1950

Thirteenth Publication

of the

Oswego Historical Society

1950

Palladium-Times, Inc.
Printers
Oswego, N. Y.

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March 20—"The Town of Scriba—Its History and Folklore," Miss Blanche Krul.

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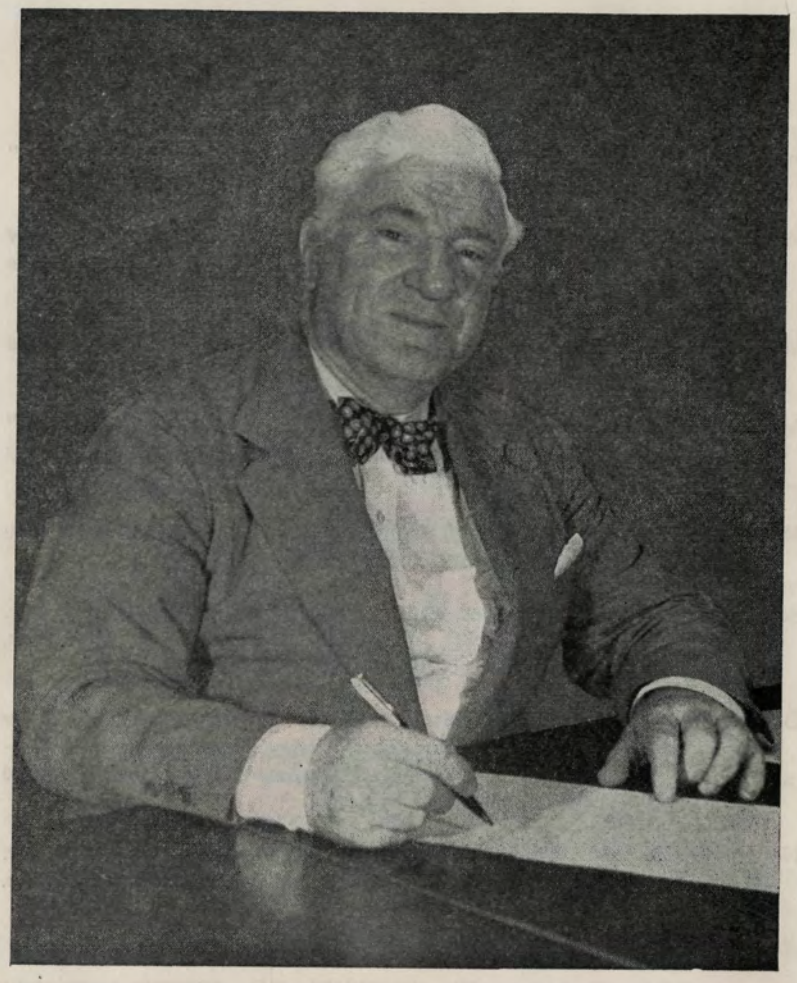

EDWIN MOREY WATERBURY

"Lest We Forget"

Edwin Morey Waterbury

COMING to Oswego in 1922 after resigning the city editorship of the Corning "Evening Leader," a position he held for thirteen years, Edwin M. Waterbury took over the controlling interest in the Oswego Times Company as president and editor. In 1910 he had graduated from Yale University with the degree of Bachelor of Arts. His preparatory school and college training afforded him abundant opportunity to develop strong organizing abilities, which were soon reflected in the business and civic affairs with which he identified himself in both Corning and Oswego.

Within three years after coming to Oswego, in April 1925, Mr. Waterbury was successful in bringing about a consolidation of the Oswego Times and its competing evening newspaper, the Oswego Palladium, to form the Oswego Palladium-Times, Inc., of which Mr. Waterbury is treasurer and business manager. He is also the publisher of the Palladium-Times newspaper. It is of historic interest that the Oswego Palladium-Times is a lineal descendant of the Oswego Palladium founded in 1819, and of the Oswego Times which was founded as a daily newspaper in 1845.

As a citizen of Oswego, Mr. Waterbury has distinguished himself for the time and talent which he has given to many humanitarian, patriotic, and civic interests, as well as to business and professional activities. He has served as director and president of the Oswego Chamber of Commerce, trustee of the Oswego Hospital, and president of the Oswego County Health Association. For a number of years he served on the Board of Visitors of the Oswego State Normal School and, at the present time, he is chairman of the Board of Trustees of the Oswego State Teachers College, an important link in the institutions making up the State University of New York. Member and officer of several professional organizations, Mr. Waterbury served as president of the New York State Associated Dailies in 1928-29, and more recently has served as president of the New York State Publishers' Association. He is a member and officer of the local chapter of the Sons of the American Revolution, and past president of the Oswego-Fulton Torch Club.

Of the many and varied interests in the community which Mr. Waterbury has espoused, none has probably been of more interest to him, and of more fruitful consequence to the community at large, than his devotion to and development of the Oswego County Historical Society, as well as his broader efforts at preserving for posterity the contributions made by this region of the country to the total picture of American civilization and culture. His philosophy of history might well have been inspired by a statement from Macauley, the historian, who said, ". . . any people which does not revere the worthy deeds of their ancestors will not produce anything worthy of remembrance by their descendants."

Within a short time of his coming to Oswego, Mr. Waterbury was identified with the Oswego Historical Society and, in 1924, was appointed on the Committee of Thirty prominent citizens designated by Dr. James G. Riggs to reactivate the Oswego Historical Society founded in 1896, and to consider ways and means of celebrating the 200th anniversary of the activity of white men at Oswego. The outcome was a highly successful pageant, sponsored by the Society and held at Fort Ontario in the summer of 1925, with all parts of Oswego County participating and with some $1500, after expenses, being contributed to the Oswego Hospital.

During the following year, the Historical Society designated historic locations in the city and county where metal markers were placed. Vitally interested in this phase of the revived Society's program, Mr. Waterbury served as chairman of the committee which worked for and located many of the markers placed throughout the county.

The 200th anniversary of the birth of George Washington was appropriately marked in Oswego on February 22, 1932, when the Oswego County Historical Society joined with the Fort Oswego Chapter, Daughters of the American Revolution, to participate in a nationwide celebration. The gaily decorated State Armory drill hall was the setting for Oswego's tribute to Washington. Exercises marking the occasion were brief and fitting, with the late Francis E. Cullen delivering a glowing tribute to the "Father of His Country." At the sparkling ball which followed the speaking, it was Mr. and Mrs. Waterbury, dressed in colonial costumes and impersonating George and Martha Washington, who led the grand march. "The vast audience was stirred to almost continuous applause at the amazing, almost breath-taking beauty of the spectacle," reported the Palladium-Times the following day.

During the presidency of Dr. Riggs, Mr. Waterbury was a faithful attendant at the meetings and enthusiastically supported the work of the Society. Its meetings were held in the D.A.R. Tanner Memorial and its modest historical collection was housed in this building located at West Sixth and Oneida Streets. In February 1935, President Riggs died unexpectedly at his home in Oswego. For some time thereafter the Society was inactive. In January 1937, however, a reorganization meeting, chaired by Mr. Frederick W. Barnes, was held and Mr. Waterbury was unanimously elected to serve as president.

The choice of Mr. Waterbury, with his peculiar talents for leadership, proved exactly what the Society needed to move ahead in its task of education and research. His vision for the Society centered around three goals. First, he aimed to build an ACTIVE Society with regularly-scheduled meetings. He encouraged the selection of papers aimed at bringing to light significant events which transpired in and around Oswego. Some of the finest research which the Society has thus produced came from his own pen. He instituted the summer "pilgrimages" when places of historic interest were visited in motor caravans, thus doing much to broaden an appreciation of the historical significance of Oswego and its environs. Exhibits, inter-county meetings, regional state meetings—all had their origins in Mr. Waterbury's enthusiasm for a functional organization.

A second accomplishment of far-reaching importance in the development of the Society was the expansion of the Society from a purely local to a county organization. His zeal for this reform produced amazing growth and an expanded interest in the work of the Society. From 37 members when Mr. Waterbury assumed the presidency in 1937, the membership rose to 104 in 1938, to 292 in 1942, to 325 in 1946, and now in 1950 it stands at over 600. All parts of the county were given representation in the administration of the Society's affairs, through vice-presidents or members of the Board of Directors.

A third accomplishment which is credited to Mr. Waterbury's interest and zeal is the annual publication of the papers presented at each meeting of the Society. The compilation of these papers each year since 1939, published in attractive form, have added some twelve volumes of excellent reading material to the literature of this section of the Empire State, and represents a substantial contribution to general knowledge. Without the generous use of the facilities of the Oswego Palladium-Times, which publishes the text of the papers in full after each meeting and permits the type to be saved for use in the Annual

Proceedings, this service to the Society and the public at large would be impossible.

The interest which the community felt in the work of the Society was reflected in donations of a large variety of historical objects which people felt could be best preserved and displayed in the Society's care. Another manifestation of the community's interest in the building of the Society was its support of the establishment of an endowment fund, long a dream of Mr. Waterbury. At every opportunity he encouraged the membership to be aware of the value of such a fund for the future welfare of the organization. So well did he succeed in establishing this idea that, within the last few years, an endowment fund of over $3000 has been set up, representing gifts of money to the Society. Other loyal enthusiasts of the Society have made provisions in their wills to the end that the Society will continue to grow and better serve the community through their benefactions. These manifestations of faith in the destiny of the Oswego County Historical Society are a tribute to Mr. Waterbury's leadership and his abiding interest in the work of a local historical group. His devotion to the cause of history was recognized by his election to the Board of Trustees of the New York State Historical Association three years ago, and his election to the presidency of the Society for Colonial History during this past year. In the latter office, he succeeded Dr. A. C. Parker, famed archeologist and historian.

One of the objectives nearest to Mr. Waterbury's heart was a headquarters and museum for the Society, where the historical collection might adequately be housed and where the membership could enjoy its social and professional activities. This, too, he was to realize. In December 1946 the surviving children of Mr. and Mrs. Norman L. Bates —Mrs. John Cowles, Mrs. Calvin Tomkins, and Mr. Maxwell R. Bates— presented to the Oswego County Historical Society, in trust for the people of Oswego city and county, the former Bates residence at 135 East Third Street, Oswego, as a memorial to their parents. Today we enjoy the old home and its contents as our Headquarters House and Museum of Local and County History.

There is no doubt that it was because of Mr. Waterbury's substantial building of the Society during the previous decade, and because of the confidence which the donors placed in his leadership, that the proffer of the gift was made to the Society. Valued at over $25,000, the property today represents one of the last of the large group of massive, ornate homesteads, which characterized Oswego in the 1850's and 1860's, to survive as a private residence. At the time the gift was made, Mr. Waterbury was anxious to relinquish his duties as president of the Society so that he could give attention to the demands of his business. The legal and business details of the transfer of the home from the donors to the Society, and the subsequent subscription campaign to raise money to move into the house as well as to settle a tax obligation of $1000, required just such ability as his and he was pressed to stay at the helm until the job was complete. The subscription campaign which he set up for $5000 was realized within the year.

It was soon apparent that the Society would need a greater source of income than it had had at any previous time, in spite of the fact that the annual dues were raised from $1.00 to $2.00. Knowing that the State Law permitted financial assistance to Historical Societies by County Boards of Supervisors, if in their judgment the Societies were rendering a public service and warranted such support, Mr. Waterbury initiated and carried to completion a successful appeal to the Oswego County Board of Supervisors for a grant of $1500 for the year 1950. This figure represented something under half of the budget requirements for a year's operation of the Society. Working through the Head-

quarters Council, the group which administers the business details of the property, Mr. Waterbury is currently working to secure the grant as a permanent part of the County budget.

Only a very few people have known that the guiding hand behind the movement to have Old Fort Ontario preserved as a historical site has been Mr. Waterbury's. Even while the historic buildings were being remodeled to house veterans of World War II, after the Federal Government had relinquished its title to the State Government, Mr. Waterbury began the movement to interest the State Legislature, the New York State Historical Association, and the New York State Education Department in the preservation of the Old Fort dating back to 1755, as well as the post cemetery (with the remains of soldiers of every American War from French and Indian War days), and the adjacent battle fields of 1756 and 1814. In the subsequent study, surveys, and conferences held by State officials representing the State Architect's Office, Director of the State Budget, and the State Historian's Office, Mr. Waterbury played a conspicuous role. Few have any idea of the expenditure of time and effort which he gave toward the end that Fort Ontario might take its rightful place besides other historic sites, such as Fort Niagara and Fort Ticonderoga. If Stephen Pell is considered the guiding genius behind the restoration of Old Fort Ticonderoga, no less will Edwin M. Waterbury be considered the master hand behind the preservation of old Fort Ontario.

Formal action to take over Old Fort Ontario, and its adjacent cemetery and battlegrounds, by the State of New York came early in 1949. Working closely with Mr. Waterbury was the State Historian and Director of the Division of Archives and History in the University of the State of New York, Dr. Albert B. Corey. During the past two years, a small custodial staff has been at work in placing metal markers, restoring earthworks, planting trees, etc., as part of the State's program gets underway. Interest in the Old Fort is attested by the fact that thousands of visitors inspected the site during the summer of 1950. Eventually it is hoped that one of the buildings will be converted into a state museum of military history, and that picnic facilities will be available at the ancient site. The Fort will stand forever as a monument to the men who were garrisoned there in its days of activity as well as to the men, like Mr. Waterbury, who worked for its preservation.

In September 1949, a notable citation was made to the Oswego County Historical Society by the American Association for State and Local History, Washington, D. C., which might well be a personal citation to Mr. Waterbury himself. It reads as follows: "AWARD OF MERIT—The American Association for State and Local History is pleased to recognize and commend the distinctive contribution of the Oswego Historical Society to American Local History, in witness whereof this Certificate is presented in accordance with the formal citation of the Committee on Awards on the 14th day of September, 1949 and transmitted to the proper officers." Reasons for the citation were "For reactivating an historical society and greatly increasing its membership; for developing county-wide interest by holding meetings in various communities, by summer tours, and by a system of representation of small communities among the officers of the society; for leadership in the preservation of Fort Ontario as an historic site; for the establishment of a museum; for an extensive and successful fund-raising campaign; for publication of a yearbook; and for close relations with the press, the schools, civic groups, and all local celebrations of an historical nature."

After thirteen years of leadership of the type of activity cited in

the above AWARD OF MERIT, Mr. Waterbury announced his decision to relinquish his office as president of the Oswego County Historical Society at the annual meeting in January 1950. At that meeting the following communication addressed to Mrs. Anita Kellogg, corresponding secretary of the Society, was read:

"Dear Mrs. Kellogg:

Mr. Waterbury wrote me recently that he plans to resign as President of the Oswego Historical Society at the meeting on January 10, 1950. I am therefore taking the opportunity of writing to you with a request that you read this letter at the annual meeting. I should like it to come as a surprise to Mr. Waterbury.

The retirement of Mr. Waterbury as President of the Oswego Historical Society at the end of thirteen years of continuous service as President gives me a welcome opportunity to express to him in this way my very deep appreciation for the magnificent contribuiton that he has made not only to the Society but to the people of Oswego and to the people of the State of New York. Mr. Waterbury is such a modest man that I am sure he does not realize how really important his contributions have been.

The Members of the Society are fully aware of the interesting program he has sponsored, and of the efforts he has made to house the Society's collections and the success he has achieved in making the Bates House a headquarters worthy of the Society. They may not know quite as well the work that he did and of the success he achieved in securing a grant from the Board of Supervisors for next year for general purposes of the Society but it was certainly he who laid the ground work which made it possible for the Supervisors to make the grant. The story of the preservation of Old Fort Ontario is a very long and a very intricate one. Few people realize as I do how crucial was Mr. Waterbury's activity and support in having Old Fort Ontario turned over to the Education Department. It is always difficult to say what might have happened had not Mr. Waterbury gone to such great lengths to secure the preservation of the Old Fort but I am confident that it might still have been an objective whose accomplishment might leave much to be desired.

For the past few years, Mr. Waterbury has been a trustee of the New York State Historical Association. In this capacity he will continue to be a source of strength to historical work throughout the state.

As I said at the beginning, I cannot let this occasion pass without acknowledging in this fashion my deep appreciation of his remarkable services and of his warm friendship which has made it such a joy to work with him.

Sincerely yours,
(Signed)
Albert B. Corey
State Historian and Director of Division
of Archieves and History, The University
of the State of New York"

For his extraordinary interest in the cause of Oswego history over a period of nearly thirty years; for his unique leadership of the Oswego County Historical Society for a period of thirteen years; and for his high devotion to the preservation of Oswego County's contribution to American culture, the Board of Directors of the Oswego County Historical Society appreciatively dedicates this volume to Edwin M. Waterbury.

Necrology

MRS THOMAS MOWATT
Oswego, N. Y., Jan. 31, 1950

JAMES C. MERRIMAN
Oswego, N. Y. Feb. 15, 1950

MRS. H. LOUIS WALLACE
Sandy Creek, N. Y., July 2, 1950

WILLIAM GOODWIN
Central Square, N. Y., July 18, 1950

MISS CHARLOTTE M. BURRETT
Oswego, N. Y., July 28, 1950

SYLVESTER E. HARTUNG
Oswego, N. Y., September 12, 1950

MRS. PETER D. VERCROUSE
R.F.D. 6, Oswego, N. Y., Nov. 16, 1950
(Furniss, N. Y.)

MRS. PHILIP LUKE
R.F.D. 3, Fulton, N. Y., November 19, 1950
(Little Utica, N. Y.)

Local History and Anthropology

(Paper Given Before Oswego County Historical Society at Oswego January 10, 1950 By Dr. Carl E. Guthe, Director of New York State Museum.)

History and anthropology have much in common. In fact, they are so closely related that I find it difficult to draw a sharp and fast line between them. Both are devoted to the study of human experience through time. In common practice it is recognized that history is the narrower and more specialized subject, and anthropology the broader and more generalized one. Each has its own contribution to make to our knowledge and each can help the other in interpreting its findings. This evening I want to review briefly some of the contributions which anthropology has made to the history of New York.

History is devoted to the study and interpretation of the experience of the more complex civilizations, as revealed in their written records and supplemented by the still existing tangible objects they created and used. In New York State, history proper began with the advent of our ancestors, the Europeans, in the early years of the seventeenth century. I shall refer only incidentally to the record of these most recent three and a half centuries of the human occupation of New York State, for I know that the story is a familiar one to all of you.

The Science Of Men

Anthropology, literally the science of men, is devoted to the study and interpretation of all human communities, regardless of time or space. It is as interested in the peoples with simpler cultures that had no writing as it is in the more complex sophisticated civilizations. Since history and the other social sciences have devoted themselves to the study of the more complex civilizations, the first responsibility of anthropology was to collect information about the simpler, non-literate cultures throughout the world. Yet even this assignment is an overwhelming one. No one student of anthropology could hope to become an expert in the entire subject. So some anthropologists, the archeologists, studied the ways of life of extinct groups of people, as revealed by the fragmentary records found in the village sites and rubbish heaps they once used. Other anthropologists, called ethnologists, studied the ways of life of living remnants of groups still practicing the simpler cultures. As this tremendous body of information, assembled by hundreds of anthropologists working in all parts of the world, has been studied comparatively, certain fundamental principles which govern the ever-changing development of human civilization are becoming apparent.

These findings of anthropology are directly applicable to New York State and its history because, for about a century, some archeologists and ethnologists have been concentrating their studies upon the anthropological problems of this general region.

Methods Of Archeologists

Before I outline for you the story of the Indian occupation of New York State as uncovered by archeologists, I want to discuss briefly the methods archeologists use. I do this partly to explain the way in which the story has been obtained, and partly to dispel certain misunderstandings about "Indian relics." The archeologists have a difficult problem to solve. No living individual can tell him exactly the meaning or

use of the objects he finds. No existing document can explain the conditions he encounters. He must depend entirely upon the evidence he exposes as he digs into the village sites, burials and rubbish heaps of a long dead community.

The evidence the archeologist uses falls into two great categories. The first of these, the most obvious, consists of the man-made objects which are found, made of stone or bone or shell or clay. They are the so-called "Indian relics," and may be classified into groups on the basis of the material of which they are made, the shapes they possess, and the decorations placed upon them. They are usually implements. utensils, weapons and ornaments, which may have had secular or religious significance. A few of them may have intrinsic artistic qualities. Yet in last analysis they are only objects once made and used by human beings. The story each tells is small and insignificant.

Careful Records Necessary

The second great category of evidence for the archeologist is the group of associations surrounding these objects as they lie in the ground. Obviously objects, regardless of their variety, which are found close together, were all used at the same time. Objects found in a burial were either the property of the person buried or of the family to which he belonged. All the objects found in a single site are clearly the products of a single community. If the area had been occupied for a long period, styles in utensils, ornaments and pottery certainly changed. Those objects in the lower layers of the soil belong together and are older than and differ from those which are found in the higher levels. In some places the existence of storage pits and of the imprints of the posts used in house constructions can be associated with particular groups of objects. These associations, when carefully and properly recorded at the time of excavation, can and will tell the story of this long dead community. However, if these careful records are not kept the story is lost forever, for as the excavation proceeds the evidence of the associations is irretrievably destroyed.

Ground Comparable To Document

The archeological record in the ground can be compared to a document of many pages. Each level of deposit, sometimes only a very few inches thick, is like one page of the book. The objects on each level are like the words on the page, and their relation to one another reveals the meaning of the text. Unless the document is read carefully as it is exposed, the words, that is the objects, get mixed up and the meaning is lost forever.

Because it requires training and experience to interpret correctly the archeological associations in the ground, excavations carried out by enthusiastic and well intentioned collectors of Indian objects actually destroy forever the major portion of the historical record in the ground. I cannot emphasize too strongly the fact that collections of "Indian relics" when they are not accompanied by satisfactory written records have very little historical value.

By the scientific study of the archeological evidence in New York State the story of the pre-European inhabitants of the region has been pieced together. There were literally thousands of localities in the state which contained such evidence. Many of them have been destroyed, but much can still be done if the remaining localities are protected and properly studied. Many students have contributed to the archeology of New York. I can mention only a few. One of the early pioneers, Franklin B. Hough, worked about a century ago in making careful diagrams of a

number of archeological sites. In the latter part of the nineteenth century, Reverend William M Beauchamp, of Syracuse, compiled much information. During the early twentieth century Arthur C. Parker, now resident at Naples, began his work on New York archeology and twenty-seven years ago published an archeological history of New York. During the past generation William A. Ritchie, of Rochester, one of Dr. Parker's students, has continued the study, and has worked out the story which I am about to tell you.

Humans Here 20,000 Years

Evidence found in various parts of our country, principally in the western states, demonstrates that the Indians, the first human beings to live in the New World, have been here a very long time. The first ancestors of the American Indians came from Asia, across Bering Strait about 15,000 to 20,000 years ago, and were followed by other bands of people in the centuries that followed. The descendants of these first settlers in the northwestern part of North America gradually spread over the entire continent, carrying with them a very simple culture, and progressively adapting it to fit the needs of the natural environments into which they came. It is known that remains of these early peoples in the eastern United States are several thousand years old.

Indians Here 2,000 Years

The first Indians of which any record exists in New York State lived about two thousand years ago. They were long-headed, narrow-nosed hunters and fishermen, who supplemented their diets with wild fruits and berries. They apparently were fond of their dogs, for burials of several of them have been found. Many of their implements and utensils were made of animal bones, some of which they painted and engraved. They had a rather meager chipped stone industry, but used small stone projectile points, which implies that they were familiar with the bow and arrow. The record shows that their way of life was very similar to that of their contemporaries who lived throughout the eastern and southern United States.

Only a few centuries later, another group of Indians, more round-headed and with wider noses, came into New York, perhaps from what is now Canada, carrying a culture just as simple as that of these first people, but with some significant differences. These later people depended much more upon chipped stone implements which were crude and heavy. The larger projectile points indicate that they probably used spears more frequently than arrows. They also had some polished stone tools and ornaments, some of them made of slate. But one of the principal differences was that they used tools made of copper, probably obtained from the copper deposits in the western Great Lakes region.

Two Groups Mingle

As the centuries passed these two groups learned to live together and to exchange ideas as they adjusted their way of life to fit in better with the climate and natural environment of the region. However, little progress was made because they had so little knowledge upon which to build. In the meantime, other Indians, living in other parts of the continent were also making adjustments and discovering new techniques, some of which were heard of by the New York people.

Pottery, Agriculture Appear

It is not until about a thousand years ago that notable changes become progressively more apparent in the records which these early New Yorkers left behind them. The chipped stone objects

became less popular and were replaced by many varieties of polished stone tools and ornaments. Apparently copper was less available, because the copper tools are fewer and the copper ornaments more common. But there were also some far more significant changes. For the first time pipes of stone and clay appear in the record, indicating that from somewhere they had learned of the use of tobacco. Similarly pottery is made for the first time, and the first traces of the practice of agriculture appear. The life of these New Yorkers was rapidly becoming more complex, as they developed closer relations with their contemporaries to the west and south of them. They lived in larger villages and apparently had more time for contemplation. They developed a variety of complex burial customs, placed more objects in the graves with the dead, and even occasionally raised mounds over the graves.

Throughout this period of rapid change these ancient New Yorkers were clearly in touch with their neighbors to the west and south, for they adapted many of the new ideas they learned to fit into their own culture. Yet they must have been somewhat conservative for they never equalled the brilliant cultural achievements attained during this period by the Indians living in the Ohio and Mississippi valleys.

Changes Came About 1250 A. D.

However, this period of cultural efflorescence lasted only a short time, for about 700 years ago an abrupt change took place, caused, at least in part, by the arrival of a new long-headed type of people, perhaps bringing with them a somewhat different culture. At least, definite changes in the way of life of the New Yorker took place. There was a noticeable decrease in size of nearly every tool. The chipped stone industry continued almost unchanged, but the large number of polished stone tools and ornaments became almost obsolete. The use of copper and shell articles practically disappeared, but the bone industry continued to flourish. Much less attention was paid to the dead, who were now buried simply in a flexed position without any articles accompanying them in the graves. However, other aspects of their culture expanded. Pipes became more elaborately decorated, and the art of making pottery vessels achieved a greater degree of sophistication, and agriculture played a larger part in their economy. Their villages were larger, sometimes surrounded by stockades, and the houses were small and round, of the wigwam type.

This incomplete picture of the way New Yorkers lived some 700 years ago is the best that can be obtained as yet from the fragmentary archeological record. The details of the changes which occurred during the next four centuries have not yet been clearly defined. Yet, in general, it may be said that the New York Algonkians and Iroquois of the seventeenth century, who first saw the Europeans, were the direct inheritors of this way of life

Anthropology, through the work of archeologists, cannot, because of the very nature of the evidence, furnish human interest stories of ancient historic episodes, nor supply information on the languages, social organizations and religious beliefs of the ancient peoples. Yet it can and does extend the historic horizon backward in New York State for at least an additional two thousand years, and constructs an outline, in terms of the tangible records which remain, of the growth of civilization in the New York area during that period.

State Recorded History Opens

In the short span of two months in the year 1609, the whole complexion of New York history changed. The arrival of Henry Hudson in the southern and Samuel de Champlain in the

northern part of the state ushered in the recorded historical period of the state. For two centuries the struggle between the natives, the Indians, and the invaders, the White men continued, a struggle which was complicated by the wars between the different groups of White men.

Our first written records describing New York Indians consist of the journals of adventurers and missionaries, Dutchmen, Frenchmen and Englishmen, who visited them. These narratives describe the Indians in terms of European customs and prejudices, and do not agree among themselves, for each story reflects the personality of the writer and the treatment he received. It was not until the middle of the nineteenth century that anthropologists, this time ethnologists, began an objective study of the way of life of the Indians through direct contact with the living remnants of the Indian communities. The list of those who made this study is a long one. In the 1840's Lewis Henry Morgan lived with the Iroquois and compiled information for his famous book, "The League Of the Iroquois." He was followed by Horatio Hale, and then by J. N. B. Hewitt. Among the leading students of recent years are Arthur C. Parker, C. M. Barbeau, Frank G. Speck and William N. Fenton.

Tribes Of 17th Century

In the seventeenth century southeastern New York and the Hudson valley was inhabited by a number of tribes, including the Esopus, the Wappingers and the Mahegans, who spoke Algonkian languages and were close relatives of the Indians of the New England area. All of central New York from the mouth of the Mohawk River west to the Genesee valley was occupied by a confederation of five tribes of Iroquois-speaking peoples which became known in history as the Iroquois League. To the west of this territory in New York State were two other Iroquois tribes, the Neutrals in the Niagara Frontier and the Erie in southwestern New York. All of these tribes had essentially the same way of life. They were village peoples, adjusted to living in wooded territory, with a food economy based an agriculture supplemented by hunting and fishing. However, many of the details of their culture differed from tribe to tribe.

The Iroquois League

Historically, the most important feature of the Indian life in New York State was the Iroquois Federation. It was only one of a number of confederations of tribes in the northeastern part of the continent, but it was the strongest and dominated the scene both politically and economically. It is therefore worthy of special attention.

The Iroquois were, and for that matter still are, a decidedly democratic people. Their leaders or chiefs owed their position to their personal qualities of valor, dignity, eloquence, sincerity and incorruptability. They held their leadership for life, pending good behavior, but the position was not hereditary. The origin of the Iroquois League is attributed to a single man who probably lived some five hundred years ago during the century at the close of which Columbus discovered America. The story of the founding of the League and the constitution under which it functioned was transmitted verbally from generation to generation until the close of the nineteenth century when, through the efforts of several anthropologists, it was put down on paper. During these generations the story was inevitably embellished in repeated tellings until the founders acquired certain supernatural characteristics and experiences and became culture heroes. Yet the story is sufficiently complete to make it possible to reconstruct approximately what happened.

Deganawidah And Hiawatha

Deganawidah, the architect of the League, was living among the Mohawks when he became concerned about the fact that the five Iroquois tribes of central New York were frequently in conflict and not living amicably together. He apparently spent a considerable length of time in formulating a scheme for a federation. The historic Hiawatha, having heard of Deganawidah and his plan, journeyed from the Onondaga country to the Mohawks in order to join forces with the leader. These two men first won over the chiefs of the Mohawk tribe to their scheme and then proceeded westward from tribe to tribe successively winning the support of all five tribes. A central Council of about fifty chiefs was created for the League, with a varying number of chiefs representing each of the five tribes. The name of each of these fifty founders was assigned to his successor in each generation, so that in time the names of the founding chiefs became the title names of the current members of the central Council.

Peace Was League's Aim

The ultimate purpose of this confederation, probably established during the fifteenth century, was to create peace throughout the land. The conception was phrased in symbolic language. The central Council was to sit in the shade of the great tree of Peace and arbitrate the differences between the five tribes and present a unified decision on problems involving tribes outside of the League. The constitution contained mechanisms which would permit other tribes to join the League if they so desired. The League was visualized as a huge longhouse stretching from the mouth of the Mohawk to the Genesee valley. The Mohawks were the keepers of the eastern gate and the Senecas the keepers of the western gate. In the center of the longhouse lived the Onondagas who were the keepers of the Council fire of the League. On each side of them, to the east were the Oneidas and to the west the Cayugas. Within this symbolic longhouse each of the five tribes was expected to live together as members of one great family. However, each tribe retained its own autonomy for internal affairs and its privilege of casting its vote on matters of interest to the League as a whole in accordance with the wishes of its membership. All of the chiefs sitting in the central Council of the League were of equal rank, constituting, in effect, a central legislative council.

The League of the Iroquois was, in essence, a loose federation of five tribes, with high ideals but with definite weaknesses. The chiefs who were members of the central Council were essentially civil officers with federal responsibilities and therefore had no authority in matters which concerned only individual tribes or clans. As a result, the single tribes and clans sometimes took action at variance with the policies of the League Council, thereby causing confusion and misunderstanding concerning the objectives of the League itself by those with whom they dealt.

Women Chose League Chiefs

The organization of the League fitted, of course, into the social organization of the Iroquois. The basic unit among the Iroquois was the family composed of from fifty to two hundred blood relatives. Relationship was counted in the female line, and the head of each family was a matron, the family matriarch. The several families were grouped together in clans. Each clan, in turn, was a member of one of the two major subdivisions of the tribe. The chiefs who were nominated by the women to be members of the League's central Council, had to be chosen in each tribe from the

same maternal family to which the original founder had belonged and whose name the new chief assumed as a title.

The New York Indians lived in villages which sometimes were quite large. They practiced agriculture, a form of food production which they undoubtedly learned from their neighbors to the south fifteen to seventeen varieties of maize or Indian corn were cultivated, as well as sixty varities of beans and eight native squashes. They supplemented their agricultural foods with thirty-four wild fruits, eleven nuts, thirty-eight varieties of leaf. stem and bark substances, twelve varieties of edible rots and even six types of fungi. They, of course, obtained their meat from fishing and hunting.

Ceremonial Life

In their arts and crafts, the Indians made full use of the facilities of their environment within the limits of their knowledge and their needs. Their products were essentially utilitarian in character but were often decorated with intricate designs. With the arrival of the White man, many of the native arts and crafts were abandoned in favor of the European materials. Metal vessels and implements took the place of pottery making and stone working. European cloth replaced the furs and the skins of former days. However, the new materials from Europe permitted the Indians to develop decorative arts through the use of bead designs upon their clothing and the working of silver ornaments. These designs had become intricate and specialized by the end of the eighteenth century.

As is to be expected, the ceremonial life of the Indians was complex and based upon mythology and symbolism. The central feature of their religion was a supreme deity supplemented by a great variety of lesser gods and spirits. They used wooden masks in many ceremonies to represent the spirits connected with them. Elaborate ceremonial paraphernali aand the traditional forms of the chants and songs were held in great reverence by the people. Inevitably, there was a continuing conflict between the native beliefs and the religious techings of the Europeans. At the very close of the eighteenth century a prophet appeared among the Senecas named Handsome Lake. He established a religion influenced to some extent by European concepts which was conservative in nature and attempted to retain many of the native customs and beliefs. To this day, the more conservative-minded Iroquois of the longhouse religious sect still practice the religion of Handsome Lake.

Indians Misinterpreted

I have outlined to you very briefly, and correspondingly inadequately, the way of life of the Indians of New York State in the early days of the European occupation because I want to impress you with the fact that they had a civilization of their own. Of course, it differed from that of the European because it had a different origin. It was inherited through the centuries from those more ancient peoples of whom the archeologists have secured such an incomplete record. It was an integrated and self-respecting way of life with its own sanctions, values, privileges and responsibilities. The Indians were neither the vicious savages which some historical records would wish us to believe, nor were they the naive children of nature visualized by such romantic writers as James Fenimore Cooper. They played an important part in the history of New York State in the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries and should be better understood.

The League of the Iroquois was at the height of its power in the seventeenth century when it con-

trolled the destinies of the Indian groups of northeastern North America from the Great Lake region to the Atlantic Ocean. With the coming of the European its power naturally declined. Yet, in accordance with the custom of adopting into the membership of the League individuals and even groups from other tribes, the Tuscarora, another Iroquois speaking tribe, was admitted to the League in 1722 and thereafter the Confederacy became known as the League of Six Nations. Some forty years later, the Delaware, the Tutele and Nanticoke tribes were also incorporated into the League.

Iroquois Are Increasing

During the eighteenth century the Iroquois League established a close alliance with the English under the guidance and stimulation of its very good friend, Sir William Johnson, and proved to be of great assistance in the English conflict with the French. At the time of the American Revolution the League held true to its former allegiance and sided with the English against the American colonists. At the close of the eighteenth century a large number of the Iroquois crossed over into Canada with the loyalists and settled at Brantford in southern Ontario on lands granted to them by the Canadian government at that time. In the years which followed a number of other groups moved to different localities in Canada and some Oneida went out to Green Bay, Wisconsin. However, a number of Iroquois communities still live in New York State. It is interesting to note that during the past few generations the membership of the Five Iroquois Confederated Tribes has increased in number. It has been estimated by scholars that the population of the Iroquois Confederacy at the beginning of the seventeenth century was about 5,500 people. According to a careful census made in 1940 the total population of these five tribes, living in the United States, Ontario and Quebec, has reached 17,000.

Appealed To Nations League

In the last 150 years as the prestige of the Iroquois way of life declined there has been the expected conflict among the Iroquois themselves between conservatives who wish to retain traditional Iroquois customs and the liberals who wish to adopt more completely the American way of life. In a number of the communities both in Canada and in New York State the Iroquois language is still spoken, and many of the ceremonial customs are still retained. The most recent Iroquois patriot was Deskaheh who headed a mission from Brantford to the League of Nations at Geneva in 1923-24 in a vain effort to force the Canadian government to restore the Iroquois League type of government at that Reservation.

I hope that in this brief discussion of the historic Indians in New York State I have given you some indication, however inadequate, of the contributions which have been made by ethnologists to the interpretation of the history of New York State, as a result of their studies among the living Indians. Of course, I have had to omit many details and particularly those subjects which need additional study, subjects which are therefore of greatest interest to the ethnologists now at work.

Studies Dignify Indians' Role

Anthropology is interested in the ways of life and the forces at work in all human communities. Much of its efforts have been devoted to securing an objective record and a clearer understanding of the simpler and non-literate cultures. Many anthropologists have studied strange peoples in distant parts of the world. Some anthropologists, as archeologists and ethnologists, have spent many

years studying the simpler, nonliterate communities which once flourished in northeastern North America, which, of course, included the Indians of New York State. Through their investigations they have unearthed facts about the customs and industries of New Yorkers who lived centuries before the advent of written history, and they have secured information about the customs, values and beliefs of the historic New York Indians which has served to clarify and dignify the part these people played in the exciting story of the development of New York State during the most recent three and a half centuries.

As I said in my opening sentence: History and anthropology have much in common. I hope that as a result of my remarks this evening you appreciate more fully why I sometimes find it difficult to draw a sharp and fast line between them.

The Junior Historians At Work

(Papers Presented By Junior Historians from Oswego High School, Fitzhugh Park School, and Kingsford Park School, At Meeting of Oswego County Historical Society, February 14, 1950.)

HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION NEW YORK STATE

(By Edward Knight, Oswego High School)

The New York State Historical Association was formed in 1899. Active membership today consists of 1,800 adults and 3,600 Juniors. It operates three museums, two at Cooperstown and one at Ticonderoga; publishes two magazines an adult quarterly, "New York History", the Junior "Yorker" and many other books and pamphlets; arranges conventions, contests in the presentation of local history, a series of summer seminars; circulates loan historical exhibits in the schools of New York state. It also aids historical writers in bringing about the publication of historical works of exceptional merit. Located in Cooperstown is the Headquarters of the Association, Fenimore House, the Farmers Museum and a village "Four Corners' " of the 1840's. Already at this corner is a general store, a school, a law office, the smithy, an early printing office, the circus, the church carriage sheds. There, soon, will be a tavern, a church, and a typical farm house, with surrounding barns, smoke house and other out buildings.

The late Dr. James G. Riggs of Oswego served as president of the association in 1913-1914. Oswego also entertained its annual convention in 1913, and one of its regional meetings in 1945.

Junior Chapters

In 1942 the New York State Historical Association opened its membership to Juniors, students in the schools of New York. Organized in clubs, or chapters, in every part of the state, these Juniors cherish the colonial name of "Yorkers." The state is divided into ten Yorker regions and within each region Yorkers have district meetings, district projects, and district officers. Oswego county Yorkers belong to Ontario District which met in Oswego last spring. A state-wide panel of four officers and council of ten elected at the annual meetings each year, rule Yorker activities. Last spring Ontario chapter of Oswego sent a sizeable delegation to the annual meeting at Cooperstown. This annual meeting is the high spot of the Yorker Year. Held each spring at some spot of historic interest in the state, this yearly one-day get-together sees an average attendance of 1,200 Yorkers. Student reports, student entertainment, the awarding of "Who's Who" certificates to the ten top Yorkers of the year, and three chapter achievement awards to the worthiest clubs, climax the Yorker day of days.

Membership in the New York State Historical Association provides for the Yorkers a year's subscription to "The Yorker", a magazine for the schools of the state, membership certificates, chapter charters, the privilege of attendance at the annual meetings, and an opportunity to write for "The Yorker". Chapter members receive monthly letters from the Association's Central Quarters, under the direction of Miss Mary E. Cunningham of Cooperstown who is known in Oswego. Each member may enter any of the Association's Museums free at any time, a privilege for which adults have to pay. Membership fees are 75 cents for one year.

Significance Of Seal

The seal of the New York State

Historical Association bears a reproduction of the great bronze statue of King Hendrick and Sir William Johnson that stands at the entrance to the Lake George Battleground Park. Around the perimiter of this reproduction of the statue is the name of the organization and the date of its founding, 1899. This seal was chosen by the Association founders. They could not have chosen more wisely, for in no other single symbol could be signified so many of the factors that have gone to make New York the Empire State.

First, the seal recalls two great Yorkers, the Indian Chieftain King Hendrick and the great white pioneer who opened the Mohawk Valley for future settlement and early played important roles at Oswego, Sir William Johnson. It reminds us of Hendrick's death, leading a band of his fellow Mohawks, fighting beside their Dutch and English brothers at the battle of Lake George on the morning of September 8, 1755.

Then, we think of the importance of the great League of the Iroquois which Hendrick represented and we are reminded that nowhere else on the American continent was there another powerful Indian group friendly to the English. It was largely because of this friendship that the English were eventually able to drive out of New York their French rivals. Also largely because of this friendship our civilization today is based on British Standards.

Again, the seal reminds us that the crucial battlegrounds of these all important wars between the French and English in America were right here in our own New York. Ours was the buffer state between the waring nations. The Lake Champlain-Lake George-Hudson River system shared with the Mohawk-Oswego River route distinction as the vital lines of communication, truly the "pathways of empire".

ONTARIO JUNIOR CHAPTER

Or

The Indian Name Of Ontario

SKANADARIO

Meaning "Beautiful Water"

Since there was an interest and desire to know more about local history, especially about Oswego's historical past, the Ontario Junior Chapter of Historians came into existence on January 6, 1947.

Members have discovered that "History can be fun," (Motto of the Junior Historians) from participation in the activities of the club. Some of these past doings are listed below: The Junior Historians assisted the Oswego County Historical Society in its fund raising campaign by folding letters mailed out to possible subscribers. Individual members aided the society's curator (Anthony Slosek) in his work at the Headquarters House of the County Society. Papers were prepared and read at the regular meetings of the club. Provisions was made for social meetings in the High School and at members' homes. Tours were conducted to local places of interest such as the Market Building (First City Hall) and sites of our local forts. Tours outside of Oswego were taken to Sacketts Harbor battlefield and naval station and to the Juniors Annual Convention at Cooperstown.

Under the joint sponsorship of the three local Chapters, a spring Jamboree of the Ontario District was held in Oswego in the Spring of 1949. More than 200 enthusiastic historians listened to Mr. Ralph M. Faust and Mr. Edwin M. Waterbury as they related the story of Oswego. It will be recalled that the visitors were welcomed at the High School, conducted through the Headquarters House and to historic Fort Ontario now maintained by the State of New York. They also saw other sights of a planned tour before darkness set in. There were no idle moments that day. The

Ontario Junior Chapter was highly honored when Raymond Miller, one of its members, was awarded a "Who's Who" certificate as one of the ten top 'Yorkers" for 1947. An article, by Edward Knight, on Dr. Mary Walker was printed in the "Yorker" Magazine. A reprint of the article may be found in the Annual Oswego Historical Society publication for 1949.

As a future project the Ontario Chapter has decided to search for original sources of history, written and material, pertaining to the history of Oswego city and county.

The Pontiac Chapter Of The New York State Historical Association

(Paper presented on February 21, 1950, by Ann Brown, student at Fitzhugh Park School.)

The Pontiac Chapter of Junior Historians of the New York State Historical Association, was formed in October 1947, with seven charter members. Betty Tyler was elected the first president. The club decided that the main purpose would be to explore the history of New York State, and of our community, Oswego.

The name, "Pontiac", was chosen, dues were paid, and soon colorful emblems were received from the New York State Historical Association.

During the first year the club drew up a constitution, which was amended the next year. Both of these procedures afforded much practice in parliamentary methods. The new chapter, with a rapidly increasing membership, became very active. Its program chairman, Barbara Huckabee, organized dramatizations, quiz programs, and excursions to historic Fort Ontario, the Post Cemetery, and to Headquarters House of the County Historical Society.

Since the fall of 1948 our membership has been between twenty-five and thirty. Marilyn Smith was our second president, and under her leadership many interesting programs were given. Outstanding among these were the travel talks by members who had visited historical places.

Aided Freedom Train

The chief project of that year was the planning and presentation of an assembly program about the New York State Freedom Train. The main part of the program was a play written by Whitney Coe, entitled "The Flushing Remonstrance."

This year we chose one topic for study during the first school term. This was "Fire Protection In Oswego". We have had reports written by members of the club, a moving picture and a most enlightening talk by Mr. James Jackson who is an authority on matters relating to fire fighting. He has made models of fire apparatus, old and new style, which he kindly exhibited to us. In the near future we plan to visit one of the first houses.

To be able to show you why the children enjoy our club, I asked some of them to state what they like about it. They gave such answers as:

"We learn how to conduct business meetings and how to participate in them."

"Being a club member helps us in our social studies work."

"We have heard interesting programs about people's vacations."

"We get acquainted with children who have the same interests."

"We have fun together, especially at the parties."

Our present officers are: President, Ann Brown; Vice-president, Whitney Coe; Secretary, Ann Heagerty; Treasurer, Marilyn Ahern. Our sponsor is Miss Margaret McDonald, teacher of social studies.

Historical Significance
Of The Name "Pontiac"

(Paper given before Oswego Historical Society at Oswego, February 21, 1950, by Ann Paschke, student at Fitzhugh Park School.)

When our chapter was organized, we needed a name. To choose it was difficult, so the chapter decided that all members should submit names, one of which would be selected by vote of the pupils. The name "Pontiac", which was submitted by William Hamilton, was unanimously adopted. It was chosen because the members thought that they would like to commemorate the visit paid to Oswego by the great Ottawa Indian Chief, Pontiac. His purpose in coming here was to make a peace treaty with the English, through their representative, Sir William Johnson.

This meeting marked the end of hostilities against the English in which the western Indians had been led by Pontiac. In 1765 George Croghan, deputy for Sir William Johnson, had exacted from Pontiac a promise that he would come to Oswego to confirm a peace already made with Croghan at Ouatenon. True to his word the next summer Pontiac set out for Oswego.

Let us imagine for just a moment that we are standing at Shady Shore looking up Lake Ontario. It is the summer of 1766. On the horizon we see little specks that are getting larger. We see that they are canoes bearing Indian warriors. At the head of these is the canoe bearing Pontiac. Let this scene serve as an introduction to the dramatic incidents which took place in Oswego so long ago.

Colorful Ceremony

When the expedition reached Oswego, the cannon of Fort Ontario, sole survivor of the early English forts, boomed a salutation. Pontiac was met by Sir William Johnson, who was attended by British military officers in uniform and chiefs of the Iroquois, but the formal meeting did not start until the next day, July 24. If we had been in Oswego on that day, a colorful sight would have met our eyes. Pontiac and his attendant sachems stood facing Sir William Johnson and the Iroquois chiefs under a canopy of green boughs, which had been put up to shade them from the sun. Johnson wore, over his regular costume, a scarlet blanket edged with gold lace. This was done to please the Iroquois, his good friends. Pontiac was clad in a blanket and eagle plumes, his warriors being dressed in full costume with feathers and paint. The British officers' brilliant red uniforms gave color to the scene. Sound effects, too, were not lacking, as we know from the words of Crisfield Johnson, "The murmur of the wild Oswego furnished appropriate music for this strange drama".

Johnson opened the meeting by presenting Pontiac and his warriors with wampum. Then Pontiac's calumet (pipe) was passed around for each person to get a whiff of the smoke. Sir William Johnson made a long speech concerning happenings in the past year and the new regulations for fur trade. He concluded his speech saying, "Be strong then, and keep fast hold of friendship, that your children, following your example. may live happy and prosperous lives." This was Johnson's proposal for friendship and Pontiac said he would give his reply on the next day.

The following day a Wyandot chief named Teata opened the council with a brief address. Then Pontiac arose and gave a speech telling Sir William Johnson that he accepted his offer for peace saying: "Father, when our great father of France was in this country, I held him fast by the hand. Now that he is gone, I take you, my English Father by the hand, in the name of all the nations, and promise to keep this covenant as long as I shall live." At the

same time he presented a large wampum belt and continued his speech.

During the next few days, the Indians and Sir William Johnson were chiefly concerned with detail matters pertaining to fur trade. The Iroquois addressed the western chiefs telling them to hold fast the chain of friendship. The council closed on July 31, 1766, with the distribution of many gifts to Pontiac and the rest of the warriors who had accompanied him. Among these was a medal bearing the inscription, "A pledge of peace and friendship with Great Britain 1766". Then Pontiac turned his canoes homeward toward the Maumee, where he spent the following winter. So ended the memorable meeting of Pontiac and Sir William Johnson at Oswego, which marked the end of the unsuccessful conspiracy of Pontiac to destroy the British forts, the English settlers in the West and to restore the French to power in North America.

THE CONSPIRACY OF PONTIAC

(Paper given before Oswego County Historical Society on February 21, 1950, by Nancy Starkey, student at Fitzhugh Park School.)

The autumn of 1710 gave birth to an Indian child of high rank, who was destined to play an influential part in the struggle between the Indian and the white man for the possession of what is now the United States of America. Pontiac, head chief of the Ottawas, was born in a country ruled by France and he was taught from childhood to regard Frenchmen as brothers.

Years after the birth of this famous leader, the French and Indian War broke out, and Pontiac did his utmost to aid the French. It is believed that he led the Ottawas and Chippewas against the English in the campaign in which Braddock was defeated. After this, he and his men were among the wandering tribes which roamed the Alleghenies and along the Ohio, slaughtering countless numbers of settlers who had dared to migrate into the disputed territory.

The aid that Pontiac and his followers gave the French proved fruitless, since, after 1758, the tide of the war turned, and the English began to have one success after another. On September 8, 1760, the Marquis of Vaudreuil surrendered Canada and most of the French forts to the English under General Amherst whose invasion of Canada was based out of Fort Ontario at Oswego. The war in America was ended.

Since the English government had not yet issued its proclamation forbidding English settlements west of the Alleghenies, colonists began returning to lands abandoned during the war and also taking up new lands. British troops occupied the forts which had been surrendered by the French, including Niagara, Detroit, Michillimahinac, St. Marie, Quatanon, and various others. Fort Ontario was garrisoned by British regulars.

Pontiac, besides being a great warrior, was a man of keen vision. He believed that unless the Indians united to drive out the invaders, the English would populate the redmen's hunting grounds and wipe out his race forever. As Francis Parkman says, 'They (the Indians), viewed with wrath and fear the steady progress of the white men . . eating away the forests like a spreading canker."

Pontiac's Next Move

Pontiac now determined on a plan by which the united Indians who had previously adhered to France would drive the English back, at least to their original line of settlement. Some of the Indians believed that they would drive the English out of America, but Pontiac was probably too intelligent to believe this possible, although he urged the others on

with extravagant promises. The year 1762 saw this plan put into action. Secret meetings were held and the war belt and reddened tomahawk were presented to all of the western tribes. At the same time it was whispered among the tribes that a large French army would return to America to aid the Indians in driving out the English invaders. Pontiac's influence was great and this fact, coupled with the Indians' feeling of resentment toward the British, made it easy for him to arouse them. The flames of rebellion, too, were fanned by the French fur traders still roving through the western woods who were seeking vengeance on their hated conquerors. Because of these factors and because of their natural love of warfare, the Indian tribes, one by one, fell in line behind Pontiac—the Ottawas, Chippewas, Delawares, Mingoes, Wyandots, Shawnees, Miamis, Pottawotamies and many others—from the Great Lakes on the north, to the Ohio on the south. These tribes were ready at the time agreed upon to begin attacking forts and settlements near their villages.

In April, 1763, Pontiac called an assemblage of all the chiefs and warriors. In a speech, he blamed the English for all the troubles which beset the Indians, and having aroused the passions of his fellowmen, declared war on the unsuspecting garrisons at Detroit and elsewhere.

Detroit Besieged

On May 10, Pontiac besieged Detroit. The fort at this time contained 120 soldiers and 40 English fur traders. There were enough supplies to last only three weeks. The attackers had around a thousand warriors who lay in wait in the forests which came up within range of the stockade. Over the waters of the Detroit River, canoes came by the score bringing more warriors and provisions from the Canadian side. The only avenue of relief for the garrison lay through the narrow Detroit River where capture by the Indians was relatively easy. The siege went on. Francis Parkman says: "Day after day they continued the attack. No man .... lay down to sleep except in his clothes and with his weapon by his side." Some relief was obtained, when a vessel sent to Fort Niagara for help was able to get through to the Detroit fort with supplies. The first large relief force came toward the end of July, 1763. It consisted of a fleet of canoes carrying 280 men with food and munitions. Major Robert Rogers, hero of the popular movie "Northwest Passage", was a member of this expedition. Captain Dalzell, the commander, decided to end the siege by a bold attack, marching out on the night after his arrival to strike at the Indian camp. The Ottawas and their allies formed a strong barricade on the west side of Parent's Creek, and from there poured such a murderous fire on the British soldiers that over half of the advanced party were killed or wounded. The battle continued, and the English suffered a severe defeat, in which Captain Dalzell was killed. Because the waters of the little stream ran red with blood, the fight was called the Battle of Bloody Run.

This victory had an encouraging effect on the Indians, who were now more than ever determined to take Detroit. For five weary months the siege lasted.

In September, however, the constancy of the Indians began to fail. They had received tidings that a strong British force was on the way to Detroit. Fearing the consequences of an attack, most of the redmen were inclined to sue for peace. Accordingly, on the twelfth of October, Wapocogomguth, chief of the Mississaugas, came into the fort with a pipe of peace. In his speech to Major Gladwyn, he stated that he and his people had always been friends of the English. They were anxious now to conclude a peace treaty. Although Gladwyn under-

stood the insincerity of this speech, he was forced to grant a truce, for his garrison was threatened with famine.

Indians Try Deceit

Shortly after this, Pontiac, too, stated in a letter to Major Gladwyn at Detroit that he was ready to "bury the hatchet", but this was just another instance of the deceit which was a common defensive measure among the Indians. During the winter which he spent in the Illinois country, Pontiac made plans to "renew the war in the spring."[1]

While the siege of Detroit was in progress, Pontiac's allies in the rest of the Northwest were vigorously carrying out the details of the plot against the English. At intervals, news would be received at Detroit of the capture of the small English forts scattered throughout the wilderness. The capture of most of them was accomplished through the use of guile. The garrisons were often taken completely by surprise—so Indians. The massacre at Michillimachinac is a good example of this.

The forts alone were not attacked during this dreadful summer, but outlying settlements along the frontier of Pennsylvania, Maryland, and West Virginia were also subjected to the savagery of the Indians. Traders were murdered in cold blood in the Indian villages, where they had always felt they were reasonably safe.

The center of warfare on this frontier was Fort Pitt, the westernmost stronghold of Britain in the Ohio valley. During the summer of 1763, the occupants of this fort were subjected to a siege which was not broken until the early part of August. Matters might have been much worse but for the military skill and courage shown by the commander, Captain Simon Ecuyer. When warnings came of the Indians causing trouble in near-by regions, the fort was strengthened, and measures were taken to preserve strict discipline among the troops, and also among the many civilians who had sought protection within the post. A general attack, toward the end of the siege, had no bad results, being ended after the fifth day by the drawing away of the Indians to meet the troops of Colonel Henry Bouquet, who had been ordered west to break the siege.

Bouquet Attempts Relief

Bouquet's journey had been slow and beset with many difficulties. Over rocky hills and through valleys, on the Forbes Road, really "a rugged track, hewn out by axemen through forest and swamp up rugged mountains"[2] dragged the wagons of the convoy. Bouquet's troops, the Royal Americans, did not exceed 500 in number, and many of the men were enfeebled by their campaigns in the West Indies, where they had been on duty during the Seven Years' War. Passing Fort Ligonier, Bouquet decided to march only as far as Bushy Run, a small stream, and then cross Turtle Creek at nightfall. Within a half mile of Bushy Run, Indians began an attack on the convoy from all sides. The Indians had the advantages of familiar territory and of a method of fighting suited to the wilderness, but they were opposed by troops led by a military genius.

Although the British suffered great losses on the first day, a successful strategem won the battle for them on August 6, 1763, and within a few days they arrived at Fort Pitt ,to the great joy of the beleagured garrison.

During the next year, a number of events occurred which decided the final outcome of the so-called "Pontiac's War." The month of July witnessed a great council of

1. Parkman, Francis, The Conspiracy of Pontiac. Vol. 1.

2. Parkman, Francis, The Consipracy of Pontiac. Vol II.

the Indians at Fort Niagara, called by Sir William Johnson. Invitations had been sent to countless Indian tribes, and most of them were eager to accept, looking forward to the feast and to the many presents which were promised. About 2,000 Indians assembled around the fort, and the council room at the fort was filled from morning till night, the speeches, smoking of pipes, and serving of whiskey occupying all of Johnson's time for several days. Separate councils were held with the various tribal chiefs as the British felt it wiser to promote jealousies and rivalries between the tribes, thus playing them off against one another, and discouraging any feeling of union. On the completion of his task on August Sixth, Johnson started home, going by way of Oswego.

Bradstreet's Expedition

Earlier in the summer, Colonel John Bradstreet had been given the leadership of an expedition which was to move west, and treat with the Indians at Detroit. On August 26, he came within sight of the fort and near-by settlements. A council was held on September 7, at which Bradstreet demanded that the Indians declare themselves subjects of the King of England. The Indians promised this, and peace was granted. After troops had been sent to re-occupy the forts of Michillimachinac, Green Bay, and St. Marie, Bradstreet returned in the fall to Albany using the Lake Ontario-Oswego River route. In the opinion of Parkman, Bradstreet's expedition had some good results, but in general it was poorly conducted, and in part "a detriment to the English interest."

Colonel Bouquet, early in October, left Fort Pitt, and began a westward march, which had for its purpose the subduing of Indians in the Ohio Valley, the Shawanoes and the Delawares. In the Valley of the Muskingum, Bouquet held a council, which was attended by his 1,500 troops in battle array, a new and imposing spectacle for the Indians. Speeches were exchanged. Bouquet addressing the Indians sternly and giving them no quarter. Many white prisoners, taken during raids over a period of years, were in the Indian camps, and these they were ordered to return within twelve days. After this deed was accomplished, the army left the Muskingum Valley and arrived at Fort Pitt on November 28. The returned captives were sent to their former homes and the troops were disbanded.

French Refused Aid

In the autumn of 1764, Pontiac sent ambassadors to many western and southern tribes asking them to take up the war hatchet. Having finished this mission, they went to New Orleans and demanded an audience with the governor. The French governor presided over a council in which the Indians bade him to provide supplies for their use in carrying on the war. Although presents were exchanged, the council was of no avail, and the following morn, the savages' canoes were ascending the Mississippi on their homeward voyage. Their mission had failed.

Pontiac now saw his followers one after another, dropping their allegiance to him. He realized that it would be dangerous to hold out longer. Finally, he made up his mind to accept the peace which he knew would be offered. Soon, George Croghan, deputy of Sir William Johnson as Superintendent of Indian Affairs, met Pontiac in council at Fort Quatanon in the Illinois country. Here, the great chief offered the calumet and the belt of peace, saying that the French were to blame for laying the foundations for the war and that they had deceived him.

Croghan, followed by Pontiac and other warriors, then traveled to Detroit, where he held a council with the Indians of that

region. Before leaving for the east, Crogan exacted from Pontiac a promise that he would visit Oswego the following year in order to make a formal treaty of peace with Sir William Johnson.

Kingsford Park Chapter

New York State Historical

Association

(By David Leonard)

1. We call our club the Osh-we-geh chapter.
2. We organized in November 1949 with fourteen members.

We have lost one member and gained one member by transfer of pupil.

3. We have a Constitution which sets forth a number of facts about our club such as: its name, purpose, officers, membership, dues and meetings.
4. The two chief objectives of our club are:

a. To know the interesting history of our own community, Oswego and Oswego County.

b. To know the interesting history of our State of New York.

5. We take in new members at the beginning of each term.

We limit our membership to students in the 7th grade.

6. We have our meetings on the third Wednesday of each month unless something special happens.
7. We have had four meetings since organization.
8. Our officers include: President, David Leonard; Vice-president, Fred Swiatlowski; Secretary, Anna Steinhauer; Treasurer, Charles Welk.

MEANING OF "OSH-WE-GEH"

(By Helen Bellardine)

The members of Kingsford Park Junior Chapter chose the name Osh-we-geh because it has been so full of meaning to so many people. It is the source of our city's name—Oswego.

Osh-we-geh is an Indian word meaning "the pouring-out place". To the Iroquois Indians of central New York the mouth of the Oswego river was the place where the lakes, rivers and streams in the heart of their home land poured forth their waters to mingle with that of the great Lake Skan ya da rio, which the white man named Lake Ontario.

The Onondaga Indians hunted in the forest around Osh-we-geh and fished for salmon and sturgeon in the lake and river. Sometimes this river was their warpath trail when they undertook an attack on their enemy, the Hurons of Canada. A peculiar fact is, that the French knew little of Osh-we-geh or our river until it was traveled by Father Simon LeMoyne, the French missionary. His exploration gave France a real claim to the land on the south shore of Lake Ontario.

The French made little effort to establish their claim to the region on account of the unfriendly attitude of the Iroquois Indians.

English Fur Traders

In 1715 the Iroquois permitted some English fur traders to come to Osh-we-geh to meet and trade with the Western Indians from the vicinity of Lake Erie. This trade cut in on that of the French traders whose government now took steps to assert their claim to the region.

The struggle for control of the fur-trade and Osh-we-geh finally led to the French and Indian War in which England was the victor and eventually gained control of most of the continent of North America.

British occupation of Fort Ontario for thirteen years following the close of the Revolutionary War delayed America settlement at the mouth of the Oswego River and interfered with American trade with Canada and the West.

Port Development

When the Americans got pos-

session of Fort Ontario in 1796 the natural advantages of Oswego were soon recognized by the United States Government. Since 1803 the Federal Government has made many improvements to our harbor. Today it is one of the best United States ports along the Great Lakes. The state of New York also has helped Oswego to develop by building the Oswego Canal and later the Oswego Barge Canal.

Tremendous waterpower in the Oswego River has encouraged manufacturing since 1820. In that year Alvin Bronson erected the first large flour mill. Since then manufacturing has grown until today it is the most important way to make a living in Oswego.

There have been times when commerce and manufacturing have slumped but they have always revived to become stronger and more flourishing than before.

This is a brief story of Osh-wegeh and the people who changed it from a peaceful forest to the thriving American city, Oswego.

OSWEGO IN 1850

(By Dayton Coe of Oswego High)

Oswego of a century ago, a lake town, a town of sailors and ship builders, had every reason to believe in its future greatness. Was it not true that the population increased threefold in ten years from 4,658 in 1840 to 12,199 in 1850 and would increase to near 16,000 in 1855?[1] This optimism of Oswego's advantages in the 1850's was reflected in a local newspaper a century ago:

"The city is situated upon the southern shore of Lake Ontario, and built on both sides of the Oswego River. The river forms the outlet of the Oneida, Cayuga, Seneca, and the whole family of lakes of central New York. The vast hydraulic power of the river, in connection with its commercial advantages, natural and artificial, are unsurpassed, and perhaps unequalled, on the continent. The Oswego flouring mills contain 88 run of stone, and can manufacture 8,750 barrels of flour per day. More flour is made here per annum, than at any other point in the United States. Oswego is within a few hours sail of the Canadian ports on Lake Ontario, and forms the natural outlet to market for the vast regions lying north. Oswego has also a water communication with the Hudson at Troy and Albany, by the Oswego and Erie Canal, and by railroad to Boston and New York. In short, Oswego has the elements of commercial importance, and natural resources of a great city."

Canadian Imports Heavy

By 1850, the net customs on Canadian goods received at Oswego ranked it first among all of the United States customs districts receiving Canadian goods—being twice that received at Buffalo. Only the ports of New York, Boston and New Orleans reported greater customs revenue. All this was accomplished when no ship could enter the harbor which had a draught greater than ten feet. The Oswego canal draught was four feet; locks were 15 feet wide and 90 fet long; and the barges were either mule or horse drawn.

Industrial progress was evident. Two years before, Thomson Kingsford began to manufacture starch from corn. The expansion of this industry made Oswego famous as the "Starch City". Other mills such as H. S. Conde & Son knitting mill, carriage manufactories, tanneries, and wood mills flourished. Seventy-seven million feet of lumber entered the port of Oswego in 1850. The reason for such a large trade was due to the favorable rates by way of the Welland Canal and Oswego. The malting industry got its initial start in 1850.

Oswego must have been a fertile field for inventors; for a local newspaper reports a remarkable and ingenious invention:

"A mechanic in this city has attached machinery to a clock, so as to cause the striking part to ring a bell 24 times at any desired hour, at which one wishes to be called in the night time. The machinery will, at the same time, light a candle placed in a horizontal position, and when lighted assume a perpendicular position. The machinery may be set so as to give the alarm, and light the room at any hour or minute desired."

Oswego in 1850 could boast of two financial instittuions, Luther Wright's Bank and the City Bank. The Luther Wright Bank reported resources of $721,016.26 as of December 29, 1849.

Newspapers Of 1850

Newspapers were better able to serve Oswego citizenry after the invention of the Morse telegraph. The "Weekly Oswego Palladium", the oldest paper published in Oswego county (established in 1819) began to issue the "Daily Palladium" in 1850 in connection with its weekly. The "Oswego Daily Commercial Times", the county's first daily newspaper, had been established as the "Oswego Daily Advertiser" April 3, 1845. In 1850 it also issued a weekly edition known as "Oswego Commercial Times". The "Peoples Journal" was published as a weekly on the East side of the city. Feuding between the "Palladium" and the "Times" was much in evidence. Each paper questioned the mentality of the other's editors. The "Times", a Whig paper, whose candidates did not do as well as was anticipated in the November election of 1850, lamented that the "Palladium" must be considered from that time on to be "an abolitionist press." The "Oswego Daily Commercial Times", hitherto published in the morning, on Saturday, December 7, 1850 gave notice to its patrons that "the business season, now being in a measure closed, the 'Times' will be issued as an evening paper during the winter months commencing on Monday evening next." Would it have then been possible to look into the distant future to foresee the consolidation of the erstwhile battling publications "Palladium" and "Times" on April 21, 1925?

The Hotels

The local press quoted a traveler that Oswego has several good hotels, but none better than that kept by Ira Garrison in East Oswego, widely known as the Oswego City Hotel. This large and commodius hotel, has recently undergone a thorough repair, being newly painted, papeerd, etc., making it just what the traveller desires, a pleasant and agreeable home." The Oswego Hotel was built by Gerrit Smith in 1828 on the site now occupied by the East side office of the Oswego County National Bank. Also on the east side was Eagle Tavern. On the west side of the river, a person could be accommodated at the "Welland" which stood at West First and Cayuga streets, and the United States Hotel. The United States Hotel was located on West Seneca street between Sixth and Seventh. It was a large hotel but it never received the patronage that it expected because of its distance from the center of the business district. Later, it housed the Normal school.

The Fire Department

In one of a series of editorials, a local newspaper made the following comment on the Oswego fire department.

"Probably no city in the Union anywhere nearly corresponding in size and population with Oswego, has a fire department half so effective. In discipline and order it is certainly equal, if not superior, to any city in the State. It has often been the subject of admiration and remark of strangers, who have chanced to witness the energy, skill, and noble daring of its members; as it is also the pride of our citizens, and not

unfrequently their right arm of defense and protection".

The fire department in 1850 consisted of seven companies, 424 men, five engines, four hose carts, 1,300 feet of hose, two hook and ladder trucks, nine ladders, six hooks, twelve axes, twelve fire buckets. In that same year a new Button pumper, hand operated, was purchased. On July 30, 1850, a disastrous $90,000 fire broke out in a large building at the east end of the lower bridge on the north side of Bridge street, crossed Bridge street and burned over the south side of the block between the river and First street, with about one-third of the wooden or lower bridge.

River Baptisms In April

Oswego, a century ago, had several fine churches—the First Presbyterian Church, Christ Church (Episcopal), First Methodist Church (1850), First Baptist Church, St. Paul's R. C. Catholic Church, African Methodist Episcopal Church, East Methodist Church, erected in 1849, dedicated in March, 1850 (on the site of the former Hall bakery), St. Mary's R. C. Catholic Church commenced in 1848, completed in 1849 and dedicated in 1850, Church of the Evangelists organized in 1850. Again the press notes on April 12, 1850 that there were quite a number of persons of the Methodist denomination baptised in the river on Sabbath day. One Millerite was baptised, gathering quite a concourse of spectators on both sides of the river.

Efforts to improve the school system were begun early in 1850. Only one-fourth of the children between the ages of five and twenty-one were then in school. It was the school for the poor and orphaned children conducted by Edward A. Sheldon, later founder of the Oswego State Normal and Training School, in a basement that brought about the agitation for free public schools. The Teachers Association resolved (January 1850) that "we are unanimously of the opinion that a well conducted Union School in each ward of our city, is the best arrangement by which effectual, equal, and economical system of public instruction can be secured to our youths." A detailed school law was drawn up and published in the local press. Meetings were held in 1850 to make all public schools of the city free but opposition delayed the project until May 11, 1853 when the present system came into existence.

Early Private Schools

In 1850 the old academy had burned down and the Oswego seminary was opened in the United States Hotel. There were two departments, male and female. The pupils were divided into three classes, Primary, Junior, and Senior, and received instruction in all those branches usually taught in our first seminaries—the common and the higher English branches, higher courses of mathematics, natural sciences, Greek and Latin classics, French, music and painting.

On the corner of West First and Bridge Streets located on the second floor above Nos. 177 and 179 West First Street, was Slocum's Academy. This school was established in 1848 for pupils of both sexes. The Academy could accommodate 100 pupils. The instruction consisted of two departments, Primary and Classical. Besides the above mentioned schools there were the district schools which are listed at the end of this paper.

School had its lighter side also for the press informed the people that William B. Smith will open a dancing school in the Academy Hall. A person could learn dancing, waltzing, gallopading, the polkas and mazourkas. The same Smith respectively gave notice that he would give a school hop at the same hall. Tickets could be had for $1.00 each and supper would be served for those who wished.

Fraternal Organizations

Independent orders were to be found for those Oswegonians who liked to spend time at lodges. Among them were Independent Order of Odd Fellows, Oswegatchie Lodge No. 156, Oswego Lodge No. 214, Spirit of '76 Lodge No. 165 Konoshioni Encampment No. 48. Some other organizations were: Oswego Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons, St. Patrick's Benevolent Society, Oswego Association for the Advancement of Science, Oswego Horticultural Society, Oswego Temple of Honor No. 45, Clypeum Section, C. of T., Oswego Union Daughters of Temperance No. 91, Sons of Temperance, Thermopylae Division No. 350, Sons of Temperance Lake Ontario Division No. 169.

The Oswego Guards organized in 1838 had become Company A of the 48th Regiment, National Guard, State of New York by 1850 and met on the top floor of the Market Building or first Oswego City Hall as it had since its first organization. Later it was provided with an armory on the east side. The Guards on several occasions were called upon to perform active duty in Oswego and surrounding localities. During the "anti-rent riots" of the 1840s they had been called to the vicinity of Albany in connection with the anti-rent riots.

The Early Police Force

For police protection, Oswego had four constables and as many night watchmen as might be necessary. The Recorder tried cases in the Market Building. His wisdom must have been taxed at times, for in one instance "a young and vigorous woman entered a complaint against her drunken husband for complicated wrongs, neglect, ill-treatment and refusal to provide for the support of her children. The kind-hearted Recorder tried to point out the proper course for her to pursue, but her tears would not be dried by his friendly suggestions. This is but one of the hundred cases of daily occurrences of outraged wives and drunken husbands whose whole earnings were spent upon their brutal appetite, rather than devoted to the support of their suffering, famished families. It is no wonder that this old complaint accounts for the several temperance organizations in the city."

County Court, too, was held in the Market Building. The Honorable Orla H. Whitney disposed of 53 cases on the civil calendar at the January term.

Both the city and county prisoners were detained in the basement of the Market Building. Conditions were such that it was referred to as the "Black Hole". Later the county provided its own jail on East Second Street on land now owned by the Ames Iron Works.

County Offices

The county appeared to be somewhat tardy in providing a clerk's office. The clerk's office of Oswego County, it was reported, was a portable sort of a concern, some part of which was moving between Oswego and Pulaski a considerable portion of the time. It had no safe and secure place anywhere and the important records upon which depended the titles to the vast amount of real estate in the county were liable to be burned up at any time. Shortly after this complaint a clerk's office was built by citizens of Oswego on the present site of the county office building and presented to the county. (It should be mentioned that Oswego County yet has two county seats, and two court buildings, one in Oswego and one in Pulaski.)

The story of how Oswego County came to have two county seats and two courthouses, one each in Oswego and Pulaski, is interesting but will not be told at this time.

City Officers Of 1850

Residents of Oswego were honored with political offices. In 1850 these were: Mayor Leander Bab-

cock, Recorder Orville J. Harmon, Clerk John M. Casey, Attorney John C. Churchill, Treasurer Erastus P. Burt, Marshall Nehemiah Dodge, Aldermen of the first ward, James H. Hart and Cortland C. Cooper, Second ward, Florello Meeker and Willis Sumner, Third ward, Cyrus Carrier and Robert F. Child, Fourth ward, Issac S. Merriam and Ezra M. Mead, Supervisor of the First ward Joel B. Penfield, Second ward, Portius F. Parsons, Third ward, John Thurman, Fourth ward, James H. Lyon. Cheney Ames was the postmaster.

The postoffice was located in the Market Building. It was customary at that time to publish by advertisement in the press the list of unclaimed letters held at the post office. Jacob Richardson was the custom's collector and the builder (in 1850) of the beautiful home, now the Headquarters House of the Oswego Historical Society. Philander Rathbun, the County Clerk, held office from January 1, 1850 to 1853. Oswego's representative in the New York State Assembly was William Lewis, Jr., and William Duer of Oswego was re-elected in 1849 for a two-year term in the House of Representatives from the 23rd Congressional District comprising of Madison and Oswego Counties. The Supreme Court Justice of the 5th Judicial District from 1847 to 1855 was the Honorable William F. Allen of Oswego.

Oswego Life In 1850

Let us look at life in Oswego a century ago as seen through the eyes of the press. The upper bridge (Utica Street) was completed in 1849 at a cost of $7,000 and the Common Council passed an ordinance to prevent immoderate driving on the free bridge; for, a sign read as follows: "Ten dollars fine for riding or driving over this Bridge faster than a walk." This was the first free bridge, no tolls being charged for crossing it in any manner.

The Rev. Dr. Baird delivered a course of lectures on the History of Europe commencing on January 7 at Franklin Hall. On January 9, the Honorable Alvin Bronson delivered the ninth lecture in the free course of Public Lectures, the subject being "Free Trade". On January 21, Horace Greeley, editor and publisher of the "New York Tribune", spoke at Franklin Hall on "Self-Culture". It was especially well received by the younger members in the audience.

In May, Van Amburgh's Circus showed a poar bear, 14 lions, a rhinoceros and a beautiful elephant, the "Tippee Sultan".

The fact that Stone's Oswego Band would play in Washington Square, instead of at Franklin Square, was also noted in the paper.

An effort had been made in the city to prevail on the merchants to close their stores at 7 o'clock. This was agreed to by the more liberal-minded of them, but the project in the end was unsuccessful.

Poverty Abounded

The poor were with us then as now for a report made to the clerk of the Board of Supervisors that the number of paupers or relieved or supported in the city of Oswego during the year ending on November 1, 1850 was 703. The expense attending their support was $4,346.58.

Children died young as reported for the year commencing April 1, 1850 and ending March 31, 1851. There were 151 male deaths; those, over 15, numbered 43 and under 15, 108. Female deaths were 129; those, over 15, were 56 and under 15, 73.

Liberty Party Convention

The National Convention of the Liberty Party met for a three-day session in Market Hall, on October 2, 1850. The purpose of the convention was "To consider the duty of the people of this country as Christian citizens and to nominate a president and vice-president of the United States". About

300 persons from several states attended. The convention was called to order by Samuel R. Ward, a colored gentleman. Gerrit Smith was nominated for president and Samuel R. Ward, a colored man, for vice-president. Smith, however, did not run for president in 1852 but instead was elected to Congress.

During the convention, Mr. Barnard made Daguerrotype likenesses, the paper recorded.

On the topic of dogs and their owners, the following item appeared:

"It is the opinion of a good many citizens, that the number of huge, precocious dogs about the streets of this city, is more than the public good demands. Last Saturday, a savage fight occurred near the post office between a couple of mastiffs, and from them, the war extended to their masters and the bystanders. There was blood shed in large quantities but of all the parties, the poor, suffering dogs deserved the most commiseration. The men were not encouraged to fight; the poor brutes were stimulated to do it by their impelling masters."

Shortly after this incident, the press felt much better, as it reported on dog power:

"Among the many huge mastiffs about town, we doubt not there is dog power enough to carry a grist-mill. Yet it is unused and neglected. On Saturday, a noble dog, with a small loaded wagon trotted down the street carring master and freight with wonderful ease and elasticity. He appeared quite well content with his condition, and was fulfilling his destiny much better than if growling at men's heels, or biting the legs of horses. Why should such animal strength be wasted?"

Telegraph Introduced

On October 2, 1850, it was reported that "O'Reilly's telegraph" would soon be completed between Oswego and New York; also between Oswego, Watertown, Ogdensburg and Boston.

The Oswego and Syracuse Railroad had been in operation now for two years. Passengers often missed their train and the explanation seems to be simple. The train of cars leaving this city, was governed by railroad time, which was said to be five minutes ahead of Oswego city time. Owing to this difference, passengers were frequently left.

Plank Road Era

The city was served, not only by the railroad, but also by the plank roads. A plank road ran through Scriba, New Haven, Mexico, Albion, Williamstown to Rome. A second road ran to Syracuse; a third to Hastings Center, and a fourth, to Hannibal by way of Sterling.

The fair of the Oswego County Agricultural Society held at New Haven on September 25-26, notwithstanding the unfavorable state of the weather, came off with more spirit and a fuller attendance of the farmers and merchants than any previous one held in the county. The annual address was delivered by the President, Hamilton Murray, Esq.

The Governor of the State of New York, Hamilton Fish, proclaimed Thursday, December 12, as Thanksgiving Day.

As the year, 1850, came to an end, Oswego still got its water from wells. It had no sewage system, hospital, gas lights, nor cobblestone roads, yet it was a pleasant and thriving community in which to reside.

FOOTNOTES

1.—

	Population
Oswego County	62,150
Oswego City 1840	4,658
Oswego City 1845	6,818
Oswego City 1850	12,199
Oswego City 1855	16,000
1st ward 1850	3,508
2nd ward 1850	2,459
3rd ward 1850	2,918
4th ward 1850	3,314
Total	12,199

2. The fire department comprised of the following:
Engine Company No. 1 .... 91 men

Engine Company No. 2 .... 92 men
Engine Company No. 3 .... 72 men
Engine Company No. 4 .... 82 men
Engine Company No. 5 .... 32 men

3. West Side—

1. Fourth Street between Seneca and VanBuren Streets.

2. District 12—Began at the river, went west in Cayuga, south in Third Street as far as Albany, then east to the river, north along river. The school building was on West Third Street near Mohawk and is now an apartment.

3. District 6—West of Fourth Street and north of Cayuga Street.

4. District 13—West of Third Street between Albany and Cayuga Streets. It was a stone schoolhouse on West Bridge Street between Sixth and Seventh Streets.

5. District 17—Between Albany and Cayuga Streets and Third and Sixth Streets. A single room school was on Fourth Street near Bridge Street.

6. District 10—Between Albany and Oneida Streets, west of Sixth Street. Single room school was on Mohawk Street near Tenth Street.

7 District 9—South of Albany Street and West to the city line. A stone school was on West Fourth Street near Erie street.

8. School for poorer class, called Orphans and Free School Association. It was in the basement of the "Tabernacle" or Franklin Hall which stood on the site now occupied by the Oswego Theater.

East side—

1. A stone school was on Fourth Street between Cayuga and Seneca Streets. It was burned in the fire of 1853.

2. School was on Fourth between Mohawk and Utica Streets.

3. School was on Tenth Street near Oneida Street.

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HISTORY AND DEVELOPMENT OF OPTICS AND OPTOMETRY

(Paper by Donald Bohall of Oswego High School Chapter of Junior Historians).

It is impossible to tell definitely when or by whom glass was first made and used but there are certain indications by which we are able to approximate the dates and circumstances of its discovery. As early as 3000 B. C. opaque glass was made. We are told that the Egyptians knew about the making of glass in the Fourth Millennium B. C. although there is no documentary proof until 1740 B. C. A lens was discovered in the ruins at Nineveh and is regarded by some as evidence that the Chaldeans knew something about glass. Similar convex glass was found in the ruins of Pompeii but the focal lengths were so short they could not have been worn before the eyes. The Greeks in Mycenae knew about glass in 600 B. C. and a century later the Hindus experimented in this field. Both the Greeks and the Romans made use of their knowledge of glass for we find that as early as 423 B. C. they were using rock crystal lenses for burning glasses and the Romans in the same manner as the Chinese made use of the burning glasses to cauterize wounds in the human body. The earliest well-authenticated literary testimony concerning the use of a lens appears in the famous "Comedy Of the Clouds" written by Aristophanes in 423 B. C.

Origin Of Spectacles

While it is common belief that spectacles as we know them had their origin in China there is nothing of value to prove this. The Chinese admit that their knowledge of burning lenses came from Lo Cha, which means through India. Knowledge of the invention probably passed from Greece to the Orient through the Roman Empire and thence to India somewhere between the Fourth and Sixth Centuries and was passed on to China about the first of the Seventh Century. It was not until 1260 A. D. that Marco Polo reported that lenses for optometric purposes were in use in China.

One of the first to use a lens for the aid of vision was Roger Bacon (1214-94), an English Monk, who used a lens for near work but not for the correction of ocular, optical defects for distance, and who spoke of "glasses which make small letters large." It is entirely possible that the Italian, Salvino d'Armato degli Armati, really was the one to whom credit for the invention of spectacles should go. His epitaph at Vienna reads—"Here lies Salvino d'Armato degli Armati, the inventor of spectacles. May God forgive his sins. Anno D. 1317."

Eye Glasses In Europe

In the Fourteenth Century the use of glasses spread slowly through the different countries of Europe, at first only among the wealthy class due to the excessive prices charged for them by the makers. History records that "Pietro Buonaparte Podesti of Padua, Ambassador at the Austrian Court in 1319 created a great sensation at the marriage of the grand duke's sister by appearing with a pair of spectacles on his nose, these being a recent invention of the Florentine Salvino Armati."

Roger Bacon was the first to mention concave lenses which he did in his Opus Magnus (1268); but no record is made of their use for the improvement of vision until the time of Pope Leo X who is said to have used a concave lens. Pope Leo X was very nearsighted and used them while hunting, saying of his glasses—"With them I see better than my companions." His picture in Pitti Palace, Florence, painted by Raphael in 1617, shows clearly a single concave lens being held in his hand, the concavity being plainly shown by the reflection.

Microscope And Telescope

Many discoveries in aid of good vision have occurred as a result of some other discovery. In 1590 the two Jansens in Holland invented the compound microscope. In 1610 Galileo invented the telescope with its system of lenses. For over a century the making of lenses was confined largely to Holland, and Anthony Leeuwenhoek (1632-1723), the man who started the study of microbes by an improved microscope, was no academic scholar but merely the janitor of the town hall of Delft. He ground out thousands of lenses by hand. He did much for advancement in the manufacture and use of the lens, and was recognized by the Royal Society of England.

In England the manufacture and sale of lenses was carried on upon a high plane and spectacles were never distributed by peddlers at bargain prices. The English opticians maintained a high reputation and were the leaders in their field. It is noteworthy that Charles I of England in 1629 granted a charter to the "Minister and Court of the Worshipful Company of Spectacle Makers" and they were empowered to search premises used for spectacle making for "deceitful or counterfeit wares" and given the power to destroy "bad and deceitful wares". They also had authority to call to their assistance any mayor, justice of the peace, sheriff, bailiff or constable to aid in such search. This charter has not been repealed to this day.

Spectacle Makers Guilds

By the end of the Sixteenth Century, Guilds of Spectacle makers were functioning in Italy, France and Germany as well as in England. In 1600, current styles in spectacles, eye glasses and reading lenses were illustrated with colored drawings in a manuscript issued by the Opticians' Guild at Regensburg, Bavaria. In 1623 deValdes wrote the first book on optics in any modern language and it was published in Seville at about the same time the Royal Society was founded in England. During this period history records five or more men writing on the theory and prac-

tice of correcting old sight and near sight.

Progress in the field of optometry has been largely a combination of scientific inquiry and research combined with mechanical inventive genius. In 1621 the Dutch astronomer, Snell, discovered the law of refraction of light and produced a mathematical formula giving the amount of change in direction a ray of light is deflected in passing through a lens.

In 1738, Robert Smith tried to unify in a massive book all that was known about optics; his work was published in Cambridge, England.

Christian Huyghens (1629-95) of Holland, proved that light behaves like undulating waves, and published a more complete work than that of Smith.

Sir Isaac Newton (1642-1727) deduced the mathematical laws of light and really founded the science of physics. He wrote on light and color, and helped to form the Royal Society.

Joseph Fraunhofer (1787-1826) showed that physics and chemistry are related and discovered the spectral lines which bear his name.

Fresnel (1788-1827) worked on a theory of light in waves.

John Dalton (1766-1844) worked on the atomic theory and on color blindness.

It is interesting that these men advanced more than one science by their work, even though they might have been interested in only one. Color led to prisms, to organic chemistry, coal-tar products, and to a greater and better knowledge of the part color and odor play in the lives of flowers.

Refraction, (the bending or focusing of light), in our modern sense, is almost the latest and youngest branch of ocular science.

Astigmatism Corrective

It was not until 1801 that Thomas Young (1773-1829) discovered astigmatism; he was the inventor of an optometer and expounder of accommodation, (the focusing of the eyes for near work). He did not, however, develop a satisfactory method of correcting astigmatism, and it was not until 1827 that Sir George Biddell Airy (1801-92) an English astronomer, first used a cylindrical lens for this purpose. In all the centuries before this, there undoubtedly were millions of persons who suffered from astigmatism and could get no relief.

During the decade 1850 to 1860, Professor Abbe created uniform curves and a method for the control of the density of glass.

Sir William Crookes (1832-1919) invented the radiometer and tinted lenses, the latter as a means to protect the eyes of industrial workers whose occupations exposed them to intense light and heat.

Franklin Made Bifocals

It was in 1784 that Benjamin Franklin returned from Europe with the bifocals which he had invented and about which he was very enthusiastic.

For some decades the main interest of most optical workers was in the frame, rather than in the lenses. At first all parts had to be purchased from France, England or Germany. The frames were mostly of iron or steel and came largely from Chance Brothers of England. In 1815, Garrett at 144 Market Street, Philadelphia, began to branch out and make frames of silver, tortoise shell, etc., but on a very limited scale. Then about 1840, rimless frames were introduced from France.

Other parts of the frame were greatly developed by Ivan Fox, who had worked in the metals shops of Queen & Co., and was a noted horseman. He named his invention for parts of saddles. The saddle, bridge, the offset guard and the lock temple endpiece are all his creations.

Another epoch of progress began about 1850. By that time the making of gold, silver and steel

spectacles was well established as a business in Southbridge, Mass. William Beecher (1806-1893) started making frames there in 1833 and as time went on he was joined by others, among them George W. Wells, (1846-1912). Prior to this beginning of domestic optical manufacturing, spectacleware had been imported from abroad and, because of its high price, was naturally confined for the most part to persons of affluence. When American opticians produced frames of material less expensive than gold, silver, tortoise shell, etc., greater variety in spectacle style resulted and the wearing of eyeglasses became possible to those of all classes who required them.

Guinard, the Swiss watchmaker, opened a shop in Paris in 1827 and one in Birmingham in 1848. The French began to make rimless frames in 1840.

In 1870, John L. Borsch came from Batavia, N. Y., to Philadelphia and began to make rimless eyeglasses and kryptok lenses.

Machine Grinding

About 1897, Anton Wagner, who had come from Germany to this country, began to grind toric lenses by a machine, whereas previously all cylindrical lenses had been ground by hand. This lowered the price of lenses and made them readily available. This accomplishment really introduced eyeglasses to the millions of people where previously they had been confined to the more affluent.

Several important advances took place in the period 1880-1890. In 1886, Charles F. Prentice, noted physicist and optometrist, published his "Treatise On Ophthalmic Lenses"; in 1888 his "Dioptric Formulae For Combined Cylindrical Lenses," and in 1890, his "Metric System Of Numbering and Measuring Prisms."

By 1885 the cemented wafer bifocal was invented, and then began an era of progressive improvement in bifocals.

The word "optometrist" was first used in a German text book in 1870. In 1903 the American Optometric Association adopted the name "optometrist" as the designation of non-medical refractionists.

Optometry has been the most rapidly developing profression in all history. Its progress in the promotion of good vision has gone forward by leaps and bounds. It proceeded upon the theory that eyestrain is not a disease but a physical fact which can be precisely ascertained and accurately remedied. New and precise optical instruments have been invented and old ones perfected. Today the modern optometrist's office is a place where unbelievably advanced, precision instruments are employed, not only to examine eyes accurately but to develop perfect coordination of the visual functions and correct cross-eyes. More progress has been accomplished in the past thirty-five years in this field than in all the centuries up to that time. It remained for the birth of optometry to bring about this development.

It is significant to note from its lineage, as thus recorded from history, how completely detached from medical science has been the field of optics and optometry.

Hannibal's Historical Highlights

by Gordon Sturge

(Paper Given Before Oswego County Historical Society March 21, 1950 By Harry C. Mizen.)

Our President and presiding officer of the evening has labeled my paper a "Review of Gordon W. Sturge's book" entitled "Hannibal Historical Highlights." Mr. Sturge is a Hannibal man, well qualified to write concerning past and present historical events, particularly when they pertain to the village and town of Hannibal. Mr. Sturge is a graduate of the Hannibal High school, class of 1918, and Hannibal Training school, class of 1925. In 1934-36, he was president of the Hannibal High School Alumni Association. At Syracuse University he majored in history and was graduated with a master's degree. Following his graduation, he became an instructor in history at the Hannibal High school and now serves in like capacity in the Cato-Meridian Central school. He is also the town historian and mayor of the Village of Hannibal.

Before proceeding further, a word is in order as to why Mr. Waterbury and Professor Faust assigned me the task of writing a review of Mr. Sturge's work. The reason they assigned is that much overworked word "background". "Don't forget", they said, "that the Village of Hannibal is the place of your birth and that there you first attended Hannibal's public school;" and then, after a brief pause, both slyly remarked in concert, "and don't forget that you once opened a law office and practiced law in the Village of Hannibal." To the allegation that I once opened a law office in the Village of Hannibal, I plead guilty; to the charge of practicing law thereat, I offer the plea of nolo contendere.

Short-Lived Practice

This is the truth of the matter. Soon after I was admitted to the bar, I commenced to toy with the idea of having a law office in Oswego and in Hannibal. Accordingly, I rented an office facing the Village Square and equipped it with three kitchen chairs, a kitchen table, a portable oil stove, and the old Code of Civil Procedure and then announced through the medium of the "Hannibal News", then being published in the village, and a shingle over the door bearing the legend "Attorney At Law" under my name adding that my services would be available to all and sundry each and every Saturday following my arrival from Oswego on the morning train. Lack of client office congestion, coupled with the necessity of getting out of bed at the dismal hour of six o'clock in the morning to catch the train soon ended this early venture.

Approves Author's Method

Mr. Sturge has not followed the conventional form of historical writing and, for this, he has my thanks. Discarding chronological arrangement, he breaks the work down into topical subjects, each enriched with names, important dates and statistical data. A common sense, intelligent table of contents enables the reader to at once turn to the particular subject or topic of interest to him at the moment.

The first topic is logically a brief outline of when and how the original Military Township of Hannibal was erected out of the 1,800,000 acres of the Military

Tract that the State of New York set aside as a bonus for the soldiers of the Revolutionary War. Later this township became a town municipality of a county, first the County of Onondaga and then the County of Oswego. His next topic is a questionnaire or quiz entitled "Can You Remember When?", and then follows a series of subjects and topics wherein you may find the answers to the quiz.

Time allotted to this paper precludes a detailed review of the many interesting topics and subjects found in Mr. Sturge's book. Among others worthy of mention are Hannibal Man Founder of Kenosha, Wisconsin; Old Industries and Businesses; First Elections to Public Office; Education; Fifteen School Districts; Hannibal Men in Wars.

In an Epilogue, Mr. Sturge says: "Perhaps it (his book) will stimulate critics to volunteer better and more complete information for future writers of Hannibal's history." Disclaiming better and more complete information, I cheerfully accept his invitation, but not as a critic or a volunteer

The Military Tract

The original Military Tract consisted of 1,800,000 acres situated now within the boundaries of the Counties of Cortland, Onondaga, Cayuga and Seneca and parts of Tompkins, Schuyler, Wayne and Oswego. After it was surveyed, mapped and divided into twenty-five military townships, each township was given a classical name. Hannibal, the most northeasterly township in the Military Tract, was numbered "2" and received the name of the Carthaginian general, Hannibal. It adjoins the Military Township of Lysander on the south, both of which corner on the Oswego River at the Oswego Falls. There has long been much speculation who the culprit was that assigned classical names to the twenty-five townships of the Military Tract. For a long time, Simeon DeWitt, the Surveyor General of the State, was deemed the culprit. This he persistently denied and today the finger of suspicion strongly points to a Mr. Harper who was the Secretary of the Land Commission at the time and who had previously been a Latin teacher.

In 1794, the Military Townships of Hannibal, Lysander and Cicero by statute were created a town of the County of Onondaga. In 1806 the Military Township of Hannibal was taken from the Town of Lysander and made a town of the County of Onondaga. Then, when the County of Oswego was formed in 1816, it became a town of Oswego County with the north thirty-three lots of the Military Township of Lysander added thereto and so remained until 1818 when the towns of Oswego and Granby were erected from it as separate town units of Oswego County.

The westerly mile square reservation at the mouth of the Oswego River, then commonly called Oswego but having no official governmental status, was not ever, strictly speaking, a part of the Military Township of Hannibal. When the town of Lysander was formed as a town of the County of Onondaga, this westerly mile square reservation came directly within the civil and criminal jurisdiction exercised by the Town of Lysander and the County of Onondaga. Then, when the Town of Hannibal was erected as a separate town of the County of Onondaga, the reservation came under the civil and criminal jurisdiction of the Town of Hannibal and the County of Onondaga, and then, in 1816, at the formation of the County of Oswego, it became subject to the criminal and civil jurisdiction of the Town of Hannibal and County of Oswego. In 1818, town jurisdiction over the reservation passed from the Town of Hannibal to the Town of Oswego and so remained until all town jurisdiction over the reservation was ex-

tinguished by the incorporation of the City of Oswego in 1848.

Ancient Carthage And Hannibal

The following Associated Press dispatch from Carthage, French South Africa, under date of March 12 clearly is worthy of notice and record in this review.

"Bulldozers are snorting where Hannibal once walked to bring ancient Carthage out from under the sand.

"The Marshall plan's mission to France has put tools and money for manpower in the hands of Tunisia, a French protectorate, to unearth the ruins of the city that once was the third largest in the world.* * * The city proper is estimated to cover four square miles, but the first target is the Mediterranean seafront section where Carthaginians bathed and frolicked through a history that began 814 years before Christ.* * * The archeologists in charge are still without a definite plan for the ancient city, but they have located the main downtown section and the seafront resort area. They hope to have them on view in 1951.

"When enough of the historic city is uncovered to be interesting to ruins-loving travelers, tourist officials think it will become a star attraction for North African visitors."

When ancient Carthage is uncovered to view and Mr. Sturge gains a sabbatical year, we trust that he will visit the ancient city and write another book.

The Old Grist Mill

I well remember the old grist mill on Mill Street but not when it was built. In the early 80's, it was owned and operated by my father and his partner, Albert Williams. I distinctly recollect that Mr. Williams had a lovely daughter named Hope. We lived in the mill house on the opposite side of the road from the mill. In order to get from the mill to the house, it was necessary to cross the creek by means of a rickety, old foot bridge. The mill dam and flume leaked badly but generally afforded ample power to turn the French burr mill stones that ground wheat, corn and oats into flour and feed.

Compensation for grinding the grain was "the miller's toll." It was a fixed quantity measured out by means of a toll measure usually a square, wooden box. Tolling the grain was always a process of suspicion for miller and owner alike; on the part of the owner that the miller might overtoll and, on the part of the miller that the owner might hold out or undertoll. Sometimes when father was otherwise busy in the mill, it fell to my lot to toll the grain. It was great fun for me but not for an owner who was doubly suspicious and alert when I tolled for fear, I suspect, that some youthful prank on my part might result in a double or overtoll.

Father had a flock of hens that justified their existence by living off the grains that fell and scattered around the mill and mill yard when wheat, corn, oats and other grains were unloaded from the wagons and carried into the mill. The hens were willing workers and produced a bountiful supply of eggs which they artfully secreted in nests in the mill barn and yard and other most unlikely places. One of my tasks was to discover the nests and gather the eggs. Then father, after he shut down the mill at night, would take the eggs to the grocery store and exchange them for groceries and other needed household requirements.

Mill Pond Skating

I also well remember skating on the mill pond but have no recollection of the fancy skating of Mr. Babcock to which Mr Sturge refers. No benevolent municipality or school district, through the instrumentality of a paid athletic director or instructor, supervised our athletic activities. When the ice had to be

cleared of snow, we quickly cleared it away with the aid of brooms and shovels, sometimes, I must admit, mischievously and surreptitiously obtained from nearby homes. There was no paid minion of a recreation commission to perform this task for us. Any boy who lagged or fell behind in the performance of this task was quickly brought to a realization of his responsibility by a swift kick from behind or a clout over the ear. Such treatment never failed to accelerate the laggard's efforts to our entire satisfaction. Skating on the mill pond was good, wholesome fun enjoyed by youth and adult alike.

The Jackson Foundry

I also recall the Jackson Foundry on the bank of the mill pond and Job Williams' apple jelly factory directly across the street. Whenever opportunity afforded, we went to the foundry to observe the pouring of the molten metal into the flasks that formed it into plow points and mold boards for the farmers' plows.

Williams' Apple Jelly

During the apple harvest, we frequently visited Mr. Williams' factory to observe the process of making apple jelly. The first step was the grinding of the apples into pulp and then by means of presses, extracting the juice, then as now, known as cider. The cider was then poured into large iron kettles or vats and boiled until it became apple jelly. Our chief interest in the process was the sweet cider and not the apple jelly for which we had little respect and regard.

Hannibal Prices (1824-1901)

Mr. Sturge devotes two pages of his book to this interesting subject. Recent happenings in the coal industry afford ample justification for incorporating the following news item of 1878 in this paper:

"They charge us $5.25 per ton for stove coal at the railroad, and yet the cry goes on that the miners do not get sufficient pay for their work, but it is evident somebody gets a little pay."

Stove coal today sells for $22.80 a ton in Oswego; still the same old cry goes on.

Hannibal Men In Wars

Very appropriately, Mr. Sturge devotes twenty-five pages of his book to this subject. The names of the men of Hannibal who fought in the Revolution, the War of 1812, the Mexican War, the Civil War, the Spanish-American War, and World Wars I and II are all faithfully recorded under this heading. There is also an itinerary of the bombing missions of Radio Gunner Benjamin Stock who was killed in action April 25, 1944, and appropriate In Memoriams for Verne E. Crofoot, Archie Harold Miller, Richard Gerald Prior, Clifford F. Shutts, William E. Thompson, Benjamin Albert Stock and William Wesley Stock, Jr., all of whom fought and died in foreign lands.

On pages 205-206, the fact that wars have always been fought by the very young is well pointed up and vividly brought to our attention by the following text which I quote in full:

Young Men Fought Wars

"The fact is that the war was fought, at least on the Northern side, by boys. Of the 2,159,798 enlisted there were only 46,626 who were over twenty-five years old. The official figures of the age at enlistment in the civil war were read in the House of Representatives. They are as follows:

"Those 10 yrs. and younger	25
Those 11 yrs. and under	38
Those 12 yrs. and under	225
Those 13 yrs. and under	300
Those 14 yrs. and under	1,523
Those 15 yrs. and under	104,987
Those 16 yrs. and under	231,051
Those 17 yrs. and under	844,891
Those 18 yrs. and under	1,151,438

"Those 21 years, and under these two classes, make the total number of enlistments 2,159,798. Those 22 years, and over these two classes, make a total number of 681,511. Those 25 years and over 46,662.

"It will be noticed from this statement that the greatest number of enlistments were boys of 18 and under. In a great number of cases they were twenty, some of them reaching the rank of captain. 'Boys of Sixty-one' is a literal expression of the truth and not metaphorical."

Knowledge that 104,987 boys fifteen years of age and under, 231,051, sixteen years of age and under, and 844,891, seventeen years of age and under fought in the Civil War, is shocking knowledge. With the threat of war now hanging over our heads, we can derive little comfort from our now fixed policy of limiting inductions into the armed services to youths of eighteen years and over. The goal America must strive to reach, is no more wars, otherwise, in this atomic age, all may be lost.

Seven Years Lawing

Elmer S. Albring, a man of Hannibal, entered the employ of the New York Central and Hudson River Railroad as a brakeman December 1, 1895. On the afternoon of January 14, 1896, he was head brakeman on a freight train returning to Oswego from Wallington. At about 4:50 o'clock in the afternoon, as the train approached an overhead bridge at Red Creek, he was observed by two men standing on the deck of a box car and then passed from their view. Shortly thereafter, he was found alongside of the tracks just east of the bridge in a dying condition. Plush on the needle beam of the bridge from the fur cap he was wearing and the nature of his head injuries clearly indicated that the striking of his head against the needle beam knocked or threw him off the box car to the ground.

Shortly after his death, his widow, Bertha Albring, retained, on a contingent fee basis, the late David P. Morehouse, the father of our present resident Supreme Court Justice, D. Page Morehouse, Jr., to commence an action against the railroad to recover money damages for the untimely death of her husband caused, as she alleged, by the failure of the railroad to maintain an adequate warning telltale 250 feet west of the highwy bridge at Red Creek. A telltale is a series of rods and ropes suspended across and over the tracks. Its function is to give warning to brakemen standing erect on the deck of a box car that the train is approaching a low overhead bridge. On the day Mr. Albring was killed, two rods and ropes of the telltale were missing and a third was tangled with another. This left an open space in the telltale through which the head of a brakeman could pass. The failure of the railroad to have the telltale complete and in working order was a negligent act on its part. On the trial, Mr. Morehouse urged and contended that on the day in question, Mr. Albring's head and shoulders passed through the opening in the telltale created by the missing rods and ropes and, therefore, he received no adequate warning that the box car on which he was standing was about to pass under the Red Creek dangerous, low, highway bridge.

The case was first tried at Lyons, N. Y., in 1898. The jury found in favor of Mrs. Albring and awarded her a verdict and judgment of $10,000. The railroad then appealed to the Appellate Division at Rochester. In December, 1899, the Appellate Division reversed the verdict and judgment of the jury and ordered the case back to Lyons for a new trial. Mr. Morehouse then made two motions in the Appellate Division in February, 1900, to amend its decision of reversal. He then appealed to the Court of Appeals at Albany. The appeal to the Court of Appeals was argued in March.

1901, with the result that the appeal was dismissed, and the case again ordered back to Lyons for a new trial. In January, 1902, the case was again tried at Lyons and the jury again rendered a verdict and judgment in Mrs. Albring's favor. The railroad again appealed to the Appellate Division at Rochester and, in May, 1902, that Court reversed the verdict and judgment and again ordered the case back to Lyons for another trial. Instead of taking a new trial, Mr. Morehouse then stipulated for final judgment absolute in the Court of Appeals and appealed to that court. In March, 1903, following the submission and argument of the appeal, the Court of Appeals finally ended the litigation by affirming the judgment of reversal of the Appellate Division.

Law Now Changed

More than seven years elapsed from the time Mr. Albring was killed until the courts finally determined that the railroad was not responsible in money damages to Mrs. Albring for her husband's death. One of the rules of law that govern negligence actions is that an injured person cannot recover for another's wrongful act if the injured person himself is guilty of negligence that caused or contributed to his injury. There was no question but what the railroad was guilty of negligence in the matter of the defective telltale. That fact was not seriously disputed. The decision of the Court of Appeals in effect was that Mr. Albring himself was negligent in that, as he stood erect on the deck of the box car, the dangerous low highway bridge was in plain view and that he, therefore, should have taken measures for his own safety by stooping or reclining on the deck of the box car instead of remaining erect. This rule of law no longer applies to master and servant cases, for the reason that the Workmen's Compensation Law now provides that an injured employee or his personal representative, in case of death, is entitled to compensation without reference to fault. With all hope of recovery of damages gone, nothing remained for Mr. Morehouse to do except to charge off as a total loss all the time, effort and work he had expended on the case, including $600.00 out-of-pocket expenses personal to him.

Mr. Morehouse was born in Hannibal in 1860 or 1861, as I now recall. His father was a farmer who settled in Hannibal in the middle 1850's. Mr. Morehouse received his pre-law education in the Hannibal schools and at Falley Seminary in Fulton. He remained a Hannibal resident until he removed to Oswego to study and practice law in the office of the late Judge Edwin Allen. He never lost his interest in Hannibal and Hannibal people and frequently returned to the old farm which he owned until the time of his death. Mr. Morehouse was a good, everyday, all-around-the-clock lawyer; and by that, I mean a wise counselor in the office and a fighting advocate and pleader in the trial and appellate courts. No clients' wrongs were too insignificant for him to redress in the courts or otherwise. In a number of instances, he successfully prosecuted cases that other attorneys had turned down because they deemed them without merit and hopeless. Mr. Morehouse could have been nominated and elected to the office of Justice of the Supreme Court of the State of New York except for loyalty to a friend who was seeking the office. It is one of the outstanding pleasures of my life to have officed during my clerkship in the same building with Mr. Morehouse. He was a special friend of the Grant Block law clerks and always found time to discuss legal questions with them and lend a helping hand and this also held true for his fellow practitioners.

In conclusion, the thanks of the Oswego County Historical Society go to you, Mr. Sturge, for writing an excellent, worthwhile book.

Oswego County's Famed Schroeppel Clock

(Paper Given Before Oswego County Historical Society At Oswego, March 21, 1950, By J. C. Birdlebough, Vice-President of the Society and Owner of the Clock.)

In his paper before this society a few years ago, Mr. Thad R. Siver of Phoenix stated that George Casper Von Schroeppel was a native of Nuremberg in the vicinity of the Black Forest in Germany. It is only natural, then, that he might command a most unusual clock to be made in that city. Unfortunately, though the name of the clock maker and organ maker and even the date are plainly marked, the place of construction is missing. Since George Casper died suddenly in 1825, while in New York, it is pure conjecture that he ordered the clock but with the slow communications of those days and in view of the length of time required to build it, the conjecture becomes probable.

Nuremberg was a center of timepiece construction from early times. In 1361 a famous clock for the Frauen Kirche there had been completed. The Emperor, Charles IV, was represented, seated upon a throne. At the stroke of 12 o'clock, the seven electors, large moving figures, passed out and bowed before him to the sound of trumpets.

It was Peter Henlein, locksmith of Nuremberg, who invented the mainspring about 1500, thus making possible a portable timepiece much favored by the wealthy. These early clock watches were cylinders several inches in diameter, which ran for some forty hours on one winding. There is a very fine example in the South Kensington museum by Hans Gruber, date 1560. Later the clock-watches became oval and were known as "Nuremberg eggs."

Moved By Boat And Oxen

By 1818, George Casper Schroeppel had dropped the "von" from his name and was living in the present homestead at Oak Orchard with his French wife. By 1835 the clock had perhaps arrived at the family home to be received by George Casper's son, Henry, and placed in the front hall, facing the stairs where it continued to stand. It is worthy of note that time piece construction probably contributed to the safe arrival of his clock in New York, since John Harrison of England had devised a satisfactory marine chronometer in 1761, which was brought through the work of others by 1829 to approximately the present form. Legend has it that the Schroeppel clock was brought to Albany by boat and overland to Oak Orchard by ox cart.

The year 1833, which is the date in the clock was of considerable interest from the standpoint of contemporary affairs in the world. In our own country, Andrew Jackson, having entered upon his second term as President, destroyed the Bank of the United States. Morse had just completed the electric telegraph, McCormick was perfecting his reaper and Colt was working on his six-shooter to be patented in 1835. By mass production methods, Chauncey Jerome was turning out huge quantities of his bronze looking glass clocks, which he claims in the "History of the American Clock Business for the Past Sixty Years, and Life of Chauncey Jerome, written by Himself" to be driving the Eli Terry patent clock from the market. P. T. Barnum, himself later to be engaged in the clock business, was readying his circus for its first tour in 1835.

In England, the Whigs were

carrying out social reforms. In 1833 a law was passed prohibiting the employment in factories of children under the age of nine years and restricting the hours of those from nine to thirteen to 48 hours a week. Slavery in the English colonies was abolished the same year.

In Germany, Metternich had the unification of that country well under way and on April 3 successfully defeated an attempt to destroy the Zollverein or Customs Union.

In 1833, the expedition of Captain James Ross, which had planted the British Flag on the north magnetic pole on June 1, 1831, was rescued in Lancaster Sound by a whaler. Since they had embarked upon their expedition in 1829, it seems remarkable that any were left to be rescue.

The Clock Itself

The clock is huge, nine and one-half feet tall, a figure which conveys but little notion of its immensity. The writer has seen scores of tall case clocks but never one like this. The case is of pine, veneered with crotch mahogany throughout and very beatiful now that it has been refinished. There is a door in the trunk, but the enormous wood dial painted white and decorated with cabbage roses, is covered by neither door nor glass. Hence, there may be seen the original Schroeppel flyspecks. As already mentioned the date of 1833 is in the clock, which is unusual. The writer has seen only three clocks which bear the exact year in which they were made.

The mechanism is in two parts: with automata. First let us consider the clock mechanism, which is approximately the size of a cigar box. The plates are of quartered oak, similar to those used on wood clocks of contemporary manufacture in this country, but the rear plate has two removable sections so that the time and strike trains may be separately assembled. The long pendulum beats seconds and striking is on a wire gong. The strike is accompanied by a great whirring and the note of the wire gong is not very pleasing. Nevertheless, Felix Faller, who made it, must have been proud of his accomplishment for his name or initials are stamped in numberless places. Unlike the American clocks which had wood wheels as well as wood plates, the wheels in this clock are of brass, and it has lantern pinions, supposed to have been devised in this country about 1837. The rough cast iron weights hang from the arbors by ladder chain and winding is accomplished by pulling on the chain as is done with a cuckoo clock.

Pipe Organ Enclosed

Most of the space within the hood, then, is occupied by the organ of 35 pipes and the mechanism which drives it. As with the clock the power for the organ is a heavy weight, which does two things: (1) works a bellows to provide wind and (2) turns a large wooden cylinder studded with pins which actuate the valves of the pipes. It may be of interest to the makers of Buick and Chevrolet cars to note that these are overhead valves. Some of the pipes do not speak very loudly, which may perhaps be forgiven an organ 117 years old. The musicians present may perhaps be interested to know that there is an "H" in the scale probably C sharp or D flat, though we find an E sharp and F sharp so marked. There are also a (CB) and a (GB), both large bass pipes. Twenty-five of the pipes are closed and ten are open. There are eight tunes, selected by sliding the drum manually to a new position. One of the tunes is "Yankee Doole" (sic), another "General George's Marsch". The organ maker was Ferdinand Meyer.

The automata, which operate when the organ plays, were en-

joyed by children in particular. How many times Henry Schroeppel must have been beseiged by his children and their friends to wind the organ, no small feat since the winding square is seven and one-half feet from the floor. That accomplished they scampered part way up the stairs to watch the performance in the little stage in the arch of the dial about nine feet from the floor. The background of the stage is a painting of a building by a stream. In the foreground stands a butcher, complete with blood stains on his apron and with mallet poised, facing an ox. The hour approaches, the clock trips the organ which begins to play. Immediately the butcher strikes and the ox falls. The tune continues, once more the ox rises and once more he is struck down, to rise once more just as the tune is completed. This can be repeated only six and one-half times on one winding, so we may suppose the ox spent much time sadly on his side when the organ was run down.

Many musical clocks exist but it is doubtful if there are any which can compare with the Schroeppel clock for sheer impressiveness. It expresses something of the strength and stamina of its original purchaser whose courage brought him to the New World to find wealth and position in the wilderness.

The Evolution of The New York State Bill Of Rights and Its Influence Upon Present Day Oswego County

(Paper Given Before the Oswego County Historical Society, April 18, 1950, By Dr. W. Seward Salisbury.)

Americans tend to associate liberty and human rights with the national government, particularly the Declaration of Independence and the Federal Constitution. However, many of the liberties guaranteed in the Federal Constitution were part of the fundamental law of the Colony of New York years and even generations before the Federal Constitution was written. In fact New York was a colony and a province almost as long as it has been a state in the Federal Union.

History Of Bill Of Rights

No right is more highly prized by citizens of New York than freedom of religion. In 1657 Peter Stuyvesant, the Dutch Governor of the province, arrested a Quaker who persisted in holding religious services in his home in the town of Flushing. Twenty-six fellow citizens of Flushing of all faiths protested this arbitrary act of the governor, and succeeded in getting their Quaker neighbor released with the right to worship according to the dictates of his conscience.

Shortly after the colony passed from Dutch into English hands, one of the first governors was Dongan, a Catholic. One of his first acts was to promulgate, in the name of the Duke of York and the English Crown, freedom of worship and religious liberty. New Yorkers enjoy religious freedom today because some courageous colonial citizens risked their freedom and property to see that others, not themselves, were not arbitrarily restricted in the right to worship as they pleased.

For criticizing the government in his newspaper, Peter Zenger, was in 1734 arrested, charged with criminal libel, and his shop burned. In the famous trial which followed it was proved that what he printed was the truth; and that the truth could not be libellous. He was freed and a great landmark in freedom of the press was established.

It was the custom in the Seventeenth Century for colonial empires to exploit and enslave the native people of the New World. In 1679 the New York Colonial Council took one of the first steps to overrule this policy when it declared all Indians were free and could not be enslaved. These landmarks in the winning of freedom paved the way for the guarantees of liberty which were later embodied in the Federal Bill of Rights.

New York State continued to show the way to the Federal Government and the other states following the formation of the Federal Union under the Federal Constitution. In 1799, New York took a great step towards abolition when it decreed that all children born to slaves in New York were to be born into freedom. Up-state New York became the center of the Abolitionist Movement and the Underground Railway. Gerrit Smith, a prominent business man in Oswego and benefactor of 100 years ago, played an active part in the movement that struck the final blow at slavery. In 1852 at a convention held in Oswego's first City Hall, yet standing, Smith was nominated to the presidency by the Abolitionist Party with a Negro as his running

mate for the vice-presidency. Although Smith did not at that time run for the office, this interest in the rights of persons produced its modern counterpart in the Anti-discrimination Law passed in 1945.

New York a Pioneer in the Movement for Equal Rights for Women: Most of the great early champions of equal rights for women were citizens of and performed their most effective work in this cause in New York State. Emma Willard, Elizabeth Cady Stanton, Amelia Bloomer, and Dr. Mary Walker were prominent and successful leaders in New York State. Through the efforts of such courageous forthright pioneers as these great citizens women in New York today not only have the right to vote, own property, and engage in the professions and occupations, but a recent statute guarantees them equal pay with men for the same job. This is an achievement that would probably surprise even a Dr. Mary Walker.

The Federal Bill of Rights and the States: The Federal Bill of Rights was originally interpreted to protect the individual only from arbitrary action on the part of the national government. By judicial interpretation, the Supreme Court has ruled that certain of these rights—known as the **fundamental** rights—shall also protect the individual from arbitrary action on the part of the states. Freedom of speech and of the press, freedom of religion, the right of peaceable assembly, and certain basic requirements of a fair trial such as the right of counsel and an orderly court room are the fundamental rights which apply uniformly throughout the nation.

Although the states may add further protections and refinements to the fundamental rights they are restrained from impairing the essential liberty guaranteed by the Federal Constitution. The other rights of the Federal Bill of Rights—the **procedural rights**—are binding against the national government but not against the states. Grand jury indictment, trial jury, protection against compulsory self-incrimination, and against double jeopardy are procedural rights. The states may modify and even abolish these rights, as long as they substitute a procedure that is essentially fair.

Because of this situation, most of the states have supplemented the Federal Bill of Rights with similar provisions of their own. New York has been a leader in this field. The protection provided by these many provisions goes far toward explaining why this State has been able to make democracy work so well.

The rights of persons may be defined and protected by constitutional provision or legislative statute or both. Whenever the people of New York State put a right into the State Constitution they are in effect saying that it is so vital and imporant that only the people themselves, and not the Legislature, shall have the final power to change or modify it. A Constitutional provision can only be changed by the amending process. All amendments have to receive the affirmative action of the people by direct vote.

Personal Rights

Freedom of Religion: The State Constitution guarantees freedom of religion, but the "liberty of conscience hereby secured" may not "excuse acts of licentiousness or justify practices inconsistent with the peace or safety of this State." A citizen of New York could not for example under the guise of religion have several wives for polygamy is considered immoral by the community. New York courts have ruled that school children may not refuse to salute the flag on the ground that this salute is contrary to their religious beliefs. The New York courts maintained that a flag salute was an ordinary act of patriotism and failure to salute the flag would be "inconsistent

with the peace" of the State. The United States Supreme Court has now overruled this interpretation, so that the religious rights of the individual take precedence over this particular type of citizenship duty.

Freedom of Speech and Press: The State Constitution provides for freedom of speech and press, but each citizen is responsible for the "abuse" of this right. The Legislature has made criminal the "advocacy" of unlawful acts. Thus advocating, either in writing or in speech, the overthrow of the government by force is an abuse of the constitutional guarantee, and any person so charged cannot take refuge in the state Bill of Rights. A State statute, the Devany Act, bars from the Civil Service and from teaching positions in the public schools persons advocating the overthrow of the government by force. This act is considered a proper expression of legislative power and therefore constitutional.

Another state statute, the Feinberg law, provided that any public school teacher belonging to an organization listed by the Board of Regents as subversive was subject to immediate dismissal from his job.

Immoral, indecent ,and obscene publications or presentations by radio, television, motion pictures or phonograph records are also regarded as an abuse of the right of free speech and press, and are made criminal by New York statutes. The courts have, for the most part, construed these statutes in a liberal spirit.

The Right of Assembly: The people have the right to assemble peaceably and to petition the government. However, the right to assemble may not be exercised by holding public meetings on the public streets if this is forbidden by local authorities in the interest of preserving the normal use and safety of the streets.

Freedom from Discrimination: The State Bill of Rights provides that: "No person shall, because of race, color, creed or religion be subjected to any discrimination in his civil rights by any other person, or by a firm, corporation, or institution, or by the State or by any agency or subdivision of the State." These guarantees are more comprehensive and far-reaching than the "equal protection" and other comparable provisions of the Federal Constitution.

Experience has shown that a constitutional provision standing alone will not satisfactorily protect persons in the enjoyment of their civil rights. A constitutional clause must be implemented by legislative statutes defining the rights and providing the means and the agencies to enforce the principles established by the constitutional provisions. The Anti-Discrimination Law of 1945 which establishes the Commission against Discrimination to protect workers against discrimination in employment is justly famous throughout the nation. The Law and the work of the Commission has become a model which several states have already followed.

The Commission is empowered to investigate cases of alleged discrimination. If the investigation shows the complaint to be well-founded the Commission has the power to call a formal hearing out of which a "cease and desist" order enforceable in the courts may follow. This is the final step which puts "teeth" into the law. However, the unique feature of the Law is the intermediate step of "conference, conciliation, and persuasion," which the Commission is empowered to bring into operation before the final court sanctions are imposed. In this step the Commission meets around the conference table with the employer who has been found to be engaging in discriminatory employment practices and shows the employer how he may change his practices to conform with the provisions of the Anti-Discrimination Law. There is no publicity as-

sociated with this conciliation and persuasion step. This policy of seeking voluntary compliance with the Law has worked so successfully that in 1938 in not one of the 273 verified complaints did the Commission have to resort to the final step of court sanctions.

The Commission carries on an intensive program of education to create a community atmosphere conducive to the solution of discrimination problems with a maximum of cooperation and a minimum of conflict. The Division of Education of the Commission uses all the media of information and instruction—the film, the radio, public forum, pamphlets—to acquaint and educate labor organizations, employer associations, public and private schools and colleges, and the general public with the problems and progress of the campaign against discrimination. The great success of the Law to date has been due in no small measure to the growing appreciation and acceptance by public opinion that equal rights is not only just and democratic but is also practical and good business.

Right to Sue for Damages: The Constitution provides that the right to sue for damages for injuries resulting in death shall never be taken away, and the amount which can be recovered shall not be subject to any limitation of Legislative statute.

The services and functions of the State are numerous and widespread. State property—roads, colleges, canals, terminals, historic sites, parks—are located in every region of the State. Hundreds of State cars and trucks are on the highways every day engaged in State services. The State, like any other property holder or individual, should be responsible for any negligence which causes injuries to others. However, there is a long-standing principle of law that the State cannot be sued without its consent. The above provisions make an exception to the rule in cases of bodily injury through the fault of the State or its agencies and agents. (The State Court of Claims is provided to consider claims arising against the state which cannot be pressed in the civil courts, and to make awards and adjustments in these cases.)

Unreasonable Searches and Seizures: The Constitution was amended in 1938 to require that a valid search warrant accompany the interception of telephone and telegraph communications. Although the purpose of the amendment is clearly to protect individual rights, many people are opposed to it. They hold that the good it might accomplish would be more than offset by the advantages it would give to criminals and other enemies of society.

Due Process of Law: The Constitution provides that: "No person shall be deprived of life, liberty, or property without due process of law." This "due process" clause is similar to the due process clauses of the Federal Contitution. These provisions have furnished American courts with a flexible rule by which they can guard the citizen against the invasion of his basic rights in ways which are not covered by statute or constitutional provision. Decisions in specific cases become law by judicial precedent; also known as "judge-made" law.

At an earlier period, the courts accepted a simple ("procedural") interpretation of the "due process" guaranty. If a party to a civil or criminal suit had the privilege of the customary procedures and forms of a fair trial, he had the benefit of due process of law. The courts were concerned only with the processes which were included in a law or used in an act of the government restricting the individual. Due process stood for fair, orderly, regular procedure in all matters affecting the individual's life, liberty, or property.

Due process has been expanded to include what has become

known as the "substantive" interpretation. The courts now look beyond the mere forms of legal procedure and inquire into the substance of the law under which the individual is claiming denial of his rights. The courts are concerned not only with how the government carries out its restrictions of the individual but also with what these restrictions are and whether or not they are proper.

Our highest courts have ruled that the due process provision is broad enough and flexible enough to include all "the fundamental principles of liberty and justice which lie at the base of our civil and political institutions." The expansion of this formula to meet new and varied conditions has made our charter of State government a truly flexible and "living" Constitution.

Rights Of Those Accused Of Crime

Trial by Jury: The New York Constitution reaffirms the ancient Anglo-Saxon principle that any man accused of a crime has a right to a fair trial by a jury of his peers. Experience has led people of New York to make some modifications in this guarantee. These modifications are designed to facilitate the administering of justice; they do not in any way impair essential civil rights.

The New York Constitution provides that the right of trial by jury must remain inviolate in all cases of felony. A felony is a crime so important that it carries the punishment of death or imprisonment in a State prison. In all cases of felony the jury must number twelve. In other types of cases, the size of the jury may be fixed at six, or at any other number. In any case, at the discretion of the court, an alternate juror may be chosen. This alternate sits with the other jurors and listens to all the testimony. His function is to be available to take the place of any juryman who is forced to withdraw during the course of the case because of illness or some other compelling reason.

When May a Case Be Tried without a Jury? Juries are never used in an important class of civil cases known as cases in equity. This includes legal actions in which a person seeks to protect his interests by restraining another person from performing some act which would injure him. In all other civil cases, the jury may be waived by the mutual consent of the two parties to the suit.

In all criminal cases, except those in which the crime is punishable by death, the Constitution gives the defendant the right to waive jury trial. The defendant, however, is protected against hasty action or undue influence. He can waive the jury trial only by signing a statement in open court before a judge having jurisdiction over the offense.

The Legislature has the power to create inferior courts, and may authorize them to try misdemeanors without a jury. A misdemeanor may be defined as a "minor crime." However, in certain more serious misdemeanors, such as third-degree assault and reckless driving, the defendant may demand a jury trial. Persons accused of felonies always have the right to a jury trial, unless they voluntarily waive it, as described above. In practice, the distinction between cases which do and do not require jury trials is not a precise one. Often a judge must use his discretion in deciding such matters.

Decisions: In all criminal cases, a unanimous decision of the jury is required for conviction. In civil cases, a constitutional provision permits a five-sixths verdict. This is in effect in many courts.

"Blue Ribbon Juries: In all counties of the State, having a population of one million or more, "blue ribbon" juries may be used to try important cases. A "blue ribbon" jury is chosen from a panel of names representing the

more educated and intelligent persons in the community.

Habeas Corpus: The New York Constitution states that: "The privilege of a writ or order of **habeas corpus** shall not be suspended, unless, in case of rebellion or invasion, the public safety requires it." The writ of **habeas corpus** requires that any person accused of crime be brought to immediate trial in a proper court with all the traditional safeguards of a fair trial.

The trial must be speedy. The jury must be impartial; that is, neither the accused nor the government can be denied the right to challenge prospective jurors. The trial must be public so that the accused may enjoy the protection which comes from open proceedings. The trial must take place in the district in which the crime was committed, unless the court grants the petition of a defendant for a change in the place set for holding a trial on the ground that public sentiment is such that he could not receive a fair trial in that community.

In every war the question arises whether the war emergency calls for the suspension of **habeas corpus** and the requisites of a fair trial. The courts have ruled that civilian courts cannot be superceded by military courts unless in the actual theatre of war. However this rule has been qualified so as not to include aliens who commit "offenses against the law of war." (Nazi saboteurs.) They may be tried by special military tribunals. It is always a difficult question to decide whether the "public safety" requires the curtailment of **habeas corpus.**

Excessive Bail and Unusual Punishment: The New York Constitution provides that: "Excessive bail shall not be required nor excessive fines imposed, nor shall cruel and unusual punishments be inflicted." The amount of bail required in a criminal case is determined by the circumstances and the judgment of the court. The court is bound by long-standing custom and established precedent. In early English law, criminals were punished by torture and mutilation. Such penalties are no longer recognized or practiced but the prohibition against cruel and unusual punishments serves as a check against penalties obviously out of proportion to the seriousness of the crime.

Grand Jury: The grand jury hears the evidence presented by the district attorney or others regarding crime, and votes an indictment, or formal accusation, if the evidence in any case seems to justify it. In case of an indictment, the accused is tried before a petit (trial) jury which determines whether he is guilty or innocent.

In recent years, grand juries have played a vital part in exposing corruption on the part of public officers in local units of government throughout the State. This service has been considered so important that the people of the State adopted a constitutional provision prohibiting the suspension or impairment by the Legislature of the power of grand juries to inquire into misconduct of public officers.

The grand jury is chosen by lot from a list of names of the qualified voters in the judicial district. in which the court sits. It may have from sixteen to twenty-three members.

Right to Counsel and Witnesses: "....in any trial....the party accused shall be allowed to appear and defend in person and with counsel....and shall be informed of the nature and cause of the accusation and shall be confronted with the witnesses against him." The right of counsel includes the selection by the accused or appointment by the court of a proper and qualified legal adviser. The accused must have adequate opportunity to discuss and plan with his counsel in preparation for the trial. The accused has the right to sit throughout the trial and appear as his own wit-

ness. The guarantee that the accused be informed of the nature and cause of the accusation protects him against having new charges brought against him following the formal charge.

The right to confront the witnesses includes the right to cross-examine the witnesses. This cross-examination enables the jury to judge whether or not the witnesses are telling the truth. The accused must be able to compel witnesses to appear and testify in his defense. The State is required to summon such witnesses at state expense.

Guarantees against Self-Incrimination: The New York Constitution formerly provided complete guarantees against any person's being forced to give testimony which might tend to incriminate him. On several occasions in recent years, however, public officials took advantage of this provision by refusing to testify before a grand jury concerning the performance of their official duties. As a result, the Constitution was amended to exclude public officials from this guarantee. Any public official who, upon being called before a grand jury, refuses to testify concerning the conduct of his office, or to sign a waiver of immunity against subsequent criminal prosecution, or to answer any relevant question, is subject to the immediate removal from public office by the appropriate authority.

Protection against Double Jeopardy: "No person shall be subject to be twice put in jeopardy for the same offense." When a person is acquitted of a criminal charge he cannot be tried again on the same charge by the same unit of government even though later evidence may be brought to light. If, however, the act is a violation of both state and national law the individual can be tried by the courts of both units of government and still not be in double jeopardy in the meaning of the Constitution. Kidnapping is a crime against the Federal Government and also is against the laws of most states. Having been tried by the Federal Government for an act of kidnapping would not prevent the state in which the kidnapping occured from trying the accused for the same act.

Property Rights

The right to own and to hold property is guaranteed and safeguarded in several provisions of the Constitution. The Bill of Rights states that no person shall be deprived of his property without "due process of law," and that private property shall not be taken for public use without "just compensation." The courts have established the following rule as the proper guide for the determination of damages: "The owner is entitled to the value of the property, which is what a purchaser who is not compelled to buy would pay under ordinary conditions to a seller who is not compelled to sell." Property rights are thus fairly protected in New York State.

Rights Of Labor

New York was one of the first states to recognize through appropriate social legislation that America had passed from an economy that was primarily agricultural to one that was largely industrial in nature. An increasing number of the citizens came to the conclusion that the workingman could not pursue and achieve happiness if he were restricted to the traditional civil rights such as freedom of religion and speech and the guarantees of a fair trial.

Workmen's Compensation: People began to accept the principle that freedom for the workingman must include an additional type of guarantee and protection. These guarantees were to become incorporated into the state Bill of Rights and be known as the "social rights." The first of these "social rights" to at-

tract the attention of the lawmakers of New York State was a Workmen's Compensation Act—an attempt to guarantee a reasonable protection from the physical hazards of industrial employment. This Act was virtually emasculated by the application by the courts of the old "fellow-servant" rule of common law. A workman could not, for example under the "fellow-servant" rule qualify for compensation if he were injured through the fault of his fellow worker.

Workmen's Compensation Law

The friends of labor carried on an active educational campaign and were successful in convincing the majority of the citizens of the State that workman's compensation should be guaranteed and protected by constitutional amendment. A comprehensive Workmen's Compensation clause was added to the New York State Constitution and made a part of the Bill of Rights. Now neither the courts nor the Legislature may reject this principle and only the people themselves may change it. Since 1913 when the amendment was added to the Constitution New York has enjoyed an excellent system of workmen's compensation.

The law provides that an employer must take out insurance to cover all injuries suffered by his employees at their work. The only injuries not covered are those received while the worker was intoxicated while on the job, and injuries which it can be proved were deliberately caused by the worker himself. The insurance may be purchased from a special State agency, or from any one of a number of private companies. Under certain conditions, the employer may become a self-insurer. If an employee becomes ill or is injured as a result of his work, he receives medical attention free of charge. In addition, if his illness or injury keeps him away from work, he becomes eligible for compensation payments. The amount received varies, depending on the worker's average earnings for some time preceding the accident. In cases of injuries which result in permanent or long-term incapicitation, a flat sum may be paid.

Labor Not a Commodity: In 1938, the following "social rights" were considered so vital and important that labor groups were able to get them included as part of the Bill of Rights of the revised Constitution.

"Labor of human beings is not a commodity nor an article of commerce and shall never be so considered or construed." This revision prevents the courts from ruling labor unions are in restraint of trade and they are, therefore, subject to prosecution under the anti-trust laws.

Collective Bargaining: "Employees shall have the right to organize and to bargain collectively through representatives of their own choosing." This provision guarantees that the principle of the Wagner Labor Relations Act shall be the accepted policy of the State.

Hours and Wages in Public Work: All laborer on state projects whether working for a contractor or directly for the State is not permitted to work more than eight hours a day nor more than five days in any week. Furthermore labor on State projects must not receive less than the rate of wages prevailing in the same trade or occupation in the locality within the State where the public work is situated. Labor groups are hopeful that these requirements to which the State is now subject will become the standard for private employment throughout the geographic area embraced by the State boundaries.

Lotteries and Gambling: The original provision against gambling was incorporated into the Bill of Rights by the Constitutional Convention of 1821. This prohibition was amended in 1939 to read

as follows: "No lottery or the sale of lottery tickets, pool-selling, book-making, or any other kind of gambling, except pari-mutuel betting on horse races as may be prescribed by the Legislature and from which the State shall derive a reasonable revenue for the support of government, shall hereafter be authorized or allowed within this State." It was argued that since people would bet on horse races in spite of the law, it was better for the State to regulate this type of gambling and derive revenue from it.

Oliver Stevens, First Permanent Settler In Oswego County

(Paper Given Before the Oswego County Historical Society, May 16, 1950. By J. Elet Milton of Brewerton.)

Someone has said that history is like a flowing stream—extending from the unknown past into the unknown future; and when we attempt to study any part of it, we are obliged to plunge into the stream as we find it, reaching as far back into its course as possible and floating along on its surface.

In speaking of Oliver Stevens, the subject it appears to have fallen to my lot to discuss, it may perhaps be best to plunge into the historical stream by exploring into the ancestry of this man, who became the first settler in what is now the town of Hastings and the county of Oswego.

It is known that one, Nicholas Stevens, was a Brig. General in the army of Oliver Cromwell in England about 1640-50.

From Nicholas descended Henry Stevens, and from the latter descended Thomas, who married May 29, 1702, Mary, daughter of Stephen and Ruth Hall of Plainfield, Connecticut.

The children of Thomas and Mary Stevens were seven in number—Thomas, Jr., Phineas, Uriah, Andrew, Samuel, Benjamin and Zebulon — all good scriptural names, probably because Thomas and Mary, like most New Englanders in those days, enjoyed and lived their religion, narrow though it was.

Of these children, Samuel was a private in Capt. Shultz's Company of horse of Fairfield and Norwich, Conn., in 1779, and was killed by the Indians. Benjamin settled in North Carolina. Zebulon enlisted as Corporal Jan. 24, 1776, in the Company of which his nephew was Captain. He married Marion Fellows, and settled in Caanan, Conn. Phineas enlisted as a Private in the same Company Feb. 5, 1776.

Stevens' Forbears

Andrew, the fourth son of Thomas and Mary Stevens, and the father of the subject of this paper, was born, probably in Caanan, Conn., about 1710; married Esther Safford of Caanan in 1735. He was the first Town Clerk in Caanan, Litchfield County, Conn. He represented the Town in the Legislature in 1751 and again in 1761. In 1770, while on his way home, during a heavy storm of wind, he was struck by a falling tree and killed. His widow died in Caanan, March 13, 1773.

The family consisted of twelve children, the two eldest were born in Plainfield, and the others in Caanan. All of the six sons served in the War of the Revolution; and it is known that at least two were in service in the French and Indian War.

While this paper is not concerned with all of the children of Andrew and Esther Stevens, it may be of interest to bring out something regarding the eldest of these children—who became Captain John Stevens; in addition to an extended sketch of the eleventh child, Oliver, the subject of this paper.

Captain John Stevens was born Oct. 19, 1737; married June 2, 1759, Phoebe How. He enlisted at the age of sixteen in the French and Indian War, under Noah Amherst, and served until its close. When the Revolution began he espoused the cause of his native land, and raised a company of soldiers in his own Town of Caanan, over which he was appointed

Captain, Jan. 19, 1776. His was the 2nd. Company of Col. Charles Burrell's Battalion, which was raised to reinforce the Northern Army, then so badly in need of troops.

On account of his experience, he early took a very active part in the war. In company with his intimate friend, Col. Ethan Allen, and others, he conceived and executed the plan for taking Fort Ticonderoga. From a reliable authority it is learned that Captain Stevens was one of that select band who captured the fort —"In the name of the Great Jehovah and the Continental Congress"—this suffixed by a powerful expletive, in the use of which Ethan Allen was most proficient.

The joker in this oft-quoted saying was that Allen, being an athiest, did not believe in God; and his commission was issued under an authority in Connecticut, which Congress had not yet recognized.

Allen is also said to have shouted to Capt. Delaplace, the commanding officer at the fort, "Get out of here, you damned old rat."

At the Battle of the Cedars, near Montreal, May 19, 1776, Capt. John Stevens and his men were taken prisoners and held by the British nearly three years, when the officers and men were stripped almost naked and sent home in October, 1778. It is related of Capt. Stevens, that rather than deliver up his sword to his captors, he thrust its point downward into the ground, and with his foot snapped it in twain at its hilt.

Besides the two uncles, Zebulon and Phineas, who were in Captain John's Company, there was a cousin, Benjamin Stevens, a private. Capt. John Stevens died in Washington, Berkshire Co., Massachusetts.

Another item of interest concerning Mary, younger sister of the foregoing, Capt. Stevens, may well be included in this paper. Mary was born in 1740; married Thomas Dickinson. The Hon. Daniel Dickinson, prominent statesman, was her grandson.

Mary was instantly killed by lightning, Sept. 3, 1761, at Goshen, Conn. Nathaniel Dickinson and his baby lay on a bed close to the place struck; his wife was sitting in a chair by the bedside when the bolt of lightning hit the north end of the roof, and striking her on the temple, burned her hair and melted a string of gold beads, which encircled her neck. The others received a severe shock, but all recovered.

Born In Connecticut

We will now concern ourselves with Oliver Stevens, the pioneer settler in Oswego County, the younger brother of the before mentioned Capt. John and his sister, Mary, and the eleventh child of Andrew Stevens and Esther Safford.

Oliver was born in Caanan, Conn., in 1759, being twenty-two years the junior of his noted brother, Capt. John Stevens. He married Nancy Chittendon, who was born at Caanan, Conn., Mar. 17, 1762. (Her tombstone in Cicero Cemetery reads, "Nancy, wife of Oliver Stevens, Died Nov. 21, 1842, in the 84th. year of her age".) She was a cousin of Governor Chittendon of Vermont. Oliver and Nancy were married at Caanan in August, 1780—Beauchamp says they were married in Aug., 1740, which is clearly an error, as neither of them were born until later than that date.

Among the first to join the Company of Captain John Stevens, was Oliver, who enlisted Jan. 22, 1776, when only seventeen years of age, and went to Quebec. He was discharged, and again enlisted under Capt. Scofield in the 9th. Conn. Regt., June 18, 1779, for one month, and was dicharged July 18, of the same year.

Through the representations of his brothers, who as members of Col. John Bradstreet's expedition against Fort Frontenac (Kings-

ton) in 1758 during the French and Indian War, had been at Fort Brewerton, and were familiar with this region and its many advantages as a place for settlement, Oliver, accompanied by his wife and three children, left their Connecticut home and made their difficult way to the outlet of Oneida Lake.

Journeyed By Canoe

The journey was by canoe and bateaux over the waterways—up the Hudson and Mohawk Rivers, to and over the carrying place at Fort Stanwix, now Rome, down the many windings of torturous Wood Creek. Thence across Oneida Lake to its outlet and a half mile down over the rifts to the abandoned Fort Brewerton.

Here, surrounded by a wilderness, infested by wild beasts and treacherous Indians, he planted a home in 1789—the first permanent settlement in what twenty-seven years later became Oswego County. In 1789 it was still a part of the great Montgomery County.

Stevens nearest neighbor at this time was Ephriam Webster in Salina on the shores of Onondaga Lake, where he had located a trading post near the mouth of Onondaga Creek, twelve miles distant from Fort Brewerton, in 1786. Four miles further south at what is now known as the Onondaga Valley section, were the families of Asa Danforth and Comfort Tyler, who had located there only the year previous to the coming of Mr. Stevens to Fort Brewerton in 1789.

It may be of interest to know that descendants of one John Smith, who had served in the Revolutionary Army, and who was awarded a tract of 600 acres in the Military Tract, embracing the village of Brewerton on the south side of the river contended that Oliver Stevens was not an actual settler, as he did not actually own the land on which he settled until much later.

It was contended that Deacon George Ramsay, who had married a daughter of John Smith, and who came to Brewerton in 1792, was the first actual settler—even contending that Stevens was a "squatter".

Smith Disputed Claim

This contender was so insistent that George Ramsey was the pioneer settler, that he had the old tombstone of Ramsey in Riverside Cemetery in Brewerton, replaced with a new stone, on which he had inscribed: "First White Settler—George Ramsey, Died Mar. 13, 1838, aged 78 years and 5 days". The old stone which was replaced bore the following inscription: "George Ramsay, Sen., Born in Scotland. Emigrated to Brewerton 1803. Died Mar. 13, 1838". The date given on the stone as that of his coming to Brewerton is clearly an error. According to the family records, his eldest child, Helen, was born in Brewerton in 1792, consequently he was here at that time. Other data indicate that he came in 1791 to administer the property of his father-in-law, John Smith. Canny Scotchman, that he was, he soon owned practically all of the original 600 acres.

I have had many a good natured argument with this Ramsay descendant regarding this contention—it being well known that Oliver Stevens was here first, and that he endeavored to purchase of the then owner the land on which he settled, but the owner refused to sell. Stevens had to be content to rent the land, which he actually did.

In order to make clear the events leading up to the occupation at Brewerton by Oliver Stevens, it may be well to mention something of its earlier occupation, which I will endeavor to do as briefly as possible.

Champlain's Fording Place

At the foot of Oneida Lake, where the Oneida (then called the Onondaga) River issued from the lake, was a rapid or rift, with a fall of perhaps two or more feet.

The water, except in flood time, was very shallow. There was the fording place, and it was there that Champlain in 1615, five years before the Pilgrims landed at Plymouth Rock, crossed the river and was the first known white person to view Oneida Lake, while journeying toward the Indian fort with a party of Huron Indians. Incidentally, it might be noted that at the present time another battle is being waged between contending parties regarding the location of this Indian fort. One party insisting it was located at Nichols Pond in Madison County—the other side being just as certain that the fort was at Salina.

Indian Fishing Ground

At this rift was a favorite fishing place of the aborigines, great quantities of the finest of fresh water fish, especially salmon and eels, were to be had here, and because of the rapid flow of the water the Indians were able to capture fish here at all seasons. This latter fact was of great value when in winter, because of icy conditions, nearly all other sources were unavailable. Here the Indians erected fish weirs, consisting of sticks and stones in the form of V shaped dams, extending downward from the shores toward a common center. Here at the apex of the dams were placed wicker baskets in which the fish were taken, after having been guided down the dams to the open baskets. The early white settlers also employed this weir method for catching fish, and Oliver Stevens is known to have been perhaps the first white man to so use the method earlier used by the Indians. Before the deepening of the river channel for navigation purposes in 1849, the taking of salmon and eels was a considerable business. It is stated that at times as many as three or four thousand eels were taken in twenty-four hours.

Here were the villages and encampments of the aboriginies for hundreds, perhaps thousands, of years. Recent archaeological research has revealed that this was one of the great camp sites of ancient times. Here many different cultures lived and died, and here their skeletal remains and non-perishable artifacts bear evidence of a very large and ancient occupation, extending back into prehistoric periods at least two thousand years.

Indian Trail Crossing

It was at this rift that the great north and south trail from the St. Lawrence region to the south country crossed the more important water route from the Hudson River and salt water to the Great Lakes. Coming down to historic times, this strategic spot became the object of keen attention by the French, who were endeavoring to secure the fur trade of the Indians. It was here that the French proposed to erect a fort.

The British, being aware of the great possibilities of the fur trade, and viewing with apprehension the advance of the French to Crown Point and Ticonderoga on Lake Champlain, and the fortifying of Niagara—and later the capture of the English forts at Oswego, decided to forestall the French by building forts along the water route in this section.

As a result Fort Ontario at Oswego was rebuilt in 1759 by the British and used as a base for an advance against the French at Niagara by Johnson, which was taken. Posts were then built by the British in 1759 at Oswego Falls, perhaps a tiny one at Three River Point, Fort Brewerton at the foot of the Oneida Lake, near the rifts, and a post known as Royal Block House at the east end of Oneida Lake at what is known now as Sylvan Beach. This latter post was located on Wood Creek a few rods east of the present highway bridge.

Fort Brewerton Abandoned

The need for these small forts

passing within a few years, they were garrisoned only until about 1764 or thereabouts when they were abandoned. They had been built and maintained at the request of the Indians, who feared the French and their Indian Allies, with the understanding that they would be abandoned when hostilities ceased. The last military occupation of Fort Brewerton, so far as is known, was by a company under Capt. Thomas Morris in 1764.

After the British abandoned Fort Brewerton it rapidly fell into decay—it having been built of wooden palisades set in the top of an earthen enbankment, with four log block-houses within the enclosure. From the journal of one Francis Grant, who journeyed this way, the following item appears under date of May 22, 1767: "At the entrance of the river is Fort Brewington (Brewerton) a considerable post during the war but since abandoned and burnt by the Indians".

The Staats Claim

Lieut. Col. Barent I. Staats located a bounty right for lands near Brewerton in 1782, for which letters of patent were given to him Aug. 8, 1789. This was about the time that Oliver Stevens came to Fort Brewerton—it is presumed that he came in the spring in order that he might construct a house and make ready for the coming winter. The Staats purchase was 400 acres, embracing the fort grounds and that portion of Brewerton lying on the north side of the Oneida (then Onondaga) River, in the present town of Hastings and Oswego County—then a part of Montgomery County.

As stated, when Oliver Stevens came to Fort Brewerton, he was accompanied by his wife, Nancy, and three children, the eldest child being Artemissia, who was born in Caanan, Conn., Apr. 15, 1787. She married Sheldon Thrall, who died, and she then married Gibbs Skiff. They resided just south of Cicero on the farm now occupied bythe newly constructed "drive in" theatre, where their son, George, was born, and where she died in 1873.

A grandson of Artemissia and Gibbs Skiff, George, still is living in Syracuse, and has related to me some of the stories he recalls his grandmother telling. He is a very old man, with a clear memory, however. He mentions hearing Artemissia tell of the visits back and forth between her family and the French family Des-Vatines, who lived on Frenchman's Island, and from which family the island received its name.

The second child of Oliver and Nancy, was Myron, born in Caanan, Conn., about 1782, who married Sarah (Sally) Shepard, daughter of Capt. John Shepard, who for Revolutionary War services drew three military lots in the Military Tract, one of these lots lying along the lake and river in the Town of Cicero.

Caughdenoy's First Settler

Myron Stevens became the first settler in Caughdenoy, being credited with building the first house there, where a cast iron Historical Marker shows the spot to have been on the north side of the highway below the dam. This was in 1797. In 1825, when the town of Hastings was set off from Constantia, Myron Stevens was elected as one of the assessors at the first election. He died in Antioch, Illinois. His daughter, Artemissia, married Myron Emmons; and another daughter, Nancy, whom I well remember, married Orrice C. Orman.

The third child of Oliver and Nancy, was Oliver, Jun., probably born in Caanan, Conn., about 1784; married Abigail Hall, daughter of Jonathan and Abigail (Bigsbee) Hall. This Jonathan Hall was the Revolutionary soldier whose remains rest in Caughdenoy Cemetery. Oliver, Jun., settled in Penn Yan, N. Y., and was the father of a son, Geo. T.

More of the other children, all of whom were born after Oliver settled at Fort Brewerton in 1789, will be told later.

A map of a survey of Fort Brewerton in 1764, shows a path leading from the river shore from near the west end of the present "Smith's Pier" to the fort entrance. This fort entrance or gate was near the south end of one of the salient points of the fort extending toward the river. It was just east of this path a few rods south of the fort, and as one early writer has it, "In close proximity to the fort", that Mr. Stevens built his cabin. The precise location was a few rods northwest of the present Smith's Pier and a few rods southwest of the present Fort Brewerton Hotel.

Those who had heard the recollections of the son of Oliver Stevens, state that the cabin was small, built of logs, with an upper story, sufficiently large for his family of five persons, with space for trading goods and the furs in which he dealt extensively.

Stevens Establishes Tavern

Here he is said to have opened a sort of tavern, where he catered to the occasional traveler, the traders, the Indians and the bateaux-men, who navigated the water ways, and those who traveled over the great north and south trail on land.

Liquors were pure and cheap in those days, and the keen-minded revenue agents had not as yet realized the opportunities for dividends from licenses. Doutbless Mr. Stevens was bothered not at all by any laws such as prove so obnoxious or perhaps prohibitive today. Doubtless here in this primitive tavern the traveler with the traditional "cob-web" in his throat in the early morning, could appease his yearning with impunity. As late as 1840, whiskey —good pure white whiskey, could be had for thirty-six cents a gallon—or for three cents a "nip"; all this without license or permit.

He carried on a large trade with the Indians, bartering such goods as they needed, rum, ammunition and provisions, for their furs—possibly a goodily supply of ginseng from time to time. The goods which he traded were brought over the long water route from Schenectady, and Mr. Stevens is said to have brought in a large supply when he first came. It was from the latter place that he not only purchased his trade goods, but whence he sent his furs etc. to be sold; except when it might be possible to sell them at Fort Stanwix.

He also engaged largely in fishing for salmon, eels and whatever other fish were to be taken in the before mentioned weirs, which were built along the shallow rifts with their turbulent waters, between the north shore and the little island now known as Baldwin Island, and now owned by H. W. Smith of the well known Syracuse Smith Typewriter Co.

In 1790, one year after Oliver Stevens came to Fort Brewerton, a son, Horatio, was born in the midst of the wilderness, without the presence or the benefits of a physician or mid-wife. Horatio lived about two years and died in 1792.

Histories record this death as the first known decease of a white person in Oswego County. It was not only the first death, but his was the first birth of a white child in what became Oswego County outside of those which took place at the Oswego forts during the periods of their occupation.

After the death of his son, Oliver, not having any lumber with which to construct a coffin; broke up an old chest he had brought from Connecticut, and built a casket in which to bury the child. Burial was on a sand knoll east of the fort—regarding which more will be related later.

Fort Became Pig Sty

It will be recalled that the palisades and the log block houses at Fort Brewerton had

been burned by the Indians previous to 1767, and that Mr. Stevens had found the post a ruin when he arrived in 1789. Consequently it possessed no value as a military work. He used the enclosed area as a place for keeping his swine, and his son stated that the hogs up rooted quantities of hand wrought nails, many iron utensils and tools, a crude blacksmith's forge and numerous other interesting items.

The early settlers helped themselves to the many small, hard and crude shaped red bricks, which had formed the fireplaces and chimneys of the four barracks within the fort, finding them very conventient for use in their early homes.

Stevens also had a small garden nearby. The woods for a space of many acres had been cleared from about the area comprising the fort and its approaches when the post was built—doubtless this clearing played a large part in causing Mr. Stevens to locate at this spot.

Neighbors Arrive

In 1790, Stevens had a neighbor, one Dexter—some authorities have it Samuel Dexter—who settled on the south side of the river. Whence he came or how long he remained is not known. He is said to have been a blacksmith, which trade could have been of little value to him in this wilderness.

In 1791, Ryal Bingham located near Mr. Stevens on the north side of the river, on a knoll about where the present residence of William Hines now stands. Mr. Bingham also traded with the natives and engaged in fishing. He remained but a short time, when he went to Three River Point, where he opened and kept a tavern for many years. Many early travelers mention this tavern.

Oliver Stevens and Ryal Bingham wished to purchase the Staats property, or at least a portion of it, but the owner refused to sell. Not being able to make a deal, they had to be content to occupy it on a rental basis, paying, it is said, the sum of twenty pounds—perhaps about $100 a year for the privilege. The whole tract consisted of four hundred acres, how much of it they rented is not known. Much of this Staats property afterwards was purchased by John Lansing of Albany.

Block House Erected

About 1794 the attitude of the Indians became very threatening, and fears were entertained of open hostilities. The few inhabitants then at Fort Brewerton, naturally turned to Mr. Stevens for aid and advice. The latter applied to Gov. Clinton for permission to build some sort of protection for the thoroughly alarmed people. The old works comprising Fort Brewerton being in ruins, and thus offering no sort of protection, Mr. Stevens easily obtained the necessary permission and he erected at State expense a blockhouse that stood near the old fort and a few rods east of his cabin.

The exact site of this structure was a few rods west of the present U. S. Highway 11, and a very few feet south of the present Fort Brewerton Hotel. This hotel occupies the site of an earlier tavern of the same name built in 1849-50—burned in 1865. The present hotel was built in 1865.

When the first hotel was built, the blockhouse was torn down because of its close proximity to and its encroachment on the site of the latter. An early settler, who remembered the old blockhouse once told me, when asked about the site and if it was exactly where the hotel stands, "No, not exactly—it was just at the south side, and over in the 'holler' ".

The blockhouse was built of squared logs or hewn timbers, two stories high, and doubtless, as was customary in such structures, the

upper story over hung the lower by two or more feet.

Clarke's "Onondaga" pictures it, but the drawing is known to be very much in error and entirely out of proportion in many ways; the blockhouse is entirely so. A son of Mr. Stevens, the late Judge John L. Stevens, gave Mr. Clark much of the data used in compiling this historical work, and we are deeply indebted to both these men for having preserved much which otherwise would have been lost. Some of this data will be related later.

The blockhouse, when completed, is said to have been surrounded at a distance of four rods by palisades of logs twelve feet high, with a covered gateway to the south. But this statement, though often made, is believed to be an error, as all of the early settlers, with whom I talked and who related their remembrances of the building, discredited this. It is also said that John L. Stevens, son of the builder, never mentioned to his friends any such palisade.

Block House Residence

Clark's "Onondaga" and other sources state that the blockhouse was used as a dwelling as late as 1811. This latter date can easily be extended to 1828 at least. It was on Nov. 22, 1828, that Jane, daughter of Dr. Chester Smedley, was born in the blockhouse—the doctor and his family then were temporarily residing there.

When the blockhouse was completed Mr. Stevens and his family are believed to have occupied it at once as a home and tavern—they surely were using it as such at a later date. Here he resided for several years or until his removal to the south side of the river about 1811. It was also used as a tavern by Timothy Vickery from 1811 until 1820, when he moved to Three River Point. In 1820 Aaron Snow, son-in-law of Major Solomon Waring of Rotterdam (Constantia) began using the building as a tavern and grocery store, and it was known as The Blockhouse Hotel, and as such was operated for two or more years. Mr. Snow later became a large land owner and settled on a tract of land a mile south of Central Square. During Mr. Snow's occupancy in Mar. 1820, his son, Leonard, was born in the blockhouse.

After its usefulness as a dwelling had past the blockhouse was used for various purposes—the latest as remembered by those who knew it, was as a barn and cider mill, operated by George Walkup; having for its power a one horse sweep on the lower floor.

As previously stated, this blockhouse was torn down just prior to the building of the first Fort Brewerton Hotel in 1849, which building occupied a part of its site. What is believed to be the only remaining relic of the old blockhouse is a locust pin, such as were used to tie timbers together in frame structures. This is in my possession. It was hand made and shows evidence of gnawing by mice. It was removed with one of the few sound timbers, when the building was torn down by Orson Emmons, who built the hotel on the site in question. The salvaged timbers went into the building of a barn one mile north of the fort. When this barn was demolished by a son of Mr. Emmons many years later, the pin was presented to me.

It was my privilege, as a sponsor for some thirty of the State Education Dept. Historical Markers erected in the southern part of Oswego County some years ago, to have one placed locating the blockhouse and another the site of the first home of Oliver Stevens. These are beside U. S. Route 11—One on the fort grounds and the other just south of the Fort Brewerton Hotel where they may now be seen.

Oliver Stevens was appointed clerk of the town of Mexico, in 1798. This town of Mexico, thus created the second time, earlier had embraced most of the present

Oswego County east of the Oswego River and north of the Oneida River.

Numerous travelers mention Mr. Stevens and his home at Fort Brewerton. These, like the stories told of him and his home in the various histories, may prove to be a bore to my listeners. However, there may be some present who may not have heard them, consequently some of them will be presented.

Watson Tells Of Visit

In the fall of 1791, Brewerton was visited by Gen. Phillip Cortlandt, Jeremiah Van Rensselaer, Stephen Bayard and Elkanah Watson. Mr. Watson's Journal, under date of Sept. 14, 1791, has this entry: "We found ourselves opposite Fort Brewerton, at the entrance of the Onondaga River (now Oneida), which is a very shallow stream. We landed near the old fort, where we found two families and a handsome settlement (Stephen and Bingham). After refreshing ourselves under the first Christian roof which had sheltered us in five days, we commenced descending the Onondaga River."

In July 1792, Francis Adrian Vanderkemp visited the outlet of Oneida Lake, and of Fort Brewerton he had the following to say: "We arrived at Fort Brewerton about noon, situated in the north western corner of the lake. Here is a location of about four hundred acres, obtained by a Mr. Staats, during the late British War. It is now inhabited by two families, viz. that of Capt. Bingham and one Simonds, the latter from Caughnawagna. (By error Vanderkemp has these names wrong—they should be Bingham and Stevens—the former from Caughnawagha). They rented it at twenty pounds a year, and desired to make a purchase of it, but Mr. Staats, acquainted with its value, had constantly declined their offer.

"I was highly gratified with excellent bread and butter, feasted on milk for my beverage, and purchased two pints of it, which we carried to our bateau." Speaking of the fishing here he says: "One Indian took with his spear forty salmon within one hour, another in the presence of Mr. Simonds (Stevens) speared sixty-five during one night, and another eighty."

On his return, under date of Aug. 15, 1792, Vanderkemp says, "Need I tell you, my dear sir, that Fort Brewerton, which we reached at four in the afternoon was to be a delightful sight. Capt. Bingham was home from the salmon fishery; and Capt. Simonds (Stevens) with the women was on a visit to the island. His eldest daughter (Artemissia) nevertheless, a smart girl, prepared us a good supper—a bass of two pounds; a dish of stewed eels, with fresh bread and butter. Our breakfast was congenial, having secured two capital eels, with a pot of milk and rice; we hurried to the Island (Frenchman's) and complimented Mr. and Mrs. Des-Wattines (the Dutch spelling and pronounciation of the French DesVatines), on Monday morning between nine and ten o'clock."

Liancourt Pays Visit

In 1795, while traveling in this part of the country, the Duke De La Rochefoucault-Liancourt of France, made copious notes with splendid descriptions of many interesting places, which he visited. His journeys are portrayed in much detail, and after having visited Squire Bingham at Three River Point, after the Squire had left Fort Brewerton and settled at the former place, the Duke states: "We stopped at Fort Brumpton (Fort Brewerton) at the entrance of the lake. This structure also is surrounded with pallisadoes, erected last year; it stands at the foot of an ancient entrenchment, constructed by the English during the American war, on an advantageous ground, commanding the entrance of the lake. The work was thrown up in a zig-zag figure; but from the remains no

distinct idea can be formed, how the cannon could be pointed to advantage."

Then the Duke says, "All the antiquities of this country consist in the remains of the forts, built in the wars of 1776 or 1756. Fancy must live in future ages, to find occupation in this infant country; past ages can exist here only for generations not yet born."

In stating that the fortification at Fort Brewerton was "erected last year" and that "it stands at the foot of an ancient embankment", the Duke is making mention of the Blockhouse, which Oliver Stevens had erected at the expense of state the year before the visit of the Frenchman. As pointed out by Dr. Wm. A. Ritchie, who has within the past few years has made extensive discoveries of prehistoric occupation of this section, the Duke was viewing ground which had been occupied for perhaps two thousand years.

Liancourt continued as follows: "The proprietor of the house (Oliver Stevens) had gone to Rotterdam three days before. A girl of fourteen (Arthemissia Stevens) was left behind to take care of the house, and of a little brother (probably Oliver, Jr.) who was sick, and whom she actually nursed with a solicitude truly affecting. The girl, poor thing, did all she could for our accommodation, but nothing was to be procured. We should have been obliged to content ourselves with a few small potatoes, which we pulled up in the fields, if the Indians, who were encamped on the opposite bank of the river, had not brought us a pike, which they harpoon.

DeWitt Clinton Comments

From the Journal of Hon. DeWitt Clinton, who made a journey through this section in 1810 we add a few items of interest regarding the Stevens family. While this material is slightly out of order chronologically, it is deemed best to present it here in conjunction with the foregoing statements of other travelers.

Mr. Clinton mentions the French family, who had resided on Frenchman's Island, and in this connection states the following: "They visited their neighbor Stevens, at the outlet, twice a year. We were told by Mrs Stevens, that his name was Devity or Devitzy, that his countrymen in Albany made a subscription, which enabled him to go to France; that she returned the visits of the family, and found them surprisingly happy; and that in her opinion, the French woman had no extraordinary pretensions to beauty."

Of the Stevens family he says: "That night (July 10, 1810) we slept at Stevens', at the outlet of the lake, nine miles by land and eleven by water from Rotterdam (Constantia). Here commences Onondaga or Oneida river, the only outlet of the lake, about as large as the mouth of Wood Creek. The bars at the outlet are rocky, wide, difficult to remove, and so shallow that a horse can easily pass over them. There are two eel weirs here in which many are caught. Stevens has lived in this place, which is in the town of Constantia, eighteen (21) years, has rented it for seventeen years, at $75 a year. He has no neighbors within four miles on this side of the river. On the other side is the town of Cicero, in which there are several settlements. This is a clean house, in which we were as well accommodated as the situation of the country would admit. There is a small island at the mouth of the river, containing six (1½) acres, and belonging to the State, for sale."

Clinton then mentions the Indians and their encampment, the fishing and other matters, he then continues: "Black raspberries grow wild in great abundance. They composed, with fresh salmon, the principal part of our supper.

"Stevens' is twelve miles from Salina by land, and thirty-two by water. The salt used in the coun-

try is brought the latter way, and is purchased at the springs for 2s. or 1s.6d. per bushel. Land in Cicero is worth from three to five dollars per acre. Stevens told us that they have no other preacher than Mr. Shepard, who lived over the river in Cicero; that he formerly resided in Goshen, and got three military lots as captain or major of artificers, although not legally entitled to them — that Judge Thompson, a member of the Senate, and of Orange County, received one lot as a fee for his services in getting the law passed.

"Stevens' house is one quarter of a mile from the mouth of the lake. Deer come close to it. We saw an adder and another snake sunning themselves on the ramparts of Fort Brewster (Fort Brewerton). This was erected in the French War, was a regular work, ditch and bastions, all covering about an acre. This must have been an important pass to defend, and would now be an excellent site for a town."

Sad Plight Of Thayer

From Clark's "Onondaga" we gleam the following story:

"In 1791, John Thayer, an old acquaintance of Oliver Stevens, came to Salina, and hearing that his friend had located at Fort Brewerton, twelve miles distant, he determined to make him a visit. It being winter, the undertaking was somewhat hazardous, but possessing a resolute mind and hardy constitution, he thought he could overcome all obstacles. He was directed to follow the Indian trail and blazed trees, but during the journey, he became bewildered, lost his way, and roamed about the woods three days and two nights, without shelter or food. He at last struck the Oneida River, several miles west of Stevens, and in attempting to cross the ice broke through, got his legs and feet wet, and before he arrived at his place of destination, his feet were badly frozen. He suffered severely for several weeks, when his feet began to mortify. He was then conveyed to Dr. White of Cherry Valley, on a sled by hand, where both limbs were amputated above the ankle. He is now (1847) living in Palermo, Oswego County, hobbling about on his stumps, has some property, and enjoys good health for one so advanced in years, comparatively cheerful and happy."

Supplementing the foregoing story of John Thayer, we have from the pen of a granddaughter of Oliver Stevens, the following statement: "Right here I wish to say that Mr. Thayer was found and carried to the home of my grandfather. When they brought him to the house and Grandmother saw him, she exclaimed, 'My God, its John Thayer' she having known him well in Connecticut. I have heard Grandmother say that when she removed his shoes and socks his feet struck the floor like a frozen potato. Mortification soon resulted and he was conveyed to Cherry Valley on a hand sled, where both feet were amputated. He afterward resided in Palermo, but often visited our home on the farm at Cicero, where he was ever a welcome guest."

The wolf story by Clark has often been told, but will bear repeating because of its connection with our subject.

Fought Wolves For Life

"On one occasion, in the month of March, 1793, Mr. Stevens resolved to attend the town meeting of the town of Mexico, held then, the first year at what is now Pulaski, twenty-three miles north of his home in Brewerton.

"He started off in the morning with his gun in hand and knapsack of provisions on his back. There was no road and scarcely a path; he relied mainly on his skill as a woodsman, and his knowledge of the wanderings of the sun to guide him safely through his journey. He traveled on, unconscious of harm until near the

middle of the afternoon, when he found himself in the vicinity of a pack of wolves. By their howling he was aroused not only to a sense of danger, but to the fact that he had lost his way, and that he had no means of recovering it. He set forward with vigor in hope of coming out at a clearing in the vicinity of the place of his destination; but all to no purpose; the more he exerted himself, the more he became convinced of the peril of his situation. The wolves drew nearer and nearer, and seemed by their boldness to be meditating an attack. At length one bolder than his companions, advanced to within a few paces of him, upon which he fired and the wolf fell dead. The scent of the blood of the dead wolf seemed to increase the voracity of the survivors, and for a time he thought he in return would be slain.

"Nothing daunted, he stood at bay, looking them in the eye, and after a while, they departed to a respectful distance, sitting on their haunches as if holding a council of war. During this cessation of hostilities, Mr. Stevens struck a fire and kindled it; reloading his gun and sallied forth, dragging the dead wolf by the heels to his firey fortress. At this stage of the war, it seemed as if the fury of the wolves was ungovernable; they came very near, growling and snapping their teeth in the greatest anger. He cast burning brands among them and finally they disappeared. Upon this he added more fuel to the fire, got up a bright light and began to feel secure.

"His next business was to secure the skin of his fallen foe, which was soon effected, and for which he received $40 bounty, it being a large gray wolf. By this time it became quite dark, a quantity of fuel was gathered. Here the solitary wanderer stood all night, not daring to refresh himself with sleep, amid the din and howlings of the hungry wolves. Toward morning he was relieved from his anxiety by the retreat of the wolves who left an disturbed him no more.

"He now prepared a hasty meal by the fire, partook of it and concluded to retrace his steps. Packing up his wolk skin, he proceeded homeward. The sun rose to the meridian, and still he traveled on; night came, and for aught he could tell he was no nearer home than when he started out in the morning. Being weary with his day's journey, he again kindled a fire, laid himself down to rest and slept soundly until morning. At early dawn he again set forth in quest of home, and about ten o'clock in the morning, to his indescribable surprise and joy, discovered the British flag flying from the fort at Oswego.

"The officers of the garrison, to which he related his adventure, treated him with great kindness; with them he spent the remainder of the day, and next morning set out with a light heart for home. The day following, being the fifth from his departure, he safely returned to the bosom of his family, who had already become alarmed for his safety."

The names of the earliest settlers within the present limits of the town of Mexico are lost. There were about twenty-five who had already located in the year 1798. In that year Oliver Stevens was appointed as the first Clerk of the original township, whose extensive area has already been mentioned.

A Bear Story

Another incident of interest occured sometime in 1793.

"As Mr. Stevens sat at dinner with his family, he was interrupted by a man who came running to the door, almost breathless and dripping with water; stammered out with a tremulous voice, that he and his companion had been attacked by a bear in the river, and driven from their boat. He feared the bear would kill his companion, and wished Mr. Stevens to go instantly with his gun and kill the bear.

"He started at once, reprimed his gun, and hastened with all dispatch to the scene of the disaster. When they arrived they found the remaining man on the shore, wet through and through, moaning in the bitterest anguish the hardness of his lot.

"The fact was; that as the two were proceeding up the river, the bear at the same time attempted to swim across. Upon seeing the bear, the boatmen resolved to have some sport and capture him. They rowed along side and aimed a blow at Bruin's head, which he evaded, and before they could recover themselves, scrambled over the side of the boat and drove the astonished Frenchmen into the river. They were forced to make a virtue of necessity, and one ran for help, while the other watched the boat and its new occupant. On the arrival of Mr. Stevens at the scene of action, his bearship was majestically seated at the stern, calmly surveying the scene, and quietly floating down the current, as undisturbed as a king on his throne. A shot from Mr. Stevens' rifle bereft the monarch of his titles and his life at once. The boatmen swam to the boat and rowed up to the landing. When the prize was dressed, it was found to exceed three hundred pounds in weight."

A fifth child was added to the family of Oliver and Nancy Stevens, when on Jan. 15, 1802, a son, John Lansing Stevens was born at Salina. He was named for John Lansing, already mentioned as a large land owner in the vicinity of Fort Brewerton.

Early historians have stated that John L. Stevens was the first white child born in the town of Hastings, but this we know to be an error, and the honor belongs to his deceased brother, Horatio.

Previous to the birth of John L., which occurred in mid-winter when with no physician nearer than one at Onondaga Valley, and with no roads other than Indian trails, his father and mother took up their abode, temporarily, in Salina, where they remained until after the accouchement.

Son Became Judge

John L. Stevens became a very influential man. He was a person of sterling character and was beloved by all who knew him. He received but a limited education, nearly all of which was given him by his mother. He was elected to the office of Commissioner of Highways in 1825, when but twenty-three years of age, in the town of Cicero, which then comprised the present towns of both Clay and Cicero. He was re-elected to that office in 1826. He was elected Justice of Peace in the town of Cicero in 1832, and served as such for over thirty-one years. He was appointed under-sheriff, under Sheriff Byron D. Benson, his son-in-law, in 1862, serving two and one half years. He was Lieutenant in a uniformed Company of Grenadiers, a military organization, and afterwards was Captain of the same Company, and was soon elected Major in the 228th. Regt.

He was appointed one of the Judges of Onondaga Co. Court by Gov. Bouck in Feb., 1844, and held office five years; and was twice elected Justice of Sessions for one year terms.

He was appointed a Deputy Sheriff in 1871; and Sept. 9, 1872, he was elected the first president of the newly created Village of Brewerton, for which incorporation he was largely responsible.

"Judge" Stevens, as he was always known, because of long terms in the various judgeships, was largely responsible for the building of the first commercial plank road in United States, he having been one of the Commissioners, appointed Apr. 12, 1844, for the Salina & Central Square Plank Road, which was opened to traffic July 18, 1846. He was also very active in the organization and construction of the Syracuse Northern Rail Road, which opened to traffic Nov. 9, 1871. Judge

Stevens died in Brewerton Feb. 1, 1874.

Among the descendants of John L. Stevens, were Robert and William Benson, grandsons, and sons of Byron D. Benson and Minerva Stevens, the latter a daughter of John L.

An Oil Magnate

Mr. Benson became active in the oil business in Pennsylvania, and together with his sons and others, conceived the idea of transporting oil by pipe lines. In 1878 they organized a company with a capital of over six hundred thousand dollars, and by May, 1879, were ready to begin operating the newly constructed pipe line. They proposed to transport 10,000 barrels of oil a day over a distance of 109 miles through a 6-inch pipe; crossing mountains 2,600 feet in height. The valves were opened May 28, 1879, by Mr. Benson and operations began.

Ida Tarbell, in her history of the Standard Oil Co., says: "The success of the Tide Water Pipe Line was probably due more to the efforts of Byron D. Benson, its first president, than to any other person.

Robert and William Benson, sons of Byron D. Benson, continued to act in high places with the Tide Water Pipe Line for many years. They were men of splendid integrity and ability, and citizens of the highest character.

A son of John L. Stevens, John L. Stevens, Jun., was a soldier in the Union Army in the Civil War; was identified with the activities of Co. H., 149th Regt., N. Y. Inf. Vol. He was with Sherman in his grand march to the sea; was with his regiment at the close of the war, and was mustered out at Washington, June 12, 1865.

Last Of The Fighters

Thus did John L. Stevens, Junior, bring to an honorable close a long list of his soldier ancestors, who had fought in the several wars; beginning with Brig. Gen. Nicholas Stevens of Cromwell's Army in 1653; down through the French and Indian War of 1755-1760, the Revolutionary War of 1775-1883; and the Civil War of 1861-65; covering a period of more than two hundred years of untarnished military glory, of which any family might be proud.

A sixth child was added to the family of Oliver and Nancy Stevens, when Horatio, the second to be thus named, was born in the Blockhouse home of his parents, Nov. 8, 1804. He was born about fourteen years after the first child by that name, twelve years after the latter's death, which had occured as stated in 1792. This second Horatio, married and resided for many years in Oneida Castle, N. Y., where he died in 1846.

His only daughter, Ann Elizabeth, married the late Patrick H. Agan as his second wife. Mr. Agan was for many years publisher and editor of the Syracuse "Standard". Their daughter, married the late Franklin H. Chase, well known newpaper man and historian of Syracuse.

In the division of Military Lots among the soldiers of the War of the Revolution for services therein, John Babbett of Middletown. N. Y., drew Lot 9, township of Cicero, which lies at the west edge of the village of Brewerton. In 1779 he sold his right to Wait Ball of Danbury, Conn., for 70 pounds. In 1801 Oliver Stevens purchased this lot, consisting of 600 acres of Mr. Ball, for the nominal sum of $100. It is presumed that it was on this lot that Mr. Stevens had his garden, as he is known to have cultivated land on the south side of the river, and it is so related by Clark in his "Onondaga".

In 1802 this property was sold at Sheriff's sale in a suit of Patrick MaGee vs. Oliver Stevens for $300, to James Wells of Onondaga, reserving one acre in the northeast corner.

Oliver Leaves County

Mr. Stevens moved out of the

Blockhouse in 1811 and located on the south side of the river in the town of Cicero, where he resided until his death in 1813. His widow survived him for many years and, as previously stated, was buried in Cicero Cemetery.

After the death of Oliver Stevens, he was buried in Oswego County, where he had spent 22 years of his active life. His body rests on the north side of the river on the sand ridge east of the fort, beside the remains of his infant son, Horatio, who had died in 1792, twenty-one years previously.

Many years later, his youngest son, Horatio, proposed to erect a monument in their memory, but so long a time had elapsed since their decease and burial, that it was then impossible to locate their graves. In 1885 workmen were excavating the cellar for the house of C. D. Walkup which was the former toll-gate house at the north end of the highway bridge. This toll-gate house was moved to the site at this time and is now owned by the Doucette family.

During this excavating the laborors came upon what appeared to be the grave of a man and a child; the bones of the first being in a very good state of preservation, while those of the latter had practically crumbled to dust. These remains were moved to one side and re-buried. As it was known that Oliver and his son, Horatio, had been buried in this general vicinity, it was the belief of those qualified to have an opinion on the subject, that these remains were of the first settler and his infant son.

Now with the presentation of two more stories concerning the subject concerned and his family, I will close this rambling paper—perhaps without regret by my hearers, who may have already reached the limit of their patience.

Indian Contacts

When John L. Stevens, second youngest child of Oliver, was a youngster, his only playmates were the almost wild Indians.

On one occasion, while he was at play, a disagreement occured between his tawny companion and himself, which resulted in a hand to hand fight.

The young Indian, getting the worst of the engagement, started to flee before his adversary, but his natural stoicism, inherited from a long line of warrior ancestors, checked him in his flight. Turning about he faced his antagonist with undaunted courage. Tantalizingly, he said: "You kill me you want to; you kill me, you have to pay my fader five dollars."

Under a treaty, made between the United States and the Onondagas, each Indian, old or young, was entitled to a certain sum annually from the government—the little Indian fighter knew his worth.

Another story told by John L. Stevens was as follows: In the early days, shortly after the birth of John L. Stevens, several Indians came to the Oliver Stevens home one evening, when Mrs. Stevens was home alone with her smaller children, and demanded "fire water".

This she refused them, which so enraged one of them, that he caught up a long handled fire shovel, with which he was going to strike her; but was prevented by the others from doing so.

One of the Indians left the house, gave a peculiar call, and soon their chief made his appearance. Snatching the offender by the shoulder, he shook him in a violent manner, and addressed him in the Indian tongue All Mrs. Stevens was able to understand was her Indian name, Canadeas, meaning White Sister.

The group left the house and no more trouble was experienced in any way.

The fire shovel, raised by the enraged Indian, was preserved in the home of John L. Stevens until his death.

The Story of Lieut. A. Cooper--- Civil War Veteran, Author and Poet

(Paper Given Before the Oswego County Historical Society, October 10, 1950 By Mrs. Charles H. Lane, Daughter of Lt. Cooper.)

At a funeral services in Brooklyn, not long ago, the minster, a life long friend of the family, comforted them by saying, "You will find that your father is still with you and always will be; that he will counsel you, encourage you and guide you." No one ever spoke truer words, and as I tell you something of my father's life, the picture of our home is before my eyes :

My father and mother and I at table;

My father giving me his one and only spanking;

His story, later printed in "In and Out of Rebel Prisons", told me chapter by chapter when I climbed into bed with him and spoiled his Sunday morning naps;

Myself, at the age of five, ridding "Reb," a little mare he brought home from North Carolina and for many years the petted darling of the family;

Myself at the age of six, in the phaeton behind "Reb," driving alone from the barn on West Second Street to our home on West Mohawk Street, much to the horror of my mother. "Well, Papa couldn't come, so he told me I could drive her";

My father, coming home drenched from Will Phelps's yacht "Katy Gray". The boom had swung unexpectedly and he had jumped. He swam to be hauled aboard, his plug hat still on his head;

Childhood Memories

My father, training "Susie Swift" to the Saddle. Now, I had ridden Susie bareback from the time she was strong enough to carry me. He saddled her—she didn't like it and when he put me in the saddle and led her into the street, it was just too much. She squatted and bucked and I slipped ignominiously off into a convenient puddle. Jake Poucher, Ira DeRosier, Jesse McAmbly and Alf Rice came running. "Cooper, you're not going to put that girl in the saddle again?" My father's laconic: "They've both got to learn, and now's the time";

The Sunday afternoon rides behind Susie Swift, (his last trotter), out Fifth street, through the Gray woods, stopping for ferns and wild flowers, back by the River Road;

Church on Sunday evening, Mr. Lovett coming home with us for a quiet chat;

Born in Victory

My father, putting out the flag on April Ninth, a neighbor passing, "Cooper, what's the flag out for?" "My birthday. Lee celebrated it by surrendering."

These pictures, and many more,—and so it is an honor and a pleasure to tell you something of my father's life.

He was born on a farm near the village of Victory, Cayuga Co. N. Y., April 9, 1830, the youngest but one of a family of nine children. His father's death, when Alonzo was 18 months old, left his mother with this large family. Her only income consisted of the products of a twenty-five acre farm and the trifling wages of her oldest son, Lorenzo, a carpenter's apprentice. With these slender resources, she, a woman of fine character and strong religious principles, managed to feed and clothe them.

In the spring of 1836, she sold her farm in Victory and bought

fifty acres of wild land near Sterling Junction, and the family moved into a log house that Lorenzo built during the preceding fall and winter, and around which he had made a clearing. The clearing was extended during the summer to ten or fifteen acres by neighbors who made a bee to help.

This house was made of basswood slabs, hewn smooth and nicely fitted together. A large Dutch fireplace, and a wide chimney built of sticks and mud took up nearly half of the north side of the house, while at the right of the fireplace, a rude pair of stairs led to two upper rooms. The lower part of the house consisted of a room about sixteen by eighteen feet which served as parlor, dining room, and kitchen, and a bedroom and recess which occupied the south side. The upper rooms were supplied with rough board floors and with a window in each room. A cellar dug under the front room served for the storage of apples and vegetables and was entered by a trap door.

The district school, known as the Van Patten School, was half a mile away. Here the Cooper children learned their readin' and writin' and 'rithmetic.

Clothes Of Home Spun

Alonzo's mother had been taught to spin and weave by her father, John Cochran, who was an expert weaver, and up to the time of her death there were very few clothes worn by the family that she did not weave and afterwards made into garments. The linen trousers and shirts were bleached to snowy whiteness and the suits of sheep's gray for the boys and the woolen dresses for the girls were dyed and pressed by herself. Besides all this, all the time that could be spared from household tasks was spent in weaving for neighbors. (Quoted from the Conclusion: "In and Out of Rebel Prisons").

Both she and her husband were members of the Dutch Reformed Church at Cato (now Meridian) and Alonzo says of her, "Her well-worn Bible bore testimony to her faithfulness to her Christian duties".

Upon his mother's death when Alonzo was 14, the family was scattered. Most of the older children had married and had homes of their own. He went to live with a farmer near Sterling Center and from that time attended the school at that place. It was here that he met his future wife, Mary E. Kirk, daughter of William Kirk, on a corner of whose orchard the school house was built. Mr. Kirk not only gave the land, but helped to build the schoolhouse.

Makes Oswego Home

In the summer of 1849, Alonzo decided that farming was not for him: so he left Sterling to become a clerk in the store of Charles Burnett in Skaneateles. At the end of the first year, he transferred his affections to Oswego, which from that time on was home. He served as clerk, first in the drug store of James Bickford, Jr., and then in the dry goods store of Worden Newkirk. He was clerking in this store when he married.

In the story of my father's life, my mother played a leading role. From the day that they were married until their final parting, she was his sweetheart and his valentine. She claimed that his first valentine read:

"My HART is Thine"

His final one to her was only fragment which she wrote at his dictation, since he could no longer hold a pen. The one he wrote for their Sixtieth wedding anniversary contains the only extant account of their wedding, which took place in the Baptist Church at Sterling Center at the close of the Sunday evening services, February 15, 1852. Elder Peevit was at that time the pastor.

When Love Was In Its Bloom

When love was in its bloom, Mary,
Near four score years ago,
Your lips like rippened cherries,
You cheeks with health aglow,

Beneath the spreading locust tree
On a wintry night like this,
I chose you for my valentine
And sealed it with a kiss.

We sought the village pastor
Where earnest prayer was said.
Your parents were the witnesses
When you and I were wed.

Our solemn vows then spoken
And registered above
Were through these years unbroken
From their silken ties of love.

How well we still remember
That eloquent Divine
Who preached on Revelation
With rhetoric so fine.

We never can forget the thunder of his tone
As he described the glories of the Great White Throne.
The very gates of Heaven
Seemed open to our sight.
We seemed to hear the rustle
Of wings in joyous flight.

We've treaded life together
In this glorious world of ours,
Sometimes through stormy weather;
Sometimes through rosy bowers.

February 15, 1917.

Their wedding trip was the twelve mile drive to Oswego, where they set up housekeeping on the second floor of the house then owned by John Harsha, later known as the Hastings house. It still stands on the corner of West Cayuga and Third Street.

My mother was the homemaker, companion and inspiration of their daily life. It was she who had bought their first rocking chair—still in use in our home—by making two gingham aprons for little Johnny Harsha.

It was she who made a dollar do the work of two. Her slogan was, "What comes in in a basket should go out in a teaspoon." Nothing was wasted. Both clothing and food were made over, yet there was always plenty to wear, and appentizing meals on the table. Today, as we hear so much about vitamins, I realize that these were served to us in our daily diet.

Establishes Business

Soon after their marriage, Alonzo and Mary set up in business for themselves in what was known as the Revenue Block at West First and Utica Sts., (on the site of the present New York Central passenger station) he with his first fruit and confectionary store, she to take roomers, railroad men; but before the Civil War, the store had been exchanged for one on Oneida St., between Ninth and Tenth Sts., which is still, I believe, run as a store. Their rooms were on the Second floor and were reached by an outside stairway. One child was born to them, but he, as did many other children, died during the diphtheria epidemic of 1860.

Before getting into the Civil War, it may be of interest to sketch briefly the ancestry of my father.

Of the Coopers, eleven of the sons and grandsons of Obadiah Cooper, "the tayler of Albany," served in the Revolutionary War. One of these sons was Abraham Cooper, great grandfather of Alonzo. Both he and his young son, Obadiah A. Cooper, saw service in that War. John, son of Obadiah A, and Alonzo's father, enlisted from Schoharie Co. as a substitute in the War of 1812. He served at Sacketts Harbor during the building of the "New Orleans." Many years later, William B. Phelps presented my father with a cane made from

wood from the "New Orleans." The silver head of the cane is

ALONZO COOPER

First Lieut., 12th N. Y. Vol. Cavalry
Captured at the battle of Plymouth, Apr. 20, 1864,
Exchanged, Feb. 20, 1865
In recognition of his services in the War for the Union.
from Corporal W. B. Phelps,
1891
From timber of the U. S. Man of War, New Orleans, built at Sacketts Harbor 1815, upon the construction of which John Cooper, the father of the owner of this cane was employed.

Fought With Paul Jones

Alonzo's mother was Amanda Cochran, daughter of John Cochran and Elizabeth Greenslit. John Cochran was known to his family and friends as "the fighting Irishman." His adventures during the Revolutionary War, on record in Washington, D. C., archives, make a fascinating story that all the Cooper children know by heart. He came to America from Northern Ireland, was impressed on a British ship from which he and a companion escaped and swam a mile or more to shore. He enlisted under John Paul Jones on the "Ranger," and after the transfer of Jones, served under the succeeding captain. He was again captured by the British and again escaped, and swam ashore. Again he reenlisted and served until the end of the war.

With such a background, it is no wonder that Alonzo Cooper sold his store and on August 27, 1862, enlisted in Company B., 12th N. Y. Cavalry, recruited in Oswego under Major Ward Gasper.

The company was taken by train to Albany. As they were marching from the train to camp, Alonzo and a companion who were in no hurry, lagged so far behind that when they entered, the guard at the gate thought they were civilians and gave them outgoing passes. They looked over the dirty bunks, sampled the tasteless food, and after evening roll call presented their passes at the gate and strolled into town. Their first stop was at the Stanwix Hotel where they registered for the night, had a good meal and set out for the theater.

The next morning they were passed into camp in time for roll call, receiving again outgoing passes. This went on until they received their uniforms; whereupon they asked for leave to go into town to ship their clothing home and see the city. They spent another night at the Stanwix but were careful to be in camp for morning roll call. That afternoon they were marched aboard the boat for New York with an unblemished record of not one night in camp.

The winter of 1862-63 was spent on Staten Island, and here my mother joined her husband. They had rooms with Mrs.—— along with "kitchen privileges" which consisted of a fire place with Dutch oven. Here, my mother did her cooking. Their leisure was spent in horseback riding and on Sundays they attended the Moravian Church.

Earns Promotion

On April 7, 1863, Alonzo was "discharged, reason, Promotion" and the same day was enrolled as 1st Lieut. of Co. I. In June of the same year, he was again shifted this time to Co. F. as 2nd Lieut. and later as 1st Lieut. The regiment was sent to Plymouth, N. C. Scouting expeditions and the like occupied the time. The wives of several officers joined their husbands in the winter of 1863-1864, by mother among the rest, and again horseback riding and fireplace cooking were the order of the day. "My Wife's Story" tells of Mary's adventures on her way to Plymouth and on her return trip after the capture of the town.

The capture of Plymouth, the prison experience and final exchange of prisoners which sent my father back to his regiment have been told in his book, "In and Out of Rebel Prisons" and so will be omitted here.

After his exchange, in February, 1865, he obtained a leave and came home "to see Mary." He had never heard, until his release from prison, whether she had reached home safely. Her letters to him had never reached him though she had occasionally recieved a dirty scrap of paper from him. His relief at finding her alive and well can only be imagined. He was, like many others, a mere skeleton, but Mary's cooking soon put that to rights, though he suffered considerably from rheumatism.

On his return to his regiment, he was transferred as 1st Lieut. to Co. D and from that company, he was finally mustered out.

Returns With Three Horses

Mustering out took several weeks, and it was August before my father, with three horses he brought from North Carolina, reached Oswego. There were long horseback rides with Mary, visits to friends and relatives, and a general picking up of loose threads. At the same time, he was casting about for a place to start in business again. His diary of August and September of that year gives the details, some of them interesting, not only from a personal standpoint but as a criterion of business conditions in that period of reconstruction, in some respects, not so different from those of the present time.

He rented a barn for his horses, built mangers, laid a floor and moved them in. These three horses, Jimmy, Johnny Reb and Reb formed the nucleus of a livery business that continued for many years.

Reb was a little bay mare, a member of the family until she died at the age of twenty. With me on her back, she ambled along, thoroughly bored. She was simply acting as nursemaid; with my mother, she was gay and frisky. But a Fourth of July parade with my father in the saddle was her real meat. Then she could dance and prance to the music of the band and really show her paces.

Re-Engages in Business

Father's first investment after his return from the war was 14 bushels of plums, which he sold at a profit of $8.86, and twenty-five barrels at $5.00 a barrel. He contracted with "Schoonmaker" for his fall apples. With his profits he rented a store at 166 Water St. from L. L. Kenyon, bought fixtures and started in business. The first day, he didn't sell one cent's worth," but the receipts of the next day were $5.00. This was September 2, and that day he received his first consignment of oysters, twenty-five cans. These, he stored in "Oliver's refrigerator," four cans having already been sold. Cooper's oysters were famous for many years thereafter.

Business continued brisk, and in a week's time, Cooper had engaged as clerk at $5.00 a week Charlie Abbott. The store continued to prosper and my father added selling on commission to his other activities. That business, too, flourished and before the close of 1865, he had moved to 210 West First St. and the family had room back of the store and in the basement. A fine stock of toys, fancy boxes for gloves, jewel boxes, work boxes, portfolios, etc. was advertised in the "Oswego Commercial Advertiser." A soda fountain and ice cream parlor, ice cream made and served by Mary, added to their income. Oysters in season sold at a $1.75 a keg, 45c a can. Two clerks were now in order, "Dock" Farnham and "Court" Hare.

Business was subjected to a federal tax in those days, as it

is today. Licenses both federal and municipal were issued for retail business, and had to be renewed yearly. My father's first license cost over eight dollars.

Trained Trotting Horses

No sooner had business picked up than trotting horses became a major interest for leisure hours and so continued until his last trotter was sold in the late 1880s. His diary tells of races at Wine Creek Course, and later on, he drove Sunset and Susie Swift at many county fairs, etc. He was an expert horseman, a patient trainer and a fairly successful driver. His daughter was his faithful shadow and was even allowed to drive on the track,

A second child, born during this period, lived only six months, and then was laid besides her brother in the cemetery at Sterling Center. Years later, came the following poem:

BABY'S HOOD

(Lines suggested by finding a little knit hood, the wearer having been laid in rest twenty years ago).

Only a baby's little hood,
Once white, now yellow grown,
Why should this sight our eyes so flood;
Why cause this bitter moan.

What is there in the sight to make
Our hearts so wildly throb?
Why should its touch such memories make
And cause this bitter sob?

Why is it, while this hood I hold
I seem to see a face
Of such a saintly, heavenly mould,
And such angelic grace?

For twenty years that face has been
A vision of the past,
That we can ne'er behold again,
While breath and sense shall last.

That face the hood so softly pressed
Has faded from our sight;
We laid it gently down to rest,
To wake in realms more bright.

Safe in a loving Saviour's arms,
We know it is secure
From worldly griefs and worldly harms
Among the blest and pure.

Unlike the hood so faded grown.
It grows more pure and sweet
May we before our Saviour's throne
Our long lost treasure greet!

Held State Appointment

The store was finally sold, the three horses were augmented by several others and a livery stable was established on West Second Street between Bridge and Cayuga. A new store was opened in a building a few doors south of the stable, and the family home at 64 West Mohawk Street established

With various ups and frequent downs, business continued, except for four years during which Alonzo acted as guide in the Capitol at Albany. He took this position with his usual enthusiasm, knew by heart every point of interest in the building, was appointed Deputy Sheriff to protect the Capitol and still found time to enjoy the sessions of the G. A. R. post. In 1898, he decided to return to Oswego to write the book he had long had on his mind. His resignation caused quite a stir. for according to the Albany paper, it was the first such resignation on record.

Rejected For Spanish War

When the Spanish-American War came along, my father, then over sixty years of age, requested permission to raise a company in Oswego. Volunteers to the number of twenty-five had signed up, when his request was courteously refused by the President of the U. S. Though he could not go himself, he could and did bid God speed to those who went—espec-

ially the 48th Separate Company to whom he sent a letter and poem.

As usual, Alonzo expressed his strongest feelings in verse—

My parents united with the West Baptist Church during the pastorate of Elder Hughes, father of Charles Evans Hughes, the later presiding justice of the United States Supreme Court, and enjoyed a life-long friendship with the family. A story of my mother's always amused me. My father brought the Hughes family home to dinner just before they left Oswego and the lemon pie, a specialty of Mary's "wasn't as good as usual".

Elder Butterfield followed Elder Hughes. He and my father saw eye to eye on the subject of horses, and the good Elder enjoyed many a ride and attended many a horse race in company with his parishoner. And so it went, each pastor in turn becoming in one way or another a part of the family life. Mr. Lovett was an especial favorite. His last pastorate was in a Presbyterian Church in South Brooklyn and he was a frequent guest in our home, especially during the winters my parents spent with us.

Molder Of Opinion

In politics, Alonzo was a staunch Republican, as those of you who knew him will remember. But "dirty politics", no matter what the party made him see red. Many were the controversies aired in the "Times" and in the "Pall." Many were the letters which left no doubt as to his sentiments. These articles and letters were frequently writen in humorous vein, holding up to ridicule the policies involved and the foibles of their authors. His wit was keen and his irony searching. Republicans and Democrats were forced to respect his views even though they did not agree.

A letter which I received only a few days ago from a prominent United States Senator says, "I recall your father as among those most influential in forming opinions in Up-State New York".

The G. A. R. was undoubtedly my father's greatest interest. From the time it was organized he was a leading spirit. He was a faithful member of J. D. O'Brien Post of Oswego and served as Commander for several years.

For twenty years, he held the post of Aid de Camp in the National G. A. R. organization, first under Col. Floyd Clarkson, and then under John W. Ray. In this connection, he attended several National Encampments at Gettysburg, the last one when he was over eighty.

Maintained Veteran Contacts

Close affiliation with the 12th N. Y. Cavalry continued through his entire life—Col. Savage and Major Clarkson were welcome guests in our home. His correspondence with members of the regiment was voluminous. Some of the letters have been preserved and show clearly the comradeship and affection that existed. The Regiment for many years held annual reunions and for several years, my father held the office of president.

He was a speaker at many local reunions, usually ending his talk with an original poem, written for the occasion. He was an honorary member of both Grant and Winchester Posts in Brooklyn, attended their meetings during the winters in Brooklyn, and on several Memorial Day parades was the guest of the commander of Grant Post, Mr. Arthur H. Cozzens.

How Dr. Walker Lost Hair

Memorial Day was a sacred day to my father. The flag was put out bright and early, and by nine o'clock my father and I set out for the armory. There, girls and women stood at long tables making bouquets of the lilacs, snowballs and other spring flowers and packing them into baskets for the various cemeteries—

St. Peter's, St. Paul's, Riverside and Rural. Church services were held, and the members of the G. A. R. and many citizens attended the services at the cemeteries. An honored guest on these occasions was Mrs. Elmina Spencer, an army nurse. Another was Dr. Mary Walker. May I digress for a moment to tell you why Dr. Mary cut her hair? She sold it to get money for a penniless woman who needed medical aid.

Several of my father's poems are centered on Memorial Day. Its desecration was a bitter grief to him. The idea of spending it at the ball park, at picnics, at the movies, was anathema and both in prose and poetry he expressed his feelings vigorously.

Patriotic Instructor

Another outcome of my father's interest in the G. A. R. was the fight for the prisoners of war, pension bill. At a meeting of the Ex-prisoners of War of Oswego Co., held in the rooms of Post O'Brien Jan. 18, 1888, a resolution was adopted urging its passage. Alonzo was president of that organization and many letters from his pen on the subject appeared in Oswego and Syracuse papers.

The soldiers monument in Oswego is a dream child of my father. It was he who introduced the project. He made the first contribution. He tramped the streets enlisting the interest of his many friends. The "Palladium" supported his efforts by carrying many of his articles and letters.

For several years, my father was Patriotic Instructor for Oswego County. In this capacity, he spoke in most of the city schools, including the High school and State Normal school. This office carried him, not only through Oswego County, but as guest speaker through the state to Buffalo. During his stay in Brooklyn, he officiated at at least two flag presentations as a guest of Winchester Post.

Wrote Centennial Song

It was through this pleasant work that his song, "Old Glory" came into being. It was written, first, as a recitation for the Centennial celebration of the Evacuation by the British of Fort Ontario, Oswego—one of the last English forts to be evacuated (1796).

Before publishing the music, which was written by a nephew, the late J. C. Bell, principal of Public School No. 77, in Brooklyn, he placed the written copy in the Oswego High school for eight months to be assured of its popularity. After its publication, it was used throughout the state.

And this brings us to his poems:

His Work As Poet

It has always been a family tradition that the Coopers were akin to the English poet, Cowper. Whether this be true or not, poetry runs in the Cooper family. There has just recently come to light a very beautiful little poem written by Alonzo's grandmother, Elizabeth Greenslit Cochran. All the Cooper children knew by heart the little couplet by his mother which was worked into her sampler and which reads:

"Amanda Cochran is my name,
"America is my nation;
"Victory is my dwelling place,
"And Christ is my Salvation".

However poetry came to him, he loved it. Our library at home contained the complete poetical works of Scott, Tennyson, Cowper, Coleridge, Campbell (bet you never heard of him; did you?) Burns and, of course, Shakespeare, and of the American poets, besides the usuals, Bret Harte, J. G. Holland, Bryant and many others. My father could and did quote Shakespeare by the yard. Richard III was one of his favorite plays. When I saw the play, long afterward, with John Barrymore, it was my father's "A horse! A horse! My Kingdom for a horse" that I heard.

As a reporter for "The Spirit Of the Times", a paper devoted to sports, he saw all of the stage stars as they came to the Oswego Academy of Music—Modjeska, Joe Jefferson and many others.

It was natural for him to express his feelings in verse, patriotic, humorous, religious, poems to friends on anniversaries, reunions.

In collecting his work, I have been amazed to find the first draft with hardly a correction or change of phrase. Rhythm and meter as well as an unusually extensive and flexible vocabulary were at his command. He wrote from the heart whether in prose or poetry. It was his convictions that went on to the paper.

Pioneered Rhyme Advertising

His early poems—rhymes perhaps would be a better word—would not seem remarkable today since radio and television feature rhymed advertisements. But it is interesting to note that Alonzo Cooper was a pioneer at this sort of advertising. As early as 1866, there was published in an Oswego paper a poem which began:

"It was late in the evening, eleven or more,
"And Cooper was sitting alone in his store.
"The business was over, and tired and worn
"He was resting a little ere starting for home."

The rhyme goes on to the jingle of the old nursery rhyme with Santa Claus and a list of toys, boxes, etc., that could be bought at "Cooper's". A photograph of Santa about to go down the chimney was presented to children. The back of this photograph carried Cooper's ad.

Another of these advertisements was entitled "Annie's and Willie's prayer"—and represented two motherless children whose stern father didn't believe in Christmas. He listened to their evening prayer in which they asked for everything from dolls to tops—naturally, papa immediately put on his overcoat and rubbers and set out for Copoer's.

Among my father's poems is a prayer, written for his two grandchildren, and since passed on to children of relatives and friends:

"Our heavenly Father, we thank Thee tonight
"For Thy love and Thy care, since the dawn's early light.
"Forgive all the follies and sins of the day,
"And bless all our efforts to serve Thee, we pray.
"Watch over our slumbers, from heaven above.
"We ask all through Jesus, the gift of Thy love."

Family Ties Strong

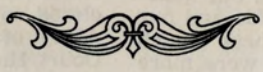
Between Alonzo, and his brothers and sisters there was always a strong bond of affection. Lorenzo had moved to Iowa, Amanda married and went to Cleveland. The others were nearby—Mexico, Martville, Auburn, Skaneateles, but they all convened for Harriet's, Mrs. David Lester's golden wedding in Mexico. In a toast to the bride and groom, Alonzo said, "There were nine of us in the family, and no two of us ever had a quarrel".—and the peculiar thing about this remark is that it is true. His poem, written for that occasion, has been used many times since, at other Golden Weddings.

"Secession, War, and Peace," his only long poem, occupied his thoughts for a long time before it was finally finished. Much of it was written between bouts of pain, for during the last five or six years of his life he was far from well. Mary was his devoted nurse, refusing outside help until she could no longer manage. During this time, his brain was alert and Mary was also his secretary. His poems of this period are expressions of trust in God and prayers for faith. One poem begins:

"Oh for a faith that doubt disarms,
"That sends me to my Father's arms"—

On January 23, 1919, two weeks before their 67th wedding anniversary, just as the sun went down, its rays shining on his face, he smiled and went to sleep.

After my father left us, my mother came to live with us, and remained until we took her back to Sterling in April, 1927. Until the last two years she busied herself as she always had done. She knit fifteen pairs of socks during the first World War. She baked bread and cookies. She went about among her friends and nearby relatives. She lived to enjoy her two great grandchildren. She was ninety-four when we took her back to her old home.



"In and Out of Federal Prisons"

by Lieut. A. Cooper

(Given Before the Oswego County Historical Society By Professor Paul Goodwin on Oct. 10, 1950.)

I should like, at the outset, in reviewing this book—"In and Out of Rebel Prisons"—to indicate the limits Mr. Cooper placed upon himself in dealing with this subject. He states in his preface that "Many books have been written upon prison life in the South, but should every survivor of Andersonville, Macon, Savannah, Charleston, Florence, Salisbury, Danville, Libby and Belle Island write their personal experiences in those rebel slaughter houses, it would still require the testimony of the sixty-five thousand whose bones are covered with Southern soil to complete the tale.

Being an officer, I suffered but little in comparison with what was endured by the rank and file, our numbers being less, our quarters were more endurable and our facilities for cleanliness much greater. Besides, we were more apt to have money and valuables, which would, in some degree, provide for our most urgent needs.

In giving my own personal experiences, I shall endeavor to write of the prison pens in which were confined only officers, just as I found them— Nothing extenuate, nor set down aught in malice.'....Having kept a complete diary of events during my ten months' imprisonment, I am able to give a reliable account of what came under my personal observation. I have often heard it said, even here in the North, that our men who were prisoners, were cared for as well as the limited means of the Confederacy would admit; but the falsity of this is seen when you remember that Andersonville is situated in a densely wooded country, and that much of the suffering endured was for the want of fuel with which to cook their scanty rations, and for the want of shelter, which they would have cheerfully constructed had the opportunity been afforded them. The evidence all goes to show that instead of trying to save the lives or alleviate the sufferings of those whom the fortunes of war had thrown into their hands, they practiced a systematic course of starvation and cruelty, that in this nineteenth century, seems scarcely believable."

So far as open hostilities are concerned, the Civil War may be said to have begun with the bombardment of Fort Sumter, April 12, 1861, and to have closed with the surrender of Lee's Army of Virginia at Appomatox Court House, April 9, 1865. The eleven states of the South forming the Confederacy had a total population of 8,900,000, of whom 3,500,000 were Negro slaves. The Northern, Federal, or Union area had a population of 22,100,000. The Confederacy had about 1,400,000 white men between the ages of eighteen and sixty years. The Union had 5,000,000 men of military age. The Confederacy enlisted and drafted 1,230,000 different men. An equivalent of 1,080,000 men were under arms for three years. The Union enlisted and drafted 2,500,000 men, and maintained a total service equivalent of 1,560,000 men for three years.

Book Lacks Objectivity

On the Union side 360,000 soldiers died on the field of battle or of disease, while the Con-

federacy lost 258,000. It would not be far out of the way to say that the war cost 1,000,000 lives and ten billion dollars in property damage. Quite understandably out of such chaos, suffering, and loss of life there arose strong feelings which frequently found expression in somewhat less than moderate language and served to perpetuate attitudes, both North and South that made difficult the realization of Lincoln's ideal. When this volume was written in 1888 the generation that had been most affected by the war still had vivid memories of it. and, as yet time had not given them a sense of objectivity. One can not expect to find in a book such as this other than rather personal opinions and evaluations based on immediate experience.

We must remember, before condemning the Confederates completely for their treatment of war prisoners, that at the outbreak of the Civil War there was some disposition in Union circles to treat captured members of the Confederate armies not as prisoners, in accordance with the laws of war, but as rebels who might be punished for treason, arson, murder, and other individual acts. Once it was realized, however, that the Confederacy would promptly retaliate on Federal prisoners and that the Union cause would be injured rather than aided by the contemplated departure from established war time rules, the intention was abandoned and the usual principles governing the conduct of hostilities were observed on both sides during the conflict, or at least in most instances observed as closely as physical properties allowed. It must be remembered, also, that the Confederates were short of money, clothing, food, and medicine for their own sick, not to say short of supplies for their men in the field.

Andersonville An Exception

Andersonville, which Mr. Cooper passed through, was a notable exception to the above rule. From February 15, 1864, to April, 1865, 49,485 prisoners were received. Of these, 12,926 died from various diseases. The prisoners were confined in a space of about ten acres, without shelter from the sun, wind, or rain and with insufficient food and polluted water. The governor of the prison, Henry Wirz, referred to by Mr. Cooper "as that inhuman monster," was hanged for his crimes in November, 1865.

Mr. Cooper, when the Civil War started, was running a fruit, confectionery and oyster store in West First street, Oswego. He had served six years in the Old Oswego Guards and was interested in joining one of the regiments then being recruited, but his business required his individual attention and his repeated efforts to sell it proved unsuccessful. Finally without disposing of his store he enlisted in the 12th N. Y. Cavalry and was commissioned a 1st Lieutenant of Company 'I" September 1, 1862.

Desertions Cut Ranks

The passage where Mr. Cooper tells of his stay on Staten Island during the winter and spring of 1862-63 is of particular interest in the light of the operation of the present Selective Service Act. Mr. Cooper says: "We remained on Staten Island all winter perfecting ourselves in the Cavalry tactics and drill; but before spring the men had become so dissatisfied with the inactivity on the Island, that by desertions, our eight companies were reduced to four, and by order of General John E. Wool, the eight companies were consolidated into four, thus rendering four Captains and eight Lieutenants supernumerary, who were ordered mustered out of the service as such. I was among the number so mustered out, but went to work immediately recruiting more men and was in due time again mustered in, this time as 2nd Lieutenant of Company "I". With

this Company I joined the regiment at Camp Palmer near Newbern, N. C.

"I was soon sent to Plymouth, N. C., on detached service, under General W. H. Wessels."

Cooper Taken Prisoner

Mr. Cooper, along with about 2,000 other union troops, was taken prisoner on April 20, 1864. The prisoners were marched from Plymouth to Tarboro. At Tarboro they were crowded into cattle cars and transported to Macon. During his ten months of imprisonment, Mr. Cooper was in Andersonville, Macon, Camp Sorghum, Fort Emory, Franklin Jail, Ashville Jail, and Danville Prison. He was exchanged by the Confederate forces on the morning of February 20, 1865. His longest stay was in the prison camp at Macon. I should like to read a few passages to describe in Mr. Cooper's own words how time was spent in prison. As we all realize one of the most universal annoyances of armies before the advent of DDT was lice. None escaped in the Macon prison camp. As Mr. Cooper describes it.

History is made by innumerable entities acting independently. How they come to produce it is an exciting story to tell, and gives the historian one of the most favored of tasks. In this book we have seen the observations of Mr. Cooper of history in the making. It is only through such personal narratives that we can hope to arrive at the truth about any era.

Reminiscences Of Fulton

(Paper Given Before Oswego County Historical Society By William Schenck on Oct. 31, 1950 At Fulton)

In the year 1811, Jacob Schenck and his wife and some of his children, including my grandfather, came to live on the West bank of the Oswego River, then a part of the Town of Hannibal, County of Onondaga, in the State of New York. He and several brothers and sisters, children of John Schenck, a Revolutionary Captain of Militia, had upon John's death several years previously, left home at Penn's Neck near Princeton, New Jersey, and wandered about in New York State. Jacob bought 100 acres of land, built a house "of the pioneer order of architecture, made of poles, enclosed and covered with broad pine boards, containing four rooms floored with broad pine plank."

It stood on the west side of the river road (now West First Street in the City of Fulton) in a location then referred to as Oswego Falls which lay between Gansevort and Worth Streets of today. A few log houses belonging to other early settlers were not far away but there were no others below the Upper Falls. There were no settlers whose habitations were then distant from the immediate vicinity of the river. The Indians who had ceded the land to the State still roamed it for the purposes of hunting and fishing.

Daniel Falley Arrives

On June 13, 1813, Daniel Falley, son of another Revolutionary soldier, arrived from Westfield, Mass. (12 days en route) with his wife and mother and family, including my grandmother, to join his father-in-law, Samuel Holland, then operating the only store at what was known as the Lower Landing on the East side of the river. Their first house was nearby on the river side of the portage road opposite where the Mission Chapel of Samuel Green was located in the nineties (of the next century). They moved across the road later. The vicissitudes of life in a wilderness and the prospect of never seeing her mother again so distraught Mary (Falley) Cleveland, Daniel Falley's sister, that she wrote the following letter, dated January 12, 1812, which is still interesting and in the family:

Norwich, Jan. the 7, 1812
To Mrs. Margaret Falley,
Westfield, Mass.
My dear Mother,

I have not heard a word from you or Brother Richard's family since Zeviah was here. I suppose by this time Brother has retired and is now making preparations for his removal and I am sorry to inform you that our intended removal is given up for the present for which I am very sorry: the goods of Mr. Cleveland which came out in Nov. last and which he intended to carry on to Auborn were very rich and of course very costly and by no means could answer for such a market in so new a country and he and Brother Benezett have concluded to go into business in New York; he sets out for that place tomorrow morning and will spend the winter there and in the spring we expect to move there if nothing unexpected takes place. I feel quite disappointed in not going to Auborn for I fully intended to have had you live with me as soon as we got settled there but for some wise purpose God has ordered it otherwise altho we cannot see why it is so. I wish it was so that I could come and see you before you remove but I, do not see how I can but I wish you to write me and let me know when you

expect to leave Westfield and if possible I will go up. My dear Mother, I think much of you and pray that God would grant you his holy spirit through all the changing scenes of life you have yet to pass through and at last receive us all to himself when removals, sorrows and sighings shall be no more but when our uninterrupted day of joy and praise shall fill our hearts to God and the Lamb forever and ever. Do give my best love to Brother, Sister and all their dear children. Tell Zeviah and Amanda they must write me. Margaret has gone to Boston to spend the winter to attend school. This I expect will complete her education at school. I expect to spend a lonely winter. Do my dear Mother pray for me and mine that we may be kept from temptation in this world of evil and now my dear Mother may the Lord bless you and keep you in the hollow of his hand for Jesus sake, Amen. Richard and Susan send love to their dear Grandma, and all their Cousins and don't forget your Dutiful and Affectionate child.

M. CLEVELAND

The girls must not fail to write their aunt and tell me when you expect to go away and when and how Alexander is and how Brother Daniel's family are.

The writer of the foregoing letter was the grandmother and her son, Richard, was the father of Grover Cleveland, later President of the United States.

Oswego County Formed

The East side of the Oswego river at Fulton was at that time included in Oneida County. Later in 1816 when Oswego County was created by the State Legislature, it was known as the Town of Volney with the West side known as the Town of Granby both became a part of Oswego County.

The Oswego River is a stream of water formed by the Seneca River, the outlet for the Finger Lakes, and the Oneida River, an outlet for a lake so named, which unite at "Three Rivers" 24 miles South of Lake Ontario. Midway there is a natural water fall—Oswego Falls—the locale of one of the Leather Stocking Tales of James Fennimore Cooper. This also is the scene of the events set forth in this paper.

History, however, is not geography. It is neither a description of a stream of water—nor an account of the physical changes effected by dams or bridges across it or canals or aqueducts along its banks. It is a story of a stream of human life which has coursed through the years, in this case from this place as well as at this place, while it was being transformed from a wilderness to a city.

Typical Settler Families

The story of the Falley and Schenck families as typical of the first settlers here has been deemed of sufficient importance by the Oswego County Historical Society as to warrant my effort to prepare and present it. My sources of information, though triple, lack the definiteness of diaries and other like records.

I have my father's scrap book of newspaper clippings, historical and biographical, as he corrected and annotated them—and a History of Oswego County quoting my grandfather as to some matters—and a History of Fulton which describes it as I knew it and heard about it in 1901. I also have many original letters dating from 1812 onwards.

I also have some vivid personal recollections of remeniscences of the last of the early Schenck settlers in this area as heard in boyhood days at the family gatherings in the home of my grandmother on Sunday afternoons.

To find the beginning and make an end of a story such as this is like locating the start of a completed circle or a triangle. Rather than undertake to relate it chronologically either as to scenes

or actors, I will, except as to Daniel Falley and Jacob Schenck, review the subject under topics: Occupations, Religious Interests, Civic Interests, Homesteads, Families, and Finale.

Schenck And Falley Families

Jacob Schenck built a saw mill which he operated with water power obtained by means of a wing dam at the Lower Falls. Cyril Wilson was his partner.

Before there could be any real farming in the region it had to be cleared of timber. Hence logging and lumbering became the principal means of a livelihood on the West side of the river. In a small way it competed with the East side in the portaging of boats and their cargoes which generally could not be taken over the Falls of the Oswego River. The eastern bank of the river at "the Falls" and at "the flats" a mile or so below the Falls provided better places for boats and their cargoes to be separately loaded on trucks and transported overland between these points. Small settlements were located at these points which were known as "Upper Landing" and "Lower Landing." This activity which included a warehouse and a store at each place, and a tavern, afforded a means of livelihood to Daniel Falley and others on the East side of the river.

Daniel Falley's family included five children—George F., aged 15; Lewis F., aged 13; Sarah, aged 12; Mary (my grandmother) aged 7; and Minerva, aged 5. An infant son born after the arrival here of the family soon died.

Jacob Schenck's family included nine children—John, aged 17; Peter, aged 15; (though his arrival was delayed until 1815 by reason of his having been apprenticed and required to complete his apprenticeship agreement); Anna, aged 13; William (my grandfather), aged 11; Isaac, aged 9; Mary, aged 7; Daniel, aged 5; Sarah, aged 3; and Phoebe, aged 1 (who came with her Grandmother Lett later). Three other children, Caroline, Alfred and George, were born in the "Big Shanty" after the family's arrival at Oswego Falls.

To bring this paper within reasonable bounds, we will eliminate from further discussion of them all except Jacob Schenck and his wife and their sons, John, Peter and William, with an occasional reference to Isaac as they were the only ones to spend most of their lives in this vicinity. Except Daniel Falley and his wife and two of their children, George F. and Mary, with occasional references to Lewis F. and Sarah the members of the Falley family will not be discussed further. Those elminated moved away in early life or when they married.

Early Activities At Fulton

My Grandmother Falley often mentioned her father and mother and her childhood but seldom referred to his store or the government store-house of which he was keeper at the time of the War of 1812. He acquired his father-in-law's interest in the firm of Holland & Crocker and in Steen's location, and he prospered. Upon the death of Mr. Crocker who owned the other half interest in said firm and land, this was acquired by his son, George F. Falley, and by Norman Hubbard, husband of Sarah Falley, both of whom had been engaged in the store and they proceeded to develope a settlement where the business section of Fulton is now centered.

Daniel Falley built the foundation and frame for a large, three story public house or hotel at the southeast corner of Oneida and First Streets, on the portage river road, in 1825. In January, 1826, his daughter, Mary, married Levi Carrier, the school teacher, who took over the property and completed the hotel in time for it to have a share in the Fourth of July celebration in 1826 when the corner stone of the first lock in

the Oswego Canal was laid at Fulton.

A new Post Office was alsc established in that settlement. (May 27, 1826) when the post master at the Upper Landing refused to move the post office to Fulton for the convenience of the greater number of persons now resident there.

Elder Schencks Leave

The struggle of Jacob Schenck for a living was different in both manner and result. Logging and lumbering were more arduous, more hazardous and less prosperous undertakings in general and for him in particular. The local demand for lumber was slow for many years; it was not always in line with the production of logs; it was out-of-door-weather work: too little or too much snow was as bad as too little or too much water.

When a Spring freshet carried away his wing dam, he was soon beset with financial difficulties which ended in overwhelming financial reverses and the loss of all his property. Opportunities for work elsewhere soon resulted in a change of residence. With the younger members of his family, he and his wife and her mother went to Rochester. This move occurred only a few years before the construction of a private toll bridge across the Oswego river and the completion of the Oswego Canal and its accompanying dam by the State invigorated the business of the locality and paved the way for opportunities for Jacob's sons who had grown up and were ready to grasp them—along with their friend, George F. Falley.

Second Generation Occupations

Peter Schenck, tiring of work either as a clerk or a painter, had already lived with relatives near Auburn to learn the fundamentals of surveying and had so qualified himself by home study, that he was engaged to survey and lay out the lands for new settlements and his map of 1829 undoubtedly established his reputation as a surveyor. It has been said of him that "he knew every inch of ground, every dividing line, the location of every lot anywhere in this vicinity. As a surveyor, he was esteemed the end of the law. The lines he ran have stood many a strife and contest and will doubtless continue on forever. He surveyed and blocked out both the villages of Fulton and Oswego Falls and maps of his making are the best authority we have as to the strets and blocks of these two villages."

He was appointed on the State Commission to drain the swamps about Lake Neah-tah-wan-tah and became the surveyor for the project. Letters to his father relate some of his experiences in connection with this work and were known to me when my swimming hole was in the lake outlet which he deepened. He was "Uncle Peter" to most of the family then, though my great Uncle, but there was yet one who called him "Father".

Uncle John Schenck (my great uncle) had always been engaged in boating except for the time during his youth when he served as a toll keeper for the first wooden bridge across the Oswego river above the Falls from the Upper Landing and Yelverton Island to the tavern of Artemus Curtiss on the West side. Before the Oswego canal was opened, he operated river boats between Salina and Oswego. With the opening of the canal in 1828 he became a "canaler" and followed this occupation thereafter. Instead of describing Uncle John's early experiences and work on the river, I will relate what I know better about my grandfather's similar experiences.

Early Shipping On River

In 1821, as the newspapers report and as I recall it, he "hired out" to Norman Hubbard "to run a flat boat between Salina and Oswego Falls." These trips were made by aid of the wind if it was

favorable or by the current, but the chief means of locomotion was by 'poling', that is, by pushing the vessel along the shallow stream by aid of long poles and sometimes when this means failed, by pulling the craft along by a rope stretched to the shore upon which the sailors tugged. At the end of two or three years, he was himself the proprietor of a flat boat, which he named the "Perseverance", with a capacity of 16 barrels of salt. This vessel was as large as any that in those days navigated the Oswego River. As time went on his trips were extended from Salina to Oswego, his vessel "shooting" or "running" the river falls on its way down river. During those days, Mr. Schenck was opposed to the use of liquor and never allowed whiskey on his boat for the use of his hands, "preferring as a matter of economy to pay extra wages instead."

"In 1826, Mr. Hubbard offered him a partnership and they built a saw mill which was situated in the immediate proximity of the present canal lock in the rear of the Kenyon Block on First Street and they carried on the saw mill and lumber trade there until Mr. Hubbard's death in 1827 and he carrying on the mill until 1836. This was operated by power from a wing dam, probably the same wing dam referred to in the plans for a road to Hannibal as 'Hubbard & Falley's mill dam'.

Early Manufacturing

"On the Oswego Falls side of the river", according to a newspaper clipping, "William Schenck built what later became the Thomas Wright saw mill, sundering his business connections in Fulton and carrying on the saw mill and lumber business until 1847 when, being in poor health he gave up that business and engaged in merchandise pursuits in Fulton, forming a partnership with Cyrus Phillips and having a store at one time in the building now (1878) occupied by Kenyon's Savings Bank and at another time in the post office building which he continued until 1853 and during this time they also manufactured furniture in a building near the river below the dam on the East side.

"His first purchase of farm land was in company with three others when he bought 600 acres on the South Hannibal plank road. Then he bought a farm at Granby Center and subsequently his present property." A letter to his father, dated January 4, 1855, refers to some of these matters in the prosperous days before the financial depression of 1857.

The Toll Bridge

The bridge mentioned in this letter was the private toll bridge built by the Falleys and others in 1826 which the Town of Volney and the Town of Granby had purchased in 1849 and rebuilt for the free use of the public. Although the fact was not mentioned, William Schenck contributed half of the cost of increasing its height. In 1871 this bridge was replaced by an iron bridge and about the same time the D. L. & W. R. R. Co., which had purchased the Oswego & Syracuse Railroad a few years earlier, built a spur of its tracks to the West end of the bridge and erected a freight station there. William Schenck contributed the land needed there for and for a connecting street.

At one time William was the sole owner of water power at the West end of the dam. With John E. Dutton and Charles G. Case he owned the water power at the East end of the dam. They formed the Fulton Water Company. Like the land of Steen's location (and the other two patents of land here), it was in time divided and sub-divided.

How the financial depression affected William and his fortunes is none of our concern though it wrought a change just "as the coming of the canal dropped the bottom out of portaging boats between the Upper Landing and

Lower Landing and the sale of merchandise at these points." For George F. and Lewis F. Falley and their brother-in-law, Norman Hubbard, it was a change for the better. Their land located between the Landings set them up in business again, and many, many others for it was there that life here in Fulton made a new start.

For George F. Falley, life lasted only 20 years more, less than that for Norman Hubbard. Lewis F. Falley removed a little later to Indiana.

Second Generation Homesteads

As the last statement should indicate, the Falley place in social life of the combined families was not such that a third generation would have enough information or interest to talk about them. From living in it for ten years I know about the homestead of my grandfather, William Schenck. His first wife, Patience Earl, died early in 1835 as he was completing a new home, leaving a daughter, Minerva, aged three.

My grandmother, Mary Falley, has already been referred to as the widow of Levi Carrier who died in 1833. They were then living in the brick house he had built for her at the northwest corner of Cayuga and Third Streets now one of the landmarks of Fulton and long known as the Thayer house because of its long ownership by A. J. Thayer, which was once the home of Chester S. Lord, later for more than 50 years destined to be the managing editor of the "New York Sun," when his father was the minister of the Fulton Presbyterian Church preceding and during the Civil War period.

A Huge Dwelling

Mrs. Carrier became the wife of my grandfather December 15, 1835, and the mistress of his new home, a one and one-half story frame building on the West side of the river road on the West side of the river. She had lived there for forty-five years when as a boy of seven I came there with my parents to live with her. From front porch to the back door it was then 119 feet long, three one and one-half story sections and two lower ones. With a horse barn, corn shed, smoke house, &c and a garden of flowers. berry bushes, fruit trees and a vegetable patch, the homestead occupied the entire block to the South of the D. L. & W. freight station at Lower Oswego Falls as that part of the village was then known. It was a boy's paradise.

It was never a palace but the trees about it, all planted by my grandmother, made its surroundings palatial, huge elms, williows, arbor vitae and maples. Down the street to the North, between the approaches to the Lower bridge, on the East side of the road and opposite the original home of Jacob Schenck, was the homestead of his son, Peter, though it was built in his boynood for his grandmother, Anna Lett. It was then occupied by Peter's son, Henry, and his family.

"Not very much further on my way to school was great Uncle John Schenck's homestead at the southwest corner of Worth and Third Streets, then occupied by his daughter, Alice, and her mother, already then invalided and soon to die.

Family Afternoon Gatherings

My grandmother thus became the matriarch of the Schenck family there and the only Falley. It was the custom of the third generation Schencks left in Fulton to gather at her home on Sunday afternoons. Calling in those days was a pleasurable form of entertainment. I would not presume to pretend being able to relate what took place or what was said by anyone on a particular Sunday, nor specify the first or last occasion. They were a happy group except when some one was in trouble. Usually some one had a letter from a Schenck or Falley or 'in-law' elsewhere. We all had pleasant recollections of all these homesteads and their occupants. Personal rather than

business affairs were the subject of inquiry or of anecdote or tale. As many of these pertained to topics which I have not considered, I will proceed with another chapter.

Religious Interests

As a little girl, my grandmother was thrilled when the Methodist circuit riders came and visited at her home. As early as 1813 her father, Daniel Falley, became a Methodist class leader for a number of the neighbors. In 1818, one of the circuit riders who came to preach occasionally, conducted a revival service of considerable length. Her grandfather, Samuel Holland, then 84 years old, her brothers, George and Lewis, also William Schenck 'professed religion'. It is not surprising therefore that when a Methodist Church was organized, April 17, 1826, two of them were incorporators or that they should become and remain its trustees for life.

In 1847 when the General Conference of the Methodist Church assumed control of Fulton Academy, renamed Falley Seminary in recognition of a substantial gift of money to it by George Falley, and appointed its trustees, William Schenck was appointed trustee and chosen President of the Board, an office he held until 1854 when the Seminary again became a private institution. Peter Schenck was then also a trustee and Secretary of the Board, though he was a Presbyterian. His mother had been a charter member of the Fulton Presbyterian Church organized in 1818 and he became one of the trustees of the re-organized church in 1832

John Schenck and his family and Isaac Schenck and his family were Methodists.

Political Interests

None of the Schencks or Falleys were Federalists, (in the 19th century) and there is only one today. They were Jeffersonian Republicans. The relations of the Federal government to the State governments were understood and expressed by Jefferson as folows:

> "The true theory of our Constitution is surely the wisest and best—that the states are independent as to everything within themselves and united as everything respecting foreign relations. Let the general government be reduced to foreign concerns only, and let our affairs be disentangled from those of all other nations, except as to commerce, which the merchants will manage better, the more they are left free to manage for themselves, and our general government may be reduced to a very simple organization and a very inexpensive one—a few plain duties to be performed by a few servants."

In his inaugural address Jefferson stated that the government should manage foreign affairs and "should encourage commerce and agriculture and diffuse information. With these exceptions, the Federal government will undertake no domestic functions."

A Walking Delegate

It is recorded of Peter Schenck that "he was a delegate to the County Convention at Mexico held the year after the organization of Oswego County from the counties of Onondaga and Oneida in 1816 for the purpose of establishing a party organization in the new County. He was a delegate to the Congressional Convention held soon afterwards at Onondaga Hill which nominated James Earl for Congress. He went to and from both conventions on foot through the woods and devoted three days to each, walking 75 miles to attend the Congressional Convention.

As exhibits of the zeal of his party for the Convention plan of choosing candidates for office there is before you a copy of the personal appeal made to voters by the Corresponding Committee to vote at the Election of 1822

and the County Convention Resolution regarding support of the Republican candidates at the Election of 1823. The advocacy of the Convention in opposition to the then prevailing caucus plan of making nominations for office changed some National Republicans to Democratic-Republicans, and their support of Jackson for a second term without their party's endorsement changed them into Jacksonian-Democrats and finally Democrats.

Members of both the Schenck and Falley families seem to have always supported Jackson. The Falleys obtained and held the appointment of Lewis Falley as the first Post Master in the new settlement of Fulton and Peter Schenck held his position as the first Post Master of Granby.

Aided Underground Railroad

The new issue regarding slavery and the political battles over the Missouri Compromise, the Fugitive Slave law, the Kansas-Nebraska bill and the Dred Scott decision led William Schenck into the "Underground" Railroad movement and into the new Republican party formed in 1854 and later in 1856, in opposition to Buchannan and led four years later in 1860 by Abraham Lincoln. Having read as a boy "Uncle Tom's Cabin" and sensed some of the dangers of flight by a slave or in aiding his escape, it gave me cold chills to stand in what I understood to be a one-night hiding place in our cellar for some one my grandfather would deliver to the next station on a route which crossed the Canadian border. My grandmother never admitted knowing about this but her position is clearly shown in the letter she wrote her brother, Lewis Falley, dated March 13, 1856.

Slavery Split Church

William Schenck and John Schenck did not secede from the Methodist Church as their brother Isaac did when the Wesleyan Methodist Church was organized in protest against the early official attitude of the Methodist Church toward slavery. In politics as in religion their children followed their folk. Even the children of Peter did in respect of religion. But not in respect of politics; for Peter was a pacifist at heart and shunned conflicts. Though John called him a "Copper-head" once, Peter was President of the Village of Oswego Falls from its incorporation in 1853 until 1866 except for three years.

George F. Falley, along with William and Peter Schenck, was a town supervisor for a time but he served Oswego County in the State Legislature in 1829.

The temperance question also became a political issue. Without exception, Schenck voices, ballots and habits have never supported the liquor traffic. A more positive statement would be diverting.

Second Generation Families

One question popping up quite often in the midst of the most interesting projects we have already considered was: "Is it a boy or a girl?" John answered it or got the answer on nine occasions; Peter eight times and William ten times. Somehow most of them had enough home grown, homemade food and medicine to bring them through or up. The Falleys also had twenty-five children in all.

They had what was deemed proper home training in respect of chores, and religion and matters of common sense and common knowledge. They also had the advantages of a common school elementary education, then free to all children. In fact their parents promoted and provided for them an educational institution which became famous, Falley Seminary, which the late Dr. Henry F. De Forest has so well depicted—in a paper given before this society several years ago.

Althongh many second generation Falleys had died or moved

away, some of their children came back to attend the Seminary.

Second generation Schenck children here of age, or almost so, were ready to have a share in the affairs of the villages and their parents doubtless were looking forward to a new lease of life, surrounded by them, a busy throng of villagers and prosperous farmers in all directions. War came. Two Schenck sons of John (Martin and Marcus), two of Peter's sons (Herman and Edward), and two of William's sons (Daniel and William), volunteered to serve in Lincoln's army to save the Union.

Killed At Gettysburg

I have a daguerreotype of William's family around the coffin of his son, William, brought from Gettylsburg, which I mention because the people who gathered frequently Sunday afternoons in my grandmother's sitting room as I have related, were with her about that coffin—her youngest son, my father, George Frederick, her eldest son, Daniel, home on furlough, her son, Schuyler, holding the home front then and to the end of her days, and her daughters, Minerva and Elizbeth; also, Uncle John's sons, Martin and Marcus, home on furlough; and Uncle Peter's sons, Edward, home on furlough, and Henry. William Schenck, Jr., had been killed at Gettysburg fighting as a member of the famous 147th New York Regiment of volunteers raised in Oswego County and commanded by Col. H. H. Lyman of Oswego.

The war ended and the world went on for others.

When the custom of the family calling on Aunt Mary began is beyond my memory if I ever knew. She died the year I went to Cornell college. When my mother died the old William Schenck homestead made way for business when Henry Schenck and his wife died. Peter's house soon went the same way. When John Schenck's daughter, Alice, moved away, his homestead was sold but it still stands. All of the other second generation Schencks went away too, literally and figuratively. The homes, mills, stores, school buildings, churches, dams and bridges they built have mostly been wrecked or replaced. Only in so far as they were able to pass on the intangible things of life, the impact of their lives is not spent.

Who can measure to the end of that?

A Reminiscence

Scientists say that the energy released by the fission of an atom in some form survives the destruction it accomplishes. Will you pardon a personal experience. Thirty years after the close of the Civil War when I had just been admitted to the bar, Hon. Nevada N. Stranahan recommended me to Hon. H. H. Lyman of Oswego as assistant to Hon. Patrick W. Cullinan, also of Oswego, his Counsel as State Commissioner of Excise, at Albany, N. Y. I got the job and considered myself chiefly indebted to Mr. Stranahan, until I learned that I got it because my uncle, William, had been an officer of the regiment of which Mr. Lyman was the colonel. I then recalled the mysterious tears on Col. Lyman's cheek during my first interview with him. That was more than fifty years ago but almost the first thing you would notice if you were to enter my home would be an oil painting of that William Schenck and upon looking about, you would also find portraits of Messers Lyman, Culllinan and Mr. Stranahan because I want part of the story of their lives to stay with mine.

Family pride has no right to first place in a paper like this one. Historical papers should deal with individuals only to illustrate how the founders of their community met the circumstances common to all and how on their own feet and with their own hands they labored for a living and established what we proudly

call "the American way of life." Every generation must learn how to live individually, socially and politically, choosing its own way.

Edmund Burke once said: "Civilization is a great contract between the great dead ,the living and the unborn". The great dead have kept their contract faithfully with us and bequeathed to us a mighty heritage. It is for this generation to ask the question (as he did then)—Are we keeping our contract with the unborn as faithfully as the great dead kept theirs with us?

Pressure Groups

Today there are political pressure groups which wittingly or unwittingly would sacrifice some of our American ways in order to meet the social or economic problems of their own group. They are not satisfied with equality under the law. They want equality of opportunity under freedom fortified by legislation which, as an equalizing circumstance, will enable them to deal with those affected by such legislation on an even footing though it destroys their equality under the law.

Other pressure groups, not satisfied with the measure of their own ability to produce what they want, would make the next generation pay for it by issuing bonds.

Other pressure groups want government guarantees that their crops will bring specified prices.

Others pressure groups want government protection against the high cost of living.

We now even hear of pressure groups to re-distribute wealth through taxation in order to promote the general welfare.

It is of small concern whether the people of Fulton or Oswego County or any place in this country can name the men and women who, generation by generation, have contributed to our heritage.

It is of vital importance that they have enough interest in it to have a hand in preserving and improving it.

The swift action by organizations from one end of the country to the other to rid themselves of Communists recently indicates that people everywhere do value and do desire to preserve their freedom.

Only the right leader is sometimes needed to put his finger on the right spot at the right time in every contest with these pressure groups, just as the little Dutch boy saved his country's dike by plugging a leak with his finger until help came.

We will always need more than a dog in the manger. The horse must be fed, because the very existence of such groups in so many places and so many political parties points to problems which will not be settled until they are solved.

The Story Of Yachting In Oswego

(Paper Given Before the Oswego County Historical Society By Frederick W. Barnes on Nov. 21, 1950.)

Two years ago when Oswego celebrated its 100th anniversary as an incorporated city a great many people learned what an interesting place Oswego was and how varied have been its interests.

Beginning as a fur trading post, continuing as a military stronghold, afterwards in succession a port of entry, a hive of industry, an educational center and a developer of power on a gigantic scale. All this and more we of the present generation have reason to be proud of. Situated as we are at the point where a partially navigable river empties its waters into a great lake which on one hand is connected by the St. Lawrence River with the "Seven Seas" and on the other with the greatest reservoir of fresh water in all the world, it was only natural that the people of Oswego from the very beginning should have looked to their lake and to their river as the easiest means of transportation and as one of the important sources of subsistence.

It is not within the province of this paper to deal with Oswego's commerce. Some phases of our commercial history have already been dealt with by abler pens than mine; but we should speak in passing of that great fleet of vessels which in the last 150 years has sailed in and out of this harbor; either carrying away or bringing to us, cargoes to or from other ports both near and far. We will merely remind you that the "Ontario," the first steam driven craft west of the Hudson River, made its maiden voyage from Sackets Harbor to Oswego in 1817 and that only 24 years later the first screw propelled steamer on the Great Lakes, the "Vandalia," was built in an Oswego ship yard.

Water Sports Developed Early

Someone has said that "All work and no play makes Jack a dull boy", and it was but natural that the men of this locality from early times should have looked to the water as well as to the land for the kinds of sport that their primitive surroundings would permit. The Indians taught them how to build birch bark canoes and dug-outs. Later they built boats of planks and drove them with sails. It was but a step from this to impromptu races and after a long time something like the modern yacht came into being. Just what is a yacht, do you ask? Well, generally speaking, a yacht is a pleasure craft to be used in cruising or racing and is usually driven by sails, by steam or by an internal combustion engine. There is such a thing as an ice yacht, but as far as I know this is a branch of the sport which was very rarely, if ever, indulged in by the people of this locality, so we will confine ourselves to water-borne craft. We do not know who the first Oswegonian was to own and sail a yacht. He probobly built it himself but if he needed help, it was available inasmuchas Oswego could boast of a shipyard with drydock as early as 1825. As cargo carriers were under construction here more than 100 years ago, it is reasonable to assume that pleasure craft did not follow far behind.

Early Ship Builders

I remember the late George Goble, who more than anyone else who has ever lived here, was as-

sociated with Oswego's ship building industry. When I knew him, he was already far advanced in years; approaching the end of his career, but in his younger days, not he alone, but others were responsible for the activities of our lake front and the land bordering the Oswego Canal. The records show that in the year 1861 George Goble operated a marine railway at the foot of West Third Street and that this railway was of sufficient capacity to haul out any vessel or steam boat which could pass through the old Welland Canal. Goble had a stone work-shop 160 feet long and three stories high; also another three-story building equipped with steam engine and boilers. There was also a railway for canal boats alongside. Seventy-five or more mechanics were employed at the Goble plant. Other ship yards or dry docks, which were operating locally at that time, were: The Oswego Dry Dock, owned by Lee Navagh and Company which was situated above the lower bridge; Kitts and Moore's Ship Yard and Dry Dock located in the East Cove with a steam saw mill in connection and employing more than 100 men with an additional 40 men engaged in boat building. There was also the Scott and Nesbitt Dry Dock on the tow path of the Oswego Canal between Hubbard's Tannery and Allen's Morocco Factory where hundreds of canal craft were built. In addition to the foregoing enterprises, A. C. Mattoon had a dry dock on the East side below the lower bridge.

Lake And River Town

Up to this point, we have given our chief attention to Oswego's activities along the line of boat building and boat repairing. So far, very little has been said about yachting but the point which I have been trying to impress upon my audience is that during a large part of the 19th century, Oswego was primarily a lake and river town. Its citizens transacted their business by water and traveled by water. Many of its residents were engaged in ship carpentry. Another large group was employed in forwarding or receiving by water, grain, salt, coal, starch, flour, lumber, etc. Many of its young men found employment during a large part of each year as sailors aboard the boats which were much more numerous then than now although much smaller.

During the season of navigation, Oswego owned and Oswego manned boats were to be found on all the lakes while here at home a half dozen steam tugs were constantly in readiness to assist sailing vessels when the latter wished to enter or leave this busy harbor and when the bad weather did come in the late fall, there was always a goodly number of ship-masters, who would decide to tie up here and make this their winter quarters. From 1820 to 1880 the people of Oswego were like everybody elsewhere, busily engaged in trying to make money or at least attempting to earn a living.

Yachtmen's Cruise In 1877

In the beginning, they had little time for recreation, but as things eased up with some of them, they turned to the lake as offering the greatest opportunity for adventure. In scanning the files of the "Oswego Palladium" for the year 1877, I found a news item, which I will repeat for your benefit. To those of us who are natives of Oswego, and old enough to remember the people of long ago, the names which are here given might seem to have been taken from some social register. Nearly, if not quite all of them, belonged to families of more than ordinary prominence. The quotation from the 73-year old newspaper begins at this point: "The young gentlemen composing the A. H. M. Society left early this morning on yachts Sappho, Idler and Magic for a cruise among the

Thousand Islands, a fishing and hunting excursion and a general good time. The yachtsmen were dressed in their handsome uniforms and looked exceedingly well. The Sappho's crew started for the Duck Islands, where they will spend a couple of days; from thence to Alexandria Bay and then to Mary's Island where they go into camp for two weeks. The crews of the Idler and the Magic go to Kingston to spend Sunday, from there to Clayton and Alexandria Bay and then into camp on an island adjacent to Mary's Island. Everything necessary for the cruise and for camp life is safely stowed away in the boats and every precaution taken against accident.

Captain "Jimmie" Martin is the commodore of the fleet, and in that capacity, will have a fatherly eye out for the boys. Following are the names of the young gentlemen composing the crews of the different yachts—on board the "Sappho"—Sailing Master Capt. James Martin, crew Will Pardee, Horace Shead, Theodore Page, Robt. Sloan and Tom Herrick. On board the "Idler", Elliott Mott, Will Lee, Fred Wheeler and Delos Radcliffe, and onboard the "Magic", Allen Ames, John Higgins and Dudley Irwin."

Awful Homely Monsters

As previously stated, the names in the foregoing newspaper account were in practically every instance from families which ranked high in the Oswego of that day, both socially and commercially. There was, however, one youth whose name at that time was apparently too obscure to be printed but who later earned for himself a place in our local Hall of Fame. I refer to the distinguished writer, Morgan Robertson, who was aboard the yacht "Idler". At the beginning of this same news item reference was made to a club to which the boys belonged. I have seen a photograph where nearly all of those mentioned were taken in a group picture. They were in uniform and on each uniform were the letters A. H. M. Nobody now living seems to know what the letters really stood for, although Mr. Elliott B. Mott is my authority for the statement that the sisters and the sweethearts of the yachtmen interpreted the initials as meaning "Awfully Homely Monsters" Society. For a period of 20 years beginning about 1880 the local interest in yachting became more and more pronounced.

The first serious attempt at organization was in 1881 when 70 Oswegonians subscribed $10.00 each to form a society called the Oswego Boat Club. The young men who formed this society felt that it was more tactful to say "Boat" rather than "Yacht" club inasmuch as the word yacht would have indicated sails, and their parents in many cases, looked upon row boats as safer than sail boats. As things turned out, however, this was but the opening wedge, for the very next year, 1882, the Oswego Boat Club became the nucleus of a much larger organization to be known as the Oswego Yacht Club.

Yacht Club Organized

The Oswego Yacht Club included in its membership not only residents of Oswego city but also men from all over Oswego county and some from outside. They needed a club house and one was built in 1883. It was located on the lake shore at the foot of West Fifth Street.* The site for the structure was leased from the D. L. & W. R. R. Company for a nominal sum.

One of the best known boats to have ever flown the flag of the Oswego Yacht Club was the "Katie Gray". This yacht was built in Canada but was purchased and brought here by William B. Phelps, Jr., of Oswego. Mr. Phelps was an ardent yachtsman and although the "Katie

*This building is still standing on its original site.

Gray" was not designed for speed, her owner entered her in many regattas both here and across the lake. Mr. Phelps not only raced his boat but at other times he loved to cruise about the lake for the benefit of his guests and himself. He was frequently accompanied by his brother, John P. Phelps, another ardent yachtsman. In this connection I will add that after the death of William B. Phelps, Jr., the ownership and operation of the "Katie Gray" was assumed by his brother, John P. Phelps, who kept the boat in commission until about 1912. Two other yachts are associated in my memories with the Phelps brothers. One was called the "Phantom" and the other the "Kathleen".

Ames Skilled Helmsman

I have always felt that there were three families in Oswego who were outstanding in their intrest in yachting. One of these, the Phelps family, has already been referred to. The other two were the Motts and the Ames. Those of us who were here fifty years ago and who took any interest in yachting will remember the name, Allen Ames. Mr. Ames was an ironmaster and an active member of the family which gave its name to Ames Iron Works. His hobby was yachting and his leisure hours were chiefly devoted to that sport. He liked to cruise, but above all, he loved to pit his skill as a helmsman against the best talent that could be found anywhere on Lake Ontario. He was rarely, if ever beaten and his triumphs were chiefly associated with two boats, both of which had been expressly designed for him. The first of these was called the "Merle" and was designed by Burgess, who became distinguished as the designer of some of the fastest craft on our Atlantic seaboard. Burgess' yachts, similar in model to the "Merle", had previously and successfully defended the America's Cup but a change was imminent. The "Merle", like all Burgess' boats had a movable center board which was a distinctly American idea as opposed to the fixed keel of the British yachts. This latter has been called the plank on edge design with much less beam and greatly increased depth of hull. Instead of the Yankee movable centerboard, the British depended upon a fixed keel that was not only deeper but was also weighted. In the beginning of the International races the advantage was almost always with the Yankee centerboard but as we have just seen, a change was imminent.

Allen Ames was one of the first to read the handwriting on the wall. His beloved "Merle" was no longer fast enough. About this time, there appeared in far off Scotland a man named Fife. Yachting journals and sporting columns began to hold his name up for adulation as a designer of racing craft. Nothing was too good for Oswego, so Capt. Ames commissioned Fife to design a yacht for him.

"Yama" Designed By Fife

This celebrated boat called the "Yama" was designed in Scotland, built in a Long Island ship yard and brought to Oswego. It has been said of the "Yama" that she was the fastest boat of her inches on fresh water and that she was never beaten in a fair race. It has also been said that her great success both in American and Canadian waters was due largely to Allen Ames' skill as a helmsman backed up as it always was by the crew of Oswego boys whom he had trained. With your permission I will again quote from a newspaper of the period. This time it is from the "Oswego Palladium" and the date is July 17th, 1892:

"Yesterday's defeat of the yacht 'Zelma' of Toronto was an event that Capt. Ames may well be proud of. It must be remembered that both yachts were designed by Fife, the great Scotch designer. Two years ago the 'Yama' was

launched and her sailing was a revelation to lake yachtsmen. It often happened that she defeated larger boats in higher classes. She made such a record that Fife, her designer, came all the way from Scotland to sail upon her and see her sail. When Norman B. Dick of Toronto, the owner of the 'Zelma', placed an order with Fife, it was with the understanding that she would be able to outsail the 'Yama'. It is said that Fife replied that he could not design a boat the same size as the 'Yama' that he would guarantee would outsail the Ames yacht but that in his opinion a boat might be built which would be a little longer and with more beam that would outsail the Oswego boat. The order was placed and the 'Zelma' is the result.

"In designing the 'Zelma', Fife had the 'Yama's' lines before him. He had seen the 'Yama' sail, had sailed aboard her and knew just about what she could do. With all this knowledge at his command, Fife went to work on the 'Zelma'. She was framed in Scotland and when she was just to Fife's notion of what a world beater should be, the frames were taken down and shipped to Toronto. That Mr. Dick has received from the hands of the great Scotch designer a fine yacht there is no question. She is undoubtedly a very speedy boat although she has yet failed to take a race from the 'Yama' in a yachtsman's breeze. Yesterday was a day that suited both boats. Neither had the advantage. The wind was fresh from start to finish and the 'Yama' won.

"Yama" Versus "Zelma"

"The 'Yama' was not in first class condition during the races. Just before the starting gun was fired she came into collision with the steam cutter 'Vreda'. The chain plates on the 'Yama' were carried away, her rail was lifted up and two or three planks were stove in through which the water came in. When the race was over there was about eight inches of water in the hold which constituted a draw back to good sailing. It is evident that those on the Toronto yacht were aware that the race would be a struggle from start to finish and accordingly, prepared for it. The 'Zelma's' cabin was cleared of bedding and furniture. There was not even a partition left standing in order that the yacht might be in the lightest possible trim. Aboard the 'Yama' also, bedding and furniture were removed but the partitions were left standing.

"The protest against the 'Yama' by Capt. Dick for what he called 'fouling' the 'Zelma' was not allowed by the Regatta committee. In his protest Capt. Dick stated that the 'Yama', while holding a windward position by the wind, dropped down close to the 'Zelma' for the purpose of blanketing the latter in violation of the sailing rules. The committee heard the protest and decided that when the 'Yama' established an overlap she had the right of way and, therefore, the protest should not be allowed. When the 'foul' was claimed both yachts were beating to the windward bouy and almost touched each other. The 'Zelma' is three feet longer over all than the 'Yama' and 18 inches longer on the water line. The 'Zelma' has also 15 inches more beam. After the race, Capt. Ames sailed his boat around to the Goble dry dock to have repaired the damage caused by the collision with the 'Vreda'.

"H. C. Witherington of South Brooklyn, the builder of the 'Yama', was delighted with the race. He had traveled 350 miles expecting to sail on the 'Yama' but was knocked overboard by the collision with the 'Vreda'. Capt. Ames started immediately to rescue him but Witherington, who is a powerful swimmer, called out for the 'Yama' to proceed on her course and the plucky man was picked up almost at once by the crew of another boat."

Lake Racing Association

Each succeeding year it was the job of the Lake Ontario Yacht Racing Association to fix the dates of the different Regattas. These Regattas would be held in mid-summer and would be carefully chosen to suit the convenience of the different clubs. There would be a Toronto Day, an Oswego Day, a Kingston Day, etc. The yachts were divided into different classes according to size and as no two were exactly the same size there was what was called "time allowance" with the larger boats allowing something to the smaller boats of the same class. Although I am a land lubber, and nearly all of my sailing has been confined to big ocean steamers, this does not mean that I was not personally interested in yachting in general and the activities of the Oswego Yacht Club in particular. "Regatta Day"* in Oswego was something that I used to look forward to.

The yachts from the other clubs would sail into our harbor one after another, usually the day before the races, and each one would take up its appointed station. The spectacle as presented to anyone standing on the bluff at the foot of West Sixth Street was an interesting one. After lowering sails and dropping anchors each boat would run up a number of small flags attached to its rigging. In the evening before race day it was customary to hold a dance at the Yacht Club House which would be one of the social events of the season. While the dance was in progress some of our citizens, embarked in small boats, would dot the waters of the harbor as they rowed in and out between the yachts whereas the yachts themselves were made gay with colored lanterns.

Ten Mile Course

The races were held outside the breakwater where buoys were anchored to mark the course. These buoys were 3 1-3 miles apart, so placed as to form a triangle. Theoretically to cover such a course outside the buoys meant a ten mile lap but in reality, the distance covered was more than ten miles. Even a land lubber like myself knows that a sailing vessel never proceeds very far in a straight line and is sometimes blown away off its course. It was customary for the smaller contestants to sail twice around such a course but for the larger yachts three times around was the usual practice. The starting line and home buoy were located not more than one-half mile outside the breakwater where we would sometimes, quite enthusiastically, row out to the breakwater and spend hours watching the start and sometimes the finish while in between, the monotony would be broken as yacht after yacht would be rounding the home buoy at the end of the first and second line.

Many people have thought and still think that yacht racing has little or nothing to offer to the spectator but personally I would rather see a well contested race of this kind than any horse-race that was ever run. We must admit that in spite of the active interest in yachting which was at one time displayed by Oswegonians and by the residents of a few other New York State towns, that as far as Lake Ontario was concerned, we must yield the palm to our neighbors across the lake. The Canadians built more boats and took an even greater interest in the sport than we did but when it came to deep sea yachting, it was a somewhat different story. Taking the United States as a whole, we had the ad-

*The last Regatta Day held in Oswego by the Lake Ontario Yacht Racing Association was held in 1928, with the Oswego Yacht Club acting as host. The fact that there were few perceptible winds for several days, interfered with the races for several days, but the occasion proved a social success with many yachtsmen present from New York State and Canadian clubs.

vantage of greater numbers and possibly of greater wealth. These handicaps, however, did not deter the Canadians from challenging for the America's Cup.

The America's Cup

I wonder how many in this audience would know what is meant by the America's Cup? There were periods of from 25 to 70 years ago when the newspapers gave a great deal of front page space to the America's Cup. In 1851 an American yacht called the "America" crossed the Atlantic Ocean under her own sail and won a race in competition with a number of English yachts. This victory entitled the owner of the "America" to a silver trophy which ever since or for a period of 99 years has been known as "the America's Cup." The British, naturally would not accept their defeat as final and have sent a good many boats to America in attempts to recover the prized trophy. There have been Scotch challengers, English challengers and among the more recent was the gallant Irish contender, Sir Thomas Lipton who made several attempts "to lift the cup" as the saying goes but so far the "Yankees" have been a little too clever or a little too lucky and the cup still rests in the vaults of Tiffany & Company, where it was placed for safe keeping. Up to date more than one million dollars has been spent by the challengers and the defenders in this contest of contests.

Cup Challenger Here

What has the America's Cup got to do with Oswego? Do you ask? Not very much but there is a slight connection. In 1876 a Canadian by the name of Cuthbert backed by a Toronto syndicate designed and built a yacht called the "Countess of Dufferin" and sailed her to New York by way of the Gulf of St. Lawrence and the Atlantic Ocean. This long and, for a small boat, somewhat hazardous voyage was made in order that the Canadian yacht might race against an American defender of the America's Cup. Our boat won but Cuthbert and his associates were not easily discouraged, so in 1881 they tried again with a new boat especially designed for the occasion as the first boat had been. The second boat was called the "Atalanta" and instead of going via the Gulf of St. Lawrence this boat took the shorter and more sheltered route to the seaboard by way of Oswego and the Erie Canal. The "Atalanta" had a little too much beam to pass through our canal locks, so they resorted to pontoons and raised one rail higher than the other. The "Atalanta" laid up in Oswego for a few days while enroute. I remember seeing her as she was tied to the dock just North of the lower bridge on the West side of the river. Again the American boat won and the Canadians have not tried since then. Mr. Cuthbert was well known in Oswego. He sailed in and out of this port many times and was considered a great authority on everything pertaining to Lake Ontario yachting.

In addition to the annual regatta under the direction of the Lake Ontario Yacht Racing Association, there were from time to time other races which were sailed over the Oswego course and in which Oswego yachts were usually the only participants. In the "50 years ago" column of the "Palladium-Times" for the 10th of last August was a brief account of a race for something called the "Anchor Cup" which was sailed here just 50 years before on August 10th, 1899. Among the contestants were two boats and their owners whose names I have seen elsewhere but in a different connection. One of these yachts was called "Venus" owned by Charles Smith and the other was the "Caprice", owned and sailed by Arthur Emerich.

Old Time Yachtsmen

I would like to insert at this point a list of yachtsmen and their boats who were active in local yachting circles between 1885 and 1920. Kindly remember that the list is far from being complete and that no attempt has been made to enter the names in their chronological order.

We will begin with James Parker, who not only sailed boats but also built them and we can credit him with the construction of three pleasure crafts, each of which, in its turn flew the pennant of the Oswego Yacht Club. The earliest of the Parker boats was christened "Dolphin". The second was the "Theresa" and the third "Theresa II". Then there was the "Nautilus", owned by William Coad and the "Ella", which was the property of Nelson Stone. The "Ella" was probably the fastest of the Oswego fleet with the exception of the Allen Ames yachts. The Littlefield family owned a large two masted yacht called the "Rhoda" which was ideal for cruising. We must not omit the "Fascination" or the "Laura". This last named boat was owned by a group of Oswego business men of whom Robert Gordon, Jr., was one. There was another schooner-rigged yacht owned by Capt. Vickery of East 10th Street and called the "Lottie Blair" and the "Stella," built by a man named Burke. Fred Murdock, the tinsmith, built his own yacht, the hull of which was constructed entirely of sheet iron and very appropriately christened the "Scrap Iron." Then there was the "Santa Maria", the property of John F. Otis, and the "Kittie O'Shea", owned by Martin Higgins. There were others whose names have escaped me but I will close the list with the "Bessie", owned by C. J. McDowell, and the McGlannon yacht, "Ethel", formerly of Rochester bought in 1885 by three Oswego yachtmen and brought here to make a valuable addition to the Oswego fleet.

Steam Yachts Too

Many years ago someone said that "the most beautiful sight in the world is a square rigged ship under full sail". Be that as it may the lines of the average yacht are indeed graceful. There are exceptions to all rules and 70 years ago there was in Oswego a yacht so rudely designed that it was generally known as "The Potato Bug". There was another name but as no one used it (unless the poor owner may have done so) we all forgot what it was. In addition to a large fleet of sailing yachts the Oswego Club could boast of several steam yachts only three of which I can remember. Two of these were the property of the Conde brothers. Swits Conde owned the "Ruth" and Frederic Conde the "Corinthian" whereas James Macfarlane's steam yacht was named the "Aida". All of these boats were originally operated on salt water.

Advent Of The Motor Car

Looking back to the turn of the century one can see very definitely that the advent of the automobile had much to do with the gradual decline of the interest in Lake Ontario yachting. I do not wish to be understood as saying that there are no longer any pleasure craft to be found on this lake of ours. To the contrary let it be said that in the busy port of Toronto are to be found a number of cabin cruisers nearly all of which are equipped with Diesel engines while in the smaller Lake Ontario harbors are still to be found a goodly number of men who own and operate a pleasure boat of some sort but with the exception of an occasional international match in which a yacht from Rochester or Watertown is pitted against a Toronto boat there is no general interest in Lake Ontario yacht racing. Long before the motor car had almost completely revolutionized transportation something happened in Oswego which for the time being

at least put a damper upon yachting as a form of recreation.

A Marine Tragedy

I refer to the tragic death of Charles Ames which occurred on June 24th, 1900. "Charley" Ames as his friends called him was the grandson of Leonard Ames, the first, one of the founders of Ames Iron Works. Charley's own father, Leonard Ames, Jr., and Allen Ames were half brothers. You will remember that Allen Ames was the one who brought so much glory to Oswego with his celebrated yacht the "Yama". On the day of his death Charles Ames and his young wife (Charles was about 29 years old) had invited a few friends (both men and women) for what was to be a short sail in Charley's own small yacht called the "Bohemian". It was after dark but the lake was calm and Charley was a good sailor. He knew how to handle a boat. All went well until Charley surrendered the tiller (temporarily as he thought) to one of his guests while he stretched out on top of the deck house. He may possibly have fallen asleep but at any rate the yacht came up suddenly into the wind while the boom switched sharply from one side to the other knocking Ames into the water. He was a good swimmer and life preservers were thrown overboard where he was supposed to be but in the darkness and confusion all attempts at rescue failed and he was drowned.

As I remember it this tragedy marked the end of the Ames family's interest in yachting. Allen Ames and his brother, Alfred Ames, took part in no more races and the "Yama" and "Bohemian" were sold to out of town parties. Even without this deplorable occurrence there would have been a gradual decline in yachting interest due principally as we have already noted to the advent of the automobile but although the public in general must have heard somewhat less about yachting and racing was much less popular than it had been, cruising continued to occupy the attention of certain individuals who found this form of recreation more to their liking than any other.

Col. Mott's "Papoose"

In this connection the first name that occurs to me is that of John T. Mott. The late Col. Mott probably more than any one else was responsible for the success of the Oswego Yacht Club. Again and again he was called upon to serve as its commodore and his active connection with local yachting interest extended through a period of at least 50 years. His first boat was called the "Cricket" and much later he sailed the "Papoose". This last named yacht was brought from Boston. During the period in which Col. Mott sailed the "Papoose" he had in his employ a man who was known as Capt. Phil Barclay. It would frequently happen that Col. Mott would have guests and if not and accompanied only by Barclay he would cruise to wherever his fancy took him.

Col. Mott as some of you will remember was one of our leading bankers and he also took an active interest in politics. Although he was a very busy and useful man, he found in sailing a means of rejuvenation and he kept it up as long as he could but although he lived to an advanced age the time came when he felt that his sailing days were over and if he did not do something about it his faithful yacht might fall into unappreciative hands so he decided to dispose of it in an original way. Barclay beached the "Papoose" at a suitable place along the lake front and at its last resting place the "Papoose" was set afire and completely consumed, except for the lead keel the material of which could still be made to serve some useful purpose. We have all heard of faithful horses or dogs who have been put to death by their master for fear that the beloved animals should meet with neglect or ill treatment but this

is the only instance that I can think of where an inanimate object has been similarly disposed of.

Judge Culkin An Enthusiast

When I undertook this job at the request of your society I did not realize how many boats or how many men were entitled to a place in such a history. It is probable that what I have tried to do is not more than half done and that as many more should be here recorded. One such name fresh in the memory of all Oswegonians is the late Francis D. Culkin. Judge Culkin was a much younger man than Col. Mott but like the colonel enjoyed cruising and owned and personally sailed one after the other no less than three cruising yachts. For a period of years he served as commodore of the Oswego Yacht Club.

During the most recent 15 years with the exception of the owners of a few very small sailboats it may be said that there is no one interested in Oswego as a yachting center. Our neighboring harbor of Fair Haven has been the home port of several pleasure craft which are owned here but seldom come here. It is possible that when "Uncle Sam" completes the extensive enlargement of the Oswego Harbor which is now under consideration that it will bring about a renewed interest in pleasure craft but until then we in Oswego must be content with a fleeting glimpse of a luxurious cabin cruiser probably owned in New York City as it passes through Oswego by way of the Barge Canal either going to or coming from the St. Lawrence river.

A Marine Adventure

I can think of nothing more to say regarding Oswego as a yachting center but perhaps you will bear with me a little longer while I try to recapture something which occurred here many years ago and although no yachts were involved it took place on the water and might be called a marine adventure. Sometime between 1875 and 1885 the Federal Government built an artificial island and placed it at the mouth of the river just outside the entrance to our harbor. It was a piece of crib work which means that there was a framework of heavy timbers bolted together which was weighted down and held in place with stones. I should judge that it might have been 12 feet above the water and about 60 feet square. It was locally known as "the block" or the island. It was really a breakwater and the idea was to break the force of the waves when caused by an on shore wind which would otherwise have an unobstructed drive up the river.

Instead of being as intended a protection to shipping it proved a menace particularly to those vessels which entered the harbor at night. After it had been there for a few years the government removed it. One year while it was still there the people of Oswego decided to celebrate the Fourth of July in a new way. Instead of reading the Declaration of Independence in the West Park with ice cream and fireworks in the evening the committee in charge decided to stage a boat-race but it would not be in the lake where comparatively few could see it but in the river where thousands of people might at least have a glimpse. It was decided to have a sculling match. We have not had a rowing or sculling match in Oswego in a long, long time but they have them in Syracuse and in a good many other "varsity" towns.

The varsity races are rowed in what are called racing shells and it is customary to have at least four oarsmen to a shell and in addition one other man called the coxswain who guides the shell. Such shells are long and narrow, pointed at both ends, light draft and no weight to speak of. In addition to those shells which are propelled by four or more oarsmen there are others which are built for a single oarsman and

the Fourth of July contest of the long ago was for single oarsman, one man to a shell who not only had to propel his unseaworthy craft but also to steer it.

Sculling Race

There was at that time at least one of these racing shells owned in Oswego. It was the property of a professional sculler whose name I think was Joe Handley (I am not sure that that was his name). Joe owned a boat livery in Oswego where he kept row boats for hire and during a part of each summer he would compete in sculling matches on Lake Onondaga, Cayuga Lake, the Hudson River and on other lakes and rivers which were not too far away. Joe was on the Oswego Independence Day committee and he was also one of the contestants. The other contestants came from away and in order to secure their participation cash prizes were offered for whosoever should come in first and second. The course was laid in our Oswego river just North of the lower bridge and the oarsmen had to row to the mouth of the river, around the artificial island, which I have described, and back to the starting line at the lower bridge. Fortunately it was a very calm day otherwise that part of the course which circled the island would have been too hazardous for such a frail craft. As it was I think one of the shells did capsize but there were no casualties. Joe Handley, the local boy, did not win and I cannot remember who came in first but it must have been either Courtney of Cornell or Riley of Rochester. The race was witnessed by a great crowd of spectators who lined both sides of the river from the bridge to the piers and out on the piers which were there then but have since disappeared. The bridge itself was a popular point of vantage and as I remember it a limited number of spectators were permitted to line the railing on the bridge's North side. Our small police force assisted by the Life Savers (now called Coast Guardsmen) the sheriff and his deputies, also the Fire Department were in readiness if needed but there were no unfortunate incidents.

In closing I wish to acknowledge my indebtedness to Messrs. Elliot B. Mott of Oswego and Thomas C. Goble of Valley Cottage, Rockland County, New York, who supplied names and dates which otherwise might not have been available.

The History of the Oswego Naval Reserve

(Paper Given Before the Oswego County Historical Society By Dr. Charles McC. Snyder of the Oswego State Teachers College on Dec. 12, 1950)

The Naval Militia in New York State was originally authorized in the State Legislature by "An Act to Establish a State Militia," Chapter 492, Laws of 1889. It was provisionally organized on October 28, 1889, and formally mustered into the State service on June 23, 1891, as the "Naval Reserve Artillery, State of New York."

Recognition of its value to the State and Nation by the Federal Government was at once apparent when Congress, upon the recommendation of the Secretary of the Navy, appropriated funds to purchase arms, and when the Navy Department assigned the U. S. S. "New Hampshire", subsequently changed to the U. S. S. "Granite State", to New York State for the use of the Naval Militia.

The establishment of the Naval Militia a decade before the Spanish-American War was no accident. After a long era of isolation, and absorption in domestic affairs following the Civil War, Americans were becoming conscious of our size, wealth, and power, and our responsibilities as a Nation. The young "Teddy" Roosevelt, Henry Cabot Lodge, and Captain Alfred T. Mahan, to mention but a few, were deeply impressed with the new American role in international affairs; and sea power became one of their favorite themes on the platform and in the press. In Washington appropriations were forthcoming for the construction of a modern fleet, built of steel. By 1898 this new spirit carried us into the Spanish-American War.

Active In Spanish War

And the Spanish-American War afforded opportunities for the embryonic Naval Militia in New York. Upon the declaration of war, personnel of the State Militia volunteered for service in the Auxiliary Naval Force, and by the close of the conflict 51 officers and 800 enlisted men of the New York Naval Militia had been assigned to 44 different naval vessels.

It is of interest to note here, that the exploits of the U. S. S. "Gloucester", a converted yacht of J. P. Morgan, manned by New York Naval Militia personnel in the battles off Havana and Santiago in Cuba, advertised the Militia to the people of the Empire State, and undoubtedly promoted the growth of the organization in the state in the years prior to World War I and prepared the ground for the establishment of additional units. Such was the case in Oswego, though it was not until the advent of World War I that formal organization was effected.

Oswego Naval Tradition

The roots of the Naval Militia in Oswego are buried deeply in the naval traditions of this area. The location of the community at the mouth of the Oswego River, athwart one of the few natural harbors on the southern shore of Lake Ontario, and the significance of the latter as well as the Oswego and Barge canals upon the east-west and north-south paths of commerce, combined to direct the thoughts and energies of generations of Oswegonians to the water for their livelihood and their recreation. From the days when the first English fresh water naval fleet was built in the Royal dock yard at Oswego in 1755, and

the construction in 1809 at Oswego of the first United States battleship upon the Great Lakes, with Lieut. Fenimore Cooper, the later novelist, supervising, there had existed at Oswego a naval tradition.

Hence, it is not surprising to observe that Oswego was an early yachting center, and that the members of its Yacht Club were among the leaders in bringing the Naval Militia to Oswego.

Oswego Unit Authorized

The movement to establish a division of the Naval Militia took shape in the minds of Oswego's citizenry in 1915; the leadership stemming from members of the Oswego Yacht Club. The plan as it took shape called for the organization of a deck division requiring sixty-one members. A year later a temporary committee of organization was effected. It included Henry H. Alexander, now of Pulaski, but then an Oswego newspaperman, and J. M. Gill, Frank T. Watson, Neil T. Hayes, and Elliott W. Mott of Oswego. The committee petitioned Governor Charles S. Whitman for authorization to organize a naval militia unit, and proceeded to enroll a tentative list of applicants. Their request was quickly granted by the Governor, who signed the coveted authorization on October 6, 1916, the official birthday of the Naval Militia in Oswego. The governor's signature created the 9th Division, Third Battalion of the Naval Militia of New York State, and named Henry H Alexander, who had been telegraph editor of the "Oswego Daily Times" as temporary commander.

The State Naval Militia helped to give the local division a flying start by dispatching the gunboat, "Isla de Luzon", which had been captured from Spain in the Battle of Manila Bay, from Rochester to Oswego to assist in the recruiting. At the end of the day, nineteen had qualified, and within a month the quota of forty-five was reached. Thus on November 15, 1916, the division was mustered into the state service by Captain E. N. Walbridge and staff.

Organization Was Timely

The organization of the division was timely. War clouds darkened the horizon, and our relations with Germany had reached the breaking point. A renewal of her submarine offensive would inevitably plunge the Nation into the maelstrom. Hence the completion of the organization, the procurement of supplies, and the whipping of the division into shape, were carried out at a feverish pace. The division was assigned quarters in the New York State Armory on West First street with the approval of Torrey A. Ball, Captain of Company D, Third Regiment of the National Guard of New York, and drills were conducted on Tuesday nights. Chief Yeoman Hubert G. Webb reported to organize the administration.

Recruit To War Strength

As the crisis deepened the Armory was placed under guard by details from the National Guard and the Naval Militia, and on February 3, 1917, the division commander was instructed to recruit up to full war strength of 80 men, and to go beyond this in anticipation of modified orders to permit it. Meanwhile, uniforms and other equipment began to arrive.

Upon the delivery of President Wilson's war message on April 2, the division awaited the call to duty, to be announced through arrangements with the mayor by the ringing of the City Hall bell. The men had little time to close out their responsibilities to their jobs and their families. Four days later on Friday, April 6, Good Friday, on the day war was officially declared, orders to muster the division arrived in Oswego by telegraph, and at 9 p. m. that night the bell in the City Hall tower rang out the tidings that the nation was at war.

Off To War

The Naval Militiamen reported at the Armory for muster, shifted into uniforms and then returned to their homes. Their departure the following afternoon by rail over the New York Central Railroad for New York City was the occasion for Oswego's first major demonstration in World War I. In the words of the "Palladium": "Amid cheers and tears, Lieut. H. H. Alexander, commanding, the Ninth Division of New York Naval Militia got away Saturday afternoon, having the distinction of being the first military unit of the city to leave since President Wilson approved the resolution of Congress declaring that a state of war exists with Germany. . . .

As they came down the Armory steps from the main entrance and swung into First street, headed by the Masonic band, they were greeted by an outburst of applause from the three or four thousand people who lined the sidewalks The crowd that followed quickly surrounded the train and cheered and cheered and cheered as the boys piled into the cars." (April 9).

The Muster Roll

The Muster Roll of Naval Militia, State of New York, City of Oswego, Third Battalion, Ninth Division, April 6, 1917, as it left for active duty in the first war with Germany follows*:

Henry H. Alexander, Lieut. (jg); Frank T. Watson, Ensign; Elliott W. Mott, Ensign; Thomas L. McKay, Ch. M. A. A. (master of arms); Grover C. Elder, Lieutenant (jg), Medical Corps; Hubert G. Webb, Ch. Yeo.; Harold L. Newstead, G. M. 1C; Edward J. Condley, Cox.; John L. Fitzgerald, Cox.; Robert J. Potter, Cox.; Alston B. Voorhess, Cox.; Howard C. Flewellyn, Q. M. 3C; Allen P. Snody, Q. M. 3C; Neil T. Hayes, Yeo. 3C; Ross E. Brown, Sea. 1C; Edwin B. Doolittle, Sea. 1C; Herbert K. Fox, Sea. 1C; Charles A. Gill, Sea. 1C; John A. Lester, Sea. 1C; James K. McCrudden, Sea. 1C; Francis M. Ready, Sea. 1C; Robert R. Snody, Sea. 1C; Claude T. Ball, Sea. 2C; John F. Bartlett, Sea. 2C; Joseph M. Bisonette, Sea. 2C; James P. Cullinan, Sea. 2C; Earle H. France, Sea. 2C, William H. Hallihan, Sea. 2C; Theodore E. Harding, Sea. 2C; David M. Henderson, Sea. 2C; Edward S. Kelly, Sea. 2C; Edward T. Kelly, Sea. 2C; William F. Kerwin, Sea. 2C; Emmett M. King, Sea. 2C; Neil E. Lloyd, Sea. 2C; Robert E. Long, Sea. 2C; Floyd E. Lothridge, Sea. 2C; Chauncey McDonald, Sea. 2C; James C. Mack, Sea. 2C; Alfred E. Maier, Sea. 2C; Sydney R. Mason, Sea. 2C; Charles C. Meade, Sea. 2C; John P. Moran, Sea. 2C; Verne P. Murdock, Sea. 2C; James H. Mylott, Sea. 2C; William F. O'Donnell, Sea. 2C; George L. Patterson, Sea. 2C; Percy C. Payne, Sea. 2C; Levi D. Pease, Sea. 2C; Thomas J. Reed, Sea. 2C; Jarvis P. Robertson, Sea. 2C; Thomas N. Savas, Sea. 2C; Augustus H. Smith, Jr., Sea. 2C; James P. Sheridan, Sea. 2C; J. Kent Stewart, Sea. 2C; Harry L. Van Dusen, Sea. 2C; Edward B. Wafter, Sea. 2C; Louis B. Ward, Sea. 2C; Roscoe C. Wart, Sea. 2C; Leo J. Heagerty, HA 2C; Jerome J. Eustace, Ap. Sea.; Francis P. Farrell, Jr., Ap. Sea.; Cornelius P. Holleran, Ap. Sea.; Harry D. Hunter, Ap. Sea.; Charles H. Kerwin, Ap. Sea.; Joseph F. McConkey, Ap. Sea.; Robert F. Meade, Ap. Sea.; Joseph Olsiewski, Ap. Sea.; Clarence W. Robarge, Ap. Sea.; Edward J. Snyder, Ap. Sea.; Lawrence J. Wilbur, Ap. Sea.

Kit Bags Presented

At the final muster and inspection just prior to the departure of the train each man was presented with an over-night kit and "ditty" bag, the courtesy of the late Robert A. Downey and the late

*Neil T. Hayes has a picture of the division taken at the "Granite State." He also has the original of this muster.

Frederick B. Shepard, each a prominent business man of Oswego.

At 5:40 p. m. the train pulled out for Syracuse. After having supper at the Hotel Winchester in that city their coaches were coupled to a military train carrying the naval organizations of Dunkirk, Buffalo, and Rochester, and sped eastward. At Utica the cars carrying the Watertown division were attached to the now elongated train. The excitement of the day was not conducive to sleep, but some got a few winks, despite the questionable "comforts" afforded by the "tourist sleepers."

Oswego Unit Split-up

On its arrival in New York City early Easter morning, the train was shunted down a spur line to the foot of West 96th street, where the U. S. S. "Granite State" was docked. This vessel, the old "New Hampshire", once a battleship but now converted into a training ship, was a floating workshop, where the men were prepared for their respective duties. There the Oswego boys were joined by the Yonkers division, and within a short time staunch and lasting friendships were formed. A visitor, J. P. Robertson, secretary of the Chamber of Commerce, observed (in the "Palladium" of April 24: "It has been a rich treat to see so many friends from the home town, all of whom I think have received a royal welcome, and in addition to the personnal visits, kind and thoughtful favors from Deep Rock (a mineral water bottled in Oswego), Long's Chocolate Works and the Diamond Match Company have been deeply appreciated. Candy never tasted quite as good, after which Deep Rock, nature's best, was, of course essential. Then a 'light' for the smokes. All of the courtesies help to take the 'l' out of Sherman's definition. Everyone is well —because everyone is well cared for. No indisposition is too trival for the attention of Dr. Elder."

During the weeks which followed drafts from the Oswego division were dispatched to their various assignments afloat. Some found themselves aboard the U. S. S. "Charleston", a cruiser, others reported to the U. S. S. "Atlantic II", a converted yacht, the U. S. S. "Amphitrite", a rather ancient monitor, the U. S. S. "President Lincoln", a transport which was later sunk but with no Oswego casualties, the U. S. S. "Mercury", and others. Oswego men were thus widely dispersed throughout the fleet where they contributed their talents to the early completion of the war.

Reactiviated In 1920

After the Armistice was signed on November 11, 1918, Oswego's sailors gradually returned to their homes, prepared to pick up the threads of their local organization. The division was reactivated in 1920 with Lieutenant H. H. Alexander again in command. He was succeeded by Lt. (jg) Eliot W. Mott in 1922, and he, in turn, was followed by Lieutenant J. M. Gill, who headed the organization designated in 1929 as the 15th Division, some 17 years, until 1940 when Lieut. Gill was called into the Federal service in World War II from which he emerged in 1945 with the rank of commodore.

During this era between the two World Wars the division drilled on Tuesday evenings, and supplemented this training with annual cruises with the fleet on the Great Lakes or upon salt water. In 1920 the division cruised on the U. S. S. "Pruitt" and the U. S. S. "Noah". A year later they sailed to Bermuda aboard the U. S. S. "Illinois". It proved to be the last cruise for this ship which was subsequently reconverted to become the U. S. S. "Prairie State", famous as a training ship in World War II. In 1923 and 1924 the division cruised upon the Lakes in the U. S. S. "Sturgeon Bay", reaching points as far west as Chicago and Duluth. Oswego

personnel also participatel in numerous small arms contests during the 1920's and 1930's, winning several prizes in state-wide competition. In 1925 they gained the distinction of taking the secondary battery prize. Noteworthy, also, was the record of the division in the annual Federal inspections. Between the two wars the Oswego unit never dropped below 15th, and on one occasion it ranked first in the nation.

Training Between Wars

The training of the division was rounded out by a program of boating and related activities in the harbor and upon neighboring waters. In 1921 the organization had at its disposal two cutters, two whaleboats and a steamer, and these in turn were supplemented a short time later by the receipt of the floating equipment from Onondaga Lake, after the failure of the Syracuse organization which had its station there. An incident which should not be overlooked involved the conversion of a 40-foot motor launch into a motor-sailer as designed by Lieut. Commander Gill. This vessel proved to have so much utility, that all 40 and 50-foot motor launches in the reserve division were similarly reconverted.

In 1921 the floating equipment of the Oswego unit was housed on the lower floor of the building on the lower bridge now known as the McKay Block. In 1924 the division took over the building on the West river bank at the foot of Schuyler street, the old stone structure erected as a warehouse for Walton & Willet, forwarders, nearly 100 years earlier, now occupied by the Cahill Fishery. Franklin D. Roosevelt, early in his first term as governor of New York, inspected this property and took a ride on a sub-chaser which came down from Rochester for the occasion. The feature of the formalities was the firing of the traditional 19 gun salute for the governor.

Occupy New Quarters

In 1935 the division moved its floating gear to the site of its new training center recently opened on Lake street in the West Harbor, where it occupied the property of the Oswego Yacht Club, which had been taken over by Oswego County and deeded to the State of New York for the use of the Naval Militia. This property, improved by the construction of new docks, a feature of the W. P. A. program in this area, provided the Naval Militia with permanent housing and docking for its floating equipment, and facilitated the erection of its new home on the same site 15 years later.

World War II Service

Upon the outbreak of World War II in Europe in 1939 the Naval Militia again intensified its training program. In May, 1940, Commander Gill went into active duty as officer in charge of naval officer procurement with headquarters at Buffalo, and he was succeeded in command of the Oswego unit by Lieut. (jg) Eugene E. Cragg. In February, 1941, the first draft of men from the division, numbering 26, men, left for active duty.

On May 15, almost seven months prior to the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor, the entire division was mobilized. This time they were transported to the Naval Training Station at Newport, Rhode Island, for their final training. The muster list of those going into active duty between November, 1940, and May 15, 1941, follows:

New York Naval Militia: Muster list of those entering active duty in 1941 for service in World War II:

E. E. Cragg, Lt. (jg); J. A. Ward, Ens.; J. M. Gill, Jr., Ens.; W. E. McCormick, Ens.; John M. Gill, Commander; C. L. Lynn, Lt. S. C.

Those leaving on May 15, 1941: C. P. Holleran, C. B. M.; G. W. Woods, C. W. T.; J. J. Knosp, C. C. M.; L. E. Lower, B. M. 1c;

W. L. Richardson, Q. M. 1c; J. M. Fitzsimmons, M. M. 1c; C. A. Ricchi, M. M. 1c: J. G. Manale, M. M. 1c; W. F. Brown, W. T. 1c; A. D. Garlock, W. T. 1c; U. J. LeBlanc, E. M. 1c; R. P. Spang, B. M. 2c; C. C. Crisafulli, G. M. 2c; S. T. Herman, W. T. 2c; M. M. Beckwith, Bmkr 2c; M. Canale, S. M. 3c; F. W. Rookey, PhM. 3c; V. A. Gadwau, S. C. 3c; H. J. McManus, F 1c; R. P. Schneider, F 1c; C. J. Whalen, F 1c; W. Brewer, S 1c; O. A. Clark, S 1c; J. C. Crisafulli, S 2c; H. A. Broadwell, S 2c; J. Butler, S 2c; P. B. Crisafulli, S 2c; F. A. Dehm, S 2c; R. J. Demming, S 2c; G. R. Diehl, S 2c; A. H. Dolan, S 2c; J. C. Dore, S 2c; D. G. Dutcher, S 2c; H. C. Earhart, S 1c; G. R. Ferris, F 3c; S. A. Gange, S 2c; J. O. Garrett, F 3c; H. J. Gillen, S 2c; H. H. Goodale, F 3c; C. R. Haggerty, F 3c; J. A. Hallinan, S 2c; H. B. Hart, S 2c; F. C. Henning, S 2c; J. R. Joy, F 3c; H. J. Knopp, S 2c; J. C. Kosbob, S 2c; J. K. Mandirano, S 2c; G. B. Marturano, S 2c; J. J. Matott, S 2c; A. A. McCaffrey, S 2c; Q. E. Mosher, S 2c; E. H. Neild, F 3c; B. L. Nixon, F 2c; J. J. Ottman, F 3c; R. D. Owens, S 2c; J. D. Plunket, S 2c; G. A. Rookey, F 1c; R. E. Roy, F 3c; H. S. Shaver, S 2c; B. D. Verwys, S 2c; M. Kidd, A. S.; C. H. Smith, A. S.; J. Masuicca, A. S.

Those leaving between Nov. 1940 and May 15, 1941: R. A. Fox, S 1c; C. J. Crisafulli, Yeo 2c; C. W. Dawson, Cox; G. A. Beauchene, S 2c; R. Borremann, S 2c; R. W. Burke, S 2c; F. H. Czirr, S 1c; R. O. Czirr, S 1c; F. F. Fultz, S 1c; L. D. Garlock, S 2c; E. H. Grulich, S 2c; L. J. Harrington, S 2c; R. J. Kirshner, S 2c; W. G. Koch, S 2c; R. A. Masuicca, S 2c; E. J. Parker, S 2c, L. Pelkey, S 2c; J. Pilloto, S 2c; J. W. Signorile, S 2c; C. H. Thomas, S 2c; E. D. Timon, S 2c; G. F. Truell, S 2c; R. H. Wallace, S 2c; C. P. Wright, S 1c; J. Gosek, S 1c; J. P. Smith, S 1c.

Included in this muster were three members of the division who had also entered the First World War as members of the unit in 1917: Commander Gill, Lieut. Neil T. Hayes, and Cornelius P. Holleran, chief bos'nsmate.

Service On the "Chemung"

From this time onward members of the division moved on to assume duties in the Atlantic and Pacific Theatres. At the outset the majority were transferred from Newport, R. I., to the Brooklyn Navy Yard, where they helped commission on July 3, 1941, and subsequently fit out and "shake-down," the U. S. S. "Chemung", a U. S. Navy Tanker. Since more Oswego men served on this vessel early in the war than on any other, it would seem to be appropriate to follow it briefly. The "Chemung", a vast, floating filling station, was on duty in the Atlantic: along the East Coast and between New Foundland, Iceland and the British Isles. It also entered the Mediterranean to support the invasions of North Africa and Sicily. Late in the war it moved into the Pacific. In fact it was the first and only U. S. naval vessel to make a complete tour around the world after the "Great White Fleet" of 1907. A typical itinerary through a period of several years would include the following ports: (An atlas is recommended at this point): Brooklyn Navy Yard; Norfolk, Va.; Bermuda; Norfolk; Argentia, New Foundland; Portland, Maine; Norfolk; New York; Halifax; Reykjavik, Iceland; New York; Norfolk; Baytown, Texas; Norfolk; Baytown, Texas; Norfolk Argentia; Rejkjavik; Argentia; Norfolk; Beaumont, Texas; Portland, Maine; the Mediterranean, Casa Blanca; Norfolk; Port Arthur, Texas; New York; the Mediterranean; Oran, North Africa; New York; Swansea, Wales; Norfolk; Courock, Scotland; Bangor, North Ireland and Norfolk.

"Chemung" Has Narrow Escape

Moving slowly because of her breadth abeam, in seas infested with submarines, equipped with depth bombs to explode the latter, but lacking sound apparatus to locate them; it was a life of extremes, including, the monotony of endless days afloat, the physical exhaustion of long and tedious hours of fueling at sea, the excitement of an unexpected emergency call to general quarters, and liberty or shore leave in foreign ports. The "Chemung" on one memorable occasion collided with the U. S. S. "Ingraham", a destroyer, in the mist off Halifax, Nova Scotia. The latter ship sank in a few minutes with few survivors. The bow of the "Chemung" was dished in and the ship set afire. But the fire was extinguished, the hull shored up, the holes closed, and she proceeded back to port with the U. S. S. "Buck" under tow, the latter a victim of a second collision in the waters close-by.

Four Killed In World War II

The war inevitably produced casualties among the personnel of the Naval Militia. Included among those who sacrificed their lives were the following members of the Oswego unit:

Ulric LeBlanc, electrician's mate first class, aboard the U. S. S. "Edward Rutledge", torpedoed off Casa Blanca during the African invasion, November, 1942.

Charles Crisafulli, gunner's mate second class, aboard the U. S. S. "Truxton", a destroyer, ran aground during a storm off New Foundland, February, 1942.

Robert Kosbob, seaman, aboard the U. S. S. "Sims", a destroyer; torpedoed during a Japanese air attack in the South Pacific.

Ensign James M. Belden of Syracuse; aboard the U. S. S. "Reuben James"; torpedoed in the North Atlantic on October 30, 1941, the first warship of the U. S. Navy to be sunk in the war.

William Brewer, Ensign, killed in an automobile accident in Hongkong, China, March 7, 1946, after serving on the U. S. S. Chemung, and later, aboard a cargo ship in the Pacific.

Third Reactivation

After the surrender of Japan, members of the Division began to return to their homes, and thereby set the stage for another milestone in the history of the Naval Militia in Oswego, that is, the reactivation of the organization for a third time. The reorganization was consummated on October 7, 1946, with Lieut. Kent M. Northrop in command. In January 1947 Northrop was succeeded by Lieut. M. L. Robinson, who was named as commander of the organized surface division 3-86 of the United States Naval Reserve and of the fifteenth division of the New York Naval Militia.

Upon Robinson's retirement in March, 1949, the command was transferred to Lieut. Samuel G. Castaldo, who headed the division until November 1950 when he was called into active duty. Lieut. Robert D. Helsby now commands the outfit. Meanwhile, supervision of the Naval Reserve activities in the area was entrusted to an inspector-instructor, a position filled until recently by Commander Paul J. Williams, assisted by Lieut. E. O. Dahl.

Present Enrollment Exceeds 6,000

The New York State Naval Militia, when reactivated after World War II was commanded by Commodore John M. Gill of Oswego. The organization included brigades in New York City and Brooklyn; battalions at Tomkinsville, Staten Island; Buffalo; Rochester; and Whitestone on Long Island; divisions at Dunkirk; Watertown; Oswego; New Rochelle; and Yonkers. The present personnel (December 1, 1950) of these units totals about 290 officers and 5,900 enlisted men. The New York Naval Militia also includes companies of Marines on

the U. S. S. "Prairie State", New York City; Rochester; and New Rochelle, and a headquarters battalion at Brooklyn. These units had a strength of 900 prior to their departure for service in the United Nations War in Korea.

During the past two years United States Naval vessels have been a familiar sight along the water-front of Oswego, where they have been docked between cruises on the Lakes, and for refitting during the winter months. Some of these ships saw active service in World War II as mine sweepers.

The personnel of the local division, meanwhile, has reached its full strength of 200 men. Recruits, many of them sons of the earlier members, keep filling the gaps. Worthy of mention in this connection is the retirement last month of Lieut. Neil T. Hayes, a charter member with service in both World Wars after 34 years activity. Simultaneously his son, Neil T. Hayes, Jr., was commissioned as an Ensign in the United States Naval Reserve.

New Training Center Dedicated

The new Armory-Training Center on Lake street, dedicated on September 16, 1950, opens a new chapter in the history of the Naval Militia in Oswego. It is more than a means of training naval personnel "to meet the needs exacted by a highly technical and mechanized service which admits no haphazard preparation for fulfillment of the mission of the Navy, in peace or war." It is in reality a youth center where many of this community may prepare not only for tasks related to national defense, but also for the broader responsibilities of citizenship.

A rich tradition, combined with a current history marked by notable achievement, forecasts bright prospects for the Naval Militia in Oswego.

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