another conception of the function of education is taking shape and Dr. Lee is one of its heralds.

Increasing interest in science does not stop with the organization of science courses. Children have contacts with natural objects and living beings. Science in the elementary school finds expression in "Nature Study". Mr. Sheldon had long considered how elementary science could be adapted to children. In 1894, he secured the services of Charles B. Scott to organize a course in Nature Study in the elementary school and to teach methods. In his work we notice a radical departure from the preceding descriptive procedure. Instead of the structural, the functional aspect of organism became the center of interest. What animals do and how they behave; how plants grow from the seed to the fruit. Here we have the sublimation of object teaching. Not a mere inventory of attributes, but the grasp of meaning of some of these. In passing, Cornell University carried the implications of nature study to its highest degree. Dean Bailey and Mrs. Comstock, through the Cornell leaflets, introduced millions to the wonders of our natural environment. After an all too brief period, Mr. Scott left for Porto Rico. Nature Study after some years again appeared as elementary science in the curriculum. Here also we find a reaffirmation of Dr. Lee's philosophy. "Not mere information, but knowledge which influences life—from nature to nature's God."

Manual Training Established

Practically the last important act of Mr. Sheldon was the establishment of the manual training course. He had for some time been interested in this new movement, had written articles dealing with the educational value of manual training as a means of educating through activity. He was concerned with its functional aspect rather than the technical. Graduates of the school should be able to use the simple tools and be able to construct for themselves some of the devices needed in their school work. Manual training courses in a few high schools already interested him. He was especially interested in the work of Dr. Woodard, the father of Manual Training in the United States. He had some acquaintance with the Swedish system of Sloyd.

Though he approved of its underlying purpose, he did not consider its procedure suitable for schools. In instituting the manual training course, he really laid the foundation for the present industrial arts department with its separate building and splendid equipment. Drawing had already been taught by Krusi as far back as the sixties. The courses in drawing, mechanical, pictorial, and decorative were closely coordinated with the manual training—1893.

The Herbartian Movement

Sometime in the late eighties, the Herbartian movement swept the educational world. Johann Friedrich Herbart first explicitly stated the principle that all educational procedure should have a psychological basis. The education of the young cannot be achieved by instruction aiming at information only. It must shape the heart as well as the mind. The former was to be accomplished by acquainting the pupils with biographies of noble lives, derived from Biblical, ancient Greek and other historical sources. Instruction was to create manysided interests. In the process of learning, he stressed the fact that perception must become apperception—the grasp of the meaning of the perceived. All learning involved four formal steps, viz., clearness, association, system, method. The subject matter must consist of "method wholes." (Note the similarity to the present day "unit activity.")

These are a few of the outstanding principles as stated by Herbart. The Herbartian Society —to become later the National Society for the study of Education—was formed and included some of our foremost educators. John Dewey was one of these.

The Oswego Normal School was in the forefront of the Herbartian Movement. Margaret K. Smith, Grant Karr, and Mary E. Laing, who had studied the Herbartian doctrines at the fountain head in Jena, were the successive interpretors of Herbart within the school and beyond its walls. Mr. Sheldon did not live to see the culmination of this movement. He reorganized the curriculum of the elementary schools about two cores, nature study and language literature. A noteworthy result of the latter grouping was the development of "story work" which attained a high degree of effectiveness under the leadership of Lina L. Loveridge.

At this stage, we can well close our review of the Oswego Normal and Training School. After the unification of the two educational authorities of the state, the administration of Normal Schools through the Commissioner of Education, Andrew S. Draper, became more and more centralized. The school became the State Normal school and recently the Oswego Teachers' College.

Sheldon Great But Modest

We have reviewed the history of our institution created and guided in its progress by a personality energizing progress. Dr. E. A. Sheldon was a great man, withal modest and without arrogance. He was singleminded in purpose and persevering. The graduates left the school not merely to retail the technique of objective teaching but to further the welfare and progress of children. The achievements of the graduates would require a large volume for their enumeration. In the last analysis, they were largely determined by the inspiration and example of a great educator. I like to think of Dr. E. A. Sheldon as we think of his contemporary, Abraham Lincoln, known in history as the great emancipator. Lincoln freed the Negro from slavery; Sheldon emancipated childhood from the thraldom of mechanized memoritor learning.

Oswego County Glass

(Paper Read Before Oswego County Historical Society at Oswego, February 16, 1943, By Miss Frances Eggleston of Oswego, Collector of Early American Glass)

In the abundance which has been provided for us for many years and in the mammoth and mechanical production of our great industrial enterprises we are likely to forget the beginnings of these industries, the potter's wheel and the glass blower's pipe. In the beginning these were arts, not industries and it is as arts that history regards the budding of these enterprises in our shores.

Cleveland Glass Ranks Well

Within the boundaries of our Oswego county there was established and carried on at Cleveland a glass house, the product of which ranks well with all other industrial efforts both in interest and in individual artistic expression. Cleveland is suituated on the north shore of Oneida Lake in the extreme southeastern corner of Oswego county and its glass industry is so closely connected with several houses in existence at the same time in Oneida county to the east, that from the point of view of glass history it is inevitable, when one explores the history of glass making in Oswego county, to consider also the Oneida county factories. Indeed to arrive at a proper conception of the subject we must consider the establishment and progress of this art in the entire country. This is the pathway which leads up to our door.

For those who collect old glass, there is in addition to the pride of possession the fascination of historical and social significance; for each piece which has survived is tangible evidence of a way of life, of a stage in social and industrial development and frequently of stirring events. Whether the event was only of passing interest or one of historical importance the glass commemorating it is a link with the past and one finds a thread of continuity of techniques and forms which stretches from antiquity to the present.

Fire Turns Sand Into Glass

The making of glass consists of the transmutation by fire, of solid opaque grannules of sand and alkali into a liquid state and back again into a brittle transparent solid. Glass beads made about 2000 B.C. were found at Thebes and Egyptian glass may have antedated that. By the second or third century glass household articles were in common use and houses had glass panes in their windows. By the 15th century the Venetians enjoyed a virtual monopoly of the glass trade. So jealous were they of their formulas and techniques that by the middle of the 15th century a statute was passed providing that any workman who carried his craft into a foreign country and refused to return should be killed by an emissary appointed for that purpose. Artisans who tried to escape and sell the secrets of the Venetian glass workers were stabbed by the medieval Gestapo. One blower who had been offered a fabulous bribe by the covetous Court of France was killed at the very gates of Paris.

As time passed other European countries became proficient in glass making. In France, the Lowlands and to some extent in England glass workers from Italy taught their techniques to native artisans. When glass houses were established in America they were manned by workers who came from nearly all countries in which glass making had been highly de-

veloped. In making glass of any kind these glass workers quite naturally followed the methods and styles of their native lands. So it is hardly surprising that many years passed before all the influences blended into something approaching a native American expression.

About a year ago Mr. George V. McKearin and his daughter Helen published a book called "American Glass". Mr. McKearin is the outstanding authority on this subject and I quote from him rather extensively. As to the early types of glass—he says:

"Prior to 1920 there were few students and collectors of American glass, consequently research was limited. The most ambitious project was that of John B. Kerfoot and Frederick William Hunter who conducted extensive research into the life of William Henry Stiegel and his glass manufacturing from 1763 to 1774 at Elizabeth Furnace and Manheim, Pa., and also of Casper Wistar and the glass house he founded in 1739 and which he operated until about 1780. The results of their research and conclusions as to the nature and characteristics of the Stiegel and Wistar products published in 1914 marked these centres as the fountain heads of two distinct streams of tradition in glass blowing and decorative technique in America."

America's First Factory Made Glass

It is interesting to know that the first factory erected on United States soil made glass and glass was our country's first export of manufactured goods. To substantiate this we know that the first settlers in America landed at Jamestown in 1607. This group did not meet with success and in 1608 a second group was sent by the London Company. This included eight glass men, Dutch and Polish. The company hoped to establish a thriving glass industry nearby, not because the settlers needed glass but because England did. They set up a crude glass furnace in the woods about a mile from the settlement.

Hildebrand says: "These pioneers made so many beads for trading with the Indians that the glass currency became inflated and the colonists started shipping beads to England at less than ceiling prices. Old records fail to tell how long this first commercial enterprise lasted, but the pick and the shovel have delivered to museums specimens of the beads and remnants of the furnace bricks and clay pots."

Under the later English rule the colonists were not encouraged to make any commodity such as glass, as it was feared it would interfere with the importation of the foreign product and before the Revolution glass was one of the articles taxed by England.

Nearly all American glass factories were established primarily for the manufacture of window glass. But these factories provided receptacles where left over portions of glass were thrown, which the glass blowers had the privilege of using for their own purposes. It is these pieces of so called "off-hand" glass that collectors prize.

Watson Friend Of George Scriba

Now to trace the history of glass manufacture which finally led to the village of Cleveland.

For much of the following information I am indebted to Stephen VanRensselaer's book on "American Bottles and Flasks." Mr. VanRensselaer, being a descendant of one of the early glass men, has had unusual opportunity to assemble these facts.

In 1786 or 1787 in Sandlake, near Albany, a glass works was established. About the year 1788 Leonard de Neufville, Ian Heefke and Ferdinand Walfahert, the proprietors of the Dowesbourgh glass works near Albany—which

undoubtedly is the same as the Sandlake—appealed to the people of the state of New York to sustain their manufacture of glass. They set forth that the state was annually drained of 30,000 pounds stirling for this necessary article which they could manufacture and which excelled in quality English glass. These works were visited in 1788 by Elkanah Watson. Watson was a friend of George Scriba and his name appears frequently in connection with Scriba's early activities. Watson's acquaintance with the founder of this enterprise gave him the following information which his son published in the memoirs of his father:

"Elkanah Watson proceeded eight miles from Albany to the new glass house erected by John de Neufville, a former correspondent of his, and once a resident of Amsterdam. John de Neufville had been the negotiator of a treaty made by Holland with the American Congress, which primarily produced the war between Holland and England in 1781. He commenced business with a hereditary capital of a half million, sterling, and lived in Amsterdam at his country seat in affluence and splendor. He sacrificed his fortune to the cause of American independence. The fragments of his estate he invested in the enterprise of establishing this glass factory. Elkanah Watson found this gentleman, born to affluence, living in a solitary place, occupying a miserable log cabin, furnished with a single deal table and two common chairs, destitute of the ordinary comforts of life."

De Neufville's Influence

This factory, which de Neufville —an American patriot, had established as his last hope of success in life was soon deserted for want of funds to carry it on. But an effort was made to reopen it in 1795 with more or less success. In 1806 the legislature passed an act to incorporate the stock holders of the Rensselaer Glass Factory; as it was then called. The incorporators were Jeremiah Van Rensselaer, John Saunders, Elisha Jenkins, Elkanah Watson, George Pearson, James Kane, Thomas Frothingham, Frederick Jenkins, Rensselaer Havens and Francis Bloodgood. The capital stock was not to exceed 100 shares at $1,000 each.

They had to import skilled employees. Mr. William Richmond, a Scotchman, was superintendent of the works and he went abroad to procure workmen. Disguised as a mendicant with a patch over one eye, playing upon bag-pipes he wandered through the glass district of Dunbarton in Scotland and engaged his blowers to cross the sea. With great difficulty they hid their tools on shipboard, as it was a penal offense for glass blowers to leave Scotland. In this Van Rensselaer factory the crown blowers were Scotch but many cylinder blowers were German. The latter were a poor set—intemperate and extravagant.

In 1816 a fire was started by sparks from the pipes of some of the blowers who were playing cards on a pile of straw in the packing room and the cylinder works were burned down. In 1818 these were rebuilt and continued functioning until 1853.

Cleveland's First Works Opened In 1840

However, the same company in 1845 had built a factory at Durhamville in Oneida county. This glass house was still doing business in 1878 under the name of Fox & Co. And about four miles below Durhamville, at Dunbarton, which was named from the Scotch village where the blowers were recruited, a factory was established in 1802 which remained in existence until 1890. In 1878 this glass works was owned by Monroe-Cowarden & Co. George Co-

warden was a son-in-law of Anthony Landgraff, who with his father-in-law and his brothers-in-law came from the village of Vernon to Cleveland in 1840 to establish the Cleveland Glass Works.

Factory Built Upon Best Sands

Although sand suitable for making glass was discovered as early as 1813 several miles west of Cleveland, its existence in the neighborhood of that village was unknown and for the first year after establishing his works there Mr. Landgraff boated his sand from Verona, upon the south shore of Oneida Lake. He discovered in 1841 that his works were located upon a bed of sand far superior to that he had been using. In consequence of this discovery two other glass factories were established in the village and a large amount of sand was exported annually to other works in New York state and Canada. In fact the quality of the Cleveland sand is so superior that the Corning Glass Works of Corning, N. Y., which made the giant reflector for the Mt. Palomar Observatory in California has used the product of the Cleveland sand pits in recent years, especially for the making of fibre glass.

There is now living in the village of Cleveland Mrs. Marion Morenus whose husband was identified with the glass works there and whose brother-in-law, Eugene Morenus, was the manager of the factory in its last period. Mrs. Morenus has sent me a pamphlet which was published in 1903 upon the celebration of the burning of the mortgage which previously had been placed upon the Cleveland glass house. I have selected the outstanding and consecutive facts from the pamphlet and present them to you.

Hemlock, Not Sand, Invited New Works

The first period in the history of the window glass industry in the village of Cleveland began in 1840, when the first factory was built by Anthony Landgraff and his sons and his son-in-law, George Cowarden. The family came from the village of Vernon, Oneida county, where they had conducted a window glass plant for several years; but the scarcity of hemlock, the fuel used for melting the glass, compelled a removal of the factory and Cleveland was selected as the new site. The tiny village of Cleveland was then surrounded on three sides, except along the lake road, by primeval forests in which only here and there an opening had been made by the axe of the pioneer. On the remaining side stretched the glistening waters and broad expanse of Oneida Lake rich in historic association and Indian tradition. The whole region was a sportsman's paradise.

The village dates its development and growth from the building of the old Eagle Tannery in 1834, so that when the glass factory came six years afterward there was a thriving little village to greet it. Lake and Bridge streets were built up almost as compactly as they are now, but on the north the forest encroached closely and the glass factory was built almost, if not quite, in the woods. The fuel then used exclusively for melting and flattening was hemlock wood, cut fine, about three feet in length and dried in brick ovens; the first wood cut for this purpose was piled against the drying house by the choppers, so nearby was the forest.

Early Works Had Small Capacity

The new factory buildings were large and substantial for the time, but the melting furnace was only about six by eight feet on the inside and the melting pots little larger than good sized water buckets. A single blower could carry and place them in the tempering ovens. Their capacity was about three hundred feet of glass, but as both double and single strength was then only half their

present thickness, these ancient pots held only about one hundred and fifty feet. The cylinders were mere pygmies by the side of the huge rollers of today, but they were opened offhand without the aid of pole or crane. Each blower gathered, blew, flattened and sometimes cut his own glass and the tending boys—now gatherers—were merely water boys and roller carriers. Those were days of long fires and many weary working hours for the blower, but the wages were good even in those days, averaging more than a dollar a box. The manner of selling the glass was in keeping with the character and primitive ways of small, local, independent manufacturers. In the middle of the last century Oneida Lake was connected with the Erie canal system by a side-cut, and it was customary during navigation to load a canal boat with glass and peddle it out in the towns and villages along the canal from Troy and Albany to Lockport and Buffalo, often in the way of barter for store goods and other supplies.

The Landgraff family conducted this factory, the old Cleveland Glass Works, for twenty years and then after a brief period under William Sanders, it passed in 1863 into the hands of J. Caswell and Crawford Getman. In 1877 Mr. Caswell retired and Mr. Getman continued the business alone for many years.

Second Works Established At Cleveland

In 1851 the Union Glass Factory was built by a stock company composed mostly of Cleveland citizens, but after a year or two it was reorganized and came under the control of William Foster, Forris Farmer and Charles Kathren who ran it with success for more than twenty years. Then for several years this factory was idle and after several changes it was sold in 1882 to Crawford Getman, the proprietor of the Cleveland factory who conducted them both until 1889 when he sold both plants to the United Glass company. This company conducted them both until 1893 and the old factory a few weeks in 1894 and then owing to the hard times closed them down, thus completing the first period in the history of glass making in Cleveland.

The second period was a short one. In the spring of 1897 the United Glass Co., at great expense, converted the old Cleveland factory into a model and modern tank with an electric plant attached, and with every facility but cheapness for making window glass. But their two fires were short and in the fall of 1899 they sold the plant to the American Window Glass Co. which promptly closed it for that blast and during the next one operated it for little more than three months and then closed it down apparently for good. This ended the second period.

Cleveland Boomed In Glass Period

The forty years from 1834 to 1874 covered the most prosperous days of Cleveland. With its large tannery, two glass factories, numerous saw mills, its brickyards, chair factory, wagon shops, lake and canal traffic, it was a busy and bustling place, full of picturesque life and incident. The tannery and glass factories consumed great quantities of bark, lumber and wood and mingling with the residents of the village, with its business men, canal men, tannery and glass workers, were the men of the farms and woods, lumbermen, bark peelers, wood choppers and hunters, forming a motley population of various races and occupations. But one by one these various industries dropped out or were abandoned and finally nothing remained but the glass industry.

Two Veterans Seek to Save Industry

The glass works, too, would have gone but for the fact that Cleveland had among her resi-

dents two veteran glass manufacturers and managers, Crawford Getman and Eugene Morenus who were experts in the business and who believed that under proper conditions and good economical management it could still be made to pay in its old home. In the spring of 1901 had come the wage settlement which struck out the differential of seven and a half per cent which had heretofore prevailed in favor of the Cleveland district, and the elimination of which made it unsafe, if not unprofitable, for the ordinary stock company or corporation to make glass in Cleveland. Mr. Getman and Mr. Morenus turned to the glass workers and urged them to form a co-operative company, promising that they and the citizens generally would aid in the undertaking. Attorney James Gallagher formulated the plan of a worker's co-operative corporation which would enable the workmen to be their own employers. and to a great extent regulate their wages and profits by the conditions of the trade. Under Mr. Gallagher's counsel and aid the company was organized and incorporated as the Getman Window Glass Company.

Sherman Act Closed Works

This last company continued in existence until about 1912. Sometime before that Eugene Morenus had withdrawn from his position and was succeeded by John Kime. Mr. Morenus and his brother, Granville Morenus, had established glass factories in Pennsylvania near supplies of cheaper fuel. This was natural gas, which gave a steady heat and was less costly than wood. Four or five glass houses had formed a combination to market their product. Then the Sherman act was passed and to operate this group of factories as they had been doing it was feared would be held illegal. If the law was upheld the heads of these houses would be subject to fines from five to ten thousand dollars and five to ten years imprisonment. They were afraid to proceed and after storing large quantities of window glass in their warehouses, they closed down their factories which never reopened. Shortly after the closing of the factories the Sherman act was interpreted to be applicable only to large enterprises and their business could have been continued legally. The stores of glass were sold at a great sacrifice to what the Clevelanders bitterly called "the Jews"—who were supposed to have made large sums out of the transaction.

Bernhard's Bay, on the lake a little to the west of Cleveland, also had a glass factory established in 1847 by Ferris Powell and Israel Titus.

In 1863 after sixteen years of successful operation, this factory was sold to a group of investors and carried on under the firm name of Stephen & Crandell & Co. The incorporators of this organization were Dewitt C. Stephens, K. Martin Crandell, Clinton Stephens and Frank Willard Bennett. Later Mr. Crandell was succeeded by his son, Elmore Rockwood, and Mr. Stephens by his son, Albert, and Richard Douglas was admitted to the partnership. In 1873 the firm was doing business under the name of Bennett & Beckley. Ten years later Clark Hurd & Co. succeeded them and in the middle eighties, Potter & Marsden were the operators. But the business declined, laborers left their jobs to go elsewhere, and on July 5, 1895 the factory burned and was never rebuilt.

Miss Sophie Crandell, the granddaughter of Stephen, is living in Bernhard's Bay and has given me an interesting schedule of the working hours of the blowers for the pot furnaces.

From midnight Sunday until 11 Monday; from 7 a. m. Tuesday until 6 p. m.; from 1 p. m. Wed-

nesday until 12 p. m.; from 12 noon Thursday until 11 p. m.; from 7 a. m. Friday until 6 p. m; from 7 a. m. Saturday until 6 p. m.

With an hour out for lunch this made a sixty-hour week.

On Wednesday evening visitors were admitted, and as a concession to Victorian modesty, during that period the blowers were requested not to remove their shirts while working.

Glass Blowers at Mexico

In recent years there has been living in Mexico a family of glass blowers. These people are descendants of Charles Marrithan, a glass blower of Alsace, France where he was employed by the Baccarat Glass Company in making flowers for paperweights. He was the only member of his family who knew the secret of mixing colors and never was allowed to tell his son. His son Charles and his wife, both Alsace born, came to New York after their marriage and worked in factories near Boston and New York. The third Charles was born in New York and due to ill health was sent to Colosse to live with an uncle. He, his wife and daughter worked together for many years and travelled through the country showing their craft at country fairs and expositions even as early as the centennial in 1876. His last years were spent in Mexico where he blew fragile bits of glass from material which he obtained at Corning. Members of his family are still carrying on with their work.

Cleveland Birthplace of First American Labor Union

Mr. William Gallagher — your county attorney—is the son of Mr. James Gallagher whose advice and plans enabled this Cleveland glass works to operate for its last period.

He recalls many interesting incidents of the glass days of Cleveland. What seems of unusual interest is that Cleveland is the birthplace of unionism in the United States.

Frank Putney, a veteran of the Civil war was secretary of the Cleveland Glass Company. He evolved the scheme of a secret organization of workers.

It was then against the law for workers to organize but they did at Cleveland, and seemed to have controlled firing and hiring and wages by secret methods. They held their meetings outdoors in a nearby ravine, where they were completely hidden from observation.

Mr. Samuel Gompers, who was then a young cigar worker, learned of the scheme and spent some days visiting Frank Putney in Cleveland and secured complete information as to the organization and methods of the glass workers union. He returned to New York and organized the Cigar Workers Union —his first. Later Mr. Gompers was head of the American Federation of Labor for many years.

This is Mr. Gallagher's story. I am mentioning it briefly. I hope that some day he himself will tell the members of the Historical Society about it.

Ned Lee, His Life and Times

(Third in a Series of Papers on "Oswego County Authors" as Read Before Oswego County Historical Society at Oswego, March 16, 1943, by Dr. Lida S. Penfield, former Head of English Department of Oswego State Normal School).

Nearly a hundred years ago there was born in Oswego a boy whose life was remarkable because of the contrast between the early years—what he called "the wicked years"—and the later years when he became an evangelist and missionary to the down-and-out, whose hardships and temptations he knew so well from experience. He was a "living epistle, known and read of all men." A natural orator, he spoke his message in his daily life.

The Hon. George B. Sloan of Oswego once wrote of him:

"Mr. Lee is a notable example of what a man can do for himself and for others, and how surely he can lift himself in the intellectual and social scale if he has the desire and the will to do so. From the most unpropitious conditions in early life Mr. Lee has speedily builded up a good name until that name has come to stand for a reputation most creditable and not a little remarkable.

"As a result of this Mr. Lee can count troops of friends in this community who thoroughly believe in him and confide in him, and are ready to stand by him. They know him to be worthy of their best support and confidence because they know of his usefulness in conserving the morality of this city and the cause of the religion he preaches and consistently practices."

Lee Loved People

How many of us remember Ned Lee? Straight, sinewy, well-built, keen blue eyes, brown curly hair with glints in it that often go with a lively, quick temper. Quick, that was the word for him; quick in temperament, in action, in sympathy. Gifted with a pleasant, resonant voice, he lifted it in song and in exhortation. He loved music. He loved flowers, but above all he loved people, from little children to old timers, and delighted to be of service to anyone in trouble, need, or adversity. Nothing of a writer himself, he was persuaded by his friends to tell the story of his life to Mr. Charles Dunning Clark who at that time was connected with the "Oswego Palladium," who edited the narrative for publication. Here is the title page of the book:

PRISON CAMP AND PULPIT

The Life of a City Missionary in the Slums
Talks and Tramps Here and There
By Edward Lee
Of Oswego, N. Y.
The Record of an Eventful Life
Edited by Charles Dunning Clark
Oswego, N. Y.
R. J. Oliphant, Printer and Stationer
1889

The volume is dedicated to Mr. and Mrs Charles E. Rancour of Albany, N. Y., of whom Mr. Lee says: "They were friends when I needed friends."

The thirty-two chapters are brief—usually some ten pages in length. The effect is that of a series of informal chats.

How Biography Came To Be Written

The book opens with Ned Lee's own account of how the record of his life was written:

"I have often been asked the question by good friends—why don't you write your life? My answer has generally been, that,

while I had, perhaps, the gift of talking to a certain kind of audience with good effect and fair success, I am not an author, and have not the art sufficient to write the story of my somewhat eventful life.

"To this they always answered, that there was a lesson in my life which might preach a sermon to many, who, like myself, had been brought up amid surroundings that almost certainly lead to evil; and that the reformation of such a man is something novel in its way. More in deference to the wishes of these dear friends than from any desire of my own, I have concluded to tell the story of my life in my plain way, and if any good comes of it, I shall be thankful."

This is the man and this is the book we shall share this evening.

Long before there was any radio Ned Lee chose for his theme song the rousing militant gospel hymn:

Ho, my comrades! See the signal
Waving in the sky!
Reinforcements now appearing!
Victory is nigh!
Chorus
"Hold the fort, for I am coming,"
Jesus signals still.
Wave the answer back to Heaven,
"By thy grace, we will!"

Lee's Favorite Hymns

Another gospel hymn he liked was "Pull for the Shore, Sailor, Pull for the Shore". This was a favorite with the crowds at the City Mission. For our pleasure, and for the help these songs will be in bringing back the spirit of Ned Lee, Dr. Lloyd Sunderman of the Teachers College, accompanied by Miss Marian Angel, also of the College faculty, will sing first, "Hold the Fort," and then "Pull for the Shore".

(At this point there was an intermission while the hymns were sung by Dr. Lloyd Sunderman of the State Teachers' College with Miss Marion Angel of the college as accompanist. As an encore Dr. Sunderman sung "Throw Out the Life Line." The songs were those much used by Ned Lee in his work as an evangelist and furnished a pleasing background for the rest of the evening's program.)

These robust and vigorous figures of the fighting man, on land and on sea Ned Lee felt made more real the courage it takes to be the captain of one's own soul and follow the Commander through to victory.

Neither Mr. Lee nor his editor, Mr. Clark, pay much attention to dates, but furnish us enough to follow the time element in the tale of events.

Ned Lee was born May 21, 1846, in the First Ward of the City of Oswego, and lived as a boy in some of the tumble-down rookeries that lined Water Street in those days. His father was Scotch and his mother of Irish descent. His father died when the lad was five and shortly afterwards his mother also died. The orphan was taken into the family of Edward Degan and he took the latter's family name. Many believed that Degan was his real name, but he tells us that Lee is the only name to which he has a legal right.

Life on Oswego's Flats

Of "the Flats" of Oswego where he lived as a boy as did many another sailor lad, he says: "There is no portion of the town which has sent out half so many toughs, or been the birthplace of so much riot, confusion, and crime. People in other parts of the town have fancifully named Seneca street, near which I was born, 'The Dead Line', because there was a time when no officer of the law, or respectable person from another ward, dared to cross it after nightfall; and if he did, it was at his own peril."

The Degans gave Ned the only home his boyhood knew. He speaks affectionately of the kindness Mrs. Degan showed him, and

says that though there were many evil associations, not all who live in the poorest part of a city are low and mean; for there are among them many honest and good folk. Another sign that his home meant a good deal to him is the fact that Ned Lee always came back to his native city, and though he began his new life in another city by choice, as soon as he felt that he had succeeded in self-control and won a place for himself, it was to his home town he came to take the message of hope and courage to the needy and despondent.

Frequently Chased By Police

The story of his youth is chiefly, it would seem, like that game children play of chase and capture called "Cops and Robbers", and it was not long befoi he was sent away to the House of Refuge in Rochester. He was often on the boats that sailed out of Oswego harbor. Frequently he was a fugitive. The winter of 1862 he spent in the town of St. Catherine's in Canada. Of himself at this time he says:

"You may say that so far I had had a varied criminal experience for so young a lad. I was between sixteen and seventeen years of age, a mere boy with fresh rosy cheeks; but I was beginning to feel like Ishmael — his hand against every man and every man's hand against him."

When spring came, he went to Chicago, where he already was known to the police, and in no time at all, there he was again in jail. This time he thankfully accepted the offer of liberty, on condition that he enlist in the navy of the Union, then engaged in the war between the states.

Took Pride In Navy Record

Of his two years in the Navy, he calls it:

"A part of my life at which I can look with pride, because I did honest service to my country and did my share, young as I was, to put down the rebellion —I was happier there in the midst of danger than I ever was in my criminal life."

After his discharge from the Navy, he re-enlisted in March, 1864. This time he took service in the Army and joined the 147th N. Y. Volunteers, under Captain Joe Dempsey. He was among the forces engaged in the Battle of the Wilderness, May 5th and was taken prisoner. For 11 months and twelve days he was either in a rebel prison or a fugitive from captivity.

Delivered from bondage when he with a group of fellow prisoners, after terrible hardships, reached the camp of General Sherman, he was sent north, arriving by ship in New York the morning after President Lincoln was shot.

Making his way west, he reached Milwaukee, where for violently resisting an officer he was sent to prison for several years. His determined efforts to escape brought upon him the added penalty of solitary confinement and the ball and chain. When he was a free man he headed for Detroit, where for a time he worked for a printer. But he got into trouble, this time because he helped a slick trickster, who got away, leaving Lee to take the punishment. When he had served his time, he set out for Oswego. The police were on the lookout for him, but he evaded them and found for himself a hide-out in a barn near "the forks of the road." Feeling safe, and being exhausted with his journeyings, he fell asleep, so that when the police came they caught him easily. When he realized what had happened, he cried like a child, he "was so mad at being taken that way."

The "Great Change" Comes

At last he was sent from Oswego for six months to the Onondaga Penitentiary in Syracuse. The Great Change of his life came to him there:

"It was a simple thing that changed me—just the kind act of a noble woman—I don't know who she was—I never knew—but she was a lady of culture and came to the penitentiary and brought me a bouquet of beautiful flowers. Before she came I was brooding over my wrongs, a sullen, desperate young man, thinking of nothing so much as revenge upon the men whom I thought were persecuting me without a cause. When the fragrance of those flowers filled my cell, it seemed to me that they changed my nature in a moment. My heart was softened, and I set to work and picked a piece of pine apart and made a sort of frame which would hold the bouquet and set it up, and looked at it and wondered what had put it into the heart of that lady to bring flowers to me. I felt all the malice and hatred go out of my heart at once, and I said to myself: 'That lady is what they call a Christian.' I would sit on my cot for fifteen minutes at a time, with my arms folded, looking at that poor decoration and with my heart full of wonder that this lady whom I did not know, and whom I might never see again, should be kind to a poor prisoner. Perhaps it was my bad fortune, but in my prison life I had never before met with any such, and it was a surprise to me that anyone would think it worth while to be kind to a prisoner. I thought of my life in the Army, of the three years and five months I had served under the Union banner, and it seemed to me almost like decorating a soldier's grave. She made me three or four visits and before they ended I had made up my mind to quit drinking—to be a man———. I was determined to fight the battle by myself, and when they opened the door of the prison from the office into the main corridor and I stepped out into light and freedom, I felt strong in the hope that I could make a good battle before I gave up the fight."

Lee Turns Evangelist

Lee triumphed. That was the turning place. After that decision, he became an evangelist and a crusader for Temperance. He chose Albany for his new start. Through the Y. M. C. A. he became associated with the leader of a City Mission. From then on he toiled for the social betterment of the submerged dwellers in the poorest part of cities, or traveled through village after village holding evangelistic services with much success.

In 1876 Ned Lee came home to Oswego, lodging at the Merchant's Hotel, later known as the Ringland House, which stood where the New York Telephone Company's building is now established, at the Southeast corner of West Second and Bridge streets. He had come with a definite plan to reach with his message the associates of his early days, so he looked about for a place in which to hold meetings:

First Oswego Mission On Water Street

"Down in Water street, near my old haunts, was a building at that time little used, and I thought it would be good enough for me," he says in his book. "I rented an organ and had it put in there, organized a Sunday school at once and held meetings on Sundays in the Methodist chapel, on the Orphan Asylum Hill. As I expected, I had two or three fights before things settled down, but determination won the day at last. In Water street I had crowded meetings of course. The toughs of that locality came out of curiosity at first to see 'Ned Degan' who was born and reared among them, preaching and talking temperance. I don't blame those who knew me in my early days if it was a marvel to them.

"No matter how tough the crowd, they always liked singing and it was an odd sight to see them crowd the building, dock-

wollopers and wharf rats, ringing out the stirring hymns 'Hold the Fort' and 'Pull for the Shore' with all the fervor of old Christians."

Local Support For His Work

Lee soon learned that his work was appreciated. A group of men from the Oswego Y. M. C. A. sent word to him that they would be responsible for his room and board as long as he remained in the city. This was a surprise, for he was depending on his own resources and had not asked or expected help.

Rev. W. F. Hemingway, pastor of the First Methodist church, on May 22, 1876, wrote of Lee:

"He is the very man that Oswego needs. Not only the classes to which he is carrying the Gospel needed him, but the churches needed him. Religion had put on so much of the Laodicean type here in this city that the advent of Brother Lee is like the coming of another Paul, and we have not a few Felixes who say that he is mad (not for his learning but yet insane) Would that this land had a hundred thousand men insane after the same way."

In October of that year (1876) Ned Lee returned to Albany and to his work with his friend, Mr. Reynolds in the City Mission. Illustrating his method with "a wicked profane man" who was sick, whom he was asked to visit, is the following:

"As I went in his first salutation was: 'Who the blankety blank are you? Are you a preacher?' I said no, I am a missionary; hold on while I whoop you up a song, and commenced one of the Moody and Sankey hymns. He kicked and swore, but it was no use. I sang 'Sowing the Seed' all through. I used to drop in now and then and he would still grumble and growl and want to know if I was going to try and run the house. He bluffed a little, but I wouldn't pay any attention to his rough conduct, and after a while he began to take a fancy to me and would talk about his life a little. I kept coming, and he would at last allow me to talk and pray with him, and in time became a religious man."

Storms Baldwinsville Church

From Mrs. Allen Butler, president of the state W. C. T. U., he received, about this time, an invitation to work in Syracuse. The success of his campaign for temperance led to invitations from other towns nearby. When they "tackled" Baldwinsville, it was considered in those days, to quote his phrase, a "tough town". He found himself not entirely welcome. The large church where (if possible) the meetings were to be held, was refused to them by its board of trustees. The minister gave the key to Ned Lee's party. Thereupon the trustees cut off the gas. Ned Lee borrowed lamps and lanterns and hung them on the gas fixtures. When the building was lighted, Mr. Lee began to ring the chime of bells, raising such a din that the fire department turned out. One of the irate trustees made such a fuss that the firemen took sides with the temperance people, left their apparatus outside, came in and joined the meeting. "We had a rousing time, and a large number signed the pledge," concludes the record of that session.

Camillus, Auburn, Canastota, Rome, Weedsport, Port Byron, Savannah, South Butler, Silver Lake, Wolcott, Red Creek, North Wolcott, Rose Valley, Clyde, Palmyra, Newark, Dunkirk, Fredonia Erie, Buffalo, Suspension Bridge, Alton, Big Sodus, all were included in the itinerary of this indefatigable missionary before he returned to Oswego.

Lee's good friend, Mr. Kingsford, gave him the use of the chapel on West Bridge street, where he was to carry out a plan for organizing a "Band of Hope." To that end he gathered together 400 hoodlums and organized a

school. For three months all went well. Then a fellow he had helped came to tell him that the gang was coming over to "bust" him. When the gang came he was ready for them.

Lee Wins With Poker Hand

"I did not say a word to anybody but got a big poker from the stove and set it up near the pulpit. I opened the Bible and gave out my text, and then said: 'You have come here to fight and you have got just the right kind of a preacher to handle you.' They kept quiet for a while and then began to kick on the floor. I spoke to them twice, and the third time I sung out to Will Cole to open the door, and I went for the crowd with the poker and banged them in a lively fashion and cleaned out the gang. It was quite a while before they stopped running, and they never made me the least trouble after that. One of the papers had an article headed, 'Ned Lee Has a Full Hand—the Only Time He Has Played Poker in Years.' "

Another year found him again in Albany. The following spring he undertook a speaking tour through the villages in the hop regions, and along the shores of Oneida lake. At Bernhard's Bay he spoke in the meeting house of the Society of Friends (Quakers) and afterward in the hall. At this place a man named Cole raised a discussion over a point in the Scriptures. A debate was arranged.

Bible Debate Thrills Glass Blowers

"The controversy got up a great excitement, and I had told the glass blowers to bring their Bibles. It was a sight to see them sitting there, some with big family Bibles on their knees, looking for the passages as they were pointed out, and at last Mr. Cole had to give up."

Back to Fulton came Lee. Then to Oswego and the City Mission for ten months, where he held 75 meetings. His next tour was into Jefferson county, and from there into Canada, on his way to Oberlin, Ohio. At Oberlin he thought he might study for a year at the college. President Fairchild received him cordiallly but advised him, after hearing his story, not to waste a year in the study of theology, because he was already fitted for special work where he was doing much good. Persuaded that after all college was not what he needed, he went back, encouraged, to his preaching. There were meetings in several cities in Ohio, before he turned his steps eastward by way of Buffalo and villages along the old Ridge road to get back to Oswego in June.

Probably before this stage in his career (dates are rarely mentioned) his fortunate and happy marriage took place.

"I was married to Miss Ella Sever, at Wolcott, N. Y., September 5th, 1883" he tells us adding, "the people of Oswego would not have known it so soon, but some one caught me buying white gloves at Massey and Deforest's."*

Lee Opens Oswego Soup Kitchen

Another enthusiastic venture in his mission work in Oswego was a soup kitchen. In two months 900 persons were fed. This center was set up in the block on West Cayuga street, between First and Second Streets. The owner of the block was the contractor, D. A. Earl, a stanch friend of Mr. Lee. On the top floor of the building, Mr. Earl had tables set up and provided the needed stoves. The patrons of the kitchen came from "The Flats," bringing with them pails to be filled and carried home. Mr. Earl helped both to make the soup and then to serve the long line of hungry folk.

Mrs. William Brown, a daughter of Mr. Earl, gave me these details. She remembers Mr. Lee, his lovely wife and his little daughter, Ella. Every Sunday

* A well known Oswego department store of its day which was located in West First street, south of Bridge street.

the three came to have dinner with the Earls and they were always welcome guests. Mr. Lee was full of fun and a most interesting talker. "He was the kind of a man no one who met him could forget." Mrs. Brown also remembers going to play the organ for services Lee held at the old jail on the East side, and she recalls her dread of the place.

Services At "Revolving Jail"

Another friend has passed on to me the experience of a girl from Hannibal. She was one of a party of young people from that village who came to attend the service at the jail. The Oswego County Jail of those days was of a peculiar type. It was known to the initiated as the "Merry-Go Round." The cells were built into a central circular structure, so constructed that the cells could be revolved by machinery. I believe the purpose of this unusual arrangement was to prevent the escape of prisoners. At the hour of the service, the cage would be turned so that the door of each cell would be opposite, in turn, to the exit into the corridor where the meeting was to be held. Slowly, one by one, the inmates emerged from the cage and the wheels would clank around for the next man to make his entrance. The gloomy prelude to the service made an indelible impression on the young visitor from Hannibal, as one can well understand.

Fire Calls Audience Away

Another friend recalls an evening when she was among a choir of young people invited to sing at the service held at the Mission then located on the West side of West First street between Cayuga and Seneca streets. The audience was largely made up of sailors and longshoremen, and enthusiastic singers. The speaker of the evening was an important citizen—somehow Ned Lee could get the best speakers to come to talk to his "boys." In the midst of the address, the fire bell rang, and as one man the audience rose and rushed from the hall to go to the fire, leaving an astonished orator with his message half delivered. The meeting came to an end, then and there, for there was no prospect that the "boys" would come back until the apparatus was safely reinstalled at the fire house. In those days the hose wagons were horse-drawn and a thrilling spectacle as they dashed headlong through the streets, bells clanging, and sparks flying from the horses' hoofs, to say nothing of the bulky, burnished fire engine that snorted black smoke as it was towed along by the galloping steeds. Who indeed would wish to miss a sight so stirringly gallant? Not one of Ned Lee's boys, you may be sure of that! He knew they would always break loose at the tocsin of the bell in the tower of the City Hall.

Always Befriended Prisoners

At the jail, Ned Lee also distributed papers to the prisoners; helped those who were to go out to find employment, and was a friendly visitor there often. Every day he visited the lock-up at the City Hall to befriend the men he found there. At the mission he held meetings, gave an occasional party for children, sponsored by generous donors. He distributed to the needy clothing and money, as well as provisions. At Christmas there were gifts for the little ones. Thanksgiving Day, too, kept him busy. Friends kept him supplied with magazines and papers to take to those who liked to read and lacked newspapers and books. (The city library then encouraged no such army of readers as now flock to its hospitable halls.) The Mission was open every evening from 7 to 9 o'clock as a club house for those who wished to come. Sometimes he furnished lodgings and breakfast for wayfarers, and again

and again he was called to befriend a child neglected or abused. He was a busy man all the time.

In 1887 there came a call to Lee to come to New York from Dr. A. F. Schauffler, head of the City Mission work in New York city. It was a big field and too interesting an opportunity to let slip so, to the regret of all Oswego, Ned Lee gave up the mission on First Street and departed for the metropolis.

Lee's Work Along the Bowery

Mr. Lee was assigned to work on the Bowery among the lodging houses which hung out the sign, "Clean beds 15 cents; rooms 25 cents a night." In the neighborhood of Cooper Union there were over 5,000 beds in these houses. The patrons came from every state in the Union and from most of the countries of the world. They were men for the greater part. It was an admittedly dangerous field, but Mr. Lee tackled it for all he was worth.

The chapters in the book that tell of the work in New York city are filled with stories of individual men, broken and discouraged. Some of them found themselves, with the help of the men who had learned the hard way to "Hold the Fort," and over such he rejoiced greatly.

Apropos of turkey dinners, Mr. Lee wrote:

"I have often heard men sneer about feeding prisoners with turkey, but I know that a kindness done to a man who is in trouble, a kindness that fills an empty stomach, does more good than the presentation of a religious tract. "Some of them," he adds, "are frauds, of course, but that is to be expected."

Again concerning frauds:

"The Bowery is full of frauds in a small way. Actually there are men in these lodging houses who will travel long miles and wear out good shoe leather to beat a mission out of a bowl of soup."

He affords a glimpse of the type of men he had sometimes to deal with:

"I used to work among the "Whyho gang" and if there is any tougher class of men on earth, I never met them.

Lee Always Well Treated

"But, bad as they were, utterly without conscience or any idea of right or wrong, the fellows always treated me well. There were many pickpockets among them and they used to work in front of 'The Great London Store,' corner of Bowery and Hester Streets. There was one queer duck who used to beg there and one day he tackled me for money. I wanted to catch him and had more fun with him than a little. He would rush up to me and cry, "Say, mister, give me a cent," and then run for his life, never waiting for the penny. I chased him, but he always got away."

In the densely populated portions of Manhattan Island below 14th street there was great squalor and poverty.

"In an urban city like Oswego we think that we know something of poverty. But no; we have not learned the alphabet. We think, sometimes, we know what degradation is, but the worst case I can show you in my daily walks would hardly compare with the common low life of the metropolis . . . . and yet, strange as it may seem, these people would not think for a moment of living anywhere else. They love New York, and I sometimes think they love it so well, that they would sooner die than leave it."

In the great city Mr. Lee learned many things about the agencies organized for social betterment, notably The Fresh Air Fund of the New York Tribune.

Misfortune Forces Men Down

Of the thousands who dwelt where he worked, Italians on

Mulberry street, and Chinese on Mott street, he has this to say:

"I hope that no one who reads this book will imagine that all the people who find refuge—for they do not find homes—in the dismal places where my work was done are bad or evil. Many are driven there by hard fortune, by failure to obtain work, by sickness, by accidents, by any of the thousand ills which beset the pathway of the poor of great cities. . . . I have seen there some heroic souls, who, living perforce in an atmosphere of vice and crime, were pure men and women and good Christians."

The strenuous program Mr. Lee followed daily sapped his energy. His wife and child missed the green trees and open spaces of the city by the lake. so at last, in November of 1888 the three rejoiced to leave the great city and return for a season to Oswego, where Mr. Lee took up his old duties. But not for long. There came a call for his services from Davenport, Iowa. and he resigned his work as city missionary here April 10, 1893. Once more the deciding influence was the welfare of his wife and little daughter. To that western city they went not long after the book we have been discussing was published. Again and again he brought his family to call upon old friends in Oswego, but he remained in Davenport and made that city his home for the rest of his life. He died there August 30, 1927, at his home at 515 Kirkwood Boulevard. His body was buried in Oakdale cemetery in that city. At the head of his grave there stands a G. A. R. marker that flies the American flag each Memorial Day. His widow continued after his death his settlement work in Davenport until the June preceding her death, July 2, 1932. Her remains were placed in the grave alongside of that of her husband. Their daughter, Elma M., now the wife of A. K. Reading, yet makes her home in Davenport at 402 East Rusholme street.

Lee A Friend to All

All who remember him still say of Ned Lee, "He was a good man, sincere and earnest in everything he did. To many he was a help To all he was a friend."

The story of his life, as told in "Prison, Camp and Pulpit" is worth reading as a study in the development of an unusual character, a man twice born. It is interesting for the sidelights it throws upon the conditions of social welfare in Albany, in Oswego, and in New York. When Ned Lee came to do mission work here, the Y. M. C. A. had begun its work. He acted as superintendent for two societies newly formed in Oswego in the years just preceding the call to Davenport. These were the Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children and the Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals, marking the rise of the humanitarian movement in social agencies. Emphasis began to be put upon prevention, rather upon than cure. Ned Lee was one of our earliest agents of social welfare, efficient and kindly. As such he deserves to be long remembered.

A veteran of three great struggles, the rebellion against law and order of his ill-disciplined, tempestuous youth, the Civil War, and the crusade to bring men to the good life, he proved himself the good sailor who pulled for the shore and reached the fair haven where he would be the brave soldier who held the fort for his captain.

Oswego County Painters

(Paper Read Before Oswego County Historical Society at Oswego, April 13, 1943, by Daniel A. Williams of Oswego, Collector, a Member of the Board of Managers of the Society).

Oswego County is the birthplace of many interesting and expressive painters, both in oil and water color. Several names will occur to you naturally. This evening I am going to refer to three Oswego artists who have gained national renown:

J. Francis Murphy
James G. Tyler
Charles Henry Grant.

One of them I knew personally and I shall speak of him first. Grant is represented in Fielding's Dictionary of American Painting as follows:

"Marine painter. Born in Oswego, N. Y., 1866. Studied at National Academy of Design, New York, San Francisco Art Institute. Exhibited in leading cities; also San Francisco Exposition, 1915. Principal works: 'Will the Anchors Hold?', 'Ship off the Starboard Bow', 'Nearing Port', 'At the Mercy of Neptune', 'Under Sealed Orders', 'The Arrival of the Atlantic Battleship-Fleet at the Golden Gate—1908'. Address: The Bohemian Club, San Francisco, Calif."

Grant's artistic ability must have been well appreciated because some years ago he was commissioned to paint the Pacific Fleet.

Reminiscences of Grant

Grant lived on East Fourth Street, Oswego, not far from the site of the former Conway Knitting Mill.* He had a studio in the attic of his home, and there he gave lessons in painting. He also made crayon portraits. I am told that at one time he was located in the Grant Block, Oswego. An item in the Palladium-Times appearing a few months ago, called attention to his having opened a studio 50 years ago in the Guimaraes Building, on West First Street, Oswego. A few years later he was doing his painting in the same city, on West Bridge Street, between First and Second streets. His studio was on the second floor. I remember him as a very charming man. He did not seem to discourage the calls of some of us fellows from the nearby offices, although he must have known that there were no prospective clients among us.

It seems that M. F. H. De Haas, a celebrated marine painter, was spending a summer at Hamilton, N. Y. He learned that Charles Grant was a promising artist, and offered to give him free lessons for a while. If he were to take advantage of this tempting opportunity, Grant would have to receive financial assistance. At the time Grant was a member of the old 38th Separate Company of the New York National Guard. A friend of his who was also a member of that Company, offered to pay for the trip. The offer was accepted. The incident was related to me something like this:

"Charlie always said: 'I am going to pay you back'."

* the house stands at 181 East Fourst Street. Grant's studio arrangements in the upper story of the house were still extant when the present owners purchased the property 20 years ago. At that time the studio was intact and there were a few damaged paintings of Grant's remaining in it. The studio was destroyed when the house was remodeled into a two-family apartment. The house, of which Grant was at one time the owner, is still owned and occupied by Mr. and Mrs. Norman Gregway.

"That's all right, Charlie", came the friend's reply, "when you get in shape to do it and can spare the money I would be glad to have you do it, because it would show your appreciation."

"I'll be glad to make a painting for you now," concluded Grant.

The benefactor realizing that very likely he would get a more desirable picture if he could delay the work until the artist had gained thorough experience, maneuvered matters so that the time of repayment was postponed until about 1899 when the American yacht Columbia was to defend the America's Cup. Then the long sparring ended, and it was arranged that Grant should go to New York and make a picture of the race for the friend who had backed him. A painting was made of the winning yacht Columbia running before the wind, with spinnaker set. Later, this gentleman said, he presented the painting to the Oswego Yacht Club.

Grant Removed to California

Grant removed from Oswego shortly after the turn of the century. Keeping him in mind, I rarely could find any of his pictures for sale at the well known galleries in New York, which I occasionally visited.

Grant died a few years ago in California while yet a resident of San Francisco.

When I was in San Francisco in the autumn of 1941, I learned at the very pretentious Bohemian Club that Mr. Shirrell Graves, of Graves Gallery, 1335 Sutter Street, in that city would know about him. When I called Mrs. Graves was in charge. The story she told was sad. Apparently Mr. Grant had been in poor health and straightened circumstances for too long a while before his death. Fortunately, he had been befriended by Mr. Graves and his wife. When I arrived the lower gallery was practically entirely devoted to a special exhibition and sale of Grant's pictures. Most of them did not seem to be representative of a man who had become so celebrated as an artist. Mrs. Graves appeared to be much disappointed that there were so few buyers. I trust there will be sufficient financial returns eventually from the sale of the paintings to repay these devoted friends for their long-continued kindness.

One of Grant's paintings, depicting the Evacuation of the British from Fort Ontario, hangs in the City Hall, Oswego. A large canvas, one of his best known, "At the Mercy of Neptune", is familiar to Oswegonians as for many years it was owned by the Judge L. C. Rowe family of Oswego.

Tyler's First Work Sketching Ships

James G. Tyler was born in Oswego in 1855 and died in 1931. Tyler was a really good artist, but I do not think that he accomplished as much in his field as he could have done if he had been more conservative in his habits and had not allowed pressure for funds to induce him to produce many paintings that were far below his standard.

A prominent Oswegonian told me only recently that Mr. Morgan M. Wheeler, who at one time was the owner of a large fleet of vessels hailing from Oswego, gave Tyler his modest start as an artist. The story goes that the boy was down on the dock sketching a boat. Mr. Wheeler saw him and called him over. Young Tyler said he loved to draw the boats, so Mr. Wheeler took him uptown and bought for him pencils, crayons and other items that must have delighted and encouraged the talented young lad.

Tyler painted much in Oswego and many of his pictures are owned in Oswego County. Later he located in New York City where his marine paintings were in good demand. His ships and yachts are familiar sights in New York City galleries, and they are often

on sale at the important auction rooms. His reputation was much enhanced by paintings of many of the America's Cup races. Large colored prints were made of some of his important pictures. I ran across one a year or two ago in a New York art store. The print was excellent. It was priced at $10.00.

Many of you have probably noticed Tyler's large picture of the Pilgrim ship "Mayflower" prominently hung in the Mayflower Hotel, Washington, D. C.

A friend of mine has just told me that the large Tyler now hung in the Gerrit Smith Public Library was presented to the City of Oswego by the artist during the administration of Mayor Daniel H. Conway. The letter of the donor was acknowledged by John M. Gill, then Palladium-Times managing editor, now serving in the war as a captain of the United States Navy. He made one of his characteristically witty responses. You will recall the full rigged ship, favored by a fair wind, bounding along almost towards you with its reddened starboard hawse pipe glaring at you like a fanciful eye.

Tyler's Ships Found Ready Sale

In the American Art Annual covering the season 1925-26 which happens to be at hand I noticed that several of Tyler's pictures were sold in that period. They are listed below:

Silo. 11. 27. 25. Three Fishers 18x20 . ..... $ 80

Rains Galleries. Dec. 7-8, 1925. Lighthouse and Rocky Coast 20x30 100

American Art Assn. Anderson Art Galleries Jan. 28-29, 1926. Clipper Ship 30x25 350

Silo. Mar. 19-20, 1926:
Daylight 85
Homeward Bound 50
Marine Moonlight 68

American Art Assn. Anderson Art Gal. Mar. 31-Apr. 6, 1926. A Half Gale, 25x30 .. 200

I attended a sale at the rooms of the American Art Association Anderson Art Galleries held March 19, 1936, at which three Tyler's were sold, one for $125, another I think for $150, and the third for $180. The last noted, "Fishing Boats", was beautiful. It is illustrated in the catalog.

With the above as a background, I should like to have you hear what an important critic thought of Tyler's ability:

YEAR'S ART

James Gale Tyler
The Monthly Illustrator, New York, 1894

A Painter of Marine Subjects
by
Jno Gilmore Speed

When an artist has enthusiasms, and the courage of them, he is likely to get a good deal of happiness out of his art, "whatever woe betide". When these enthusiasms, and the following of them, lead to success, the artist thus possessed and thus guided is to be envied among men. This reflection has been suggested by the work and the personality of James G. Tyler, the well-known marine painter, for both the man and his pictures are alive with enthusiasims which will not be denied, but, on the contrary, are apt to become contagious. He paints in just the way he thinks he ought to paint, without reference to what critics may say and other artists think, and he speaks out his mind with a manly freedom which seems to count silence as cowardly. One of his friends, commenting on this characteristic in reproving tones, said "Jim talks too much!" Fortunately for those who come within this circle, Mr. Tyler does not agree with this friend, and therefore his acquaintances are not denied the pleasure and the profit of the thoughts of a mind all untrammeled. Such enthusiasm can only be accomied with great sincerity. In Mr. Tyler's case we have not only courageous enthusiasms and frank sincerity, but genius as well, and

therefore, both the man and his work are potent with charm.

So much of the space allotted to this article is wisely given up in reproduction of Mr. Tyler's pictures and the sketches that it is not possible for me to enter into any discussion of the merits of his work. Through these reproductions, however, his pictures speak with an eloquence that no writer could command. Therefore, I shall be content to say a few words about the man himself and his career as an artist.

Mr. Tyler began painting in 1870, when he was fifteen years old. He was then living in his native Oswego. He gained some little local fame before he had been at work a year, and when a member of the National Academy visited the town he was taken to see the youthful celebrity. The Academician, though a man of genuine well-earned fame, is not a handsome man in the eyes of strangers, nor does he clothe himself with any degree of smartness. His fame had not yet reached young Tyler's studio, and the man himself did not look in the least as the boy artist thought an Academician should look. The elder somewhat shabby man looked at the lad's canvas through his glasses and said kindly: "Your boat moves, my boy, but your clouds should move with it." The young man thought that there was a deal of sense in the comment but at the time he was suspicious that a joke was being played upon him, and that a casual tramp had been pressed into service to play the part of the visiting Academician. At this day, some twenty years later, Mr. Tyler is not sure that the shabby gentleman who called on him in Oswego is not the ablest of all American landscape painters. The writer is tolerably sure that he is. At all events he has many admirers. The next year Mr. Tyler painted about three months in the studio of A. Cary Smith, then well known as a marine painter. though at present he has deserted the pictorial art to be a designer of yachts. This is the only instruction Mr. Tyler has ever had save that which he has given himself. And to himself he has been a hard and exacting master, for never yet has he produced a work that was to himself entirely satisfactory. Recognizing, however, that what he did was as good as he at that time had power to make it, he has given his works to the world with a clear conscience. Mr. Tyler, like Mr. Albert Ryder, for whom, by the way, he has a very warm admiration, paints from his imagination, and his imagination should be spelled with a big I. He, therefore, escapes the commonplace, and in this achieves no mean distinction. It must not be understood by this that Mr. Tyler is a painter of the uncanny. It is true that at an exhibition at the Academy a few years ago he had a picture of the "Flying Dutchman", and Mr. Ryder, by the way, treated the same subject for the same exhibition. But even in putting on canvas such a beautiful subject as this, Mr. Tyler was equal to the occasion, and came near to satisfying the very severest critics who were gifted with any imagination. It was most interesting at this exhibition to contrast the conceptions of Ryder and Tyler and their methods of treatment. The opinion of the connoisseurs was about equally divided, and critics as well. This was without doubt Ryder's masterpiece, and Tyler had said with characteristic frankness that he greatly preferred it to his own. Tyler's was a study in gray, the phantom ship half revealed in a bank of fog; Ryder's phantom ship was seen in a blaze of glorious color.

Both were poetical; both were satisfying.

Mr. Tyler's masterpiece, according to his own judgment, is a painting recently finished and called "The Dawn of the New World". This picture is a result of much hard work and study. It is an effort to represent the little

fleet of Columbus just as land is discovered. Mr. Tyler made this picture before the Columbian caravels had been built and he needed to find the models in the old records. He had succeeded most admirably, and in this picture there seems to be a happy combination of the real and the ideal. Without this combination probably no picture is quite worth while to be made. It would be a pity for such a picture as this to be buried in some private collection, and it is to be hoped that the movement to secure it for the Capitol at Washington will be successfully pushed. There is room in that great pile for many pictures, but there are unfortunately not many now there worthy of national ownership.

Mr. Tyler is an impressionist, and sacrifices nothing whatever to the finicky detail upon which many artists waste all their time and power. Painting from within himself, instead of copying merely that which he sees, it is only natural that he should frequently produce results incomprehensible to those who have no head above their eyes. But this lack of appreciation, manifested now and again by hanging committees, bothers Mr. Tyler not in the least, for he feels that it is his mission in life to paint his own pictures in his own way; to please himself and satisfy his own sense of beauty and what Carlyle called the "eternal verities", without reference to a few busy nobodies who have elbowed themselves into places and authority for the sake of the cheap fame which passes almost as soon as it has come. When Mr. Tyler sees his own picture rejected, and the half finished offerings of his pupil hanging upon the line, he merely laughs and sells his own canvas for five hundred dollars or so. He has his money, and his sustaining enthusiasms remain with him always. These enthusiasms would go far towards making Mr. Tyler happy with his lot, even though he would have to do without very much of the money. Not that he despises money—not at all. Even though gifted with an imagination that soars and soars in newer atmospheres and sails and sails on undiscovered seas, he is too human to despise money, though he confesses freely that he has hated to have to make many of the pot-boilers to which he has signed his name. Fortunately for him and his art the pot-boiler era has been passed.

Murphy's Fame Widespread

J. Francis Murphy is a name not very familiar in the city of his birth, but it is my impression that his fame has traveled farther than that of any other person born in Oswego.

Our John S. Parsons had a retentive memory. From him I learned a few years ago that Murphy's father's name was John. He was a sailor, and at one time he lived on "the Flats" of Oswego. Later, I understand, he made his home on West Seneca Street, near Eighth Street.

The son, J. Francis, was at one time a printer's devil. Early in life he left Oswego for Chicago, and there he was employed as a sign painter. From Chicago he went to New York City, where, self-taught, he fought on and earned his way to an enviable position as a landscape artist. His paintings had a poetic, atmospheric feeling, and they were much in demand. At an auction of fine paintings at the American Art Association, Anderson Art Galleries, on December 14, 1933, when the bidding on a beautiful Murphy was lagging in the hundreds of dollars, Mr. Bernet, the auctioneer, called attention to the prices Murphy's paintings used to bring in earlier and more prosperous years, and said that the record price for a Murphy was $15,600.

More or less detailed articles about Murphy appear in our United States encyclopaedias of art, and he is mentioned in the

comprehensive German work of Theime-Becker. Indeed, much has been written in relation to Murphy.

Feeling that you would be interested in hearing what some of the critics have said in this regard, I have included as a part of this paper several items and articles more or less extended. Some of them are practically excerpts and one or two are condensations, with a little paraphrasing. They follow in the order in which they appeared:

Story of American Painting

(Oswego Library)

Charles H. Caffin, 1907

Page 342 Illustration "The Road to the Old Farm", by J. Francis Murphy.

Impelled perhaps by popular demand for his "characteristic" work, this artist has confined his observation to a limited phase of nature. The present example with its stretch of meadow, sprinkling of delicate tree forms and distant hillside enveloped in a smoky haze of atmosphere, well represents him. Within this restricted range of expression, he is a master.

John Francis Murphy

by

Alan Burroughs

The Arts February-March, 1921

Although neither a great nor an inspiring American painter, the late J. Francis Murphy has surely built for himself a position in the art world that is the envy of many an artist of greater individuality.

Born in Oswego in 1853, he taught himself to paint, using his native New York countryside for subject matter. From 1885 on he won medals in many important exhibitions with his quiet landscapes.

Murphy was a sincere painter somewhat in the tradition of Wyant and Inness, though he consciously followed no master. His landscapes show a calm unconcern for the complexities of nature. They are the stronger for being so simple. He toned his canvas with a matter-of-fact treatment of the traditional "poetic atmosphere" and was unaware of any of the various problems of color relationship which are troubling modern artists. In another painter this homely acceptance of a traditional treatment of landscape, both in its light and in its composition, might be a weakness, but in Murphy it takes on the straightforwardness of his own character. Undoubtedly the popularity of Corot's later work, which emphasized a mood similar to Murphy's, gives additional reason for the success which Murphy had during the last fifteen years of his life. This success, however, was earned through sound technique acquired by many years of steady work.

An Appreciation of John Francis Murphy

1853-1921

Salamagundi Club, 47 Fifth Avenue, New York City, November 12th to November 26th, 1921, inclusive.

There could be no more fitting place for an exhibition of the work of John Francis Murphy than the gallery of the Salmagundi Club that he loved so well and with which he had been associated for so many years.

Coming to New York in 1875 he soon found in this club friendly associates, and in 1878 he himself became one of its active members. He was an exhibitor at its member shows, especially of notable sketches in black and white, and his work was early recognized as that of a thorough artist and a patient and very sincere student of natural forms. From the first, his homely simplicity and his fine capacity for friendship were manifest and with these qualities went an al-

ways generous appreciation of the work of others. His early days in art followed no primrose path but the narrow ways of discouragement and very limited means, and he knew well the hardships that have beset the beginnings of so many great names in art. Murphy was not the sort to pose as the neglected genius, however. He met hard conditions with a determination to find himself in his work, and no one worked with more earnestness to lay a foundation of real accomplishment. It is impossible for anyone to study his early drawings without realizing that in them he was laying the foundation of the very real knowledge of nature that later was to give his paintings the element of intrinsic truth based on a complete and sympathetic understanding. Like Inness and Wyant, he was self-taught, and like them he has left behind him a sense of great loss and great achievement. How fine it was that Murphy's fame should have met him more than half way; that honor in his own country was not denied him while he lived; that he should have had the satisfaction of seeing his pictures sold to famous collectors at prices that would have seemed a princely fortune to him in his early days. In the maturity of his life and art he came into his own, and the pictures of no American painter have been more widely sought or more highly valued, not alone for the mere money they represent, but for their beauty, their lovely coloring, their poetic and serene revelation of the moods of nature he loved so well, in the early spring or late fall.

Murphy loved to paint in the spring, and in the fall when the old brown earth and the silhouetted trees stood out and the colors of the autumn were golden.

His lovely transcripts of those particular seasons were expressions of the man's own sensitive response to the seasons' moods. They revealed Murphy's heart, his ever fine poetic response to the quieter aspects of nature that he loved to paint and upon which his reputation was established. How few have ever enveloped a landscape with a finer truth of atmosphere, painted lovelier or more expressive skies or brought to view a more convincing feeling of the particular scene and time.

Murphy a Nature Lover

Murphy was a lover of nature as few painters have been. He loved not only the picture aspects but, with a true nature lover's sincerity, the ways of trees, of birds, of the little animals that found him a friend in his home among the hills at Arkville. If he painted in his studio, he carried there with him the visions that the only one who sees and knows is he who has gone direct to the sources of inspiration.

He was never the facile worker and as the years went on he painted fewer pictures, ever striving with all the means in his power and with an increasing command of his medium and his own special technique to say the things he felt, to declare in his beautiful pattern of pigment the thing that was in his soul.

He first exhibited at the National Academy in 1876, the year after his coming to New York, and in 1885 he won the Second Hallgarten Prize for a characteristic picture called "Tints of a Vanished Past". Two years later he received the Webb Prize. In 1885 he was made an Associate of the National Academy and two years later a National Academician.

It was well said of him recently by a fellow painter that he was a worker of infinite pains and was never afraid of his work. To an artist who was much bothered over the rendering of foliage in a landscape in which he

took much pride Murphy advised: "Make a number of drawing from nature with a sharp pencil." This was his own practice, and no one can look at his trees simplified and softened as they may be with the mist of spring or the haze of autumn without a consciousness of the fact that beneath the sensitive handling exists a positive knowledge of their anatomy and real aspects.

Murphy was never led away from his own sincerity and purpose by the vagaries of the Impressionists or by any of the Modernists that have proved so destructive to many of the young men of today. He knew the thing he loved and painted it with the inspiration and regard for truth that belong with rare exceptions only to men of great talent and individuality combined with great simplicity of character.

Murphy Never Grew Bumptious

Murphy's popularity and keen competition for his late pictures that might have excused a certain degree of pose and bumptiousness, made no difference in him. He was as ready to greet an old friend whose ways had gone hard, to say a kind and encouraging word to the young painter, in the days of his great success, as he was when he wondered where he could sell a few sketches to pay his studio rent.

His influence on American art was a wholesome one, and in his achievement in the lovely things that he cared most to paint he has given great pleasure to thousands and made thousands realize that with him as with Inness, Wyant, Martin and Homer, the American landscape came into its own as the best in the world.

Murphy went forth with a kindling sense of the magic in the woods and skies and he carried that magic with such feeling into his work that we owe him a heavy debt.

That he lived to be recognized as a leader in American landscape, to find both the satisfaction and the ease of mind that come with an adequate financial return for all his labor was something that every one who knew him rejoiced in.

His was the fine gift of seeing nature and of making her beauty known to others through his own sympathetic vision, and his was even the greater gift of the generous appreciation of the work of others, of inspiring affection and love in those whose privilege it was to call him a friend.

He has taken a place, and a notable one, among our old masters in the category that includes Inness, Wyant, Martin and Homer, and his message will go on as theirs goes on, the message of inspiration and truth. His pictures, the treasured possessions of thousands who have them, will be even more appreciated with the passing years.

Murphy was ever jealous of his own reputation and sincerity and was never content with any work that did not represent his best endeavor. His was indeed an artistic conscience that never yielded to the too-eager demands of the moment. The world could wait while he was doing the one thing that he loved best to do in his own way in his own time. His record stands on solid accomplishment. It grew slowly with the years, and late in life he could look back when at the height of his fame and talk and smile over early hardships with the old spirit of youth and the seriousness that come from having passed through the trials that test men's souls and prove them.

JAMES B. CARRINGTON

Contributors

Mrs. J. Francis Murphy, Dr. Thomas L. Bennett, Joseph S. Isidor, Alexander M. Hudnut, Mrs. E. Milch, James G. Shepherd, Macbeth Galleries, Milch

Galleries, Salmagundi Club, Mr. Bruce Crane and some others.

J. Francis Murphy by Eliot Candee Clark. Privately printed in 1926. 63 pages. The American Artists Series. Contains a picture by Irving S. Wiles, The National Academy of Design, New York. (Condensed and slightly paraphrased).

Murphy Not Given to Form

To his friends he was simply Murphy; to his intimates, including his wife, he was "Murph" —a term of affection. He combined a simple, unaffected. easy-going nature with a shrewd and calculating comprehension. He was not intellectual. He ran around the corner from what might be termed culture. Though he seemed lethargic, indolent, almost lazy, informal, plain and outspoken, his artistic expression was, nevertheless, highly sophisticated. He was fond of calling his associates by their first names; his greeting was always intimate and hearty, but his conversation was not either spirited or comprehensive. In expressive language, he had an uncommon vocabulary not found in the distionary and, when animated, a keen Irish wit. Murphy disliked anything that made him self-conscious. He did not care for polished manners and dispensed entirely with form. Murphy's physiognomy was distinct, not for any picturesque or striking peculiarity but rather because his head was particularly well formed. It is difficult to associate this plain, simple and rather coarse nature with the delicate and highly sensitive artist; yet no artist was more truly one than Murphy.

Apart from his art, Murphy's life was singularly devoid of any great interests. For nearly forty years of his life he spent the greater part of the year at Arkville, his summer home in the Catskill Mountains, but in his work we have hardly a suggestion of his environment.

Was First a Sign Painter

Born in Oswego, New York, April 11, 1853, Murphy's boyhood days were passed during the agitation and strife of the Civil War and he therefore arrived at maturity in the happier days of the Reconstruction Period. From one who was associated with a Chicago concern where Murphy was employed as a sign painter about 1870, we learn that although reasonably efficient, he was noticeably lazy, and in consequence was discharged. He moved to New York in 1875. The comparatively few studios centered about the old Tenth Street Studio building. His pictures sold for small prices, but fortunately rent and living were low. At the age of 35 Murphy arrived at the culmination of the first period of his work and likewise the most constructive period of his career.

The studio at Arkville was completed in 1887.

Murphy had an intuitive approach to nature. He was not learned or scientifically schooled, but he created a natural affinity between himself and the animate world. Squirrels were easily tamed and would come to him unafraid. In the winter at his studio in the "Chelsea" his finished painting was accomplished.

Murphy relied on a certain texture produced by the gradual scraping of hard pigment, which necessitated the ground being prepared many months before the final painting. It came in a sense to be personal mannerism. Started with a vigorous and free brush work, the paint lost something of its initial vigor but gained in that atmospheric and tonal quality so characteristic of Murphy's art. His pictures were in consequence started well in advance without a definite or final idea.

Career Had Three Periods

Murphy's artistic career embraced three periods. The first is associated with the so-called Hudson River school; the second

shows the influence of the French school of 1830 and its American exponents, Inness and Wyant, while the final period belongs to the mature and ultimate style of the master. Each change marks a decided sacrifice but also brings him him nearer to himself.

From the scenic landscape to the chioroscure of autumnal sunsets, he gradually develops a simple theme of earth and sky, of air and expanse, — the serenity and beauty of nature's unaffected harmony. From the conventional attributes of the picturesque he seeks more and more the humble unadorned simplicity of the fields and the ever-changing hues of heaven.

Reflection on Murphy's work reveals the skilled picture maker finally discovered that in landscape man sees but the reflection of himself.

A study of the palette shows the fact that the relation of the natural pigments of the warm scale forms a sequence both of value and hue but of similar degree of intensity. We note the harmonic relation of the earth and mineral colors, from yellow ochre, gold ochre, raw sienna to burnt sienna, and from the warm light red through Venetian to Indian red. Whereas if we turn to the cool side of the palette we see immediately that the colors are of a deep value and of a limited number. Murphy was conscious of the fact as the setting of his palette indicates, and his color scheme is based on the natural attributes of the earth pigments. We do not recollect a positive blue, purple or green in any of his pictures. The cool note was attained primarily by its relation to the predominant warm hue and hardly ever transcended a gray. The admixture of white imparted a cool hue to the color and likewise rendered the more opaque atmospheric quality of the sky. Murphy did not experiment with the full gamut of the palette, either in hue or value, but he had a very subtle appreciation of the intrinsic relation of a given color to its value and did not over-darken or lighten it to reduce its nature.

American Painting by Samuel Isham

New edition with Supplementary Chapter by Royal Cortissoz, member of American Academy of Arts and Letters. 1936. Vol. XXIII.

Recent Landscape Painting in America

After referring at length to such representative decorative landscape painters as Ryder, Fuller, Bogert, Ranger, and Carleton Wiggins, the author says, "Allied to these by their sense of tone and tint but more delicate, less robust, d e l i g h t i n g in broad stretches of finely modulated color rather than in vigorous patterning, is another group equally dissimilar among themselves but whose tendencies may be suggested by the names of W. Gedney Bunce, J. Francis Murphy, Bruce Crane, Birge Harrison, Henry B. Snell and W. A. Coffin. It is this preponderance of the decorative element that allies Bunce to men like Ranger or Dearth, but in the simplicity of his composition as also in his lack of heavy impasto, he resembles rather Murphy and Crane, but these latter men however much they seek to make beautiful pictures, are not content to venture far beyond effects and tones for which nature gives them warrant. The hillsides of Murphy perhaps have a tinge of brown, pleasing rather than exact, but that is his single weakness.

In the same volume, after speaking of such prominent American artists as Inness, Ochtman, Tryon and J. Appleton Brown, Isham says: "And here should come in the works of many other men, for the group represents the general tendency of our art to copy American landscape according to methods

assimilated from foreign (mainly French) practice. Even men like Murphy and Crane might be included. A distinction has been made in their case on the ground that the obtaining of a decorative quality in the canvas seems by them to be held more important than the rendering of the spirit of nature, but the distinction is obscure and no fixed line can be drawn.

The latest edition of the Encyclopaedia Britannica divides the development of water color painting into three stages, the first resulting in a meticulous sort of workmanship.

The second stage ushered in free water-color style and extended from about 1850 to 1890. It saw the rise of many great water-colourists, and although much less space is given to Murphy than to LaFarge, Winslow Homer, John Singer Sargent, Childe Hassam and a few others, the article says that J. Francis Murphy painted beautiful water-colours, mostly landscapes, subtle and atmospheric.

The third and latest stage shows its indebtedness to the painters of the preceding schools and to its own analysis of what water-color can do for the student. Quoting from the article: "Over-modeled forms are being eliminated and design is valued at its proper worth. Color takes a great place in rhythmic masses and naturalistic interpretation of meticulous workmanship is giving place to a finer conception of emotional feeling, and painters are becoming sensitized to the horrors of unintelligent imitation."

It was in this third period (1894) that Murphy was awarded the Evans Prize by the American Water Color Society. I am sorry I have no example of Murphy's water color paintings to exhibit.

Auction Sales of Murphy Paintings

Recently I have had access to two volumes of the American Art Annual, one giving information on sales in 1925-26 (which probably was a period of high prices) and the other giving sales in 1936-37 (which was a time of low prices). The following sales of Murphy's with a few comparisons with other artists, principally George Inness, may help in understanding Murphy's place in art when buyers are parting with their own money.*

Silo's. Nov. 27-28, 1925. Landscape. Sundown 12x19 ..... $1,225

Rains Galleries. Dec. 7 and 8, 1925. Sundown. 10x14 $1,500
Landscape 9x12 825

Same sale. Geo. Inness
One 9x12 ..... $ 225
One 15x21 1,500

American Art Association Anderson Galleries, Inc. Dec. 9, 1925. Early October 24x33 ..... $5,000
Sunset Landscape 1,200

American Art Association Anderson Galleries, Inc. Dec. 10, 1925. Sale mostly of eminent American Artists. Murphy. Morning 14x19 ..... $3,600
Landscape 12x16 2,750

A small Geo. Inness sold for $320. Next highest price at sale ..... $ 625

On Dec. 14 and 15, 1925 at a sale of "Paintings by Great Masters" at the Freeman Galleries, Philadelphia a Murphy 8½x11 sold for ..... $ 140
and an Inness sold for $ 650

At a sale of "Paintings by Masters of European and American Schools" at the Freeman Galleries later (Mar. 8 and 9, 1926) an Inness 30x25 sold for $4,600
and one 20x30 sold for $4,000

*The "New York Times" of May 23, 1943 announced that pictures by Murphy were to be included in a public sale in New York, May 26, with a group collected by the late Harold Somers which included paintings by Sargent, Hassam and Inness.

American Art Association Anderson Galleries Jan. 11 and 12, 1926 Murphy's On the Lowlands sold for $1,075 and an Autumn Landscape 16x26, by Inness brought . . . . . $ 675

American Art Association Anderson Galleries at the sale of the Collection of Samuel T. Shaw Jan. 21-22, 1926, three Murphy's sold as follows: Autumn 10x15 . . . . . $1,400

Group of Sycamores 16x22 2,300

Autumn Days 24½x36 4,000

At the same sale a Henry Ranger 16x26 sold for $450, a John H. Twachtman 20x25 for $1,050, and an Alexander Wyant 16x12 for $400. Six Leonard Ochtman's sold for a total of about $800 and 16 Bruce Crane's were disposed of at an average of about $265.

American Art Association Anderson Galleries, Jan. 25, 1926, Tints of a Vanished Past 33x24 $1,500

Sunset after a Rain 10x14 900

At the American Art Association sale of April 22, 1926, six Murphy's sold at the following sums:

Showers 16x22 . . . . . $3,100
Morning 14x19 . . 2,400
Approach to an Old Farm 22x16 3,600
Upland Pastures, Morning 24x36 . 3,000
A Hillside Farm 24x36 3,100
Rain 14x19 1,400

At this sale of American Paintings the highest price paid for a painting by any other painter than Murphy was $1,150 and a George Inness 12x16 sold for $675.

American Art Association Anderson Galleries, Dec. 14, 1933.

At a sale of American and European Oil Paintings, including fine examples by Inness, Murphy, Moran, Sargent, Peale, Lawrence, and other artists, two beautiful Murphy's were sold, one "Midsummer" for $675 and the other "A Hot Afternoon, September" for $425. Each was 24 by 36 inches.

American Art Annual Vol.. 34

Oct. 9 and 10, 1936, Murphy. Autumn Field 12x16 $275
A Hillside Farm 16x22 . 325
Grove and Field 24x36 . 650

At the same sale four paintings by Inness brought $230, $400, $950 and $625.

Amer. Art Assn. Anderson Galleries Inc., Dec. 3, 1936, Murphy's October Afternoon 14x19 . . . . . $ 235
A Cloudy Afternoon 16x22 1,250

Amer. Art. Assn. Anderson Galleries, Inc., Mar. 4, 1937 Murphy. Autumn Fields, panel, 9x12 . . . $ 220
October Afternoon 24½x36½ 1,600
Where the Sunlight Lingers 27x41 450

Amer. Art Assn. Anderson Galleries, Inc., Oct. 21, 1937. Murphy. Saplings in the Wind 14½x19 . . . $ 300
Geo. Inness. The Brook, Montclair 20½x30 . . $ 500
A Glimpse at the Lake, Albano, Italy 18½x26 . $ 350

Medals and Honors

In 1885 Murphy was awarded the Second Hallgarten Prize, and in 1910 the Inness Gold Medal by the National Academy of Design. In 1902 he received the Carnegie Prize from the Society of American Artists.

1899, Gold Medal Pennsylvania Academy, Philadelphia.

1887, Webb Prize, Society of American Artists.

1894, Evans Prize, American Water Color Society.

1901, Silver Medal, Pan American Exposition.

1902, Gold Medal, Charleston Exposition.

1904, Silver Medal, St. Louis Exposition.

1911, Evans Prize, Salmagundi Club.

1915, Silver Medal, Pan-Pacific Exposition, San Francisco.

Murphy was a member of the National Academy of Design, Society of American Artists, New York Water Color Club, American Water Color Society, Salmagundi Club, Lotus Club, and the Century Club of New York.

In the American Artist Series, the Murphy book was printed in 1926. Volumes honoring George Inness, Homer Martin, Alexander Wyant, Ralph Blakelock, Winslow Homer, Albert Pinkham Ryder, John Twachtman had already appeared in that order.

Murphy must have had a little warm spot for Oswego and Oswegonians. He used to invite Mr. and Mrs. John Parsons to visit him in New York. Once when calling on John in Oswego he asked how he could get in touch with friends of his father and mother. Mr. Parsons told him that the only ones of whom he could think were Mr. and Mrs. Alec or Alexander Stewart, very kindly people living on Liberty Street, not far from the Lake. I knew them well.

On our way home from New York in the fall of 1940, Mrs. Williams and I visited Murphy's grave in a well kept cemetery at Margaretville, in the lovely Catskills.* Only a mile or so away is Arkville. We called on Mrs. Murphy at her home (Weedwild) perched almost precariously near the top of a steep hill, thickly wooded. I explained my intrusion. She was very gracious. We looked through Murphy's quite plain studio, and she showed us her own more comfortable one.

Mrs. Adah Clifford Murphy autographed for us an excellent reproduction of her painting "Eleanor." It is part of The Century's American Artists series.

I did not see what appeared to be a characteristic Murphy.

Most likely Mrs. Murphy had her own good reasons, but she did not seem responsive to a mild suggestion that the Oswego County Historical Society would be glad to receive one of her husband's paintings to be hung in his native city in memory of his proud position in the artistic world.

Exhibitions: Memorial Exhibition, The Lotus Club, New York, 1921; Loan Exhibition, the Macbeth Gallery, New York, 1921; Memorial Exhibition, Salmagundi Club, New York, 1921; Loan Exhibition, The Vose Gallery, Boston, 1922.

Bibliography: J. Francis Murphy, by Elliott Daingerfield, Scribner's Magazine, Jan. 1917; J. Francis Murphy, by R. G. McIntyre, The Miscellany, Vol. 5, No. 1; J. Francis Murphy, A Master of American Landscape, by Charles L. Buchanan, International Studio, July, 1914; Notes on the Art of J. Francis Murphy, by Eliot Clark, Art in America, April, 1918; Miniature Landscapes by J. Francis Murphy, by Frederic Fairchild Sherman, Illustrated, N. Y., 1918; Catalog of Memorial Exhibition, The Salmagundi Club, Nov. 1921, Appreciation by James B. Carrington; Handbook of Loan Exhibition, The Macbeth Gallery, 1921, Foreword by Charles L. Buchanan; Justice for J. Francis Murphy, by Charles L. Buchanan, American Art Notes, Dec. 1921; Murphy, The Traits of a Man Lately Lost to Our School, by Royal Cortissoz, New York Herald Tribune February 6, 1921.

*Murphy died in New York City, Jan. 30, 1921. His funeral was held in the National Academy of Design in New York City, Murphy being the first and, to date, the only artist to have his memory so honored by having his funeral held at this academy.

Reminiscences of Falley Seminary and Its Contribution to Oswego County Education

(Paper Read Before Oswego County Historical Society at Fulton, June 15, 1943, by Dr. Henry P. de Forest of New York City, a Distinguished Alumnus of Falley).

Mr. President, members of the Oswego Historical Society and fellow Fultonians:

"You'd scarce expect one of my age
To speak in public on the stage
And if by chance I fall below
Desmosthenes or Cicero
Don't view me with a critic's eye
But pass my imperfections by."

At the beginning of the current year I was in a predicamentary condition, the reasons for this unusual situation were twofold. In 1892 after my return from Vienna in the fall, I had a term of service in the Sloan Maternity Hospital in New York and in the spring of 1893 I opened my office in Brooklyn. My service in the Methodist Episcopal hospital in Brooklyn in 1890 and 1891 had brought me in contact with a considerable number of residents so that when I opened my office I had a number of friends in that city. In this group were a number of former Fultonians. Delbert Harvey Decker, one of these, had lived with his parents at Oswego Falls on the west bank of the river a short distance from my home. We had been schoolmates in the little red schoolhouse just over the back fence from the home where I lived with my mother and grandparents on Hannibal street. This school has now become the Walradt school of the City of Fulton.

Another neighbor was my cousin, Alice Elizabeth Stephens, later Mrs. David Macowan Sinclair, who with her sister, later Mrs. William C. Breeds, were pupils at Falley Seminary prior to 1880 and had lived within a block of the Seminary corner. Their father, William Crombie Stephens, was my mother's brother.

John Buell Stephens, a brother of these two girls, graduated at Cornell in 1894 and while there was a member of the University Glee club. There were a number of college men in Brooklyn who had been members of their own college glee clubs and this group of men, largely under the leadership of Jack Stephens, as he was commonly called, made and formed the Brooklyn University Glee club, an institution which still exists.

A number of us who did not sing officially but who enjoyed college songs were made contributing members and thus were privileged to attend the informal meetings after the formal rehearsals of the Glee Club proper were at an end. At one of these meetings I was moved to suggest that the University Glee Club be the starting point of the Brooklyn University Club similar to the club of like name in Manhattan. This casual remark led to the formation of the University Club of Brooklyn, of which I am the Historian. At the beginning of the World War our club had more than 2,000 members. More than half the number entered the service and their dues were remitted. The club steadily went into the red because of the fact that the expenses of maintaining a club house remained the same but the income had been cut in half. Then by good fortune a subway was built passing in front of the club house on Oxford street. The house was sold to make way for a large apartment house. All the club debts were paid and we had a surplus of more than $20,000 in the bank. With no dues, no club house and no assessment, but an annual income sufficient to pay

all of the expenses for as many meetings in the year as we chose to hold. At the meeting held in December, I, as Historian, was asked to prepare a paper telling of this remarkable development and ultimate creation of a club fund which enabled us to buy $15,000 worth of government bonds at the December meeting. The preparation of this paper, as you will see, definitely involved the History of Falley Seminary.

I had the good fortune more than 30 years ago to discover what has proved to be, in my personal experience, the cause of diabetes and in any event it has enabled me to cure a number of patients including two prominent Fultonians of this disease without any medical or any particular attention paid to diet. I was preparing an article on this subject to be read at the 500th regular meeting of our Hospital Alumni Society formed in my room in 1890 with three men sitting on the bed and two in assorted chairs. I was using a test tube holder which I had made when a pupil of Falley Seminary with Professor Asa Boothby in 1876 and a test tube rack, holding 12 test tubes and made of black walnut which had been in the Seminary laboratory after the closing of the school. In the midst of these two tasks, each tracing its origin in great measure to Falley Seminary, I received a letter from your president, Mr. Waterbury, asking me to prepare an article on the history of this institution.

This seemed a strange coincidence that I should be working on two papers relating to Falley Seminary and then receive an invitation from a total stranger to write a history of my own Alma Mater.

I was reminded of a similar incident which took place in 1922. At that time Charles H. Griffin, an old Fulton student, visited Professor and Mrs. C. M. Underhill at Buffalo. This letter was published in the Fulton Patriot on October 18, 1922 and in it a similar incident was described. As related by Mr. Griffin the story reads as follows: Our mutually, greatly loved and honored friend, Miss Helen Potter, was mentioned and the enviable part she played as a popular entertainer after leaving Falley, and I told of my curious experience that day riding from Syracuse to Buffalo. At Rochester a newsboy came through the train calling "New York Morning Paper." I thought to buy my old favorite "The Tribune" but when the boy reached me to my surprise asked for a "Herald" and then to my greater surprise the first headline that caught my eye as I glanced over the page announced the death the day before at Flushing of Miss Helen L. D. Potter. The text following gave quite a full account of her real eventful life. It was, no doubt, a coincidence that I should learn of her death in the way I did and on my way to see him we could not but agree that the word "coincidence" sometimes covers a great deal of unexplored territory.

I finally decided to accept your president's request and to write a history of Falley Seminary. When I came to the actual writing of this history I found that the task was a truly stupendous one and in the address I shall give you this evening I shall touch of necessity upon but a few of the leading features of the history of this remarkable institution in the hope that when my remarks are ultimately published many details will be included on the printed page which it would be quite impossible for me to include in the short time allowed for the address of this evening.

Entered Falley In 1876

It was my fortune to have had much of my early education at my grandmother's knee and the verse which I have quoted at the beginning of my remarks was taken from the New England Primer from which my grandmother and my mother taught

me to read and to write. When I was 12 years old I had finished my school work in the little red school house over the back fence of my grandfather's home and had become a pupil in Falley Seminary in the fall of 1876. I had never met Professor Gilmour, then directing head of the Seminary, in person before but I still remember the fact that he gave me from his book room a copy of Harkness Latin Grammar and he told me I might learn, during the summer, the declination of the Latin word "mensa." When I entered in the fall of that year Falley Seminary was still a thriving institution but Mr. Gilmour's health was steadily failing and when I entered Cornell University in the fall of 1880 I was the only person theoretically in the class at Falley Seminary so I returned to Fulton at the end of my Freshman year and was formally given a diploma with the members of the last class to be graduated in June 1881.

On the program dated Friday evening, June 24, 1881, I find that the graduating class in the College Preparatory course were: Anna C. Gilmour, Minnie L. Golden and Delbert H. Decker; and in the Scientific Course the names are recorded of Maria Clutterbuck, Frankie A. Conner, S. Lizzie Lee, Clara M. Whitaker, Nellie E. Wise, Harry P. DeForest.

Grandparents Aided Falley

Of this group of classmates I shall have something to say later on. It was my good fortune, when I entered Cornell University, to have as my teachers in History a very remarkable group of men, Moses Coit Tyler was the Professor of American History; Goldwin Smith the professor of English History, and Andrew D. White, the president of the University, taught us French History one year and German History the next. All of these men were nationally known and are still remembered as members of the unusual group of men who founded Cornell University in the late 60's. It was President White's custom in his lectures to select individuals as the focus around which other individuals living at the approximate same time were more or less related. This has always seemed to me to be an excellent method of historical study and this evening I am going to follow the same method on the principle that "All roads lead to Rome" but conversely "All roads lead from Rome." As a matter of fact from my earliest childhood I have heard stories relative to the origin and the early development of Falley Seminary and inasmuch as my grandparents took definite part and gave a helping hand to the actual origin of this institution I will begin the history of Falley Seminary by telling some of these facts which, I hope, will be of interest. My grandfather's forebearers came from Cornwall in England and strangely enough some years ago on a motor trip through England I found that the keeper of the Famous Light House at Lands End in the extreme southwest corner of England bore the name of John D. Stephens. Ultimately his forebearers came to Virginia, as the entire western coast of North America and South America was then called, came up the Hudson to the Mohawk Valley where his grandfather took part in the Battle of the Oriskany in 1776. My grandmother's family was originally the Beauchamp family. They came from France at the time of the Norman Conquest in England in 1066. Her name was put into English in the form of Fairfield and my grandmother's middle name was Abigail Fairfield Crombie. The Crombies were originally Scotch and later settled in the North of Ireland and were there at the time of the seige of Londonderry. I have a book telling of the seige of Londonderry and among other items the following list of market prices of some of the principal articles of food which the inhabitants of that beseiged city were glad to get:

A quarter of a dog, 5 shillings and sixpence.

Horse flesh per pound, 1 shilling and eightpence.

A cat, 4 shillings and sixpence.

A rat, 1 shilling.

A mouse, sixpence.

A pound of tallow, 4 shilling.

Grandfather Playmate Of Cooper

Tallow by the way which they erroneously called French Butter, was mixed with meal, ginger, pepper and anise seed and in this way, what they considered excellent pan cakes, were made. After the seige of Londonderry the Crombie family came to "Virginia" and settled in what is now the State of New Hampshire where they founded the Towns of Derry, New Londonderry and New Boston. My grandmother was born in New Boston. My grandfather's parents eventually moved south from the Iroquois Trail to Otsego, as that little village on that lake was then called and there my grandfather was born. A few years before his birth there came to the Village of Cooperstown, James Fenimore Cooper, after whose father the present City of Cooperstown was named. The two boys were playmates in their early childhood but Cooper at an early age enlisted in the United States Navy and ultimately went down the Oswego River in a canoe to construct a sloop of war then building at Oswego in connection with Fort Ontario, an Indian name by the way which means "I look but see nothing."

Mr. Cooper has told in the Leather Stocking tales many of the incidents based upon actual observation of the condition of this part of the State of New York when the six nations had practical control of the area from Schenectady to Lake Erie. He, himself, related that he had gone down over the Oswego Falls in a canoe and that a 32 pound cannon had been carried over the Falls in the same way that is so vividly described in the Pathfinder.

Early Schools in Fulton

My grandfather who had then married, followed the trail of his friend Cooper, came north from Otsego Lake to Oneida Lake and down the Oneida river past Three River Point and finally reached the Upper Landing, at the falls of the Oswego river. There he found a little village of some 200 people which is now developed into the City of Fulton. They continued with their four children to Black Creek and there settled on a farm which they always referred to as Glen Murder. They stayed there but a short time and then moved to the Village of Fulton and built a home on Cayuga street at the present site of the Morrill Press. There were at that time no schools, except a few scattered schools where only the common branches of reading, writing and arithmetic were taught. The need of a school for more advanced studies was apparent and so an effort was made by the villages to combine their forces and build a school which would be known as the Fulton Female Seminary. Many of the villagers contributed $25, many others contributed their work and ultimately this school, which is described by the Rev. W. Dempster Chase in his interesting book, "The History and Reunion of Falley Seminary." as follows: "Sometimes it happens that the coming of a s i n g l e individual in to a town forms the beginning of a new epoch in the life of that town.' Such was the coming to Fulton about the year 1833 or 1834 of the Rev. John Eastman as pastor of the Presbyterian church. Casting his eyes about the place, he discovered the need of better educational advantages for the young ladies and girls of the village. With his accomplished New England bride for one of the first teachers, he established a select school for girls in the session room of his own church. This select school was the germ of the later institution, the seed corn from which sprang the useful

Fulton Female Seminary and the sturdy school for ladies and gentlemen afterwards known as Falley Seminary.

Early Days of Seminary

The modest building in which the first school was held was in the rear of the church. At that time the Presbyterian church of Fulton was a small, plain white edifice on the corner of what is now Oneida and Second streets. The church fronted on Oneida street. The session room was on the south end of the church. It fronted on Second street and was separated from the church by an alley three or four feet wide. South of the session room and separated from it by a still narrower space, was a long low building used for a tenement and popularly known as the "Poor House." In this little building, built between the church and the Poor House, a new select school was opened under the charge of Mrs. Eastman. The school prospered and outgrew its accommodations and in the same year through the efforts of Mr. Eastman, the building of the seminary was projected. There are many interesting features connected with the old regime. The school year began the second Wednesday in May and consisted of four terms of 11 weeks each, each term followed by a vacation of two weeks. This was afterwards changed to three terms of 15 weeks each with vacations of one, two or four weeks. The school week was five and one-half days. The list of studies at first included the common English branches, mathematics through geometry, the elements of several sciences, mental physiology, natural theology, calisthenics and vocal music. Afterwards Latin, French, Political Economy, Higher English and other higher scientific languages were added. In the list of studies of the Primary department we find a Parley's Tales about the Sun, Moon and Stars.

The rate of tuition was at first $3.50 a term for the common branches; $4 for tuition in higher studies; $2 in the Primary department and no bill for contingencies.

With terms thus low and without endowment for the institution, it is scarcely strange that the highest salary paid any instructor was $350, while other teachers were paid from $150 to $250 a year. Money was a secondary consideration, "the welfare of the school stood first," is the commentary of one who gave to the seminary nearly four years of constant and exhausting service.

Opportunities in Self Help

Arrangements were made in the seminary for the accommodation of students who wished to board themselves and six rooms on the first floor of the building were set apart for this purpose, each room being occupied by six persons. The price of board was thus reduced to 75 cents a week for each student, while board in the village could not be obtained for less than the extravagant sum of $1.25 and $1.50 per week. My mother, who was a pupil in this school at that time, lived at home with her parents so that I have no definite record of the price it cost her for food and board. Fulton at that time had a population of about 600 inhabitants. It had been a post office station for but eight years and was not yet incorporated.

During the following years it became evident that a larger school was needed and practically all the inhabitants contributed a bit to the fund necessary for the new seminary building. Four thousand dollars was collected and was soon expended. On May 25, 1836, the institution was incorporated under the laws of New York and in November, 1836, the school was opened with 78 pupils in the new seminary building on the corner of Third and Rochester streets. The corporation was organized as a stock company. It was empowered by its charter to

issue stock not exceeding the sum of $12,000 divided into shares of $25 and the annual income was not to exceed $4,000. The corporation was not out of debt until after a change in its organization in 1842. There could have been no possible expectation of realizing on the investment in a pecuniary way. Under the wise direction of Miss Maynard, the school grew and prospered in spite of the great financial burdens that threatened ruin to the entire country. During the first half year the list of students included 102 names and it is a curious and significant fact that the residence of only one third of these is given as Fulton; 19 different towns in New York sent their daughters, while Michigan and Massachusetts each had representatives. By 1842, when its charter was changed, students came from 82 different places in New York as well as from towns in Massachusetts, Vermont, Michigan, Indiana, Illinois, Upper Canada and Canada West. The New York towns ranged from New York City on the south to Plattsburg on the north and Rochester on the west. The aggregate attendance during this time was nearly 800, with more than 400 different names enrolled.

The seminary grew and prospered and in 1839 it was placed under the supervision of the Regents of the University. It was provided that all academies hoping to receive a part of the literature fund of the state must be in possession of a library.

A Devoted Faculty

What Fulton seminary subsequently became we may well believe was due in no small degree to the devotion of the little band of earnest men and women who as trustees, teachers and students consecrated some of the best years of their lives to the building up of the Fulton Female Seminary. The best index of seminary life is found in the manuscript files of two papers written by the students themselves and called "The Gleaner" and "The Depository." The former appeared August 27, 1837 under the motto "They gather, we glean," while the latter began November 29, 1837. Each was issued semi-monthly and was to be free to all who contributed to its pages; an occasional picture of Fulton is given in these old pages.

The seminary is described as situated "on a small hill at a short distance from the village," while one student writes home in a letter given in the first number of the "Depository" that from the seminary there was a fair prospect of the village, of the Oswego river and of the canal, and adds with more enthusiasm than command of her native tongue, "it presents a most beautiful scenery as I ever beheld." The walk over the bridge was a favorite one and the beauty of the surrounding country a frequent theme with all. The village bell was rung at nine each night, while the seminary bell had a welcome sound whenever it announced the opening of a new year.

Miss Maynard finally married Mr. George Salmon. After her marriage came changes. The seminary was turned into a school for both ladies and gentlemen and men and women of more than ordinary ability stood at the head of the departments.

Co-Education Introduced

To promote the education of both sexes its corporate title was changed April 11, 1842, to the Fulton Academy, and to extend still further usefulness, it was altered April 11, 1848, to the Falley Seminary of the Black River Conference. As the Hon. George F. Falley, who died in June, 1847, had been its munificent patron from its incorporation, and as his widow, Mrs. Mehetable E. Falley, had donated $4,000 toward the erection of its large brick edifice in 1849-50, the trustees desired to perpetuate the name of these donors. The lot upon which the building was erected was the gift of Col. James L. Voorhees. At

the time the name was finally changed to Falley Seminary the school had definitely come under the management of the Black River Conference of the Methodist church, and while it accomplished good work, its financial affairs were usually in a state of chronic depression, and every member of that honored body came up to the annual session dreading a question he knew must be asked and the usual spasmodic method must be made to effect the answer: What must be done for Falley Seminary?

Seminary Passes to Private Control

In the spring of 1857 the Black River Conference, the members, at their wits end as to the financial affairs of its literary protege, magnanimously resolved to hand over Falley Seminary bag and baggage and all right and title to the same with all present and prospective patronage and good will to any proper man who would assume its debt and operate it in the interest of the people, which in conjunction with the existance of Fulton, had erected and thus far maintained it, a most judicious scheme on the part of said conference and measured by results most fortunate for the institution. After some prospecting, a man was found in the person of John P. Griffn, A. M. The property having been sold on a mortgage and bid in by the holder of the same, Professor Griffin bought it from him in the spring of 1857. Whatever might have been said of his business astuteness in the venture of 1857, if any man in his plans for his future success built it wiser than he knew, it was John P. Griffin as he took his position as financial and teaching head of Falley Seminary.

At first everything seemed unfavorable to his enterprise, for the memorable financial panic and depression of 1857-58 came very near closing the doors of the seminary. People who wanted higher education had no money and help promised and expected from other sources did not come. Professor Griffin met the crisis bravely and for the most part hopefully, although there were painful states and dark tomorrows which the students did not then know, but of which they learned in moments of reminiscence after some of them had come to man's and woman's estate. For me to describe in detail the progress of Falley seminary during the years from 1856 to 1869 when he was principal of the school, would be a needless task for this period has been fully written in the book published by the Morrill Press in 1890 telling of the "History and Reunion of Falley Seminary." This was edited by the Rev. W. Dempster Chase, M. A., who was at that time living in Fulton and who had been a pupil in the seminary during his earlier years. In brief Professor Griffin seemed to have been successful in his double capacity of owner and principal of Falley Seminary. His school prospered and grew. Men and women from all parts of the country came to Fulton to be enrolled as pupils in this institution which by that time had a far reaching influence. The members of the faculty were extremely efficient. At one time the enthusiastic Asa Boothby was my own instructor in chemistry and physics. I remember him as one of the best teachers that I have ever known in the many institutions which I have had the fortune to attend.

Enrollment Normally 300

From 200 to 300 students were in attendance each term, while the aggregate of different students for the year would sometimes reach nearly twice that number. Men and women by the hundreds and even thousands in the course of these years who were trained there were later to be found in every rank of successful life in every state of the Union.

The history of Falley Seminary from 1869 to 1883 has for me a more personal interest for during

that period the Rev. James Gilmour, A. M., was the principal. The outline of Professor Gilmour's life as written by my brother-in-law, Frederick D. VanWagenen, whom many of you knew personally, tells the story of the seminary during his period of activity. Mr. Gilmour's daughter eventually became my wife.

Literary Societies Organized

During the years of Falley's existence several societies were organized by both men and women to afford an opportunity for discussion in their various rooms. The first of these societies was known as the Kalamatheon. This society was organized in 1862 and its first meeting was held on May 16 in that year. The question debated on that momentous May evening was worthy of the occasion: Resolved, that a thorough course of study is necessary to the enjoyment of life and the performance of its duties. The officers were elected by ballot and in August of 1862 this society assembled for the first time in the room affectionately named Kalamatheon Hall. Each member bore to it a chair from some other room. The tremendous question before the house was "how to make these four bare walls a home." Little by little this society made the bare walls a home. A festival provided for a carpet and the first meeting held upon that carpet was duly recorded. A stove, oak colored shades on which glittered the name of Kalamatheon, the president's chair, the book to record the society's proceedings were purchased and the walls were papered. The records of this society, until its close June 4, 1874, have also been given in detail in the book which I have mentioned.

Not to be beaten in the organization of society, the young men also organized a society known as the Aletheon. This society always claimed to have been the true successor of the Academic Society, a loosely organized body which led a sort of go as you please existence up to the spring of 1862, barely fulfilling the purpose of such an organization. Professor Griffin had urged upon the students the formation of two gentlemen's societies and promised, if his advice was taken, to provide during the summer vacation, permanent rooms in the building for the two. On Monday, April 7, 1862, it is recorded in a diary kept by Mr. Weston that the Academic Society met after chapel and elected officers. Four days later another entry is recorded—debate in the evening. The Academic Society adopted the name Aletheon or "Lovers of Truth," session held late. A room was set apart for the use of their meetings and regular meetings were held, two each week, the business meeting between four and five o'clock on Monday and literary meeting on Friday evening. The expenses of the society were small,there being no rent to pay, and were largely met by initiation fees. Later the society published "The Monitor." Usually at the meetings there was an introductory subject the speaker might choose. Sometimes there was a declamation and once at least a program. The first public meeting occurred May 2, 1862, and the last of the series was held Friday evening, June 23, 1871.

Aletheons Disbanded in 1871

In the years 1870-1871 the membership of this society fell off largely. The once crowded hall was poorly filled. When the debates occurred, where a dozen or more had spoken on each side, often only four or five appeared. At the meeting on June 28, 1871, the subject of the future of the society was seriously debated and it was unanimously decided that the society be disbanded as soon as a committee elected to dispose of its property shall have completed its labors. All the property in the hall was left to the Rev. James Gilmour. The residue, consisting of a marble top table, library books, photograph album and pictures was left to Prof. A. J. Griffin.

Peithologian Society

The opening of the spring term of 1862 at Falley found the Seminary lacking the usual necessary safety valve for student eloquence and wisdom, a debating society. To meet this manifest need a call to form such an organization was issued, a meeting held and a committee appointed to draft a constitution and by laws.

By a strange chance and since I began the work on the history of Falley Seminary there was sent to me by one of my classmates, Miss Clara Whitaker, now Mrs. Charles E. Parker living at 57 Bellevue Street in Newton, Massachusetts, the original copy of the record of the Peithologian Society of Falley Seminary. The constitution and by laws were written literally in a copper plate hand. I found on consulting the complete record of this society that the constitution and by laws is followed by a complete list of honorary members and list of active members and there were 318 names in the list of regular members, the first 100 or 200 are beautiful examples of the old Spencerian script which some of us endeavored to learn in our student days. This part of the list with the constitution and by laws was written by some one with exceptional ability as a writer. The remaining names for the most part are the signatures of persons admitted to membership. The first name to appear on the list of regular members is F. P. Lantry who joined April 11, 1862 and resided in Fulton. The next to the last name in the list is that of Harry P. DeForest, who joined January 29, 1880 and also lived in Fulton; the last name recorded is that of J. D. Fish who was admitted to membership on the same date and who lived in Phoenix. Of still further personal interest in the record of this society I found the final entry: "Peithologian Hall February 26, 1880. House called to order by the president. Mr. DeForest appointed critic. Motion made and carried that we waive the question for debate and choose the following for tonight: Resolved, that the rules of the school be maintained. A debate was decided in favor of the affirmative. Motion carried that the next question be resolved that the Indians have suffered more at the hands of the white man then the negro. House adjourned until Thursday next. N. M. Stranahan, President. Sumner McDonough, Secretary."

Final Graduation Exercises

My personal association with Falley Seminary as a student ended in June 1880. At that time I then went to Ithaca, passed my entrance examination to Cornell University successfully. My mother died September 30, 1880 and it was not until the middle of October that I was able to begin my University work. The year was a hard one for me but I finally finished my work. At the end of the spring term I returned to Fulton to participate in what proved to be the commencement and graduation of the last class to be given a diploma at Falley Seminary. The members of that class as will appear from the program which I have brought with me show the following names: In the college preparatory course: Anna C. Gilmour, Minnie L. Golden and Delbert H. Decker; in the scientific course: Maria Clutterbuck, Frankie A. Conner, S. Lizzie Lee, Clara M. Whitaker, Nellie E. Wise and Harry P. Deforest.

This graduation, however, did not end my personal interest in Falley Seminary and through the years it has been my good fortune to keep in touch with my classmates of 1881. I have already referred to the cooperation of Clara Whitaker in the preparation of this paper. Minnie Golden died many years ago; Maria Clutterbuck and Frankie Conner have died recently. Nellie Wise, who married John Edward Alport

in the horse and buggy days on April 12, 1887, died in December, 1942, three days after her 80th birthday. Her husband had died 17 years earlier in the City of Hollywood where they had made their home and after their sons had set up their own career. I am glad to say, however, that four of the class are still living. Mr. Decker, a lawyer of distinction formerly living in Washington and now living in Ithaca, is here with us this evening. I am glad to say that for the last three days I have been the guest of another classmate, Miss S. Elizabeth Lee, in whose father's office during my summer vacation many years ago, also in the horse and buggy days, I learned something of the rudiments of medicine.

Falley's Last Directing Head

To revert for the moment to Falley Seminary as I have stated the Rev. James Gilmour was born in Paisley, Scotland, December 18, 1822. He came to the United States when about 19 years of age and went to Ogdensburg via the Oswego Canal passing through Fulton and Oswego while enroute. For a few years he worked on farms, studied when he could and taught country schools. He then prepared himself for and entered Union College at Schenectady with only his splendid abilities as capital to carry him through. After a regular four year course in the presidency of Dr. Knott, he was graduated with honor, being one of the few who received a Phi Beta Kappa key, a distinction of high scholarship. By reason of his great industry and determination to succeed he accomplished what few had done. He entered college with very little money and when he graduated had saved nearly $500. From college he went to a theological seminary at Princeton, N. J., and was licensed as a minister of the Gospel by the Presbyterian Church. He then commenced preaching but was obliged to give it up owing to a lung difficulty. It was after this that he first entered a boarding school as principal at Princeton, N. Y. From there he moved to Ballston Spa where he conducted a large and important boarding school. Twice his schools were burned to the ground by the carelessness of students smoking in their rooms. From Ballston Spa he removed to Brooklyn, N. Y., and became engaged in the lumber business in order to be in the open air. The next change was to come to Fulton in 1869 and become the head of Falley Seminary. He remained principal of this institution until the insidious disease from which he suffered compelled him to ease his labors. Then the school was closed. His death occurred December 18, 1885, at his home in Falley Seminary on his 63d birthday.

Mr. Gilmour was a man of high attainments and a fine linguist. It was in France and Italy that he learned the French and Italian languages; besides these he was fairly conversant with the German and Spanish languages and during his several trips abroad made it his business to study the people, their institution, the customs and languages of these countries. My personal memory of my friend and teacher besides from the fact that he frequently assured me that I was one of the worst boys he ever had in his school, was the fact that he had a Bible printed in four columns, English, Latin, Greek and Hebrew. He read with facility any one of the columns which pleased his fancy at the moment.

His life was one of great influence and one devoted to doing good. His character, firmness itself. For 15 years he saw his life blood ebbing away, but his mind never lost its vigor or faltered during the last years of his life. Although his pupils were not aware of the fact, at the end of each recitation he would return to his room and lie down until his next task was to be perform-

ed. The man was the same in all his varied positions from the cradle to the grave, a life of broad experience, broad culture, liberal views and one that loved to see the whole human family grow better.

A Honeymoon Predicament

My personal interest in Falley Seminary did not end with the closing of the school. There were two daughters in the family, Ella Veeder Gilmour, who at one time taught music in the seminary. The other daughter, Anna Catherine Gilmour, was a person in whom I became greatly interested during our school days. As the years went by I became more and more interested. Finally it was decided that we would ultimately marry. I finished my term of service in the New York Methodist Hospital; on the morning of Saturday, December 5, 1891, took the train for Fulton which I reached at six o'clock in the evening. I went to the home of my uncle, Melvin Fayette Stephens on Rochester Street. About 15 minutes after I had arrived I received a telegram from New York asking if I would sail on Tuesday morning as Ship Surgeon on the S. S. Trinacria for Gibraltar, Naples and Genoa with a round trip ticket and a bonus of $50. This offer was entirely unexpected. I replied at once that I would accept the position. Later in the evening I called at the Seminary to see Mrs. Gilmour and her daughter Anna. It was decided in the course of the conversation that it would be a good plan for Anna and myself to be married at once and that instead of the return trip I should take her with me to Genoa and then go on to Vienna for a year of graduate study. This decision was definitely reached at that moment. On the following Sunday I invited personally a few of my friends and relatives. We were married in the Seminary parlor at 8 o'clock and I left for New York on the 10 o'clock train. My wife stayed up all night to prepare for a year's absence in Europe, while I went on to make arrangements for her trip on the Trinacria. When I reached New York my two friends, who met me did not believe that I was married until I showed them a woman's coat which I was carrying on my arm. We then went to the steamer office of the Anchor Line and I was told that it was a rule of the company that no ship officer could be accompanied by his wife. This was an unpleasant surprise and I canvassed the possibility of the recently acquired Mrs. DeForest sailing for Europe on another vessel and by another route. There were 400 Italian passengers already on board the Trinacria and a surgeon was a necessity. A telegram to Glasgow gave the necessary authority for the ship surgeon in this instance to take his wife with him and so we sailed on Tuesday morning according to the plan.

Fulton Purchases Seminary Building

For some years after my return to Brooklyn, where I opened my office in 1893, my wife made frequent visits to her home and the Seminary and I came to Fulton as often as circumstances would permit. The school building itself was finally sold to the City of Fulton, was torn down and the present Fulton High School was erected in its place. The reunion of former students of Falley Seminary to which I have referred was held in Fulton on Thursday, June 1, 1922, and on the evening of that day a farewell reunion banquet was held which was attended by a large number of former students. Mr. Giles S. Piper presided as toastmaster. Judge Charles N. Bulger of Oswego, N. Y. was one of the few after dinner speakers. A good time was had by all but Falley Seminary as a building ceased to exist.

I began my remarks by telling you two stories which I had recently told at the 169th commencement exercises of Columbia University. The audience on both of these occasions did not laugh. It may be that some of the present audience has still refused to laugh because they like the Germans did not see the point of the joke until a long time afterward. I have no doubt that many of you remember that Jonah had spent some time in the stomach of the whale and so when he had been vomited, as the story goes, he was quite accurate in telling his friend, the whale, that he did not think it wise to take another trip as passenger since for obvious reasons he did not agree with the whale. It took me two days to see the point of the next story which I told in which the small boy had called to the man fishing in the preserved stream in England, "Can't fish here"? And the man replied, "Well, sonny, some say they do and some say they don't". Said my secretary when I admitted my inability to see the point, well, Dr. if you will spell here "hear" you may see what the man had in mind.

But to revert to another verse from the New England Primer which I learned at my grandmother's knee more than 75 years ago:

"I am not here to play the fool
But to tell you what I learned at school.
I learned to read and write and spell
Don't you think that is pretty well?
For such a little boy as I
But I must leave you, so Good By".

Sketches of Musical Life in Oswego

(Paper Read Before Oswego Historical Society by James Lally, October 19, 1943 as First of a Series of Papers on "Oswego County Music.")

In presenting this paper, I must begin by saying that it is incomplete. I feel that any attempt to set down the story of things musical in Oswego must, of necessity, be done in installments. The epochs, early and late nineteenth century, and early and present twentieth century, as well as the many phases, such as amateur choral and instrumental, church choirs, school music, require in themselves considerable research. Added to this, the persons of note who gave of their talents, and the persons made prominent by their musical activities in the community, make an imposing and lengthy record.

I believe that in the early nineteenth century, what the people heard in the churches in the line of choral and instrumental music was one of the chief sources of their musical knowledge and education, and a powerful means of shaping tastes and ideals. It was principally in the churches that music was listened to by the people as a whole. Probably only there were they conscious of the classics. In contrast to our present day, when music is accessible by radio, phonograph, and in the movies, the people of the early 1800s had to find their own music, and perform it for themselves. Today we have so many group activities—school, civic, and fraternal—that time is lacking to share in all of them. In the period I am discussing, leisure time abounded by comparison, and amateur musical effort was a welcome and popular form of entertainment.

Oswego has sometimes been accused of being cold to music. I hope to demonstrate and prove in this paper, and in future installments which I hope you will permit me to present, that Oswego has a history which refutes any such accusation. I hope to show you that Oswego has possessed a colorful history of men and women who have contributed to her musical and cultural growth, and that she has numbered among her citizens outstanding musicians whose talents have brought them recognition far and wide. I have in mind, out of the earlier period, Canon Charles Winfred Douglas, Charles Frederick Dennee, Oscar Coons, Jaroslaw de Zielinski.

Music Instruction In 1833

In the early Oswego newspapers, beginning with 1819, there is little or no mention of any musical activity in the village. However, periodically there appears an article copied from some large city newspaper referring to music in some of the larger cities in the United States and in European centers. To indicate that Oswego people early were musical we take this notice from the "Oswego Palladium" of February 13, 1833:

> "The subscriber has taken a room lately occupied as the Bethel Room in the upper story of the Buck building occupied by G. H. Woodruff & Co., in West Oswego, where he intends to give instruction in the Science of Music. The school will commence as soon as a sufficient number of pupils shall be obtained. For further particulars inquire at the shop of Mr. Jordan in West Oswego or at the office of the National Republican."*
>
> T. T. EVANS

———

In the "Oswego Palladium" of June 24, 1834 we find the following:

"Vocal and Instrumental Music"

O. H. Parker respectfully tenders his services to the inhabitants of Oswego as Instructor of Vocal and Instrumental Music, and would be happy to wait on those who may favor him with their patronage. Lessons on the Piano Forte and in singing given at his home near the corner of Taurus and Sixth Street.

"Piano Fortes tuned on short notice.

"As soon as a suitable room is obtained he will commence his juvenile class in the elements of musical elocution of which notice will be given."

In the "Oswego Palladium" of June 22, 1836:

"Mrs. J. C. Emerson, organist and pianist would respectfully inform the Ladies and Gentlemen of Oswego and its vicinity that he holds himself in readiness to instruct upon the Organ and Piano. Ten dollars per quarter.

"Refer to Rev. Mr. McCarty, Dr. Samuel Hart, Lieut. Snead, L. S. Lockwood.

"Piano supplies to order."

In the "Palladium" of July 27, 1836 we find:

Piano Music

"A large and extensive assortment of music for the piano has just been received consisting of songs, duets, marches, quadrilles, etc. The ladies are particularly invited to call at No. 3 Phoenix Building.

B. D. and A. Lane."

And in the Palladium of January 24, 1838:

"Piano Fortes.—Four Piano Fortes of Superior tone for sale. Enquire of Holden & Vincent." ———

It is obvious that there were people to teach music and to sell copies and supplies. Such advertisements appear constantly and in increasing numbers as the years go on, proving that interest in music must have developed rapidly in Oswego during the 1830s.

Public Concerts in 1850s

While records of the Village Board indicate that there was a village band** holding rehearsals in Market Hall during the 1840s sharing quarters with the "Oswego Guards," public notices through the newspapers of local musical activities are notably barren until the 1850s. Beginning with this period, space is given by the newspapers to concerts by visiting artists, notices of the Oswego Band, musical instruction by various individuals. It is apparent that some one connected with the newspapers had a decided interest in music, whether on the staff of the paper, or some person employed by the paper to give notice of these affairs. Possibly some of the work of the teachers of the 1830s was bearing fruit.***

There is no question but that one man who participated actively, and quietly, in Oswego musical circles was John A. Barry. He came to Oswego in the early 1850s. He was born in Utica, New York, in 1827. At the age

* The "National Republican" was a weekly newspaper published at that time in Oswego. It was owned by John Quincy Adams who had changed its name from that of the Oswego Democratic Gazette by which it had been earlier known. Adams withdrew his support after one year and the paper was suspended.

** From action of the Village Board taken March 26, 1838 it is clear that there was a band in Oswego as early as 1835 and that the village had purchased part of the instruments. John Edwards submitted a bill for repairing the instruments in 1835.

*** Editor's Note: John A. Barry, who became an editor of the "Palladium" in 1867, had arrived in Oswego in 1852 and opened a music store. He soon began writing for the "Palladium" and the "Times" concerning events in local musical circles. It is probable that it was Mr. Barry's work in this connection which Mr. Lally observed in the old newspapers which occasioned his remark as to evident new source of musical lore which he discovers to have become noticeable at this time.

of seventeen he was organist of St. John's Church in Utica. When he came to Oswego he opened a music store, retailing all kinds of musical merchandise. He was for a time, organist at St. Paul's Church and later organist at various other local churches. He served as musical director and accompanist for performances of Oswego talent for many years.

Evidence of another development is contained in the following article taken from the "Oswego Palladium" on January 1, 1859:

"Band From Oswego to Give Promenade Concert Ball in Pulaski During Second Week in January"

"Editorial Comment—Exactly so, Stephen! Let all the youth of ye Ancient Town come forth and proclaim ye Glad Tidings! Our Band numbers fourteen instruments and discourses the best and latest music. They propose to take a pleasure trip about the time mentioned and also intend to give an entertainment at Mannsville, Jefferson County.

"We hope the Pulaskians will give them a good reception, and we should like to join in the festivities of the occasion itself."

Traveling Artists Give Concert

During the same month Miss Juvinelia Oliva, a soprano gave a concert here to a large audience. It was "superior to any heard in a long time." The comment was: "She possesses a pleasing figure, winning smile and pretty face, a full, strong, and musical voice, and executes her pieces, chosen with exceeding good taste, with ease, grace, and talent. The accompaniments were skillfully done, with excellent taste, and in perfect time."

The "Oswego Commercial Times" of July 14, 1859 proclaimed:

"Grand Concert by Miss Caroline Richings

"We are happy to announce an entertainment of the character to be given by that talented and accomplished lady, Miss Richings, next Thursday, July 21, on which occasion she will be assisted by her father, Mr. Richings and Prof. Charles Jarvis. In addition to the gems of Italian, French, English, Scotch, and Irish composers, Miss Richings will sing La Marseillaise, Angels Bright and Ever Fair, and recite Longfellow's Hiawatha.

"We can but believe Doolittle Hall will be thronged by her friends and lovers of artistically rendered music, believing as we do that the concert will be the best, most refined, and unexceptionable musical entertainment which Oswego has had in many years, if indeed, ever. Those who heard her in 'The Daughter of the Regiment' during her recent visit here, will hear her again, and we doubt not her reputation will give her a large audience."*

"Concert
"Advertisement

"Miss Richings announces that induced by her former brilliant and enthusiastic reception in this city she will give one concert only.

"Doolittle Hall

"Cards of Admission 50 cents each."

Oswego Harmonic Association

In 1859 there appears an account of an interesting amateur organization called "The Oswego Harmonic Association." I quote from the "Palladium" concerning a concert given in Doolittle Hall by Miss Weber, Miss Sarah Grant, Miss Eliza Smith, assisted by Messrs. Bond, Beardsley, Baker, Potter, and S. Lee Conde

* Miss Richings was born in England, but came to America in early life. Her appearance here on the concert stage was followed later by a stage career. She sang in operas in the 1840s and 1850s at Philadelphia and in other cities.

(then organist at the Congregational Church.) The concert was given for the benefit of the Orphan Asylum:

"The concert was received by a large and discriminating audience. It was a brilliant performance punctuated by spirited and rapturous applause. Every part of the program was exquisitely rendered. It would be difficult to single out any one artist for special mention. However, we wish to say that the solos and duets by the ladies displayed peculiar beauty, sweetness, and compass of voice. The quartets by the gentlemen were exceptionally fine, and the orchestral performances would be hard to excel, here or elsewhere."

In August 1859 a Monsieur Mayot came to this city to form a class for musical instruction. I quote: "Mons. Mayot comes highly recommended by some of the finest musical talent in the country. Private lessons will be offered in cultivation of the voice, instrumentation, singing sacred, operatic, and secular music of all styles." Two classes, junior and senior, were formed. In the junior class for pupils under fifteen years it is interesting to note that eighty pupils appeared for the first lesson of the course. The newspaper mentions that "Although he is not yet attached to the schools, patrons and teachers encourage the undertaking." "At Monthly Musical Soirees Chantantes, assisted by talent from the city, the public will be given an opportunity to judge the proficiency of the classes."

Soiree Introduces 150 Singers

The first Monthly Soiree of the Oswego Harmonic School was held in Doolittle Hall on October 7, 1859, in which one hundred fifty singers participated. Solos, duets, quartets, and choruses were performed. A feature of the evening was the singing of the Pro Peccatis from Rossini's Stabat Mater by John M. Baker. The accomponist was John A. Barry, and the admission was twelve and a half cents. The "Oswego Commercial Times" reviews the affair as follows: "A large and respectable audience assembled and were thrilled with the concert and have high hopes of many to come. The bass solo by John M. Baker was an excellent rendition of this splendid piece of music. It is amazing to conceive that Mons. Mayot has accomplished so much with his pupils in so short a time. The singing of the children was something long to be remembered."

Virgil Became Internationally Known

Notice is given in the "Oswego Commercial Times" of another teacher of this period who later became an internationally known figure, namely Prof. A. K. Virgil, who was at one time organist of the First Presbyterian Church. After leaving Oswego, he invented the instrument known as "the Virgil Clavier," which is widely used in the leading music schools and conservatories of the world.*

Another outstanding concert of this period was one given by Miss Maria Brainerd, prima donna, at Doolittle Hall, in September, 1859. She was known to the musical world as "the Jenny Lind of America," and "is undoubtedly one of the finest vocalists known to the musical public." The accompanist for the concert was Mr. Clare W. Beames.

The following editorial appeared in the "Oswego Commercial Times" on September 28, 1859:

"To a lover of music, it is a little surprising that, abounding as this city does in good vocal musicians, no effort has been made to organize a society for the study

* The device is a key board, similar to that of a piano, which gives forth no sound when the keys are touched It is still used for practice purposes in connection with the piano.

of high class Sacred Music. Each of our churches is supplied with able singers, male and female, and it would seem the most natural tendency imaginable for a few of the most energetic to arrange for the Choirs to be brought together for the study of the Oratorio, Sacred Cantata, etc.

"To the praise of God has been devoted the best talents of the greatest composers and we have every reason to believe that the public sentiment would cordially welcome an association which would bring forward a series of concerts through the winter from Sacred Compositions of Mozart, Beethoven, Mendelssohn, Rossini, and others. Capable leaders, it is believed, reside in the city, qualified to conduct both the vocal and instrumental parts, in the most effective manner, and while such concerts would elevate and refine public taste, it would prove of lasting benefit to the persons engaged in it. The surrounding cities have nearly all such associations, and it would be extremely desirable that such a source of pure and elevating pleasure should be granted to the citizens of Oswego. It would agreeably diversify the lectures to which the people are treated during the winter, and without doubt would be found self-sustaining in a pecuniary point of view."

Oswego Philharmonic Institute

The foregoing editorial bore fruit in subsequent activities of the Oswego Philharmonic Institute which was organized in 1857. In 1858 it was incorporated. Thomas Kingsford, founder of the Oswego Starch Factory, was its first president. John B. Edwards was vice-president, Joseph B. Hubbard, secretary-treasurer, John A. Barry, musical director. The Institute had rooms in the third story of the building occupied by John Ould & Co., at the northeast corner of West First and Bridge streets. It had a membership at one time of about one hundred men and women from the various church choirs of the city and an orchestra of some fifteen. It gave several concerts to good audiences. Its programs were composed of choruses and other selections from the oratorios, The Creation, The Messiah, Judas Maccabaeus, and Glee and part songs of some of the best composers. One of its greatest successes was won at a concert which ended with Handel's Hallelujah Chorus, with over one hundred voices and an orchestra of twenty-three, led by J. Adams Smith, one of the finest violinists we had in Oswego. During the lifetime of this organization Oswego made quite an advance in musical culture, and the choirs of the various churches were witnesses of the fact.

Barry's Reminiscences

I have already mentioned the name of John A. Barry. I wish to incorporate in this article excerpts from a paper read by him before the Fortnightly Club in April, 1897, entitled "Oswego's Early Amateur Entertainments—A Reminiscence."

"In the year of grace, 1853, when the narrator first came to Oswego, it was a town of some 12,000 inhabitants, with a fine lake and canal commerce, shipyards, a starch factory, and a number of large flour mills. In the summer the town was busy, especially about the wharves, docks, and shipyards. The harbor was full of vessels and canal craft, and the elevators were run to their full capacity. In the winter the grain and commission men, the forwarders and shipowners, had little to do but enjoy themselves socially, and balls and parties were the chief amusements of as happy a community

of young middle-aged men and women, married and single, as one could find on a long journey.

"But, like all cities of its size in those days, it was almost wholly dependent for its amusement upon itself. And, as I have said, they consisted chiefly of social gatherings, dancing and sleighing parties, and suppers at Adam Oot's at Minetto, a hostelry for many years famous for its cuisine. The shipmasters' balls of those days were high grade affairs, scarcely a winter passing without one such, which was patronized by Oswego society. The 'Old Guards,' also gave famous balls, to the delight of the youth, beauty, and life of the city. So notable did those functions become, that they were often attended by guests from Syracuse, Auburn, Watertown and Utica.

Early Amusement Centers

"Sometimes a whole winter would pass without bringing to Oswego a professional show or concert. The Christie's Minstrels were among the first that found their way here. Then intermittently Buckely's Minstrels, Bryant's, the Hutchinson and Baker families, and other wandering troubadors. Some of these concerts were given at the old 'Tabernacle.' a 'little church around the corner' of West Second and Bridge Streets, on the ground where the Wright and Hunt Mill now stands.* It was afterwards called 'Franklin Hall.' The upper story of the 'Old Academy on West Third Street, now the High school, was sometimes used for public assemblages. These, with Market Hall, now the D. L. & W. Hall, for many years did all the amusement business of the city. Then came Doolittle Hall, Music Hall, Mansard Hall, and afterwards the Academy of Music, a transformation of Doolittle Hall. The decadence of the latter left us in a barren waste, until the opening of the Richardson Theater, one of the most beautiful and best appointed structures of its kind in the country.

"The way it began:

Home Talent Opera Era

"Among the amateur musical people in Oswego in 1854, were Levi Beardsley, John Bond, George Weeks, and Henry Thornton. They formed a quartet club, and after some time gave a concert in Doolittle Hall for the benefit of the Oswego Orphan Asylum. The first part of the concert was given to solos, duets, ballads, and quartets, the second, to original burlesques and extravaganzas, the inventions of Beardsley and Bond, principally the former. He had a genius for that sort of thing, which at that time developed marvellously. What Bill Nye was to literature, Beardsley was to burlesque. He was an incarnation of the spirit of the ridiculous and absurd, and to him was mainly due the popularity that afterwards came to the various amateur organizations for public amusement, with which he was connected.

"At this first concert the quartet (which, by the way was excellent in all its parts, and would be so rated today) sang principally the compositions of Stephen Foster, which were at the time first favorites. They were simple, tuneful, and harmonious, and were sung with good taste and expression. The program contained such quartets as "Come Where My Love Lies Dreaming," "Hard Times Come Again No More," "Twinkling Stars are Laughing, Love," with others of the like; operatic selections by Weeks, ballads by Henry Thornton, (his Comin' Through the Rye" was a great hit), "Meet Me by Moonlight Alone," a travesty on that then popular duet, by Beardsley and Bond; and the Tyrolean Warblers by the quartet, in which Beardsley did the yodeling to a queen's taste.

* This building stood on the site today occupied by the new Oswego Theatre. Horace Greeley gave a lecture there when he first visited Oswego in the early 1850s.

"There arose a heavy anxiety for another of those concerts, and it was given with decided acceptance and a change of program to an audience that packed Doolittle Hall from the platform to the doors. It would be hard to decide which was the more surprised and pleased by the success of those concerts, the audience or the singers. It was the beginning of a series of entertainments at considerable intervals by the quartet, the avails of which were given to the Orphan Asylum, then in its early days and urgent needs.

A Twenty-Four Hour Opera

"The success of the quartet club led to the creation of one of the most absurdly extravagant burlesques of which there is a record. The scheme was Beardsley's and it was his masterpiece. (Note: It came about as the result of a wager between Beardsley and Bond that an opera could be composed in twenty-four hours. The terms of the wager were that the arranger should be given a room containing a piano, a cooler of ice water, sandwiches, foolscap paper, a gross of full-sharpened pencils, and then let alone for twenty-four hours. As a result came the opera "Influenza de la Blatt.") The music was taken from the operas Norma, Lucretia Borgia, La Sonnambule, Semeradime, Martha and The Bronze Horse, with original connecting gems by a local director* whose name out of consideration for a modesty which is his race characteristic, I forbear to mention. The result of this collaboration was the production of the opera of La Blatt, with John Bond as the Duke de la Blatt, Levi Beardsley as Influenza de la Blatt, daughter of the Duke, George Weeks as Count Blobski, a Russian nobleman, and Henry Thornton as Corporal Columnibus, U.S.A., in the leading parts. The Duke naturally favors the Count, while, as naturally the Lady Influenza inclines toward the Corporal, whose martial bearing and ravishing tenor have quite captivated the susceptible maiden.

"Blobski is consumed with jealousy, and in impassioned songs and frenzied recitatives warns the Duke of his daughter's infatuation; urges his own devotion, descants upon his wealth, his illustrious lineage, the grandeur and power of the House of Blobski, one of the most ancient in the dominion of the Czar, and compares himself—the flower of his race—with the measley soldier who has dared to lift his eyes to the peerless Influenza. The Duke's scene with Influenza after his discovery of a "clandecent" meeting between her and the Corporal, was the piece de resistance of the opera. The grand bearing of the lordly and dominant father, the blushings, the coaxings of the fair damsel, her coy but artful efforts to induce the author of her being to give her time to search her heart so that she may know whether it may be possible to kindle and keep a flame for Blobski, were all quite affecting. Finally the Duke, in a magnificent basso profundo recitative, breaks forth with:

> "O Influenza, ungrateful daughter, is it thus you requite me love? Me Cheild, me Influenza, image of thy sainted mother, tell, O tell me, Dost thou love the soldier?"
>
> Influenza—"Pa, O Pa, I dust. Slay me if thou wilt, but I love the military!"
>
> Duke—"O madness, O despair, O golly!"

"The end is peace. Influenza marries Tommy Columnibus, who turns out to be the Duke of Minetto, traveling incog., while the rejected Blobski unmasks as a Weehawken barber, with three wives extant.

Plot Not Wholly Original

"The plot of the opera was not quite original—no more the

* Barry.

music, but the acting, especially that of Beardsley and Bond, was the very ecstacy of farcical comedy. There may be some in this city now, and mayhap some who read these lines, who saw and heard the first performance of LaBlatt, and who retain remembrance of the fun of it.

"The most striking feature of the affair was the dressing of the Duke of Influenza. Bond was a fine specimen of physical manhood. In getting up his dress, his mother studied pictures of the court costumes of Louis XVI, and she and her interested friends in society, succeeded in robing the Duke gorgeously. For Levi they were lavish. Influenza fairly blazed in brocade silk, Spanish lace, powdered hair, a tiara and necklace of diamonds and other jewels. She walked, talked, acted and sang the part admirably. Bond's pomposity was phenomenal. He was gorgeous and immense.

John Bond's "Tom Foolery"

"The Hon. Thomas H. Bond, John's father, was a man of mark in his day, and one of Oswego's prominent citizens. He was stubbornly opposed to his son's appearance on the stage in any capacity, and he never could be induced to see what he called "John's tomfoolery." Mrs. Bond, on the contrary, was quite proud of her son's performances, and she devoted a month of active work to her costuming of John and Levi. The Bonds lived at the Munger House, on the site of the present Second National Bank.* The morning before the date set for the presentation of La Blatt, Mr. Bond pere had gone to his office. As soon as he was out of sight, Mrs. Bond called John to her room and had just arrayed him in his ducal robes, when her husband returned for a paper which he had forgotten. When he entered the room he stopped short, threw himself into a chair, and turned to Mrs. Bond with "Well, Betsey, are you trying to make a damnder fool of that boy than God Almighty has already made him?"

How A Faked Subpoena Helped

"At this time John Bond was a lieutenant in the Revenue Marine Service, and the hailing port of the revenue cutter—I think it was the Howell Cobb—was Oswego. Soon afterward the cutter was ordered to Boston Harbor, and the opera company lost its left bower, so to speak. Bond came here some time afterward on a short leave. There was an urgent request for a reproduction of La Blatt. Bond's leave expired and he had to go. Beardsley was nonplussed. He was dead set for another night of the opera. He must get Bond back. Lieut. Bond was regularly served with an irregular subpoena, purporting to have been issued out of the Supreme Court of the State of New York, which commanded John Bond to be and appear on a day and hour specified, in the Court House of the City of Oswego, to give evidence in the case of Somebody vs. Somebody, and to fail not at his peril. Bond came, the opera was given with increased success."

An off-shoot of the La Blatt Opera Company was the Timbuctoo Nightingales, an amateur minstrel organization after the manner of the Christie's. It gave several entertainments for various charities and for a time had some vogue. Bearsdley was the master spirit of the Company. It had a membership of fifteen or twenty singers, dancers, players, and farcical actors, and it gave some quite fancy performances. "The Timbuctoos" came to an untimely end, however. They had such faith in themselves and the excellence of their show, that they determined to try it on Watertown. They tried it. They played to a beggarly account of empty benches, and walked home. This closed out the "Timbuc-

* Today the location of the East side branch of the First and Second National Bank and Trust Company of Oswego.

toos," and ended the days of the amateur negro minstrelsy for that period.

Two Famous Names of Early Period

While in this paper, I intended to end with 1860, and deal solely with music within the city, I should like to mention certain persons who were in Oswego during this period and left for wider fields. Their subsequent achievements may be said to have grown out of the formative period under discussion. They gained fame in other centers, but their presence here is of historic interest to us.

Jaroslaw de Zielinski was born in Galicia in 1847, was graduated from Warsaw Conservatory with degree of Bachelor of Music. He came to America in 1864, and served in the Civil War. After his discharge from the service he came to Oswego where he was organist of St. Mary's Church during 1866-67. There are several people still living today who were members of a Young Ladies Choir at St. Mary's organized by de Zielinski. In the next few years he went to New York City where he was very successful as a teacher and concert pianist. In later years his work took him to Grand Rapids, Michigan, to Detroit, and to Buffalo. In 1910 he founded in Los Angeles a Music School and Trio Club. He was an editor for the Hatch Music Co., Theodore Presser Co. of Philadelphia, and was an accomplished pianist. He composed effectively for the piano and wrote numerous articles on Russian and Polish music.

Oscar Coons Born Here

Another name that has carried Oswego to all parts of the music world is Oscar Coons. Born in Oswego in 1833, and spending his entire life in music, Coons was an editor, compiler and author. He wrote and published a splendid book on Harmony and Instrumentation, compiled a Pocket Standard Dictionary of Musical Terms, edited a Catechism of Music on the plan of J. C. Lobe. Deems Taylor, internationally known composer, editor, and critic, was a pupil of Oscar Coons and in his book "Of Men and Music" devotes an entire chapter entitled "Guide and Philosopher" to the memory of this Oswego musician. Oscar Coon played second trumpet in the famous Patrick Gilmour Band, later with Cappas Seventh Regiment Band, and also played trombone in the Metropolitan Opera House Orchestra.

In conclusion, I wish to say that this paper, though but an inadequate glimpse into the past, will serve as a stepping-stone to further research, and as a basis for an account of subsequent growth and development in the decades which followed.

Old "Market House," Oswego's First City Hall

(Paper Read Before Oswego County Historical Society at Oswego, November 16, 1943, by Miss Marion Mahar of the Faculty of the Oswego State Teachers College.)

The building of the Market House, the first municipal building to be constructed in the village of Oswego, can not be properly understood unless viewed against the rapid growth of the community in the third decade of the nineteenth century; a growth which was part of a general trend throughout the Republic since it resulted from the westward movement, the rapid development of internal improvements and easy credit. For this reason a brief review of the development of the village from 1828 to 1835 is necessary.

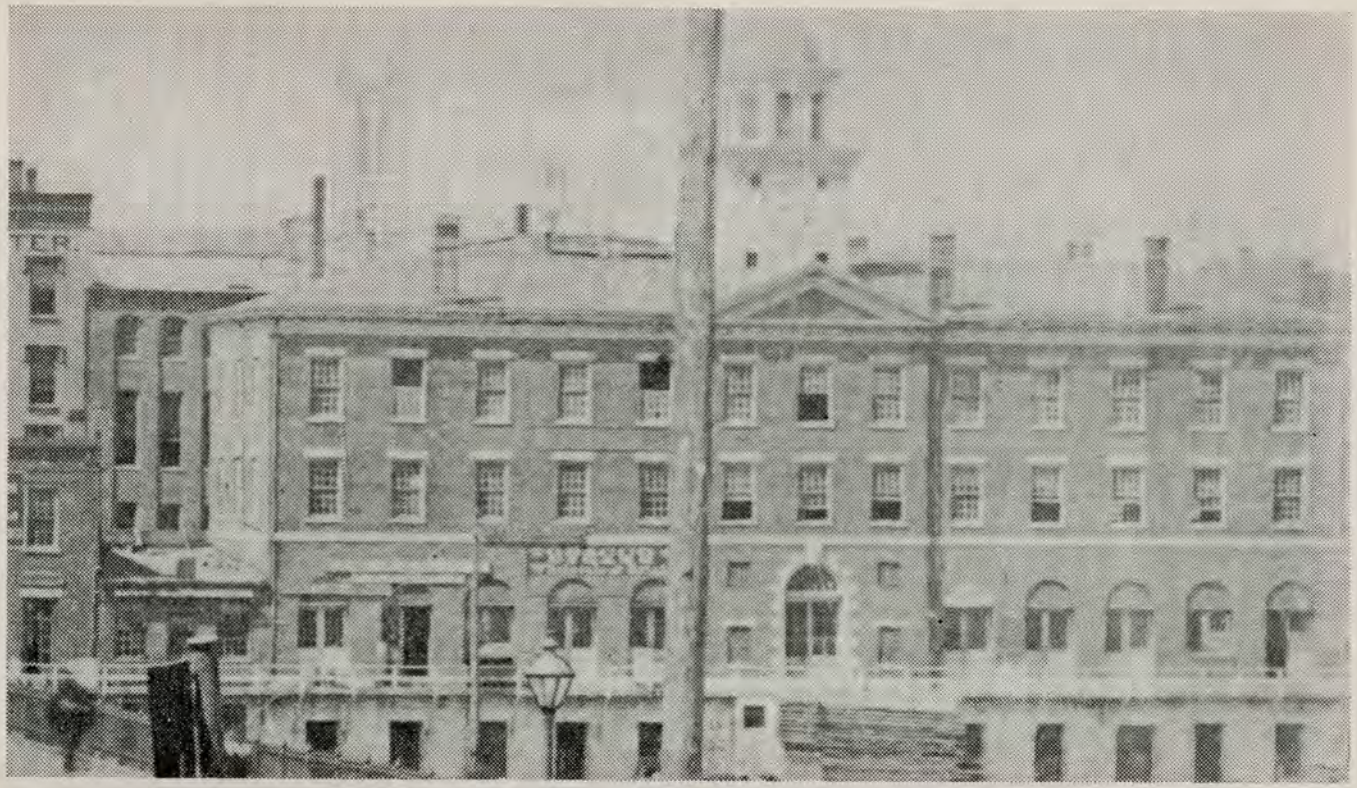
Oswego which in 1829 was a small frontier village raising yearly by general tax, a sum not exceeding 300 dollars for general village expenses, experienced between the opening of 1833 and the close of 1836, a sudden and terrific land boom. This was due chiefly to the opening of the West to settlement which sent thousands of prospective settlers and their freight moving westward through the Erie canal and Oswego. The Oswego-Syracuse canal had been completed in 1828 and the Welland Canal was opened for traffic in 1830. This led to a demand for an "all-American" canal around Niagara Falls and for the enlargement of the canal within the State. One proposal was the construction of a "steam-boat" canal from Oswego to Utica, by way of Oneida Lake. This followed the old colonial route to the frontier and found support against an "enlarged Erie" canal not only within the state but in Chicago and Detroit as well.

Oswego Boom of Early 1830's

The years 1831 to 1836 had been prosperous for Oswego. Tolls collected on the Oswego canal had increased from $16,271 in 1831 to $30,436. The population had risen from 2,117 to 7,000. The East Village could boast of the Oswego Hotel, a large four story brick edifice standing on the southeast corner of East Bridge and First Streets and the West village of the Welland House located on the southwest corner of Cayuga and West First streets, and the American Hotel,* site not located, all doing a thriving business; two banks, the Oswego and the Commercial were in existence and a railroad company had been formed to construct a line from Oswego to Utica.

Gerrit Smith had begun in 1830 the development of the Cove property in East Oswego. In 1834 the West village extended First street from Schuyler street to the outer harbor, built there a public wharf, opened Second and Third, Fourth and Fifth streets north of Seneca to the lake and constructed public wharves at the foot of Seneca and Cayuga streets. The next year a section of land lying partly on the river and partly on the outer harbor which had been reserved by the state at the time of the original survey for "fortifications," was sold at public auction at phenomenal prices. One portion which

* This may have stood on West Seneca street between First and Second streets, as old residents recall that the crumbling remains of an old hotel were observable there many years ago.



OLD MARKET HOUSE
Erected in 1836, It Became Oswego's First City Hall in 1848

had been divided into 12 lots brought $47,842 and the second portion, about 3 acres lying between First Street and the River and Schuyler and the Harbor, was struck off at $108,850. These were great prices but such was the confidence in the future of the village that the editor of "Oswego Palladium" could write with confidence: "No landed interest which the state has reserved in our western towns bears any comparison in value to that of Oswego. There is not a foot of it which can not be resold at great advance."

Additional proof of the growth of the village was the erection in 1837 of the United States Hotel at West Seneca and Seventh streets, and the founding of the "Oswego Commercial Herald" and the "Oswego County Whig," both in 1837, the year of the completion of the Market Building. The little village appeared to be making rapid strides towards substantial greatness. It was in this atmosphere that the Market Hall, later to be known as the "First City Hall," was planned and begun.

Determine Site For Market

The building which stands today on the east side of West Water Street between Market and Bridge streets was erected on what was then known as "Market Block 26", a section of a piece of land lying on the west bank of the River between Bridge (Cancer) and Cayuga (Gemini) streets and the River and First Street. The improvement of this area had been begun in 1829. A public dock adjacent to Market Block 26 and extending to the south line of Bridge street was constructed at a cost of $1,367.88. The two portions west of Water Street, one to the north and the other to the south of Market Street (then known as Market Avenue and 44 feet wide) were divided each into 16 Market lots all 22 by 50 feet, half fronting on Water Street and half fronting on West First street.

The 16 lots in the north portion were offered for sale by the Trustees July 1, 1829. Lot No. 1 brought $870 and No. 9 $700. The section north of Market and east of Water street was divided into two lots of 66 feet each but not leased at public auction until 1833. The north lot went to Christian J. Burckle at $1,650, the lot adjoining to the south to Francis Rood for $1,025, the remaining 44 feet was retained by the village. All lands sold were in reality leased for a 999 year period and paid an annual rent, the smaller lots of $30, the larger of $90. No slaughter house, tannery or furnace was to be erected on the premises leased.

Lot Sales Provided Building Fund

The third sale, that of the sixteen market lots from No. 17 to 32 inclusive did not take place until 1835 in the midst of the land boom. The same village meeting, that of April 21, 1835, which authorized the construction of the Market House, gave its approval to this sale by public auction June 10, 1935 at the Welland House in West Oswego. The sum realized was to be devoted to the improvement of the streets and erection of the Market Hall. As reported in the Village records, the sale of lots in the South section of the Market lots, June 10, 1835 resulted as follows*:

No. Lot	Purchaser	Rent	Price
17	Moses P. Hatch	$30	$1,010
18	Ulysses G. White	30	685
19	Eli Stevengos	30	600
20	Abraham T. Evertson	30	575
21	David Harmon	30	555
22	F. T. Carrington	30	540
23	Daniel Griffin	30	810
24	Daniel Griffin	30	1,610
25	Moses P. Hatch	30	670
26	Wm. H. VanHorne	30	470
27	Erie Poor	30	435
28	A. T. Evertson	30	415

29	Wm. Lewis, Jr.	30	405
30	F. T. Carrington	30	450
31	Bronson & Crocker	30	595
32	Bronson & Crocker	30	595
	Total	$480	$10,920

*—(Village Records 1828-1848 p. 180).

Vote To Erect Market

In 1865 when the Common Council was considering a possible site for a new City Hall, a member reminded the Council that the first City Hall, the Market House, had been built exclusively from funds furnished by West Oswego and argued that any new building should therefore, by right, be located on the west side of the River. This claim was based on the fact that the construction of the Market House was largely financed by the income derived from the leases and rents of the Market Block lots.

The decision to erect a Market Hall was made at a meeting of the freeholders and inhabitants held April 21, 1835 at 2 P. M. at the American Hotel. The date of this meeting had been set two weeks previous at the annual meeting for the election of village officers. The Village President, Daniel W. Cole, presided and Messrs. Joseph Grant, Orlo Steele, Ulysses G. White, Francis Rood and Moses P. Hatch, five of the seven Trustees were present. Judge Turrill offered two resolutions: That the President and Trustees be authorized to lease the whole or any portion of the Market Ground west of Water Street which had not already been leased by the corporation; That the President and Trustees be authorized to construct and build a Market House out of the moneys derived from the Market Ground.

Built on Plan of Albany Building

These two resolutions were accepted and the trustees, were given the power to call another meeting to report on the state of the funds if they deemed it expedient. Two days later at a meeting of the Board, the President appointed a committee consisting of the President and Messrs. Rood and Steele to procure plans for the building and to estimate the expense entailed. On June 4, this Committee submitted the plan of the Albany Market Building situated on South Pearl Street, and recommended its adoption, with some slight alterations in the internal arrangements, as the plan of the Oswego Market House. The plan was adopted and the President appointed a new committee consisting of the President and Messrs. Rood and White with power to choose the location, advertise for bids for erection and make the necessary arrangements for the building's immediate erection.

Bonesteel Given Contract

On June 22, 1835, the President was authorized to negotiate with Jacob N. Bonesteel for constructing the building. The building was to cost $7,965,* to be enclosed by December 1, and fully completed by May 1, 1836. The contract made with Mr. J. N. Bonesteel, with Messrs. Luther Wright and Samuel Hawley as security, was accepted by the Board July 9.

The site chosen was Block 26, the south-east portion of the Market Block. Since the building of the wharf in 1829, the Corporation had spent jointly with the Bridge Corporation $1,100 in removing the toll house on the bridge, filling in land at the west end of the bridge and constructing a wall upon which the new toll house was to rest. Consequently no extensive work, preparatory to the erection of the building was necessary.

* This sum seems very small even for the two-story building at first contemplated. However at that time a day's wage was but 75 cents and other costs were low in proportion.

The work was begun. The original plan called for a two story building but under the infuence of rising land values and the conviction that the vilage stood upon the threshold of a great destiny, the Board voted March 10. 1836 that the contractor be instructed to add a third story. The faith and enthusiasm of the Board was shared by the inhabitants. On April 27, a committee representing the Mechanics Association requested that they might be permitted to place a bell in the cupola on condition that they be permitted to ring it when they chose.

Cupola And Clock Provided

This proposal does not appear to have been accepted, for the purchase price of $600 for a bell was included in the cost of the building, but the proposal apparently moved the committee on construction to instruct the contractor, "so to modify the contract that the cupola it shall be made sufficiently capacious and strong for the purpose of hanging a bell therein."

The idea of a village bell was, however, not new. Since May 1829 the corporation had paid to have a bell in one of the city churches* rung three times each day, at 9 o'clock A. M., at noon and at 9 P. M., Sundays excepted, and also in case of fire.

It may be that the cupola as originally designed was to house a bell only since there is no record of a new proposal relative to installing a clock. A contract for a clock was negotiated for with Jekiel Clarke in which he agreed to accept in payment $450, one third down and the balance in two equal annual payments with interest, October 9, 1837, one month after he and his son had installed it in the cupola.

*Old First Presbyterian which at this time possessed the only church bell in Oswego. The bell ringer was paid $13 a quarter for performing this service. Daniel Thompson was the first bell ringer.

The wood and stone used in the work of constructing the Market were secured locally, the stone being furnished by Moses P. Hatch who had quarries on the public land lying west of Second and north of Schuyler streets and who furnished 212 cords of stone for the foundation at $4.50 a cord for which he was assigned two market leases of $1,829 at their par value, rent not included. Of the source of the brick I have found no record.* The policy of assigning market leases as part payment was also pursued with Mr. Bonesteel who accepted two in partial payment for extra construction work done and with U. G. White who was given one market lease in part payment for painting the Market.

"Second Only To Faneuil Hall"

The building was nearing completion at the close of January 1837. The committee, employing the services of several competent builders, found the work with some trifling exceptions, executed according to the contract and April 26, 1837 the retiring President, Mr. George H. McWhorter, who had served in that capacity during the entire period of the market's construction since he was chosen by the Board October 17, 1835 to fill the vacancy occasioned by the resignation of President Cole and was elected President at the annual meeting April 5, 1836, gave a report on the condition and cost of the building. It was nearly completed, sufficiently so for occupation, the stone steps and lamp for the main entrance, the bell and clock were yet to be installed. The cost of the third story had been double that originally estimated but the addition had been undertaken at the desire of the public and the edifice was an ornament to the village "surpassing any similar public

*The brick probably came from local kilns of which there were a number in the vicinity.

building in our country save only Faneuil Hall at Boston".

The total cost of the Market Building was $17,777.09. The receipts from the sale of the Market ground were $13,082.24, its unused assets $2,830.25, the debt was therefore, $1,864.90, but since the building would prove immediately a source of revenue, the rents of the ensuing year yielding probably $1,100, in a brief period, the president predicted, it would be contributing to the annual resources of West Oswego.

Panic Makes Mortgage Necessary

The building embodying the pride and faith of the community and determined upon at the heighth of the boom in 1835 was completed in the midst of the Panic of 1837 and President McWhorter gave as his parting recommendation to the Village Board that no future public works be undertaken either by contract or otherwise without a previous estimate, assessment and collection of the expenses incident thereto. His successor President David P. Brewster secured June 16, 1837 authority from the Board to borrow $6,000 at a rate of interest not exceeding 7 per cent, payable semi-annually for a period of not less than five or more than 20 years with which to meet the unpaid costs of constructing the market building. The loan was made by Isaac Bronson of New York City and he took as part of his security a mortgage on the Barket Building and market lot.

For the next nine months the minutes of the Board meetings were crowded with expenditures amounting to over $1,000 incidental to fitting the building for use. There is no hint that the trustees considered the basic costs of erection excessive, but at the annual meeting of April 3, 1838 a resolution was carried stating that the practice of the Board in letting contracts to members of their own body was liable to be adverse to the interests of the village and should never be allowed. Moses P. Hatch a trustee in 1834, '35 and '37 had furnished the stone for the foundation at a cost of $954 and Ulysses G. White, trustee in '35 and '36 had the contract for painting the Market, total account $579.01; but the criticism appears to have been directed against John W. Turner, trustee in 1836, arising out of litigation concerning the grading of First street in East Oswego for which he had been awarded a contract November 28, 1836 while serving as trustee and by a committee of which he was a member.

Description Of Market House

The three story building designated as "the Market House" in the Village Ordinances of 1837 has all the characteristics of good architecture, unity, simplicity of design, good proportions and structural features suited to its functions and since few of us have probably ever examined it with care, it merits a description. The ground floor is a series of arches, five on either side of the main entrance arch both on the Water street and River sides and three on the north and south faces. These all served as entrances to the market "stalls" north of the main entrance and to offices south of it, from a porch surrounding the entire ground floor, interrupted only on the Water street side by a flight of stone steps leading to the main entrance. The second and third stories have both a row of large windows one over each arch and three over the east and west main entrance arches, extending around all four sides. The center entrance sections, twenty-six feet in width and comprising about one-fifth of both the west and east facades, project about one foot beyond the main walls thus breaking what would otherwise have been a monotonous series of arches. The roof of

this section is slightly higher than the main portion and terminates in rather a flat gable.

Building Fronted On River

The main entrance door, which is exactly the same on both the east and west facades, is truly beautiful. The glass in the arch above it is cut and leaded together to represent the meridians intersecting the globe. This design was carried out also over the main doors of the interior. The side towards the River was considered the front of the building, whereas in modern times the Water street entrances have been principally used in entrance and egress.

The first floor was originally divided into three main sections, the entrance hall on each side of which a circular staircase located close to the Water Street wall, ascended to the second and third stories; this hall opened directly into a large almost square room facing the river called after 1848 "the Library"; the sections to the north and south of this central portion are of equal size. In both were eight wooden pillars, four to a row and resting in the basement on stone piers supporting an arched ceiling.

The second story has two main rooms extending from East to West the full width of the building to the South the larger room, the South Hall or "the Hall" and to the north a somewhat smaller room. The two were connected by a corridor of considerable length. On the east side a long narrow room* fills in the remaining space between the two halls, and on the west a smaller room the space between the staircase and the North Hall.

The third floor was a single room thirty-three feet in width and one hundred and twenty-four in length. The ceiling of this room was arched and in the center was 13½ feet high. The editor of the "Oswego Commercial Herald" described its acoustic properties May 31, 1837 in the following terms: "Such is the destinctness of sound that the ordinary noise made by a pen in writing on paper at one end of the room is heard with perfect clearness at the other, and a whisper is entirely audible."

Wharf Users Occupied Basement

On the river side the basement was above the ground; the thresholds of the thirteen cellar doors, one under each of the ten arches and three in the central entrance section, were flush with the market or public dock which ran along the river opposite the Market. On the north side, and no doubt on the south also, are two full basement doors under the two arches nearest the river since the land sloped abruptly to the dock. Under the arch adjacent to Water street is a half size window. An income was, of course, anticipated by the village fathers from this part of the building since the lesee of any section of the market wharf leased also a section of the basement in the Market House.

An open area lay to the north and to the south of the building since the south forty-four feet of Market Block beyond Market street was not leased until December 1847 and immediately upon the completion of the Market Ulysses G. White secured a lease of the open area south of the market for the term of one year at $15.

Fire House Addition Built In 1844

The present building which adjoins the Market Building on the south, part of which is now occupied by the Montcalm Dock Company as an office, was not built until 1844. It was erected as a double fire engine house two stories high above the basement and, as can be clearly seen or observed from the bridge, was one half the depth of the present

* This room in later years was partitioned into three smaller rooms.

structure. The addition now fills the open space which gave free access to the wharf from Water and Bridge streets in early days. In its original setting the building did not appear, as it does today, as having been jammed into a narrow alley. Water street was 38 feet wide.

Post Office More Than 20 Years

It was anticipated that the Market building would be a source of revenue to West Oswego. The first lessee to take possession May 1, 1837 was Samuel Hawley, the village postmaster, who had applied for a two year lease of the South end of the Market October 17, 1836. In fading lettering the words Post Office can be seen today over the arch on the south west corner of the building and the stone door-sill below it, is much worn. At the expiration of the two years Hawley renewed the lease and then, after citizens had petitioned Washington for his removal, resigned as Postmaster as a result of the "Caroline affair." John H. Lord, founder of the "Palladium" thereupon was appointed postmaster.

Hawley, long prominent in local politics and later elected to the State Assembly, was accused of being an ardent and active sympathizer with the Canadian Patriots then in rebellion against the British crown and deeply involved in an American "patriot" expedition fitted out at Oswego in direct contravention of the national goverment's Neutrality Law and policy. It was asserted that arms to be sent on the expedition were stored in a section of the basement beneath the Post Office and that Hawley witnessed the loading of the two schooners, the "Charlottee of Oswego" and "Charlotte of Toronto," which took place at the Market Dock in plain view of the Post Office windows. As a high ranking, local Federal officer, Hawley was criticized for not acting in an endeavor to thwart these contemplated acts against a country with which the United States was at peace.

"Patriot" Sympathy Forced Retirement

This sensational episode may have created a belief that the Post Office should be moved to other quarters since at the annual meeting of the Village Board in April 1842 a resolution was adopted stating that the Post Office and Custom House ought to be located in the Market Building, because it was convenient for all having business at either office and that the postmaster of the village and the United States Collector of Customs at this port be requested to rent their offices in said building. Three weeks later the newly elected Board designated the Clerk a committee of one to wait upon these gentlemen. The postmaster was persuaded and the two south sections continued to be used as Oswego Post Office until 1859 when the Post Office was moved to the new Federal Building then just completed.

When the Market building was nearing completion J. N. Bonesteel* who had held the contract for its construction, applied for a two year lease of a part of the Market wharf, a section of the basement and one section of the ground floor. This he secured at a rent of $700 for the first and $900 for the second year.

Market Clerk and Prison Keeper

The north portion of the ground floor was designed as a market similar to that which existed at Faneuil Hall in Boston in pre-Revolutionary days and yet flourishes there today. The five stalls were leased at auction for one year at a minimum price of $50 April 20, 1837 and were designed for the sale of fish, meats and vegetables. Webster S. Steele

* The later day representatives of this family use the spelling "Bonsteel," but in the old village records it appeared as "Bonesteel."

began his services as clerk of the market and keeper of the village prison,* located in the central portion of the basement May 1, 1837, but the market did not open until later in the month.

Its opening intensified the existing rivalry between the residents of the East and West sections of the village and this rivalry appears to have contributed to the financial failure of the building in the period 1837-1848. The final work of the Village Board of 1837 had been the publication of the Village Ordinances. Sections 51-72, inclusive, related to the Market. Section 51 read as follows: "The Market House erected on Water street in West Oswego shall be called the Market House of the Village and the butchers and victuallers thereof shall be subject to the following regulations—no person shall sell or offer for sale at any place in said village, except at the aforesaid Market House, and at such stalls or stands as may hereafter be licensed or established by the Board of Trustees, any fresh meat, except the offals of hogs sold by persons being packers of pork, and except fish, venison and wild game, under the penalty for each offense of $10 and excepting a farmer who may sell at any place fresh meats raised and fatted on his own farm, by the quarter or greater quantity."

Market Ordinances Modified

In the spring of the following year a meeting was held in East Oswego to petition for the repeal of the foregoing ordinance insofar as it related to East Oswego and on June 11, 1838 the ordinance was amended to permit persons not licensed butchers to sell meat from wagons during market hours on Wednesdays and Saturdays in East Oswego in First street south of the south line of Bridge street and between the eastern curb stone and the center of the street and in West Oswego in front of the Market between the eastern curb stone and the center of Water street and between the center and south curb stone of Market street. This amendment was directed to be published in hand bill form. The next year the ordinances were amended to permit the selling of fresh meat in East Oswego at all hours, in all places and in any quantity, on everyday except Sunday.

The Trustees who passed these ordinances represented the residents of both sections of the village and it would appear that these provisions were designed to promote the convenience of the villagers rather than to create a West village monopoly.

Early Town Meetings in Hotels

Before the building of the Market, the annual meetings of the village were held at one of the three hotels. The first to be held in the new building assembled there in January 29, 1838 at 7 p. m., in the room designated as the "public room," probably the South Hall on the second floor since the Board granted a certain Mr. Barrett later in the year permission to use the South Hall for the purpose of delivering a course of "grammatical lectures" at times not interfering with public meetings. The north room

* This arrangement did not continue long, however, the position being separated into two jobs, one as the clerk of the market to which Charles C. Rumrill was appointed August 6, 1838, as successor to Robert N. Barber, the position paying a salary of $80 a year, and the other as keeper of the prison, which W. S. Steele continued to fill. April 12, 1838, the Board had added to the duties hitherto performed by the market clerk and keeper of the prison the duties of the caring for and winding of the town clock and keeping "the passages, public rooms and unoccupied stalls in the market building swept and clean." For all these services he was to be allowed 75 cents a day. For feeding prisoners 18¾ cents a meal was allowed the jailer. The jailer also occupied living quarters in the jail. Oct. 23, 1838, the jail and its living quarters were leased to Oswego County for one year at $300.

on the second story had been leased as a library and lecture room rent free shortly after the building was opened to the Mechanics Association of the Village. The two smaller rooms on the second floor may have served as the Police Office and office of the Clerk of the market, although both were later in the south unleased section of the market, and the room back of the ground floor entrance hall served as the "Corporation Room."

Before the building was completed Messers. Russell and Lyne requested from the Board a one year lease to the upper story for use as a theater. A remonstrance against this and a petition in opposition to the remonstrance were immediately made to the Board. Messrs. Russell and Lyne were finally authorized to produce their theatrical entertainments but I have not yet found the date on which the first was presented.

Drill Hall for Oswego Guards

The name of the Oswego Guards organized July 19, 1838, is often associated with the building since the third floor did later serve both as drill hall and as the scene of their annual balls but the trustees very reluctantly permitted them the use of the building for the latter purpose.* In 1848 the Village Corporation secured for the Guards 60 stands of arms, tents and camp equipment from the State Commissary General on condition that they be kept in the Market Building subject at all times if not in actual use to inspection. Shortly afterwards the Guards tried to secure a gun room in the building. This was granted and then countermanded and finally the old engine house south of the market was assigned as a "gun house." When this was sold to make way for the new two-story engine house, twenty feet of the south end of the third story of the Market House was partitioned off for their use and shortly afterwards in answer to a petition from a large number of inhabitants, the Oswego Brass Band was also granted the use of this section of the hall. Not until 1852* was the third floor granted the Guards as a drill room for one evening of each week and this was rescinded in the next year.

"The Black Hole"

The central section of the basement was, as previously stated, fitted up as a village jail or lock-up known locally as "the Black Hole."** A year after the completion of the building the County Board of Supervisors upon the receipt of permission from the State Legislature, leased from the Village the right to use this jail as the county was at the time without a jail of its own, paying $300 annual rent in 1838 and $150 from 1839 to a date not determined. During 1838, 19 soldiers committed to this jail by Lieut. Temple their commanding officer, for desertion and disorderly conduct were received and discharged. Two prisoners of international fame were later lodged there temporarily. Bill Johnson, the "Canadian pirate" on the St. Lawrence and an outlaw after the Patriot war, was lodged there overnight by the Federal authorities while en route to Auburn, for arraignment in Federal Court after his arrest at

*The Guards had used the third floor as a drill hall, however, in the early days following their organization. They gave their annual ball there in January 1844. There had been a band in Oswego earlier than 1835, the village having purchased some of the instruments. These were loaned to the Oswego Guards, evidently then intent upon organizing a band, through a petition addressed to the Village Board September 2, 1838.

** By the provisions of section 108 of the village ordinances the room in the south end of the market basement had been set aside as the prison. June 16, 1837, the Board amended the section so as to declare that "the apartment in the basement beneath the centre of the building which has been fitted up for a prison, be and the same hereby is declared to be the village prison."

Ogdensburg as he was fleeing for safety following the Battle of Wind Mill Point. Benjamin Lett, whose arrest at one time led to diplomatic correspondence between the United States, Great Britain and Canada was confined there awaiting trial after his attempt to blow up the Steamboat Great Britain at her Oswego Dock in 1840.

There was no county jail in Oswego until 1853. The occasional prisoners were kept in the Market prison and the more permanent ones sent to Pulaski to be held there.

Mass Meetings at Time of Patriot War

During the latter part of the year in which the Market House was completed and in the early months of 1838, the inhabitants of Oswego were passionately aroused over the "Patriot War" and the Neutrality Act passed by Congress at the suggestion of President Van Buren. Following receipt of news in Oswego of the destruction in the Niagara River of the United States-owned Steamboat "Caroline" by British officials, a large number of citizens actively sympathized with the Canadian rebels, engaged in running arms across the lake and catually courted war with Great Britain. Two schooners, both known as "Charlotte," engaged in running arms, had been loaded at the Market wharf in November, 1838, and following the news of their seizure near Ogdensburg by United States authorities. excitement ran very high in Oswego.

Following the abortive expedition against Prescott in November, 1838, a group of citizens in sympathy with the government's neutrality policy met in the South Hall of the Market House and drew up resolutions approving President Van Buren's neutrality proclamation, condemning all movements and secret associations which disturbed the tranquility of the frontier, voicing abhorrence to war with Great Britain and denying the claim made in several American and Canadian papers that the expedition against Prescott was publicly fitted out at the Port of Oswego. David P. Brewster, president of the village in the preceding year from April, 1837, to April, 1838, during which time the Market Building was completed, spoke eloquently in favor of the resolutions which were signed by 115 citizens and forwarded to the United States Congress.

The following Saturday afternoon Patriot sympathizers met in the same hall* and drew up resolutions affirming their allegiance to the principles of the Declaration of Independence, condemning search and seizure of persons and property on suspicion, denouncing American officers who fired upon American citizens "both in Canadian and American waters and assisted a blood-thirsty, cruel and tyrannical government in the capture of an American schooner" and secured a long list of signatures for a petition to Congress begging the repeal or modification of the Neutrality Law.

Monroe's Reception Planned

A meeting of a more peaceful nature took place in the Market

*Public meetings in Market hall were becoming so numerous as to create a real problem for George Skinner who had been appointed October 15, 1838, to have charge of the Market building. Among Skinner's duties fixed by the Village Board were "to keep the unoccupied stalls, the passages and public rooms swept and clean, that he have the key of the South hall and furnish the same with light and fuel at his own expense and that he open the same for public meetings when requested by the citizens . . and that he be permitted to demand and receive from persons wishing to occupy said room the sum of $2 for each time it may be so occupied as remuneration for lighting the room and entrance. It shall also be his duty to see that the fire and lights are carefully extinguished and the room closed after every meeting." For all this work he was to be paid $25.00 a year.

the following summer. On August 29 a large and respectable public meeting of the citizens was held in the South Hall to plan for the reception of Ex-president Monroe who was then at Sackett's Harbor and who was expected to arrive at Oswego on the following day aboard the government S. S. Oneida. He landed at the outer harbor but was not entertained at the Market House.*

Water Street Activity Center

Water street was at that time the center of the business life of West Oswego. Public wharves extended along both east and west sides of the inner harbor and merchandize unloaded for transshipment on lake boats included flour, pork, lard, butter, cheese, grain, salt, wood, brick, stone, sand, planks, boards, scantlings, sawn or hewn timber, shingles and fence posts. Steamboats and other craft landed passengers at the foot of Cayuga street and omnibuses and carriages awaited the passengers "west of the plank walk in Water street." The less fortunate arrivals, immigrants often sick and destitute en route to the West, were frequently a burden to the Village. Danger of fire along the water front was very great and the amounts expended in fitting out the fire companies and upon the improvement of the streets far exceeded that spent upon the Market Building.

It had been hoped that the Market rents would afford an additional village income but they did not yield enough to cancel any but a very small portion of the mortgage upon the building.** The corporation paid about $420 yearly in interest. In 1846 the President was obliged to borrow the interest money and make a note payable to S. H. Lathrop at Luther Wright's bank. At the expiration of the ten year period January 1, 1848, the Board authorized the President, D. C. Littlejohn, to renew until January 1, 1853, the original loan, that is $5,000 of the original $6,000, made by Isaac Bronson of New York City.

Market Becomes City Hall

The name of the building was changed in 1848 upon the chartering of the city government from "Market House" to "City Hall." The first action taken by the Common Council was to procure rooms for the Common Council, Recorders Court and Supreme Court, when in session in the city. The South Hall of the former Market Building was fitted up for the Supreme Court, the room to the east of the corridor was prepared for the use of the Recorder while holding police court, the room to the west, across the corridor, became the City Collector's (chamberlain's) office and the room on the north end occupied since 1837 by the Mechanics and Merchants Association was converted into the Common Council Chamber. These rooms comprised the entire second story. The members called the Chamber the Common Council "Hall." A portrait of the first mayor, James Platt, was hung in it and the dignity which attended its proceedings is affirmed in the recording of the Mayor's "Inaugural" and "Valedictory" adresses from 1848 until this paper ends with the installation of the city offices in the new City Hall.

* President Van Buren, while still in office, visited Oswego on August 30th, 1839. A citizen's meeting was held at Market Hall to make plans for his reception. A large reception committee of citizens was named at the meeting. A reception for the President was given at the Welland House after the President had spoken to the citizenry from the balcony. The President was entertained over night by George H. McWhorter, Collector of the Port of Oswego and ranking Federal officer in Oswego at the time. The McWhorter home still stands at 69 East Mohawk street.

** Considerable portions of the money received from the sale or rent of the Market lots were used for street improvements and not to defray the cost of constructing the Market. The $5,000 balance yet due on the Market debt when the village government ceased to exist finally was paid off by the city government.

The room to the east had been divided to provide a City Clerk's office. The expense entailed was $439.98. A room on the third floor was later provided for the library, furniture and general use of the Mechanics' Association. The same year Water street between Bridge and Market streets was paved and stalls for the sale of fish erected at the north end of the City Hall.

Many Uses For Court Room

The Supreme Court room was much used. Shortly after it was fitted up for the Court, the Universalist Society was given permission to use it on alternate Sundays. (The Bethel Mission had used the room regularly Sundays since 1846 and had been granted a room on the third floor when the second floor was being renovated but when another religious society petitioned to use the hall, the Council was of the opinion that the room should be used exclusively by the Court and ordered the Clerk of the Market to forbid its use for any other purpose.) The next year the city leased it to the county for use by the County Courts for $250 annual rent. That lease was renewed yearly until 1857.

The Board of Supervisors were offered the room in 1853 for their sessions and by that time the Council appears to have abandoned the idea that the room should be used only for governmental purposes. On October 27, 1852 the Reverend J. S. Davenport secured it for his course of lectures, the next spring the West Baptist Society was permitted to use it for Sunday worship, in 1854 the Oswego Tract Society was occupying it each Thursday evening and after 1860 the Seamen's Temperance Society held its meetings there. No doubt the Council had decided that these activities supplemented the efforts of the Court.

Oliver Last Of Market Men

The Common Council Proceedings give yearly a detailed statement of the city's income and expenditures; therefore it is much easier to determine what the Market yielded. The income from the building did increase but rarely exceeded expenditures. The three tenants occupying the ground floor for the longest periods were the postmaster, Robert Oliver and J. B. C. Morris. The post office took over stalls three, four and five and the postmaster leased in addition a private office for which the United States government paid for a period of years an annual rent of $350-$360. The five original meat stalls appear to have been all occupied only for a very short period after 1837; by 1848 all but No. 1 and No. 2 occupied by Robert Oliver, had been converted into offices. Mr. Oliver had been among the first to secure a lease in April of 1837 but surrendered it in July. When he returned to the market is a question but from 1851 to '55 he paid $150 annual rent. The following year he withdrew and with him ended one of the phases of the building's history. Thereafter there were to be no further food dealers doing business in the Market.*J. B. C. Morris was in the insurance business and paid annual rent varying from $110 to $150 in the period 1852-1861 for the use of one of the former Market stalls as an office.

It is interesting to note that the Oswego Board of Education leased for $100 the library quarters in the City Hall for two years from April 1, 1854 to 1856 but it appears after that not to have paid rent, although continuing to occupy the room for school library purposes.

* Oliver had been appointed in July 1839 clerk of the Market "with the exception of the duty of collecting rents." He was to receive a salary of $40 a year.

How Building Was Utilized In 1859

Fortunately a detailed account of the use and condition of the building was made at the request of an insurance company and was included in the Common Council Proceedings for the year 1859. It is as follows:

"Basement

"North end fitted up in a cheap manner to lodge persons who may make application to the police or vagrants.

"Next room south leased to Northwestern Insurance Company for storage of coal, the privilege of keeping their steam tug at the wharf and an opening of 6 feet from the dock to the door of their store room, rent $35.

"Lockup, the Black Hole.

"Ling for storage of ale, liquors, etc., rent $50.

"Hubbard,* space in connection with store on main floor.

"Principal Story.

"North end — Recorder and Chief of Police, in first rate order, rent free.

"Next south—Suite of offices J. B. C. Morris, rent $150.

"Next south—Rooms occupied by Board of Education.** In good order, rent free.

"Next south—Office L. L. Kenyon (Express Office?), rent $75.

"Next south—S. R. Beardsley, postmaster, rent $75.

"Second Story.

"North end is the Common Council room; next is the City Clerk's office; next the City Collector's office; next the Court room—all in order and rent free.

"Third Story.

"Used principally by the Military, (Oswego Guards, "Rifle Company" and Cadet Corps), in fair order, rent free. The Dome is tight and in fair order, it is occupied by the City Clock, rent free.

"Engine House.

"The South end is leased to Ely and Treadway for $125 per year. The North end is used by the Harbor Master and the Board of Trade*** rent free."

Rapid Changes In Life's Way

Dramatic changes in the American way of life are illustrated through the activities carried on within the building in the 1850s. The O'Reilley Telegraph Company leased an office on the ground floor from May 15, 1851 and left for a situation near the west end of the Bridge sometime during that year. The Committee on Markets was authorized to contract for gas fittings for lighting the City Hall with gas September 1, 1852. Lightning rods were attached to the building July 18, 1855 and upon September 7, 1858, Chief Engineer William E. Everett, a citizen of Oswego who had assisted in the laying of the Atlantic Cable was received upon his return home at a special session of the Common Council.

Old Clock Went To St. Mary's

The question as to what became of the first clock installed in the cupola of the Market House has interested many citizens. On May 19, 1857 the committee on the City Hall was directed to purchase from Messrs.

* This entry reveals that Hubbard, an early tanner and shoe dealer, was an early tenant in the City Hall. Later the business was to become known as that of Hubbard & North. It eventually engaged in the wholesale and retail shoe and rubber business being finally conducted by the late Albert F. McCarthy of Oswego. This business was conducted in that portion of the building which was later occupied by the John S. Parson's Shipchandlery. Mr. Parsons succeeded Hubbard & North in the occupancy of the quarters about 1904.

** Dr. E. A. Sheldon, founder of the Oswego State Normal and Training School, who previously was Oswego's first superintendent of city schools, maintained his office in this building where the scrupulously kept records of the Department of Education were recorded in his own handwriting.

*** The Board of Trade later occupied quarters in the main building. In all its occupancy of the building continued over 50 years. Its name appears today at a conspicuous location in the building.

Wendell and Brother's, Oswego jewelers, a new clock for the City Hall. Upon June 23, of that year, the prayer of the Reverend Mr. Guerdet that the old town clock be installed in the tower of St. Mary's Church was granted. The new clock, however was not moved from the First City Hall to the new City Hall for in 1872 a third clock was purchased for the latter from Messrs. Howard Brothers of Boston at the cost of $1,100.*

"Fremont Guards" Drill Hall

It may be that the Mexican War and the tension preceeding the Civil War led to the organization of additional companies of militia since two new organizations, the "Rifle Company" and the Cadet Corps were in existance in '58 and the "Fremont Guards" were drilling on the third floor of the City Hall in 1861.

Firemen's Balls At Old Hall

The use of the rooms in the City Hall for the holding of public dances had evidently become common by 1854 for it would appear that an abuse of the privilege led the Common Council in June of that year to forbid the further use of any room in the City Hall for such purposes; but this ban was of short duration for the petition of Peck and Fairtile for leave to hold a dancing assembly was granted November 15, and the holiday season was enlivened by public balls sponsored by the Ontario and the Rescue Engine Companies.

* What became of the second clock installed in the building today remains a mystery. Old photographs show it in place as late as the 1880s. It was probably finally removed with the cupola that housed it when the cupola fell in to such a state of decay that the Lackawanna Railroad Company the then owners of the building, did not elect to attempt repairs. In the early days of the Market Building the village experienced much difficulty in retaining the services of a jeweler to wind the clock and keep it in repair for the $25.00 a year paid for the service.

Agitation Started For New City Hall

Mayor Lucius B. Crocker was much in favor of a new City Hall. He appointed a committee to inquire into the expediency of purchasing a suitable lot for a new building and of selling the old Market building and its grounds. This committee reported November 14, 1856. General conditions in the Community resembled those which obtained preceding, the erection of the first building —prosperous times on the threshold of a general business depression, therefore the arguments presented in favor of the proposal are of such interest that I quote a part of the report verbatim:

"To the Common Council of the City of Oswego

"The committee to whom was referred the question of the propriety and expediency of purchasing a suitable lot for the erection of a new City Hall, and the sale of the present Hall and grounds on which it is situated, respectfully report—

"That the present Town Hall on Water street, between that narrow street and the River, is an unpleasant and disagreeable location for a building devoted to the general business of the city. It is situated on the bank of the river and has connected with it, a large wharf and Store Rooms, intended and used for storage and commercial purposes, about which are crowded steam and canal boats and sailing vessels, all engaged in the busy and noisy operations of commercial pursuits which are so entirely incompatible with the comfort and quiet of the City Council and Courts in their deliberations, and of all the business offices of city officers, which are of necessity within the building.

"The present edifice was erected by the Village of Oswego in about the year 1836, when the river was never crowded with

commerce, or the streets with men of business, and when few of the citizens were so sanguine as to contemplate the business crowds we now witness on land or water. But even then the location of the building was selected rather as a necessity, than as a choice, the city being the owner of the ground which was not valuable or occupied for other purposes.

"The space of twenty years has now immensely increased its value for commercial and mercantile purposes, while it has greatly reduced its value for city use.

"It is, in the opinion of your committee, easy to foresee, that within a few years at farthest, the city must be driven from its occupation as a public building, by the encroachments of the commercial and mercantile interests which surround it, and believing this, they would earnestly recommend as a measure of wisdom and economy that a suitable lot be purchased for the erection of a new Town Hall, and that the present building and lot be sold as soon as a fair and reasonable price can be obtained, with a view to the erection of a new building. Your committee are of opinion, that the present Hall will readily sell for as much, or more than the cost of another lot and a new building."

Railroad Interested In Property

The reason why the Committee felt that a profitable sale of the old building and grounds could be made was that upon May 11, 1853 Mr. H. Hutchinson, President of the Oswego and Syracuse railroad had made a proposal relative to the purchase of the City Hall premises to be used by the Company as a depot. Since the Council did not take any definite action upon this first proposal he later made two new proposals: For a 10 year lease of the property, that is the City Hall basement and city-owned land on south side of Bridge street, including wharf in front of each, the use of the half north of Bridge street for ten years with the privilege of renewal and the occupation of the land south of the City Hall indefinitely after the termination of the lease with such buildings as the Company may erect at an annual rent of $200.

The second proposal of the railroad president asked for permission to lay tracks in Water street. (After crossing Bridge street at grade with the tracks already laid to the beginning of Water street at the south end.) The latter request was granted with the express understanding that "in case the grade on any part of the street be altered, the Common Council shall have the right to require the company to remove the tracks and appurtenances wholly from that part of the street extending from the south line of Water street to the Harbor."

The foregoing resolution was passed October 12, 1854 and formed the legal basis for the later forcible removal of the tracks of the Lackawanna Railroad Company, then the lessee of the Oswego and Syracuse Railroad, from Bridge street by the Oswego Commissioner of Public Works under the order of the Common Council April 6, 1904 during Mayor James Mansfield's administration.

The old City Hall property was finally sold to the Railroad Company July 5, 1864 but before that date the Civil War had intervened and the events which transpired in the City Hall during that period further illustrate the diverse uses made of the old building by the citizens.

Use Of Market Building In Civil War

When the City was incorporated in 1848, the annual meetings of the village inhabitants and taxpayers ceased. From then on only voters who lived in the First ward voted at the City Hall

except in case of special elections when all who cast votes, voted there. One such was held May 14, 1861 on the proposal to raise $10,000 for the relief of the families of the Civil War volunteers from Oswego. There were 250 qualified voters and the proposal received no dissenting vote. The next year another such election was held, this time to raise $5,000 for the same purpose; the results were 86 for, 41 against. The need for second sum was due in part to the delay of the government in paying the troops.

A special public meeting was called at the City Hall by Mayor L.A.G.B. Grant upon receipt of the news of the final day of the Battle of Gettysburg to consider ways and means for aiding in care of Oswego wounded in that battle in which the 147th regiment from Oswego County took an active part with heavy losses in killed and wounded. Funds were pledged for the relief of wounded officers and privates and their dependents.

On Tuesday evening, February 23, 1864 the war torn flags presented two years earlier by the Common Council in the presence of an admiring and applauding populace to the Eighty-First New York Volunteers which had seen service at Williamsburg, Seven Pines, Fair Oaks, White Oak Swan, Charles Cross Roads and Malvern Hills were returned to the Common Council. On Auril 18, 1864, following the death of President Lincoln, the Common Council Chamber was ordered draped in mourning for a period of 30 days. In 1867 a flag pole was ordered set up somewhere on the Market ground.

The Niagara Ship Canal was the subject of the last two special elections to be held in the Market Hall. In December 1863 and again in January 1866 proposals were submitted to raise $4,000 and later. $2,000 for the purpose of bringing the matter of the desirability of the construction of such a canal before the Congress. The appropriations were approved by the taxpayers in both instances.

Railroad Buys City Hall

The Oswego-Syracuse Railroad Company acquired by purchase from the city Market Block 26 and both buildings standing upon it because it planned to make Oswego the main depot for shipments of coal to Canada and the western states and needed a freight depot below the iron bridge for the accommodation of vessels and steamers with cargo consigned to the Company. To the arguments advanced in 1856 this proposal added that of increased prosperity for the City since the improvements contemplated by the Company would link the Oswego-Syracuse line to New York through establishment of a working arrangement with the Syracuse and Binghamton road thus affording a wider market for Oswego malt, starch, barley, flour, feed and grain together with manufactured articles. Oswego sold to the railroad the entire Market Block, that is the area from Bridge to Market street and from Water street east to the river, the wharves opposite the Market and extending beneath the bridge to a point south of the bridge* and the two build-

* It was through this purchase that the railroad acquired titles and rights of way which years later enabled it to relay its tracks under the Bridge street bridge and thence continue on to Cayuga and Water streets over a new private right of way after an enraged Mayor and Board of Aldermen had torn up the company's tracks from their former location at tracks in Bridge street near the western end of the bridge. The tracks ran from their former location at ter street, north and south of Bridge street, for the entire length of the street. The company offered to make this change in regard to its tracks before the tracks were torn up if the fore the tracks were torn up if the city would pay for relocating the tracks. The city refused to pay and the cost and elected to proceed along its own lines.

ings upon the Block for $20,000. An act from the Legislature was necessary authorizing the Common Council to make the sale. This was secured February 3, 1864. The deed of sale from the City was dated July 9, 1864. Ten thousand dollars of the purchase money was used to acquire the site of the present City Hall.

City Discontinued Market Use In 1871

While plans for a new City Hall were being made, advanced and financed from May 23, 1865 to February 20, 1872 the City of Oswego leased from the railroad company the second and third floors of the Market Hall and that section of the first floor occupied by the Police Department and the Board of Education to house the city government. In 1866 the annual rent was $900 for these rooms and $150 for the City Jail. The rent for the fiscal year ending in 1872 was one third of this previous amount as some of the offices had by that time been moved to the new building. The Market Building ceased to be a public building about December 1, 1871 when the last of the city offices was transferred from the old to the new City Hall.

Incident Of The Track Removal

The only dramatic incident associated with the old building in this century is the removal of the D. L. & W. Company railroad tracks in Bridge street, which they then crossed at grade to reach Water street on the west side of the old Market House, on the night of April 6, 1904. The occasion for this act was that the railroad company had been requested by the Common Council more than three years before to take up these tracks from the south line of Bridge street to a point near Cayuga street. This the company had declined to do and secured an injunction restraining the city from interfering with its tracks. The referee, to whom was referred the matter for hearing, J. N. Carlisle of Watertown, found the Common Council right and the Company a trespasser. The Appellate Division to which the Company appealed sustained the referee's finding by a unanimous vote. These two victories for the City rested upon the resolution passed October 12, 1854 in the Council Chamber of the old Market Hall as previously mentioned. In spite of the decisions the Company had failed to negotiate successfully with the city officials for the removal and relocation of the tracks.

Mayor Mansfield was authorized by the Council on the evening of April 6 at a surprise session, and in executive session, to have the tracks removed and by 10:30 o'clock that same night a gang of 20 men under the direction of the Superintendent of the Department of Works had accomplished the task despite protest by the railroad company's representatives and while several hundred citizens stood about as spectators.* The work had started at 8:30 o'clock in the evening immediately after the Council's special session had adjourned. In an apparent desire to escape observation as long as possible, city workmen with picks, bars and shovels who were in waiting with lanterns moved from City Hall through Oneida street to Water,

* The Mayor had a line of hose attached to a hydrant at Market and Water streets with city firemen in charge who were instructed to play the hose upon any persons who should attempt to interfere with the work of tearing up the tracks, but the water was not used. Subsequently the railroad company offered to relocate the tracks at its own expense under the bridge, to buy and raze the Doolittle Block housing the Academy of Music, to provide a new and private right of way to Cayuga and Water streets, provided the City Council would vote it a perpetual franchise to occupy Water street north to Lake Ontario from the street intersection named. This offer became the basis of the compromise finally made effective.

and thence north to Bridge street to start their work.

Building Tenants in Modern Times

During the past half century the Market Hall property has not been used for railroad purposes, except as to the right of way along the location of the old dock. It has been occupied by a number of tenants including The City Club which removed to the Pontiac Hotel in 1912 when the hotel was first opened and by the Ontario Telephone Company whose office can easily be located by the lettering on a second story door. For half a century the Oswego Board of Trade had its offices in the building. The short hand symbols taught in the Chaffee Business College still stand on a third floor blackboard as a reminder that the famous old business college was once a tenant there. Mr. John S. Parsons occupied for about 36 years with his ship chandlery the first floor area south of the main Water street entrance previously occupied by Hubbard and North, Wholesale Shoe and Leather dealers in Oswego. Hubbard had been a tenant when the building was the City Hall, and occupied a portion of the second and third stories and of the basement for many years. Mr. Parsons had caused portions of the south circular stairway in the Water street entrance to be removed in order to have an elevator installed. The portion of the main floor to the north was tenanted for a long period by the Oswego Door, Sash and Glass Company when that company was under the ownership of Charles J. Wiley. Later this company passed to the control of Joseph R. Dion. The same company, now owned by Peter Raby, Jr., still continues as tenant. In the former Parsons' location John T. Donovan now operates the former Parsons ship chandlery under the name of the Oswego Marine Supply; he was a clerk in the Parsons business.

The old Market Building is truly a beautiful building. Aside from some of our churches there is nothing locally to compare with it from an architectural standpoint, and it is, I believe, more closely associated than any building now standing, with a long and interesting period of the city's history. It would indeed be a tragedy if the fate which has now befallen the building which until recently housed in part the Salvation Army, should overtake this historic land mark.

Necrology

MISS HARRIETT E. McKAY
April 15, 1943

BYRON E. FAILING
April 29, 1943

MRS. RALPH B. WATSON
May 3, 1943

DR. R. C. TURNER
July 11, 1943

HON. FRANCIS D. CULKIN
August 4, 1943

MRS. FREDERICK P. HICKEY
September 13, 1943

MRS. JAMES G. MERRIMAN
October 24, 1943