

World War 1 - Oswego's Participation in the Red Cross

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Oswego County

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Sandy Creek News, June 21, 1917, page 4.



American Red Cross, Oswego, NY. This photograph is from the collection of the Oswego County Historical Society

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Campaign Closed and Real Work of Red Cross Now Starts.

With the mass meeting and organization of the Phoenix branch of the Fulton chapter of the American Red Cross last night the Red Cross membership campaign which has been conducted in this city during the past week, was brought to a close.

A. W. Moore, who has had charge of the campaign, was very much pleased with the manner in which the people of Fulton took hold of the work and attributed the success of the week to the excellent spirit and diligence in work which they exhibited. The work of those in charge of the enrolling stations under the direction of Mrs. G. G. Chauncey, together with their helpers, is especially commendable, having enrolled a large number of those registered, while those in charge of the campaign are especially indebted to the fine spirit of co-operation shown by the manufacturers in helping the work of enrollment. Several concerns secured a place on the Fulton Red Cross honor roll by getting every man in their employ to join, while J. W. Stevenson, through the aid of the young ladies in the sewing rooms and the overseers of the woolen company, secured 750 members for the ideal chapter in one day.

The Fulton Patriot, June 6, 1917, page 1.

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Although the number set for Fulton to reach during the campaign was only 3,000, and although this number has been exceeded by a good deal, nevertheless the work of enrollment should continue until every available person has been secured, for the work of the Red Cross is large enough to need all; the field of endeavor being practically unlimited. Now that the active work of the campaign is over, the question of organization and work rooms arises. The use of a large room in the Lewis house has been donated to the chapter by Mrs. T.D. Lewis and this will be fitted up and equipped with sewing machines, tables and supplies, in order to carry on the work of making hospital supplies.

The room will be open every afternoon to all who care to come in and help in this great work of the chapter. Bandages, surgical dressings, clothing of various sorts, must all be made up in large quantities to be sent abroad to supply the large base hospitals of the American Red Cross. All are urged to come in and give what assistance they can, whether it be for the whole afternoon or only a half hour, for this is a work for everyone, it is a work in which those who may not be called to the front and serve their country, may do that little bit which President Wilson called upon each one to give some two months ago.

Continued next page...

It is requested by those in charge of the work rooms that all those who have tables and chairs to spare, to contribute them to the equipment of the rooms. Sewing machines, the may be loaned will be gladly accepted, as will all materials that may be of assistance in carrying on the work of the Red Cross.

Classes in first aid instruction will be inaugurated as soon as there are enough people to warrant conducting a class, the work being in charge of the competent instructor. Classes will also be conducted in elementary hygiene and home care of the sick, home dietetics and preparation of surgical dressings. The mere fact that a woman has taken such a course as any one of these does not necessarily guarantee her selection for that service, nor on the other hand does it place her under obligation to volunteer.

Work has been started to the organization of branches in Phoenix, Mt. Pleasant, Palermo and Bowers Corners. The ardor with which the people of Phoenix have taken hold of this work is especially commendable, particularly after having undergone the terrible disaster which came upon them last fall. The work of these branches is an important part of the work of the chapter under which supervision they come and it so helps that a healthy spirit of co-operation may exist between all.

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FULTON MILITIA IS MOBILIZED

**Expected That They Will En-
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Yesterday.**

The Tenth Naval Division, of Ful-
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Whistles blown at three o'clock yes-
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Ensign Farrell came to this city
late yesterday afternoon to notify the
twenty-six Oswego boys, who are
members of the Tenth, to be ready.
The Oswego men were not obliged to
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there this morning at nine o'clock.
The men will entrain for Summervil-
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on a special train to be sent over the
New York Central lines.

The Fulton Red Cross Chapter has
presented each man in the Division
with a comfort bag, containing toilet
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clothes brush was given each sailor
man by Mayor Victor C. Lewis and
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**Oswego Palladium,
July 31, 1917,
page 5.**

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several applicants appeared yester-
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Among those who applied for en-
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Arrangements are under way in
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After the Oswego members of the
Tenth Division had reported at Ful-
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excused and allowed to come to this
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Seaman John Gokey leaves tonight
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Seaman Gokey's experience in the
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Arrangements are under way in Fulton for a big send-off for the departing militiamen tomorrow morning. There will probably be a parade of businessmen and citizens escorting the men to the train.

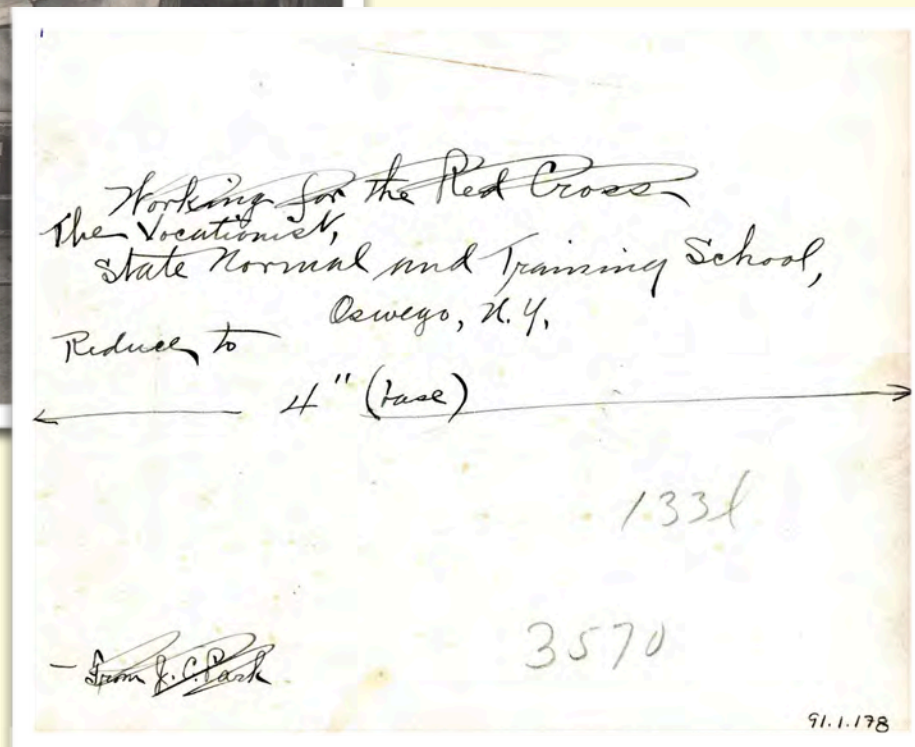
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Above: Red Cross volunteers, Oswego County. Images are from the Oswego County Historical Society collection. World War I

Right: Back of photo above; Working for the Red Cross, The Vocationist, State Normal and Training School, Oswego, NY.



RED CROSS ACTIVITIES

Wednesday the Red Cross room was in charge of Mrs. Richard Piez. The workers present were Mrs. Graveley, Miss Minor, Miss Gaylord, Mrs. Morrison, Mrs. McCarthy, Miss Hayes, Miss Raby, Mrs. Windecker, Mrs. Garlock, Little Falls, Mrs. Weigand, Mrs. Kellogg, Mrs. Barnhart, Miss Lyon, Mrs. Beatty, Mrs. Stockwell, New Haven, Miss McDonald, Miss Crowley, Misses Brosemer, Miss Lockwood, Mrs. Eggleston; home workroom, Mrs. J. Mouringhan, C.L. Brosemer.

The Watertown Times has received a copy of an extract of a letter from an American soldier now in France, who declares that there is no truth to the rumor that American soldiers are compelled to pay for Red Cross articles. The letter is from Private Leslie A. Drake, of Evans Mills, who is in an artillery unit in France. The letter is sent to Private Drake's mother, Mrs. D. H. Drake, of Evans Mills. Mrs. Drake asked her son of this rumor. In his letter Private Drake says:

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Continued next page...

Dear Mother:

You asked about the Red Cross. They are doing a lot for the soldiers and us all, free. They give each soldier a sweater, wrist watch, writing paper, pencil, tobacco, needles, bandages, salves, and a book of the things soldiers would say the most to the French, translated in English, and a lot of other things. About those \$4 socks, the soldiers get short of money sometimes and sell to each other, but the Red Cross never sells.

Mother, I advise you to join the Red Cross for your son's sake and other boys' sakes across the water.

Private Leslie A. Drake.
American Expeditionary, France.

FULTON, Oct. 3.—The Fulton Chapter of the Red Cross sent its first consignment to New York headquarters, September 27th, consisting of the following articles: 2,496 compresses, 1,368 wipes, 150 gauze rolls, 30 gauze pads, 36 drains, 252 roller bandages, 60 head bandages, 36 T-bandages, 120 triangular bandages, 120 abdominal bandages, 36 fracture pillows, making a total of 1,704 dressings.

RICHLAND, Oct. 4.—The Red Cross has filled a large box of bandages, gauze, etc., and will send them to Oswego this week. The rooms are open Tuesdays and Fridays from 2:30 to 5:30. Everyone is invited to come and sew. A dinner is now being planned, proceeds to be used for Red Cross supplies. It is expected this dinner will be held October 12th.

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THE RED CROSS SOCIETY IS DOING GOOD WORK

H. L. Paddock, chairman of the Fulton Red Cross chapter, requests The Patriot to print the following:

In response to a request from the Red Cross War Council for specific advice from General Pershing's medical staff in France as to whether the Red Cross appropriation of \$100,000 for medical research was contributing toward the relief of human suffering, the following cablegram has been received:

"We believe the Red Cross has properly expended the funds because it is the duty of the Red Cross to care for sick and wounded American soldiers and to use funds to prevent those soldiers from being infected with the various diseases met with in their peculiar army life.

"There are several diseases the exact nature of which is still undetermined as they are new and peculiar to this war and must be studied now to aid our troops. We stand on the principal that Red Cross funds should back such work rather than secure special funds for that purpose.

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"The medical department of the United States army is in full accord with all the Red Cross is doing in this regard. It is co-operating and assisting in every way in research matters and is counting upon our help in this regard. It has asked the Red Cross to help it study the many problems of preventive medicines and of medical and surgical diseases against which the army medical corps must struggle.

"The research committee assists the Red Cross in the management of its funds and its experiments and controls the type and kind of experimentation. The research committee whose name you have controls fully its research work against the antivivisectionists are protesting. English medical authorities are vigorously co-operating with the Red Cross in research work.

"We feel that anyone endeavoring to stop the Red Cross from assisting in its humanitarian and humane desire to prevent American soldiers from being diseased and protecting them by solving the peculiar new problems of disease, with which the army is confronted, is in reality giving aid and comfort to the enemy.

"Research work so far undertaken includes studies on anaesthesia, shellshock and trench fever, which last will be the main line of investigation this winter. We are also investigating trench nephritis and foot wound infections including gas gangrene and tetanus. The animals used are principally guinea pigs, rabbits and white rats. If operations causing pain to animals are performed, anaesthesia is used. Actually, very few animals have been used for this work."

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The Fulton Patriot, January 23, 1918

MEXICO.

Supplies for Red Cross—Wilfred S. Sweetland Dead—High School Commencement.

MEXICO, June 20.—The following Red Cross supplies were shipped on Monday to the Oswego chapter from the local branch: 600 gauze compresses, 4x4; 100 gauze compresses, 9x9; 600 gauze sponges, 500 gauze wipes, 2x2; 35 slings, 10 many-tailed bandages, 293 pads. The following junior work was included in the shipment: 1 knitted quilt, 6 gray covers, 7 table napkins, 7 handkerchiefs, 43 wash cloths.

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(NOTE: This is an excerpt from a longer column as suggested by the title.)

Oswego Palladium, June 20, 1918, page 11.

Red Cross workers from the State Normal and Training School, Oswego, NY.

This image is from the collection at the Oswego County Historical Society.



CHRISTMAS ROLL CALL.

At a joint meeting of the executive committee of the Fulton chapter of the American Red Cross and the board of directors of the Fulton War Chest, plans for calling the Christmas roll of the American Red Cross in Fulton were laid. In other words, the Christmas roll call is a campaign for membership in the Red Cross. The campaign for membership will be undertaken by the Fulton War Chest, Inc., in co-operation with the active workers of the Red Cross chapter. The date for the campaign is Dec. 15th to 22d, inclusive.

It will be recalled by the Fulton public that the proclamation of Mayor Lewis, issued a year ago, after the Fulton War Chest was organized and incorporated, prohibits the solicitation of funds for war purposes in this city, by any organization or individual other than the Fulton War Chest and it was agreed at the time, that \$1.00 of each War Chest subscription was to be paid to the local chapter of the Red Cross for the membership of that individual War Chest subscriber in the American Red Cross. Therefore, it will be seen that membership of the Red Cross can be gained only through a contribution to the Fulton War Chest.

For this reason, the approaching campaign will not only become a drive to refill the Fulton War Chest. One dollar of each new subscription and \$1.00 of each old subscription continued from the past year, will be paid to the Red Cross for the membership of those individuals in the Red Cross; to conduct a drive for new subscriptions to the War Chest and for the collection of old pledges, it has become necessary owing to the great demands which have been placed on the War Chest by the various organizations doing war work.

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The need for greater revenue has become particularly acute since it has recently been necessary to make a large subscription to the United War Work campaign. While the belief that further need for the payment of War Chest subscriptions has ceased is not general or widespread, still there is a small percentage of people in the city who believe that since the signing of the armistice the need for War Chest funds has ceased. This belief is entirely in error and it will be recalled by most subscribers that their pledges read for the duration of the war.

We are still at war with Germany and her allies and will remain at war with them until the formal articles of peace are signed. The signing of the armistice is only an agreement to stop

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The Fulton Patriot, December 4, 1918, page 3.



Back of photo reads: Working for the Red Cross, State Normal and Training School, Oswego, NY. Photograph is from the Oswego County Historical Society collection.

Questions for further research and discussion:

1. When was the American Red Cross formed?
2. What role did the American Red Cross play during World War 1? How did the Red Cross support the armed forces during WW1?
3. How did the American Red Cross get members and funding?
4. What did the citizens of Oswego County do to help the American Red Cross?
5. Why were medical supplies created by the Red Cross in Oswego County? How is this different than how medical supplies are created in the 21st century?
6. What is the role of the American Red Cross today?
7. What organizations support our armed forces today?